

Brand New 461

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

Chapter 461: Phantasmos' Abyssal Labyrinth

Phantasmos was utterly shocked by Elayne's overflowing powers. Her [Pathway] Ability had begun to connect with a few of the Gods of Arcadia, granting her the ability to fight Phantasmos despite the power difference between the two, and giving her the chance to exorcize him out of this world.

However, Phantasmos, despite his shock, started to laugh back at her words.

"Prepare myself?! Why yes! I've prepared myself rather well! Gahahahahaha!"

FLAAASH!

Phantasmos raised his arms into the skies as a gigantic black hole suddenly started opening in the middle of the air, shattering space itself and expanding more and more.

This was a phenomenon that only happened over a week ago in the First Contact, a "Gate" leading to a different world, according to experts, where the monsters of the First Contact appeared, and where all the Mana flooding over Earth had also originated from!

"Is that a Gate?!" Rita panicked.

"We need to stop him! Quickly!" Mark said.

"STOOOP!" Elayne roared, furiously rushing towards Phantasmos as her aura of divinity overflowed across her body and was even shared with her friends.

Suddenly, three other figures appeared from behind Phantasmos, a young-looking Dhampir, a red-haired Asian young man, and a plain-looking Canadian, albeit overflowing with the power of a Demon.

"What is he doing?!" Rose wondered. "Is he... No, there's no way that's possible!"

"This bastard is making a Gate?! STOP HIM BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!" Josuke roared. "[Vermillion Bird]!"

"STOP, YOU DAMN GHOST!" Albert cried.

However, it was too late. Phantasmos smiled back at these three agents with a vibrant, malicious smile.

"It is too late for you too, kehehehe..."

TRUUUUUUUUUMMMMMMM...!

A gigantic Gate opened in the middle of the forest, sucking everything within its surroundings, be it trees, monsters, animals, and even Phantasmos and everyone else inside.

FLUOOOOOSH!

"UUAAAGGGH..."

"W-We're being sucked?!"

"FUUUCK!"

As they screamed I surprise, Phantasmos laughed while entering the Gate and taking over it with his powers.

"Gahahahahah! Welcome to my Labyrinth, and the grave where all of you won't be able to escape from!"

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. .

[You have entered the [Phantasmos' Abyssal Labyrinth of Ghosts]]

[Toxic and Deadly Nether is overflowing through the Labyrinth, your Life is slowly being eaten away...]

[Your equipment is currently protecting you.]

[The Divinity [All Mother of Life and Souls] is concerned about your wellbeing...]

[She urges the [Great Spirit of Harvest and Nature] to wake you up.]

While Elayne was unconscious, she heard that mysterious voice once more, whispering into her mind. It seemed like a system prompt, but much more personal.

"Elayne, please wake up..."

"Ahhh... Who...?"

"Elayne!"

"Where... Ngh..."

"Elayne, please stand up, quickly!"

"Why are you sleeping in the damn middle of a dangerous dungeon? GET UP!"

"Uwaaah!"

Elayne suddenly opened her eyes, finding herself in the middle of a desolate labyrinthian cave. The caves were completely black, with strange blue and black crystals growing around and faintly illuminating her surroundings.

In the floor, there were many ponds of a green and black-colored liquid, emanating a nasty smell. The same putrid smell that rotten corpses give out, and it was filling the entire atmosphere, making it almost toxic to normal people.

"Cough, cough... Ungh, this place's so smelly..." Elayne muttered, standing up and looking around, finding the Great Spirit at her side.

"You're finally awake, oh my gosh!" The Great Spirit sighed in relief, immediately flying back inside of Elayne. "I cannot keep myself materialized out there for much longer, this Nether's deadly for Life Attribute beings such as us! You can bear it thanks to your equipment to an extent though. But still, drink a potion ASAP!"

"R-Right...!" Elayne panicked, taking out a small potion she made using fruit juice and drinking it, finally feeling better with herself. However, after that relief, she immediately assessed her surroundings, and what was happening right now. "I am... in a Dungeon, I heard the voice again. So Phantasmos was preparing this trick while we fought his Giant Phantoms this whole time?! Dammit it... And where's everyone?! I can't see anybody here!"

Elayne panicked a lot, looking around desperately, her surroundings were too dark for her to be able to identify where she was, and without a mapping ability like in Arcadia, she was rather helpless inside a dungeon.

"I can't believe we were trapped inside a Dungeon that the ghost made! That damn bastard! He somehow managed to create a Gate! I can't believe it." Sighed the Great Spirit. "And your friends! What if they're already dead?!"

"Please stop talking about that or I'm only going to get more worried!" Cried Elayne, trying to focus on her search, walking around the darkness was a bit too much, but whenever she tried to bring out spirits, nothing answered other than the few ones living inside her clothes as they fused into them. "And there's... no spirits here, nor nature at all..."

"Hmmm, for now you'll have to go for a different approach and try out Light Magic, good thing I've engraved you some basic spells there." Said the Great Spirit. "Try conjuring [Light Ball]! You've got plenty of Mana now."

"[Light Ball]!"

FLAAAASH!

A large sphere of light appeared above Elayne's head. Even when using Spiritual Gaze, her ability to see through this darkness was very dim, but with this floating sphere of light, things finally became easier. Bringing out torches wouldn't be recommendable because the place was very damp, she tried bringing one but it instantly turned off.

"Aahhh, finally some light~ Now- Eh?!"

Elayne was already thinking about seeking her friends through their magical connection. Just by focusing she was able to sense them rather far away from where she was currently... However, something else greeted her sight.

Countless of red eyes glaring at her all around, monsters crawling over the ceiling, walls, and behind her suddenly became as clear as water to her sight. Their appearances were like rotten zombies with their heads resembling the skulls of wolves and other animals...

"T-Those are Wendigos?!" The Great Spirit panicked.

"SHAAAAHHHHH!!!"

And as the Wendigos hissed back at Elayne and were about to attack her, she quickly realized another thing, there was someone else here, a young-looking girl wearing black clothes was on the floor, about to be mauled by the hungry beasts.

"There's a girl here?!"

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Chapter 462: Saving A Mysterious Girl

"GRAAAARRGH!"

The Wendigos immediately attacked, leaping over Elayne with great speed and amazing reflexes. They were slightly afraid of her light spell, but they were so hungry they were willing to go through some pain to get what they want.

