

Brand New 421

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

Chapter 421: The Danger Of The Dimensional Cracks & A New Power

A crisis?!

Well, I kind of knew already...

"I knew about it..." I sighed. "The Great Spirit told me."

"T-The Great Spirit of Harvest, you mean?!" Asked the Gods, most of the surprised.

And then they all glanced back at Gaia.

"Gaia, have you been watching over your Great Spirit?!" Asked the God of Fire.

"I-I... Well, I was going to tell you about this..." Gaia said, feeling slightly surprised. "C-Come on! Don't look at me like that! It's not as if having her in the other side won't be a good thing!"

"Hmmm..."

The God of Creation stroked his beard, nodding.

"Certainly, that is true. It is better this way to be honest. So you know about the Mana flowing into the other world, right?" Asked the God of Creation. "Great Spirit, there's no point in hiding your presence either."

POOF!

Suddenly, the Great Spirit of Harvest showed up, in her carrot form, of course.

"A-Ahahaha... H-Hello there, Great Lord!"

The God of Creation sighed, he seemed to know about her mischief.

"Anyways, as we were talking before. After the Demon King's attack into your world, we managed to stop it from becoming a world-scale catastrophe, and it only ended in minimum damage. However, the immense quantities of Mana from our world that ended leaking to your world had already begun to create permanent changes in Earth. And amongst them, one that could cause great damage if it succeeds on its totality is... The cracks left behind between both of our worlds."

"Cracks?" I wondered. "But I thought they were all healed?"

"Not all of them." Sighed the God of Creation. "A few hundred, if not thousands, incredibly small cracks were left open. They're constantly leaking more Mana into your world. We cannot pinpoint them with great detail due to their insanely small sizes."

"And things seem to be getting worse as entities from our world may, or have already begun, to infiltrate into your own, Planta..." Gaia sighed. "That's why, as you and your friends have the knowledge of this world's truth, we would like to ask you to close these cracks for us. Some of them can only be closed back in Earth, and not here."

"T-That's... an insane task you're asking!" I said in surprise. "Y-You think I can even do it? I don't... even know how to manipulate space..."

"Don't worry about that, through our connection and the Great Spirit's aid, once you find one, we'll quickly know and through our powers connecting into your body as a vessel, you'll be able to seal these cracks." Said The God of Creation, granting me a small spark of light, which entered my soul.

FLAAASH!

It didn't manifested as a skill, nor title, or anything like that... Yet I felt like I gained a really important new power.

"This is a power that will manifest in both this world and the other." Said Gaia. "It is not connected with the System either."

"I-I see..." I said, feeling as if within my body back in Earth, something new was engraved in my Magic Circle.

"This power comes with different abilities. We have decided to name it the first "Gift"." Said the God of Creation. "Planta, you might be the first "Gifted" in your world, as there may be many more in the future."

"The first gifted...?" I wondered.

"We've named this power we created as [Pathway], and it creates paths for us to connect our powers and manifest a small fraction into your world through your real life body." Said the God of Fire. "Make sure to not abuse it!"

"Well, she cannot use it without at least the permission of one of us." Said the Goddess of Water. "It's not like she can use it whenever she pleases."

"T-Thanks for such a gift... I will make sure to help you." I sighed.

"Eh? That fast?!" The Gods were left surprised.

"Huh? What do you mean?" I wondered.

"We thought... you would ask for more compensations." The God of Creation said, raising an eyebrow.

"The task we are giving to you is most likely incredibly arduous, yet you didn't even doubted once the gift was given..." The Fire God said.

"Well, I can now see why you like her so much, Gaia..." The Goddess of Water smiled back at me. "She's truly a pure hearted woman."

"I... I just feel guilty about it myself as well. If I hadn't doubted so much back then... If I hadn't hesitated like I did, nothing of this would had happened. I am... partially in fault for these things." I sighed. "If being a mother has taught me anything is that I have my own responsibilities, I cannot just brush them over or forget about them..."

The gods began talking with one another, looking at me with surprise over my honest words.

"We are most delighted by your honesty, Planta. None of us ever believed you were in fault for anything that happened. Even more, we are the only ones here to blame." Sighed the God of Creation.

"We are sorry for giving you such a responsibility." Said the Gods.

"W-Well, don't worry about it! However... I would really like if you could give me some... perks?" I asked.

"Oho, so you did wanted something." Laughed the God of Creation, his laughter was like that of Santa Claus. "Tell me what do you want, we'll consider it once we hear it."

"I want... The ability to open my in-game Inventory in the other world!" I said while burrowing my eyebrows, mustering all my resolve into asking something completely shameless.

"What?!"

"Such a thing..."

"I see, she wants it so she can use the powerful items of our world, isn't it?"

"It certainly is easier than granting her more power as well."

"For that, I can do it, god of creation."

What I assumed was the God of Space, which resembled a man made entirely out of nebulas, seemed willing to do it!

"Hmmm... This is certainly something... Well..." Sighed the God of Creation.

He looked into my eyes, as I gave him the saddest puppy face I could!

"Sigh..." He groaned. "Fine, but only if you use it with responsibility! If you ever use it to do something bad, or to hurt innocents, I will take away that power."

"Alright!" I nodded confidently.

The God of Creation and the God of Space glanced at one another, nodding.

A spark of light emerged from both of their index fingers, combining into a single cube-shaped mass of divine power, which flew into my soul, fusing with it.

FLAAASH!

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Chapter 422: You're Not Prepared For The Truth

"And it's done." The God of Space said. "Be careful when utilizing it. Don't show it to other people aside from those you trust the most. Also, to take out items, you'll need to spend Mana due to the System not existing in the other side to help you, so you're limited in the quality of items you can retrieve. Higher quality items cost a lot, especially equipment and items. I would suggest to better create your own items in the other world utilizing low ranked materials, that would save you more time and Mana."

"I-I see..." I nodded. "As of now up to which quality rank can I take out?" I wondered.

"Hmm, most likely only up to Rank D." Said the God of Space. "If you grow stronger or expand your Mana through the enhancement of your Physique and Magic Circle, you may improve."

"If there's a big emergency, we might grant you our own energy as Mana as well, but we will not help you at all times, so please don't grow conceited." The Goddess of Water said.

"Our power is also not unlimited." The God of Creation assured me. "But as long as it is to accomplish the quest we've given to you, rest assured that we will aid you."

"I understand, thank you. So who am I exactly dealing with?" I wondered.

"Phantasmos, one of the Death Generals of the Demon King of Death, Thanatos." The God of Creation said.

"Phan... tasmos?!" I asked. "And General?! Wait, what?! Did he went to our world?! Isn't he a super high-level monster?!"

"We have no idea of his true appearance or power level. But we are sure that he might have grown weaker by going to your world, after all your world is still in the process of "Awakening" and its Mana is not as big as our world. Which means that Undead without physical forms have a harder time there without mana in the environment to feed on and maintain their forms." Nyx said.

