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Chapter 181

"But I want it for myself!" Shouted Gofumin rather greedily; her goblin lineage was clearly showing itself now.

"Phantasmal flames shouldn't hurt her, as long as Pyro doesn't want to hurt her, I guess...." Said Lucifer.

"Well, we'll see about that. For now, no mounts," I said.

"Okay..." Sighed Gofumin.

"Come with mama...." I said as I grabbed the little, green-skinned girl with my arms, and she quickly cheered up as I carried her like my baby.

She was too cute to let her get upset like that.

"I was scared...." Said Gofumin again.

"Okay, calm down now. Were you too hyped with the blazing spider that you forgot that, and now it's resurfacing?" I sighed.

Gofumin nodded a bit.

"Where's your daddy at?" I wondered.

"I am here. Sorry for coming late. Gofumin was somewhere else, and when we were all pulled into the shadows, I was looking for her this entire time... Phew... Dear, come with me...." Sighed the Goblin Chief.

He arrived just in time as I asked for him. The Hobgoblin was panting in exhaustion as he had been looking for the girl this entire time.

“Papa!”

Gofumin jumped over her papa, and he hugged her tightly.

“Hahh... Everything happened so fast. I was so afraid that something might have happened to you,” Sighed the Goblin Chief.

“Well, now that things are done, let’s prepare some food for everyone. We need to quickly assess what just happened here... You guys, stand around the camp and protect us from anything that comes,” I said.

“Gryshiii!”

The spiders all hissed in unison as they raised their front limbs.

“Pyro, I am making you the official Spider General! So you’ll be the one that leads the rest, you’re a special one, Pyro, so I am counting on you!” I said.

“Grishi!”

Pyro got all happy, raising its front limbs like those little spiders, jumping spiders, yeah, those that often raise their little legs while making mating dances, but he was doing one out of happiness.

I even petted him; he was that cute. I never thought a zombie spider would win me over.

“Mrao!”

Kuro, however, disliked this new recruit, and the giant cat desired my attention.

“Ah, Kuro... Don’t get jealous.” I sighed as I petted him and kissed his forehead.

He was a cute cat.

“CRAAA!”

Suddenly, I almost jumped out of the ground when the giant Raven startled me with its typical crow cry... he slowly reduced his size using the Body Size Alteration Skill and sat down over my right shoulder.

“Okay, you too! Geez, everyone wants attention nowadays....” I sighed.

“Craaa~” the little Raven enjoyed me as I caressed his silky black feathers.

I took a small cookie out of my inventory and gave it to him.

He happily grabbed it and began to snack on it as birds love crackers.

We quickly moved forward as we began to prepare food for everyone. After all the fighting was done, the people were starving without them eating anything through that time.

I had checked every person and found nobody got particularly hurt by the spiders, so there were no people injured. They were all doing fine.

And about the rabbit girl... well, she had just woken up and seemed healthy. She was, as of now, eating a whole bowl of rice with a large piece of grilled meat on top and a lot of vegetables around. She also drank some tea with sugar this time, so it wasn’t a bitter herb juice like the one we gave to her last night.

“Nom... Nom... Uwah! So good! It’s been a while since I had good food!” She said.

She was even recovered and seemingly left without any sequel. She was cured of the disease she had as well... but what was it anyway?

And I didn't even know her name yet, her tribe's name, or what was going on in the forest.

I had many questions for her, but I felt like it would be bad if I forced myself into her like this, so I decided to be gentle and go on slowly with the questions.

"Dear, tell me something. What's your name?" I asked.

"Ah... My name's Syllis! Thank you so much for your hospitality... and for helping me out with this... I was very tired and exhausted in the forest... I thought I was going to die out of starvation...." She sighed.

"My name is Maria, but you can call me Auntie if you want, and these are...."

I presented everyone present here, and Syllis bowed her head to every person respectfully. Being a girl from a wild tribe, she was very well-behaved.

"Sorry for trying to drink your blood back then. It was very disrespectful of me...." Sighed Partner.

"Ah! D-Don't worry about it! I am thankful that you all helped me... I am forever in debted with you all!" she said.

"Ah, she's so cute...." Said Emeraldine.

"Sh-She? I am not a she! I-I am a boy! I-Is it not obvious with my muscles? And my chest!" Said Syllis.

"Wait... Eh?" I muttered.

Everyone looked at Syllis surprised.

Even his name sounded like a girl's name.

Can you blame us?

Even your voice is very charmingly feminine!

So he was a boy all along... Well, he was already wearing clothes beneath his leather clothes, so we never got the chance to see his lower parts...

"No way! You're a boy?! But you look like a cute girl!" Said Takeshi.

"G-Girl? W-Well, most of the males look like me! There's nothing wrong with our appearance... we rabbit-kin are small and nimble... I am actually not a child either. I am 19 this year...." Sighed Syllis.

I guess Rabbit-kin is that type of race that is an eternal child in appearance? If this boy is 19 and he still looks like a cute teen girl... then I shouldn't have much hope in the other males, especially because he just said they all looked similar to him...

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Agh! But asking about his gender was not the important thing right now. The important thing right now was trying to know about the village he came from and his tribe.

Even though he's such a cutie that I want to squeeze and hug, I must resist and only pet his head.

"I can't believe it; I've never seen a man look like this...." Said Lucifer.

“G-Geez... Stop saying such hurtful things...” Sighed Syllis.

“Come on, guys, don’t point it out anymore... Syllis, you’re a beautiful man,” I said.

“Ahh... R-Really?” Asked Syllis while blushing.

“Yeah, you’re very strong too. I am glad you survived,” I said with a gentle smile.

The adorable rabbit boy smiled cutely at me.

“It wouldn’t have been without your help... I-I am forever indebted to you, Maria!” Said Syllis, as he held my hand and his eyes looked at me quite lovingly...

I blushed a bit because he got really close to me all of a sudden, which made Partner, Lucifer, and Emeraldine all grow rather envious. Even more, I even noticed Catarina furrowing her eyebrows for some reason.

“Oi, shrimp, don’t get ahead of yourself!” She said, suddenly surprising the trio as she was the one that ended up acting the most jealous.

