

A Journey 31

Chapter 31 Down The Rabbit Hole.

It was still night time but he could see perfectly due to his dragon eyes, the nightmares were on his mind.

Archer came to and looked at the woman who seemed to care before answering.

"I'm fine thanks, what happened here?"

She sighed seeing the boy was okay, she explained what happened after he got dragged away.

"Well they ambushed us, the guards were putting up a good fight but couldn't keep up with the beasts speed, we started losing until an adventurer group came to help."

She pointed towards the new group who was resting by the river.

"Who are they?"

"They are a group from the Eastern Duchy called the Dragon Slayers, they were hunting the wendigos for the local lords."

When Archer heard their name he instantly got angry and stopped speaking as he stared at the men.

Sarah noticed the change of mood within the boy and saw he was staring at the group with a glare full of hate and anger, that's when everything clicked.

'He's a dragon.'

She stared at him, examining his white scales and horns, when she saw his shining violet eyes, she remembered a story about a certain dragon king.

'Once there was a majestic White Dragon who ruled over his kingdom with power and grace.

His white scales shone brilliantly in the sunlight, while his violet eyes glistened like jewels.

He was feared and respected by all who knew him, both dragon and mortal alike.

Many believed that the King's violet eyes held within them the power to mesmerize and enchant even the most hardened of hearts.

His loyal subjects knew that behind his piercing gaze laid a fierce and protective demeanor that made him a formidable ally and a terrifying adversary.

Despite his cold and sometimes aloof demeanor, the White Dragon King was beloved by his followers.

Tales of his heroism and bravery filled the land, and his name became synonymous with both greatness and fear.

But one day, an evil sorcerer threatened to overthrow the king and take control of his kingdom.

The sorcerer summoned an army of dark creatures that ravaged the land, leaving chaos in their wake.

Despite the odds stacked against him, the White Dragon King rose to the challenge and called forth the full fury of his power.

With an ear-splitting roar and a bolt of lightning from his violet eyes, the White Dragon King unleashed his wrath upon the horde of monsters.'

Sarah shook her head to return to the present, she stared at the boy before asking.

"Archer you're dragon aren't you?"

When he heard her speak, Archer looked at her and nodded.

Her eyes widened before quietly asking.

"You're a white dragon?"

He looked at the woman like an idiot before replying in a sarcastic tone before laughing.

"Yes, can't you see the color of my scales and horns?"

She smiled at the boy before answering.

"Yes I can see that you sarcastic little shit, you better be careful of the church of light they won't like you at all."

He laughed as he heard her warning before telling her what happened.

"Yeah we've met in Oxfair village when I was doing the goblin quest, they attacked me but I escaped."

Sarah's eyes widened as she heard him speak.

"They attacked you?"

She remembered the gossip she heard a little while ago, how the church of light are looking for a white haired boy.

She doesn't know why she didn't connect the dots until now but at least she now knows and can help him.

As the two were talking the camp was getting packed away into the carriages.

Sarah noticed he wasn't paying attention to the conversation anymore.

So she decided to give the boy some space and went to help out.

Archer wasn't fully there, all he could see and think about was the lifeless body of Ella, it haunted him, even during the talk with Sarah he wasn't really paying attention.

That's when the memories flooded back and drove him mad.

The dream with Alexa and the little girl, it was all plaguing him.

Sending him spiraling even deeper into the rabbit hole of madness.

"Why did I die, I did nothing wrong!"

"I just loved her and never bothered anyone, I helped anyone I could."

Archer started talking to himself without realizing that five people were watching him from inside a carriage.

Wondering what happened to this boy for him to be suffering so much.

"Noah I swear to all the gods you will pay for what you've done!"

He remembered the little girl from his nightmare shouting out to him again, making his spiral even worse.

'DADDY.'

"Go away!"

The fusion of souls brought him pain and suffering, one of the side effects caused the new Archer to inherit all the trauma, feelings and, pain of the other two.

As he was walking, he experienced a flashback of a memory that the old Archer suffered just days before he fell into the coma.

It was a memory of his sister Hyara and half brothers Aldwulf and Pallius visiting his room one night after he lost.

He heard his sister speak to him with hate in her voice.

"Why do I have to have a useless brother like you, when everyone else has a talented older brother, but I'm here stuck with you!"

SMACK!~

"Useless!"

Archer was so shocked that his own blood sister slapped him that he didn't know how to respond, when he only ever loved her and tried to help her.

But the three suddenly started beating him, as he was watching all this, the feelings of the old Archer flowed into him.

He remembers going to his mother once the beating was over and she even slapped him across the face telling him to man up.

The rage, anger was building up as the barrier failed to keep it in check and it all came pouring out of the boy.

"Why did you all treat me that way, I didn't do anything wrong apart from losing a fight and you treat me in such a vile manor!"

That's when he heard two voices that angered him even more.

"You're a failure to this family, I regret giving birth to such a useless child!"

"Die, die, die, she's mine!"

He covered his ears as the voices were screaming directly into his ears.

Archer started talking to himself again.

"Ahhhhh, go away, it's not my fault I lost, I tried my best against the beast!"

"I will return and get him, I'm here now and I have Ella, but I need to protect her, she's precious, she's special, no one must touch her!"

He started getting angry at the thought of someone harming her, Archer took his rage out on a nearby tree blowing it to bits with an eldritch blast.

As the caravan moved down the road an explosion went off not far from them, scaring the guards but they were calmed down by Isaiah.

Archer was raging at everything, he may have been 17 on earth but after being murdered then transmigrating into a 13 year old's body who had suffered more than he had, it changed him deeply.

He started mumbling to himself while smiling, when the five watching saw that smile, at that moment they knew the boy was broken.

"One day I will get my revenge and make them suffer just as I did!"

He started letting out a creepy laugh.

"Aldwulf, Pallius and mother will pay."

"Noah will burn in my flames."

"Everyone will pay!"

"Hunt and kill."

"Eat hearts and level up!"

"Protect Ella."

"Return to earth and take my revenge."

The boy's mind was broken, too much has happened to the other two now the new Archer suffers from the aftermath, causing his mind to collapse.

He continued walking next to the carriage while talking to himself, Archer never noticed the people watching him.

The human Jaen turned to Sarah and asked.

"He's crazy, look at him talking to himself."

Her husband spoke up with a sad tone.

"Darling the boy has clearly suffered so much that his mind is broken."

"That's sad, he's so young and shouldn't have to suffer anything like this"

Tiefel spoke up as her ears drooped down when she thought of the boy who saved her.

"Sarah do you know anything about him?"

She hesitated before speaking.

"Well, he is the 4th son of Duke Leonard Ashguard, but was banished due to losing the family's old tradition of fighting a beast to become a man."

She stopped talking and looked at Archer who was talking about food for some reason.

"He left the house but not before the other children tortured him, his own mother threw him away, then he got banished.

The poor boy has suffered more than most people, the maid I spoke to told me how bad the treatment was, beatings, starving him, and he couldn't eat at the family table."

Baradar spoke up.

"So now he's an adventurer and taking quests alone?"

Sarah nodded.

"He isn't good with people as you can see, the only person he cares for is a maid called Ella who works in the Duke's castle."

Chapter 32 Death From Above. [Bonus]

Sarah finished speaking, but Isaiah asked a question.

"Why would they throw him away, Tiefel said he's powerful and the spells he can use are unusual?"

She shrugged.

"The Duke is a proud man, he was shamed in front of the surrounding nobles, who as you know spread the news, causing the Duke to overreact and banish him."

She was looking at the handsome boy who only had one person in this world who he cared about.

"But the Duke will come to regret what he has done"

Sarah couldn't stand to see the boy spiraling even more, so she jumped out of the carriage and made her way over to him.

As she approached him she asked.

"Archer are you okay?"

He was muttering to himself.

"No, no not okay at all."

"I'm sorry, I didn't intend to pry, I just noticed you're talking to yourself and I was concerned."

"It's alright, I'm not sure if I'm talking to myself or to someone else, there's a lot going on in my head."

"I understand, would you like to talk about it?"

Archer looked at her before replying.

"It's personal."

Sarah continued to walk alongside him.

"That's what I'm here for, It's not good to keep all those thoughts and feelings to yourself, they can consume you."

Nodding while looking at him. When he heard her he sighed.

"I don't even know where to start, I've been through so much, and it keeps haunting me, the memories, the nightmares, It's all so real."

She placed a hand on his shoulder as she spoke.

"I'm listening."

Archer trembled at her touch and quickly backed away from her before trying to speak.

He didn't want to talk about it yet, it was still a very sore subject for him, she noticed his hesitation and spoke in a calm voice.

"That's okay Archer, you can talk to me whenever you feel ready."

Sarah smiled at him and went back to the carriage, he watched her walk away as he remembered her words.

After their talk, he managed to calm down the violent turmoil wrecking his brain by thinking of Ella's smile.

He decided he would train his short sword mastery skill when they camped for the night.

A month passed by just like that, the caravan only got attacked twice, the first time was a pack of goblins, and the second was just more wolves.

Archer managed to kill 10 goblins and 11 wolves, which netted him a lot of experience and heart.

Laughing as he slaughtered the beasts, which spooked everyone in the caravan apart from Sarah and the group Fate's Fortune who watched with sad looks on their faces.

The wolves attacked during the first month, and the goblins attacked as they crossed the Cardina Bridge.

The bridge was on the Rhodora Kingdom's side of the border crossing the Serpent River.