"Yeah, Planta, we are sorry..." Sighed Gaia. "We can't really tell you more because we simply have no idea ourselves. Phantasmos was the only one capable of sneaking through the cracks easily. Whatever he's planning, he might try to bring even more of his companions to the other world... A Catastrophe is assured, even now."

"We know you can't do the impossible, so we will not ask you to stop him directly or seek him at all costs. But your new powers will give you the ability to find his trails and whatever he might leave behind. Find the cracks, close them, and if you can, if you ever find him... destroy him. Once you fight him, we will grant you a small piece of our essence so you can deal with him." The God of Creation said. "However, it still depends in your personal growth if you can handle such power. Great Spirit of Harvest, make sure to help her grow stronger in the other world as well."

"Y-Yes my lord!" The cocky Great Spirit was acting very polite and submissive in front of the Gods, which was quite the shock.

However, I kind of get it. I won't be able to hold their power if I have a weak body after all. I have to grow stronger myself to channel it correctly. This [Pathway] power and then [Inventory] will surely facilitate this, however!

If I can drag items from the other world to earth and use them as materials, I could increase the growth of my magic circle a lot, and might even be able to finally develop a "physique" or whatever they're called.

"Now we've given you all the tools and told you everything we could." Said Gaia. "Good luck, Planta."

"Indeed, may fortune be at your side. We'll be watching you and also trying to keep this world from fragmenting anymore." The God of Creation said.

"Wait! I still have something... to ask." I said, looking back at the big figures.

"Huh? Yes?" The God of Creation wondered.

"I... When I defeated the Demon King, I saw through his memories. His old memories. I saw his origin, and how you created him and then... due to the plot of other gods, he was turned mad by a curse. After that, he was thrown away from heaven, and fragmented into seven fragments, the seven demon kings." I said. "I... Erebus, do you remember him?"

The Gods suddenly fell silent, their eyes opening wide.

"You can... see the memories of ancient souls?"

"Incredible..."

"Was such a power a manifestation of Gaia's divine protection?"

"No, this is something she has herself!"

The gods began talking with one another, whispering about things I couldn't hear from below here. It made me slightly nervous... If these gods are really the same as before, they should at least feel guilty about what they did, no? I just... want to know.

After talking between one another for a little while, they stopped, glancing back at me with worried expressions.

"Planta, we appreciate you. We also trust you as someone that could help us, and we will do everything we can to also protect your world." The God of Creation said. "However... We cannot talk about that."

"Not yet." Gaia sighed.

"Eh? Why?" I asked.

"You're not prepared." Nyx said. "Not yet, child."

"But...! Why?! What's there to be prepared for?!" I wondered.

"It is not something to decide by ourselves." The God of Creation said.

Wait, what?! Not something they can decide themselves? Aren't they the Gods? Is there... something else controlling them or something? Someone else behind this?

"Is it the System?" I wondered.

The gods glanced at one another. It seemed they simply couldn't talk about it, yet it felt like the System might have something to do with it.

"It is not the System, but someone behind it." Gaia said.

"Gaia! You shouldn't tell her!" The Fire God roared back at her.

"Sorry, Planta, but we cannot disclose more information... Let's say it is like a contract, we are bound to this contract, if we disclose anymore, we will be punished by violating this contract." The God of Creation sighed. "Please, forgive us."

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Chapter 423: Grinding Some Levels By Cooking

They're bound by something like a contract? Well that would explain it... But just when I thought I was beginning to figure things out, something even more complicated shows up! Agh, this is really getting into my head. I should just relax and go cook and farm for a while instead.

"I get it... I hope that one day, whoever might be behind this could tell me more. But for now I should leave! It was nice talking to you all." I said with a smile.

"I am glad you've not gotten angered at us..." Sighed Gaia.

"It's not something we can tell you, sorry, Planta." Nyx sighed.

"Shoo for now, we are already quite busy." The God of Fire went back to his mean personality.

"If there's something very important you want to ask us, feel free to call us through your powers as a Divinely Protected of Gaia." Said the God of Creation. "Until then, farewell, Planta."

FLAAASH!

And like that, my vision changed and I was once more back to the now peaceful Forest of Beginnings. I noticed the Guide Spirit had not talked through the entire ordeal, he was probably too nervous.

"Y-You really went overboard there! You shouldn't had asked so many questions!" He angrily said.

"What if my creators got angered?!"

"A-Ah... Well, as someone that has been given so many privileges already I thought I could talk with them a bit more." I sighed. "Guess I got a bit too cocky there."

"Indeed, what they cannot tell you might also involve the whole world." The Great Spirit said. "I have no idea myself who Gaia was referring to either, but everything is quite suspicious as well. One of my primary questions is... how was the world restored after its destruction by the hands of the Seventh Demon King? Why are certain parts of history repeating such as the Demon Kings, or most of the population being revived, but at the same time some aren't and seem distant and of the past?"

"Also the Demon Kings supposedly awakened between long spans of thousands of years, no? But as World Bosses, they're spawning really quickly..." I sighed. "This might also mean that ancient eras are all combined in this world, and that might also mean that tons of different people from various eras are living together simultaneously."

"Hoh! You're really quite observant!" Said the Great Spirit. "Indeed! I am just as curious as you!"

"Well, we can't do anything about this for now. Let's slowly find out more clues on our own then. If the gods can't tell us, then we'll find the answers ourselves." I steeled myself with confidence.

"Heh, alright then, partner!" Said the Great Spirit, sitting over the top of the head of my Yggdrasil Avatar which popped out of the soil near the giant tree.

"For now, however... I want to make some food and eat with everyone else! I spent all my Community Points though, so I dot know if I could even use them to get anything for now, sadly..." I sighed.

"Yeah your daughter really forced you." Sighed the Great Spirit.

"No matter! I can always get more over time." I nodded.

I walked back to the Village, as I found Rita and Lily preparing food. Thanks to my Food Spirits help, it seemed to count as if I also helped them make it myself!

Ding!

[You have helped cooking [Delicious Jumping Mushroom and Wild Boar Porridge] x15!]

[You gained 15000 EXP!]

[You helped cooking [Deliciously Sweet Yggdryad Fruit Pie] x20!]

[You gained 20000 EXP!]

[You helped cooking [Roasted River Fish Skewer With Spicy Fruit Sauce] x30!]

[You gained 30000 EXP!]

[You helped preparing [Fermented Yggdryad Fruit Wine] x80!]

[You gained 80000 EXP!]

[LEVEL UP!]

[LEVEL UP!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 78 to Level 80!]

[You earned Bonus Skill Points and Stat Points!]

[All Your Stats have increased!]

[You have accumulated a large quantity of unused Skill Points, make sure to spend them by Fusing Skills in the Skill Forge or by Buying new Skills in the Skill Tree!]

Wow, this would be easy to abuse to level up while I'm not logged in!

...If it wasn't because it doesn't work. Spirits won't give me anything if I am logged off for some reason.

