

## Werewolf 581

### Chapter 581 A Different Path

Marie was currently sitting in the Wolf's Pool Club, her head was down on the bar table. While the teenage girl was feeling down, business continued as usual around her, White was happily serving guests like any other day. At this point, the profit from the Wolf's Pool Club wasn't really relevant for the Howlers, but Marie's mother was more than happy to continue working in it.

The core members all appreciated her effort, due to the fact that it was running as normal on a day-to-day basis, and with it not standing out so much, it made for the perfect hideout.

"What's wrong, Mai?" Kiki Degrace eventually asked. It was obvious to anyone that something was bothering her daughter, judging by the ever increasing number of sighs she was letting out.

"It's hard to explain. Do you think I did the right thing by dropping out of school? Do you think I should go back?" Marie shared some of her burdens.

Letting out a sigh of her own, Miss Degrace stopped cleaning the bar, headed towards her daughter, and started to rub her head, giving her a bit of a massage. "Sweetie, nothing is stopping you from going back to school but is that really what you want?"

"It's hard, you know." Marie continued to complain while enjoying the head massage. "Back when we all left school, I was so determined to help Kai and Gary out of trouble, and I would like to believe that I really did help them. I was doing my best to get stronger, I was really putting in the work to get better with... the dagger and weapons."

For a second, Marie's mother stopped massaging her head, looking around shiftily that nobody had heard her teenage daughter. As thankful as she was for the Howlers for everything they had done to help the two of them, as her mother, Kiki despised the fact that Marie was involved in gang business. She knew what she possibly had been doing but tried her best to disregard it, but rather than worry about her own feelings, she needed to look out for her daughter.

"Now, though... I can't help but feel that I'm useless... that I just get in the way." Marie continued. "I thought I was needed, but when I really I think about it, am I any different compared to another person if they had the same weapons?"

"The ones we met in Notsburg were nearly strong enough to hurt Gary... and from what we learned our enemies in the future are likely to be even stronger. I'm just a normal girl, nowhere near as special as his new friends."

Marie started to think about the AFA students she had seen, like Izzy who had saved her life. Although they were the same age, one was a dropout, while the other was a student at the most prestigious Altered academy. Given her abilities, she could help Gary far better than Marie ever could.

"I understand how you feel, sweetie... There were many times when I felt weak and helpless, and there will always be times when you can't do anything but rely on the people around you. You might not be at the point you wanted to be, but let me ask you this, do you think people like me and White aren't helping out the Howlers?"

Marie turned around and could see White as popular as ever with the boys, as she gave them their drinks. As soon as she turned away, they couldn't stop whispering about her. It was an open secret that many of their regulars only visited to see her, it was clear she was building up her own little fan base.

"I'm not sure what to say." Marie replied.

"While it is certainly true that the Howlers are a gang, a gang doesn't function simply by having many strong fighters. Besides, at this point, I see it more like a corporation or a company. The whole thing cannot exist without everyone doing their part. No matter how small that task, it all allows the Howlers to be as successful as they have been. So let me ask you, while you might not grow strong overnight, is there really nothing you can do to support the Howlers right now, even if it's something small?"

Marie thought about it, maybe there were other ways that she could help, but the thing was, if she was to do the same as White right now, just working at the bar, or helping out at meetings and such, then she didn't think that she deserved to stand side by side with the others.

While nobody could deny that she was one of the Howlers' core members, she knew that it was mostly because she had been a member since the beginning. When she looked at the others, and compared herself to everyone else, there was a big difference between them and her, and that was strength.

As a core member, to continue standing by the side of others, she needed strength. The talk with her mother had helped, but not in the way that she thought. It allowed her to realise she didn't want to just be a little help to the Howlers, she realised what she wanted.

"I have to go somewhere!" Marie said as she quickly went to leave her seat. "If Kai asks where I am, just tell him I've gone home for the day to rest up."

— —

Taking the bus, Marie hadn't informed any of the other members where she was going. It was quite late out at night, but after going through what she had been through, the streets and more just didn't seem as scary anymore.

While on the bus though, she did notice something. There looked to be three teenage boys who were incredibly loud, blasting out their music and hitting each other. It was bothersome, but Marie wouldn't get involved and just like everyone else was ignoring what they were seeing on the bus.

However, there was one thing that was concerning her. Two boys were sitting in one seat and were constantly hitting their third friend behind them. The bus was full and there was a woman who was next to them who seemed to flinch each time one of the boys would go in for a hit.

"Damn you, Yami, hold up your hand properly. I need to show you how I pounded that guy's face earlier!" The boy asked.

Yami, the one sitting next to the woman, held up his hand like a boxing pad, ready to take the strike. As the other went to throw out his fist, the bus went over a small bump, making it go off target and as it did it hit the woman in the side of her face.

"Did that woman jump in front of my fist, what the hell is wrong with you?" the boy shouted.

The others could clearly see what had happened, including Marie, yet they were blaming the woman.

"But... you hit me." The woman said, holding her face.

"What, the f\*ck are you saying, are you trying to blame me?" The boy asked.

"Hey, small dick!" Marie shouted, as she stood up and couldn't take it anymore.

"What, small dick? Is she talking to me?" the boy pointed at himself.

"Well, if you were the one that replied, then I guess I was on the mark." Marie smiled to herself, and the boys soon started to laugh at their friend.

"You were the one that hit her, so if anyone should be apologising it should be you. Why are you getting involved in other people's lives?" Marie asked.

Due to the embarrassment, there was a rage building up in the boy, and as he saw Marie get next to the woman, and help her up, he lifted his leg and kicked Marie right in the shoulder, sending her falling to the ground.

"I see, you act tough, but you fall over just as easily as all the others." The boy smiled.

This was the feeling that Marie hated, feeling so weak. These were just some teenage boys, they weren't Altered nor were they gang members, and they were able to do this to her, what was she to do next.

Gritting her teeth, she soon leapt from her position, and tackled the boy. He didn't fall to the ground, but with her swinging her arm, it hit him on the chin and caught him by surprise.

"That hurt!" the boy said, and before he knew it, his whole body was being electrocuted by a strange object. It was an Anti Altered weapon, a baton that was kept on Marie at all times along with a bunch of other weapons.

When the sparks finally ended, the boy fell to the ground having passed out. The other two boys, after seeing this, didn't want to get involved, and as the bus came to a stop, they quickly picked up their friend and dragged him off.

Marie put away her weapon and could see it was her stop as well, and rather than checking if the woman was okay, she walked off.

"Thanks for the lift if you need any reimbursements of any kind, just contact this number." Marie said, as she pulled out a business card and handed it over. It was a card that Kai had made in case circumstances like these popped up once in a while,

The people on the bus, as well as the driver himself, were just too stunned. It was a strange occurrence that didn't happen every day and they didn't know what to make of it.

Either way, it seemed like the incident today was just confirming all of Marie's fears as she had throughout the day, which was why she was here, on Burnham food street.

