Werewolf 711

Chapter 711 A Powerful Mask

The sisters' reactions off to the side were mixed, as some had raised eyebrows, smiles on their faces and generally just curious looks. It was the first time they had seen something like this, someone trying to disturb one of their events.

In the past, they had heard stories of things like this happening before, but due to what had occurred, there weren't many experiences after that.

"Who is this f*cker who decided to enter the ring!" One of the other gang leader's shouted.

In particular the one that was in charge of Muddy was the most vocal.

"Hey, the match is still going on, someone get this guy out of here, who brought him here."

From the side, Herbert was giving Killer a glance of death. There was no way, in front of all these angry gang members, he was going to admit that he had brought this person along, and he was trying to tell Killer to shut up as well.

It was best to just let everything take its course.

Muddy, ran across to pick up his weapon that had been slapped out of his hand, and was pointing it toward Austin.

"Hey, do you really want to be responsible for someone's death?" Austin asked. "At your age. I mean, if you had a valid reason maybe you could go on and live with it, but what's your reason for taking it this far?

"Because someone told you? I'm telling you right now, attacking me is a bad idea."

For a second it looked like Muddy was actually having second thoughts about it all, that was until he heard the words from his gang leader.

"I'll pay you double if you get rid of that intruder and Sharkey!"

No more words needed to be said, and as if something changed, Muddy ran forward. Seeing Austin's large size, he thought he would just need to beat him the same way as he had done Sharkey.

He was going to rely on his speed. When close, he went to slash the knife across, but it had hit nothing but air, and a large hand was coming right towards his face. A loud slap hit Muddy, right in the face, it was vibrating the muscles at a great spread before his body went flying back in the other direction.

"I did give you a warning." Austin said.

"Get him!" One of the gang leaders shouted.

Soon, men from each of the respective small gangs started to rush into the cage. They didn't hold back as they pulled out batons, pieces of wood, metal pipes, and more weapons that they had hidden.

They rushed forward, expecting everything to go smoothly with their numbers, they had great confidence and even Vlad was whining at the sight.

'Damn it, I should have never told him about all of this, he's gotten involved all because of me.' Vlad thought.

One of them was swinging down a metal pipe, Austin grabbed it in the air, before throwing out his fist, and hitting the man straight in the face. His body flew just as far as Muddy's had done.

Staying in the position he was in, a wooden baseball bat was swung next and lifting his hand, the baseball bat snapped in half as it hit his forearm. After which Austin grabbed the man by the scruff of his shirt and lifted his entire body with one hand, and hurled him into the others.

It wasn't a soft throw either as those that were hit by the body had fallen and slammed on the ground.

"What the... what is going on?" Herbert thought watching this. "Who is this kid, where the heck did you find him?"

Right now, Herbert was imagining how much of a gold mine this Big Mask was, or could have been. He could have taken him to multiple fights, this was a true talent, so why did he have to go and ruin it by going in like this.

'If he actually manages to take out everyone here, I could have a real player on my hands, I should have said he was mine.' Suddenly a big smile appeared on Herbert's face as he was thinking of all the possibilities and wrapped his arm around Killer.

"You brought a real one this time, how do you even know a guy like that?" Herbert asked.

Killer didn't want to answer that he was beaten by Austin, but even he was amazed by Austin. How was he beating grown adults with weapons with such ease? He was flinging people like they were flies, their bodies were literally flying into the back of the cage as they got hit one by one.

"Crap, can't you guys do anything, it's one guy!" The leader of the gang that was in charge of Muddy shouted.

More and more were entering the ring, while at the same time the ring was being filled with unconscious people.

The sisters were still gobsmacked at what they were seeing, and that's when the man behind them decided to step forward.

"I'm sorry ladies, it appeared that it is unsafe for you to be here." The man said. "It is time you all gather in the vehicle and leave."

"What, are you serious?" Rence asked. "Sure that guy's doing well, but it looks like he's come on his own. Eventually, he will tire out or get hit too hard. What is there to worry about?"

"My duty is to protect you, and I believe thier is a chance that he could come out of this."

The sisters wanted to argue to stay, but in the end they knew they needed to comply and got up. They turned around to head back into the car, when Vivi's eyes were glued to the action in the cage.

"But... I don't think he would attack us. It seemed like he entered to protect that guy." Vivi said, before her hand was dragged along and all of them got into the car. The car quickly drove away from the scene, leaving all of the others.

Back in the cage, it looked like the attackers were no longer as confident as they were before, they weren't charging forward because they were afraid they would get hit, which was when Austin decided to pick up Sharkey and place him over his shoulder.

It was a strange sight because Sharkey was nearly as big as Austin, yet he was carrying him over his shoulder with ease.

"Alright, now that you guys aren't attacking me as much as before, are you going to get out of my way?" Austin asked.

"Don't let him leave!" A voice said from behind.

When the gang members turned, they could see that it was the special guard, the man that was protecting the Scavenger's daughters. Seeing this, they all started to smirk and chuckle.

pαΠdαsNovel.com "We need to bring him in, and teach him a lesson at all costs."

The man had said this from outside of the cage, and was ready to enter. As he took a step forward though, a knife came flying out hitting the floor of the arena right in front of him.

From the edge of the cage a figure was seen and had jumped down, landing not far from Austin.

"Oh my gosh!" Vlad's eyes sparkled as he saw who it was. "It's the Shadow Fighter!"

Chapter 712 The enemy of my enemy is my friend

712 The enemy of my enemy is my friend

In the centre of the ring, Vlad had to do a double take as he pinched the side of his cheek, he had pinched relatively hard that it started to turn a shade redder, but it was clear that this wasn't a dream, the Shadow Fighter was in the ring, and was standing relatively close next to Austin.

The others had stopped their advance for a second at the notice of a surprise guest entering the ring.

"Who the heck is the superhero that's entered the ring!" One of the gang members shouted.

Although the Shadow Fighter was well known among the high schools and those that attended the schools, the same wasn't true for the upper gangs of the city. The Shadow Fighter hardly got involved in any of their misdoings

It was the first time they had seen the Shadow Fighter appear in an event like this. One of the men, who were closest in the ring, was still afraid of the brute strength from the Big Mask, so the man decided to go right after the new fighter.

'With that small of a frame, and that stupid costume, taking him out, will get me noticed!' Jumping from his position, he swung his arm out, but the Shadow Fighter easily pushed the arm out of the way.

