

## Be Honest! 426

### Chapter 426 An Unpredictable Start

Okay... They knew they were rambling and making noise about going out on missions with other teams. But after agreeing to their conditions, do you have to post them off right away?

They thought they would get a little more time or even a few hours to enjoy their victory. But reality was sometimes so cruel.

They also knew that after making so much noise earlier, they couldn't continue arguing or reject the mission.

Alas...

They resigned themselves to their fates, wanting to know what the mission was about.

All in all, it's better to gain more experience so they can survive longer in this hell dump.

Thinking like so, they pretended not to see the gloating expressions from Jason's team.

Bassaso inwardly chuckled, seeing as there was finally peace in the mansion.

He did a good job of making both sides feel as though they were victorious.

It was true that when a new team arrived, they would be forced to go on missions independently. But it wasn't immediate.

Typically, the entire human community gave them 10 days to prepare and rid themselves of fantasy dreams about being rescued by people in their former world.

There was no one coming for them. So the faster you wake up, the greater their survival rate.

In the past, some people locked themselves in one tiny corner of the mansion, only ever stepping out to eat or ease themselves.

They did so for 7 whole days, crying their eyes out and screaming hysterically.

There were times when others tried to take their own lives while in here. But that didn't work out.

After they died, everyone saw their souls float out and get swallowed by several beasts. So taking one's life was not an option.

This was their reality that took days for many to get through the many stages of grief and loss.

Only by accepting things can they move forward. And that was why they gave 10 days of acceptance for all newbies.

So you see... Even though Rudolf's team won the argument and got what they wanted, they, on the other hand, were starting their missions 2 and a half days after their arrival.

Whether they had truly accepted their fate or not, this mission would show it.

Jason's group obviously knew this, hence the reason for their glaring.

Some petty people even hoped that the group would be so scared that they would better the belly of a beast.

"Hahahahaha~... Well now, isn't this what you wanted? Come on... We will be waiting to see how you fair."

Bahahhahahahaha~

Jason's group left with playful expressions, leaving the hall and heading to their wing. Vladimir's team respectfully told them good luck before heading for another mission.

There was a rule that no matter how many missions must be completed, one team must stay back in the mansion.

If there are more than 6 teams, then 2 must stay in the mansion with no missions. And if there are 18 teams, 3 will stay... And so forth.

There were also days when only one mission had to be carried out, meaning even if there were 20 teams, only 1 or 2 would go out.

As for Vladimir's team, their mission was actually within the mansion's premises.

After every 24 hours of darkness, a team had to observe their surroundings, seeing how the darkness affected them.

Sometimes they would put one leg out of the safety zone, wanting to see what type of creatures were there this time around.

[Golems]:... Are you playing with us?

.

"Follow me."

Bassano and his team led them through several hallway labyrinths, bypassing many doors and on their way.

[Mission Room]

Those were the words body painted on a not-so-good-looking plaque.

Every year, they receive paint when new people arrive since everything in the shed during that nightly event would also be transported.

Over the years, they also turned grass rakes into spears and other gardening tools into proper weapons. Their selection was enormous. And for paper, they took out every single page from the books the Bassano and his intellectual groups brought over.

Whatever was written in those books was irrelevant to them. They shredded, soaked, and pushed up the pages before pressing them between several fabrics and letting them dry out.

This was the basic way to reuse old paper. It was just that the paper wouldn't have its original texture and would be due to faded ink on it.

Rudolf thought that was the only paper source here, but he was wrong.

Bassano showed them parchment papers from medieval times that have been recycled and used severally. There were also rusted armories worn by generals here and even letters to be delivered to their family members should anyone ever escape.

Every other paper has been recycled except for the letters. It has also become customary that everyone who ever came in would write a letter, perhaps to their families or perhaps to anyone who ever destroys the evil here.

Those letters contain decades and decades of history.

Jenny felt a chill run down her spine, thinking of medieval people being here before... Then... Then what hope do they have of ever getting out?

The most frightening part was that such evil existed alongside them all these years, and no one ever found out!

She was sure that even her influential and powerful dad didn't know too. Her eyes moistened.

He should be searching for her crazily, not knowing she was no longer in their world.

