

Werewolf 571

Chapter 571 A different world

The Howlers were all waiting for Midwak to answer, as they were quite interested in Gary's past. Why was he a Werewolf, where did they even come from? Although the teenager had confided in them, he too lacked the answers to many questions about his new being. He knew he wasn't fully human anymore, but neither was he truly an Altered nor a beast.

In the first place, they weren't even sure if Midwak would answer their questions. He had no reason to help him, so Kai had offered him access something to eat, sure that this was something the Omega Werewolf would desperately crave.

They had chopped up the body of one of those who had died during the initial ambush. They weren't about to risk him regaining too much Energy, so they used a human, rather than one of the Altered's flesh. None of them really wanted to disrespect the dead further, but Kai justified these actions by choosing to believe that it was more important to care about his living friends.

"Do you think food would really tempt me?" Midwak asked with dribble slightly dropping from his lower lip.

If Midwak, wasn't going to talk, then Gary would have to perhaps change the rules, but in the first place, it stated that Midwak would have to follow the orders of the Howlers, and something was compelling him to speak.

"First, you are all idiots!" Midwak declared, his eyes darting towards the bag with the meat. "If you really knew anything about the world, and what really goes on behind the scenes, then you should have continued to stay low, but now your gang has taken over a Tier-2 city.

"It's not every day something like this happens, and take a wild guess how often a Tier-3 gang manages to pull such a stunt off. All eyes will be on you soon enough, you'll get investigated because everyone will want to stay cautious off the Howlers."

Although this was all true, Gary didn't regret his decision for even a second. The elated look on Numba's face, the satisfied look on Kai's when he had seen Midwak defeated seemed well worth it.

“What's done is done.” Gary stated. “We’ll have to move forward and will deal with things as they come up.”

Midwak let out a big sigh. It was unbelievable to him how he could lose to the people surrounding him. The fact that they were utterly clueless about how deep in trouble they were was only serving to infuriate him further. In a way, telling them a little bit of information would make him look less bad.

“Argh, it’s so frustrating dealing with idiots who don’t even understand how fucker they are.” Midwak cursed. “First off, what happened to me is none of your business, and it won’t help you in any way, so the short version of my story is that I’m a Werewolf who used to run with a different Pack.

“I’ve never cared too much about our history, so while I can’t tell you exactly how old it is, it’s been around for ages, might have even been around since the first Werewolves. I don’t know about today, but while I was a member, it was MUCH larger than your sorry excuse of Pack. One day I was kicked out of the pack, due to some disagreements, and eventually ended up meeting Slith, who gave me a spot with his Scatterbugs. I stayed by his side because he had a knack for money, as well as for gathering around strong people.

“Even though, at any point and time I could have taken him out, and taken over the gang, I didn’t because I’m not a fool. He was the perfect smokescreen, helping me avoid any unnecessary attention to myself. I know that the moment I turn up on their radar, they would send someone to take me out. Well, things changed with your leader’s existence.

“It’s been... heck I don’t even know how long it’s been since there were two Alphas. I’ve only heard about such a thing from some old stories. I guess I should have known that you would amount to nothing more than an anomaly. After all, who be dumb enough to turn you into an Alpha of all people.”

Gary was trying to hold in his anger, because every time Midwak talked, he did so in a way where he would continuously insult them.

“To sum it up, you’ve got kicked out from your Pack, which is much greater than ours, and now we have a problem in that the other Alpha will not like Gary’s existence?” Kai repeated, earning himself a nasty glare from Midwak by using the phrase ‘kicked out’. “Where are they, what are they doing and roughly how many Werewolves are there? Do you have any ideas how and why Gary become an Alpha in the first place?”

Midwak shrugged his shoulders. "How am I meant to know? I just told you that I did all I could to avoid their attention, so I sure as hell didn't do any investigations into them. From what I know, Alphas are either gained from taking over the position or naturally selected, but there is a tale that is told to all Werewolves. 'There can never be two Alphas that coexist.'

"There's a reason I only heard about two Alphas from old stories, whenever there have been two Packs, they would all eventually clash with each other one way or another. If I had become an Alpha, the first thing I would have done was turn as many people as possible. A Werewolf grows in strength from turning others, and having a large Pack is a big plus for any Alpha. It's really a travesty, him having this wondrous power, and what did he do with it? There's a grand total of three of you little whelps!" Midwak laughed as he finished.

Gary could guess why one would get stronger. He remembered from the system that he would get a Pawn Point for every Werewolf that he turned. At the same time, all those that they beat, killed while he was around them, he would also get additional exp from that as well.

"Does this mean that the Werewolves will come after us, the second they're sure of our existence?" Innu asked.

"After you? Please, how egocentric can you be?" Midwak waved his hand. "You're neither a Werewolf, nor are you an Altered. Even if you have beaten a Tier-2 gang, at best you've evolved from maggots into flies in their eyes. The only reason to pay any attention to you in particular would be due to your axes, so congratulations, you've moved up from fly into a rodent."

"Is that because they are one of the Kings?" Kai asked, as he had somewhat figured it out already.

"Thank the heavens there is at least one smart person among you." Midwak smiled. "See, I knew it was a good thing keeping you alive, I really liked you. I nearly feel a smidgen of guilt now for what I did to you back there. Are you sure you don't want to work together and betray your green haired friend to become the boss?"

There was a stern look from everyone in the room when he posed his suggestions. If there was one thing Midwak was sure about was that these 'idiots' were as dumb as they were loyal to Gary.

“You’re right, the Werewolves are one of the untouchable Kings, meaning neither the gangs, the government, the AFA, NIRV, nor the Altered Hunters can do anything to them. The Kings are above all of these, and none of those organisations can touch you.

“And let me tell you something else, you would be an idiot to think that they don’t already know about you. Trust me, the only reason why they have yet to pay you a visit must be because they have their own troubles keeping them occupied.”

Gary was slightly confused. Midwak had just stated that the Werewolves were above all of those organisations that were mentioned. Only another King could really compete with them in terms of power and influence, so what trouble would they have.

“Troubles... you just told us how scary these Werewolves are, so what troubles would they have?” Olivia asked the question Gary was thinking.

It looked like Midwak wanted to bang his head on the table, but he restrained himself as he looked straight at Gary dead in the eye.

“You... you're a Dark Warrior, correct?”

The others were now losing track of the conversation, but Gary knew the name well as he recently learned about it.

“You are quite a lucky one.” Midwak continued. “Given what you are, they probably won’t outright kill you, you might prove far more useful to them alive. Think about it, Werewolves who have lived for a long time, they essentially have no equal. You might be a pup but I bet you felt it already, given our speed of growth, not even the top Altered stand a chance compared to our elites.

“So what would give them trouble in this world, and why would you, the Dark Warrior, be given the nickname of the Red Eyed Hunter?”

‘Red eyes?’ Gary thought. ‘Omega wolves have yellow eyes, Beta wolves blue, red eyes, they are the Alphas...so what... Am I an Alpha hunter?’

In that room, there was only one person who had somewhat figured it out, but the mere possibility of his answer being true sent shivers down his entire spine.

Chapter 572 Red Eyed Hunter

After Gary had turned Kai into a Werewolf, the blonde teenager had spent his limited free time doing extensive research on the type of creature he had become. Unfortunately, given that barely any people believed in their existence, his main source of information had come from reading old myths and legends.

Speaking from his own experience, he had to admit that most of them were unreliable to the truth of the matter. For example, he had felt nothing upon touching silver. After exhausting the sources he could find, Kai had started to read the only other type of media that entailed Werewolves... fantasy novels.

With those, Kai had the opposite problem, there were far more than he could read in his lifetime, though he had encountered some useful pieces of information. He wasn't sure if any of the authors had ever met a Werewolf, or those cases had just been lucky coincidences.

In any case, one of the similarities most of those fantasy novels shared was there was one type of creature that was often described as a sort of natural enemy of the Werewolf, the Vampire. Even more fitting, one of their characteristics were their red eyes.

