

A Ghost 51

Chapter 51

Within the depths of a dark cave, a black-robed man, the culprit behind the Netherworld Beasts attack, gritted his teeth as his face was filled with disbelief.

“T-They killed C-Rank monsters? T-Those three... What are they?!”

The foolish Necromancer had believed that his excellent plan of sending three C-Rank monsters, each one capable of demolishing a whole city and singlehandedly slaughtering a whole adventurer guild if a C-Rank Adventurer wasn't present at that moment, would be enough to defeat our wonderful team of Undead.

BAM!

The frustrated Necromancer couldn't help but slam his table in frustration.

He had wasted tons of precious materials he had gotten from the black market... and they were worth millions of gold coins!

“Damn it! Tch... And they seem to be able to fight insanely well... especially that woman! How can she conjure dark magic so easily and proficiently?! Does she have infinite mana or something?!” The man shouted, his crimson-red eyes drowning in even more disbelief.

“If this continues, these monsters will catch onto me sooner or later... I have to do something against that! I... Oh, right. There is that other bandit group... I should just give them a few Undead allies to rely on, tell them to drink the miasma potions and do their best while I escape triumphantly!” Laughed the black-robed man as he began to quickly save things inside an inventory.

He was a big coward, to the point of quickly running away whenever he realized something wrong was going on.

‘As long as I bring results to my lords about the experiments here, things should be fine... It should be doable... I will show them the footage of those damned monsters, so they hopefully spare my life,’ He thought while quickly packing his things.

A laughing skeleton knight had come with an order to the bandit camp, wielding black armor and a demonic blade. His cracking skull laughed maliciously, as his empty eyes flashed with fiery blue phantom flames...

The bandit camp accepted the order because they were enslaved to the black-robed man...

And upon reading the order, they all drank the deadly black potions before preparing to attack the goblin village.

Meanwhile, Maria had begun a meeting with the Goblins and the former slaves...

Strategy meeting!

After enjoying an excellent breakfast and bonding some more with Gofumin and Emeraldine, we began our strategy meeting for the upcoming events.

First of all, we were going to storm the bandits that were left!

And to that, we asked the former slaves where the remaining bandits could be, but they seemed to be moving around throughout the week.

Also, most of the slaves didn’t pay enough attention to the smaller details, and many didn’t know of the last time they heard about the second group of bandits.

However, Emeraldine seemed to know.

As a half-elf, she had a better memory than the average person, so she recalled a certain occasion.

"I remember one time when a drunk bandit spoke about them... it was just four days ago. He said they lived near an abandoned temple and that it was a cursed place where they often heard the whispers of ghosts... he laughed at them for being unfortunate to have to live there," She said.

"An abandoned temple...? Do you guys know about any?" I asked.

Most of the goblins had no idea what she was talking about, even the chief.

However, a timid young Goblin girl with black hair covering her eyes stepped in.

"I-I know..." She stuttered.

"Eh?"

Everyone looked at the tiny girl causing her to blush in embarrassment.

"Tina? You know?" Asked a female goblin who seemed to be her mother.

"Y-Yeah... When I went hunting rabbits yesterday, I ended up getting lost for a few hours... And I ended up stepping into a strange place... It was filled with ruins. It resembled an ancient temple... I saw some things recently used by people, so maybe they were hidden... And I ran away after that and somehow managed to find my way back...." She explained timidly.

"EEEH?! Why would you do such a thing! You're too young to go hunting!"

"Indeed, young lady, you're way too young! I do the hunting,"

Her mother and father reprimanded her upon hearing the little goblins' story.

“Stop, she might have been reckless, but she gave us the answers we need. If it wasn’t because of her adventurous nature, we wouldn’t have been able to figure it out. Dear, where did you find that place?” I asked.

“I-It’s to the southeast, passing through three rivers that merge together... and an old tree with a big hole where howls live,” She said.

“I see! You have saved us big this time! But make sure to not wander around by yourself, alright, sweetheart?”

I patted Tina’s silky and soft hair before I kissed her cheek.

She was such an adorable little honey bun~!

“Here,”

I gave her a thing I had saved; they were candies I had taken from the pig aristocrats. Even though I kept them for myself, I gave her a few.

“W-What is this?” She asked timidly.

“Candies, they’re very sweet! Save them for yourself and eat them slowly,” I said with a warm smile.

“Oooohh...”

The girl saved her prize quickly like any cunning goblin would before the other goblins noticed that she had something pretty yummy.

After discovering the right directions, I marked up a map that already had this area of the forest mapped.

It was an expensive map I got from the library that I stole and emptied back in the previous duchy.

I quickly got ready for my journey and prepared to raid those bastards out of anything they had while making sure to kill them in the process.

I also decided to bring Lucifer and Partner with me, but I left Kuro leading the Undead here.

I made sure to check the surroundings beforehand by expanding my shadows all around and sharing my senses with them through my unique capabilities as a ghost, but thankfully, there wasn't anything else approaching... eh?

I heard a lot of noise from far away.

Are they planning to come here by themselves? Ohh...

How about we surprise them with a nice ambush then?

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Nothing too clever, really, just a very humble ambush.

I know I am not a smart-ass strategist like one from a novel, so I just abuse my overpowered abilities and what I have in hand to get the results I want.

But ambushing the bandits at the village would be horrible because we would be letting them get too close to us.

We moved towards the direction Tina told us, as my senses only took us so far before some kind of magic effect suddenly canceled the noise.

I came accompanied by the Goblins Warriors, which was the main team that came with us for the Bandit raid.

They had leveled up a lot, and I think they might even be close to hitting max level.

The chief said he was at Level 12 out of 15, so at 15, they probably can evolve into hobgoblins or something.

I have to feed them some easy kills before that, and then... boom! The Goblins will be able to defend themselves way better than before. So, when I am gone, they can begin hunting wild monsters more frequently before using their new strength to gain even more EXP and help their other members level up.

Everyone wins!

And now, we lurked across the forest in the bright and early morning.

The sun had already risen into the sky, and the day was as clear as ever... it was a beautiful day to be honest.

Well, a beautiful day to slaughter...

"Here are the three rivers. They're very thin, but they are indeed rivers... How could we have missed them?" The Goblin Chief pondered.

The little Tina was more than right.

There were three rivers, each one was as thin as half a meter, and were separated by small patches of dirt and grass- actually, it is just a larger river that is separated by small island-like masses of dirt and rocks... but it does make it seem as if they were three rivers.

