

Werewolf 761

Chapter 761 1 year later

A year had gone by since the fight between Gary and Midwak for the battle over who would be the Alpha of the Howlers' pack. In turn, whoever won this fight would have control of the other Beta Werewolves, which included Kai, Olivia, and Maria.

It wasn't just the Howlers' pack, but more so the entirety of the Howlers' corporation that was on the line. Thankfully, Gary had managed to win. It wasn't an overwhelming victory, but it was a victory that had been achieved during the day.

It showed that Gary now had the strength to defeat a powerful Omega wolf at Midwak's level without using the class skills he had obtained. The reason for him doing this had worked out as well.

Midwak, although able to challenge Gary once every month, had never challenged for the position again, nor did he seem to complain about the tasks he was given by Kai.

This was all because a promise between the two after that fight had been made, and although Midwak was still wild and hard to control, he seemed to be keeping to the promise that had been made between the two.

Progress was fast for the Howlers and what used to be the town of Slough. Slough was now considered a city rather than a town, and not just any city; it was officially recognized as a tier-2 city.

This was mainly due to the connections that it had brought in with Cardenez Electronics and AJ Entertainment. The city grew, absorbing the surrounding towns as well, and the place looked nothing like it did in the past.

Large grand buildings, business offices, freshly paved roads, and sidewalks all appeared in the area. There was a high level of skill and workforce that was constantly coming into Slough.

To the outside world, there were two groups of people responsible for this. One was the famous investor and ex-AFC fighter, Gary Dem. The rumors stated that using the money from his short-lived AFC career, he had made a few successful investments and continued to rapidly expand from there.

Although this wasn't the case because Gary had already invested in multiple projects under his name before he even made his debut. However, the public knew next to nothing about that, so the rumor that fit the better narrative was the one that was spread in the end.

Then the second group was the Howlers Corporation, which was just a gang under disguise. The other gangs knew this and knew they had to have a high level of strength since the Howlers also were in charge of Notsburg, another tier-2 city.

For many gangs that were too focused on themselves, they had felt like the rise of the Howlers was overnight, and if anyone was to try and mess with them, they would lose too much in the process. They were now too big to just wipe off the map.

There were multiple reasons for this. One was that the number of Alterededs in the Howlers' group had increased.

Kai was successful in obtaining Altered solutions from the auction. In turn, they had given the solution out to the squads within the Howlers' group, to those who were most loyal to the Howlers and were willing to go to Notsburg that day with Gary.

These Alterededs were then trained by the ex-AFA teacher Crowley. He had come to terms that he was working for a gang, but for the things he had seen the Howlers do in the time he had been here, his impression of them was a good one. Kai had even had a direct talk with him explaining the full scope of the situation and invited him on board as an official member of the Howlers.

His answer was a no, but he stated that he would always protect his students, and if there was a situation where he felt another was in the wrong, he would help. So he continued to teach the students. Despite knowing about the Howlers, Crowley still had no clue that the leader was Gary, only that Gary was a part of the gang.

Crowley training the Alterededs had a big impact on the gang's strength, and he wasn't the only addition that helped them grow. Surprisingly, there was Vere as well. She had kept up communication with her tier-4 roots.

Later on, it was found out that Vivi had taken over the role of communicating between the factories and the NIRV. Because of this, a scheme had been set up where they would take a small amount of each delivery of beast crystals, and it would be handed to the Howlers without NIRV knowing about it.

They were kept for research as Tom would drop by every now and then. A facility was still in the early stages of being built for the Howlers to make their own Altered solutions. If they did, then it was safe to say that they could even match up to the kings.

There were some unexpected things that had happened though. For one, Blake and Innu had yet to return from the Altered Hunters. Innu did keep in contact with them from time to time, through letters of all things.

But it seemed whatever he was doing, it was taking longer than they thought. The fact that letters were still being sent on a monthly basis showed that Innu still cared quite a bit.

Which led to today. Gary was walking down a street with a fairly large overcoat covering his body. He had grown taller and filled out his shoulders, making him look a lot more like an adult.

If one was to glance at him, they would think he was in his mid-20s, not a boy turning close to eighteen. His green hair was in the same state it always was, flowing in the wind, unchanging though.

Stopping for a moment, Gary looked up. "This city really has changed a lot." Gary stood in front of a giant centerpiece of the city. It was a large round tower-styled building, and at the top, there was a circular revolving restaurant that would allow one to view the entire city.

"When mum wakes up, she's going to think she's traveled into the future or something."

Gary continued to walk, entering through the door. The entrance was busy and packed with people. They were waiting to be seated at the bottom floor restaurant, all dressed up for the evening.

One of the men at the door greeted him, to which Gary reached in his coat pocket and handed a blank black card with a golden trim on the outside.

"Please follow us, sir, we will take you right to the top floor."

"Hey, wait, did he just cut the queue!" One of those who were waiting said.

"Hey, shut up, don't you know who that is? That's Gary Dem?"

"Wait, what, that's the Gary Dem! Ah crap, I'm sorry," the man said, rubbing the back of his head, embarrassed.

Entering the elevator, it shot up right to the top floor. The floor with the revolving restaurant, which was booked out 6 months in advance. As he stepped out the doors though, the floor was practically empty. That was because the entire place had been reserved for Gary.

Walking forward, there was a seat that was right by the window, and a female with stunning grey hair was sitting looking out.

"Were you waiting long?" Gary asked.

"Long time no see," Xin smiled.

Chapter 762 The black and gold card

Gary sat down in his seat and pulled the chair closer to the table. As he lifted his head, he looked into Xin's eyes. They were as beautiful as ever. What had started out originally as just a simple crush had grown stronger in Gary's heart.

The two of them, although having spent little time in total together, he still had yet to find someone who made his heart beat faster or gave him the feeling of butterflies when he saw them in person.

