

Brand New 151

[Brand New Life Online: Rise Of The Goddess Of Harvest](#)

Chapter 151: Logging Off And A Mysterious Voice?

"Now, please, you two as well, come here." The Queen said. As she called Achlys and Titan too. The two were also granted bonus stats and even the Protection Skill, so it wasn't just me. The Queen was very nice to give it to all three of us players. Except Nieve, who isn't a player but I had assumed she would... Maybe she has limits or restrictions.

She had the intention of talking about whatever the "Rehashing" was, but she ended stopping right after starting due to having been "restricted", as if the whole world didn't wanted her to tell us about this. Is this some sort of story portion of this game's lore we are not supposed to learn about yet?

Hm, well, maybe, I guess.

"Uuooh?! I gained ten to all stats and new Skills and a Title! No way!" Titan said happily. "Special Quests are really the best!"

"Oh, I also got that..." Achlys said.

"Now, I wish you all good luck." Said the Queen.

"Thank you for everything, we are in our way. Acorn should be able to devise something in a few hours, so hang in there." I said while waving my hand.

After we left the room, Nieve seemed to have cheered up a bit. Perhaps she was happy to see the Queen, who all the Fairies revere so much.

Ding!

[Act III] of the Event Quest has been completed]

[Moving towards [Act IV]: [Find the Culprit Before It's Too Late]

[Now that you and your party have defeated the Giant Snake and made friends with the Fairies, all while gaining the Fairy Queen's Blessings, there is nothing else to do than find the culprit behind the Golem Sabotage and also the one behind the spreading of this destructive disease, which are one and the same. There are clues left behind everywhere within the Kingdom, ask people about what they had seen, gather the clues, and find the one behind this before it is too late! You only have 48 Hours before it is too late.]

Huh? Act IV now? And I only have two days to do this before it's too late, huh? So these Quests got something like a time limit. I guess it is a respectable amount of time, we can go sleep for now and then we can complete this tomorrow, as it is the first day of the weekend. It also seems that everybody in the Party got a similar notification but without the specifications.

I decided to quickly tell this to Achlys and Titan, while sending some Chat Messages to Acorn and the Mushroom Brigade. Apparently the Mushroom Brigade can access to some things of the System similar to Acorn, albeit slightly limited. Perhaps because they're not true NPC but also my Summons.

"I see, so that's how it is. We can't move on until we find the culprit, huh? Thankfully it has a 48 Hour Limit, that's pretty long. We can go to sleep now and we could log-in tomorrow after lunch, around 3 PM is fine for you guys?" Wondered Titan.

"Yeah, it's fine for me!" I said.

"Same, been a while since I played and this is getting a bit fun. Though I've never been into games before, VR is really just a different experience than just playing normal games that always bored me. Getting involved into the world and all, it is more like living a movie." Said Rita (Achlys).

"Well yeah, I also felt that way." Said Titan with a laugh. Mark seemed very sleepy, so he swiftly logged after we chatted for five more minutes.

"Bye-bye!" Rita quickly logged out as well after giving showering my face with kisses.

As I was left alone standing around the castle, I walked towards a large window and looked into the night sky and the beautiful moonlight.

"I'm going to sleep now, Great Spirit, are you going to be okay if I log-off?" I asked her.

"Hm? I am inside of your soul so no matter where you go I'll stay with you, don't worry about me." She said.

"Hahaha... This game really says weird things sometimes." I laughed.

"Game?" The Great Spirit asked again.

"Oh, nothing, nothing. Goodnight then!" I said.

"Goodnight." The Great Spirit answered gently, as I quickly logged off.

When I opened my eyes in the real world, I quickly took out the VR Helmet and went to the bathroom to wash my face a bit, and also do the deed. After that, I was feeling too tired, so I dropped over the bed half-dead and quickly dozed off.

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"Hm, so this is the "other world", huh?"

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"Pretty different from the other..."

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"Oh, is that a black cat?"

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"Hmm... The flow of Mana here is thin, but I can feel the connection..."

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"But there's something wrong here... A distortion? No..."

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"Huh, I better not bother her for now, this world seems vastly different, even her appearance changed. I never thought she was a mere human. I feel a bit disappointed."

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When I woke up, I felt as if someone had been talking all the time inside my room at night. It was probably one of those dreams where we talk while sleeping...

Yeah, that must have been.

I quickly decided to walk back to the bathroom and wash my face again, quickly doing the deed and then taking a warm bath.

"Phew... Nothing beats a warm bath in the morning..." I sighed in relief.

"Oohh! So you can create warm water and light up a place without magic? How does this works?"

"Huh?"

Suddenly, I heard a very small voice, that of a woman.

It resonated somewhere. I looked everywhere paranoically but found nothing.

"W-Who's there...?"

Silence.

Ah, it must be my own imagination, maybe?

Perhaps I am getting a bit paranoid for playing too much VR games.

Yeah...

T-That must be it.

...The other possibility is that I am getting haunted.

Haha, no way.

R-Right...?

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Chapter 152: A Calm Morning

After I washed my face a second time and decided to just forget about my weird imagination, I decided to see the hour. It was around 10 AM. It was quite late for breakfast, but its not like we had any hurry in the weekend. I decided to go take a peek at my daughter, as I found her sleeping leisurely. I felt the warmth in my heart increase by seeing her sleep so peacefully. This is one of the reasons why I work hard each week, so I can see her sleep so peacefully, so I can ensure her a good life... And I will keep working until I fall apart into pieces for her.

At the end, I sneaked into her room and gave her a kiss in the cheek before swiftly leaving. I didn't wanted to disturb her and she was in the right to sleep as late as she wanted in the weekend. Whenever the next week begins we'll move to my mother's house in the countryside, so she'll be a bit grumpy. But I said she could bring her friend, so she was probably going to bring Anna with her, with that, she was already quite happy.

I looked into the window of the kitchen for a bit, seeing the sunlight illuminating the streets and a few people walking leisurely, today was sure a peaceful morning... Without a doubt.

"I might as well make some breakfast."