#### Chapter 582 Marie's Path

Burnham food street always looked impressive, especially at night, but gone were the days where it would transform from a street of restaurants to a seedy red light district. Now it was full of classy bars and fine dining restaurants.

It was quite impressive how they had managed to transform the clientele and keep it just as busy as before. A lot of this was to do with investments and pushing from Kai, but the real person that was behind running such a successful place, was the one who had run the same red light district as before, and that was Olivia Pearl.

Marie looked up at the large Octopus above the restaurant, she could see various purple and pink lights from inside with people cheering and more.

'Remember why you're here.' Marie said to herself as she pushed the door open. Immediately, she was met with two large bouncers dressed in black suits that were standing by the door.

"Whoa there missy, aren't you a bit too young to be heading inside?" One of the men said, while the other laughed.

"I'm not here to party, I'm here to see Olivia Pearl." Marie asked.

"The owner?" One of them replied. "We weren't told that there would be any appointments today."

The whole situation was frustrating and Marie had run into something like this more than once. If she wasn't wearing her gang colours and mask, they treated her just like everyone else, but this was meant to be a secret meeting in the first place.

"Can you just tell her Marie is here to see her, I promise you'll understand." Marie complained and was getting frustrated, she had already had a bad day.

"A lot of people try that one, unless you can show some ID that says you're over 18, or book an appointment in advance, then I can't let you in." The man stated.

Out of frustration, Marie decided to walk away, or at least she made it look that way, as she bolted and attempted to run right past the two bouncers, but they quickly moved, blocking her way.

As she crashed into them, she fell on the floor landing on her backside once again. Looking up, it was only then she realised the sheer size of the two people.

'I'm not sure if even an electrified baton would take these two out.' Marie gulped.

"Look, if you don't leave this place, then we might seriously have to hurt you!" One of the men said as he pulled back his fist ready to hit Marie, but he soon felt someone grab it.

"What are you doing, were you really going to hurt a little girl?"

When the two bouncers turned around, they immediately noticed it was Olivia with her bright red lipstick on her lips and fur wrapped around her neck. They immediately bowed down.

"I hired you guys to follow the rules not to cause trouble, and you two remember her face. If she comes here again you are to let her in immediately." Olivia said, as she offered a hand to Marie.

Rather than taking the hand though, Marie got up herself. The action had brought a smile to her face. The two went inside and Marie followed until they had eventually reached the second floor. A lot had changed compared to last time she was there. There were a lot fewer rooms and more open space.

Eventually, the two had entered a small room that looked to be for entertaining guests, as there were only two sofas, a table, and on the back wall there was a number of different drinks.

'I don't feel the best coming here on my own... I almost forgot how scary Olivia is.'

There was no one in the room but them two, and the confidence that Olivia had, it was overwhelming for Marie in a way, making it hard for her to even speak.

"I was surprised when I heard your voice calling my name." Olivia said. "That's why I went to the door when you were having trouble. Since I didn't receive a call from him, I can only assume you have decided to come here and see me by yourself.

"It's rare that just us two girls hang out with each other, so tell me, why are you here?"

Pulling in her fingers, making a fist as she scrunched up the skirt she was wearing, Marie took a deep breath.

"I'm too weak the way I am now." Marie said. "The others... I really don't think they understand how I feel. If I brought it up to them, they would say it's okay, that there's no need for me to do anything, but I don't want that. I want to get stronger.

"And you... you're strong, in so many different ways!"

Olivia raised her hand there, as she very well understood how Marie was feeling.

"I'm not going to say what the others would say to you, that you are young, or you have time, or that there is no need.

"Which is why I want you to get to the point. What do you want from me, do you want me to train you? Teach you how to fight, because that won't work. Our bodies are naturally different to them, which is why I used weapons in the past, before I was changed."

This was it, this was the question Marie had been going through her head, what she had planned to do.

"You're right, everything you said is right. Which is why I have come here, because I want you to turn me. I want you to turn me into the same as you!"

It was clear as day what Marie meant. The group had learned that Olivia had been turned by Gary, and that Kai was as well. Which meant they too could be turned as well.

"I know what you're thinking, but if I went to Gary, or Kai, neither of them would ever agree to turn me. They would say there's too much risk! They just wouldn't ever listen to my side. How am I meant to just do nothing while they are taking all of the risks!" Marie argued even though Olivia hadn't said anything.

She was thinking about it. In the past, the Pack rules didn't allow her to hurt the other Howler members, but since they had all been changed recently to keep Midwak in check, that was no longer a problem, but there were other issues.

"There's a few problems I think we have here. First, I don't even know if I can turn you as I have never turned anyone before. We don't even know if that's something possible. On top of that, don't you think that me turning you would put me in their bad books?" Olivia replied.

"I'll explain to them, I'll tell them I forced you, that I gave you no choice, whatever the case I'll make sure you won't get in trouble... but please, you're the only one that I can go to. Even if we're not sure if it works or not... we have to try."

In Marie's head, it was simple, Olivia would bite her, on her arm or such, and in the worst case she would have a mark there for the rest of her life, but in a best case scenario she would become like the others and she could stay by their side once again.

"I've always quite liked you Marie, that is the only reason why I am willing to listen to your madness, and give it a shot."



A giant smile appeared on Marie's face but Olivia wasn't done there.

"But I need to ask you again, are you sure? There is no reversing this process. Your normal life will disappear, there will be a hunger inside you and a desire to kill, as well as dealing with the full moon. It is not something that everyone can handle."

Marie didn't hesitate as she nodded, she had already been thinking about it for a while.

"Very well." Olivia stood up from the sofa, and started to take off her clothes, undressing in front of the other. Since she wasn't wearing her gang uniform, transforming would break her clothes, and she quite liked what she had at the moment.

At first Marie covered her eyes out of embarrassment but she couldn't help but peek through her fingers, as she could see a beautiful perfect hourglass shaped figure. She was getting a little red in the face looking at her.

That was until she started to transform, fur growing from her body, her limbs elongating, and the sharp large teeth.

Although Marie had seen this transformation a few times, she never could get used to it, as her heart would always start to thump.

However, rather than looking away, she reached out her arm, and the large teeth sunk into her skin.

Chapter 583 A New Beta

Marie was keeping her eyes closed, getting ready for what she herself had asked for. The moment Olivia's fangs pierced her skin, a sharp pain radiated throughout her body, and she screamed out, starting to regret her decision.

'What if Olivia doesn't stop there? What if she was only waiting for such a chance to get back at us and decides to keep on eating me?' The teenager's delusions only lasted so long before her body started to pump out adrenaline, while her arm was starting to feel slightly cold.

"Are you just going to stand there with your eyes closed the whole time or what?" Olivia asked. Opening her eyes, Marie could see the bloody wound on her arm, it was dripping down but it wasn't as bad as she had imagined. Meanwhile Olivia was reverting to her human form, changing into her normal clothes.

"Since I've never done something like this before, I thought it was best if I transformed. Sorry for scaring you a little." Olivia apologised. "I highly doubt biting you in this form would accomplish anything other than making your face turn a little redder."