But well, whatever weird logic is behind this, it's nice I got EXP by doing nothing!

"Hey, you're finally back!" Rita called me from afar. "Come join us girl! We've made a big feast to celebrate the guild creation!"

"I've made lots of pies using the fruits of your tree, they're amazingly sweet!" Lily said.

"I-I also made some skewered fish I caught myself." Mark said slightly timidly.

"Ooh, you also cooked Titan? Amazing! Everything looks yummy! But I can't join you guys yet." I sighed, as I reached the large table with everyone in the village and my many friends eating.

"Eh? Why?!" Asked Rita angered.

"Cuz I've gotta cook something myself as well!" I said, quickly bringing out of my Inventory piles of Drakon meat, which I've purified beforehand from Miasma and was now beautiful and red. "I also want to eat some roasted meat, and nothing better than some new meat we've not eaten before."

"Ooh, is that dragon meat?!" Acorn freaked out. "Amazing!"

"This is... The Drakon meat?" Asked Titania. "Wasn't it infected?"

"Nah, I've purified it! So let's make some tasty meals out of this." I said with a smile, quickly summoning dozens of more Cooking Spirits alongside vines and branches with hands out of the ground, serving as more hands for me to move and prepare many things.

I minced the meat and combined it with chopped onions, carrots, and garlic alongside some salt and other spices, making beautiful Drakon patties I started grilling with Titan's flames. Then I also cut thin slices and started frying them on a pan with goat milk butter and a few other ingredients, making delicious filets! And lastly, I also used the grounded meat to make some meat pie using the leftover dough from Lily's pies.

Ding! Ding! Ding!

[You've cooked [Wonderful Drakon Cheeseburgers With Sweet Mayo and Barbeque Sauce] x100!]

[You gained 50000 EXP!]

[You've cooked [Enchanting Drakon Steaks Fried With Divine Goat Butter] x100!]

[You gained 50000 EXP!]

[You've cooked [Delicious Drakon Meat Pies] x80!]

[You gained 40000 EXP!]

[LEVEL UP!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 80 to Level 81!]

[You earned Bonus Skill Points and Stat Points!]

[All Your Stats have increased!]

"Uwaaaah! It's so good!" Florie enjoyed a steak happily.

"I've missed Planta's cooking!" Acorn was devouring a cheeseburger.

"Didn't she cooked for us yesterday?" Wondered Nieve.

"I never thought Drakon Meat could be this good!" Even Titania was indulging into the good yet greasy food.

"I hope everyone can enjoy! I've made enough for everyone and more!" I said, serving everyone and then joining with my friends to eat as much as I wanted.

One of the various perks of this world's body was that I could eat as much as I wanted without growing fatter, so I made sure to eat to my heart's content! Oh, and the food my friends made was also so tasty~ I guess everyone's developing a talent for cooking.

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Chapter 424: The Power Of {Inventory}

The next morning, I woke up rather refreshed. I had expected I would get all tired for some reason, but every morning I woke up more energetic than before. It also felt like my skin took longer to get drier or rough, and my face always seemed clean and bright.

Is this the beauty inducing effects of Mana?! Maybe I could make whole cosmetics out of Mana-imbued materials... No, wait, before anything!

"[Inventory]!"

FLUOSH!

A small amount of Mana came out of my body, suddenly gathering into a sphere in midair.

Crack... crack... CRACK!

And then, a literal crack in space opened, a portal leading to a dark blue space twisting like a black hole.

Woah, this is scary.

"I-I should give it a try..."

I put my hand inside and then felt as if I was given a mental menu, in there, I saw all items stored! Nice, so I can retrieve them like this.

I thought about the lower quality ones and brought one out.

FLASH!

A beautiful red tomato emerged, I ended spending... roughly 50 MP bringing it out, maybe?

"Ah, this is the tomato I've harvested in the other world... Woah this is great. Maybe I could sell these items and make a lot of cash..." I began to think.

"Careful! The Gods said you shouldn't abuse this power, or they'll take it away, Planta!" The Great Spirit emerged in front of me in her usual carrot form.

"A-Ah, right..." I sighed.

"Though... There are other ways to make cash anyways, you don't need to use the other world's items. As long as you have mana, hehehehe..." She started to laugh.

What sort of mischief was she planning?

"We'll leave that for another time though, it's morning already so we've gotta go see the farm animals!" I quickly jumped off bed. "Rita! Wake up!"

I called Rita as she quickly woke up from her own bed.

"Huh? What do you want? Let me sleep a bit more..." She groaned grumpily.

"Come on! Wakie~ Wakie~!" I began teasing her.

"Sheesh you're so annoying..." Rita sighed, yawning as she looked at me with a rather tired expression.

"Ugh, yesterday I drank a bit too much wine..."

"Ah, you've got a hangover?" I sighed. "Oh! Maybe this can help?!"

I touched her forehead, imbuing a bit of healing magic into it.

"[Restore]!"

FLAAASH!

"Uooohh?!"

Rita's face quickly felt more alive and fresh, and her nausea seemed to disappear.

"Amazing! You can freaking heal hangovers?!" She freaked out. "Elayne you better teach me that spell! Also when are we learning magic?"

"I told you we need to hunt those Hollow monsters first! But we should do that either today or tomorrow... Once we freed ourselves from the clutches of my overly affectionate family! Hehe..." I giggled.

"Yeah that's going to be hard." She sighed. "Anyways, I hunger. Go make me some food."

"Huh?! Only the ones that work get to eat!" I laughed, quickly walking to the bathroom to take a bath.

"So wake up and go downstairs if you're so hungry. Mom should already have breakfast prepared."

I took a quick shower and then went downstairs, finding Mark in the way down.

"Ah, Elayne, good morning." He said with a gentle smile.

"Good morning!" I said with a smile. "Ya hungry?"

"Yeah, quite a lot for some reason." He laughed. "Thankfully I never get hangovers."

"Well, it's not like you drink that much either..." I said. "So anyways, I was planning... Like, how about we go see the farm animals together?" I wondered.

"With Rita and your daughter too?" He wondered, tilting his head.

"T-The two of us." I said, blushing a bit.

"Oh, sure, I'm on it!" Mark said. "I was actually wondering if you could teach me the ways around being a farm girl and stuff."

"I-I am not a farm girl!" I sighed. "But if that was a compliment I'll take it."

"Hahaha, I just think its really cute that you are from the countryside. Its like a whole facet you never show to people." Mark said.

"Mostly because I am always embarrassed of it..." I sighed.

"Please don't be, it's actually something to be quite proud of..." He sighed. "Honestly, I wish I could had grown in a farm like you, in a warm family... In such a fun environment... Makes it so special."

"You've never come to the countryside or something?" I teased him.

"A-Actually..." He started getting embarrassed himself.

"I see, so you're a city boy!" I laughed. "You were born and raised there... Well! We've got a lot to do today! So let's go!"

