Brand New 111

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Chapter 111: The Mysterious Curse

"But its true! The monsters were waiting for us to ambush us, we foolishly fell to their trap because we grew desperate..." Sighed Florie. "Queen Titania had said that we shouldn't walk outside, but we didn't obey her... Now we almost died."

"Couldn't you guys fly away when attacked? I am surprised you can get cornered when you got wings." I asked, wondering if there couldn't had been a way for them to escape anyways. I mean, they got big butterfly wings, right? Couldn't they fly off?

"Our wings can't let us fly so high; we are not that light ourselves."

"If we were smaller Fairies named Fae, perhaps, but our kin is larger so we can do more things, such as constructing and crafting!"

"The Fae are the small ones that can fly anywhere they want, but we can't fly more than just a few meters above the ground, sustaining flight for so long all high in the sky makes us dizzy..."

"Also it is not our style to abandon our friend Buffalo!"

"Moooo!"

The Buffalo also had to say something it seems, agreeing with the fairies. They were adorable but had hearts of gold as well, to think they were willing to die with their animal friend... they're a bit too naïve, but they're not called children of the forest for nothing I suppose it is part of the charm of fairies to be a bit naïve, playful, and childish after all! Don't worry, mommy Dryad will protect all of you adorable little cinnamon rolls!

"I see... Don't worry, I will protect you guys from now on... I had just helped the Squirrel-kin deal with a disease related with the miasma, so is something similar happening to you guys?" I wondered. "If that's the case, I can help you right away."

"It is something similar, but Queen Titania is already working in a cure, she had been working for weeks since it appeared, but it seems that this disease has something special that cannot be easily healed even with potions made by our queen..." Sighed Florie.

"W-Wait, hold on a second. You said... Queen Titania?!" Asked Sporegon.

"So this forest is really the Forest where we originally came from? Where our lord found us too?!" Asked Magius.

"It has shrink a lot over the years... Just how long have we been dead?" Sighed Hunter.

"The Fairy Queen is a powerful Half-Spirit woman, that she can have an unlimited lifespan and live for thousands of years doesn't seem far-fetched to me." Said Sporegon. "This forest... it might truly be our original homeland! This also means the Kingdom of our Lord might not be so far away! I wonder if they're alright?!"

"For now we shouldn't concentrate into that, Sporegon, we are in front of the fairies." Sighed Magius. "Calm down, later, we can request our lady about this. I am also rather interested in meeting with Lady Titania once more, she was a good-hearted woman."

"Indeed, if we can meet her, we could ask her more about the changes in the world too." Said Hunter.

The mushrooms began to speak about what was happening right now. Apparently this forest was the one where they also originated from! Just several thousands of years into the future, probably. Could this be the reason why the dungeon of the mushroom hero was located in here too? To think that the starter area for beginners had so many secrets and history...

"Erm, you guys..." I sighed, quickly snapping them out of their conversation, as they quickly nodded and even apologized. After that, we decided to follow Florie and her fairy friends to the village while the girl and the other fairies told me more about this disease.

"It is not a disease that directly kills, but Queen Titania said it was similar to a curse that weakened our magical power. We fairies live by our Mana, if our Mana weakens, we also grow weaker, infertile, and even lethargic and feverish. A few of our oldest members ended passing some time ago..." Sighed Florie.

"E-Eh? So soon? No..." I sighed.

This might had been my fault. Because I ended doing my own things for too long while having little time to play the game, I ended forgetting about the fairies for a long time... If I had been there earlier, maybe they wouldn't had died! It is all my fault, all of it!

"I am sorry! I should had come here earlier, I am such a lazy and useless person..." I sighed.

"Eh? What are you talking about, Lady Planta? There's nothing here that's your fault, I am sure you were busy doing your own things, please don't blame yourself." Said Florie. "Although it was sad, their passing wasn't painful, as they went back with nature and became flowers that slowly grow into trees."

"Fairies... don't die?" I wondered.

"When our mana is too low and we begin to weaken so much we might die soon, we fuse our souls and bodies into the forest's ground, and we slowly merge with nature, becoming plants."

"It is a ritual we do to always be there for those we love, protecting them as the embodiment of the forest."

"We never truly die; we merely transform and join the rest of our ancestors."

"Only Queen Titania is immortal, given the task to protect the forest and all of us... She's the only one that cannot join us, an eternal guardian..."

"I see... This forest is much more... important than I ever thought. It is incredible that such a thing as you described is happening. All of your ancestors are here? They might be trees growing around as well..." I said in surprise, as I saw the forest with different eyes once more.

"A-And we have been... cutting trees..." Muttered Sporegon.

"Please forgive us!" Cried Magius.

"It wasn't our intention!" Cried Hunter.

"Don't worry, we simply don't become a single tree. All trees in this forest are merged with the roots of the Tree of Beginnings, even if you cut one, it will regrow eventually as it still alive in the roots!"

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Chapter 112: The Threat Of The Demon King Of Miasma

"Wait, all trees are connected with the Tree of Beginnings?" I wondered in surprise, the words that Florie said were very surprising! I never realized it but perhaps each tree is already connected with the tree of beginnings? Then the entire forest is like a single entity... I guess that's why it is so important to protect it.

"Yes, they are!" Said Florie while smiling. "But make sure to not cut too many, okay?"

"Sorry, we won't." Said Sporegon.

"I can always make wood out of my body, it costs HP, but I guess we'll have to begin doing that instead of cutting down the trees from here." I said while crossing my arms.

"D-Dryads can do that?!" Florie asked in shock.

"Yes, my entire body can shapeshift into many types of plant species combined together. By merely thinking it, I can grow hard bark around my arms and create wood by detaching my body parts, they can regrow naturally as well!" I said.

"T-That's insane!"

"Amazing!"

"N-Not even our Queen can do this..."

"Her ability to grow wood is very limited because that wood that grows instantly often dries out and falls apart due to lack of life force..."

"But Lady Dryad, you can merely create wood that is good?" Asked Florie as the other fairies were just as surprised.

"Yeah I can..." I said. "Is that very surprising? All Dryad and Ent Players should be able to do it."

"But they're very rare!" Said Florie. "Your amazing ability could help us craft a lot of things we usually cant make due to fearing in cutting the trees..."