It had been over a year now since the two had met in person, and yet here he was in front of her, getting those same feelings again.

"It's been a long time since I've come back to this hometown of mine," Xin said. "It really has changed a lot, and look at you as well, you look completely different. No, there is something different about you."

Gary smirked as the courses came out and were delivered to the table. They were small in size but with several smaller plates, allowing a person to get a true taste of everything. It was a fine dining experience which Gary wasn't really fond of, but he thought it would be a nice treat.

"I mean look at this, who would have thought from school you would have become so successful. I've heard that you invested in so many projects and now you're fancy enough to book out the whole floor to yourself?" Xin said as she dug in.

Gary did feel a bit guilty about taking over the restaurant, and the amount that needed to be spent nearly made his heart break in two. It was only because he wanted somewhere completely quiet for the two of them, and for their first meeting in such a long time, he didn't want to take her to the Wolf's Pool Club.

"The city has changed thanks to your father. He has been a good mayor," Gary commented.

"Oh please," Xin replied. "You know that's all a charade, do you think I was born yesterday? It's thanks to the Howlers and I guess you as well. I wanted to ask Gary, why did you leave the AFC?"

It was a question that had been playing on Xin's mind for the longest of times, so much that she had done research into Gary. He was supported by the Howlers organization, which was a gang in disguise.

She knew the two had to be working closely together because a lot of the projects in Slough that made it what it was today were spearheaded by the Howlers Corp and Gary's name.

So she could only guess that it might have something to do with the gang.

"I've been busier, and I felt disingenuous. My goal was never to be part of the AFC; it was a dream but it wasn't a goal," Gary answered. "I just wanted a good place for my family to live. Amy has that now, but my mother, she's still... asleep."

Xin still didn't get the information she wanted, but she also felt wrong to push him because the answer felt like a genuine one.

"I heard your next fight is a ranked one. If you win it, you'll enter the top 50. It's an important step for you, right?" Gary asked.

Finishing their third course, it was time for dessert. Strangely, what had arrived was a chocolate brownie with some ice cream. To which Gary had pushed over toward Xin, stating that she could have it.

"That reminds me of when I first met you. Weren't you sick all over? I thought it was because of the chocolate at the time," Xin commented.

"Haha, it was," Gary replied. "I'm allergic, so you go ahead and eat up."

After taking a few scoops of the dessert and tasting the sweetness in her mouth, she started to speak again.

"Yeah, the next match is a big one. If I get in, I can finally fulfill my promise with my father. I can then go around and do what I want. I'll be strong enough to be free and independent."

After waiting for Xin to finish her dessert, Gary then went into his suit pocket and pulled out a black and gold card, sliding it over to Xin.

She picked it up and looked at it, but she could see nothing on it; it was just a black and gold card, nothing else.

"What is this?" Xin asked.

"I asked for this meeting because I knew you were coming back before your big break. I really did want to meet and catch up with you, Xin," Gary explained. "The truth is, though, that there is also an ulterior motive to calling you here. That card is from the Howlers group."

"It's a formal invitation. I heard that a lot of companies and groups have approached you, and you denied them all. I don't know what your reason is, but I was hoping since the two of us are close with each other, you would accept this invite."

Xin held onto the card for a while; she was playing with it. When she looked at Gary, she was almost upset by him.

"Gary, I know that the Howlers are a gang. The reason why I rejected those offers is because I'm about to finally be free from my father's control. I don't want to go ahead and join a gang and then be under their control.

"I don't know what your situation is with the Howlers, but I respect your decision. But I can't just accept being sponsored by a group I know nothing about, or have them force me to do things I don't agree with. I'm sorry."

Xin went to hand the card back, but Gary stopped her by pushing it toward her.

"I'm asking you, Xin, to join us. We will simply sponsor you; you won't be under us, but we will be partners. You know as well as I do, you can't keep rejecting them forever.

"Those at the top will force you to join, just like they did with your brother. If he couldn't escape it, neither can you. But if you join the Howlers, then I can help you in some way, and I promise, we won't ever make you do something that you don't wish to do."

Gary was smooth with his words, but it was still extremely difficult for her to do so, even though she knew Gary was right. She went to give the card back one more time before Gary stopped her again.

"Gary, don't make this harder than it has to be; how can you even make a promise like that?" Xin asked.

"I'm making a promise, Xin, not just on behalf of the Howlers but also from me, Gary Dem, the leader of the Howlers group and corporation. The leader of the Howlers gang."

Chapter 763 Accepting the invite

Almost immediately after hearing the words that Gary had said, Xin dropped her fork, which she was using to enjoy her dessert, onto the ground. It took her a moment or two, and she only reacted when Gary was the one who went to pick it up.

The two of them slid under the table and reached to get the fork.

"It's okay, I'll get it," Xin said, as she placed it back on her plate and sat there in silence, looking at Gary until she eventually smiled.

"Haha, that's quite the funny joke, Gary," Xin chuckled. "I mean, it's a good way to try and convince me, but it's kinda cruel, don't you think? You know, growing up, all I would hear were the bad news and stories about gangs from my father, even though he was quite the big hypocrite."

It wasn't just her father, but even during the time she had lived with her brother, the two of them would always consider those working for gangs as scum. Yet, everywhere Xin's father, Ben Clove went, he would work closely with a gang to get what he wanted. This time, it appeared that things in Slough hadn't worked his way, since the Howlers had taken over everything and had placed Ben as a figurehead.

Gary took a moment, looked directly into her eyes, and didn't falter for a moment as he spoke again. "I'm not joking, Xin. I am really the leader of the Howlers Gang, the corporation. I'm in charge of it all."

The shock still hit Xin the same way. She almost had forgotten to breathe for a moment and took in a sudden deep breath.

