

## Werewolf 771

### Chapter 771 Finding the one

Going up against any of the kings wasn't going to be good for them, and there was another worry in this battle. After fighting against a king, how would they recover, that was even if they won.

Surely the other kings would be watching and waiting, ready to pounce on the opportunity to take the city and its resources; fighting against one of them wasn't just fighting against one of them.

"They had to have made this move now before we got any bigger," Kai said, rubbing the side of his chin. It was where the scar was from when he had been hurt by Midwak. It was something he often did when he felt a little stressed by the situation.

"So we need to find out why any of these guys would attack us, right? From the standpoint of them just worrying about us getting bigger, wouldn't Sin Ignis be the first choice since we're the closest city?" Gary asked.

For the first time, Gary and Kai were thinking along the same lines.

"It's not just about who we think, though we need to know for certain. Say we decided to go against Sin, perhaps this is exactly what another gang wants, and then they can eliminate us from behind or get rid of two birds with one stone. We can't rule out a gang just using us either."

Thinking about it hard, once again Gary was the one who had thought of a solution as he snapped his fingers.

"What about Midwak? Isn't he our best bet? He fought against this person, and he was close enough to even smell him," Gary pointed to his nose, his nostrils flaring slightly. "If we visited these cities, I'm sure that Midwak would be able to smell them out."

"That's the best idea we have, but I'm not sure it's the best idea," Kai replied. "Are you sure that you can work with Midwak, and that he would want to work with you? We can't send everyone to these cities; it would be obvious, so there's a good chance it might just be you and him, and it would have to be you. I don't think anyone can handle that guy."

Now Kai was grabbing the bottom of his chin. It was fair to say that although Kai wasn't scared of Midwak like he was in the past, he still didn't like being next to him.

"I have another idea as well that we can try before that; let's use Tom," Kai pulled out his phone and was already dialing.

"Tom, why Tom?" Gary thought.

Tom was still in Notsburg looking over Midwak's condition. It was quite amazing; the werewolf's healing capabilities were more amazing than any Altered he had dealt with before, as long as they had something to eat.

With the condition he was in, even an Altered would take about a week to fully recover, but Midwak would be ready to go in a couple of days.

Answering the phone, Tom was a little surprised to see who was calling after they had left not too long ago. Answering it, he listened and gave a few nods here and there.

"I see, I think it could work, but you know if it wasn't a solution by NIRV, there's nothing that we can do, but I'll get started on it right away," Tom said.

Hanging up the phone, Tom looked at Midwak.

"Do you mind answering a few questions about the Altered you saw? I need you to describe everything you can about him."

Midwak was surprisingly quite cooperative with Tom, perhaps it was because he was the one feeding him or administering the drugs that made him feel better. Either way, it allowed him to write down the notes on his laptop.

The plan was, based on the descriptions that Midwak gave, Tom would search through the database of NIRV. In doing so, he would try to see if anything matched up with the description of Midwak's attacker.

If it did, then Tom would also be able to tell who NIRV had sold the supply to, but of course, there were other organizations that sold Altered solutions, and there was the black market. It was still worth a try though.

Writing in the details, Tom wasn't able to get a match, but he didn't want to give up there, so he decided to make a call himself.

"Dad, sorry for the unexpected call," Tom said with a pleasant greeting.

"No, don't worry, it's always nice to hear your voice. So what's up?" His Dad asked.

"I'm going to be sending you a few details of an Altered; you have higher clearance than me. I was just wondering if you could do a check to see if you can find any matches," Tom asked.

There was silence on the other side of the phone for a few moments until his dad finally replied.

"You're not doing anything dangerous are you?"

"No, don't worry, I'm not in the line of danger. I'm just helping some friends."

The phone call had ended, and Tom continued on with his day, checking a few work things here and there. It was only a short while that he had managed to get a call back from his father.

"Son, are you sure you're not doing anything dangerous?" His Dad asked, not saying anything else.

"I'm perfectly safe, I promise. I'm just looking into a few things, and they need this information so they can be safe as well," Tom answered.

Once again after a few seconds, it looked like his father had given in and was willing to give him an answer.

"There was a match concerning the description of the Altered you gave me. The thing was it wasn't in the normal database. It was in the corrupted Altered solution sections. It was an infected Altered solution that the lab was still working on. However, the reports state that it was stolen from the lab."

"Stolen, and an infected solution, why would they do that?"

"I don't know, and we have no clue why, but I want you to be careful. It was two infected solutions that had been stolen, and both of them were recorded as Mythical Type Altered solutions."

Chapter 772 The king behind it all.

The information that Tom had found out was passed onto Kai, and now it was becoming clearer as to why Midwak and even Numba had struggled to catch whoever it was that had attacked them.

Still, the main issue had persisted; they had no clue who was behind the attacks in the first place.

"This group." Kai tensed his fist, slowly banging it on the table. He had kept his anger in; otherwise, it would have been smashed in half. "The group is crazy enough to even do this to someone like NIRV. They must be confident that even if they were caught, they could handle the consequences."

"Mythical type Altered's," Gary repeated, trying to remember the information he knew about them.

"Most Altered forms are based on ancient beasts that used to live on earth, right? In turn, a lot of them look similar to the animals we still have on earth but aren't quite the same. But as for Mythical types, that's something more on the lines of what Austin has?"

Gary knew his fair share about Altered's, that was because of his heavy interest in the AFC, but mythical types weren't something even seen in the AFC much. But after learning the truth about the AFC and how Altered's weren't allowed to use certain skills, it might just be that they were hiding their true power, and there were more mythical types than one imagined. An example of this is Austin, who was also a mythical type. Some might think he was from a bull-type beast when, in reality, he was from the mythical monster known as a minotaur.