Like that, we joined the rest of my family for breakfast. My daughter and her friends were already enjoying the breakfast with mom. She had prepared apple pie for everyone, and there was also a massive circle of goat cheese over the table, with some salami and freshly squeezed milk.

"Look who's back. Is the city treating you so nicely you don't even wake up in time, dear?" Mother teased me while laughing.

"Hey, I usually wake up at like six AM!" I sighed.

"Doubt it." Laughed Harry. "Hey Mark, come sit at my side!"

"E-Eh? S-Sure..." Mark got slightly surprised.

"Yeah come here with the boys!" Laughed my father.

"You're no boy at your age, grandpa." Elena joked.

"O-Ouch! I sure didn't see that coming!" My father said. "What happened with little Elena, finally feeling like talking more with your old man?"

"I was just saying...." Elena said while drinking some coffee with milk.

"Hey sis, did you sleep well?" Little Henrietta wondered. She looked much brighter than back then, and I even felt some... magic working on her?

Huh, wait...

Did the pie I gave her improved her mood magically?!

Woah.

"Yeah Henrietta! It feels so relaxing to sleep without hearing cars in the background." I sighed in relief.

"Honestly speaking I would never get used to sleeping in the city with that in the night!" Sighed my mom.

"You really get used to it mom, believe me. Though yeah, I used to take a while to sleep as well..." Sighed Mary, feeding her two little daughters.

"You two really became another breed!" Laughed my brother. "Well I sure hope you're ready to milk some cows and goats, also its your turn on cleaning the horse poop!"

Hahahah... Yeah, life in the countryside.

I couldn't ask for more.

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Chapter 425: Milking Cows, Magic Fruits, And Hollows

"S-So, is it done like this? Ah, this is really awkward, isn't it?"

"Come on, just keep squeezing them! Milk should come out any time now."

"Is this really okay? It doesn't hurt that I squeeze them this hard?"

"No, it feels relieving. Keep doing it, harder!"

"A-Are you sure?"

"Yeah, have some more confidence! Grab those tits harder, squeeze em'!"

"Ahh... S-Something's coming out now!"

"Ahhh! T-There!"

"MOOOOOH!"

Mark was having a hard time figuring out how to get milk from the cows, but dear Snowflake here was kind enough to let him try until he finally succeed. Amongst all our cows she's the nicest of them all, and after she started producing milk, she suddenly began licking Mark's face.

"Slurp, slurp..."

"Uugh... Ahahah, good girl."

Mark patted little Snowflake while she licked him. I checked on the milk produced, and it was quite... very little, it was barely anything in the bucket.

"Mark if you want to have enough milk to make cream, you've gotta fill this whole bucket!" I said.

"E-Eh?!" Mark felt slightly shocked. He didn't seem to like this activity.

However, he seemed decided to keep trying.

"Alright... Let's keep doing it then! I never thought milking a cow would be this complex." He laughed.

"Don't worry, you'll get the hang of it eventually, continue like you were doing before!" I said.

"Hahh..." Mark sighed.

Like that, after thirty minutes of great effort, we managed to get a whole bucket. Snowflake did a good job as well, so I rewarded her with something. I took out an Apple out of my Inventory, scaring Mark, and then feeding it to her.

"W-What?! Where did you get that apple from?!"

"Oh, this? I got a little ability from the Gods of Arcadia! I can open my Inventory from the other world, but it costs Mana to draw items from, the higher quality, the more they cost."

"An ability... That's just insane."

Mark seemed really surprised, his gamer side activated as he started analyzing this power a lot, asking me to show him the portal to the inventory once more.

"It's really like a crack in space... Woah, so each of our inventories are like dimensions of their own? Well, whenever we log back in, I should give you my items so you could drag them out." Mark considered.

"Oh yeah, I suppose we could do that." I nodded. "Though weapons and armor that aren't the lowest ranks can't be dragged out, they cost more MP than I have... The Gods said it would be more convenient to craft armor and equipment here."

"Crafting items in the real world..." Mark began getting pumped up. "And how there's Mana in the world and all... Damn, it really feels like those Manhwa I used to read when I was a teen."

"Manhwa?" I wondered.

"They're like Korean Web Comics. I remember a very popular genre, which is still very popular... The Portal Fantasy one, which usually happens when Rifts open in the modern world, fill the world with Mana and monsters come out of the Rifts."

"Oooh, I think I remember those..." I said while trying to remember. "Though the most popular one was... Uuuhh, Solo Player or something?"

"Yeah! I loved that one! Oh man, I always had these teen fantasies imagining the world would become like this..." Mark said. "Though... now that it is finally starting, I can't help but get worried."

"Well, usually what we want when we are teenagers change a lot once we grow up." I laughed. "Though, want an apple?"

"Huh? Sure, I wonder if these are as tasty as they are in the other world..." Mark said, as he grabbed it and took a bite.

"Ohhh?!"

His face suddenly got all red, as he swallowed the apple slowly.

"Mark?! Are you okay?!"

"I-It's very sweet... Felt like biting a candied apple directly...! And the juice is superb too!"

"Oooh! So it's good?"

"Nom, nom, nom!"

Mark ate it in seconds, and so did Snowflake with her own.

"They're really incredible!"

"MOOOOH!"

Both seemed happy, hahah...

FLASH!

However, with my eyes, I saw something they couldn't notice, a flow of mana reached their bodies and then slowly was absorbed by their muscles, bones, and so on. Thinking about it, these apples are D Rank "Dexterous Apples" which increase Dexterity temporarily.

Is this aura they have some sort of active buff then? Woah, this is amazing! Maybe I could make even non-awakened people gain a lot of strength through buffs in the food!

"Ooh, so you've figured it out! Both these fruits and the food you make always come with some enchantment!" Said the Great Spirit. "However, if you use these ingredients from Arcadia, the food should have way stronger effects. Potentially, you could make food that makes people become super strong, fast, or bulky! Albeit temporarily."

"I see...!" I said with a nod. "Mark!"

"Hm? Yes?" Mark wondered.

"Don't you feel... more dexterous now?" I wondered.

"I do... feel faster I think? Like..." Mark said. "I don't know, I do feel lighter as well."

"I see! It's working! The apple gave you a DEX buff! I think it lasts a few hours?" I wondered while thinking.

"A buff?! Right! So those also work in Earth?! Insane!" Mark felt surprised, smiling like a child. "Elayne, does this means... you can bring more food for more buffs and stuff?"

"I think so! The Great Spirit said so." I nodded. "Maybe with this I could give you the ability to detect Hollows."

"I think feeding him something that boosts INT would do the trick, as it would give them a temporary [Magic Perception], which is necessary to see Hollows and their many relatives." The Great Spirit said.

"Wait, Hollows have relatives?" I wondered.

"Meow!"

Suddenly, Blackie emerged from my shadows. He had showed up in the morning and ate a lot of lamb meat my mother gave to him, but he then went away somewhere else again.

