

Werewolf 661

Chapter 661 A Strong Smell

Innu and Blake had both returned using the motorbike they had come on, while Edvard had followed on a motorcycle of his own, but it was in a chopper style rather than a sports bike like the one Blake used. It suited the sunglasses and the bright-coloured shirt he used, and unusually for an Altered hunter, he stood out quite a bit, which was usually the opposite of what Altered hunters would be like.

Somewhere along the way, they had managed to lose Edvard as well, although it wasn't on purpose. It was just one moment Blake could see him in the wing mirror, and the next he wasn't there.

When they landed in Slough, Blake had dropped Innu off at his house and invited him in while they put the bike away. In the meantime, Innu had a lot to say because there was a lot on his mind.

"What is going on? My head really hurts," Innu said, grabbing his head.

"It's the same for me as well. I'm still confused. Where did Edvard go? I mean, there are road signs to Slough and GPS. He couldn't have gotten lost, and he even said that he would be following me," Blake said. "Should I go back and try to find him? Should I report to the other hunters?"

The whole situation was stressing out Blake, who was usually calm-minded, but it was because it involved one of the most important people to the association in the country. He was imagining he would be called in any second to ask what had happened to the leader.

"What are you worried about that for? If he didn't make his way here, then that would be great!" Innu replied back. "Don't you realize, we thought it was trouble when a five-star hunter was coming to Slough, and now the leader is here.

"If he finds out about the others, what sort of trouble do you think he's going to cause!" Innu said. "I mean, what the fuck is he going to do? Just how strong is Edvard?"

Blake was so caught up in his own worries he had somewhat forgotten about the Howlers. Maybe it was a good thing that Edvard wasn't here.

"I mean... Edvard, I haven't really seen him fight or heard any stories about him, but you saw what he could do at the assessment, right? I can't imagine he's any less than the other five-star hunters.

"There's a good chance that he might be even stronger than them."

After leaving with that scary thought, Innu hoped for the best that Edvard wouldn't arrive. Little did he know that even right now, Edvard was watching them. A few rooftops away, on top of another house, Edvard was listening in to every word they said.

"It was a good thing to give them the slip earlier. Hopefully, this will give them the chance to drop their guard a little. This is already getting interesting, though. It seems that they know a few Altered... makes me wonder, what is their relation to them?"

"According to what we know, they haven't spread their influence this far yet. They might be moving more than I originally thought."

Looking at the house, Edvard could see Innu was finally leaving, and in doing so, he was on his phone sending a few messages out to the others. Since the smell that caught Edvard's interest was on Innu, he had decided to follow him rather than Blake.

With his skills, it was easy for him to blend in and follow without getting caught. Edvard was confident in his abilities.

While following Innu, he was surprised. He saw him enter an apartment building, and he was there for an hour or so. Listening in, he heard a few cries here and there. It looked like Innu really was doing as he said, saying his goodbyes.

Continuing to follow Innu, he left with the young boy as well as the woman, and they headed to an orphanage. There, he learned that Innu was funding the orphanage, at least in a way, as he asked many questions about what they needed and stated that if there was anything, they should not hesitate to contact him or this Kai person.

Once again, more tears were shed, and this time, Innu had left the building on his own.

"It's not usually my thing to eavesdrop on our fellow hunters. I have learned more than I would have liked to about this Innu. He is a good person and has a strong reason for fighting. I think he will do well to grow."

There was a part of Edvard in that moment which felt like he was doing something wrong, and he thought about leaving Innu alone. But he decided that he would tail him to just one more location, and they eventually arrived at the Wolf's Pool Club.

Standing outside, Innu didn't enter straight away and just looked at the sign above.

"What... do I say to them? What do I tell them? It was hard enough telling the others that I had to go away on a trip for a year.

"But I told them I had to leave due to something to do with the Howlers. However, what can I lie about to these guys? I can't think of anything, and Kai, he's so smart. I feel like if I don't just go out there and tell the truth, then he's going to know something is up.

"I mean, these guys, they don't treat Blake like crap, and if I explain myself, it will be all okay, right?"

Taking in another deep breath, Innu finally entered the Wolf's Pool Club.

"Hey... guys," Innu said to all the faces staring back at him.

Back outside the Wolf's Pool Club, standing on the pathway on the opposite side, Edvard's eyes were glowing.

"This place... it stinks."

Chapter 662 Training Duo

Inside the Wolf's pool club, Innu was finding it hard to make eye contact with the rest of his group. They were staring at him, and not in a pleasant way as if they had been waiting to see someone for a long time.

It wasn't the same warm welcome they had given Gary after not seeing him for a long time. So he wondered why there was such a difference in treatment.

"Come on, guys, I've been really busy," Innu stated, still looking up and looking away. For some reason, it was Marie's eyes that were the most fierce when looking at him.

"You could have given us a single text?" Marie replied, folding her arms. "We had no clue what you were doing. At least we knew exactly what Gary was doing."

The tone of voice, Innu knew that he had somewhat hurt Marie by not keeping them in the loop, but honestly, he never expected to be away for so long, to go through so much. In a way, he was having his own journey.

"I'm sorry... I really am. You know, I see the Howlers as a second family. You guys have helped those I care about, helped me, and that's why I'm willing to do anything I can to help all of you as well.

"There are just some things... I find it hard to talk about," Innu said softly, unsure how to break it to the others. He was still unsure whether or not he should tell the others the truth or not.

That was when he felt a large hand fall on his shoulder.

"It's okay, we all have things that we have to keep to ourselves sometimes. If anything, we should be happy you're back," Austin commented.

Of all people to say such a thing, Innu was surprised it was Austin, and although Marie still didn't look happy, she felt like she was unable to press Innu anymore.