"I'm not lying to you," Gary added. "I'm sure you've heard the rumor as well. That I earned money from my time in the AFC, and I used that money to invest, and that's how I became a successful business tycoon. But you should know, of all people, how unbelievable that is. We don't make much money from fights, let alone a debut match. Nearly all of it is from sponsors. Everything I invested and now own, all of it was through the Howlers gang."

"You really are serious, aren't you?" Xin asked. "When... when did this happen, how did it happen, how is it even possible?"

It was quite the story for Gary to tell, but he decided to be somewhat truthful. He explained how he was originally in the Underdogs gang, working as a transporter. He had an accident with a delivery, and that was how he had originally become an Altered.

From there, he went on to explain his connection to Kai and the continuing spiraling and growing of the whole gang. What he did leave out, though, was all the parts to do with him being a werewolf. This was a secret that the whole world didn't know, and back then, there were multiple frightening things that had occurred, those to do with Billy and so on.

"I can't believe it, I can't believe you were going through all that... I thought something was up when you and my brother came to save me, but honestly, I didn't know much. I thought the Howlers were already an established gang, but for you to have raised it from the ground up," Xin continued, amazed.

"Honestly, although we call ourselves a gang, that is just to protect ourselves from others getting involved in Slough," Gary explained. "I hope that you would know me well enough to know that I wouldn't try to do anything underhanded."

Immediately, Xin couldn't say anything bad about the Howlers, just a single look at how much the city had changed showed that. Once in a while, when she talked with her father, she would hear him complaining, but that seemed to lessen as time went on as well, as even he saw the benefits to it all.

"It's still really hard to believe that you were the boss of this whole thing. Wait! Does that mean you also had a run-in with my father?"

Gary was a little nervous to admit it, but he nodded and gave a nervous smile. "We had our differences, but things are fine now. I know you disliked your father, but I'm sure you care about him as well. You should know I wouldn't do anything to hurt you."

Both of their cheeks turned a shade redder after hearing those words, and in order to change the subject, Gary started to tap the card that was laid out on the table.

"So about the sponsor, as I said, it would be coming from a genuine position. I wanted to offer this to help you. If you accept, then all those annoying offers from other groups will go away. If someone wants to get to you, they will come through us. You won't be part of the Howlers, just working with us."

Xin picked up the card again and started to rotate it, pushing its edge against the table, continuously flipping it over and over. She had to admit that this was a good deal in more ways than one. She was originally either just going to go with the best deal one of the corporations offered or go with one that wasn't so flashy, in hopes they wouldn't ask much of her.

"I want to say yes, I like you, Gary, I like you a lot, and you are actually one of the few people who knows what's important to me and puts me first. I now understand why you left the AFC. I had no idea you had such big things going on. Now that I know who you are, it might be selfish of me to ask this, but I can't help but do so because I have no one else I can ask," Xin said.

"If I accept your sponsor, I want you to look into a situation. It's to do with Jayden, something is wrong."

Chapter 764 Help Jayden?

It was unexpected words that had come out from Xin's mouth for Gary honestly. For one, Jayden always seemed like this powerful figure who was above him, almost like a teacher. It was hard to imagine him having any type of trouble.

But, since Xin was concerned, he wanted to hear her out, more so than that, he would have been willing to help Jayden out as well if he asked for it.

"What's wrong?" Gary asked. "Isn't everything fine? I saw that he just recently entered the top 25 in the AFC. Hasn't he been doing really well?"

Gary had been keeping track of all of his fights. Going from top 50 to top 25 was quite a feat in the AFC, and Jayden had done so by continuously taking on fights.

There was a rule in the AFC, and that was that Alteredds weren't allowed to use active skills or powers. They were allowed to use anything that their bodies transformed into, but that was it.

This gave a slight advantage to those who were more physically altered and relied on their bodies transforming. Yet, Jayden had gotten out of the rut he was in by using his pure skill and strength by studying and allowing his skills to grow to the next level.

"That's even more reason as to why I'm worried," Xin said. "Before, Jayden always used to have a happy face, even when fighting. There were at times when I would catch him looking down now and again... but I never knew the reason why."

"When I see him fight on the screen now, it's almost scary. I tried to get in contact with Jayden as well, but he's not replying to me."

Gary wondered why Jayden would do such a thing. He seemed to care about his sister dearly, and he would know that not getting in contact with Xin would worry her. The only thing Gary could think about was the last time he had met with Jayden.

'It was after that special lesson, where we all had to go up against him,' Gary smiled to himself but looked down so Xin didn't think he was smiling at the situation. 'He then visited me on the rooftop, back then it felt like he wanted to tell me something, but he just couldn't.'

'I wonder what it was that he wanted to tell me. He said he would do so when I was strong enough? Am I strong enough to help him now.'

Gary

Grade: Rook

Class: Dark Warrior

Level 33

[Health 300]

[Energy 500] (1000 during The Night)

[Strength 75]

[Dexterity 65]

[Endurance 68]

In the year that had gone past, Gary hadn't leveled up much. There weren't many opportunities where Gary could gain exp. At the same time, he didn't have many quests that would appear either. Just like in games, the higher Gary's level, the harder it was to level up due to the exp.

He still did his best to try to find opportunities when he could, which was why he had even increased in strength by this much. What was more apparent was his skills that he had gained, which had leveled up. He still had no idea what the cap a skill level could get to, but with each level up the effects of the skills improved greatly.

[Claw drain Level 3]

[Last stand: Level 1]

[Howling force: Level 1]

[Magnetic Howl: Level 1]

[Lethal Pounce: Level 1]

[Claw strike: Level 1]

Skills could be upgraded via pawn points, or it seemed like repeated use of a skill or a quest could also upgrade them. Since they could be upgraded from repeated use, it was hard for Gary to commit any pawn points to upgrading the skills, but he knew how valuable they were.