"HISSSSS!"

Blackie began hissing at Mark.

"Huh? W-What's wrong?" Mark wondered.

No, it wasn't at Mark.

It was something behind him?

"Give me... Mana...! MANA! OOOOOHHH!!!"

A massive Hollow, bigger than the other I had fought yesterday showed up!

"Watch out Elayne! This guy was strong enough to ignore the Barrier!" The Great Spirit alerted me

"Mark, move!" I quickly grabbed Mark and pushed him away before the Hollow's enormous arms clashed into the ground.

BAAAAAMMM!!!

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Chapter 426: Stronger Hollow

"Huh?! Elayne what's wrong?! Is there something behind me?" Mark reacted in shock when I threw him away.

"S-Sorry! But I had to, you can't see it yet, can't you? But there's a HUGE Hollow right in front of us!" I said.

"What?!" Mark quickly stood up, getting at my side, and grabbing a hoe to fight. He was quite quick-witted. "T-Then let me fight it too!"

"You can't see it, dumbass!" The Great Spirit sighed. "Elayne if the guy you fought was like a G Rank Hollow, this guy's as strong as a F Rank!"

"Wait, they got Ranks now?!" I asked.

"Let's go with that for now so its easier to measure their strength." Said the Great Spirit. "Also give that idiot of your boyfriend something to help him see them!"

"R-Right!" I quickly put my hand inside my Inventory and then spent 50 MP more into getting out a lemon. My MP was around 400 right now, but thanks to my fast regeneration, I should get it full soon enough.

"Mark, eat this! It's a Magical Lemon, it boosts INT for a few hours!" I threw the Lemon at Mark.

"Alright!" Mark didn't hesitate, as he bit into the lemon, his face quickly distorted and was filled with wrinkles. "So sour...!"

"OOOOHHHHHHH!"

The monstrous Hollow quickly attacked again, its enormous arms hitting the ground furiously and making the entire barn tremble.

BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM!

This thing was around three meters tall and had giant gorilla-like arms. It had a single face, resembling a white mask with two empty eyes and a long pointy nose.

Unlike the first one I meet which seemed to have no definite form, this guy was surely more compact and wasn't shapeshifting as much.

"I see! It's an F Rank Fighter-Class Hollow, they're tough as they come and super strong, but dumber than others, bait him to go outside!" The Great Spirit recommended me.

"Sure!" I grabbed a shovel and then ran towards the gate of the barn, luring it out. "Come here dumbass! I've got you all the mana you want here!"

"OOOOHHHHH!"

The giant quickly began crawling out, as he directed his two massive hands towards me, attempting to grab me.

"[Mana Infusion]!"

I imbued Mana into my shovel as the old shovel started shining with a green light.

FLASH!

"HYAAAAH!"

With all my strength, I smacked the Hollow's arms and weakened them. The two arms suddenly exploded into black mud, hitting the ground.

SPLASH!

It worked!

"OOOOHHH...!"

However, the Hollow acted as if it was nothing, quickly regrowing a new set of arms and punching me with all its strength!

"S-Shit! [Wooden Shield]!"

BAAAAAMMM!

CRASH!

The Wooden Shield shattered into pieces, as the punch hit me and blew me away.

CLASH!

"Ouch..."

I found myself falling several meters down into the ground, as I felt slightly tired.

"AHHHH... Mana... MANAAAA!"

The Hollow's entire face began to distort as countless tentacles emerged, pointing them at me and attempting to drain my Mana.

"N-No! [Sharp Thorns]!"

I touched the grass below me with my hands, imbuing Mana into it and then transforming the plants into sharp, three-meter-big thorns!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"GRYAAAAHHH!!!!!"

The Hollow roared in agony, stepping back as its entire body was pierced. But like a slime, it began freeing itself from them quite easily.

I slowly stood up, suddenly realizing Mark was behind the Hollow!

"T-This thing's a hollow... This is nuts..." He said. "However...!"

His Mana overflowed from his very soul, as he imbued it into the hoe he was carrying and then he hit the Hollow's back with it!

"Take this you shithead!"

CLAAAAASH!

"GRAAAAAHH?!"

The Hollow certainly received some damage, glancing back at Mark with angered, red-colored eyes.

"TINY... PATHETIC!"

Angrily, the Hollow pointed its fists at Mark!

"Blackie! Do something!"

"MEOW!"

Blackie who had been slacking off quickly emerged out of the shadows after my command, controlling the shadows themselves as he created tentacles made of darkness, wrapping them around the Hollows arms and pulling them down!

CRAAASH!

"GRAAAH?! GRYYYYEEH...!"

"HISSSS!"

Blackie hissed angrily, as he jumped over the Hollow, his tiny claws growing over five times their size as he slashed the Hollow's face countless times!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"UUOOOGGGH...!"

The Hollow took some damage there as well, but this thing was sure tanky, even with everything it took, it was still standing.

"GRAAAH!"

The Hollow furiously created a third arm coming from its stomach, punching Blackie and Mark away from him!

CLASH! CLAAASH!

"Meeow!"

"Aagh...!"

"EAT... HUNGRY!"

The Hollow's entire body began to distort into an aberrant pair of jaws, attempting to devour the two of them at once.

But I wasn't going to let him!

I put my hands inside the Inventory once more, taking out a cube-shaped item.

A Potential Cube!

If I need more power.

I quickly put the Potential Cube over the shovel as I ran towards the Hollow.

FLAAASH!

And then, I saw it. The Potential Cube worked as intended, boosting the normal shovel's powers and granting it a special Potential Ability, even of the lowest rank, it should work somehow!

While that happened, I heard a voice inside my head.

[Potential Cube (D Rank)] has been utilized on [Old Farm Shovel (No Rank)]!

[The [Old Farm Shovel (No Rank)] has evolved into a D Rank Magic Weapon!]

[It has gained the Potential Abilities [STR +15% (D)] and [Explosive Blow (D)]!]

Was that the System?! But I thought it wasn't inside this world!

Or maybe it is the very cube that has such a system-like message thing?

Well, whatever the case...!

"[Mana Infusion]! [Explosive Blow]!!!"

I quickly unleashed all the leftover Mana I had, imbuing it into my weapon and then... Smacking the Hollow with everything I had on me!

CLAAAASH!

"GRUOOHHHHH...!"

The Mana infused into the weapon suddenly entered the Hollow's body, exploding!

BOOOOOOMMM!!!

The Hollow ended exploding like a balloon, splattering its black mud thing everywhere before completely dissipating and only leaving a single black crystal behind...

"Hah... I did it..." I sighed, resting over the ground.

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Chapter 427: A Mysterious Secret Agency

"Elayne! Are you alright?" Mark ran to my side.

"I-I am alright! But what about you?!" I asked, checking his entire body with my hands.

I lifted his shirt and saw a the left side of his stomach all swelled up. It was even purple, but it didn't seem to have pierced anything, and internal organs were alright as well.