After crossing through it, we sneaked around a bit more, and then we found a large, old tree.

It was completely different than the other younger trees, which were rugged and filled with wounds. It even seemed as if it was struck by lightning a few times...It even had a big hole atop, where there was lots of dry grass.

I floated a bit upwards to see what was there and found four beautiful howl chicks sleeping with their parents, who looked at me with their eyes wide open.

They began to rain me with peeks, but I evaded and flew away.

That was both cute and terrifying.

"It's here,"

As I told everyone this, I suddenly felt the presence of something lurking around.

I glared into the distance and found a...

Huh? A skeleton was walking alone.

It resembled a normal low-level one.

[Skeleton Soldier: Lv3] [Rank: E+] [State: Scouting the Area]

Oh, he is indeed just a little soldier, and he's scouting the area... Huh.

“Alright, guys, time to get the plan going! Get in!”

I expanded my shadows as everyone jumped inside through [Shadow Storage], one of the most broken Skills I’ve learned thanks to Supreme Magic and my Dark Affinity.

I had heard from Lucifer that it would take dozens of years for a dark mage to learn such a complex spell... heh.

After that, I used [Shadow Sneak] and activated my stealth-based skills before waiting in the shadows of the forest as the skeleton got closer... and closer...

And...

Gotcha!

I opened my [Shadow Storage] and grabbed the skeleton before throwing him down.

And he disappeared! Heh...

“Gang up on him, guys! Get all the EXP!”

The goblins roared fiercely.

“Aye, aye!”

“Take this, you pile of bones!”

“ORRAAA!”

CLASH! CLASH! BOOM!

The goblins ganged on the poor skeleton until it was turned into a pile of shattered bones.

They all gained a little shared EXP, and so did I, and then, I took the faint phantasmal soul of the skeleton and ate it.

Chomp.

And then, I managed to gather a few memories it had...

Through it, I was able to see that the skeleton came from the temple right around the corner, and it really was an abandoned ruin. It looked like an old shrine that someone used to worship gods or something.

Anyways, the thing is, we were able to find the damn bandits. They were all leisurely relaxing around the temple, preparing and drinking their potions with other Undead as a Skull Knight laughed like a madman- Wait, what?!

They were drinking the dark potions! Why? You'll get a stomachache! And they were drinking multiple ones... Some even drank three.

As they drank them, they began to turn crazy, but the skeleton knight was somehow able to control these wild berserk bandits...

Holy shit, this is an EXP fest.

I-I mean, it is a very serious thing!

They also had slaves, and they were forcing them to drink the potions and adding them into the army of beastly like beings...

And...

As I popped my head out, I sensed a small magic barrier being formed around the temple.

A Skeleton Wizard raised a staff and created a soundproof barrier so we couldn't detect them.

Smart move, skelly, but it won't work on me as I can see you already.

There's no time to waste...

I saw that the slaves were all made into insane berserkers, but there should be a way to heal them back...

Emeraldine and the others also said they go back to normal after some time but suffer horrible sequelae... I have to catch them separately, knock them out somehow, bring them to us, and let them rest.

That's gonna be a pain, but if I put all my effort into [Shadow Manipulation], it should be possible to separate my [Shadow Storage] space into two or three different smaller spaces.

Like this, I can dedicate one to store the slaves, the other for the bandits to be slaughtered by the goblins one by one, and another for emergencies or something else...

Preparing my shadow storage space took me two minutes, and it was quite tough... But I did it, nonetheless.

And silently, I began to sneaky sneak through the shadows before reaching the ruins...

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Everyone was ready!

We were going to raid this camp and kill them all. As simple as that.

I divided the inner space within my [Shadow Storage] into three “bubbles”, which should be more than enough for the little trick I plan to do.

However, I remember that the Netherworld Beasts were able to slash through my shadows and even destroy my shadow storage. This means that with enough strength, it is possible to even destroy my precious net of shadows!

Due to that, I gotta be careful.

The group is mighty enough to do tons of killing, but the goblins are weak.

Lucifer and Partner are the strongest as of now, and I can use their help to take care of the tougher ones. However, that skeleton knight laughing... That guy is no Bueno.

[Dark Skeleton Lord (Special Unit): Lv12] [Rank: C+] [State: Commanding Troops]

He's C+ Rank, but he has the “Special Unit” thingy in parenthesis.

I don't get it, but it might mean that something is wrong with this guy... He's probably quite the mighty bastard.

And by looking at his list of skills, he's rather interesting.

He has things such as [Dark Commander], [Undeath Coordinator], [Chains of Darkness], and weird-sounding stuff such as [Nether Death Cage]... He sounds scary... I might even have to run away...

Joking! I will fight him later after picking up his guys, killing them, capturing the slaves, knocking them out, and then he will be the final boss we'll fight to deepen our bonds and friendship.

A perfect plan! Let's do it!

FLASH!

I reached the camp, and the first thing I do is transform the soundproof barrier by infecting it with my shadows and abyssal darkness body.

I then use [Shadow Manipulation] and [Materialization] to shape this useful barrier and convert it into my own Barrier of Shadows.

I don't think I have the mana to make this thing last for long, and I am using existing barriers to do it, but let's see how far it lasts.

The entire invisible barrier turns into darkness, and my shadows attack the skeleton wizard controlling it.

I then manipulate them to grab the wizard and then throw him into my shadows while I expand my shadows below the entire camp in just mere seconds.

Everyone began to freak out like wild animals, so I didn't hear any "What's that?!" or "Impossible!" and instead, I heard their roars of surprise.

The skeletons, which were approximately 15 Soldiers, 5 Wizards, and the Dark Skeleton Lord, quickly noticed me but didn't know how to target me; after all, I am meddling with the shadows themselves!

Hahaha!

But the Dark Skeleton Lord seems pretty suspicious. He already knows where's my main body is and immediately charged at me!

However, I quickly evade, moving my mass of a phantom body away from the shadows I have expanded across the field.

The entire floor is made of my shadows, after all.

As I continue to send every bandit and slave into my [Shadow Storage], I play a game of cat and mouse with the skeletons, running in circles.

They seem dumb enough to not realize they could surround me...

Meanwhile, the bandits and slaves disappear from their sight at a breakneck pace.

I am already spending so much Mana that I spent around 50% of it in a single minute, even though I am constantly absorbing the mana of everyone here.

But even by calculating it, I will not have enough to make this last more than 5 minutes.

We have to get this done quickly!

The Goblins are greeted with a group of Bandits, and one by one, they begin to drop into the shadow space inside my [Shadow Storage].