"Not all mythical type Altered's are technically strong," Kai stated. "In a sense, some would just call an Altered type beast that is extinct or we have no knowledge of as a mythical type, but we don't."

"When people talk about mythical type beasts, they are referring to beasts that even we know that have been passed down in legends. Creatures that were so strong that we still know about them, such as Dragons, Phoenixes, Minotaurs, and so on. There is a reason why the names of these frightening things have become legends, and it's because of their power."

"The way NIRV classifies mythical types is in this category, which means they are certainly strong. As for why they weren't selling them or keeping it for themselves entirely would be because they were infected. I fear, Gary, that what Midwak had said was true. That maybe the members of this gang are extremely strong."

On the coast of the country, there was a large house made mostly of glass that was built slightly on a cliffside. The view allowed the person to see the entire sea in its full glory. Sitting outside on the balcony on the nice sunny day was a man dressed in dark red clothing.

He had a pair of bronze-tinted shades on his head, which went well with his youthful skin and red hair. If one were to see this person on the street like so, he would be talked about in seconds because it was none other than the King, Sin Ignis.

"The sun is shining nice as always, giving me a nice prickly heat on my skin," Sin said, picking up his glass of red wine and taking a small sip before placing it back down.

"You two didn't mess up. I thought you would have done so, but it seems like you did your research," Sin continued.

Stepping forward was a top-heavy man with a hood above his head. He had broad, round shoulders, and the red hoodie he was wearing wasn't too tight, yet one could still see the muscles bulging on their body.

"Gil, you did a fine job in taking out the leader of Notsburg. I can already imagine them being in a panic!" Sin said as he stood up from his seat and looked at the two people.

"I invested a lot in both of you, and it turned out to be quite the grand investment. So, Gil, how was it, going up against the Howlers gang? I heard that Notsburg had someone that was quite strong."

"Strong?" Gil laughed. "No, he wasn't strong, he wasn't anything special. If the rest of them are like that, then I have no trouble in taking them all out, and I can't wait to head to Slough and take out Gary himself!"

Gil's life had taken a drastic turn, and in his mind, it was all when he had come across Gary Dem. A man that had made quite the name for himself in the town of Slough.

Sin had been doing some research, wondering who it was that had disrupted his deal with the Underdogs, and he had come to learn that it was the Howlers.

He wouldn't act straight away, though, because Sin needed to find out if there was anyone backing them and their strength. After all, it was strange to see a gang rise so fast.

After doing their research, including research that had been done through Gil and the other person by his side, they had found out there wasn't any. Enough time had been spent waiting, and they were going to do their best to take out the Howlers, take over their small empire they had been building, so they could boost their strength rather than weakening it in an all-out fight.

"Hey, I thought we had an agreement," the voice said from the side. Unlike Gil, this person was tall and slender in frame. They had dark purple-colored hair, and even bags that appeared under their eyes.

He wore a type of red vest, where his arms went through with his black shirt, wearing the colors of the Phoenix gang's uniform.

"I will get back at Gary Dem, the one who killed my brother, no matter the cost!" Raven exclaimed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chapter 773 Friends of Friends

Both Kai and Gary were working hard to come up with a plan, but with the current plan, they would need to rely on Midwak, and he was still out of commission at this time.

Instead, for the time being, Gary was focusing on a few things. For one, his sister Amy, as well as his mother. He had asked for increased security around his mother, and he would secretly keep an eye on his sister in the meantime.

Since they were hitting everything that belonged to the Howlers, they would also assume that Gary Dem, a business tycoon that worked for them and an ex AFC fighter, would be on their list of targets.

However, there was a chance that they wouldn't come for them directly and instead would target those around him.

Amy was living a good life now; she had finished school and was getting ready to go to university. Surprisingly, White had chosen the same course as her in computer engineering.

It was hard to say if this was Kai's doing, to have someone around her at all times protecting her or not, but Amy was just happy that a friend was staying around her.

---

In the city of Slough, on Burnham food street, a new luxury seafood restaurant had opened up. There was glass all around, and the fish were swimming around the guests as they ate.

The idea was to make the customer feel like they were dining under the sea while eating their seafood. It was quite the hit, and since Burnham was becoming more well-known as a place for new restaurants to appear, there were those who came from outside of the city just to experience the food.

The restaurant, due to its popularity, was already fully booked for the next three months, and it had only just opened.

Sitting on one of the seats on the edge, right up against the glass, was a large man with a pompadour hairstyle. He was dressed up in a nice white dress shirt that almost sparkled as it had hints of glitter. It wasn't buttoned up to the top, as the top button was undone, allowing the collar to flare out. The person who was dressed up was none other than Austin. If those from his school saw him now, they would have had to take a second look to make sure it was the right person.

As for the reason why he was dressed up so nicely, it was due to the person who was sitting opposite him, one that he had come to know quite well over the past year, Vere.

She was in a long elegant black dress that slit by the legs and just about touching the floor.

"The dress you're wearing, it reminds me a lot of the Phantom Brawl," Austin said.

"Oh come on, let's not talk about that on a day like this," Vere replied. "You finally managed to have the nerve to ask me out and then brought me to a nice place like this. So let's enjoy ourselves and not think so much about the past."

Vere picked up her drink, and the two of them clanged their glasses together. Austin took a few more gulps down than he usually would have done and was rubbing his leg a few times.

'He's nervous, but it's kind of cute,' Vere thought. 'I should help ease him in a little.'

"So you managed to get a booking at this place even though it was completely full. Tell me, did you use your connections, Mr. Big Shot?" Vere asked.

The Howlers had their hands in everything in Slough at this time, so knocking off a few people for them to get reservations was expected. Vere was part of the Howlers as well, but she wasn't in as high of a position as Austin, who was a masked member as she came to know.