Are you telling us that Vampires are real? Kai questioned Midwak who merely smiled at the correct conclusion. While the others had trouble coming to terms to this, the trio of Werewolves had only various levels of shock. Given their own existence that defied common sense, was it so hard to believe that there were other things out there?

The Dark Warrior is a type of Werewolf who is stronger under the night sky. Midwak began to explain. One of the biggest advantages we have over those bloodsuckers is the fact that we have no problem with broad daylight. Well, there might be some exception, but that doesn't matter right now.

There are too many theories about how it all started, but suffice to say that we and them have a blood feud going on that won't end until one side is exterminated. Since most of the fights happen at nighttime due to their condition, you're a Werewolf that is greatly sought after.

From Midway's explanation, he understood how important Dark Warriors were for the Werewolves. Although Packs were separated from each other almost like different families, they had a common

enemy and for now they were leaving Gary, not because they knew what he was, but because they had bigger problems.

I cant believe it... are they really out there? Is it true what they say about them sucking blood and that they can turn you into one of them if they do? Marie questioned, feeling her skin crawl as she imagined a large set of teeth sinking through her neck, but soon the face of a pale skinned beauty also entered her mind.

Maybe it's not too bad to be bit. Marie mumbled to herself, and shook her head as she snapped out of it. Hows it possible for them to exist with nobody knowing it?!

Midwak looked toward Marie first and licked his lips as if she was a delicious snack, but under the table Gary soon kicked his shin, and quite hard. The Omega reacted by trying to bare his teeth and transform, but it didnt work as he didnt have any energy to keep up the transformation.

What are you so surprised about, you didnt know about Werewolves for most of your life, but now you do. Just because you have never seen anything before doesnt mean they dont exist. Midwak snorted.

Are they one of the Kings? Kai asked.

Midwak answered, shaking his head. Unlike us, they cant pass as Altered, so it would be hard for them to fit among the Kings. Besides, from what I know about them, they seem to be a secretive bunch. That being said, they still have managed to infiltrate most parts of society with none of you even suspecting anything.

Gang members, police force, politicians, CEOs from companies, theres no way to know for sure. The vampires... are idiots. Despite their power to easily take over everything, for some reason they choose to do nothing. It's hard to understand them.

The group had already learnt a lot from Midwak, and continued their questioning including which of the Kings was the leader that they needed to look out for and kept that in mind.

After that, it was time to discuss what would happen with Notsburg and Midwak. It was stated that the Scatterbugs would officially become part of the Howlers, and the one that would lead this separate division would naturally be the Omega.

If there was any against that or any disputes that would happen in the meantime, he was to deal with them. Kai's prediction was that after Midwak defeated those who defied the new order a couple of times, things would calm down.

After all, unlike Olivias business, the gambling establishments would remain open and stay operating how they were. The gang members would continue to get paid, so for them the biggest change would be the person on the other end of the cheque book.

There, youve learned more than enough, now let me eat! Midwak demanded as he was sniffing the air.

Not yet. Gary refused as he stood up. I want you to challenge me right now. I already know that those in the Pack can only challenge the Alpha once a month.

If you know, then why would I challenge you now? Midwak asked, his eyes asking the teenager whether he was stupid.

Youre free not to, but then forget about the food. As you said, weve learned more than enough, and I dont particularly care whether you die or not. Youre someone who tried killing all my friends in here. Gary answered, staring at him with red eyes. I understand that you could be a powerful asset, but if you dont want to cooperate then well find a way to survive even without you

The way I see it, you need us far more than we need you. After all, were your best chance to actually get revenge on the Alpha who did this to you, right? You cant do that dead, so theres one good reason for you to agree to fight me now.

Ill let you challenge me once a month whenever you want. You only need to beat me once for the position to be yours, then youll be free to do whatever you want with the Pack and the gang.

The others looked at each other in shock. They couldnt imagine a gang without Gary. They thought he must have had a ploy to stop the monthly challenges, but hearing him now, he didnt.

Dont get me wrong, I'm not just going to let you beat me. I plan to beat you every month, proving to you why I deserve this position. From what you said before, the other Alpha will eventually come for us, so if I cant even beat the likes of you, then the Pack would be better in your hands anyway.

Think about. Kai chimed in. You have nothing to gain by refusing Gary, but if you stay in our Pack, youll eventually have the opportunity to fight against your former Pack.

Midwak started to contemplate. The young Alpha had barely defeated him, and they all knew that the Omegas downfall was a team effort. The real question was how quickly would Gary be able to grow in the span of one month. Would it be enough to beat him again? Even if it was, as long as they continued to fight, Midwak was sure he would be able to beat him eventually.

Ive worked under Slith for years, whats a few more months under this twerp Midwak eventually concluded.

Fine! Mdiwak shouted as the pain in his stomach was becoming unbearable. I challenge the leader for position of the Alpha!

A ding was heard from Garys system but just as quick the message disappeared with another one.

I admit defeat. Midwak ground his teeth as those words were a little hard for him to say.

Kai looked at the two Werewolves, as he had thoughts swirling around in his head.

I know what we're doing is dangerous having someone like this trying to stab our back at all times, but Midwak essentially wants to take over the Pack, so he has a shared interest in helping us get stronger.

The only thing is, Gary needs to make sure he keeps getting stronger, so he keeps on top of Midwak, but maybe this is a good thing and will skyrocket his growth. You have already grown at an incredible pace, Gary, but now I have to ask you to continue to do so. I wonder just how much stronger youll get. Kai thought.

With the fight over, Midwak finally received his food.

It didn't take long for others to learn about the amazing feat the Howlers had accomplished.

Chapter 573 Reaction To The Howlers

A change in leadership of such a magnitude was naturally impossible to keep under wraps. Information was being passed around among the local gangs who continued to spread the tale far and wide.

Over the span of a couple of days, everyone in the underworld was aware that the Howlers had taken over the Scatterbugs. A Tier-3 gang from practically a no-name time had managed to expand into a Tier-2 city in under a day. Such a thing was thought to be impossible, and were it not for all sources reporting the same, it would be even more unbelievable given that the Scatterbugs strength and influence had been rumoured to be on par with some of the Tier-1 gangs.

Given that it was impossible to hide the truth for long, Kai had expected some faction to challenge them, yet not a single one, not even from a Tier-1 city, had come forward. Rather, from what Kai had gathered through his information channels, the price for any type of information about the Howlers had become a hot commodity.

The news had spread out, into all corners of the world, with each person reacting to it slightly differently. In the town of Slough itself, there were those that were beyond surprised at what happened.

"How is this possible?!" Ben Clove tensed his fist and lifted it up in the air. Moments before he slammed it down on his desk, he managed to stop himself. The mayor had been forced to replace his desk far too often in recent times.

'When the hell did they manage to grow so strong? It feels like yesterday they've barely had the power to manage to take a piece of Slough, and now they're expanding into Tier-2 cities. This has to be some sort of sick joke. Their group isn't even that large to begin with, yet expanding bit by bit.'

The more Ben thought about it, the more he was kicking himself. He started to really miss the days when his only worries had been the Underdogs and the Grey Elephants.

'With the income from Notsburg's casinos, they will have no problem funding a campaign for a candidate of their own choosing. If they choose to do so, it won't be too hurt to replace me with one of their own. I'm not even sure if Jayden can do anything to stop them now.'

Nevertheless, Ben Clove didn't want to admit defeat, not yet at least. He felt like Slough had practically been in his grasp, and he was unwilling to give up on it. Fortunately, there was still some time before the next elections, so until then, he just had to bide his time. After their expansion, he was sure that soon enough someone would appear to take care of the Howlers. They might be able to defend themselves, but as long as they would be busy, it meant they wouldn't focus on him...

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Similarly, another Clove member had learned about what had occurred in Notsburg.

"Holy crap!" Jayden exclaimed as he was resting in a dressing room, checking on the latest news involving the Howlers. He was in the middle of getting a photoshoot for a new skincare product, his white skin that was almost illuminated was always perfect for advertising products as well as his fame.

