

Werewolf 671

Chapter 671 The Infected Fighter (Part 1)

The system message had appeared, and recently, the system messages didn't appear around Gary much. Only when it felt like it, the system would warrant giving him any type of exp for the challenge he would face.

In fact, that was partially the reason why Gary knew he had nothing to worry about when he met Haze, just like other Altered he came across, there was no quest when it came to defeating him.

It did make Gary wonder, though, at what level would one have to be in the AFC for Gary to gain exp? Had he now reached the same level as Jayden? In his mind, he hadn't. He could maybe put up a fight at nighttime if he used everything he had, but that was all, putting up a fight.

There wasn't even the chance of him winning compared to what had occurred last time. So if he wanted to gain exp through the AFC, then he would have to rise up the ranks fairly quickly.

Right now, though, Gary was more concerned with the content of the message as he looked at the Altered in front of him. Haze no longer looked like himself. He had undergone a complete transformation.

Gary took a slight step back. There were screams heard in the crowd, clearly unsure of what was going on. However, there were also those that were excited and jumping for joy.

Thinking that they were about to get more than they paid for, as Haze was causing drama beyond the decision result.

'Infected Altered... the last time I saw something like this. Wasn't it in Slough? When all those kids from the orphanage had taken that strange stuff from the syringe,' Gary thought. 'I have the same feeling coming from Haze right now. Did he take something similar to make him this way? That might be the case, but there's a clear difference between the two of them.'

'Back then, the kids, the red-haired twins, neither of them were Altered. The solution had turned them into Crazy Altered, but here Haze is already an Altered, and with whatever he took, this could turn out to be quite a dangerous combination,' Gary thought.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it appears that Haze was not happy with the verdict that was given right now and is attempting to take down Gary right here!" the commentator said.

Just as the commentator said those words, straight out of Haze's mouth, sticky webs were shot out. Gary swiftly avoided each one of them, moving out of the way. The web substance hit the back of the cage and spread out like a web.

Gary, with his speed, continued to avoid all of the sticky web substances, but it looked like Haze was never going to run out as he continued to spit from his mouth. It covered the entire cage back wall.

Eventually, Gary's foot was caught in one of the webs on the ground. He was stuck and tried to pull away. The webs stretched slightly, but they weren't breaking.

'What are these things made of?' Gary thought, thinking back to how he was able to easily break spider webs as a kid by accident when running through trees and such. Now he felt like he was getting paid back a little for what he had done in the past.

Haze leapt in the air with his powerful new body. A giant object was coming toward him. Green bubbles started to form at the mouth, particularly around its two claw-like fangs.

"I don't want to know what's going to happen if he hits me with those," Gary said.

Transforming his fingertips, Gary's nails elongated, and with a swipe, he cut through the web and rolled on the ground. A loud crash was heard behind him. Turning his head, he saw that the floor of the arena had been ripped apart.

The sharp legs had pierced the ground, along with the green foam that had melted part of the stage.

Haze's coach by the side looked nervous when he saw this.

"What is going on? He wasn't like this the last time he took the pill. Sure, he was a bit more wild, but this is completely different. Have the doses of the two pills made him this way? The strength he is producing and the skills... I've never seen Haze be able to do something like this before."

Many were shocked at the sight of this, and they started to realise that something serious was going on. The fighting cage was sturdy. It had to be because it needed to survive the strength of other Alterededs fighting in it.

When top contenders fought, there were times when they would reinforce the ring, but this wasn't one of them. They never expected anyone to be able to cause this much damage.

"What are the two refs doing? Why haven't they gotten involved yet?" Clem shouted from the sides.

Many, including the commentators, were wondering the same thing. In this type of situation, they would have jumped in and subdued the contender. They were, after all, in the top fifty of the AFC, so surely they would have the power.

Yet the two of them were just standing side by side outside of the cage, as if they were continuing to watch the show.

"This is starting to look a little dangerous," Gullen commented with a nervous look on his face.

It was the first time for Gullen judging one of these events, so he decided to let all the decision making fall on his senior named Pinky. Pinky had his hands in his pants pockets while he continued to blow a large piece of pink bubble gum.

"We didn't get to see enough before," Pinky replied. "Aren't you interested in seeing just how strong this new guy is?" Pinky smiled.

Having been trapped in the strange sticky web and seeing the damage Haze was able to do, Gary could no longer take it easy.

"I didn't want to transform... because this is being broadcasted. I'm sure the other Alpha is already aware of us... but things have gotten quite complicated."

Chapter 672 The Infected fighter (Part 2)

That thing right in front of Gary was practically a large beast that he would have expected to find in those special lessons he had attended at the AFA. Haze's current form was frighteningly powerful and was using advanced skills such as web-based shooting from its mouth, as well as strange green acid it could produce.

According to the rules and the contracts that Gary had signed before his match, certain skills weren't allowed to be used in AFC matches. Although not specifically named as such, the teenager understood that they referred to those type of elementalized attacks like Jayden's windstrike, which was also the reason why the Altered fighter had never publicly shown that ability of his. Altered were only allowed to showcase the powers that were naturally part of their body, like the pincers in Haze's mouth, or Gary's sharp claws.

Unfortunately, at this point in time, rules seemed to be out of the window. As long as nobody interfered, the Crazy Altered was free to use whatever he wished without suffering any consequences. That was why Gary was considering turning into a big beast himself.

Before he could make up his mind, Haze swung six of his arms. Gary jumped back, but the sharp ends of the spider legs managed to rip through his shirt and scratch his skin. Now blood was on the floor, but he had avoided most of the strike.