Archer thought the kingdom must be in chaos for them not to clear a bunch of goblins ambushing people by the bridge.

As they were walking down the old-looking stone road, Archer checked his status.

[Experience: 2050/3000.]

[Level Up: 48>49]

[SP: 0>21]

[Cosmic Shield: 2>3]

[Cosmic Sword: 2>3]

[Eldritch Blast: 2>3]

[Fire Missiles: 3>4]

[Fireball: 0>1]

[Aura-Detector 0>1]

[Short Sword Mastery : 0>2]

Archer was happy, he could have got a lot more experience but he trained his sword skill, managing to get it to level two.

Loads of his spells leveled up as well due to practice.

The caravan approached an open mountain pass, Archer was sent to scout ahead with Baradar.

As they reached the top of the hill, they were met with a chilling sight.

The open mountain pass dirt road stretched out before them, dark and menacing against the muted sky.

The jagged rocks that lined the sides of the path seemed to loom over the narrow way, like sharp teeth waiting to devour any who dared to pass through.

The cold wind that blew through the valley below added an eerie soundtrack to the scene, howling through the twisting mountain peaks and carrying with it a faint, unsettling whisper.

It was as if the pass itself was alive, and it could sense the fear that crept into people's hearts.

Despite the creeping sense of dread, Archer could not help but stare down into the abyss below.

There was something magnetic, almost hypnotic about the mountain pass as if it held some hidden secrets and mysteries that begged to be uncovered.

But as the seconds ticked by and the darkness of the pass deepened.

He finally broke free of the spell and took a step back, choosing to stay safely perched on the hilltop rather than venture into the unknown dangers below.

Archer looked at the tall blonde man, he saw the man's green eyes widen in shock.

Barador was shocked by what he saw before them, the two of them nodded at each other and quickly returned to the caravan.

As they were walking back Archer asked a question.

"How come we are transporting carriages of food and other materials instead of storing them in storage rings?"

Barador looked at the boy and laughed before answering.

"Well Arch, food is perishable in the rings so there's no point using those for food, the guild members do have things stored in the rings, such as clothes and medical supplies but they can't store food, so they keep them in ice chests to last longer."

Sarah, the head guard Arthur and the man in charge of the caravan Elric Hardwillow, manager of the Hardwillow merchant family who was accompanying them.

The two arrived in front of the group, Elric turned towards them.

"So what was there?"

Barador answered the man.

"The mountain pass looks clear but there's something strange about it, I'd suggest that we travel through it at first light as it will be dark by the time we reach it."

Sarah and Arthur agreed but Elric didn't and voiced his objection.

"No we travel now to make it to the guild, we are 4 days away so let's not waste time."

Everyone tried to protest but Elric didn't hear any of it, so the caravan continued on towards the mountain pass.

By the time they made it to the entrance, it was already dark, the men who knew light spells surrounded the caravan and lit up the area.

The group who helped with the wendigos also stayed, thanks to Sarah convincing them.

Archer was sitting on the roof of the first carriage, he had his aura detection on and picked up nothing.

Hours passed as they traveled through the mountains, and that's when Archer's aura detection picked up three signatures heading toward them.

He quickly stood up and aimed in the direction of firing an Eldritch Blast without warning anyone, the night was lit up with a violet glow as the blast hit something.

Something fell from the sky smashing next to the road a few meters in front of the caravan, Archer made his way over to it and looked at the thing.

It was a giant bat-looking creature with wyvern-like wings, it was twitching.

Archer summoned his sword and stabbed the beast in the head.

The thing stopped moving and he stored it in his item box, but as he turned around he saw two adventurers getting picked up and dragged off screaming.

Jaen was firing water spears at the beasts and Barador was shooting arrows at them, Tiefel was healing the injured guards.

Isaiah rallied everyone and managed to take one down by hitting it with a aura slash, the two beasts were taken down with some effort.

The caravan lost three men and have 4 injured, which Tiefel and another mage was healing.

After the injured were healed the caravan started moving again.

A few hours later more of the flying beasts attacked but this time they were prepared.

Spells flew towards them tearing their wings apart, causing them to smash into the ground.

Archer fired some fire missiles into two of the things, bringing them to a burning stop.

As the beasts dropped he ran over and started looting them.

He got six hearts from all the beasts and stored them away.

The bat beast he killed gave him 3000 experience so he wanted to kill more.

They continued on as Archer was eating some sweets and checked his status.

'Status.'

[Experience: 300/3000]

[Level Up: 48>49]

[SP: 0>2]

"Stop we camp here for the night!"

The head guard Arthur called out from the front.

As the moon rose high in the sky, casting an eerie glow over the land, the creepy grassland took on a new dimension of strangeness.

The tall stalks of grass rustled and swayed to the rhythm of the cool night breeze, casting strange shadows on the ground below.

The sky was dark and clear, save for the occasional cloud that would pass overhead, blocking out the eerie, silver light of the moon.

But it was the large rocks, jutting out from the earth, that seemed to come alive at night.

They stood like silent sentinels around the grassland, casting ominous shadows that seemed to twist and turn with every gust of wind.

The rocks looked almost like figures, frozen in time, watching over the fearsome landscape, waiting for something or someone.

The wind howled through the valley, whispering secrets that only the rocks and the grass could hear.

The air was thick with otherworldly energy, like the fabric of reality had grown thin, and anything could burst forth from the land at any moment.

A creeping sense of unease only intensified in the inky blackness of the night, as the observer felt like they were walking on the cusp of something both mysterious and terrifying.

Chapter 33 The Battle Of The Two Armies.

Archer was staring into the distance wondering why there were grasslands here.

As he was thinking Tiefel walked up behind him.

"Little guy, why do you have that look on your face?"

He turned to face her.

"Why are there grasslands in the middle of a mountain pass, I don't get it."

Tiefel started to laugh as she covered her mouth.

Archer looked up at the woman with blonde hair and amber eyes, he noticed she was quite tall for an elf.

"What's so funny?"

She stopped laughing as she answered.

"Well this mountain range is called The Giant Mountains, historians say the giants once had a city here, they had magic that could revitalize the soil and allow crops to be grown."

Archer nodded his head with a smile.

The camp was set up, but the only issue is there were no trees for him to sleep in, as he was looking around he pulled out a meat wrap and started eating.

Sarah approached him.

"Archer I have a tent set up for you, follow me."

When Archer followed her, he saw a small tent set up not far from the green tents of the guild staff, he thanked Sarah as he entered the tent.

He pulled out a honey brew and started drinking it.

It tasted really sweet and gave him a nice warm feeling that spread throughout his body.

Sitting down on the bedroll he started eating the 10 hearts he looted.

Once finished eating he checked his status.

'Status.'

[Experience: 1300>3000]

[SP: 2>12]

He saved the points and got comfortable on the bedroll, falling into a deep sleep and having another horrible nightmare.

In the nightmare, Archer desperately clung to Ella's hand, trying to hold on tight as she pulled away from him.

Her face was twisted in pain and sorrow, and her eyes told a story of heartbreak and loss.

Archer could feel his own heart breaking into a million pieces as he watched her slip away.

He tried to scream out her name, to convince her to stay, but no sound came from his lips, and she kept moving further and further away.

She was disappearing from his sight, and Archer knew that he was losing her forever.

He ran after her, blindly pursuing her, but she was always just out of reach.

Her voice echoed through the darkness, telling him that she had to go, that they couldn't be together.

It was worse than any physical pain he had ever experienced, like something was tearing him apart from the inside out.

Finally, he collapsed on the ground, helpless and alone, as Ella disappeared into nothingness.

He was left with a deep feeling of loss and despair as if the world had become a little bit darker and colder without her in it.

The nightmare was a cruel twist of fate, reminding him of how fragile happiness could be, and how easily everything he loved could be taken away.

He woke up in a panic, looking around.

Remembering Sarah gave him a tent to sleep in, he heard talking and laughing as he got up, he cast a cleanse on himself and changed into a new set of clothes.

He tidied up his messy hair while stepping out of the tent he saw Tiefel, Barador, and Isaiah sitting around a campfire while cooking, Jaen was nowhere to be found.

Tiefel noticed him and called him over.

"Little guy come over here and have some breakfast!"

He walked towards them and took a seat, as he did Barador flicked his horns causing a jarring feeling to run throughout his body.

Archer slapped his hand away, Barador laughed as he rubbed it, feeling a slight sting.

He complimented the boy.

"Wow, little man you're quite strong, especially since you're so little."

They all started laughing, Archer let out a small chuckle as Tiefel handed him a bowl.

Looking in he saw a soup-looking food and bits of meat.

He took the spoon and started eating.

The meat tasted like pork the soup was spicy, it was really nice, he pulled out a fizzle fig and drank it.

The drink tasted fruity, he noticed that everyone was staring at him with wide eyes, when he noticed them he asked what was wrong.

"What's wrong?"

Isaiah spoke before anyone else could.

"How much stuff do you have in your storage, for the last month we have seen you pull out all sorts of shit, now fess up."

Archer looked at him while he finished his soup, he put down the bowl while pulling out some chocolate and started eating.

"Food and drinks."

Everyone looked at him like he was an idiot.

Tiefel spoke up.

"He means what kind of food do you have."

"Chocolate, sweets, pasties, and other goodies, oh and I bought 100 drinks from a stall."

Everyone's eyes opened wide as they heard him speak.

Barador looked at him.

"Why do you have so much food?"

