

## **Werewolf 681**

### Chapter 681 Moving Forward

Every meeting the Howlers had so far, had all been called by Kai. He was somewhat the strategist of the group and whenever he called the others over it was always to discuss something, but this time, a meeting had been called at the Wolf's Pool club and that meeting was called by Gary himself.

Of course, not a single person was against it, but they were all quite surprised, and wondered what he had to say. A short while later, and everyone had promptly arrived at the Wolf's Pool club.

He told the others to sit while he remained standing looking at them all. It made the others a little nervous as to why this meeting was called.

"I wanted to ask everyone, what were their plans for the next couple of weeks?" Gary asked seemingly out of the blue.

They looked at each other and Marie was the first to speak.

"Me and Olivia were just planning to continue our training. We increased the intensity ever since our last encounter. We... don't want anything like that to happen again."

Austin sat back relaxed in his seat.

"I have no plans."

"There are a few meetings here and there, but actually the next Dark Guild location has been released, and I was planning to attend it. We were going to get as much Altered DNA as we can.

"We believe that most of those that are loyal to us have been selected."

This was an important project for the Howlers, and after hearing what happened last time, Gary was a little concerned that they might run into trouble this time.

"Are you sure everything is going to be alright? Won't a lot of the tier 2 gangs and tier 1's have their eyes on us?" Marie asked.

"We don't have to worry too much about that." Kai replied. "The plan is to purchase the Altered DNA through Ash. The reason why I want us to go is two fold. The first is to show that we Howlers aren't afraid.

"If we don't turn up, there might be those that think they can mess with us. Thankfully Midwak has done a good job deterring any attackers. Second, we will be going to protect the Ashen Gang.

"If they buy a lot of Altered DNA, they are sure to be targeted by some sort of group, and who knows maybe the Altered Hunters will appear again, although I doubt that based on what I already know from Innu."

Hearing what Kai had to say, Gary looked a little down.

"What's the problem?" Kai asked.

"It's just that... it's nearly been a month since Midwak joined us." Gary stated. "I'll be honest with you all. The way I am now, if Midwak is able to attack me during the day, then I'm not sure I would be able to beat him."

"But, I thought he couldn't leave the city due to the pack rules?" Austin asked.

"That's true, but I'm not sure what will happen on the day he can challenge for his position. If none of the pack rules apply to him that day, even if he is unable to find me, it means he can leave the city and who knows what he'll try to do to get my attention."

Midwak was certainly a double edged sword to have around.

“My original plan was getting stronger through the AFC. I was going to take as many fights as possible, but it would take too long to reach the fights that would really make me improve and then there are all the risks associated with it.” Gary explained.

“I see.” Kai snapped his fingers. “You called us all over because you had come up with some idea to get stronger, but it seems like the Dark Guild auction has conflicted with that.”

Kai placed his finger on his chin while looking around the room.

“There’s no need for you to be at the auction. I’m sure your presence might even ruffle some feathers. If someone tries to demask you and finds out who you are, it would cause a bigger mess.

“Only now have some of the reporters decided to finally head home. I will take Olivia and Marie, the two of them will be enough support and strong enough.”

Gary wasn’t too sure about that, but in the first place, the Auction houses weren’t meant to be dangerous places. The Dark Guild themselves were strong, and would stop any conflict happening on their grounds.

The bigger cities were unlikely to act and risk souring the relationship with the Dark Guild. Outside partnering up with an Altered DNA company like NIRV, the Dark Guild was most’s best bet for Altered DNA.

“So... what did you have in mind?” Kai asked.

“When we spoke to Midwak, he had mentioned something to us. Something he used to do on the night of the full moon.” Gary explained, and there were worried faces around the room, because they remembered exactly what Midwak said.

“I’ve heard there’s been a lot of cases of Crazy Altered in the lower tier cities. I want to go to the tier 5, 4 and 3. Make the places better for the people, and while there, get stronger, strong enough to defeat Midwak, and anyone else who gets in our way in the future.”

There was another thought in the back of Gary's mind. There was also a possibility the reason they were struggling to find their father so much was because he was in the depths of the lower tiers.

#### Chapter 682 The World Wide Group

White Rose was a global organization with departments operating in various countries, collaborating closely with local police forces and governments. Recognizing their expertise in dealing with Altered cases, the United Nations had granted them special privileges. Privileges that only they had above the police force.

Initially, the first Altered that appeared were primarily involved in sports events and similar events. Due to the extravagant costs involved in the process, the number of Altered had been very limited in that era.

However, over time, Altered solutions became a lot more accessible, be it legally through big companies selling them, or illegally through the black market.

When this occurred, this was when the first problems started to appear.

Consequently, every country began to face significant challenges, with local governments losing control of the streets to criminal gangs. This problem persisted in many areas despite attempts to recruit Altered individuals into the police force. Unfortunately, due to the inherent dangers and inadequate compensation, very few Altered accepted.

Why would they when they could easily earn more money through advertising, the AFC or by joining a gang?

Given this situation, the world came together and established a public fund to create the organization now known as White Rose. Those unable to contribute financially were denied the privileges associated with the White Rose's power.

In each contributing country, a main White Rose base was established to provide assistance as needed. These strategic locations allowed agents to travel across the country for investigations efficiently.

In England, the White Rose base was situated in the central city, Centrefield. Thanks to the base, it had become the country's safest city. Their presence alone had ensured that aside from some petty crimes, the nearby towns also had no gang presence.

To ensure the safety of high-profile political figures and create a secure environment, parliament had been relocated from the capital to Centrefield. However, this shift had the unintended consequence of making the city an expensive place to live, accessible only to the wealthy and influential.

Some people criticised that this made White Rose no better than any other gang controlled Tier-1 city, though the officials involved vehemently refuted that claim. White Rose insisted that they were merely stationed there to protect the important people that made society work, and unlike gangs their personal followed strict laws.