Elayne, however, was faster. By boosting her body reflexes through the usage of Mana flowing through every vein of her body, she quickly materialized a powerful armor made out of spiritual wood.

"[Yggdrasil's Armor]!"

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

The sharp jaws of the Wendigos ended gnawing at the hard, spiritual wood covering Elayne's body like a powerful armor, some of their teeth even shattered upon trying to force their way.

"[Wooden Cage]!"

FLAAASH!

Elayne acted quickly, generating a powerful cage made of spiritual wood surrounding the mysterious girl she found in here, protecting her from the wendigos while she readied herself to fight, bringing out the Intelligent Shovel Staff, Irene, who had been stored inside her Inventory.

BAAAAM!

And smacked the head of a Wendigo with all her strength, so strongly that the creature's head gave a spin and then flew out of its body.

The head rolled over the floor while the Wendigo's body continued moving, Elayne quickly finished it off by expanding one of her fingers into a sharp wooden needle and piercing the monster's Magic Crystal.

CRASH!

By piercing the magic crystals of monsters using her own body, she was also able to recover Mana by absorbing them. Even if the magic crystals were contaminated, due to her spiritual runes reaching such a high amount, the contaminated mana was purified as it traveled into her body.

"SHAAAHH!"

More Wendigos leaped over Elayne, fearless of her previous demonstration of strength. It was clear they were crazed, non-intelligent beasts that only wanted to eat the living's flesh and drink their blood. And Elayne punished these critters with all her might, smacking them into the ground one after the other, and blowing away their heads like tennis balls

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

FLUOOOOSH!

A powerful Spiritual Shockwave was unleashed the more she fought and absorbed the Mana, her magic circle continued developing more Runes, and she decided to also evolve her current low-level light spells to acquire stronger ones using this excess of Mana she was getting.

The mysterious system-like voice once more whispered to her the more her abilities evolved.

[You have absorbed a Magic Crystal; your Mana has been refilled.]

[You have formed a large quantity of Spiritual Runes.]

[The [Light Ball] Spell has evolved to the [Light Bullet] Spell.]

"[Light Bullets]!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Elayne quickly began firing countless bullets made of light, not as strong as Rita's bullets, but strong enough to pierce through the bodies of the Wendigos, taking a few more of them before the pack of monsters understood this was pointless, beginning to run away from her.

"GRRYAAARRGH!"

One of the Wendigos roared back at Elayne before disappearing into the dark caves. Elayne sighed in relief, finally having some time to rest as she knelt over the floor.

"Hahhh... Oh god, that was tough." She sighed in relief, looking at the few Magic Crystals left to absorb and beginning to absorb a few more.

[Your Mana has been refilled.]

[You have met the criteria of Spiritual Runes.]

[Your Magic Circle is evolving into a Tier 2 Magic Circle.]

FLUOOOSH!

"Huh?!"

Elayne was shocked after what had happened, but her Magic Circle not only reached Tier 1 Rank 10 but started to evolve into a Tier 2 Magic Circle right away! She felt within her heart that her magic circle gained yet another circle, where she could place even more Runes and develop her spells even further.

[You have become a Tier 2 Rank 1 Magic Circle Magician.]

[You have gained a large quantity of Magic Power.]

[Your Spiritual Runes have increased greatly.]

[Several Spells have evolved.]

[You learned the new Spells: [Light Shield], [Healing Light], [Spiritual Domain], [Spirit Creation]...]

Was it her idea or was the voice becoming more and more active now? She didn't even needed the Great Spirit to tell her most stuff now with the voice becoming this active. She started to think that it

might have something to do with her connection with Arcadia or even an after-effect of the [Pathway] Ability.

"Great job, you've done it!" The Great Spirit congratulated Elayne. "Now, who the heck is this girl?"

Elayne quickly opened the Nature's Cage, finding the girl still somewhat alive. However, she looked extremely pale. She was gasping for air and her hair was completely white the same as her skin.

"Hahhh... Hahhh..."

"Ahhh, she has a fever! Will this help?" Wondered Elayne, trying to use her newly acquired healing spell. "[Healing Light]!"

FLAAASH!

A healing golden light emerged out of Elayne's hands, but the only thing it did was burn the girl's skin, making her groan in agony and wake up out of the blue.

"Uuaaaggggh! W-What the...?! UNGH! Let go of me!" She roared furiously.

"Huh?! Uwaah!" Elayne panicked.

The girl's nails suddenly grew super sharp, slashing away at Elayne and throwing her away, she quickly jumped away from her, glaring at her ferociously as her eyes stared glowing bright red.

"GRRHHHH...! Who are you?! Where am I?!" She asked angrily, suddenly taking out a handgun from her pocket and pointing it at Elayne.

"I'm sorry! I didn't know the light magic would hurt you!" Elayne apologized. "Are you okay?!"

"Huh? Light magic- Ah! Did you just try to heal a Dhampir with light magic?!" The girl asked in disbelief.

"W-Well, it wasn't really obvious you were one... A week ago I didn't even believe monsters were real, you know?" Elayne sighed, facepalming.

"This woman... Are you one of the magicians that was protecting that town?" The girl wondered. "My name is Rose, what's your name?"

"Err... I would prefer not to say it..." Elayne said. Despite her clumsy nature, she had grown wary. This mysterious girl might even be related with something like an organization, or even the government.

"Come on just tell her! How do you plan to make her trust you, dummy?!" Asked the Great Spirit. "Her name's Elayne!"

The Great Spirit materialized out of thin air, appearing above Elayne.

"What the hell?!"

BANG! BANG! BANG!

However, Rose panicked after seeing the Great Spirit appear out of thin air, shooting several bullets at her!

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Chapter 463: Rose The Dhampir

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Rose, panicking after seeing what she thought was a ghost monster popping up from behind Elayne, began shooting at the Great Spirit.

"Uuugggh! Hey! Stop shooting! Well, not like that can damage me. My life's connected with Elayne so if you want to take me down you'll have to kill her, heh." The Great Spirit said proudly. Which made this situation even more ridiculous due to her being in the shape of a cartoon-like carrot with arms and legs made out of roots.

"W-What is that floating carrot?" Wondered Rose, feeling rather afraid. Depending in how they wanted it, the Great Spirit could either be invisible to others, or visible. However, to become visible to others, they had to naturally have Mana within their bodies.