"Of course not!" Austin exclaimed. "I rang up as soon as I heard this place was ready, as I wanted to show you I could work hard."

Just then, a curly-haired dark-skinned woman came along and gave a little sweet treat for the two of them.

"How is everything then, Austin?" The woman asked.



"Oh, you know him on a first-name basis?" Vere raised an eyebrow, as she had never seen this woman before.

"Ah, well, Gary did introduce the two of us. Since he had asked me for a favor to give one of his friends a reservation. It's nice to meet you; I'm Izzy, the owner of this restaurant," Izzy claimed as she placed her hand out.

Izzy was one of the students that Gary had made an alliance with a while back. Her family had owned a chain of restaurants across other tier-3 cities. With their partnership, they had decided to work closer in Slough, and her mother had sent her out to look after the new restaurant.

"Oh really, nice to meet you, Izzy," Vere said, shaking her hand and looking at Austin with a cheeky smile.

Having been caught in a lie, Austin was now somewhat sweating.

"Well, please, I hope you two enjoy your meal; the two of you look great together," Izzy commented. "If you need anything at all, then give me a call, and I hope I get invited to the wedding."

Walking off, Izzy was ready to leave the two alone, but she noticed something odd. Several of the guests in the room had suddenly stood up from their seats. It wouldn't have seemed like such an odd thing, apart from the fact that they stood straight like a bamboo shoot, unmoving, and it was all at the same time, as if it was coordinated.

At the same time, they took off their uniforms, revealing dark red-colored clothing underneath their shirts.

One of the men in the center of the group had half his hair dyed red while the other half was black, and he had a sinister smile on his face as he started to laugh.

"We are here to get rid of the Howlers! We will burn everything to the ground!"

\*\*\*\*\*

## Chapter 774 Not The Same Gang

The restaurant was a relatively large space that could seat around five hundred diners, and the venue was fully booked up. Scattered around the area, there appeared to be around fifteen different people who were standing up at different tables.

One of the men immediately noticed one of the guests trying to get up and leave, a woman. He promptly grabbed her by the hair and pulled her back, slamming the back of her head right through the table. It was clear that the strength of a human hadn't been used; it was something much more than that.

"Get rid of everyone that's in here!" The half-dyed red-haired man shouted.

The man was known as Stunker, and he was one of the upper members of the Phoenix gang.

"Everyone will soon know that the Howlers gang isn't even strong enough to protect the people inside it!"

Listening to Stunker's orders, all of them started to act, and not just that, nearly all fifteen of them began to transform into their Altered forms. One of the members had grown a thick tail like that of a monkey's, but at the very end of it, there was a flame that would constantly be alight.

Using the tail, he hit one of the men who were dining at the restaurant, and the fire had started to burn his clothes. It wasn't just him; another gang member's hair had burst into flames and spread right down his back.

Swinging it, he was hitting guests and setting the whole place ablaze.

As for another gang member, he had jumped up on the bar counter and started to shoot out small flames of fire. As they hit the floor and other areas, the damage was quickly spreading all over the place.

"Don't mess with my restaurant!" Izzy shouted. Her hair had extended out and wrapped around the man on the counter. She soon pulled him, causing his body and back to slam on the edge of the counter. Then, picking him up, she threw him right into the corner of the room.

People continued to run, and the Phoenix members continued to try to harm them in any way possible. However, there were more who were stepping up to the table. Members in the room dressed in black and gold stood in the way of the attacks. Some of them pulled out anti-Altered weapons and struck away the limbs of the other gang's members.

"A useless effort," Stunker said to himself. "The whole place will become nothing but flames soon."

Austin's fist was shaking as he saw everything that was happening. It was clear to him that it was a gang's doing, and they had decided to attack the Howlers in their very own territory, and on such an important day.

"I'll kill them!" Austin shouted. "I'll kill them all!"

Not holding back, his body started to transform as well. His nose flared up and grew in size, while two large horns were coming out from the top of his head. His legs were beginning to change, and his nicely worn shirt was starting to rip.

"Damn it, I forgot I wasn't wearing the Howler's uniform. I spent so much time and effort picking out this shirt!" The anger was building up, and even through his bull-like face, red could be seen, especially in his eyes.

"Wait!" Vere shouted. "The fire, it's spreading everywhere. Forget about them; we need to do something about this. It's going to reach the exit soon, and then no one will have a way to get out."

Turning her head, she had come up with a solution, and it was a relatively easy one.

"Break the glass!" Vere shouted. "Break the glass and get rid of the fire."

"But... won't that then drown everyone?" Austin replied back.

"There's not enough water for that; the volume of the tank as well as the floor here will be added either way. Just break the tank!"

Austin didn't need to be told twice; he trusted Vere, who was far smarter than him. With a kick of his feet, he charged forward and smashed right into the glass. Cracks had started to appear, giving it a shattered appearance, but the glass itself hadn't broken. It was reinforced so it wouldn't be easily broken in the first place.

"I need to charge up again!" Austin said as he decided to run a bit further back, giving him more momentum for the next attack.

"Stop him!" Stunker shouted, noticing what was going on.

Two of the closest members with flaming metal claws coming out from their hands jumped forward and rushed right after Austin.

"Just keep going and ignore them; I'll deal with it!" Stretching out her arm, it too started to grow in size. Her dress already revealed her arms, so it didn't break any part of it, but it did allow for a change in her skin color, as it turned quite white, with patches of black spots.

The man struck with his fiery claw; moving her head, she avoided it and threw out a strong fist, hitting him right in the face. The man spun twice before landing on the ground.

As for the next one, she turned and realized it was already dealt with; the person was being constantly smacked by several tentacles.

The man was being hit constantly again and again, then pulled in by the tentacles to be hit in the face once more.

