

Werewolf 701

Chapter 701 The Shadow Fighter (Part 2)

A lot of the top fighters from other schools, the ones that essentially made the rules in their school, had nicknames for themselves. Some were based on their personality, their looks or their strength.

As for Killer, he had decided his name due to his skillful use of weapons, he decided to spread his own nickname 'Killer'. It made sense, if one was using deadly weapons that could kill, then he wanted a name that would strike fear in those he faced, because when he pulled out his weapon, they would believe that there was a chance his name meant that he was a real killer.

One wouldn't put it past a student in a tier-4, there were plenty that had done so before, but for Austin, he could see through this. He could see through his fancy tricks with a blade.

If one really had been in a life or death battle, they wouldn't bother showing off, spinning the weapon, and holding it so loosely in his hand.

"I understand." Austin said, walking over. His hands weren't even raised to protect himself. "I was just like you guys, at the moment the schools mean everything to you, but trust me, the fake gangs you guys are playing are nothing like the real thing."

Images appeared in Austin's head of when he himself had nearly experienced death due to Midwak, and at the same time, there were images of those he had to fight against, those he had to kill, due to the situation. The gang world, it was either kill or be killed, but the situation he was in right now. This wasn't one of them.

Throwing out his hand, Austin grabbed onto the edge of the knife, it dug into his skin, but he had held on so tight that even with Killer pulling on the handle was unable to pull it out.

"Who are you... what are you!" Killer shouted in fear.

Vlad had never seen anything like it, he had seen people get beaten up by those stronger than them. Heck, Vlad experienced it daily from many in his school, but the fear in Killer's eyes, compared to the confidence Austin had, it was indescribable.

Slowly, Vlad was creating a new idol in his mind, one other than the shadow fighter.

“Brace yourself.” Austin said, as he pulled back his fist and punched it directly into Killer’s mouth. His front two teeth were sent flying onto the ground along with the back of his head.

“If you threaten to kill someone, then you at least deserve a proper punch.” Austin commented.

Blown away by everything that had happened, Vlad had stumbled and fell on his backside in amazement. Those that were on the ground were too hurt to get up any time soon. Austin, seeing Vlad on the floor, thought he must have been dropped or hurt by Killer so he started to walk over to give his hand.

He reached out, when suddenly the sound of footsteps could be heard, running from the side.

“Get away from him!” A voice shouted.

Both Vlad and Austin turned their heads, and Vlad's mouth was wide open, both hands raised towards his mouth. He wanted to say something but the words wouldn't come out.

The person was quick on their feet and had already jumped up in the air with a kick. Austin covered his head with one arm. The kick landed and it was quite a solid blow, but not enough to move his big body.

When the person landed back down, they seemed to be surprised by the fact that Austin hadn’t even budged an inch.

“A new one in town, you must be the one people are calling Big Mask!” The person shouted. “Why... Why must you guys always come in, and try to prove who’s the best?” I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

Now that Austin wasn’t blocking an attack, he could get a better look at the person who had just attacked him out of the blue.

They were dressed in all black clothing, their frame was relatively small, similar to that of Vlad's and on their head, they wore a balaclava, only showing their eyes.

"It's... it's the shadow fighter!" Vlad pumped his fists, he almost fainted from the excitement, and he started to hyperventilate. Never in his life did he think he would see the person up so close, and of all things they had come to rescue him.

It was a misunderstanding, but Vlad was too excited to say anything.

'So this person is the shadow fighter, huh?' Austin thought. 'Well, it's no wonder he thought the shadow fighter couldn't be me, but how can someone so small be considered the strongest?'

The shadow fighter was quick to act, as they started to run forward, they quickly raised their leg aiming for Austin's side, it had hit his rib, but he didn't try to block the attack. Instead he threw one out on his own at the same time.

However, the shadow fighter was able to slip in on the inside, and quickly turned to the side, throwing out another kick, right to his other rib. They quickly moved behind Austin and kicked him on the back of his leg, right where his knee was and he jolted a bit.

He wasn't going to fall to such a weak attack, and as he braced himself to stand up, he felt a kick land right to the side of his head. It stung a bit, but once again,. He still hadn't moved.

'What is this person, he's like a big rock, no matter how many times I hit him, it looks like nothing is hurting him.' The shadow fighter thought.

Meanwhile Austin was also incredibly impressed.

'I doubt this person is an altered, but they're so fast, nimble and flexible, they have a good sense of timing as well. This is what I was looking for, this is the type of challenge I needed!' Austin thought.

Chapter 702 The Shadow Fighter (Part 3)

Excitement was brewing inside Austin, ever since he had become an Altered there were next to no challenges for him, and fighting against Midwak was quite an extreme jump, so if he wanted to improve himself, he needed more situations like this.

“Maybe it's time I crank this up just a little bit more!” Austin said, he clenched his fist, harder than he had done the times before. The veins down his forearm could be seen, as well as on top of his hands.

It wasn't a normal sight at all, and seeing how a regular punch had taken out Killer, Vlad was worried what would happen if that was to hit the shadow fighter.

“Wait! Vlad shouted, getting up off the ground.

Austin had already thrown his punch and rather than retreating, the shadow fighter went forward.

‘With people like this, who can’t get knocked down by my strength, then I just have to use their own strength against them and throw in a counter!’

It was a dangerous move, because they were moving in as well, if they got hit they would take twice the damage, but if the counter puncher managed to get a hit in, it should hurt twice as much as well.

When the shadow fighter threw out their fist, they could see a smile on Austin's face despite him missing.

‘What is he up to?’ the shadow fighter was confused, and surprisingly from the right, they could see someone entering right in the middle of the two of them.

Using all the strength she could, the Shadow fighter had to pull back, she ducked onto the ground and rolled out of the way, while there was a displeased look on Austin's face, as he looked at Vlad who had intervened.

“Hey look, the two of you shouldn't be fighting each other.” Vlad tried to explain. “Both of you are trying to do the right thing, my friend here, Big Mask, he wasn't attacking me, he was the one protecting me from these guys.”