I quickly decided to make something to eat. I was getting pretty hungry. I decided to make something less complicated, as I just took some eggs and pancake batter I had already pre-made and left in the freezer covered in transparent plastic foil. The smell of the pancakes was fragrant and delicious, as I had added some vanilla extract to them.

I also made some scrambled eggs with bacon because I was feeling like having an American Breakfast today. I usually don't eat as much as the traditional families of my neighboring country, but they sure know how to eat when they're hungry. The bacons smelled just fine, and the egg was quite good as well. The toasts were almost ready, and my Coffee with Milk was just done.

After getting everything over the table, I sat down and began enjoying things while watching TV leisurely. Nothing beats just relaxing for a bit after a big gaming session... Ah, I am doing a bunch of things in the game but I have yet to find my daughter... I think I can begin searching for her after I am done with the Fairy's Quest. I've been constantly stopped by quests showing up one after the other, so I really didn't had any time...

"Hmm, this is so good..." I sighed happily.

My country's most famous product, Maple Syrup, went deliciously well with the pancakes. I also didn't shy away from adding some berries and a tiny bit of whipped cream. The whole three pancakes I made for myself disappeared in less than five minutes. The bacon was so tasty as well, accompanied with the scrambled eggs and the toasts covered in butter. I was being a bit gluttonous today, but I planned to enjoy myself for a bit anyways.

After all, today I am going to the Gym!

Hehehe, that's right. This is why I am wearing my new gym clothes I got the other week. I've already subscribed in the gym and I can assist each weekend from 12 AM to 14 PM. I already told Elena about this, so she'll make her own breakfast like a grown-up girl, though I left her everything almost premade, I hope she can make her breakfast by herself.

"Phew, I think I ate a bit too much... Oh? Elena, good morning!"

I saw my daughter walking out of her room sleepily.

"Hi... I'm hungry."

"Alright, I'll make you breakfast before I leave!"

"Leave?"

"I'm going to the gym! Remember?"

"Oh... Y-Yeah, I remember."

"Hmmm..."

She clearly forgot about it, huh.

As I was making pancakes and she sat down to look at her phone, I began to repeat to her that I was going to the gym for like the sixth time.

"Elena, remember! I am going to the gym every weekend from 12 to 14!" I sighed.

"O-Oh, right..." She said.

"It is just two tiny hours." I said. "I know I have little time at my hands, and it was hard to decide the time because I didn't wanted to leave you alone all the weekend..."

"It's okay mom... I am glad you're... finding some time for you as well. You could had taken more time, I don't really mind."

"R-Really? Even if I make lunch later than usual?" I asked her.

"Hm. And if you don't make lunch in time I can always just bring delivery food. Like burger, sushi or pizza." She said.

"Eeehh... T-That's not the most healthiest food out there..." I said. Maybe traditional sushi is just raw fish, but the sushi sold by local places here are just rolls filled with rice and fried chicken or shrimp, sometimes fried over again. That's not healthy at all!

...Then again, I am thinking that while eating bacon with scrambled eggs and having three pancakes inside my stomach. I guess I am quite cocky myself.

"Hm, don't sweat it. Anna will come today by the by." She said.

"Really? At which hour?" I wondered.

"In a few hours, you'll see her here when she comes." She answered.

"A-Alright then! Here's your breakfast, my princess." I served my daughter a big feast with the same things I ate, as she looked at the food with eyes shining brightly.

She immediately began wolfing down the pancakes, drinking some coffee and then biting a toast with butter and eggs. She was enjoying herself quite a lot.

"You like mama's breakfast, honey?" I asked while smiling.

"Hm... I can't live without it." She said.

"Oooh? Is that so? Hehehe..." I couldn't help but giggle.

But then.

Ding! Ding!

My phone rang, it was already 12!

"Crap! It's already 12?! I'm going off then, take care!"

I kissed my daughter's forehead as I ran out of the house as fast as possible.

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Chapter 153: Going To The Gym With Rita

As I ran to the gym, which was just around the corner of my house, I took my phone and saw a text from Rita.

[Rita: Hey Elayne, I'm already in the gym, how long are you going to take?]

R-Right! She was coming along with me to the Gym... This happened because I was actually quite afraid of going alone. I needed someone to encourage me, and she decided to come along because she was also getting a bit too much weight.

[Elayne: I am sorryyyyy! I am already getting there!]

[Rita is typing...]

[Rita: Okay, make haste, Planta!]

[Elayne: Don't call me like my game avatar!]

[Rita: The Fairy Queen would be disappointed if she knew you're such a slacker!]

[Elayne: Ugh, if you talk about the game like this it gets cringy super-fast... Please stop!]

[Rita: Hahahaha! Ohhh, look at this guy! He got some good ass]

[Picture]

"Ehhh?!"

Rita suddenly sent me a picture of a muscular guy working out in the gym. He indeed had a beautiful ass... But isn't this a bit too perverted? She's such a degenerate!

[Elayne: RITA! You're married, don't go look at men like that! Also don't take pictures, that's creepy...]

[Rita: Hahaha! Come on, I am just enjoying the view... You'll love it! So many hot guys! Holy shit... Maybe you can get popular here because you're alone ;)]

[Elayne is typing...]

[Elayne: Sop talking nonsense! Degenerate!]

[Rita: Jajajaja]

Ggrrr... That Rita really gets in my nerves sometimes by talking such embarrassing things!

When I finally got into the gym, I showed my ID and then got inside. It was just as big as I remember it. The building had two floors and it seemed to have windows everywhere. Thankfully the bathrooms didn't had them.

This gym was pretty high quality. I had checked the bathroom for ladies and it was just very beautiful and clean. It also has separate showers and warm water with fragrant soap. The monthly fee is around a 100 Canadian Dollars, but it was really worth it! I have thought about coming more times through the week too. And I might end up staying longer here in the weekend, as Elena said it was fine to take more time for myself.

"Uwaah, the place is big..." I said to myself, but my voice ended coming out slightly louder. A burly man with tanned skin and a handsome face suddenly noticed me and walked towards me.

"Hey, you're a newbie here?" He asked.

He really looked like the typical "Gym Bro" and I was already melting with that body he had! My god, why are you tempting this woman like this?!