"Do you think there is a reason behind his strange actions?" Gary asked.

Xin shook her head. "I don't know much, but honestly, I was thinking that maybe my dad would know something. I was too young at the time, but there was a change around my brother at some point. He acted differently for an entire year. I don't know why, and my father won't tell me, but with your position, maybe you could find something out or try to contact him through other means."

It was worth a shot, and in Gary's mind, it was worth it if he could ease Xin's worry even for a bit.

"I'll try my best, but I can't make any promises. I will update you when I can; it will be easy to get in contact with you if you're one we sponsor." Gary winked.

Hearing this, Xin couldn't help but chuckle. "Since when were you such a good salesman? I will sign the contract. I'll be staying at the Mar Hotel while I'm here; you have my number, so get in touch when you need me."

Gary now had a task set out to do, and with everything being so peaceful, he didn't mind looking into it. Little did he know, at that moment, on the same day, something big was starting to go on in the city of Notsburg.

Bursting through the large red doors of the casino, a large man stood there with a red hood over his head.

"Hey, what are you doing making a commotion like that?" One of the gang members who worked as bodyguards at the casino said. He went towards the strange man to apprehend him. As he did, the intruder grabbed his arm and twisted it.

Then, with his other arm free, he slammed it down, breaking it on the spot and kicking him away.

Immediately, all of the guests were on high alert, and so were the other guards who had surrounded the individual.

"This has been a long time coming," the intruder said, his large smile and teeth visible just under his hood. "It's time to get rid of the Howlers!"

Chapter 765 Growing Pack

The man was remarkably large in size. One could tell even though he was wearing a large green hoodie. It was tight around his body, showing his well-developed shoulders and muscles. What had come as a surprise was how someone so muscular was able to move that fast.

He had made quite an impression on his entrance. The guards pulled out batons from their backs, and as they tapped the bottom, they started to light up.

"Oh, Anti-Altered weapons!" The large man said. "It looks like quite a bit of money has been spent on the protection of this place, huh."

With the weapons in their hands, the men had confidence as they charged in. They swung the baton down, but he swiftly avoided it and kicked the guard in the stomach, sending him flying.

He then grabbed the baton in the air that he had dropped and swung it, hitting another guard right on top of the head. It had been swung with so much force that the baton itself had broken.

From the very back, though, a small arrow was fired. It hit the large man in the chest and started to spark up. Blue electricity went all over the outside of his body.

Yet the big smile could still be seen on his face as he pulled it from his chest and threw it back, landing right in the center of one of the guards' heads.

"ARGHHH!"

The guests were screaming at this point. When the intruder had come in, they originally thought the matter would be dealt with. It wasn't the first time the casino had to deal with such problems. Many of the guests were regulars and quite enjoyed the show that would be put on as the guards fought against the unruly guests. This time it was clearly different, as one of them had even died in front of their eyes.

"Everyone, the Casino is closed, everyone is to exit out of the place immediately!" one of the guards shouted at the top of his lungs.

The guests started to run out from the emergency exits by the side, and even the main entrance as they made their way around the intruder. If there was one good thing, it seemed like the intruder didn't care about the guests and was only focused on the others.

"That guy, he took the Anti Altered weapon like it was nothing!" the guard said. "It means he must be an Altered, right, and not just anyone, a strong one as well."

Some strong humans could take hits from the weapons; it was just based on him having next to no reaction at all. It was safe to guess that it was the case.

It was then, coming down the stairs from the second floor, two bald-headed average-sized men with black sunglasses covering their eyes had come down. They were wearing clean suits but hadn't buttoned up their white shirts all the way, leaving it open at the top, revealing some of their chest.

"It's Bardolph and Bardo!" The guards shouted. "They must have heard the chaos."

The two bald-headed figures that walked forward both straightened their suits. It was almost impossible to tell who was who. Some would think they were twins, but they weren't. They just dressed the same and looked rather similar to each other.

Bardo started to sniff the air, his nostrils flaring.

"It wasn't the noise, it was the smell of blood."

"An Altered attacking us?" Bardolph smiled. "Do you even know what type of group you're attacking? I heard what you said earlier, you're after the Howlers, yet for some reason, you decided to attack here first. Is it because you thought Notsburg would be easy."

"No," the man answered in a deep voice, and he was grinding his teeth back and forth to the point where nearly everyone could hear it. "It was to send a message. We like to play a little fair compared to others.

"And to show that you guys don't stand a chance."

Both of the bald-headed men started to laugh.

"We don't stand a chance? You have no clue what we even are."

Both of them proceeded to take off their jackets and threw them on the floor. The moment they did, their bodies started to change and grow in size. Fur started to appear on their arms and legs, and on their noses started to stretch out like a large snout.

The clothes were ripped, and their deadly claws and razor-sharp teeth were on display. These weren't Altered; they were Werewolves.

These two were Werewolves that had been changed by Midwak, and not Gary himself. As time went on within the year, Gary had broken the restrictions of the Pack rules that kept him at bay because it truly felt like he was committing to the cause of building a pack strong enough to defeat the other Alpha.

However, time and time again, Midwak would mention the need for growing the pack. This was something that Gary had fought against for the longest time. There were a lot of risks involved with making other people Werewolves.

Sure, they no longer had to suffer under the curse of the full moon, but there was still a chance that the turning wouldn't work, resulting in death.

In the end, Kai was the one that had to convince Gary. And he had stated as long as those that were taking part in it knew the risks, then he would let Midwak do as he wished.

The pack would grow, giving Gary more pawn points to use to grow his strength. Even those made by Midwak, anyway, would still be part of the Howlers' pack and loyal to him.

The two werewolves charged forward, running on all fours. One of them leapt up in the air, while the other swung from below. The large man ran forward and leapt up, avoiding the one on the ground completely, and with his fist, he slammed it right into the werewolf's face, sending him back across the room and crashing into the slot machines.