“U-Uwah! S-Sorry...” Syllis apologized as he moved back to his seat.

“I am surprised Catarina did it for us.” Said Lucifer.

“Y-Yeah... Did she join us?” Wondered Emeraldine.

“I feel a sisterhood forming between her and me,” Said Partner.

“W-Why are you looking at me like that?!” Asked Catarina, getting all angry.

“Anyways! Let’s not go off-topic, please. Syllis, dear, can you give us... a brief explanation of how you ended up in that situation and what happened to your village?” I asked.

“Ah! Right... the village....” He sighed.

“Huh? Did it get... did something happen to your rabbit-kin?” I asked.

“Yeah... Around... four years ago,” Said Syllis.

“Oh...”

Four years ago?! I wasn’t even reborn in this world... I was still the stupid Maria that didn’t remember her previous life and was doing dumb stuff that only made her an easier prey to the cunning aristocrats!

Everyone fell into silence. We really thought we could help, but if the entire thing might have happened such a long time ago...

“I originate from the brave Rabbit-kin Tribe. We named ourselves the Knife Fangs... Well, we used to... the village was suddenly attacked by giant black spiders four years ago, and many of us ended up spreading around the entire forest. I haven’t... seen my parents since then... I’ve already assumed they died,” He sighed.

“Spiders... Like the ones we just killed?” Asked Lucifer.

“Y-You killed spiders? The black spiders?! But magic nor our attacks could get through their shells... how is it possible for you to do that?” Asked Syllis in shock.

“Well, we are stronger than them,” I said.

It was that simple, really.

“S-Stronger than those monsters? Incredible... you’re all really amazing then! Ahh... Please! Can you help us out?” He asked.

“Help? But wouldn’t they all be dead by now?” Asked Catarina.

“You’re being a bit too harsh there,” Said Lucifer angrily.

“Since when has the prideful dragon been so soft?” Asked Catarina.

“You’re talking like you have known me all my life, child,” Said Lucifer.

“Okay, stop! Don’t fight! ...Syllis, tell us more. What happened after you escaped from that attack?” I asked.

“I was able to regroup with a dozen of my people and even found my little sister that I was looking for so long... But my parents... I couldn’t find them... After what happened there, we made a little village near some ruins, where the monsters rarely went to for some reason....” Said Syllis.

“Are the rabbit-kin people still there?” I asked.

“Yes, they should be....” He responded.

“Then why are you away from them?” Asked Partner.

“Th-That’s because I went out to hunt for prey... we were starving. After surviving for four years with whatever we could find around the ruins, most of the things we could gather were gone, and we needed to go deeper into the spider-infected forest to find more food... But... it was too dangerous, so I often went myself to hunt small beasts or gather mushrooms and berries....” Said the boy.

“You?! Alone?!” I exclaimed.

“Well, there were three more boys my age... but the rest were mostly elderly or women... We didn’t want to make them risk their lives....” Sighed Syllis.

“I guess we’ll have to go pick them up,” I said.

“Please! I will do anything you want if you help them get out of this accursed forest... We should never have stepped in here as we traveled around these plains....” Sighed Syllis.

“We’ll do it!” I said as I petted his head.

He smiled adorably before hugging me.

“Thank you! Thank you! With your strength... I am sure that you might be able to do so... I will do anything you want after that... I-I can even... give you my body... I really don’t have anything else after all....” He said while blushing.

“Y-Your body?!” I exclaimed once again.

I realized I suddenly got all red as I began eyeing his slender and beautiful body.

Uwah, he was a snack now that I could see him well enough. He had such long and beautiful legs and even had some hips too... That chest was godly as well, and his face was so cute... I would devour such a cute boy! He shouldn’t really say such things to me!

...Especially because there are three very angered ones behind me.

“Y-You can save up your body for yourself!” Said Partner, hugging me from behind and pulling me away from the cute rabbit boy.

“Y-Yeah! There is no need to do that, Syllis... You’re a free man, don’t sell your body. That’s only something slaves do... and only when they’re forced,” Said Emeraldine.

"I-Indeed, I am sure you wouldn't want to be with a ghost, right? You probably got a girl you like from your village," Said Lucifer.

These guys were real smooth talkers.

"Maria is a ghost?! I couldn't tell..." He said with surprise.

"Haha... Yeah, I am a spooky ghost! ...But a good one," I said.

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The Rabbit-kin girl- I mean boy named Syllis (That's a very girl-sounding name, to be honest) seemed to be older than he looked. Additionally, he was just as horny as actual rabbits, offering me his body in exchange for helping out the other rabbits! Seriously, does he know that now that I am a ghost, there's no actual horniness in me? It is just lewd thoughts sometimes, but that's it! I cannot feel horny even if I wanted!

Chaotic thoughts aside, he had said something rather tragic: his village was attacked by these very same black spiders FOUR years ago... I guess we couldn't get here in time. And well, he escaped alongside a group of other people, including his little sister.

They gathered around certain ruins where the monsters didn't get closer, but the entire forest was flooding with spiders everywhere for some reason, so they couldn't safely escape these ruins as they would get caught by spiders and eaten.

But from where did these spiders come from? Well, the bunny had said they showed up out of nowhere.

What kind of "nowhere," though? Maybe they originated from the dungeon we saw in the sky?

Hmm... I cannot really just come up with their origins out of nowhere. I need more clues.

Wait... Can't I ask the spiders themselves?

I have a whole army of Zombie Spiders led by a special blazing spider demon! So I can just invade their souls' memories and images and what they saw through their lives, and we'll know where they came from.

Hohoho, delightfully devilish, Maria.

"Maria!"

"Ah! W-What?!"

Catarina woke me up from my daze, I was just delving into my own thoughts, and this woman just came here and screamed into my ears out of nowhere.

"What do you think we should do?" She asked.

Everyone was sitting around the table while looking at me. After Syllis introduced himself and said everything he knew, we were now thinking about what to do ourselves.

The situation was dire, as we had to act quickly, so there wasn't much time to go in idle mode and sit leisurely while doing nothing. I had to go rescue those adorable rabbit people, or I would feel terrible about myself... Ugh, why am I like this? I am too nice sometimes.