The shadow fighter was assessing the situation a bit more, she had originally thought that the ones on the floor were part of a group with Big Mask, but now that she looked closer, for one there was Killer, who they had given a beat down in the past before.

‘Crap, did I rush into this situation, now that I think about it. Who else would have beaten all these guys up, it wouldn't have been the glasses kid... I just saw the situation that I see too much these days and rushed forward.’

“Please.” Vlad said. “The last thing I want is for you two to fight.”

Vlad turned around to look at Austin, and in that brief moment when he went to look, the shadow fighter had disappeared running off into the distance.

“Damn it, and there goes my only fun in this city.” Austin said.

Looking at the situation around him, he had another idea that had come to mind though. Heading over to Killer who was coming to, and holding onto his bloody mouth. Austin grabbed him by his shirt and lifted him off the ground.

“I bet it hurts a bit for you to speak, and if you don't want to have trouble eating, then I suggest you answer my questions.” Austin said.

Killer immediately nodded, he didn't want to ever feel a punch like that again. It wasn't as if Killer had never lost any fights before, but he had never been so afraid, even when dealing with other gang members.

“Alright, so I assume you know about this Phantom Brawl?” Austin asked.

Killer nodded up and down a few times. I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

“Good, then I want to find a way to take part in it, think... is there any way someone like me can get some introduction of some sort?” Austin asked.

Killer was silent for a bit, and in order to make him think quicker, Austin just started to move his other hand, he didn't make a fist but any movement shook Killer to his very core.

“Today!” Killer shouted a bit unclearly as blood came out from his mouth. “Today, there is an underground fight. I was meant to take part... It was practice for the Phantom Brawl. The gang... that is supporting me, linked to our school will be there.

“If you go in my place, and do a good job, then I'm sure that they will invite you.”

pandasNovel.com It looked like there was no reason for Vlad to go meet Carvey after all, as he had his in now.

“Good, it looks like me and you have a date tonight.” Austin smiled.

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That morning, Gary had received a message from Kai. Informing him that the purchase of the factory didn't go well. Even more so, a warning was sent out, that it was probably best that Gary didn't try and cause trouble with the local gangs, not unless he wanted to find out who they were connected to.

At this point and time, it would be too much for their gang to handle.

‘I didn't just want to purchase the factory for the beast crystals, but I also wanted to help out Earny and the others, give them a better life... but I should listen to Kai. I can still stay here for a while, and eat the crystals I do get, making myself stronger than I was before.’

The work started the same as the night before, with them busy mining away, hitting the rocks. Gary was still focused on getting what beast crystals he could. Placing some still in the container so things wouldn't look too suspicious.

At the moment, he was working with Elijah, who was next to Earny, and a topic that Gary was very interested in, came up.

“So... about the guys we are working for, who exactly are they, and why are we doing this mindless task.” Elijah asked.

It was time, since Elijah knew he wasn’t going to get anything from Gary, it was time for him to continue his job, as a member of the White Rose, and search for the black liquid.

Chapter 703 The Controller

Gary had scooted over a bit, working closer to Elijah and Earny. Although he had great hearing and could usually hear from a great distance, with all the banging from the pickaxes and heavy machinery, it was hard to concentrate on just a single area of noise.

The question he was interested in was just who was behind all of these factories.

“It depends what you're asking.” Earny said, as he continued to hammer away. “If it's who we are working for, or who owns these factories. You see this city was even worse off when it was before. It was essentially one big dump site.

“We were a tier-5, and if you have ever been to those sorts of places, you know what they're like.”

Gary hadn’t but he heard the rumours. They were essentially the country's tips. All sorts of broken cars, materials, anything that wasn’t wanted would go to these cities and that included people.

“Still, just like every place, we had those that ran the place. A gang that called themselves the Scavengers. They were a big group, and they controlled several little small scavenger groups that would sell to the other cities, parts that might still be needed.

“Somehow though, the Scavengers were able to make a deal. These minerals were found, and factories were built somewhat overnight. The Scavengers were in charge of these factories but how they got the money to build such things, no one really knows but it had to come from somewhere.”

A gang that was large enough to stop even the Howlers from buying the factory, or a group, this was what Kai had said as well. It looked like perhaps the Scavengers were the only ones that would know the answer.

αΠδαςNovel.com “We thought it was a good thing, new money coming into our city. They even used it to invest in some schools. With the factories we were able to become a tier-4 and other groups from outside started to use us.

“However, the Scavengers have set up things so it all benefits them in the end.” Earny continued. “You see, there are multiple gangs in this city, but they all eventually lead to the Scavengers. As for the other gang’s duties, all it boils down to is getting new recruits to either work in the factories or become part of the gangs.

“The gangs are already extremely involved in the schools’ delinquents and in a city like this, that’s over 90 percent of the students. In their eyes the top of the food chain is the Scavengers, so that’s what they aim for.

“I honestly wish I could take my kid out of this city. If I had the money I would do so, but this here, for someone weak like me, is the only job I can get. I could never become a gang member, and be useful enough to them, and even if you are, do you really think you could leave.”

Hearing Earny explain everything, it looked like the Scavengers had set up one bug trap for the people of the city, with no way of them leaving at all to better the lives of those within.

Gary felt like his family were in a similar situation, a debt spiral, but at least students could still rise to the top and work their way out of it, but here, was that even possible for them?

Elijah felt bad for the man and those in the city, but fixing the city, or making the people’s lives better by getting rid of corruption or other things wasn’t his job. The White Rose were told many times to not get too involved or put their heart too much into cases.

They were to only deal with Altered issues, which was what the world government paid them to do.

He continued to hammer away, and he had been working just as hard as Gary had been doing. Since he heard those that do a good job get noticed, he felt like this was his in. When he was in the Scavengers then he could perhaps find the real people backing them, and they were also the most likely behind spreading of the Black Liquid.