'I always knew you were crazy, Gary, but I appear to have severely underestimated you. Next time I see you, I have to ask what made you pull such a stunt? Just what could have happened to make you choose this path? When I told you to come and reach me, I expected you to do so through the AFA ranks, not by going down such a dangerous road that might turn you into the enemy of all the Kings.

'Still, I'm sure you have your reasons for doing so. Perhaps our lives will intertwine more, sooner than I thought.'

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Then there were those that were keeping an eye on Gary that even he wasn't aware of.

In the AFA room, Professor Humfree sat at his desk, stroking his beard.

"It can't be a mere coincidence that this has occurred during the same time as his leave of absence. We've all acknowledged his potential, but his growth keeps exceeding our expectations. I wonder what he will choose to do next. Given his power, it's only a matter of time until he graduates, and he might very well change the lives of those he is close with in the academy itself."

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In the academy, it wasn't only the professors who were keeping an eye on Gary, as Apollo was sitting with his two close friends, Snow and Wu.

"Has your father told you to do anything?" Snow asked.

"Ha!" Apollo laughed. "You've met my Dad. Did he strike you as the type who would tell me to make friends with him? I've always known there was something special about him, and now he's proven me right once more.

"Based on how Sty and his father were, something like this was bound to happen sooner or later. The only surprising thing is that it was the Howlers who acted, whereas we were the bait would be taken by another King. After finding someone as great as him, I should have guessed that there would be others just as great as him.

"Anyway, all this means is, if me and him don't end up clashing in the academy, or in the AFC, then we will do so outside of it."

Apollo was without a doubt looking forward to the return of Gary.

In a city, where the sun shined the brightest station by the seaside, the well known King Sin was standing on his balcony looking out from his villa. His time enjoying the scenery was interrupted when a couple of men entered the room, wearing dark red clothing, that reached their shoulders.

It was the uniform of the gang members that worked for the Rising Phoenix gang.

"Sir, we have brought in the two that you have asked us to."

Soon, two men entered, one looked to be in his mid-twenties while the other was clearly a teenager. They immediately got down on their knees and placed their heads down.

"Excellent." Sin said as he turned around and walked toward the two of them. When looking at them, neither of them looked special but he had called them here for a specific reason.

"The two of you haven't been in our group for too long, but from what I hear, both of you have proven yourselves useful to us, so I would like to thank you for that." Sin stated with a smile.

The two on their knees weren't so sure but it felt like the floor was getting a little hotter, and it felt like it was coming from Sin himself.

"As long as you keep up the good job, and show your loyalty to the gang, your treatment will reflect your standing. Alright, enough of that, I have called you for a different reason. The two of you come from the town of Slough, and I happen to have an interest in it. What can you tell me about the Howlers?" Sin asked the kneeling Raven and Gil.

Chapter 574 Finishing What I Started

All aspects and groups of the Howlers were extremely busy. Those from the Scatterbugs were getting used to the new rules, and how their new leader intended to run things. Of course, if there were any disagreements, Midwak had permission to use violence.

However, that violence was limited due to the Pack rules that were currently in place. On top of that, there was also the Cardenez group. No longer under any threat they could continue with their development plan.

A new factory was being built, not just in Slough to help with jobs and general levelling up of Slough, but one also was built in Notsburg as well. The progression was beyond what Harry had thought he would have been able to do with one factory, and this was all because Kai was giving more funding to the

Cardenez group than they would have ever got out of either deal, and that was from using the money from the Scatterbugs in the first place.

All of this was important to Kai, because unlike other groups who would have perhaps moved to the larger city and developed from there, they were staying in Slough. The biggest city would usually be one's base and from there they would claim lower cities so other places didn't attack them.

However, the Howlers were staying in Slough, while looking after the areas around them. This was all based on Gary's order, as he wanted to grow Slough out of poverty, and change it to become a place that could match up with others.

With all of this working like clockwork, it was why Gary had finally decided that it was time for him to head back to the academy. Numba, Izzy as well as Ian were all on the bus with him heading back.

They had overstayed a few days as they had wanted to return with Gary, for more reasons than one, and during that time, they had also decided to visit their families as they wished to discuss something with them as well.

"Wow, it's all starting to make sense now!" Ian said as he pulled his hair back. "When you told us to get you blood that time. I thought it was because you were a crazed Altered, but this is huge!"

Since the others had found out a lot about Gary, it was too much for him to cover up. They had seen multiple people transform into beings like himself, and words were thrown out left right and centre.

It was too complicated to come up with a lie that made sense, and besides all of that. Gary didn't want to come up with a lie. These were his friends who had helped him and his other friends through a tough situation. They had risked their lives and by doing so, they at least deserved to know the truth.

"I think what is even more amazing is, these... um creatures I guess I should say, have lived among us for so long without us knowing about them." Izzy commented. "Think about it. They would have existed in a time before there were even Altered."

While Ian and Izzy were talking in excitement, Numba had kept somewhat quiet, as he listened to Gary's story. Because it made him wonder if this was the difference between the two of them.

Was it why Gary was improving so fast, and would they ever catch up to him?

"Remember a lot of this stuff is new to me as well." Gary answered. "And there are still those that are stronger than me, and I'm not just talking about those that are like me, others like Jayden."

Hearing Gary speak about himself in a humble way, had caused Numba to snap out of it. Gary was right, there were still plenty of Altered out there that were incredibly strong, that would beat Gary even the way he was now.

If that was the case, then stating that Gary was different from them and that was why he was stronger, was the wrong way for him to think.

"I... was meant to ask you something." Gary said. "I can see you still have a bandage on the wound you received, is it not healing?"

There was a nervous look on Izzy's face when asked this question because the bite mark really was still there. It was the longest wound she ever had, and it was especially strong since she was an Altered, there were other things as well, but Izzy had yet to mention them to the others.

"It's okay. The doctor said there is nothing to worry about. It's just taking longer to heal." Izzy replied.

The answer didn't give Gary confidence. At the time, Gary thought it was a wound that would just go away as well, and Midwak had said something that had lessened his worries. The fact that werewolves were unable to turn Altered into werewolves.

Since this was the case, Gary hadn't even asked the question to Midwak, and only now had it become a concern for him.

'Thinking about it, the only Altered I know who was bitten by a werewolf was the one that worked for White Rose by Billy. The quickest way to get an answer is to contact Kai to contact Midwak. I don't really want to talk to that guy directly if I don't have to.'

"Anyway, what are you planning to do Gary?" Izzy asked. "I mean, it's great that you are coming back to the AFA with us and all, but I can't help but feel that maybe your gang will run into more things in the future with this. The more I think about it, since you're the leader... you can't just stay in the academy."

Of course Gary had thought about this a lot, and there were quite a few discussions with Kai about what he needed to do. The original plan was for Gary to become an AFC star that was sponsored by the Howlers.

Giving the group recognition and a chance to get sponsors from big companies using Gary's AFC name. However, there was no longer a need for that. The Howlers name was well known now, and on top of that with the Scatterbugs funds, as well as their casinos, the gang was no longer strapped for cash.

On top of that, Gary's name was being used to invest in all sorts of different areas in Slough, including the new factory.

"You're right." Gary sighed. "I need to head back to the Howlers, for more reasons than one, but there is still unfinished business in the AFA. I plan to stay here, pass the assessment, and join the AFC.

"After that, I will have my debut match with them, so I am registered in the AFC. After that, I guess it will be time for me to head back."

There were saddened faces, because they knew that the first assessment was only two weeks away. They knew that Gary would pass, which meant their time with him was limited. Unlike Gary they didn't run a gang.

Their dreams were just to support their families and join the AFC.

"Hey, we can't be sad." Ian said to the others. "We knew this was going to happen, and we talked about it before. If Gary said he was going to stay then we were going to convince him to leave, but the Green haired idiot had figured it out himself.