But seeing how there could be many people as cute as Syllis suffering out there really breaks my heart... And that's why I must procure the acquisition of these rabbit people into my future Kingdom! In the Kingdom where everyone will be able to live peacefully, even if they're all from different races, or undead, or monsters, or whatever, I want- no, I NEED rabbit people.

This is not a thing of selfishness; it is a necessity.

As someone that doesn't need to eat nor drink water, nor even sleep, I am someone that DESIRES entertainment, and even more, things to do, so I want to DO something, anything! And I am willing to go help the rabbits.

Also, I really want to see them hop around in my future Kingdom. It will be cute. They're like candy to the eyes. I mean, have you ever had actual rabbit pets before? They're too cute... Ah, one of my regrets after dying is that I ended up leaving my little Acorn, a brown-colored rabbit pet I had...

I hope mom and my sister can take care of her.

Agh! Anyways, I should go back to the main topic of conversation. My mind is so dispersed across my entire soul that I think about random stuff every single second.

This is the mind of a Ghost, I guess. I have to get used to being like this.

"Erm, yeah, I will now interrogate the souls of the zombie spiders, and then we'll move out to rescue Syllis' people. It shouldn't take too long. We just go there, catch them, throw them into the shadows, and go back. A twenty-minute adventure," I said.

"You sure it's gonna be that easy?" Asked Lucifer.

"Why wouldn't it be? We have literally slain entire armies of soldiers before, Lucifer. You saw me killing them and then making them into Undead and making them kill each other, where I raised even more Undead... how come someone who can do something so ridiculous won't be able to rescue rabbit people!?" I asked angrily.

"Okay, okay, calm down... You're temperamental today, aren't you?" Sighed Lucifer.

"No! I am just extremely bored! I want to stop procrastinating! Okay, Syllis, come with me!" I said.

"W-Where?!" Asked Syllis.

“We are going to speak with dead spiders. It will be fun!” I said.

“D-Dead spiders?!” He shouted in horror.

I moved into the group of spiders and invaded a couple of them. I didn’t even have to speak with them. I just touched their souls and quickly got what I wanted.

Within their memories, I saw them hatch from little eggs in the depths of the underground.

They all survived the first days by eating each other until they began to run around the dungeon, eating little critters until they were all called to the surface. Without realizing it, they had ranked up several times and were humongous.

And they were all coming in and out of a massive dungeon entrance... I knew it! They come from a dungeon. That’s pretty obvious after seeing how much people relate monsters with dungeons. After all, monsters come out of dungeons, so it is completely logical and within expectations to think that they might come out of a dungeon like, uhhhhh.... Yeah, a spider dungeon or something.

I didn’t see any Queen Spider or whatever, but I did feel some sort of powerful presence in the shadows, overlooking the entire thing play out. It was rather suspicious, and I have doubts about what this entity could be, but we’ll call her the mama spider for now.

She ordered the other spiders to look for food and take over the forest as some base of operations.

Wait, how do I actually know this stuff? Well, the spiders have some telepathic messages with such meanings, but in spider language.

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By checking the spider's memories, I learned they all come from a single dungeon and that they were spoken by the spider mama, a typical giant spider queen that laid all the eggs and orders her spider children around... Yeah, this is becoming quite similar to another story I once read...

Naiwa...

It appears the spider mama can speak to her children through telepathy! And she can give them orders. But where is this spider mama, where did she come from, and what are her true goals?

I have no idea. But I can tell she's into world domination or something like that... I think. She kind of wants to clean the entire forest of any "pesky little critter" before moving on to expanding her empire.

So I guess it probably is some very overpowered monster from a dungeon that gained intelligence and began to spread her influence through her own spider children? I suppose spider monsters might be quite dangerous, with a hard exoskeleton, fast, agile, deadly venom, strong physical strength, and all of that.

But wouldn't that be too cliché, simplistic, and boring? Sigh, can't things be more original? I saw the same plot in several other novels I read.

Maybe I shouldn't judge the things I read and base them on my world... But what do you want from me? I was a big bookworm...

Perhaps there might be something more to these spiders. There's no way it is so simple, right? What does this little spider want? To eat the world, and that's it? If it were so simple, wouldn't any other monsters similar to her have already tried to do something? What makes her so unique compared to others?

She faintly reminds me of Lucifer, but he was sealed into the dungeon and had no other way to get out than by infecting the nearby graveyard and making it into an army of Undead, hoping for one of them to come to help him out... And it was thanks to him. My soul turned into a ghost, and... here we are, going against overpowered spiders.

Well, they were not so overpowered, though? And we got our own army of zombie spiders to go against them.

So I guess what's left to do is get on there and do it.

But what if they show up again while I am in the forest looking for people while trying to deal with the annoying spider kingdom forming here?

Hmm... What could I do? If I learn that they did something bad to the rabbit, I guess we'll kill them and get all the EXP, so I guess this is just an EXP side quest... but if they end up being more intelligent than I thought and acted friendly after recognizing our strength, we could get some spider friends. I suppose that's it! That will be my mentality.

I communicated my thoughts to my friends, as they seemed to agree with most of it.

"I see, so we just procure the rabbits first, and then we go search for the spider's lair? We can burn them all using my breath attack and Silvio and Francesco's flames, right?" Asked Lucifer.

"Ah... I guess we can do that too. Yeah, I didn't think about it," I said.

"Wait, you're suggesting using the fire ghosts to just burn the entire dungeon and make it into a furnace?! Is that even possible? Can you guys conjure up so much fire?" Asked Emeraldine.

"We don't know...." Said Silvio.

"We would need an insane amount of Mana to do that, to begin with," Said Francesco.

"Insane amounts of Mana... I don't know if I can provide that. My mana depends on if there are targets to absorb from. There is much I can get from the environment alone, but it won't be enough, so we'll most likely do it the traditional way. Don't give us weird ideas, Lucifer," I said.

"That wasn't my intention... I was just sharing my thoughts," Said Lucifer.