Led by Lucifer and Partner, the Goblins begin to gang up on the monstrous and crazed Bandits.

They seem way stronger than before as the bandits had drunk several potions, and their strength seemed now comparable to E-Rank monsters, compared to the measly G-Rank losers they were...

Each goblin is around G-Rank too, but if they use the help of Partner and Lucifer...

“[Blood Blade]!”

Partner danced in the shadows as she released several blades made of her own blood, filling the bandits with deadly wounds, making them groan in pain on the ground.

“Let’s go!”

The Goblin Chief raised his arms as he unleashed the mighty rage of the goblins onto their first victim.

Lucifer does the same, burning a group of Bandits with his phantasmal flame breath and slashing another one with his claws!

As the bandits squirmed half-dead, the goblins separated into different units amazingly well-coordinated thanks to the Goblin Chief’s Ability named [Chief of the Village], which helps him coordinate his troops and enhance the power of his villagers by just a slight bit!

It is something he just got after leveling when he killed the skeleton scouting the area.

Coupled with my Titles which have effects that enhance those below my command or that follow me, they grow a bit stronger and at least double their power which is enough to be able to overpower the half-dead crazed bandits.

They begin to earn tons of EXP, causing many to gain a few levels.

While the bandits fall to their demise and begin to go down in numbers quickly, I separate the slaves into a different bubble and knock them out by using my [Abyss Body] Skill, which can make people so fearful that they faint.

I used it until it worked on them all.

Some died, but I stuck the soul back in, and they revived barely... Haha, I had it planned, of course!

Meanwhile, on the outside, I was being chased by skeletons.

“KAKAKAKA!”

The Dark Skeleton Lord seems furious, raising his Demon Blade and releasing a dark and red beam at me.

I swiftly evade and dive into the shadow surface, but he keeps firing his demonic beams at me.

Meanwhile, the Skeleton Wizards are up to no good either!

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The Skeleton Wizards are up to no good! They had begun to conjure some very BRIGHT magic.

I never expected skeletons, actual Undead, to be able to use Light Magic so proficiently!

It was as if they were custom made for me... Wait... Did the black-robed guy see us fight? Then it is possible that by seeing us fight, he created a way to counter my shadows and darkness with a very intense and flashing light.

I have to stop them!

“KAKAKA!”

CLASH!

However, as I rush to stop them, the Dark Skeleton Lord gets in my way.

Using his blade, he hits the ground and intimidates me to pull back.

Damn pile of bones!

I fire a barrage of arrow spears at him to move him away, but he resists them flawlessly. His skeleton and armor are pretty tough!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

“Fuck, Lucifer, Partner, how are you two?”

Both of them finished weakening most of the bandits, but some are still intact.

“We still got some that need to be hit!”

“Lucifer can do it alone, master! Let me help!”

Partner speaks rather eloquently as she wants to join me.

I guess this will be a girl and girl team up!

“Alright, Partner, I choose you!”

FLASH!

I throw a ball made of shadows before Partner emerges from them.

What a nice actress I am!

The Skeletons are horrified as they see my precious Partner emerge, her aura of darkness and blood like a stream of deadly essence.

She glares at them as her black hair waves menacingly!

“HAAAH!”

Partner rushes upfront as she uses her trusty spear and bathes the skeleton army with powerful spear thrust attacks. It was like a wave of attacks done by an entire army!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

BOOOM!

All the skeletons are blown into the air.

Is she playing a Warriors game or something?!

“KAKAKA!”

However, the Dark Skeleton Lord confronts her as it laughs maniacally.

Its blade falls over her like a guillotine of darkness, but she evades swiftly and counterattacks with three consecutive spear attacks!

The Dark Skeleton Lord manages to block the attack with his massive demonic sword!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

“Kakaka...!”

“Tough... Master, I will take care of it...! You go kill wizards!”

“Alright, sweetie!”

I was already on it as I rushed towards the Skeleton Wizards, who were taking their sweet time.

The incantation was almost done, and the ball of light was so intense I felt weakened by just getting near it!

I manipulated my darkness as I fired several arrows at the skeletons holding the spell, pulverizing their bony legs and making them fall and, at the same time, failing their spellcasting.

BOOOM!

The sphere of light, however, reached towards me and exploded anyways!

FLASH!

However, I had already built another shadow net through multitasking and materialized it, covering the entire thing as if it were a mantle.

The shadows absorbed most of the hit, managing to let me resist the faint light that came when the shadow mantle dissipated.

I managed to just barely keep my shadows alive without them dissipating from the bright light!

I rushed towards the still living Skeleton Wizards, who pointed their fingers at me and fired beams of light.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

“Agh! Stop fucking around!”

I released a storm of [Dark Gale] over all of them and finished them off for good as the slicing darkness pulverized them!

CLAAAAASSSSHH!

Their bones flew everywhere, I caught their souls, and gained that juicy EXP.

I ate the souls and quickly looked inside my [Shadow Storage].

The goblins had finished half the bandits, and Lucifer had finished off the last ones, so I quickly called him for reinforcements.

“KAKAKA!”

The Dark Skeleton Lord laughed as it began to attack Partner with a myriad of slashing attacks using his dark blade technique.

He was actually very dexterous, and Partner was going all out herself, using the power of her spear-related attacks, bloodwork, and even her other skills, but the monster seemed completely unfazed by most magic attacks that were not super powerful.

It seems his armor had some kind of dark shadow ability that negated most of the damage from magic.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

“GRAA!”

Partner roared angrily as she did a spectacular flip in the air and then enhanced her own spear with her mana, spiraling downward like a drill!

Wow, that’s new.

CLAAAAASSSH!

The Dark Skeleton Lord seemed to grit its teeth, taking the hit as it released a beam of darkness from his blade.

This motherfucker was tough!

Lucifer reached towards him as he used his claws to slash him off of the ground, causing Partner to hit the ground as a result, and the Dark Skeleton Lord flew into the air.

But before he could fly any higher, Lucifer caught him with his spear-tipped tail and crushed him into the ground!

CLASH!

“KAKA...!”

It seems that it has a hard time balancing itself if it’s constantly thrown around like a ragdoll... Good to know...

Shadows!

I controlled the shadows and manipulated them to shape into a giant mass, catching him in midair.

Lucifer began to rain him with attacks as soon as I caught him.

Meanwhile, Partner leaped into the skies and fell towards the skeleton with her spear, resembling a Dragon Knight technique from a particular fantasy game...