Bending his body down, he lifted his leg up and the foot landed right in the man's face, knocking him back down onto the ground. Soon another came to attack, and the Shadow Fighter leaned back avoiding the hit, then grabbed the person's arm, pulling the person forward by their sleeve, and chucked him until he crashed into the cage behind them.

"Crap, who the heck is this person, they're so nimble and fast!" One of the fighters shouted.

"Why the hell is someone even interfering with this, do people not care about the Scavengers name anymore!" One of the men shouted.

Austin was watching the Shadow Fighter carefully because at any moment, he thought that he might turn on him, after all during their last meeting he had attacked him out of the blue.

Since he hadn't attacked him just yet, and were attacking the other gang members, he was starting to think the Shadow Fighter had another gender.

"Is this the case that the enemy of my enemy is my friend?" Austin asked.

Austin had picked up the injured Sharkey who had already passed out, and was holding him over his shoulder. He knew he was still alive, but he wasn't quite sure how much longer he would have if he didn't get to the hospital soon.

"I was wrong about you:' The Shadow Fighter eventually answered.

"I never expected to see anyone at one of these events jump in, in the middle of all of this, to save another person's life.

"Even for me, it would be something that I would have to turn a blind eye to, I can't let two people like this, in a city like this, where there are rotten people all around die right in front of me."

The Shadow Fighter tensed his fists as he said these words.

'It was as I expected. Austin thought. 'Based on all of the stories Vlad told me, the shadow fighter isn't a bad person. He was always going against the other school gangs, and when he fought against me, he just thought that I was like them!

Regardless of this point, Austin was still curious as to who this Shadow Fighter was, for him to be so skilled, and even have the strength and the mental capacity to face real gangsters with weapons.

"Does it look like I was about to die?" Austin replied back.

The man who had entered from before, had taken off most of his clothing. Ripping off his top revealing his chiselled body under and only leaving on his trousers. It was the man who was with the daughters of the scavengers.

"If you were just going up against all of these scraps, then I would have never stepped in!' The Shadow Fighter said. "But now that he has entered, even with the two of us, I don't think we'll be able to take him on!'

Austin looked at the man, sure his body was impressive, but there had to be another reason why the Shadow Fighter was worried.

The man's whole body started to change. The side of his neck was getting thicker, spreading out, while his arms were changing completely along with scales on his face. His hands now had a head on it, one that looked like that of a snake, while having two large fangs coming out of them, and it was the same for his head as well. In total there were three heads of a snake on one body along with the two arms.

"I see why you're worried now, it's an Altered!" Austin said.

"Vixen has been the family guard for two generations. He is the leader's right hand man, and looks after the daughters whenever he is needed. Even though he should be protecting the others, the fact that he has stayed here means you have caught his attention and that's bad news.

"Now that an Altered is involved, it's impossible for us to win this fight. The best thing we can do is run away." The Shadow Fighter suggested.

Austin wasn't afraid though, because he too was an Altered as well. Perhaps it would be the first fight that would make it so he had to use a fraction of his power since coming here.

Shifting his feet, he was ready to go up ahead, as the other members had taken a step back believing that Vixen could solve everything.

"Even if we can hold off Vixen for a while, others will come:" The Shadow Fighter said, seeing Austin step forward. "Maybe I was wrong about you as well. I thought you had stepped in because you wanted to

save that person's life on your shoulder. If you fight now, then it will only lower the chances of us saving him."

In the middle of Austin thinking about what to do, Vixen made the first move, as he jumped up, and swung his arm forward, it started to stretch out with its two large viper fangs coming right at him. Sticking his large hand out, the viper fangs bit down right on the palm of his hand.

"You're right, so I'll need to finish this fight in one hit."

Chapter 713 Strongest Venom

713 Strongest Venom

The mini underground fighting tournament was taking place in the middle of several hills. They had found a nice low point that covered the area well, but due to its tricky terrain, people had to do one of two things to get to the location.

One, either park their car on a flattened area, that wasn't so much covered in grass and mud, and had a little gravel instead or, take their motorbikes. In most cases, a car was a great luxury for those in a tier 4 city in the first place, which was why most of the gang members opted for the latter choice.

However, one group of people had arrived by car, the Scavengers' daughters. After being told by Vixen, their guard, the sisters hurried to the vehicle and rushed off with their driver.

Due to the tough terrain they were driving relatively slow through the hills. The car hadn't travelled far, when the driver had noticed the car tilting to one side, and struggling to go up the hill. The warning signals coming up on the dashboard had confirmed his suspicions.

"I'm sorry ladies, but it looks like we might have a flat tire!" The man nervously said.

"A flat tire, does that mean we're stuck here!" Vivi shouted as she pulled the shoulder of the driver.

Already the other daughters were exiting out of the car.

"Don't worry, every car has a spare tire of sorts, or at least a repair kit." Rence said. "Once the driver replaces the tire, then we can be on our way out."

"If that's the case, then we might as well head back, we can see what's going on:" Vivi excitedly said, and was looking around to drag some of her sisters with her, but that's when she noticed that they had already gone.

"Where did Dora, Imelda and Vere go?" Vivi asked. "Did they already head back without us, without even telling us. What's wrong with them... ahhh, wait for me!"

It was then that Vivi had run off as well. The driver looked incredibly nervous, sweat running down his face. If anything happened to the daughters, or they were to go missing, then it would all be on his head, and he was pretty sure he wouldn't have a head left either.

Letting out a big sigh, he knew he could never catch up to them, or convince them to stay.

"Don't worry, I will get them to come back." Renee said. "You just focus on fixing the car."

With that, none of the daughters were left by the car and the driver was left all on his own. Letting out another sigh, he rolled up his sleeves and felt like it was time to get to work.

"What the!" The driver rubbed his hands against the tire. "This isn't just a normal puncture, it's a large hole in the side. Did someone slash the tires... but then wouldn't we have felt it pop? Either way, I wonder who did this?"

The tier 4 city didn't have many Altereds that were living in it. In fact many, including those that were in the gangs, thought no one had one, which was why the transformation of Vixen had come as a surprise, but to the onlookers it just cemented in their mind why the Scavengers were once again the top gang, and one that no one would attempt to betray.

Vixen's arm had extended out, heading straight to Austin, the snake's fangs opened wide and green liquid could be seen already coming out of the fangs. Sticking his hand out, Austin showed no fear as it bit down and ripped through his skin.

His face showed next to no expression of pain, even though some of the onlookers had winced, imagining that it had to feel like two knives going through one's hand.

"Hahaha!" Vixen laughed. "You, you're just a big idiot aren't you. Is your strong body the only thing you have? You might be able to handle a bit of pain, but you have no idea how strong my venom is.