'Dad... I miss you.'

Sniff. Sniff~

She quickly did away with her tears, telling herself to cheer up. They, modern folks, had so much technology to get through anything. It should be fine... She thought.

"Alright. Those are the rules you must abide by while in the mission room. No letters can be tampered with, and after selecting a mission on the board, you must alert the other teams and head out to fulfill the first depending on the deadline. Failure to complete an accepted mission will result in punishment."

[Chris]:

Are you being real?

How can he escape school, come here and still have punishment?

Chapter 427 Found Them!

Chris obediently nodded, seeing the 2 boards hanging on the walls.

Both boards were maps, but the left board had the word: <Steady> above it, while the other board had the words: <Unpredictable>

One board showed a map of the entire space, and all its components, while the other showed the same map but highlighted several mountains, hills and a desert region in bold red.

Wipe!

Chris smacked his face in a daze.

"This place is worthy of a monster den. Are you trying to say that all these hills, valleys and mountains highlighted will just only switch positions with each other but will also change their shapes too?"

Bassano nodded. "Hmm... Sometimes they will mimic the appearance of another hill as an act of trying to confuse us."

The hill that typically holds human food can change form and disguise itself to look like the green poison hill of Nymptia.

Only when they rush up do they realize they were tricked and the fake hill revealed.

Dammit! Are the hills alive as well?

Bianca wanted to curse. It seems everything in this world was vying to eat them.

This world was as massive as an entire city. Imagine walking in a big city from your home to downtown, uptown, the central regions and other parts.

It could take hours to do so... And that is if the grounds were leveled and in walking conditions

This place had jungles, terrains with boiling floors and all sorts of crazy surfaces.

They were only thankful that the day was 48 hours and the night/darkness was 24. It was during the 24 hours of darkness that these many terrains shifted and changed.

Bassano pointed his fingers to a particular hill on the map with the letter E on it. The name of the hill was Eden... Named after the first person who discovered the hill.

It is the hill where human food grows. It is the hill of Eden.

"Look... There's a red pin on it, indicating there's a current and urgent mission relating to the hill."

Letter E...

On another side of the vast wall were small wooden shelves, designed like mailboxes, carved into the walls.

Since there were 2 maps, there were also 2 separate mailbox shelves, one for the first map and another for the 2nd map.

Moving right, Bassona stopped at the 2nd one before running his fingers through all the mail-styled boxes labeled A~M.

"Everyone, pay attention... There are 2 E-U for urgent, and E-R for regular... What we want is urgent."

Rudolf leaned closer, seeing the crude but neatly folded paper Bassano took out from the box.

[Mission: Bi-weekly Food source is running low. Gather enough to last for 2 weeks or more— deadline: 4 days.] After which they will really be starved.

It was clear, simple and straight to the point.

Merlin, one of the men in Bassano's team, also showed them where the hand-drawn maps were. Everyone was supposed to take them out during missions, lest they got lost."

For this mission, Bassano and his group had already discussed their plan of action. However, since Rudolf's gang was tagging along, they went over their thoughts, talking about the various creatures they might meet along the way.

"Be warned... There's a creature we call the changer. It takes on the appearance of anyone closest to you, your family members, or any of us here. And once it has you in its grasp..."

Slick~

Merlin shipped his hands across his neck ruthlessly.

The creature loved cutting heads the most with its tongue.

The air grew cold as Emily shuddered while subconsciously rubbing her throat. "How terrible."

Why does she feel like she was in a doomsday movie? Dear god of science... When will this nightmare end?

Jenny frowned. "Is there any way we can identify ourselves and not get tricked?"

"Yeah... Passwords... Code names... Hidden messages... If any of us doesn't respond to our codes and only keeps smiling, kill on sight."

"What if we make a mistake and kill the real person?"

"Then it will be on them." Why didn't you answer your bloody codename? This isn't a game.

Many swallowed hard while coming up with special words to recognize themselves. Bassano advised that they briefly explain why they chose the words they did. This way, everyone would remember better.

Chris, for example, chose the word <Noodle toes> because when he was in kindergarten, kids made fun of his long toes.

It's easier to remember, especially with a small backstory.