"Well, if you want to I can help as long as you provide with enough HP Potions!" I said with a happy smile, as the fairies got excited. Nonetheless, I wanted them to continue telling me more about the disease.

"Ah right, the disease..." Said Florie. "As we said previously, Queen Titania said it was something like a curse. It mysterious emerged in here some time ago, it was contagious but we only realized quite late... Our queen said she had never seen a contagious curse before. The sad part is that the old hunter that brought it with him died before we could ask him anything..."

"Now we are left with the question if someone really infected him or someone cursed him! We always kept ourselves away from the monsters."

"It is a bit worrying how this happened."

"And things are getting worse..."

"Do you have some sort of recipe to heal a curse, lady dryad?" Asked Florie.

"Hm, I will have to check them first." I sighed. "The Squirrel-kin didn't had a curse but they got sick through infection of the toxic miasma, we made some potions that destroyed it, so it was resolved by hunting down more miasmic monsters and getting specific gathering materials... If I had Acorn with me, things would be way easier, I miss him..."

"It is certainly similar, perhaps..." Sighed Florie, as she seemed concerned about the whole subject. "The part about the miasma infection seems similar as well, but this disease would be even more persistent but less lethal, I suppose... which makes it even harder to heal. It is slowly trying to kill us all. It feels like not something that would be made through infection of miasma, it feels like a special curse inflicted upon us... to make us suffer."

"Someone wants to get rid of us fairies..."

"The snakes... they might be a suspect!"

"I remember that Lady Queen Titania said that there was a big bad snake living in the forest, that was once slain by an old hero, but somehow revived from within a dungeon..."

"A dungeon again?!" I wondered in surprise. "C-Could this dungeon have revived the three bosses?"

"Three bosses?" Asked Florie.

"Yes, the Mushroom King, the Shadow Crow King, and the Ravenous Giant Snake Queen... Right, Sporegon?" I asked, as the mushroom knight nodded.

"Precisely. I also suspect the same thing. If the damned Demon King had somehow managed to revive, it is completely possible for his goons to have also revived. They were specifically targeting this forest in the past due to its immense size and quantity of life. It was said to be the core of the Verdant Continent where a large quantity of Mana and Spiritual Essence flowed freely. If he were to destroy this place, he would be able to pour his miasma everywhere more easily, infecting everything and making this entire continent his domain."

"Even if the forest has become so small compared to back then, it still harbors an immense quantity of magic and spiritual essence. This is the birthing place of many spirits that roam the world and enhance the life and elements of the world, becoming its pillars." Said Magius. "The elements of the world are maintained by said spirits, and are very important. they're small, almost microscopic, so we can't see them, but they're everywhere, becoming the building bricks of all elements."

"The Demon King's plan... he wants to infect everything with miasma, and probably disrupt the natural order of the elements, turning this world into a chaotic realm of his liking, where he can live comfortably, grow stronger, and probably move to other worlds." Sighed Hunter.

"T-There are otherworld's?!" I wondered.

"Naturally, through the Cosmic Staircase, we once accessed the world of beasts and the world of spirits, special realms connected to our world!" Said Sporegon.

"Wh-Whaaa?! You're telling me there's at least two other whole world maps?!" I asked in shock. This game was way too big!

"Yes, perhaps. Well, it is not as if the entire fate of the World depends in this single forest, but it is one of the special forests that births spirits, there are a few others, which I hope to have yet to be taken down... the neighboring forest of the Ents where Titan came from has grown very small compared to this one, but it still hanging on." Sighed Sporegon.

"That damn Demon King... I wonder where Sir Titan could be when we need him." Sighed Magius.

"I wonder that as well... And Acorn too! Maybe Achlys, I guess?" I wondered.

"Please calm down for now, we can discuss these heavy stuff for later, that's the entrance to our village!" Florie pointed out with her tiny hand at a beautiful waterfall surrounded by colorful flowers.

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Chapter 113: Reaching The Fairy Country

In front of us there was a beautiful waterfall. The water was coming from a nearby river and flowing all the way through the entire forest. We had been slowly walking down, as if the entire area where the fairies lived in was a crater that was slowly covered in healthy plants over eons. The waterfalls were crystalline and the water looked to be the same as spring water as well. Meanwhile, the flowers were colorful, wide open even in the night. It seems that they were bathing in the moonlight, I had no idea there were plants that could do that!

"These flowers bathe in the moonlight and close at day." Said Florie. "They're called Moonlight Droplets, and are high quality alchemy materials, we harvest them to make medicine and sometimes tasty food, we love sweet things!"

"I see... They look very pretty. I never thought I would find flowers that bathed in moonlight." I said.

"Yes, they're special as they can absorb the magical power of the moonlight. While other plants fight for the sunlight in the day, they wait for the night to come to absorb moonlight instead." Florie said with an innocent smile, she liked her flowers. "Come with us, through here!"

The girl quickly guided us around the waterfall, as we climbed some rocks and finally reached the cave behind the waterfall, which led to a secret garden deep inside this "crater" within the forest. When we went through the cave, we found a beautiful sight like I could only find in my fairytale books.

Enormous flowers as big as trees were decorating the place, alongside beautiful trees whose only leaves were all even more colorful flowers, and tons of fruits laying around everywhere! There were small creatures lurking around as if this were their home, including dozens of horned rabbits.

The houses of the fairies were made around the trees, and were not as big as those of humans, but in a similar size to the houses of the squirrel-kin, tight and packed, but I think I can still fit inside barely.

"Woow, this place is beautiful!" I said with eyes wide open. I couldn't help but feel excited about the whole exploration of a new area I had never seen before, especially one that included meeting tons of fairies.

Because it was night, not many were awake, but there were around five of them acting as guards, the moment the magic barrier protecting this area let us pass, they immediately flew to see what was happening. Five adorable fairies greeted my sight, four of them were cute girls and the last was a teenager-looking boy.

A beautiful blue-haired fairy greeted us with a rather furious and annoyed expression, reaching Florie while flying at a fast speed.

"There you are- Wha...?! Who are these people now, Florie?! And why did you went off in the night?! I told you that it was dangerous! Who are these people anyways?! Mushroom-kin? Wait... she's an elf or something?" Wondered the blue-haired fairy, who had a single ponytail in her hair and was wearing magic armor of the blue color. Her blue and transparent butterfly wings had the shape of snowflakes, making her a beautiful and wondrous-looking fairy girl from the snow.