"A king cobra can take out an adult sized elephant in a matter of hours, yet my Altered form is based off of an ancient snake whose venom is even more powerful. My guess is a human like you, you might only have a few seconds to live'

"A few seconds is all I need!" Austin said. With his other hand he grabbed the neck of the snake which was Vixen's arm.

Using his legs and positioning himself, he yanked on the arm pulling Vixen in. It was with such strength that he was unable to resist as his whole body went flying through the air, and was heading straight towards Austin who had his fist ready for him.

At the right time, his fist was let loose and smashed Vixen right in the face. One of the fangs on his mouth had broken and he was sent flying back as his body crashed into the cage.

Everyone was left speechless and stunned because it looked like a regular human had just beaten an Altered. It didn't make sense, even if Austin was an Altered, surely he would have had to have transformed at least halfway into his form to beat an Altered like Vixen.

This was all because Austin's Altered form was a little different compared to others. Altereds tended to have three types of transformations, their human form, their half Altered form where they still looked human with Altered features, and then a full Altered form, which would be more based on the beast they got their Altered forms on.

Of course, skilled Altereds could also just transform part of their bodies. For Austin though, his Altered form was based on a minotaur, something that in its full form was half human anyway. So if Austin wanted to draw out the power of his Altered form, just looked like a regular human.

Having crashed into the cage, Vixen was starting to get up off the ground.

"Oh, he is actually getting up. I guess he is quite strong after all." Austin mumbled to himself looking at the wound on his hand. He was wondering how much the venom would actually affect him.

"Hey Big Mask!" The Shadow Fighter shouted. "We need to get out of here now, this is the perfect chance. I don't think that guy on your shoulder is going to last much longer and more of them will be on the way! Follow me."

The Shadow Fighter rushed ahead, and two gang members approached him, jumping up in the air, he did a split kick, hitting both of the attackers at the same time.

Seeing as this was the best option, Austin started to charge forward like a bull, and not a single person wished to get in their way. It didn't take long before the two of them had escaped out of the cage, and stolen two motorbikes and were off.

Some thought about giving chase, but after seeing what happened to all the others that had attacked, including the Altered, they hesitated and it was too late by then. Vixen had gotten up, his form reverting back to its usual self, he didn't look to be hurt from the hit, or too bothered about them escaping.

"The Scavengers own everything in this city, they have nowhere to run:' Vixen said. "And if that doesn't work, we have a way to force them:'

Vixen ran from the cage and jumped in the air, his hand reached out and grabbed someone by the back of the neck, lifting them in the air. "You, you had come with them, so I'm going to guess you're their friend!'

In all the commotion, Vlad couldn't find a good opportunity to escape, and now he was in the hands of one of the strongest members of the Scavengers, and he was about to learn that the rumours about them were too kind.

Chapter 714 The Life Of A Tier 4

Riding on the stolen motorbikes, Austin could see that there wasn't anyone chasing them, and the shadow fighter was leading the way, but as he saw there were no pursuers, he suddenly slammed on the brakes after escaping the hilly areas and was now on the road.

The loud screech from the tires and brakes caused the shadow fighter to turn around. They could see Austin just there in the middle of the road, and the fighter known as Sharkey was still hanging on with his arms around his back.

"What's wrong?" The shadow fighter asked, pulling up right next to Austin.

"Vlad, I left that damned kid back there. That Killer guy and his boss, they know that he came with me. Who knows what they're going to do to him. I have to go back and get him." Ausitn said, twisting the throttle of the bike, revving it up.

"Wait!" The shadow fighter shouted. "It's already too late. The backup from the Scavengers gang will have already arrived by now, and if you go back, how are you going to deal with that person that's on your back."

"You take him." Ausitn said, already pulling him off from his back. "You don't understand, that kid is not a fighter. He's only involved in all of this crap because of me. If something happened to him, how the heck am I meant to live that down."

Underneath the mask of the shadow fighter, the mouth was moving quite a bit, and their eyebrows were furrowed.

"I can't take him." The shadow fighter stated. "I... I don't have any money. In this city, because of the situation, they ask everyone to pay upfront before they will even treat anyone.

"Guys like that, they'll just end up being left for the dead. Look, I'll head back, and I'll do everything I can to make sure your friend survives, I promise it. When you think that guy's safe on your back, come to this location."

Grabbing out a pen and a piece of paper, they wrote down a few instructions before throwing over a piece of card to Austin, who had caught it in his hands.

"I'll leave it to you."

Before Austin could say anything, the shadow fighter was already heading back in the direction they had come from, leaving Austin extremely worried for a number of reasons.

'Why would they do so much for a stranger.' Austin thought. 'They don't even know the Vlad kid, they don't have to feel responsible like me, and honestly although the shadow fighter is strong, if they have to go up against that Viper guy, I don't think they would win.'

Looking at Sharkey on his back though, he had no time to waste himself, and hurried off looking for the nearest hospital, with a thought at the back of his mind. How the hell was he going to pay for the operation?

Arriving at the hospital, Austin had parked right in front of it, where the ambulances were meant to arrive. He immediately got off and didn't care as he rushed in carrying Sharkey on his back.

"Hey!" Austin shouted in the waiting room at the top of his lungs, causing everyone to freeze in the hospital. "I have a dying man here, someone get over here and help him!"

Several of the nurses were quick to work, as they got the necessary equipment to treat him and took Sharkey off his hands, but that was when a particular person, not a nurse but a doctor in white robes, approached Austin.

"I'm sure you know the rules, judging by the several wounds he has on his body and the condition he is in. He will require emergency help, which can be quite costly. You have the funds to pay for this?" The doctor asked, looking at Austin up and down.

Even though Austin looked older for his age, at most he could be classed as a university student, and what student would have the money to do such a thing.

"F*CK!" Ausitn said. "Someone is about to die, and all you care about is money!"

Ausitn was extremely frustrated, and he could see the doctor was already on his way to order the other nurses to stop. How could a place be so cruel? A flash of red entered his mind as he thought of threatening and forcing the doctors to work, but wondered what kind of situation that would create.

Instead he pulled out his phone, and made a call to a certain individual. When the phone answered, Ausitn said a few words.

"Kai... I need to pay for a hospital bill."

Austin thought about saying more, about explaining the situation, but he couldn't think properly at the time and no words were coming out. What he didn't realise was that his tone of voice and his few words made Kai aware of how important the situation was.

"Pass the phone to whoever needs paying." Kai said.