If you call someone's codename and they don't call yours back or even attempt to relay the back story, there's a problem.

The creatures called changers, can only see the image of a loved one and cannot read their thoughts.

This was why those who had been here long ago could evade being tricked by them. And they too did the same.

"Alright... Now that you're prepped, it's time to head on to the Weapon's room."

The room they were in was connected to the weapon's chamber, hence why there was rusted and damaged medieval armor in the mission room.

"Everyone, pick your weapons, bearing in mind that you will carry them for hours forth and back."

Rudolf quickly picked out 2 halves of a long rod. Each half had a sharpened edge that was protected by a crude cover.



Wearing its safety sheath, he placed the order on his back as though he had 2 swords there.

The other boys also chose the same weapons, but Chris chose a light but fierce sword.

Bianca chose a spear, while Emily and Jenny chose short swords, which had the length between a dagger and a sword.

They also wore leather padding and still had their boots on.

Glory be to modern times. Their boots were waterproof, comfortable and had soft padding for their soles.

With their hair tied in buns, bellies full after the meal, and their bathroom breaks done and over with, everyone followed Bassano's group with their chests high.

Come on! Let's do this!

Chapter 428 The Beginning Of The End

Is everyone ready?

Yeah!

The group built up their courage while standing before the closed main door. They were so tense that they might jump as high as a cat out of water if someone touched them from behind.

"Relax..." Bassano cautioned calmly. "We aren't leaving the safe zone yet."

Ah-!

They smiled awkwardly, finally remembering their talk about the safe zone, which included the mansion and the immediate surrounding yard.

Since they arrived, they've never been outside the mansion. Even so, they had seen the yard through the mansion's many windows.

It was just that over the last 2 days, It was only on the first day here that they vaguely glimpsed out the windows.

On their first day upon arriving, they were very panicked and more concerned about their reality to properly scrutinize the yard. Under Rudolf's encouragement, they slowly woke from their zombie-like stupor and began touring the gigantic mansion before falling into a deep sleep.

They were tired, and their brains were burnt from so much crying and worrying. But when they woke up, the entire mansion was inky dark. That was yesterday, the day of darkness... 24 hours of darkness.

Though the creatures couldn't cross over the yard, the windows were closed for their own good, as many of these creatures went wild during that time, crashing into the invisible barrier that kept them safe.

The feeling of being surrounded by thousands and thousands of demonic creatures, who appeared as giants, was enough to give man sleepless nights.

This was why the windows were shut. It was to keep their sanity and hope of survival up. So today was the first day they stepped out the door and properly saw the outside world.

What was this?

Chris's jaw dropped to the floor. They had a fountain all this time?

Hmmm...

"The fountain and the well at the back are the only sources of water we have... However, we must use them cautiously, as excessive use will dry them out for a couple of weeks before they can spring up again."

Bassano was talking from experience.

There was a time when they didn't have water for 2 weeks before it slowly returned. There are also stories from those in the past about the waters drying up.

By analyzing and extrapolating the data to make calculations, he and many people in the past calculated how many buckets of water could be drawn in a day without straining their water source.

It was tricky since the fewer people they had, the more water for them. But this was a reality they didn't want to face since it was beneficial to have more people and more teams for missions like food gathering, monster information gathering and so on.

In one of the past periods when there were over 700 people here at once, one could imagine how little water they had daily to share amongst themselves.

Bathing wouldn't be an option until more people died.

Jenny looked around curiously.

From the door to the barrier was about the width of a football field. The lawn was green with a faint hue of red, thanks to the red sun above.

"Why don't we try planting on this soil?"

Merlin shook his head bitterly. "It never works. All we get are more blades of grass.

Rudolf frowned. "Why do I feel that someone is messing with us?"

He wasn't the only one. Everyone here thinks the same, wanting to know the grand schemer who put the show together. Obviously, that person wasn't human. But so what? They just wanted to see what the son of a b\*\*ch looked like!

[Loki in the heavenly prisons.] :... Who is thinking about me? Ahh... It's so boring up here. Might as well sneak out and mess with Morning Star again.

[Lucifer, who was sent on a wild goose chase]: Screw you! You already sent precious items to these dangerous first worlds, and now you want to mess with me again? You've got some nerves!

