Brand New 171

Brand New Life Online: Rise Of The Goddess Of Harvest

Chapter 171: A Special Key Item

"Florie, how are you feeling?" I wondered.

"Ah... Planta... Everyone..." Florie noticed us as I spoke, we remained mostly silent because we didn't wanted to interrupt their moment. "I am... a bit tired, that's all... Sniff... I am sorry for all the trouble I caused to you... I-It wasn't me when it happened... She... She tried to take over my mind, my soul... my body... It was so painful I couldn't do anything but scream, but even screaming didn't work, my screams couldn't come out no matter how hard I tried."

I touched Florie's little hand with my finger and quickly imbued some spiritual essence into her as well.

"Ah... Your hand is so warm..." She said.

I inspected her body and mind, and they seemed all cleansed by now. It was a total cleansing... The power of the Great Spirit was really amazing, truly something else altogether. I never thought it would be this effective. I am glad she's healed, but I am sure whatever she had was different than the disease/curse thing everybody else might have in here.

"It seems you're alright for now." I said. "You should rest for now, Florie. We'll take care of things from here."

"Thanks for being so nice..." She sighed. "Despite everything I've done, you don't hate me?"

"Of course not, how could we?" Asked Nieve. "It wasn't your fault, come on... Don't act like this anymore."

"Yeah, personally, I can't really hate someone so cute like you." I said with a smile.

"Hm, I agree." Said Titan. "Leave the rest to the adults, Florie.

"Yep, we'll get it done and beat that ugly snake." Said Rita.

"Thank you... I wish I could be there for you..." Sighed Florie. "I am so weak... I wish I could fight and protect those I care for, and pay back what you've done for me..." Florie began weeping a bit like a baby girl again, as Nieve hugged her tightly and caressed her head.

"It's alright... Calm down now..." She sighed.

As I saw her comfort Florie, a sudden System Notification appeared.

Ding!

[You have gained the affection and friendship of [NPC: Florie]

[You have unlocked a Secret Reward Item: [Fairy's Regretful Tears (B Grade)] x1]

[NPC: Florie] might have the possibility of joining your Party in the future]

Ooh?! W-What is this? Did I get an item?

I looked into my own Inventory, finding a small, pink-colored bottle with a transparent liquid inside, it looked like water at simple sight, but as I inspected it, I realized these were the tears of Florie.

[Fairy's Regretful Tears (B Grade)]

A special Item, it is made by gathering a hundred tears from a beautiful and young fairy who was heartfully regretful of something they had done and wanted forgiveness above all. This item can only be made by the tears of an innocent soul that has been mistreated by the darkness of the world. An incredible rare item, it can be used as a material for potions, its special effect might grant the power to easily dispel curses or diseases.

Wait a second... Could this be used by Acorn?! Is this... a secret reward for choosing to help and save Florie instead of killing her like the original quest implied that I should had done?

I looked into the flask as I took it out of my Inventory, admiring its beauty. It was even shining bright pink in color. This item might really be a good ingredient for the Elixir Acorn is trying to make!

"Everyone, we need to go look for Acorn right now!"

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Countless ingredients dissolved and boiled down inside a large Magic Cauldron, their essence mixing into a lustrous and sparkling liquid that began to unleash a deliciously sweet and herbal aroma. A troubled-looking Squirrel-kin alchemist, Acorn, seemed to not be enjoying the wondrous aroma and beautiful appearance of the Elixir he was making, something that only Experienced Alchemists could even fathom to make with the most premium materials available.

A sick-looking fairy resting over a bed nearby was made to drink a bit of this liquid, but after half a day, there were no improvements other than his stamina and health, but the curse and the disease within him was still strong. At most, this Elixir could be used as a treatment, but it was certainly not a cure. It could stop the disease from becoming worse, but it wouldn't cure it, and it was too expensive to be made constantly to treat everybody.

"I-It is not working..." Sighed Acorn, his face filled with despair. "What do we need anymore?! I've used every single thing... My recipe... I've rewritten it three times now. I feel like I am disappointing everybody, that I am failing Planta...!"

Acorn looked at everybody, they were tired and had been helping him make this Elixir all this time. They seemed just as depressed as him. Their hopes had banished already and seemed to be giving up already. It simply seemed utterly impossible to create a cure to the curse inflicted on the fairies.

"Acorn..." An old fairy lady petted Acorn's shoulders, as the small Squirrel-kin flinched for a few seconds. "You need to rest; you have not slept for three days now."

"No... I have to continue; I can't fail you now... Not now!" Acorn cried, as tears began flowing out of his eyes. "I can't fail you like I failed my grandma..." He cried. "I won't give up! I..."

"But there are no more materials, we have emptied our reserves now..." She sighed.

Acorn looked around; it was all empty.

"Ah... T-Then I'm going out! I'll go pick up more herbs!"

"Like this?! You're too tired! You'll become prey for snakes easily like that!"

"L-Let me go! I have to...! I have to!"

As Acorn cried and tried to crawl outside of the room to get out and seek herbs to use in the potion, someone suddenly entered. Acorn saw her, as he moved his head upwards.

"Acorn! I brought something that might be useful!"

"L-Lady Planta ... ?!"

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Chapter 172: True Antidote Elixir

When I entered the room, I found Acorn in the floor crying. Without thinking it twice, I quickly helped him lift up and cleansed his tears. Titan and Achlys quickly ran to my side and also helped Acorn lift up.

"What's wrong buddy?" Wondered Titan, petting his head. "You look all tired, how long have you been working?"

"Ugh.... I just can't stop until I find something, I can't give up, Titan!" Cried Acorn.

"What happened here?" Wondered Rita.

An old Fairy lady approached us; she was the guild master of the alchemist guild.

"We ran out of materials so we can't continue until we gather more. But Acorn doesn't want to give up and keeps on wanting to continue, he was about to go out to gather herbs on his own with his current state! He'll get himself killed like this!" Sighed the old lady.

"Thank you for worrying about him. He's not like this at all..." I sighed. "Acorn, we can go look for herbs for you, but how about you try this first?" I wondered, taking out the item I had just acquired.

"W-What is this?" He asked, holding into the item as if it was precious. As he was an Alchemist, he was able to appraise items, so he quickly realized what it was as he read its information in a game-like window that appeared in front of his sight.