"You dogs don't scare me."

Chapter 766 A bigger problem

The werewolf that had crashed into the slot machines was Bardo. He quickly got up from the hit, as coins fell off his body. He had been hit quite cleanly, but he didn't look to be majorly injured.

"Damn, that guy packs quite a punch, and he hasn't even changed into his Altered form. Just who is this person?" Bardo thought.

The two had even dealt with Alterededs coming to attack them before. Once in a while, other cities seemed to run tests on just how good the protection of Notsburg was. They would hire other gangs and send their Alterededs to attack. Having been hit so far and so cleanly in one go was a first.

Bardolph, who was on the ground, went ahead and fully tackled the man in the waist as soon as he landed.

He saw the large man lift his hands, ready to slam them down, but before they had done, Bardolph swung to the side and got right behind the large man. His attack had missed and hit nothing but the air.

With his werewolf strength, he lifted the man by the waist into the air, ready to slam him, performing a suplex. Mid-swing, the large man wasn't phased. While he was spun in the air, he carefully placed his legs on the ground first, breaking his fall, and then lifted the werewolf by the waist instead. He had him around his neck before he slammed the werewolf's back right into the ground.

It was a reverse suplex, and the sheer power had crushed the ground completely. "Damn... who are you?" Bardolph said.

The hit was strong, and he needed to wait for his supernatural body to heal a bit. Before the large man could finish him off, though, Bardo was already on him, his claws were out, and he swung them rapidly and widely from side to side.

"You really rely too much on that Altered body of yours, that you don't even know the basics? Were you even a fighter? Why would they select someone like you?"

The large man avoided the swipe and quickly, with his hand, threw it out, slapping the werewolf right on the side of the face. It made a large impact, and the sound vibrated through the place.

Bardo, annoyed by this, continued to swipe, trying to move his hands faster and wider. Still, the large man avoided each one, and carefully as he avoided a swing, he could quickly go in and slap the werewolf right on the face again.

"Is this all the Howlers have?" The man said as he continued to slap Bardo again and again. It was to the point now where the hits were building up and taking their toll somewhat. His movements were slowing down.

And the large man went in, giving him two fast slaps from each side of the face now. "I can't believe that you're all this weak. You wouldn't stand a chance against anyone in our group. Why did we wait so long to act?"

The sound of heavy footsteps was heard from behind, as Bardolph had recovered. Just like how his fellow teammate helped him, he was now going to help the other. The two of them worked best together, but due to the large surprise, they hadn't been able to.

It was a sneak attack from behind, but as if he had eyes at the back of his head, the large man lifted his leg and side kicked the werewolf, sending him right back where he came from, through the doors and entrance of the casino right outside, falling onto the concrete.

The other guards that were standing by the side were speechless. They had been watching the fight so far and didn't know how this was happening.

"How can someone be so strong without using their Altered form? How could they take out Bardo and Bardolph just like that?"

When the large man turned to look back at Bardo, he lost track of him, and he was out of his sight. Turning to his right, he could see the claw swipe aiming right from his head. He lifted his arm up, blocking the attack, and the claws had ripped through his skin, drawing blood, but the attack had been stopped.

"Although you're weak, you guys are some of the most interesting Alteredes I've ever met. You heal incredibly fast, and it seems like no matter how hard of a beating you take, you just seem to keep getting back up!"

With another fist, this time the large man twisted it as it hit the werewolf right in its face. Its snout looked as if it bent inward as the bones cracked. Bardo was sent flying off again, and when he landed this time, his werewolf form was coming to an end.

"It's a shame everything had to end so early, but I guess it's time I take over this place, and then it's time to prepare to move on to the next area."

The guards took a step back as they saw the large man step forward. Even with their anti-Altered weapons, they felt afraid. That was until walking down the stairs, his hands in his pocket with an open black and gold jacket revealing his abs, and wild hair, a man had appeared.

"Which idiot decided to mess up this place so bad that I had to come down? Do you have any idea how much this all costs?" Midwak said.

"Does it matter?" the large man replied. "It will soon all be ours anyway."

"Oh yeah?" Midwak ran forward across the ground. He had yet to transform, but when he got close, his legs changed, his arm and his whole body. The large man threw an overhand, but Midwak was faster, coming right in and tensing his fist, it slammed right into the large man's face.

Now it was his turn to go flying in the air and crash on the ground.

"I could do with a snack," Midwak said, licking his lips.

Chapter 767 Midwak's fight

The large man was lying on the floor, his shoulders were shaking. His hand lifted to the top of his hood and he pulled it down. The only thing one could see was the large grin on his face and his large pearly white teeth.

Using the momentum of only his legs, he jumped up from the ground. The workers that were watching felt like the hit had to have had some sort of effect on the large man. After all, who wouldn't after being thrown in the air like that, and from Midwak of all people.

When standing, he looked like he had next to no trouble at all.

"This is what I was expecting, this is the type of power I was expecting from a tier-2. You must hook quite the high potion in the Howers gang. It's a shame for you, that it won't be enough."

Midwak pointed both of his hands out, and nails started to fire out from them. The large man quickly spun his body, avoiding all of them and charged forward at the same time.

"You're fast for a big guy!" Midwak said. "But I'm faster!"

Jumping in the air, Midwak transformed his legs and kicked the large man with both his legs right in the face. As he was leaning back he used his arms to punch him back up again, and swung his arm giving a hard punch right to his head.

Midwak continued, as he went for hit after hit, he did so from side to side, again and again. The large man's head was swinging rapidly as steps back were taken.

'Why... why does it feel like none of my punches are fully connecting!' Midwak thought. Glancing at his opponent, he could see under the hood that there was a smile on his face.

