

Werewolf 821

Chapter 821 A Solution To A Problem

Help was a strong word to be used in the current times they were in. They were sure that many people who lived in the city of Slough, who were part of the Howlers, were saying these words, asking for help.

When it came from such a strong figure, those words really reached out, but for Amy, they were also painful.

"We... we needed help so many times as a family, we needed your help, Dad, but you weren't there for us, and now you're saying you understand everything and are here to help! How can I even believe that?" Amy said.

The one person that had always helped her in these situations, who was still here for her, was Gary, and she wished he was by her side right now.

Her father reached into his pocket; the moment he did, Xin reacted again. She had heard Amy call her father, and now that she looked at the man more, he did resemble a version of Gary. A worn-out version, as if he was older and a bit more scruffy. However, the fact that his presence was making Amy upset, causing her to react as well, made her realize she couldn't trust someone just because they were one person's or another's father. She could just use her own father as an example for that. She had come to learn of the things he had done as she got older.

The man had one hand held up, to continue showing he was peaceful, and then out from his other pocket, he pulled out a syringe that had a fairly thick tube filled with liquid. It looked like an Altered turning Syringe, only it had a different consistency and color than the usual vibrant ones of the Altered or the infected solution.

"When I heard about what happened to your mother and how long she had been in this state before I even came here, I wanted to have a solution that would help her," the man explained. "I had to call in a few favors, but I have their certainty that this had a 90 percent chance of waking her up, and she will be back to the way she was before."

After finishing his explanation, the man went to turn around as if he was already ready to stick the syringe in, but Xin called out.

"Wait! Stop! We have no idea what's in that syringe!" Xin shouted. "Amy, this is your family affairs, so I'll go with whatever you want to do, but I want you to think about it."

"We're being attacked from all ends right now; your brother got taken in by the White Rose. Right now, we have no clue who is really on our side and who isn't, who the Phoenix Gang has in their hands."

"Your father, you say, but he's been away for so long, and doing what? Why couldn't he meet you before? Why has he come now? Sure, it could be to help, but it could be because of the Phoenix Gang asking him to do a job for them."

"Your brother spent so much money trying to look after your mother. I mean, look at this hospital that you're in; it's all because of him. You think he wouldn't have gone searching for a solution, some magic spell that could wake your mother up? It all sounds a bit too good to be true."

After listening to Xin's words, Amy was a bit hesitant. The news that her mother could wake up, someone she hadn't spoken to for years, someone she missed the voice of and would visit regularly. The answer was easy for her, but now she was having doubts. There had already been those who targeted her and Xin, and now there could be someone who was asked to target their mother as well.

"The world is more complex than you think. Although Gary has done well to rise in this world, there are many things that he still doesn't understand. He is scraping the tip of the iceberg, and this is what happens when he doesn't fully understand it!" the man replied. "I know he's trying to do his best, and he's done better than any parent could hope for, especially with no guidance from adults who should be looking after him. I feel guilty for that, but as I said before, I'm here to help, but as your friend said, I won't stick this syringe in unless you want me to. You have more rights than I do."lights

Amy felt her head spinning slightly as she went back and forth with her feelings. All she wanted to do was call Gary and ask him what he would do in this situation, what she should do.

'But Gary isn't here. So I need to make the call. I still remember... I still remember you, Dad. Even though I was so young, why can I still remember you? Why did it hurt so much to think that you abandoned us...? It was because you were so nice to us at the time, so loving... I will bet on those few memories I have of you.'

Finally, Amy spoke the words out of her mouth.

"Please... help Mother."

Knowing that Amy had made the decision she wanted, Xin decided to take a step back. The man turned around and carefully placed the syringe in the shoulder of her arm. The fluid was injected, and then they all waited patiently.

The signal of the heartbeat monitor was still continuing on the side; things looked all well, and it almost felt like everything was going to stay the same, as if it hadn't worked.

That was until the heartbeat monitor had a slight uptick. It was beating only ever so slightly faster, and slowly her eyes started to open.

"Mum!" Amy cried out. "You're awake!"

Chapter 822 2 Years In A Slumber

The first thing Amy's mother saw and felt as she opened her eyes was her daughter. Clinging onto her hand, tears continuously sobbing all over her. She wanted to say something, to ask what was happening, what was going on, but she let Amy cry out her tears and gently lifted her hand as she stroked the top of her head.

"Mum, I never thought you were going to wake up. I thought you might have stayed like that forever. I'm sorry, I'm sorry for being a bad kid, I'm sorry for shouting at you all those times when we didn't have enough food, or you weren't able to buy me things for school."

"I hate the fact that I was such a spoiled brat. All I wanted was to tell you this, I wanted to say sorry to you, but I wasn't sure if you heard me or not."

Mrs. Dem continued to brush the hair of her daughter, and slowly she started to look around. There were kids, those that looked around Gary's age, or a bit older, closer to being young adults who were standing there. None that she had recognized. It made her wonder, starting to think back as to what happened, and that's when she remembered, the last thing, the shop where she worked, it had been attacked.

She was hurt badly; she remembered everything before that, but she had no idea what was going on, or just how long she had been asleep, and then her eyes had set on a particular man.

"Dean, is that you? What are you doing here? You said that you didn't know when you would be back?"

"Maya," Dean, Amy's father, replied. "Things have gotten better on my end... and I only just found out what happened to you. I had to return because the most important thing of all is our family, you know how much it means to me."