With all of this though, he needed evidence.

Gary was even more disheartened that he was unable to help Earny and the others, but he thought it was best to listen to Kai's words. Maybe in the future he could do something. When he and Kai completed their promise of being at the top of this world, they could go back and change things like this. I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

In the mean time, he had to focus on the current goal in front of him, getting strong enough to defeat Midwak. The only reason why he was still doing this job, was due to the sweet crystals he could munch on that would gradually allow him to grow stronger and stronger.

[Strength 68]

[Dexterity 55]

[Endurance 60]

Gary was finding that the basic tier crystal were no longer having an effect on him, but he would find quite a few intermediate crystals as well.

All in all, his stats had improved a lot quicker than when he was levelling up, and a few more days of doing this, he was sure he would be strong enough to beat Midwak. Coming to the tier-4 city wasn't a waste of time after all.

With a smile on his face, Gary was ready to crunch down on another crystal, when a strange alarm sound was heard. It wasn't like a fire alarm, but more like a horn that sounded three times.

All of the workers were seen putting their pickaxe's down.

"What's that, what's happening?" Elijah asked.

"It's inspection time." Earny said, sweat running down the side of his face, and he had a frown. "They usually don't have one so soon after the last one, I wonder if something is happening."

If they were having an inspection then Gary was hoping he wouldn't be caught out, it would be impossible with him consuming the crystals, right?

Chapter 704 A Nasty Inspection

The inspection was more strict than Gary could ever imagine. First, there were about five men who were nicely dressed and looked well built who had come into the mining area.

Gary noticed this because there was a stark difference between their bodies, faces, and so on compared to the workers. Everyone was told to get out of the mining area, and instead were now in the sorting area.

Here was where the large pieces of rock would be placed into the machine for processing and to be broken down even more, before more workers would sort out all the materials. It was now that Gary was starting to realise how big of an operation everything was.

There were thirty or so manual laborers. They were in charge of the mining and moving the materials from area to area. Then out of the sorters, there were around another thirty or so.

Also, not everyone worked at the factory every day, so Gary imagined that the place must have employed around 100 people. Although that sounded like a lot, for the amount of work they were doing, there should have been more.

It also seemed like the type of work one couldn't do for a long time, otherwise they would have to deal with multiple injuries.

All of the workers were lined up one after the other, and Gary was standing next to Elijah who was standing next to Earny and the rest that were in their group.

“Wow, they're really searching everyone top to bottom one by one.” Gary whispered.

What was surprising was how crude they were in their search. After giving a pat down, those that they suspected might be hiding some sort of crystals, they told them to take off all of their clothes, right there and then, in front of everyone.

The thing was, there was no difference whether it was a female or male worker. One of the gang members had looked a younger woman up and down a few times, his cheeks were getting a shade redder as thoughts ran through his head.

“Hey, I think this one might be hiding some crystals, especially in this area, it looks particularly big.” The man said, pointing at her chest.

The other men seemed to nod, and she knew what she needed to do, she started to undress there and then on the spot. The other gang members started to whistle and howl as they saw this, while the woman was breaking down into tears.

“What the f*ck is wrong with them.” Gary said, clenching his fist, it looked like he was about to move, that was until Elijah grabbed him by the wrist.

“You beating them up isn't going to do anyone any good.” Elijah said. “Think about it, do you really think that woman wants to take off her clothes? No, but she's doing it, for the same reason as everyone else in here, they need the money.

“If you act out, they might just use it as an excuse to punish everyone, then everything that they've done will have been for nothing. Never mind the gang being on your back.”

Elijah's cool headedness allowed Gary to take in a deep breath. The last thing he wanted was to hurt those who he wanted to help.

Finally, the gang member that was doing the inspections came across Gary, the first thing he noticed was his good body build and bright green hair, but there was something else as well.

“What’s with the mask?” the man asked.

Gary had to bite down hard on his back teeth just to reply to this man. Just looking at him was making his anger grow.

“The air here, it isn’t the best. I don’t want to get sick.” Gary answered. “It's not like I could hide anything under my mask anyway.” I think you should take a look at

The man looked at Gary suspiciously for a second, until he had made his choice.

“You're right, but that doesn't go for the rest of you, now strip.”

Gary did as the man asked, lifting his shirt up from the bottom. Immediately everyone could see his chiselled abs on display. His defined arms, triceps and every part of him. There was next to no fat on him, and as the man stared at Gary’s body it was almost shining at him.

The men who had been working with Gary, had expected as much. Seeing how hard he worked, and how easily he could do things, the body matched his output.

After taking off the rest of his clothes, and confirming that there wasn’t anything else, he went onto the next person, he didn't believe Elijah was hiding anything so he continued, and continued until everyone had been seen and not a single crystal had been found.

The five gang members lined up standing next to each other, they still didn’t look satisfied by the results.

“Look here!” The man who was doing the inspections from before stood forward. “We know that something is going on. You see that big machine over there, it sorts out materials per 1kg of rock you put in there.

“We roughly have a kind idea of how many minerals we get from each piece of rock.”

The man then walked over and picked up one of the beast crystals.

“And it just so happens, that the mineral that we have been getting less of recently, these crystals, which are the most expensive thing that one can get from these rocks has suddenly lessened, and not just by a small amount either.”

“Couldn't it just be a coincidence?” Earny asked. “I mean, we could just hit a part that is lacking those crystals. Besides, we have been sorting through more than before, surpassing the quota.”

The man smiled.

“You're right, it could be coincidence, but if there is any chance that any one of you has been stealing crystals, well, we need to make a clear example of them right? Until we're a hundred percent sure that none of you are taking our product, then we will continue the search. Search their rooms!”

Chapter 705 Planted Evidence

Two of the five gang members went to the living quarters in the factory, while the other three kept watch on those outside. They were keeping a close eye for two reasons: to see if anyone would suddenly act out or run away, or if anyone looked suspicious.

