

Werewolf 641

Chapter 641 A Team Upgrade

Kai writhed in agony, rolling on the floor as he hit the side of his desk, causing a cascade of papers to fall. Gary was concerned for his friend, but he knew there was nothing he could do to alleviate Kai's suffering. As such, he did the only thing he could do and started to pick up the scattered papers.

"I'm sorry, Kai, I wish there was something I could do to make the process better, but I really have no control over it. Still, I can promise you one thing, you will come out of this better!" Gary said in an attempt to cheer him up, but all he got was a deathly glare from Kai.

Coincidentally, by the time he was done picking up all the paper, the screams of the blonde teenager also came to an end. His hand could be seen slamming the edge of the table as he lifted himself off.

You bastard!" Kai seethed, struggling to his feet. "What the hell did you do to me this time, and where the hell do you get off acting so casual about it?" he spat, his eyes blazing with anger. Among the Howlers, Kai was usually the most calm and collected member, but Gary's actions had pushed him to his limits.

"Remember how I grew stronger before fighting Midwak?" Gary questioned, confusing Kai as to why he would mention this at such a time. "Well, I did what I did because I could feel that just like me the power inside of you had accumulated to a point you could get stronger.

"It's hard to explain, but it seems to be a perk I have as Alpha, similar to like how I can let out howls to make you feel stronger. I could tell that your body was ready to evolve to the next stage so I kinda... willed it, I guess."

Gary had never shared the details about the Werewolf System with Kai before, mostly because it was too confusing even for him. After all, filled in a world with Altered, and apparently Werewolves and allegedly Vampires, the existence of his System seemed to be even more magical. It might also be unique to him, though he would have to question Midwak about it at some point.

"Since the painful part is over, do you feel any different?" Gary asked while using the system to check out what had just changed.

[Superior Grey Werewolf Shapeshifter]

'When Kai got turned, he received the Unique Class of Grey Werewolf Shapeshifter. I still don't know whether he just had the right physique or aptitude to receive an optimal Class choice, or if my Alpha Bite was the reason for. Unlike me, he didn't have any evolution paths, though perhaps as a Unique Class his path is predetermined.'

Once more Gary wished that his system would have come with instructions, but up until now the trend was that for every new thing he learned on his own, more and more questions would appear. He was slightly hoping for some type of skill that might answer at least some of those questions, but so far the Skill Shop sadly offered no such thing.

pαndα---nove1,coM All the information he had was the name of the new class. As a Superior Grey Shapeshifter perhaps Kai could now shapeshift into something besides a wolf, that or perhaps his wolf form had been strengthened. Another possibility was that the inherent trait of a Grey Werewolf had been enhanced by the chance.

In a rare instance of his Werewolf System not keeping mum, it had informed Gary about the trait of Grey Werewolf to grow stronger when in the company of other Werewolves, not necessarily from their own Pack even.

'Shoot, we never really experimented with that, so there's no way to find out if it got improved. This time, we should definitely try to find out just how big the boost of power of a single Werewolf is. There is a good chance, if we ever have to clash against one of the other Alpha and their pack, that Kai could be a big part of this all.'

"The pain is gradually subsiding," Kai said, rousing Gary from his thoughts. The Beta Werewolf clenched his hand into a fist. "You were right. I can feel the surge of power flowing through me, and it's even stronger than before. It's almost like when I first transformed from human to Werewolf."

The power of a Werewolf amazed him, but even now as Gary looked at Kai, he could see the scar on his jaw. A reminder of what a moment of weakness could mean for them all. Kai suddenly turned his head, looking at the stairs.

"Seems like the others have arrived."

Gary was caught off guard by the comment, as he couldn't smell the others at the moment. After a couple of seconds, the scent of them finally wafted into his nose, causing a smile to form on his face.

'He was able to tell their whereabouts before me... His senses appear to be even sharper than mine after this evolution, but should I be happy for him or jealous?'

The footsteps could be heard coming down the stairs, and the person in front wearing the tight-fitting gold and black uniform turned out to be Olivia. As usual, she had zipped up her jacket right up to her large breasts but not the whole way, still showing off the top of her body.

What was more surprising for Gary, though, was the person who followed after her.

"Ma... Marie?" Gary called out as if to make sure he got the right person.

As soon as he saw her, he was taken aback by how different she looked from the last time they had met. Her hair was no longer in childish pigtails, but rather was elegantly tied back in a single ponytail that ran straight down her back. The new hairstyle seemed to suit her well, giving her a more mature and serious look that complemented her piercing eyes, leaving nothing of her old self that used to remind him of a black-haired version of his sister.

He also noticed a change in her demeanour, as if she had become more focused and aware of her surroundings. The way her body had transformed as well, gaining noticeable muscle mass in all the right places without looking bulky. Instead, she now had a toned and athletic build that made her appear stronger and more confident than ever before. Just like Olivia, the suit now hugged tight to her skin in a lot of areas.

'If I didn't know any better, I would believe they were sisters,' Gary thought to himself.

Kai noticed Gary's expression and couldn't resist teasing him. "You're not wrong, Olivia has certainly rubbed off on our Marie," he said with a chuckle.

"Shut up," Marie replied. "I just don't want things to be like before, and now I don't think they will be."

"It's nice to meet you again, Gary." Marie greeted him with a smile.

With all four Werewolves gathered together and the car already waiting for them outside, it was time for them to pay Midwak a visit. Hopefully had a way to stop their full moon transformation, otherwise the town of Slough would have four deadly Werewolves to deal with.

Chapter 642 The one with answers

The group had returned to Nottsburg under the cover of darkness, and the city's lights twinkled in the distance. While Gary wasn't eager to engage in a direct confrontation with Midwak, he believed in being prepared for any eventuality.

The car pulled up in front of the casino, its grandeur as striking as the last time they had visited. The bridge leading up to it and the building's exterior had been restored to their original state, showcasing the owner's wealth and power.

"How long do you want me to wait for you guys?" Tyler asked as the other four were heading off into the distance.