Ausitn did as said, and the doctor nodded his head a few times. A few words were passed back and forth, and the doctor eventually heard his phone ping, a notification from his bank.

When looking at his phone, his eyes nearly exploded out of his skull.

"Quickly, take that patient to the VIP room, we have to save him at all costs!"

With the problem sorted, the phone had been handed back over to Austin, and Kai could be heard on the other end.

"Hey, do you need any help? If you need the Howlers involved in any of this, just let me know. The gang is for all of us, we all help each other out." Kai said.

"Thanks." Austin said. "But I'll deal with this on my own."

Chapter 715 Who Is The Shadow Fighter?

With the fee sorted at the hospital, there wasn't much Austin could do, and just hanging around wouldn't change anything. He did have a few words with the doctor from before who agreed that no matter who came through that door, that they would pretend that they had never received such a patient.

'Money can really change people, huh, I wonder what exactly Kai said to that guy.' Austin thought, as he looked at the card he had received from the shadow fighter.

'I can't head to Vlad's place, not without him, and if I stay around here, I'm sure those gang members will come looking for him. I'm not afraid of going toe to toe with them, but that's going to get me nowhere.'

Right now, strangely the only lead and person he could somewhat trust in this new city that could help him in this situation was the shadow fighter. Putting the location in on his phone, he was on his way.

The night sky was still out and it was a little past midnight, a part of Austin felt like he should maybe message Gary to at least inform him of what was going on, but he decided against it. In his mind, it was still a level of problem that he could deal with himself.

Of all places, the location had led him to a set of basketball courts. There were six of them side by side in a grid-like formation divided by gates. The area was completely void of people, most likely due to the time of night it was.

Even kids who were misbehaving wouldn't stay out this late, and not at a run down place like this. Most of the hoops were bent out of shape or ripped off completely. Entering one of the basketball courts, Austin stood in the middle.

'Now what, I don't even know when the shadow fighter will get here. We didn't exactly organise a time to meet or anything. They just said that they would deal with the Vlad situation somehow.'

In the end, Austin decided that he would try to get some shut eye, even on the hard concrete surface. He went up against the fence and laid down looking at the night sky. It was hard to see anything, not even any stars in the city due to the thick smog that covered it due to all of the factories.

'Things will be completely different tomorrow. Although I wore the mask to cover my face, everyone will recognise me just by my body shape. If I can, I want to sort all of this out by tomorrow.' Austin thought, as he closed his eyes.

"I can't believe it, you must be the only person who could do something like this." A voice was heard.

Slowly, Austin started to open his eyes, and a heavily clothed figure that covered their face apart from their eyes was right in front of him, it was the shadow fighter. Rather than being alert, Austin just slowly lifted his upper body off the ground.

"Seriously, you must be the most wanted person by the Scavengers and yet you can sleep out in the open after everything that happened just like that?" The shadow fighter continued.

After taking a few moments to wake up, Austin stood up and looked at the shadow fighter. They didn't seem to have any wounds or such on thier body, but more so Austin was looking to see if Vlad was with them.

"You said you would deal with it, where is Vlad?" Austin asked in an irritated voice. He was already feeling a little grumpy since he had just woken up.

"It's impossible to get to him." The shadow fighter answered and before Austin could complain, they added a few more words. "But he's safe. They're keeping him alive, but the gangs that were there, means he will most likely be in the hands of the Scavengers at the moment."

"You keep talking about these Scavengers, who are they, why are they such a big deal, and lastly what does this mean for Vlad?" Austin asked.

Giving out a big sigh, the shadow fighter went to explain in detail. What the schools were used for, how the Scavengers were the gang in charge of the factories as well as the ones who would be running the Phantom Brawl.

Austin knew a few things as he was piecing things together, but now he had the complete and clear picture of what was going on, fully.

"From what you are saying, then I have even more reason to go and stop these guys. If he's in the hands of these Scavengers won't he be ripped apart. If they own the city, they could force him to do anything."

"And how exactly do you expect to find the Scavengers, are you just going to go and beat up whoever you can find?" The shadow fighter replied back. They were hoping that their words would have dissuaded Austin but it looked to have done the opposite.

"Well, there's the Phantom Brawl right?" Austin replied. "If they're in charge of that, then they will definitely be there."

The shadow fighter was quite surprised that the big brute had worked that one out but was also surprised he would do something so stupid.

"Yeah, an event where all the gangs gather and the strongest are invited to watch. You would just be walking into your own death." The shadow fighter stated. "You remember that Vixen guy, he's an Altered..."

The shadow fighter paused for a second and looked at Austin's hand. They were sure that they saw him get bit. Yet he was unaffected by the poison, and the wound had even disappeared. Could it have been just that they were seeing things.

"My point is, you'll need a better plan to rescue Vlad. There's not just Vixen but recently the Scavengers have gotten their hands on fifteen Altered solutions."

Austin was quite alert after hearing this. Fifteen Altered solutions, no matter what grade they were at, would cost quite a bomb. Only a tier-2 city or a city like Slough now would be able to have the wealth to buy that many solutions. Certainly not a tier-4 city like the one they were in.

"10 of the Altered solutions have already been handed out to those loyal and strong in the gang. While the other five, are meant to be prizes in the Phantom Brawl." The shadow fighter continued to explain.

Hearing all of this Austin was quite curious about something.

"I thought you were a high school student who just beat up delinquents in the area. How do you know so much about the Scavengers including what this grand prize is? Even the other's didn't seem to know about this."

The shadow fighter immediately turned away, facing away from Austin.

"That's what you ask after hearing all of this, does that even matter? After everything I've told you, do you still plan to go in and save Vlad? Do you think this is something you can still do on your own?"

"Yes." Asutin answered quickly and confidently. 15 Altereds might be a bit much, but he was sure he could come up with a plan on the go and there was something else as well.

"If I can't do it on my own. I can call for help, I know someone who could deal with them all." Austin replied.

The shadow fighter couldn't help but laugh.

"You know someone who could deal with 15 Altered on their own, they would have to be the AFC champion or something to do that." I really don't know where you get your confidence from, big mask, when you couldn't even beat me in a fight."

The shadow fighter was a good fighter, and they had managed to get the slip from Austin. Moving into the centre of the basketball court, Austin then took a fighting stance.

 $\rho\alpha\Pi d\alpha$ sNovel.com "I believe our fight was cut short last time." Austin said. "If you really think you're strong enough to beat me, then why don't you give it a go. We have a ring of sorts we can use as well."

