

## Werewolf 61

### Chapter 61: A deal

Today was the second night that Tom had to stay inside the hospital. Following the advice of their school nurse, Tom had made an appointment and given his situation he didn't have to wait for long. He had quickly been assigned a private room, though he ended up having to sleep over on Monday since the surgeon didn't have any gap to get to him.

Tom didn't mind that. The hospital staff had given him enough pain killers that he had easily slept until Tuesday morning. When he woke up, he saw that he had seventeen missed calls from his mother alone, and nine more from his father. At some point, his father had notified him via a message that the hospital had already informed them and that the two of them would be with him this evening.

With a few more hours to go until his dental surgery, Tom had browsed the web via his phone. The first thing he had searched for was any recent news. He half closed his eyes as he read the headlines expecting to see Gary's name or the headlines reading Werewolf caught, but there was none of that and just news on Billy.

His surgery was rather uneventful. From what he had been told, implanting a new tooth was a rather routine procedure and they had also taken care of the cuts that had appeared in his mouth.

'I wonder how Gary is coping. Where did he run off to after leaving me at the nurse's office? I'm seriously worried. I mean, if he ever found out who did this to me, there's a good chance he could...'  
Tom gulped. 'Kill those two.'

At that moment, the two people who were responsible for Tom's absence from school burst into the room through the door.

"Tom, how are you feeling? Did the surgery go well? Let's see that beautiful smile of yours." His mother called out as she rushed over to his bedside. She hugged him to the point that Tom had trouble breathing. He tapped his mother on the shoulder, asking her to release him.

Noticing this, his mother pulled back and allowed Tom to give her a shy smile. It had been a while since he had seen his parents, so it was a bit saddening that he had to be in a hospital for them to find some time. Both of them were still wearing their white lab coats, indicating that they had rushed over from work to visit.

Holly and James Green were like the living embodiments of what one pictured when hearing the word 'scientist', including the thick black glasses on their faces. Tom's mother was blonde and rather good-looking. Her son sometimes lamented that he apparently got more from his father than his mother, including his black hair, which was hard to see given his hair cut.

James Green wasn't bad looking, but he wasn't exactly someone who would be described as 'handsome' either, which sometimes made Tom wonder how his father had managed to get his mother. His pet theory was that among all the other scientists, he was probably the best looking one.

'They must have even asked for time off to visit me.' Tom thought with a guilty conscience. Both of them worked in a Tier-2 city. Due to the long drive they wouldn't always come back every day.

"Tom, me and your father have been talking about your situation. We've decided that it would be for the best if we move you from Slough to the tier 2 city Brocknell."

It took Tom a second to comprehend what his mother had just said. It was one of the many possibilities he had considered his mother would say when she found out. While he wouldn't mind seeing his parents more often, it wasn't a given that would actually happen. From what he had heard, their company actually had sleeping rooms for their personal.

"We can sell up the house and all move into a nice apartment in Brocknell. We're not too far off from completing our big project. With the bonus we will receive and our contracts being up for renewal soon, we'll be able to afford a place that is just as nice as this one to move you to a new school. It will be much safer there." Her approach was gentle, but Tom had already prepared what he would say to that.

"You know that's not true, Mum! It's only safer on the surface." Tom replied looking into her eyes to stress that he wasn't having that. He understood that at the end of the day his caring parents were just trying to look out for him. "There are even bigger gangs in the upper tier cities, you know that! It's just more behind the scenes. Besides, Westbridge is plenty safe. Something like this has never happened to me before, it was just a one time incident! I was just at the wrong place at the wrong time!"

Tom tried his best to downplay the part, since he honestly didn't know what would happen the next time he met the bullying duo. He didn't want to leave his school and most of all he didn't want to leave his best friend Gary behind. He had never liked talking to people, but somehow Gary had made it seem less bothersome, making him treasure his friendship with his best friend all the more.

There was a time in Tom's life when he had needed someone, yet his parents had been too busy with work, his teachers didn't seem approachable, so the only one he had been able to rely on had been Gary. Now that his best friend was struggling with a supernatural problem, he couldn't leave him to his own devices. He somehow had to convince his parents to let him stay in school.

"Even if it was a one-time thing, the important point is that it DID happen, which means it could very well happen again. We've already been notified that you have refused to tell who exactly did that to you, so how can we believe that this was merely a one-time thing?"

"We live in a good part of Slough, so we're lucky to not be affected by what's been going on, but at the same time we can't bear to be away from you and allow such a thing to repeat. As if that wasn't enough, we've heard about the recent high school student killings! That alone would be enough reason for us to pull you out of this place!"

Listening to his mother, she made good points, better than her son for wanting to stay in this dangerous town. It seemed she had already made up her mind, which meant there was only one person who could help him win over his mother.

Although he lost more times than not, once in a while his father managed to pull through.

"Dad, I get good grades, I have good friends and even my teachers somewhat like me. If I get put into a different environment it could really affect me, and this year I'll have my exams. I can't afford to fail my GCSE's! Don't you two always talk about how compromise is often important for your experiments and research? Isn't there a way we can compromise?" Tom practically pleaded.

His mother was more than a little annoyed that Tom had decided to ask his father for help. Nevertheless, she also knew that her son only did so when he regarded something as very important. His father, who had been quite calm during their visit so far, placed a hand on his wife's shoulder.

"We can compromise and allow you to stay until the end of this school year then." His father offered. "By that point we should have finished with our project, so we will be ready to move you out once you get your results. You can't say we are affecting your studies then, can you?"

It was clear from his mother's demeanor that she wanted to argue that a school year was too long. Tom knew his parents long enough to recognise that this was the best offer he would get out of them.

"Deal!"

'I just hope that time will be enough for us to figure out what to do with Gary's condition. How and when am I supposed to tell him that I will leave though?'

After this, the Green family ended up talking about a few other things like school, whether Tom had perhaps found a lady he fancied and how things were with Gary. Eventually, his mother left the room to talk to the doctor to sort out a few things like the cost for the private room.

"Dad, say your research is about Altered beings, right. You must have seen a lot of them, but have you ever seen an Altered based on a wolf?" Tom asked, when it was just him and his father.

His father thought about it for a moment.

"Now that you mention it, I haven't so far. Many that resemble some type of dog breed but no wolf per se. Still, with how many types there are out there and with new ones getting discovered every so often, I don't doubt that there is one out there."

"Maybe not what we think of, since they're based on animals that don't even seem to come from our world, but at least something resembling our wolf. Although when I say the word 'Wolf' and 'Altered' together, it just makes me think of 'Werewolves'." His father started to chuckle softly.

Tom joined him, only his was more due to nervousness. He was wondering right now how his friend was exactly coping.

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At a certain apartment, Gary had still been unable to get any sleep. Putting his sheets over his head hadn't really helped. After getting the notification the high schooler had come to a realisation. He pulled

off his sheets and looked around. He could see the vague outline of a red mist and a green one, but that was it. The other marking was no longer there, he could no longer see it.

'I-I... I killed.him...'

## Chapter 62: Kill again

Due to the events that had occurred, Gary had trouble sleeping. It was a little past midnight, and he had already received his usual message stating that it would be the full moon in six days.

'If I can't find a way to get rid of these markings, in six days time, both Barry and Gil could be in serious trouble.' was Gary's thought.

A few seconds later, after having this thought, Gary had received the other message about receiving stat points for successfully having gotten rid of one of his marks.

'Whoa, what the hell just happened?'

At that moment, his body started to feel stronger. His muscles bulged for a few seconds, and his insides started to adjust before relaxing again. It was a similar feeling to when Gary distributed his stat points, so he immediately went to look at his system screen.

Level 4

[Health 100]

[Energy 110]

[Exp 385/460]

[Strength 7]

[Dexterity 4]

[Endurance 10]

The first thing Gary could see was he had gained 100 exp points. As for his stats, one thing had improved among them all, and that was his Dexterity.