"Gary... our alliance is always ongoing, and even more so than before. We all went back to our families after that, and we... want to be a part of you, a part of the Howlers, and we have made our alliance official with our families."

"What... Do you even mean by that?" Gary asked.

"It was Kai." Izzy said. "We knew you would never accept, but something about that guy of yours, he seems to take a good deal no matter who it's with. The Howlers already own a percentage of our family's business in other cities."

"Which means that the alliance is official. Although, my family's company was the first." Numba commented.

Gary didn't know what to say. How could a bunch of students he had only known for a short while do so much for him, how did they trust him so much? It was because of this, that Gary felt like he needed to get stronger.

Stronger, so he couldn't lose those around him, because it had already been a dangerous call. The bus finally stopped and they had returned to the AFA. Meanwhile, Gary wasn't the only one that had the same feeling.

In the Howlers, there were two members who had learned a lot after that fight of theirs, and they were willing to go to any lengths to get stronger.

"This is what I need to do."

Both of them said in their minds, Marie and Innu, as they took two separate paths in their search for strength.

Chapter 575 Innu's Path

For the Howlers, things were as busy as ever. Although, thanks to Kai and his systems, there was a lot less burden on the other members. In the first place, he didn't quite trust most of the core members with dealing with delicate matters, which was why he was having a hand in everything instead.

This left many of the core members to their own devices. Although they could now travel out of Slough without much problem, and Kai even suggested they take a trip to Notsburg once in a while, most of them rejected the offer.

Since Midwak was still there, there was a sense of uneasiness. Even if he was meant to listen to them due to the special Pack rules, it just felt strange to rely on some magical power.

One of the members in question, Innu, was outside an apartment block. He had a large cardboard box in his hand, and he was sweating going in and out of the room.

"I can't believe we're moving!" Kevin said, as he moved a much smaller box out of the room. "Man, brother is really the best."

Innu smiled as he heard this comment, and puffed out his chest slightly.

"It's true, I never thought this would happen." Suzan said as she was lifting a heavy box and started to grunt, but Innu quickly went over and grabbed onto the box before it fell over. "I mean, you even managed to convince that stubborn Kai to give funding towards the new orphanage."

Suzan had officially adopted Kevin, the only survivor of the Black Rock orphanage in the past. After what had happened, Suzan wasn't sure if she could ever do the same type of work again and Innu wasn't going to force her if she didn't want to.

He would continue to support the two of them as much as possible. Eventually though, Suzan realised it was in her nature to look after young ones. She kept paying out of her own pocket for kids she would see on the street and more, and she had decided to open up the orphanage again.

There was still no official funding for the orphanage, which meant it would have to be privately owned, which also meant that Innu was putting all of his money towards Suzan's dream.

Although before the Howlers were doing well, Innu still wasn't living a lavish life, and many arguments between Innu and Kai were caused because of this, stating that more money needed to be put towards the orphanage.

Now though, with the Scatterbugs' funds, they were able to upgrade the orphanage and on top of that, Innu was able to move Suzan and Kevin to the same apartment block that Gary's sister lived in.

"This is all because the Howlers actually managed to take out the Scatterbugs!" Kevin was excited, and of course after the last incident they were involved in, they had come to learn Innu's position in the gang.

"You must've kicked some serious butt, when you were there!" Kevin excitedly said, as he threw out some punches and kicks in the air, but soon stopped as he looked at Innu, who wasn't smiling and instead felt like he broke out in a sweat.

'Kicked some butt?' Innu thought. 'No, that isn't what happened at all. I was barely helpful at all.'

Flashbacks to the fight were coming into Innu's head. Of how strong Midwak was, how weak he felt, and how Marie had almost been killed multiple times, even though it was his role to protect her.

After helping the others move, Innu had found out that one of the rooms in the apartment block belonged to him. According to Suzan and Kevin, they had always wished for Innu to stay with them, it was just they never had a big enough place for it.

Of course, Innu was overjoyed at this fact, since he had been living on his own for a while. He was so excited that he too had decided to move out that day and move in with the others.

When he was unpacking things into his room, his hands soon fell onto the red axes, and once again, he was left thinking about the fight from before. In fact, it was more accurate to say that it had never left his mind since they had left Notsburg.

'These red axes, they're powerful, but I still can't use them properly, and it makes me wonder, with just these alone, how far can I go? If the Howlers start to get involved with bigger gangs, other tier 2's and 1's, even other werewolves... I don't think I can keep up.'

It was obvious that Innu wanted to get stronger, he didn't want to get left behind and wanted to still help the Howlers. As a core member, he felt like it was only right that he was as strong as the others.

Innu felt like his skills were one of the best. There was always room for improvement, but compared to an Altered, that wasn't the type of strength that he needed. The axes gave him a boost in power and although he could use them, how to use them to their full potential he had no idea.

Which was why he was also thinking of alternative solutions. Having taken over Notsburg, the Howlers' funds were more than capable of buying an Altered solution. Whether that was by making contact with NIRV, or one of the other groups, or even the auction house... they could buy a solution.

The auction house wasn't for a while, and honestly Innu wasn't so sure about becoming an Altered. It meant getting attention from a lot of people, and there was always the chance that his Altered form wouldn't suit him. Innu also liked fighting with weapons and his own hands and fists and felt like he would never use the transformed state, it just felt like a waste.

This led to the other solution he was thinking of, perhaps asking Gary to turn him, just like Kai had been turned. Gary seemed reluctant to do something like that, and for the same reasons as becoming an Altered, Innu was against the idea.

'Think then... is there a way for me to get stronger... to have the power to compete with Altered, by just staying as I am?' Innu thought.

That whole night, after moving in, Innu was stuck in his room trying to rack his head. The other two were concerned as he hadn't even come out for dinner, but they left him on his own, as they were sure it was something important.

'Damn it! Why did everyone have to get so strong and so fast? I have to compete with that damn bull man, how is that even fair!'

—

Eventually, Innu had fallen asleep thinking about it all night and the sun was starting to rise. He looked out the window and could hear the sound of kids talking, and more.

"When did I fall asleep?" Innu said to himself, rubbing his eyes. When he took a second look out of the window, it hit him. There was a way for him to get stronger the way he wished.

Innu was leaned up against a wall, as he tapped his foot away on the ground. Eventually, a bell was heard and a rush of school students started as they left their school.

"Hey... isn't that Innu, what is he doing here, didn't he drop out of the school?"

"Who?" another student asked.

"Ah, he wasn't here for long, he transferred and then dropped out."

Ignoring the words of the others, Innu continued to wait, until he had finally found who he was looking for, he almost leapt from the wall as he stood in front of one of the students.

"Oh, what are you doing here?" Blake asked.

"I need to talk to you about something."

While talking, the two of them headed to a nearby park and were now sitting on a bench next to each other, he had heard everything that Innu wanted to say.

"So you want me to train you?" Blake replied.

"Yeah, I mean it makes sense right? You're an Altered Hunter and you guys learn to take out Altered even though you aren't an Altered yourself. There has to be a way the top guys take out those things without turning into them." Innu explained.

"There are maybe some things I can show you, but you have to know that I'm basically a beginner Altered Hunter myself. I don't know all the tricks that my dad knows or those above him.

"Although I could teach you what I do now, there is a bit of a problem."

"Problem... what is that?" Innu asked.

"If you really want to get stronger, and want to learn the techniques of an Altered Hunter, then you would have to join us, you have to become an Altered Hunter."

Chapter 576 An Altered Hunters Life

"Become an Altered Hunter?" Innu repeated and was now standing up from the bench they were sitting on. He was walking back away from Blake at that moment as well. It was such a crazy thing to suggest. he never thought he would be put in this type of situation, and it would be awkward for him to just suddenly leave.

Altered Hunters were seen as something akin to terrorists. Being an Altered was not illegal according to the law. The fact that Altered Hunters killed Altered for next to no reason just because they were one, was never something that Innu wanted to align himself with.