"It's fine, it's fine. If it works, we might try that anyway. I mean, I like the idea to an extent," I said.

"Hmm, a furnace of spiders... all of these damn monsters crying in agony... while they burn alive... Doesn't sound bad!" Said Syllis, suddenly becoming rather devil-like.

"A-Anyways, what should we do with the people here? Do we all go there?" wondered Partner.

"I will leave some of my stronger clones here," I said before I quickly divided my phantom into large masses and even added tiny fragments of soul into them, making them stronger than usual clones, which shaped as loli versions of me, with the lower half of a snake instead of having legs.

"Ooh, little Marias, so cute!" Said Emeraldine.

"Can I adopt one?" Asked Partner.

"No, they're literally me, don't adopt me...." I sighed.

The clones waved their heads at the same time.

"For now, I will leave these clones here, and most of you guys will stay here too. I will bring Syllis, Pyro, and a few of the zombie spiders. Plus, there is more Undead, so I will leave them all here as well. Our mission is mostly stealth, so we'll go pick the rabbits and then pull back to regroup again and then raid the spiders," I said.

"Understood, so you're going solo then?" Asked Lucifer.

"Yep, just me and the spiders for backup, and you guys are all strong, so I want you to stay here and protect the people as much as you can... My clones are here, so if anything too bad happens, they can pull the people into their shadows for safety while you guys deal with the threats. I would do this all the time if it wasn't because the shadows can negatively affect people's minds if they stay awake too much there... And well, it costs constant mana too," I said.

“Alright, we get it,” Said Catarina.

“S-So we are going alone?!” Asked Syllis as he expected more backup.

“Yep, you and me, little rabbit~,” I said.

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While stuffing Pyro and a small group of the spiders inside my shadows, while leaving the rest of the spiders plus all the Undead I had saved guarding the camp, we decided to move into the forest with Syllis.

I needed the rabbit boy to guide me through the forest towards the place where the survivors of the rabbits were living, so I had to follow him around.

Because he was too slow compared to my ability to travel through shadows, I decided to hold him in my arms while he guided me.

Of course, he felt embarrassed, but he was very light, like a feather. It felt like I was just carrying a cute princess, so it didn't bother me.

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“A woman shouldn't carry A-A man like me...!” He said shyly.

“Aw, you're cute when you try to act manly... Don't worry, just lead me to where it is! This is the most efficient way! Trust me!” I said.
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“*Sigh* ... Okay... It's through there!” Said Syllis.

Syllis guided me across the forest while pointing at the directions I had to take. It took little time, and we managed to cross a few rivers and then some weird butt-shaped trees until we reached an area that was covered in large stones covered in moss, and grass.

Some of these stones were covered in strange magical runes, but they were all scattered over the place, so it was quite hard to go to each one and check them out without wasting too much time, so we decided to ignore them mostly.

"The ruins... they should be behind that big rock over there!" Said Syllis.

"How come these ruins are immune to the spiders attacks? What makes them repel them? I am a monster too, and I don't feel repelled-Eehe?!" I cried

I realized it later because I might have a lot of magic resistance, but there was a large barrier of spiritual energy all around this area made by these

stones.

I quickly flew outside because this spiritual energy was not normal, and it was infused with tons of light element, which was burning through my

shadows with ease.

"M-Maria?!" He muttered.

"I cannot get in... there's a massive dome of spirit light magic around this entire place... if I keep pushing through, I'll slowly dissipate into nothingness... These stones must have a lot of magical power...." I said.

"S-So that's how it was... perhaps the spiders also dislike this?" Syllis wondered.

Most likely... It seems specifically made to go against monsters like the spiders or me," I sighed.

"I see..." Also sighed, Syllis.

"Go on, bring your people here, and I will bring them out quickly." I said.

"Alright!"

Syllis quickly hopped out of my arms and ran towards the ruins where his people are, behind a large stone inscribed with many of these same types of runes.

I looked into the nearest stone and touched it faintly with my hand. A spark of light rushed towards me and gave me a strong shock of pain. Ouch.

I looked towards big stones and noticed they were of some sort of holy element. I don't know where they came from, but maybe using the System's Analyze function could bring some clues.

...

[Ancient Holy Runic Stone (???-Grade)]

Ancient stones of incredible weight that possess innate mana of holy light and spiritual energy infused into them, presumably made by some sort of divine figure in ancient times.

While resting above the ground, they exude a strong aura of holy spiritual light which creates a natural barrier around the stone. Multiple stones can be arranged to cover a large amount of space.

...

Wow, that's it? Nothing more? I kind of figured it all except the one saying that a divine figure could have made it. I suppose god himself made them? Which god? Erm... the God of Light? Whoever that bastard is? I know the God of Chaos: Loki exists, so who is the God of Light in Norse Mythology? Ah, perhaps this entire "lore" is just mixed-up stuff, so I doubt I should compare it to actual mythology.

System, can you tell me anything more?

<It appears they were made by a god. I don't know the grade because it seems way above what mortals usually use in their items. Nonetheless, these stones are quite powerful. You could use them in the future... in some sort of way. Perhaps even as materials. I recommend you take them with you inside of your Inventory.>

Can I do that?!

<By touching an item, you can teleport it into your Inventory; this way, it will be possible. You can also even steal items like that...>

I can steal stuff with ease? Wow, I guess I could just touch a person's weapon and make it disappear? Well, not like I haven't done that. The problem is getting to touch the weapon without getting hit...

<You only can do that when the weapon is either ownerless or has been suppressed by you. Certain magical weapons have wills of their own, and if they fight back against you, you cannot store them. I believe you've gone through that before...>

Yeah, I have. I guess that's how it goes, huh? Anyways, I suppose I should really just go with the flow for now... Syllis... when is this brat coming back?

I looked into the Mini Map inside of my head and saw Syllis, who was in a dot, walking behind the giant stone and then finding several other red dots, more living people.

Syllis stood in front of them and began to speak with them. Some seemed very weak, and the red color on their dots was fading away. We had to quickly move the people out.

Suddenly, a large group of rabbit-kin showed up led by Syllis, although some people were left behind, which were probably old people who could not walk by themselves easily.