Despite the White Rose's influence, local governments remained responsible for dealing with issues in separate towns and cities. Consequently, they had little to no control, resulting in the current state of affairs.

In the centre of Centrefield, there was a large oval building which looked somewhat like a mix between a palace and a prison. All the outside of the buildings were white in colour similar to their uniform, and this one was large and round like a colossus.

Outside the main building, there were three walls that one had to get through before they could even reach the base. Constructed with thick steel, only specific sections of the walls had accessible entry points, each requiring a different security clearance.

In between the walls, it was like a paradise, there was a lot of greenery cut to perfection. Rivers flowing through, heading all the way to the main building.

Having walked through the last gate, two White Rose Agents were walking down a stone pathway toward the main building, in their bright uniforms.

"It's been a while since we were last here." Frank remarked.

"Yes, and it seems like things have finally settled down a bit," Sadie responded. "We were constantly being assigned to one case after another."

"Yeah, but at least everything is good now. I was worried about you when you lost your Altered form."

When Frank said those words, Sadie instinctively touched the back of her ankle. It no longer hurt, and the wound had long since healed. Although the medical staff and researchers found no correlation between that wound and her loss of powers, she was convinced that it had to have been the cause of it all.

At first, it hadn't been too much of a problem, she had merely regarded it as a nasty wound that needed more time to heal. Unfortunately, Sadie had quickly found out that it was more than that.

Since the Crazy Altered attack, Sadie had been plagued with issues concerning her Altered form. It was the first time she had encountered such difficulties. From that point onward, her transformations became increasingly unreliable. Sometimes she would achieve a full transformation, other times only a partial one, and frustratingly, there were occasions when her Altered abilities failed to manifest at all.

Even when she did manage to transform, the loss of control was a constant battle. Parts of her body would revert to their human form, defying her attempts to maintain the full manifestation of her Altered abilities. The struggle to maintain command over her Altered form had become a frustrating and unpredictable aspect of her existence.

Following the incidents, Sadie's Altered form vanished entirely. For an agonizing week, she found herself unable to undergo any transformation, feeling disconnected from the very essence of her abilities.

Then, inexplicably, as if by some miraculous intervention, her powers resurfaced without warning, as if the week-long absence had never occurred. Simultaneously, she noticed the wound around her ankle had begun to heal at a normal pace, as if responding to the restoration of her Altered nature.

"I've never heard of an Altered being able to do something like that." Sadie said.

"That whole case bugs me," Frank added. "Speaking about it, did you see the latest news? That green-haired kid we called in, he's all over the television as the next big up-and-coming Altered fighter, but I was sure that when we tested him, he showed no signs of being an Altered."

Sadie knew what Frank was getting at, if their test had failed at the time, there was a chance that the kid was somehow involved in that whole mess. Unfortunately for them, the case had been deemed solved after the discovery of the deceased Altered Billy, along with substantial evidence.

"If you want to argue with the team who created the test kit, be my guest. No, it's far more likely that he became an Altered after that whole incident," Sadie speculated.

"Yeah, it's definitely odd, isn't it?" Frank mused, a perplexed expression crossing his face. "I mean, growing that powerful in such a short time frame? It's not something you see every day. Even kids from wealthy families who become Altered at a young age aren't guaranteed a shot at being AFC fighters."

He leaned back, deep in thought. "And let's not forget how strange it is that he even became an Altered in the first place. Didn't we dig into his background? Came from a no-name family, barely had two pennies to rub together, and went to a regular school. It's not exactly the typical profile you'd expect for someone like him."

Sadie nodded, acknowledging Frank's observation. "You're right, it's not unheard of for a candidate to be chosen from a school like that, but it is indeed very rare. There's something about that town, Slough. It feels like there's a lot more going on beneath the surface."

She hesitated for a moment, contemplating the potential implications. "But honestly, I don't think we should delve too deeply into it. There have been minimal reports and requests for assistance from Slough. It seems like the higher-ups have chosen not to prioritize it. So, for now, I think it's best if we follow orders and avoid unnecessarily poking our noses into matters that might not concern us."

"Ah, yes," Frank interjected, his tone shifting to a more serious note. "Well, there might not be anything to do in Slough, but the opponent that Gary kid went against, he's being brought in today. They suspect that after he got knocked unconscious that he took something akin to the black liquid stuff. If that's the case, there's a chance that this could be a big catch for us."

Sadie sighed. "It looks like we might get pretty busy soon."

## Chapter 683 White Rose Structure

Entering the Centrefield building, Frank and Sadie made their way directly to their office, where their squad was located. As they entered, they exchanged brief waves with their fellow teammates before settling down at their desks, eager to get an update on the current situation within the base.

"Whoa!" Frank exclaimed, his eyes glued to the screen. "Take a look at this, Sadie. Viper got promoted to Captain. Can you believe it?"

Sadie felt a vein on the side of her head begin to throb. She and Viper had started out in the same year, and up until now they had been holding the same rank. After being hired as official members, the rivalry between the two had continued.

Unfortunately, despite having Viper beat in every test and assessment, ever since she had entered her squad, Sadie had been unable to show any significant achievement. It wasn't just her, either, but the whole squad felt that somehow they only ever received the cookie-cutter cases with not much to do.

"Don't worry, Sadie," reassured Sam, a young man with bright orange hair and thick square glasses. "I heard that Captain Kanu will be joining us today. As long as we find out something meaningful, this could finally be a breakthrough for our squad."

"If the captain gets promoted to the chief position, that will leave a vacancy. Although it's not guaranteed but usually the higher-ups like to pick someone from within the squad itself, and given your performance in the past you have a good chance, Sadie."

Each squad consisted of twenty members, with four non-field agents providing support while the remaining sixteen, including the captain, were field agents like Frank and Sadie.

Sam was one of the non-field agents who worked behind the scenes, gathering information and checking in with the police, among other things.