"Nieve, don't get mad with me!" Cried Florie, as she was hiding behind me.

"G-Get here! I am going to smack some sense into you, you reckless child! As your big sister it's the least I can do!" Nieve, the adorable blue-haired fairy couldn't help but grow madder as her little sister hid behind me.

"P-Please, calm down a bit, there's no point in violence, we can resole things through talking." I said, trying to calm down Nieve as she squinted her eyes and suddenly began to analyze my entire body.

"And you are...? You know that it is strictly prohibited to enter this area, right? It is not a place that the big people can enter!" Nieve said, as a guard her duty was to protect the land of the fairies, I completely understood her motive to get suspicious about me. I had to quickly tell her I had no ill intentions.

"Don't be rude with Lady Planta!" Roared Sporegon.

"Insolent fairy, pay respects to our lady." Said Magius.

"Don't look down on her!" Said Hunter.

"Y-You guys are not making things better!!!" I cried, calming down the three Mushroom-kins from ruining things even more.

"Hoh? You think you can be insolent against the Fairy Royal Guard?!"

"Are those Mushroom-kin?!"

"Didn't they go extinct hundreds of years ago?"

"No matter, don't let them insult us!"

The fairies quickly seemed to point their weapons at us, all while Florie and her fairies were all trembling in fear over what was happening. It seems they were all children incapable of resolving problems when they became as terrible as this. I had to quickly clear misunderstandings before-

"Apprehend them and bring them to prison!" Nieve ordered, unleashing a gust of icy winds that quickly attacked me! Wow! Is this alright?! She's attacking me out of nowhere! I didn't thought NPC could damage Players, but my body is currently being frozen!

"Nieve STOP!" Florie cried, as she unleashed an aura of pink color, as countless flower petals emerged out of her magical aura, clashing against the icy aura of Nieve.

"You shut it! We are in a dire situation and you brought dangerous strangers here! Ice Cage!" Nieve suddenly unleashed an Ice Magic Spell, suddenly create a large cage of ice where she trapped Florie and the other fairies!

"Wawawawaahhh! Stop! Please, we don't have any ill intentions!" I cried, quickly protecting myself from the ice by creating a spiritual shield.

"How dare you hurt our lady! This is death sentence for you fairy folk!" Roared Sporegon.

"Apologize!" Said Hunter.

"We'll burn you!" Said Magius.

"Stop, don't fight them!" I cried, stopping them by walking in front of the Mushroom-kin. Belle, Silver, Loki, and Mimy were all in fighting stance, but I stopped them all from doing something stupid.

"If you're really someone that harbors no ill intentions, then I assume you wouldn't stop us from apprehending you and interrogating you?" Asked Nieve.

"Sigh... Okay, if that's needed..." I said.

This fairy was a real problem!

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Chapter 114: Thrown Into Jail And A Brand New Quest Begins!

Based in the fairies we met, I thought that they were all nice and nature-loving, but Nieve and the other guards quickly told me that they were more organized than I thought! As if it wasn't obvious, there were thousands of them, perhaps almost a hundred thousand, big enough of a population to build this tremendous city in the woods, which could even be said to be a small Kingdom governed by Titania, the Queen of Fairies, being careful about intruders was normal, especially because they held a special barrier that didn't let strangers get inside the nation without the permission of authorized fairies... this includes little Florie.

Her big sister, Nieve, reprimanded her as we walked inside the Kingdom, as I was able to get a better look at the entire thing, and it was... more advanced than I imagined. They even had tamed large bugs and other animals which they used as transportation, and a few hundred of these houses had special devices I had never seen before! Was this magic technology?! There were large chimneys generating some pink gas into the atmosphere, and I could see that there were also giant golems made out of earth and other ores and reinforced with magic technology of some sort, working as guardians.

If we had opposed the fairies and somehow resisted and won, these giant golems, which were close to hundred, would had ended up easily beating us, especially because they were incredibly strong! By

checking their level, I saw they were all over Level 30 or higher! W-What the heck is this?! What is Titania even making these things for? What sort of creature is this strong to need this much defense?

At the end we gave up and were sent inside their "prison" made inside a large and old tree that was mostly hollow inside. The entire tree could easily be shaped by my magic if I wanted, and honestly, it wouldn't be hard to escape if I wanted. But I wanted a peaceful contact with the fairies, so I had to do this and wait for them to interrogate me, if possible, it would be nice if we could meet the Queen right away.

The three Mushrooms were classified as "too dangerous" and were sent to a deeper cage underground. I promised I would go pick them up later... Meanwhile, all my tamed beasts were also caged and put near me as they seemed to be calm as long as they were closer to me. The guards of the fairies were all young and cute, but they surely didn't acted childish as I expected, they were all overly serious.

Sigh... I've gotten myself into some serious trouble right now. Florie really convinced me these people was more... You know, lax? And now I am here! This is supposed to be a game! A-Am I playing some sort of event-

Ding!

[The special effect of [Quest Helper] has activated, a Quest has been generated]

[The quest for [Class Change] and the Hidden Quest for [Subclass] have been merged together with this new Main Quest, a new Special Quest has been generated]

[The World moves as a fast pace, the Fairies doubt about your true intentions despite being a Dryad, if you don't want to live your entire life inside this prison, you'll have to talk to them and tell them the truth of your intentions! However, would that be enough? Even more now when the forces of the Demon King of Miasma have noticed your existence, and the remnants of the past, revived through mysterious powers seem to be targeting the fairies... and you?!]

[Can you convince the fairies of your good intentions and help them resolve this issue before things get out of hand? The darkness of the Queen of Snakes is slowly spreading across the land of the fairies, and maybe there could even be a traitor among the innocent fairy folk! It is your duty as the spirit of this forest to protect it... and its inhabitants.]

[You must make haste, there is still hope!]

[The Special Quest [Save the Fairies and Defeat the Queen of the Snakes] has been generated]

[Do you desire to invite your [Heroes] to this [Special Quest]? A special invitation will be sent to their accounts] [Designed Heroes: [Player: Achlys], [Player: Titan], [NPC: Acorn], [NPC Group: Mushroom Brigade]

<Yes> <No>

Eh?! A-A whole quest emerged! Is this more story mode in the game? And what's with this plot?! It is so thick it feels like I am reading a novel out of the sudden! So the fairies... might have a traitor?! Is that the person that brought the contagious Curse to their land? And the Queen of the Snakes is behind this, just as I had suspected! Is she scheming something? I know that going all out as a wild monster didn't

worked back then, so is she planning to destroy the fairies from the inside? Now that's nasty! I can't let her get away with this. I have to quickly convince the fairies I am a good person and tell them I want to help them!