"Th-This is Maria, Bellerine, don't look at her with those eyes. She's good!" Said Syllis and a little rabbit girl greeted my sight.

She was adorable, and her name was just as cute-sounding, Bellerine!

"Hmm... 0-Okay..." She sighed.

She was looking at me dead-serious for some reason...

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Syllis had finally reached back to the village of rabbit-kin survivors after being lost for several days.

He surprised all the people there as the guards looked at him with surprise.

"It can't be...! Syllis!"

"You're alive!"

The guards quickly jumped toward him and hugged the young man. As his older brother figures, they were very worried about him and where he was.

The thing they were the most surprised about was that he looked healthy and even seemed to have gained a lot of weight all of a sudden. Did he eat somewhere?

"Everyone, I am so happy to be back... Quickly, we must gather the rest of the people! I found someone that can help us!" Said Syllis and a cheerful smile quickly moved everyone.

As his voice reached far and wide, only those incapable of moving, such as the bedridden elderly, were not able to gather around him.

"I-It's Syllis!"

"It's really him?!"

“You’re back!”

“By the Beast Gods, I am so happy to see you back!”

“Big brotheeeeer!”

A little rabbit-kin girl with almost the same appearance as Syllis but way younger and cuter rushed towards him, jumping over his chest and hugging him tightly.

“Ah, Bellerine! I missed you!” Cried Syllis.

“I missed you too, Syllis! Where were you?! Sniff... I thought you were dead, eaten by the demon spiders!” Cried the little girl.

“I-I was wandering around for food but ended up losing myself... And when I thought I was about to pass out, someone showed up and rescued me... They brought me into a camp and even healed my fever... I think I ended up catching the disease, but I am healed now!” He said.

“Y-You caught the spider demon’s disease but were healed?!” Asked his little sister.

“Unbelievable, so there’s a cure?!”

“The disease that took my husband away....”

“But you’re so healthy now. Look at you!”

“W-Who is this person that healed you?!”

“It was a group of people, but their leader, Maria, came here to bring us all outside the forest! She says that she’s going to build a small village where many people of different races can live together in peace! She saved my life, so the least I can do is trust her... She’s also a beautiful woman, and I am willing to give my heart for her....” Said the young rabbit man, as the many surrounding him were surprised.

“A-A village where all races can live in peace?”

“But aren’t humans the only ones allowed to make villages?”

“Is this really okay? Is she not lying?”

“Fool! She and her friends healed our good friend. How can they be untrustworthy?”

“Big brother, I don’t know... I don’t like her!” Said Bellerine.

“Eh? Why?!” Asked Syllis.

“Because she’s going to steal you from me!” Roared Bellerine.

The little rabbit girl got all angry as steam began to come out of her pointy rabbit ears, and her chocolate-colored skin suddenly turned red as her cute face was pouting furiously!

“Hahaha, please, calm down, Bellerine. You’re my beloved sister. I will never leave you,” Said Syllis and his gentle smile charmed Bellerine once more, and the other people also felt his charisma slowly affecting them.

Indeed, he had a special innate charisma that Maria had found out but didn’t mention before. She had used her ability to see through other people’s Soul Books and saw through his Skillset.

In there, she found a special Title Skill named [Charismatic Young Leader], which he had acquired by guiding and leading the people of the rabbit-kin tribe that survived the first spider attack.

Using this title skill, he gained an innate charm effect that helped him in wording his ideas better and naturally inspiring others. This received an extra bonus in these people too.

It wasn't brainwashing in the slightest. It was something that simply created a large impression of him, but this could very much backfire if the impression the people had for him were to be negative, only worsening the situation, but because everyone here already had good impressions of him and cared for him, they instead began to trust his words and decided to believe him.

After a while, he led the people towards Maria, as everyone greeted a very unusual-looking woman.

Compared to the slim and small chocolate-skinned and brown-haired rabbit-kin, who mostly wore simple leather clothes and fangs around as decorations of their bodies, she was a pale-white woman with bright crimson-red eyes. Her long hair was silvery-white, with the tips being purple-colored and having snake-like heads at the tips... she also had a long dress and sharp heels, resembling a woman straight out of royalty.

To boot, she had a strange and eerie scaled snake-like tail behind her, which waved around, making her resemble some sort of Majin or even a monster...

"T-This is Maria, Bellerine, don't look at her with those eyes. She's good!" Said Syllis, a little rabbit girl greeted Maria's sight.

Maria instantly thought that she was adorable and that her name was just as cute-sounding. She smiled gently at her and tried to make her lower her guard, but she looked way too tense before her.

"Hmm... O-Okay..." Said Bellerine, looking at Maria while squinting her eyes.

"S-So you're Bellerine! Your brother spoke to me about you before. I am glad you're healthy, little girl... And hello, everyone. I hope we can get along better! Is there anyone left in the village?" She asked.

"T-There are some people, the elderly. We'll go look for them now...."

"Syllis said that you were able to heal the disease... Is this true?"

“Please, heal them! They’re all sick and might die soon!”

“M-My little boy has a strong fever... I don’t know when he might... be taken away by Hel....”

Maria quickly realized there were more people that were sick and that what they called the “demon spider disease” might be what Syllis was having when they found him back then!

“Sure, leave it to us!” She said.

Chapter 187

Syllis went to retrieve the elderly with the help of the other people, and thankfully, they were just as light-weighted as the young ones, so they were able to bring each one in their arms with ease.

After they all got through the invisible barrier, I was finally able to help, so I expanded my shadows and let them all come inside. In there, they were able to rest at long last. Of course, I created a shadow wall blocking them from seeing the army of spiders with me.

“Here’s the last one....” Sighed Syllis, as an elderly woman who was very weakened, was brought by him.

“Hahh... My head hurts....” She cried.

“Don’t worry. We’ll get you some help. For now, rest, alright?” I said.

“Oh my... Such a pretty lady....” She sighed as she was brought inside my shadows.

With that, we had everyone from the village, it was a complete success, and there were no pesky spiders annoying us during the entire journey. I guess this place has a strong aura, so they won't really get near it.