The captain of their current squad was Captain Kanu, and he was also recently the one who had been sent to deal with the AFC situation involving Haze.



In most cases, agents worked in pairs to handle assignments, but depending on the severity, a whole squad or even multiple squads could be deployed.

Sadie was a high achiever, so she wanted to reach the rank of Captain as soon as possible. Now that Viper had beaten her to it, she had yet another reason for wanting to get promoted. Unfortunately, a position which she had considered to be reachable in a matter of time had become more and more elusive, something she partially blamed Captain Kanu for, as their superior was more on the relaxed side.

"That lazy ginger beard!" Sadie couldn't contain her frustration. "It's just my luck that I got assigned to the one man, nicknamed the sloth. Aaarrgh how can someone in White Rose lack the necessary ambition and passion to get promoted?!"

The position above Captain was Chief. They were the ones in charge of the Captains within a certain area. Above them would be the Superintendent. The Superintendent was a special position because they were more in charge of disciplining internal members.

Even for those with positions higher than Chief, they would deal with the matter personally if they needed to but weren't directly in control of any groups.

At the very top, three positions — Assistant Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable, and Chief Constable — ran the entire White Rose organization within the country.

These positions were based on achievements rather than raw strength, although the two often went hand in hand. Those in high-ranking positions faced threats from assassins and anti-White Rose groups, requiring strength to survive.

Alas, in rare circumstances some strong Altered found themselves unable to gather noteworthy achievement, causing them to stay in the same position for years to come. And it was the very squad that Sadie was in, along with their captain, Kanu.

"I can tell that the next joint assessment is going to be fun. Well, at least you have your powers back now and have nothing to worry about," Frank said and quickly covered up his mouth.

"Powers back?" Sam raised an eyebrow, curious about what Frank might imply with that statement.

Sadie had naturally kept her personal problems with her Altered form a secret from everyone but Frank. Even the medical team had merely checked her for any injuries following that bite.

If they found out she was missing her powers, she would have been taken off the field for a while until they found out the cause or reason, and she didn't want that to happen. It would have pushed off her already unlikely promotion into the far future.

"Speaking of the AFC fighter," Sadie swiftly changed the subject. "What about the coach? Surely we should consider the possibility of him being involved. In fact, he might even be the one to have given him whatever substance he took as a failsafe measure so he can impress the judges during his debut."

Sam began typing on his computer, pulling up the reports.

"Says here that after the blood tests confirmed a foreign substance in Haze's bloodstream, they went to speak to the coach... who was nowhere to be found. The Bruiser Academy has no idea where he is, at least that's what they claim, but so does everyone else he has any connection to. It seems he has just gone missing."

"Well, it's quite obvious that someone doesn't want us to find out about anything," Frank remarked, frustration evident in his voice. "Were it me, I would have just taken in the coach right then and there."

"And that's why it's good that you aren't in charge," a voice echoed from the doorway. Entering was their orange-bearded leader with his iconic wolf-like haircut. "Even if he was involved, he would only be the one to get the stuff, and he would be unlikely to spill anything that could help us find the true culprit."

"Initially, we had him under watch, well, the police did. The idea was to track him to his source. Unfortunately, they managed to lose track of him. If I were to guess, he's most likely dead."

"Which means our only lead now is Haze. Sadie, Frank, I want you two to come with me to interrogation. We're going to get something out of this guy."

Both of them stood up straight from their seats, ready to go.

"Yes, sir!"

#### Chapter 684 The integration (Part 1)

Kanu, Sadie, and Frank strolled down the hallway together, a rare invitation from the Captain for an assignment. Intrigued, Sadie couldn't resist asking the question that was on her mind.

"Sir, how come you chose us to accompany you? Neither me nor Frank mind, but the two of us just returned," she inquired.

When Kanu was assigned a task, he had his preferred individuals whom he would select. The reasons behind his choices were shrouded in mystery, and people simply assumed it was because they were the strongest in the squad. Since squad members didn't compete against one another, there was no definitive way to assess that.

"Here I thought you would be delighted at the opportunity to seize some credit," Captain Kanu replied with an amused tone, before getting more serious. "My gut is telling me that this case might have some connection to the one you were assigned to back in Slough. The incident was captured on video and circulated widely on the internet.

"I'm not sure if you've watched it already, but this wasn't the usual case of a Crazy Altered. We suspect it might be a more evolved version of the black liquid, perhaps the first of its kind.

"Seeing that our suspect fought against Gary Dem, who happens to be the same youngster the two of you tested during your time in Slough, it seemed even more appropriate to involve you.

"As far as we know that town might very well be the origin of the black liquid, though it's too early to tell. The likelier scenario is that it was used as a hub point and the Crazy Altered from the time were either a batch of it having ended up in the wrong hands... or someone had deliberately done it to test the formula."

Sadie was left speechless. Her perception of their Captain as a total slacker, someone who couldn't be bothered to read reports, began to crumble. While reading reports was technically mandatory, she

doubted other Captains would invest time in reports that had “Inconclusive” written on that. Nevertheless, Kanu had not only taken note of Gary's presence on the White Rose agents' radar, despite the negative test result, but he also seemed well-informed about it.

"What's with the silence? Were you expecting me to say I chose you two because I thought you were the brightest and the ones with the most potential?" Kanu asked with a raised eyebrow.

"No, Sir! Thank you for clarifying, Sir!" Sadie responded.

As they entered through a door, the group found themselves in the interrogation room. It had all the classic elements — a one-way mirror, recording equipment, and monitoring consoles manned by two engineers.

On the other side, they could see Haze. The Altered was tied up, strapped to a chair with metal restraints around his arms and legs. It didn't look like there were any signs of struggle.

"Has he said anything?" Kanu asked one of the engineers, who was sipping away at his coffee.

"No one's been inside to ask him anything yet, Sir. We've received orders to wait for the interrogation until two Captains are present," the man replied.