.

Rudolf and the others walked across the open field, reaching the perimeter.

"In the days of daylight, the creatures aren't as active as during the dark days. Nonetheless, they are still lurking around in various parts of this world... Those over there, we call dirt monsters."

Grawwllll!!!~

The heart-stopping sounds from the Golems on the other side made them flinch back. Golems in video games were made of mud and looked far smoother!

It had teeth as long and as sharp as a wolf's, but its skin was made of soil that looked rotting and mushy, with several disgusting maggots swimming in it. And with its giant hands and feet that left a disgusting trail wherever it passed.

They walked like apes and seemed to have low intelligence too. But they sure as well were scary!

What happened to their confidence earlier? Everyone in Rudolf's group found their legs wobbly, not of their own intention.

At the forefront was Vladimir's group, who were the ones testing the water with these creatures. They sometimes risked their lives to step out, while some took notes and recorded vital information about the creatures surrounding their safe zone today.

"Bassona, you're here!" Vladimir acknowledged. "If you want to leave for your mission, leave the safe zone from the back, toward the South-East corner."

That was the only sight they tested that had no creatures appearing. They had to do this daily to see which region had the least possible threats, especially since they did missions frequently.

With the advice from Vladimir, the group turned around, headed back into the mansion, and made their way to the South-East back door.

Exciting the scene, they realized that the backyard space was broader than the front, having the addition of multiple slopes in all directions.

"Alright. Brace yourselves. Once we go between those 2 slopes, we'll be in dangerous territories... Remember, no loud talk... Only whispers."

"Right!"

Rudolf's group nodded and moved with their paired partners from Bassano's team.

Each newbie moved along with 1 or 2 people from Bassano's group. Bassano and Rudolf stayed ahead while Chris, Merlin and another from Bassano's group walked at the very back.

Like so, their journey began across the many sharp, ridged terrains... until soon, the unexpected happened.

Chapter 429 Strange Occurance!

What happened? What was the unexpected phenomenon that left even Bassano with his jaws dropped?

Well, it all happened just a few hours after their big departure.

At the start of their journey, they never dropped their vigilance, even once. But it didn't stop them from getting attacked multiple times.

At one point, they were chased by what looked like a messed-up version of giant bees. And in another situation, the slope they stood on while checking the map suddenly moved, revealing itself to be a demonic turtle.

A TURTLE! Can you believe it?

Its speed should not be underestimated.

Snap!

One of Bassano's team members lost an arm while pushing a newcomer away.

F\*\*\*!

Rudolf and the others almost screamed in disbelief. It was the first time they had seen someone lose a hand so brutally before.

Emily placed her hands over her mouth, trying to stop her sobs from spewing loud noises. She was saved because of this man. His actions made her 10 times more fond of him.

Bassano and Rudolf quickly bandaged his hand, as the entire group hid in a small clearing.

The journey was only 2 hours, and they had nearly died over 20 times now.

They still had another 30 or so hours left to go. Where was the hill? Where was the hill with food supplies?

This one experience made Rudolf's group grow overnight.

They continued to advance cautiously, until...

Shoop!

The sky in a region several hills away suddenly burst open, with a blinding light corroding their senses.

"What's going on?"

"Has this ever happened before?"

Bassano's face was grim. "No..."

"Grawwwwllllll!!!!~

A sudden overwhelming level of hunger suddenly took hold of the creatures, as though something had triggered them and raised their hunger levels to 100.

Bassano made his decision immediately. "Fall back!"

Return! Return!... They had to go back before any unexpected doom fell on them.

~Grawwwwwwwwwllll~

The red skies grew darker by several shades, and the clouds swirled even faster than before.

What was going on? No one had time to think anymore, as all sorts of crazy beings began emerging from their surroundings. And it was now that even Bassano knew true fear.

The ground rumbled, and the trees quivered with eyes that could suck their souls away from a single glare.

"RUN! RUN! RUN!"

Chris and others hugged the badly injured comrades, as they tried their best to keep up with the others in this wobbly forest.

Bassano looked back and gritted his teeth fiercely. "Everyone stick together! Form a barricade, use your weapons and form a wall!"