Amy was constantly moving her head to the left and right; she thought that her mother would be furious at their father. For leaving them when they were young, for putting so much pressure on their family and living the life they did, but instead, the two of them seemed to be understanding of each other. Not just that, when she looked at her mother's face, she saw the softest smile appear on her face. It was clear she was genuinely happy.

As the group were taking in the moment in relative silence, a loud explosion went off in the distance. Looking out the window, smoke could be seen rising from a particular building.

"What was that?" Maya asked.

And slowly, she was starting to notice things that seemed out of the ordinary. The room she was in, it was a grand hospital room, she had a large bed, and even the ground and furniture all around, it was things she would have never dreamed of.

"A lot has happened, and a lot of things will be quite a bit of shock to you," Dean commented. "First, we need to check that you're okay; do one of you girls mind fetching the doctor to run some tests?"

White agreed with a nod and ran off, and before the doctor arrived, Dean had some questions.

"Do you remember what happened to you, how you ended up in here?" Dean asked.

To which, Maya nodded. "There was an attack at the supermarket. There were these people, wearing all sorts of different colors, they looked like university or high school students. I was trying to protect someone, and I ended up like this."

"I remember what the person looked like, but I'll be honest, I don't really know who they were."

Amy had looked into what happened that day and how it was a color gang that had attacked, but she didn't know the finer details about who was in control of the color gang at the time. So she had no clue who it was either. Rather than being focused on revenge though, she much rather wanted her mother just to get better.

"It's okay; when things are better, we can try to go to the police and try to find out who that is," Amy stated.

Once again, a loud explosion occurred off in the distance, and out of the window, more smoke was seen. One explosion was already a rare occurrence, but for two to happen in a short period of time...

Maya was starting to get worried; something was up, and judging by the fact that no one else was reacting to these explosions in the same way, it had been like this for a while.

"How long?" Maya asked. "How long have I been out?"

Amy held onto her mother's hand, and she looked directly into her eyes. When doing so, her mother was noticing her daughter's features; she had aged quite a bit.

"Mum, I don't want you to worry; we have been living a really good life, we've been looking after and visiting you all the time, but you've been like this, in a coma, for 2 years."

Maya's heart sank. She dreaded to think what her kids had to go through while she was away. She was the only one that looked after them, so what did they do during this time? What did they do for school? How did they manage to feed themselves and get money, and what about the time lost between them!

"I told you not to worry," Amy said, rubbing her hand.

"Did your father look after you?" Maya asked.

"No," Dean answered immediately. "I only just got here today as well. I will not take credit for something I didn't do. The one that looked after Amy, and has been looking after everyone and this whole city, is our boy, Gary."

"He has been up to some crazy things," Dean said with a smile.

Maya started to look around the room until she asked the question she had been thinking.

"Where is Gary?"

Chapter 823 Using Everything We Have

Just outside of one of the shopping malls that had been newly built in the Chavley area, several cars were parked up outside. That included a long limousine. On top of that, there were also several motorcycles as well.

The shopping mall was quite large, filled with bright white light, marble flooring, and went up several floors. On the third floor of the mall, Kai was wearing his black and gold fox-like mask. His clothes had patches of blood on them, and he was constantly looking around. His ears started to vibrate slightly. He could hear the sound of glass being smashed and a group of men talking.

Quickly, Kai started to run down the escalator, and mid-run, he started to take off his jacket. As he did, his body started to transform as grey fur covered his body, and he went on all fours. He hadn't transformed into his Werewolf form but had transformed into the form of a Wolf.

He quickly then leapt while still only halfway down the escalator and had reached the second floor of the mall. Quickly, he sprinted towards the noise and could see the group of around five men who were looting an electronics store. They were carrying speakers, heavy equipment, among other items.

Kai rushed over and leapt up. He was too fast for any of them to react, and immediately he bit at one of the throats of the looters. Instantly, he fell to the floor, and now Kai's mouth was full of blood.

"What the heck is that? It's a giant wolf! What's that doing in a shopping mall?"

"It's obviously an Altered, you idiot!" The other shouted as he dropped the speaker he had in his hands onto the ground and pulled out an electric baton. By the time his baton was ready, he could no longer see the wolf. Instead, he felt a sharp pain on his foot, and then his whole vision of the entire shopping mall went strange. His friends could see what was happening to him.

The wolf had bitten him by the leg and was now dragging him through the air. With a fling of his mouth, Kai let go, and the man went flying over the bannister, falling to the floor below.

Leaping to the next ones, Kai started to transform back into that of a more human shape. He swung his fists, slicing both of their throats, and then with the last one, pierced through its stomach.

"You guys should have treasured your lives a lot more. Anyone who comes to Slough on some bounty hunt or on the orders of another gang, they are going to learn their lesson. We broke free from the Underdogs' rule, and we don't plan to be put under someone else's."

Kai looked down on the bottom floor, and he could see several other Howlers members having gathered together. He quickly jumped down from his position, and when landing on the ground, proceeded to put back on his Howlers Jacket.

"The shopping mall has been cleared up, with checked the rest of the floors," Crowley informed. "Are you sure it's okay for us to be out like this, away from the city?"

"Yeah, it's fine," Kai answered. "In Burnham food street, we have Marie, Olivia and Izzy. She's called for help from her friends, and it looks like Ian and Numba have joined her. You should know of them, but they're great talents that are in the AFC now.

"As for Cipen, Xin is at the hospital where Austin and Gary's family are currently based. She's one of the strongest in our group based on my evaluation of her matches. The rest of Cipen, we have Vere, who was a strong fighter before she became Altered. There's the bodyguard which follows her everywhere as well.