I do remember something that the Mushroom Brigade said back then... The Queen of Fairies, Titania, has the power to see through the hearts of people. If I find a meeting with her and ask her to see my heart and the honesty I hold, she'll probably believe me and the other fairies might do so as well! That's what I gotta do... but escaping might make things worse. Should I wait for them to bring me out? Do I have to... wait the entire night? Ugh.

Well, should I ask for help? I can invite Rita and Mark, and even Acorn and the Mushroom Brigade... but I fear that they might only generate more ruckus than anything, those three mushrooms ended ruining things over rather than improving the situation after all... But right now, it is not as if I got many options.

I recklessly ended pressing "Yes".

Ding!

[Quest Invitations] have been sent successfully]

And just after that, I saw the door of this room opening, as a group of three fairies came flying my way, led by Nieve, who was sitting over a smaller golem, as if it were some sort of mech! Wow, fairies are really something else in this world.

"Come with us, it is time for your interrogation." She said with a cold demeanor.

"Y-Yes..." I sighed.

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Chapter 115: The Irresponsible Florie And The Overly Cautious Nieve

(Some minutes ago...)

Florie and Nieve gathered within a small room together. Florie's big sister was reprimanding her little sister for being such an irresponsible fairy. Despite being part of the family of warriors and guardians, the little Florie had only been fooling around most of the time. And as if things couldn't get any worse, she ended bringing a group of complete strangers all the way inside the fairy kingdom. Nieve felt completely disappointed in her little sister, who was said to have great magical power and a bright future, and couldn't help but reprimand her for her doing.

"Florie! I've told you countless times to not go out by yourself, especially at NIGHT! Gosh! You're really hopeless, girl!" Nieve reprimanded her sister as her aura of ice generated little snowflakes. The more angry she got, the more these snowflakes would be generated, freezing the room and making Florie tremble in the coldness of her sister's magic.

"I-I already said I am sorry! And Planta and her friends are good people, they saved us from dying against the snakes!" Said Florie. "They're super nice people, and Planta is a Spirit of Nature too, she got special powers that can control plants, she said she healed the faraway tribe of Squirrel-kin! Maybe she can be our hope...!"

"But her servants and pets are dangerous, and they tried to fight back! We cannot simply trust people we just meet like you do, Florie. You have to be more realistic! Also how can we even know she's a Spirit? Can you see through the Truth of people's Souls like the Players can?" Asked Nieve while pouting and crossing her arms while she raised her azure-colored eyebrow. Florie began fidgeting timidly as she waved her head.

"No..." She sighed.

"Then why are you so sure? Anybody can fake being a Spirit of Nature by just using Green Magic now or something?" Asked Nieve. "And what's up with your hands? They're black, did you got oil on them?"

"A-Ah! Yeah... Well, b-but it's true! You have to ask her and she'll show you she's a Dryad for real!" Said Florie. She quickly covered her hands with a handkerchief to clean the black oil over them.

"Queen Titania has been very busy maintaining the health of those affected by this strange curse-disease, we cannot bother with another impersonator of a spirit. Do you remember what happened with the last one that came here saying he could heal us? He ended tricking us and ran away with money! Damn Dwarves, this is why we don't trust the nasty people from the outside of the forest anymore!" Said Nieve.

"But you have to trust her this time! A-And the snakes are getting closer too, they followed me... I think it might be dangerous outside, what if they're planning something?" Asked Florie. "You know about the three Monster Kings, right? The Oracle said that the Shadow Crow King and the Giant Mushroom King had revived as Miasmic Beasts but were suddenly defeated by a Spirit of Nature! I bet that was Planta!"

"That's not something that was proven! The Oracle is a very old lady, sometimes she says strange things that don't make sense even for the Queen Titania! Also there's no way such a powerful Spirit that managed to defeat two revived Monster Kings that tormented our forest in the past is that self-proclaimed "Dryad", especially because if she were that powerful then why did she even let herself get caught? Couldn't she showcase her spiritual powers to let us know she is the real deal?" Asked Nieve. "Unless she's somehow afraid of using her powers or something? But why though? If she's so strong I am sure she would be able to control them to not damage others. Everything you're saying simply doesn't make sense to me, Florie..."

"Gosh! Nieve you're such a stubborn big sis!" Florie cried, as she covered herself with a mantle for the coldness her sister emanated when she got overly angered or serious. "A-Also, I went outside of the Kingdom to look for herbs, I am one of the few with the Alchemy Skill so I can make medicine... I've been trying to find a new type of herb that could heal curses, but it is very hard..."

"Medicinal Herbs that heal curses? They're indeed very rare, even more rare to find if you go out at night. You even put in danger the life of your friends, all of their parents are now angered with you, and such anger will later be directed to our family. As your big sister I'll have to bear with the responsibility, you know?" Asked Nieve angrily.

"I-I know..." Sighed Florie. "B-But I want to help! And what about the snakes?!"

"We are preparing for the snakes! Our Guardian Golems are there for that reason, Florie! We have already fended off an invasion successfully. Although the Ravenous Snake Queen was the strongest of the three Monster Kings, she was defeated by the Ancient Hero Luminous, now that she revived she's

most likely weakened, like the other two! If they were defeated by a Nature Spirit and not a Hero, there's no way the Snake Queen will be stronger than before either... She only has the power to lay a lot of eggs, that's all!" Said Nieve while crossing her arms.

"Uuuggh... Big sis you're so annoying... I hate you!" Florie roared, flying to the corner of the room.

"W-What? I am only worried about you! Don't be such a child, Florie!" Nieve complained.

Knock, knock!

Suddenly, the door opened, as two fairies wearing armor made of bug monster exoskeleton flew inside the room, bringing some news.

"Commander Nieve, the interrogation has been approved by the Court, Queen Titania seems interested and she'll oversee the entire event as well in the Faerie Court."

"What? So soon? Is... Queen Titania serious about this?!" Nieve asked.

"Informants said that Queen Titania "Had a feeling" of something, and she decided to participate and hurry the interrogation..."