"Is it that big of a deal?" Blake asked, as if he could read Innu's mind, and had stopped him from backing up any further. "If you truly believe that Altered Hunters are so scary, then why did you approach me in the first place?" Blake asked. "And, you have to think about your own situation as well. Aren't you in a gang, haven't you already killed for your own survival?"

When Blake put it like so, Innu was starting to have second thoughts about the whole thing. The reason why Innu approached Blake was because he believed not only was he skilled, but the fact that he was a nice person.

At the same time, just like Innu never believing he would become an Altered Hunter, he never saw himself working in a large gang like the one he currently was in either. It was just a way to make money for a short while until he found something else.

"But... I didn't want to join the Altered Hunters." Innu replied. "I just wanted you to teach me a few things... a way to beat the others."

Blake sighed at that point as he went on to explain.

"As I said before, I can't just go ahead and teach you what I know. If they found out about it, I would be in serious trouble. Also, if you want to grow you will need more guidance than just from me.

“For one, a lot of the Altered Hunters' strength comes from their equipment. The armour they use, the weapons they are allowed to hold. Then you have the high star rankers. Those are the ones that you will need guidance from for real strength, not just me, and to do that you would have to join the Altered Hunters.”

Everything Blake was saying was convincing, and the fact that Innu didn't have any intention of becoming an Altered, it wasn't a bad path to take. However, what about the gang?

“How can I become an Altered Hunter? The whole reason why I want to become stronger is so I can help them. As the gang grows, there will be more Altered in the gang, and won't I get swept away with Altered Hunter stuff.” Innu argued.

Blake finally stood up from his seat, and looked Innu in the eye.

“You don't have to leave the gang.” Blake stated. “The low star Altered Hunters blend within society. It's part of their job and role. Being a gang member is no problem and we have more freedom than you think.

“Take me for example, I have acted and helped out the Howlers because I consider Gary... a partner.” Blake had stopped himself for a moment from saying another word. “I know that there are Altered in the Howlers, but I don't act on it. I do have to admit from time to time, you might have to be called, but based on your position, you could inform the others.”

The more Blake talked, the more Innu was getting convinced, but he needed time to think about it.

‘I can see he's on the edge, but if I'm honest, if he does join the Altered Hunters this will be good for me as well.’ Blake thought.

There was an ongoing problem that Blake had yet to resolve and that was the fact that the Altered Hunters association wanted to send a partner to his city. Originally he worked side by side with his father, but his father had been relocated to another location.

Blake had achieved his first star, and with recent events he was close to getting his second one. Since he was an official hunter he needed to have a partner but there was something else that could be done as well.

Just like how Blake worked under his father, he could take on an apprentice. With Innu under his wing, they wouldn't send a partner. If Innu decided against the idea, then it would mean Slough would have another Altered Hunter to deal with, and they most likely wouldn't be as kind to the Howlers as Blake had been so far.

"You want strength right." Blake asked. "I understand, believe me, you will get the strength you are looking for, and if we need to continue to help out Gary, we can do so together."

Saying those last words, Blake held out his hand, trying to seal the deal. Innu looked him up and down, and there was something about Blake that was drawing him.

'Is it his handsome face? I mean, I don't even swing that way but I think it's making me attracted towards him. No, maybe he just has a way with words.'

Innu shook his head, as he had finally made a decision.

"I'll do it. I'll become an Altered Hunter." Innu said, shaking Blake's hand. "But it will be in name only. I want to make that clear, especially if Gary ever found out."

"Gary?" Blake smiled. "You don't have to worry about him. He's not even an Altered."

The two of them chuckled for a little bit, and Innu was ready to get into action straight away.

"Alright, so what are you going to teach me first, or where are you going to take me? Is there like a secret shop where you store all your armour, or a cool car or something!" Innu excitedly said.

"Sorry to burst your bubble, but it's nothing like that, and technically you're still not an Altered Hunter yet." Blake answered.

Innu was almost deflated to the ground at that point, all of the excitement was sweeping out of his body. He already had made the resolution to join the Altered Hunters and he thought he would have gotten something out of it.

“Do you really think someone like me has the authority to do something like that?” Blake asked. “There are a few things that need to be done for you to become an apprentice Altered Hunter.

“First, I will need to contact the base and inform them that someone is interested. After that, two star ranked Altered Hunters will need to evaluate your skills. If the two Altered Hunters agree that you have potential, then it will be reported back. After that you are an official Altered Hunter!”

It seemed like quite the long process but now Innu understood why the Altered Hunters were all quite skilled. It wasn't something that just anyone could join.

“I'm guessing you can count as one of the Altered Hunters, who's the other one, will it be your father?” Innu asked.

Blake shook his head.

“He is busy at the moment, they will most likely just send someone who is close by. When they do come, it would be best to make sure no incidents happen when they arrive. Otherwise, it might cause more problems than we realise.”

That was the last thing that Innu wanted to do. The true strength and the numbers of the Altered Hunters' association were unknown, but it certainly wasn't something that the Howlers wanted to deal with.

“What about the test, is there anything I need to do to prepare for it?” Innu asked.

“I don't think so. Usually the Altered Hunters decide between themselves on how to test you. Most likely me and you can just spar in my father's dojo, with your skills, I'm pretty sure they would accept you in a heartbeat.”

After the talking was done, Blake had pulled out a strange phone-like device that looked more like a radio. He started to type away on the device. Meanwhile Innu was a bit nervous.

He had no idea what this meant, or what the outcome would be, but it did bring him a little excitement for what he would learn.

'I can't wait. If I get strong enough, then I can start fighting that damn minotaur again. The look on his face, will be worth all of this in the end.' Innu thought, as his rivalry with Austin was strong.

"Well that was fast." Blake said. "It looks like there is a hunter nearby, they will be here in the evening."

Chapter 577 The Hunters System

Since Blake had already been informed that the Altered Hunter was on his way, he had decided to wait at his father's dojo. It was the first time Innu had been in such a place, and he couldn't help but stare at the front garden and the whole place in awe.

"I know you said Altered Hunters have different jobs, but I guess your dad must be a pretty high ranked Altered Hunter to afford all of this." Innu commented.

"Haha, not quite." Blake replied. "My father only recently got promoted to a four star Altered Hunter. The organisation is quite wealthy. Since they have a number of Anti Altered equipment that they can sell.

"Don't ask me how they get their hands on this stuff. Anyway, you have to remember that Slough is only a tier-3 town."

What Blake said was true, but with all the recent developments, shopping malls and more were being put in place as the people started to have more expendable money and a higher wage, it was slowly starting to look quite impressive.

When the two got inside the dojo, Innu sat down and so did Blake. The two of them talked for a while but they didn't have much to say to each other, so after that, they started to play on their phones as they waited, waited, and waited.

In the end Innu had to fill the silence as his phone's battery was starting to die.

"Okay tell me, you were talking about ranks before, and I know that you have the stars on your shoulder but how many Altered does one have to kill to get a star and what's the highest rank?"

"That's a good question, essentially a five star Altered Hunter is the highest in the association, after that, there are no more stars to be gained, but there are higher positions. The Altered Hunter association is located all around the world.

"Each country has a head, and captains underneath to support him. There is no limit on captains, but there is only one head. As for the stars themselves, one has to kill five Altered in total, to gain their first star.

"However, if an Altered kill is assisted by teammates depending on the situation and how much one contributed it would count as well. We Altered Hunters are quite prideful, so if we believe we didn't play a big part in taking one down, we wouldn't claim credit for it."

Five Altered sounded like an incredible number and since Blake had a star already it meant he had faced a number of Altered already.

'No wonder he's so strong.' Innu thought.

"And what about the other stars then, how many Altered would one have to kill for that?" Innu asked.

Although they spoke about it like it was no big deal. Unless one was an Altered themselves, no one in their lifetime would believe they could take on one.

"For a second star, one would have to take out 15 Altered altogether, after that for the third star the number is 50, then for the fourth star a 100 and for a fifth star over 250. Of course, there are those that are perhaps way above this number, but there is no way for us to tell as they don't track their kills after that."