"And there's the rest of the Altered that you trained during your time here. So we're not the only strike force that's out at the moment, doing what we can so people like these guys don't destroy the whole city."lights

"Don't you think it might be best for you to stay near Cipen?" Crowley asked. "You're essentially the leader in this situation. Rather than fighting, you should be giving out orders to the others."

"I have already given out my orders, and each of our people in those areas is capable of handling themselves and working on the situation when needed. Besides, we're not the only strike force."

There was one more group of people, Midwak and his two other Werewolves. They weren't reporting to Kai, but he knew they were going around the city and attacking several of the gangs. He was getting constant reports about it. For once, he was happy to have someone crazy and up for fighting on their side.

Kai felt his phone vibrate, and when he saw who it was, he immediately answered. "I see... I see, I'll pass on the information, maybe it will do something, give him some hope."

"What was that?" Crowley asked.

"It's Gary's mother. It looks like she's woken up at the hospital. I'll pass the information onto Elijah. Apparently, Gary's been asking about an update here. I don't know what's going on with his situation, and we don't even have time to help. So all I can do is hope he and Elijah can work something out. Maybe the truth of the situation will urge Gary to take some drastic measures. Also, they said someone wanted to meet me, but it's not important right now."

Just then, Kai's phone started to go off again and again. When he saw the message, his heart sunk slightly. He had set up a couple of people to look far out into the several entrances into the city because he was waiting for a particular move, and it was starting.

"We need to get ready; the Phoenix Gang is here."

Chapter 824 Sin Strikes

Unlike before, when entering Slough, there were borders. People could usually come in and out of the city as they liked, but Kai had set up a border so they could tell when others would come to attack them.

This had worked, at least with the first waves of attacks, but now that the attacks were so brutal, there were only a few people that had been set up further out, keeping an eye on the vehicles that were coming in and out.

That was when several large buses were seen turning in; they were red in color and had a large feather imprint design on the side. It was quite clear who these people were, and the report was sent instantly.

When they entered the edge of the city where the large buildings had started, the buses spun to their side, blocking the road. As the doors opened, a flood of those dressed in dark red clothing came out from the vehicles.

With one of the buses in particular, slowly wearing a large red coat that dragged across the floor, with a furry white hood, was none other than Sin. As he exited, he looked around at the buildings, the broken glass in the shops, and more.

"Ah, it seems like this city has had quite the work done to them. It's hard to believe that this place even is a tier 2 city with all this mess around," Sin commented. "But that leaves the question to be asked, where is everyone? Isn't it a bit too quiet?"

Following off from the same bus as Sin were Sin's commanders, those that were the strongest in the Phoenix Gang: Glutton, Greed, and Garbo had exited, each of them with a focused look, ready for what was ahead of them.

Finally, two more had exited out of the bus, and that was Raven and Gil.

"What does it feel like to finally be home?" Sin asked.

"We've been here before, though," Gil commented.

"I think what Gil means is it doesn't feel like home. It's not the same place as when we left it permanently; everything's changed because of them," Raven added.

Sin looked to his right, in the distance he could see a fueling station, around 500 meters away from him. He twirled his hand in the air and flung it. In doing so, a ball of fire quickly hit the station. It had perfectly set it alight, and a few moments later after burning, there was a large explosion in the place.

"You two, find out what's going on; where are the people? I understand the gang members have run back and hunched up in their buildings or cities, but why does this whole place feel like a ghost town?" Sin ordered.

It would have made sense if he could see a number of bodies, but there was next to nothing. The Phoenix Gang spanned out, with Gil and Raven going further out. They had found a few Howlers members already beaten, killed by those that had come before them. There were some of those in the general public that seemed to be hurt as well, but still far too few people.

While waiting for the others to gather some news, Sin thought he had another idea, to bring those out that were in hiding, and that's when he decided to set off another explosion. It wasn't hard for him to do, and the loud bang was heard throughout the city. The dark smoke could be seen entering the sky, covering a certain part of the city, for everyone to see.

Those that were staying in the hotels and areas of Burnham and Cipeen, they could see the smoke, and with it, they started to feel a slight dread. The city they lived in, the houses they paid for, the life that they had made, it was all going away. Even if they managed to survive this attack, how long would it take for them to rebuild it all, to get their lives back to the way it was?

"What is the Mayor doing, what are the police, the White Rose doing? The whole city is being overrun by gangs, and no one is doing anything!"

Due to the large number of people, there were around 10 or so people in each hotel room, staring out of their windows.

"This is what happens; haven't you heard? The police, the government authorities, all they are, in front of the gangs, is a simple clean-up crew. They will just pick up the leftovers to make it look like they're doing their job. The only ones that we can rely on for helping us, are the Howlers."

Many still remembered the generous things the Howlers had done for them, and even now on the way here, they had seen the fellow gang members risk their lives to protect them from getting hurt. They

didn't have distaste or blame them for what was happening, at least not the majority. It just felt like, as soon as a place was having a taste of what those in the higher cities had, that someone was coming to crush them down and take it away.

Back in the streets of Slough, Raven and Gil had come back, and they had done with a report.

"It seems that the general public, as well as the Howlers gang, have moved to two areas," Raven replied. "Burnham and Cipen. Most of the gang in Burnham is located on a strip; it's a food street of sorts. They can fortify the areas quite easily for those coming in and out. Whereas Cipen, it's a bit larger of an area, barriers of cars have been set up, and the Howlers members are on the lookout."