"T-This? She's the... Err, a Spirit of Nature. She has the shape of a carrot for a reason." Elayne said.

"Spirit of Nature?! I am THE Spirit of Nature and- Mmgguh?!"

Elayne quickly grabbed her and shout her mouth, speaking to her through telepathy.

"You already told her my name, stop spilling all the beans! Top secret, remember?! We can't tell her who we truly are! She's got a gun too!" Elayne said, as the Great Spirit realized she was being a bit too friendly.

"Ahem... So anyways, that's... that." Sighed Elayne.

"So your name's Elayne." Said Rose, sighing. "Hah~ You've got a pretty name. But what are you anyways?"

"I am... a mother." Elayne said. "Full time worker in a mini market and... part time magician?"

"T-That's weird." Rose sighed. "Usually supernatural beings are always registered in some sort of government-aligned agency. When they aren't, they're usually named Outcasts, and are chased down and hunted due to the danger they present to the countries they wander around."

"EH!?" Elayne was frightened. "I-I haven't had these powers before, I got them a week ago only!"

"A week ago... Yeah, you didn't let me finish." Sighed Rose. "But a week ago, that status quo changed. The government-operated supernatural agencies will soon become rather obsolete now that people around the world, millions, are all gaining super powers. Mostly different types of magic."

"Due to the First Contact, isn't it?" Wondered Elayne. "I've been training with my friends to stop the monster coming here. His name was Phantasmos, from what we learned by fighting him, he's a very bad phantom monster coming from another world where the monsters invaded from."

"I see..." Rose nodded, learning more of the whole context. "Sorry about shooting you. You must have had been an innocent civilian just a few days ago. I guess you're quite admirable, fighting for your town

and all. But amongst all the Awakened people we've register, you and your friends are by far tremendously strong."

"R-Really?" Elayne felt confused, but was afraid of asking about government stuff without getting herself too involved on it.

"Yes, you're at least as strong as those High Druids or the Spirit Masters that live in Europe..." Sighed Rose. "But you're different than them in that even your body and clothes are enchanted... Just how many powers did you awakened?"

"Many! We are super duper talented." The Great Spirit said proudly.

"You've even gotten yourself a Spirit Familiar! That's amazing-"

"Meow!"

Blackie also showed up on Elayne's shadows. It seems he had been resting this whole time.

"And another monster familiar too? Wow, okay..." Rose felt surprised. "We'll need to have a talk once... all of this is done. This is the first-time people is trapped inside a "Gate" as we've called this phenomenon. I assure is it like a dungeon or ancient crypt, no?"

"Yes, something like that." Elayne nodded.

"Aside from common knowledge, there are indeed dungeons and ancient crypts in some areas of the world. They're swarming with traps and monsters made by their creators, but nothing of this caliber." Rose admired the scenery. "And the smell is horrible. Nether, huh? This is not something you see in such high quantities. Only Dark Mages can create it, and very rarely with tons of necessary materials... These otherworldly monsters are sure a whole new level."

As the two wandered around the Labyrinthian Caves, Elayne began growing more curious about Rose. Elayne told Rose she could sense her friends, so Rose decided to just follow her because she had no idea where to go.

According to Rose, the Dungeon Phantasmos created strange Mana Signals that disrupted her own supernatural senses, and the smell of the Nether made it impossible for her to smell her friends either.

"Ahhh... Now that you know about me, just who are you, Rose?" Elayne wondered, feeling slightly curious. "I can't really hold it back anymore. We thought there wouldn't be any other people out there with super powers before the First Contact, but you said you were a Dhampir, right?"

"Yes, as you can see your healing wound already healed naturally." Rose said with a smirk. "I don't like to talk about my past but let's say I am a Dhampir that has lived a couple of hundred of years around the world. I was born from a hooker and a vampire father."

"O-Oh..." Elayne was surprised.

"Both were executed by the Vatican and I was raised by the War Priests in Italy as a Weapon, a tool to kill Vampires, though." Rose added.

"Oh dear..." Elayne felt shocked.

"Anyways, long story short, I've been out of that Vampire Hunting business for almost a hundred years and now I'm working as an agent of SWORD in Canada. It's a nice country, to be honest. Much better than Britain, my previous home. That place was filled with blokes. Also, was getting bored of the smell of piss on the streets and the monsters following me everywhere."

"T-There are monsters in Britain?!" Elayne wondered.

"Oh yeah, a bunch. It is a place filled with supernatural families that fight them though." Sighed Rose.

"Of course, not as many as there are now. Hollows and new Mutant Monsters are appearing everywhere, this is not normal at all... Our world is changing, perhaps for the worst. I bet the damn Satanists summoned something from another world and it has begun their invasion. It's not like it hasn't happened before, but not in such a global level..."

Elayne felt slightly guilty for not being able to truly explain what had happened in the First Contact, these might be secrets that she better never reveal to strangers.

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Chapter 464: Elayne Makes A New Friend

At the end Elayne learned more from Rose than Rose learned from her. Apparently she just loved talking about herself and ended telling her about her past, her upbringing, her growth, and even about the Vatican, monsters around the world, and the other "Supernatural" people out there.

They were composed not only of people capable of wielding magic, but there were also supernatural bloodlines with powers that were like magic but worked beyond such constraints. Families of hidden superhumans that competed against one another for territory and riches, while also hunting down the monsters, which had always existed in the world, apparently.

Although on very few and smaller quantities than now. Old monsters were rare, at most there would be at least three or five big monsters per area, unlike the hundreds of monsters that may now exist within areas of the world as the days keep going after the First Contact.

Monsters seemed to have been seen as "cryptids" in a way, and just hunting one was a lot of money for these supernatural agencies, so they competed for hunting these monsters for precious materials and the like.

However, now that monsters were just appearing everywhere, they started to panic. The agencies couldn't keep these people awakening powers nor monsters existing everywhere now a secret for much longer. And this Gate that had opened just now may end up creating a domino effect where these things will be revealed to the public.

"We've been hunting monsters since the week began." Elayne said. "We've been finding them around the forest the most. The stronger and bigger animals out there have the highest chances to mutate into monsters, it seems. Today in the morning we faced the biggest amount of monsters, and also Hollows who have been mutating into bigger and more aggressive forms."