"H-Hi... Y-Yeah..." I said while trying to look into his eyes, but my eyes always ended falling down to his chest and his big arms.

"That's nice! Name's Julio. I am an instructor here in the Gym. What's your name?" he asked nicely.

"E-Elayne..." I said. "Nice to meet you, Julio. I hope you can be nice with me..." I said slightly timidly.

"Sure thing! So? Do you need some introduction around the area or something? That's my job." He said while patting my shoulder.

"Erm, I came with a friend here, she's waiting for me somewhere... have you seen someone named Rita?" I asked.

"Rita... Rita... OH! Yeah, a woman near your age, right? She came here and she was super nice and talkative! I already gave her an introduction. She said she was waiting for a friend. She's on the second floor. Want me to bring you there while showing you the place?"

"S-Sure! Thank you so much."

"No problem, that's my job! Ask me anything!"

Julio was actually super nice. He introduced me around the entire gym and showed me each area in detail. He even told me they did dancing classes here to exercise too, which are often preferred for ladies my age. I ended seeing him off after I met with Rita, as he walked away leisurely and quickly found another newbie to introduce. It seems he took his job seriously.

"Hahaha, Elayne! How are ya- GYAAH!" Rita cried as I grabbed the tiny hair of her arm and pulled it out furiously. "I-I know you're angry but don't be! I was just joking! Come on..."

"Ggrrr...! You know? Sometimes I begin to reconsider our friendship when I realize I am the friend of such a huge degenerate!" I sighed while crossing my arms.

"D-Degenerate? Now you're exaggerating... I am just a lady, it's normal to enjoy my view sometimes..." She said. "And you're the weird one here trying to be all pure and innocent, I bet you were melting with Julia, right?"

As Rita said that I began growing redder.

"W-What are you talking about?! I would never see him this way, he was a super nice and good guy!" I barked back.

"Yeah, sure. Keep your façade for as long as you can." Rita said while smirking.

"Anyways, what do we do now?" I sighed. It was hopeless to argue with the pervert.

"Let's do some bicycle for starters. Did you warm up?" She asked.

"No..." I sighed.

"Then let's do a quick warmup together." Rita said.

She was surprisingly attentive and guided me through and through. It seems she had already gone to another gym some time ago, but stopped going out of laziness, or maybe she lost motivation.

After we warmed up, we did bicycle while talking about whatever, but the conversation of the game quickly rose up. Rita was more invested than I had originally thought.

"The game's getting pretty weird lately with all those custom quests. We have yet to go to the main town too!" She said.

"The one with that you can teleport into?"

"Yeah that one! Are you really planning to evade it?"

"W-Well, I am a bit afraid of going there..."

"Come on, we'll go after we are done. And this time WE'LL DO IT FOR REAL! You're not evading it by saying you're busy in your farm, or that you're busy with your job or anything! Okay?" She said quite angrily.

"O-Okay! Why are you so bossy over this?" I asked.

"I just want you to enjoy the community of the game! Just talking with NPC ain't it." Rita said.

"I guess you're right... I should at least take a peek..." I sighed.

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Chapter 154: Am I Hallucinating Or Something?!

At the end, we ended spending three hours inside the gym with Rita. We used almost every machine there was. Trying out what was better for us. We ended liking the most traditional things, and we decided to stick to less complicated stuff. The instructor said that if we wanted to lose weight, running was the best. But he also said that there was nothing wrong with building muscle as ladies.

Many girls we saw here were super built and had beautiful muscles. Thinking about having a body like that excited me a little bit. I always thought of myself as weak and small, through my entire life, I was always protected by others close to me... Maybe getting a bit of muscle could increase my self-confidence...

After we took a nice bath in the showers. Both Rita and I were super hungry. Three hours of doing exercise was no joke at all. I decided to quickly run back to my home, and she went off to hers so we could cook for our families. More than anything, I didn't want Elena to order food.

However, I ended stopping midway through when I saw my garden. Looking at it all dry, it made me feel slightly sad. Remembering the big farm I got in the game, it felt quite ironic that my front yard and back yard looked this dead. Not even grass was growing properly anymore, and it was just dry dirt with some dying tree.

Maybe I should try to get something here... Some grass, and perhaps some new flowers and plants. Even cactuses could work, as well, maybe? I don't know why but I felt like I really had to do it... Perhaps being so obsessed with plants in the game is messing my head.

Suddenly, I saw a tiny grass growing at the corner of the front yard. I slowly walked towards it and touched it gently.

"You poor thing... Sorry for not taking care of you."

FLASH!

"HUH?!"

Suddenly, I don't know if it was just the sunlight coming out from the moving clouds that were blocking the sun, or just a hallucination, but I felt as if something weird, a bright light came out of the tip of my finger.

It was so fast I could just think it was just the sunlight, which was hitting me strongly from atop the clear sky. But I was left so much in surprise that I ended falling over my butt.

"W-What the heck was that?!"

I looked everywhere, and then at my hands. Nothing was out of the ordinary, and the people walking through the streets that saw me approached, asking me if I was okay.

"Lady is everything alright?"

"A-Ah... Yes, thank you for worrying. I just saw a bug..."

My neighbors were surprisingly nice, this neighborhood has always been pretty good, so a response like this from them was normal.

After they walked away, I looked around, and then, back at the weed growing from the dry dirt... Hm, I could swear this weed wasn't as big... and it hasn't expanded so much over the dirt before.

Maybe I looked wrongly? Or something came out of my finger?

...Magic?

No, that's just impossible, magic doesn't exist in real life.

...

"Plant Manipulation!"

I pointed my finger at the weed trying to manipulate it like in the game.

...

Nothing happened.

Yeah, it is just my imagination, maybe I am too tired from the gym.

I walked back home and then looked one last time at the weed. There was a flower there.

Wait, a flower?!

That wasn't there when I inspected it before.

Did it just bloom while I walked to my house's door?

Wow, that's... interesting. I never thought that weed flowers could grow so fast.

Surely, it must be a strange species of weed.

Yeah... magic doesn't exist after all.

"Maybe I should just not play the game for a week or something, so I can stop having thoughts about it." I sighed, blaming the game overly realistic world to all of these delusions I am currently having.