The group decided to have a few drinks while playing a few games as a catch-up. As they did, they talked about what had happened with them and Midwak. How Gary had managed to make a certain deal.

"Seriously!" Innu said with his mouth open, still finding it hard to believe. "I guess it's a good thing that we have people like us then. The two of us are going to have to deal with any trouble that comes our way."

Saying these words, Innu was looking at Austin.

"That's if there is any trouble; it's unlikely that we will have trouble on an actual day," Kai stated. "But, we have to make sure to keep this information tight."

The group continued to talk, and soon the conversation went toward Gary. They talked about his upcoming match and wondered how he would do. They were all pretty sure that Gary would win; it was more of a discussion of which way Gary would win, and perhaps he would become a bigger star than he already was soon.

"Alright, it's time," Olviva finally said.

So far, she hadn't said much or been involved in the conversations, just sitting in the back staring at her watch once in a while, and now it looked like it had reached a certain time.

"Really, do we have to do it today as well?" Marie asked. Her face looked tired, just from hearing, almost as if she was asking not just for this one day, but eventually the stare-down from Olivia had won over.

With her head held down, Marie followed Olviva out of the place and headed out of the door.

"What is going on right now?" Innu asked, looking at the others.

"It's training time for the two of them," Kai answered. "They train every day, without fail, ever since Marie became a Werewolf."

For a second, Innu imagined what the two of them would be like training. "I guess I'm not the only one that's working hard. Everyone else in the group as well."

Thinking about what Marie was going through and how hard they were working, Innu had made his decision.

"Look, guys, you're not going to like what I'm about to say," Innu said, his voice shaky. "I... I..."

The others wondered what Innu was trying to say that would make him so nervous with his words.

"I... I joined the Altered Hunters."

Hearing these words, Kai and Austin were frozen still. They were almost unable to breathe because they couldn't quite believe what they had just heard.

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Outside, Marie was following Olviva. The two of them were walking through the city and soon started to run. Olviva started off slow and then picked up the speed, and slowly Marie wasn't too far behind her.

"Do you really think I can't keep up with you anymore?" Marie asked.

"You think I'm going full speed? I'm just trying not to waste my time too much longer with you," Olivia stated.

The two continued to follow each other until they had reached the woods. There were plenty of wooded areas around, next to the driveways and motorways, that they could use, but in particular, they chose this spot because it wasn't too far away from the Wolf's pool club.

After entering the deep forest, they came to a stop, and the two of them stood opposite each other. Many of the tree branches were destroyed, and there were large scratch marks on the trunks of the trees.

"Alright, let me know when you—" Olivia's voice trailed off as she looked up and soon noticed someone standing in the trees.

"Ah, your senses aren't too dull after all." The man jumped off the tree and landed right in the middle. He was wearing an Altered Hunters mask that covered his entire face. "You made it a little too easy for me coming all the way out here, though, don't you think, Werewolves?"

Chapter 663 The hunters hunt

Normally, Olivia wouldn't be one who hesitated to act. In fact, as soon as she saw the person land from above, she had already transformed her arms into deadly claws that could kill most humans with a single swipe.

Marie on the other side was a bit more hesitant, still wondering who the person was or how they had even got here.

However, there were reasons why Olivia hadn't moved in. Her instincts as a hunter made her more aware of certain details. Things that she had managed to notice.

"That man, he fell from up there. These trees are pretty high up," Olivia thought. "A normal person would at least make some sort of reaction falling from that height or even hurt themselves, but there wasn't even a slight bend in his knees."

Observing the man more, the mask and some of the clothes he was wearing greatly resembled those of the Altered Hunters. Of all places, it looked like they had been followed.

"I've heard of some hunters being like this. Even though they aren't Altered's they have super human strength. We still have to get the first attack. Even if this is a skilled Altered Hunter, there's a good chance he doesn't know what we can do, and we aren't Altered in the first place."

Olivia, being the faster of the two, felt like she should move in first, be the first to attack. But when the man opened his mouth, she froze in place once more.

"You made it a little too easy for me coming all the way out here, don't you think, Werewolves?" Edvard said.

"How?" Marie's mouth was left wide open. She was struck with extreme confusion. The world didn't know about Werewolves, and even if someone did know about them, how would they know that these two were Werewolves?

Even though Olivia had transformed her arms, there were many Altered with sharp claws that looked like that.

Hearing this alone, Marie started to worry. There was something in her gut telling her that this situation was dangerous, more so than just meeting an Altered Hunter.

"Should I go back to Kai... but that means Olivia will be left on her own, and she might need my help."

In the midst of these thoughts, Olivia decided to act in the end, and she wasn't pulling any punches. She fully transformed instead of a partial transformation. Her legs grew in size along with the rest of her body and long arms.

Running across the floor, she made the person in front of her a target and leapt up in the air.

"If you know what I am, then I shouldn't have to hide anything!"

Olivia swung her paw right toward Edvard, ready to claw the side of his face. Yet, Edvard didn't look scared, and casually lifted his hand, moving inward and hitting the side of Olivia's arm just before the claws could reach him.

"He blocked my attack... even if he is an Altered Hunter, this person didn't even flinch."

Edvard then moved his hand back slightly, pulling it back for a punch. In that moment, shivers were sent right down Olivia's spine as she jumped back.

"Oh?" Edvard replied. "You have good instincts, but I'm afraid your instincts won't save you here."

It looked as if Edvard was about to do something, but he soon could hear someone approaching from behind. When he turned around, he saw two claws lifted right above his head.

Lifting both of his hands up, he managed to grab the black-furred Werewolf right by the wrists.