"This is nothing, please don't worry..." Mark said. "Blackie, is he okay?!"

We quickly ran towards Blackie, but found him snacking on the hollows black mud. This time it hadn't disappeared completely.

"Nom, nom, nom... Meow?" He was completely fine as well, and he just glanced back at us with indifference before going back to his bizarre meal.

Cats, I guess.

"Phew... I am glad everything ended fine." I sighed, quickly grabbing the mud and the Hollow's crystal and storing it inside my Inventory for later. "We could probably have some use for these materials. Also it seems that items that originate from this world don't cost any MP to retrieve later."

"That's good... Ugh...!" Mark suddenly fell to his knees and began puking over the grass. "Aaghh, my stomach really hurts..."

"A-Ah right! Your stomach must have been twisted from that attack... Here, let me relieve your pain." I sighed, my MP had recovered a little, but not completely enough, so I cut the tip of my finger and poured my sap-blood over his mouth. "D-Drink this... It's my blood, but its like sap now, it heals whoever drinks it."

Mark blushed a bit, as he slowly began licking my finger.

This is super lewd for some reason!

FLASH!

His wound was already recovering fast, and the swelling disappeared after a little while. It seems my family didn't heard us fighting at all, I glanced in the distance, at the other side of the farm my brother was with Rita and everyone else showing them the chickens.

Well, that's for the better. It is a relief they didn't get in the way.

"I think I am fine now, Elayne..." Mark said, his face as red as a tomato.

"Oh? That's nice...!" I said with a smile.

"S-So, can you... erm, get off me?" He wondered.

"Huh?" I wondered.

And then I suddenly realized I was sitting over his legs while I was feeding him from my finger.

When did I get into this position?!

I quickly jumped off before things were to get even more embarrassing.

"S-Sorry!" I said.

"It's fine. Thanks for healing me, I feel way better now. Your sap is amazing... Though, don't you feel weaker by using it?" He wondered.

"Oh, maybe? But by eating I refill my blood easily." I said while puffing my chest.

"...That sounds like a Shonen Manga character." Mark laughed.

"Eh? Like Luffy or something?" I giggled.

"You know Luffy?" He was surprised.

"Of course I know! I love One Piece! Though I haven't read it in a while... Did it end?" I wondered.

"...No. Even though the author said he was ending it soon some years ago, it still on going." Mark said.

"Sometimes I think he'll die before finishing it."

"Ahahah..." I laughed a bit.

"Well, that sure lifted the mood, huh?" The Great Spirit spoke, emerging in front of us in her carrot form.

"EH?! A-A floating carrot?!" Mark reacted as expected.

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A phantasmal presence wandered the lands of Canada in the sky, unseen by anybody incapable of seeing magical beings. His red eyes scanning the area, as he suddenly sensed something. One of the many Hollows "marked" with his phantasmal powers which had evolved into a greater form ended finding something truly peculiar.

"Oh? Seems like I found her faster than I imagined..." The phantasmal entity started to laugh. "Then shall we pay her a visit, friends?"

Countless of Hollows started crawling all around the city and moving to the countryside, no people capable of detecting them yet, as they continued moving, devouring one another, and growing bigger, and bigger... It might take some days, but surely enough, they might reach their objective.

However, it wasn't as if all humans were defenseless and incapable of detecting magical creatures either. Some did see that, and various of these people gathered together, somewhere.

"Has anyone been noticing the Hollows moving towards the outside of the city?"

"What's going on, honestly?"

"Stop asking questions I can't answer you two, isn't it obvious I have no freaking idea? Seriously Canadians are so stupid..."

"What did you said?!"

"You damn American pig, go back to your stupid country if you don't like it here already!"

"Huh? Wanna fight? The world's has gone to shit, so I don't mind going a bit wild..."

As these three idiots were about to fight for no reason, someone else in the room stopped them.

"Stop it, you three. We came here to investigate the Mana Pollution, not to fight between one another. With the shit that happened some days ago the world's going to get worse from now on. Already a lot of other teams were sent all around the world." He sighed. "But this, this is bizarre... We might end up expecting a High Rank Danger Zone soon, the countryside of this little city might become a breeding nest for Hollows, and god forbid there's anything else than that."

"Boss, should we get moving then?"

"We need to quickly get there and stop them!"

"Also there's tons of Hollows, we could make a lot of cash..."

"You three will go, if we leave the city completely unprotected my own boss's going to fucking kill me." Sighed the man. "Now go, don't waste any more time. I feel like the week after The First Contact might become the one where a lot of shit happens, keep your eyes open."

"Yes sir!"

The three mysterious figures quickly jumped off the window, moving at superhuman speeds with abilities no normal person could possess, and slowly tracking down the armies of Hollows moving to the countryside.

The man that stayed in the city began smoking a cigar, while checking on his computer, countless registered cases of Hollows and even monsters began appearing one after the other within the hidden archives of the organization he worked for.

"Monsters, Dungeons, Awakened people that has no relations with Ancient Superhuman Bloodlines... How wild is this world going to become?" He sighed. "And it has only been like three days... Sooner or later, the Governments won't be able to hide this from the people anymore, and the event that might happen in this city's countryside might become the catalyst."

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Chapter 428: Elayne's Horse

"Yeah you can see me now! Good thing you ate that lemon." The Great Spirit said. "So anyways, this feels weird... That Hollow... I barely remember seeing any Hollows around this entire place, they're usually always in the big cities, even less likely to be here with not much negative energy to absorb either... Feels like they somehow dragged themselves here."

"You mean they followed us?" I wondered.

"Dunno, probably?" She seemed a bit too carefree. "Nonetheless, it would be good if we could investigate the surroundings further. It is also odd evolved species would show up in here, they're usually rare- Ah, well with everything going on, it wouldn't be as weird."

"Excuse me, errr... Great Spirit." Said Mark. "But is it really possible that this could be provoked only by Elayne?"

"I also think there might be something else going on." Said the Great Spirit. "Come to think about it... I remember the God of Creation saying the Death Generals of the Demon King of Death were on the move. What was this guy's name? Phasmos? Phantos?"

"Phantasmos?" I asked. "Ah! You're right... Could he be involved in this increase of Hollows population then?! But... Why is he exactly in here? I thought he would appear elsewhere at least..."

"Strange, right?" The Great Spirit wondered. "Maybe he's purposely trying to find you!"

"I do wonder, now that Elayne became a World Boss in Arcadia, perhaps the Demon King of Death might be warier of her. Even if he had yet to awaken... If he has these Death Generals to move for him while he prepares his awakening. Maybe he's trying to eliminate her in this world." Mark analyzed everything rather quickly.

"T-That makes sense...." I sighed. "Ugh, this is bad. We need to grow stronger in here as fast as possible! ...But we can't simply ignore my family either. At least let's spend the rest of the day with everyone while we think about what to do."

"Yeah, I suppose we shouldn't act suspicious or something." Mark nodded. "Nonetheless, I wonder when this magic power is going to fade away?"