When I entered my home, I found Elena and Anna playing Mario Kart in the living room. They were having a blast and... there was a medium-sized pizza box in the floor.

"I am back! And... you brought pizza." I sighed.

"Anna brought it." Elena said.

"GAH...! I didn't! We agreed on buying it half and half!" Anna said. "S-Sorry Miss Elayne, did you wanted to make lunch? I am pretty hungry still. I ate it cuz I had no breakfast."

"Oh, so Elena didn't ate that much?" I asked.

"Just one slice." Elena said while sipping some juice.

"Anna, did you just ate a whole medium-sized pizza?! That's a bombshell of calories!" I exclaimed.

"Hahahah... Y-Yes. I was really hungry..." She sighed.

Looking at her again, she's really thin, so I guess eating all of that won't really make her fatter right away. But still... I suppose I'll have to make some tasty lunch so she can have her fill and eat something healthier as well. There's no way I am letting her fill herself with just pizza.

"You poor soul, doesn't your mother not cook for you? Or you don't know how to cook?" I asked. I had heard that she lived alone with her mother in a small department.

"My mom doesn't even know how to cook; she always buys pre-made food or maruchan. She's always busy at her job so I can't see her all the time, there's no way she'll have energy to cook for me... Oh! I got ahead! I am first place again! Hehehe, hurry or I am leaving you behind!" Said Anna while concentrating into the game. It seems she was getting first place in the race.

"Hoh~? Is that so?" Elena said with a smirk, suddenly, she threw a red shell at Anna and ruined her first place, overrunning her. The other NPC players hit her several times as well, leaving her at seventh place out of the blue...

"Uugh..." Anna sighed.

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Chapter 155: My Daughter Wants To Challenge Me?!

"Well, I'll make something nice for you, Anna. Let me tell you that you're always welcomed here." I said to her, petting her head.

"Uwah... Lady Elayne, you're so nice with me..." She cried.

"It's fine! You're my daughter's best friend, you're like my second daughter, maybe. Hahaha! You can come eat lunch and dinner here all you want. Elena seems to never mind you. And she becomes more talkative when you're around as well." I said with a smile.

"Y-You're really an angel! Elena, your mom is an angel! A saint!" Anna cried half-jokingly.

"...I beat you." Elena said, concentrated in the game.

"Guhh... I hate this old game." Sighed Anna.

"Hahaha, you girls are always funny." I couldn't help but giggle at their shenanigans.

As I cooked, I overheard their cheerful and carefree conversation.

"Are we playing BNLO today?" Asked Anna.

"Yeah, of course. We have to grind some more materials for the thing Elisa wants to craft... After that we should arrive at the Forest of Beginnings." Said Elena.

"Yeah, took a while for that... I never thought moving through the landscape would take ages, I guess that place is really far away." Sighed Anna.

"Hm, the world is very big and even when moving through the skies, it takes a long time... Of course, it wouldn't had taken so long if we didn't had school and around three hours to be able to play a day, which is horrible... I want to end school to play all day." My daughter said.

W-Wait, they said they're coming to the Forest of Beginnings?!

Why are they coming there?!

After I tried to contact her before now she just comes to my home inside the game?!

Wait a minute, does she wants to do something there?

"That Planta is really reclusive, she's such a popular player but hasn't even interacted with anybody. Some say she hasn't even gone to the Market Place, not even once!" Anna said. "I had never seen a player so fixated in their starting zone before... What's special about that place anyways?"

"We have experienced the game for a while to know that this game is not like others. Even the starting zones might have tons of secrets. Also, she appears to be a Farmer, so she probably is raising herbs, vegetables and other things, maybe." Elena said.

"Huhh... I really don't get the appeal of a farmer, sounds so boring... But being a summoner is dope as hell!" Anna said happily.

"I prefer the path of the Bushido." My daughter said like a chunni.

S-So they really want to come see me. Well, that's going to be very awkward! But somehow, I can't wait! I guess my popularity did bring something nice to me. If I can met my daughter online, I can become her friend, talk to her as a friend instead of just a mother, and break that boundary that has made her so distant from me, so I can get to know her better. I know this is a roundabout method, but it feels nice nonetheless...

"Yeah, when we finally meet her, I'll ask her for a fight." Elena said, as she smirked a bit.

Eh? A fight?!

"You're really obsessed with that... She's just a newbie though!" Anna said.

"But she got so many cool Titles... I bet she's strong anyways. I want to see what she's capable of. I've never fought a Dryad, nor a Farmer. I wonder what she can pull out. As long as we use the Fair Fight System she should agree, right? Not like she'll lose anything... I could even pay her to fight me." Said Elena.

Eh?!

Is Elena a battle junkie maniac?!

D-Does she really wants to fight her mother that much?!

What do I do?! I can't just say "no" to her after she just came all the way to meet me... Do I accept?! Do I fight with my own daughter inside the game?

No... I don't want to think about it.

Ugh, well, it'll still be a while until then, so for now I should just do the quest I am doing in the game before worrying about anything else.

Yeah...

Though, now that I know about them coming to meet me, I don't know how I will ever react.

Maybe I should make myself a mask or something, I don't know if the System can slightly modify my appearance enough for my own daughter to not recognize me.

"It's ready girls, come eat."

While having lunch together, I decided to talk a bit about the game, pretending to not know much about it while also trying to dig more info from the girls.

"S-So how is the game going? Are you enjoying it, Elena?" I wondered.

"Hm... It's fun." Said Elena.

"Maybe you should play it, Miss Elayne! Have you thought about it?" Asked Anna

"Eh?! M-Me? Why would I play it..." I said, averting my gaze from her for a bit.

"Anna don't suggest my mother to play the game... That would ruin everything if she's just sticking with us all the time..." Sighed Elena.

"Huh...? Don't be so mean with your mother, Elena..." I sighed.

"Elena, be more sensitive!" Anna angrily reprimanded my daughter.

"Ah... Sorry, I didn't meant to say that... out loud." Elena said, as she continued eating in silence.

Sigh, even though we have connected some more, she still says some pretty awful things sometimes... Maybe that's just a general thing for kids. They really find boring if their own boomer parents get involved into their games or something. Maybe it was even making her cringe or something. It is hard to be a parent with a daughter like that...