Breaking apart was bound to make some of them lost. Humanity in this world depends not only on strength but on numbers.

"Stay together!"

Their chances of survival would be significantly higher!

Look left; look right.

Everyone kept moving their faces to all corners, as their eyes became haunted by their reality.

"Wait. Does everyone feel that?"

The rumbling action from the floor suddenly grew at an alarming rate, causing their pupils to constrict and their hearts to swell.

A stampede?

"Bassano!" Rudolf called. "We can't keep moving like this! Yes! Every place is dangerous, but surely there must be a safe place around these parts, right?"

That's right they can't keep running forever, especially since the place is getting so chaotic.

They were 2 and a half hours away from the base. So it wasn't practical given the number of injured people they had.

What's more, it wasn't advisable for them to be out in the open during such a wild stampede.

Everyone looked at Bassano's team with burning hope.

C'mon, man! Think! Think! Think!

"There!" Merlin gestured at a moving tree shaped like an umbrella. "It's a safe tree!"

A safe tree? Yes. It has saved many of their lives before.

It was a bit evil, but it was nothing they couldn't handle!

"Then what are we waiting for?"

Move. Move. Move!



Everyone gritted their teeth, seeing the stampede of creatures raising dust from afar. Despite looking far away, these creatures should arrive in about 3 minutes.

The distance between them and the safe tree was akin to a block away. So now, the question was if they could make it on time.

Apart from their base and the hill that grew human food, no place in this world was safe, including the so-called 'safe' tree.

It was just that the dangers the tree offered were one of the lowest danger tiers in this world.

Every creature or tree has a difficulty rank. One of the weakest trees of all was the safe tree.

Seeing the tree here, Bassano and the others thanked their lucky stars.

Merlin, being the first to arrive, quickly took out his dagger and stabbed the trees mercilessly.

~Aaaaaaooowww~

The safe tree cried and began stupidly smashing itself from side to side. Soon, its eyes blinked, causing Rudolf's team to take a step back in shock.

Seeing it come alive was different from hearing it from a person's mouth.

Rudolf felt that even if he someday escaped this world, he might never look at trees the same again. And what was up with its ugliness?

Why was it that whenever any creature, object, or being revealed their tree form, they were always so ugly?

Can't there be good-looking ones?

The moment the tree came alive, several holes began forming on its surface, and the entire tree began wilting at a visible rate.

It was decaying, with all sorts of ants, termites, maggots, and whatnot crawling in and out of its body.

As a result of seeing so many minutes on the way here, Rudolf no longer puked at such a sight.

However, this didn't stop him from gagging and feeling his mouth turn bitter.

Tick-Tock. Tick-Tock.

Time was not on their side, as the stampede was drawing closer by the second.

C'mon. C'mon.

"Everyone get ready."

Merlin stabbed the tree again, causing it to wobble even more.

Aooooooooorr~

"Now!"

Everyone darted into the tree's fully-opened mouth in the nick of time. But was this truly the end of things?

Chapter 430 Their End?

They did make it in the nick of time, because the moment the last person dived in, the stampede of a thousand beasts was already here.

DIN-DIN-DIN-DIN--

Without knowing it, everyone hugged each other, not even minding the hundreds and hundreds of maggots swimming around the floors and walls.

"Everyone, hold on and close your mouths!"

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The tree wobbled crazily, slamming them into the maggot-infested walls. This was its main attack, which was why it was one of the weakest trees.

It was a womping tree that could only wobble and smash its head side to side, like the Hulk smashing Loki.

Now, they understood why Bassona advised them to close their mouths. Jenny felt several maggots crawling on her hair, and wanted to cry.

She had never been one to be afraid of bugs. But this was too much, right?

What's more, the maggots, ants and other disgusting beings were not only rotting and foul in stench, but also left trails of sticky green slim wherever they passed.

They were only lucky that these maggots weren't the silver-coloured type.

Those types loved to bore their way into human skin after contact. By guiding them to a certain body part and amputating it, one could escape them.

Of course, the longer the bugs stay with their victims, the faster the victim's body decays.

Chris and everyone else felt their scalps grow numb, again understanding the cruelty of this new world. But this wasn't all they had to worry about.