"Queen Titania really does odd things sometimes!" Nieve said, as she flew out of the room. "Florie! You better stay at home, don't dare follow me, or I will ban you from using your Atelier for a month!"

"Uugh... You're so mean!"

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Chapter 116: Interrogation

(Elayne's POV)

As I suddenly got a new Quest telling me about an approaching menace, I quickly realized I wouldn't be sleeping any time soon. I will probably stay playing until this gets done with. The first thing I must do is convince the Fairies my intention and that I mean no harm. I had not tried to fight nor showcase my power because that could had brought them harm, and I don't want to be known as a brute either nor I am! I prefer to always talk things out instead. Therefore, I had decided to allow them to bring me to that prison cell.

...Though, I really felt bad that they did that, I was already feeling quite hopeless. Nonetheless, they came quickly after, saying that I was being interrogated. If this was a story the genre would be shifting a lot! Am I going to be sent in front of tons of people and asked questions? Can't these people trust me already? Maybe I should really show them I can summon Spirits? Or that's not even important? Perhaps showing them I can turn into wood and plants... I guess that could work! Although I have yet to evolve, so that power is still slightly limited.

And here I am, I was suddenly finding myself sitting over a large chair, surrounded by dozens of fairies of all shapes and sizes. They were all adorable though, but their face expressions didn't showed that adorableness of fairies at all! In fact, they looked frightening, it felt like they were really angry at me. Some even showed very weird faces! Though, all of them looked like young and handsome/beautiful people, so it wasn't so bad to see them angry, they looked cute. I also saw Nieve in front of me, she seemed to be the one that would ask stuff.

However, aside from everyone in here, I felt a different and powerful presence nearby. It was the presence of someone lustrous and mysterious, with incredible quantities of spiritual power leaking from her. When I looked up, I saw someone sitting in a throne made of flowers and plants, surrounded by fairy guards and large beetle monsters decorated with leather armor and paintings. It was a beautiful woman of almost my same size, not small like the fairies. She had enormous butterfly-like wings, pink and purple-colored, semi-transparent, and that showed bright eye-shaped patterns. Her skin was fair like porcelain, and her eyes bright gold like the sun in the morning, her long blonde hair was decorated with dozens of blooming flowers and vines intertwined within her lustrous and silky hair.

Her expression seemed serene yet serious, her eyebrows were sharp and thin, showing a certain authority and the absolute beauty of regality. Her dress was white and semi-transparent, showing beautiful flower and butterfly paintings as decorations. She was wearing special accessories made out of plant materials as well, and a set of colorful rings. I always thought fairies disliked ores but they used magical ores without any problem, especially jewels. This woman in specific wore a large set of accessories that emanated powerful magic. However, deep down, I also felt something odd on her. The power she emanated didn't felt like her truest power, it felt as if she was weakened, and very exhausted. I suddenly noticed a small black flame in the depths of her chest, it was only a single second that I saw it, right before I was snapped back to reality.

"You're staring rather attentively to our Queen; have you been enchanted by her divine beauty? She's nobody else than Queen Titania, our all-mother." Said Nieve.

"Q-Queen Titania?!" I asked, as the beautiful and tall fairy queen nodded in silence, without saying a word. She seemed mysterious and didn't seem to be a woman that enjoyed talking that much. She was here as a judge probably.

"Is she the intruder that your irresponsible little sister brought here, Nieve?" Suddenly, a green-haired and rowdy-looking young fairy man wearing a suit spoke. He seemed to look at me with resentment! W-What did I even do to earn their glares?!

"Yes, she is..." Sighed Nieve.

"Hmph, it is quite obvious she's from the outside world if she's looking at our Queen with such disrespectfulness!" Said the fairy.

"Walnut stop being so annoying, we are about to begin the interrogation." Said Nieve.

"Annoying?! Insolent... You're merely a guard! You dare call me annoying?! I am the leader of the House of Green Leaf, without me you wouldn't even have food to eat every day as easily!" Said Walnut, the man seemed rather angry.

"Silence."

Queen Titania suddenly interrupted him, as he jerked back into his seat and fell into silence.

"S-Sorry..."

Nieve sighed, feeling freed from that one annoying lad, she quickly began the interrogation.

"We have in here the one that my little sister brought, she is a self-proclaimed Spirit of the Forest, and her intentions seem to be good. Her servants were rather rude against us, but from what she has told me, they didn't intend to hurt us." Said Nieve. "Now, we shall start the interrogation to decide if Planta is either an ally or a foe..."

"F-Foe?!" I asked fearfully.

"Now! Let's begin this interrogation, which was ensued by the Queen herself." Said Nieve. "Planta, our first question is... who exactly are you?"

"|-|..."

Should I tell them I am a Player? I have to tell them I am a Dryad and about my powers, and how I helped the Squirrels as well! That should do it, shouldn't it? Also I got the Title of Squirrel Savior. I don't know how NPC can do it, but I'm pretty sure they can perceive Titles in some way or another...

"I am a Player, and also a Spirit of Nature sent here by the Goddess of Life and Souls, the Almighty Lady Gaia... As you can see..." I said, quickly showing everybody my hands, which suddenly began to shapeshift, growing into several branches and growing leaves, turning into a small bush which quickly began to sprout flowers, and generated small apple-like fruits. This was the most shapeshifting I cold do, and this alone cost me half my MP!

I hope this is enough to show them I am actually a Dryad...

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Chapter 117: I Am A Dryad!

I quickly showed everybody my hands, which suddenly began to shapeshift, growing into several branches and growing leaves, turning into a small bush which quickly began to sprout flowers, and generated small apple-like fruits. This was the most shapeshifting I cold do, and this alone cost me half my MP! I hope this is enough to show them I am actually a Dryad...

Before the eyes of the fairies, I showcased my ability to plant shapeshift. I had tried it countless times before in my free time sometimes. It wasn't completely limitless. The easiest thing I could do was spread it into many branches of hard wood or detach them from me. The more I learn to shape it, the better I can create wood utensils and other things, and even weapons or armor made of my own wood, although that's not that good. I also can create flowers and make them turn into fruits, but these fruits are not the best out there, they're merely named "Dryad's Gifts" and can recover a bit of HP and MP alongside Satiation to anybody except me, so eating myself doesn't work. But the amount of MP I need to create fruits is exhausting, I already wasted over half my MP to do this, so it's not really that good at all.