Sin smiled upon learning of this news. "That's good, that means we don't have to go around the entire city trying to chase them out. Glutton, Greed, Garbo, you guys head to Burnham food street; as for you two, you're coming with me to Cipen. Also, don't get too involved just yet; let the other boys have some fun. They need to keep active; it's their first time fighting in a while."

Chapter 825 Why We Exist

Kai had been doing research into Sin's teams, so he knew who the main people were that he needed to worry about. Apart from just Sin himself, there were the three who were always by his side: Glutton, Greed, and Garbo. Regularly, Sin would use these three to do the majority of the large dirty work for him—dealing with uncompromising local gangs and even when having trouble with neighboring Tier 1 cities, the other kings.

Of course, Sin himself would regularly appear as well, showing off a flashy display of his powers, which was why he had come to be known as the most active of the kings. Now, he had received news that all of them had arrived.

"Crap!" Kai shouted at himself. He had moved from the Wolf's Pool Club and had returned to Cipen. He was at one of the largest areas of open road, where they had set up a barrier of cars.

He had learned this small trick from Harry Cardenez when they had dealt with their problems. With the large buildings in the way, the easiest way for them to come to the place was through the roads, and now the roads would be heavily guarded and funneled in.

"The reports I've gotten, they've lost sight of Sin and the rest of his group," Kai said.

"Do you want me to go check it out?" Crowley asked. "I can survey the whole area from above."

Crowley's Altered powers were like that of a dark black crow. Kai knew that it would be helpful in their situation, but there was something he was worried about.

"I'm not sure that's for the best. I have reports that the actual members of the Phoenix Gang are coming towards here and Burnham. Although we don't have track of their leaders, it's best we deal with this situation right now," Kai answered.

"You mean, you aren't planning on just defending here?" Crowley replied.

"No, we need to attack. We really need to attack. Get the Altered that you trained ready; they'll be here in about ten minutes, and we need to meet them head-on!" Kai ordered.

Crowley nodded. He wasn't sure it was the best idea, but he wasn't so sure he knew better either. He was a teacher that taught one of the best ways to defend oneself and use their Altered abilities to the fullest. He wasn't a strategist when it came to fights like this. The uneasy feeling, the way they were trapped in the city, it felt somewhat like a war to him.

Kai moved along and positioned several men in the alleyways between the streets just ahead of the main road. Crowley was on watch, having flown on top of one of the buildings, looking down below.

Then standing in front of the cars was Kai himself, and several men stood just behind it.

"No one is allowed to get into Cipe. We have people to protect, those who can't fight. Our family members, school teachers, doctors, and the ones that cook the food and feed us every day!" Kai shouted.

"I know sometimes we can feel distant in this world. Everything comes to us as is. We manage to go to the shops every day and pick out what we like. We can drive on the streets with no bumps in the road and enjoy a drink here and there with each other."

"That's all because of the hardworking people in Slough. It's because of everything they do that we can do this. But what about us? Those of you who joined the Howlers Gang. You joined because you knew there was nothing for you to do."

"Maybe you were bad in school, got kicked out, or had one too many fights on the street. Maybe you're quick to lose your temper and just can't take being ordered around, so you joined the Howlers!"

"Well, now it's time for us to do something for all the people that helped us in this city. We are the protectors; we know how to fight, so use it and don't let them in!"

After Kai's resounding speech, everyone behind him cheered. He needed to get them ready; just before battle, he could feel that some of them were nervous and intense. There was a reason why Kai needed to meet the attackers head-on.

From his observation, the Phoenix Gang used plenty of other gangs to do their work for them, but it wasn't as if the Phoenix Gang didn't have low-ranking members. So why not use them? Was it just a case of what was easier for them? No, the reason was that nearly all of those in the Phoenix Gang had some fire-

based Altered abilities, and fire was very destructive.

It could ruin entire buildings, burn up the products they needed, and destroy evidence to be used against them. If fighting started in Ciper and Burnham, then they could say goodbye to the town of Slough as they knew it.

Right there and then, Kai could see it; he could see the crowd of people coming towards him. There were at least thirty of them dressed in the Phoenix Gang clothing, and they were charging right ahead.

Kai took off his Howlers uniform, revealing his body above. He then tied it around his waist. It was something he had gotten used to doing. Right after, he started to run, and in the middle of his run, his body started to transform. His hands touched the ground, and he was in his Wolf form.

He dashed ahead and leaped right in, aiming to bite at the neck of one of the others. But the attacker had lifted up his arm, and Kai's fangs sank deep into his arm instead.

"Everyone!" Crowley ordered, lifting his hand. "Move in!"

From the alleyways behind the Phoenix Gang, those in the black and gold uniforms came rushing in. It was an all-out war between the Howlers and the Phoenix Gang.

Chapter 826 A Harder Battle Than I thought

The Howlers from behind weren't just regular members of the gang. Their bodies started to morph and transform, changing into parts of beasts. Those who didn't transform were holding onto Anti-Altered weapons.

These people were a special group within the Howlers. Nearly all of the Howlers, including non-Altered members, were trained by Crowley. He had daily lessons that would run three times a day, each time with a different group.

However, Kai had told him to pay special attention to a particular group because they were all Altered. With the funds they received, they bought up all the Altered solutions they could from the black market, making themselves stronger.

They also had Tom trying to work on a way of making his own Altered solutions. He was close, but it wasn't possible just yet. Either way, those most loyal to the Howlers had been selected, the ones that worked under the core leaders.