That comment alone was enough for Marie's face to flush a little more as the accompanying image went through her head. She quickly shook it away as Olivia went to approach her again now that she was fully dressed again.

"So do you feel any different, other than the pain on your hand?" Olivia's question was filled with curiosity.

"Not really, if anything I feel strangely fine. Not sure what it will be like once the adrenaline is gone, though. What was it like for you, after Gary bit you?" Marie asked.

Olivia had to think back. Honestly speaking, she didn't remember a lot of it, other than cursing Gary for barging in her base, and apparently outright challenging him for the Alpha seat.

She hadn't done so ever since. Part of her knew that if they were ever to battle again, her loss was a foregone conclusion. The fact that Gary had managed to beat Midwak proved as much. Besides, there really was not much reason for her to rebel. She had the same if not more power than she did as the leader of the Pincers, as long as everything continued this way, then she would be satisfied.

"Oh wait." Olivia finally remembered something. "I forgot to warn you, get ready for some serious pa-"

"Ahhh!" There was a large scream that echoed in the room, followed by a thud.

Looking on the floor, Olivia could see Marie rolling around helplessly. She was digging her nails into the carpet floor trying to tear at it as if it would help her in any way. While the veins all over her body were building, almost allowing one to see the shifting and movement of blood going up and down.

'It hurts so much, my heart feels like it's going to explode... am I going to die?' Marie started to fear.

The pain was continuing and she wanted to scream to let the pain out, but only silence came out of her mouth, as if her body was denying her even this after the first blood wrenching one.

Every time she attempted to, pain started to emerge from a different area, even worse than before. It wasn't for a short time, either, and Olivia was left with nothing to do but watch the poor girl on the floor for over five minutes. The adult woman knelt down by her side with a worried look.

'I don't remember the pain going on for this long has something happened... could there be a problem since I was the one to bite her?'

Olivia went to grab Marie's hand, and as she did, it was gripped far harder than usual, more than the strength of a human, that was for sure. Were it not for her being a Werewolf, she felt like her entire hand would have been crushed by this grip strength,

"Don't you dare die on me now, girl! You said you would explain to the others that this whole thing was your idea! How are you meant to do that if you're dead!"

It was Olivia's unique way of encouragement but it was better than nothing. The pain continued on for another hellish five minutes, Marie's heart had no time to rest beating fast during the whole ordeal.

And for what could have been the first time for Olivia, she felt somewhat bad for what she had done, because it was her bite that was causing all of this pain.

"Don't die, you wanted to show the others what you have right, well this is the price you have to pay. You were too scared to leave, because you thought they worried too much about you, well prove them wrong and get through this!" Olivia screamed.

The pressure from Marie's grip on her hand was starting to fade, her heartbeat was starting to lower.

"No, no!" Olivia shouted. "Are you even listening to me? If you die, I'll kill you myself!"

The grip in her hand had completely left and it was over. All of it was over.

"Thank you... thank you... I... I could hear... you loud and clear." Marie answered weakly.

--

Having arrived at the academy, Gary was resting in his room. Without any warning a message popped up.

[A new Beta Werewolf has joined the pack]

[1 Pawn Point has been awarded]

At first, he thought it was a mistake, but the message was clear as day.

"What... is going on. Did one of the others bite someone?"

Gary remembered something from the system, claiming that those he turned could turn others as well.

However, he never thought the others would do such a thing, because even with his Alpha Bite there was a no guarantee, merely a lower chance of failure, which he could only assume to be synonymous for death.

If the Alpha already had a low chance of a bite succeeding, then what were the chances of a Beta succeeding and turning someone?

'Who was it? There are only three other Werewolves in the Howlers Pack, and I doubt Midwak would try to pull something so soon. Was Kai testing something without informing me? Maybe... or could it have been Olivia? Just why would any one of them try anything so dangerous?'

Getting on his phone, he sent each one of them a message to call him ASAP, but unfortunately all of them seemed to be busy. Remembering he had another way to check, he opened the Pack menu via his system.

[Howlers Pack]

[Alpha Werewolf - Gary Dem]

[Grade: Rook (1/50)]

[Beta Werewolf - Olivia Pearl]

[Grade: Knight (0/5)]

[Beta Werewolf - Kyle Hamper]

[Grade: Knight (0/5)]

[Beta Werewolf - Midwak Wolk]

[Grade: Rook (0/50)]

[Beta Werewolf - Mai Degrace]

[Grade: Pawn (0/1)]

That's when he could see it, he could see Marie's name written there. (Editor's Note: This is not a mistake, though aside from a few characters and system notifications, we will stick with Marie when referring to her. Pretty much like we do with Kai rather than Kyle)

"What is...what is going on." Gary picked up the phone again as he needed to find out some answers.

--

Before doing anything, Olivia waited for Marie to regain some energy. They both waited a few minutes to see if there were anymore signs of pain, but everything was okay with the both of them. Marie was clenching her hands a few times and she could feel a difference in strength from that little act that alone.

Her nose was also sharper, able to pick up many smells in the air, stronger scents she couldn't even describe to others and her ears were also capable of picking up on the conversations happening on the floor below.

"I really have changed." A wave of emotions was coming over Marie and tears were falling down her face.

"Most people would be frightened or hate the fact that they've become a Werewolf and yet here you are crying tears of joy." Olivia commented sarcastically, with a slight smirk on her lips.

Marie quickly tried the ultimate test as she tried to transform. She gritted her teeth, imagining her body changing, yet nothing had happened.

"Yeah, I tried that as well, but I'm afraid it's not as easy as it looks. After your first full moon it might be different, but just changing is only the beginning. It's going to be tough from here on out. Did you think just becoming like this would change you? Well it did, but I imagine just like becoming an Altered, you'll still need to put in the hard work, though you're lucky that I can share my own experiences with you."

"No that's okay I can do it on my-"

"What, you don't have a problem letting me turn you, but now you're about to reject my kind offer?" Olivia asked as she leant in closer.

Marie felt like she was unable to refuse if she did, then maybe worse things were to come, and through this experience she had learnt that maybe Olivia was a nicer person than she seemed.

"You...are a good person, I can't believe.. you did all that stuff before, is there a reason for it?" Marie asked what was on her mind but quickly realised that she could be over stepping herself.

"A reason?" Olivia replied as she thought back, but was soon interrupted as she could hear her phone vibrating on the sofa.

Heading on over, she picked it up, and there was a call on it from Kai.

Answering it, she thought there was no problem or there would be no bother, however as soon as she answered the call she wasn't even able to get a word in.

"What did you do?" The growl from the phone sent shivers down the spine of both ladies.

Chapter 584 Kai's Anger

Gary's initial reaction was twofold when he found out about Marie. The first one was worrying, wondering if she was okay.

To his mind, for Marie to have turned was only plausible if she was forced into it. Someone must have bit her trying to take control of her.

However, the fact that she was now part of the Pack let Gary wonder what the other person's intentions were by turning Marie.

Because based on his system if Marie was to die now, she would disappear from the list, notifying him immediately.