I had considered taking the stones from here and using them in something eventually... but I decided to just leave them as this might be the last sanctuary for other people that might one day get lost in this forest. I don't want to take away this spot, especially because there's a spring in the middle where fish and other animals gather as well.

It is as if it were a beautiful and holy sanctuary in the middle of this dark, mist-filled forest. I wonder if this forest was always this eerie, though.

We began to move back home over the back of Pyro.

"Alright, hop in. I won't carry you in my arms in front of your sister," I said.

"Gryshi!" Pyro cried out.

He seemed excited to be mounted by someone, and he was a very good boy for a zombie spider.

However, Syllis didn't want to climb over him.

"Th-That's a giant spider... Wouldn't it be dangerous to be on it?! Also, it's on fire! How can I even get over it?! I know you're a ghost, and it might not affect you, but for me, this is a bit...!" Syllis' words trailed off.

"Big brother! That's a spider?! It's gonna eat us!" Cried the little Bellerine.

"No! Don't worry, it is very docile, and it has already died. The fire is also not harmful. Touch it," I said.

"No way I am touching fire!" Shouted Bellerine.

“Agh... Come here!” I said as I grabbed the two with shadow tentacles and forcefully put them over Pyro’s comfortable back.

“Nooooo! Aaaaagghhhh...!”

“Heeeeeelp! I don’t want to die!”

The two cried a lot but ultimately realized the fire was not burning them. In fact, it was just warm enough to be comfortable, like being near a warm stove.

“W-What? Nothing happened? I thought we were going to be burned alive!” Said Syllis.

“Why would I even let you be burned alive?! You really should believe me a bit more! Sheesh...” I sighed.

“W-Wow... It is warm... I was so cold, but my hands are slowly warming up... Spider is not bad?” Asked Bellerine.

“Gryshi! Giishi!”

The little Pyro seemed to want to make friends, and he acted friendly and cute, and the two rabbit-kin quickly realized he was not a dangerous beast.

“Well, let’s go back to the camp then... C-Can you really treat this many people, though? I still don’t know how you healed me from the disease....” Said Syllis.

“Me neither, but I believe we can make something up. I’ve preserved a lot of corpses from the spiders, so we have specimens to check out which disease is the one affecting you... Syllis was able to heal through magic and drinking a variety of herbs... but I think there might be another way out of this....” I said.

“But do you have the herbs? Maybe they’re rare....” Said Syllis.

“Yeah, we don’t have as many, and I would like to preserve them if possible... but there is another idea and that is to use Alchemy to make a potion using the internal organs of the spiders!” I said.

“W-What? But wouldn’t that make us even sicker?!” Asked Bellerine.

“Hehe, non~ non~! Usually, animals that carry diseases are inherently immune to them or have developed a wide variety of antibodies. Just like we discover ways to fight against poisons by making up antidotes using other monsters’ poisons, we can do the same in this case! I do remember a few cases where diseases were cured when doctors used the livers of the animals that often carried them to make concoctions using their antibodies... they didn’t work all the time, but they seemed to lessen the symptoms by quite a lot,” I explained.

“What? I don’t understand half of what you’re talking about....” Said Bellerine.

“I don’t understand a thing....” Muttered Syllis.

“Ah... Well, just trust me.” I said

Ah, well, I guess they had never lived in a world with advanced medicine. Well, I am no doctor or anything. I just like to read books. Even biology history and medicine history books were fun to read as long as I could escape reality when I was back in school.

Sigh... Remembering those times is quite sad. I never liked school or high school. You could say I was a complete loser, one of the ugly girls that was also too timid to make too many friends. The only friends I made were guys whole were into games and anime or manga, but because I had confessed to one of them some time ago, they distanced from me, thinking I would begin falling for each one until one could reciprocate my love... ugh, it’s not like all of you were so handsome anyways... idiots.

Like that, I began to have no friends at all, and even some girls ridiculed me as well when I made myself a fool after confessing my love to someone in the backyard... since then, I just escaped reality and just read books, even schoolbooks were okay, anything that could distract my mind from the laughter and jokes thrown at me all the time was good enough...

This is why I don't like to think about my past because I always remember these little bits that always fucked me over... I don't want to blame it all on looking ugly. I was also pretty introverted, and that only made it worse... Maybe even if I was ugly, if I was an extrovert, I would have ultimately made friends anyways... But things were not as easy for me.

It's not easy to jump from an introvert to an extrovert, and it is a very gradual transition. Without friends, it becomes even harder, so I guess I was never able to do it... well, until now. I had just realized it, but aren't I a big extrovert in this life? Is it because I feel "free"?

Indeed, since I came here and became a ghost, I simply let most of my thoughts get out of my mind. I often talk about what I think without realizing it. I know I've always been a klutz, but I never used to do this in my previous life.

Maybe dying and then dying again to turn into a ghost really made me go insane or something? Well, to become a ghost, you have to be kind of insane... I had already touched on this topic before.

Hmm... I suppose doing this self-reflection from time to time is not a bad thing. I wouldn't be a person with my own thought process if I didn't do this from time to time. What makes us sentient beings is the ability to self-reflect on our own actions, recall what we have done, realize our mistakes, or realize what we have done well.

The very concept of our own morality of what's good or bad always varies from person to person, but I've always considered "good" to things I do for others without expecting much back, and well, also being able to talk more with people and all of that!

Maybe lacking a brain really made my mind spread all around, to the point my entire phantasmal body possessed my thoughts. Perhaps this had made me break out of my "shell" in a way.

Everyone always says I am very extroverted in here... I wish I could have been half as amazing in my previous life... But I guess most of what I've achieved here is only based on my own powers as a ghost and my Cheat Unique Skills.

But can you blame me? I had to die to get them, so it's fair that after having a stupid death by being crushed by books, I would have a nice second life with cheats! And in this dangerous world, it's better to have as many advantages as possible.

Well... I kind of didn't have them as much? I don't know if I had the same Unique Skills when I was alive and known as Maria Fuentes Belles, an aristocratic child... But according to what I heard and how I don't remember this life, I was most likely very different from how I used to be on Earth... Maybe I was some sort of rich young lady girl archetype like in those Korean romance novels I used to read?