[Fairy's Regretful Tears (B Grade)]

A special Item, it is made by gathering a hundred tears from a beautiful and young fairy who was heartfully regretful of something they had done and wanted forgiveness above all. This item can only be made by the tears of an innocent soul that has been mistreated by the darkness of the world. An incredible rare item, it can be used as a material for potions, its special effect might grant the power to easily dispel curses or diseases.

"T-This is... Fairy's Regretful Tears?" Wondered Acorn. "This item can... It can help!"

Acorn desperately ran back to the boiling Magic Cauldron which possessed a sparkly liquid inside, as he quickly decided to use the item.

"L-Lady Planta, can I use it?"

"Yes, sure!"

"A-Alright..."

He quickly opened the bottle and ended pouring everything in the cauldron, but nothing seemed to have happened.

"Nothing...?" I wondered.

"Something like that won't just work out of nowhere..." Said the guild master.

"Synthesis!"

However, Acorn had yet to use the powerful ability of Alchemists of high level, [Synthesis] a Skill that allows the combination of Materials by spending Mana and infusing it into the Magic Cauldron, enchanting the power and effects of materials merged together through the Alchemy Skill.

FLAAAASH!

Suddenly, an enormously bright flash of white light emerged from the cauldron, illuminating the entire room and blinding everybody momentarily.

"W-What was that?!"

"My eyes!"

"The cauldron exploded?! Acorn!"

"No, I'm fine... but this light... this is an Elixir, a True Elixir!"

As the light reseeded, the cauldron stopped shining. Within it, there was the beautiful liquid shining bright pink, almost gold, in fact. The sight of this liquid was so shocking that everyone of us stopped as we looked at that in silence. And its description was...

[True Antidote Elixir]

Item Type: Healing Potion, Restorative Potion, Curing Potion, True Elixir, Consumable.

Item Quality: A+++ Rank Quality

Item Level Requirement: No requirement.

Item Cooldown: 24 Hours.

Item Description:

A True Antidote Elixir created by the combination of several high-quality materials together. The last material to be used was the ultimate catalyst, the tears of a fairy. It contains the power to heal many

wounds, diseases, or incredibly strong curses. Additionally, it can fully restore Satiation once consumed, alongside restoring 50% of HP and MP.

Apparently, this item was really it! Maybe we can really heal what had happened to everybody with this one! It was so hard to make and uses so many unique materials though, it probably is an amazing healing item without many that could be equal to it! However, it had a 24-hour cooldown after consumption, so it didn't allowed people to drink more within 24 hours. I guess that's a way to make it fair so people can't abuse this in Boss Battles, maybe?

"With this... surely...!" Acorn quickly filled a small bottle with the liquid and ran towards a patient nearby, asking him to drink it.

"Please, drink this!"

"Ugh... Guh..."

The young man slowly began drinking until he emptied the entire small bottle. Nothing seemed to happen for a few seconds. However, right after roughly 20 seconds, his entire body began to glow brightly, the many weird, black-colored tattoos that had begun spreading over his body started to dissipate, disappearing completely. His entire body was purified, and his stamina was brought back alongside his health and mana.

"Aahhh...! Ah! I am okay?!" He asked in shock, jumping out of bed, the man began doing exercises right there without problems, and after a quick check on its status, it said that there was no Curse inflicted on him anymore.

"It worked... IT WORKED! This item... did it! Thank you, Lady Planta!" Acorn cried, seconds before suddenly falling asleep over the floor.

"I-I guess he really worked hard for it... I feel like I stole the show with this item now." I sighed.

"H-How did you even got this item?" Wondered Nieve.

"I acquired it after our talk with Florie, the System gifted it to me... Apparently, it was a reward because I choose to protect and heal her instead of killing her, as the quest had recommended when it appeared as Florie transformed." I said.

"I see... This "System" is so strange and mysterious..." Nieve said. "But with this, we can surely heal the Queen and the other fairies! We have to begin sharing this right away!"

And like that, we spent the next few hours sharing the Elixir with everybody that was affected by the Disease Curse, including the Queen of Fairies.

When everything ended, even the Fairy Queen was able to move, and she was radiant, filled with life.

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Chapter 173: Healing Queen Titania And Logging Off

Ding!

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

[You have not only saved Florie from her possession but also healed her heart through your sweet words, comforting Nieve so she would be able to bring the love Florie needed to feel better with herself, but you have also been given the power to heal the fairies. Now, you have not only accomplished an incredible feat with your friends at defeating and healing Florie, but you've also healed everybody that was inflicted with the Disease Curse, including the Queen of Fairies.]

[Act VII] Of the Event Quest [Defeat the Evil of the Forest] has Started]

[Now, the last Act is upon you, bring the end to the Snake Queen, the one behind everything that has been happening, and defeat her for good. Explore her domains within the Miasmic Swamps and defeat her to bring peace to the Forest of Beginnings before it is too late! You only have 48 Hours to complete this Arc before the Evil Snake Queen decides to attack the vulnerable Fairy Queendom once more. Don't allow her to accomplish her selfish goals!]

When the Fairy Queen finally was healed, I saw all these new System messages pop up out of thin air. It seemed that the Even Quest last Act was upon us. After this, I will be able to both evolve and change Class, and even I could get a Subclass! And that's without even talking about all the saved up EXP we'll get, I might gain a few Levels right away after this. It's gonna be a lot of fun when that happens, honestly!

Currently, we were sitting around a small table, as the Fairy Queen, now fully healed, wanted to drink some tea which she had not drank in a while due to her disease making it so she ended puking anything she consumed. Now that things were better, she was given the opportunity to eat as much as she wanted, quickly bringing lots of sweets.

Of course, we just had a large celebration outside of the castle, where she celebrated the heal of everybody and called us heroes with the sleeping Acorn being carried by Titan's arms. It was very embarrassing to be honest. Titan in specific had some sort of terror to being in front of so many people.

"Thank you for everything you've done... I never thought I would be healed in such a miraculous way before." Sighed the Fairy Queen with a smile. "For now, what do you plan to do?"

"We'll go tomorrow to defeat the Snake." I said.

"Yeah, we agreed to that." Titan added.

"Hmmm... I am a bit sleepy right now, to be honest." Sighed Achlys.

"Well, I wouldn't blame you all, you seem very tired..." Giggled the Fairy Queen. "If possible, I would like to help you tomorrow."

"Eh?!" I asked in shock.