The shadow fighter looked to be thinking about an answer for a while, and started to enter the basketball court and stood on the opposite side of Austin, around two metres away.

"I've beaten big guys like you multiple times you know, so why don't we make this interesting. If I win, then you give up on saving Vlad and don't get involved with the Scavengers, I promise I will do everything in my power to make sure he gets away from them."

"Alright." Austin agreed. "Then if I win, you have to help me take down the Scavengers, and tell me who you are."

Chapter 716 A Different Way To Fight

Once again, Austin found himself in a situation where he was going up against the shadow fighter. He started to think back to his first few exchanges he had with the said person. Being an Altered, it meant that Austin was naturally faster and more powerful than he usually would have been.

His Altered form wasn't based on speed or anything, but he still would have somewhat of a natural boost just for being an Altered, yet he was still unable to hit the shadow fighter. This was all due to them being nimble, slippery, agile and flexible at the same time.

'I doubt this person is an Altered, otherwise they wouldn't have reacted the way they had when they were going up against that Vixen guy that protected the Scavenger's daughters, and I can tell whenever they talk about the other Altered they have slight fear in their voice.

'If I was to come up against someone like this, who was an Altered that enhanced these traits in a person, then I would lose. I need to figure out a way on how to beat this person.'

"Come on, are you really just going to stand there and wait for me to make the first move?" The shadow fighter said, with their hand out gesturing for the other to come at them.

Taking on this challenge and being the only Altered in the fight, he thought it was only fair. He charged forward from his position using the explosive powers in his legs. From the reaction, he could tell that even the shadow fighter hadn't expected the big guy to be so fast.

'He's fast and this strong? I saw what he did to Vixen. If I get hit by this guy, even once, then this fight is over. I might even die!' The shadow fighter leaned backward, so much that their back was nearly making a ninety degree angle and avoided the punch completely.

While close to the ground, using their hands they flipped back and used their feet to kick Austin right in the chin, and eventually came up right. They could see that the kick to the chin did little to affect Austin as he continued to charge forward swinging his fists.

The shadow fighter avoided both swings and then when a third swing came, went in and matched a punch hitting Austin right in the face. His weight and his own speed was being used against him, but it wasn't enough to knock him down.

Going for a grab, the shadow fighter was able to duck underneath his arm and create distance between the two again.

'My fist is throbbing from that punch, is his face made of a rock or something?' The shadow fighter thought, holding onto their wrist. 'If my punches are doing nothing, then I need to figure out another way to beat him.'

Austin didn't go charge in to attack again because so far he was the only one that had been hit. He needed to think about his next attack rather than just hoping for a lucky hit.

'Eventually the shadow fighter will tire out, before I do most likely, and then when they slow down my hits will be able to hit them, but I don't want to win that way. If I was going up against another werewolf, that isn't a strategy that I can rely on.' Austin thought.

This time the first one to act was the shadow fighter, who started to run forward. They were light on their feet.

"Do you think this is the first time I've gone against someone your size!" The shadow fighter said.

When they had just gotten in range, Austin had timed it perfectly. Timing was the key to the fight, this was how the shadow fighter was able to create perfect hits at the right time, so then he would just do the same. The thing was, somehow the shadow fighter had predicted this.

Just as they got within range, they had come to a sudden stop avoiding the punch again. The shadow fighter then moved to the side, and could see that Austin had over stretched, he was off balance on his back foot.

Using all the strength they could muster, they went ahead and kicked the back foot. This is what they had done in multiple fights before, and once their opponent fell and they were on the ground, the rest was relatively easy from there.

When the kick landed on the back foot, the smile and all the planning of what to do next went out of the window.

'Just how solid is this guy's foundation, even off balance I can't knock him down. It's almost as if I'm trying to knock down a large tree or something. Have I accepted a fight that I can't even win.I?'

Thinking about it more, and how Austin was able to withstand the venom from Vixen, she was starting to have a certain thought as to why Austin might have been so confident about everything.

In the rundown tier-4 city, there was one particular place that stood out, and a place that most avoided. A large restaurant that had thick double red doors on the outside.

The reason for avoiding the restaurant was due to the people they had seen enter and leave, they had only seen other gang members, those that were in charge of the factory and more. Everyone knew it was trouble, but not many knew that it was the main hang out and base for the Scavengers gang.

On the main floor, there were several round tables that were highly decorated, there was no food nor customers because of the current time, the restaurant was closed for the moment. Yet, there were people waiting inside.

Two men standing up, while one man in particular, a bald headed man with a snake tattoo that went up his neck and swirled to the top of his bald head.

The double doors slammed open, Vixen had entered, walking through the restaurant while dragging a particular person in his hand. When he was close enough, he threw the said person who tumbled across the floor.

On the ground, Vlad slowly lifted his head, to look at the bald headed man, his face was already beaten by Vixen a little.

"As I informed you over the phone, there was a recent disturbance in one of our underground fights." Vixen said. "This one, is one of the students that had arrived with him. I brought him as requested, Sir Nox."

Nox, the leader of the Scavengers, was staring down at the student on the ground that was next to him. Before Vlad could even say anything, he lifted his foot and slammed it on his face, forcing his cheek to grind against the inside of his tooth.

"A person that even managed to escape you Vixen, I find that hard to believe, and why would someone that strong associate themselves with a student of all things." Nox continued to twist his foot, while Vlad grunted and moaned in pain.

"Oh well, we will be sure to get the answers we are looking for from this one, and while we're at it, let's send out a clear message to everyone so this never happens again."

Chapter 717 An Awakening

Fast, agile, nimble, flexible, and a brilliant sense of timing. These were all traits of the shadow fighter that allowed them to win every fight they had. The question that ran through Austin's mind was how was one meant to defeat someone like this.

Sure, he could bully his way to victory, using his large size and endurance to tire out his opponent and win the fight, but that wouldn't work in every situation.

A high kick aimed at his head, and raising one hand, he managed to block the kick just in time. Though the attacks didn't really hurt him, his face was feeling a bit sore due to the constant hits. Immediately Austin threw a blind attack back, but didn't feel his fist connect with anything. The shadow fighter was already by his side and delivered a strong kick to his ribs.

"If I keep hammering away, you will eventually fall, right?" The shadow fighter asked, letting out a nervous laugh, as they themselves were not so sure.

'Focus, focus!' Austin thought to himself.

Having never been trained in any fighting style before, he had no guard, nor had he learned any fighting techniques that would help him deal with the situation. Carefully, he watched everything the shadow fighter was doing and, without realizing it, he had become obsessed like a wild beast.