"Brace yourself!" Edvard said, as he threw one of the large heavy arms away, then pulled his arm back once again.

"Marie!" Olivia shouted, throwing out her whip. It wrapped around Edvard's arms a few times, and she pulled with all her might. Yet there was no give; Edvard's arm hadn't moved at all.

"How... not even Midwak was this strong. Who could possibly have such strength?"

Olivia was desperate, pulling with all her weight and strength, but it was doing nothing. Throwing his arm out, it slammed right into the centre of Marie's Werewolf form's abs. She skidded across the floor for around ten metres, standing there in place.

"Oh, that body was a lot more solid than I thought," Edvard said, looking at his hand.

That was because Marie was of the Protector class, and bracing herself, she had used the Ironbody skill, allowing her to take the most powerful blows. Yet she hadn't moved since getting hit.

A second later, she coughed, opening her mouth, and a large amount of blood poured out onto the ground. She fell to her knees, and her body was starting to revert back to normal. A single punch, one that didn't have much momentum and was being held back by Olivia, had taken Marie out of the fight.

"She's just a child. Why would you do that!" Olivia screamed, running forward, swinging her claws out at Edvard.

He would move just enough so the claws missed his body, stepping away, ducking down and to the side. And when she missed another large attack again, Edvard ran in and placed his hand on top of Olivia's head, pushing down hard, shoving it right into the ground.

Her feet lifted into the air, her mouth was slammed shut as her jaw crashed into the mud.

"Now tell me," Edvard said, his eyes glowing red. "Why have you Werewolves left your city? What are you doing all the way out here? Why are you trying to expand?"

Chapter 664 King's of the North

Olivia had been damaged from the simple slam on top of the head. It wasn't that much force was used, it was almost as if just the right amount of force had been applied, enough to tip her off balance.

Struggling, she placed both hands on the ground by the side of her head, and tried to push herself up off the floor. However, Edvard continued to push down, and the two positions weren't budging at all.

"I'm warning you now, it's best that you answer my question!" Edvard said, shoving her head into the ground with more force again before lifting it slightly. Her head was still near the ground in case Edvard chose to shove it in again.

"What are you Werewolves doing here, why have you left the city and what are you planning?" Edvard asked.

Olivia was still slightly dazed, shocked even at the situation. Even if this was an Altered Hunter, could a human really have such strength, such speed and not be an Altered? It seemed like an impossible feat.

"I don't know what you mean... this has always been our city." Olivia finally answered. As her head was starting to clear, she began to think of a possible answer.

Who else would know about the Werewolves' existence, and be this strong? At one point there was a warning, just due to their existence, that they would be after them at some point. It was quite possible, what they were dealing with right now, was a vampire.

From the small interactions they already had, Olivia already knew she could never win against such an opponent no matter how persistent she was, so she only had one chance.

'If this really is a vampire... maybe he has the situation confused. Maybe they don't know about us. Telling them the truth might be the only way to survive... or it might just be a quicker way to our deaths.' Olivia thought, but they were now in a forced situation, where she needed to do anything.

"Why are you avoiding the question?" Edvard said, as he lifted Olivia right by her head. She was still in her Werewolf form so many of her wounds on her body had already healed, but Edvard quickly punched her in the stomach.

It was a heavy blow just like that on Marie, and blood splattered right out of Olivia's mouth immediately. She coughed a few more times, and when lifting her head, she looked through the mask.

Right there, she could see it through the two eyeholes, the red glowing eyes staring right at her.

"Now tell me, why are you here?" Edvard asked, tightening his grip around her head at the same time.

What Edvard was using right now, was his influence powers. A vampire was able to use their powers to force the other to do their bidding. They could give commands, instructions and the other would follow.

There were those that were more resistant to this influence compared to others and at the same time there were those that had stronger influence powers. For a vampire living among humans this was their bread and butter, for living in the current world.

"We are not expanding, we are from Slough!" Olivia answered. "You have the wrong people."

For a second, Edvard loosened his grip on Olivia's head. He was sure that his Influence skill was working, so then why had the answer been like so? But what if what she was saying was the truth, what would that mean?

"Answer my question!" Edvard shouted at Olivia once more. "Your Alpha, the leader of the pack, are they the Kings that rule the north?"

"No," Olivia answered.

Edvard's eyes widened, this was new information that they had yet to obtain. What did this mean, how was this possible, and how long had it been since something like this had happened? He couldn't get too excited though, because he needed to make sure.

"Then... who is your Alpha?" Edvard asked.

"He is... Gary Dem... the one who rules Slough."

Immediately, Edvard dropped Olivia there and then, and she fell to the floor. She had quite possibly revealed the worst information possible for her gang. In the current world, one of the most important things one must never do was reveal their leader's name, and she had done just that.

'What was that... it was as if information was being forced out of my brain,' Olivia thought, but if the others learned about this, they would find it hard to believe her.

"A second Alpha has come, and of all things it's a Dem? No matter how long I live, history always seems to be repeating itself," Edvard said.

He looked around at the two injured and tried to judge their strength while thinking about what to do, and eventually had somewhat come up with an answer.

'With this information, we might be able to time things. A golden opportunity might arise out of all of this, but if they are like this, they won't be useful to us at all.'

"If you want to survive out there, then the way you are now, you are far too weak. I have no clue about the rest of your pack and what their strength is, but if you were to go up against those in the North now, you would have already been killed."

"Until you are ready, don't mess with the Kings in the North. That will be the best for both of us!"

Olivia just blinked, and just like that Edvard had disappeared right from her sight, letting her and Marie live.

"Marie... Olivia!" Running through the forest, Kai was shouting their names heading straight for their location.