[After successfully hunting a target, a single stat point has randomly been allocated]

Reading the notification, Gary understood what had happened. Still, he wondered if the stat could go into his health or energy. If it couldn't, then it was better to use his stat points from levelling up and put them towards Health or energy.

It was then checking out his system that Gary had seen something else and another notification screen.

[Marked 2/5]

[Although you had successfully hunted your first target, you didn't eat him!]

[In order to grow stronger, consume your hunting target for additional stat points]

At first, Gary was just happy about receiving additional strength. His goal was to get stronger so he could help out his family, but then when he realised what had happened, who's marking had disappeared. Everything was starting to make sense. The system message had explained it to him. There could only have been one person.

Gary had the sheets covered over his head, and he was shaking at the thought.

'I was the one that ended his life, his life. He actually won't live to see tomorrow. He won't ever think or feel again.' Shaking his head, he started to try to reason with himself. 'But he tried to kill me? It could have easily been me not seeing the next day.'

'He actually stabbed me, that...that bastard stabbed me!' Thinking about this, Gary was tensing his fist. The more he repeated the scene in his head, the angrier he got.

Images back to when he was in the alleyway appeared, of Gary on top of Barry, having pinned him to the ground. It had continued off, from before the policeman had interrupted him. At that moment, Gary saw images of himself digging into Barry and eating his flesh.

'If you were going to die anyway, you could have at least let me eat your flesh. What a waste of energy and probably stat points as well.' Gary thought.

A lapse in thought, Gary didn't know what it was and soon pulled the bedsheets off his head.

'What was that thought? Why did I just think like that? I...I don't feel like myself anymore. It's more like another personality is inside of me, trying to get out!' Gary's body was sweating.

"Arghh!" Gary moaned, pulling the bed sheets towards him and ripping them slightly with his fingernails. He killed someone, and he didn't even feel bad about it. He didn't understand what was going on.

"Gary...is everything okay?" His sister asked, rubbing her eyes. "You're covered in sweat. Did you have a bad dream or something?"

A bad dream. Gary wished it was all a bad dream at this moment, but for some reason, seeing his sister next to him had calmed him down. The strange thoughts he was having were chucked to the back of his mind. He couldn't let his sister see him like that.

Amy started to rumble through her drawer by her side until eventually pulling out what looked like a pendant. She then walked over from her bed to Gary's, who flinched a little. It was a strange reaction, but his sister wasn't scared and carried on moving forward and then slowly placed the pendant around his neck.

"I want you to have this. I realised the other day when we were speaking you have a lot on your mind, and for you to act out like that at school and now have trouble sleeping, you must be under a lot of stress.

“When I have exams and stuff, I just hold onto that and start thinking about dad. It’s the only thing I have left from him. I think you need it more than I do right now.”

Gary wasn’t sure what Amy had done. Placing the strange pendant over him, it felt like a magic spell. All his worries were disappearing. He wasn’t sure if it was a placebo effect or just because it had come from his sister.

“This was from Dad. I can’t take this.” Gary said, attempting to pull it off, but she soon pushed down on his hand.

“Please, I need some sleep, so wear the damn thing.” Amy turned around, covered herself in sheets, and went back to sleep.

The small interaction he had with his sister had set his mind clear again, but it didn’t let him escape from the reality of what he had just done. As Gary was going to try and get some shut-eye, his sensitive ears could pick something else up.

It sounded like someone was sobbing. Looking to his left and seeing that his sister was fast asleep, Gary decided to head towards the noise, and that’s when he could see it. His mother was sitting in the kitchen at the dining table with a bunch of letters in front of her.

Her hands were constantly rubbing her face as she was highly stressed out.

‘What am I going to do? I can’t delay it any longer, but if we move to a tier four city. Then their life, their future and everything will be ruined for them.’ His mother thought.

She could see a shadow cast over the papers looking up. It was her son Gary, and in his hand, he had something for her.

“Take it, mum, it’s money. Money I have been saving up for a long time. I’ve been doing things here and there, coming up with businesses with Tom.” Gary answered. He was hoping he could have come up with a better lie, but in the end, he wasn’t able to.



His mother, looking at the money in Gary's hand, could tell that there were a lot of bills. It was no small amount for a high schooler. Which meant either he had been saving money for a long time or Gary had done something else to get the money.

"Gary, we're okay--"

"We're not," Gary replied. "Me and Amy both know we are not okay. We know how hard you work, mum. I always wanted to help. Now's not the time to be stubborn. If we can't pay some of these bills, we will have to move. So just take the money." Gary said, leaving it out on the table and walking back to his bed.

He had learnt something from Amy. If someone refuses to take something, then just give it to them and run away before they can refuse.

"Gary." His mother called out. "Thank you..."

Heading back to bed, Gary realised something speaking to his sister and mother. His motivation for doing everything he had done in the first place. He needed to make money and protect his family from the members of the Underdogs.

Damion and the others had killed plenty, of course they had. The gangs in the area and others were killed every day. They didn't hesitate, and these were the type of people he was up against.

'There's a good chance that at some point, I may need to kill again and if it's for the sake of protecting my family. I'll do it in a heartbeat.' Gary told himself.

What Gary didn't know was that this exact thought that he had would come far sooner than he thought. Outside his apartment block, a figure could be seen standing through the smog staring at the very top into Gary's apartment building.

Chapter 63: Alternative

Gary still had three days of exclusion left, which meant that today was another day that he was technically free to do as he wished until practice time, while everyone else his age would be stuck in school. Most kids would have enjoyed this time off, yet he couldn't.

For one, Gary didn't want to worry his mother, so he had to keep up the ruse that everything was fine by leaving for school. However, even if that hadn't been the case, the high schooler had far too much on his agenda to be sitting around watching TV.

There was still so much for him to figure out about the Werewolf System. Barry's Mark might be gone, but there was still the one he had left on Gil just two days ago. Judging by the direction of both remaining Marks, it appeared as if he and Tom had already headed to school today.

Then there was still the rampant Omega wolf on the loose, but with the police looking for him, he would have a hard time finding him. After yesterday's run-in with the police going after Billy was even riskier. He had been stabbed by the deceased bully so his blood had been left all over the scene. If they hadn't been looking for him before, they would surely do so now that Barry had died.

The high schooler was lucky that he had no criminal record, so they didn't have his DNA on file. However, if he ever did get taken in as a suspect, it would be easy enough to match up his DNA with the other two events.

If he became a criminal he could help no one. The better option was to look out for Innu and just wait for Billy. Not really knowing much about him though all he could do was hope he texted him if he got in trouble.

For the first time this week Gary was making his way to the gym. The last two days he had been unable to go there, Monday he had encountered the Altered Hunter and yesterday he had been stabbed. He was also eager to test how his extra Strength translated in terms of power.

Gary noticed the questioning looks he received from the other gym goers. They seemed to wonder why a high schooler was there this early in the morning. Some thought he was skipping school, others gave him the benefit of the doubt and assumed his school started late, yet in the end nobody came over to bother him. All of them seemed to agree that it was better for Gary to be here than to roam the streets.

The high schooler proceeded to follow the system's instructions while reminding himself what he had learned today. 'I know now that I can gain additional stat points for successfully hunting a Mark even when it isn't the full moon. I only got a single point, but I would have gotten more if I had eaten him as well...'

'I have no idea whether Billy also has a system or not, but if he gets stronger the same way I do, then he must have gotten a lot stronger after eating his victims. There's a good chance that he'll be as strong if not more so than me under Charging Heart. I have to find a way to close that gap by playing with my system!'

[Daily quest complete]

[5 Exp received]

[390/460 Exp]

Receiving the notification after his last rep, Gary took a quick shower, before heading to a nearby park. It wasn't the same one Innu had called him to, but this one was closer to their apartment and most importantly it contained a forest inside.