Now it was Archer's turn to stare at the man like he was an idiot.

"Don't look at me like that boy!"

Tiefel laughed at her husband seeing him get flustered.

Archer just stared at the elf while eating chocolate.

"Because I like food, and knew I'd be away for a while so I bought extra."

They all nodded while finishing their food, Archer watched the guards pack up the camp.

A couple of hours later they exited the Giant Mountain and entered vast grasslands with a raging river running through it, but the whole caravan can see black smoke in the distance.

Elric stopped the caravan and started talking.

"Be alert and keep an eye out, the noble faction is pushing the royal faction into a desperate situation, only the goddess knows what they will do, be careful everyone."

He motioned for everyone to continue, Karna city wasn't far from the border so it wouldn't take long to get there.

A few hours later a city could be seen in the distance, thick black smoke could be seen blotting out the sun.

The caravan crossed a wooden bridge and got really close to the city, the bridge was half a mile away.

More and more beasts appeared everyone could see an army battling with goblins, orcs, and trolls in front of the city.

Archer rushed to the front summoning his two swords and started killing the goblins he was coming across, he even saw orcs and trolls in the distance.

He heard a caravan guard call it a beast wave, from the memories he can piece together, it happens when dungeons become full and the beasts start pouring out.

They ravage lands and slaughter the people, other beasts try to break off, escaping to other parts of the kingdom.

The caravan guards all charged toward the beasts along with the adventurers.

At this point, Archer was spamming fire missiles and slashing beasts down left and right.

Taking a deep breath, his hand clenching tightly around the hilt of his cosmic sword. He had fought beasts before, but this was different.

The goblins, orcs, and trolls had joined forces to take down a human city, and he knew that stopping them would require every ounce of his strength and skill.

As the two armies collided, he swung his sword, cutting down goblins with ease.

Feeling the power coursing through the blade, crackling with electricity and charged with cosmic energy.

As he fought, he also was casting spells that brought chaos to the ranks of the enemy.

With each strike, Archer grew stronger, slaying orcs with a flick of his wrist and summoning bolts of lightning that burned bright against the dark sky.

The goblins, orcs, and trolls fought fiercely, but they were no match for the strength and willpower of Archer or the people fighting behind him.

The battle raged on for what seemed like hours, with the fire of combat never ceasing.

As he battled on, his stamina began to falter, but he refused to quit.

Casting body enhancement, he felt a surge of power inside him, his violet eyes shone brighter than ever before.

An energy flow he has never felt surged through him as he felt his body enhancement evolve into something different.

[Body enhancement > Cosmic Enhancement]

[The cosmos smiles upon you child, Mana has blessed you, and now the cosmos deems you worthy of such a blessing, go forth and change the world, we will be watching]

Reading the notification that popped up in front of him, not knowing how.

Seeing he got a new skill he activated it and something in him changed, a new power surged through his whole body.

That's when he heard the bad news being shouted out.

"More beasts are coming, retreat!"

The adventurers started to pull back but archer stepped forward and started killing beasts.

With every kill, Archer's body grew stronger.

The cosmic power that had surged through him at the start now filled him completely, and he was almost invincible.

The orcs, goblins, and trolls fought desperately to stop him, but he was too quick and too powerful.

Chapter 34 The Battle Of The Two Armies 2.

Archer's cosmic sword seemed to blaze with purple fire, cutting through their bodies like a hot knife through butter.

He reveled in his power, feeling almost god-like as he cut down the enemy forces all around him.

Moving with a grace and speed that was almost inhuman, his form blurring in his enemies' vision.

As he fought, his body pulsed with energy, and he knew that he was tapping into a force that few mortals could ever comprehend.

Despite the blood and death that surrounded him, Archer felt exhilarated and alive.

It was as if every orc, goblin, or troll he killed only added to his strength, his thirst for battle growing with each passing moment.

Finally, the enemy forces began to retreat, their morale crushed by the sight of their fallen comrades and the sheer power of Archer's cosmic presence.

As Archer stood amidst the smoking ruins of the battlefield, he knew that he had proven himself to everyone here.

He knew he had the power to protect Ella.

As he saw the enemy force retreat, Archer felt a sense of unease.

He knew that some of them might try to regroup and attack again.

Determined to prevent that from happening, he chased after the fleeing beasts, cutting them down one by one.

He was ruthless in his pursuit, knowing that the survival of the city depended on it. Finally, the last of the enemy forces had been vanquished.

Archer looked around and saw the devastation that the battle had wrought. Bodies littered the ground, and the smell of blood and smoke filled the air.

He took a deep breath and began to walk around the battlefield, collecting the bodies of the fallen orcs, goblins and trolls.

It was a gruesome task, but he knew that it was necessary. As he carried out his grim task, he reflected on the battle and the power that he had wielded.

Feeling both humbled and emboldened by the cosmic forces that had been at his command.

Finally, he returned to the human encampment, the people cheered as he approached, grateful at being saved from the beast wave.

As he was standing there the cosmic power left his body making him feel really tired and achy.

He didn't like this feeling but it didn't bother him too much, he gained much from this battle.

Archer pushed passed the crowd and started to look for a place to sleep, during the battle he felt the experience pouring into him but that wouldn't refresh his body.

The aching of using that skill took a toll on his body, he wondered how he got it and if it is related to how he came to this world.

As he went to sit down he heard screams of panicked people running away from the battlefield, as adventurers and what soldiers were left ran towards it.

Archer followed them and saw another beast wave but made up mostly of orcs and trolls.

"The first wave was a meat shield to lower our numbers down."

"Yes it was little guy."

Archer jumped as he turned around and saw Barador and Tiefel standing there covered in blood. She smiled.

"I'm glad you're okay Arch, I pray to Mother that no harm shall come to you in the upcoming battle."

Archer smiled at her, these people are strange.

They all opened up to him even Jaen who taught him how to woo a woman for some reason, but shoed him away once she was done.

Isaiah would share drinks and food with him, while Barador and Tiefel acted like elder siblings to him.

"Thank you Tiefel."

She pouted and scolded the boy.

"I've already told you to call me big sister, I don't want to hear my name from your lips little dragon."

Yeah they figured out during the first week about what he was but didn't fuss too much, it was Jaen who had the biggest reaction as she instantly warmed up to him.

Then there was Sarah, she spent more of her free time during the month chatting with Archer, and truth be told the two of them grew closer.

She cut his hair for him at one point which he was thankful for.

Sarah even started touching his horns which surprised him because he even enjoyed it. Archer came out of his stupor when his aura detector went crazy and the ground started to shake.

Giant worm-looking beasts popped out of the ground all around the big camp, screams and shouts could be heard, as a horn sounded in the distance.

Anyone close enough to the worms started attacking them.

All Archer could hear was people fighting, explosions rocking the camp, the worms were dealt with quickly but the army suffered some losses due to the surprise attack.

He turned and saw Sarah talking to an armored knight, he heard what he said thanks to his ears.

"The civilians have been evacuated by boat, only the soldiers remain, we came in with the rescue vessels sent by the Duke of Pharos"

Archer saw the sight behind the man and was filled with hope. 500 armored knights, decked out in their finest combat regalia, was a truly awe-inspiring sight.

Each knight was adorned with beautiful armor crafted from the finest metals, each piece intricately detailed.

Their armor glistened in the sunlight, reflecting the colors of the world around them.

Some were adorned with rich reds and gold, while others favored deep blues and greens that looked like they were taken straight from the depths of the ocean.

The knights were mounted on powerful horses, each beast snorting and pawing impatiently at the ground as they waited for the signal to move.

Their armor was more than just decorative, however, It was designed for battle, with heavy plating protecting every inch of the knight's body.

Each piece was interlocked, providing full mobility without sacrificing protection.

Their helmets were just as impressive, adorned with majestic decorations, as they hid the face.

A thick chainmail mantle covered their necks and shoulders, adding to their protection.

In unison, the knights spurred their horses forward in perfect formation, the pounding of their mounts' hooves creating a deafening noise.

They were an unstoppable force as they charged toward the beast's front line, blocking the way to the city.

The beasts saw this and charged forward, but as they did Archer broke out of his stupor and raised his hand in the air casting Lightning Call.

As he raised his hands, a deadly purple thunderstorm began to brew on the horizon.

The dark clouds churned and twisted, creating an ominous sense of dread amongst the ranks of orcs that were charging toward the fully-armored knights.

As the storm arrived, thunder boomed and the lightning bolts streaked through the sky with deadly accuracy.

The orcs, caught off guard by the suddenness of the storm, shrieked in fear and confusion.

Archer closed his eyes tightly, focusing all of his energy and concentration on the lightning storm.

As the lightning began to strike the ground below, Archer carefully aimed each bolt to strike only the oncoming orcs.

He was careful to avoid the knight's charge as they advanced further, weaving the lightning between the charging knights to avoid accidental injury.

Despite the cacophony of the storm, the charging knights seemed unaffected as they pressed forward, their armor glowing in the purple light.

They moved with practiced ease and confidence, cutting down the orcs in their path while evading the destructive force of the storm.

Archer pressed forward with the storm, letting it rip the orcs apart and earn him a fortune in experience.

His aura detection went crazy informing him that even more beasts were incoming.

He quickly ran over to Sarah and told her to gather the remaining guild guards and head back to the empire and leave this forsaken kingdom behind.

"Go Sarah, there's no use staying here, there are even stronger beasts coming, the north west is clear, you can escape."