Chapter 665 Mystery guest

After learning from Innu that he had decided to become an Altered Hunter, the group stated that they needed details, and Innu had to explain himself fairly quickly because Austin wasn't giving him the best of smiles.

After all, Austin was an Altered, and Innu was now an Altered Hunter, which would mean the two of them were enemies in some way.

He explained his reasoning, that he wished to get stronger and how he had joined through Blake's recommendation as an apprentice. So far, they understood Innu's intention and how he had planned to stay in the Howlers, not really doing any Altered Hunter duties.

However, the tone and tension in the room started to change when Innu went on with his story, how he had been invited to an Altered Hunters meeting, and the assessments that followed. Finally, it was time for him to tell the others the hardest part, that he would have to leave Slough and be under the Altered Hunters' wing for an entire year.

"This is crazy... This is crazy. Why didn't you think about these things before joining them?" Austin asked. "Did you think that they would just teach you what they knew, give you the equipment you wanted, and never contact you again?"

Of all people, it hurt Innu a bit that what Austin said made sense. Although Innu never saw himself as the smartest in the group, he had always put himself in front of the wall of muscle Austin, but his reasoning was if Blake could do it, then why couldn't he.

"Look, it was just bad timing. You know I have a lot of connections to Slough other than just you guys. I don't want to be gone for a year, but now I'm stuck in a really tough situation. Honestly, I'm just glad that only you guys are here. Otherwise, if Marie or Gary were here, this would be a lot harder."

Kai was taking in everything Innu was saying, but unlike Austin, who had an instant dislike for the whole thing, Kai was thinking about how they could use this to their advantage.

"You're right. If Gary were here, he might even try to fight against the Altered Hunters to stop you from joining them," Kai stated. "But I don't think the situation is as bad as we think. Blake helped us a lot at the last auction. If it wasn't for him, we would have had a much more difficult time getting out of there. No one knows the full strength of the Altered Hunters, but some assume it's at the level of one of the kings, if not even more powerful.

"If it wasn't for White Rose trying to go after them, maybe they would be more active. So I think having someone on the inside, observing the movements of such a strong force, is a good thing. As we rise up, I'm sure we'll gather the attention of the Altered Hunters anyway, if we haven't already caught their attention."

Innu was worried that maybe Kai would be concerned about his loyalty. Joining such an organisation and being with them for an entire year. At his age, a year was a significant part of his life. It would mean he would be part of the Altered Hunters for as long as he had been a part of the Howlers.

Yet Kai didn't worry about any of those things. His connection to the Howlers and Slough was strong, mainly due to Gary, who had saved the last few members of the old Black Rock Orphanage group, and because of the new Black Rock Orphanage group.

Betraying the Howlers would mean betraying them.

Thinking about what Kai had said, it reminded Innu of something, and he immediately slapped his head a few times.

"Crap, there was something else I needed to tell you. Honestly, I'm not sure if it's something we have to worry about or not, but..."

Seeing Innu struggle to get the words out more than anything else he had said, Kai started to worry a little.

"The head of the Altered Hunters Association is in Slough."

Unlike before, Kai wasn't calm; his eyes widened.

"You idiot, why didn't you say that first? If someone like that is in Slough and they found out about any one of us, we could be in serious trouble!"

Immediately, Kai headed out to where Marie and Olivia would be. It was a precaution, but he needed to be extra careful.

All of that led the others to discover an injured Marie and Olivia in the woods. Kai was the fastest of the group and ran straight past Olivia, heading directly for Marie. She was on her knees, trying to get up, but the pain in her stomach was still there.

"Are you okay? You have blood on your mouth. We need to take you to the hospital!" Kai panicked.

"It's okay. It doesn't hurt too much anymore. My body will heal itself," Marie answered. "Olivia, how is she? Is she okay?"

Austin and Innu were taking a look at Olivia. There appeared to be no serious wounds, but internally, they had been somewhat injured.

"Do you think it was the head Altered Hunter?" Austin asked. "For someone to be able to fight two werewolves at once and for them not to be here, they have to be at least that strong, right?"

"I'm really not sure," Innu answered, feeling guilty and like it was all his fault.

"I don't know if he was the head Altered Hunter or not," Olivia answered, being helped off the ground by Austin. "But I have a feeling in my gut, something that's telling me he was a vampire."

Chapter 666 A Big Day (Part 1)

It was early morning, and the core members of the Howlers had decided to meet at their usual location, the Wolf's Pool Club. However, the place looked vastly different from how it usually would.

For one, all of the pool tables had been moved, and in their place were regular tables, seats, and chairs.

There was also a significant upgrade, with several large TVs placed everywhere, including a large screen projector displaying onto one of the establishment walls. The venue was not open to the public at the moment due to the meeting taking place.

Instead of meeting downstairs in Kai's office, the rest of the members were sitting on the main floor at a table arranged in a rectangular formation. Kai and Austin sat on one side, while Marie and Olivia were on the other.

"There's a lot of important things we need to talk about, I guess, but let's start this whole thing with some positive news," Kai stated.

"The day of the full moon passed without any troubles occurring at all. Despite us eating what we normally would have, none of us reported feeling an urge to transform. At the same time, there were no troubles with any other groups."

"All of this is good news for the future, and we just need to make sure not to get involved in any troubles on a certain day in particular."

Just like the time before, all of the werewolves in the Howlers had locked themselves up and waited. The only difference was that they ate what they wished rather than starving themselves, and in the end, it looked like Gary's deal had worked.

There was one problem, though, and that was trying to avoid breaking the vow. However, Kai was pretty adamant that Midwak wouldn't do such a thing. If there was anyone afraid of losing their powers, it was him, and since nothing had happened, it seemed to be true.