Gary was completely broke after giving his mother his emergency fund, though he would do it again in a heartbeat if it meant that they wouldn't have to move away.

'I just hope that winning that tag team match will pay off as well as the fight against Billy. Until then, I have to make sure I don't go crazy from this continuous loss of Energy. Whether I like it or not, I'll have to go feral on some animals.'

His second Daily Quest required him to consume 2kg of meat a day. Thanks to yesterday's unexpected meal Gary now knew for a fact that the system didn't care about where it came from or how processed it was. In fact, he even started to suspect that it had been goading him towards going out to hunt all along.

The thought of eating forest animals was still somewhat gross to the high schooler, but it was far better than the alternative. It also had the benefit of keeping down his bloodlust, so he wouldn't try going for something 'bigger'. He was here today, since rats weren't exactly on the top of his to eat pile, even if they hadn't tasted that bad.

It didn't take long for Gary to find a squirrel running across the forest ground. His first attempt to get to it, failed completely. Not used to this sort of thing, he stepped on a branch, alarming the critter. Seeing that his stealth approach had failed, he immediately sprinted towards it, but the small creature was faster and closer to a tree which it promptly climbed.

Climbing a tree would have probably been impossible for the old Gary in the past, but thanks to his stats it was easy enough. Unfortunately, this hadn't made him an expert tree climber overnight. The teenager had followed after his prey, yet by the time he had climbed to where the squirrel had been, it had already leapt to a nearby tree.

Gary didn't want to give up yet. He had memorised the scent of the squirrel and had waited for it to get down again. After widening the distance between the two, the squirrel was on the ground, foraging for food. This time, he made sure not to alarm it, but alas, when he tried to snatch it at the last second, the squirrel had somehow sensed him and had hopped onto Gary's arm, jumping onto his shoulder and leaping to a nearby tree for safety.

That was the second time he had failed.

Unsure what he could do better, Gary decided to try his luck with another animal. In the forest there were several pigeons that would stay on top of the branches, while others on the ground. Regardless, the same thing would happen to the pigeons on the ground. The second Gary got close his feet would cause the leaves to rustle, scaring them away.

He knew he had to decide on a different approach. This time, Gary decided to climb up high in one of the trees. He looked for a strong branch and started to walk along it, and stayed there.

All of the birds that were on the tree he was currently at had already left the same one nearby. That was when he decided to patiently wait...wait and wait... until the pigeons had gathered on the trees not too far away.

'Damn, so I really have to act like one of those animals who are hunting out in those shows, huh?' Gary thought.

He crept slowly along the tree branch, it started to bend slightly under his weight which was making him worry. Still, he kept his eyes on the one pigeon that looked at him, moving backwards and forwards with its large head.

'Just stay still, you stupid bird!' Gary cursed in his head.

That's when he could see that the bird was starting to move.

'No! I waited too long for this to fail!'

[Skill activated Charging Heart]

[All stats have temporarily been doubled]

[-10 Energy]

With all of his stats doubled, he rushed and leapt through the air. The birds scattered flying from the other tree branch. At this moment, Gary was fearless and he just wanted to catch one of these damned flying rats after trying for so long. He reached out his hand for the bird, but it seemed that it was already out of reach.

Something inside of him was telling him that there was a way. Images he had seen while researching about werewolves came to their mind, about their large claw-like hands.

[Skill activated Claw Drain]

[-15 Energy]

His fingers started to extend slightly and his nails grew and sharpened. With it growing slightly larger, Gary managed to cut the pigeon's belly, his finger slicing through it easily, and it tumbled to the ground with the leaves on the floor.

“Oh, that hurt a bit.’ Gary thought, but at the same time he had done it.

‘Was I...imagining things?’ Gary thought, looking at his hand, that it seemed to have gone back to its normal self, but he was sure of it.

‘Well I suppose I should have figured that a skill called CLAW drain would do something like this, but would it have killed you to maybe mention it in the skill description, you stupid system?! Thank God, I didn’t try it out in the middle of a fight. I can’t exactly be using this in public like Charging Heart, now can I?’ Gary directed his anger towards the system.

There was another problem. Although he had finally managed to kill a pigeon, he had been forced to use both his skills to do it. If even a rat had only been good enough to replenish around 10 Energy points, he doubted the pigeon would be much better.

‘I guess, until I get faster, it’s back to the rats for me... Will it help if I use some condiments or will that just make matters worse?’

It was then that the phone in Gary’s pocket started to vibrate. He grabbed the phone in his pocket and saw that it was his secret one. To his surprise the sender wasn’t Kai this time and even more baffling was the content of the message.

[I found him.]

Chapter 64: Bring it on!

After receiving the text, Gary immediately asked for more information. He needed to know whether Innu had actually run into or simply found Billy. Unfortunately, he didn’t get any answers. He wasn’t even left at ‘read’, making the high schooler start to worry.

Not knowing anything about his fellow gang member, Gary texted the only person who would be able to know anything about it, Kai. When he asked his upperclassmen where Innu would be right now, the answer was so obvious that Gary was ready to facepalm himself. As if anticipating the follow-up question Gary was about to type, he received the location of Innu’s school.

Gary munched down on the pigeon and was surprised to see a notification about him regaining 10 points of Energy. Running through the forest with the help of Charging Heart he was able to grab an unsuspecting squirrel. Before the critter even had the chance to struggle the high schooler squeezed tightly. A few moments later Gary had gained the knowledge that a squirrel helped him regain around 6 points of Energy.

[83/110 Energy]

Gary would have loved to regain even more Energy, but he couldn't waste anymore time. He knew that this one squirrel was just a fluke and that he couldn't gamble on being so lucky again. As such, Gary made use of Charging Heart's duration to get to Innu's school faster.

He wasn't sure if he could afford to use the skill again, since he would need as much Energy as possible to fight Billy, yet at the same time if he was late, the Omega wolf might escape...

'This is it... I'm really going to face Billy... I thought I would be more scared meeting him, but for some reason all I feel is... excitement?' Gary thought as the Charging Heart skill had run out, and he used it once more.

[73/110 Energy]

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Meanwhile, in the middle of class, the reason for Innu not answering wasn't because he had been attacked by Billy. It also wasn't a case of the high schooler ignoring him, no it was something far more mundane. His teacher had caught him using his phone in the middle of the lesson, so he had confiscated it.

The teacher didn't care that Innu, like many other students of his class, weren't actually paying any attention to his math lesson, yet he had a zero tolerance policy regarding phones. It was one of the many schools in the area that students who were sent to were deemed as 'a lost hope'.

'I did what I was asked, I sent him a text so he can't go nagging me, but he's really here, huh? Looks like Kai is right, he is after me, but why did he seem so different?' Innu wondered.

This morning, on his way to school, the high schooler had noticed a large figure by the gate for a brief second, but by the time he had turned around there had been nobody there. The students around hadn't cared too much, but Innu had found it strange since the figure hadn't been walking into or out of school, just standing there on the pavement staring ahead.

It had been too short of a timeframe, but Innu could have sworn that underneath the hood had been none other than Billy. What's more, that guy seemed to have had a creepy smile on his face.

'What's your game, Billy? After your last stunt, do you want to try to scare me by showing me that you know what school I go to? Or are you going to jump me after? Whatever you bring, I'll take you on.'

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Since Gary's white school shirt had gotten bloody yesterday, he currently wasn't wearing his school uniform. There was of course his blazer but he hardly ever wore that. In the first place going near other schools and wearing blazers was a sign for trouble.

A lot of the schools were influenced by the gangs in the area, and eventually even the bad kids in school had started to imitate them, believing that belonging to one school was like belonging to a gang.

The good thing was that it had practically become second nature for Gary to travel with his trusted hoodie. This time he had opted for one that was even darker in colour than his usual one. Since this time he knew what was planning to go hunting.