Innu started rapidly coughing in the air, he had nearly choked on nothing he was so surprised. After his coughing fit was over he went over the numbers again.

"Wait, I didn't even know that was possible? You're saying that your dad has killed over a 100 Altered, and there are those that have killed even more, but I thought altered were rare, how can that even happen?" Innu asked.

"You have to remember a couple of things. First, although the stars indicate how many Altered you have killed, that does not dictate one's strength, more so it shows how dedicated one is to the goal of eliminating all Altered.

"However, the more stars, the more high level equipment one is allowed access to, so the two things do go somewhat hand in hand. The second point is that Altered are becoming more common.

"More companies are coming out with easier ways for one to become an Altered, and more DNA is coming out on the market. Still, let's say that 1 percent of the population are Altered. 1 percent of 60 million is still 600,000 people."

Innu never looked at it that way before, and judging by the fact that becoming an Altered was usually associated with the rich. In the higher tier cities, there were bound to be more Altered than here.

With his curiosity answered, the two decided to wait again, but after waiting a while Innu couldn't help but open his mouth again.

"Where is this guy... has something happened?" Innu asked.

"He is later than the time stated... I hope nothing has happened." Blake replied.

The towns and cities of the current world were never a quiet place. Crime was rampant even with larger gangs in control. In most cases, the larger gangs didn't even care about the smaller groups in their cities, as long as they didn't interfere with their own business.

While at the same time, the police were corrupt and understaffed and were unable to do anything. The only ones that were worth mentioning were White Rose, but due to the Crazy Altered as well as the Altered Hunters, they were busy as well.

In Slough, this was no exception, as students left the university feeling like there was no future. With fewer activities to do, and gangs seen as an easy way to make money, there were plenty of troubles that still occurred.

However, unlike the other cities and gangs, Slough was trying to clamp down on gang related activities. The Howlers would often do patrols in hotspot areas for delinquent activity.

If they saw potential in someone they would even invite them to join their gang, giving them a sense of responsibility. Due to the current rules in place, when things were too difficult for the regular Howler members, they would inform their leader, and if they needed more help they would inform their core member.

Riding on his motorbike, with the hair blowing away his wing, Austin had received one of these calls, and was heading to the area to deal with the situation.

'I thought these types of calls would start to die down once we took care of the Scatterbugs, but I guess there will always be those foolish enough to push some buttons here and there.

'Still, we really need to start training these guys, so we get called less.'

Eventually, Austin had arrived at the location, a large open park that was filled with several different pathways that led to large platforms. The students would often use it as a drinking or dancing area.

Parking, Austin let out a sigh as he walked down one of the pathways, and he noticed something strange.

'If there was a fight going on, I would hear people shouting at the top of their lungs, or cursing at each other.' Austin thought.

As he went deeper into the park, he had reached one of the open squares and he couldn't hear the sound of shouting, but instead he heard groans, lots and lots of groans. Looking at the ground, Austin could now see it.

There were several members of what looked like an orange colour gang on the floor holding onto their arms, their legs or their stomach. They were moaning in pain.

'I got called all this way for a colour gang really, but if they're the ones on the floor then...'

Austin question was soon answered, as he saw Howler members on the floor in the same situation moaning. Looking now at the full picture, it really was a strange sight to see, because on the floor were several members from the Howlers, as well as those from the Orange colour gang and there was only one person standing.

"Did you do all this?" Austin asked.

The man was standing facing the other way, there were a few stains of blood on his top. As he turned around his long plaited hair on the back of his head swung slightly.

"This?" The man replied. "This is not what it looks like. My phone is dead and I was asking for locations. The two groups were fighting and started to attack me out of nowhere, I had to defend myself."

Seeing how the man was uninjured, he had to be skillful, and a good fighter. It caused the old instincts of Austin to kick in.

"Some of those people you hurt and on the ground belong to my group, and you seem like a strong one." Asutin said, punching his fist into his hand.

"Hey... trust me kid... if you are thinking about doing what I think you're going to do, it's not a good idea." The man replied.

Chapter 578 A Hunter's Struggle

Ever since Austin had become an Altered it was hard for him to find opponents that he could brawl against. Completely overpowering a person might be good for one's ego's but it wasn't good for sharpening one's skills.

At the same time, even though he could fight against Kai and Olivia, it didn't give him the variation in different opponents and skills to go against. One also fought differently when they knew their opponent and what they could do.

However, there was then the likes of Midwak, who was too strong for him, so he needed someone just right, and considering how a single person was able to take out around fifteen people on their own, Austin guessed this person was quite skilled.

'I won't transform, otherwise this fight might be a little too easy!' Austin said, as he threw out a heavy punch from the get go. He didn't hold back in terms of speed, and Austin was already strong before becoming an Altered.

However, the punch had gone on to hit nothing but the air, and his opponent had already moved to the side of him.

"Look, judging from your clothes you're in some type of gang right? I don't want to get involved in this mess, and as I said, it's best if you don't fight me." The stranger claimed.

In order to show the difference between the two, the stranger lifted his leg to kick Austin while he was behind him. When his foot landed and he pushed forward though, but instead of Austin falling over, he didn't even move.

'It feels like I'm pushing against a giant boulder or something, how much muscle and balance does this guy have?'

Austin swung his arm behind him, aiming to hit the man, and seeing this he quickly moved his feet out of the way. Instead of a punch though, Austin went to grab him instead and only managed to hold onto the sleeve of his shirt.

As the stranger pulled away, and Austin held on, a large ripping sound was heard and the entire sleeve had been ripped off completely.

"That's not good, that's the only change of clothes I had." The man shook his head.

Austin looked at the man's bare arm, and that's when he could see it, he had markings on his shoulders and they were little stars.

'Those stars, aren't they the mark of an Altered Hunter?' Austin recognised. '1...2..3...4...5 stars?'

Although many knew about Altered Hunters, not many knew the representation of the stars or what they meant, but Austin did know that in front of him was an Altered Hunter.

'If it's an Altered Hunter in this city, then they could be related to Blake. Gary told us to leave them be and not get involved with them.' Austin was deciding on what to do.

Meanwhile, the Altered Hunter himself was sighing to himself.

'This kid has a lot of strength... Could it be? I left my equipment at one of the safe houses since this was meant to just be a small task. I'm not here to look for Altered. I should turn off my brain once in a while.'

Surprisingly, it looked like his attacker was no longer clenching his fists and had dropped them down to his side.

"I guess, I was a bit rash since I don't recognise you, but I'll warn you." Austin said. "If you see the Black and Gold uniform, don't get in the way of what they are doing. It's us that run this area." With the warning given, Austin started to walk away.

"Wait!" The man shouted out. "Do you mind giving me a few directions?"

As expected, the man had asked where a particular dojo was, and it was of course where Blake lived. Since becoming a full time gang member, and the Howlers taking over Slough, Austin knew of all the areas and gave him directions of where he needed to go. The man thanked him, and was off, but he turned around wanting to say one last thing to the boy.

"I just wanted to let you know, it was a good thing we stopped that fight." The man smiled, and lifted up his foot. "Because I would have won."

Soon after, he slammed his foot into the ground. It didn't shake, nor did it feel overly strong, just a simple stomp, and the man started to run in the other direction as he knew he was late.

Out of curiosity, as Austin mumbled under his breath, he went over to where the man had stomped the ground.

"What.... is this?" Austin quickly looked closer and his eyes weren't fooling him. There was a two inch sunken down footprint. That wasn't the only strange thing about it, as there were no cracks to the surrounding areas, nor on the other ground tiles.

"This, is just not something that's possible for a human." Austin said. "But I'm sure of it, he was an Altered Hunter, there's no chance that he would be an Altered, but then, how is something like this even possible?"

It was then that Austin realised that if the two of them had gone face to face with all of their strength, then maybe it wouldn't have been an easy fight like he thought, and there was a chance he might have lost.