"Lucky for you, Marie," Olivia patted her on the back. "You will never have to feel the lust and pain to consume someone, unlike the rest of us."

There was a little worry in Kai's mind. Since it was Marie's first time, he wondered what would happen, but it looked like he had nothing to worry about. He was happy that they could resolve this situation before her first moon.

"Now, let's move on to the more gritty stuff," Kai said. "Innu... Innu has left us for the time being. I made you all aware of that last time. He has joined the Altered Hunters but only in name. Whenever he can, he will contact us."

"We are to treat him no differently. No matter what, he is a true member of the Howlers, but we have to be prepared if we see any chance of him changing or acting differently around us. We have to be ready."

Marie gulped. She was unsure if Kai was seriously suggesting something—suggesting that if Innu became a true Altered Hunter, they would have to get rid of him or at least confront him.

"Do you really think Innu would do such a thing?" Marie asked.

"Who knows," Kai replied. "You have to remember that Altered Hunters have become hunters for a reason, whether it's due to their family or something happening to them. The fact is, not all Altered out there are good people."

"In a way, you could argue that more of them are bad than good, with many concentrated in gangs. With Innu going away for a year, there's a chance he will see more of the bad side than the good. And with everyone around him having a deep hatred for Altered as well, it's easy for an echo chamber to be created around him."

"To be honest, I would be more surprised if Innu doesn't come back from all of this a little different than before. But he is a strong person, so in the worst case, he will be someone like Blake, who still has close ties to the Howlers."

Marie and Austin looked a bit down upon hearing the news. When the Howlers had started, all of them were there from the beginning, and now one of them had left. It felt like a family member was leaving them.

"Are the Altered Hunters really just out there to hunt Altered?" Olivia asked, folding her arms.

They all knew what Olivia was referring to. It had happened about a week ago, when Innu was still with them. She and Marie had been attacked by one of the heads of the Hunter's Association.

After the attack and seeing that they were all okay, the group discussed the events. What surprised them was the news that Innu had shared about the things Edvard was capable of.

"There's still no way to confirm whether or not what you two faced was a vampire," Kai replied. "I wanted to talk to Midwak about it, to get his thoughts, but I'm unsure if that's the right thing to do."

"Honestly, mind control abilities, superior strength to a werewolf, speed, and red eyes? On top of that, they knew about werewolves. Although we only have fictional information on vampires, I would say most of it points to your guess being right."

"However, Innu has gone now, and so has the head of the Altered Association. There was no trouble from him even after knowing that you two were vampires. Which means I can only assume that we weren't their target, and perhaps the other werewolf group was."

"I guess it would make sense for someone like the head to know about werewolves as well," Marie added. "Still, all of this is getting crazy. I can't believe so much is happening from when we were just in school."

"In my mind, based on what he said to you, Olivia, there might be something else we have to worry about eventually. His warning was that we weren't strong enough to deal with the Kings of the North." Kai said.

"If 'Kings' is referring to those who control the Tier One cities, then we can assume the Kings in the North are the other werewolves, as in the other Alphas," Kai stated.

Marie looked deep into Kai's eyes when he said those words. Was there something about the Kings of the North that Kai was interested in? Was it just the fact that they were other werewolves? Either way, she could see the look in his eyes, someone who was ready for a fight.

Chapter 667 A Big Day (Part 2)

While the others were busy discussing a few matters, there was a knock on the outside door.

"Oh, I guess it's time to open up soon then. The time went by quicker than I thought," Marie commented.

Getting up from her seat, she walked along the wooden floor and pulled the door open. To her surprise, it wasn't just any regular customers, but a few familiar faces they had seen before.

"I thought you might have wanted to stay home today," Marie said.

"Well, White wanted to come here anyway, and it would be good to be with everyone," Amy replied.

Two girls walked into the Wolf's pool club side by side, their arms linked. Amy and White knew all the members of the Wolf's pool club, and although Amy didn't have the full scope of what was going on, she did know a few things.

She knew that Gary was part of the new gang called Howlers, and so were all the others in this place. She just didn't really know how high up everyone was. There were times when living with White that Amy tried to get information out of her, but she had a tight mouth and eventually gave up.

At first, she was worried about the whole thing, and who wouldn't be, but for one, White told her that there was no need to worry, and secondly, the Howlers seemed to be doing good things for the town.

Of all the gangs for Gary to have joined, at least it was one like this, she thought. This was why, even though she didn't have anything against Kai and the others, she still felt a little reluctant to hang out with them so much.

"Kai has always gone above and beyond to make me feel safe, though. Whenever I have a problem at the apartment complex or any issues in general he sorts them out. He and my brother both seem close to each other, so maybe I should start getting closer to him as well."

Kai took the two ladies over to a dedicated spot for them, pointing directly at the large projector.

Soon after White and Amy had settled in, more people started to appear at the Wolf's pool club. They kept coming in. It was a busy night for them, with members of the Howler gang, the general public, and students all filtering through the door.

On top of that, even Mr. Crowley, who had finally settled into Slough, had come in as well.

"I thought you would be here," Kai said, walking over to the teacher.

At first, Crowley had no idea who Kai was, since when they had first met, Kai had disguised himself. But the voice on the phone, as well as the voice in person, matched up perfectly. It didn't take long for Crowley to figure out he was working for a gang.

In all honesty, he perhaps knew it from the beginning but was just lying to himself. But what confused him was Kai's position. Kai had talked to Crowley as if he was the decision-maker, as if anything he said could happen.

It was clear that Kai acted like a leader but clearly stated that he wasn't the leader. This somewhat made sense to Crowley because he couldn't imagine someone who could only just legally drink running a whole gang crime organization.