'Shit, shit, shit!' Gary thought in his head, while his face on the outside was cool as a cucumber. 'They're having this inspection because of me. They realised that the amount of crystals they were getting were less.

'What type of advanced technology are they using in those machines? The damn factory can't afford to install cameras but they can do that.'

It made Gary realise that the equipment must be from the backers, rather than the gang itself, and perhaps only the outer shell of the factory belonged to the gang known as the scavengers.

'It will be okay, right? They said that it could all just be a coincidence, so if they don't find anything, then that means it's going to be alright.'

Inside the living area, the three scavenger members were going through everything. They were chucking up the mattresses on the floor, throwing sheets in the corner, not caring about anyone's equipment.

They would pull every cupboard and drawer, moving the food that they all had brought, or just chucking it out and leaving it on the floor.

They were making a big mess in every room they went in, and from the outside, everyone could hear it as well. There was pain in their eyes each time they all heard a loud noise.

The people were wondering if their items, food, all of it was going to be fine. Some of them even had their hands together as if they were praying.

Gary wanted to say something, but Elijah's words went through his head, causing him to bite his tongue.

"Are you going to replace everything that's broken in there?" A voice said.

Gary thought that the words had come out of his own mouth, but when looking, he realised that they had actually come from Elijah, the very person that told him not to act. On a closer look, a large vein could be seen at the side of his head.

'I guess I wasn't the only one that was angered by these guys' actions.'

The man who had been doing the inspections was named Dazza and seemed to be in charge of this small group of gang members. He smiled, revealing a small diamond on his canine. It looked tacky to most, but perhaps to him, he was very proud of this. So much so that the man smiled in a certain way that would reveal his tooth.

Some guessed this was how he got his nickname Dazza in the first place.

"Everything that was bought in there or that is in there is because of us in the first place," Dazza answered. "We are the ones that pay them, so all in all, it all belongs to us. If you don't like it, then you are free to complain. Let me just check with HR what they say about that... Oh wait, that's me as well, and I don't give a shit!"

Elijah's whole body looked like it was tensing up, and at that moment, Gary had in his head that if he went in on him, then Gary would go in and back the person up a hundred percent... but Elijah took a deep breath and managed to calm down. In the end, nothing happened.

Inside the rooms, the inspections were done, and Dazza had been called over to the other three to give him the news.

"You mean there was nothing?" Dazza said. "Not even one speck of dust, a rock, or anything!"

"No, sir," one of the men answered. "Everyone already knows our reputation after the first few cases we had. I guess everyone is too scared to do something like that."

The answer clearly wasn't what Dazza was looking for as he went and kicked a mattress, flinging it onto the wall. The mattresses were light and thin in the first place; otherwise, a regular human wouldn't be able to do such a thing.

"We need something big, a big catch to show we're doing our job, and then Hadie will give us one of the Altered solutions he got his hands on lately."

"Well, if there's nothing here, there's nothing we can bring them in for." I think you should take a look at

A light bulb clicked in Dazza's head as he went and pulled a crystal out from the side of his pocket, one that he had picked up earlier and dropped onto the ground. He started to laugh at himself as he saw it.

Then he knelt down and went ahead to pick it up.

"Well, well, look what we have here. It looks like someone has been hiding a crystal here, after all."

Dazza, along with all the others, came out, and the big smile on his face didn't instil confidence in the people.

"Alright, everyone who was in room 9, come forward now!" Dazza shouted.

The mumbling from the other workers already started. It was clear as day that Dazza had found something. It had been a while since there was such an incident, and they were starting to imagine what was going to happen next.

As for which room was room 9, Earny, Gary, Elijah, and the five other men that were with them all stepped forward; they were part of room 9.

"Now look at this crystal I have in my hand," Dazza said. "It appears that it was found in room 9, so you know what that means. One of you guys has attempted to hide crystals. Now, it's simple. I can either punish just one of you guys if the culprit comes forward, or all of you will be punished from room 9."

Inwardly, Dazza was smiling because he knew, of course, that no one would come forward because none of them had the crystal. At the same time, this would pit them against each other.

"Just come forward," one of the men said. "We all understand why you might steal the crystals. We're all in the same situation, but there is no need to come forward, so just do it."

However, none of them came forward, and soon they were starting to suspect each other.

"Hey, if anything, it has to be one of the new guys, right? We've all seen the type of punishment we can get into. The day the new guys come in, they just happen to find a crystal. It can't be a coincidence."

Gary could see where this was going. He had no clue where the crystal had come from, but if he needed to take the blame compared to the others, then he would be happy to.

"I-"

"It was me." The older man stood forward, Earny, who had shared his food with the others. "I was the one who hid the crystal."

Chapter 706 Bring On The Punishment

Earny had just said some brave words, and the thing was, the other workers who were standing by the side didn't even know how brave they were. In the first place, none of them had stolen any crystals, yet he had still decided to step forward and take the blame.

Why? The answer was simple. It was because of the bickering between the group. Earny, as he stepped forward, turned to those who were from his room.

"Come on, guys. Let's not argue amongst ourselves. We spent a good time together, sharing food, right?" Earny said as he stopped, around two meters ahead of everyone else, standing straight.

"No way," one of the older men said. "There is no chance that Earny was the one who hid those crystals. I would bet my right testicle on it!"

"Specifically the right one. What's better about the right one compared to the left one?" Gary mumbled.

"Of course, Earny didn't do it," another said. "He understands the rules better than anyone, and there have been a few times..."

The man stopped speaking there because he wasn't too sure what he was about to say would get the rest of them in trouble. But there were a few times when some of the men in the room were tempted to take stuff from the factory, and the one who stopped them was Earny.

That was why all of them strongly believed that Earny was taking the blame for someone else. The most obvious choice was that it was the newcomers' doing, and they couldn't help but give a death stare to the two of them. That was until they heard Earny's words.

They remembered just yesterday how much fun they were having with them. There was no worry. They were all just humans sharing food and stories together, and now they were put in this situation where they had to go against each other.