"Another captain? Isn't that excessive for a single individual?" Kanu remarked.

The door burst open wide with a heavy hand, to the point where it banged into the wall. A large man with a square hat on his head walked through the door. His uniform was quite tight on his body, but not in a good way.

"They called me here for a reason, Kanu!" the man declared. "You brought him in, so they've given this one to you. However, they fear you might botch it. Your track record isn't exactly impressive!"

The man who had just burst through the door was Captain Hiru. He was the Captain with the most achievements in England and the one closest to being promoted to Chief. Although he didn't look like the type of person to be quick, he was quick to move in on cases when he felt they were hot.

He had earned a notorious reputation among the other Captains for meddling in their cases and stealing their credit. Unfortunately, the higher-ups hadn't reprimanded him in any way, rather he only got praised for being someone who got the job done.

Behind him, there were two other agents belonging to his squad. They looked small standing next to Hiru but still stood out in their own way. One had a scar over his eye, while the other was strangely walking with a limp.

"Why is he restrained like that? We're treating him like a criminal before confirming anything," Kanu questioned the procedure. With six active White Rose agents it seemed excessive to treat him like that.

"That the other reason why I was brought into this case," Hiru responded. "You've arrived at a time when he's relatively stable. The kid is still fluctuating between his normal and a crazed state. There doesn't seem to be any particular trigger, but he can snap at any moment.

"They're certain he's a lost cause, so they want us to extract information before he completely loses his mind. If he does snap, you're going to be glad he has those restraints on. Apparently, while transporting him here, he had another episode. It was a struggle, but they finally got him subdued. In the process, he knocked out one of the White Rose agents while injuring several others.

"He's undoubtedly a skilled AFC Altered fighter."

Kanu smirked upon hearing this. If Haze was skilled, then what did that make Gary Dem? The one who took out the Altered in a crazed state without even needing to transform. White Rose could really use an agent with that kind of power. Should their paths cross, the Captain intended to try and recruit him.

"Alright, let's head in and find out the origin of this black liquid. I've been reading, there have been more and more cases of this stuff every day in the lower-tier towns, especially in Tier-4 and Tier-5 towns.

"Headquarters usually leaves matters in the hands of lower-tier cities, but if we don't halt the root cause, it could escalate into a major problem. We don't need a repeat of what happened in Slough."

Chapter 685 The interrogation (Part 2)

All six of the White Rose agents entered the interrogation room, with the two captains leading the way. When inside the room, there was a table with two seats, Kanu was the first to sit down followed by Hiru.

After that, the two regular agents from each squad went to stand by the wall, two by the normal plain grey wall and the other two standing by the mirror. Sadie looked ahead as she stood opposite the man with the scar on his face.

He was standing one step ahead of his partner, and didn't have his back right up against the wall. He quickly corrected himself though taking a step back and standing up straight.

It wasn't too strange, it wasn't as if they studied interrogation etiquette a lot in their training sessions, nor was it something they did a lot, so a mistake would be made now and then, it was just Sadie noticed these things.

"Hi Haze, I'm captain Kanu, I brought you here from the AFC match you had. I'm sorry for the way they have handled your situation, but I hope you understand it's to protect you and us. The more you do, and the more out of control you are, then the charges will just keep adding up, you understand?" Kanu asked.

The young boy looked nervous, making Kanu feel bad. A kid like him, shouldn't have been restrained in such a way. The stress of the situation probably didn't help whatever it was inside him from trying to gain control.

"So let me ask you, from what we have understood, you have taken a substance through a pill that you stated before came from your coach. So we want to ask, how did you, or your coach get your hands on this pill?" Kanu asked.

Haze thought about it for a while, but eventually answered.

"I honestly don't know. The coach, he just said that he had this pill that would enhance me, make me stronger in the ring. Before my debut match, I had used it once before, in a practice match, and it really worked.

"I just felt stronger, there weren't any signs of me... me... losing control." Haze answered.

During the speaking, Sadie continued to look at the agent opposite her, she could see he was moving slightly backwards and forwards, his toes.

'Can't that person just stand still... this is so irritating.' She thought.

"In the AFC match, that was the second time I had used the pill... and you know what happened after that, but I have no idea where he got that pill. You should be questioning the coach not me!"

"And we will." Kanu answered.

He didn't want to make the kid aware that the coach was currently missing, otherwise it might startle him even more, maybe make him fear for his life.

"Alright, I believe you, I believe you know next to nothing about that pill you used. So instead I'm going to ask you a question you do know." Kanu said. "You already said that this was the second time you had taken the pill, can you describe to me how it felt, and what do you think was different this time compared to the last?"

Haze started to think back to when he bit down on the pill.

"There was this anger rising in me, as I got angry, a power went through me. Just like when you're about to fight. It feels like adrenaline, but it's more than that, I can actually feel the power rising through me.

"But as the power rises, so does the anger. My mind gets muddled, and before I knew it I had fully transformed."

While explaining Haze continued to move his hands, it was as if he was reliving that moment.

"As for what was different the second time... it felt like there was a voice in my head, a voice controlling my emotions, showing me images, telling me that I was better, I could get stronger if I just reached out.

"I know this sounds strange, because it's just a voice in my head... but that voice, it didn't sound like my own, it sounded like another's voice."

"So, when you take the pill, do you almost feel like you had a type of connection with something? Maybe whoever it is that is giving you this power, the pill allows you to have a connection with them." Kanu asked.

"Ha!" Hiru laughed. "What type of voodoo magic do you think this is?"

"Well, that's exactly what I feel like we might be dealing with, voodoo magic. Haze, I want to tell you, that you aren't the first one to consume, or be involved with this power. I'm just trying to make a connection with it all.

"I'm going to ask you something, something you might not be able to do, or might not want to do but it will help me out. And, I assure you, whatever happens, you won't get in trouble for this, or at least not in anymore trouble."