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Following the directions well, the Altered Hunter had finally arrived at the required location. He could see it just up ahead.

'I really should have kept my equipment with me. I just never expected to run into trouble in a tier-3 town.'

After a gentle knock on the door, Blake soon came, and when he saw who it was, he bowed his head down greeting him. Innu was stood by his side and could see the man and did the same.

"I welcome thy fellow hunter." Blake said.

Taking a peak, Innu noticed that his sleeve was ripped, and on there he soon could see the number of stars that were marked on his arm.

'Freaking five stars!!! Five stars! Of all the hunters they could have sent to Slough, they sent a five star hunter!' After learning of what a five star hunter had done and was capable off, it was only right for Innu to somewhat panic.

"I'm sorry I'm late. My phone died, and I had to ask some people for some directions." The man politely said. "You're Blake, correct. My name is Ashen, it's nice to meet you both. Sorry, but do you mind if I use your toilet?"

Blake, pointed towards the dojo, which had a toilet on the inside and Ashen soon ran past them both in a hurry.

"I have to ask, do all five star Altered Hunters go around, showing off their markings?" Innu asked.

"I'm not too sure, myself. This is the first time I've met a five star Altered Hunter. At least face to face like this." Blake was concerned, and from his whole body language, it was easy to tell. "We should get this test done as soon as possible, so he can leave.

"If he stays for a while, who knows what will happen if he finds out what's happnign."

Innu couldn't agree more, because if anything did happen, then he would feel a little guilty, as the whole reason Ashen was here in the first place was to see him.

"Alright, let's get this assessment started." A loud voice said from the dojo, with a big smile on his face.

If anything, the one saving grace was that Ashen seemed to be a happy person.

When they entered the training hall, both Ashen and Blake were talking back and forth. As stated, the two of them had to come up with a test of some sort.

Blake was trying to suggest a sparring match between the two, but since the two clearly knew each other, Ashen seemed to be against the idea. However, Ashen noticed that there was something that Innu had brought that was in a black bag. It was large in size, almost like one that was meant to hold ski's in.

"Do you mind, if I take a look in here?" Ashen asked.

Innu gestured that it was okay to open the bag, and when Ashen saw what was inside, his eyes lit up as he held onto the weapons. They were the pair of red axes.

"These are nice, really nice. I'm guessing they're yours?"

Still too scared to speak, Innu just nodded.

"Do you know how to use them properly?"

Innu wasn't so sure what he meant by the question but he had an idea, so he eventually answered.

"I think so."

"Alright, well if that's the case, just show me how to use the axes, if you can, I think that will be sufficient to pass." Ashen claimed.

Blake was left confused and in the dark, because even he didn't know what Ashen meant by this, but perhaps by meeting this five star hunter, both of them could learn something that would boost their strength.

Chapter 579 Use Your Weapon!

The dojo was dead silent, which was only making Innu more nervous as he stood in the centre holding onto the two red axes. What didn't help were the two people standing to his side that were intensely staring at him.

"Just try to breathe, relax, and ignore that we are here." Ashen commented.

'I was doing that, until you started talking to me.' Innu annoyingly thought, but he needed to show what he had.

Closing his eyes, it allowed him to focus more. He was trying to go into a deep state.

'I'm not too sure what that hunter meant when he said 'do I know how to use the axes properly', but I can guess. There were those times...'

Innu started to think back to when he was fighting against the gang members, a power from the axes would be drawn out, and would enter in his body. Giving him more strength, allowing him to move faster and more, but there was also another instance.

When he was fighting Midwak, there was an instance where it felt like, rather than the weapons giving him energy, his energy was being drawn into the weapon. In the end, it had worked out as it allowed him to hurt Midwak, but after that, Innu himself was unable to move.

'Which way is the right way to use the weapon? Is that what he's asking?' Innu was conflicted but in the end, when fighting Midwak, what he had done was out of desperation and wasn't something he could turn on and off.

Whereas the other method, Innu had gotten the hang of. Energy started to fill his body from the weapons, and opening his eyes, Innu swung the axe through the air. He swung one after the other, cutting through the air cleanly.

Since it was a demonstration though, Innu didn't just use the axes. He also used his legs, as he went for a quick demonstration, ducking down, rolling on the floor, and swinging the weapon faster.

From a rolling position, he used his strong legs to push himself off the ground and knee the air, while swinging both axes at the same time.

While Innu was showing off his skills, Blake took a look at Ashen by his side, to see what his reaction would be, and there was an incredibly large smile on his face.

"I wonder... who is the opponent in his head, for him to try fighting that hard against." Ashen said to himself. "Because he's fighting quite hard."

Blake took a second look at Innu after hearing those words, and that's when he realised something. Although Innu was showing impressive skills, and was fighting with great strength, he wasn't slowing down.

It was as if he was in a panic while fighting, and soon he would be worn out. A few seconds later, Innu had dropped down to the ground, as he started to take quick deep breaths.

"And... I'm dead." Innu said, as if he was disappointed, and the phantom image he had created in his head of Midwak, started to disappear.

During his little demonstration, Innu thought it would be best if he used his skills on an imaginary opponent. Because he wanted to bring out the best of his skills, he wanted the strongest opponent in his head, which was Midwak.

Now in hindsight, only lasting about a minute or so against the phantom before tiring, he was regretting it slightly, that was until he could hear claps coming from the side. Turning his head, he could see that it was coming from Ashen with a big smile on his face.

"You are an impressive person." Ashen said. "In a place like this, in a town like this, I never thought I would meet someone like you. When I saw the weapons I thought they might have been wasted on you, but that doesn't seem to be the case."

"Blake, you certainly have an eye for talent. How do you know someone like him?"

Blake froze for a second before answering, but Innu answered instead.

"At an underground fighting tournament." Innu commented. "I didn't go to school, and to make money I fought in different underground fighting venues, but was I really that impressive? I felt like... I couldn't use them properly."

Ashen walked over to Innu and held out his hand, asking for the axes, to which Innu gladly handed them over.

"The fact that you know that, means that you are thinking in the right direction." Ashen explained. "When I asked you if you knew how to use the weapons, I was talking about the special properties of the weapons."

"You see, with certain Anti Altered weapons like this one, energy can be drawn out of them to improve one's strength. You are quite clearly capable of doing that, but let me ask you, have you ever experienced energy leaving your body going into the weapon?"

Innu's eyes lit up as he heard this, he knew going to the Altered Hunters was the right thing to do, and he nodded immediately.

"Well you see, that's because you were putting your own internal energy into the weapon." Holding onto the axe, it started to vibrate slightly, and something similar to heat could be felt coming off from it.

Lifting his arm up, Ashen swung the axe down. The sound was so sharp, and the area that had been cut, it looked like there was an actual cut in the air lingering there for a second or so before it disappeared.

"This energy that we have inside us, is known as Qi. If you want to use the weapons to their full potential then you will need to learn how to use this energy. Then, the weapons will power you with their energy, and you will power the weapon with your own, but you always have to be careful."

"Qi, is an energy like none other. You give too much of it, you will be out of the fight, and in some cases if you push it too much you will go into your own life energy. So keep that in mind when you're using weapons like this."

Blake was listening intently to Ashen's words because it was the first time he had heard of such an energy himself. His father never taught him something like this, and as far as he knew, this wasn't something that the Altered Hunters shared or taught each other.

"I've never heard of this before." Blake mumbled.

"It's not something that's shared really." Ashen smiled and scratched the back of his head. "Honestly, some Altered Hunters will be using it without even knowing. There aren't many that will know about it like I do.

"It's only due to my position outside of being an Altered Hunter that I came to learn this, but that's too much for you guys to know about."

Blake knew what Ashen meant by position outside, he was talking about his regular day to day role, his fake appearance. Just as Blake was a high school student, or the fact that Innu would still be part of the Howlers, while being an Altered Hunter.

It made Blake think about what type of role Ashen had to be able to learn about this power in such detail.