"Phew, you're life savers then." Sighed Rose. "Seriously, thanks a lot. It took more than we expected to get here because one of our friends wanted to go on foot instead of using a car... So we had to follow the thing you call Phantasmos through foot all this time. Maybe we could have arrived earlier in car..."

"Y-Yeah... I guess." Elayne nodded. "It has been rather hard. And now this? I wonder if my friends are truly well, and yours of course. If possible, I feel like we should finish this as soon as possible. If we can kill the Boss of this Dungeon, it might collapse."

"Hoh, you have quite an interesting theory. And that's Phantasmos, isn't it?" Rose wondered.

"Yep." Elayne nodded. "I can feel his presence within this dungeon's depths. He's hiding and just waiting for us to get eaten by the monsters inside this Dungeon. Also, my Spirit is telling me that the monsters might begin coming out of the Dungeon's Gate if we take too long, we need to hurry."

"Interesting, this sounds a lot like a web novel I once read, if all of that is really like that, then we're up for one hell of a speed run." Sighed Rose. "Well, let's run then- Ungh...!"

However, before the energetic Rose could get to rush through the dungeon with Elayne. She suddenly fell to her knees, gasping for air.

"Oof... Ahhh, I am tired."

"Eh?! But aren't you a Dhampir?"

"I am, that means I have only half of a vampire's powers in exchange for not having most of their weakness. However, I still have some of them. I haven't drank fresh blood in almost a week. And all of my blood packs I was carrying are gone after we got sucked here..."

"Blood?"

Elayne seemed worried about Rose. Despite being very old, she was young-looking, and she kind of reminded her of her own daughter. Her motherly instincts very quickly took over her emotions.

"Alright then, will this work?" Elayne wondered, suddenly cutting her wrist, as a shiny red blood began pouring out.

"W-What?! Isn't that dangerous?!" Rose panicked, although her blue eyes slowly turned red and she started drooling over the smell of the fresh blood, so rich in nutrients and mana.

"Don't worry, I am not exactly a normal human." Elayne said. "Here, drink as much as you need."

"E-Elayne..." Rose blushed a bit, suddenly grabbing her wrist and beginning to lick it.

It hurt a little bit, but something in Rose's saliva made the pain go away very quickly, like a numbing chemical that some bloodsucking animals had.

"Hmmm~ Ahhh~ So sweet..." Rose blushed more, quickly getting slightly excited and jumping over Elayne.

"Uwaah! W-What are you doing?!" Elayne was surprised.

"M-More...! MORE!" Rose continued sucking her wrist while using her legs to lock Elayne on place.

"T-This is a bit lewd..." Elayne said while feeling slightly off. "Take this!"

BONK!

Elayne bonked the head of Rose, as Rose quickly snapped back to her normal self, shocked.

"A-Ah! W-What was I doing?! S-Sorry about that! Your blood was so sweet and flavorful..." She sighed.

"I-I can tell you liked it. My blood is special. Let's say I am something like... a half-spirit? Look." Elayne showcased her regeneration powers, as her wound was healed in a mere instant by her own flesh and skin which turned into roots, branches, and bark. Even a tiny flower grew where it was.

"Huh?! T-That's... not even Master Druids are capable of such advanced Polymorphing!" Said Rose.

"Then again, the blood I drank was so rich, I feel filled with energy. Alright, as an apology I'll bring you there myself! Show me the way."

FLUOSH!

Suddenly, Rose's entire Blood Aura shapeshifted into a giant wolf-like beast made of red blood, which quickly let Rose and Elayne ride its back.

"WOOF!"

"This is my Familiar, I called him Crimson. He lives inside of my Blood." Said Rose with a smile, petting her giant Crimson Wolf.

"W-Woah..." Elayne felt amazed. "Well, I'll show you the way then! It is through there! Hurry!"

"Alright!" Rose nodded. "Crimson, go!"

"WOOF!"

Crimson started rushing through the dungeon at an amazingly fast speed. But only after a few seconds since they began rushing through the dungeon, a large group of Undead greeted their path.

"Wait! Are those skeletons?!" Elayne asked while panicking.

"Looks like it!" Rose said. "But they're not alone..."

A bigger entity behind the army of skeletons wearing weary armor and weapons emerged from within.

"Welcome to the Labyrinth of the Dead, mortals! I am Gustaf, the Death General of War! Face me!"

It was pretty obvious already that someone as cunning as Phantasmos wouldn't just let them wander around his dungeon easily...

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Chapter 465: Mark And The Flame Wielder

BOOOM! CLAAASH! CRAAASH!

Mark slowly started to wake up by the sound of explosions and the smell of fire. Once his eyes opened and he saw what was happening around him, he quickly panicked.

A young man around his age, with fiery red hair was fighting a large army of dozens of chimeric zombie monsters, made up of many body parts.

His flames unleashed powerful blazing attacks, which seemed to have a divine-like aura to them similar to the power Elayne held with her [Pathway], although much lesser.

"GRAHHH...!"

"STOP HIM... GRYAAA!"

"GRUUAAAH..."

The screams of the zombies as they were blown up into bits and pieces didn't helped in this situation, Mark was completely surprised. His mind was in shambles too, but after standing up and beginning to fight almost automatically, he quickly began to learn what was happening.

He had been sucked into a Dungeon alongside Elayne and Rita, but all of them ended being separated. The young fighting the zombies and protecting him was a complete stranger, yet he recalls seeing him before they were all absorbed into the Gate.

"Finally awake, sleeping beauty?" Asked the stranger with a smirk. "Good thing you're good to adapt, these things have been swarming us since we got here!"

"We're inside a dungeon?!" Wondered Mark. "Shit, this can't be real... Elayne and Rita! A-Are they even alright?!"

"Worried about your friends?" Wondered Mark's new companion. "Well I also lost my two friends, Rose and Albert. What's your name, cowboy? Mine's Josuke."

"Wait what?!" Asked Mark. "I've heard that name before... Like that Jojo character?!"

"I am tired of being told that." Sighed Josuke, unleashing an explosion of flames which shaped as countless smaller birds, exploding and engulfing three zombies at once.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOOM!

Meanwhile, Mark used his magical knife to slice and burn the zombies with ease, while covering his body with his own Wooden Armor and at the same time, punching the zombies down whenever they tried to sneak into him.

BAAAM! BAAAM! SLAAASH!

"You're not half bad at this." Josuke said. "And that insane magic power you've got there... Are you an outlaw or something?"