He searched the battlefield looking for a certain group and found them walking towards him and Sarah.

The Fate's Fortune group was nearby and saw his nod, they understood what it means so they ran over to Sarah and told her Archer was right.

They managed to gather a few dozen guards and adventurers while they fled to the northwest to cross the wooden bridge.

Archer watched them flee into the distance, he could have sworn he saw Sarah turning to look at him, but he shook his head as he turned back to the battle.

The human army was getting pushed back to the river where the bridge was, and knights, adventurers, and citizens were dropping like flies.

He started spamming eldritch blasts, void blasts, and every attack spell he could cast, causing massive purple explosions all over the battlefield.

Beast bodies flew everywhere and the soldiers regrouped and started to fight back, half the knights were dead by now.

The soldiers tried to hold on but were getting overrun as the orcs took to the frontline and bulldozed the humans.

Trolls started to appear, Archer stared at them as they reminded him of the ones for LOTR.

Chapter 35 Little Piggy.

Orcs and trolls were dying but were being replaced quicker than they died, Archer made his way towards the frontlines.

He saw it buckling under the relentless attacks, a troll was standing at the back ordering the rest to attack different points.

Archer turned around to check on Sarah's progress, and that's when he saw a group of orcs catching up to them, he quickly thunder stepped to intercept them.

He appeared in front of the orcs with a smile before he started rhyming.

"This little piggy went to market."

Rushing forward he started slicing the orc's legs slowing them down.

After killing the closest orcs, he Thunder Stepped to kill another.

"This little piggy stayed home.

This little piggy had roast beef."

Archer started a slaughter fest as he didn't stop killing.

Pointing at a group of orcs he fired an eldritch blast directly at them.

A orc ran up to him and took a swing but he dodged it as a knight impaled it.

"This little piggy had none.

This little piggy went."

More and more kept coming, he may be small but his dragon bloodline strengthened him, spells flew in his direction but he tilted his body to the side.

Dodging the attack, Archer Thunder Stepped to appear in front of the shaman and quickly stabbed it.

"Wee, wee, wee.

All the way home!"

Looking around he saw the adventurers, soldiers, and knights getting pushed back.

Archer overheard a commander tell another man that there were 10,000 troops at the start, now it dwindled to a few thousand men.

Some of the knights got taken out by the bigger cave trolls before pulling back to the frontline.

In the beginning, there were 500 knights, after the cave trolls attacked only 200 haggard knights remained.

The army was being pushed back to the river as the orcs kept charging at the lines.

After firing off a few more spells into the crowd of beasts.

Archer turned to see Sarah's group safely cross the bridge, he noticed she was looking at him, and he smiled at her as he raised his hand.

He shot the purple missiles at the bridge, they flew through the air hitting it.

BOOM!~

The force of the blast knocked over everyone who was standing close, river beasts flew out of the water all torn to shreds.

When he checked the bridge he saw it on fire, it stopped the orcs from crossing.

Archer's breath quickened as he tried to figure out the best way to get out of the situation.

As they got closer Archer watched them prepare to attack, but as soon as they got in range he cast Thunder Wave.

The shockwave radiated outward from his body, throwing the orcs back with incredible force.

They tumbled backward, some of them falling over each other in a desperate attempt to stay on their feet.

The spell had given him the much-needed time to catch his breath and prepare for the next onslaught.

He readied his swords as the beasts seemed to sense his confidence and strength, they hesitated for a moment before charging towards him again.

Archer deflected some attacks and blocked others with Cosmic Shield but it was still too much for him, he was only 13.

Hours passed as the fighting continued.

Both regeneration skills were working overtime, his attacks were becoming sloppy, and the human army was numbering no more than 100 men left.

They were standing back to back as they died defending their brothers, they all saw the white-haired boy trying his best to defend them but was regularly being overrun.

Archer's mana was low, and he was tired.

Looking towards the bridge, he saw Sarah's group who stood across the river firing spells at the incoming horde.

"I'm glad to have fought beside you boy, you're a real warrior, now leave us, we are dead but you can still live."

Turning around to see an older man kneeling down, blood pouring from a wound on his chest.

"Live boy!"

Smiling as he dropped dead, Archer just stared at the man who bought enough time for the civilians to escape at the cost of his own life.

He looked around and saw the rest of the soldiers getting overrun, so he started running.

A massive orc king stepped in Archer's path, he quickly stopped as he saw it.

Eight feet tall, muscular, and angry looking, he looked behind the beast and saw Sarah staring at him with tears in her eyes.

Turning his attention back to the orc king, he charged toward it as the orc got ready to swing his massive club.

It swung as Archer got closer.

Using Thunder Step to dodge and appear by the beast's right leg, slicing its muscles, he made the leg buckle but the beast still managed to stay standing.

The orc swung his right hand to slap Archer, but he quickly ducked down.

His senses kicked into overdrive as he cast Cosmic Shield just in time to stop the acid blast that was heading toward him.

But this distraction gave the orc king enough time to kick him, sending Archer flying. He flew across the battlefield slamming into a tent, getting all tangled up until he cut himself out.

Looking around all he saw was chaos, flames everywhere, bodies of men and beasts scattered all over, he walked out of the tent he crashed into.

Archer looked towards the city and saw goblins climbing the walls, he could hear the screams of the people who couldn't make it out.

He made his way to the destroyed bridge while gathering troll and orc bodies along the way, as he was running a spell came out of nowhere slamming into him.

But he felt the incoming attack and raised his arms just in time to defend himself, but was sent flying.

He managed to land on his feet. Casting Cosmic Sword as he charged towards the king and shamans, the orc charged him and they met in the middle.

Archer dodged the beast's attack and shot a fireball into its chest, causing it to stumble backward giving him enough time to get out of the thing's reach.

He steadied himself as he got ready to attack, he sprinted towards the beast.

As he charged towards the orc king a random blade swung at him from his left. Archer couldn't dodge so he raised both swords blocking the attack.

When the orc generals attack connected with his blades, they shattered into pieces but managed to deflect a killing blow.

However the blade cut straight through his left horn as he deflected it causing him extreme pain, the orc king then ran up and kicked the boy.

He flew back like a rocket bouncing until he landed in the Eventide River getting swept away, while unconscious.

Sarah and the others saw all this from the opposite side of the river, but they couldn't do anything as spells were fired at them.

They retreated back to the Avalon empire, as Archer was swept down south on a whole new adventure.

Passing through mountains, grasslands, deserts, and jungles, as day turned to night, all while unconscious.

Archer's body was slowly repairing itself, his left horn was cut off and was slowly growing back.

Many days of floating lifeless down the Eventide River which stretched from the far north of Pluoria to the southern tip.

As he floated down the river, unconscious, he drifted through several different and varied environments.

The first environment he passed through was a lush tropical rainforest.

Brightly colored birds swooped through the canopy above, their calls mingling with the sounds of the river rushing around him.

The air was thick with humidity, and the scent of blooming flowers filled his lungs.

As Archer continued to float downstream, the environment changed to a densely forested area, filled with tall trees draped in vines and moss.

The sound of rushing water grew fainter as the river slowed, and the environment became quieter.

The only sounds were the occasional cawing of a bird or the gentle rustling of leaves in the wind.

Next, he drifted into a rocky canyon, where the river flowed between tall cliffs. The water became choppy here, and he bumped against several rocks as the current pushed him along.

The landscape was stark and barren, with only scrubby bushes and hardy cacti dotting the rocky terrain.

The sun beat down relentlessly, and the air was dry and harsh. Eventually, the river opened up into a wide, rolling plain.

The water became calmer as he got washed through beautiful woodlands, grazing beasts watched the strange thing floating in the river.

The bloodthirsty beasts stayed away due to the scent he was giving off as he floated by.

As the plains passed, he went through some mountains and traveled through a barren desert landscape.

The air was hot and dry, and the sun beat down mercilessly on him as he drifted along. The river was narrow and shallow, ripples of sand could be seen below the surface of the water.

Despite the harsh environment, he floated down the river peacefully, letting the current carry him forward until he washed up on a beach.

Archer began to stir feeling a cool breeze hit his body, slowly opening his eyes all he saw was the blue sky.

He stood up as he realized he wasn't in the north anymore.

Chapter 36 More Fresh Meat.

Standing up as he stared at the view in front of him.

Archer stood on the tropical beach, his bare feet sinking into the hot sand.

In front of him stood a massive, dense tropical jungle that seemed to stretch endlessly in all directions.

"It's green hell all over again, I loved that game but this is stupid."

It's towering trees and tangled vines looked menacing, and Archer could feel a sense of danger emanating from the dense foliage.

Despite the jungle's ominous presence, the water's beauty still managed to captivate him.

The crystal-clear waves crashed on the shore, their gentle rhythms lapping at the sand.

The sea was teeming with colorful fish and other sea creatures, he spotted a small village in the distance.

As he took in the sight around him, he couldn't help but feel a sense of wonder at this strange landscape.

He may not have known what the future held, but for now, he was happy to make his way home while exploring.

Feeling his feet getting hot, he looked down and saw his boots were destroyed, sighing to himself.

The shirt was barely hanging on to his torso, and one pant leg was missing.

One boot was gone while the other was useless, he could see his toes as it was coming apart.

Stripping out of the shreds of cloth that remained on, he was standing on the hot sand in his birthday suit.

He quickly cast cleanse on himself while putting on new clothes.

RUMBLE!~

Archer's stomach rumbled, he pulled out some meat wraps and started eating while looking around for somewhere to sit down.