'Isn't there some way for me to defeat this guy without transforming fully?' Gary wondered. He moved his head to the side, avoiding another hit from the white web. It stuck to the back of the cage again, and the Werewolf started to move, running around the arena.

'I've been relying on this Werewolf System to solve my problems whenever it got dangerous. Were it not for the new Class, I would have likely lost bitterly against Midwak. Even then, I mostly managed to beat him thanks to the Last Stand skill. Do I really want to get myself in the same situation over and over?'

While running, Haze leapt with his strong legs like a spring straight toward Gary. Shifting his feet, he phased Haze and ran toward him. At the last moment, he slid underneath the Altered, allowing the large body to go right over his head.

'In the future, I'll have to fight Midwak for the title of the Alpha. He won't be so dumb to attack me at night, so how am I supposed to defeat that guy if I'm already faltering against a mere Altered? Come on, Gary, use your head, this guy has to have a weak point.'

Dodging another attack, he thought back to when he would sit in front of his laptop screen and watch Altered fights online. Just like any kid, he had dreamed about being in the ring himself one day, imagining how he would beat his opponents.

With seemingly too much free time on his hands, the young Gary would watch the fights over and over, analysing every miniscule movement of the opponents, judging the right time to strike and what were the right moves to counter.

'I used to do that even back in school. ... just why did I stop? Why aren't I fighting like that these days?'

Gary charged full speed ahead, and Haze turned around to face his opponent. Part of the cage had been destroyed in his full-body attack. The closest members of the crowd seeing this had started to run away, trying to break out of the place, while a few of the braver ones of the audience stayed to watch and film every part of what was happening. It was their luck that Haze seemed fixated on dealing with Gary over paying them any heed.

When the Crazy Altered turned around, Gary was already right by his feet. He lifted his leg up, propping it on the knee and using it as a foothold, then jumped off with explosive power. Gary's knee bashed right into the chin of the large spider head.

While Haze's head was flung back, Gary grabbed the wide neck of the spider beast and swung his legs out to the side. He shifted his body to give him momentum, allowing him to get behind Haze, and now he was right on his back.

'I've been relying solely on this Werewolf side of me!' Gary chided himself, yet he was happy that he had realised this. 'I need to start relying on my own skills as well!'

Gary lifted his elbows up and started swinging them down, bashing them on top of Haze's head. Each blow had tremendous power behind it, and Gary's bones were strong enough to withstand the impact. If Innu was watching him now, he would be proud.

Haze was in a daze as he was getting hit over and over, and his long spider limbs were able to stretch behind him. Letting go, Gary dropped down and then, gathering all the strength in his leg, he swung it as hard and fast as he could with all his power.

It slammed into Haze's leg, knocking one leg into the other. The large Altered completely capsized as it fell over on its side. Midway through the fall, Gary lifted his hand and threw an overhead strike with full force, hitting Haze right in the stomach.

The blow sent Haze shooting down into the canvas, blood splattering out of the Altered's mouth, and a crash was heard. His body was unmoving, stuck in a large hole that was made through the canvas of the arena. Gary's gaze remained on the unconscious body, ready to react in case he were to stand up again. However, after half a minute passed without any signs of Haze waking up, he wiped the sweat from his head.

"Alright, it looks like the threat has been dealt with." Gary smiled once again, facing an audience that was stunned into silence.

Chapter 673 The captain

Some in the crowd had already exited from the fighting arena in fear for their lives, as they noticed something was wrong. Most guessed that Haze had turned into a crazed Altered. It had happened a few times in an AFC match before, when one was pushed too far, this one just seemed more out of the blue.

Still, the majority stayed watching the fight, because they knew that they had nothing to fear, because if it ever became serious then the two top ranked assistants would have gotten involved. If the crowd saw them two get a beat down, then maybe they would have panicked a little.

Those that did get to stay, were happy they did, very happy.

"Did you--Di-Di Did you see that rookie!" The commentator stuttered. "Without transforming, Gary Dem managed to take out Haze Brunt and in style as well!"

"You mean, take him out for a second time!" The other commentator added.

Everyone knew it was an impressive feat, because of the destructive powers utilised by Haze that everyone had witnessed. They all knew they had witnessed something special as they continued to chant Gary Dem's name.

"Ga-ry! Ga-ry!"

Pinky, one of the Ref's, turned to Gullen chewing his pink bubble gum.

"See, what did I tell you, there was no need for us to get involved and it looks like this rookie is something else."

"You're right about that. This person, I can see him breaking into the top fifty in no time, we don't even know what his Altered form can do. It appears that this person wasn't so much of a hype job after all." Gullen replied.

Through the sounds of chanting, some of the crowd started to hear noises from outside, noises that everyone where familiar with.

"It's the police, someone from outside must have called them."

"Or the organisers of the event, when there's a Crazy Altered it's standard protocol to call them."

Just as expected, several police men and a police woman stormed into the place. Immediately they were trying to control the crowd as they asked them to leave, but the police weren't the only ones that were there. Entering after them were five people, dressed in white and gold.

Each figure stood out, as the individuals looked different from each other, all different shapes and sizes, and all of them with their intimidating aura. Although they were coming in as a group they didn't look like a solid working unit like the police.

These were the special White Rose Unit, dispatched to deal with cases revolving around the Altered and the Altered Hunters. A group that were Altered themselves.

At the front of the group, one of the taller lanky men bent his knees, and jumped up in the air. He had cleared the large wall of the ring for the fighters with ease before landing on the canvas itself.