Midwak soon could tell, other than the first initial hit he had done at the beginning, none of these hits had the full force of his weight behind them. The large man was predicting where he was going to hit, and was going with the flow as he swung his head side to side.

The large man swung his body again, but this time when Midwak went to strike, he swung back and his arm clashed against Midwak's. The two of them collided in the air with neither of them losing out in terms of strength.

'What type of Altered is this guy even, he's able to withstand my strength!' Midwak was getting annoyed. The veins on his head were growing and his eyes started to narrow.

"If I eat you, I guess I'll get a nice little boost in strength!" Midwak declared.

His whole body started to transform. His legs, his arms, and his size started to grow along with the rest of his fur. With his hand pointed out, Midwak fired out his nails again. They pierced the man's chest and blood was dripping from his wound.

Now having fully transformed as well, Midwak swung his arm overpowering the large man, and went to swing with a clawed hand.

Just in time, the large man was able to lift both of his hands. The claws ripped through his hoodie sleeve, and cut the skin on his arms. He was sent a few meters back, skidding on the ground and then jumped a couple of times to make sure he was away.

The man noticed that the speed of Midwak had increased along with his strength.

“I should have expected?” The man lifted up his arms, blood dripping down them. “They said that I should have been able to do this job without having to transform, but I had an inkling that they were wrong. You guys are stronger than I thought, but you will never be able to go up against us.

The large Altered started to change, his whole body was growing large in size, he had finally activated his Altered form. Midwak was staring at the turn that was happening in front of him.

His eyes were continually looking up higher and higher as the change continued and a shadow had been cast over his whole body.

“You're one ugly F*ck.” Midwak said.

The other workers at this point had decided it was time for them to leave, and had run out of the casino, abandoning their position, while the two other werewolves had gotten up, heading toward the back of the establishment.

“We can't leave Midwak to deal with that thing!” Bardo shouted.

“If we stay, we'll die.” Bardolph replied.

Gary had finished his meeting with Xin, he wanted to do more with her, spend some time with her, but he felt somewhat bad that he was hanging around with her while she was worrying about her brother.

So the first thing he decided to do, after leaving the hotel, was to head to the Wolf's Pool club in order to meet Kai.

Standing outside the hotel looking at the city lights, Gary could see the eyes of others looking at him. He smiled and gave them a wave. While in public he was Gary Dem, the business tycoon.

Only when he had the mask on, was he the leader of the Howlers, but the Howlers gang still treated him with respect as well, as they knew Gary Dem worked closely with the gang.

They treated him just as nicely as they would any of the core members, on the orders of Kai of course.

'Ah, things aren't quite like the past, he could be busy, held up somewhere or working on some project. I should give him a call, just in case he isn't there.' Gary thought pulling out his phone.

"Oh, Gary, I was actually just about to call you." Kai said, answering.

It was strange because Kai rarely called him unless it was something big, otherwise he would always much rather just send a message, so it concerned him a little.

"It's about Midwak, he's in the hospital."

Chapter 768 Who Attacked us?

Due to the severity of the situation, all of the core members of the Howlers had been called. Kai, Marie, Olivia, Austin, and of course, Gary were present. Innu was still considered a core member, but contact with him was limited due to his current situation.

All of them were now traveling in the regular limo, making their way to Notsburg.

"Are those really the only details we know so far?" Marie asked. "Don't you think it's strange that someone would attack the casino, the base, but not go after the rest of the city or any of the other gang members?"

"Do you remember when Midwak attacked us?" Kai replied. His elbow was placed on the edge of the car, and he had the window open ever so slightly, just enough for two fingers to fit through.

"He attacked me at the time because he wanted to send a message," Kai explained. "It's often in cases like this that they show their power, so we see that there's no point in an all-out fight. They had managed to take out Midwak, who was a powerful ally of ours, which goes to show what type of enemy we might go up against."

At the time, Midwak had certainly shown his power. Many groups perhaps would have chosen not to fight after learning what had happened but Gary was filled with rage at the time instead.

Gary's heart was racing slightly. He remembered beating Midwak originally, and since then he had gone on to beat him a couple of times more, but each time they fought, the word "weak" would have never entered his head. He was certainly strong, and whoever took him out, it meant they were a serious enemy that they needed to consider. The real question was just who it was.

Eventually, they reached Notsburg. They pulled up at a large sized hospital. The building had several floors and had arches around with trees and greenery. It was one of the best hospitals in Notsburg.

"Did you guys have to build everything in Notsburg so flashy?" Austin asked.

"You have to admit, it does fit the scenery," Olivia replied. "With all the flashy casinos and the flashy billboards, the hospital fits in."

Entering the hospital, the group did so with their masks, and the staff surprised them by being quite polite, bowing down. There were also several gang members in suits, all of them wearing the same colors as the Howlers, black and gold. At first, since the gangs in Notsburg were made up from the remnants of the old gang and mostly followed Midwak, they were against it, but as the Howlers became a bigger name, wearing the uniform had become their pride, and in turn, they had learned to greatly respect the leader of the Howlers. After all, they were their bosses that filled their pockets with cash.

A doctor came to greet the group, and they soon followed him up the elevator, which led to one of the top floors. They walked past large doors with a significant amount of space between each one. The rooms they were walking past were the VIP rooms, and eventually, they opened the door of one. The group walked in to the sound of small bleeps and clicks as they heard all of the machinery going off.

When inside, they could see Midwak lying flat on a bed, attached to a number of different types of machinery. Inside the room, there were not only a few other nurses but Tom was there as well.

"Do you mind?" Kai asked.

It was the signal for the rest to leave the room, and that's exactly what they did.

"I've looked over him like you asked, but I'm not sure why his body's not healing so well," Tom answered. "I gave him plenty of meat, but his state is like this, as you can see."