It didn't take long for Gary to reach Innu's school and his immediate opinion of it was that it looked more of a dump than his place.

'This must be one of the schools Mum kept warning us about, the one we would end up in if we didn't study.' Gary thought as he walked right in. There wasn't even a teacher there to stop him, the only one out on the field appeared to be a janitor, yet he didn't say anything as the high schooler walked past him.



'Sh\*t, Innu must still be in class. Kai only sent me the school address, but not what class he would be in. Seems like he doesn't know either. Well, I don't hear any noise, so that should at least mean that Billy still hasn't done anything outrageous so far...'

Gary tried to sniff the air, hoping he would be able to catch some type of foreign scent, but since he was in a school the area was riddled with unknown scents. It was impossible for him to isolate Billy in particular like that.

'If I knew I would ever have to hunt him down, I would have tried to memorise his stupid scent. He is a frigging werewolf like me now, so why can't I get some help via the system? Looks like I have no choice but to rely on my eyes instead.' Gary thought.

Seeing that the teachers didn't care, Gary easily entered the school without much worry. While walking past the other classrooms he could see just how out of hand the school actually was.

Seeing this, he started to think back to his mother, how much she had pushed for him and Amy to go to a good school in Slough. Although, more so for Amy's sake, he understood. If Amy went to a school like this, then Gary would probably getting into fights every day.

Eventually, he had reached his destination, the school roof. He quickly ran up to the fence on the edge looking down to try and spot anything that looked to be out of place.

"Who're you? I haven't seen you before!" A voice said from behind.

Turning around, Gary could see a smoking student. The guy looked to be slightly older than him and for some reason he was sprouting a pompadour, a hair style which was clearly out of fashion, yet he was quite well built for his age.

'What the hell is it with high schoolers these days? Has someone been handing out steroid infused candies and I was just absent that day?' Gary thought, as he continued to survey the area.

"I'm just trying to find someone. Once I do, I'll be out of your hair." Gary replied.

“Well, it’s clear you’re not from around here, otherwise you would have known that this is my spot!” The guy shouted, and Gary suddenly felt a strong blow to his side.

[-8 HP]

“Did that guy just hit me? What is wrong with him?!”

“This is my place, bitch!” The guy cursed at Gary, yet the werewolf was in no mood for games. This person was not the one he needed to face.

At that moment, something happened that hadn’t happened in a long time, from anger Gary’s heart rate was rising, so much so that it had crossed the 150BPM mark without the need for him to use his skill charging heart.

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Meanwhile, in class the bell was soon to ring for lunch. When lifting his head, yawning and stretching, Innu could see someone out from the window in the hallway. It was the same large hooded figure.

“What the f\*ck is he doing in school-“

Before Innu could finish his sentence, Billy came charging in, throwing his fist right at the class window. Like in a movie, he smashed through it with a single hit, shards flew out everywhere and the students covered their faces while the sound of screaming echoed.

“Haha.” Innu smiled, wiping off some blood from his forehead as a piece of glass had managed to scratch him.

“Bring it on!”

Chapter 65: Double trouble

Perhaps if Gary had been paying more attention he would have never allowed the other student to get a hit in that easily. The most surprising thing to Gary was how much it had hurt.

Endurance had always been his strongest stat and it had increased twice during his recent fights. On top of that he had the power of the moon helping him, yet that one strike had taken off nearly as much Health as Barry's brick attack.

"I'm surprised someone like you is still standing after hitting the side like that." The boy scoffed at Gary. "I knew you had to be someone special to just walk into our school like that!"

"Arghhh!" The high schooler got ready to show that arrogant guy the real meaning of pain, but just in the moment both of them heard screams coming from inside the school. Concentrating on his hearing, Gary located where it had come from.

For a second the student was distracted by the screams and when he turned back around to look at the foreign student in front of him, he could see Gary running his way.

"Get out of my way!"

Austin was a student who was classified as the top dog at his school. He had been fearless when he had come here, facing every person who was willing to challenge him to a fight, but then there was an incident with a certain transfer student.

Something had told him that if he was going to have a fight with that said person, that it would be too dangerous, and now for the second time in his life, wishing for a short time frame, he had the same feeling when looking towards Gary.

"This is impossible!" Austin threw out a punch aiming to hit Gary right in the face.

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Inside the classroom, some of the students had decided to make a run for it via the doors after Billy had come through the window, while the others remained in class but now stood towards the back of the classroom.

'Even the damn teacher ran off, not that I can blame them... Did this guy get another growth spurt since the last time I saw him?' Innu wondered.

Billy certainly had grown in size. He had always been large for his age, but even his 4XL size clothes didn't seem to be fitting him as parts of his belly were staking out through his shirt and more.

"What is this pig doing in our class?!" One of the students yelled. He was part of this class' delinquent trio. Ever since he had transferred here from Eton High he had laid low. There was no reason for him to waste time fighting against a bunch of delinquents, wannabe gangsters. For him, they just weren't on his level.

However, the reason they didn't cause Innu any trouble was because of one guy, Austin Foster. That guy had taken reign over the whole school. The two of them had only ever met once. They had stared at each other, but eventually Innu had just shrugged and gone past him.

Austin was the only person that Innu suspected had some type of fighting skill, but challenging and potentially winning against him sounded like too much of a hassle. He had no desire to run this school, not after being betrayed by his 'friends' in Eton High.

'If only my tag team partner in the match was someone like him, we might actually place highly in that tournament. Someone like him has the aura of a real leader. No idea what Kai sees in that Green Fang guy...'

While thinking these things, Innu witnessed the trio go in for an attack against Billy. The other students watching were smirking excited that they were about to witness a good beating, thinking that the pig deserved it after scaring them like this.

However, before the first student could hit him, Billy grabbed onto the incoming fist. With his free hand the oversized intruder punched his attacker's forearm, and a devastating crack resounded throughout the classroom, followed by a blood-chilling scream.

It looked so effortless, but it was obvious to everyone that the student's bones had broken. The other two, who were now close to Billy, had successfully landed a punch each, but they were unable to reach his head since Billy was too big.

They had aimed for his stomach instead, expecting to hit rolls of fat. Instead it felt like they had just hit a massive rock, their knuckles almost bleeding while their fingers had bent into unnatural directions. Before they could do anything else, both of their heads had been grabbed by Billy. He lifted them off the ground and threw them on the floor, causing their bodies to almost bounce like rag dolls.

"Arghhh!" The students started to scream after seeing this, fearing for their lives the students who thought day by day were taking out like that and in such a manner. One of the students, seeing the door to the right, tried to make a break for it. He was a shorter boy, who had been holding his girlfriend's hand until a second ago. He had forgotten everything about their relationship and had even pushed her to the side.

'If I try to take her with me, it will just slow me down.' The student thought instinctively.

However, just as some students feared, Billy wasn't going to let just anyone leave the room and immediately blocked the only door. Standing in front of the student, he soon kicked him in the stomach, sending him to the floor and making him skid across it until he landed in the shards of broken glass.

'What the f\*ck is going on? Since when was that blob of fat this fast? What the hell did he take to not only grow bigger, stronger but also faster?' Innu's previous confidence started to dwindle, but he still needed to do something, aware that Billy was after him primarily.

The first thing Innu did was kick the top of a desk that was in front of him, sliding it across to Billy. The top of the wood part hit the other's knees causing him to flinch slightly. The fighter wasted no time. He had followed straight behind the table and jumped on top of it, then, using the momentum from running in, he followed up with a knee strike.

All the students had to rub their eyes to make sure they weren't dreaming. This kind of performance usually only happened in a movie, yet Innu had done it in one smooth motion. Their classmate's knee connected with Billy's face, and the force caused the other's head to fall back a bit... but only a few inches.

Billy smiled and swung his arm out, punching Innu from the side, sending him rolling onto the floor. Innu quickly got up, but his hands immediately went to his ribs.