One person in particular, Park, had an arm that started to transform into a hard shell that was white in color, with a claw at the end that reached out and went to clamp down on one of the Phoenix members. In return, though, the Phoenix Gang member's cheeks started to blow up like a balloon, pushing out, blowing out air, and a large stream of fire came out to hit Park, forcing him to let go and stumble as he moved the heat from his eyes.

"Back then, I offered to go to Notsburg, but our leaders decided to go back themselves! Everything I have now, the life I have is thanks to the Howlers, and I have to pay them back!" Park shouted as he charged back in.

Park had always been more than loyal to the Howlers. They had given him responsibility, a job, and saved him from having to move down to a Tier 4 city at the time. He still remembered the time when he

had fought against Gary Dem. At the time, he didn't know he had an important relation to the Howlers gang.

The fight was intense, and Kai had jumped in with a slash, but as he did, a gang member with a burning tail had jumped and whacked his hand onto the floor. It was powerful and didn't do much damage, but it stopped Kai from hurting them.

"I hate to admit it, but these guys, they know how to fight. We should have expected it from a Tier 1 gang, and no wonder Austin and Midwak had so much trouble against them."

Kai was trying to look at the scene, and it was difficult for him to watch. Although the Howlers members were holding out, he could see that they were getting hit more than the others were.

"Altered bodies are strong and can take a thrashing and heal relatively quickly, but not like this!" Kai ground his teeth and grabbed onto one of the flaming tails. It was hot, but he didn't care, as he swung the man by the tail and slammed them right into the ground.

"Duck!" A voice shouted out, and the words were spoken by none other than Crowley.

As if by instinct, as the others heard his voice, they reacted. All of the Howlers members bent down, and right after, Anti-Altered arrows came out. They hit the Phoenix Gang members and started to electrocute them on the spot.

This gave an opening and a chance for the members to strike back.

Kai looked to his right, and he could see Crowley standing on top of the barrier of cars, and with him were the other Howlers members, all with Anti-Altered equipment in their hands.

'Crowley moved from above to the back; he said he wasn't a good commander for fights like these, but he seems to be doing pretty well.'

After being stuck, the Phoenix Gang members received a few good solid hits that sent them to the floor or gave them a wound or two. They were still relatively strong, and the arrows would only cause them to flinch.

It was also something that wouldn't work as well a second time, but it still was swaying the momentum and giving the Howlers Gang strength, and that's when something odd started to happen.

The Phoenix Gang members, it almost looked like they were running away.

"Don't give chase!" Park shouted. "Remember our job is to protect Cipeen."

None of the Phoenix Gang had been beaten or hurt to the point where they had to stop fighting. If anything, the Howlers Gang had suffered more, so Kai was wondering why they were running away.

And that's when they saw something else. From the same alleyways they had come from, and from the main street, more gang members were coming. These weren't the Phoenix Gang, but the gangs from all over that were still in Slough, all after that bounty.

"Are they going to come in waves... just how long can we survive something like this!" Kai thought as he could feel his phone vibrating. Seeing Xin calling him, he quickly picked it up, worried they might be in trouble.

"Tell him I can't come; I'm a little busy right now," Kai said, after Xin had said a few words on the other side.

"Kai, I really think you should come; he says he can help with this entire situation. He says he can help us beat the Phoenix Gang."

Right now, Kai just had one plan to beat the Phoenix Gang, and he wasn't sure if it would work or not. He was more worried that it wouldn't work, so to hear that there was something else.

"Go," Crowley said. "I will cover this area; there are some trustworthy ones, and the gang you have built up is a good one. Trust them and head over there. As the current leader of this whole thing, I don't think you should be on the battlefield anyway."

Nodding, Kai thought it was the right thing to do. They were already on the edge of Cipeu, so it wouldn't take long to get there. Just as Kai was about to transform and run through the streets, he turned to look at Crowley.

"When our actual leader is here, you'll see, he's a lot crazier than me."

Chapter 827 A meeting with the Warden

The prison was always full of fighting. It was an everyday occurrence, but it wasn't often that a person would go so far as to take it to death. When it did occur, not much was done about it in the prison.

The guards turned their heads and reported it as a casualty that couldn't be stopped. What would occur, though, was whoever was responsible would get another blotch on their record, and currently, Gary had been called back to the Warden's office.

She was seated in her chair, dressed in a heavy black uniform with a flat hat on top of her head. She had long painted nails, the tips colored black, similar to her thick black eyeliner.

If there was one thing that was clear, the Warden liked the color black.

"Gary Dem, do I need to remind you that your case hasn't even fully been filed yet?" the Warden stated. "You are in here in the meantime while your case is being investigated, and because of what you have done, this will be added to your file, added to your crimes."

Gary didn't reply. With how long he had been in here already, and after listening to Elijah, whoever it was that wanted him in here would keep him in here until they got what he wanted, and he needed to get out before then.

'Is the Warden really that strong?' Gary thought as he started to eye her up and down. It was hard to tell, and even more so, his system hadn't given him any type of quest, but she could very well be linked to the 'escape the prison' quest.

It might be her which was the reason as to why the quest reward was another Rank upgrade.

“Well, I just wanted to let you know. Yes, Altered’s die in the prison, but if your crimes are light and you ever want to get out of here, it’s best you don’t do anything, and remember, never get the guards involved in your dirty affairs.”