Which was when the second emotion took over, anger. Anger due to the fact that for whatever reason someone had deliberately risked his friend's life.

It was why he had decided to pick up the phone and call the person most likely to have turned her in. However, Kai revealed not to be the one to have turned her and he knew Midwak was still in Notsburg, leaving only one possible suspect.

"Alright, at least the good news is that Marie was successfully turn-"

Before he could finish, the call had already disconnected from the other end. After learning what had happened Kai had already hung up, sharing Gary's anger, and unlike their leader, he was close enough to demand some answers in person.

'I can't say I'm not a little worried for Olivia seeing as Kai treats Marie like his little sister. Well, whatever happens, only has herself to blame. If it was Amy in this situation I don't know what I would do. Still... perhaps I should give her a heads up that Kai might be on his way. '

Calming down, Gary just felt like what was done was done. She was already turned and there was nothing they could do about that but help her.

Looking at his system Gary could see the number of Pawn Points as his disposable and felt maybe it was safe to upgrade Marie. If it was like the others she would get a Class upgrade as well.

--

Similar to Gary, the call with Olivia and Kai had ended abruptly. She was unable to say anything or get a word in, instead Kai kept howling down at her.

"How could you be so stupid?"

"I was just starting to trust you.."

"Do you know who she is?"



Marie standing nearby could hear everything as well and was just shaking her head. Both her and Olivia had never seen him act this way.

Kai was the cool calm and collected one, even in a tense situation or near death he didn't act like this yet he did now. Marie couldn't lie either, that the fact he was acting this way, made her a little happy.

"That went about as well as expected." Olivia noted as she rubbed her ears. They were hurting from all the shouting.

"It sounds like he's on his way here. You heard it as well, I didn't even have a chance to explain myself, and I doubt he will have cooled down by the time he arrives. Since this was all YOUR idea, you got a pretty big job ahead of you, missy."

There was an awkward smile from Marie but a promise was a promise she wouldn't let Olivia get in trouble for this.

--

Moments later a large limousine was seen driving on Burnham Food Street. Usually late at night or early morning you could drive on the footpath but during the day where there was so much footfall the road would be closed, so the site of the car as well as the particular car had caught a lot of attention.

It stopped just outside the restaurant with its giant octopus sign and the door was opened aggressively.

Kai was the first to exit the vehicle, he wasn't in his gang uniform nor wearing his mask revealing the scar he still had across his jaw thanks to Midwak.

Following behind him was a large figure as well, strangely in his pyjamas, a fluffy grey top and bottoms, but nonetheless there was a serious look on his face.

'This is a bit embarrassing.' Austin thought as he could feel the eyes on him looking at his clothes. 'I was just getting ready for sleep, but how could I ignore a call from Kai when sounded so angry.'

Kai didn't really explain much he didn't have time to, but since he was seeing Olivia and a fight could very well kick off he wanted to call someone and Austin was the only who has answered, otherwise he would have brought Innu as well.

Regardless, the two of them walked inside the venue, and reached the two large bouncers inside.

"What is with today and these kids trying to get in. Since when did this venue become so popular with the young ones?" The bouncer complained.

"Austin." Kai said and he already knew what he needed to do.

Stepping forward in front of the bouncers the two large men couldn't help but let out a laugh. Unlike Kai who looked his age Austin looked more like an adult and no matter how big he was, his current outfit let to a burst of laughter.

"I'm sorry but there is no sleeping allowed inside." One of them joked.

Grabbing onto both of their shoulders, a simple push hurled the bouncers past the two of them banging their heads into the door, while one of the heads went right through the door.

'Hmm I need to control my strength a bit more.' Austin thought.

The music was playing quite loud in the venue that no one was aware of what was happening inside. So when the two entered they didn't get too much attention as they walked through the crowds to head upstairs.

However Austin was gaining a lot of attention.

"Oh I like your style."

"Why did I never think of that? I think this could set a new trend. We should inplemt a pajama night!"

"Hey, this might sound strange but can I rub your clothes?"

People were blocking Austin left right and centre and Kai was already by the stairs where there were even more guards.

"Hey you, you're not allowed up here!"

These were all technically members of the Howlers, so Kai didn't want to hurt them. As they went to grab him with his quick movement he was able to move away, take a step forward and use his foot to trip one of them up.

The other guard was still running down the staircase and with the strength of a single leg Kai used his power to jump up and over the person before quickly rushing up the stairs.

"Olivia, come out here!" Kai shouted, knowing that she definitely would hear him from the second floor.

Just like that, a bunch of guards came out from their rooms hearing the shout, and at the end of the hallway Olivia could be seen as well.

"Everyone get back in your rooms and stay in your rooms, this is a very important guest!" Olivia stated.

The guards listened and entered their doors after they did, Kai's eyes were glowing blue.

"What is this, you want to fight me, without even hearing me out. That isn't like you?" Olivia smiled.

"Hear you out?" Kai questioned as he walked forward, his arm transforming. "There is nothing to hear about the fact that you went behind not just my back but Gary's as well and turned her. You didn't even consult me.

"Do you think you can do something like that, to someone I care about!" Kai rushed forward but as he did, Marie quickly went and stood in the way of the two of them spreading her arms out.

"You can't hurt her, Kai!" Marie shouted. "If you do, I'll never forgive you."

"Mai, move." Kai instructed.

"No! Stop being so stubborn and just listen."

"She's right, you know." Olivia added. "Why don't you listen to what Marie wants for once, rather than doing everything for her. You are not in control of her life, she is in charge of her own. So listen to her."

Although Olivia's words seemed to only anger Kai more at first, hearing what she said while looking at Marie and the desperation in her eyes was causing him to calm down and Marie saw it as her chance to explain things.

"I was the one that approached Olivia, I was the one that asked her to turn me. Just take a look at your current behaviour. This is why I knew I couldn't go to you or Gary.

"I know you guys care about me, so you would have simply said there was no need. That you two would protect me but I want to be with you guys... side by side and not somewhere in the back! Even if you say I don't have to do this, I can help in my own way. I want to help in my own way.

"Back then, when we fought Midwak, if it wasn't for Innu, if it wasn't for Izzy I would have died. I know that.

"So I couldn't just stay by your side as I am now. I had to change. So you can't blame Olivia, all of this was my own choice!"

Kai's arm started to revert back to normal, his eyes no longer glowing as he thought about Marie.

"I thought I was doing a good job of protecting her but she's right, I've never considered how she felt. I just didn't want to lose another person that I cared about so much. I didn't want you involved in all of this to begin with and now you're more involved than you need to be.

'I can't believe that you were so scared of me, that you felt like you couldn't even ask me.'

Just then as Kai was about to speak, Marie's phone received a message from Gary.

"Brace yourself."

Chapter 585 Pick One

Through a process of elimination, Gary determined that Olivia had to be the one who turned Marie into a Werewolf. This conclusion was reached as Kai's reaction indicated he was not responsible, and Midwak was also ruled out. Given Olivia's past actions, including her use of the whip to save the group, Gary could not imagine her acting with harmful intentions.