"Outlaw?!" Wondered Mark. "Just a week ago I was just a normal human. I've been... acquiring magic powers by beating down monsters and then absorbing their magic crystals. We've been trying to protect our town for a while."

"W-Wait, you know magic capable of letting you absorb magic crystals, yet you're just part of the recent wave of Awakeners?!" Josuke was thrilled.

"Yep!" Mark said.

Both manly men that wielded flames suddenly combined their power, punching and burning the last Chimeric Zombie, whose entire body exploded into pieces.

BAAAAM!

"Nice to meet you then, name's Josuke." Said Josuke, giving Mark his hand for a handshake. "Now are you going to tell me your name?"

"Hahhh... I guess it would be rude if I didn't say it." Sighed Mark. "Name's Mark, nice to meet you Josuke."

Both men made a handshake after slaying over thirty Undead together, there were piles of these monsters all around them, yet they seemed rather unfazed.

"You must be the magicians we sensed some time ago." Said Josuke. "I suppose you must be Awakeners that tried to protect your town, right? That magic knife you have, and the rest of your equipment all seems magically enchanted. That's a process that takes a while normally, but you did it with simple clothes as well. I can already assume you and your friends got a lot of abilities, huh?"

"Yeah, more or less..." Mark said. "(I see. So these people must know about Awakened people that have gained magical powers already? But his way of speech and how easy he uses his magic, he's most likely not an "Awakener" but something else, isn't it?)"

"You're probably wondering what the hell I am. Let's say I just became the vessel of a really old and grumpy spiritual bird." Sighed the young man. "I am an agent of the Supernatural Agency, SWORD."

"Sword...?" Mark felt perplexed. "I was guessing there must be something to deal with Hollows if they existed before the First Contact, but this is surprising. Isn't this like... confidential information? I am not going to get killed, right?"

"It is but at this point its useless to hide it. The Awakeners are slowly becoming a major part of our population. Just this week, more than ten million people presenting the awakening of magical abilities have been reported all around the world, and this number keeps increasing by the thousands every day." Josuke sighed. "To maintain order in the countries, the government is already planning on setting up special Hunter Guilds to manage the Awakened people and also to manage the ever-growing population of monsters. Most of us, already supernatural people will probably be made into instructors to lead the new generation of superhumans, it's such a pain though."

"I-I see..." Mark was flabbergasted by all these news. Perhaps in a week or a few more days from now, things would only change much, much more than he had expected. Society as a whole would begin a transition. "Well, whatever's the case, we must focus on our current situation. I have... a connection with one of my friends, I can sense her, and she seems to be hurriedly coming here with someone else. Though, it seems they stopped midway through. We should focus on finding her and then destroying this dungeon."

"You know how? This is the second time a Gate has ever opened in the world." Josuke seemed confused. "Or are you just theorizing?"

"I am not simply theorizing. Can't you feel the waves of Mana which are like roots in this Dungeon? They all lead to a single large mass of Mana. If we destroy such a mass, which could be said to be like the Dungeon Boss and its Core at the same time, it would crumble apart." Said Mark.

"Interesting..." Josuke said while rubbing his chin. "I am not all that worried about my friends, they can handle it themselves pretty well, but you who were just civilians a week ago are more in danger. I'll go with you then."

"Thanks, let's go then!" Mark said, right after having finished to take out the magic crystals from the zombies and carrying them in a leather bag.

"Wait, what are those for?" Wondered Josuke.

"Let's say they're like MP Potions." Mark smiled.

TRUUUUMMMM...!

However, as the two moved forward, something suddenly emerged in their path. It was no longer just zombies this time, but something much bigger and terrifying, a gigantic beast made up of hundreds of corpses stitched together, with several heads and a grotesque appearance.

"GRUOOOOOHHHHH...!"

"W-What the heck is that thing?!" Josuke was shocked. "A high ranked Undead?! It looks like a fusion of the zombies we smashed back then..."

"A Mid-Boss, most likely." Mark said, squinting his eyes and getting into position to fight.

"Fresh human flesh... A delightful meal this is..." The entity began roaring. "Ahhhh~ Lord Phantasmos sent me here to stop you, but I will have a nice time enjoying your flesh as I devour it!"

"This thing can even speak!" Josuke was surprised.

"Focus, it's coming!" Mark said.

CLAAAASH!

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Chapter 466: Rita's Misadventures

Unlike Elayne and Mark who had already woken up, Rita never fell unconscious when she entered the Dungeon, and saw herself being placed inside a small room within the labyrinthian caves of the dungeon. She looked around the place, instantly feeling completely afraid!

"W-What in the fuck?! We were sucked into the dungeon! Agh fuck, my dress is all covered on this black mud!" She cried angrily, complaining while her gun started telling her to stop complaining about everything.

"Oi Rita stop complaining about every single damn thing and find your friends!" Sighed the gun, whose name was Onyx. Rita couldn't believe a gun was lecturing her and telling her what to do.

"For Christ's sake you're just a damn talking gun, shut up." Sighed Rita. "And I know! Whitey, are you here?"

Rita looked around, trying to find Whitey, only to find several creatures lurking behind her. They were not exactly Undead, but were enormous, three-meter-big Giant Dungeon Rats.

"Y-You're not my whitey..." Rita said while slowly stepping back.

"SHAAAAHH!"

"KRIEEEE!"

The three Giant Rats leaped over Rita and attempted to bite her arms off, only to meet her gunshots into their faces.

"[Bullet Time]!"

FLASH!

Rita suddenly felt the world around her going slightly slower, while her movements became much faster. She moved rapidly and evaded the Giant Rats attacks while shooting magic bullets at their eyes and mouths.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

"GRYEEEEEEHH!"

"KREEEEHHH..."

The three rats rolled over the floor and started scratching their own faces in agony. Rita utilized this opportunity to finish them off, conjuring three spears made of Darkness out of her Shadow Tentacle Ability and piercing their chests with them, aiming at their magic crystals.

CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAAASH!

"Phew... Already meeting some damn monsters." She sighed. "Thankfully these guys weren't strong."

"Take the Magic Crystals, they're useful!" Onyx told her. "Use the knife you brought with you for emergencies."

"Ah right! Elayne did enchant it a bit with spirits and a cube rather hurriedly." Said Rita, taking out a small kitchen knife. It wasn't as strong as Mark's Knife, but it was good at cutting and butchering monster corpses, it even had abilities related to that.