"Of course, I'm here. It's a big day after all," Crowley replied. "You know I was in the AFA before coming here, but what you might not know is that I looked after Gary while being there."

Kai nodded along, making facial expressions as if he was surprised.

'Of course I knew. Gary was also the one who asked me to give you a job,' Kai thought.

"I never directly taught him," Crowley continued. "But I do feel like I played a part in his success, so I wouldn't miss his debut fight."

This was the main reason for all the changes in the Wolf's pool club, the extra seating, as well as the additional guests. Everyone was here to watch the big match. Gary had become a sort of town hero after his broadcast on TV.

Everyone in Slough knew his name, and it didn't take long for them to realize that this Gary Dem was the same Gary Dem who had been funding so many developments around town.

Because Gary had this great status, everyone knew about his big event. The streets were almost empty in Slough as everyone tried to either gather or watch the big match at home to support their town hero.

Luckily, the event itself had been moved. Originally, it was scheduled for a period close to the full moon. That was part of the reason why they went to see Midwak in the first place, as Gary wanted to come up with a solution to prevent himself from transforming near the event.

In the end, it seemed like it didn't matter. Gary's original opponent he was going to face had been injured, and as a result, they moved the event back a bit.

It wasn't delayed by a significant amount because, after all, his opponent was an Altered, and it never took them long to heal. After confirming that everything was okay, the fight had been set up once more, and even more people were aware of what was going on.

"I wonder how Gary will win this one," Crowley commented.

"Oh, how are you so confident he will win?" Kai replied.

"Ha, Gary is one of the very best students that have ever come through the AFA. He is special. The fact that this small place is full of people supporting him shows it. I wouldn't be surprised if Gary quickly entered the top 50 and went even further beyond."

"He has a really bright future in the AFA, and if all goes well, he would never have to work a day in his life again."

Hearing these words, for a second, Kai felt a bit saddened by them, but the sound of the TV turning on snapped him out of it, as the big event was about to start.

Chapter 668 Debut Match (Part 1)

Today's AFC fight was gaining more attention than anyone expected. It wasn't a championship fight, it wasn't a match between two top rankers, and yet it was pulling in the same numbers.

This was all due to people watching the match from all over. There were those in the AFA themselves. Izzy, Ian, Numba, and their respective families were all watching the bout. They would usually have a high interest in the AFA anyway due to their children, but there was an even more special connection now.

Then there were the others, the students who generally watched the debut matches that happened, but these students included the likes of Apollo, Snow, and Wu. They were all predicted to be the next debut students.

Then there were even those that were no longer a part of the AFA. Xin, who had already moved into a top team, along with Ryan, who had faced Gary head to head when he had become a permanent student.

There were also those that Gary had helped along the way, such as those at Ashen Entertainment, and today, they had actually decided to use their own money. Ash had paid for all of them to come and watch the show.

"Wow!" Rachel turned around in amazement, staring at the seats behind them. "Are there usually this many people at these things?"

The group had front-row seats with the cage just meters away from them. Part of dried-up blood could even be seen on the floor below; they were that close. At the moment, there was no one in the ring, though.

"The tickets weren't too expensive since this isn't a major event, but honestly, I'm quite surprised about the turnout myself. I guess Clem did a really good job presenting Gary." Ash smiled.

Sitting next to Clem, Spring had her arms folded. She could hear many in the crowd spot and notice Clem, yet not a single one had recognized her. There were even a few that recognized Tyson as well.

"Well, Gary, we've all turned up for your debut match, so you better not embarrass yourself and lose." Tyson pumped his fist.

The lights started to dim as the first few matches were about to start.

Gary was sitting down on the bench in his changing room. He was wearing the AFA uniform as was standard for those having their debut match. They were to represent which academy they came from.

"Are you nervous?" Eddie asked.

Eddie was his teacher during this whole time, but he hadn't really taught Gary much, stating that he was already beyond ready compared to the others.

"I'm okay, I just have a lot I'm thinking about," Gary replied.

Eddie then placed both hands on Gary's shoulders before he started to shake them violently.

"You should be nervous! Why is your head filled with other things apart from the fight?" Eddie said. He then let go of Gary and let out a big sigh. He was worried about this match for more reasons than one.

"Look, you know that a match like this isn't usually the main event, yet your fight today is. Do you remember why that is?" Eddie asked.

"Because of those TV interviews I did?" Gary answered, his tone changing at the end as he was unsure.

Eddie slapped the side of his face. "That might have played some part in it, but it's because of your opponent. Usually, in a debut match, they would put you up against something called a Journeyman. An opponent who has had a few fights and also has had a few losses.

"Someone that they are almost certain you will win against but at the same time show a level of your skill. This will allow you to build up your reputation and get your eyes on some scouts to make you a star.

"Maybe it's because in many eyes you already have the upbringing of a star, but your opponent today is not a Journeyman."

Usually, before a fight, one would study their opponent diligently. Gary used to do it when watching his favourite Altered fights to try to figure out who would win. The problem was, there were no videos on his opponent, so Gary was unable to do this, but there was a reason why there were no videos.

"Your opponent this time, it's their debut match, just like yours. They're from the Fighting Bruiser Academy. I'm sure you know they're a competitor of ours."

Gary certainly did know them. The AFA was the most well-known fighting academy but wasn't the only one out there. The Bruiser Academy would often be compared to the AFA, and some would say they produced more competent fighters on average, while the AFA was criticized for only focusing on talent.

"I'm sure they're upset about the amount of attention we received last time, so they must have pulled some strings to organize the fight. The AFC thought this was a golden opportunity, and it seems right, judging by the amount of people outside.

"Either way, they will have sent out their best, so I need you to be on top of your game and not have your mind filled with useless thoughts right now!" Eddie shouted.