"Vlad, that's enough!" Vere shouted.

Vlad had soon stopped. He was always nearby, as he had been ordered, to protect and act at a moment's notice when Vere needed. He was in a strange transformed Altered state, looking somewhat like a bug with his sharp wings but having four strange tentacles that were thick on his back. On top of that, he was still infected, but he would always listen to the voice of Vere and Austin no matter what they said.

Finishing his charge, Austin crashed into the window, breaking it apart, and a gush of water came flowing out in waves.

"You guys made a big mistake!" Austin said as he stood there, not moving from his spot as the water tried to push him. "We aren't just a simple gang like we used to be; there are plenty of us who are strong!"

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Chapter 775 Attack the Howlers

The restaurant had a lot of money put behind it, a lot of thought went into the architectural design. Even the glass was expensive that had been used, meant to even withstand regular Anti-Altered weapons.

This was meant to be Izzy's first success and everything was going well. Her hard work was paying off and now she was seeing it go up in flames, and soon afterwards being drowned. The wood, the furniture, none of it could be reused now.

But she understood Austin had only done what needed to be done. As the water drenched everything in the room, it started to sink down into drains even lower compared to before.

It was a safety mechanism that had been designed but the water was still going down at a slow rate and was reaching just below most of their knees.

"I want every single one of their heads!" Izzy shouted. Her hair was transforming, stretching out like a frenzy going up against one of the attackers.

It was the man with the flaming tale. He swung his tail creating a wall of fire, stopping the attack in its tracks and jumped back now next to Stunker.

“Sir, it seems there are more Altered than we expected, and they're not exactly weak.” The man stated.

Stunker could see that, even the small movements from the strange haired Altered, it was almost as if she was trained. Not just that but the others, they weren't just regular gang members either.

What was annoying Stunker more was the purpose of the attack, it was meant to be a hit and run. They were to attack the guests and as soon as the Howlers turned up, they were to get out of there.

They would just barge and fight their way though, but why were there so many Altered in one place?

“Are you hurt!” Austin shouted out as he went by Vere's side.

“I'm alright, remember I could still take care of you most of the time even when I wasn't an Altered.” Vere answered. “So things are a lot easier this time.”

The public were dragging their feet through the water continuing to run out, and with the recent attack it seemed like both groups were waiting for one or the other to act.

There was a reason for this, as Vere and Izzy were both thinking along the same line.

‘Right now, we're in Burnham food street. The panic of the people will reach outside and they will know something is up, if that's the case then she will be coming here.’

They were outnumbered and although Izzy was confident in her skills, from the small interactions she had, a few of these guys were good, good enough to even be in the AFC.

“What are you waiting for people, attack, or do you want to get pricked by me!” Stunker shouted and a heat came off from his back. Even the water around him was starting to evaporate partially from the ground.

Immediately they got to work, the fire tailed Altered jumped up, doing a sort of flip and as he did he swung his tail. Doing so, flames were bursting around him and Izzy was finding it hard to find an opening.

She tried to grab him from the side with her hair, but the tail whacked her hand down into the water.

'The tail... it's not just got fire, it's incredibly strong.'

Immediately a foot was raised up right to her face. She used her hair to block the attack but was hit and fell to the ground in the water. She quickly pushed herself up using her hair, to get distance between the two of them again.

As for the rest, they were all charging right toward the other three.

"Vlad, attack anyone that tries to hurt you, protect yourself at all costs!" Vere shouted.

Most of the Altered in the group seemed to be the same type, able to produce strange claws from their hands that could emit flames. They came running at them with their hands looking as if they were on fire.

A couple of them struck, and Vlad was mostly dodging, as he moved back one of his tentacles even hit the water, Cushing it over one of them. Vere saw this as the perfect opportunity and pounced on one of them.

Her cow-like fist had clobbered right into the man's face, nearly causing a dent in it as he fell to the ground. His body fell into the water and it didn't look like he was going to get back up.

Right now, they weren't going to care for the other side though, because it was clear this was a fight to the death.

With Austin, he had done the same, he had avoided one of the claw hits and with perfect timing through an almighty punch. As he did a man was sent flying back. The water on the floor had split as if it was trying to divide it into two waves.

He continued until his back had hit the bar, right where Stunker was now standing on top of.

“Do I really have to get involved with a tier-2 gang, what is this!” Stunker thought.

Out from his back, he had pulled out a metal pack, and in the pack there were several darts inside made of metal. Pulling it out, he held one of them firmly in his hands.

“Now which one of this lot is going to cause me the most trouble?”

Stunker could see Izzy and his right hand man going against each other, it seemed like he had the upper hand so it didn't matter too much over there. It was the others that were struggling.

“Alright, let's see how you deal with this.” Stunker smiled.

Austin waited for the right moment, and when he was ready, he swung his fist again. All he had to do was get rid of these guys one at a time and then he would get rid of their leader.

In the middle of swinging his fist through, coming right at him like a bullet on fire, he saw something pass his eye, and it hit him right in the chest. A flaming dart pierced his skin, and it was bruising, igniting with power.

It was a strong hit as well causing him to flush and miss his punch entirely, the member then with his flaming hand had punched Austin right on the chin. It made a cut and a searing sensation below.

Ignoring it, Austin lifted both hands and swung them down on top of the man. His legs were crushed as he fell back into the water, but right after that move, several more flaming darts came out, hitting Austin in the chest one after the other.



The heat was rising on his skin, and the blood was dripping from his body.

"AUSTIN!!!" Vere screamed.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Chapter 776 Saving Everyone

The flaming dart thrown by Stunker did something strange the moment it hit Austin. The fire burned brightly and started to spiral around as if it were being controlled, and when it did, the darts were going deeper into Austin's chest.