Once she got all three magic crystals while complaining how disgusting it was, Rita looked around, trying to find Whitey. Unlike Mark and Elayne she had zero ability to sense her surroundings and wasn't acute at all, she was lost and hoped to find Whitey to guide her through here.

"Whiteeeeyy! Where are you- GEH?!"

"Chuuu! Chuuuu!"

Suddenly, a large swarm of tiny rats began coming from behind her. Rita jumped in fear as she wrapped herself around with her shadows to protect herself from the rats, which ignored her and kept moving forward.

"Huh?"

Suddenly, she noticed the rats were all carrying a tiny white rat with them, which was crying in fear and anguish of what these wild smaller rats were doing!

"They're kidnaping Whitey!" Rita gasped.

"Wait, what? Why? Oh, maybe they want to eat him." Laughed Onyx.

"Shut up! Let's follow them. [Shadow Travel]" Rita used the Shadow Travel spell to hide in the plenty of shadows and darkness of the dungeon, hiding from the rats and finding them all enter a small crevice, which led to a different area of the Dungeon.

"Let's get through there then!" Onyx said. "Wait, can you even get your big ass in there though?"

"My ass might be big and that's something my husband loves, but that doesn't mean I am FAT!" Rita said angrily, although she began petting her ass and looking if it was really that fat. Often times she always noticed men either glaring her own or that of Elayne, who had a much bigger one, actually. "Geez maybe it's a bit fat... But not as fat as Elayne's ass, she got one massive truck."

"Okay stop talking nonsense and get there!" Onyx was tired of Rita's shit.

"R-Right!" Rita stopped her horny thoughts and began swimming through the shadows, finally reaching the small crevice. "Let's try this..."

FLUOSH!

She went through very easily. It seemed that her total mass didn't really matter, as long as she was within a shadow, she could stretch it and fit it just anywhere! Like this, Rita arrived at the Secret Den of the Rats, a hidden area within Phantasmos Dungeon.

"W-What in the world is this place...?!" Rita was shocked, as she saw millions of small rats being controlled by the big ones, moving little Whitey forward.

She saw that the giant rats oppressed the smaller ones like slaves and forced them to bring them food, dig out new tunnels, clean their poop, and even build them statues...

"Insane, never thought Rats would have some sort of secret society here..." Onyx was shocked. "Let's keep looking around some more..."

Rita began sliding across the entire Secret Den of the Rats, seeing many tiny rats being oppressed. Some of them could not even work anymore and were dying while still being forced to work. Some were starving and had to bear seeing their big and fat masters eat tons of meat instead.

And then... as she followed where they were bringing Whitey, she found a gigantic hall where an enormous Rat beast was sitting over a throne made of the bones of many monsters, including both small and big rats. It was a gigantic Rat Queen, with a long tail which was equipped with a sharp bone

fang. She also had a crown made of sharp ribs and was wearing accessories and armor pieces that were stolen most likely from skeleton monsters or zombies that sometimes would wear items.

"Grykyaaaaku!" One of the tiny rats suddenly showed the Rat Queen the tiny Whitey. "Grykikiii!"

All the rats lowered their heads before the Queen, as she slowly looked at the tiny Whitey with her eyes squinting.

"GRHHHH... SNIFF, SNIFF..." She began sniffing Whitey and then licked him. "SLUURP. Hmmm...! GRYAKUKA!"

She suddenly grabbed Whitey with her big and nasty hands, examining him.

"GRYYYYHHH...!"

Out of pure fear, Whitey ended unleashing a bright flash of light!

FLAAAAASH!

"GRYAAAAAKKKHHH..!"

The Rat Queen roared in agony as her eyes were blinded, and Whitey tried to escape, only for him to be grabbed by the Rat Queen's other hand.

"Gryyyyyhhh!"

"GRRHHHHH! GRAAKUH!"

The Rat Queen, which had thought about keeping him as some pet, suddenly changed her plans. She opened her gigantic maws and decided to eat him instead!

"WHITEYYYYY!"

Rita couldn't bear any longer and attacked, emerging out of her shadows, and pointing her Handgun at the Rat Queen's arms!

"[Shadow Bullets]!"

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

All the bullets miraculously landed on the Rat Queen's arms, filling them with holes and making her drop Whitey before she could eat him! Happy to see his master, Whitey jumped over Rita's shoulders and started licking her face.

"Kyu! Kyuu!" Whitey was very happy.

"Whitey! I was so worried- Ah." Rita quickly realized this wasn't going to get better.

"GRYAAAAAHHHH! GRYKAAAA!" The Rat Queen pointed at Rita with her tail, as dozens of Giant Rats and millions of Tiny Rats all glanced at her with fury!

To make things worse, there were even bigger Giant Rats wearing armor and holding weapons, Giant Rat Warriors. Rita quickly found herself surrounded!

"Hu... man! KILL!!!" The Rat Queen ordered in human language.

"Fuck..." Rita muttered.

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Chapter 467: Gustaf, The Death General Of War

Among the army of Armored Skeletons that greeted Elayne and Rose on their way to rescue their friends, a gigantic, four-meter-tall Skeleton wearing black armor and holding into a gigantic axe claimed to be nothing else but a Death General.

"Welcome to the Labyrinth of the Dead, mortals! I am Gustaf, the Death General of War! Face me!"

Elayne had only heard a bit about Death Generals, but they were extremely powerful Undead that directly served the Demon King of Death, Thanatos. Amongst them, there was Phantasmos. But of course, there should be many more.

However, Elayne never expected Phantasmos to somehow bring more Death Generals to Earth through the Dungeon itself! Although... something slowly began to feel strange.

"How were you even able to get here?!" Elayne asked angrily, pointing her weapon at the skeleton unleashing a strong aura of death. "It should be impossible, only Phantasmos was said to have come to Earth..."

"Huh?" Rose felt confused. It seemed that Elayne knew more than she had explained her beforehand.

"Heh, you're not that sharp." Laughed Gustaf, his enormously tall body started exuding an even stronger aura. "Can't you realize?! This Dungeon, the "Gate" that you humans call it is merely an in-between, a connection between Earth and Arcadia! This means that even we, who live in the other side can step in! Buahahahaha! And now, it is your end, World Tree's Incarnation!"