'It feels like they're broken... Sh\*t, I should have listened to Kai.' Unfortunately, his regrets came far too late. Even if he could call for help, how long would it take for them to arrive? Then there was also the question if they actually COULD do anything to help or if his gang members coming here would just doom them all.

Billy spewed out a few teeth and some blood. His nose was also bleeding, yet it didn't look to be broken. As the blood ran down his face he licked his lips tasting it. He didn't look to be hurt at all.

With the table in front of him, he lifted it with both hands, and there was a great big smile on his face. He walked towards Innu, ready to flatten him with such a thing.

"If he hits him with that, he's going to kill him!" One of the students pointed out, too scared to do anything about it.

"Quick, throw whatever you have!" Another suggested.

The students started to grab their chairs and hurled it towards Billy. They then grabbed their bags, books, whatever they could find in the classroom, but even though he was a hard target to miss, it didn't seem to be doing much. His eyes didn't leave Innu for even a second.

Despite their good intentions nobody seemed to have realised that throwing things actually made it impossible for Innu to flee, else he would risk getting caught by something. Unlike Billy he didn't feel confident in being able to ignore those makeshift projectiles.

"Guys stop! You're just making it worse!" Innu tried to shout out, but the students had fallen into a panic and none of them had registered what he meant. Being the only thing they could do, the frightened teenagers continued throwing stuff.

Until, someone had entered the classroom, and immediately started to run towards Billy. A chair came flying his way, but he knocked it out of the way, only to be hit by a book, yet he continued to run.

'Who is that crazy person?!' Innu wondered.

Shortly after there was another student who had entered behind him, but seeing the condition of the room he stopped.

The table was in mid swing, Innu tried to move but the pain from his broken ribs was slowing him down. He knew he would be a fraction too late.

That's when he noticed the student who was running in, wasn't going for Billy, but instead, ran past him and had pushed Innu to the side. He himself rolled across the floor causing the table to hit the ground and break on impact from the powerful blow.

The table had only missed him by a few seconds.

"What are you doing, you could have been hit by that thing and died!" Innu complained to his saviour. "That bastard is after me, so stay out of it!"

"Yeah, that won't work. He's after me too." The hooded person replied.

#### Chapter 66: Omega vs Omega

It took a second for Innu to realise that the hooded person was Gary, until he saw his green hair from the hood. Although he did text him like he requested, he didn't think that his supposed gang leader would be so desperate to find such a person that he had come all the way to his school. For that matter he didn't exactly recall telling Gary what school he went to.

'Wait, does he think he can take on this guy? He wasn't here when Billy came in and wreaked havoc!'

"Hey, don't be an idiot." Innu warned the other. "I know you might have defeated this guy before, but he's clearly not the same. You can't beat him."

Naturally, Gary could see that Billy had clearly changed. Even a growth spurt wouldn't explain his sudden increase over such a short period of time. What's more he could feel a new type of pressure exuding

from the large fellow. His system also finally confirmed something he had been wondering for the longest time now.

[You have finally met with the other Omega Wolf.]

‘Well thank god, he isn’t actually a Werewolf and he’s just like me.’ Gary thought.

“I want to thank you for what you did to me!” Billy spoke up suddenly. No one really knew who this was directed at, apart from Gary of course, but soon after he turned around, as if he was looking for a way out.

“No you don’t!” A voice announced. “You don’t get to just come into my school and mess with everyone this badly!”

The person who was now standing behind him was Austin, who had followed after Gary, and he immediately went to throw an uppercut towards the intruder’s stomach. It was a big hit and unlike the delinquent trio, Austin’s hand wasn’t hurt.

The school’s top dog had a feeling a guy that big wouldn’t have gone down with just one hit, and followed up with a punch to the side. Just like the other’s he was surprised by Billy’s nimbleness, as the other turned around facing and grabbed onto both of Austin’s hands.

“You’re strong. Stronger than anyone else I fought before, so maybe you deserve this.” Billy said, as he opened his mouth wide, revealing a particular set of sharp teeth.

“Vampire!” Someone screamed.

‘Is he going to eat him?’ Innu wondered. At this point, he felt like nothing would surprise him when it concerned Billy. He had seen people bite others before but only when they were in a desperate situation. Green Fang’s debut fight would be an example, though Gary had seemingly done that more because he lost control.

This was the first time Innu watched someone open their mouth this widely.



While everyone was frozen in place doing nothing, only the hooded figure moved, and to the shock of everyone he dived right into the situation.

'Damn it! If only I didn't get hit so bad! With the three of us together we might have been able to do something.' Innu cursed his injury.

He could only watch and pray that Gary actually knew what he was doing... but then the strangest reaction occurred. His gang leader didn't go in for a punch, or for a hit, instead he got right in-between Austin and Billy and shoved his forearm into the other's open mouth!

"Oh no you don't! It's bad enough with just one of you!" Gary shouted out as he tried to push forward with his forearm. Billy's jaw was strong and his teeth had already sunken in. Blood was dripping down his arm.

They couldn't understand why a student would allow himself to get bitten instead of someone else, especially since the hooded person didn't seem to be from their school.

'Is this why? Is his reckless will to sacrifice the reason Kai wanted him as the leader?' Innu started to wonder. He started to feel horrible, he was letting his injured side stop him from fighting as an excuse, while this guy who hardly knew anything about fighting at all had just shoved his arm into Billy's mouth.

It was then that both Austin and Innu, picked up chairs from the classroom and slammed it down the intruder's back at the same time. Alas, Billy still didn't let go.

"F\*UUUUCK!" Gary screamed. He tried to push back, but Billy's jaw strength alone turned out to be far above his own. "You bite me, I'm going to bite down on you!" Gary opened his own mouth, ready to bite back, yet Billy decided to let go at that moment. He then turned around for a few seconds, and jumped through the broken window.

For some reason, Billy was now in the middle of running away, and Gary was left there with his arm bleeding.

“Hey, man you took that bite for me, are you alright!” Austin asked, checking up on him. However, for the second time Gary had almost completely ignored him, and decided to run after Billy himself, jumping through the window.

“You’re going to chase him in your condition? Just leave it!” Innu shouted, yet Gary was already running through the halls.

‘I can’t leave it, just then...Billy tried to bite down on that strange guy I met on the roof. I might be overthinking it, but it didn’t seem like he planned to eat him. In that case, he must have wanted to do the same thing that I did to him! He wanted to turn him! I can’t allow him to start his own pack!’

Gary could see Billy up ahead, but despite his large size he was fast. Gary had already activated Charging Heart when the other had bitten down on him, yet despite his boost, his legs still couldn’t keep up.

‘System, use Forced Bond on him, so I’ll be able to track him down!’

[Error: Your Mark skill only works on human targets!]

‘Unless piece of crap!’ Gary wanted to yell out, and it was then he saw Billy not slowing, jumping and bracing himself as he crashed out of the window. Gary soon caught up and looked out, only to glimpse at how Billy had already left the school ground. They were on the third floor, and Gary wasn’t quite sure if he could survive that and how he would catch up with Billy in the first place.

‘Crap, crap, crap!’ Gary thought. The sound of the police sirens from cars could be heard from a distance. He took that as his cue to get out of the school. It was already bad enough that he had to intervene and reveal himself, but he couldn’t allow himself to become a witness. Heck, he couldn’t even explain any of it anyway.

While running he texted Innu before he left.

[If they ask, you don’t know me!]

Gary was left a little beaten over what to do. Just as he had expected Billy was the other Omega Wolf. He was faster, stronger and better than fighting at him. On top of that, he wasn't worried about killing or hurting people.

'So much for the system giving me some sort of edge. How the hell am I supposed to beat him? I... need help...'

Chapter 67: Who is he?

The police arrived at the scene and quickly went to work. The teaching faculty provided them with a classroom so that they could start taking the students' testimonies about the events that had occurred. Although none of them had outright been able to tell that it had been Billy Bruntin, the police were confident that it was him based on the few details they had received.