Spotting a large rock and he made his way over to it.

As he sat down Archer kept hearing weird hooting coming from behind him, all of a sudden his aura detection kicked in, pinpointing where the creature was coming from.

He quickly spun around while casting Plasma Shot at the beast, it came crashing down in a heap of blood and bones.

The massive, feathered body of the terror bird lay in front of Archer, its long snout and sharp claws frozen in a final, lifeless pose.

The creature had clearly been a formidable predator in life, with razor-sharp talons perfect for rending flesh from bone and powerful legs built for a swift pursuit.

But now, in death, it lay prone and defeated.

Its once-vibrant feathers were stained with blood and dirt, and even in its stillness, it seemed to exude a sense of menace and danger.

The terror bird's head lay twisted to the side, its beady, lifeless eyes staring up at Archer as if to challenge him even in death.

Its elongated beak lay open, revealing rows of razor-sharp teeth that had undoubtedly caused a great deal of pain and suffering to those unfortunate enough to cross its path.

Archer couldn't help but feel a sense of awe and respect for the creature, even in death.

It was a testament to the incredible diversity and ferocity of the natural world, and as he stood over its lifeless body, he couldn't help but wonder what other dangers and wonders lay ahead on his journey.

Finished eating the meat wrap, he pulled out another as he sat on the beast's corpse, deciding to check his status.

[Experience: 100/9000]

[Level Up: 49>74]

[SP: 12>37]

[Rank Unlocked: Apprentice>Adept>Expert]

[Mana: 4430>4600]

[Constitution: 670>700]

[Void Blast: 3>4]

[Cosmic Sword: 3>4]

[Thunder Wave: 0>2]

[Call Lightning: 0>1]

[Fireball: 1>2]

[Regeneration: 3>5]

[Short Sword Mastery: 2>3]

[Aura-Detector: 1>2]

He was happy but soon got sad as he felt his broken horn, it was cut cleanly off, but it was slowly regrowing.

As he finished eating he felt a lot better, Archer pulled out a bottle of moon juice to drink, and after downing the drink he threw it away.

The drink reminded him of his earth mother's homemade lemonade, he shook his head to get rid of the thoughts, and he took his knife out and cut out the terror bird's heart.

Storing the heart and body for now, while looking around Archer remembered he saw a village so he made his way there.

As he approached the village, the air grew thick with an eerie atmosphere.

He saw villagers going about their business.

The thatched huts were haphazardly constructed, made from unevenly chopped timbers and bones.

Bones littered the ground, and Archer's stomach dropped as he realized that they were human remains.

When he noticed the villagers themselves were equally unsettling.

They wore simple loincloths of animal hides and feathers, but their skin was covered in tribal tattoos and ritual scars.

Moving with predatory grace, their eyes glinting with an otherworldly hunger.

The aroma of fire-roasted meat wafted through the air, and he could see human limbs roasting on spits over an open flame.

As he got closer to the village, all the people suddenly snapped their heads toward him, their expressions creepy and unreadable.

Archer noticed the sharp teeth and jagged claws that each villager bore, and he realized with a start that he had stumbled upon a cannibal village.

He tried to back away slowly, but it was too late.

They all quickly stood up with creepy smiles plastered on their faces as they stared at Archer.

Screaming in an unknown language not known to him.

"Demi-human meat!"

"Get him!"

"Eat."

"More fresh meat."

Archer was shocked but quickly cleared his head as he started casting Fire Missiles at them.

Explosions could be heard as violet flames hit their targets with pinpoint precision.

Controlling each missile to make sure the cannibals died, after finishing he used Aura-Detection and sensed another dozen or so hiding in the huts and nearby bushes.

He slowly started approaching again, when he first saw the village there were more than 20 cannibals roaming around but now there were only 12 bodies in front of him.

As he walked into the village, he quickly cast Cosmic Shield as two cannibals jumped off a thatch roof aiming straight for him.

Smash!~

Smash!~

The cannibal's bodies slammed against the see-through barrier that appeared around him, he giggled when he saw their shocked faces.

Summoning his swords, Archer plunged them into the two downed cannibals as he laughed.

Pulling his blades out as he spoke to the people hidden in a bush.

"Stop hiding, you're all dead anyway."

He spoke in a singsong, lilting tone that sounded almost jovial, but the way they were spoken made the hiding cannibals feel unnerved.

Archer let out a creepy laugh as he noticed a group of three hiding.

Aiming his hand he shot a Fireball at the hidden cannibals.

A gust of wind blew past his face as a violet-colored ball of flames appeared above him and shot towards the bush with a powerful woosh.

"Ahhhhhh."

"Ahhhhhh."

"Arghhh."

Two men and a woman came running out of the bushes screaming while covered head to toe in flames melting their skin and bones.

"Hahahaha."

Archer started laughing when he saw them dropping dead before they could get any closer, he felt like he lost something as he watched the three burning.

"Damn, the hearts!"

Archer got frustrated but in the end, it didn't matter there were more hearts he can get if he really wanted to.

With five down and seven to go, he started hunting the cannibals killing them, once they were all dead he looked around the village.

After he was done with the killing he went around cutting out the hearts, and he managed to loot 23 hearts altogether.

Archer burned all the bodies he didn't want to put their bodies into his Item Box.

He wandered around the village as he found loads of coins in a chest, he wondered where they got it from as he finished his search two hours later.

Altogether he found 200 gold coins and 123 silver coins, but he found a lot of sailor uniforms.

Archer also found a lot of dried meat in crates, wondering where all this came from, he still stored it all as he exited the village from the opposite side he entered.

Once he left the village he saw a wrecked merchant boat on the beach, walking over to it while he was examining it.

The once-majestic vessel lay battered and broken.

Its splintered hull and torn sails are a testament to the unforgiving power of the ocean.

Its once-proud masts now list at odd angles, tangled ropes still clinging to them like the vines of a dying plant.

The deck is littered with debris, from shattered timbers to overturned crates that once held precious cargo.

The smell of saltwater and wood permeates the air, mingling with the cries of gulls circling overhead.

It's clear that the ship has been here for a week at most, weathered by storms and baked by the sun, a haunting reminder of the dangers that lurk beyond the safety of the shore.

Archer noticed some of the planks of the ship were dented inwards.

"Maybe a sea creature attacked it, causing them to run aground here."

Turning around and remembering the cooked body parts then it hit him as his body shivered at the thought.

"Ohhh, they got captured by the crazies and eaten, that's where the coins came from."

Nodding his head, Archer was happy with himself as he solved the shipwreck mystery.

Jumping into the ship and started looking around for anything he can loot.

Chapter 37 I Want To Meet Tinker Bell.

Archer jumped up to the higher decks, he came across chests, his eyes shined with greed as he rushed toward them.

Opening the first, he saw small metal pots stacked on top of each other. He picked up one of the pots and opened it, the contents were a nice-smelling spice.

Checking the other pots, they were full to the brim with exotic spices and herbs, he stored the whole lot while moving to the next chest.

Archer opened it and found a treasure trove, there was a detailed item list on top, he picked it up and started reading while commenting on each thing.

Dragon's Blood - A magical, black resin that is extracted from the scales of a dragon. It has powerful healing and regenerative properties.

"How did they get this, are there other dragons."

Unicorn Horns - The horn of a unicorn, has been known to have a variety of magical properties, from healing to purifying water.

"Who would harm such a creature."

Phoenix Feather - A feather from a phoenix that is known for its ability to enhance magical spells and protect against dark magic.

"The church symbol, interesting."

Kraken Ink - Ink made from the ink sac of a Kraken, which is said to possess the ability to make spells more potent and permanent.

"Fuck knows what that is for."

Mermaid Tears - A rare, shimmering liquid that is said to possess strong healing properties and the ability to grant immortality.

"Why did they make Ariel cry."

Nightshade Berries - A poisonous berry that can be used in powerful potions and deadly poisons.

"Dodgy looking blackberries."

Faerie Dust - A magical, glowing powder that is said to be created by faeries.

"I want to meet Tinker Bell!"

Magic tents - Tent that has more space inside and offers protection in the wild.

He searched the rest of the chests and found one full of random magic artifacts.

Self-refilling quills, inkpots for writing, Weather-controlling amulets or stones, a universal language translation amulet, communication mirrors, and other stuff.

He moved to the next chest and it was full of potions. Healing potions, mana potions, stamina potions, and a bunch of other potions he had no use for.

Archer put the amulet on, as he stored the rest of the stuff, not finding anything else he left the ship and made his way back to the spot he woke up.

[Ella P.O.V.]

Ella was serving the Duke and his three wives, Janna and Larka kept stealing glances at her as she moved around the room.

There was a hurried knock on the studies door. Leonard stopped talking to his wives and turned to the door.

"Come in."

Calluric the butler of the Ashguard family and a young woman with green eyes and brown hair who looked depressed came walking in.

"What's wrong Vance and who is she?"

They both bowed before Vance started speaking. "My lord, she has brought news on the young master Archer."

Ella's ears twitched, and everyone turned to face Sarah.

The Duke replies. "Go on."

Sarah stepped forward before speaking. "My lord, I'm the guild manager, Sarah, I just returned from a quest to deliver relief supplies to Rhodora Kingdom, the guild leader requested aid for the Karna city."

Sarah glanced at Ella, she knew who she was from the information she's gathered and had to admit that Ella is a beautiful girl.

'I hope you're okay Archer.'