Gary stared at the man's long orange hair that went past his shoulders at the back, but his hair at the front was short like a Wolf's cut. He noticed the emblem on his clothes, and instinctively turned his head away.

'Wait a second, I have no reason to be worried about White Rose. They don't care about Altered, only the ones that they think are causing trouble, and I'm not a suspect like I was in the past.'

Although Gary thought these things, he did realise the fact that he was a gang leader, and had done some pretty unethical things, that if White Rose ever did find out about him, they would be paying him a visit.

The orange haired man was Kanu Rightfelt. He wasn't just any member of White Rose, but was actually one of the division's captains. The current fight was taking place in a tier-2 city. One that was close to the AFA, and not too far from the bruiser's academy.

Kanu and his squad were dealing with another case in the city when they had gotten the call to come out here. Usually high profile White Rose members were sent out to deal with these cases, due to those involved.

A Crazy Altered from the AFC, someone who was a trained fighter and did nothing but attempt to become the strongest, it was a very dangerous thing, and many people witnessed that today.

Kanu looked at the body, it had reverted back to a human form. Haze's heart was still beating, but there was a large red mark on his stomach where he had been hit, and the large hole in the canvas.

"You did this, kid?" Kanu asked, tilting his head to the side, while he was still in a crouched position.

Gary looked around at first, but it was clear that there was no one else next to him.

"Yeah, I was just trying to protect myself, it was self defence." Gary answered quickly.

“Calm down.” Kanu said, as he knelt forward and lifted Haze out of the hole, placing him on his shoulder. The way it was done was so effortlessly, like it was a small weightless doll.

“I’m not here to interrogate you, you did good. If you ever get bored of this, children’s fighting game, then you should come join us.” Kanu stated.

With Haze on his back, he bent his knees again, and jumped over the cage, leaving it just as easy as he got in.

“Wait, what are you doing!” The coach from the Bruisers team shouted. “That’s my student, where are you taking him?”

“We got reports that an AFC fighter was showing signs of turning into a Crazy Altered, nothing more, nothing less. We will run an investigation into this, and ask for statements from all those involved, including you sir.

“If your student turns out not to be a Crazy Altered, then I’m sure you will be seeing him soon, but if he is, we need to deal with the facts. Who knows, maybe there could be something else at play here, perhaps a dark pill?”

The coach’s heart sank hearing those words. It was clear that the White Rose knew something about those pills and an investigation could quickly lead right back to him. Sweat was running down both sides of his face.

“Or it could be nothing.” Kanu added. “Whatever the case, we will make sure to not leave a single stone unturned.”

The White Rose agents were on their way out, meanwhile the police were continuing to escort the crowd out of the place. Surprisingly, they allowed the rest of the event to still continue. This meant, all of the reporters and journalists were able to go to the after-fight press conference.

Usually this is where Haze and Gary would talk about the fight, and what their current plans for the future were. Everyone was preparing, but before going up onto the stage, Clem who was going to be one of those asking questions to Gary approached him.

"Are you sure about this Gary, are you going to go through with what we talked about before?" Clem asked.

"I... I can't be more positive than ever, after what happened today." Gary replied, as he walked away, heading to the press conference table.

Chapter 674 A shock to the world

The room was filled with journalists, bloggers, and the press. Each of them with their devices ready to capture every moment that was to be said. There was big news to be displayed and things to talk about.

Gary had taken a seat on a stage with a table in front of him. By his side was Eddie. There were two microphones in front of him. On the other table, there was meant to be Haze and his coach, but only his coach was sitting at his table for obvious reasons.

Standing in the centre, though, was a bald-headed man in a bright white suit. It was shining like a wedding dress and wasn't something one would typically wear to these types of conferences.

This man was Buzz Tole. He was one of the PR managers for the AFC, and he was known for always standing out with his bright white suit.

"Everyone, before this press conference begins, I have to warn you that you are to stick to questions regarding the fighters themselves, the actual fight itself, and not what occurred after the fight," Buzz announced.

This was pretty standard procedure when a case like this occurred. Crazy Altered in the ring did happen; it was bound to happen when one person was pushed to their limits, but the AFC was practically the selling point of why everyone should try and become an Altered.

They had to keep up a good image of Altered and didn't want anything getting out to the public that would ruin that image.

After Buzz sat down, nearly every reporter's hand in the room was raised, and it was Eddie's job to select whose questions to answer. There was one, though, one that didn't have their hand up, and that was Clem. Her notepad was laid there on her lap, and she didn't particularly look happy.

Eddie had decided to pick one at random, a scruffy-haired man with glasses.

"Congratulations on your win, Gary Dem. It was a great victory tonight, and you had managed to defeat Haze, one of the top students from Bruisers Academy, without even the need to transform into your Altered state!

"What I wanted to ask was whether this was part of your plan, as a way for you to impress those watching you tonight. I'm sure there are many clubs with their eyes on you and wondered which one of them you planned on joining?"

It was a standard question for any fighter making their debut. From here, they would join a top club that focused on training the best Alterededs for the AFC. Some would even have one in mind, wishing to follow their stars.

On top of that, it was the usual style for AFA students to fight their debut match without having to transform. The thing was, due to who Gary's opponent was, no one would have blamed him if he had transformed, and yet he still hadn't.

Before answering the question, Gary looked straight ahead and cleared his throat, hardening his resolve as he brought his mouth closer to the mic.

"I know many of you have questions for me," Gary stated. "But I want to be fair and not waste anyone's time. That's why I have an announcement to make before you ask me any more questions."