Ah, anyway, I should stop pondering my orb in these questions and concentrate on the outside world.

Because through my Auto Map function, I just detected a massive swarm of spiders approaching!

This is bad! What do I even do?!

Ah, right, I am actually strong and got an army of zombie spiders. I am good.

But where did these bugger- I mean, spideys came from?!

"Pyro, stop here...." I said.

"Huh? What happened?" Asked Syllis.

"Maria?" Muttered Bellerine.

"We got company...." I sighed.

Crackle, crackle...!

Suddenly, the cracking sounds of dozens of legs walking over the forest floor reached us instantly, as we found ourselves surrounded by a dozen spiders.

They were not as many as in the attack on our camp, but they were at least 18...

"S-Spiders!" Said Bellerine.

"M-More?! Didn't you get attacked by over a dozen of them before?" Asked Syllis.

"Yep, they seem to have detected us and want to have us for dinner... Technically, they can't have me for dinner, but you guys look pretty tender and juicy...." I said.

"Uwaaaahh!" Cried Bellerine.

Oops, I shouldn't have said that.

"Sorry! I am joking! Just get into the shadows for now!" I said, stuffing both siblings inside my shadows while spreading them through my Shadow and Death Domain.

"Come forth, my Undead! I will show you what the true strength of a Necromancer is all about! Bwahahaha!" I laughed.

I made sure to act as cocky and exaggerated as possible because I've always wanted to make this, to be honest. Yes, I know I am cringe, but that's why I am doing it when there's nobody watching! This is the perfect opportunity to show off my inner chunni!

FLAAASH!

The shadows suddenly summoned my army of spider zombies as they greeted the dozens of other spiders that had come to greet us. A battle between spiders quickly was unleashed as I heard the agonizing cries of countless spiders killing each other.

CLASH! CRASH! BOOM!

“GRYYSSHAA!”

“GRRYYARRR...!”

“GRYYY...”

I stood there looking as my boys were getting massacred.

Wait, massacred?!

“You guys! Why are you so weak? Don’t die again on me! Boost!” I said.

I used my Domain to boost their total power. This Domain of Death and Darkness enhanced the power of any Undead within my team as long as they were inside based on the Skill level, so they were able to get a lot of power and were finally fighting back!

My spiders began to ravage the others, using their sharp fangs to cut through the hard exoskeleton of the enemy spiders. Then they began to be torn apart at the same time as they were tearing apart my own spiders.

I guess it could be said it was a tie, but I was there to heal my troops, and also, Pyro offered some firepower at that!

Chapter 189

After a bit of slaughter, the spiders were done for. It wasn't too much of a challenging fight because I just used my Undead to fight. Also, Pyro was able to showcase his strength and blast flames against various of his former comrades.

The entire group gained a saucy amount of Experience Points, and so did I! Who would have known I would get so much EXP by doing nothing at all? This is the life of the necromancer, after all, my daily life is filled with leisure~

Ding!

[Calculating EXP gained...]

[You have slain [Giant Black Plague Spider Soldiers (C+ Rank) (24000 EXP)] x18]

[You gained 432000 EXP!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 32 to Level 33!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 33 to Level 34!]

[All your stats have increased]

[The Levels of some Skills have increased]

[You learned the [Apprentice Axe Warrior: Lv1] Title Skill]

[You learned the [Strong Axe Strike: Lv1] Skill!]

Oh right, I was using the giant Axe I stole from that guy named Leon or Lion... Whatever was his name, the guy obsessed with killing Goblins? Using my shadows to manipulate it, I just hacked some spider

heads in the way, I accidentally sliced in half a few of my allies, but they were okay after I used Undead Healing to stick them together again. This spell is like glue for the undead, I swear.

And thanks to that practice, I finally got enough proficiency, and look at that, I just got two amazing Axe Skills! I am really a talented warrioress. I can even fight hordes while sitting in a blazing zombie spider!

Let us see what these two are all about, but if I am perceptive enough, I am sure it might be something about increasing damage and blah, blah, blah, right? Nonetheless, where's its flavor if I don't check the blue box?

[Apprentice Axe Warrior: Lv1]

A Title Skill given to someone who had slain a certain amount of living or unliving beings with an Axe and had shown a proper usage of an axe.

This title enhances damage dealt with using an ax by +10% with each level, and it also enhances the innate ability of a person to use the ax.

[Strong Axe Strike: Lv1]

By using any type of Axe, you can charge the weapon with Mana and unleash a strong strike with it, doubling the weight of the weapon and dealing +20% extra damage. The power of the Skill increases with each level, and it consumes Mana instantly after usage. Overuse of the skill might cause exhaustion and the weakening of stamina.

I see, so it does just what I thought it would do! Does the last one also seem to exhaust me if I use it a lot? Well, I doubt it. I don't have a body to get tired, nor do I have any sort of Stamina. I am just Mana and Phantom, so that won't work on me, meaning I can just spam the Skill the same way I can spam Blade Slash to my heart's content.

I guess weapon-wielding Undead got their hacks. Without the ability to get physically tired, backlash from weapon techniques is non-existent, and they can just continuously use Skills until their Mana runs low, and that's when they weaken. After all, the lifeblood of the undead is their Mana. It is the fuel that moves us.

But what happens when an Undead capable of draining Mana like me shows up? Well, I turn the entire metagame upside down for the Undead! I never get tired, nor do I run out of mana, so aren't I incredible? I suppose that's why I've been growing so fast... Heh.

Well, I am going to take a break soon in my village, so I won't have any more epic fights every single second of my life now. After this spider incident is over, I can safely go back to a leisure life, the daily life of a necromancer... yeah, that sounds like a nice title.

No, no, no, that does not sound click baity enough... How about "The Daily Life of a Ghost Necromancer"... No, how about "The Daily Life of a Ghost Necromancer with a System" yeah, that one sounds way better. I have to always use the keyword System because these stupid web novel pages algorithms never let my favorite authors make normal titles to their novels.