Because of this, the darts were almost ripping apart his flesh, and blood was flowing out rather quickly from his body, causing large alarm bells to go off in Vere's head.

"AUSTIN!" she screamed.

She tried to run to his side, but as she did, a hot claw came right at her face. She managed to pull back in time and lift her leg, her foot having transformed into a hoof. It whacked the man right on the chin, sending him back, but he managed to catch himself.

Even with the strong hits and timing that Vere was able to pull off, these Altered were stronger than your average ones, and they should be, since they had come from a tier one city of all places.

"ARGHHH!" A loud roar came from Austin's mouth, and as he puffed his nose, his muscles expanded. When they grew in size, the flaming darts that had entered his body shot out, falling into the water.

Now in his body, the large wounds could be seen, and as the water continued to drain completely to the ground, he could see the darts on the ground. They didn't look like normal darts, as there was a rotor in them.

"Ah, you're still alive. Now that really is surprising," Stunker said, looking at him. "These things are made with the latest Anti-Altered technology. Even with a simple throw, they would pierce right through a body."

"Then if you add my Altered strength and my abilities to it, that should have definitely gone right through even a big guy like you!"

What Stunker was saying was correct, but he had no idea just how strong Austin was, nor what type of Altered he was, but either way, he was still unfazed by the whole thing. In his mind, the task had just become a little more difficult compared to before.

"Alright, I wanted to take down the most troublesome one first, but if I can't do that, then I'll just have to take out the rest one by one."

Stunker looked around the room, and as he did, his eyes were set on Vere. She was moving agilely and packed quite a punch with her hits and kicks, but with her body, he was sure that this could work.

At the right time, Stunker threw the dart from below, and the flame activated, swirling around it and heading straight for her.

"No!"

Austin moved. As he jumped in the way, he stretched out his arm, and the dart pierced right through his skin, more so than before. When it reached it, it started to spin, and the flames ignited, causing a searing pain to be felt over his body.

Since he had stopped the dart but it was still moving, he moved his hand, and then the dart spun until it completely went through his skin and fell onto the floor. Now there was a small hole right through Austin's arm.

"Austin! You need help, we need to get you out of here!" Vere shouted.

She now wasn't avoiding hits as carefully as she was before. Instead, she would take small scratches against her skin in order to hit the attackers.

However, Stunker didn't stop there. As he continued to throw out the darts again, and as he did, they went towards Vlad this time. He rushed to where the dart was heading, and with his open palm, Austin had caught the dart.

He could feel the rotor spinning, trying to get through his hand. It had pierced the skin, but with his strength, he had decided to crush the dart completely, pushing the dart through his skin.

"You! Attacking from the back like that, do you have no shame!" Austin said, as he decided to charge forward. His hand was bloody from the last attack, and there were two men in his way, but this was perfect for him.

Austin reached in and ignored their slicing hands as they stabbed him in the body. He picked the two up and threw them right at where Stunker was.

Each body, Stunker was able to avoid as he moved on the counter top, but right behind them was none other than Austin. He crashed into the counter, shaking the whole place, leaving Stunker unstable.

"Crap, how did he get here so fast, and how were those Altered not even able to stop him?" Stunker thought, but he had even bigger problems to worry about.

He held five darts between his fingers, and all of them activated as Austin was right below him.

Before he could throw them though, Austin had grabbed his legs, pulling them out from underneath him. Stunker fell onto the counter at that moment. Then, with his legs, Austin lifted him in the air, and turned his body around, aiming it right toward the floor.

"F\*cking die!" Austin screamed as he swung down with all of his force.

In a desperate attempt, Stunker threw all five of the darts he had left, each of them hitting Austin. But it didn't stop him as the body crashed into the ground and a loud cracking noise was felt all down Stunker's spine. A loud bang sounded in the entire area, like someone had fallen from the tenth floor, and blood poured out of his mouth.

Austin said in a faint voice, "You scum. How could you guys get regular people involved in all of this?"

Austin's eyes were weak, and each of the darts had pierced his chest. Even though Stunker was out, they were still spinning, ripping apart his skin.

The sudden sound of footsteps rushing down the stairs could be heard, and entering the room were several people in black and gold, and one person in particular with a whip in her hand.

She could see Izzy struggling, and throwing out the whip, she had grabbed the Altered, and lifted him up, bringing him towards her. As his body was flung, she transformed her hand, creating fur around it, and slammed it right into the man's face, causing teeth to go flying all over the place.

After finally arriving and saving Izzy who was struggling greatly, "Vere!" Olivia screamed. "Help Austin."

Olivia had just attacked the first person she had seen, so she had yet to fully gauge the situation.

That's when she could see Austin standing in the middle of the room, with several strange objects and fire spiraling around his chest.

He looked at them all, and a weak smile appeared on his face.

"Tell Gary to get rid of these bastards for me."

The rotor continued to spin, and each of them went right through Austin's body. A clanging sound was made as they hit the bar on the other end, and his large body swayed from side to side and collapsed, falling onto the floor, blood pouring from his wounds.

\*\*\*\*

Chapter 777 Well loved man

In Slough, one of the hospitals in Cipeen had been rebuilt. It had been upgraded, allowing for state-of-the-art equipment to be placed in it. It was something that needed to be done to attract well-known doctors with great skills.

The one thing that was missing from Slough right now was a large well-known university, so they could funnel students into the workforce. However, with the way things were, they needed to attract as many talents as they could outside of Slough, and convince them that it was the place to be.

They had been doing a good job of that in many areas, but the hospital, in particular, was an important area for the Howlers gang. This was because Gary had a particular person that he was looking after, someone who had been asleep for a while now.

Today, Gary was visiting the hospital along with Kai. The sun had risen as it was the start of the new day, but he wasn't here to visit his mother, he was here to see someone else.