The reporters looked at each other, and even Eddie appeared confused as he shrugged his shoulders toward them.

"I have decided that the best thing for me to do is to take a hiatus from the AFC," Gary said.

The reporters immediately started taking photos, murmuring, and jotting down notes. This was huge news. The rookie with a large amount of potential had suddenly announced a hiatus.

This wasn't just a break; a hiatus essentially meant that Gary didn't know when he would return, and there was a chance he might never come back.

"I'm sure you all might be wondering why," Gary continued. "I have to say that it was a tough decision to make, and I can't give you the full details. All I can say is that I believe it's unfair to the rest of the fighters in the AFC.

"In the AFC, there are fighters who do everything they can to train and be at the very top. It's their sole focus, their whole life. But for me, right now, it's unable to be. That's why I made this announcement."

What Gary said was true. He had thought about fighters like Xin who were giving their all for the AFC. But for him, he had other things to focus on. The only part he didn't tell the reporters were the other reasons behind his decision.

For one, being broadcasted live as he fought tougher opponents would eventually require him to transform into his Altered state, at least if he wanted to fight at his very best.

With vampires and werewolves after him, it wasn't the best course of action. It would put a clear target on his back.

Then there was also the gang. The Howlers were going through a tough phase, and as their leader, how could he be out here pursuing these things? With all these thoughts, he had eventually come to a decision.

Gary looked at Clem once more and pulled the mic close to his mouth, ready to speak again.

"From a young age, it has always been a dream of mine to enter the AFC. I never thought it would happen, but suddenly, here I am. Honestly, I think I made the decision to leave the AFC a while ago.

"I didn't think it was fair for me to take another student's place. But because I had this dream, this dream of joining the AFC, I wanted to live it, even if it was only for a short moment. I wanted to experience that dream, and I have done that today.

"I'm sorry, everyone, for being selfish."

Gary stood up, deciding not to answer any more questions, and started to walk away. As he did, he grabbed his phone and sent off a text.

"I'm coming back."

Chapter 675 Creating A Legacy

The reporters were left confused talking amongst each other. They had already had ideas in their minds as to what the next article would be, and they felt like they could continue to follow Gary for a while hyping him up as the next big thing.

However, this news was even bigger, and soon they would pop up with questions, such as why had Gary decided to no longer be part of the AFA? It led to questions such as, just who was Gary Dem and what about his past?

At the moment, everyone was in research mode, and they were looking at one in particular for answers.

Buzz was breaking out in a sweat at all the questions that were thrown at him.

"Everyone should know that we don't force our contestants to participate. Everyone has their own lives, and we should respect the decision of Gary Dem."

Although Buzz was saying all of this, the questions continued to be hurled at him. At the end of the day this was his job but he couldn't help but feel slight anger at the AFA.

'A little heads up would have been nice, there's a reason why we need to talk about these things. If you think the AFC is something that you can just join and leave when you want, then you have a lot to learn.'

Behind the stage, Gary was walking through the back area, a secret exit where reporters weren't allowed. It would allow the contestants to safely leave the area. Gary was only a couple of steps from the oval spinning door when someone called out to him.

“Gary wait!” Eddie said with his hands on his knees. He was out of breath, but not because he was tired, it was more from the shock of everything going on that he was forgetting to breathe.

“I had no idea this was what you were planning to do. Are you sure this is what you really want? After everything you went through in the AFA, to get here and just leave like this!”

Gary didn't give an answer straight away, he was trying to find the words for Eddie.

“I really thought that you were someone who could leave a legacy behind. Someone who could shake up the AFC, to see you go like this, it would be a waste!”

“There are other talented students in the AFC from the AFA other than me. Take Xin for example. She is someone who is a lot more deserving of all of this attention than me. If you want to build a legacy through the AFC, then I think someone like her would be better.”

Gary turned around heading to the door again.

Eddie knew Xin was great, she was one of his pupils as well, but there was something different about the two of them. Whenever Eddie looked at Gary there was this strong drive behind his eyes.

There was a lot of weight behind the reason as to why he needed to get stronger. Everyone had their reasons for climbing the ranks in the AFC, and when looking at Gary he had never seen such heavy shoulders.

It was as if the weight of the whole world was on them, and he continued to strive forward. Some would buckle under that kind of pressure, yet he didn't. Even if Eddie stopped teaching him, he knew that Gary was the type of person to get stronger on his own.

In his eyes, he was the one, the one that could possibly reach the top.

“Can you at least tell me?” Eddie asked. “Can you at least tell me why you are leaving the AFC, I know there is a reason why you won’t tell the world, but can you at least give me an answer.”

Gary didn’t turn around as he gave a reply.

“The AFA, I believe the contract states after my debut match, I’m no longer with them and I’m free to go wherever I want, right?”

“Yes.” Eddie answered.

“So that would mean you no longer have a connection with me.” Gary said, turning his head, and a big smile was seen. “That’s good, because I like you Eddie. You not having a connection with me is for the best.

“The reason I’m leaving is because I want to look after those I care about. To stop them from getting hurt again. I got involved in all of this, and I can’t just ignore my position. I know my actions, what I do, all of it can have a ripple effect.

“I was the one that got involved, and I know I have a responsibility to look after it all. I can’t just do what I want. I have people that rely on me.”

The words Gary spoke, Eddie felt like they weren’t words coming from a teenager. There were multiple times when Eddie kept a close eye on Gary, he felt like he was a hot headed kid.

Doing what he wanted, but just then, he sounded mature beyond his age.