The only thing they couldn't really figure out was who this hooded stranger was that had arrived and apparently saved both Innu and Austin.

"You should have seen his entrance, it was right out of a movie! He came running in, pushed Innu out of the way and rolled to safety like a millisecond before that monster slammed the table down! He was like a hero who came at just the right moment! I swear if he had been a moment later, Innu would have ended up as a pancake!" One of the students reported in excitement.

"That guy's crazy I tell you! I mean seriously, who would shove their own hand into the mouth of such a monster? That fat bastard was even worse! It looked like he planned to eat the smaller guy! Blood was spilling everywhere, just like in a splatter! We tried helping, everyone did, but we didn't want to get close after we saw what he did." Another student told his version of things that had happened.

The two police officers that were talking with the students were none other than Chief of Police Anton Millstun, as well as his younger male assistant Roo Game. As crazy as it sounded, by now both men had accepted that the students weren't pulling their legs. The students had been called in one after the other and unless they all had collectively decided on a story beforehand, their testimonies matched, though some seemed more exaggerated than others.

Initially they had been far more sceptical. The first person they had interviewed had been Innu, as he had been the one who had fought Billy the longest and also been the one closest to their target. They had hoped that he might be able to tell him why their suspected killer might have so publicly attacked their class in the first place, or at least who that other mysterious person was.

Unfortunately for them, Innu had retrieved his phone from the broken table, read Gary's message and just to be safe also deleted it afterwards. As such, he had pretended to not know either one of them. The two police officers had noticed his slight change in attitude when asked about Gary, but without any further evidence linking the two they had let him go, questioning the rest of his class.

The last person on their list was Austin Foster, since he was a student from a different class, yet he had entered after Gary. The high schooler entered the room with his hands in his pocket as calm as ever, and the questioning had begun. They asked whether he knew Billy or had at least seen him before.

Austin just shrugged telling them that his face seemed familiar and that he might have seen him in passing somewhere. When they held up Billy's picture, Austin gasped in surprise.

"That's him! Only the dude was like a head bigger. Who is he?" Austin asked genuinely.

By this point the two officers weren't surprised anymore. Barely any of the students had recognised him, but they couldn't fault them just because none of them had bothered to read or watch the news, making them clueless that they had a run in with a suspected killer. Like the others Roo just told Austin that he was a suspect in another case, without going into further details.

"Your fellow students reported that they saw you come in shortly after the hooded guy. Do you know him? If not, could you at least make out what he looked like?" Roo asked.

Austin sat there for a while, making it seem like he was trying to remember something. The truth was he had seen what Gary looked like after punching him, quite clearly at that. If he were to tell them about the other's hair colour it would most likely help them immensely... yet he didn't.

"Nah, I've never seen him before today." He answered truthfully. "That guy came out of nowhere, so I started chasing him thinking he was an intruder in our school. He wore a hood but it was a no brand, so all I can say is that it was dark. Then I saw that Billy guy, so my attention was more on that giant pig bastard than someone who helped me. He was gone before I could even thank him."

After a few more questions were asked, Austin was free to go, but Anton didn't feel like he had made much progress at all, until he received a text from his phone.

“They... match.” Anton murmured.

“What matches, sir?” Roo asked.

“The blood in that classroom from our mysterious stranger is the same as the blood from the guy who attacked that deceased high schooler and the one that was found at the construction site. They all match! I don’t know how yet, but he seems to be also connected to this Bruntin case!” Anton looked to be over the moon, almost jumping out from his seat as he spoke.

“I knew that these cases had to be linked, but what...what is going on? According to the students he came up, saved some ‘strangers’ and went to chase after the killer?”

Anton thought back to what he had seen in the alleyway. Could it be that the killer was actually this mysterious person they were chasing after, and Billy was just trying to find out the truth? No, that didn’t seem right to Anton either, especially given that Bruntin had undoubtedly been the aggressor.

In all of the cases involving Billy, his blood hadn’t been found at the scene. In all the other situations involving this stranger, the circumstances just seemed more life threatening, as if they were fighting for their life. It was hard to make out the full picture without all puzzle pieces, but at least there seemed to be a connection. Catching one of them might allow them to catch the other...

A little down the hallway, Innu was waiting for Austin to get out.

“Did you say anything?” Innu asked in a quiet tone after making sure that nobody was around.

“I’m no snitch. Since he was running away from them, I’m sure he had his reasons.” Austin shrugged it off and continued to walk down the hall.

“Thanks.” Innu called out.

“I didn’t do it for you.” Austin replied. “I did it because that guy saved me from getting bitten.”

He took a few steps, stopped and turned around. "Hey, he's your friend, right? Who is he?"

"Why... you want to thank him in person?" Innu asked cautiously.

"Nah, he was just..."

Austin thought back to the roof. When he threw his punch out, Gary suddenly did a strange spin avoiding the hit, it seemed slow but the timing was perfect. Austin had been ready to try to kick him, but he could see in that moment that Gary wasn't aiming at him, his gaze at something else entirely.

He stopped his leg and saw a punch come out from Gary himself, which slammed into the metal door behind them. The door hinge snapped right open and the green haired boy continued running on forward, fixing his hood. Austin wasn't sure what to make of it, choosing to believe that Gary was just trying to run away, but when he looked at the metal door, it had dented slightly.

That wasn't a strength of an ordinary person and he shuddered to think what would have happened if he had fought him seriously.

"... he was just really strong." Austin finished his sentence.

This came as a surprise to Innu. Although Gary had undoubtedly saved both of them, he hadn't exactly fared that much better against Billy. If anything, Innu would have used 'brave' if he wanted to compliment Gary, though it was bordering 'idiotic' and 'suicidal'. Nevertheless, it was obvious that their school's official top dog was interested in him.

'Did something happen between those two or something?' Innu wondered, especially since they had both entered around the same time.

"You don't have to tell me, just... if he ever needs some backup, let me know." Austin requested, continuing his walk back to his classroom.

It was then that Innu realised that he had already accepted Gary for who he was, if he hadn't come today, what would have happened to him? So if someone asked him who he was to him, he shouldn't shy away and tell the truth.

"Hey!" Innu called out. "About your question... that guy, is my leader!"

## Chapter 68: The Kings

The 'Basement' was a popular nightclub in Slough's town centre, yet today its front door had a sign that read 'Closed'. However, the guards around it were telltale signs that something was going on inside. Unbeknownst to the normal populace, the club was merely a front for the Underdogs, one of the town's most successful gangs.

What's more the Basement wasn't the only shop that would remain closed that day. Damion Hawk had used his influence to make all the shops within that block treat today as a sort of impromptu holiday, so that nobody would disturb their special meeting.

Inside one of the VIP rooms, Damion had been sitting calmly, talking to another on the other end, it looked like the conversation was about to come to an end. The other party stood up to leave, not even bowing but stopped just before leaving.

"I thought the Underdogs were meant to be the best in slough, which was why I hired you. Believe me when I say that package is important for the both of us. Get it back or it could be the both of us on the chopping block." The man said leaving.

Damion continued to sit there in his seat, he did so until the people were escorted out and when a certain amount of time had passed. He picked up the large wine bottle in front of him and threw it against the wall smashing it to pieces.

"It's been over a week!!! How is it possible for you to not have so much as a SINGLE CLUE about that damn traitor's whereabouts?!" The leader shouted at his subordinate who was in the unfortunate situation of having only bad news to report. The ringing in his eardrums was the least of his worries as he braced himself for what's coming next.

He had known his boss long enough to anticipate the large fist that hit him across the face, sending him flying down to the dance room floor. Damion wiped his hand with a little cloth he had in his suit pocket and started to walk down the stairs to the injured man.

“Do I need to remind you just how important that package is?” Damion asked.