"W-Wait a second! You can't come help us after you were sickly...!" Titan said. Mark was always a considerate man.

"B-But I could supply you with healing and enhancement magic. I really want to help because... The Snake Queen was once my friend." Sighed the Queen.

"But what about protecting the country? While we are out, it will be left defenseless." Said Rita.

"R-Right... But still I...!" The Queen tried to convince us, but it was obviously not going to work.

"No, my queen, please stay in here for now." Said Nieve.

"Nieve..." Sighed the Queen, seemingly quite gloomy that she was being left out. But there was no helping it, she wasn't fit to fight with us. The swamps were probably a high-level dungeon too for all we knew.

"Don't worry, we'll get it done by ourselves." I reassured her. "More importantly, we really need to go to sleep by now, so we are leaving..." I sighed. "I'm sorry for leaving so abruptly."

"Oh no, it doesn't matter, please take care, we will be waiting for you." The queen's charming smile seemed soothing to our hearts, as we nodded and quickly logged out.

When I opened my eyes, I found myself inside of my room once more. It was quite late, being 7 PM, so I quickly decided to go to the bathroom and then begin making a very late dinner. My daughter was inside of her room with Anna, I think, so I should probably cook them something out. As I made dinner, I looked into my phone occasionally, finding a few messages from Mark.

[Mark: I'm quite nervous about going to your parents' house and all... Is it really okay for me to go? You can still cancel it if you want to.]

[Mark: Sorry for being like this, I just... I don't feel like I deserve it.]

[Mark: After all we are just coworkers, right? Maybe friends but still... It is certainly not the same level as your own friends...]

Damn, I didn't thought Mark would suddenly get like this... Does he really belittles himself so much? Of course he's deserving of coming. I hate going back on my words as well. And he's a polite and good young man, he's a good friend, I'm sure my family won't mind him.

[Elayne: No, Mark, stop. Don't feel like this. You're my precious friend. Its rare for women at my age to have male friends, you know? But unlike other friend I have... You're an honest and fun guy to be around with, and not as insane as her... So don't say that stuff, we are going, you want it or not!]

After leaving it at that, I continued cooking, deciding to make some white rice to accompany the steak I was preparing with some garlic and oregano on top. The smell of the steak was delicious.

After ten minutes, I received another message from Mark.

[Mark: Sorry for saying those things... It wasn't my intention to make you feel bad about it. I'll go if you want to, I'll bring some gifts for your parents as well. I'll try to enjoy the trip, it has been a long time since I went to the countryside. Maybe locking myself in the city is making me have too many depressive thoughts. Sorry about that again.]

[Elayne: No need to apologize, Mark. It's alright. I might had done it a bit out of nowhere, but I like seeing you smiling.]

[Mark is typing...]

W-Wait a second, I think I overdid it... It sounds like I'm just flirting now!

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Chapter 174: Chatting

I looked into my phone nervously, swallowing a bit of saliva.

What did I just typed?!

Sometimes I really don't have any filters!

Someone like me flirting with a young man like him, it is super weird, isn't it?!

It is not right... It would be seen as creepy by literally anybody.

Oh god, I am a creep.

W-Well, Mark sometimes also says such cute things to me, I felt like I needed to tell him something nice. Especially because he seemed depressed sometimes.

I can relate to that because I've always been depressed deep down, not only for my husband's passing, but my own insecurities about my appearance, or my age, or my life as a whole...

I just didn't wanted someone young like him to feel like I do.

[Mark: Sorry for saying those things... It wasn't my intention to make you feel bad about it. I'll go if you want to, I'll bring some gifts for your parents as well. I'll try to enjoy the trip; it has been a long time since I went to the countryside. Maybe locking myself in the city is making me have too many depressive thoughts. Sorry about that again.]

[Elayne: No need to apologize, Mark. It's alright. I might had done it a bit out of nowhere, but I like seeing you smiling.]

[Mark is typing...]

[Mark: You do?]

[Elayne: Yeah! You're so handsome, your smile is nice to see every morning.]

[Mark is typing...]

[Mark: Thanks... I guess... Nobody has ever said that to me before. Your smile is also pretty, Elayne.]

I really did overdid it!

And he... he complimented me back so casually...

M-Maybe I should move to the topic elsewhere or just evade the conversation and type "goodnight"?

But I... Well, I kind of want to chat some more with him.

I don't know why but now that I think about it, I've been playing with him in the game for a while. And now speaking to him, it feels like he's even closer to me.

Maybe sharing challenges and experiences in the game has made me feel like we are growing closer. But because he doesn't know who I am in the game, he might have no clue himself.

Dang it.

I don't know why I feel like this sometimes when I am talking to him, or when I am close.

Recently I've been kind of getting away from him in the job because I feel this feeling in my chest, and it is as if my whole blood flow accelerates a little bit.

Ugh... I don't really want to know what it is, to be honest.

Maybe when he sees me getting distant, he thinks I hate him or something.

Perhaps this has contributed to those comments he had?

What can I do now?

Ugh... I hate being old if I were younger I...

Well, that possibility is already inexistent right now.

Maybe I should try to be just interested on him? Maybe if I ask about his family... he sometimes talks about them, they also are from the countryside, and there was some sort of arranged marriage dispute he had where he didn't wanted to marry a childhood friend his parents were forcing into him.

That must be really tough, I also am not into forced or arranged marriages, those are things people should decide themselves, not their parents. He is free to reject them but they keep pestering him about it, and because they're his parents, its not as if he's going to bark back at them and threaten to sue them or something, after all, its Mark, he's a sweet man.

[Elayne: How is your family doing by the way?]

[Mark is typing...]

[Mark: Oh, everything's good, I think. I've finally managed to get to talk a bit with them lately... But I don't know if I'll go visit them this week. I am afraid they'll push her into me again. I've already told them I don't want to marry but they keep going on that. Old Traditional Families are... quite annoying.]

[Elayne: I see... That's a bit worrisome. I hope things can get better. Maybe you should tell them? How about meeting with them and the girl? You cant simply wait for them to accept it if they're so stubborn. Maybe a meeting with them would do it.]

[Mark: That's hard, I don't really want to see her... You know, I once had a romance with this girl and she's probably still into me...]

[Elayne: Is she creepy?]

[Mark: Oh, no, no. I just... She's just very pushy about stuff.]