Haze gulped, wondering what Kanu was going to ask.

"Is it possible, are you able to draw out that power now, a part of it? I heard that you are still going into a crazed state once in a while. Is it because you are fighting it, even now? That seems to be the case, but just for a few seconds, could you let it take over... I would like to talk to it."

Hiru looked at Kanu like he was a mad man, but Haze was contemplating it. Maybe he could make some type of deal where he could get out of here.

Meanwhile, Sadie continued to look at the agent in front of her, the man's fidgeting was beyond annoying her, but that's when she noticed something. The man's hands were behind his back, and in the reflection of the mirror, she could see.

'Are... his hands transformed... why would they be transformed?' Sadie thought.

"Sir!" Sadie shouted. "We have a traitor!"



At that moment the White Rose agent moved from the window, heading right for Haze.

## Chapter 686 Figured Out

Since entering the room, Sadie had been keeping an eye on the other White Rose agent. His actions seemed a little too strange and annoying, but truthfully, she didn't think much of it.

She just kept her eye on him because his actions were bothering her. As it turned out, her vigilant behaviour led her to realize that her fellow agent had transformed his hand.

"Traitor!" Sadie exclaimed urgently, as there was no time to waste.

At that moment, the White Rose agent abandoned his position by the window and made a beeline towards Haze, a long stinger protruding from his finger. It seemed he disregarded everything else, fixated solely on impaling Haze's head.

Haze's eyes widened in terror as he could see his life flash before his eyes. Despite being a trained fighter and the attack being quite obvious, his current condition made it impossible for him to move out of the way.

The stinger approached the side of his temple, but before it reached, a hand swung down, breaking it off.

"You're an idiot if you think we'll just watch you kill him!" Kanu growled, baring his teeth. The two canine-like teeth elongated — they were long and thick — and there was a fierce look in his eyes as the pupils slightly narrowed.

Kanu seized the man's arm, effortlessly flinging him over his shoulder. The sound of the White Rose agent's shoulder popping echoed through the room as he collided with the sturdy wall, causing bricks to cascade down upon him. Knocked unconscious, he would remain incapacitated for some time.

"Hiru! What's the meaning of this?" Kanu demanded an explanation.

Hiru was startled. Having jumped out of his seat, he was unable to act properly and just kept looking at his own agent on the floor and everything around him.

"I... I'm just as confused as you. Tomas has been an agent for six years. He's been a part of my squad for four! This is the first time he has done anything of this sort, and it's not like he has a grudge against this guy..." Hiru stammered, but after taking a deep breath he figured that the best course of action was to apprehend his agent for the time being and ask question him later.

While kneeling down to handcuff the unconscious Tomas, rage built up in Captain Hiru as he realized the repercussion this incident might have on himself, his position, and his goal to become the next Chief.

"You better hope you're dead! Because if you wake up, I will ensure you endure a hundred hells!" Hiru seethed.

Observing the scene, Kanu concluded that Hiru's reactions were genuine. Either that, or he was might switch careers to become an actor. The former seemed far more likely, especially considering how much his colleague cared about rising through the ranks.

"That was a good call, Sadie," Kanu commended his own agent, heading over to her and tapping her on the shoulder. "I knew it was a good thing to bring you on this, but how did you manage to call it? You acted before he did, which might have very well saved his life."

"Oper!" Hiru bellowed from the ground. "Get over here and make sure this traitor doesn't go anywhere. I need to go contact someone about this."

The other White Rose agent did as told and walked over.

"Thank you, sir," Sadie replied, somewhat proud of herself as her face blushed a little. "I actually noticed that he had been acting strange since the beginning, but that's when I saw in the reflection of the mirror that he had transformed part of his hand. Since Haze has been cooperating so far and without entering a crazed state, there should have been no reason for him to transform, so I called it out."

Stroking his chin, Kanu sensed a discrepancy. "The mirror! Why didn't the engineers notice Tomas's hand transformation? Could it be that there are others involved in this scheme?"

Kanu quickly turned his head, but he was too late. Oper, who had been walking toward Hiru to help him out, had his hand on top of Haze's forehead. Blood dripped out from his ears, mouth, and eyes. His head was held up only by the restraint.

It was clear that there was no saving Haze.

"The White Rose does not hold sway over anything, and all of you are delusional if you believe otherwise!" Oper grinned.

Before he realized it, Kanu was right next to him, in a bent-over position. It was as if he had teleported. Swinging his arm from a bent position, it slammed right into the stomach of Oper, bending his body inward like a closed book.

He went flying, crashing not only into the wall but directly through the wall. Standing up straight, Kanu breathed heavily. His arms were bulkier than before and slightly longer as well.

"Our duty was to protect him. A White Rose base is meant to be the epitome of security, yet he died in fear... we failed him. The least I can do is exact vengeance upon the one who took his life," Kanu declared.

Sadie and Frank had been unable to see their Captain take action. It was also the first time they had seen him so enraged. It was undeniable that neither one of them had any clear idea about his true strength.

As Kanu walked forward, Hiru quickly stood in his way.

"Stop, Kanu!" Hiru ordered. "I can't let you do that. Haze is already dead, but there is a chance that Oper could be the only one who can give us the information we need."

Advancing a step, Kanu abruptly veered to the side, leaving Hiru struggling to keep up as Kanu swiftly closed the distance. With one hand, Kanu lifted Oper off the ground.

"We have Tomas and the engineers to question, which means we don't necessarily need him," Kanu answered. Using his fingers alone, a click was heard, and Oper's lifeless body dropped to the floor.

Chapter 687 White Rose A Mess

Sadie and Frank were back in the office, along with the others in their squad, but both of them were acting stranger than usual. Sadie was pacing back and forth while biting her fingernails, while Frank was just blankly staring at his screen, which wasn't even on.

"Will you two calm down!" Sam shouted. "You're making us all worry."