I wish I could be a cooler mother so she would appreciate me better and love me more. But even now, I am quite the loser as a person... I suppose it is understandable that she doesn't have many hopes about me, even less in a game that is mostly popular with younger people.

But... I'll show her that I am Planta later on, and I'll blow away her mind!

Just you wait, my daughter!

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Chapter 156: Logging Back Into The Game

After lunch was done, Elena apologized for having said that rude comment out of nowhere, she seemed to be polite enough to realize it was not a good thing to say to her mother. I am glad I taught my daughter some good etiquette, even though she still had done some bad things before...

"It's okay, dear. I know I am a bit clumsy and all... You don't have to worry." I said, petting her head.

"You're not clumsy... Well, a bit... But still, you do a lot... I... I've been thinking about things a bit more. I'm sorry..." Elena said timidly, she was probably trying to muster the courage because it embarrassed her.

"Hehe, I bet it is Anna who is helping you reconsider things?" I whispered to her ear.

"T-That's not it... Well, a bit..." She said again.

She's very predictable.. Anna has been a good friend, though I've heard she's a bit too overly protective of her. However, with Elisa joining the friend duo, it seems she's slowly getting less and less overprotective with Elena. Or Elena is getting friendlier with her schoolmates? Well, whatever's the case, things are good.

"Hehe, make sure to take good care of your friends, Anna." I said. "They're precious people that will bring you a lot of light in your life. Of course, I'll do anything I can to make you have a good life, but sometimes there's things that only friends can do."

"Hm... I get it, don't get so corny..." She said while blushing a bit, as I hugged my daughter and kissed her forehead.

After being fascinated by my daughter's adorableness, they finally went to do their own business. The two girls decided to go play the game, and actually, I was going to do just the same.

But after a few experiments. Today I had heard a weird voice in the night, and in the morning, I somehow... made a plant grow. I don't know if this is real or not, but it still lingers in my mind.

So when my daughter and her friend were back to their room, I walked outside the house with gardener clothes, and decided to go take out bad weeds so I can begin planting beautiful flowers and plants in my garden again.

I might not have a lot of free time, but this week I'll have it, so I have to make sure I enjoy things even outside the game. With a small shovel I began moving the dirt around and took out the bad weed that had grown randomly over time.

Except that one that I saw grow bigger without any explanation at all. It was right there, with a beautiful flower. I didn't even knew weed could make flowers... Is this really a weed plant? I've never seen one so tall and beautiful, honestly. I might as well leave it live in here for now.

And...

"Come on... grow bigger...! Unngh...! Please!"

I tried using magic again.

Of course, there were no results at all, no matter what I tried, nothing came out.

"Hahh~ I guess it is hopeless, isn't it? I was just hallucinating... Yeah."

Well, even then, I still will make a beautiful garden. I find it ironic that I have such a big farm in my game's territory but not in my real-life backyard and front yard. So I'll work hard to make it beautiful enough. I might even bring a tomato plant, potatoes, and even cabbage or carrots. I want to produce a bit of my own food as well. I got a big plot of land that my husband bought, so I have to use it to its maximum potential!

Maybe all the things I've learned from my family in the rural area and in the game can converge and aid me in making a little orchard in the city... I've always wanted to have my own farm to be honest, so maybe that's why I've been making mine in the game grow over time and have enjoyed it so much. Now that its day and not night, I might be able to enjoy it better as well, as I've always found myself playing at night, which is slightly annoying...

After that, I walked back home and saw a notification on the chat app I had downloaded for the game. It allows players that are friends in the game to chat easily anywhere they are, even if not logged in. It also allows for the easy management of the equipment and items in the Inventory, and even to sell items in the Game Market very easily. Although I haven't touched that part. There is even a shortcut to the forums, so it is very useful.

[Titan: Planta, it is already way past 3 PM, where are you? Achlys is already here. We said we would gather at 3 PM to complete the quest...]

[Planta: Oh right! I am so sorry! I'll go right away! I was actually attending my back yard...]

[Titan: Oh, I see. Well, it's okay. It is the weekend, there's nothing wrong with looking at your irl stuff.]

[Planta: Right? You're so nice to understand, Titan. Thanks a lot!]

[Titan: I-It is nothing, I am just treating you like I treat anybody]

[Planta: People is usually quite mean though, being just decent is already rare]

[Titan: I-I guess... Anyways, are you logging in or not?]

[Planta: Hahaha! I'm coming, wait for me!]

After sending those last messages, I rested over the bed and put on the Full Dive Helmet after locking the door of my room. Logging in, I was greeted by the beautiful Fairy Queen Palace, as I saw many fairies flying around, surprised that I suddenly materialized out of nowhere.

"Ah! Planta is back!"

"Lady Planta, welcome back!"

"So it's true, Players go elsewhere and then can come back?!"

"Some say they go to the divine realm of the gods to rest..."

"H-Hello guys... I think that's a bit of an exaggeration..." I sighed.

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Chapter 157: Honorary Guests In The Fairy Kingdom

After I finally logged in, a group of fairies greeted me, they were from soldiers to knights. Fairies usually wore armor made out of magical stones, not metals, so often, they looked like they were using precious jewels as armor. These armors not only provide magical barriers for their protection of their small bodies, but also enhance their magical power and elemental affinities, apparently.

"C-Can I pass? Ah, excuse me..." I began walking across the group of fairies, as they didn't wanted to let me go. It seems that in this little time I had become a bit famous here with all of them.

They all regarded me as "Lady Planta" and some called "Savior", while some even called me "Heroine of the Fairies". It was very embarrassing to receive so many praises after coming from my often normal daily life back in real life... But I tried to just bear with it as I walked through the castle's corridors, quickly finding Titan and Achlys. Nieve was also with them, as she had found them rather quickly after they logged in apparently.

"Nice to meet you guys, sorry for being late." I sighed.

"I am surprised you came so late while you're the most excited about playing the game all the time." Rita answered while waving her head.

"Hahaha... Sorry." I sighed.

"Well, now that we are all together, should we complete the next quest?" Wondered Titan.