The eyes of the fairies opened wide, some covered their mouths that were wide open, even the annoying Walnut raised his eyebrows in surprise. The Queen Titania also seemed slightly interested, moving her face closer to my direction, interested about the magic I had used.

"C-Can you see? By using a lot of Mana, I can turn into different shapes of plants. I am literally a walking plant that can take the shape of a woman... I am part of nature itself, despite being a Player." I said.

"A Player and also a Dryad? I had never seen such a thing happen!"

"Aren't Players the Immortals? Those greedy people that destroy the ecology and call us "Enpici"?"

"They're strange ones, although they populate a large quantity of the world, their desire is mostly hunting and gathering within themselves, they do interact with various of the inhabitants, but most of the time, it is nothing compromising... But well, I don't know much."

"Immortals can revive even after death, but they cannot revive us, the original inhabitants... They're strange entities, some call them the creations of the gods, others call them... demons."

Nieve fell into silence while she heard everyone in the council and their words and opinions. I had no idea these people were so complex that they even became offended when they were called "NPC"... I guess this virtual world is incredibly realistic in that regard, kind of makes it even more fun and interesting, but also dangerous.

Apparently the Players don't have the best reputation. Maybe it is a thing of the fairies only, or perhaps other races or groups of NPC think similarly, but they seem to see the Immortals as people that is quite dangerous, but at the same time distant most of the time. Perhaps because there are penalties by killing NPC, most of the Player base doesn't kill them out of fun, thankfully.

But I bet they still had treated them badly, and maybe this has already become a common problem across the world for the NPC themselves... But wait, isn't this a bit too disadvantageous for the player base? Wouldn't it be bad if the game itself and its inhabitants see us, the Players, as slightly evil sided?

Well, there's no way it is that bad, I think they're exaggerating. If Players were being discriminated by NPC or something there would be countless people complaining in the Forums about it, so maybe the fairies and certain groups of more secretive races are the ones that seem to see Players as dangerous. Or whatever's the case, it is not like I can easily guess.

Though being called an "Immortal" is quite shocking, especially when we take into consideration that the NPC can't revive after death... We are really considered a completely different species of beings, and perhaps they had a history before we even existed. Perhaps the whole game is made in a way so Players seem like Isekai'd people into this world, aliens, maybe... Well, doesn't that make us even creepier?

"Y-You're a Player?" Asked Nieve, her expression quickly changed as she felt slightly... afraid.

"Yeah... N-Nothing wrong with that, right? I don't mean any harm, I swear!" I said.

"Hmm... The last time we ever interacted with a Player, we were tricked and had our things stolen by him... It was a tricky Dwarf man that said he traveled around the world collecting materials... He gave us a false medicine to treat our disease, making it seem as if it was working by alleviating pain, but it was merely a medicine for pain, it didn't fixed anybody!" Said Walnut angrily, as he pointed his finger at me.

"Eh?! T-That's terrible! I am sorry for that... Let me tell you that not all of us players are like that, that must had been someone that disregarded you as people, but I believe you're people and I dislike calling you NPC..." I said with all honestly. The Fairies all squinted their eyes.

"Then what's your truest intention here?" Asked Nieve.

"My intention is... I want to help you! I already helped the Squirrel-kin tribe and I've become a good friend of them, I even got a friend squirrel named Acorn, a rather amazing Alchemist! The Tree of the

Beginnings told me that the fairies needed my help. I've been cleansing the forest from any Miasmic Beast I've seen, I already defeated a Giant Mushroom King and a Shadow Crow King who were also Miasmic Beasts of high level... I received a divine message from Gaia telling me my task here was helping you recover from the disease or curse you've been inflicted with while also helping you defend from the snakes and later defeat the Snake Queen... I am saying the truth, please believe me!"

Everyone quickly fell silent for several seconds, until the Queen of Fairies spoke.

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Chapter 118: A Sudden Interrumption

The Fairy Queen, Titania. According to what the Mushroom Brigade had said, has existed since the past when the Hero that led them came to this forest seeking the aid of the fairies in defeating the Demon King. He wanted their power so he could be able to withstand the darkness spreading through the Old Lands. However, because this forest had a bad history with humans hunting their inhabitants, she disliked humans, but saw through the honest heart of the Hero, and ended deciding to give him three challenges. These were the three Monster Kings that were tormenting the Forest of Beginnings of the past. They were the Shadow Crow King, the Giant Walking Mushroom King, and the Ravenous Snake Queen.

The Mushroom Hero, accompanied by his valiant Mushroom Brigade slain the army of Miasmic Beasts and killed the three Kings through arduous hard work. The Queen then rewarded him with something... I don't know what, they never said what it was. But she did recognize him and helped him in one way or the other. I had already voiced everything I could, and then, she finally decided to speak in my regards.

"I can feel the honesty and warmth within your heart, Planta. We have a grudge against Players due to that one man, however, and I cannot easily risk upsetting my people by easily accepting you as an ally. Nonetheless, you appear to be willing to aid us, and your abilities would be greatly appreciated... We are facing a difficult time, in all my years of life, I never thought that after the Fragmentation and the Rehashing, these evils of the world would somehow crawl back from the mud they were left resting..." She said with a serene and tranquil smile. She seemed to take into consideration many things. Despite her youthful appearance, she spoke slowly and wisely, like a grandma.

"Two had been defeated, but the strongest of them all, the Snake Queen, lurks behind us within the Dark Woods, near the Miasma Swamps. If you're willing to aid us, could you lend us your strength in defeating this evil? I have already assumed it was also, most likely, the origin of this disease we are presenting... Even I, have fallen ill, and my power is being drained bit by bit... Cough...!"

Titania spoke with a gentle voice filled with serenity and authority, but she quickly coughed at the end, as she was given a handkerchief by a fairy assistant. I noticed a bit of blood painting the white color of the leather. The fairies quickly grew alarmed as they saw it as well, noticing something was wrong, they quickly asked her if she was alright.

"Queen Titania!"

"Are you feeling unwell?"

"Please, go back to your room to rest...!"