"In an hour or two, but you could eat another lemon!" I said.

"Ugh... They're so sour though." He sighed.

"Well, let's make some Magic Lemonade then!" I said.

"Ah, that sounds much better." Mark sighed. "Anyways, we've got milk too. How about... Oh! How about we make lemon pie?"

"Lemon pie? Ooh! Sounds perfect!" I agreed instantly.

"Though I want to help you out this time." Mark said.

He seemed rather willing to cook and learn more from me as well. I had never seen him with this much intention of learning about cooking. I would really like to taste something he made with his own hands.

"Alright then! Let's go see the chickens to grab some eggs and let's make some lemon pie with lemonade." I nodded. "Apple pie too or make a kuchen with several fruits."

"Carrot cake too!" The Great Spirit said.

"Yeah I will use your body for that, heh." I smiled.

"W-Wait, not me though!" She complained.

Like that, we continued on our "date" as I had intended. We went around every corner of the farm. I showed Mark the hens and taught him how to stealthily steal their eggs. I also showed him the piggies that were friendly as always, and then showed him the horsies. I asked for his help to clean their poop. Horse poop is a really good fertilizer as well!

"Ahhh, how are you doing Freckles? Did you miss me?"

"Nieeegh!"

An old female horse greeted us, she was freckles. I named her like that because she was brown with slightly reddish-brown spots around her face. She was rather old by now, but still had it with her.

"Oh, she's so cute... Is she like your horse?" Wondered Mark.

"Yep! I raised her since she was a little baby when I was a kid myself. We've bonded since then. She always remembers me even when we don't see one another for a while." I said with a smile, as I caressed her big head and feed her an apple.

"Cronch, crunch, crunch..." She was happily eating.

"Freckles can we take a ride?" I asked her.

"Nieeegh!" Freckles licked my face.

"I guess that's a yes!" I laughed.

I quickly jumped over her after bringing some equipment to ride a horse.

"Alright, let's do a little round around here!"

"Nieeegh!"

Freckles began galloping freely and happily around, she was really fast after eating that Dexterous Apple though! Her speed increased so much I could feel the wind hitting my body rather strongly.

"H-Hold on girl! Slower!"

"Nieeegh!"

Freckles slowed down a bit, and then walked back to Mark.

"Y-You're great at riding horses... Wow, another unexpected talent from you." Mark said with surprise.

"Heheh! Of course! Now come here! Freckle's a nice girl, so she'll let you ride her with me." I said, extending my hand.

"Are you sure? I've never ridden a horse before..." Mark said.

"Don't worry, she's the nicest horsie around!" I assured him.

"T-Then, excuse me, Freckles." Mark said, as I helped him sit behind me.

"Here, grab my stomach really hard so you don't fall, okay?" I asked him.

We were quite closer... His warm hands timidly wrapped around my stomach, as he nodded.

"A-Alright, I am ready..."

He was trembling a bit. He was really scared! Well, that fear will go away quickly after he realizes its not a big deal.

"Don't worry city boy, I'll teach you the ways. Let's go Freckles! Let's take away the fear he has."

"Nieegh!"

Freckles seemed to agree, as she began galloping around.

The beautiful clear blue sky, the grasslands surrounding us, the faraway forests, the rivers, the bright sun atop the skies, and the slightly warm breeze... it was all so relaxing. I felt all my stress fly away.

"Ahhh, it's pretty relaxing, right?" I asked.

"This is... its quite beautiful, yeah." Mark smiled, glancing back into my eyes. "You're really amazing, Elayne..."

"A-Ah, well, it's nothing, really~" I giggled. "I am glad you're enjoying yourself."

I might end up treasuring these moments for a long time.

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Chapter 429: Everyone Loves Elayne's Pastries

"It's done like this. See? Now mix the cream with all your strength so it doesn't fall into a liquid again. Make sure to add some sugar as well, this merengue gotta be really sweet!" I said.

"Ahh, like this?" Mark was trying his best to mix the merengue for the lemon pie, but he was constantly doing it wrong.

It always felt like he was afraid of using too much strength for some reason.

"Don't be so shy, use your strength. Come on!"

"A-Alright, alright!"

Mark began mixing faster and faster. The cream started rising and rising as I helped him adding powder sugar in small bits, slowly yet steadily, the merengue was done.

I took a little scoop using my finger and tasted it, it was really sweet.

"Here." I said playfully, touching his nose and leaving some merengue over it.

"Ahhh, you...!" Mark quickly did the same with me.

Without realizing it, the two of us began playing around and laughing like children. And we ended covered in merengue too... Ah, this is embarrassing.

After cleaning ourselves a bit, we got into making the pie. I utilized the dough I already made yesterday and built the shape in the pie mold, after that I just added the cream made using lemon and other ingredients, such as condensed milk and eggs, and a LOT of the Magic Lemon juice, sugar, and other things. And then, the merengue on top.

"And done! Looks pretty, right? We have to leave it in the freezer for a tiny bit and then into the oven." I said. "Want some lemonade?"

"Sure, I haven't drank any liquid since this morning." Mark sighed tiredly, sitting in a chair.

"Here. This is magic lemonade. We should keep it hidden so not everyone drinks it though..." I quickly saved the bottle of lemonade inside of my [Inventory].

It was sweet, citric, and really cold, it really hit the spot! It was so nice I just kept drinking. And the fuzzy sensation that the magic gave to our bodies once we drank it was amazing.

"Phew! I feel recharged." Mark sighed.

"Alright then, let's go meet with everyone else, we've been ignoring everyone for a little while..." I sighed.

"Right, let's go then. I saw your father preparing to roast something." Mark pointed out.

Like that, we reencountered with the rest of my family. I noticed Elena going around with Patches. Been a while since she even gave her any attention. Anna and Elisa seemed really fascinated with the horse though. My parents were preparing food.

Mom was making a lamb stew using the leftover meat from yesterday, and father was making roasted chicken. I saw them bleeding some hens this morning, so I guessed they wanted some chicken today.

"Hey look who's back!" My mom said.

"Well, well, well." My father said. "Looks like you guys are finally done playing all lovey-dovey?"

"W-What are you talking about dad?!" I sighed.

"Hahaha, she got all red!" Harry pointed my face, laughing.

"Heh, I was making a tasty lemon pie but I guess I won't share with meanies." I said while crossing my arms.

"Eh? Don't be like that sis!" Harry immediately changed.

"You made lemon pie?! I love it! Don't be so cruel with your poor and sickly old man!" My father cried.

"Hahaha, then don't be mean." I said while puffing my chest. "So anyways, mom, let me help you with that!"

"Alright dear but leave me some lemon pie too." She said.

"Why are you so obsessed with what I make?" I sighed.

"It just your hands! They're blessed!" Harry said.

I guess my family really loved my cooking above all things...

"Mom did you made fruit kuchen?" My daughter wondered, having already stopped ridding Patches.