In the end, Marie was safe, and Gary had to address the new reality he was facing.

'Now that she is a Werewolf, there is a good chance that she won't just be involved in gang matters, and that Midwak's old Pack might go after in the future. In that case, the best thing to do is to allow her to evolve, and assign her a Class.'

Having gone through the process himself in the past, Gary knew that the process of receiving a Class was quite painful. Remembering Kai's transformation, and Olivia's complaint about no prior notice, he decided to warn Marie in advance by sending her a text.

Feeling confident in his decision, Gary smiled to himself and opened his Pack tab. He then allocated the necessary Pawn Points toward Marie and watched as the system reacted as expected.

[Congratulations, your Pawn Grade Beta wolf, is now a Knight grade]

[The Beta Wolf 'Marie' is now able to select from one of the following classes]

[Congratulations, one of your Beta Werewolves (Mai Degrace) has been upgraded to Knight Grade]

[You may now select her class]

[Hunter Class]

[A Werewolf Hunter is fast, agile, and sneaky. They focus on killing their prey quickly, out of sight and from the shadows. They are able to track their targets from a great distance and have great focus]

[Class perks include: More and better Marks, improved tracking]

This was the same Class he had assigned Olivia. It was handy to have her as a Hunter as Gary could mark targets, giving her a boost in power. While she could do it as well, without a system of her own, she would only do so subconsciously, once her killing intent for a target exceeded some unknown value.

As for the tracking features, Gary's theory on that were that Hunter Class Werewolves had a larger detection range for Marks. He himself had realised in the past that the ones he had marked, like Tom or his sister, had turned more and more faint, the greater the distance. Because of that, although, he would know when one of his friends was in trouble, following them via that scent was next to impossible.

Given that their Pack already had a Hunter, Gary felt that it wasn't really necessary to need another one, though part of his decision also stemmed from the fact that the system also didn't recommend that option.

[Warrior Class]

[Werewolf Warriors can be considered the vanguards of their Pack. They lead their Pack into battle with their great strength. They have exceptional fighting ability and courage, but it is because of this trait, that they also boast the highest fatality rate.]

[Class perks include: Wide range of skills to select from, large Energy pool]

This option was of course what Gary had chosen for himself. It was a strong Class, and unlike with the others, he already knew what the advanced options were that one would be able to select. Although he didn't think that the role of a Dark Warrior would suit her, it might not hurt to turn her into the Paladin Class in the future.

'However, what I don't like about it, is the fact that it states they have the highest fatality rate. Although the Classes past that are good, I'm not sure if I have enough points to shoot her up to a Grade where she can select her next Class. I also have no idea about what the Class Promotions for the other two Classes are, for all I know, they might be just as good, if not better.'

[Protector Class]

[A Werewolf Protector boasts one of the sturdiest bodies of their race. They use their own body to shield their fellow Pack members from any harm, making sure they will survive.]

[Class perks include: Extra Endurance, faster healing.]

'Unlike Kai, Marie only has access to the three base Classes. Does that mean that he only got that extra option because I used Alpha Bite to turn him, was it purely luck, or could it have something to do with natural aptitude? The system also didn't recommend any of them this time, so does that mean Marie is simply an all-rounder?' Gary wondered, but then recalled that when he had to make a choice for his Class Promotion, there also had been no recommendation.

Given the last option, Marie's small stature didn't exactly seem to fit the image Gary had when he thought of a Protector Class Werewolf. He felt like this was a role suited for someone with a large wall of muscle like Austin. He also had yet to experience what the Protector Class could do or its traits so it was a bit of a risk.

'Going by the Class perks, the best advantage the Protector Class seems to have is that they should be very hard to kill. A hard body, and fast healing. Although the name sounds like they would only be good as defenders, that doesn't have to mean that they have no offensive capabilities.

'There's also no reason for Marie to completely change and give up what she has been doing to fit such a role. Choosing this one, nothing is stopping her from continuing to be a backline support, only with the added benefit of extreme defence, and great healing. This way, she should be able to survive long enough for any of us to help her out from any bad situation. I also believe Kai would support such a choice..'

The more Gary thought about it, the more he talked himself into this being the optimal choice for her.

[You have selected the Protector Class]

[The process will now begin.]

#### Chapter 586 A New Person

While Marie had to be going through her transformation, Gary looked at the remainder of his points, and going by the numbers, he had enough to evolve both Kai and Olivia to the next Grade. Whether this would result in them advancing in their Class, he wasn't so sure. After all, his own Class Promotion had been the result of reaching Level 25, but his Pack members didn't have any Levels.

'I should probably stop here and do it the next time I see it in person. It's likely that I'll have to make a choice between two options for them as well, and it would be better to ask their opinion rather than deciding it then.'

Sending out another text, Gary apologised to Marie for what she must be experiencing right now. He also send another text to Kai not to worry if she suddenly fell into extreme pain because she was simply going through the same process as he had when becoming a Shapeshifter Class. He also asked to be kept updated on any changes. Pretty pleased with himself, Gary finally decided to get some shut-eye for the night.

The next day, Gary was attending the lessons of the Altered academy as if nothing had happened. During recess he talked with his friends as if nothing had happened the day prior. They brought up their future lessons, and some said they were more confident compared to before based on the experience they had.

Gary did notice Izzy was quieter than normal, which seemed to be related to her wound that had yet to disappear. However, once lessons finished, it was time for Gary and Numba to head somewhere. The two had been lucky enough to make it exactly one day prior to their special lesson, so that's where they were headed..

'The situation in Slough took longer than I thought. Which means, I have two more of these special lessons to attend before I decide to take the Altered assessment and get out of here. I made my decision and told the others already.' Gary thought.

The thing was, Gary had gotten a boost from the Altered that day, far more than he would have gotten from the beasts that had their crystal removed. So honestly, unlike before, he didn't feel like he would



lose out too much if he stopped attending. Nevertheless, he would still have his debut match to become a proper AFC fighter.

The two had met up with Crowley and were walking through the halls. They went to the room they were in before, putting on their red and blue uniforms and that's when they could see someone they had completely forgotten about, someone who had been impacted by their visit to Nosburg personally.

When looking at Sty, the teenage boy appeared to be tired, he was weary as he put on his uniform and even stuck his leg through the arm pocket then on the wrong side a few times. It was quite clear that he wasn't in the right place.

When Numba saw him, and although he hated to admit it, but he felt bad for the guy. Although he was a Grade A scumbag, he was also a kid who had just lost his father, even if he had been the leader of the Scatterbugs. When meeting back at the AFA, Nuba had expected Sty to go crazy, to attempt to attack the two of them, or shout at them or something, but he hadn't said a word to either him or Gary.

'Losing a father, even if they are a D\*ck would be bad for anyone.' Numba thought. Although he knew that he was merely adopted by Harry Cardenez, to him he was like his real father, and he knew he would be heartbroken if anything happened to him. Perhaps it was even worse to lose someone you actually were related to...

That's when they could see Apollo coming over and stopped just in front of Gary.