"The party consisted of 30 adventurers and 60 guild guards, your son included. We spent a month on the road during which Archer killed many beasts and defended the caravan multiple times, it was when we crossed the Eventide River that everything went wrong."

He interrupted her. "Hold on, he killed beasts?"

Sarah nodded her head before answering.

"Yes, as we crossed the bridge, we witnessed a battle between the people of Karna and a horde of goblins, orcs and trolls, the adventurers and guards joined the battle and managed to push them back but it was a trap set by the orc king who was in control."

"If not for Archer, we would have never made it back, he held back the orc king and killed many of them."

Everyone gasped as they heard about the orc king. Janna spoke up with worry very evident in her voice.

"That stupid boy fought it and didn't flee, he's 13 dammit, why was he even there?"

Ella was really worried hearing Archer fight an orc king, but her necklace didn't react apart from the little vibration the other night.

'It must have been when he was fighting.'

So she continued to listen to the woman who was walking about Archer. Sarah looked down and didn't want to look at the Duchess but steeled her resolve.

"I offered him the quest thinking he would gain more experience and benefits instead of constantly hunting beasts inside the Forsaken Forest."

The three women got complicated expressions on their faces, Larka was regretting her decisions and Ksara didn't look too bothered.

But it was Janna who reacted the worst, she raced up to Sarah asking what happened.

"What happened to the boy?" She looked around and couldn't see him. "Where is he?"

Sarah looked down, twiddling her fingers before replying.

"He managed to help us cross the bridge by holding off some of the orcs that were chasing after us, once we crossed the bridge he burnt it down."

Leonard interrupted her yet again in a voice filled with doubt. "How did he burn it down, he doesn't have an affinity for magic."

Her nerves started to calm down as she looked at the stupid Duke. "Who said that?"

All the people in the room got a confused looks on their faces as Larka spoke up.

"His affinity test showed he had no talent and that he was worthless."

Sarah couldn't believe what she was hearing. "Excuse me Duchess are you sure we're talking about the same boy, can you tell me what he looks like?"

Larka looked taken aback and described him. "He was small and weak, he had white hair, dragon-kin ears, and blue eyes."

Sarah looked confused. "You haven't seen his eyes, scales, or horns?"

Everyone's eyes opened wide, mouths hung open apart from Janna who had a smile on her face, Leonard quickly noticed and asked.

"What's wrong Janna?"

"I saw him just before he left for the quest and he had changed a lot, he seemed so different compared to the timid Archer I know."

Leonard had a thinking look on his face as he turned to Sarah.

"Continue."

She nodded her head. "Archer and the orc king started fighting, half way through their fight another orc got involved and managed to injure him, he was sent flying into the Eventide River getting swept away."

Ella nearly collapsed when she heard those words, she asked Leonard if she could excuse herself, he got a strange look on his face and was about to deny her request when Ksara stepped in.

"Let her go darling, we need to talk anyway."

He nodded dismissing Ella. Sarah watched the poor young girl rush out of the room with tears in her eyes.

Ella rushed towards her bedroom with tears in her eyes, she knew he was fine but it still didn't stop her worrying about the boy she cared for.

Locking the door behind her as she rushed in, not long after that Janna knocked on the door.

When the women saw her leave they all knew she was affected by Archer going missing, Janna knew it would be hard on the poor girl but Larka was shocked by the girl's expression as Sarah spoke.

The two women left the room not long after Ella did, Sarah also excused herself and followed after them.

"Ella, It's me Janna open the door, darling."

She got off the bed and walked over to the door unlocking it, when she opened the door she saw three women standing there.

Larka barged in, looked around then stared at Ella before speaking. "What's your relationship with Archer?"

Ella's got nervous before talking in a quiet voice. "We like each other."

She stared at the girl before turning away to sit down, Janna approached and hugged the girl, and whispered in her ear. "He will be fine darling, he will return to you."

Sarah entered the room and approached Janna.

"Duchess, I asked the adventurers where Eventide River ends, and they told us it ends at the Southlands."

Ella looked at her after Janna let her go. "Southlands?"

She nodded as she explained all she knew. "Well, I think everyone should sit down before they hear this."

They all sat down and looked toward the brunette, who cleared her throat before speaking,

"It is probably the worst place on the Pluoria, at the center of the Southlands lay a massive jungle full of cannibals, the rest of the south is made up of six kingdoms and an Empire.

Archer will have to be careful as he crosses the many different lands, but I know for a fact he isn't dead that boy won't die easy, he will return back to us."

Chapter 38 Dragon's Domain.

Archer arrived at the spot he woke up at, looking around he spotted the river washing into the ocean, he looked between the two.

'I'm lucky I got washed up.'

He decided to follow the river north, hours passed as he still followed the river but the jungle was getting thicker the further he walked.

As Archer trekked through the dense jungle, he couldn't help but be spellbound by the beauty surrounding him.

The sun was shining through the canopy, casting dappled patterns of light on the vibrant foliage.

The leaves of the trees were a rich assortment of greens, purples, and reds as if painted by a master artist.

Sounds of the jungle were alive with the chirping of birds, the buzzing of insects, and the occasional roar of a wild animal in the distance.

But the jungle was also a perilous place.

The ground was slick with moisture, making every step treacherous.

Vines snaked across the path like tripwires, and the trees were draped with hanging roots that obscured the way forward.

As he pushed deeper into the jungle, he found himself surrounded by a cacophony of sounds and smells that threatened to overwhelm his senses.

The beauty surrounding him was deadly, as he soon realized.

Poisonous plants with lush foliage hung overhead, and vines with thorns lurked around every corner.

The sounds of snapping twigs and rustling leaves signaled the presence of unknown predators.

Archer had been trekking through the jungle for hours, unaware of the danger that lurked in the shadows.

He had been so focused on the beauty of his surroundings that he hadn't given a second thought to the possibility of encountering a man-eating beast.

But as he pushed through the dense foliage, he heard a rustling sound to his left.

In the next moment, a massive beast pounced on him from the bushes.

Archer barely had time to react before the beast was upon him, its sharp teeth bared and ready to tear him to shreds.

With all his might, Archer struggled against the beast, his heart pounding as he quickly cast Cosmic Sword.

Stabbing the beast in the head, it fell to the ground dead leaving his heart racing, Archer turned his head towards the beast.

It was a bear in all but color, it was a dark greenish color.

"Suitable for a jungle."

Getting back on his feet he cut out the beast's heart, storing it away, that's when he remembered he can create two new spells thanks to the jump in ranks.

Looking around he climbed up the closest tree and sat on a branch.

Pulling out and eating the hearts he has collected so far after he was done he checked his status.

'Status.'

[Experience: 3000/9000]

[SP: 37>61]

'61 huh.'

Archer got 2400 experience from the hearts, and 500 from the jungle bear.

He spent 10 points on HP, mana, strength, constitution, and stamina, and put 6 on charisma and 5 on intelligence.

[HP: 1310>1410]

[Mana: 4600>4900]

[Strength: 640>740]

[Constitution: 700>800]

[Stamina: 670>770]

[Charisma: 750>810]

[Intelligence: 620>670]

Feeling refreshed he pulled out some pastries and started eating as he admired the view from his perch.

As he was eating he heard growls and roars below him, he looked down and saw raptor-looking things fighting another dinosaur.

Pulling out some chocolate he started to eat as he watched the mid-afternoon entertainment.

As the fight was going on he remembered why he was up here and started to think about spells to create.

'I want a spell that creates a space for myself.'

All of a sudden he got an idea about something called a Domain, so he started to imagine his own dimensional space that he can upgrade with his mana.

[Spell Creation activated]

Nothing happened, it didn't bother him though as he was watching the dinosaur wrestling match, he pulled out a bottle of dragon tears and started drinking.

[Dragon's Domain created]

[Dragon's Domain: A space where a dragon can horde his treasure and pamper his women, can be molded into whatever the user needs, and can be upgraded by using the user's mana]

He got happy as he managed to create such a skill, he didn't want to create any more spells at the moment.

Happy that he has got a spot he can hide his stuff instead of keeping track of it in his Item Box.

Archer finished his drink and threw the bottle at the victorious dinosaur, hitting it on the head as it looked around baffled.

He giggled when he saw its reaction, he jumped out of the tree while casting a cosmic sword before impaling the beast.

It looked like a duck dinosaur from Earth, but had sharp teeth and could fight which confused Archer even more.

Taking his knife out he looted all three dinosaur hearts and stores them alongside the bodies.

'Dragon's Domain.'

A white portal appeared in front of him, he shrugged as he stepped through and saw grassland the size of a football pitch.

Looking around it was empty as far as the eyes could see but a smile came to his face as he started imagining the grasslands growing bigger, and a small forest popped up all around.

Large trees stretched into the sky, but something wasn't right to him.

Picturing a massive tree in the middle of the forest with paths leading to it, Archer made his way down this peaceful-looking path that snaked its way through the forest.

Until it stopped at a massive tree, he checked his mana before doing anything else.

[Mana: 2900/4900]

Looking up at the big tree he started picturing a cottage built into the tree with a balcony at the front, while inside there were bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a large room to store all his loot.

More shaking was felt as the tree molded itself into Archer's perfect chill spot, though he will still sleep outside of the domain.

Nothing helps him relax more than a good old tree branch to sleep on, shaking his head he checked out his new creation.

Nestled at the center of the massive tree, stands a large fantasy cottage, built into the trunk itself.