"I didn't think I would be coming here to see someone else," Gary stated.

"Come on, keep your head held high... you can't show your face like this, otherwise what will the others think," Kai said.

They walked across the stone pathway among greenery to the left and right. Nurses were out pushing patients, giving them a sense of fresh air and helping them with their needs.

Then they had finally entered the front entrance of the large building. They knew where they needed to head, it was the top floor. Taking the elevator, there was a nurse that was coming along with them, guiding them.

"I should warn you, that there are quite a few people waiting in the waiting area," the nurse explained.

"Really, didn't we state to not let anyone visit?" Kai asked.

“Ah, yes,” the nurse nervously answered. She didn’t know exactly who Kai was, but did know Gary Dem beside him, who had put a lot of seed money into developing the hospital in the first place. So she was treading on eggshells around them.

“We did as you asked, only allowing those that could prove that they were part of the Howlers... but many had come here.”

When the elevator door pinged, it slid open, and the two of them could see exactly what she meant.

Inside the room, filling the seats, there were around fifty people all dressed in black and gold uniforms waiting. Most of them were men, looking a little rough around the edges. Bruises and marks on their faces. They were loud as they talked to each other, and even had the wildest hairstyles.

“Are all of these guys... here for Austin?” Gary asked.

“Of course,” Kai replied as he walked forward. A few people looked at the two of them here and there but none of them said anything just yet.

“These guys were the ones that were under Austin. Most of them joined the gang either after dropping out of high school or when they finished. You know Austin had a big following before he was even invited to the gang.”

“They are quite the loyal bunch and continued to follow him here as well, and then he built even a bigger following because of those under him.”

Hearing about this, it reminded Gary of when he and Austin had first met as well, on the school rooftop, he certainly did have a strong-headed personality.

When Gary and Kai had walked past the others, there were a few disgruntled looks at the two of them. Since they weren't wearing their masks, they hadn't come as the leaders of the Howlers, and it was safe to say they were a little annoyed as to why those two got to go ahead.

Both of them were escorted to a sliding door, and Gary took a deep breath before opening it himself. Immediately the sound of a steady slow beat was heard in his ears, and a horrid sight was right in front of him.

Austin was hooked up to more machinery than he had ever seen. Gary didn't even know what their uses were. His chest was encased in some metal type of armor, with clear glass above it so one could see on the inside.

But worse of all, was the fact that Austin's eyes were closed and they weren't opening. There was no reaction from him when the two of them had entered the room.

'Why am I in the same situation as I was before?' Gary thought to himself. 'I got stronger, I built everything up for the gang because of what happened, but I still wasn't able to stop this from happening.'

Kai walked over to his side, looking at him. They weren't the only ones that were in the room, Vere was sitting in a chair by the side of his bed. She had acknowledged the two of them with a smile but continued to look at Gary, not saying a word.

Vlad was standing by the wall still like a statue, and then there was Olivia along with Marie as well. The two of them hadn't said anything yet, because when they had entered, they were going through the same set of feelings.

Unlike with Midwak, who could still speak and wasn't particularly close to them all, this was completely different for them. It felt like a part of their own body was lost, sealed away in front of them.

Even Kai seemed at a loss for words, his mind was mixed. Was there anything he could have done to prevent this?

"Should I have come up with measures to try and stop this?" Kai mumbled to himself.

"Kai," Gary said, tensing his fist, his whole body shaking. "They attacked us in Slough this time, they attacked us on our own turf. They invaded our home... F\*ck them... F\*ck them! When you were hurt, Austin and everyone else marched right into Notsburg."

"We can't run away from this, we can't hide, we have to face them head-on to stop them. This is F\*cking war!" Gary shouted.

A smile appeared on Olivia's face when she heard this as she stepped forward.

"Good, because I know exactly who was behind this."

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Chapter 778 You Failed US

All eyes were on Olivia. It was a big question on their minds as to just who the enemy was that they needed to go against. There was a large amount of anger filling the room as one of their own had been badly hurt; they wanted to know where exactly to channel all of this anger.

"Wait, you can't go in there!" A voice was heard from outside. Gary remembered that it was the nurse who had brought them there.

Moments later, the door slid open, and forcing themselves into the room were three young adults, ones that Gary had seen a few times before.

"What were you guys doing, where were you?" Bo shouted. "You guys are meant to be the leaders of this gang, so why the heck was Austin fighting on his own!"

The three men who had come through the door were Bo, Felix, and Alfie. These were the three who would follow Austin everywhere when he was in school, and they continued to do so.

They were some of the first members of the Howlers gang and even had worked at the Wolf's pool club for a while. It was safe to say that they were among the very few who actually knew the real identity of the Howlers gang leaders.



"Austin," Alfie said as he walked over, looking at his body. "Who did this to you, man? I thought you were a boulder, a rock that no one could push."

Meanwhile, Felix was holding Bo back, trying to refrain him from hitting anyone, not that anyone in the room couldn't just move and avoid the attack anyway.

"Say something then, where were you guys! I heard even the public were injured as well! How the heck can you call this a gang? How can you call yourselves leaders when you can't even protect anyone?"

Gary didn't get upset by the remarks; he didn't say anything back to him because he felt the same way. Bo continued to shout, and when it finally sounded like he was out of breath, Gary spoke.

"You're right," Gary said. "I failed as a leader, the only thing I wanted to do by creating this gang is to look after the people I care about, and it seems like I failed that. We're the people who were hurt as well, right? Are rumors starting to spread that our gang isn't competent?"

Gary looked at Kai when he heard this question, and he nodded.

"Very well. You know when I came into the position of the leader, I took it quite lightly," Gary explained. "I guess it was because it never felt like something I wanted to create, and I just went along with the flow."