It sounded like it was the cue for their little meeting to be over, and with it, Gary stood up and gave a little polite bow before walking away, being escorted by the guard.

When he finally left the room, Warden Synca let out a big sigh.

“Why do all the cute innocent-looking ones turn out to be so rough?”

“Based on what I read about him, he seemed to be a good person,” one of her guards by the side said.

“Oh, what do you mean by that?” Synca replied.

“Well, I heard that the White Rose has had multiple requests. From corporations, different cities’ companies, all asking us to release Gary. In their statements, they have talked about how he’s helped them.”

“That’s standard for all these guys with quite a big backing. I heard that the gang he was linked to was quite a large tier 2 one, so you can ignore most of those,” Synca replied. “Do you really think someone so good would kill a newcomer on their first day?”

The guard didn’t say more, but he wanted to. A lot of the reports they had gotten, it wasn’t just from corporations, but they were also from the general public. People from the AFA, public citizens from Slough, to a bakery shop owner, and just the local residents.

It was something that had never happened before, and the guard in question had looked into it because he still remembered when Gary had pulled him back, just before that body would have slammed into him.

On the prison floor itself, Blackjack had been appearing more often. He had to since he had decided to make relations with one of the groups, or at least make it seem that way, but he was carefully waiting for the right time, and he had finally decided.

'Alright, it's time to make my move,' Blackjack said. 'I need to talk to that damn mutt. With him, the two of us can definitely get out of here, but I am a little worried. I mean, if he knows what I am, then what if a big fight breaks out?'

'Is he stronger than me? I saw some of his strength, but I wasn't able to gauge his full powers. It could be difficult if he was.'

Either way, he couldn't be scared in this situation, but as Blackjack went around the place, he was unable to find Gary, no matter where he went.

"Oh, the green-haired guy?" one of the prisoners said. "The Warden called him into her office, but that was a while ago, I thought he would have been back by now. You know, usually it's just the standard stuff, an extension on your record, etc."

Blackjack did find it weird, wondering where he was.

Gary, after his meeting with the Warden, the guard actually escorted him off to a different area. The hallways, he had been down them before, so he had an idea of where he was going. He was wondering what it would all be about, but upon opening the door, he could see he was in the visitors' room again.

There was no one inside, but on the other side of the glass, Gary could see Elijah was there again, and was on his own.

When Gary went to sit down, the guards on Elijah's and Gary's side both went away, allowing the two of them to talk in private.

“Thanks for doing this,” Gary said immediately. “You don’t have to risk yourself, with your position and everything, yet you’re coming here to see me.”

Elijah smiled for a moment, but it quickly went away as he wanted to get down to business.

“I got what you asked me for, an update on the situation. It’s not looking too good.”

Elijah went ahead to explain the details to Gary, how the members of Slough had a bounty put on them. So the city was being attacked by the local gangs in the area as well.

He then went on to explain how the Howlers were still there and the city where they were holding off, but the Phoenix Gang had made their move and now had entered Slough as well.

“Kai is smart,” Elijah continued. “It will be a long time until they take over Slough; you still have some time, we still have some time.”

Elijah wanted to tell him about how he had help, how they planned to get him out of here, but he didn’t want to say anything that would also give away their position, so he would leave it be for now.

“There is one more thing that I need to tell you. Kai wanted me to specifically make sure you get this message, and it’s up to you how to deal with it. First, your mother, she’s awake... and it seems like there is a visitor, your father has returned to Slough.”

Chapter 828 An Annoying Smell

828 An Annoying Smell

Immediately after hearing the news, Gary felt something strange happening to his body. His hands, they wouldn’t stop shaking. They were moving on their own. When he looked down, he also noticed his own fingernails; they were growing.

They were turning into the deadly claws they would do when he used his controlled transformation, but he wasn’t using it right now. At the same time, they started to revert back, going back to his usual hands.

The only thing that was staying consistent was that they wouldn't stop shaking.

"My mother, she's... she's awake, after all this time she's finally awake," Gary repeated. The words, the reality, it didn't feel real. He would visit her often whenever he got the chance to.

Often he was too busy, but not a single day had gone by in his life where he wouldn't think about his mother. What would she think when she woke up, what would she think of what he had become, or what he had made?

He was sure she would be in for a number of surprises, their nice new home, the fact that they didn't have to worry about bills anymore, and that he was even part of the AFC at one point.

But the time she had woken up, perhaps would have been the worst.

"I'm... a bad kid," Gary said in a soft voice to himself.

He wanted to be there when she woke up. He wanted to see her more than anything and comfort her. But instead, she would just be delivered shocking news. He was sure she would learn that her son was now in prison and that the town that they lived in was now being destroyed left, right, and center. From the news, even the public didn't seem to be safe, and that included his mother.

"Gary... what's happening, you can't blame yourself for it. I know what you're like," Elijah said, he had to say something, he didn't like seeing Gary this way. He still remembered when he stuck up for the old man.

If he was like that with complete strangers, then he could only imagine what he would be like with his own mother.

"Your mother, she was the one that raised you right. She's a special person, who raised a great kid like you, so I imagine she must be really great as well."

“She is,” Gary answered, and his hands had stopped shaking, but after thinking about his mother, knowing she was safe for the time being along with Amy, another thought came into his head, and it was his father.

Now, Elijah could see Gary’s eyes going out of control. They narrowed, turning thin like a slit, and a slight red tinge started to come into his eyes.

“My father, what is he doing there? After all this time he’s been away, he’s there with them! What is he playing at! Is he trying to trick them!”