Dazza smiled and held out his hand. One of the men had run off somewhere and soon returned with a box in his hand. The box was relatively long and placed on the floor in front of Dazza.

"Alright, it seems like it's been a while since you guys have received your punishment, and you know things aren't exactly normal around here," Dazza explained. "Usually, the punishment would be done in private, but to make sure that you guys know what happens to you if you dare try to steal something from us again, I will be commencing the punishment right here and now."

Using his feet, Dazza kicked the top of the box open, and then reached in and pulled out a large black whip. It looked brand new, it was impressive, but not as impressive as a certain whip Gary had seen someone else use.

"Ten lashes. If you can survive ten lashes without falling to the ground, then we will see your debt as cleared," Dazza smiled.

Just from the smile alone, Elijah could tell what type of person Dazza was. He had seen many of them. There were those that got a rise out of doing things like this. When a person could control one's life with ease, get them to do whatever they wished, they felt unstoppable and powerful, and they wanted to constantly push the boundaries and just see how far they could go.

"Ten whips, will Earny be okay?" one of the men asked.

Even Earny himself looked concerned. Perhaps if he was in good condition and hadn't been hungry for the last few days, he would have been brave enough to take on the whips. But in his current condition, and depending on how hard Dazza went, this punishment had the possibility of being fatal.

Earny took a deep breath and reassured himself as he stepped forward again. But he soon felt someone grab him by the wrist and pull him back.

"This ain't right."

Looking in front of him, Earny could see the green-haired boy.

"You said ten whips, right? I will take on the whips instead. That should be fine, right?" Gary said.

The others felt Gary's bravery. Even if they did believe he was the original one to take the crystal, they still couldn't believe that after knowing what the punishment was, he willingly volunteered himself now.

"Hmm... I think that will be fine, but I don't think it's very fair," Dazza said. "For one, I am doing you a favor when this should be a punishment, and I would say it's quite clear that you have a stronger physique than him.

"I set the bar low at ten whips because I felt bad for Earny. After all, we don't want to be killing our workers. So let's say if I allow you to take his place, then you will need to survive a hundred whips."

The words that had come out of Dazza's mouth were so shocking that the workers even gasped when they were meant to remain silent.

Without saying anything else, Gary removed his shirt, placing it in Earny's hands.

"Keep it safe for me. I'll be coming back for it." I think you should take a look at

He walked forward and then turned around, his back faced toward Dazza.

"Alright, tough guy!" Dazza said as he gripped the handle of the whip tightly. "You asked for it."

Without holding back, Dazza swung the whip. It slashed right across Gary's back, leaving a red mark and a loud bang followed. The others flinched as they imagined the pain Gary was in right now. But that was what was strange about the whole thing—Gary's face was showing no such pain.

"Oh, a tough one! So you won't even scream? Then let's see how long you last!" Dazza shouted as he swung the whip again and again.

It continually hit Gary's back, doing the same as before, but no noise left Gary's mouth, and no blood was drawn on his back, only a hint of it turning slightly red. It was clear something was up. This had never happened before.

As the workers continued to watch Gary, though, they couldn't help but be amazed and silently cheer for him from within.

'Of course, this is going to do nothing. It looks like my guess was true after all. He is an Altered,' Elijah thought, smiling to himself.

At this point, Dazza had already hit Gary around eighty times. His shoulders were feeling sore, he was out of breath, yet Gary was completely fine.

If one person were to take a look at the two of them, it was hard to tell which one was being punished.

"Come on... just 12 more!" Gary shouted, having counted each hit.

"Alright, you fool!" Dazza shouted, swinging it again. The loud bang followed, but it was nowhere near as loud as the first one. One could tell he was weak, and Dazza could see that Gary would not fall.

Which was why his eyes had fallen on an older man next to

him. 'I may not be able to do anything to you, but I still have ten whips to give to someone else!' Dazza swung the whip once more.

Hearing it, Gary somewhat braced himself like he had done the time before. But as the loud sound went off, he didn't feel anything on his back.

"ARGHHH!"

A loud scream was heard to his right. Looking, Gary could see blood flying up in the air. The whip had hit Earny right across the chest, and he was falling back.

'That... Bastard!' Gary turned his head. He was unable to control his anger, as his eyes had already somewhat changed.

Dazza, ignoring this, swung the whip again, aiming to hit Earny. It went through the air.

Elijah had run forward, catching Earny before he fell on his back. And that's when he saw right in front of him, Gary standing there with a whip held in his hand.

"I'm sorry, Earny," Gary said. "I wanted to do well. I didn't want anyone to get hurt, and yet you still did... It's clear I need to do something about this place."

Chapter 707 Rebel Attack

The lightning fast whip had been caught in Gary's hand. When Dazza would use the weapon, the others couldn't even see the end of it, only hearing the loud noise that would come after. Which made them wonder, how was Gary able to keep track of it, and how could he be so fearless to grab it.

"Hey, do you think you could do something like that?"

"Not even if I had a full stomach do I think I could do something like that."

"Is Earny okay though, I think I saw blood."

"We might have to worry about a lot more than just Earny, just what does the green haired kid think he's going to do, he caught the whip, now what?"

Dazza attempted to pull the whip out of Gary's hand, but his grip was so tight that he was unable to do anything. Feeling such strength, there was a small bead of sweat coming from Dazza's forehead, and it wasn't from him overworking himself with the whip from before.

“What are you doing? Dazza asked, his voice not as angry as it was from before. “We still have nine whips left, that was part of the deal right?”

Gary tugged on the whip slightly. Rather than holding it in the air, he pulled it down to his right side, thus pulling Dazza forward since he was still holding onto the other end. Dazza stumbled a little and was wondering if holding onto the whip was such a good idea.

“You have pretty sh*t aim, you hit the old man.” Gary said. “Or is it, you have a very good aim and were actually going for him on purpose?”

Dazza noticed that his hand was shaking, he grabbed it with his other arm, to stabilise it.