If they even wanted to make their novels read, they had to put up with these stupid keywords... No, wait, I know! The best title would be "Reborn as a Ghost with a Necromancer System"! or some crap like that.

Umu! That's it!

Now I need to return to Earth and begin publishing it!

...

Hahh... I miss Earth. There was this one page where you could submit your web novels and maybe get them to be read. If you could, then you get a contract, and you can even lock chapters behind paywalls, or well, behind free tickets given every day...

The thing is, my passion for reading obviously transferred to writing, but I never got the chance to get a contract, and most of my novels were never read either, so I was mostly a rookie...

Ugh, there was one time when I joined the Author Discord, but it was filled with assholes everywhere... Every top author was always bragging about how much they earned and constantly talked about money.

God... I also want to make my passion into something that I could earn, but seriously, why did you have to be such asshats? Ugh, screw them!

...Anyways, not like I should care anymore. I am in this new world, so that shouldn't be of any problem to me. Screw web novels too, and screw books too. They brought my doom!

But I still kind of want to sit down and read a book while drinking some tea... It is a relaxing ritual I used to do.

SIGH...

Ah, we are back in the camp!

Chapter 190

Syllis and Bellerine quickly walked outside of my shadows, alongside most of the rabbit-kin.

We were greeted by my group of friends, things seemed to have gone fine and there were no problems whatsoever.

"Here they are, all the cute rabbits have been retrieved successfully! Side quest completed! Now give me my prize." I said while puffing my chest.

"Your prize is a kiss." Said Lucifer with a smile.

"W-Wait, I was joking! Don't get closer, Casanova!" I cried.

"I-I was joking..." sighed Lucifer.

"Oh! Ah, I am still getting used to you having a new sense of humor..." I said.

"I can tell..." said Lucifer.

"I can give you one for real!" said Partner with a cute smile, showing her sharp vampiric fangs, her crimson-red eyes were sparkling brightly.

"M-Me too... If you don't mind..." said Emeraldine, she was blushing while caressing her long hair nervously.

"Why are you all so horny for Maria? Stop with your degeneracy..." sighed Catarina.

"Hahaha... W-Well, you girls can save that for later... Now we got a lot to do, Emeraldine, I need your help the most, you're the greatest alchemist in this entire camp, so you're our salvation and only hope." I said.

"E-Eeeh? Me?" she asked timidly.

Emeraldine was the chosen one after all, she was a powerful Alchemist and the chosen one for this task, I wanted her to do this for me, she had a high-level Alchemy Skill, and could become the one that could do the potions that I want, potions that would work like vaccines in some sort of way, giving the people antibodies for whatever disease they have!

Wouldn't that be great? But can she do it? There's no other way than trying it out and giving it a shot though, so no point in going around it pointlessly, we'll do this, and we'll do it good.

My people, the many former slaves, which were primary led by the Goblin Chief, quickly welcomed the Rabbit-kin, while I separated all those that presented the disease, so it wouldn't spread anymore. I would also need the rabbit-kin to be on quarantine for the moment, so after they greeted the people from afar, I quickly moved them to another side of the camp.

I left them in enclosed camps by themselves, and only used Undead to serve them. Undead can be easily cleansed using Disinfect, and they're naturally immune to diseases anyways, although they can carry them.

But not phantasmal Undead! So the pair of fire ghosts and also my snake clones were the ones that brought them food and other things they needed. The people felt welcomed, and after explaining them what quarantine was, they quickly agreed to my methods, although they seemed a bit too much, it was something that I had to do.

After they understood I didn't wanted the disease to spread, they nodded and decided to do as I asked them, they quickly moved away into the camps and now, I had gathered with my friends for a small meeting where I would discuss what I wanted to do.

Syllis was here, as the sole representant of the village, the Elder that used to be the leader is sick and bedridden, in another separate and quarantined camp, so he wasn't able to be here.

Partner, Lucifer, Emeraldine, Catarina, Silvio, Francesco, The Goblin Chief, and the Goblin Elder, alongside Syllis were within this table. I had already disinfected Syllis, and his sister was left in the quarantined camp, so she was afar from her brother, but she understood it was for the best after he told her, she was a stubborn girl, but she always listens to her brother.

"So the plan is to make a medicine for the disease, we'll use whatever is left from the medicinal herbs we got, although I would love to save some... so we'll only use half." I said.

"Hm, it seems reasonable, we cannot simply sacrifice all the materials for strangers we just meet." Said Lucifer.

“But what other materials will we use? If you want me to make a potion out of it, it will take way more than just herbs...” sighed Emeraldine.

“Yeah, we are going to sue these things.” I said.

I quickly summoned a semi-transparent sphere of phantom which had a floating, red-colored organ floating inside.

“W-What is that thing?!” asked Lucifer.

“This is a Spider’s Liver, they got a lot of organs inside their abdomen, the liver and the pancreas are where most of the antibodies originate, so we’ll use this and that one too...” I said.

Honestly speaking, I never thought spiders had these many organs, I think they’re actually different from the normal spiders from my original Earth, that’s for sure.

“Anyways, we’ll use these to make the potions. I’ve read a lot of potion-making books I stole from the library long ago to pass the time, although I didn’t find anything regarding these spiders, I found many recipes using the internal organs of magic beasts or well, as everyone call them now, monsters.” I said.

“Oh right! I remember that too... So you mean we could use the internal organs of the monsters that carry the disease to fight against it? Makes sense! This recipe is also used for Mist Fox Rabies... I remember that there was a big infection in a town I was living with my mother back then... the Alchemist that taught me what I know asked some people to bring her the corpses of these foxes, and she made a potion capable of curing the disease...” said Emeraldine.

“See? Then it can work!” I said.

“Hmm, certainly, it is worth giving it a shot.” Said Lucifer.

“I agree, it could be a good way to experiment, if we ever come across another disease in the future...” said the Goblin Elder.

“Though, are there enough ingredients to make so many potions for all the rabbit? We should also make for the rest of the people, if anyone happens to get the disease... there were spiders that attacked us recently after all...” said the Goblin Chief.

“Yeah, we got a lot of spider corpses... I hunted 18 myself in the way here...” I said.