[Elayne: Hm... Well, maybe you have to talk with her and tell her that you can't reciprocate with her feelings anymore, if that's how you feel, of course.]

[Mark: Yeah, but it is easier said than done...]

[Elayne: Right...]

I guess the conversation got a bit too serious. Maybe I should add some sort of spice to make things better? But what?

Erm...

[Elayne: Well, I want to tell you that as a friend I'll be there for you if you need someone to talk about this stuff, Mark.]

[Mark: Really?]

[Elayne: Yeah, of course!]

[Mark: Thank you, Elayne... I am playing Brand New Life Online to cheer myself up. I've found a lot of friends there... I wish you could play with me, it's a lot of fun, it's like... a whole different world, actually.]

[Elayne: It must be fun...]

Should I just tell him and get done with this mystery?

Ah... I can't, that would be too troublesome to explain and everything... and it might shift how he sees me a bit too much.

But at the same time, it might also make him happy to know I'm playing the game with him, and that Planta is not just a stranger.

I also invited Rita so I fear she might end up spilling the beans and telling him about us playing the game, that would be quite troublesome as well...

Maybe I should tell him soon, but not now through some phone chat.

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Chapter 175: This Is Quite Sus

Dinner was getting ready, so it would be better to finish this chat for the day.

[Elayne: Maybe one day I could play it! I am a bit rusty about games... Well, I am going to have dinner and probably will go to sleep for now, I'm tired... Goodnight, Mark! What are you having for dinner by the way?]

[Mark: Oh, I cooked something this time. I used the recipe you gave me and made some chop suey. It ended being very delicious. Thanks for teaching me a way to make such an easy and delicious meal, it was really helpful to be honest. I'm quite lazy...]

[Elayne: That's good! I'm glad you liked it, it is very tasty and got a lot of veggies, so it is also quite healthy. Anyways, goodnight~]

[Mark: Goodnight Elayne, take care.]

"Phew..."

I sighed in relief, it was a rather intense chat after all the stuff I did in-game, to be honest.

Poor Mark, he really got it hard with that family problem. I don't know how I would had reacted if my parents would had forced a marriage on me.

But for now, I guess I have to get my priorities.

I quickly decided to serve dinner and knocked the door of my daughter, but I got no response.

"Elena?"

I sent her a message and heard the vibration of her phone over her bed but I didn't heard her yet.

"Elena? Are you there? If you stay playing for too long without logging out you'll get a headache!"

I quickly decided to open the door, but because it was closed from the inside, I couldn't.

However! I am not the owner of this house without having keys for the doors.

I quickly went to grab a key and tried to open the door, however, I heard Elena and Anna talking and then heard someone running to the door.

"Your mother is about to open the door, just open it!"

"But I..."

"Leave that for later ... "

"Okay, mom, we are going..."

My daughter quickly opened the door, as she greeted me with a slightly red face.

I found Anna in the bed also looking quite red.

Did they had fever?

"Girls where you sleeping?" I asked.

"Y-Yeah..." Said my daughter. "Sorry for not opening the door.

"Sorry! We fell asleep..." Said Anna with her cheerful demeanor.

"Okay then, it's fine girls." I said. "Sorry for making dinner so late, I fell asleep myself as well, hahaha! I made a delicious steak. I also brought Netflex, do you want to see the newest series with me?"

"Sure, sounds like a plan!" Said Anna.

"Hm, it's fine. We can spend time together... Like a girl's night." My daughter said with a smile.

"R-Really? A girl's night with me... Uwah... A-Am I being added to your friend group now?!" I asked happily.

"...Don't go overboard now." My daughter quickly replied to me with her expressionless face.

"Hahaha, maybe!" Anna added.

And like that, we spent the next three hours watching series over the couch after having a fulfilling dinner. The girls had some green tea bottles and also snacks, so I ended snacking on what they had while we watched series. My daughter wasn't much to talk, but Anna was really talkative so it was nice to always analyze what we watched with her.

"Oh, how's the friendship with the rich girl?" I wondered.

"Oh, Elisa? She wanted to come here but I didn't let her. I don't have enough space for her in my small room, it would end up too cramped... She invited me to a sleepover tomorrow... Can I go?" She wondered.

"I would need to first see where she lives, dear. I don't like to send you to strange places." I said.

"But I am already over 15..." My daughter said.

"I-I know, but your mother is just worried!" I said. "She also invited me to work for her I remember, so I doubt she'll be annoyed if I go."

"Honestly I wouldn't really want Elena going to that rich's girl house. She's a bit cheeky." Said Anna angrily. "I bet she got ulterior motives for Elena too. She's the top beauty of school after all, there's a lot of girls after her...!"

"W-What? Really?" I wondered. "Is Elisa... Erm, lesbian?"

"I don't know..." Said Elena. "I don't care either, she's nice to me or that's all-what matters. Anna don't be so jealous."

"Ugh, fine... Sorry." Anna apologized.

"Well... I won't judge my daughter if she ends with a girl... but I would like to know beforehand if you ever get into a relationship, okay?" I asked. "It would be too surprising if it comes out of nowhere. If you're dating with somebody, tell me."

"W-What are you talking about, mom?! T-That's... I am not dating anybody..." My daughter said while blushing a bit.

Anna seemed to look at her slightly gloomily for some reason.

"Right, Anna?" She asked.

"...Riiiiight." Anna answered slightly angrily.

Why is she angry out of the sudden?

"Well, for now I'm going to bed, so goodnight, girls." I said. "If you want to, you can also sleep in the couch, Anna. I can bring you a cushion and other things."

"O-Oh, yeah, thanks, I think I'll sleep in the cushion instead." Said Anna while crossing her arms and looking at Elena for some reason.

"What? But my room is just fine..." Elena said.

"Well? It is a bit weird to sleep in there all cramped, like you just said." Said Anna.

"T-That's... Well, do whatever you want..." My daughter said, quickly helping me bring the things for Anna to sleep on the couch.

After that, I decided to let the girls be because I was too sleepy. After giving some food to Blackie, I went to bed, quickly checking my phone one last time. There were some news about Brand New Life Online, apparently a new Update was going to hit soon, they were introducing a bunch of new Classes, Races, Skills, and Dungeons, which will soon begin to appear widespread instead of being as rare! Wow, that's gonna change the entire metagame.