As the shadow fighter moved to the side to get into a better position, Austin didn't move forward or backward. Instead, he pivoted from his position, making sure his front was always facing his opponent.

He was moving perfectly; there was next to no delay in his movements.

'How...how is he able to keep up with me? It's almost as if he knows where I'm going to move even before I do.'

The shadow fighter even tried to purposefully change their position to get Austin to fumble and then go in, but it wasn't working.

This was all due to Austin being a natural at fighting. He didn't realize it himself but he was picking up on every movement in his opponent's body. People, when fighting, telegraphed their moves, from kicks to punches and more. This was also true for professionals.

Some were great at hiding it, but it also meant there were those that were great at reading it as well.

The shadow fighter moved in, and as they did, Austin threw out another punch. This time, it was in the direction of where the Shadow fighter was going rather than where they were. Still, due to their flexible movements, they were able to twist their head, allowing them to avoid the hit.

They spun their body and went to kick with the back of their heel. It was a fast and fluid movement as if it was planned, but the shadow fighter was just a good improviser. It hit and made a solid connection, only it was with the back of Austin's other hand.

"I finally got your timing down," Austin smiled, his hand tightly gripping the foot. Only then did he realize how small the person's foot was. Focused on winning the match, he pushed forward.

The shadow fighter tumbled to the ground, and Austin quickly fell on top of them, pinning them down.

"You... you win," the shadow fighter said, huffing and panting.

With the difference in weight and strength, they knew there was no way for them to escape the current situation. The match was over.

"Hey, did you hear me? I said the match is over. You can get off me now, unless you really want to give me one, because of all the hits I landed on you!" The shadow fighter shouted.

Even in defeat, it seemed like the shadow fighter was still a feisty one. Austin quickly rose from the fighter and started to reflect on the fight they had.

He was extremely focused. Although he couldn't be as fast, nimble, or flexible as the shadow fighter, one thing he could do was improve his timing. Spot the openings, read his opponent, and use that to strike at the perfect moment.

These were skills that would take years to master, yet Austin was able to learn them in one fight. It made him think; this was probably the first time he had tried to learn something during a fight.

After getting up off the floor, the shadow fighter brushed the dirt off themselves a few times.

"Alright, a deal is a deal. I will help you with the whole Phantom Brawl situation," the shadow fighter said. "But we need to do it my way. I don't want to end up getting killed because of all this. I hope you can understand. I'm not sure about taking on all of the Scavengers.

"But, I can figure out a way for us to get in and get Vlad out of this whole situation."

"Isn't there one more promise that you're forgetting?" Austin said. "I thought you were going to explain who you were and how you know so much."

"What about you? Don't you think you should also take off your mask, unless you're just hiding an ugly mug under there."

Austin quickly removed his mask; there wasn't much for him to hide in the first place. It was just that if they did anything to ruffle a few feathers, people wouldn't associate them with the Howlers.

"I guess you're not that ugly after all," the shadow fighter said, throwing another small object towards Austin.

With quick reactions, he caught it and realized that it was a type of credit card.

"2223 is the pin number," the shadow fighter said. "Use that to stay at the Merlin Hotel. Every night at 9:00 pm, come down to the lobby. I might not be there, but eventually I will and we can go from there."

With that said and done, the shadow fighter rushed off, running away.

"Wait a second... I didn't even get to see who they were or find out their identity," Austin said. "And to trust me so much with a card? Anyway, one thing's for sure." Austin looked at his hand.

When he had fallen on top of the shadow fighter, his hand had slipped to a certain soft place. "I'm a hundred percent sure now, the shadow fighter is a woman."

Chapter 718 I Believe You

Inside of the elegantly decorated restaurant that acted as the Scavengers' base, Vixen was giving a full report of what had happened at the underground fight to Vox, the leader of the Scavengers. He had already heard a little bit about what had occurred over the phone.

He was angry then and that was the reason why he told Vixen to bring his captive straight to him. Now that he was hearing everything in person though, his anger was rising even more than before.

"I see, I see," Vox said, his hands held together. A few moments later someone had come in from the back, and started to whisper into his ear.

"Alright, it looks like we have found everything we need, Vlad Epison," Vox said standing up.

This whole time, Vlad hadn't mentioned his name once. To be honest, he thought that they would ask him all sorts of questions about Austin and who he was or where he had come from but they hadn't said a word. The fact that they knew his name without him saying anything, he had a very bad feeling about what was going to happen.

"Let's go for a little drive." Vox walked right past Vlad, and one of the men that were by his side in a suit lifted Vlad easily up off the ground with one hand. He was pushing him along with his body and Vlad had no choice but to continue to follow.

Outside of the establishment, there was a car waiting for them. Vox got in the front seat next to the driver, while Vlad was practically thrown in the back. He was then squished in the middle between one of the guards and Vixen on the other side.

'What... what is going to happen to me... what...' His mind was breaking, he felt incredibly sick and even the inside of the car was twisting and swirling around.

"I don't know Big Mask!" Vlad eventually blurted out. The fact that he didn't know what was going to happen but he was in a car with all these dangerous people, he had to say something.

"He just appeared at my school one day, and knocked out one of the bullies. He did me a favour and asked for a place to stay, so I let him stay at mine... he said he was looking for some people to fight, and Killer was the one that introduced us to the underground tournament.

"That's all I know... Ah, I know his name is Austin as well, but why he's here or what city he's from, I really have no idea," Vlad said.

All the men in the car had no reaction to what Vlad was saying. Eventually, the car had come to a stop, and looking out the window, he could see that it was one of the factories. It was night so most of the lights were switched off.

'Shit! Shit! Are they going to kill me, and put me in one of those barrels, bury my body here so no one can find me!' Vlad thought.

"I really told you everything I know!" Vlad said.

The doors opened, and both Vixen and the guard still stood by his side.

"It's okay, I believe you," Vox said. "You made our job a little easier, but there is something else we need to deal with."

The group entered the factory and rather than entering the main part of it, they headed to the side where there was a two-floor makeshift building. Heading up the metal stairs they eventually came to a door, and opened it without any introduction whatsoever.

The first thing Vox did was turn on the lights. Multiple people in the room reacted to the light, squinting open their eyes. There were several mattresses just laid out on the floor with blankets; it was where the workers would stay.

When they eventually saw who was at the door, they sprung up, and stood right by their beds, waking up from their drowsy state immediately. However, there was one person that needed to blink twice as there was an unexpected guest.