"Sorry," Sadie said, sitting down. "But you don't understand, this is serious. Kanu got called up to go see the superintendent... for killing another White Rose member! If they were going to let it slip, then they would have just let him come back with us."

The news had already spread around most of the squads and offices. It wasn't something that could be hidden, especially since there was more to the case than they first realized.

For one, the engineers that were in the interrogation room at the time weren't even White Rose members, so no one knew how they got in. They had been captured and were being dealt with by another team. As for Tomas, he had been escorted straight to an Altered holding cell, and they would decide what to do with him later.

For some reason, which Sadie didn't quite understand, they had felt like it was more important to figure out what to do with Kanu. He had been called by the superintendent, an investigation was run, and they would decide what his punishment would be.

"If only I'd noticed sooner, then all of this could have been avoided," Sadie said.

"Don't say that," Frank said from his seat. "No one else noticed something was up, and that includes me. At least you did notice something and managed to stop the first attack."

"Look, the way I see it, we have nothing to worry about," Sam said. "You already said it, they were traitors, spies working for someone else. If that's the case, I can hardly see why they would punish him for that."

Although that was the case, both Frank and Sadie saw it. Oper was already knocked out, unable to fight back. Kanu had killed him out of anger.

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Kanu had been called into an office where the superintendent, as well as two chiefs of staff, were present. But Kanu wasn't alone; Hiru was there too as a witness.

"You hardly ever do anything, and then when you do something, you become a big headache for me," the superintendent said, shaking his head.

"Look, it was clear that something had gone wrong, and you guys acted, which I should be commending you on. But you had decided to use excessive force. Is there any reason for that?" the superintendent asked.

Kanu sat up straight as he gave his reply.

"We failed to protect the young one," Kanu answered. "At White Rose, I see us as a group that deals with all matters related to Altered. Haze was just a young person who had been misguided."

"He wasn't a hardened criminal, and thanks to Gary Dem, he had done no harm to anyone. There was a chance that we could have helped him. We brought him into this place, and it was our duty to protect him, but we failed."

"And we failed not just anywhere, but directly in the White Rose Headquarters... I was angry and let my emotions get the better of me."

Once again, the superintendent felt like Kanu was giving him a headache. He could have given a simpler answer. He could have said he felt his life was threatened, as well as the lives of his colleagues, but instead, Kanu told the truth that would only put him in more trouble.

"The fact that you acted like that makes you no better than a crazed Altered yourself," one of the chiefs commented.

"There is one more thing. We have yet to confirm if Oper was even a spy because you have killed him. We only have your word. Killing a White Rose agent won't just get you expelled from the organisation but put you in a cell yourself!" the other chief stated.

"Oper was a traitor," Hiru spoke up. "I saw it with my own eyes. Oper, who was from my squad, was the one that killed Haze, and Tomas had made an attempt on his life."

Everyone was stunned into silence for a moment because Hiru had stood up for Kanu. It would have been the perfect chance to get rid of fellow competition, and at the same time, admitting that the traitors were from his squad. This would surely look bad on his record. Yet he still chose to speak up.

"I see... unfortunately, we still need to take some action," the superintendent stated. "Due to using excessive force on a spy that we could have used in our investigation, you are hereby suspended for one week without pay!"

The news spread quickly, and each squad was conducting internal investigations. Meanwhile, Kanu himself was off for an entire week.

He was on his way home, driving on the motorway.

"What do I do now?" Kanu thought. "I guess... I could visit that place. I haven't been there in a long time."

Driving along, Kanu eventually reached his destination. Getting out of the car, he grabbed the flowers he had bought on his way from the passenger seat. He walked down the gravel path, passing the many graves.

It was a graveyard, filled with graves all over the nice clean greenery. Surprisingly, it was a nice day as the sun was out, and the flowers had blossomed all over the place.

The graveyard looked peaceful with the decorated trees and such. As Kanu continued to walk, he was heading to one grave in particular, but up ahead, he could see someone standing right where he needed to be.

"What are the chances? It's nice to meet you again, Jayden," Kanu said with a smile.

Chapter 688 Jayden's anger

Hearing his name being called out, Jayden gave a glance at the White Rose agent and then went back to looking at the grave as he had done before. His hands were slightly wet from having just placed down the flowers in his hands.

Kanu had walked up to the same gravestone and looked at it for a while. He closed his eyes for a few seconds before kneeling and placing his own flowers that he had brought in front of the grave.

After wiping his hands on his uniform, he went into his inner jacket and pulled out a cigarette, and started to light it.

"You're still smoking those?" Jayden said. "You know those are bad for you."

"They're bad for humans." Kanu let out a large puff of smoke, and a smile appeared on his face. "For us Altered, they do next to nothing. Our bodies will repair any damage these things can do. Unlike you, I don't have to keep up a clean image."

A light chuckle came out from Jayden. "Could anyone imagine a White Rose agent saying that?" Jayden replied. "What are you doing here anyway? Shouldn't you be busy on a case? Wait, don't tell me you were suspended again."

Caught in the act, Kanu had dropped his cigarette on the floor by accident. Was it really that common, he thought to himself, scratching his beard.

"There was a recent incident, and I am free for the time being, which is why I came here. But what about you? Aren't you too busy yourself? How often do you still come here?" Kanu asked.

"Once every two weeks." Jayden instantly replied.

There was more silence between the two, and Kanu took a deep look at Jayden, seeing the pain on his face.

"You're hurting a lot more than I am. I would tell you to move on, but when I haven't moved on myself, then it wouldn't exactly be fair. Still, don't you have someone else yet... or maybe you should spend more time with your family?" Kanu suggested.

"I don't have a lot of time. I've been busy doing the usual. As for family, Xin is strong on her own. I don't think she needs much guidance. I just hope that she doesn't get caught up in the same crap as me.

"If I had to make a visit to more than one grave, I don't think I could handle it."