However, the Skeleton Knight roared as he gathered some kind of dark power from his chest and released it into a strong shockwave.

My shadow grip was destroyed, Lucifer was thrown away, and when Partner hit him, she was sent flying into the air.

BOOOOOMMM!

“What was that?!” Lucifer asked, bewildered by what had just happened.

“Kakakakaka!”

The Dark Skeleton Lord began to laugh as his power started to overflow.

The entire barrier imploded due to the shockwave, as he suddenly began to drink several potions of miasma he took out of a pouch.

Was that pouch some kind of dimensional item that could store more than it seemed... Like an inventory?

We couldn't stop him because it was too sudden.

In a split of a second, he had devoured the potions, and his entire body began to overflow with black and bubbly slimy miasma...

Boss battle incoming, I guess.

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“Kakakakaka!”

The Dark Skeleton Lord began to laugh as his power started to overflow.

After swallowing the potions in an instant, he exploded with power.

His entire body began to exude slimy black miasma, which he could control too!

He was also covered in black slime, similar to his miasma.

His blade began to slash around hysterically while being wielded by a black tentacle!

CLASH! SLASH! BOOM!

The rest of the tentacles began to attack us, as Lucifer was grabbed by one of them and thrown into the distance!

BOOOM!

“Uagh...!”

Partner tried to defend me as she dove in front of me while I began to quickly siphon away the mana of this thing... But it had increased so much that it definitely was going to take a while.

What kind of plot armor does this damn Dark Skeleton Lord have to get this transformation?

It is truly irritating!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

“KAKAKA!”

The Dark Skeleton Lord began to laugh as it walked around, pulverizing the floor with its long tentacles.

It continued to hit everything as we evaded.

Partner counterattacked with her spear and her bloodwork, but that was barely doing any damage.

“Shit! This thing has such a high defense... and also magic defense. My magic is not even damaging that miasma thing....” I said as I healed Lucifer, and he got ready to battle again.

CLAAASH!

The Dark Skeleton Lord rushed towards us as it completely skipped Partner from its menu, reaching towards ME!

“KAAAA!”

It roared as the tentacles suddenly merged together and shaped into gigantic abyssal black jaws, reaching up to me and trying to devour me whole!

Are you fucking with me?

CLASH!

I flew into the shadows and evaded in time.

Lucifer wasn't targeted, so he was fine, and actually, he used this opportunity to attack this thing, giving it a good body slam and then bathing it with slash attacks, piercing tail attacks, breath attacks, and magic spells!

"RRAAAAAA!"

BOOM! CLASH! CRASH!

Wow, he was going all out! Nice!

The explosive magic spells he released began to slow down the Dark Skeleton Lord as it tried to fight back against Lucifer, but Lucifer's massive body continued to push him down.

Of course, he was being pierced by countless black tentacles, but he resisted them due to his nature as an undead while I conjured [Undead Healing] onto him.

Meanwhile, partner rushed towards where the Dark Skeleton Lord's skeleton was, using her spear to break through the sea of miasma that was pouring from it.

"KAKAKA!"

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, the jaws of the Dark Skeleton Lord opened wide as it released a spiraling vortex of phantasmal flames towards us, burning through our defenses as Partner resisted the flames through a Materialized Shadow Barrier I created!

However, this bastard was so tough- Ah!

Right, why don't I just do that?

I generated three other shadow barriers, hardened them, and then pushed them forward!

FLAAASH!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"KAAAAAAKKK...!"

Yes! I just used the materialized walls to hit the bastard as hard as possible.

His miasma and his main body were being pressed down into the ground, barely being able to move!

Come on...

"You two, gang on it!"

Lucifer and Partner nodded as their magical and physical attacks continued to break through the Dark Skeleton Lord's large HP Bar.

Little by little, their explosive attacks began to finally tear through this damn skelly!

CLASH! BOOM! CRASH! SLASH!

"KAAAANK... HAHA!"

However, it suddenly laughed as an explosion of shadows and miasma came from its core, blowing us all into the sky!

BOOOOOOOM!

The shockwave covered a large area around us, turning everything into a small wasteland...

My HP was critically reducing, so I continuously used [Undead Healing] on myself, and took a Mana Potion from the merchant, and drank it.

Phew...

I can't use Health Potions; they actually damage Undead. But Mana Potions are good enough.

I only have a few, and they're for emergencies only, but because my mana drain speed wasn't enough to keep up with the [Undead Healing] I had to do, I was forced to drink one.

The shockwave dissipated as the Dark Skeleton Lord revealed itself to us.

Most of his miasma was now gone, and he seemed a bit weaker...

I looked for Partner and Lucifer and immediately noticed both of them had their HP bars below 5%.

They were barely hanging on thanks to their fantastic bulkiness compared to me.

I quickly continuously healed them and drank another mana potion.

"Are you guys okay?"

"I... Somewhat," Lucifer responded.

“Ouch...” Sighed Partner.

We looked at the bastard in front of us, which was slowly walking towards us, raising his dark demon blade, his eyes flashing with killing intent as they released phantasmal blue flames...

It seems that in his desperation, he utilized most of the miasma and darkness he gained by drinking the potions to escape my barriers...

“KAAAA!”

FLASH!

He suddenly leaped towards us without even waiting for us to recover and started to release storming blade techniques that were so strong that they shook the entire place.

The ground was split, and even the faraway trees were being sliced.

This guy was way too OP! Could he have been an important figure, like a hero or something, when he was alive?

“GRAAAOO!”

However, Lucifer roared and coated himself with mana.

His dragon scales were reinforced through this, and he used a strong body slam to impact the minor Dark Skeleton Lord, crushing him into the ground!

SLASH!

However, the slashing attack it released was enough to reach Lucifer's head and slice it!

EH?!

"Unngh...!"

"LUCIFER!"

"Ahh... M-Maria..."

I rushed towards his head, but he...

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...

Or was he?

"Do you have to be so dramatic? I am a zombie. Getting my head sliced off won't kill me. I am still holding on to this bastard with my body, so go on and kill it already!" He shouted.

He lost a big chunk of his HP, but he was still alive!

"Alright, Lucy, I'll heal you later!"

"Don't call me Lucy!"

I rushed with Partner towards the suppressed Dark Skeleton Lord.

It was time to slay him for good!

“KAAAACK!”

The angered skeleton released several slashing attacks at us, but Partner used her spear to counter them until she crushed his arm, and the blade finally fell out of his hand.

“KAAH?!”