"No, I am alright... I have more stamina and vitality than all of you. Even if inflicted with this curse, I will probably be the last one to perish." Sighed Queen Titania. "Planta, could you-"

As I was about to answer with a big "Yes", the doors of the council opened wide, as dozens of armed fairies flew at a fast speed, alarmed about something that was happening outside. I quickly grew shocked, although I wanted Queen Titania to let me go free, something even more urgent was happening.

"Queen Titania, the Snakes!"

"Hundreds of Giant Venomous Snakes and their other subspecies, and even Miasmic Beasts have emerged from within the Dark Woods!"

"A battalion of dozens are currently assaulting our barriers!"

"What?! Again? These snakes never give up, don't they?" Titania said angrily, as her butterfly wings spread out and released bright colors, she quickly stood up and flew outside with most of the council.

"We have to quickly gather the troops, perhaps we should also use the golems this time... We won't give in to the Army of the Snake Queen!"

"Understood!"

"W-Wait! What about... me?" I sighed, as I saw most if not all the people leave, only Nieve was left alongside two other council members.

"Well, it appears that the council was interrupted, it would be better for you to go back to your cell until Queen Titania can rearrange this once more." Said Nieve.

"W-What?! But she was asking me to help her! I can! I will help her!" I cried.

"As long as she doesn't give the approval of your response it means nothing! Now don't try to resist, or we'll change our mind about what you said. Queen Titania trusted your heart, so you better behave until she's not busy anymore. Perhaps tomorrow... I don't know how big this snake army could be, but we'll get through it. We don't need the help of any outsiders anyways! Guards, bring her back to her cell!" Nieve proclaimed, as I was dragged back. I could had resisted and fought back, but I didn't wanted to make a bad impression. And if I did something reckless, I would had simply made things worse.

I mean, I know this is a damn game but it is so realistic, and this quest seems very detailed and all... If I do something wrong, everything might be ruined. So at the end, I was once more back to my cell... Ugh. My monster pets and summons were at my side in their cages, mostly in silence. Maybe I could tell them to go assist the fairies, but that would only make more problems. Ugh, I wish I wasn't so considerate.

"Ugh, Belle, what should I do? I don't want to ruin this but I want to help them... Maybe if I help them they'll know I have no bad intentions?" I wondered, looking at my goat who was imprisoned in a cage made of steel, she could easily break through it with her Horn Charge though.

"Meeeee!"

Belle enlightened me with words of advice, I didn't understood them.

"You're so cute... I bet you're cheering for me, don't you?" I giggled while petting her.

"This is quite the situation that you've dragged us in!"

Suddenly, the voice of someone I recognized resonated within the underground prison cells, as I saw a beautiful dark elf wearing black robes emerge holding some keys, I also noticed two unconsios fairies behind her...

"Eh! Rita?!"

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Chapter 119: Rita To The Rescue

A wild Rita has appeared! I didn't even noticed the System Notification saying she had logged in! I guess she really came to save me but- What the heck did she do?! She knocked out two fairy guards?! Is she insane! Ugh! All the approval I worked hard to earn is now in the gutter!

"Rita, you idiot!!!" I cried, as she opened the door and I suddenly swung my hand at her, but an invisible wall stopped me from hitting her in the face. Ah, this was the Anti-PVP thingy.

"Woah! W-what's wrong?! You created the Quest and sent it to me! I came here to rescue you like the Quest said I should..." Sighed Rita while looking at me as she raised an eyebrow. "But anyways, been a while since we saw each other in game! It has been like two weeks since we saw each other in real life too, I missed you my cinnamon roll~!" Rita spread her arms and hugged me tightly, showering my face with kisses.

I fought against her hugs as I struggled and moved away from her. As we were friends, it was possible to touch one another and hug each other without restrictions as long as they didn't meant any harm. But currently I didn't had the time to deal with hugs!

"But you shouldn't had hit the fairies and knocked them out! Also how did you get in here if there is a barrier that stops people from infiltering inside the kingdom?" I asked her.

"The System guided me into a secret passage, also the barrier was easy to trespass, I simply used the power of the Spirits of Darkness and used the [Intangibility] Spell to get through it, easy peasy~!" Laughed Rita rather cockily. "But why are you so worried?! And let me hug you a bit more! I need my weekly fix of Elayne cuteness...! I've missed you!"

Rita once more began to hug me and squeeze me with her arms, kissing my forehead a lot as if I were some sort of baby... Ugh, she's really clingy sometimes. I kissed her cheek and then moved away again.

"I get that you missed me, but this is not the time to go around hugging each other, we are adult women too, it's kind of weird you get so clingy!" I said.

"Eeeeh?! So harsh! You're like my little sister!" Said Rita.

"Now listen to me and stop being so carefree! The quest is about helping and befriending the fairies... You know what you just did here? You hit them! Now they'll see us as bad people! These fairies are annoyingly delicate and overly serious, I was invited by a young fairy here and I thought it was going to be fun, but they thought I was an invader and sent me to prison!" I cried. "I can't help them if they see me as a foe, you know?"

"Oh, I get it..." Said Rita, looking back at the mess she left behind. "Oops... Well! It's not like we can't make up for it! Right? There's a bunch of giant snake monsters coming to this place right now, so let's go beat them up for the moment, alright?"

"You're way too carefree..." I sighed.

"And you're taking a game way too seriously, relax, relax~!" Said Rita while waving her hands.

"Ugh! Well, you already kind of ruined it. Also this is my Class Change and Subclass Quest so I cannot really take it easy... Rita you're not a gamer so you don't understand, but when we play games, we think they're more than just a game, you know?" I asked angrily.

"Geez, you're getting all weird again, okaaaay~" Rita laughed off at my words, I felt offended as a casual gamer. Even as casual as I am, still got the pride of a gamer! Nonetheless, I quickly took out my Spear and pointed it at the cage, I was able to easily shapeshift this spear as it was made out of the wood of the Tree of Beginnings and I had used my own wood as well, so it felt like a part of my own body at times.

The true power of this spear was that I could shapeshift into various farming tools, and through the [Farming Tools Usage] Skill, the power of my farming tools was enhanced as if it were a weapon skill, with a single swing of my weapon, I easily freed my tamed pets and summons.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"Meee!"

"Gryshiii!"

"Roar!"

"Guu!"