"Vlad... Vlad, you're hurt, what are you doing here!" It was an older gentleman with grey hair at the side of his head and the middle centre missing. He was thin and frail like most of the workers at the factory. Seeing his son in a particular state, he was already moving before he knew it.

"Get back!" Vixen shouted, as he pushed the old man in the chest. Immediately, the strength used sent him tumbling to the floor, and he coughed as he held his chest in pain.

"DAD!" Vlad shouted. "What are you guys doing? I already told you everything. I'll do whatever you want, just don't hurt my dad."

"I already told you we came here for another reason," Vox said, walking over to where Vixen was. The guard then held both of Vlad's wrists behind his back so he was unable to move, and when he started to struggle, kicked him hard in his legs.

"You see, we run a tight ship around this city. Everything we do is extremely important for the sake of the workers and the rest of us. The truth is though, there are only so many people we have in our group," Vox tried to explain. "The only reason why things work so well is because we are respected, respected enough that not a single person dares to try to go against us.

"Yet, after all this time, someone has. Now I'm sure by tomorrow, there will be rumours spread around how someone went loose at one of our events, maybe people will start to talk about how the Scavengers don't have as tight a leash around the city as they thought, and when that happens it causes problems for us.

"But there is an easier way to solve the problem, to create another rumour that will be spread around. One that will make sure they know the Scavengers haven't lost any power at all."

Vox nodded towards Vixen. The Altered's hand started to transform into that partly of a snake. As it did the fangs opened up and bit right down into the forearm of Vlad's father.

"DAD NOOO!" Vlad screamed and tried to reach out, but the guard kicked his legs again sending him right to the ground. Vlad looked up, as he could see the colour going away from his face.

His father wanted to speak, he wanted to say something as he started to move his mouth, but everything in his body was starting to slow down. He was being paralyzed, every part including his heart, and eventually everything stopped, even his breath.

His dad fell over backwards, falling to the floor lifeless in the centre of the room.

"I already told you, I believed everything you said." Vox looked back at Vlad as he was leaving the room. "You're free to do what you want."

With that, the rest of the Scavengers left the room, leaving Vlad with his father, and the rest of the onlookers and workers to spread word of what happened that day.

Chapter 719 Crystal Feast

Inside one of the many factories throughout the tier-4 city, an unexpected event had occurred that shook all of the workers to their very core. It was something they had never expected and had no clue how to deal with.

It was hard for them to tell what time of day it was, as their routine had been broken, since the windows had been blacked out inside of the factory and the mines had no sense of daylight either.

It was hard to tell why exactly the factory did this, maybe as a form of control. Their phones during working time would be taken away from them as well. They were easy for them all to get to, but they were afraid of breaking any more rules.

The first thing that Elijah along with a few of the other workers did was apply first aid treatment to the old man Earny. He had been hurt pretty badly. Thankfully Elijah, due to his kind of work, knew how to treat someone and there were adequate tools in the building.

'His temperature has gone down a bit and his heart is beating quite strongly. With everything we've done so far, he shouldn't get an infection from his wounds but there's always a chance. It would still be best to get him to a hospital as soon as possible, but for now his life is not in any immediate danger.' Elijah thought standing up, and looking at the panicked workers.

Most of them didn't know what to do and they still hadn't moved from their position. Thankfully, Gary along with the other friends of Earny had helped tie up the gang members that had been beaten with some zip ties, tying them to the large machinery.

Their mouths were also gagged so they wouldn't be able to say anything else that might frighten the workers into doing something stupid. All of this was on Elijah's orders of course, going through everything he had been taught in White Rose.

'How did I get myself in this situation?' Elijah had his hand on his forehead. 'I had one simple job, and I haven't even been able to achieve anything so far. Instead, now I'm in this mess all because I decided to follow the green haired punk!'

Although Elijah was upset, at the same time he couldn't be truly angry with Gary, because he had done the right thing in the end. If he hadn't stepped in, maybe a life would have been lost.

"Alright everyone, the best thing to do for now is to wait in your rooms if you don't want to be involved in any of this." Elijah said to the others. "We don't know when the others will come here.

"But hopefully if they can see that you weren't doing anything, then you won't get the blame."

Elijah wasn't too sure he was doing the right thing even now, thinking that maybe he should just leave the factory before other gang members showed up. However, then it would mean Gary would have to face all of them on his own. With the two of them, maybe they would be able to do something.

"We want to help out as well!" Some of the old men shouted. "We are sick of the way they treat us, and they nearly killed Earny, if it's him now, it could be us next!"

Although some of the workers felt this way, not all of them did. Truthfully though, Elijah felt like the workers would just get in their way if they attempted to fight, they were all just too frail and old.

"Guys, I'm telling you now, there is no need for all of us to get into trouble. The best thing you can do now is look after Earny." With those words, Elijah went off looking for Gary.

Maybe the two of them could talk and figure out how to deal with this situation.

Walking around the factory, it didn't take long for Elijah to find Gary, but he was in the strangest of places.

He was in the sorting section, where they would separate the minerals into different large containers for different parts, and Gary was standing in front of one of the containers.

'Why is he here at a time like this?' Elijah thought.

In Gary's hand he had a crystal, one of the crystals that would come from the large rocks that they broke off. He saw it in the air and the next thing he did blew Elijah's mind.

Pulling his mask slightly down, Gary's mouth opened wide, and with his teeth he bit down on the crystal. It broke into pieces easily, and Gary continued to bite the crystal, eating it away until it was completely gone.

"What... what are you doing!" Elijah shouted out of shock.

Seeing who it was, Gary quickly pulled up his mask.

When Elijah ran over, he could see that there were crumbs of crystal all over the place, and the container was half empty.

"Have you just been eating these crystals this whole time... why... is this what you do when you're nervous or something?" Elijah asked.

How was Gary meant to explain himself out of this one, in the end he was unable to come up with a good lie so he thought the truth was the best way.

"These crystals, if I eat them, they make me stronger," Gary answered.

Inside Elijah's mind, he still felt like Gary was crazy but then remembered that Gary was an Altered, and this factory had to have these crystals for some reason. Was it due to Gary's Altered form that required these crystals, or was it all Altereds?

Picking up one of the crystals Elijah wondered if it would work with him. He saw Gary pick up another

crystal and turn his head to the side as if he was embarrassed about eating.

'I know Gray is a little crazy, but he can't be completely crazy... right?' Elijah thought as he opened wide,

wondering if his teeth and jaw were even strong enough to eat the crystal.

Surprisingly when he bit down, the crystal broke easier than he thought. It crumbled into his mouth but

the texture wasn't nice, it almost felt like he had just put a bunch of sand in his mouth.