Its walls are made of smooth, polished wood that has been worked to fit the shape of the tree as if the tree itself grew around the cottage.

The roof is made of wooden shingles that are covered in thick moss, blending seamlessly into the surrounding foliage.

Gleaming windows dot the exterior of the cottage, each framed by intricately carved wooden shutters that can be swung open to let in natural light and fresh air.

A sturdy wooden bridge leads up to the balcony which had a bench looking outwards, the front door is covered in intricate carvings of woodland creatures and leafy vines.

He could see a small balcony that overlooks the surrounding forest, offering breathtaking views of the canopy below.

Birds flitted and chirped around the cottage, and the rustling of leaves in the breeze provides a soothing soundtrack to the idyllic tranquility of the forest.

Archer started walking up the wooden bridge to reach the front door, opening the door he walked in.

As he stepped through the door of the plain but welcoming cottage, he was greeted with a cozy but spacious living area.

The walls are painted with light, warm colors, creating a sense of comfort and serenity.

Large windows allow the soft natural light to stream in, illuminating every corner of the room.

A comfortable sofa rests in front of the crackling fireplace, perfect for curling up with a book or spending time with Ella.

Nearby, a modest wooden dining table sat in the middle of the room, flanked by comfortable chairs upholstered in soft fabric.

The kitchen is simple but functional, with plenty of counter space for preparing meals.

A narrow staircase in the corner of the living area leads down to the basement, where Archer finds a large storage room.

The basement is dry and well-lit, with sturdy shelving lining the walls to store all sorts of items.

Whether it's extra food or chests for gold, the storage room is spacious enough to accommodate all of his storage needs.

He walked through the treehouse and admired his handy work, looking around as he dropped onto the comfy sofa and relaxed for a little while.

While he was sitting there he pictured the domain to be more wild, with small beasts running and flying around with a small river running through the domain.

Checking his mana after everything was done.

[Mana: 300/4900]

"Oh shit."

Archer took out a mana potion and quickly drank it.

[Mana: 800/4900]

He stood up and walked over to the balcony doors and opened them as he walked through and leaned against the railing and looked out over the domain.

It was a small forest, trees stretched as far as the eyes could see, he saw some birds flying here and there.

Before he left he unloaded all the random loot he got into his storage room before leaving the domain.

Stepping out where he killed the three dinosaurs, he carried on with his walk while thinking.

"I'm happy with Dragon's Domain, every dragon needs a space to hide his treasures."

Chapter 39 An Odyssey Begins.

Archer followed the river as he kept using Aura-Detection constantly, but he was getting no pings.

Looking around all he could see was jungle, as the afternoon sun started to cool down.

Pulling out a bottle of Rune Shine, he took a swig as he walked along, that's when he noticed the river going into a dark and dingy cave.

"Did I float through that cave to get here."

He didn't care but had to find another way north, the cave went straight into a sheer cliff so that was a no go, looking left and right but he didn't see anyway around it.

So he just chose right and continued walking, following the cliff until he could find a way up, looking at the skinny ass tree in front of him.

"Lucky I'm 13."

He approached the tree and started climbing.

His hands and feet moved quickly and expertly, finding the right crevasses in the skinny tree as he climbed higher and higher up.

Eventually, he reached the top of the cliff, and the view that greeted him was nothing short of breathtaking.

Before him stretched a vast expanse of jungle, dense with vibrant green foliage and teeming with life.

Trees towered over one another, their branches intertwined in an intricate dance of life, while colorful birds flitted from branch to branch.

Extending far into the distance, the jungle disappeared into a soft haze, hinting at the vastness of the unspoiled wilderness that lay beyond.

Archer scanned the jungle, taking in all the sights, sounds, and smells that wafted up from the canopy below.

The air was thick with the scent of damp earth and rich vegetation, and the sounds of hidden creatures rustling about filled the air with life.

The cliff led to another long stretch of jungle, so he started walking as his Aura-Detector started pinging like crazy.

Arrows quickly flew towards him, he Thunder-Stepped out of the way.

Looking around he didn't see anything, but heard some whispering.

"Demi-human like the Northman, we must eat."

"Meat."

"Hungry."

Archer pinpointed the voices with help of his senses and Aura-Detection, as he dodged more arrows he cast Fire Missiles in the direction of the voices.

Boom!~ Boom!~ Boom!~

Three bodies flew out from the bushes, they looked like the same cannibals from before.

Humans with weird looking sharp teeth, tribal tattoos and ritual scars.

Cutting their hearts out, Archer continued on with his trek.

He came to the top of a hill, looking north all he could see was green stretching into the distance, he sighed as he jumped down the hill.

Sliding down to the there, as he got to the bottom he came across a gruesome sight.

Human body parts stripped of most of their meat were at the bottom scattered about, he looked back up and realized they chunked the dead bodies down here.

What they've done here is sickening, he could see tribal clothing on most of the remaining bodies.

The clothing was once colorful before being covered in blood and filth, looking around he was back in the forest.

Ignoring the bodies he carried on walking further north by following the sun, he knew the sun sat north thanks to the old Archer's memories.

A hour passed as he was jumping over logs as he trekked through the jungle, it was very peaceful until more creepy screams were heard all around him.

Archer was getting annoyed by the creepy screams.

"Meat!"

"Food!"

"Eat!"

Summoning his Cosmic Sword and blocking the incoming arrows, but as he was deflecting the arrows coming in front.

More came from behind, he managed to dodge most but was hit just under his scales.

"Arghhh!"

Quickly turning around to see four more cannibals running towards him, casting Cosmic Sword twice as he parried a sword strike, and deflected another attack.

Stabbing one in the face as he blasted another one with a Plasma Shot, he could see more coming through the hole his magic caused.

Archer snapped the arrows head and pulled it out, he noticed more and more cannibals starting to appear around him.

Smiling like creeps, Archer got excited due to all the fighting but the pain was still there until Regeneration kicked in.

He weaved around the arrows the cannibals were firing at him, as he quickly Thunder Stepped behind the archers.

Plunging both black blades both in their necks.

They dropped hard to the floor under the shocked gazes of the others, Archer Thunder stepped to each cannibal killing them.

Archer killed another 17 before all the screaming stopped, looking around he saw limbs, blood and heads laying all over the place.

He looted all the hearts which in total was 15 due to the others being destroyed, Archer stored them and examined whatever intact bodies he could find.

They look like regular humans but with sharp nails, tribal tattoos, no hair and some weird scars all over their bodies.

After examining them he burnt everything with his Fire Missiles.

Looking at the smoke drifting up into the sky, he continued on with his journey, hoping not to run into the cannibals again.

After hours of walking the sun started to set as he got deeper into the jungle, the longer he travelled, the denser the foliage got.

As he walked past a massive tree his Aura-Detection went crazy with pings.

Casting Cosmic Sword as a pair of claws swung at him.

CHING!~

He managed to block the surprise attack, but because of the force of the strike he was pushed backwards.

'Oh shit.'

Archer saw a humanoid looking creature, grey skin, about 5 foot tall with long claws, it was hanging from a branch staring at him with it's pitch black eyes.

The beast gave him the shivers, it was skin and bones, it had long black hair with a mouth full off sharp yellow teeth.

"Kekekekeke."

It let out a creepy laugh as it pounced towards Archer, he cast Cosmic Shield causing the beasts to slam into the purplish barrier.

As it tried to get back up after hitting the barrier, Archer charged at it after dismissing the shield, the beast tried swiping at him.

He leapt over its skinny arm as he swung his blade separating the beasts arm from its body.

It howled in pain as Archer landed on the ground, he spun around and plunged the blade into the beasts head.

The thing went still, and he examined it.

It had the same clothes that the dead bodies from earlier had, but this beast creeped him out, he quickly tore out its heart.

After he was done with the bloody business he cast Cleanse on himself while storing the body and heart.

He looked around and climbed the nearest tree and perching himself on a branch, Archer pulled out a heart alongside a Honey brew and started eating.

A little while he burped as he finished all 24 hearts, 20 from the cannibals, 3 from the dinosaurs and 1 from the creepy looking humanoid.

He checked his status as he was sitting there.

'Status.'

[Experience: 7600/9000]

[SP: 0>24]

Archer jumped off the branch and continued on with his walk.

Two months passed with him traveling through the jungle, he got attacked many times by beasts and cannibals.

During one of the cannibal attacks he got really injured and had to hide away for a while due to the amount of them that appeared.

He managed to kill over 100 cannibals and a dozen forest beasts, but he couldn't gather many hearts due to getting chased.

He was hiding up a tree like a scared cat and wondering how he can thin down the numbers of cannibals.

That's when he got an idea for a spell, one that allows him to target multiple targets.

[Spell Creation activated]

He waited for the spell to get to work.

[Element Bolts created]

[Spell Creation: On cooldown until next rank]

[Element Bolts: Allows user to target multiple enemies with different element bolts]

Before he checked his status he spent all 69 points he earned so far.

Archer spent 15 points on HP, 14 on mana, 10 on strength, constitution and charisma and 5 on stamina and intelligence.

He noticed loads of his spells and skills leveled up during the two months on the run, he could of hid in his Dragon's Domain but when he exited they would jump him.

So he avoided using it for now.

'Status.'