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Chapter 176: Love Between Girl Friends

After Elayne went to bed, blissfully unaware of the drama between her daughter and her friend, Elena was trying to make Anna not be so grumpy after what she had said.

"Anna come to bed with me..." She said.

"I am sleeping here, I already told you..." Anna sighed.

"But..."

"Its weird if I keep coming to your room and we stay there every night..." Sighed Anna. "It's not like we are anything, right? Don't you think its weird as well?"

"..."

Elena who wasn't good at talking remained in silence after Anna's sharp words. Elena had always been a rather timid and shy girl and had always held her expressionless face because she wasn't good at showing expressions, mostly embarrassed to not be able to convey her emotions through them. She used to be a cheerful girl, but after the passing of her father, she grew more gloomy and always silent.

It was thanks to Anna that she was able to open up a bit more. Back then in school, some found her pretty and her silent and expressionless nature ended bringing the stares of the girls around her. It wasn't weird to find girls interested in other girls in an all-girls school, where lesbian relationships were commonplace, even in a prestigious and very well-educated school, girls were always girls, especially at the ages of 15 and above, where they were more hormonal than ever.

However, Elena always paid no mind to any of that, and her mentality was strong despite her shy nature. But due to this, she always felt alone. Until Anna appeared to her life. She was a cheerful, and slightly annoying girl that was assigned to sit next to her. She began talking to her from the very beginning and wouldn't shut up no matter what.

Elena wished many times to just wrap a tape around her mouth.

Nonetheless, their friendship started when Elena learned Anna liked playing video games, just like her, a hobby she had inherited from her father. Like this, they slowly began to talk about the games they played. Finally finding someone that actually liked playing games and even comment about them, that also listened to her and understood what she was talking about ended making Elena see Anna as a friend very quickly.

The years went by and their relationship only improved, although sometimes they discussed over games, and their husbandos or waifus in games, they always got together as friends at the end of the day... However, when the time came for Full Dive VR to make its appearance, they instantly delved into the game.

Playing an online game of full dive VR felt truly surreal to them, playing however they wanted, to be whoever they wanted... It was all amazing and impactful, it made their friendship grow even more as they explored a beautiful world, hunted monsters, leveled up, completed quests, and overall had a good time together.

However, over time... feelings began bubbling in their hearts. After spending so many years as friends, sharing their lives with one another, and understanding their problems, they comprehended each other's hearts. They grew so close that they seemed most of the time like more than just friends, especially to the girls at school.

Over time, things began happening.

Occasionally, Elena would touch her hand and Anna would feel slightly flustered.

Other times, their faces would sometimes come closer, and both would grow even more flustered, almost at the same time.

Elena began wanting to spend more time with Anna as well, inviting her to her house almost regularly. She also knew about Anna's home situation and her irresponsible mother, so she wanted her own mother to give the warmth of family to her friend

Sometimes, or many times, Elena loved seeing Anna smile and being happy, and the same happened for Anna, who did anything just to see Elena's evasive smile once a day.

They love to be with one another and couldn't get enough of it.

It was rather apparent for both girls what was happening to them.

However, Elena was too shy and had no experience in such things, so without her help, the relationship never got out of the friendzone.

But both were slightly aware of what was happening, although it felt awkward sometimes...

When Elayne was trying to open the door and Elena didn't opened it, it wasn't because they were sleeping or something. It was because Elena had hugged Anna warmly while on bed, and wasn't letting her go.

But after what she heard from her when she said to her mother that there was no way she would have a relationship with anybody, Anna felt heartbroken.

"It's obvious it would be weird... I don't want to make you feel uncomfortable..." Sighed Anna.

"No..." Elena said, feeling slightly gloomy, as she sat at Anna side.

Suddenly, her hand slowly approached Anna's hand.

"I want you... to stay at my side... Do you want to... sleep in my bed with me?"

"E-Eh?!"

Anna felt completely shocked.

Wasn't doing this skipping several steps to being with, and out of absolutely nowhere?!

"E-Elena... This is... Erm, but you said..."

"Sorry..."

Elena apologized.

"I said that because I... I get embarrassed when talking with my mother... But I like... being with you. And playing games with you, and talking with you too... All these years. You've been very important to me."

"E-Elena..."

Anna felt so emotional she felt like she was about to cry.

Elena was having a hard time mustering her strength to say all of this, as she was growing redder like a tomato.

Anna knew her friend was like this, so she didn't forced her to say anything else, and hugged her back.

"Anna..."

"You wanted to hug me like this, right?"

"Hmm..."

Elena smiled a bit, as she petted Anna's head.

"Sorry about what I said again..." Elena said. "I didn't... took your feelings into consideration."

"No, it's fine... I'm sorry for also being so grumpy sometimes... or being annoying." Sighed Anna. "I am painfully aware of how I sometimes am an eyesore."

Elena quickly looked into Anna's eyes.

"You've stopped being an eyesore to me long ago..."

"Uwawawahhh...!"

Anna couldn't take it anymore, and almost fainted out of embarrassment.

Brand New Life Online: Rise Of The Goddess Of Harvest

Chapter 177: A Little Something

Elena held Anna's hand, as the two girls ended getting back to Elena's room. In there, Elena quickly covered herself in the blankets and invited Anna inside. Her friend felt slightly flustered about doing this, but the adorable Elena inviting her by patting the bed was way too cute to reject her invitation. She sat down timidly and then covered herself in the blankets. Once resting her head over the cushion, she quickly realized it wasn't that embarrassing... until she felt Elena's legs caressing her own, and then Elena's face all close to her, resting near her shoulder.

Anna was trying her best to contain herself, more so because she was incredibly embarrassed. Despite her talkative nature, she was actually quite the shy girl. When put into this situation, she couldn't help but feel incredibly flustered herself.

"Ellie..." She said. "Ellie" was a nickname of Elena that she sometimes called her as.

"Hm?" Elena wondered timidly.

"I-It is a bit obvious now but... D-Do you like me?" Wondered Anna.

"Ah." Elena muttered, quickly feeling completely frozen in time.

"E-Elena?!" Asked Anna.

"..."

"I-I was asking because I like you... I really... I... I like you." Said Anna.

"Guh..." Elena muttered, she was too embarrassed to talk, covering her face with her hands while her lips were trembling.

"Ah... Sorry for saying this out of nowhere... I just... I knew this might affect our friendship but..." Said Anna.

"...I like you too." Elena said.