"You're forgetting about Acorn and the Mushroom Brigade though!" I said. "They can be of help."

"Oh yeah, they're all busy." Achlys said.

"Indeed, Nieve told us that Acorn is still trying to find a cure, he said he had made one but then it was a failure, so he began to rehash the recipe and started making a new one without even resting." Said Titan. "I am worried about the lil' guy, but it seems like he's not going to give up no matter what."

"Acorn is being assisted by the Mushroom Brigade, as you call it, Planta." Said Nieve. "They go retrieve ingredients and anything he needs, so I believe it wouldn't be good to annoy them."

"Yeah, you're right! I suppose I will leave them on their own for now." I said. "For the time being, we should complete a quest I have which is very important to advance our mission."

"These "Quests" thingies, is this a power of the Players only?" Wondered Nieve.

"Yes, it is a special ability we have. Based in what we experience in the world, the System which gives us our powers will grant us quests, giving us clues about our problems and how to solve them. We usually get rewarded with strength and items if we complete a quest, which often involves completing a special objective." I explained Nieve as technically as I could.

"I-I see! Players are really something else..." The girl said. "For now, what's the quest you have to complete? I remember it appeared in front of me but I wasn't able to read it because I was very busy in that time, and I don't seem to be able to check on it again even when I try to give some commands..."

Nieve seems to have joined our party in the quest after she seemed to be willing to help us, however, she's not like Acorn, so she hasn't obtained any Player benefits through a special Title. Because of this, there's still a lot she doesn't know about our abilities as Players. I suppose she was able to see a bit of the System, but now that the pop up window disappeared, she can't call it back and needs our further clarification and help.

"Yes, it said something about finding the culprit behind everything... Apparently, the System is hinting that there's someone behind what has been happening." I said. "From the spreading of the Curse to the sabotage of the golems, it was a single person doing everything, a traitor."

"A traitor?!" Asked Nieve.

"We have to find them by gathering clues, according to the quest. It also said it was someone... quite close to one of us." Said Titan.

"Close to one of us? There's not many..." Said Achlys. "In this world after all, we are just the three of us with Acorn and the mushrooms, I doubt any of us is a traitor because we just got here."

"Yeah, it must be... Wait, maybe it was also referring Nieve?" Titan wondered.

"M-Me?" Nieve asked in surprise, being included in such a fantastical thing as a "quest" for an NPC such as her was shocking.

"W-Well, it wouldn't be good to just point a finger at someone just yet. Let's investigate. I am sure there were people when the golem thing happened at some point. Is there a time when people do maintenances to the golems?" I wondered.

"Ah, yeah! Usually around 6 PM they do maintenances, so the sabotage should had happened after that I believe, or the people that do maintenances would had seen the sabotaged golems and realized something was going on, fixing them, most likely." Nieve replied.

"Can we go see those engineers?" I asked.

"Yeah! Let's go, they're probably having lunch right now so they got free time to talk." Nieve said.

With that said, we quickly walked outside of the Fairy Queen castle after I took a small peek at the Queen's room, as she was graceful sleeping over her bed.

"Don't worry Queen Titania, Acorn will find a cure!" I reassured her, as I walked away.

"You're newcomers here and we usually don't have tourists at all, but how about we go on a ride over a Giant Golden Beetle?" Asked Nieve, suddenly bringing the tamed giant beetles fairies used to mobilize faster.

Apparently, just flapping their wings to fly is very tiring, so it is not rare to see them walking over the floor sometimes or mobilizing over large insects they have tamed.

An enormous beetle emerged, apparently it was owned by Nieve.

"Hop in!" She said happily, inviting us to sit over the enormous creature.

"Uwah... I've never seen such an enormous bug... so up close..." I sighed.

I couldn't say I liked bugs that much...

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Chapter 158: Finding Clues

We ended being forced to mount a giant bug. It was slightly creepy when I looked at the creature's giant jaws and eyes, but after sitting over its golden back and then beginning to move through the streets, I found the experience rather relaxing! I also found Silver, Mimy, Belle, and Loki, who had come rushing towards me the moment they felt I logged in. Summons and Tamed Pets stay in the game while you are offline, so it is usually necessary to find a place where you can leave them until you return.

This is why some serious players that usually explore the world constantly can't settle down with a house to put their summons/tamed monsters and have to go to the Market City where Players can teleport into and pay an expensive barn to leave them resting in there, which accumulates debt the more hours you leave them.

It makes it so taming/summoner classes are not so popular as they should really be due to this, and some people just decide to not pick summoning skills from their skill trees because of this reason as well, as it is quite money sinking until you reach mid to late game and you can afford the barn's prices.

Of course, that changes if you got an NPC friend and usually don't move around too much! I can just leave them with Acorn and he happily takes care of them. Alongside him, I got the independent Mushroom Brigade who are also summons and take care of my other summons and tamed pets for me. They are self sufficient and even constructed a house.

But every time I log in, they quickly rush to my side. Sometimes I simply summon them to my side, an ability that any tamer or summoner has to use MP to summon their tamed monsters or summons right in front of them. With that said, they were happy to see me, and were mounting on the enormous, four meters large beetle with ease. Just how much weight can these bugs carry? They're super strong!

"We are here."

It only took five minutes to reach the Engineers' place, it was a big workshop where we saw many of the golems used yesterday in the battle being repaired, some were quite destroyed, so they were practically rebuilding them from almost scratch with new parts.

However, the majority of the workers were all sitting around a table and enjoying food, as it was their lunch time. The moment we entered everybody immediately knew our faces and flew to our side.

"I-It is Lady Planta and her friends?"

"Our saviors!"

"Lady Planta, do you need something here?"

"Perhaps she wants to purchase a golem or some magic technology artifact? We'll give you a fifty percent discount then!"

"Hahaha... No, no, although I am now quite interested in buying a golem, I was actually wondering something...." I said timidly, overwhelmed by the fairies. Titan and Achlys were also dealing with them.

"You lot, calm down and listen!" Nieve immediately controlled the situation, her loud voice and bossy attitude were ideal for me, who often times can't muster the courage to tell things straight to people.