"So Dungeons are a connection- Huh? World Tree Incarnation?" Asked Rose, feeling even more confused. "And that world... the one where you monsters come from is named Arcadia?! Why are you invading our world?!"

"Isn't it obvious? Because your world is ripen with delicious souls and millions after millions of human lives! Unlike Arcadia where human populations are much less, this world is brimming with so many human souls it is ridiculous!" Laughed Gustaf. "I shall feast on your souls! Enough talking! If you want to live, fight me and win!"

FLAAAASH!

Gustaf unleashed a powerful Death Knight Aura, as his entire body began growing even stronger. His white bones turned completely black and his aura became phantasmal and terrifying. His black axe started unleashing a phantasmal flames aura as well, and his small squadron of Undead Warriors were not like the ones they fought before, much stronger and intimidating than normal ones.

"While normal Skeletons would be like F Rank or E- Rank, those Skeleton Warriors are easily all D Rank! And this guy... He's probably as strong as a B Rank monster! He should be as strong as A Rank though. Is he weakened due to coming to a place that is between both worlds? Much like Phantasmos was very weakened on Earth!" The Great Spirit analyzed, telling everything to Elayne.

Rose quickly prepared herself for battle and jumped ahead of Elayne with her Crimson Wolf Familiar. She quickly took out her gun but realized it had very few bullets now. These were specially made to kill monsters and she ended wasting them on that spirit that spooked her...

However, she had drank a lot of blood from Elayne and felt brimming with a lot of energy. She took out a small crimson knife decorated with rose-like shapes on its golden handle, as the Cursed Weapon started absorbing her Blood Energy, an unique power Vampires and Dhampirs could wield produced by drinking blood.

"Elayne! Stay behind me. You're a magician and a civilian so it is my duty to protect you. Despite how I look, I am very hardy." Rose smiled defiantly, as the giant black skeleton, Gustaf the Death General of War moved forwards!

"RAAAAHHHH [Phantom Axe Slash]!"

TRUUUUUMMMMM...!

He slashed the empty air with his giant black axe, unleashing a slash made of phantasmal power that quickly impacted Rose with all of its strength!

CLAAAASH!

"T-This is...!" Rose gritted her teeth, finding the power of Gustaf's first attack already overwhelming.

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!!

"ROSEEE!" Elayne panicked, rushing towards Rose only to be surrounded by the six D Rank Skeleton Warriors serving Gustaf.

"Don't interrupt our fight, Incarnation!" Said Gustaf. "She's not dead yet! For now, play around with my boys, keheheh..." Laughed Gustaf, finding Rose just fine as the smoke of the explosion dissipated.

"Didn't I said I was hardy? Leave this to me." Rose smiled back at Elayne, giving her a wink. "Beat the skellies meanwhile!"

"Ugh, fine...!" Elayne said, as she saw Rose and Gustaf clash once more. Her movements were extremely precise and rapid, while her crimson dagger unleashed countless cutting attacks that unleashed slashes of crimson energy.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAAASH!

However, Gustaf was equally tanky, easily parrying her blows with his large black shield or his giant axe. He was enormous, fighting Rose it seemed as if a person was fighting a small cat. Nonetheless, the little cat had a dog to help her.

"GROOARR! WOOF!"

CRAAASH!

A giant wolf-like head made of Blood Energy surged from Rose's aura in the least expected moment, biting through Gustaf's shield and tearing it apart easily, and then slashing against him with his sharp claws!

SLASH! SLASH! SLAAASH!

TRUUUM...!

Gustaf had to step back due to the overwhelming burst of attacks, if he had a face he would be smiling though, the bastard was enjoying the moment of thrill.

"Hahaha, incredible! So you have a Familiar, huh? Well, it could be said the same for me." Laughed Gustaf, as his soul began waving around, thousands of other souls he had eaten emerged as countless ghosts, swarming Rose and her Familiar!

FLUOOOOSH!

"Shit, this bastard...!" Rose felt that each touch from these ghosts drained a bit of her Life and Mana. "Fuck... OFF! [Blood Storm]!"

BOOOOOOOMMMM...!

Meanwhile, as Rose and Gustaf fought intensively, Elayne was unable to join in the fight because she was being constantly attacked by six D Rank monsters at once.

"The World Tree Incarnation! Her soul must be delicious!"

"Get her!"

"She must be weakened after fighting Phantasmos' lackeys before coming here...!"

"GYAHAAHAH, YOU'RE DONE FOR!"

A Skeleton Warrior leaped over Elayne, getting right into the position she needed, as she swung her Shovel Staff and blew him into bits.

"[Spiritual Explosion]!"

BOOOOOOMMMMM!!!

"H-Huh?!"

CLANK!

The other Skeletons dropped their lower jaws in shock.

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Chapter 468: Unexpected New Allies

Elayne wasn't going to mess around. Just before being trapped inside of Phantasmos' Dungeon she had defeated hundreds of Monsters. Six D Rank Skeleton Warriors weren't going to hold her back as much as these guys imagined.

"[Spiritual Explosion]!"

She swung her Shovel Staff, Irene, with all her strength and fury, utilizing the weapon's innate ability [Spiritual Explosion] which absorbed her Spiritual Energy and Mana and unleashed an explosion over a target upon contact.

The result?

BOOOOOOMMMMM!!!

The Skeleton Warrior was barely able to attempt to block the attack using his black sword before the entire explosion blew his whole bony self into pieces.

Naturally, the other confident and cocky Skeleton Warriors were taken back...

"H-Huh?!"

"W-What in the world...?"

"She's THAT strong?!"

"Oi, oi, I didn't sign up for this, Boss!"

CLANK!

The other Skeletons dropped their lower jaws in shock. Some began stepping back in fear. One of them tried to use this opportunity to attack Elayne, however, sneaking into her back.

"That won't work." Elayne said mercilessly, her entire back suddenly shapeshifted as her Yggdrasil Armor's back grew a giant and sharp wooden spear, piercing the skeleton's chest and shattering his magic crystal.

CLASH!

Crack, crack...!

"GRAAAHHH! H-HOLY SHIIIIITTTT..."

CRAAASH!

He became a pile of immobile bones seconds after his Magic Crystal was shattered into pieces, leaving him completely destroyed.

"Who's next?" Elayne said, hitting the ground with her Shovel Staff as the infected ground with Nether began to change. "[Terrain Takeover]!"

FLUOOOOSH!