“Yeah, without your damn sword, you’re not that amazing, are you, shithead?”

“K-KAH...”

I grabbed the blade, and it looked quite pretty.

“Mind if use it? Fufu...”

The blade, however, tried to reject me.

It gave me a weird feeling, and I assumed it was something like that of a Cursed Blade, a living weapon infused with souls inside.

I see.

But nope, dude, you’re MINE now.

I infused my own intent into the blade, infusing it with my soul and shadows.

The souls inside were suppressed and quickly became submissive after they recognized me as their Undead Queen!

The blade suddenly lost its red colors and became pale blue, overflowing with phantasmal flames.

I also infused my soul into it and used the [Soul Devour] Skill onto the Skeleton's chest.

As Partner had already sliced off all its limbs, it was now defenseless.

"KAAKAKAAAAA!"

It cried out in desperation as I used the blade to pierce his chest.

There was a magic core inside him, powering him up, which I crushed on the way to his soul!

SLAAAASH!

The soul of the skeleton began to shiver in agony as a scream of the morgue itself was released from his agonizing soul!

"GRRYYYYYAAAAEEEEEEEEEE...!"

Crack... crack...

CRASH!

Nice, time to eat.

I slurped his cracked soul with my tongue, which I extended as if I were a frog... and consumed it all.

Slurp.

I felt like a particular video game dinosaur for a slight second there...

After I swallowed the soul pieces, I gained a bit of power, only a tiny bit, and also, this guy's memories...

Several images began to flash through my mind.

This guy was... he was actually an ancient Hero?

Seriously?! Uegh... So he was this strong due to this?

Part of his skeletal body was made from the remnants of an ancient hero named: The Hero of the Iron Blade.

And through the remnant's emotions infused into this gear, he gained some of his previous personality.

He seemed to have been a hard worker and never gave up... I guess that is why he was so god damn resilient... that bastard...

I also acquired the coordinates to where this black-robed guy is! He wasn't actually too far as well!

There's a small hill with a little cave, and if we go inside, we'll find a giant monolith. And by infusing death attribute mana inside, it is opened, and his laboratory is inside of the underground temple.

Should we go slay him before anything else happens?

I immediately contacted my Undead and Kuro on the other side.

They seemed to all be fine, and there wasn't anyone crawling around either. He's probably hiding for now, or maybe preparing to escape, or already escaping?

We should really go kill him now!

"Well done, everyone, but the fight is not over. We have to-"

"Please reattach my head. I am slowly losing HP. I can't move. My arms are sliced," Lucifer muttered in bits.

"O-Oh, right!"

I quickly patched Lucifer back to normal before he sighed in relief.

"Good as new," I said, slapping his butt.

SLAP!

"Don't slap my dragon butt!"

"But it's so big!" I said.

"T-That's not an excuse!" He said, turning back into his humanoid form.

"Ggrr..." Partner looked at Lucifer with envy.

"D-Don't look at me like that," He sighed.

“Master, slap me too! Here!”

Partner pointed at her fine butt.

“Eh? No, that would be way too inappropriate!” I said.

“Hm? So you have principles only for her?” Lucifer asks while crossing his arms.

“Agh, let’s not start this again, okay? And I am not apologizing for slapping your butt. Anyways, I have the coordinates for the black-robed retard’s mom’s basement, so let’s go finally kill him,” I announce.

“D-Do you know how strong he is? Maybe he will crush us,” Lucifer asks.

“No, he shouldn’t be as strong as his own Undead. Necromancers are typically weak compared to their Undead. That’s like, a rule in all RPGs,”

“T-That doesn’t apply with you, right?”

“Of course not. I am a ghost. I am like a final boss, not a playable character,” I responded with a smile.

“I don’t get this at all, but fine, let’s go kill him. If he’s too strong, we can just run away,” Lucifer sighed once again.

“Let’s do it!” Partner shouted.

With Partner’s energetic behavior, I gave the last patch up to the two, and we rushed towards the black-robed guy.

I told the goblins to go back to the village because this might be too dangerous for them.

They carried the unconscious Slaves as they made their way back, and as they were all max level, they were probably going to evolve upon arrival.

“Good luck, Maria-sama!”

“Please, take care....”

“Don’t die on us...!”

“Are you sure about this?” Asked the chief.

“Of course I am. If I don’t suffer through challenges like a good light novel protagonist, how can I grow stronger?” I asked.

“That’s... a strange analogy which I don’t understand. But fine, be careful... I know you’re strong. We’ll be waiting for you!” The Chief cheered us on before leading his goblins.

Ding!

[Calculating EXP gained...]

[You gained 36400 EXP]

[Your Level has increased from Level 6 to Level 7!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 7 to Level 8!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 8 to Level 9!]

[EXP: 11706/14000]

Oh, that's sweet! Level 9 already!

This side quest has resulted in being a delightful feast of EXP... fufu.

Now, onwards to slaughter this bastard and eat his soul!

YAAY!

Chapter 57

I have reached Level 9 out of 40. So that means there are 31 more levels before I can freaking evolve again. That's a lot of levels... Can I get enough by killing this dude? I doubt it, but we'll get through it eventually. Humans give some tasty EXP, so if I can kill many aristocratic pigs, I will get a nice load of EXP out of it. I might even make their guards or close friends approach me so I can also get their EXP. Oh damn, I am such a psycho. Look at me, talking about killing people like it's nothing...

Mom, sister, how much have I changed?! I am hopelessly evil! Ah... This is why I make it up by helping those in need. This way, I balance out the negative karma with good deeds towards the innocent and undeserving of bad treatment.

See? Where there is evil, there is also good. Yin and Yang, all that fuss.

Anyways, we continued to rush through the forest. Now that we were recovered, we had nothing else to do but get there. We moved swiftly through the trees towards the direction where the memories of the Skeleton told me to go.

"My level is about to reach 30. I might even evolve soon... At long last, I won't just be an unliving flesh mound," Said Lucifer.

“Oh nice, Lucy-chan, you’re getting stronger! I bet you’ll awaken more and more of your power as a former dragon,” I said.

“Don’t call me Lucy! And yes, as I evolve, I might unlock more of my former glory’s power. But I lost most of my total power in the dungeon when it was formed. That thing was draining me out like a leech... I guess I must still be thankful for what you did. Even if you keep getting into a mess after mess all the time, it has been fun so far,”

“Aw, really, lizard?”

“Don’t call me lizard!” He cried.

“It’s just a joke. Come on... You can call me whatever you want to,”

“T-Then... I... Erm... Ah... Shadow!”