"We will update you via phone of what's going on. If you don't hear from us, and it's been four hours or more, then it might be best that you just get out of here," Kai ordered.

Tyler's heart sank at Kai's words. At first, he thought it was a joke because of how light-hearted Kai had made the comment, but as he looked into his eyes, he realized how serious he was. Tyler understood that if there was any force strong enough to take on the four of them, the way they were now, then he and the rest of the Howlers wouldn't stand a chance.

As they stepped inside the opulent casino, the Howler members were struck by the blinding lights and deafening sounds of slot machines and chatter. They kept their eyes peeled for any sign of trouble, scanning the crowds of gamblers and guards alike. The masks on their faces concealed their identities, though at the same time they informed the Nottsburg members that VIPs had just arrived. One of them

was quick to approach them, bowing and addressing them with utmost respect. He led the group through the maze of tables and corridors, avoiding the prying eyes of security cameras.

Carrying on their walk through the casino, there were long, hard stares from the customers. They could see the four masked individuals being escorted, treated as if they were royals. This was standard because the group owned the very casino everyone was gambling in.

“Do you think there’s a chance that Midwak would betray us?” Marie asked, not caring about the guide, who stopped for a moment as he listened in on their conversation.

“I don’t sense anyone else with him, but Fox and Hunter might be better at noticing if someone is in here,” Gary replied, using the code names to make sure their identities would remain hidden.

Kai had proven earlier that his senses were now sharper than his own, though Gary wasn’t sure how Kai would fare compared to Olivia’s Hunter Class, which was specialised in sensing others. Thinking about it made him wonder whether Marie had uncovered any abilities granted to her by her Werewolf Class.

“Betrayal isn’t in his best interest,” Kai replied confidently. “He certainly doesn’t like us, but he’s the type to swallow his pride for the sake of revenge. He’s accomplished every task I’ve given him so far, and based on our previous conversations, I can tell that he hates their group far more than ours. As long as we remain his best bet to achieve that revenge, he should at least cooperate with us.”

As they approached the hallway leading to the office, Kai motioned for the guide to leave, and the man eagerly complied.

Memories for everyone started to enter their minds as they entered the office they had fought in. It looked a bit different compared to before, not just due to a lack of corpses.

The decorations of flashy jewels and such had been replaced with a monochrome black and white theme. There were also a ton of olden equipment inside, such as swords, shields, and ancient weapons that looked hundreds of years old.

“I see you have been using the budget that I allocated you quite well?” Kai commented, looking at the stuff.

Midwak looked almost bored as he sat in his chair, in front of his desk. At first, he didn't even acknowledge their arrival, which settled Gary's heart a little, as he took it as a sign that the other wasn't looking for a way to get back at their group.

When Midwak finally looked up, his eyes rested on Marie, and a sly smile spread across his face. "I see that you took my advice about increasing the size of your Pack," he said, his gaze flickering over the rest of the group before settling back on her. "This will be great for when I become the Alpha, though I have to question your choice. If it were me, I would have started with the black kid... could it be that him not being means you failed to turn him?"

Kai and Gary both made sure that there was nobody else around to overhear what they were planning to discuss.

"Oh, so that's why you came here. I should have guessed by your current entourage." Midwak sighed. "I haven't seen or heard any signs of anyone else daring to attack us or Slough, which means you're here because of a personal problem.

"Go ahead, just tell me what you want. Not like I can stop you from forcing the information out of me anyway, but I do warn you all, things will be much different when I'm in charge."

Gary's mind was in turmoil. On one hand, he knew that as the Alpha, he had the authority to alter the Pack Rules in a way to force Midwak to speak the truth, but on the other hand, he couldn't shake the feeling that something was off.

Had Midwak truly accepted his fate so easily, or was there something else going on? Gary knew that he couldn't let his guard down, especially since they were dealing with a cunning opponent like Midwak. Despite the Beta's assurance, Gary remained wary and kept a close eye on the situation. He was determined to uncover any secrets that Midwak might be hiding.

"Given that you have been a Werewolf for far longer than any of us, Kai was the one to address Midwak, since Gary chose to remain silent for now. "According to what you have told us, Werewolves have existed for a much longer time than we could ever imagine, yet they have managed to stay hidden from the public eye. It's difficult for me to believe that their existence has remained a secret if there were mass killings every full moon."

"As such, there should be a way to prevent us from acting up on the full moon, and I bet you know what it is."

In the worst-case scenario, they could always fall back on the method they had used last time. Unfortunately, it was truly excruciating to endure. Moreover, as their Werewolf family continued to expand, there was an increasing possibility that someone would be unable to control or contain themselves, leaving them with no one to blame but themselves.

Midwak finally stood up from his seat and started to walk over to their group, making them flinch for a moment. "That's it? Shit, if that's all you wanted to know, this might as well have been a call. Of course, I know a way. However, I have a feeling that you might not like what you are about to hear."

Chapter 643 The requirements

While in the car on the way to Notsburg, the others talked about what was to come. For one, they had to be careful about the information given by Midwak. Even though Gary could force him to tell the truth, there was a chance that he might miss out on things or phrase them in a certain way that would seem like the truth.

So they were all ready for Midwak to try to frighten them out of this whole thing, and there was a chance that this whole thing would be too dangerous for them to do anything in the first place.

"There are a lot of things that people don't know about werewolves that aren't written in books," Midwak stated. "A lot of what I'm about to tell you, there is no way to confirm whether it's true or not. Because I am simply passing on information."

And with those words, all the credibility Midwak had was thrown out of the window. Either way, they would still listen to what he had to say.

Midwak looked at his arm for a second, and in an instant, it started to change as fur grew all over it, and his hand grew larger.

"The fact that we humans can turn into these types of creatures, don't you think it's strange in the first place? The fact that we are influenced by the moon. What exactly is it that is giving us power, or what exactly is it that is drawing it out?"

"None of it makes sense. Say if there were life on other planets where there is more than one moon, what would happen then? I'm sure many of you have had these questions on your mind."

Gary was a little embarrassed because he hadn't thought of these things, and what Midwak said had just blown his mind a little.