Belle, Loki, Silver, and Mimy all were freed, and they ran towards me, jumping over my body and beginning to lick me with their various and differently shaped tongues. They seemed to have grown slightly distressed inside cages, especially Silver and Mimy who are tamed pets and not summons, having affection bars made it so I had to pay extra attention to not upset them. I took out some meat from my Inventory and feed it to them, and well, Loki also wanted to eat some. Belle ate a pile of Grass I made for her and some leaves I produced over my arm.

"Gross! You're feeding the goat with your own body?!" Asked Rita. "Doesn't it hurt?"

"Hurt? Well, I turned the pain settings to almost nothing so I only feel a little scratchy feeling. Each leaf is just around 1 HP and my HP recovers quickly took, so this is an efficient way to feed Belle without complications." I said with a prideful smile.

"Meeee!"

Belle seemed to agree, she was having a nice time eating, Rita was just a bully that didn't took her into consideration!

"Here, have some too," I said, giving Rita a red fruit I had already produced beforehand, she ate it and found it sweet and tasty.

"Oooh?! This is good! It recovered a bit of MP and HP... Tastes like a mix of apple and peach." Said Rita. "These are...?"

"They're fruits produced from my body! They're called Dryad's Gift!" I said with a smile.

"Uegh...!"

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Chapter 120: The Venomous Snake Queen Invasion

After freeing my pets and summons, we ran upstairs, ignoring the two unconscious guard fairies for the moment and quickly finding ourselves inside the empty halls that led to this underground dungeon. We had yet to leave this place, as I was looking for my Mushroom Brigade friends, Magius, Sporegon and Hunter, the three of them were left somewhere else around these places, but I wish I could know which place in specific! I know they were sent to a deeper level, but down where I was there wasn't any more stairs leading even more down, so wherever they are, it is surely not there.

"What are we even looking for now, Planta?" Asked Rita. "Let's go outside to beat the snakes!"

"No, we have to find three of the Mushroom brigade members, they were with me!" I sighed, looking around, and quickly finding there was a passage within the halls leading to another underground staircase. There weren't any more guards, it seems that they all went to help in defeating the snakes, thankfully.

"There! Let's go!" I said, leading Rita behind me as we ran downstairs, suddenly finding a pair of fairy guards deep down there! They easily spotted us and pointed weapons at us, special magic-infused spears. But if Rita defeated them, then they're not that big of a deal to incapacitate, right?

"Hey! Stop where you are! Eh?! Isn't that the Dryad we captured?!"

"Wait, that's a Dark Elf?! Who are you? Did you freed the prisoner?!"

The two fairies looked cute even as guards, and I seriously didn't wanted to hurt them, but we were in a hurry and I had no time to talk either, we had to deal with them as quickly as possible.

"W-We were just wandering around!" Laughed Rita, as we slowly got closer to them.

"Y-You're dangerous! How come you infiltered our city without- Eh?!" One of the fairies realized something was odd with me, as Loki and Silver emerged from my back where they were hiding, jumping over the fairies.

"Loki! Silver! Capture them but don't kill them!" I ordered.

"Gryshiii!"

"Roar!"

Loki used her long vines to wrap around one of the fairies, without using the venom nor the stingy spikes she had, she quickly immobilized him. NPC can use magic through special magic items or weapons

or through chanting, but if they cannot chant, there's a big chance they can't use magic either, so Loki made sure to cover his mouth, the same as Silver. She easily crushed one into the ground and swiftly wrapped herself around him while covering his mouth, in a few seconds, both fairies, were knocked out due to lack of oxygen, barely left alive. I sprinkled a bit of healing magic over them to refill a bit of their HP while feeling guilty.

"Sorry, sorry! I'll make up for it later! I am really sorryyy!" I cried, as I healed their HP a little, both were too knocked out to even hear me.

"There they are! Come here Planta! I found your champy friends!" Rita said, as she was already in front of the ceiling where the Mushroom Brigade members were left imprisoned.

"Oh? Aren't you the friend of our lady?"

"Achlys, right?"

"What is going on now? Can we escape or what?"

I quickly ran to help them, greeting them with a smile so they could feel reassured.

"Hey guys! Sorry for being late... Rita came to rescue me... I was a bit indecisive, I was about to be freed when snakes came and interrupted the council, so they threw me back to jail again for some reason! Ugh, that Nieve is a bit too prideful, not wanting my help...! A-Anyways, I'll release you!"

"Ah, my lady!" Cried Sporegon. "Seeing your face fills me with motivation, please, allow me to free ourselves, don't bother yourself!" Sporegon suddenly crushed the cell bars and opened a large enough hole for everyone to walk outside... wow, he's strong! Wait, I wonder if I can do it too?

"I am so happy to see my lady unscathed, I was about to go and blast everyone with Fireballs to free you! I can't believe you would allow them to treat you in such a manner..." Sighed Magius.

"There's a limit to how they can treat you, you're someone very important, my lady." Said Hunter.

"You guys are always so considerate with little ol' me..." I sighed. "For now, let's get out of here!"

"Alright!"

With three new companions, we quickly ran outside of the dungeons, finding ourselves once more in the empty halls where the underground prisons were located. We quickly decided to run into the entrance, which was opened wide. Quickly finding ourselves in the middle of the city of the fairies. Many fairies were flying everywhere, emanating bright colors from their butterfly-like wings. The people seemed alarmed and afraid, as a large army of fairies were moving to the frontlines, and even the giant golems protecting the place were beginning to move!

"W-Woah! What is happening right now?!" Asked Magius in shock.

"The snakes from the Snake Queen are coming, there's a whole commotion about it!" I cried.

"The Snake Queen! Naturally, after the Shadow Crow King and the Giant Walking Mushroom King revived and were defeated by our lady, it was a thing of common sense that the last of the three, and

the strongest, the Snake Queen, would emerge! Is she targeting you or the fairies, milady?" Wondered Sporegon.

"Both? I think both! The System Quest, did you get it? It said something about targeting me and also the fairies. This curse slash disease thingy they're all being infected with might be conjured by her in some way. It even implied a traitor amongst the fairies! Perhaps there was someone that ended spreading the curse first and also the one that might have weakened the barrier for the snakes to get through..." I said, as the mushroom brigade members nodded while rubbing their chins- well, they didn't had chins.

"Everything is a bit confusing, but we should go aid the fairies. This is the ideal moment to showcase them your true strength, milady." Said Magius. "After helping them, they'll probably trust you as well, so it is two birds with one stone!

"True! Let's go!"