They could only see bandages and casts over most of Midwak's body; he even had a brace around his neck. It was certainly a strange sight for a werewolf of all things, since they were good healers as long as they had meat. With his eyes, though, they could see Midwak was fine, and it appeared his mouth could move as well.

"I bet you guys are over the moon, seeing me in a state like this," Midwak smiled, but he quickly stopped and winced in pain slightly.

"We aren't happy about any member of the Howlers being hurt," Gary said. "And you are not only a member of the Howlers but our pack as well. Who was it that did this? Was it the other Alpha?"

"No, it wasn't the other Alpha. Do you think they would have left me in this state? They wouldn't have let me live," Midwak replied.

"Then, was it the Altered Hunters? No, it couldn't have been them; they wouldn't have let him live either," Marie mumbled to herself.

"Maybe it was a vampire, like the one that went after us that time," Olivia stated.

"No," Midwak said again. "I didn't want to admit it, because to me it's embarrassing, but it was just an Altered. They were just another Altered."

An Altered that was powerful enough to take on Midwak. There shouldn't be many that could be counted.

"Gary, I have a message for you," Midwak said. "Right now, the way you are, you would lose to him as well. So you need to stop being all friendly with everyone and get stronger! Otherwise, you will lose everything that you managed to build up."

Judging by the words said and what Kai had said before, he felt like this could only mean one thing.

"Our enemy this time, it's a gang that belongs to a tier 1 city. It has to be one of the Kings," Kai stated.

Chapter 769 Attacking in a different way

The group had left Midwak in Notsburg. They had thought about taking him back to Slough with them, but he himself didn't want to do that. He said he was fine, and with a bit more food, he would be back to normal. Gary was inclined to believe him.

The damage was just more than what he could take. On the drive back, though, the group couldn't help but worry, wondering who did that to him.

"Are we going to be okay?" Marie asked. "Midwak was pretty strong. He probably is just under Gary in terms of strength."

"Hey," Olivia said. "We have been working hard training together. Don't go putting your hard work down the drain like that. Besides, style makes up fights."

"I think the real shocker in all of this is that it just took one person to take Midwak down," Austin stated. "I would have expected a whole gang to come."

"Hey!" Kai clapped his hands loudly together. "We shouldn't think like this. This is exactly what they wanted. They wanted to startle us by taking down one of our strongest with a single person. You guys having these thoughts is exactly their plan. What we need to do is find out who did this and figure out their next move."

Gary was silent about the whole thing. Before, in his mind, he needed to get stronger than Midwak. He had achieved that, and in turn, had stayed on top of him, making sure he never grew stronger than him. Yet now, there was an enemy that just took him out like that? Either way, he had been focusing on his development for a while now because he knew eventually he would have to go up against the other Alpha.

When the group had returned back to Slough, Kai was ready to give them all a few orders. In order to get to the bottom of what was happening. But that's when he received a call.

He answered it, not saying much. He was mostly listening and ended the call with few words. "I'll be right there," Kai said.

Heading toward the car, Kai opened it with a concerned look on his face. "Everyone, stay in Slough and report to me if anything happens. Stay in contact with your squads and make sure they're on high alert!"

The others nodded, knowing something was up. They could feel the blood pumping in their bodies. "Gary, you come with me; we need to head out now!"

Entering the car, the two of them had eventually ended up back in a tier-3 city they had visited before. The car quickly rushed off and stopped just outside a large, wide mansion of sorts that had heavily eastern influences.

As they entered, several men greeted them wearing strange clown costumes, and eventually, they were inside. Sitting at a table was Harry Cardenez and Numba Cardenez, the head of Cardenez Electronics.

They had a company base in Slough as well, but the factories remained in their old city, as well as where the Cardenez family lived. At the same time, they had expanded work and connections with several other cities as well, all under the protection of the Howlers.

"It is a shame that we have to meet under such conditions. I would have preferred it if we only met when there is good news to share, not bad news," Harry stated.

"The situation can't be helped; please can you explain the details?" Kai said, sitting down along with Gary.

"We got the call that an intruder had arrived at one of our factories," Numba explained. "I was in the area, so I had decided to head there myself. When I arrived, though, so much destruction had already been caused."

"I managed to catch a glimpse of the person, but they were too fast, even in my Altered form. I was unable to catch up with them." Numba explained. It was clear he was upset by the fact.

What Numba's story made clear, though, was that the person had to also be an Altered.

"They had destroyed our shipment and one of our factories just before a large order. We have had to apologize to our customer, but based on the timing of the attack, I'm sure it wasn't a coincidence."

Both Gary and Kai looked at each other concerned. It certainly didn't seem that way, especially after Midwak had been attacked as well.

In the middle of their conversation as well, Kai had received a text. "I apologize, but there is somewhere else I need to be. Whatever help you need, we will support you, and I would suggest you stay on guard for the time being. They could be targeting other factories as well."

Gary didn't have time to see how Numba had been doing, especially since he had left the academy. Because as quickly as they came, they were leaving again.

Driving in the car, it didn't take long until they had reached their next destination: Aj Entertainment. Entering the large, tall glass building, they had come to the top floor, and that was where they had met with Ashen, the head of the entertainment block and industry.

Heading inside their office, AJ didn't have a smile on his face. "I wasn't expecting you to come over today, but I guess it is an important matter," AJ said as he handed over some documents to Kai. "There's a company that is trying to poach our stars.

"They're offering to pay for the contract-breaking fee and better terms. Honestly, it's a really good deal, one that makes no sense. If a company was to do this, they wouldn't be able to last a year, even if someone is bankrolling them. However, for the stars, it's almost too good of an offer for them to refuse."

"A lot of our stars are willing to stay with us because they have treated us so nicely, but I have to admit some will be tempted by this. So we might have to put in counteroffers soon."

"So you're asking for more money?" Kai replied.

"At the end of the day, it's something that we might need to do, or AJ Entertainment will cease to exist."