"The common consensus is that this was a type of punishment from above that was brought down on a single human. Could you imagine, in the past, where families and friends lived close together in a confined space? They would have to live with the fact that once a month they would be forced to kill those closest to them. It is perhaps one of the cruellest forms of punishment one can have."

The group was struggling with this already. They could only imagine what would have happened if they had never found out about Gary's method. What lengths they would have had to go to try and stop themselves.

"However, this punishment was meant only for one man. So, is it fair that the rest of us, who have a part of him, should suffer the same fate? No, and the truth is not every Werewolf suffers the same fate. For me, for example, I have never once had trouble controlling myself on the full moon. Apart from feeling more powerful, I can stay in my human form and am not forced to hunt."

Everyone's eyes widened when they heard this. Was Midwak telling the truth? If he never had a problem with control, then did that also mean he didn't have an answer for them?

Seeing the look on their faces, Midwak couldn't help but laugh. "HAHAHA! I can see the hope in your eyes vanish. I wish I could leave it at that, but the story doesn't end there.

"What I just told you is no lie, but as I said before, there is something that is passed down from leader to leader, or I should say, Alpha to Alpha. There is a ritual that can be performed.

"In this said ritual, one is able to communicate with the one from above. The guess is, it is the one that originally put this punishment and caused us all to be the way we are.

“When making contact with said person, one must make a new vow. A promise between the Alpha and the greater power. Whatever this vow or promise is, not just he, but the rest of his pack must keep it and never break it.

“When the ritual is complete, all of those belonging to your pack, whether born into it or forced to join, will no longer have a problem. As this new vow is linked to your pack and only your pack. This is the way to break the punishment given to Werewolves and a responsibility of a Werewolf.”

The group was in silence, and they were, in a way, waiting for Gary to answer. Based on the information they had gained, a lot of it was riding on his shoulders as to what could happen.

In some ways, Gary was also pleased that the way to control oneself was fairly easy. There was no giant task, a trial of some sort, or something that every Werewolf would have to go through. After this, none of them would have to deal with this problem again.

“This vow.” Marie finally spoke up. “You said it’s a promise that must never be broken. What happens then, what happens if the person breaks the promise.”

Midwak went to sit back in his seat, and in doing so, the grin couldn’t be removed from his face, and his shoulders were shaking up and down.

“I have never seen it happen during my time. Some Alphas even choose to keep the vow a secret. Otherwise, there might be those unruly ones like myself that try and break it, in order to punish the rest of the Werewolves, but I can tell you the rumours.

“They say one of two things can occur, and it is entirely dependent on what it thinks is worse for the one involved. Either the pack will lose its status, losing its power as a werewolf. They will never be able to transform again no matter what they do, nor be turned by others. They will remember everything they once had, but it will all be lost, and everything taken away from them.

“In some ways, some would think of this as a cure and would be pleasurable for them. Which is why I think there is also another rumour that is spread. They will be forced to receive punishment for every second of their life. They will permanently be in a full moon Werewolf state, with a blood lust impossible to be quenched.”

Chapter 644 Starting the ritual?

After hearing the entire explanation from Midwak, Gary was unsure whether he should be happy or not. There were a number of reasons to be frightened by this whole thing. The punishment for breaking a vow seemed quite high.

On both ends, it wouldn't do them any favours. The reason why Gary had survived in the Underworld and had gotten this far was due to his Werewolf form, so if that was suddenly to be taken away, then what would he do?

Old enemies such as Ben Clove would be able to take him down, and new ones as well that would always be trying to uproot his position. Then again, the other option didn't sound delightful either.

Essentially, it was no different from a Crazy Altered. When one was unable to turn back and he was sure that the blood lust wouldn't be good either.

"I'm sure the vow with this upper being can't be something as simple as never eating sweets again either, and the more I think about it, even that would be impossible to maintain." Gary said, scratching his head.

"I would be on the edge of my seat every day wondering if someone would eat a sweet by accident, and if I told them about eating sweets, then Midwak would dangle that in front of me.

"He could threaten me to force a change the pack rules; otherwise, he would eat the sweets."

Shaking his head, the expression on Gary's face was constantly changing as he went through made-up scenarios, and the others were a little concerned for him.

"What was the vow for your old pack?" Kai asked.

Knowing this would give them an idea of what type of promise they would need to make, and the other would allow them to get the upper hand on other Werewolves.

Midwak shrugged his shoulders. "I don't know. The Alpha never told us, and we never asked. Whatever it was, no one had ever broken it in our pack, and as for those before I can only say they have been rumours but all of that is before my time.

"I don't see why you're all struggling so much. Is it really a big deal to go a bit wild once a month?"

Kai was seriously considering this option. Right now, it was a problem they dealt with monthly, and they did have a solution, but making a vow would cause a permanent problem they would always have to worry about.

"Weren't you an Omega wolf for a while?" Olivia suddenly asked as it popped into her head. "If you were kicked out of your pack, did you still have control of yourself, or are you just like us?"

"You got me!" Midwak kissed his teeth and threw his hands up in the air. It was one of the questions he was hoping they wouldn't ask.

"I said before, from birth I have been in control of my Werewolf self, but just as you stated, when I became an Omega wolf, I was affected just like everyone else. The first turning I had experienced before coming to Notsburg wasn't too much trouble, but I am a problem solver.

"Even when joining the Scatterbugs, I had my ways of not causing trouble."

Again, the others felt like it might not be best to ask, but maybe it was a better solution than starving themselves.

"What was it? What did you do every full moon? Did you lock yourself up?" Marie asked. She was the most worried out of everyone.

She had yet to experience a full moon as a Werewolf but had been there on the other end when they had attempted to stop the others. In her mind, if the will of the others wasn't strong enough, then what about hers?

Midwak started to laugh again.

"It was an easy solution, at least for me it was," Midwak said. "I just went down to the lower tier cities. The tier 4 and tier 5 for a little trip once a month. No one would care, nor would they really notice if they disappeared."