"You were away for a while, I was starting to get worried that you would leave the academy." Apollo smiled. "But, then I heard that your gang went ahead and took over the Scatterbugs, I can only guess that's the reason you went back."

Numba couldn't help but smirk inwardly. 'If only you knew what role exactly he was playing in that.'

"Your gang is impressive, just like you." Apollo continued to praise the green haired teenaer. "Just to let you know, my family has decided to take in Sty, so don't feel too bad. It's not like you had anything to do with the decision. It sucks, but things like these happen and let's get on with this assessment."

Things were going smoothly, perhaps too smoothly for some strange reason, but Gary kept his mouth shut to not jinx himself. He preferred to stay uninvolved in any future academy matter since he would be leaving soon anyway.

"I have an announcement about today's assessment." Crowley informed them. "Due to the performance both teams have shown during the inspection, the beast chosen for today is a particularly strong one. For your own sake, I can only highly advise you to work together. Today isn't a time to make this into a contest on who is stronger, so your main focus should be on surviving this encounter!"

Gary was ready, and despite his teacher's warning he didn't feel afraid, now even by a little bit. After his fight with Midwak, a beast seemed like a minor thing in comparison, but still a great stepping stone on his journey to get stronger. After all, he had a powerful Werewolf on his back that was going to try to take his spot each and every month now.

'Let's go!'

Chapter 587 A New Gary

Crowley stated before that if they were ever to do a special lesson together, then it would mean that the beast that they were going up against would be a strong one. So it was safe to say that they were all a little nervous as they entered the usual room.

Gary looked up at the observing room. Since it was a one way mirror, he was unable to see through it, but he could sense that there were people in there, most likely from NIRV again, watching everything that was going on.

'No Mark... it looks like Tom wasn't able to come this time.' Gary lamented. 'Before, I was a little shy in hiding my powers, worried about what they would do, but the academy has done a good job in protecting me so far, and outside, they would have to try and get through the Howlers to get to me.'

Everyone apart from Sty looked to be ready for what was to come out of the door in front of them. He still was absent-minded and it was clear to his fellow students that he was not someone they should rely on today. He seemed to lack any motivation whatsoever, just going through the motions.

On the other hand, Gary's behaviour was also different this time. Rather than step back, he inched forward until he was side by side with Apollo.

"Oh... have you decided to show us something interesting this time?" Apollo asked. "You're not the only one. While none of us were able to do much against Jayden last time, it's different now. There's a reason why I'm always at the top."

Gary wasn't sure if he was imagining it or not, but he felt that there was something strange coming from in-between Apollo's hands. Particles of frost around his fingers.

'Did he learn how to use a skill with his Altered form?' Gary wondered.

It seemed different from Xin's yellow volts of electricity, his was more blue in colour. Still, he didn't have time to worry about that, or worry about how strong the others were getting.

The sound of the opening door made them stop their chatter, and look towards the beast that was slowly coming in view. From the bottom, there were a set of holes and large muscular legs. When seeing it clearly, it looked like the bottom of a horse.

This came as a big surprise after hearing that this enemy would be a tough one for them to battle. This was small and compact, rather than large and bulky as they had all imagined it to be. As the door slowly lifted more, they could then see its chest, which was almost exactly like that of a human.

A stunning muscular body was on full display, with human hands as well. So far it looked like a mythical beast, a centaur of legends, but there was certainly something different about this one. As it had no head, or at least the head was not where one would expect.

On top of the human body, there was a neck but it led to nothing as if somebody had cut it off. Rather, when looking closer at its chest, they could make out a face that stuck out a little from between its pecks. It was smiling with eyes that were fully white toward them.

"That doesn't look like any beast I've ever seen." Wu exclaimed in shock.

"Yeah, it looks like something straight from my nightmares." Numba added.

James, the head of the NIRV team at the AFA was inwardly smiling, or rather outwardly, though he was doing a good job covering it up with the palm of his hand over his face.

'These kids, they have no idea what they are facing right now, but seeing as the study of beasts isn't really part of any curriculum, this doesn't surprise me. Even if we told them that they're looking at a bona fide humanoid beast, they wouldn't understand the implications.'

NIRV had done a lot of research into beasts, especially after successfully recreating them from fossils. As stated, different beasts seemed to emit a different amount of energy, and the only sure way they had to tell the level of energy emitted was from the crystals after their death.

However, the more data they got their hands on, the more proficient they became in estimating the strength of a beast based on the fossil used to create it. Regardless of all of this, there was one thing that would somewhat turn their knowledge on their head, and that was beasts that had more of a humanoid figure.

Sometimes the crystals gathered after their death would emit a low amount of energy, yet somehow, and for some reason, they were far stronger in battle. They had learned this the hard way, letting them come to the conclusion that humanoid beasts were beasts at the top of their class, or tier of the Beasts with that energy level reading.

This was not going to be an easy task.

---

When the door finally lifted up in the air, the beast started to scrape its legs across the floor. Moments later, it charged directly at all of them on the ground floor.

"We should wait and see what it can do first, and then attack it, right?'" Numba asked Gary who had yet to do anything.

Instead, the others acted, Wu, went forward, as he wished to match the centaur beast in strength. Antennas could be seen from his head, and his forms slightly bulged. Since the beast seemed to have no deadly weapon on its body and such, Wu felt like this was the perfect opponent for him.

At that moment, the two of them collided, yet Wu was easily pushed back.

'This type of strength, despite its smaller size, it's even stronger than the centipede!'

Wu was suddenly lifted off the ground by the centaur. Seeing this, Snow came in to help, and jumped with his powerful legs towards the Centaurs side, but acting fast the Centaur threw Wu right into Snow, causing the two of them to tumble.

"He, he, he!" The face on its chest emitted a horrible shriek that could only be interpreted as a wicked laughter. That was when a large heavy fist was coming from above. Apollo was in the air, grabbing both of his hands doing a type of hammer strike.

While he swung his hand down, it almost looked like a blizzard of cold air followed his hands, and it smashed into the floor, missing its target but destroying the tiles underneath. It was a heavy strong strike.

However, it hadn't hit the target, and the Centaur beast was still smiling a distance away.

"That thing is so fast, and it's almost like it's teasing us, knowing how fast it is." Numba noted, wondering if his explosive speed would be enough to contend with it, or if his fate was the same as Wu's.

"It looks like Apollo did learn a skill...in such a short amount of time as well, but I'm not the same either."

Gary started to walk over, and as he did, there was something that had occurred. The special lesson was always the last lesson of the day, it was done late in the afternoon, and now it had hit 6PM.

[While the night sky is out, your Werewolf self will receive a large boost in your Energy]

[Your Energy is now doubled]

[All skills have temporarily increased in level]

When Gary was close enough, he could see the centaur still not moving, it had a human trait, of arrogance and was overconfident, and this would be its downfall.

Gary transformed his arms and legs.

[Skill activated Lethal Pounce Lv. 2]

His whole body jumped in one direction away from the centaur, it turned its body, and before it would do anything, Gary had jumped off a second time. It was part of the lethal pounce level 2 skill.