In that moment, Anna felt like she skipped a heartbeat, the same way Elena did when Anna just confessed her feelings to her, in her bed to boot.

"Y-You do? The ugly me?" Asked Anna in disbelief.

"You're not ugly..." Elena said. "You're pretty..."

"P-Pretty...?" Anna asked, feeling more flustered.

"I like your red hair." Said Elena. "Your freckles are very cute too..."

"Ah... Uwawawahhh..." Anna suddenly fell over the bed, completely flustered.

At the end, both girls ended in completely silence.

"I-It is okay if we slowly get into this? I... don't want to rush it." Elena sighed. "But... I'm glad you like me too... It made me feel very happy... to be loved." Elena mustered the words.

"I-I... Of course..." Anna said. "Let's take it easy." She smiled honestly.

Elena slowly approached her face to hers, as the two girl's eyes met.

Their blood was boiling and flowing through their bodies as their hearts began beating so fast they thought they were about to have a stroke.

It was the fluttering feelings of nervousness and love emerging within their hearts.

The possibility of something beyond just friendship emerged.

Both loved one another.

What was there to do than to move forward towards the next stage?

Mooch.

A little kiss.

Elena kissed Anna's lips faintly.

It was very quick, but it felt like an eternity when they kissed.

"G-Goodnight..." Elena said, quickly giving Anna her back, as she rested to the other side of the bed.

Anna was left so shocked she felt like she turned into a stone statue.

"Uwaahh..."

And like that, without Elayne even knowing, her daughter began a romantic relationship with her best friend... or maybe the beginning of one.

Ugh...

I feel so heavy.

What's going on?

When I woke up, I felt like I had a bit of fever, and my body felt weakly as well.

I was all dizzy, and I couldn't properly get up without feeling like I was about to fall from bed.

I barely managed to get in my bathroom to do the daily routine, barely.

When I looked into my mirror, I was rather red, and tired looking.

Did I catch a cold and I'm getting fever? But I am sure I keep a healthy lifestyle...

"Ugh, and today I need to go to the gym again. Can I even go in this state?"

After thinking about it, I went back to bed, I didn't even felt hungry.

This is bad... if this continues I think I might have caught a strong cold with fever.

Been ages since I got this sick...

"Ugh... Elena? Elena!"

.

I called for Elena but she didn't respond, she was probably sleeping soundly.

I sent her a message to her phone and then decided to sleep for a bit.

"Mom? Mom!"

When I woke up, I found my daughter in front of me.

"Ah, dear, you came... I think I caught a cold; I am a bit feverish... I don't feel hungry either. Sorry, can you make yourself breakfast and lunch?" I asked.

"S-Sure... Do you need something? Ah... What do you do when I get this sick? Ah, remedies!" Said my daughter. "Wait, what other symptoms you got?"

"Hmm... I don't know. I think I just need to rest for a bit." I sighed.

"Ah, here. This is for headaches, right? And this one is for fevers..." My daughter put two pills over the night table as I consumed them with some water.

"You really don't feel hungry?" Wondered my daughter.

"No... But can you make me some herbal tea, dear?" I asked.

"S-Sure... I think maybe I could... make some chicken soup." She said.

"But you've never cooked, don't do anything like that... You might end up having an accident!" I cried.

"What? No way I'm doing something like that..." She said. "I hope... W-Well, maybe we can call a friend of yours as well. Auntie Rita?"

"Rita's busy in the gym... I don't want to bother her- Ah, maybe you could call Mark? He said he can cook something." I said.

"M-Mark? That guy?!" Asked Elena.

"That "guy"? He's my friend, Elena..." I sighed. "I'll call him... Don't worry about anything for now..."

"N-No, wait, mom! I also want to help you out..." My daughter pouted.

"Elena, then let's make the herbal tea she asked for." Sighed Anna behind her, petting her head.

"Okay..." Elena said, walking outside of my room.

Ugh, I feel so weird...

I quickly tipped something and sent it to Mark.

[Elayne: Mark, I feel so bad today... I need someone to come help me, can you come pretty please?]

[Mark: Huh? really? Are you feverish or something? Maybe I should bring you to a medic... Alright, I'll get there, wait for me.]

[Elayne: Thank you...]

Brand New Life Online: Rise Of The Goddess Of Harvest Chapter 178: Magic Fever

As I battled my fever, Mark arrived.

My daughter seemed a bit shocked I had called for him from all people, but I had been working with him for years so I kind of trusted him.

"Elayne, how are you feeling?"

Mark quickly entered the room after knocking, as I gave him the permission.

He found me over bed, below my blankets. It was a big embarrassing being seen in bed like this, all ugly and lazy.

"I-I'm a bit alright..." I sighed.

"You don't seem alright at all. I know you well, your forehead is all red too." Mark said, talking as if he were my father out of the sudden. "Did you ate a pill for headaches and the fever?"

"Yes... But I am still feeling a bit bad, I had a nap just now." I sighed.

"Hm. Let me cook you something for now, you can't just not eat. Did you had breakfast?" He wondered.

"N-No..." I said.

"Then we'll make some chicken soup... I also brought some syrup for throat pain and special baby wipes for your forehead, they're specially made to be cold, here." He quickly opened his bag filled with stuff he just brought and put a baby wipe over my head. It was cold and smelled so good that it quickly calmed me down a bit.

"Hahh... T-This is better than I thought." I sighed. "But I really don't know what I got... Maybe its covid?"

"Did you got your vaccine?" He wondered.

"Y-Yeah, I got another one a month and a half ago..." I sighed.

"It might be vaccinated people still get covid sometimes. It is like flu now to be honest; anybody catches it from time to time." Sighed Mark. "Though, it can sometimes be more severe. Do you suffer from any sickness to your lungs?"

"Sickness? Cough ... !"

Suddenly, I covered my mouth with a baby wipe before I coughed.

"Ahh... Yeah, I have asthma..." I sighed.

"Do you treat it?" He wondered.

"W-Well... I've not had symptoms in years so I thought I got over it." I said while averting my gaze. Mark seemed slightly serious.

"Sigh, I also have Asthma. It never goes away, you know? You have to treat it daily so you keep yourself at top condition. Do you have paracetamol?"

"Yes, in there..." I pointed out.

"Very well, just wait a bit..."