“So lame... That didn’t even hurt,” I chuckled.

“Lame...” Said Partner.

“Shut up, you former skeleton!” Lucifer shouted as Partner continued to chuckle teasingly.

“Lame! Lameeeee~” Partner said, continuing to tease him.

“I am not good with nicknames; I am not such a type of person to come up with them... Other than calling you a suggestive woman with an erotic body, I can’t- Ah....”

“Erotic body?!” I shouted.

“N-Never mind that! I-I am not what you think!”

“Hehe, I think you’re really a degenerate deep down, aren’t you? You’re one of those types of guys that are very reserved outside but deep down, I bet you’re a kinky little lizard,” I laughed.

“S-Shut up! Can you not speak about embarrassing things for 10 minutes?!”

“Eehh? But that’s boring. Where’s the fun if I can’t poke my little dragon man?”

“W-What kind of nickname is that now?”

“You’re cute when you get embarrassed... So do you get it?” I asked while winking at him.

“C-Cute... I am a male! I don’t care about being cute!” He shouted in protest.

“Okaaay... Anyways, it looks like we are here,” I said.

I pointed at a small hill with a little cave.

“Eh? We got here quite fast,” Lucifer muttered.

“See? Talking nonsense for a while always makes time go fast, which is a necessity when you live for eternity as a cursed undead,” I said.

“I have no words for such a statement,” Lucifer replied.

“Anyways, let’s get to it! Follow me, crew!”

I let the two hop into my shadows through [Shadow Storage], and we quickly moved through the shadows of the forest and reached the dim cave. The cave looked quite dark, and it was covered by

black-colored rocks that leaked some strange necrotic liquid. We moved around, trying to find anything suspicious...

And lo and behold!

There he was. A small man, perhaps smaller than Lucifer, covered in black robes that made him look like a typical villain in an RPG game. He had pale white skin, which I noticed through his pale white hands and sharp black nails at the end of each finger.

He had the air of a strong magician, his mana was vast, and he slightly gave me the same vibes as Partner... was he a Dhampir or something similar? He also emanated a dark presence. He hadn't noticed us as he was quickly trying to pack his things before leaving. He was also carrying a staff with a human skull on top... Wow, edgy.

Let's see...

...

[Name: Arann]

[Race: Subordinate Vampire Necromancer (Majin)]

[Estimate Rank: C+]

[State: Hurriedly Preparing Things to Escape]

[HP: [700/700]

[MP: [5200/5200]{+2500}

[Attack: [660]{+100}

[Defense: [550]

[Magic: [3300]{+2500}

[Agility: [900]{+500}

[Notable Abilities: [Necromancy], [Call of the Dead], [Master Necrolord], [Fake Life], [Poison Magic],
[Bloodwork]

[Notable Titles: [Evil Necromancer], [Apprentice Warlock]

[Equipment: [Deadly Necrolord Staff: Lv10 (B-Grade)]

...

Oof, alright, he's quite literally a better version of me. His magic power is deadly. A few hits from him, and we are more dead than what we currently are. I see he lacks any status effects, so let's see what he's got for me. Wait, why don't we start with an explosion?

I slowly crept as close as I could before he noticed me. And suddenly, he began to conjure runes throughout the entire cave. Fufu, yes, get closer!

"Nngh... I have to hurry! Damn it, why did that thing come here and just ruin everything?! The Vampires are going to kill me!" He cried out.

Vampires...?

Anyways, [Pandora's Box]!

FLAAASH!

I activated my Skill, [Pandora's Box], as I released a deadly explosion of pure chaos, darkness, and death all around us! Such a beautiful sight! It was as if I had opened the box for real.

"Eheeehh?!"

BOOOM!

He began to freak out, but due to his high magic defense, he was able to survive the hit, but he was also blown away, slamming against the stone wall.

"Come out now. Let's kill him!" I roared as Lucifer and Partner came out.

"W-What is the meaning of this?!"

—

Chapter 58

—

And there he is, screaming in agony.

[Pandora's Box] is a spell that doesn't seem to affect me as I am... well, Pandora, the race that uses it, and as long as I coat my allies with a permeable shadow coat, we will not get affected. The initial attack is the one that hits the hardest, and what remains is what I call "malice essence," which is like a black cloud of very toxic venom. This guy over there has no status effect immunity, only resistance, so he's actually killing himself by inhaling it.

"GGRRYEEGGH...!"

Anyways, I wanted to kill this guy so badly that I brought Lucifer and Partner outside right away, and without wasting a single second, we rushed towards him! I took out the demon blade I got from our skelly companion back then and swung it towards the black-robed man while I enhanced it with mana.

SLAAAASSSH!

“GYEEGH?!”

The dude barely evaded, jumping away with his high agility. However, I managed to slice off half of his left shoulder, which included his arm and the staff he was carrying.

Ooh, nice loot.

I quickly picked up the staff and equipped it in my other hand. This thing was amazing! It had 2500 Mana and Magic, but it was cursed, and the curse was trying to eat my soul! Nothing too bad, really. I intimidated the cursed spirits the same way I did with the blade, and they calmed themselves down.

That’s right little guys. I am your queen now.

“M-My staff!” Cried the man as he pointed his hand at us, and around twenty black spheres were fired towards us.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

However...

“[Shadow Wall], [Materialization],”

I used my amazing [Shadow Wall] with the boost of this new staff, alongside [Materialization], and created a powerful wall of shadows to defend us.

“GIVE ME BACK MY STAFF!”

The guy was throwing a tantrum... What a manchild. Really man? All that buildup, and you're just going to cry now? This is really like those Isekai... What a letdown. I guess the real boss was the friends we made along the way- wait, that doesn't make any sense.

“M-My mana is getting sucked out of me...!” He cried out the obvious.

“Duh,” I said, as Lucifer reached from his back when he stopped firing his barrage of magic and gave him a dragon punch, throwing him to the ground.

CLASH!

“GRYEEGH...!”

“Die,”

Partner reached him quickly after, her spear impaling his back and his hands, as she managed to also cut his legs so he wouldn't be able to run away quickly.

“Agghh...! Please have mercy!” He cried.

What? Seriously?

“My man, you just enslaved like almost a thousand innocent people, and you ask us for mercy? Do we look like Holy Paladins that forgive sinners if you promise us to pray every night before bedtime?” I asked.

“AH... Y-You're a ghost!” He cried out once again.