Midwak continued to laugh, and as for Gary, he started to walk straight toward Midwak while clenching his fist.

"Stop laughing," Gary mumbled.

"Huh?" Midwak replied.

Bending his front knee, Gary went to throw a fist from underneath and hit Midwak right in the chin. It lifted his body in the air before he landed on the ground. Midwak wasn't stunned but was surprised as he rubbed his chin.

"You f*ck!" Midwak shouted. "You come here and ask me for help, and when I tell you things you don't want to hear, you take it out on me! I'm going to rip you to shreds when I get the chance!"

Something had clicked in Gary when he heard that, and it was his own situation. Him and his family were so close to not being able to live in a tier 3 town and were close to moving down to tier 4. And from there, maybe their situation would have gotten worse and they would have lived in a tier 5.

The way Midwak was talking, it was as if their lives were worth less than the others. If he hadn't had a stroke of luck, it was possible that he would be living in fear, scared of someone like Midwak roaming around.

"You guys are screwed anyway!" Midwak shouted. "I know about the ritual, but do you think I even know how to do a ritual in the first place? That is something only Alphas know, and someone like you, who knows even less than me about Werewolves, will never figure out how to do one."

"So good luck on trying to go down your righteous path."

Standing there, they all felt like Midwak was right. There was now no one to turn to. So what would Gary do with his upcoming AFA match? That was until a ding was heard.

[The User has gained knowledge about the Werewolf Vow ritual]

[Would you like to perform the ritual?]

‘Ah, system, I'm starting to like you more and more these days,’ Gary smiled.

Chapter 645 The Ritual Begins

The system that was always shrouded in mystery, that sometimes gave Gary quests he never wanted to do at the beginning, and at other times appeared to challenge him, had come through.

‘The trip wasn’t wasted though, it looks like the information from Midwak was what allowed the ritual to be unlocked,’ Gary thought.

The others, looking like they had gotten all the answers they could from Midwak, were ready to leave. Knowing full well that they hadn’t gotten what they came for, Midwak was smug in his smile.

“It’s okay,” Gary smiled. “I know how to do the ritual.”

For a second, everyone was surprised, including Midwak, but he soon shook his head in disbelief. It had to be a bluff, after all, it made no sense that Gary would know the ritual. Unfortunately, the others thought the same.

Maybe Gary had just spoken out of annoyance, or maybe he just didn’t want to see Midwak so happy. It was understandable, as none of them did.

Rather than explaining, Gary thought it was a lot better to show. Heading back into the centre of the room, away from the others, he stood there.

[Ritual is being activated]

Gary's eyes lit up red, a fierce red, and at the same time, everyone else in the room seemed to react as well. The colour of their eyes changed to their blue when using their powers. It had come over all of them; they could feel it, including Midwak as well.

'Damn it, I'm not sure if this is the ritual or not... but he's doing something? What is this?' Midwak said, confused.

A circle started to light up around Gary, and inside, there were multiple shapes starting to appear. They were of different colours, red, blue, and yellow. The patterns spiralled and started to move about. A foreign energy coming from the circle started to flow out and enter Gary's body, and with it, an image appeared in his mind.

'What is this... is this the higher being that Midwak talked about? My stomach... it's hurting so much, and the hair on all of my body is standing up!'

The image that was appearing in Gary's head wasn't clear. It was almost a sinister black smog, where only eyes could be seen, but the feeling around it, the place it was in, was filled with death. Screams, and pain, images of torment were going through Gary's head, and he was unsure how much longer he could keep this up.

"A connection... but not a strong one." The voice spoke.

From the outside, the others could also faintly hear the voice but were unable to hear what Gary could hear.

Not wanting to waste any time, Gary decided to get right to the point.

"I have activated this ritual to speak with you. I want to make a vow, a promise, and in return for not breaking that promise, to stop our bloodlust and forced turning on the day of the full moon." Gary asked.

When he spoke out like this, Gary realised that a lot of the Werewolf beliefs that held them together were based on rules. Gary could make a promise with others to mark them. There were pact rules as well, and now this.

“It’s as expected... It has been a while. I can do that, so state your promise,” the voice replied.

Gary probably should have thought about this a bit more before he made the ritual, but he wanted to shock Midwak. What came to mind was a promise that he had made before with Kai, to get to the top of the Underworld.

Would this suffice? Probably not because it needed to be something that couldn’t be broken.

“What type of vow do you accept, what have the others promised before you?” Gary asked, thinking maybe they could learn what the other werewolves knew.

“Vows come in all shapes and sizes. I have been promised to always go against the vampires, a sacrificial vow, an entire kingdom within a set time, and so on through the years. However, in return for you having such power from me, you need difficulty in your life.

“This world needs a balance, and there needs to be a balance to your power. Taking the turning away, something equal to it needs to be replaced, and for you, I think it needs to be even more difficult.”

Gary wasn’t sure if he was imagining it or not, but the voice seemed to be almost angry with him for some reason. The tone of voice sounded as if he had done something to annoy it.

“I’m sorry if I annoyed you with my questions. What if I promised to become one of the current kings in the country within the next five years?” Gary answered.

The voice seemed to be thinking about it.

“That would certainly be a difficult task, and if you broke the promise, then it would mean you would lose everything, and in attempting to do the task, you would make many enemies. I will accept this vow, but for you, for your family line, you will need to come up with an additional vow.

"Your family has already broken a vow in the past."

Gary hadn't been imagining things. It was true. He really was angry with him.

"I don't understand my family, my current pack?"

"No!" The voice replied. "Did you really think you became a werewolf by chance, when there wasn't even a bite on you? You, the Dem family, have had werewolf blood running in your veins long before you managed to unlock your powers.

"For breaking the vow, I sealed your family's powers away, and yet here you are, in front of me again. After getting your powers back, you have the guts to ask to make another promise with me!"

There was no reply from Gary because he was too stunned by what he had just learned. What was the Dem family? Who knew about this? And what the hell was in that briefcase then?

Chapter 646 An Important Quest!