"Yep! You want some?" I wondered. Good thing I also made normal versions of these pastries, the special magic versions are only for me, Mark, and Rita for now.

Elena nodded to my question.

"Then I will give you some for dinner dear." I said with a smile. "How have you been? You seem to be having a lot of fun."

"Yeah, its more fun than I remembered it, honestly..." My daughter sighed. "Anna and Elisa are having fun too, though I was wondering if we could go to the river or the lake tomorrow?"

"Oh yeah! We should definitely go there!" I agreed. "Alright then, plans for tomorrow are already decided!"

"Nice." My daughter said with a smile. "...Can I have a piece of kuchen now?"

"No."

"Ah..."

Like that, with family, friends, and my beloved daughter, time went by faster than I thought. Time when you're having fun goes so fast, it almost feels unfair, isn't it? The night came quickly, and we had dinner with everyone. My pies and the kuchen were especially well received, my family seemed to miss my pastries. Harry always says I make them tastier than mum.

And so, as everyone went to sleep, we decided to finally do our "secret meeting" with Mark and Rita. We left some chat messages back in the game using the app, saying we wouldn't be logging in for a few days. Mostly because we will be REALLY busy with what we need to do here, hunting hollows, teaching magic to my friends, and ultimately helping them awaken it of course.

Thankfully, NPC can talk to players when they're inside a guild, Titania, and the other chiefs assured me everything was going to be well taken care of, and I even granted some special privileges to them so they can upgrade and expand the village if necessary. Titania ascended to a [Second in Command] because she's the one I trusted the most and was also the smartest.

My daughter was already logged in and started angrily telling me to log back and not be a slacker. But ultimately she gave up and went with her friends to slay some Boss monsters to gain contribution while "waiting for the next big update to happen".

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Chapter 430: Time To Make New Weapons

It's not as if I don't want to play either, I REALLY do! But we need to put some priorities now, sadly. I'll make sure to play a lot of next week to compensate. I have a lot of plans. I want to explore the nearby Luminous Kingdom, go to the Dwarven Mountains where there are Dragon Monsters, and try to find the guy that stole Titania's sword.

The Death Generals seem to be laying low for now, so let's take this as an advantage to get this done here. I wouldn't want to get surprised when Phantasmos shows up to eat my soul either! And to protect my family here as well, and perhaps even Earth as a whole... I need to grow stronger, as cringy as that sounds.

"Huh, so a lot happened while I wasn't watching!" Rita complained. "Not fair..."

We were currently outside our house, we managed to sneak using my vines. I used them to grab both of them from the second floor window and stealthily bring them down without waking up anybody. We also made sure with the Great Spirit to leave "Protection Charms" that send away Hollows, so no pesky monster gets inside the house while we're off.

"Well yeah, if it wasn't thanks to Blackie and Mark distracting it, I wouldn't had been able to come out with a quick solution though." I sighed. "You two were really brave, especially you Mark, you didn't really had any power and still confronted that thing! Even if you got smacked afterwards, that was very brave!"

"A-Ahahah... Now that you remind me, I was quite pathetic... I just couldn't stand and watch though, I wanted to do something, even if insignificant." He sighed.

"And that's a good thing!" Said the Great Spirit.

"Ahh, this is the Spirit thing!" Rita said. She ate the magical lemon pie, so she could see magical beings now.

"Who are you calling freaking "spirit thing", girl?!" The Great Spirit got angrier. "If it wasn't for my powers you wouldn't even be standing here!"

"Yeah, yeah, we are sorry." I said. "So anyways..."

I took out the shovel I had transformed. This shovel was actually used to just take out the poop from the cows... But now it became a D Rank Magic Weapon, its appearance changed now, it got all really clean out of the blue, and gained a tiny green jewel on the handle. It was shiny, yet still looked rather simplistic.

"That's your weapon?! Seriously, you made a... Ugh." Rita facepalmed. "I guess you never change."

"Hey this is the only thing we had available!" I complained. "I used a D Rank Potential Cube, those we usually get after defeating a big boss."

"Ooh, those? I've got tons myself as well!" Rita said.

"I remember you said you heard a voice when you imbued the cube into the weapon?" Wondered Mark.

"Yeah, it was... soothing, like the voice of a gorgeous woman." I said while imagining it. "I don't exactly know where it came from though, but it felt like a "system prompt" without any system-like imagery thing, it was all inside of my head."

"I see, so you're just going nuts." Rita said.

"It is true! Come on!" I sighed.

"Hahaha, I think she's just joking." Mark said. "Anyways, this is amazing, this means we could bring enchantment items from the other world and make new weapons easily using them! But... Wouldn't a gun in here be more effective?"

"A gun! Yeah, but the problem is how do we get them." Sighed Rita. "This is no USA, so getting ourselves an actual gun is WAY harder."

Firearms laws in Canada had been changing a lot the last ten years, from becoming easily available to almost impossible to get, to then being easy again... I remember people usually imported firearms from USA too. But we can't really do that as normal citizens.

"We could try getting a license, but we're currently in the countryside, so let's make do with what we have right now." I said.

"Yeah, you're right." Rita sighed. "I guess I'll have to use this one at the end."

Rita suddenly pulled out a small firearm from her pocket.

"EH?!"

Mark and I were shocked.

"Where... what the heck Rita?! I thought you were complaining we couldn't get one?" I wondered.

"Yeah because this is the gun of my husband!" Sighed Rita. "He gave it to me saying I needed protection."

"Right, your husband..." I sighed, quickly remembering her husband used to be a rather... dangerous thug in his younger years.

"It's a gun he kept for years since he was young, I think its illegal though." She said.

"Rita that doesn't really matter at this point..." I sighed, facepalming.

"S-She's been going with a little gun all this time?" Mark felt slightly surprised.

"Ahahaha, sorry, sorry! It only has like five bullets at most. I wonder if we could enchant it so it fires bullets made of mana or something." Rita wondered.

"We'll see." I nodded. "So anyways Mark, what weapon do you want?"

I wanted to give both of them some magic weapons so they could be prepared for anything.

"Something easy to wield that is not as weird as a random hoe. A shovel... well you've got to your inventory to hide it, but not me. So I brought this large hunting knife I bought." He pulled out a long, twenty-centimeter-long hunting knife, it was really sharp and shiny, so that'll do. It had a small sheath he had wrapped around his waist and hidden beneath his jacket.

"Sounds good then! Let's see..." I quickly took out two D-Rank Potential Cubes from my Inventory, both costed 100 MP each to retrieve, so they were expensive!

Both of them put the weapons over the grass and then...

FLUOSH!

Both cubes began glowing brightly as they completely merged with the weapons without any problems. And then, I heard the voice once more...

[Potential Cube (D Rank)] has been utilized on [Expert Hunting Knife (No Rank)]!

[Potential Cube (D Rank)] has been utilized on [Smith & Wesson 442 Handgun (No Rank)]!