Suddenly, I noticed that he was stalling for time. The arm I sliced off from him was slowly growing back, and his other arm, which was broken, began to slowly heal the broken bones. Huh, this is the power of a Vampire Subordinate. He's not a Dhampir, but a Vampire Subordinate. It's different, which is why he has insane regeneration. He can even regrow limbs. Also, he wasted most of his mana on his tantrum.

"How are you alive? I threw all my mana into that barrage of attacks... I've killed armies of knights with that!" He shouted.

"Yeah, yeah, we are not going to go play your game. You're trying to regenerate, right? Too bad, boop!"

"EEEEH?!"

SLASH!

I used the demon blade and sliced his head off.

And done! Haha! Easy work. Even a baby could have done this. His head rolled around as I saw his soul, which was very strong, slowly begin to crawl back to his body. Wait, what? Was he trying to raise himself as a zombie? Wow, this is the first time I've seen this. I guess Necromancers can do that, eh? I impaled his head with the sword and grabbed his sneaky soul before he was to do anything too funny for me to handle.

"Gyaah! Y-You can even grab souls?! Are you a Necromancer too?! But you're a mere ghost!"

"A mere ghost? I just killed you, and you call me that, buddy? You're really asking me to eat your soul now," I sighed.

"P-Please anything but that! I-I can serve you! I am very intelligent! I can do various things for you! I-I can even tell you about the Vampires, everything! I just don't want to dieeee!" He cried.

"Why not?"

“Because I know I’ve committed so many sins that I won’t go to the Valhalla....” He sighed.

“Oh yeah, that’s for sure. Man, you’re going straight to Helheim,” I laughed.

“S-So please!”

“Just eat him,” Said Lucifer.

“Eat! Eat!” Partner chanted.

True, I can just get his memories from eating him and getting a guy like this as a party member would be a pain in the ass to handle.

“Sorry, man, but based on votes alone, you’re going down my esophagus,”

“GGUUUUAAAAGGH...!”

I slowly slurped him like a noddle, and he even tried to crawl out of my phantasmal mouth, but I just kept slurping until he was done. I munched on him a bit to give him a few agonizing last seconds of life and then swallowed him. Good thing we sliced off his limbs. He had like a bunch of black potions ready to use to become the ultimate final boss, phew. Yeah, I am not as cliché to let the villain power up in front of me! The Skeleton Lord was different. He threw like an explosion of mana against us. We couldn’t do anything there.

The first thing I got from this noddle snack was a bunch of curses he conjured on me before dying, so I dispelled them quickly and then finally got into his mind... which was sealed? But I devoured the mind seal easily. Did you think that would actually stop me? Please... After that, a rush of memories finally entered my mind, and oh boy, was he filled with important stuff...

Ding!

[Calculating EXP gained...]

[You gained 60000 EXP]

[Your Level has increased from Level 9 to Level 13!]

Chapter 59

After I ate that jerk, I obtained his memories easily. And what I learned from him was a big plot twist, the likes you could have never seen coming. Actually, I already knew a bit after I ate the aristocrats of Affnaria, but still, this just opened up more. There are a bunch of Vampires working in the shadows of these Duchies, and even the entire Kingdom, and probably many other Kingdoms. They're a remnant of the Demon King's army that separated from him after he was defeated, and they intend to control the society of humans with their might, resources, and knowledge. And they had been slowly colluding more and more, even with other aristocrats.

They had taken over the criminal organizations and even slowly controlled the Kingdom's underworld while manipulating the aristocrats. I don't know the exact names, aside from a few crucial ones I will not get to see in a while, so it is absolutely useless to talk about them because anyone would get bored of hearing about characters that won't appear soon! And... well, this one fella was part of their little group of idiots. I don't know what to think about Vampires.

In a way, they're doing this to somewhat avenge the Demon King, but they had corrupted themselves and are also going way too far, such as enslaving other demi-human races and even Majin such as Goblins. I suppose that even between the Majin Races, which includes Vampires and Goblins, there is racism. I should speak more about this with Lucifer. He should know a lot about this.

Anyways, this guy was being contracted to make these potions and had already sold a bunch of them to multiple places. They were being used as a new weapon to make the soldiers of each duchy stronger. The duchies prepared for a future confrontation between duchies, which was happening thanks to the manipulation of the Vampires, making the governors of each duchy warier of their own siblings.

Wow, this is just conspiracy after conspiracy. It has NO END. Even with all the memories of this idiot, I bet I am barely scraping the surface... damn. What is the ultimate goal of the Vampires? World

domination? To become the top race in the world? I guess so? They just hate everyone and their mother in Midgard, even themselves. This guy was treated pretty unfairly by his own fellows, so I guess Vampires are the ultimate asshole race.

Usually, they call Elves the ultimate assholes, but they seem pretty chill, at least in this continent named Midgard, which is predominantly dominated by humans. But there are also other races mixed in due to its good conditions compared to the other Continents based on Norse Mythology's Realms. Maybe the elves of Niflheim are assholes?

Anyways, Emeraldine is a cutie that just deserves love, so I doubt they're as bad as they are portrayed in fiction. I noticed something... This world is pretty good at breaking tropes. I mean, it already broke the trope of goblins being a barbarian rapist race... and in the end, the true barbarian rapist was the humans all along. How interesting.

"Are you okay? Don't tell me you're sad about his death," Lucifer asked.

"Eh? Ah... No, I was impacted by the amount of info I learned by eating him and getting his memories... there's a lot of crap to take in now. I don't know if I will be capable of taking all of this head-on. There's just... Did you know that Vampires are super assholes?" I asked.

"Vampires? Assholes? What? I don't remember the Vampires being assholes. They were an honorable race that held their own families and were ruled by Progenitors. They were loyal to the Demon King and powerful warriors that protected the Kingdom... But I guess something might have happened to them after the Demon King died... I died too, so I couldn't truly tell," Lucifer gave me context like always.

"I see. Well, let's just get going for now. No point pondering on it right now," I muttered.

"Wait, there's something left to do, right?" Lucifer asked.

"Master! Master! This!"

Partner pointed me towards a glowing black orb above an altar. Oh right, the entrance of this guy's secret lab. He left the slaves inside working forever. I guess he was going to let them starve to death inside there? We might as well rush inside and save them.

“The way to open this thing is by infusing death attribute mana, which is like the key. It is so rare that not many can open this, which I guess is a good method of defense, but sadly for the vampire, I have the attribute,” I muttered before touching the orb.