"This whole thing has become a lot bigger than I ever envisioned, to the point that now we are having trouble with even more trouble. Olivia, tell us, who are we going against?"

When Gary was speaking, everyone was silent for a moment as they listened to him. They could tell when his words felt heavy.

"We rounded up those in Burnham food street, and we found their leader had a tattoo of a flaming bird, the one Austin killed just before he ended up in this state," Olivia answered.

The anger from Bo's fist started to leave at that moment; it dropped down to his side, and he felt a lump in his throat. Not one of sadness but one from fear.

"Did you say a Phoenix? Does this mean... one of the kings, was it Sin Ignis, from the Phoenix gang!"

"What's this?" Marie said. "You were all talk earlier, complaining about how Gary should do something and wasn't acting like a leader, but you're not so brave now that you know who we're up against?"

It was true; the fear of the kings was just too much and too overwhelming for a gang like theirs that hadn't had any significant fights. Especially since the one against Notsburg was dealt with by so few people.

But could the same thing happen again, or would more be involved from the gang?

"So it is one of the kings?" Gary said. "Then let me ask you, Kai, how would one of the kings react in this situation if they were attacked."

"If they were attacked like this?" Kai stated. "With one of their main members getting hurt. Well, they would attack straight back; a war would start, just like you said before. Now you know our enemy; have you changed your mind?"

"No," Gary smirked. "If we're up against the kings, then we should act like the kings. Let me know when Midwak is ready; I'm sure he will be excited for some payback."

The group all smiled and were confident, already on the move, while the three friends that stayed in the room looked over Gary. It wasn't just them, though; Vere had also stood up, and Vlad walked not too far behind them.

"Hey," Vere said. "Look after him while we're away. We're not just going to sit here and talk about what could have happened; we're going to do something about it, and so is Gary."

While walking down the hallway, now knowing who their target was, Gary was getting ready to act, but just as he was about to, he received a text on his phone. He would have ignored it if it wasn't from a certain individual.

'Amy, what's she doing texting me now?'

Reading the message, Gary stopped in his footsteps.

'Gary, I don't want to worry you or anything, but I just found out, do you remember Stacy, my friend who had been killed... her whole family, every single one of them was murdered... it's pretty scary.'

Stacy, it was a person who Gary was unable to save, but her parents' death... was it a coincidence at a time like this, or was the whole thing related? He was unsure and didn't have a good feeling about all of this.

\*\*\*\*

#### Chapter 779 A Cruel Death

In an old, run-down apartment in a tier-3 city, an occurrence had taken place that had happened one too many times before. It was a death, a killing. The police were already on the scene, taking photos, sweeping the area for any chance at some clues.

As for the victims, there were two of them, an adult male and an adult female. However, this wasn't a normal murder like those in the building might have thought. The easiest telltale sign of this was the fact that two members from the White Rose had arrived.

Sadie, a woman with dark red hair, entered the scene, showing her identity to the relevant people, and behind her was none other than her partner, Frank.

"Why is it always the lower-tier cities where stuff like this happens?" Frank asked as he looked at the scene in front of him.

The whole place was trashed, broken chairs, dirt on the floor, rubbish everywhere. From the looks of things, it didn't seem to be a struggle; instead, it was just how the two parents had lived.

"You know it's not the case; Altered cases are more frequent in the higher-tier cities because there are more Altered. It's just that we get less involved in that," Sadie replied. "Did you read the file?"

While asking this question with a pair of white gloves, Sadie picked up a photo. It was of a family of three, a young high school girl and her mum and dad, all of them smiling. Next to it, there were incense sticks.

"Ah yeah, this is quite the complicated one, isn't it? It seemed like the parents had split up," Frank went on to continue. "They had moved apart once in the city of Slough, but when their daughter passed away due to some type of accident, the parents had oddly gotten back together."

"Seems like they were shocked by their daughter's death. They since moved out of Slough and moved to another tier-3 city of Renning."

Sadie then placed the photo down, and they soon moved into the main room, the room where the killings had taken place. It was the kitchen. Both of them were tied up onto chairs, and several of their body parts had been torn, ripped, and were bloody.

Judging from the report, they had eventually died from blood loss, a cruel way to go as they felt every single thing before it, rather than ending their suffering.

"The two of them had drowned themselves in sorrow already; you can tell by the state of the apartment," Sadie stated. "Judging by the markings of torture, it looks like an Altered, and if we were to guess, this wasn't an impulsive thing. Whoever the attacker is either wanted information or wanted these two to suffer."

Frank couldn't wrap his head around it; hadn't these two already suffered enough? Judging from the file they already had nothing. Did they anger someone recently, or get into a bad deal? It was the only thing he could think of.

"I was looking over their daughter's file in Slough. That city, strange things always happened in it one after the other. It's been close to two years now since we've been there. When I was checking over their daughter's death, Stacy, it seemed to be wrapped and involved in some strange things as well. The file was marked stating it was a drug overdose."

"What's so strange about that?" Frank asked.

"It's just strange the circumstances before that. Why did her parents suddenly move from Slough? They lived in a nice area. It's almost as if they were scared of something."

"Are you saying whoever got their daughter might have got these guys as well?" Frank replied.

"I'm saying it is a possibility that the two matters could be related, and might be something we should look into, but I've heard Slough has become a different place entirely now."

The two continued their investigation, but there wasn't really much they could gather just from the bodies. If it wasn't due to the signs of torture, it would have quite possibly been deemed a robbery killing.

The killer could have left no markings, especially if they were an Altered, leaving them to think they wanted to be noticed. After a long, tiring day, with the night sky out, Sadie and Frank decided to head back.