Jayden's fists were clenched hard, just as hard as Kanu had seen him on that day. People often said as time passed, feelings would start to diminish, but that clearly wasn't the case with Jayden.

The thing was, for Kanu, it was hard to see him this way. He remembered how happy and easygoing Jayden used to be. On TV interviews and during his AFC matches, he still portrayed the same Jayden he always was.

However, whenever Kanu watched those clips of him, he could see the pain in his eyes. It was all fake, none of it was genuine.

"Why don't you join the White Rose? We could use someone like you, and we could work on it together?" Kanu asked.

"If I joined, I would just be filled with work all the time, just like there isn't much you can do right now, is there?" Jayden replied. "It's okay, you don't have to worry about me. I know what I'm doing."



Kanu started to scratch his head fast as he was getting annoyed. "You know, she said that to me as well. She said the same thing before she... before she... Well, you know where she is now. With just the two of us, we can't do much. If you joined the White Rose, at least if we had some evidence, we could run an investigation.

"The way it is now, with just the two of us, we really can't do much. You know most likely, our enemy behind this whole thing is far bigger than what we can handle."

Jayden was taking in Kanu's words because he knew he was right. It made him think back to when he had visited the academy. He had called to talk to Gary on the rooftop. At the time, he was very close to telling Gary everything... and asking him for help.

He had grown so much and had helped him save Xin before, but getting him involved in his mess wasn't right. It wasn't right for him to put his life on the line. But with the way Gary was going, if he continued climbing like he had been doing, then eventually he would run into the same problem anyway.

"It seems like you have some people in mind," Kanu said. "I'm surprised you managed to make some friends."

For the first time, Jayden smiled, and it was a real smile as well. "What about you? Have you gotten close to anyone, anyone that can help us?"

In Kanu's mind, Sadie and Frank appeared. The way they had acted, the reports, they were two very just people in the White Rose. If they thought the White Rose was the one in the wrong, they would go against them.

It was still too early to tell, though. He needed to spend more time in this world.

"I will continue with my path for now... I need to keep rising," Jayden stated. "But don't worry, I won't ever forget. There are three things in this world that I hate the most... Gangs, NIRV, and the AFC."

"Right, and you won't rest until they are all taken down. I know, I know... maybe I can do something with these days off."

"Although..." Jayden continued. "I'm starting to think, not all gangs are bad."

Once again, there was the same real smile on Jayden's face, and it made Kanu wonder who could get him to do such a thing.

Chapter 689 A tier 4

In the country, there were several cities that if one were to look from the outside, were nearly impossible to see. This was due to the thick smog that covered most of them; these were the cities known as Tier 4.

The thing was, with places that were regarded as Tier 4, all of them were cities. Tier 3 places could be a mixture of towns and cities, but all of the places classified as Tier 4 were large cities.

The simple reason for this was because they were the country's factories. Although there were factories in the Tier 3 cities, they weren't enough to pump out large amounts of smog in their cities.

Most of them, as well, weren't those types of factories that would produce so much pollution in the first place.

However, all of the Tier 4 cities were essentially factories. They made parts for the bigger corporations' businesses, the Tier 2 and the Tier 1s. Most of it was hard gruelling labour, and they were paid next to nothing.

There were schools in Tier 4 cities, just like any other place, but next to no one paid attention in them. They constantly fought, nonstop, just caring about who was stronger than the other.

There wasn't much of a police force either that could help these places, so they were filled with crime, making those who lived in a Tier 4 be somewhat stuck in it forever. Very few who were born there managed to break out of the loop and rise up.

A bus was seen driving through town; it was bouncing up and down. It had been patched up with sellotape, and half of the windows had been smashed out.

as the wheels went over several potholes. It was a surprise that the tires didn't burst, but it was also a surprise the bus was able to run in the first place.

It had been patched up with sellotape, and half of the windows had been smashed out.

"This stop is Run Vile End!" the bus driver shouted before spitting out the window, and off he went to the next stop.

Having exited the bus, two people were standing on the pavement, each of them with black masks on their faces. It was common to see those in the city wearing face masks due to the high pollution so they didn't stand out.

"You were right, everyone wears these things," Austin said. "So do you have any idea where you want to go?"

"I'm... not quite sure. Why don't we just walk around for now? Maybe something will come up," Gary replied.

He was somewhat hoping that his system would trigger if he met with some trouble, giving him quests and more experience.

The reason the two of them were here in the first place was because he wanted to level up and get stronger before the fight with Midwak. As for where the others were, they were getting ready to head to the next big auction by the Dark Guild.

It was important for the group as they wished to buy as many Altered solutions as possible in hopes to grow the gang. Gary just hoped everything would go smoothly this time.

In turn, though, Kai suggested that Austin go with Gary. Ever since he had become an Altered, he was quite a strong ally to have by one's side.

While walking through the city, the two of them looked at the local people. There were next to no smiles; there were some that looked to be on the verge of starving. Then there were those with holes in their clothes.

What they also spotted from time to time were young secondary school kids that would just hang around a corner shop. Then when people came out, they would harass them, sometimes to the point where they would take their food.

"I don't think we came here to deal with high school kids. Shouldn't there be a gang or something?" Austin asked.

"My guess is, the gangs would be linked to the large factories," Gary replied. "So I'm just heading in the direction of one. Most likely, they hired the gang that runs this city to protect them and recruit workers."

"And what are we going to do once we beat them up? We have disguises on at the moment, and you said not to mention that we're from the Howlers."

"I just want to get some fighting experience." Gary smiled, thinking he had made a clever pun, but it was one only he would understand.

"Yes, but if you take out the gang of this city, then another one will just come and take over. Unless someone that no one wants to go against takes control, like us," Austin claimed.

"You might be right, but we don't want to gather attention by claiming that the Howlers are going around to the Tier 4 and 5 cities, cleaning up the place," Gary replied back.