Gary had never felt like his family was surrounded in mystery. They had lived an ordinary life without much happening, heck, even their father leaving them had become the norm among families living in poverty.

Now though, with learning this information, learning that there had always been Werewolf blood running through his body, he started to think, did his father know more? Was there more to him running away, and maybe there was much more significance in the letter that had been sent to Amy.

"I didn't know about this," Gary replied. "So you're saying that I'm the one being punished for someone else's mistake, when I didn't even know about it. Does that sound right to you?"

At first, when Gary saw the dark image in his head, he was unable to talk back like this, but knowing about his family, and only learning about the truth now, had spurred this anger in him.

It was clear that this Werewolf blood had to come from his mother or father's side, and he assumed it had to be his father. Their mother had always been quite honest with them. Although who knew now, maybe even she knew about all of this but was keeping it a secret.

The fact was, though, that he had turned into a Werewolf and had to deal with all these troubles, but there was a chance that the same thing could have happened to Amy. If it did, he wondered just what she would have gone through, the dangers she would have faced, and even if she would have survived.

"I am the one that is in control, I am the one that's in charge," the voice replied. "You were the one that came to me, remember, so it's only right that I decide the rules. So I have made up my mind."

Now it felt like Gary no longer had any leverage in the discussion, and whatever this thing was, it was going to decide the deal for him, and he was right.

"The deal stated before, the race of the Werewolves was made so there would only be one that led all! There should only ever exist one Alpha, and competition amongst each other is how one grows. In five years' time, there shall only be one Alpha!" The voice angrily stated.

Hearing this, it meant that Gary's task was now even harder than the vow from before. He had to promise not only to become a king but to top the other Alpha as well. In his mind, while there was no bad blood between the two, there was a chance that maybe they wouldn't have to fight, maybe they could work out something together, but that didn't seem to be the case anymore.

"On top of that, for the second condition. Let's make you suffer a little bit," the voice stated. "I want you to remember at any point and time I can take your power away, and in order for you to remember that, once a month on the day of the full moon, you or your pack are not allowed to transform into your Werewolf selves!"

When the voice spoke, the vow was omitted from the others. The conversation had been made private, so they were unable to hear about Gary's original bloodline or the vows that had taken place.

There was now a big problem with the deal though, wasn't it just changing the problem into another problem? Now they were unable to change on the full moon.

"Wait!" Gary shouted out, but the power and color from his eyes started to fade.

The circle that was beneath his feet started to disappear, and the heavy feeling that surrounded the room was going. Everyone felt less sick; they felt as if they could breathe the clear air once again.

"I guess you weren't joking," Midwak said, standing up with an angry look on his face. He did not enjoy that, whatever that was.

Everyone was taking a few moments to themselves, to shake off the strange feeling, while Gary was left with the promises in his head. Looking at the system, he could see that they had turned into a status.

Two had turned into a quest.

[New Quest received]

[Objective 1: Become one of the King's of the country, controlling a tier-1 city]

[Objective 2: Become the only Alpha]

[Time limit 5 years]

As for the other one, there was a simple message stating the promise.

[A vow has been made]

[The user and members of the pact must not turn into their Werewolf form on the night of the full moon]

"Based on the words here, it's not saying that we can't fight on the night of the full moon but just not transform. Either way, this will greatly diminish our strength. If anyone were to find out about this fact, then they could target us, and it's the same if the other Alpha found this out as well."

"How was it?" Kai said. "Was it a success, did you manage to stop it? Did you manage to make a vow?"

Kai was just looking for a simple answer; he didn't need to know what the Vow was because there was a good chance that a certain someone could use it against them. The problem was, Gary had to reveal the truth to everyone.

Because if he didn't, this was a vow that could easily be broken.

"We...don't have to worry about turning on the full moon," Gary answered.

The faces of all of those around him had full joy, but Kai could tell there was something else Gary wanted to say, and there wasn't a happy look on his face.

"But on the night of the full moon, we have promised that we won't turn into our Werewolf selves. Instead, if we do, then there is a good chance that we might never be able to turn again," Gary answered.

Chapter 647 An important task

Gary had stunned the others into silence with his actions before, and he had done it again with his latest statement. They were left speechless, struggling to comprehend the weight of his words.

Midwak's outburst broke the silence that had hung in the air, and he took a step forward, his fists clenched in anger. "This is a joke, right?" he spat out, his voice thick with disbelief. But as he closed in on Gary, something strange happened. Midwak's eyes began to glow an eerie shade of blue, and his movements became unsteady. It was as if some unseen force was taking hold of him, causing him to hesitate in his tracks.

Even if he used all his will, the Beta Werewolf's body wouldn't allow him to hit the Alpha, not until he was able to challenge him for his position again.

Gary's voice was steady as he spoke, his eyes meeting Midwak's in a direct gaze. "I'm not joking," he replied firmly. "The vow wasn't one I made, but one that being decided on. From here on out, we're not to turn on the night of the full moon."

Hearing the news once again, Midwak jumped from his feet back to where his desk was. Both of his hands were covered in fur as he transformed and slammed them down onto the desk, breaking it in half.

"Do you have any idea what you have done? Thanks to you, ALL of us are in even worse situation compared to before!" Midwak shouted. "If the other Alpha finds out about this, then they have a perfect day to attack us all! Just because you couldn't handle one night of bloodlust, you have gone ahead and doomed us all!"

Honestly, Gary wasn't too happy about this either, but it was more so for other reasons. Now that this deal had been made, what did it mean for his family? If there was Werewolf blood running through him, didn't it mean it was also running through Amy?

According to this being, their family had already been punished for breaking a vow in the past. However, seeing that it had agreed to make a vow with him, would he have to worry about his sister now also being able to turn?

For now, he kept these worries to himself, just like he hid the fact that there was also a second promise, which was to get rid of the Alpha in five years. Things were just starting to look good for the Howlers, so now didn't seem like the perfect time to add additional pressure.

"Will you calm down?!" Marie shouted. "You're acting like a wild animal. Did you not hear what he said? He wasn't the one who chose to make that vow, it was forced on him!"