"Things seem to not change with this job at times," Sadie said as she walked down one of the streets in a rough area, hardly any lighting and trash littered on the ground in front of them. It was the typical sight they would see.

"You say this nearly every time we're on a case," Frank replied.

"But it's true, right? No matter how many bad Altered we catch, the situation here doesn't change. Look at this place; why does all the money go to the top, while the others have to struggle?" Sadie stated.

"You have a point, but do you think it's because of Altered that this has happened? Otherwise, you're going to start thinking like the Altered Hunters," Frank joked. "I mean, even without the Altered, things would still be the same; it's just human nature to have things set up this way."

Sadie stopped in her tracks while walking down the pathway, and Frank soon followed. They could see someone standing in the middle of the street wearing a hoodie. He had both hands in his pockets and was just staring ahead.

It stood out to both of them.

"Are you okay, sir?" Sadie asked.

Even if it was a rough neighborhood, with both of them being Altereded, they weren't really afraid.

"Around 2 years ago, in a town called Slough, in a Karaoke bar, three young men had gone completely missing. Their bodies were never found. At the same time, the White Rose were in Slough investigating a possible Altered killer. A man named Billy was your suspect that had been dealt with by the Altered Hunters. But that's not the truth, if the two of you had done your job properly from the beginning and had caught him, then my brother would still be alive."

Walking forward, he took down his hood, and right after, his body started to change.

#### Chapter 780 One Of The Mythical Types

Immediately seeing that the person in front of the two from White Rose was an Altered, they started to transform immediately as well. Large wings had sprouted from both of their backs, breaking through a slit made in their uniforms. It was designed specifically for occasions like this.

"Don't you think the two of us fully transforming against one is a bit overkill?" Frank asked.

"Do you think that about someone has come out of their way to go against us?" Sadie replied. "It must mean they were pretty sure of who we were, the fact that we are White Rose agents, and they were confident enough that they could beat us in a fight."

The mysterious hood of the man was taken down, but he had transformed too fast for them to get a proper look at what he looked like. His head started to split into several strands, all around the same size, and his neck started to grow.

His skin started to change as it gained scales on its body, and as for the heads themselves, they looked like something in between that of a snake and a dragon, especially with its sharp glowing eyes and thin tongue that would come out of its mouth.

"Hey, hey, are you seeing what I'm seeing?" Frank asked. "That's a Hydra, the thing Hercules had to take down."

Immediately, Sadie acted as she threw out her feathers which would straighten up and harden. They came out fast like bullets toward the Altered.

Raven had five heads in total, and two of them had quickly caught onto the feathers, biting them. When opening its mouth, the feathers fell to the floor.

"It's quite fast," Sadie said as she flew up in the air but kept her eyes locked onto it. "I'll support from up here; you fight hand to hand with them below!"

Frank was a bit cautious, but he knew that her abilities to harden part of her feathers were better for distant combat, while for him, he had strong claw-like hands. They were already dark blue in color and had two large hardened nails to hook on.

'Ah man, this is a mythical type. I thought things would get easier for us the higher up we went in White Rose, but we just keep meeting crazier and crazier Altered!'

Shaking his head, Frank decided to charge in. He rushed ahead, having faced countless numbers of Altered before, he had done so with next to no fear.

Immediately, one of the large heads went to attack him, but he managed to block it with the force of his powerful wing. With a push of his legs, he went ahead and tried to swing his claw at one of the heads, but they had swiveled and bit hard into his arm.

"Crap, that hurts!" Frank shouted.

"You should have investigated more into the deaths of the Altered! You should have matched up the clues! Why am I the one that is doing the job for you!" With one of the head's fangs attached to Frank, it lifted him up in the air and slammed him down on the ground.

The rest of the heads were ready to bite down on him until a rain of hardened feathers hit Raven several times on the back of his neck. They had managed to pierce him and draw blood.

Using this moment and a flinch of pain, Frank leapt up, kicking off the ground with his wings and legs, and used his claw to grab one of the necks. His deadly claws were directly on them. He squeezed down with all of his force, and then when the nails were several inches deep in, he pulled with all of his strength, detaching one of the heads from the rest of its body. Immediately, the black blood started to spill all over the place. Frank had moved his wing to block it from falling on his face, but the moment blood hit his wings, he started to feel an incredible pain like acid.

"ARGHH! Crap, that really hurts!" The pain had caused him to drop a part of the head onto the floor. With one down, it was time for him to go for the next four; he was sure at least one of the heads would be the real one and taking that out would stop the others from attacking.

When he opened his wings, though, right through the head he had ripped off, he could see something growing, and soon, out from the sprouted end, two heads appeared, and now in total, there were six heads, all of them the same size.

Immediately, two had bit onto the top of Frank's wings, and with its massive amount of strength, it lifted him into the air and started to pull at him. The pain was immense as he felt the wings trying to detach themselves from his body.

"For a detective, you are quite lacking in knowledge, don't you know anything about the mythical Hydra?" Raven asked. "If you take out one head, then two grow back in its place. With my Altered form, it's a permanent feature, so thank you for helping me grow stronger!"

He was pulling the wings even more, and Sadie needed to do something desperately. She started to gather several feathers, and as they hardened, she held them as if it was some type of sword. In her hand, she dived down heading right for the Hydra.



She was ready to slash at him when one of the heads extended out and opened its mouth wide. Sadie did the instinctive thing, and stabbed right through it, splitting it in half and then taking her blade out. The blood was pouring on her face, causing her skin to burn, while at the same time, parts of the blood were oozing out, destroying its own head. Parts of it were falling, and quickly, two more were growing in its place.

In the middle of their growth, it swung and hit Sadie in the side, sending her crashing to the ground.

Two talented White Rose agents were no match for the Mythical Type Altered, who was only getting stronger.