This was just one of the many places that Gary wanted to go to. Maybe as their information and reputation increased, the higher-tier cities would send someone a little stronger to try and defend them, and Gary would beat them with his disguise on.

If it became too big of a mess, though, they could always leave since this wasn't their city.

In a warehouse located next to one of the large factories, a meeting was taking place. A man stood in front of around thirty or so members, all carrying some sort of makeshift weapons, such as baseball bats and bike chains.

Meanwhile, the leader of the gang, Smithin, who had a rat-like face with two large front teeth, looked at them all.

"Our production has managed to increase by 100 percent this month!" Smithin shouted to all of them. "This is all due to our hard work of finding the right talent and showing them how they can be productive!

"As a thanks, one of our buyers has sent us a little gift."

Smithin, as well as the two next to him, opened up a briefcase. Inside each briefcase, there were five syringes with a dark-coloured liquid inside. It was the same for the other two cases as well, making a total of 15 solutions they had on them.

"With this... we will rise out of here!" Smithin yelled, lifting the briefcase up in the air.

Chapter 690 A Stalker!

The two continued to aimlessly walk around the city, heading towards one of the factories on the street. What they didn't know was that someone had spotted the two strangers a while ago.

Sitting opposite the bus stop, in a black t-shirt and jeans, was a young middle-aged man named Elijah. He brushed his hair to the side, making sure it was intact, before grabbing his pencil and continuing to write notes.

It was his regular spot since he had entered the city, and he had been jotting down notes on many people who walked past. But these two caught his eye. For one, Austin was a large individual, with a strong build and a good set of muscles.

Then there was the green-haired kid he could see. He couldn't see the mask, but based on their clothes, he assumed they were young, with an athletic build. But it wasn't that which stood out to him.

It was the fact that they were walking through the streets so comfortably. They looked quite out of place.

"They should watch their back... In a place like this, if they see some well-fed individual, they'll become a target. I had to learn that lesson the hard way," Elijah almost teared up thinking back to the events. Back then, just because of his clothes, he was nearly attacked every day.

But he had learned to fit in, whereas these individuals clearly didn't.

"Are they from out of town? But then, what would a bunch of youngsters like them possibly want to come here for?"

In the end, his curiosity peaked, and closing his notebook, he decided to follow them. He stayed on the opposite side of the street, keeping a distance of around 100 metres. He couldn't hear what they were talking about, but he was curious to see where they would go.

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Suddenly, Austin stopped, and Gary turned around.

"What's wrong?" Gary asked.

"Well, I was just thinking. You want to train, right?" Austin asked. "Then don't you think it's better if the two of us split up? I mean, I doubt anyone will be able to cause me or you trouble. I can explore the place a little, try to find something interesting, and you can do the same.

"Besides, when you're on your own, I feel like you're more likely to run into trouble anyway."

Placing his finger on his chin, Gary started to think. He felt like Austin did have a point. Maybe if he did run into trouble because Austin was by his side, the system would still think everything was too easy for him to gain experience.

He was thinking back to the situation when he was at AJ Entertainment. Although the opponents weren't difficult, he still received a quest due to the particular situation.

"I think you're right, and besides, it's not like the two of us can't contact each other. I mean, we have our phones, right? We can just send a message if one of us is in serious trouble," Gary said.

Austin agreed, giving a nod.

"Where are you planning on going?" Gary asked.

"Since you're heading to the factories already, I might go around a few of the schools here. I've never been to a Tier 4 city before. Maybe the kids here have more bite in them compared to the ones in Slough."

It would be a lie if Gary said he wasn't a little nervous. Austin was already stronger than most kids before he had turned into an Altered, but surprisingly, compared to Austin's looks, he was usually quite sensible.

"Alright, remember, write to me if anything happens," Gary said.

With that, the two of them decided to split ways. Austin walked back in the direction they came from, while Gary continued forward toward the factory.

Elijah, who saw this, was unsure of what to do.

"The two of them split up? Are they looking for something? Well, the question is, who do I follow?" Elijah thought.

Flipping a coin in his mind, he decided to follow the green-haired teenager instead. He continued to tail him until there was a man in a hoodie standing by the side of one of the alleyways.

"That man..." Elijah thought. "The colour of his hood... I recognize him. He was the one who attacked me on the first day I was here!"

It was so unexpected that Elijah hadn't even reacted, but in the end, he had lost precious items.

"Hey, kid," the man in the hoodie called out. "Do you know what time it is?"

Gary thought it was a simple question, and unlike Kai, he didn't have a watch. So instead, he decided to pull out his phone to look at the time.

"It's 4:34," Gary answered, but when he looked up, the phone was snatched out of his hand, and the man was already running in the other direction.

Gary looked at the lack of a phone in his hand for a second, his eyes twitching. "Did I just... get robbed? The phone... I need that phone!" Gary thought to himself.

Not wanting the thief to get away, Gary ran after him, and with great speed, he caught up to the man almost instantly. He leapt up in the air and latched onto the man's back. They tumbled to the ground, stopping the man right then and there.

"Hey, you bastard! You shouldn't steal from people. If you do that, then who is going to want to come to this city? You're giving it a bad reputation!" Gary shouted, but the man had stars in his eyes as the weight of Gary smashed his chin into the ground, knocking him out.

"Ah, this is not worth my time," Gary thought as he went to retrieve the phone from the man's hand. However, when he looked at the phone, the screen was completely cracked. He tapped it a few times, trying his best to get it to work, but nothing was responding.

"Crap... Now how are Austin and I meant to get in touch with each other? Well, let's just hope nothing happens."



Elijah was ready to go after the thief. After all, his phone should still be with him, but it was unlikely unless it was pawned away. With no other choice, Elijah bought a new phone. However, Gary was fast—incredibly fast.

"That was too fast for a human... He must be the one I'm looking for," Elijah thought.