The man was in pain. Touching his face he felt an imprint left from one of his boss’s rings. His cheek was bleeding but he knew that unless he replied immediately, the Underdog’s leader would just continue beating him up.

“No, sir! I understand it perfectly, sir! The problem is that everything that boy has told us was fake. Right now the colour gangs are causing chaos in our territories, so it’s hard for us to gather any reliable information on him, especially since we only have his hair colour to go on! There are so many punks that dye their hair green and he might have even dyed it by now. The red colour gang in particular has been getting more and more brazen, challenging us for multiple areas...” The man answered truthfully, yet was frightened that he would soon feel another hit on his face... Instead, Damion squatted, grabbed the man by his hair and pulled him up to his eye level.

“How long have you been in this gang?” Damion asked.

“Around one year, sir! I got recognised for my work and got promoted to the Pitbull Unit!” He replied quickly,

“A hard worker, eh? I can respect that. Fine, I shall let you off with this much. You better show me results or I’ll make it so that you will fit in that package. We still have deliver that f\*cking thing to one of the Kings! You know who they are, right?” Damion asked, his hand not letting go of the poor man.

The gangster nodded instantly, even though nodding caused his hair to hurt even more. The ‘Kings’ were a colloquial term for the top gang leader of their county. They were a term used for those who controlled a tier-1 city, making them the richest and most influential men in the world.

If one of these Kings ‘asked’ one of the lower cities for a ‘favour’, the other party was unable to refuse, no matter how ridiculous that favour might be. Still, it wasn’t all bad. As they say, ‘noblesse oblige’, making such a thing high risk, high reward, and Damion had no desire to take the fall for this.



“The reason the red colour gang are kicking up a fuss is because another King must have ordered them to intercept the package. They don’t seem to know that we don’t have it anymore, so they’re trying to get rid of us!” Damion shouted in anger, and stood up so quickly that he ripped off a good number of strands of hair from the guy, before heading back upstairs.

“We’re lucky that it’s just the red colour gang for the time being! Unless we can give that King what he wants and earn his protection, soon the rest of the gangs might attack us to get that package!”

All those that were in the club room wanted to take a step back, for fear that Daimon would take out his anger on him next but they knew that if they did move, they were more likely to be picked.

“Kirk!” Damion called out. Hearing his name, Kirk stepped out, wearing his normal red flashy suit.

“Your schedule has been cleared for the rest of the month. As you can tell, everyone else is pretty much useless. I want you to do me a little favor. Let’s remind Slough, why you’re my right hand man and why the Underdogs shouldn’t be messed with.

Get rid of the red colour gang for me, and while you do, find out who was backing them.”

“Now that the Cheetah Squad will be dealing with the colour gang, I expect RESULTS AND NOT EXCUSES BY THE END OF THE WEEK!!! FIND THAT DAMN GREENY!!!” Damion shouted.

#### Chapter 69: Waiting for the day

It had already been an eventful day for Gary, but there were still many things he needed to do even after facing Billy. First things first, it was time to regain some Energy. To do that the high schooler visited his new favourite alleyway. The number of rats didn’t seem to have reduced, something he was actually thankful for.

His natural speed was slow, making it hard to catch the critter. Fortunately, Charging Heart allowed him to turn the tables. He could also catch several of them at a time before the effect wore off, making him earn a net plus. Gary continued even after his Energy had completely filled up, only stopping once he got a notification.

[Daily quest complete]

[5 Exp received]

[395/460 Exp]

'I didn't get anything for risking my life fighting Billy... I need to figure out how to beat him somehow.' Gary thought as he made his way to school to not be late for rugby practice.

On the way he received a text from Innu, who was informing him that Billy might have broken his ribs, so their training would have to be put on hold for a while. He also informed him that he would go to Kai to sort something out.

Gary had actually been looking forward to their training, hoping Innu might be able to teach him a few things. The fighter had been his best shot at gaining some sort of edge over the Omega wolf. Unfortunately it seemed as if they would have to wait for Innu to get better first. Gary texted back 'Another time then.'

The only question was, how much more time did they exactly have if Billy even attacked his targets out in the open now?

At school, Gary did his usual practice. At the start of the practice Mr Root went on to mention an important message to them all.

"I know the school has already had its silence and given their blessings, but Barry was an important part of our team and loved rugby. So if there is anything we could do for him it would be...To WIN THIS UPCOMING GAME!"

The students found it a bit awkward that it seemed like Mr Root was trying to encourage them through a death, but the kids weren't really that affected by it. To them it just felt like Barry had moved or something, it was hard to process a death like that.

Still, there was a certain person who was affected and had returned to the field. Gil...the only thing was, Gil didn't look to be exactly the same as he once was before.

He had dark bags under his eyes. There was also good news. Tom was sitting over by the bench watching the game with his typical attitude of not caring in the slightest about it. Seeing this, Gary lifted his arm up after a good 20 minutes of practice and requested he have a break.

Mr Root, seeing that unlike yesterday Gary was playing well actually agreed to this. He was far more concerned with Gary getting an injury at this point.

“Hey, so you look a lot better.” Gary said, sitting down on the bench next to him.

“Yeah, I’m all fine now. I think they might have even straightened my teeth even better.” Tom said, delivering a smile. “Fortunately, they didn’t make me too handsome to hang out with you.”

Both Tom and Gary laughed for a few seconds but then there was this awkward silence between the two of them. It was like they had forgotten how to interact with each other. The truth was, Tom wanted to ask Gary something but was too afraid of the answer.

He had heard of Barry’s death, and there was something telling him that Gary...might have had something to do with it. Of course, it wasn’t like he could outright ask him. If he wasn’t then Tom would have just insinuated that his friend might have killed someone in cold blood.

And if he was... well then Tom felt like he was also partially responsible for it. If he had confessed to their bullying before it had gotten out of hand, things might have ended very differently...

Neither option had a happy ending, so instead Tom decided to ask something else.

“I can see that there’s something on your mind. I just want you to know that you don’t have to worry about me anymore. Whatever happened to Barry, it looks like Gil is feeling too down to be targeting me anymore.”

Garry would normally be very elated about Gil no longer bothering his best friend, but Tom was right, his mind was elsewhere and it wasn’t focused on Barry or his involvement in the bully’s death. He had gotten over that far quicker than he believed to be normal, suspecting either his system or his new existence to have some role in that, but right now all he could think about was Billy.

“Tom, I have to tell you something.” Gary began. “I think... no, I was pretty sure there was another one like me out there. I mean another ... you-know-what.” Gary finally admitted. This was news to Tom. Out of all the things he had expected Gary to say this wasn’t one of them. He was at a serious loss for words.

“I could kind of feel it. It’s like, the two of us seem to be fighting over who should be the leader, the Alpha like you said, and today... I ran into him.”

“You ran into another one of your kind? Was he older than you? Was he always a werewolf like you? What did the two of you speak about?” Tom suddenly bombarded his best friend with a barrage of questions. However, Gary just shook his head. Looking into his eyes, Tom could tell he was concerned about this, almost frightened.

“That guy wasn’t like me. He didn’t exactly invite me over for tea and biscuits to talk. No, I found him in the midst of attacking innocent people, hurting others, so I tried to stop him. It was strange. It felt like he was stronger than me, but for some reason he ran away from me. I’ve been thinking about it ever since, and I can’t wrap my head around it. I was hoping you might have an answer.”

Tom thought about it for a while. He had actually done the research in that regard before spoon feeding it to Gary who had tuned out after the first bit. In the end, there was only one thing he could think of.

“I’m not sure. I only know as much about werewolves as what we’ve learned. Maybe he’s waiting for the upcoming full moon? I mean according to lore that’s when you’re both meant to transform and be at your strongest. If he’s an Omega like you, maybe he wants to fight you at your strongest so he can make you submit fully to him.” Tom theorised.