Mark began attending me as if he were a nurse. He brought me cough syrup, then some pills for headache which are more effective, another for body pain, and then paracetamol to calm the pain in my lungs.

"Thank you dear..." I sighed, feeling feverish.

"Elayne, how do you feel?" He asked, suddenly blushing.

"A-Ah... I am a bit dizzy..." I muttered.

"It's fine, the chicken soup its getting done. Elena, do you want to eat what I am preparing?" Mark asked Elena without much hesitation like before.

"A-Ah... Well, sure." Said Elena. "You too, Anna?"

"Yeah, I'm fine with anything to be honest." Said Anna. "I'm impressed you can cook, the soup smells nice!"

"I'm glad you girls are not picky with food." Said Mark. "I added some carrots and potatoes to give it some more consistency. Onions and garlic as well, those are good for flu, according to my grandma." Mark said while walking in and out of my room.

I ended falling asleep while hearing him cooking. Despite feeling so feverish, the day was rather relaxing. For some reason, it was raining outside rather loudly, but the sound of the rain hitting the ceiling only make it more relaxing.

...

"You're really hopeless, aren't you, my vessel?"

...

"I can't believe you can't take my Mana well..."

•••

"You better survive this! If you do, you'll be able to channel my strength better."

•••

"Do your best, this world really needs someone like you... especially from what I am sensing in here..."

•

"Huh? What was that?"

I suddenly woke up, remembering I was hearing a strange voice speaking to me. I couldn't quite recall what it was saying, but it was quite... important. Something... Maybe I am playing too many games and that's getting in my head.

"Elayne, you're ok?"

Suddenly, Mark entered bringing a plate with chicken soup.

"Ah... yeah, I just woke up from another nap..."

"I see, do you think you can eat a bit?"

"I can try... Hm, it smells nice. Although I can barely smell anything..."

"Here, drink this first."

Mark gave me a very bitter tea filled with herbs he had brought from a local shop. When I drank it all, I couldn't help but feel a bit gross.

"Uegh... What was this?"

"It is a series of herbs my grandma and mother used to make for me whenever I got the flu. It will do you good. Now eat some soup, I hope it is good..." Mark said while feeling a bit flustered.

I also felt slightly embarrassed of being attended by him as if I were a princess or something... But it felt good.

"Hmm... Ah, the soup is warm and tasty... It is very good!" I said. "It has been a while since I made soup myself... The flavor is nostalgic."

"I'm glad you like it." Mark said. "Try to eat some chicken and that garlic over there."

"Ugh... an entire garlic?" I asked.

"My grandpa used to eat those whole! It is good for your health." Said Mark. "Come on..."

"Okaaay..." I groaned, swallowing it. The garlic was... very soft and delicious.

"Oooh... it is not bad..." I said.

After that, I tasted the chicken, it was completely infused with the flavor of garlic, onions, and other spices he used. It was so good I couldn't help but eat everything.

"I finished... Thank you..."

"Wow, you really ate it all, I think you were quite hungry."

"Thanks for helping me today... I owe you my life..." I sighed. I slowly began falling asleep again.

"Make sure to rest some more." Said Mark with a gentle voice, as he walked outside of my room.

Brand New Life Online: Rise Of The Goddess Of Harvest

Chapter 179: A Daughter's Concerns

As Elayne slept, Mark walked towards the living room and sat down there, drinking some tea. He felt slightly nervous of being inside of Elayne's home for so long now, and that he was given the authority of using anything inside, even cooking and all. However, his nervousness was beaten by his concern for her health.

Suddenly catching a fever from one day to another wasn't something normal. Mark wanted to bring Elayne to a doctor if things were to get too bad, but he also wanted to know more about what she had been doing in her daily life that might indicate her current state of health. Therefore, against his concerns, he tried to ask her daughter.

"Elena, has your mother been alright this last week? You're her daughter so I was wondering if you've seen her slightly sick, more tired, or something else." Said Mark, as he interrupted Elena who was about to finish her meal.

"Ah..." Elena suddenly fell silent, having Mark in here certainly broke her daily life monotony. It was quite literally a house for girls in here, no man has stepped inside for some time. However, Elena knew that she had to try to remember anything, as she was concerned about her mother as well.

"Well, not that I remember..." She said. "Mom is always healthy, cheerful, and happy... It is almost as if she weren't human most of the time. Most people nowadays is so gloomy... It is sad to see her like this, maybe... I've not paying attention to her enough."

"I see..." Mark sighed. "Well, I am sure that you're doing your best. Your mother always talks about you at our job."

"...Really?" Asked Elena.

"Yeah, you're her pride and joy, you're literally her whole life. She never stops talking about you... You're very important to her." I said. "She works hard everyday just for you, and does everything for you as well... I'm sure you're doing your best, but it would be nice to do a bit more for her and be more observant of your mother. After all, she works so hard every day that she might be suffering something I couldn't notice myself."

Mark's words filled with honesty and concern made Elena realize something... She had never been paying attention to her mother's health. Not for a single second in her life she had wondered how her mother's health has been. Not for a single second she has wondered how she might feel sometimes, and not even she has wondered how tired she might feel after working so many hours every single day.

She was always wearing a happy and cheerful smile, so Elena always assumed she was always okay and healthy. Sometimes she even envied her own mother for having such a strong spirit... only for now to realize that she might be just hiding all her troubles to not bother her daughter.

"I... Yeah..." Elena sighed. "I guess you're right... I haven't been paying attention. I'll try to be more careful..."

"She's the only that is always doing her best to make your life better, Elena." Mark said.

"I-I know... I'll make sure to repay everything she has done for me..." Sighed Elena.

She herself had been making a lot of savings from playing Brand New Life Online and was planning to use them to support her family as she grew up, even thinking about becoming a full time player to make more money in-game. But that also meant less time to be with her mother and check on her. However, if she could provide money to the family, her mother wouldn't need to work so much anymore.

Elena's plan was to actually not move out at all, as she didn't really had any plans to buy a house in these times where everything was so expensive due to years of inflation, and just wanted to earn her own money to support her mother and give her a good life, just like her mother has been giving her.

"I want to give my mother a good life so she can retire as well..." Sighed Elena. "I'm doing my best."

"Huh? You're working part time?" Wondered Mark. After having heard that there were not many clues about Elayne's symptoms, he quickly decided to move on and simply wait for Elayne. If she gets slightly worse, he'll bring her immediately to a doctor or the hospital, and if she improves, he'll continue helping her.