Midwak's anger boiled over. "And why do you think that was the case, huh, missy?" he snarled, his words dripping with venom. "Let me tell you, it was given to him because he's a giant piece of shit!" His eyes narrowed as he glared at Gary, his fists shaking with rage. "I promise you, the first thing I'm going to do when I become Alpha is get rid of this ridiculous vow!"

As Midwak continued to shout obscenities in the air, his words filled with rage and bitterness, the rest of the group watched on in silence. They knew that nothing they could say or do would calm him down in his current state. Finally, one by one, they began to make their way out of the room.

“Hey Gary, don’t kick yourself so much.” Kai rested his hand on his shoulder after they left. “We got what we came for, now you can fight in your debut match without having to worry about it. Heck, all of us can eat as much as we want now without having to worry.”

“Yeah, and think about it, Gary. Only those in the room know about this. Even without transforming we’re strong enough to fight against anyone who isn’t an altered and because it affects all of us, we would never say anything that would put us at a disadvantage,” Marie said, thinking that even Midwak wouldn’t tell the enemy a weakness he had as well.

“Besides, it's one day a month, so that's 12 days a year when we just have to avoid fighting. It's not like we're magnets that attract trouble.”

As Olivia followed the group, she listened intently to Marie's words. For the most part, she agreed, nodding along in silent agreement. However, there was one part of Marie's statement that didn't sit right with her. Olivia had never been part of a gang that got involved in so much trouble in such a short amount of time before, and while things had quieted down somewhat, she felt that the danger was always lurking in the shadows for the Howlers.

During the drive back, Gary sat in silence, lost in his own thoughts. The others in the car exchanged glances, unsure of what was going on in his mind. They assumed that he was still preoccupied with the vow that had been made, but little did they know that there was so much more weighing on his mind. The vow was just a small part of a larger puzzle that he was trying to put together.

Tyler just silently did his just and dropped them off at their desired destination. Marie and Olivia got off at Burnham Food Street first, before they continued towards the Wolf’s Pool Club.

The two of them headed inside and down to into Kai’s office.

“So, now that’s just the two of us again, what’s on your mind?” Kai asked as he looked over the papers Gary had collected during his transformation.

“There are a few things that I want to request from you, but I can’t really explain why at the moment.” Gary answered. “First, I need you to keep an eye on Amy. I mean more so than you have been doing

already. Tell White to be careful and that she needs to report if she notices anything unusual about Amy. In that case, contact me straight away."

"That can easily be done," Kai answered. "And for the other requests."

"I think it's finally time to find out more about the briefcase that started it all. We need to find out where it came from and who Damion planned to deliver it to."

Kai didn't say anything, because he had already been looking into this himself. He had a few guesses in mind, but he didn't want to give Gary an answer until he knew for certain. His guesses were all dangerous people, and sticking their nose in the business of uninvolved parties was just asking for trouble.

"As for my final request," Gary said, his voice steady but laced with emotion. "I need you to use all of the resources at our disposal to find someone very important to me. Contact our allies and ask for their assistance in locating Dean Dem."

Chapter 648 Gather The Altered Hunters

With Innu being called to head to the Altered Hunters Association's base, he thought it only made sense to go with the one who knew all about him, and the other Altered Hunter from Slough. After all, he was meant to be his apprentice following under him.

Right now, Innu was waiting for Blake to get ready outside of his house. He wasn't wearing his gang uniform like he usually would, because he didn't want anyone noticing him.

Truthfully, he would only wear the mask at meet-ups and meetings, but everywhere else he could wear the Howlers uniform, and they would just think he was a simple member. At the same time, he had what looked like a pool stick's bag carrier on his back and was where his axes were being carried because it wasn't something that could just be carried out in the open.

'What is taking the man so long?' Innu thought irritated. 'Is he taking a massive sh*t or something?'

Innu was impatient, and he had every right to be. It was the first time he would be heading to an Altered Hunters Association base, where he would meet many others that were just like Blake, who had killed many Altered.

Although it wasn't all bad, pumping his fist, Innu couldn't wait to meet Ashen, the five-star hunter who had assessed him, and whom he had become a personal student of. He wanted to show him all of the improvements he had made.

Finally, the large wooden gate started to slide, and that was when Blake could be seen pushing along a jet-black motorcycle. He had a helmet under his arm, while another one was hanging on the wing mirror.

"Here." Blake said, throwing it towards Innu.

"Wait a second." Innu said, catching the helmet. "We're going on that thing, that death trap?"

"Death trap?" Blake repeated, looking at his motorcycle. "You risk your life fighting every day, and you're scared of going on this thing." He had nearly laughed.

Innu had the outer appearance of someone who wasn't frightened of anything, but often times there were things that worried him greatly.

"You need to get used to this; a lot of Altered Hunters ride motorcycles." Blake explained. "In a world where most of the population are in condensed cities, the traffic can be pretty horrible around here.

"Imagine you need to get somewhere fast to support someone; you don't want to be stuck in a car. With this, you can get where you need to at the drop of a hat."

Putting on his helmet, Innu climbed onto the back and held onto Blake's waist pretty tightly.

"I don't know if you're happy to see me or just nervous." Blake said as he was getting ready to set off.

“Shut up.” Innu replied. “Anyway, this meeting, what exactly is going on, what is going to happen to me?”

“Honestly?” Blake replied. “I have no idea. Usually, with you being my apprentice, I can take you to the base to get your weapon whenever you want, but this time they have called everyone over.

“So it must be something big that’s going on. We’ll just have to see.”

Revving the bike, Blake set off, and Innu gripped on even tighter, making sure he wasn’t going to fall off.

‘I guess everyone has their fears.’ Blake thought. ‘Still, I wonder if I’ll see father. Ever since Ashen came, there is a lot that I have managed to learn.’

The Altered Hunter Association was a group that had several captains who helped run the place. The captains had to be at least five stars. Above them, there was a single head who would be in charge of the Altered Hunters in that specific country.