Too many thoughts were going through Gary’s head. Unlike Amy, Gary was a little older, and rather than images of his father having good times with him, in his head appeared instead, all the difficulties right after he left with his mother. That man, Gary, was happy if he never met him again. He had no right to come back into their lives right now.

But Gary couldn’t just think of his family troubles, from everything he heard, it sounded like the whole of Slough was in trouble. Kai was doing his best with what he had, but could they really last that much longer without him?

“Elijah,” Gary said in a snapping tone that had caught his attention. “If you can’t do anything to get me out of here, then if you can, I want you to try and do everything in your power to help the Howlers, do whatever you can to keep them safe. I will get out of here no matter what!”

Elijah nodded after hearing Gary’s words, and the guards, hearing the commotion from outside the door, had decided to come in. Time was up for them anyway, so Gary willingly left, and so did Elijah.

‘Gary, just wait a little longer, we’re getting there, but there are more people on your side than you think. Trust in your teammates to do well.’

When Gary exited from the visitors' room, he had finally returned back to the prison, and he was still in a sour mood, but he knew what he needed to do.

'The System, it gives exp for everyone I take down in here, and if I consume the Altered's, then I get even more stats. There are the south and the north group that I can deal with.

'If I deal with both of them. I might not be able to take them out at the same time, but if I deal with both of them eventually, then I should be a lot stronger, strong enough to break out of here.'

As Gary was figuring out how he should do this, taking out one at a time or going to the other side to help them fight first, that was when a particular person had bumped into him.

"Oh, so we finally meet. I've been looking for you everywhere," the man said in a confident voice.

Looking directly at the bearded man, Gary was wondering if he recognized him. Maybe he was part of Stinger's group, but his face didn't ring a bell.

"I heard that you had been looking for me, and you see, well, I've been looking for you as well," the man in question was Blackjack, but in the middle of his speech, he noticed something.

Gary started to sniff the air slightly. It was a waft coming from the man in front of him, a smell that he had never smelt before, for some reason, it was agitating Gary slightly.

"The smell, it's coming from you, why do you smell different from everyone else?" Gary asked.

Chapter 829 An Unlikely Combo

829 An Unlikely Combo

It was a strange sensation that Gary couldn't quite shake off, a persistent urge that kept him sniffing the air. The scent was unmistakably emanating from the person in front of him. While not unpleasant, it was irritating, akin to the sneeze-inducing irritation one feels when sniffing pepper.

The tingling in his nose grew more intense, compelling him to cut the conversation short with this enigmatic stranger. Despite his discomfort, his curiosity was piqued, leading him to address the issue directly.

“The smell, it’s coming from you, why do you smell different from everyone else?” Gary inquired, unable to contain his curiosity any longer.

Blackjack, slightly taken aback by the comment, noticed Gary’s incessant nose-rubbing and squinting. It was evident that Gary could smell him, and with no means to mask his scent, Blackjack had anticipated this moment.

‘Well, I guess this confirms what he is,’ Blackjack thought, pondering Gary’s unique ability. ‘But then, why doesn’t he know about me? If he can smell me, shouldn’t he know? Is he some young fledgling, or an omega that was made away from the main group in secret? This is a better situation than I thought.’

Trying to alleviate the situation, Blackjack waved his hand in front of him, futilely attempting to disperse the scent, which did nothing to alleviate Gary’s discomfort.

“I’m Blackjack,” he introduced himself. “I was told that you had come to my cell a few times while I was away, and that you wanted to speak to me. So, I decided to come to you.”

Blackjack had decided to leave out the fact that through his own sense of smell, he was actually avoiding Gary for the time being, because he wanted to confirm a few things first. Otherwise this conversation wouldn’t have happened and would have ended with a lot of blood.

Choosing to momentarily ignore the strange smell, Gary took a quick glance at Blackjack. This was the individual rumored to be strong enough to confront the warden, and one of the two who remained untouched by the three major groups within the prison. Based solely on his appearance, it was challenging to gauge his strength, but Gary knew better than to judge a book by its cover.

‘I was initially seeking out Blackjack, considering he had opposed the warden. I thought he could advise me on her powers, equipping me with the knowledge to break out of this place.’

“I wanted to speak to you about your fight against the Warden,” Gary said, getting straight to the point.

“Ah, it looks like we have come to each other at the right time, then,” Blackjack replied, acknowledging Gary’s inquiry. “I have heard about your feats while you were in here as well. From my guess, it looks like you want to get out of here. Who would have thought of such an unlikely combo teaming up.”

Gary found Blackjack's response somewhat odd but chose to overlook it for now. Blackjack, meanwhile, pondered whether to mention Gary's power and how it weakened the Warden. Revealing this would mean explaining how he knew about it, and there were still a few more things he wanted to get done.

"The Warden is incredibly strong, a mythical type Altered. Her powers are close to one of the kings out there, or someone in the top ten in the AFC, just to give you an idea. It's a fight that I'm not sure we can win. I fought her and lost, and honestly, I don't think there's anyone stronger than me in here. Still, if you want to give it a go, trying to fight against the Warden, then you are free to be my guest," Blackjack shared candidly.

"How would I even fight the Warden? And even if we got past her, how would we escape?" Gary questioned, contemplating the logistics of such a confrontation.

"I have my ways. If we are able to weaken her, then I am able to get her to show us the exit of this place. As for getting her down here, we would need to start a large commotion. Getting into trouble with either the south or north group should do," Blackjack explained, outlining a possible strategy.