‘Just what did that kid go through?’ Eddie thought.

Gary left through the revolving doors, and Eddie continued to follow him, he wanted to see him off, as he left the large arena. On the driveway leading up to the back entrance, he could see a large limo-like car, and standing by it was a young adult.

“Here's your jacket boss!” Tyler said, placing it over Gary’s shoulders. It was the black and gold uniform, now over the AFA uniform.

Tyler opened the door for him, letting him head inside and Tyler looked up at Eddie, before entering himself and driving off.

‘Gary... who are you?’ Eddie thought. Thinking that, just maybe, Gary was still going to make his own legacy, just not in the AFC.

Chapter 676 A Special Gift

The surprise party for Gary had been cancelled. After what happened, when he returned to Slough, the others assumed that he would want to rest most of all. He had arrived at the apartment building block in Copen.

It was in the upscale end of Slough, and the block of apartments he was staying at was where his sister, White, and Crawley were staying. Before driving off and leaving Gary be, Tyler handed over two sets of keys.

“What’s this for?” Gary asked.

“Kai told me to hand them off to you.” Tyler answered. “One is your apartment. It's on the top floor, you have the entire floor to yourself. It's been renovated with some funds. He tried his best to decorate it for you, and try to make it feel like home.”

It was strange to hear those words, for a while now Gary felt like he didn’t have a home. There was still the apartment block he lived in with his mother, but it was quite clear why he could no longer live there.

The security was lax and Gary had become a big name in Slough and out of it as well. Although the staff were annoying at this place, they did try and make sure only those that lived there as well as guests were allowed inside.

Still, Gary had been moving so much since his time at the AFA, that he didn't really have a place to call home, and he didn't want to disturb Amy, especially since she was settling in with White.

Finally, this place was somewhere he would stay for a while. The good thing was, it was the same building as Amy, so if she ever did need him for something it wouldn't be too hard for him to help. Although, he didn't know how he felt about Kai decorating the place.

"And the other key?" Gary asked.

"That is your vehicle. You're 17 now and don't really have any excuses not to learn to drive. There will be times where I'm too busy, and I can't drive you somewhere but you need to get there.

"So, of course, you need your own car. It's locked at the moment in the underground parking lot."

With those things done, Tyler went off, leaving Gary to run his finger over the key. Even the keychain looked fancy as it was dressed in black and gold, the gang's colours.

'This feels a bit too fancy...' Gary thought.

Before heading up to his room, he thought it was best to check out the car first. When he entered the lobby, immediately there were a few people that recognised Gary. They started to point and whisper about him, and through his hearing he could hear it all.

"Hey, it's the AFC fighter! Did you see his match?"

"That's Gary, so he's back in Slough now?"

"Did you hear the news about what happened at the press conference, apparently he quit the AFC."

The onlookers were just excited more than anything else, so Gary decided not to pay them any attention. When he went up to the desk, immediately one of the workers in the suit came out.

“How may I be of service to you Gary Dem.” The man said.

It felt strange to Gary, that someone he had never met before would know his name, but it was something he had to get used to.

“It’s no problem, I was just going to head down to the parking lot, and then up to my room.” Gary answered and carried on.

The treatment he was receiving from strangers was vastly different now compared to before. He was starting to think that it might be better if he wore a disguise. His every move would be followed and there were a lot of secrets that Gary wanted to keep.

Right now, he was still wearing the golden and black over coat. Tyler explained that it would be fine because in the first place when Gary had entered the AFC he had done so under the guise that he was being supported by the Howlers.

Although no one really knew who the Howlers were, they would soon know as they looked into Gary a bit more, and the Howlers themselves were growing.

Seeing him in the uniform would give people the impression of two things. One that Gary Dem was under the protection of the Howlers so it was best not to mess with him. Two, that the Howler’s themselves must not be so bad.

It was only a matter of time until everyone figured out that Gary Dem the business Tycoon, the AFA Star, and the Howlers were all linked as many of the deals done had these things involved.

Just because Gary wore the uniform wouldn’t make them think he was a gang member, and even if they did, they would never think he was the leader, just someone like Austin who worked for the gang.

Eventually, he had reached the parking lot, and wondered how long it would take him to find the car. There weren't really any instructions for where it was placed, but it didn't take long for Gary to spot it at all.

“Don’t tell me... this is the car?” Gary said, as he got closer to it.

It was a sports car, a car that was relatively low close to the floor, and it was gold in colour as well. It was one of the new electric Torche Baycan’s that could go 0-60 in under two seconds.

“How the hell am I meant to drive something like this around without people noticing me.” Gary thought.

Pressing the button on the key, a small beep was made as the car unlocked. He was right, the car was his.

Chapter 677 A Special Gift (Part 2)

Gary never had an appreciation for cars, he was too poor to even dream about owning anything luxurious. When he was younger he thought that as long as he got anything that would help him get from A to B, then it would be fine.

Although he knew nothing about cars, he could tell that this was expensive. He hardly saw any of these on the road in the first place, let alone a gold one.

“If people see me come out of this thing, then everyone in the town is going to know where I am!” Gary thought.

Heading towards the door, he opened it, and the lights and multiple screens inside the car turned on. Looking down on the floor he could even see the logo of the car projected outward.

He took a seat in the car, and after closing the door, the seat he was in started to massage his back. While he looked at all of the welcome screens.

‘This is all a bit too much.’ Gary thought, but he didn’t realise it. He had a big smile on his face. Anyone would, sitting in a vehicle like this, it was just surreal to him.