"Think of this as a reward for both of you. For bringing and showing me such a talented person. Knowing about it, will allow you to search for it a bit more. Anyway, it's safe to say that you have passed. Congratulations on becoming an Altered Hunter."

After learning all of that information. Innu had nearly forgotten what this whole assessment was about, but it was clear that he had taken the first step onto his path of getting stronger.

"If you ever see me around the Altered Hunter association, feel free to show me how much you have improved. I will be looking forward to it." Ashen said as he stretched his arms and let out a big yawn.

Blake bowed down.

"Thank you for taking your time coming here, and thank you again for passing on your knowledge."

"No problem, I will inform the association, and then whenever you have time. Pop down to get your equipment and register." With that, Ashen was walking toward the exit of the Dojo.

It had been an eventful day and he still couldn't believe it. He had met two interesting people and he hadn't been in Slough for long. It certainly was an interesting place.

"Wait!" Innu called out.

Ashen stooped in his tracks.

"I... don't have time to wait, or figure this out on my own, and I'm not the brightest person, I just go based on my instincts, but that won't work this time. Which is why I want to ask you... can you be my teacher. Can you stay and teach me!"

Blake turned his head, as this wasn't part of the plan. The whole point of him getting Innu to join him was so another Altered Hunter wouldn't join, and they wanted Ashen to leave as soon as possible.

"Please... even if it's just for a day or two. I know you're very busy, but I promise, whatever you tell me to do, whatever it is you need... I have someone, I have someone I need to protect."

Ashen turned around, and the grin was still largely there on his face.

"It's just like I thought. You are really impressive, alright. Let's do this. In a couple of days, I can't show you how to use Qi, but I think there is something else you can learn."

Chapter 580 Learning A New Power

There were a lot of talented people in the Altered Hunter association, and Ashen could have taken a few of them under his wing. The problem was, nearly everyone who was introduced in the Altered Hunters was introduced by someone else.

Similar to even Blake himself who had been brought in by his father. This meant that all the talent was pretty much accounted for and being looked after. Meanwhile, Ashen was too busy doing his duty to try and find someone to raise on his own.

It wasn't that Ashen never wanted a pupil it was just he was far too busy, he wanted a talented student while also raising them in the Altered Hunters association from the ground up, and right now, was the perfect opportunity so he said yes without hesitation.

There is also something interesting about this town. If I have a pupil here, then I can use it as an excuse to visit more often. Ashen thought.

Thank you, thank you, so much! Innu said, hitting his head on the floor.

As I said, I don't have much time that I can spend here. I already wasted most of it getting lost. So it will be best if we start now. Ashen explained.

It was already late in the evening but Innu stood up as straight as a bamboo shoot, and was ready to take on anything.

Alright, follow me, let's head on outside to the streets. Ashen said.

Innu and Blake were following him out of the dojo, until Ashen turned his head and cleared his throat before speaking.

I'm sorry Blake, but what I'm about to show is between a master and pupil only. I hope you understand.

With that, Innu and Ashen walked off, outside of Blake's house leaving him at the dojo, dumbfounded and staring off into space.

What just happened? Blake thought. Is a five star Altered Hunter just roaming around the streets of Slough? No, I shouldn't even be worried about that. What is he going to teach Innu, that I'm not allowed to see? Is Innu going to become a better Altered Hunter than me?

After seeing the skills of Ashen, Blake knew that there was a long way to go, and he understood how it might not be right for him to be taught by another. However, his father was away most of the time, and

even when they were together his father's teaching methods were mostly self teaching methods and there wasn't really any teaching involved at all.

Now I feel restless. Blake thought.

While following Ashen out of the housing estate, and into a more city-like area, Innu was starting to worry as he realised something.

Wait a second, where is he even taking me? Why am I the one that's following him? Didn't he say he's never been here before? Innu thought.

This should do. Ashen stated, as he walked down a fairly large alleyway that was in between a few restaurants. The alleyway was wide because the restaurants threw a lot of their rubbish behind the shops, and it was safe to say that the area absolutely stunk to the point where Innu was finding it hard to keep his food in his stomach.

Why is he taking me here... is there some sort of secret technique to train your stomach, so that way I can learn to use Qi better? Innu thought, because when looking at Ashen he seemed to be completely fine with the smell.

Turning his head to the left and to the right, he could see that there was no one else present so he decided to pick up a small stone from the floor, and threw it up in the air a couple of times.

Do you remember what I said before? Ashen asked. I won't be teaching you Qi, that would take far too long and with what I have told you already you should eventually be able to figure it out on your own. If that's the case, then I am not really going against the rules.

But, what I am about to show you is something completely different, and it might seem a bit out of this world.

If Innu hadn't met Ashen before he would have thought he was simply overhyping his capabilities, but after having seen him do what he had done before, he was expecting something quite big.

Ashen then threw the rock in the air, down the alleyway it went quite some distance away, but eventually dropped onto the floor.

That... am I missing something? Innu asked.

Ashen smiled as he saw this and picked up another small stone.

Watch carefully, watch it till the very end.

Ashen threw the stone down the alleyway once more, and Innu tried to not blink. The stone continued and just like last time fell down onto the floor again.

I didn't see anything different. Innu claimed and was wondering if this was all a big prank from Ashen.

Alright... I'll try to make it a little more obvious for you. Ashen said, holding out his hand, and this time there was nothing in his hand as he stretched it out with his fingers stretched open.

Innu was now watching his hand carefully, when suddenly a small stone appeared in it. Ashen grabbed it at that moment, and started to throw it up and down again.

Innu looked left, he looked right, and started to rub his eyes.

That stone... where did it come from? Did it just fly into your hand? What is this, is it a magic trick!

Ashen started to chuckle.

It's not magic, although I'm not quite sure what it is myself. You see, one day, I was just able to do things like this. Control where objects moved. When I was throwing the stone earlier, if you had paid attention you would have seen it swerving to the left or the right.

But as long as the object isn't too heavy, I can bring it back into my hand like so.

The stone was now levitating in the air, in front of him. Innu was sure that there were no strings, so he had to just believe what the other said.

When I saw your axes, it made me think of this. Imagine if you had this power? If you learnt how to transfer your Qi into the axe, and threw it towards your enemy, if you could control its path it would hit your enemy without fail, and then with the power, the axe could come back right to the palm of your hand.

As Ashen explained, Innu was imagining it there and then. How useful something like this would be when going up against Midwak.

You see, this isn't something the Altered Hunters teach you, nor is it anything related to my current position. This is something that one day I could just do. It allowed me to hunt for Altered easier, and I haven't shown any others this skill or ability if you want to call it that.

Now Innu was understanding why Blake wasn't allowed to tag along. After hearing Ashen's explanation it did make him have a thought.

Wait, you said that you just knew how to do this one day, and no one taught you it before, right? So does that mean, you're not even sure if it's something that can be taught to others? Innu asked.

Ashen nodded.

That's right, I have been wanting a student for a while now, to see if it's possible to teach others how to do this. Oh and of course, if this all does work out. I would tell you to only use it in emergencies. If people were to find out about this, they might hunt you down and take your body apart.

Innu didnt like the sound of that, and more so, he was a bit disheartened that it might be the case that he couldn't learn this ability. If it was, then wouldn't a lot more people have powers, or maybe those with powers were just hiding themselves like Ashen.

In the end, Innu couldn't help but think, how much of a plus it would be if he could do something like this in a fight.

Lets do it, lets try and learn this power! Innu excitedly said.

I knew you were the right person for this. Ashen smiled.

Innu quickly started to grab some stones off the ground, as he was ready to begin his training. He would work day and night for this, and time was short.

Meanwhile, Ashen looked at him, thinking if this worked out, maybe it would change the world, or even the future, but one thing was for sure, Innu would become a five star hunter in no time.

Ashen, are you okay? Innu asked. Your nose is bleeding.

Ashen quickly wiped the side of his face.

Oh... this... it's alright, let's start your training.