For some reason, some part of Gary agreed that this would be the ‘honorable’ thing to do. Because whenever he was thinking about time, Gary was always referring to the full moon. It was almost as if that was the date set for when their match would be held. If so, that would mean Gary had until the full moon to get stronger.

—

It was later that night, that the clock passed midnight and the timer moved forward once again.

[Your bloodlust grows]

[5 days until the next full moon]

--

Gary was still excluded, so he missed a very big event in their class.

“Alright everyone, so today we have a surprise transfer. Honestly even though we weren’t expecting this so much and so soon, but they have their reason. I want you to please welcome your new fellow student.” The teacher started the day, allowing the newcomer to say a few words.

The door slid open and a boy walked through, having both his arms in badges as well as his side.

“Everyone, it’s nice to meet you. My name’s Innu.”

Chapter 70: A bad liar

Waking up the next morning, Gary was still thinking about what he could do to get stronger. He only had five more days left until the full moon and from what he had discovered his ways to get stronger were very limited.

The high schooler could try and increase his stats naturally in the gym, though there were two problems with that approach. For one, his Strength and Endurance had grown, so he estimated that it would take for them to grow, which was exactly what he lacked. Then there was also the issue of him still not having figured out how exactly he was supposed to increase Dexterity.

Gary knew that it would be possible with the free stat point he would gain for reaching Level 5. He wasn’t that far off, yet at the same time he lacked a good source of Exp income. The high schooler could continue completing his Daily Quests, though those gave him a pittance in terms of Exp and without any other source it wouldn’t even be enough to reach Level 5 until the full moon.

The only other way he knew how to receive Exp was by fighting opponents. If he was lucky he might even trigger some sort of Quest that would give him even more. Being excluded from school meant that the high schooler couldn't really start challenging the other fighting clubs, leaving him with one remaining choice.

Just as he had made up his mind to go out and look for some trouble, he received a text on his special phone.

[Heads up, the Underdogs have ordered the black colour gang to retaliate against the red's advances into their territory. At the same time, they'll also be scouting the area for you. I know you're excluded, so keep your head low and stay off the streets for a while.]

'Well that's just great.' Gary sighed, looking at the message from Kai that had ruined his plans. Nevertheless, he was very thankful for it. It would be a disaster if he would have ended up in the midst of that.

With nothing better to do, Gary opted to complete his normal routine, which included practicing his skills by gathering up his meat candy before going to the gym. As bleak as the day had started, the high schooler left the gym with a satisfied smile on his face.'

[Congratulations! Move, move, move and keep moving. Catch everything and become the wind.]

[Dexterity +1]

'I guess all that hunting in the forest for squirrels and birds, as well as the sprinting on the treadmill is really helping me out. Since it's the stat that is the lowest it should also be the easiest to improve, but it's also the one that I need to work the most in as well. Billy was way faster than I was.' Gary thought.

After that, there wasn't really much for Gary to do, and before he knew it with his time spent almost doing nothing. It was time for him to head to rugby practice. After changing, he saw Tom on the bench outside, yet not too far from him, was someone he had seen quite recently.

'Am I imagining things?' Gary wondered, rubbing his eyes.

Strangely, both of them noticed him at the same time, waving Gary over. Tom and Innu then turned to each other, realising that they were both calling the same person. Before the practice officially started Gary quickly ran off meeting with the other two.

“What’s going on, why are you here?” Gary asked Innu.

“Huh, how come you already know the transfer student?” Tom asked in surprised confusion. As his best friend, he was quite sure that Gary had not once mentioned someone like Innu.

“Oh, me and Green Fa-“

Before Innu could spill the beans that they had met at an underground fighting match, Gary quickly placed his hand over his mouth.

“He’s the... brother of... of one of my Amy’s friends!” Gary made up on the fly. “It’s not often but Amy brings her friends over occasionally, and... well you know where we live. And you know, they just bring their brother along for some reason!”

Gary honestly regretted his cover-up story the moment it left his mouth. Everything sounded like a convoluted lie. In hindsight, he should have just said that he had met him at the gym or something.

The whole charade told Innu that no one around Gary seemed to know what he was doing.

‘If he’s planning to create a gang, then the people around him will naturally get involved. At some point, he’ll either have to sever his ties with them... or bring them into the gang to protect them. I just hope... he’s prepared for one of the options.’

“Ookay...” Tom replied, clearly not convinced. “Didn’t you introduce yourself as an only child though?”

“Well, she was my half-sister. You remember what I said about my scumbag dad leaving us? Didn’t really feel the need to go into too much detail about family stuff.” Innu added some details, going along with the lie. “As the new guy I was just happy to see a familiar face. I mean look at him, not like you could

forget those green hairs. Anyway, I think you should go out to the field. From what I've been hearing you're like a minor celebrity now. I've hurt my ribs in an accident recently, so I can't be taking part."

Gary was very thankful that Innu had played along, especially since he seemed to have a far easier time with coming up with stuff. While the team started their practice in earnest, Tom and Innu used that time to talk about Gary. The new student learned a lot about Gary, whereas Tom was completely convinced that the other didn't know his best friend at all. For some reason, he felt relieved at the fact that he seemed to be the only one who knew about this entire Werewolf situation.

During a small break, Gary decided that it would be a good time to talk with Innu, if only to clear up the confusion. He excused himself loudly, claiming that he would take a quick toilet break, while meeting Innu's eyes. A few moments after Gary had left, Innu followed after. Of course, the high schooler had waited outside as it felt awkward to talk in that room.

"What are you doing here? How did you even manage to transfer this quickly?" Gary asked.

"As of today, I'm a student of Westbridge, just like you. I have Kai to thank for that one." Innu grinned. "I told you that I would be talking to him yesterday, remember? He asked me to inform him if anything happened in the whole Billy situation, so I told him everything about yesterday, how he attacked me in school and how you were there to rescue us."

"The next moment, he offered to help me transfer over. Apparently he was going to propose this when we got closer anyway and this 'special situation' was a perfect excuse to speed up the process. Who is Kai anyway, for him to be able to do this sort of stuff? It's clear that he isn't exactly your average student..."

That was actually a question Gary would like to have answered as well. All he knew about Kai was that his upperclassman had money, lots of it, and that he wanted to create a gang to get out of the Underdogs, just like him just didn't know the reason why he wanted to leave. Gary had never asked about the other, despite all the help he had received, but he didn't really care about Kai since he had a million other problems to solve himself.

"Yeah...he does have his connections, that's all I know." Gary shrugged and started running back to the rugby field.



Over the next few days, Gary continued to do what he did everyday, and each night he would get a countdown of the day to the next full moon drawing closer.

There wasn't anything Gary could do about it.

There were no signs of Billy, no news of more dead either. Gary started training with Innu after school. Since Innu was still recovering at the moment, he could only instruct Gary on how to fight, and in his spare time Gary practiced these moves again and again.

Then finally, something strange happened with only two days left until the next full moon. It was also the day before Gary's rugby match and he was more excited for this than anything. While walking home, he would do so with Tom and Innu, for a short while. A requirement that Kai had set up.

Then Tom would split off early on to head in a different direction. It was then that Gary found himself in a familiar situation. A group of students had surrounded him, and they all wore the Eton High uniform.

"Haha." Gary started to laugh, usually he would be annoyed but today he welcomed it, for he could do with the extra exp, at the same time Innu couldn't wait to pay back those that had hurt him before.

Unbeknownst to Gary similar scenes were playing out elsewhere. He wasn't the only target of this surprise attack. At that moment, every regular member of the Ruby club that was supposed to play had been targeted.

In a certain alleyway down the streets of Slough, Eton High had sent out more students to attack a certain individual compared to others. Walking out of the alleyway into the sunlight his hands were bloody.

'They attacked me again.' Blake thought to himself, spitting blood out from his mouth. 'These guys are scum!'

In the alleyway itself, six students could be seen laying down on the floor hurt.