"Um, not really. I'm playing a VRMMO game in my free time with my friend, we make money there by selling items we farm or craft." Said Elena. "Don't tell my mother about this but I've already earned few thousands in this small amount of time."

"Wow... I-I also play a VRMMO game, Brand New Life Online." Said Mark. "I had thought about making money in-game but I have forgotten about it most of the time... I'm just having fun with friends I guess."

"Well you got a job that pays you well, you don't really need to bother." Said Elena.

"Right..." Mark said. "Can I...?"

Mark was about to ask if he could add Elena to his friend list, but she quickly replied.

"No."

"Ah... Okay then."

Mark quickly realized she might not want to get involved with him anymore than this, and he decided to not pursue the issue.

"Well, are you sure you don't remember anything from your mother's behavior that might indicate any sickness?" Asked Mark again.

"Hmm..." Elena tried to think a bit more, until she quickly remembered something. "Not that I know of, she went to the gym and then... Ah, she was talking with plants yesterday. I don't know if that has anything to do with it."

"Talking with plants?" Asked Mark while raising an eyebrow.

"Y-Yeah, she sometimes talks with herself so I don't think it's anything bad. I think she plans to make a front yard garden." Said Elena. "I might help her I guess... It has been a while since she had any hobbies, the only thing she does is work."

"I see..." Said Mark. He quickly was reminded of a certain player in-game named Planta, and how much she loved her farm.

Brand New Life Online: Rise Of The Goddess Of Harvest Chapter 180: Recovered In The Blink Of An Eye!

(Elayne's POV)

When I woke up again, I suddenly felt less constipated, and slightly better. My breathing had calmed down as well, and although the fever was still rather noticeable, my mind was clearer. It was around 8 PM when I woke up, as I quickly went to the bathroom as well. When I walked outside, I heard someone knocking the door, and I opened, finding Mark there.

"Elayne, you're awake?" He wondered.

"Ah yeah... I feel a bit better now." I yawned.

"I'm glad. I'm going back home now. There's still more soup if you want to. I also cooked dinner." He said.

"Dinner? I thought you weren't good at cooking..." I said.

"I just copied what you've been giving me at work." He said. "I made some rice and chop suey, but it suffices. Take care now."

"A-Alright... Thanks for everything Mark. I could had called Rita as well but she got a whole family to take care of..." I sighed, feeling slightly sleepy.

I felt very grateful quite honestly, he did too much for me without me even asking him to do all of that. I was so happy I wanted to hug him, but I stopped myself, thinking that I might end up giving him whatever I caught.

"Don't worry about it. I'm going back home now, take care." Mark said.

"Yeah, thanks again! Take care on the way back!" I said, as I saw him walk away.

After eating something, I quickly decided to go back to my room and slept like a baby until the next morning. I don't remember a day I've slept so much before. It was very relaxing... I really needed to take a break.

.

"You're seriously a handful..."

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- .

"To think your body is so weak that you'll almost die with the infusion of Mana and Spiritual Essence..."

- .

"Oh well, that guy over there was nice enough to take care of you."

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"This world has already changed, and will continue doing so... You better prepare."

. "It's a pain I can't talk to you directly when you're awake due to the restrictions made by the Go

"It's a pain I can't talk to you directly when you're awake due to the restrictions made by the Gods governing here, but such restrictions might be lifted soon..."

. .

"...After all, the world will change and they will be forced to change alongside it..."

- .
- .

"It is a risky gamble, yeah... But I know they don't want to let this world end like my own..."

. .

"Yawn..."

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.

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When I woke up, I felt surprisingly well!

I didn't felt tired at all, and I was... even more energetic? Did Mark's treatment helped me recover superfast? Is he a healer or something? I also felt super energetic for some reason, the moment I got out of bed I did it by jumping out of it, something I've never done before. I also felt strangely... stronger? Or something like that.

I also... remember more weird voices talking to me back in my dreams. Those must be my own dreams I guess. I am super bad at remembering what I dream about unless it is a nightmare, or some old memory. I seriously can't remember what I even dreamed about.

"Sigh... Well, whatever."

I quickly decided to go to the bathroom and then stretch for a bit, doing some exercise. I realized I was just back to 100% without any issues or problems at all. I seem to have completely healed. I didn't even had indigestion or anything that usually happens as an aftermath of having fever.

In fact, aren't I a bit stronger than before?

Like... I just feel like it!

"Maybe the Gym's paying off already? But it hasn't been that long since I started going there! I'll surely go today as well." I said with a nod.

Today was the last day of the week so I didn't wanted to waste it. I quickly contacted Mark and Rita, telling them I had recovered. I also checked the App for the game and found both of them talking to me.

It seems that we had ended up delaying the quest because I wasn't present. I gave the excuse that "I was in a family's reunion" and Titan (Mark) seemed to have believed it. Rita knew I was sick but didn't said anything about it, I hope she doesn't begin suspecting anything strange.

After that, I went to take a shower and then decided to make breakfast. I was feeling incredibly hungry for some reason, so I made tons of pancakes, toasts, eggs and bacon, alongside a nice hot coffee for me and tea for Elena, as she liked to drink that in the mornings.

"Elena, dear! Its breakfast!" I said, Elena walked out of her room. Anna had gone back home yesterday after lunch apparently.

"Mom... You're alright? Didn't you had a strong fever? I've been checking on you all night..." Said my daughter.

"You were? Don't worry dear, I am alright now!" I said happily. "In fact, mama's feeling super strong this morning, like super! I guess the gym really paid off! Look what a single day did to me!"

"...Can a gym be so effective?!" My daughter wondered.

"Yeah you should totally come exercise with mama!" I said with a nod, serving her pancakes.

"W-Well, I don't think I will do that..." She said. "But I was really worried... I'm grateful for Mark too, he helped in the house and all as well without anybody asking him for it... I am happy you're okay too..."

"Heheh... You're so cute when you get worried about me..." I said, petting my daughter's head and giving him several kisses over her face, and then hugging her tightly. "Don't worry, no fever can beat me!"

"Dummy..."

"Eh?"

"Be more careful about your own health too..."

My daughter quickly looked at me with eyes that were just about to cry tears.

"Awawaahh...! S-Sorry for worrying you! I-It is okay now... I will try to be more careful from now on..." I sighed, hugging her tightly.