He powered through swallowing the crystal, and when he did, he was unable to feel anything, in fact he

placed his hand on his stomach as he felt a little queasy.

"I don't think I have the stomach for this."

Looking at Elijah, Gary could also tell that he was an Altered. His movement speed was too fast when

they worked together in the mine, but Gary didn't care for who he was.

'I guess, not all Altered can get stronger eating these crystals, I still would like to test it on the other

werewolves though.' Gary thought.

Either way, Gary continued feasting on the crystals that he had gathered increasing his stats bit by bit,

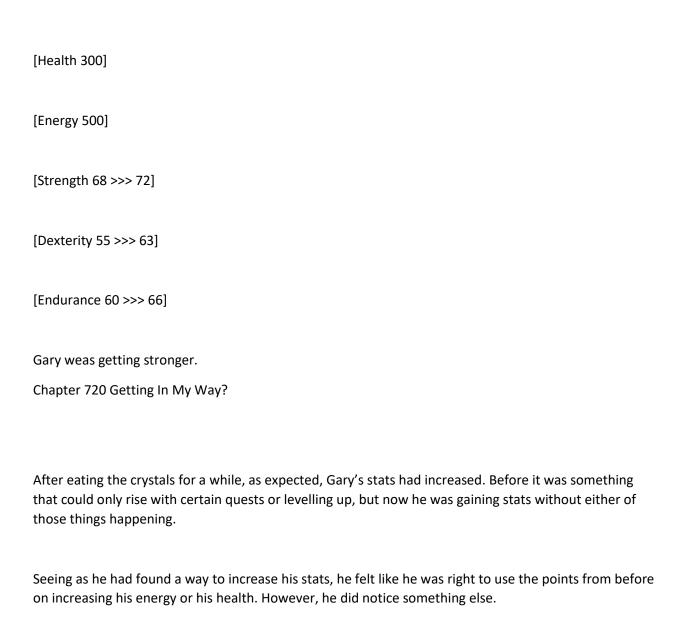
ready for whatever was coming for him.

Gary

Grade: Rook

Class: Dark Warrior

Level 28



The crystals that stated they were at the basic tier were no longer doing anything for him. Before he would have to eat a few and he would gain a few stat points here and there, but now there was no

The intermediate crystals he found would still give him stat points, but they were extremely rare with

'I guess I should stop with the crystal eating for now. There is still a crate full of these things, and I can't imagine how many more could be mined from this place. For now, I should just put them all in one box,

increase after eating five of the crystals in a row.

and give it to the other guys when I get back.'

him only finding two of them.

That was exactly what Gary was doing. Elijah watched him carefully stop eating crystals and move them all to one container, honestly Elijah had almost given up trying to figure out what Gary was doing or why he was doing crazy things, he was more worried about the current situation.

"It looks like they've finally arrived!" An older gentleman shouted as he ran through the front door of the warehouse. It was one of Earny's friends who had been keeping guard outside. Seeing the cars arrive meant that the backup that the others had called for was finally here.

Five large vans had pulled up outside of the factory. The door slid open and each of them had around six men who had come out all dressed in black and holding weapons in their hands.

They were standing by the fence not yet heading in, as they were waiting for one more person. A man came out from the front of one of the vans, with raggy purple hair that looked a bit like a mop.

"I can't believe workers rebelled in a place like this, I thought everyone was already too scared of us to act that I would have stopped coming out like this." Rex said. "Let's just deal with this whole situation before Nox finds out."

Back inside the factory, the old man who had seen just how many gang members there were outside was shaking. He had gone into detail of what he had seen and everyone else had heard as well.

The few that were willing to fight from before, weren't so willing to fight. Going against thirty or so armed gang members was suicidal in their minds.

"From the sounds of it, the one that's come with them is one of the squad leaders, Rex." Elijah mumbled to himself. Before joining the factory he had done research on the local gangs and of course the Scavengers came up.

Since there was so much to run on top of the factories, the Scavengers were split up into squads and assigned a leader that knew how to fight. Elijah wasn't too worried, he was an Altered and one from White Rose.

However, with that many people, he would perhaps have to transform into his Altered form, and doing so would out his identity and he would fail the mission. The door to the factory was bust open and torn off its hinges.

Immediately running through the door were several men with mainly bats but a few others had handheld weapons as well. They lined up and looked at what was in front of them. They were hoping to see a number of factory workers having set up ready to fight but that wasn't the case at all.

Instead, they could just see two men standing in the centre of the room. All of the workers had gone to their rooms and were leaning with their faces up against the square windows looking and wondering what was going to happen.

Earny had also been moved to one of the rooms as well, out of harm's way.

"Only the two of you, what the heck is going on?" Rex asked, as he entered. "Where is everyone, why the heck are they hiding, peeking their heads out of the window."

Soon Rex could see the tied up gang members. It seemed like the rebellion was true, but it was still strange as to why there were only two people out in the open and even more so he could see one of them wasn't worried at all.

"Do you think we're playing games here?" Rex said, touching his head as if he was in pain as a sudden headache had come on.

Stepping forward was Gary. Elijah let him go, he was hoping they would have more time to talk to each other about the plan, but they had no time at all, so he would just have to go with the flow and support him.

"Are you the boss around here?" Gary asked. "I'm going to assume you are, since you're the one doing all the talking."

Rex was still taken aback, how could someone talk so forward to him while being surrounded by so many people.

"I promised these people that I wouldn't let them get hurt, and get them out of here to look after them. So I'm going to ask you, are you planning on getting in my way?" Gary asked.

A large smile appeared on Rex's face. This masked man, who did they think they were? He was a squad leader of the Scavengers. All the people that worked in these factories were basically slaves, how did they ever get the thought of trying to rebel.

"Get in your way, of course I'm going to stop you all, and I'm going to fu*king break you-"

Rex stopped speaking midway, because right in front of him, up in the air, he could suddenly see Gary with his fist.

'How did he manage to get here so fast, it's almost like he teleported?'

That was the last thought Rex had before Gary's fist slammed right into Rex's face. His body lifted in the air, and he was sent flying right through his own men.

Gary landed on his feet, and stood up straight in the middle of all the gang members.

"Now, I'm going to ask the rest of you the same question, are you going to get in my way?" Gary asked.

Elijah was stunned. He hadn't moved, he barely saw Gary move from his position and to head straight in there and take out their leader, the only thing he could think was he was with a crazy person, but he was glad this crazy person was on his side.