That meant that there were several heads in other countries as well, but the leader of the Altered Hunter Association, the one who had started it all, the one who had originally funded the Altered Hunters with the equipment they needed, was a big unknown to them.

In one country, the captains and the head, known as Edvard, had decided to gather. They were in a relatively dark room, stood around a stone table, and despite it being dark with a few light sources here and there, Edvard still wore sunglasses covering his eyes.

“The reports of Crazy Altered are only increasing, and we still don’t have an idea of who is behind this.” One of the captains declared. “The only thing we can assume is one of the big corporations is testing a new type of solution in the lower-tiered cities.”

“Yes.” Another captain added. “Yes, the solution has been discovered in several places as well. Inside NIRV, the Dark Guild, and more. The traits of those who become crazed are all the same. It is not like the natural crazed altered.”

“At first, they were weak, but we are getting more reports of them growing stronger, and our people dying. We have to come up with a solution to solve this.”

“That’s why I called this meeting.” Edvard said. “The situation is getting quite desperate, so much so that White Rose is finally getting involved even though in the past they have been very slow to realize these things.

“There is an easy way for us to increase our strength. I believe that we have many skilled Altered hunters, but they currently don’t have the equipment to back it up. The star system is good motivation for those to grow and gain strength.

“It also allows those that can do better to have the equipment needed in their hands, but it's too slow, with the current situation we have, which is why I have invited everyone here today. There will be a star assessment.

“Those that do well will be rewarded for it. Let’s try to find the talented ones in our group.”

Chapter 649 Gather Hunters!

The ride on the motorcycle took longer than Innu thought. Maybe it was because he was fearing for his life while holding on. Every second he just wanted to get off sooner, and it also seemed like Blake didn’t care as he was whizzing past other cars.

Eventually, though, they had stopped. They were in an area that was between cities. They had ridden to the top of a mountain, and the bike was parked on the side where one could see the pathway they had come from.

It was a windy, dirt-like road, and there was a lot of greenery. Out here, it felt like it was the middle of nowhere.

“I think you’ll be happy about this, but we have to walk the rest of the way,” Blake said.

Rather than going further down, they had to carry on going up. Here they passed by a gate, where there were a few men standing guard, each of them wearing black masks that only showed their eye holes.

'I guess since we're now seeing Altered Hunters in public, we're in the right place.'

During their walk up the mountain, they could see others making the climb as well. It was a mix of different people. Some chose to wear their hunter masks, hiding their faces, while others didn't care.

For Blake and Innu, the two of them didn't have masks on either. Seeing this, Innu realized it was really hard to pick out who was and who wasn't a hunter from the general public.

They were young, old, female, and male. Some looked fit and ready, but there were a few with beer bellies and seemed incredibly average. In a gang, nearly everyone was strong and had some level of athleticism. To become an Altered, one had to be the top of the top, but it was different here.

Reaching the top, Innu didn't know what he was expecting up here. He just didn't think there would be this.

"It's an entire building all the way up here in the mountains." Innu said out loud.

The building wasn't small by any means and was built into the mountains itself. The outside was sturdy with grey concrete and large pillars. It was a modern-day fortress.

"A lot of our bases are like this, so don't be surprised. There are large landmarks that aren't even on the map or any GPS," Blake explained. "This is one of the bigger ones, I guess because everyone has been called here."

Looking around, there were thousands of people going in through these tunnel-like entrances, all heading inside. Innu and Blake did the same, and when stepping through the doors, they felt like they had entered a large grand palace.

It was an empty room with almost nothing in it, but the floor seemed to be made of a type of smooth rock. It was somehow cold inside as well. The top of the ceiling was nearly impossible to see because the darkness of the room reached it before one's eyes did.

"I'm glad to see that you are still looking strong, even with my absence."

The two of them had heard a voice and turned around. Innu hadn't even felt someone approach them or get so close to them. It was strange because the sound of footsteps was echoing when they walked.

"Father, it is good to see you are in good health as well." Blake bowed down.

Innu, seeing what Blake was doing, bowed down as well. 'Is this how Blake acts in front of his father? It doesn't seem like so much of a father and son relationship. Not that I would know much about that. Still, it could just be an Altered Hunter thing.'

When Innu lifted his head, he could see the old man's eyes staring at him, almost piercing right through him.

"I can guess that this is your apprentice. I had heard the news that you managed to get one, but I just never expected him to be so young," Ozacas said.

There was a reason why Ozacas was being sceptical because Altered Hunters, if recruited so young like Blake was, usually were through the family. It was rare to find a person that was so talented at a young age without the right amount of training.

"He has passed the assessment," Blake stated. "He will not disappoint or tarnish our name."

This is what Blake assumed his father was worried about. Because Innu was an apprentice of Blake, his actions would affect their position and trust in the family.

"Anyway, today there will be something unexpected," Ozacas said. "This is not just a normal meeting. I can't say any more, otherwise you will have an unfair advantage over the others, but I will say this... you must think of everyone who is in this room as competition."

With only those words, Ozacas was off. They hadn't seen each other in a long time. His father hadn't been home in a while, and yet the only thing they had talked to each other about was that.

Innu had caught a glance of Blake's pained face, expressing these concerns. 'I guess everyone has their own family issues, and I need to fight for mine.'

More people were starting to come into the grand hall, and it was starting to get cramped a bit.

"Hey, I think I'm going to try to go and look for Ashen and say hi," Innu stated. "We might get lost if we split up, so just stay here, and I'll come back when this big meeting starts."

Before Blake could say anything, Innu was already running off. Looking through the crowd, he could see that most were wearing sleeveless shirts, this way they could show off the number of stars they had on their arms.

He knew Ashen was a five-star hunter, so he thought it would be relatively easy. That's when Innu spotted someone.

A small framed man, who was wearing a black sleeveless hoodie and had two swords on his back. At the same time, he wore a mask that just covered the bottom of his face like he was some kind of ninja.

Innu didn't care about any of that, though. He mostly noticed the five stars.

"Excuse me, sir," Innu said, bowing down and lifting his head. "I was wondering if you could help me look for someone."