‘What is going on, why am I so scared? I am a member of the Scavengers in a place like this, and I have the others around me... it's because of the way he's looking at me, he's looking at me, like a disobedient dog!’

“Hey, Miguel!” Dazza shouted. “Call the head office, and let them know that we have a rebellion going on in this factory. Say all of the workers have decided to go a bit wild.”

There were nervous looks on the faces of the workers behind them. How was this going to affect them, did this mean all of them would no longer have a job?

“What rebellion!” One woman shouted. “We haven’t done anything, we did everything you said, we allowed you to search us, and we never took any crystals, why are you punishing us!”

“If anything, it should only be Earny and the green haired that get punished... we need our jobs, we need to live!” Another shouted.

“Hey, Greeny!” Elijah shouted. “I know the situation isn’t the best right now, with people turning on you, but the old man, I don’t think he’s doing too well, we’re going to have to take him to a hospital or something.”

Dazza was now laughing at the whole situation.

“Haha look at this, I don't care what you say. Do you think your jobs were irreplaceable? That we couldn't find others to do the same things as you? No, we have countless people outside that are lining up to do your jobs.

“You guys can blame yourselves for not stopping one of you, for looking at me with such wild eyes, and when I'm done with him, feel free to do whatever you want with him.” I think you should take a look at

Some of the workers fell to their knees in shock, while others continued to shout at Gary, Earny and Elijah for stepping forward, for going against the gang.

“SHUT UP!” Gary said at the top of his lungs, that echoed throughout the factory and silenced everyone in the room. “That old man Earny, who looked after us, and has been working by your side for how long, is dying, and you still stick up for these people.

“You still want to work for them? These people that treat you worse than animals, that say all of you are replaceable, you really want to help and stick up for people like that.”

“We don't have a choice!” One of the women screamed. “What choice do we have?”

Gary lifted his head and looked straight toward Dazza, he then shifted his feet as he leapt across the room at great speed, he clenched his fist and threw it out hitting Dazza right in the head. He was unable to do anything as his teeth were seen falling out and his body flying in the air crashing into one of the machines behind him.

Smoke poured out from the machine while some wires started to spark.

“You said, there are nine whips left right, then let me do the last whips!” Gary swung the whip that was in his hand, hitting the other men in the face, one after the other. Deep cuts appeared on their faces as they screamed in pain.

"I understand you don't have a choice, so I will give you one. I wanted to buy this factory but failed to do so, so instead, I'll give you the choice to leave this city, and come work for me. I promise I'll treat you all well."

pandasnovel.com For Gary to say those words, they wondered who he was, from the way he dealt with the five gang members he couldn't be an ordinary individual, but he was also too young, could they trust this person?

"We need to do something fast, no doubt the other gang members are going to be here at any moment. I know you beat those five but do you really think you can take on a whole gang by yourself!" Elijah asked.

Perhaps if it was just the Scavengers, then Gary would have answered yes, but depending on who was backing them, then probably not. When looking around the room though he saw that there were crates filled with minerals and filled with beast crystals.

"I'm just going to go on a little feast first, and then I'll deal with whoever comes through that door."

Chapter 708 Making Bonds

Originally, Austin thought it was time for him and Vlad to part. After all, he had already stayed at his house, and gotten a lot of information from him, but what he was looking to do would be extremely dangerous, especially for a normal person like Vlad.

However, when he and Killer had split up, Austin had made a simple mistake, how was he meant to find Killer? Without Killer, then he wouldn't be able to find the gang or where this underground fight was going to be.

Which was why, once again, Austin was waiting outside the school Vlad went to. While waiting, he couldn't help but continue to think about the Shadow fighter.

The Shadow Fighter was fast and nimble, and skilled at fighting a bit like Innu. Only the movements were faster and tried to hit vital points that would do more damage. Judging from the small frame the

Shadow Fighter didn't have a lot of strength. Which just makes it more impressive because usually those types would be scared.'

The other thing that came to mind, was why the need to hide one's identity. What benefit did it have? Wouldn't they be able to control the crap that goes in schools more if people knew their face, and if they had a big gang backing them.

The school bell rang and as the students walked out, they couldn't help but point, stare, and whisper about Austin. Many recognised him and heard the stories about Big Mask seeing how he returned, many thought that he had returned to cause more trouble.

It didn't take long for Vlad to hear these rumours which caused him to rush out, and run to where Austin was.

"Come on, let's get out of here, before another problem happens." Vlad said.

As the two walked away, Austin explained his conundrum, and of course Vlad knew where to find Killer, he also insisted on coming with Austin and wouldn't tell him where, unless he was brought along.

"Alright, but for someone who isn't a fighter himself, you seem to be really involved in all of this fighter stuff." Austin said.

Vlad embarrassingly rubbed his head.

"Maybe it's because I can't fight, I've always been fascinated by those that can, I mean sometimes I imagine if I could fight, what I would do, maybe I would be someone like the Shadow Fighter."

Vlad and Austin had entered a row of corner shops that would sell drinks, cigarettes, newspapers and the odd snack here and there. The outside walls were covered with spray paint, and to no one's surprise it looked like Vlad was on the ball because Killer was right there, just outside of the shop.

His face was still very swollen from what had happened earlier in the day.

"I can't even eat anything, my mouth hurts so much, where did that big ape even come from, I couldn't find any information on him." Killer complained. "I guess he wasn't serious about that gang stuff, I hope I never have to see him again."

A large shadow was cast over Killer, he was sitting down on a low hanging wall behind some bushes, and turning his head up, he looked at the person that was blocking the sunlight with a stare, but that stare quickly changed to a shiver.

"You're here, it's Big Mask!" Killer said, falling backward off the small ledge and into the bushes. His other so called friends had already walked off, not wanting to get involved or hurt.

A hand was offered as Austin pulled him out of the push with ease. It was the first time Killer had been handled so easily. He wasn't heavy by any means, but still it was unusual for him to be chucked around so easily.