Hitting his target, Gary had a hand right through its chest, with his transformer arm, holding onto the head of the beast in the air.

Chapter 588 Classified Information

One moment, everyone was ready to fight with everything they had on the line. After seeing Apollo, Wu and Snow struggle against the beast, they knew this was going to be a difficult task, and as usual a thought would creep in at the back of their minds, what if this time they weren't strong enough?

It was these types of situations that would allow them to grow, yet all of the built up feelings that they had, vanished in a moment. They looked upon Gary, who had pulled his hand back out of the beast, and planted his two feet on the floor.

The beast fell to the ground with a loud thud, unmoving, clearly having been killed. It happened so soon, so fast, and with no sign of struggle.

"You..." Apollo said looking at Gary, yet for the first time he was speechless. Throughout the two's meetings and journeys in the academy, Apollo had always felt on top. He felt like he was the one that was superior to Gary, even though he was interested in his strength. Yet now after seeing what had happened, he was finding it hard to say that to himself.

Shaking his head, he soon smiled though.

'Not only did I think I was already far ahead of you, I thought I was a fast grower and was continuing to put distance between the two of us. I saw most of your skills when you fought against Jayden and to now be on this level... how quickly are you growing, and when will you hit your peak?'

It was only for a moment, but Apollo was feeling down, or rather shocked was more the word. He wondered if this is how others felt when they saw his power, but he soon realised that all of this was a good thing.

There was someone around his age, similar to him, that could be competition. It meant he just needed to work that much harder, if he wanted to lead his own gang in the future, and take them to new heights.

'I was unsure before, but If your gang is as special as you are, I believe that the world will soon learn that there is a new king. The question is, which one will fall so you can rise.' Apollo thought.

When a beast was defeated, there would then be a team of NIRV workers who would come out and dissect the beast to find the crystal. This time, they were a bit slower, perhaps due to the speed that the beast had been killed at.

'Those guys, I can tell that they're stunned by Gary.' Numba thought. 'Look, Wu and Snow can't even look at them. I can't believe it myself, but the truth is, that Gary hasn't even shown them everything he has, because he can't.'

Numba was feeling lucky, lucky that he met someone like Gary, and like that his family was now deeply connected with Gary. As long as he was with him, he thought they could achieve great things.

When the workers eventually came out, they got to work as usual, and the request was granted to Gary again. He was allowed to have the body of the beast, before it went away. Looking at the body up and down, surprisingly since it was more human, it was more what Gary was used to eating by now.

'This beast, it feels like there is more energy lingering in its body than usual. It's a shame, I thought maybe I could get the crystal and see if it would help me even more, but It wasn't where I was expecting it to be.'

After consuming the beast, Gary did see an increase to his stats.

[Dexterity 45 >>>47]

[Endurance 48 >>> 49]

It was more stat points than he usually would have received, but now since his stats were so high, the increase looked minimal, and in a way felt minimal as well.

'I guess it makes sense to not feel as much of an improvement. If I had a 1000 stats and gained 1 point, then the difference between 1000 and 1001 wouldn't be great, but the difference between 1 and 2 is double. Still, a small margin in a fight could be the difference.'

While Gary was busy in the special room to feast on the beast, there was a certain individual that was also surprised by the results of today's special lesson.

'I wasn't expecting that at all.' James thought. Going to the computer screen, the NIRV employee looked at it again. He saw the transformation and the defeat of the humanoid beast.

'The humanoid beast was meant to be a real test for them. To be honest, I wouldn't have been surprised if one of them died today. Yet, because of him, that didn't happen.'

Lifting his head he looked at the others.

"Did you manage to gather information on the students' Altered forms like I asked?" James said.

Another employee stood up from his seat.

"We did check, and even bought information from the other companies to see if they had any records on Altered forms that were like that of a wolf. There was nothing that we could find.



"However, when digging into NIRV files a bit more, I did find something somewhat related to it."

After the strange request James was looking into Gary more and more, and he was only getting more curious.

"Unfortunately sir, I was unable to access the files." The employee replied.

"You couldn't access the files, did you use my access code?" James asked.

"Yes sir, since it was a request from yourself, I even requested to have access to the files, thinking that it was some mistake. After all, it's just information on some Wolf Type altered, yet the request was denied."

Information in NIRV that not even an employee at James's level could get access to. Now, he was really intrigued, and wondered why it was the case.

'If I can't get access then I will just have to do some research myself. Let's see, if you defeat a humanoid beast so easily, then it's only fair to up the level of the next special lesson.' James inwardly smiled.

#### Chapter 589 A Deal With The Phoenix

The Phoenix gang was one of the most well known Tier-1 gangs across the country. The main reason for this was their leader Sin who wasn't one to shy away from showing off his powers. Unlike most of the Kings who seemed contend with secretly ruling from behind the scenes, Sin was very public in displaying his face and fighting on the front lines, especially if there was a group that annoyed him.

Even though his face was so public the other Kings didn't attempt to go after him, or increase their influence, which, in a lot of ways, showed the power the Phoenix gang had. This was precisely the reason why two people from a small Tier-3 town had decided to join them, Raven and Gil.

The two of them had nothing left behind for them at Slough. Gil's parents had long since abandoned him, his consistent streak of getting into trouble had caused them to eventually give up on their son.

As for Raven, his parents had long since died, leaving him and his brother on their own. Trying to make a better life for themselves, he had joined hands with his two friends Brendon and Yevon and had

founded the Grey Elephants, who had managed to become one of the two overlords of Slough. Alas, his friends, as well as his brother, had all messed with the wrong people and had ended up killed.

As if fate had brought them together, Raven and Gil had nowhere else to go but they shared a clear goal, and that was to punish the person they held responsible for all of their recent misgivings, Gary Dem.

Unfortunately, there was nothing they could do on their own. They both knew his strength, he had proven himself by taking out the Underdogs. Being in the de-facto strongest gang made them as untouchable as a world renowned celebrity, so they needed help and so Raven had decided to leave town and join the Phoenix gang.

Coming from a Tier-3 town, despite being the vice-leader of a prominent gang, Raven had no choice but to start from the bottom, same as Gil. Nevertheless, this didn't bother him. The two of them were always quick to volunteer for any and all jobs, be it to clean up one of the gang hideouts, or to get rid of some dead bodies or evidence of crimes committed. Doing the dirty work that no one liked to do had quickly earned them a favourable impression from the others.

Neither one of them was a stranger to gruesome sights, but some of the scenes they had to witness would make any normal person faint, yet eventually they had grown numb to such things. When being given their first proper task, it allowed them to commit to what they needed to do, easier than they thought.

The gang was impressed, and slowly they were being spotted for their talents. They were given jobs that had more importance, one that required them to get stronger.

Raven had always been quite the skilled fighter, and Gil had natural strength and agility from his rugby days. The two of them would often train against each other, and continued to grow their fighting skills, but it wasn't enough to stand out. In a tier-1 gang, there were many like them who were just as skilled or just as strong.