Outside the tree, several running creatures suddenly paused and tilted their heads unnaturally.

Hiss!

Everyone sucked their breaths, not daring to blink or even breathe.

Were they discovered? The creatures turned their attention away, causing everyone to breathe out sighs of relief.

Hah! They wish!

Gharr!~

Their disturbing smiles remained on their faces as the creatures slammed the tree.

What to do? What to do?

"Everyone, we can only buy our time for another 5 minutes. After the safe tree gets injured, it won't be able to open its mouth until then."

It's been 1 minute and 30 seconds since they entered, meaning they had barely 3 more minutes left.

Everyone's shoulders fell, as they watched the many creatures desperately try to break into the tree.

The tree's attack power might be the lowest, but it had one of the strongest mechanisms, as it couldn't bulge until the time was up. This was why it was chosen as a safe tree. But how was any of this beneficial to them now?

They did evade the stampede, but still caught the attention of a few.

The safe tree kept the crooked, emaciated beings at bay. But this also meant they were trapped here, with no way out.

Suddenly, being with the maggots didn't seem so terrible anymore. But were they willing to give up just like that? Impossible!

They wanted to live. They wanted to return back to the base and jump on their beds with glee. They were not going to go down without a fight!

"A Palington... A beast with a snake's bottom and a dog's head. We discovered that we could buy more time for ourselves if we attacked its eyes. But we only have 10 minutes left before its eyes regenerate again.

\*\*Mortal weapons can't kill any creatures. They will regenerate if they lose a limb or another body part. The weaker the creature, the longer the regeneration time.

One by one, Bassano and his team began talking about the creatures surrounding them.

Can they do it? Do they stand a chance? No one was optimistic, but they dared not dwell on it further.

The stampede had passed. So for now, all they had to do was defend themselves and flee. That was the assignment.

Rudolf kept his eyes fixed on the clock for a moment. "30 seconds more."

The gang clenched their weapons tightly, as they created a defensive wall against each other from all sides. In the center were the injured.

Everyone, get ready!

Rudolf counted down with a cold voice. "10 seconds more."

8... 7... 6... 5... 4... 3... 2... 1...

Aooooorrr~

The tree was stabbed by creatures outside and began opening its many mouths slowly.

The mouths weren't fully opened, yet both sides had already garnished their claws and weapons at each other.

"Take this!"

Bang!

Rudolf swung his 2 short spear-like rods, smacking the claws that reached for his neck.

This was it. This was it!"

His muscles swelled and his veins popped with adrenaline, as he moved his rods valiantly in all directions.

Die! Die! Die!

Chris cursed loudly, as he swung his weapon with all his might.

"Die you pieces of sh\*\*! How dare you want this daddy?"

Bang! Bang! Bang!

"Ahhhhh!!!~"

It had only been a few seconds since their battle began, yet the creatures had already gotten to almost all of them.

There was no helping it. Their speed was too fast for humans to handle.

Perhaps if it was 1 or 2 creatures versus all of them, then Bassano's team, who have the most experience, would be able to assist in victory.

Sadly, this wasn't the case. Over 15 creatures surrounded the tree.

Rudolf felt a warm but rough sensation of a tongue licking its way up his neck after being grabbed by his opponent's giant dog hands.

Rudolf struggled to break free but found all his efforts for naught. As he watched everyone else get captured by their beastly enemies, things seemed to be happening in slow motion.

His heart shook in fear and his mind spiraled with countless thoughts, as his life had now flashed before his very eyes.

His regrets... His secret love for Jenny... His dreams... His family... His fans... His passions... His former world.

With silent tears, Rudolf who has always been strong, now found himself laid back on top of a spongy darkish cushion, staring at the roofed mouth above his head.

Was this the end?

Rudolf was caught on its spiral tongue watching darkness engulf his surroundings as the beast began closing its mouth.

'Goodbye, world.'

~Slash!

A chilling noise bellowed, as Rudolf tightly closed his eyes waiting for death. But why was death not so painful?

Jenny and the rest also wanted to know the reason why. And when they opened their eyes, they couldn't help staying frozen in disbelief.

..."Dad?"

"Jenny!!!!"