"Right, so it looks like you remembered that we have that event tonight, and I was supposed to introduce you right, sure, sure, come on let's go, we wouldn't want to be late." Killer said, already walking off.

Inside he felt despair, because how was he meant to explain all of this to his leader, Herbert. I think you should take a look at

Austin had been to his fair share of underground fights, so he wondered where this one was going to be, that's why when they had gone up to the hills in the countryside, he was fairly surprised. To get there, Killer had used his motorbike, and handed one of his friend's motorbikes for Austin to use.

Since his friends had ditched him, Killer didn't really care what happened to the bike, and he doubted he would complain when he knew it was Big Mask who took it.

Upon arriving, the crowd was a lot larger than Austin was expecting, there seemed to be around a 1000 people here, if not more, and unlike those in the city, they all looked well fed and dressed.

"Is it usually this busy?" Vlad asked.

“No... I mean, the Phantom Brawl would draw in a big crowd, but this was meant to just be kind of practice for that.” Killer said.

Parking up, they started to move and could see a makeshift cage, it looked quite official, similar to the one in the AFA. As they got closer, a bald headed man with black leather jacket noticed Killer and ran over.

“There you are!” The man said, grabbing Killer by both arms. “I thought you weren’t going to turn up. Today is a big day we really need to impr—” The man’s speech started to slow, because he noticed that Killer was badly hurt, swollen and bruised all over the place.

“What happened to you, Killer... what happened!”

The man shouting was Herbert and was the leader of one of the small gangs in the city and Killer was his student that was meant to enter the Phantom Brawl.

“You idiot, how could you do this, today of all days. The Scavenger's daughters are here! This could be a big deal for all of us!” Herbert said.

After the shaking was done, Killer finally got some space to give some answer.

“Sorry... but I found a replacement for myself, he will be taking part instead.” Killer pointed at the large Austin.

Chapter 709 The Life Of A Tier-4

At first Herbert had smiled at Killer thinking that this was some type of joke, but Killer was acting awfully sheepishly since he had arrived, and it was even hard for him to maintain eye contact.

‘What the hell happened to this kid, he was my golden goose!’ Herbert thought. ‘He had this perfect wild side to him that would allow him to do anything. A strange confidence as if he could take on the world, and now look at him.

'He's even more shook up than when he lost to that shadow fighter. It took me a while to teach him the skills and bring his confidence back up, and now it's been shattered again.'

Turning to look at Austin, he could see he was well built for his age. Although he was a young teen about to become an adult, he already had the body of a well established adult that had been working out for at least ten years.

Herbert knew that a body wasn't everything though. There were plenty of big guys that looked good and would lose in the fight.

"Well, if you're all I've got, then we're just going to have to go with the flow. Alright big guy, you're my fighter, but you better not disappoint me, today is a big day." Herbert stated.

"I promise sir, he won't disappoint." Killer said, bowing down, knowing full well that if Austin didn't do well then it would fall on him. "But why is today so important, what do you mean the Scavenger's daughters are here?"

The group walked towards the fighting area. It was crowded and full of different types of people from different gangs as along with some students that helped work for the gangs. Usually Killer would also bring a few friends with him when he came to these types of places to fight, just not today.

What stood out though was one group in particular. Everyone was standing away from them, they had somehow brought quite a luxurious limo up in these hills, and they were the only ones that were sitting on chairs.

They were a group of five females, all looking between the ages of 16 and 18. All of the women there had some similarities yet also differences at the same time. It was hard to tell whether they were related or not.

Then there were those around them, standing at the back of the group was a single man with a black bucket hat and oddly strange bright white gloves.

“You should know this already Killer, that all of the local gangs, they get paid and ultimately work for the Scavengers. They are the guys who run the factories while we are just the muscle that gets the dirty jobs here and there.

“The Scavengers themselves, along with their leader, only usually appear at the Phantom Brawl, and there is more interest than usual due to the rumoured prize. I don’t really know why their daughters would be at a place like this... but we should watch ourselves.

“Impressing them could be a good way to get closer to the Scavengers. So big boy, I’m counting on you, if you do well, this could be a big pay day for you, you can go ahead and get anything you wish for in this city.”

Thinking about it, Austin was wondering if there was anything he wanted. Due to his position in the Howlers, he was given a nice place to live, he had a good monthly wage that he wasn't even able to spend and had even received a top model Harby motorbike he had always wished for.

pandasnovel.com He had big doubts that Herbert could give him more than the Howlers but he would just remain quiet for now.

Herbert went off with Austin to the side, and they had somewhat registered at a makeshift table. There wasn't much to registering, apart from just appearing and giving their ring name.

“Hey you, what name do you go by?” Herbert asked.

Thinking about it, he couldn’t give his real name. However, since Vlad had decided to stay by Austin, he had an idea for a name.

“What about Big Mask, that’s what all the kids are calling him.” Vlax said. I think you should take a look at

It was the name that was eventually put down. Now all they needed to do was wait until it was their turn to put up a fight as they walked to get a good position near the arena.

The Scavenger's daughters, as they were called, all seemed to stare in Austin's direction. Some of them pointed at him, while giggling and laughing, while there were those that would just stare hard toward him.

'They really do live a different life compared to the rest.' Austin thought.

As they got ready the first event was starting of the day. Two gangs pushed forward their fighters, one was a small fighter called Muddy. He had patches of different coloured skin on his face.

It was hard to know if it was burn marks, or perhaps some type of condition he had. Then there was his opponent, Sharkey.

It was a larger man that looked to be around the same size of Austin. What Austin noticed was that both of them were able to wear their own clothes as they entered the ring.

For Sharkey, he had his top off, displaying his hard worked body, while keeping on a pair of camp trousers. For Muddy, he kept all of his clothes on including his Jacket as well.

"Alright, time to fight!" One of the men shouted and the cheering had begun. The two in the centre of the arena rushed towards each other.