Sweat was starting to run down the side of Kai's head. It was the first time Gary had seen it. Kai was so uneasy; he was clearly startled by everything.

"Gary, can you see what's happening?" Kai said. "Our enemy, they're taking out all of our gang's revenue streams. AJ Entertainment, the Casino, and the factories. They produce the most income for us, other than property."

"Whoever is behind this, they're trying to take us out without even fighting us."

It was a type of battle that they had never been in before. Usually, they would just fight with their fists, deal with their enemy, and that would be that. However, they were going up against a group that had larger resources than even them.

The state of Howlers had now become public knowledge; all of their businesses were known to the outside world. Yet, an attack like this, Kai just never expected it to happen, not without them antagonizing or upsetting one of the kings.

"Gary... I don't know what to do," Kai said for the first time since the two of them had teamed up together.

Chapter 770 The Kings but who?

Gary and Kai had just left the main office after their talk with Ashen, having learned what was going on and all the problems the Howlers were dealing with. Gary had seen Kai fall to his knees.

He looked straight ahead, staring at the hallway that led to only the elevators as he proclaimed he had no idea what to do.

It was the first time, the first time Gary had seen Kai like this.

"Kai, you've always been strong, always doing everything for the gang behind the scenes and have never been able to rest.

"As things have gotten bigger, you continued to take on that burden each time. It must have been getting to you, but we never saw it. And now with everything being attacked at once, you don't even know where to start."

Walking over, Gary placed his hand on his shoulder.

"The answer is simple," Gary said with a smile. "We just need to find out who's behind this and pay them back ten times more. We don't have to worry about anything else."

Gary's simple view allowed for a light to be seen inside Kai's mind because it really was that simple.

He had thought about how to protect the many things the Howlers had come to earn. He was wondering what the best solution would be.

But if they got rid of the one causing all of the problems, then they would be okay.

"Think, I'm sure you can find out a way to find out who was behind this, right? And then I'll be the one to take them out."

Letting out a big breath, Kai started to think. With the level of power they had now, who would be willing to be their enemy?

He had already narrowed it down to one of the Kings. It couldn't be the other Alpha; they would have sent a werewolf to deal with Midwak. It would have been a much more powerful message. Out of the others, it was unlikely to be the Dark Guild. They were a good customer of theirs, having purchased many of their solutions.

Other than that, there was still quite a list for them to go through.

Heading back to Slough, Kai's phone continued to vibrate. He had been getting messages non-stop asking about what they should do.

For now, he would ignore them all and ask Harry, the head of Cardenez Electronics, to deal with it all.

He was one of the more trusted allies they worked with and had a good head on his shoulders. He trusted him to make the best financial decisions with the current situation at hand.

Meanwhile, Kai's brain needed to be used and focused on something else.

When in Slough, he and Gary went downstairs to his office where he had pulled out a large whiteboard and a red marker and started to write a number of things down.

"From what we know, there are four major powerhouses that currently control the state of this country, and nearly every other country is set up the same way," Kai explained as he drew four words and circled them.

"You have White Rose, which is funded by the local governments all over the world. Although they are a force that claims to be against Altered, they mostly remain neutral unless serious problems occur. They wouldn't touch those like the Kings unless they had a good reason to.

"I also spoke to Elijah, and he confirms they have no involvement in any of this. The next are the Altered Hunters. They are against Altered as a whole in general, but they would either make a move against small gangs or try something big against one of the Kings, not us, a tier 2 gang," Kai continued to explain, crossing both of them out.

"Then we go to NIRV. Although they are not a gang per se, they have the retrievers. Contracts with those connected to all sorts of gangs out there, and those in the AFC. They even categorize their retriever groups via classes, going all the way up to triple SSS, which includes the Kings. You could say they have the most power."

"But can they really utilize them all?" Gary replied. "For instance, if they ever tried to use a retriever group with one of the Kings to attack another city, would they even accept?"

“Exactly,” Kai replied. “They are aware of this as well. They are somewhat like a bridge that connects all the gangs together. Actually, almost like a spider web with them in the center. But if they ever find out a reason for eliminating one of these gangs, I can imagine it will be very easy for them to cut one of the threads off and force all the others to go after them.

“After all, the reason why the Kings don’t attack each other is because there would be great loss on their side, and then they would go after each other.”

NIRV, White Rose, and the Altered Hunters. It was clear where Kai was going with this; it had to be one of the Kings that were messing with them.

“There are five tier 1 cities in this country, meaning there are five Kings in total. First, the Dark Guild, who run the auction houses. They are on the best terms with nearly all the gangs due to their black market houses they run; we see how good the relationship is between them due to the auctions, so we can rule them out.

“So with that, we have our suspects, but we have to know why one of them would target us? There’s the Bree Gang. They are more of a family rather than a gang and a large one at that.

“They have members of their family running gangs all over the planet. So they aren’t just large here but all over the place as well. They do have the power to do this to us, but I honestly can’t see why they would. Or any reason for them to, unless they are just testing the waters.

“Then we have the Lupus group,” Kai explained. “I didn’t tell you this before, but if I’m honest with you, this is my guess as to who the other Alpha and Pack are.”

Gary’s heart thudded when he heard this; it was the first time Kai had mentioned such a thing.

“Why do you think that?” Gary asked.

“Because of the other options. The other two, the leaders are public and well-known. We have Havor Ego, from the One Clan. Havor isn’t just the leader and a King, but is also the number one ranked AFC fighter out there.

“Then finally, we have Sin Ignis. The most brutal of the Kings, who does whatever he wishes, and also the closest to Slough.”

Looking at the list, there were three possibilities.

The One Clan, led by Havor Ego

The Phoenix Gang led by Sin Ignis

Or the Bree Family with gangs all over the world.

One of these three was their enemy, and Gary didn't know who he would have preferred.