At some point they hit a wall. Without rising to a higher position they would have no influence, but those that were able to rise up, were at least Altered, something that they could never be unless a miracle occurred.

Unbeknown to them, their wishes would soon be granted. Being the leader of the Phoenix gang, it was next to impossible for either one of them to meet with Sin, not only because their standing was far too low, but also because he would often be out and about doing his own thing. Nevertheless, for some reason they couldn't even begin to fathom, one day they were called out in front of him, since Sin seemed to have some interest in Slough. Being natives, he asked for all the information they had on the place.

The two of them shared everything they knew, with Raven giving more of the detailed information about the underworld. About how the Underdogs worked, what members the Howlers had, and more.

A few days later the two of them continued their normal duties in the gang, when they were called once more, only this time they were to head to the large villa that was in the mountains overlooking the sea.

Both Girl and Raven sat down nervously as they looked at the surrounding guards, and Sin in a dark red jacket, looking out at the view from his balcony.

"I called you two back, because I wanted to thank you for the information you provided before." Sin explained, still not turning around. "I am a fair boss who rewards those that are helpful, and you have been very helpful in this situation."

One of the men that was standing by the side with sunglasses on his face came over with a metal briefcase. He slammed it on the table in front of them, and lifted it open revealing two syringes.

'Is this what I think it is!' Gil thought with excitement. 'I've only heard the others talk about it, the new method to becoming an Altered, it's Altered solution... he's really allowing for us to become Altered!'

Although Gil was over the moon, the same couldn't be said for Raven, because when looking at the syringe he noticed something. The colour of the liquid inside was a little black. It was moving around as if it was alive.

'This... this seems awfully like the same liquid he wanted us to disseminate amongst the Grey Elephants... and it turned them all, into those mindless monsters.'

Sin turned around, and when he did, he immediately noticed the look on Raven's face. "From the looks of it, you have seen this before."

Raven was quite surprised, because in their last meeting Sin had seemingly forgotten all about him.

"I can already guess what your main concern is, so let me calm you down, this solution has been vastly improved. Think about it, what would I have to gain from turning two of my own men into Crazy Altered? If I wanted to get rid of you, would I really have to use such methods?"

"The reason why I am offering you this chance, is because I have big plans for you two. Whatever reasons you have for leaving Slough, you will be able to head back with no problem at all if you take this."

"And, to go one step further, this is your choice, your reward for being loyal, I will not force you to take it."

Raven looked at the syringe again, it was slightly different to the one he had given them. The tint of black was almost sitting on top of the other colour inside the tube rather than mixing. Last time as well, only part of the solution had been used rather than the whole thing, which could have been a reason for the bad side effects.

'Gary is growing stronger, and according to my information, his whole group is also improving at a frightening speed. If I wish to have any chance of catching up, to get revenge for Hawk, I need to take risks.' Raven convinced himself, as he grabbed the syringe and right there and then stabbed it into his shoulder.

#### Chapter 590 Taking It Seriously

The sound of the familiar alarm went off, and almost immediately Gary reached out his hand, stopping it. Instead of just hitting the snooze button or staying snuggled in his sheets for a few minutes like he used to do, he got up straight away, rubbing his eyes.

After that, he soon stood up and started to stretch. Raising his hands as high as possible towards the ceiling, he then proceeded to do a few more stretches as he went towards his toes.

It was still dark outside, and his lessons wouldn't start for a while, yet he still put on his AFA uniform and proceeded to head outside. On the way, he passed a few of his notebooks that had several drawn images and words written out. They were his notes from the videos he had been watching last night.

Outside, Gary headed to the large track and field, the track was a standard 4000 metre large oval circle, while in the middle of the field there was some equipment that could be used for training, at the moment Gary was just running around the track and at a fast pace as well.

What Gary was currently doing was his new routine. Late at night he would study Altered matches from the AFC. Although he knew that Altered were stronger outside of the AFC, due to their banned skills inside the ring, they were still talented at hand to hand combat.

The thing was, with Gary's form it was very physical, so getting better at hand to hand combat was important. During his time as a werewolf Gary had been doing a lot, and he had been training as well, but not in a way that someone from the AFA normally would be.

Instead he was getting stronger through his system and werewolf self. It wasn't a regret, because it was still the best way for him to grow the fastest at the time, and it possibly was what saved his life.

Now though, eating beasts would raise his stats by one or two and there wouldn't be much of a difference, so he needed to improve in a different way.

'That's why I've decided to go back to the basics. Analyse the skills, replicate how they fight. I remember Eddy, and Xin as well. Both of them were strong and skilled at controlling their powers. The debut students train by increasing their strength without transforming, in order to make their altered forms stronger and deadly.

'I'm not an Altered, but I feel the same can apply to me as well.

All of these things had led to Gary making his own routine, to do everything he could to improve and get stronger.

After warming up with a few sprints around the track, Gary stopped for a moment, and started to think back to some of the skills that he saw on the video. He was attempting some of the kicks, trying to replicate them but it was proving quite difficult as he kicked the air.

'Unless I film myself or have a mirror, it's hard to check my form to see if I'm doing something right, and even if I learn the skills. It's harder to find a use for them in actual combat unless I have a sparring partner.'

For a second, Gary was thinking about asking Numba or one of the others, but asking them to wake up this early, he was sure they would comply, it was just unfair on them. Regardless, Gary continued to go through the motions as he imagined the opponents on screen in front of him.

While doing all of this, there were multiple thoughts that were going through his head. One of them was how far he had come. From being a transporter for a gang, to being the leader of a gang and taking over Slough.

From there, they were now in charge of a tier-2 city that brought in more wealth than he could spend. Unless it had to do with Altered solutions and Anti Altered weapons.

'Kai's plan is working as well. The investments in Slough are being done with my name, and people in the know are starting to learn about me. It's scary sometimes how far ahead that guy thinks.' Gary thought, but his mood soon went sour.

'It's crazy... me a successful business tycoon. I still remember when we were struggling with our bills, and were unable to even buy meat. Now, our family never has to worry about money again... and yet, my mother, she isn't able to experience any of this. She hasn't been able to enjoy a stress free life. When will you wake up?'

"Gary?" A voice called out from behind.

Judging by the sky around them, Gary thought that it was perhaps around 6 AM in the morning, the sun still hadn't risen, so who would be out here at this time and that would know his name?

When he turned his head, he could see that there was another AFA student in their uniform.

"Xin... what are you doing here?" Gary asked, as he couldn't help but stare at her smooth face and glowing eyes.

"What do you mean? I come here everyday, it's you that is here for the first time." Xin replied.

The truth was, Xin was quite happy to see Gary and surprised that she saw him here of all places. After their last meeting was cut short, she looked to see if Gary was okay, only to find that he had left the academy on some urgent business.

"Right... I just thought that I should train a bit harder, and take the academy a little more seriously." Gary answered.

The comment had annoyed Xin a bit, because during her whole time in the academy she had been taking it seriously, and wondered how one could be so relaxed. Which caused a few unexpected words to come out of her mouth.

"Fight me." Xin requested.