The man glanced at Innu, surprised that someone he didn't recognize would come up to him like so.

"I haven't seen you before. Are you fairly new? How many stars do you have?" The man asked back.

"Um...I'm just an apprentice, so I have no stars," Innu said.

Just then, the man felt like he was ready to be on his way, and Innu could see this.

“Wait, the one I’m looking for, I’m sure you would know him. He’s a five-star hunter as well, Ashen.”

This name had caught the man’s attention, and he turned back around to look at Innu again.

“What business would you have with Ashen?”

“Well, he kinda taught me for a bit, so I wanted to speak to him and ask him how he thought I was progressing,” Innu answered honestly. He saw no harm in his answer because they were all Altered Hunters here.

‘Ashen having his own student... I never heard of that before,’ the man thought.

“I’m sorry to be the one to tell you this, kid, but Ashen is dead.”

Chapter 650 Passing The Baton

Innu wondered whether the five-star hunter was playing a trick on him. After all, Ashen had demonstrated glimpses of his formidable power - not only was he skilled and possessed great strength in Qi, but he also had a supernatural ability. Although he had only seen a glimpse of it, as a five-star Hunter he must have acquired a wealth of experience and taken down hundreds of Altered, but then how could someone of that calibre die without it causing a stir in the news?

The public was no fan of Altered Hunter and whenever one got captured or killed they would make it on TV. The more experienced they were, the longer the media would talk about them afterwards.

Unfortunately, as Innu looked at the hunter's face, he could only see the pain and sorrow in his eyes, as though he had just lost a beloved family member. It was a look that Innu had grown accustomed to seeing and recognized all too well - he had often seen it on Kevin and Susan’s faces ever since the Crazy Altered incident.

"How...how can that be...did an Altered get him?" Innu asked.

Although Innu hadn't known Ashen for a long time, he still considered him somewhat of a mentor. Ashen had shown him a way how to get stronger so that he would not lack behind his friends, He felt that the least he could do was try to avenge him, even though he doubted he had the strength to take on someone who had defeated Ashen... yet.

The dressed ninja man shook his head. "I'm afraid not. do you really think an Altered out there would be able to kill someone like him?"

"Then how, how did he die!?" Innu yelled.

The others nearby started to turn and look, noticing not Innu but the person next to him. "Isn't that THE Fang? Is that brat crazy talking to him like that?"

"He must have asked him for an autograph just to get rejected."

It was expected for a five-star Hunter to be well-known in the Altered Hunter community, but Innu didn't care, he just wanted answers.

"Interesting. It seems like you and Ashen had a close relationship if he didn't even tell you about himself. That's classic Ashen," Fang commented with a glint in his eyes, shrugging off Innu's angry tone.

"All of us Altered Hunters know that we might die one day in the line of duty, but Ashen knew he was going to die before he ever became one of us. He has been diagnosed with a brain tumour from a young age, something that the doctors had been unable to do anything about. Perhaps he should have died sooner, but I believe that his body and his skills have allowed him to live longer.

"Unfortunately, his condition worsened over the years. The only way he could have possibly survived was by turning into an Altered. As an Altered, his body would have had a natural fighting chance to get rid of the brain tumour. But, of course, Ashen would have never agreed to that. He believed that becoming an Altered was not worth the risk, and he wanted to live out his life as a human."

Of all the ways for Ashen to die, Innu was shocked that it wasn't during his dangerous job as an Altered Hunter. He had no idea where to channel his frustration, as there was no clear enemy or target to blame. All he could do was keep the anger inside.

As he tried to process his emotions, memories of his brief time with Ashen started flooding back, and he began to connect the dots. The signs were always there, but he had never paid enough attention to them before.

'He kept talking about how he was running out of time. I thought he just meant our training... but was he actually talking about himself?'

Another memory flashed in Innu's head, of blood on his sleeve. Originally, Innu thought that must have just been due to the fights he had gotten into on the way to them.

Thinking about it, though, the blood looked slightly wet, a bit fresh, so that would have been possible. It made him wonder, how much pain he was in at the time, how much was he holding in, just to teach Innu a little bit longer, and why of all people, did he decide to spend some of his final moments with him.

"Did Ashen have any family or relatives?" Innu asked his head held down.

"None," Fang replied, shaking his head.

Knowing there weren't any more questions that he could answer for the young one, Fang went ahead to the front of the room, where there was a small stage that had been set up.

The meeting was about to start, evident from the arrival of Edvard, once again sporting his sunglasses indoors. He stood tall at the end of the expansive hall, flanked by six five-star Hunters, including Fang.

In front of them lined up were the four-star Hunters. There seemed to be around fifty or so of them, and they were in two rows spread out across the room that included Blake's father.

"Did you find out what you wanted?" Blake asked the returning Innu.

"Not what I wanted... Ashen is dead." Innu replied.

Blake himself was shocked to hear this. He was as baffled as Innu, as he too wanted to thank the Altered Hunter for helping them out.

"It's maddening, isn't it? A brain tumour of all things," Innu exclaimed, his frustration evident in his voice. "How can I seek revenge when there's no enemy to fight, no target to take down?"

"There is something you can still do," Blake replied, his voice calm and steady. "Why don't you honour Ashen's memory by sharing his teachings with others? Albeit briefly, you were still his apprentice. He must have taught you something that could benefit others. Think about it: by passing on his legacy, you'll keep a part of him alive in the hearts and minds of many."

Blake had no idea what Innu had learned, and Innu was meant to keep it a secret, but with Ashen gone, he might really be the only person that knew of this power. Maybe it was something he could pass on.

"Thanks, Blake, I'm happy that you're more than just a pretty boy."

"Oh, so you think of me as a pretty boy?" Blake asked jokingly. The response caused Innu to punch him on the arm. How could he not know based on all the attention he got?

"Alright everyone!" Edvard shouted so loud it almost burst several eardrums. It showed how much power he carried in just his voice.

"Today will be a very eventful day for the Altered Hunters, one that might even be ingrained in our history forever, So I want you all to listen carefully," Edvard declared.