"We are currently in need of your cooperation, gentlemen. Currently, we are trying to find clues about the one that sabotaged the golems. You did maintenance to them yesterday, right?"

"Oh right... yeah!"

"That's right... Whoever sabotaged them to not work automatically must have done it after us, right?"

"You guys are quick to catch in! Now, do you know any clues of anybody suspicious showing up?" Nieve wondered, crossing her arms. Her radiant blue jewel armor and her cute yet bossy appearance made the fairy here (who were mostly guys) skip a beat before her, they immediately obeyed her very word.

The people began to talk and discuss with one another for a while, until one of them finally spoke, after many agreed in that.

"We saw one person that was wondering around and asking a lot of questions, but it was a kid so we thought she was just curious about our job. She said she wanted to be an engineer when she grew up, so we were kind of obligated to show her the place around..." Sighed one of them.

"Oh? How did she looked like?" I wondered.

"She had pink wings, I remember that well..."

"I think she had some light pink hair as well? She was wearing a green and pink dress looking like a flower."

"Yeah, we don't know her name though, but she had a small and cute voice."

"Huh..." Nieve muttered, gritting her teeth as she suddenly began to gain some more clues. Her face suddenly darkened. "It can't be..."

"What's wrong? Any clues?" I asked.

"Err, not yet. I am not really sure yet... You guys, do you know where she went after this?" Asked Nieve.

"No, but she went straight to the market from here."

"Yeah, she was busy doing something..."

"I think she was trying to buy some tools for engineering, but we don't sell them here so she ended disappointed."

"Yeah, she probably went to buy them. There's only one shop that sells tools, maybe go check it out?"

The engineers seemed busy, so after we obtained our info, we quickly let them alone. Of course, I had already decided I would buy them something one of these days. Buying a golem for myself or some

strange magic technology artifacts seemed pretty interesting. But for now, we quickly went to the Market District, where all sorts of shops were still open.

Thanks to the battle of yesterday were only a small part of the city was destroyed, the rest of the city and the people were able to quickly resume their works and begin to slowly rebuild things in the city.

"This should be it." Nieve pointed out at the Engineer Tools Shop, which was only one in the entire Kingdom.

When we got inside, a very old fairy greeted us. This was one of the few times I saw an old fairy with a beard, it looked like a very old grandpa. Even more, his wings were old and wrinkly, and he looked unable to fly anymore. He was sitting over a small chair while sipping some tea.

"Ah, welcome, welcome... Is there something you need?"

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Chapter 159: Seeking A Special Ingredient

"A fairy girl with pink hair and wings?"

After we explained things to the grandpa fairy, we quickly gave him the same description the engineers gave to us about this fairy girl. He began to caress his beard, looking around. He was thinking, but very slowly. He was very old so I could understand he had to take things slowly.

He slowly sipped some tea and sighed, looking back at us after almost three minutes of thinking.

"I don't remember..."

"Eh?!" Nieve cried in surprise.

"Ugh, this is hopeless..." Sighed Titan.

"I-Is there a way to make you remember, grandpa?" Sighed Achlys.

"Hmm... If I only had some of that herbal tea... Kachi Herb is able to help me remember stuff, but since the curse started spreading that nobody had gone outside to pickup herbs, so I haven't found any to make tea." Sighed the old man.

"Kachi Herb..." I muttered. "Where can we find it, do you have a clue, grandpa?" I asked gently.

"Hmmm... I've heard... Err, I think it was... Ah, I don't remember." He sighed.

"How can't you remember a thing?!" Achlys roared, but Titan quickly brought her outside the shop because she was losing her patience. Rita was never good at dealing with old and slow people.

"Hm... Then we should probably find someone that can tell us where it is, pick it up, and bring it back, right?" Nieve asked.

"Well, I guess that's the plan for now." I sighed.

"Then we'll be back with the tea, grandpa, please wait for us, okay?" Asked Nieve.

"I am closing the shop at 6 PM so make sure to come back before that..." The grandpa said.

Like that, we took a detour and went to the Alchemist Guild, where we decided to ask the alchemists, who had a lot of herbs, about if they had any of the Kachi Herb, or at least tell us where we could find it. In our way through the building's interior, we found a large room where Acorn and the Mushroom Brigade, alongside six other alchemist were working relentlessly.

I didn't wanted to interrupt them when they looked so concentrated, so I sneaked away from their sight and we reached a receptionist quickly after.

"Kachi Herb... Err, let me see..." She said, opening a book with ingredients that showed everything they had in their storage. "No... We don't have any, I am very sorry."

"Oh damn..." Rita couldn't help but sigh.

"Do you know where we could find some outside?" I asked.

"Outside? Well, if you want to go outside... I think they're not that far away from here, they usually grow near the Sleepy Meadows, where a pink and purple-colored plants grow nearing the West River."

"Gotcha! Thanks a lot!"

I looked at my System's Map and suddenly found the place, marking it with a big, red-colored O. After that, we quickly decided to make our way out. Nieve decided to bring her Beetle as well, so we were getting a ride with this big bug.

"Sigh..."

Nieve sighed while admiring the forest.

"This place looks so peaceful sometimes... At day, especially, the snakes never show up at this hour. It is like a completely different world altogether... I often wonder if everything we had been going through was just a bad nightmare when I see the tranquility of this forest." Nieve sighed.

"It feels that way to you?" I wondered.

"Hm... I guess things might turn to the better now that all of you are here helping us... Acorn is working hard at making a potion to heal the curse, and we are doing our best to find the culprit. After that, however, we'll have to go against the snakes and the powerful Queen... I don't know if I'll ever come back alive after all of that." Nieve sighed.

"Nieve..." I hugged her little body without hesitating.

"Uwah! W-What are you doing, Lady Planta?!" She cried, flapping her wings around.

"Don't worry, I will do everything I can so you survive and come back alive. I'll even use my own body as your shield, so don't worry! If you are with us, we won't let you die." I nodded.

"Going to such lengths... W-Well, I wasn't talking as if I am dead weight or something...! I will also help you with my abilities and magic as much as possible." Nieve said.

"You're a bit cheeky sometimes..." Achlys said.