Looking at the passenger seat, there was a small envelope on the side. Picking it up he tore it open and could see it was a message from Kai.

“I never got to get you a gift for your 17th birthday and thought this was perfect since now you are of legal age to drive. So, why don’t you go ahead and take one of those intensive courses, pass, and take her out for a spin!

“You might be wondering why I got you this type of car, and well, Gary the business tycoon can’t just be driving around in anything. You need to fit the part and the image. Don’t worry when you need to go somewhere more discreet, then Tyler can still pick you up.”

Gary just couldn't stop shaking his head, he could even see in the head rest that the name Gary Dem was stitched into them. Since it was personalised to him, and Kai had gone through so much effort, then that meant it was impossible to return it, right?

‘I should at least enjoy this luxury, let's just not think about how much this costs for once.’

For the first time, it felt like Gary was going against his morals of spending money. The penny pincher gave his seal of approval.

Leaving the car, with such a big surprise of the car, Gary didn’t expect much of the apartment. He went in, and there was a small tag on the key. This allowed him to select the very top floor.

Without the key, or tag, then no one could press the button to the top floor. As soon as the elevator opened, that was it, Gary was straight there in his apartment.

It opened up into a large combination area. The end of the wall in front of him felt like it was at least 30 metres till the other end. To his right, a top of the range kitchen with an island and multiple appliances, and to his right a large living area.

The ceiling was incredibly high with multiple chandeliers dangling from above. Then there was a hallway to countless different rooms. It took a while for Gary to explore the place, but it had its own gym, swimming pool, sauna and every room was completely furnished

'This is somewhere that 30 people should live in, not just one... it's a good thing I'm an altered, otherwise my legs would hurt just getting out of the place.'

The good thing was, it did have everything Gary ever needed, he never had to leave the place and the elevator went straight to his room.

There were some things that Gary didn't like. He felt like the naked statues of people placed everywhere was a bit strange, and when looking at his cutlery it was covered in jewels. It felt wrong to even eat using them.

'I guess these are the little add ons of decoration that Kai tried adding on.'

Looking through the multiple rooms, there was one place where all of his and his mother's belongings were stored. Everything out of the old house, including the furniture. Although it was tacky, Gary was happy that Kai kept these things. The smell of everything was very familiar and it slightly smelled like home.

Another thing that Kai had done, was get all of the mail rerouted to this address, anything that was sent to the old address would be sent here instead. This way if anyone did try to contact him, there was no need for him to leave the house, but he would still check out the house once in a while.

Over the next couple of day's Gary rested, and did as Kai suggested. He took an intensive course where they tried to teach you how to drive in a few days. Heading out, he needed to wear a disguise, and when he met with others he would wear a face mask to hide the bottom of his face.

Another thing that he noticed in Slough was an influx of reporters and journalists. All of them asking the citizens of slough what they thought about Gary, trying to make the next hit piece.

He had even gotten a text from Ash, asking if they could do a piece on him, which he had to decline in the end.

Eventually though, Kai felt like Gary had enough rest on his own, and sent out a text.

“Everyone's waiting for you, at the pool club.” Kai sent.

Chapter 678 Sibling Bond

As Kai had expected the reporters had managed to gather quite a bit of information on Gary. First, it was the fact that his sponsor was the Howlers. Research into the Howlers had come out, and information about them being a gang was broadcasted.

Internet articles, TV reports and more. With this, rumours came about claiming that Gary might have been forced to leave the AFC, in order to help out the gang more. However, more information started to come about.

Those that lived in Slough started to write about how much better life has been since the Howlers had taken over. This seemed bizarre to those from the outside. How could a gang make them feel safer, it just made no sense.

Soon, it was revealed that Gary Dem was also a person that worked with the Howlers to invest heavily in the town of Slough. Using his money for improvements in multiple areas. He had multiple projects he was running at the same time.

A lot started to think this was the reason why Gary had left, because he wished to help the people of his hometown. For the general public, this had divided opinion. That the money that had been used was dirty money.

While others believed it was still improving the lives of others and there was no proof that Gary's money was dirty money.

All of this led to many of the reporters coming to Slough, wanting to ask the Howlers and Gary questions, questions the public wanted answering.

That evening, when it was a bit quieter outside, Gary left the building and quickly entered a vehicle with the usual driver, Tyler.

“It's been pretty crazy since the last time we met, huh?” Tyler said with a nervous smile.

“You're telling me, even at this time. They've been camping outside of the apartment block. It's a good thing that the staff kicked them out.” Gary replied.

“It's not just you either. They've been questioning nearly everyone in Slough to try and find out about you, even me. This is crazy!”

Gary certainly did find it crazy, he was just a simple rookie, so why did they care so much? It was simple, the afterfight of Gary defeating Haze had spread around more than the fight itself.

It was clear to everyone that Gary was special, and just like Eddie they all had this feeling, that this was an Altered that deserved to be and should be in the AFC.

Eventually, they had reached the Wolf's Pool club which had been closed and both Tyler and Gary headed inside. It was one of the few places that had next to no reporters. It seemed that Kai's thinking of making the base of operations something not too flashy was a good idea, as no reporter ever expected Gary or the Howlers meeting place to be here.

“Welcome back, it seems like you were here only yesterday, but a lot of things have happened.” Kai said, putting his arm around Gary's shoulder and walking him in. “Anyway, what did you think about your gifts?”

In the room were Austin, Marie, Miss Degrace, Olivia and Tyler. It was the core members of the group and they all had a lot to talk about to each other.