Gary was not averse to this plan, as he intended to confront these groups anyway to gain the experience and strength needed. The prospect of facing the Warden alone seemed daunting unless he leveled up significantly.

"And what if the two of us teamed up? If it was us two against the Warden, couldn't we do something then?" Gary suggested, exploring the possibility of a partnership.

"Me fight again? I feel like if I got involved and we failed, she might kill me for trying again. I was let off last time after everything that happened. I suppose I would be more inclined to try again if I was sure we could win. But right now, I don't even know how strong you are," Blackjack responded, expressing his reservations.

The two exchanged a deep, probing look, their fingers twitching slightly as if ready for a sudden confrontation. Both men could sense the tension rising, the hairs on the back of Blackjack's neck standing on end.

“I should tell you something else,” Blackjack added. “Us two, I think we should avoid being close to each other for long periods. Otherwise, it could turn out a little unwell. If we're fighting together, it's not a problem.”

“Well, I was going to say, there is a way I can test out my strength with you if you wanted to,” Gary proposed, hinting at a potential challenge.

“Hey!” Blackjack snapped back sharply. “If you're thinking about what I think you're thinking about, then one of us might die in the process, and I'm telling you now, I'm an incredibly lucky person.”

Chapter 830 Working With The Worst

Blackjack, a prisoner who was full of mystery, spent most of his time gambling with the other fellow inmates. During his time here, he hadn't made anyone he could really call friends to rely on, nor had he joined any group.

There was just one fact that everyone did know, and that was the fact that he was strong. Now it seemed like he was about to fight one of the strong newcomers head to head.

Both Gary and Blackjack had their eyes locked on each other. The latter had approached Gary thinking it was the right time, the time to use the other's powers to help him, but he just needed to see a little more from him before he could put all of his hope into this stranger. Especially since they were part of that group of people, and now, it felt like they were ready to clash at any moment.

“I'm telling you now,” Blackjack said once again, the tone of his voice shifting, condescending as if he was speaking to a dog. His eyes were slightly changing color. “I order you to stand down; this is not a fight that the two of us need to have.”

Gary looked back at Blackjack and noticed the shift, the change of colors in his eyes. Was this part of his Altered transformation that was about to happen?

‘Who is this guy to talk to me like that? My blood is just boiling with him standing in front of me!’ Gary's jaw was tensing, but at the same time, images of what was happening outside appeared in his head.

His mother—if the two of them were to fight and it was to get out of hand, it could delay his queue to get out of the place.

“Alright, if you weren't talking about fighting against you, then what did you mean by you needed to test me?” Gary asked, doing his best to ignore the disrespect.

Rather than replying straight away, Blackjack was left confused for a moment, staring at Gary.

‘Did my influence work on him? I don’t quite understand what happened. That wasn’t the normal reaction. I know our skills don’t work on them as strongly as it does compared to others, but I was quite proud of my ability. I thought I could at least be able to control him; why didn’t it work?’

“Hey, are you going to talk, or am I just wasting my time, because if you want to fight, we can fight!” Gary asked, thinking at least he could get some experience out of the whole thing.

Blackjack quickly shook his head. The reason for his 'influence' not working he could figure out another time. Right now, the green-haired kid was agreeing to follow along.

“Right, right. Look in here, we need to both be at a certain level of strength if we want to take on the Warden. I told you before, we need to create chaos if we want to get the Warden down here, but then what?”

“We still have the rest of the guards, as well as the White Rose to deal with. We can’t just deal with the Warden; we have to deal with her quickly and get out of here quickly. Even if all of the prisoners were on our side, it would be impossible to take on the White Rose, you should know that, right?”

Gary had to agree with this fact. What he was more worried about was how hard the White Rose would chase him down. Would they do so going all the way back to Slough?

If that was the case, would escaping even do anything? Or if Gary reached Slough with all the fighting going on, would they stop for a few moments to think about it?

“I can see you understand what I’m getting at. I have calculated just how much strength we need to escape from this place. It’s not that I don’t have confidence you can beat the South or North Leaders; I believe you can. But if I thought we could escape with one of them, well, I would have already approached them.”

“I assume that you have heard of a person named Ice?”

Gary shook his head; his roommate had informed him. There were two people who were strong enough to the point where the groups in the prison left them alone.

“So if you know about him, I’m sure you know what I’m getting at. I already told you, if I knew there was someone strong enough to help me get out of this place, I would have already teamed up with him.”

“So, Ice is not strong enough. I need someone stronger than him. So if you want to prove your worth to me, then go ahead and fight him.”

Starting fights with strangers he had no history with, or that did no wrong to him, was not Gary’s style, but he needed to win fights to get rewarded by the system, and he needed to fight strong opponents. He also had to remind himself of what type of place he was in; it was a prison, and most likely everyone who was in here had done something that was worth putting them in.

When Gary turned around, about to look for Ice, he turned to look back at Blackjack again.

“I wonder, how did someone like you got stuck in here?” Gary asked.

To which Blackjack just shrugged his shoulders. “I guess I was just in the wrong place at the wrong time. Gary, none of us are good people in here.”

“Exactly,” Gary replied as he walked off to find Ice. “Which is why I was starting to wonder what kind of person it was that I was teaming up with, and who am I helping break free.”

As Blackjack watched Gary walk away, he had a glimmer of hope for what was to come, which was followed by a large, sick feeling in his stomach.

‘If anyone found out who I was meeting up with, my head would be rolling on the floor.