"C-Cheeky?!" Nieve cried. "I am just... Well, I wasn't like this back then. But I had to grow up so I could raise my little sister better."

"Little sister? You mean Florie?" I asked.

"Yes, her... She's such a clumsy girl sometimes... But she had brought me a lot of happiness." Nieve said.

"Is she really your sister?" Wondered Rita.

"N-Not really, not my blood sister. I found her when she was a little girl in the woods. She was lost, covered in bruises, and poisoned by snake venom." Said Nieve. "I hurriedly brought her back home and barely managed to heal her from the venom, since then, she lacked memories of who she was or how she got there... I've been raising her ever since then. I used to be a squire but now I am one of the highest-ranking knights in my Kingdom. Serving the Queen is my pride, while taking care of my little sister is my joy."

"I see... How is she today?" I wondered.

"She's fine, she was sleepy as always, and when I flew off home, she had just barely woken up and was having breakfast." Sighed Nieve. "She's lazy but will soon join the Magician Troops as she's good at magic. I got high expectations for her."

"I see! I hope she works hard, she's a very good girl." I said with a smile.

"Thank you, Lady Planta. You're a truly good person to always wish for the good of others. Usually, you don't find such people nowadays... Especially in a world that is slowly descending into the Old Age." Sighed Nieve.

"Old Age...?"

"Oh! Ladies, I think we are here." Titan said, pointing upfront, as we saw a truly beautiful scenery.

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Chapter 160: A Good Time

There was a meadow covered by purple and pink flowers and plants I had never seen before! It was growing near the "West River" and I could clearly see some fishes there. I suddenly felt the crave to do some fishing and eat fish, so I decided to do that while gathering herbs. We looked into a book they gave to us to find the herbs, and there were many different types of herbs, so I began picking them and putting them inside my Inventory by the dozens.

"Oh, this Sleep curse drowsiness... Ah! This one causes it?! And there's this mushroom that can explode when in contact with mana, handle it carefully."

There were a bunch of species of herbs and mushrooms just laying in there. But I felt it would be detrimental to the environment if we just picked everything, so I contained myself and only picked one or two of any new species I found. And of course, we found the Kochi Herb, it was actually a tall grass which tip curled up and gained a pink color. There was an abundant amount of it, so we picked a bit lot of it, so the grandpa could have for the rest of the month.

With that done, I transformed my weapon into a Fishing Rod through [Plant Manipulation] and threw it into the River. After waiting a bit by using a small flower as bait, I ended fishing three big catches. They were three Catfishes, one of them was a normal fatty one with brown and black scales, but the last two were different. One was named Lightning Catfish and could attack by zapping a foe, and the other was covered in an armor or hardened scales named Rock Catfish.

These fishes had elemental materials when they were dismantled, giving me special scales imbued with elements that I could probably use in equipment if I ever make anything with Crafting, but I've barely made much with it lately, so I can't say I will make the best things ever. But if I find free time, I might indulge into Crafting and create some awesome items with everything I've accumulated.

And herb picking, we decided to have a quick lunch as we set a small bonfire and began grilling the catfish meat, while I made catfish soup with potatoes, carrots, onion, and spices at the side. When everything was done, we enjoyed a nice meal in the middle of the forest, with the relaxing and soothing sound of the West River nearby.

"Hahh... This is so good! The flavors are so strong and... Addicting! Is this how tasty the food made by Players is?! I am amazed!" Nieve praised my food.

"Oh no, I merely used my Cooking Skill at Level 2... It is nothing too amazing actually." I sighed.

"Cooking Skill! Oh, that's something only people with the Chef Class can get! Is this why it is so delicious? Only very prestigious restaurants have people with the Chef Class..." Sighed Nieve.

In this game world, NPC were born with Classes it seems, and couldn't easily get Skills that were different from their Classes themselves, which they gained sporadically. They knew about EXP and everything else too, and didn't worked differently than us, earning EXP by slaying monsters or doing tasks such as cooking with a Cooking Skill.

Of course, NPC can also cook, craft, and everything else without needing a Skill giving them permission, something that Players struggle to do, as if the System limited us, but at the same time gave us many possibilities compared to the real world.

"This is a Skill I learned from the Farmer Class, actually." I said.

"Y-You're a Farmer?!" Nieve asked.

"Yes... What's wrong?" I wondered.

"N-Nothing, I just had never heard of someone having that as a Class... It sounds so underwhelming..." Nieve said.

"Hahaha... Y-You could say that... But it is good, really!"

The Great Spirit, who had been sleeping until now, angrily emerged at my side and roared at Nieve.

"How dare you treat Farmers as lowly! They're an incredible Class that can connect to Nature!"

"Great Spirit, I don't think she can hear you..."

"I-I know! But still... Well, whatever... If you need any help, ask for it, Planta. I'll continue slumbering for now. Going to that place earlier really tired me."

That place? What place?

"Anyways, I believe Farmers are great if you're just as great, Lady Planta." Said Nieve. "What Class is Sir Titan and Lady Achlys?"

"I am an Ent Druid! I can summon Beast Spirits and control nature. I am pretty much a jack of all trades similar to Planta but with less side class skills to pick." Said Titan.

"Your temporary summons are pretty strong and handy though, they're similar to Planta's Summons in some ways." Said Nieve.

"And I am a Dark Sorcerer! I control darkness and negative energy and use it to conjure curses and destructive magic. I am a highly offensive player that also got good mobility and summons that come from the darkness of the abyss!" Rita said, getting completely into her act as an evil lady. Although she always forgets about it.

"I see, Dark Elves have a strong affinity with the Darkness Attribute!" Said Nieve. "I also remember seeing you fight; your magic was devastating!"

"Hahaha! Yeah, I am pretty great, right? Especially now that I hit Level 20, I am super strong. leave everything to me, Nieve!" Rita quickly got her head full of praises from Nieve and got cocky. Let's see how far she carries that promise though...

After we were done eating, we decided to quickly go back to the city, bringing the herb to the grandpa fairy, who quickly made himself a tea while thanking us for our goodwill.

"Ah... I think I remember now!" The grandpa said, after he began to taste the tea and drink until half of the cup was empty. He sighed in relief his mind finally felt clearer too.