Kai had been keeping Gary out of the loop, mainly because he wanted him to focus on his own fight. Which was why two pieces of information had not been delivered to him yet. One of them being about Innu, leaving them for the time being to join the Altered Hunters.

Gary of course was surprised and he felt a little hurt inside. Wondering why Innu never told him how he felt. He was one of the first to join the group and thought they were close enough to share these feelings he had.

"I wouldn't take it to heart too much. He didn't tell any of us, and we understood him. All of us felt the same way, heck Marie felt that way so much that she got turned into a Werewolf without telling you."

Marie was embarrassed by this comment and looked away.

"Anyway, for him, you might be the hardest one for him to talk to, because he thinks so much of you. He probably couldn't stand to see the look on your face."

After thinking about it a bit more, since Gary understood the reasons behind it, and thought how Blake was still quite neutral with the group. He thought it would all turn out well in the end.

It was just a shame that he wouldn't be able to visit Innu wherever he was. With the way he was, visiting them would be one of the most dangerous things in the world.

"There's more that I need to tell you as well..."

Another fact that they had hidden from Gary, was that Marie and Olivia had run into what possibly could have been a vampire. From Innu they had learned that it was one of the heads of the Altered Hunters Association, but that didn't make it better, it just made the situation worse in Gary's mind.

There and then Gary asked if Marie and Olivia were alright, to which they said they were fine, and they haven't run into him or anyone like him since. It had been a while, so they would consider it a matter resolved.

Kai claimed the best thing to do was to talk with Midwak, but after meeting him recently they didn't want to visit him again so soon.

"I... I can't believe it. It really was the right thing to do in the end, to leave the AFC." Gary said.

The rest went quiet, because they knew how much Gary loved the AFC. Even when he was around them in the club he would watch the matches, always keeping up with the latest news.

"I wanted to ask... how did you know I would leave the AFC? You even had Tyler there ready to pick me up?" Gary asked.

Kai smiled.

"I knew you would come around." Kai replied. "You're smarter than you look with your green hair, you always have been. When push comes to shove you make the right decision as leader."

"You are the perfect leader, I could see that from day one with you, and that's because you claim responsibility for those you get involved with. You never run away from anything and see it through to the end."

"I... wanted you to enjoy the AFC though, I wanted you to live your life a bit, but that's also when I thought you would eventually realise."

It was always amazing how Kai was able to see these things, and Gary wouldn't want anyone else by his side, but the talk about taking responsibility, it did make him think of one thing.

There was someone in his life that he had kept distant for a while, but it perhaps wasn't the right thing to do. Especially with the information he was learning. It was time, he spoke to Amy.

Chapter 679 Sibling Bond (Part 2)

The main group spent most of the night together, and Gary was starting to see a friendlier side to Olivia. The fact that a few months had gone past and she hadn't bothered to challenge him was also a good sign.

There was a thought in him that maybe she was trying to use Marie, but based on their interactions and what had happened when they met the vampire that day, Gary no longer felt like that.

The group went on to talk about general things and Gary's time in the AFA, and of course the subject of vampires was brought up a lot. Each of them wondered how their strength compared to the mythical beasts.

If the head of the Altered Hunters Association was anything to go by, then they certainly were stronger. However, Kai had a feeling that Edvard might be a special case.

“Ah, if Tom was here he would have loved to have heard this conversation, he was always into things like this.” Gary stated.

Tom was also another that Gary had no time to catch up with, due to his own job at NIRV. Still, it was good out of all places that he was still able to meet up with him at the AFA.

In the future, he was sure they would be able to catch up again.

The day had come to an end, with Kai telling Gary that he should continue in pursuit of his driver's licence and rest for a few more days. There wasn't a lot for him to do at the Howlers anyway.

Only paperwork stuff that he wanted to update him on, but it wasn't urgent nor was it completely important that Gary knew these things, especially if he had Kai, but that's when Kai had mentioned something strange.

“Gary... there might be a day when I disappear, or maybe I get killed. If that happens, you should at least know the state of your own gang.”

It made Gary think, was Kai thinking of leaving the group, was he worried for his life for some reason. Maybe it was just because he had nearly lost his life to Midwak, that he felt this way.

Without Kai, Gary couldn't think of continuing to run the group. Regardless, he decided to listen to Kai and learn about the gang more.

After resting at home, the next day, Gary got dressed wearing a hoodie and his face mask. It reminded him a lot of the days when he used to try and hide from the Underdogs. The good thing was he had experience in doing so.

On top of that, now with his super hearing and sense of smell he could tell if there were those around the corner.

It was extremely important for this, that he didn't get seen, this was something that Kai had managed to keep a big secret, and from getting out to the public.

The sound of beeping and coughing was heard from all over. The sound of crying could be heard in the distance as well.

Gary stood in front of a door, looking at it, before he slid it open. His face dropped to a gentle expression.

"It looks like your still sleeping mum." Gary said, entering the room.

All of the equipment showed that his mother was stable. Her heart rate, her skin and even her body. She didn't look so frail as she did before as she was taking in the nutrients provided through the IV and such well.

Taking a seat Gary sat by her side and started talking away. He mentioned everything that he had gone through at the AFA.

"I managed to make some pretty good friends there as well." Gary explained. "I think if you met them you would think they were great. Especially Izzy, she's a bit too smart and notices things straight away.

"I bet if it was her... if it was her, she would have already figured out who it was that put you in this mess."

Gary clenched his fist as he allowed a tear to drop from his face, creating a dark patch on his trousers.