On the opposite side of the venue, in another changing room, Gary's opponent was also sitting down. He had short hair that was razor-thin with a few stripes on the side, thick black eyelashes, and a focused stare. This was Haze Brunt, Gary's opponent and the number one student at Bruiser Academy.

"Do you have everything ready?" His coach asked him.

Haze looked up and rubbed the side of his mouth. He could feel something tied to the top part of his tooth, a pill that had a black coating all around it.

"I do... but I don't want the same thing to happen again. I felt like I nearly had become a crazed Altered," Haze replied.

"It all worked out in the end, didn't it? Besides, that was a gift from our sponsors who want to make sure we win, no matter the cost." The man smiled.

Inside the capsule, inside Haze's mouth, a dark energy was swirling around.

Chapter 669 Debut Match (Part 2)

The first couple of fights before the main event had started consisted of fighters who had a few wins and losses under their belt. They weren't anything special... but that only applied by using the AFC standards. These were still skilled Altered, the best of the best that only a few could ever be strong enough to be selected to take part. Going through an academy that had links with the AFC was just one way to enter.

"Holy crap!" Tyson shouted, lifting his hands up to protect his face out of instinct after a man had just been hurled towards the cage. He could clearly see the zigzagging pattern from that cage.

"Why would anyone willingly get in the ring if they know they're going to get hurt like that?" Spring asked.

Watching an Altered fight on the screen and in person were two completely different experiences. Only the latter could allow the spectator to really feel that it was real and how dangerous the fighters were. Every hit they heard, the groans they let out elevated the whole experience.

They could even smell the sweat and blood coming off from the two in front of them, showing off the determination for one person to win over the other.

"Because that's what it takes for them to proclaim themselves to be the best," Ash answered. "Similar to how you wish to be on the screen and have the whole world acknowledge your acting talent, it's the same for all of them. They are showing off their skills that they practised for weeks, months or even years.

"In the ring, they're up against another who has gone through the same as them. Only through a direct confrontation can the two determine who can move faster, who is stronger, who can best adapt to their opponent. Ultimately, if they to the top, they'll be able to claim that not a single person on the planet is stronger than them and could beat them in a fight, and that truly is a powerful thing."

Some of them listening to Ash speak could understand, but others couldn't. They just didn't understand why you would want to hurt the other for fun. What drove them to this point?

"You have to remember this is a lot safer than fighting back in the day," Tyson pointed out. "Although this looks dangerous, Altered are pretty hard to kill. Even if they are on the brink of death or have a hole through their body, they would survive.

"After a couple of days rest, these guys will be all healed up and can fight again. This is one of the reasons why Altered fights have gained such huge popularity. They can rise fairly quickly, taking up fights every week if they wish to do so.

The starting fights had finally come to an end, and it was time for the main event. The ring was cleaned up, and the lights were dimmed once more for the two to make their entrance to the caged ring.

"Ladies and gentlemen, tonight we have a very special event for you all. As two of the top contenders from the two top academies of the country have agreed to go face to face.

"This is a first, where two debut students from each academy will be fighting it out with everything on the line. The winner of this fight is bound to go on and do amazing things. So, this is one to watch. Without further ado, please welcome, from the Bruiser academy, HAAAZE BRUUUNT!"

Heavy metal music started to play as Haze walked out from his side of the venue. The crowd cheered him on as there was mutual respect for anyone who stepped inside the ring, and it appeared that he had his fair share of supporters as well.

As he walked, a large blue glittery hood was covering his face, but when he finally got to the ring, he placed his hood down, and everyone could see his determined focused look.

"Do you know anything about Gary's opponent?" Rachel asked.

"Yeah," Clem replied. "We did some research before deciding to go with Gary. Honestly, we only went to the AFA due to the performance of the last AFA students. They were the hot news at the time.

"However, Haze also had quite a bit of a reputation at the time. He was regarded as a brute, sending every opponent he went against in practice to the hospital."

This was a bigger deal than it sounded because Haze wasn't sending regular people to the hospital; he was sending other Altered.

"And now, the new rising star of the Altered Fighting Academy. Due to the recent documentaries about him, he is one who needs no further introduction. Let's welcome in, GAAAAARY DEEEEEEM!"

Same as Haze, Gary's walk was accompanied by music. It was a tune some were surprisingly familiar with because it was a slightly remixed version of the tune that Kirk Summerfield used to walk out to. Since the two of them were from Slough, people figured that it was some type of homage to the former Rookie champion.

"Is Gary okay? He looks a bit... lost," Tyson asked.

The others noticed it as well. Rather than looking at his opponent, Gary was just staring around, looking aimlessly at the people, not interacting with them at all.

'I can't believe that I'm really here, walking down this aisle. The screen that I used to watch, the people that I used to see... I always thought and wondered what they felt like. Is this what they felt like?

'It feels like just yesterday I was watching Kirk walk down here and enter the ring. So much has happened in such a short amount of time.'

Gary had entered the ring, with his body on display and his funky green hair. The cheers from the crowd were a lot louder for him. He was the favourite to win, but it wasn't by a lot.

While in the ring, Gary noticed a few things he didn't before. One was that there was no one in the ring other than the two of them. There was no ref, but stationed outside the ring were high rankers.

Two people within the top fifty who would come in to stop the fight if it looked like one of the attacks might turn lethal. It was one of the duties of being part of the AFC.

'The ring... it feels a lot smaller than when I was practising.'

DING

The bell went off, signalling the start of the fight, and immediately from Haze's side, several limbs came out from his body. They were long and sharp like that of a spider, three on each side.

Meanwhile, Gary hadn't transformed at all.

