A sort of continuation, or sequel, on my part. In the last part, Warwick has left a good impression on the Gold Devil Association, especially with the leader. Now to continue onwards, they'll soon find out that Warwick has other connections like he's said. How will they respond?

## <u>Spots</u>

Scarlett has just finished sweeping the front entrance of the Starlight Tavern after forcefully rejecting three gang members from her establishment due to rowdy behavior on their part. The she-wolf now finishes up and begins to head back inside when she stops, her ears going straight up in remembrance.

Turning to Warwick, Scarlett asks, "Hey Warwick, you mentioned you were a former gang member, right? And since then you've been clean, right? No more connections?"

The striped hyena rubs the back of his head sheepishly while admitting, "While I've been clean since then, I have made my own mercenary group. In fact, one of them is inside of the bar right now."

"Well, at least that's better than having gang members inside trashing up the place." Scarlett remarks in relief with a smile, before caressing Warwick on the chin. She adds, "And you're kinda cute yourself, not gonna lie about that!"

Warwick melts a little from the chin rubbing, making his tail wag a bit also. What comes next is a tinted blush on his face. And then Warwick protests Scarlett's remark towards him being cute. "I am not cute!"

"Sure you aren't, but you are." Scarlett retorts in return, causing Warwick to redden more. Spencer is watching the exchange from the sidelines and even he doesn't join in, knowing Warwick will most likely lash out as a result. So he keeps himself distant from the conversation while watching the striped hyena bouncer retreat inside, leaving himself and Scarlett temporarily alone.

After entering inside, the striped hyena rolls his shoulders to calm down and relax, exhaling deeply while taking up his post by the front entrance. But his chance to relax is only brief when another voice snaps Warwick out of his period. "Still giving you a hard time, ah? You usually don't arrive this early, Warwick!"

"What do you want now, Antoine? I'm really not in the mood for your games right now." Warwick sighed while shooting an irritated glare at a spotted hyena standing behind the counter. The striped hyena was in no mood for any games and it plainly showed on his face.

Antoine was washing out a plate while giving Warwick a mischievous grin along with a sneaky chartreuse gaze. The muscular male spotted hyena appeared to be restraining himself from breaking out in full laughter upon noticing the annoyed red-faced bouncer that just came in. It was too funny not to laugh at! But Antoine kept himself composed not to give Warwick any further embarrassment.

Antoine mentions, "I wanted nothing from you, really; just that I haven't seen you arrive this early before. And judging from how red in the face you are, it seems that a certain someone has taken an interest in you."

His face paling, Warwick denies vehemently, "Not attracted to her in that way! Antoine, do you even know what you're sticking your nose into? Romance is the very last thing on my mind right now!"

"Had to be some sort of passing remark to turn you into a strawberry." When Warwick shoots Antoine an angry death glare, the spotted hyena simply stares back at the striped hyena, an innocent expression plastered on his face. Raising his hands up, Antoine wonders, "What? I'm just curious, is all. Don't act so surprised though. I thought we'd be used to this by now."

Warwick sneers in mocking contempt, "Sure we are; we're mercenaries as well, Antoine! Not too many people are attracted to workers of that kind!"

"No, but people are attracted to the person for who they are, not what they are. Of course what a person is makes them immediately attractive, but when seeing their true colors, you get a different view of them." Antoine rebutted in return. Seeing Warwick's red-faced anger disappear and turn into confusion, Antoine explains, "You and I have both been through this. We've had attraction but later stepped away from that. And finding that special someone takes a whole lot of time, rather than playing matchmaker."

"Whatever. Like that really matters." Warwick rolls his eyes in return to the spotted hyena's testimony. And seconds later, a familiar face makes an entrance to the tavern.

The moment Spencer enters the tavern, he can already sense the tension growing inside of Warwick. But upon laying eyes on the spotted hyena bartender, the gang leader turns to Warwick and questions, "Am I missing something here?"

Shaking his head, Warwick denies, "You haven't missed anything important, mind you. Just someone else grinding my nerves."

"Oh, I see. And who is this, if you don't mind me asking? I've seen another spotted hyena before but this one I haven't met." Spencer analyzed.

Warwick concludes, "That's because you've seen Henry most of the time, not Antoine." Pointing to the chartreuse-eyed spotted hyena located directly across from them, the striped hyena bouncer gestures with his hand to point him out and introduce him. "The spotted hyena you see now is Antoine, and he is one of my men."

"Warwick, are you lying to me?" Spencer arches an eyebrow at Warwick while giving a softer glance towards Antoine, who simply returns the gesture with a quick head nod. The hyena gang leader, apparently, was now on edge from what Warwick revealed just now.

Defending himself, Warwick points out, "Why would I lie to you? I don't have a gang or mafia or whatever like you do, but I have a mercenary team now. And yes, a legit mercenary group."

His ears going up in surprise, Spencer exclaims, "Hold on, a mercenary group?! Wow, you're bold and talented! I gotta see who is all in your group!"

"Well, it's only three of us in the group, so call it a trio; just the three of us. Me, Antoine, and Henry." Warwick alluded further. He watches Spencer's curious expression grow to one of interest and the gang leader requests, "Warwick, when you have time, I want to meet you and your group, personally. Maybe you guys can be useful in tying up some... loose ends, as I call them."

While Warwick grows a bit suspicious of Spencer's demands, Antoine was listening in to the whole thing. But before Warwick or even Antoine can voice a complaint, Spencer reassures them, "You guys will be confidential in this case. And the tasks that I have planned out won't involve any sort of gang activity; just a few delivery errands for you guys to run for me."

"Okay? Anything else I should know about before conversing with my guy over there?" This is enough to make Warwick suspicious, even while giving the gang leader the side-eye. Still, Spencer's relaxed demeanor still stands even when under pressure when most gang members or leaders would begin to shrink back or flee.

The striped hyena insists, "I assure you no harm will be done. But I'm sure you dealt with cops before. That is tricky in itself. But apart from that, I will give you the opportunity to teach a few of my men how to fight. So all you have to do is combat instruction, delivery runs, and escort services. Should the cops ever make their presence known, you know what to do, don't you?"

"Of course we do! What else do you expect? Money? Assassination? What?" Warwick demands in return. This uneasiness only makes Spencer laugh in return, shaking his head afterwards. He concludes, "Warwick, I demand nothing more than the good service of your men. Now I am asking for your free time again; when you have time off, you bring your men to the meeting point I have designated and then we will start off from there."

Spencer then leaves the area, to which Warwick and Antoine share glances with each other. This only leaves them thinking the same thing, 'What are we getting ourselves into?'