Sharkey went for a grab, but Muddy was quick and nimble as he ducked under and gave a few hits to the side of Sharkey's body. However, they had bounced off his solid hard body doing next to nothing.

A large swing from Sharkey's hand had knocked the side of Muddy, flinging him into the side of the cage. His body hit the metal side and he winced in pain.

From these small interactions it was quite clear who would win the fight, or at least, that's what Austin thought.

As Sharkey chased down his prey, Muddy took off his jacket and threw it directly in his face. Then running forward he pulled something that was hidden under his waist. It was shiny, but hard to see clearly due to it being nighttime.

A sharp pain was felt in Sharkey's side, and that's when everyone could see what had been used. It was a fairly large knife, or more so a dagger like one that the military would use. It had gone right through the side of Sharkey's body cleanly.

The crowd cheered as they saw this, and Austin's eyes were opened wide.

"Did he just get stabbed!" Vlad said. "Is that even fair?"

"This Phantom Brawl isn't like any underground fight that you have entered before." Killer explained. "Even the use of weapons is allowed... at the end of today and the Phantom Brawl, more than likely, there will be those that you will never hear of again."

The world of a tier-4 city was extremely cruel, where the lives of even teenagers were on the line for the sake of the adults' entertainment, something that they needed to do just to survive in the current world.

Chapter 710 All Of It Is Wrong

The horror was setting in for Vlad and Austin that were watching the underground fight. They had just seen the contestant Muddy stab Sharkey in his side with a type of knife. The thing was, both of these guys were just teenagers who were still in school.

What was even more shocking was that not a single person had batted an eyelid. They continued to cheer and shout and the fight looked like it was going to continue on despite the large injury.

The two of them were learning the reality of how the gangs and those that wished to join operated, because it didn't look like Killer was shocked at all by this, and now it was starting to make some sense why he was practising how to use a weapon.

παΠdasNovel.com "Ah!" One of the five girls that were watching by the side screamed, lifting her hands up, to cover her face, while her red pigtails swung in the air, as she swung her head side to side.

“Dora, it's just a bit of blood.” Rence said, kissing her teeth. She was tired that her sister Dora would have the same reaction each time they came to one of these events. How was she of all people the daughter of a gang leader?

As she got agitated, her long purple fingernails were dragging the edge of her chair.

“This is excitement! This is what we came for, you heard what dad said right, we have to try and pick one that catches our eye, and for me, they at least have to be willing to do everything they can to get on top!” Vivi said, as she punched her large fist into the palm of her hand. She was the largest by size compared to all the other daughters.

“This whole thing is stupid.” Vivi said, her face leaning over the palm of her hand. Her short hair from a distance would make some mistake her for a boy, but when up close due to her elegant long eyelashes and soft skin, one could see she was more of a natural beauty.

However, out of all the sisters, the one that was clearly labelled the beauty of them all was Vere. Who sat up right in her chair, not having said a word or moved as the fight between them continued.

These were the five daughters belonging to the single leader of the Scavengers and who everyone was trying to impress tonight.

Inside the cage, Sharkey was holding onto his side, he was pressing into the wound hard, he had no clue if a vital place was hit or what, but he just wanted to stop himself from bleeding.

He looked to his right through the cage, looking at his mentor and one of the gang leaders.

“The quicker you beat him, the quicker you’ll be able to go to a hospital.” The man said, without a hint of caring.

It was as if Sharkey knew that his words were true, so rather than complaining to his leader, instead he looked right at Muddy and ran forward yelling in the air.

“ARGHHH!” Sharkey swung his fist wide, wanting to finish the fight in a single blow.

"That punch, it's too obvious." Austin commented.

Muddy ducked under the hit and went in, rather than a stab, he went for a slash across his stomach creating a stinging cut. Another wild swing of the arm came from Sharkey trying to ignore the pain, but just as Austin said, the swings were so wild and started from so far back that anyone could see where a punch was coming from.

Sharkey had great strength but it wasn't as if he was the fastest guy, so as long as one remained calm, they would be able to see exactly where each hit was coming from, and in this situation there was one far more calmer than the other.

Muddy continued to slash up Sharkey hit after hit, but the stab wound was what was affecting him most, and it almost looked like he was starting to become pale.

"If no one helps him or calls an ambulance, he's going to die." Austin said.

"Hey Big Mask, you must be new to this whole thing." Herbert said, shaking his head. He wasn't having any confidence after hearing what had just come out of the kid's mouth. "Do you know how many people die a day in this town? I think you should take a look at

"Kids die all the time, messing with people they shouldn't be messing with, taking things they shouldn't be taking. There are those that die from overworking in the factories, and then those that die because they can't even afford their next meal.

"You see us bringing you guys here, is a chance to break you out of that cycle. Everyone can see it, the gangs here, are all well fed and live a good life."

Turning his head away, Austin was avoiding Herbert catching his smile. This was a good life, they had no idea what living a good life being in a gang was. He imagined that these guys were forced to do work from those above.

Whereas in the Howlers, with Gary in charge, they weren't told what to do, instead they wanted to help the gang, the members wanted to help Gary.

Thinking about this and the whole situation, Austin didn't like it.

"Hey, what are you doing?" Herbert asked, as he could see Austin walking away.

"I don't like it, I don't like seeing a junior of mine, someone close to me give up his life like this."

Austin walked up to the entrance of the door, some of the outsiders looked at him wondering what he was trying to do, the door was locked anyway, so he wasn't able to get in, but with a pull, the lock came right off and the door swung right open.

Sharkey looked like he was on the verge of collapsing, as blood was all over the canvas. Running towards him was Muddy, focused on finishing the fight, going for a stab rather than a slash.

"Why won't you fall!" Muddy shouted.

From his right side, a large hand came out and slapped Muddy right on the hand, the knife flew out of his hand and fell to the floor.

"This fight is over." Austin said. "I'm taking him to a hospital."

"What the f*ck does he think he's doing!" Herbert shouted, nearly pulling his hair out.