[Experience: 8600/9000]

[Level Up: 74>76]

[SP: 0]

[2nd Stage Evolution Available]

[Thunder-step: 3>4]

[Eldritch Blast: 3>4]

[Thunder Wave: 2>3]

[Call Lightning: 1>2]

[Aura-Detector: 2>3]

[Short Sword Mastery: 3>4]

[Dragon's Domain: 0>1]

[Element Bolts Learned]

[HP: 1410>1510]

[Mana: 4900>5320]

[Strength: 740>840]

[Constitution: 800>900]

[Stamina: 770>820]

[Charisma: 810>910]

[Intelligence: 670>720]

Archer got excited seeing his status. and that he has managed to reach the 2nd stage of his evolution.

He selected it.

[2nd evolution: inherit more of your draconic bloodline by evolving into the 2nd stage]

Getting excited he jumped off the branch while casting Element Bolts, he imagined Fire and Water bolts killing the cannibals roaming the area trying to capture him.

Seeing that he killed all seven cannibals that were close by, he opened his domain and entered it.

He made his way to the cottage, walking up the wooden bridge as he entered.

Archer made his way to one of the bedrooms and sat cross legged on the bed as he activated his evolution.

He settled in and selected the 2nd evolution option.

[Initiate 2nd stage of evolution?]

[Yes or No?]

He selected Yes.

After waiting for a short while that familiar heavy feeling spread throughout his body.

Archer blacked out as a storm began brewing over the Southlands.

Chapter 40 Reactions 2.

[Alexandria, Capital of the Zenia Empire, Northern part of the Southlands]

A massive white storm hit the southern tip of Pluoria, causing heavy wind and rain.

The Zenia Empire was the biggest in the Southlands, they guard the way North alongside the Nethania kingdom, the culture of the four kingdoms is similar to the middle eastern and Arabian cultures on Earth.

Women wear kaftans and long flowy skirts made of colorful silk, satin, or cotton and have slits on either side allowing comfortable walking.

The men wore a long tunic called a thobe with a vest or long coat, the weather is always hot.

In the kingdom's palace, three men and a woman sat around a stone table talking until they felt and saw the massive storm happening in the south.

BOOM!~

The woman who was the Queen of the kingdom turned to the king as she asked.

"Amkhu what is happening in the south, should we send help to the Nethanians in the East?"

Emperor Amkhu Sharifi looked at his wife before answering.

"Hafthah this isn't a normal storm, something the world hasn't seen will be born."

The Queen looked skeptical.

"How do you know that dear?"

He continued to look at the approaching storm as a bright white light flashed quickly before vanishing.

"An old tome I've read describes the storm in front of us, they have debated it for 100s of years."

Amkhu turned to his servant and gave him an order.

"Tell Nefertiti that she is to stay in the academy and not leave until the storm passes."

[Aquaria, Capital of the Aquarian Kingdom, southwest of the Southlands on the coast of The Serpent's Sea]

BOOM!~

The king was training with his children when they all heard the massive boom which sent the horses fleeing in terror.

A light-blue-haired teen with big blue eyes came running out of the tent.

"Papa, what's going on?"

Looking at his beautiful daughter as he smiled.

"Change my Little Teuila, the time of change has come."

The girl looked up just as the white flash lit up the sky, as the storm raged on, her eyes widened as she saw a magnificent illusion take shape before her.

In the midst of the churning clouds, a giant white dragon appeared.

Its scales gleamed in the flickering lightning, each one shimmering with a ghostly glow.

The dragon's wings unfurled, and the girl could see every detail etched into their surface as they vanished into thin air.

Teuila who was just staring at the storm with wide eyes, her father turned to her and saw the look on her face and asked.

"Little Flower, what did you see?"

"Papa, I saw a white dragon in the storm."

The man's eyes widened at his daughter's reply, and his wife Isona spoke up from behind them.

"Lashure, come in now the storms getting worse."

But he wasn't listening as excitement overtook him.

"He's here, he has finally arrived!"

The mother and daughter looked confused before Teuila spoke.

"Who's he?"

Lashure didn't answer straight away until his wife poked him.

Shaking his head as he replied.

"Legend says that the white king will rise and change the Southlands."

He looked at his daughter with a stern expression.

"Stay with your mother from now on, things will get dangerous."

[Huzuz, Capital of the Kagia Kingdom Western part of the Southlands]

An old man was sitting at a table discussing the kingdom's ongoing matters when the storm started and the boom was heard.

BOOM!~

All the advisors started to panic as the king calmed everyone down.

"Stay calm it's only a storm."

The prime minister objected to the king's conclusion.

"My king, this is the same storm that occurred a while back, up north in the Avalon Empire, rumors say that a white dragon has appeared, now it seems whoever it is, is now in the south."

Everyone got concerned with looks on their faces before the king spoke up.

"White dragon!"

"Nonsense, a white dragon hasn't been seen in 5000 years, why would one appear now, especially in the Southlands!"

The king was getting nervous, considering he has been waging war on the small tribes of dragon-kin.

He calmed down before giving an order to the prime minister.

"Find out where the storm started and locate the suspect, when you do bring him here."

The prime minister didn't bother arguing with the old man, it was pointless.

So he went about relaying the King's orders.

[Sikak, Capital of the Nethania Kingdom, Eastern part of the Southlands]

Nethania kingdom borders the massive Dareen Forest which is one of the two routes traders use to head north.

The forest stretches up the Eastern side of the Southlands, it is separated from The Howling Jungle by a massive lake and mountain range.

There are two paths from the Eastern part that leads to the center or north, which are guarded by Nethania forts.

In a palace located at the center of Sikak City.

A man and two women were discussing the plans that the army had to clear the cannibal tribes from their borders.

"Rayhan, the army is ready to move out, you only have to give the order and the cannibals will be wiped out."

King Rayhan Samra was about to reply.

BOOM!~

The three people rushed to the closest window, they looked out to see a giant mana storm gathering over The Howling Jungle.

One of the man's wives asked.

"Is Goddess Ziena angry maybe?"

"No Nasra, this has nothing to do with any of the gods or goddesses apart from one."

He looks at the white storm until a white flash was witnessed.

"It's the Goddess Tiamat."

The second wife asked with a confused look.

"Why would the Dragon Goddess be here?"

"Well Aludra, she is not here per se but that white storm is a dragon ritual, and only she can grant only one dragon the privilege of becoming a white."

His wives wondered how he knew all this, and he read their expressions before laughing.

"Books my beautiful wives."

The king smiled as he knew what was going to happen to his western neighbor when the white king finds out what he's been doing.

[Hafayah, Capital of the Kheesara Kingdom, Southern part of the Southlands]

King Isar Kheesara was standing on a balcony looking over his kingdom as the white storm started.

BOOM!~

His head snapped towards the jungle, a massive mana storm was gathering far into it.

"Vance!"

King Isar screamed out to his butler.

A young man wearing a butler's uniform appeared when the king called for him.

The King looked at the butler before asking.

"Do you know what this is?"

Isar pointed at the storm as the butler looked up.

His eyes widened when he reported the rumors coming from the North.

"Well, your majesty there was a rumor circling around the traders coming from the Avalon Empire that state that a white dragon has risen, and the church is hunting for him."

He gets a questioning look on his face as he asked the butler more questions.

"How do you know it's him?"

"And why is the church hunting him?"

Vance told him everything as they were standing on the balcony watching the storm.

"Vance send a messenger to the church and tells them we have their prize trapped, if they want his location they must help us take the Nethania Kingdom."

the butler went to leave but he heard the king's voice.

"Summon my generals, we need to hunt the boy."

[Cannibals in the Howling Jungle]

"Big bang."

"More food?"

"Hungry."

"Hunt the white-horned rabbit that's been killing us."

"Quick."

"Food."

"Fresh meat."

"MEAT."

They sprinted off into the jungle to go hunt Archer.

For some reason, they've become obsessed with capturing him to the point that they've stopped raiding the local villages.

300 plus cannibals started searching the jungle looking for a certain troll who was hiding in his Domain.

[Starfall City, The Avalon Empire]

Emperor Osoric Avalon sat in his study reading reports about a certain boy he couldn't find since the church decided to attack him.

He had many witnesses provide evidence against the church for launching an attack on the boy.

The boy was last spotted in Vassia City, Osoric summoned the Duke to question him.

BANG!~

The Empress Chloe Avalon ran into the room and approached him.

"Osoric, I know where the boy is!"

His eyes widened when he heard her speak.

"Where is he?"

She gets a nervous look on her face before explaining.

"Well he went on a quest to the Rhodora Kingdom to deliver relief supplies to the guild in Karna city, but there was a battle between the defenders and a horde of goblins, orcs, and trolls led by an orc king."

She pulled out some paper from her storage ring and started reading from it.

Despite their valiant efforts, the defenders were ultimately defeated, leaving only Archer to face the orc king.

He fought bravely, but in the end, he was overpowered and thrown into the rushing waters of the Eventide River.

Now, soldiers familiar with the local terrain speculate that Archer may have survived and washed up in the Southlands.

As soon as they heard the distant boom coming from the south, they turned to face each other.

Without a word, they both knew what they had to do and quickly made their way to the balcony that faced southward.

After a three-minute run, they made it, as the two of them were standing there, a bright flash was seen over the large mountains in the distance.

"So he is there, and the rumors were true, the boy is a white dragon, we need to make sure he's okay, but we can't send any troops to search for him due to how many kingdoms they will need to cross."

Chloe looked disappointed at the news but remembered something.

"Darling once we find the boy we should introduce him to Leira and see if the two of them get along."

Osoric nodded his head in approval, neither caring what either child says.