Gary was embarrassed that he still had no leads as to who had attacked his mother. He had been so busy with other things, and now it was simply too late to try and get any type of clue.

Too much time had passed, and they already asked everyone they thought would have seen something but no one said anything.

'I have a feeling that you won't wake up... that you won't wake up until I find the people that have done this to you. When I do, I will drag them here, and make them apologise right in front of you... then I'll make them suffer the same way you did.'

Without knowing it, Gary's eyes had changed shape and colour slightly.

There was a polite knock on the door, and before anyone answered the door slid open. Footsteps were heard walking right up to Gary's side until a hand was felt on his shoulder.

"She looks really peaceful, huh." Amy said. "I can only imagine, she must be having a long sleep finally. Now that she no longer has to work and look after us two, she can finally sleep."

Amy's words were clearly words of comfort, but she had no idea how Gary felt. For some reason, being involved in all of this gang mess, he felt like he was to blame for some of this.

There was a reason why Gary had asked Amy to meet him here, it was to remind him for something like this not to happen again, and the best way was some honesty.

"Amy, I'm sure you have heard a lot of things about me lately, and I want to speak to you."

Amy sat down in the chair next to him, turning it so she was faced toward Gary.

"Is this about why you left the AFC?"

Gary nodded.

"Yes... and there's a lot more I need to tell you."

Chapter 680 Sibling Bond (Part 3)

There were a number of times where Gary wished to tell his sister the truth. The two of them, although maybe not as close with each other as best friends were, were still quite close as a family.

Both of them had gone through a lot, with their father leaving them and sharing a room together. They hardly ever complained about it, because they always knew their mother was trying her best, so in their own way they would constantly help each other out.

No matter what situation the other was in, they both knew that they would try their damned hardest to help the other, and Gary had done so on a particular occasion. Although he had at times told parts, he had never explained the whole thing, leaving her to fill in her own gaps.

Now he had summoned up the will to tell her the truth, and that included finding out what he really was.

“Amy... there is a lot I need to tell you, and for all of it to make sense, I should start at the beginning. Over the summer school holidays, in order to help the family out, I decided to take a job...”

Gary went on, to explain his transporter job for the Underdogs, and what had happened to him with the mysterious package. As he told the story, Amy was holding up her hand by her mouth, she let out large gasps and even a few tears dropped by the side of her face.

She could only imagine the struggles that Gary had gone through, not just him but with all the others by his side as well. As he told each story in detail, Amy was starting to understand why everyone was so close, and how they had managed to build such a large empire.

The hardest parts for Gary to talk about, was him being a Werewolf, he didn't go into much deep detail but did inform her that it wasn't like an Altered as she thought. However, in the story the biggest shock wasn't that Gary was a Werewolf.

No, it was the fact that Gary stated he was the actual leader of the Howlers. Amy started to think, everything in Slough that the Howlers owned, all the reports she read about them, all of that was Gary.

It was starting to make sense, how she had a luxurious apartment. Why it felt like she was almost always being looked out for while in the town.

At the same time, why would a gang do such a thing? Thinking about it all, the two sat in silence for a bit to let her take it all in.

In the end a large smile appeared on her face.

‘Seriously, only my brother, would be bold headed enough to make such a change in this town. He did all of that.’

The image of the bloody clothes appeared in her head. She remembered back in the karaoke place with her friend. She always wondered what might have happened to certain people. She wanted to ask, but decided against it.

The last thing she wanted to do was make Gary feel guilty for simply helping her out when she was in trouble.

“There is a reason why I decided to tell you everything.” Gary said taking a big gulp. “Because, for one, due to you being related to me. There is a chance that you might be thrown into all of this.

“I’m sure there have already been some reporters that might have nagged you, asking you questions about me. But, when I say being dragged into this, I’m not talking about the business with the Howlers, but all of this Werewolf stuff.”

Amy leaned back in her seat, surprised to hear this, was there something about Werewolves that would affect her as well.

“I... I only found out about this recently, and it's quite confusing how but it seems that I might have not become a Werewolf from that package that day.” Gary explained. “There is a chance that in our bloodline, I already had Werewolf blood in me, and if that's the case, there is a good chance that you do as well.”

Amy felt her heart beat louder for a second.

“Of course, nothing has happened to you yet, so I don’t think anything will happen anytime soon.” Gary continued. “But there is a chance. I’m looking for dad, I’m hoping that he will have some answers about this, but if you do notice anything weird, or anything at all, I want you to contact me straight away. I’ve dealt with all of this now, so I can help you.”

Her hands started to shake. She realised that after hearing Gary’s story, if she had to go through what he had to, would she be able to handle it? The thing was, what Gary had done, for the most part he was alone.

He only later had Tom by his side and the others to help him. Soon, she started to feel comfort that Gary would be there as well.

“You're a good brother Gary.” Amy said.

“You're a good sister.” Gary replied.

The two of them stayed there looking over at their mother for a while, talking about useless things.

“So... what do you eat as a Werewolf?” Amy asked.

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Another day had passed, and Gary continued to take his driving lessons. He was a quick learner, and the instructor had his suspicions that Gary might be an Altered. Apparently Altered learned a lot faster compared to regular humans.

Reflexes with enhanced memory and senses. It just made driving almost second nature, especially since his car was an electric one, there wasn’t much for him to learn.

So he had decided to take his test and manage to pass. With that, the rest of the day was free.

“I know Kai wanted me to relax a bit more, but I’ve done enough relaxing, and I don’t have that much longer... until I have to face Midwak again.’