"Gary, snap out of it!" Clem and the others started to shout.

"You shouldn't daydream in a big fight like this!"

Haze was running straight for Gary, unwilling to give him any time to react.

"It's a shame," Gary let out a sigh. "I wanted to spend a bit more time in the ring."

Shifting his feet, Gary pushed off his toes, instantly moving from his position right next to Haze, and before the Altered knew it, he could see a fist right next to his face. The punch landed squarely on his face, cracking his nose and other bones as he was sent flying back.

Haze's body hit the cage, and immediately he fell face-first into the canvas, leaving the crowd who had just cheered in utter silence.

Chapter 670 The Dark Outcome

Haze Brunt continued lying on the canvas, completely still. It didn't even look like he was breathing, making some of the audience speculate that he might have been killed in that one attack.

The shocking turn of events left everyone stunned and unable to comprehend what had just transpired. Even the commentators had been rendered speechless.

Just a moment ago, they had been ready to comment on the fighting technique of the two youngsters, hyping up the predicted tough fight and portray it as a true test to both of them. They had spent a lot of time researching background information on Haze as he had been the clear favourite to win this, so what had just happened?

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are just as stunned as all of you," the male commentator was the first one to speak up. "From the look of things, Haze has been knocked out cold, was all with a single punch!"

Upon hearing the commentator's revelation, the crowd erupted into a deafening cheer that reverberated throughout the stadium. They weren't angry that the fight had concluded in one attack, rather they were over the moon that they had witnessed history in the making.

In the ring itself, one of the referees at the side entered the ring and checked on Haze's condition. The Altered fighter was completely out, so the man waved to the officials on the side confirming that the match was over.

"That's it, folks. It has just been decided that Gary Dem is our WINNER!" the female commentator announced, prompting another round of cheers from the crowd. "That has to be the fastest knockout in AFC history. It's undoubtedly a new record!"

Such occurrences were unprecedented in AFC fights, as Altered were known to endure significant blows from their opponents. What made it even more surprising was the apparent mismatch between the two fighters. Could it really be possible for the level of two debuting students to be that far apart?

"Gary won, and it was so easy," Clem remarked.

"Yeah, I mean, is Gary just that strong, or was his opponent weak?" Spring wondered.

"I don't think his opponent was weak," Tyson chimed in. "That was just the difference between the two."

All around, those watching the match were cheering, amazed at Gary's performance, including at the Wolf's Pool Club

"Your brother didn't even transform. He must have gotten a lot stronger," White claimed.

"I had no idea..." Amy said, but her dazed state soon turned to happiness. She was proud of her brother.

Elsewhere, Jayden was in a training room, looking at the TV, unable to stop grinning from ear to ear.

"Haha, what a show-off! Did he have to win the fight like that? He could've at least got some rounds in to test fighting in the AFC. Still, what an amazing achievement! It looks like Xin has her work cut out for her."

For Xin, who was watching the fight along with Ryan, her face showed next to no expression. She just had her arms folded as she continued to stare at the screen.

"Xin... Xin... Xin!" Ryan called out, but she wasn't replying. It looked like even she was shocked but in her own way. That was because they all had an idea of how good Haze Brunt was meant to be.

During one of his sparring sessions, he had visited the new club where Xin and Ryan trained and had sparred against a professional fighter. While not against one of the top prospects, the fighters at their club were skilled, yet Haze had delivered such an impressive performance that their coach had been prepared to offer him a contract after his debut match.

In contrast, their coach had dismissed Gary as mere hype. They had only seen him hit a bag and nothing more. Undoubtedly, he was now regretting his words, though he was likely not alone in that regard.

At the ringside itself, the coach for the Bruiser Academy had veins showing all over his forehead. Both of his hands were clenched, banging on the side of the cage.

"How could you embarrass us like this? Get up, get up!" the coach yelled at the top of his lungs, his frustration and disappointment palpable.

Yet, what truly unnerved everyone was the eerie dark mist that enveloped Haze, along with his eyes

which were now almost entirely black.

Although the fight had already been declared over, the sight of Haze lying motionless on the ground without having accomplished anything in his fight was a profound source of embarrassment for the coach. All he wanted was to leave the arena, unable to bear witness to the humiliation any longer. His words seemed to penetrate Haze's consciousness as he slowly opened his eyes.

"My face, it fucking hurts," Haze muttered, lifting a hand to touch his aching nose. He saw the referee standing nearby, while Gary stood confidently in the centre of the ring, observing him.

"What happened... I can't remember much... wait, I was in my debut match. So why am I on the ground?" Haze's memory gradually returned, accompanied by the sting of pain as blood trickled from his nose onto the canvas floor.

"Haze, you finally woke up, you idiot! You lost, just get out of the ring and head back!" The coach shouted once more.

"I... I lost?" Haze repeated, disbelief etched on his face.

Struggling to his feet, Haze surveyed his surroundings. The dream he had pursued relentlessly, the years of dedication and training at the academy, all came crashing down within a matter of seconds.

"I lost to him... no, that's impossible. I didn't even get to fight. I didn't even get to use everything I had. It's impossible that I lost!" Frustration and anger swelled within Haze, and he moved his tongue to get the pill hidden in his teeth. Clenching down, he bit into the pill with determination.

"I refuse to accept such a bullshit result!" Haze shouted, his voice filled with an intense resolve.

Gary turned to Haze, whose body started to transform. It wasn't a partial transformation this time. His body was growing in size, nearly doubling. His head had two claw marks coming out from its mouth, multiple red eyes, and his arms expanded like a spider's legs.

Yet, what truly unnerved everyone was the eerie dark mist that enveloped Haze, along with his eyes which were now almost entirely black.