Suddenly a large door in the wall opened, which led downstairs into an underground dungeon-like building. We moved downstairs at a rapid pace as we found an army of skeletons greeting us. Indeed, he left them here to make sure the slaves would work until they dropped dead... What an asshole.

“Let’s go, just kill them all!” I shouted as Lucifer and Partner began to massacre the skeletons without any problem.

They were all between F and E Rank, so they were nothing against us, but against ordinary people, they can quite easily kill them without much effort. So they’re effective guardians to prevent any slaves from going rabid.

CLASH! BOOM! CRASH! SLASH!

We slashed through the entire army of skeletons, blowing off their skulls and splattering their bones all over the ground. And one by one, they all fell to their ultimate demise. When we were done with, we found the slaves cornered in the room, trembling in fear as they noticed our presences. I guess we looked scary, as we exuded a pretty strong death-attribute presence. We looked at them with our glowing, bloodshot eyes as I extended my dark and phantasmal hand.

“You will be fine now,” I said.

Almost everyone had a heart attack as soon as they heard my spectral voice.

“GYAAAAHHHH!”

Many of them fell unconscious right away, and a few died on the spot.

But don't worry, I grabbed their souls in time and stuck them back into their bodies. Ah, how nice the benefits are of being a death mage.

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Chapter 60

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I extended my hand to these poor slaves, and they were so scared they died out of horror! Quite literally... Ugh, am I that scary? I just want to be nice and friendly. Come on. A ghost can also be cute and nice, right?

"You scared them to death," Lucifer muttered.

"I know! And I already revived them, so don't be annoying," I sighed.

"Annoying?! You're calling the great me, a dragon that has lived for millennia, annoying?"

"Yeah, now shut up. We have bring these people outside and also investigate this place."

As my comrades brought the slaves outside, I began to investigate this place by myself. It was easier than I thought because I had the memories of this guy, so I knew everything around this place. There were documents, some resources, and other stuff, but most of the things he had and were valuable were left within his spatial pouch, which I saved inside my Inventory.

There were a lot of recipes for Undead I had never seen before, alongside materials to add to the Undead Raising process. After that, I grabbed everything I could and shoved it inside of my Inventory. I was bored of this place, and it honestly reeked of rat piss, so we got straight out of there after I stole anything of value or no value at all... I just like to steal.

Ding!

[You acquired the [Pickpocket] Title Skill]

Eh?! That's new! I thought Title Skills were rarer than that. I guess I have indeed stolen a great deal of stuff. Good thing no one can see each other's status, so no one will know I am a thief. Also, what does Pickpocket do?

...

[Pickpocket: Lv1]

A Title Skill bestowed to someone who had stolen over 100 goods.

It enhances the user's ability to steal with each level while making the user less vulnerable to being discovered.

...

Well, alright, so it just lets you become better at robbing people? Who would have known... I guess this world encourages you to steal now? But to Level up this Title Skill, I need to steal more, so it is quite problematic... I guess I am not getting more of this title's level up then because I will become a holy woman who will never steal ever again from here and now!

...Joking. I like to grab things that aren't mine and then say, "they're mine now." It makes me feel strangely good deep inside. I guess I am truly the Evil of the World.

"Phew, finally done with this whole ordeal. Let's go back to the village and drink some booze," Said Lucifer.

"I am tired too...." Partner sighed.

"Me too. You two did a good job. I am very proud of my little baby undead." I said, petting the two.

"B-Baby undead?!" Lucifer shouted angrily.

“Hehe, pet me more, master!” Partner said, asking for more affection.

“Of course, you’re so cute... I would pet you all day,” I said as I petted Partner even more.

“Now, kiss! Kiss!”

I kissed her forehead and nose.

“Happy?” I asked.

“Yesh!”

Aw, she’s so lovely. I think she’s like my daughter now. My baby girl! Lucifer walked to our side in silence as he tried to ignore us. The slaves walked with us all the way to the village. They were all confused and sickly. Also, most of them were extremely hungry and needed to eat ASAP, as some were almost about to die again. When we reached the village, we were greeted by my Undead guards.

“How did things go?” I asked.

“A boar came. Kuro killed it, and villagers ate it.”

“Okay then, nothing much.”

The Zombie, who barely could articulate words while walking around. He looked like he was about to collapse to the ground at any moment by the way he walked, but he was surprisingly well balanced.

“Aaand, we are here!” I shouted before greeting the Goblins, who were eating grilled boar.

“You guys came back faster than I thought!” Said the Goblin Chief.

"T-They're back!"

"I am glad everything went fine...."

"They brought all the slaves that bastard had... there's even some goblins there too,"

"So many new people...."

"MRAO!"

Kuro rushed towards me and jumped onto my face before licking me.

"You missed me, big guy? Don't worry, everything went fine," I said, petting him.

"We did everything quite fast. The black-robed guy was tough, but what do you know? If you cut the limbs of a person, they can't do a lot of stuff suddenly, such as running away or using their overpowered staff," I said, showing my new relic.

"Oh, that's a great staff, Maria-sama," The Chief complimented one of my new weapons.

"I also got this bad boy to boot," I said while showing off my other cool weapon.

"That's an Incredible sword!"

"Right? And... Eh?"

I noticed that all the group of Goblins that came with us had evolved. They got taller all of a sudden, and some of them had dark hair now or dark tattoos. In comparison, they were as tall as a small person, close to a fifteen-year-old.

“You guys evolved into Hobgoblins?!”

“Yeah, you just noticed?” The Chief sighed.

“She’s as slow as a rock,” Lucifer muttered.

“Who are you calling slow?! And rocks aren’t slow because they don’t even move,”

Lucifer averted his gaze from me before I was to get any angrier. You’ll see when I slap that big and meaty dragon ass one of these days!

“Anyways, congrats, guys! Let’s celebrate now,”

We brought the provisions from the black-robed man and the bandits we defeated. We started a little feast to celebrate our victory. One of the foods we had was some delicious boar meat, which was like pork but with a stronger flavor. But everything in total was pretty tasty.

“I am glad you’re fine, Maria... I was a bit worried when the goblins came back....” Sighed Emeraldine as she sat at our side while we ate and drank.

“Of course, I would be fine! Who do you think I am?” I asked.

She smiled back at me warmly as she cleaned my mouth, which had breadcrumbs.

“You’re so strong but also quite a bit child-like....” She muttered.

“C-Child-like?!”

“Hehe... But that is part of your charm,” She said, smiling cutely.

Ah... she's really a cutie... Does she want to become my daughter too? I wouldn't mind!

--