She was already bored of being underestimated, as someone that defeated a Demon King, these skeletons thought they were hot shit to talk to her like she was trash. And interestingly enough, because Dungeons were a place between Earth and Arcadia, she was able to draw much more Mana and Spiritual Power from her World Tree body, although she figured that out just now.

"Unngh?! Uaaggh!"

"T-The ground is turning green?!"

"Grass and flowers are growing everywhere!"

"FUCK! A tree got me bros! Help!"

One of the skeletons was caught by a growing tree, as his entire body was wrapped around roots and branches which grew all around his orifices, crushing his magic crystal as the roots ferociously absorbed his magical power.

CRAASH!

"Three down, three more to go." Elayne said menacingly, slowly stepping forwards.

"B-Bro, we're fucked..."

"Man I did NOT sign for this!"

"Oi Gustaf you said this was going to be easy!"

The three skeletons completely gave up on fighting and were trembling, rattling their bones in fear over Elayne's ferocious attacks and magic.

The three skeletons looked at once another and then nodded.

"She's a hot milf but she's also deadly?! Man I wouldn't mind switching sides now..."

"M-Me neither!"

"Yeah fuck that guy! We don't know him!"

"Huh?"

Out of the blue, the three D Rank Skeleton Warriors kneeled before Elayne and asked for her mercy, this was... not something she expected.

"O-Oi what the heck are you three bastards doing?!" Gustaf reprimanded them from afar, but he was being overwhelmed by Rose and her Crimson Wolf Familiar to go smack them himself.

Elayne felt confused but didn't lowered her guard.

"I won't fall for your tricks, you want me to lower my guard, don't you?!" She said angrily. "Blackie, restrain them!"

"Meow!" Blackie emerged out of Elayne's shadows and manipulated the many shadows around, quickly shaping them as countless tentacles wrapping around the three Skeleton Warriors.

"Uuuuagh! What the hell, she had a magic cat too?!"

"Please don't kill us again! We've died once already!"

"Mommy!"

Elayne felt slightly off, they were getting strangely ridiculous the more they talked. Were these skeletons really just made by the Dungeon? By Gustaf brought them with him, they might be allies and know more about the Demon King too...

"Hey, make them your Familiars if you can't trust them." The Great Spirit said. "Hurry, so you can go help out Rose quickly, she's slowly getting overwhelmed!"

"I got it!" Said Elayne, sighing, she used her own blood and imprinted three magic circles in the foreheads of the three skeletons. "Fine! If you want to switch sides, then accept this contract and become my Familiars!"

FLAAAAASSHHH!

The red-colored magic circles began shining brightly on the three Skeleton's foreheads, as they immediately seemed to accept the contracts, mostly on desperation and fear, their bodies underwent an evolution as their white bones turned black and their armor grew larger and more intimidating.

"Hot damn! We've got a new boss!"

"And she's mighty hot! Please step on me!"

"Alright, sorry Gustaf, we've switched sides officially! Nothing personel."

"YOU TRAITORS!"

Gustaf felt incredibly offended his lackeys suddenly turned their backs at him and became his foe's slaves out of the blue! Well, not slaves, familiars, but for him they were now another person's slaves because he saw them as such.

Meanwhile, Elayne once more heard that voice...

[Nameless Skeleton Warriors (D Rank)] x3 have become your Familiars through the [Blood Familiar Contract] Spell]

[All three Skeletons have evolved as a result of your power being shared with them.]

[Nameless Skeleton Warriors (D Rank)] x3 have evolved into [Nameless Dark Skeleton Guards (C Rank)] x3!]

"Well, I guess it worked." Elayne sighed. "B-But please give me a bit of space to breathe, you guys are a bit too close!"

"S-Sorry boss!"

"Oi move!"

"S-Sorry, I was just stunned by our new boss's beauty!"

They were slightly horny... despite not having any flesh. Elayne could imagine they were perhaps some sort of barbarians when they were alive.

"Anyways, you three are now part of our team. Blackie's your leader, so you better treat him well." Elayne said. "Anyways, let's go!"

Elayne quickly jumped into battle while the three skeletons followed her closely alongside Blackie.

"[Terrain Expansion]! [Nature Domain]! If there are no spirits I'm just going to bring them here forcefully!"

CLAAAASHHHH...!

Elayne hit the ground as the entire floor began to transform, grasses, flowers, mushrooms, and trees started growing everywhere, quickly reaching Gustaf as his legs were wrapped by thousands of vines!

"Unnnnggh...! How come you can invoke Nature in the domain of my Lord Thanatos?!"

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Chapter 469: The Fury Of The Death General Of War

"I can't believe you damn bastards would betray me!" Roared Gustaf. "I created you! You were just dead and I brought you back and this is how you repay ME?!"

SLAASH! SLAAASH!

The furious giant skeleton swung his giant axe, cutting down all the trees attacking him and freeing his legs from Elayne's clutches, only for Rose and her Crimson Wolf Familiar to emerge from behind him, attacking with a series of blows.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAAASH!

However, there were only some scratches left on his armor and even his black bones. He was harder than steel and wouldn't be a Death General if he wasn't strong enough either.

"Move aside, trash!"

CLAAAAASH!

Gustaf was bored of Rose, as he swung his giant fist and punched her into her stomach, blowing her away from his way in a mere second.

"GUUHH...?!"

BAAAAAMMMM...!

Rose hit the walls of the caves, leaving countless cracks as she slowly slide into the floor, vomiting blood. Most of her bones were shattered, her heart had burst into pieces and her lungs had popped out like balloons.

"Unggh... Fuck..."

"ROSE!" Elayne grew angered, as she continued channeling more and more of her powers. She needed more, much more to activate [Pathway] properly.

FLUOOOOSH!

"That is enough I know you want ME! So come and fight me!" Elayne said furiously, her entire body was being embraced by all the trees and plants she was create, fusing into her body. "[Nature's Assimilation]!"

RUMBLE!

The entire Dungeon began to tremble as countless cracks appeared all around the caves. An enormous shockwave of spiritual energy and life began to spread everywhere, as Gustaf smiled wickedly as his skull distorted into a smile.

"HEH...! I couldn't had expected any less from you!" He laughed, rushing forward.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

He swung his Axe wildly, constantly destroying the enormous trees, wooden spears, and wooden shields that emerged constantly like nothing, while his boots crushed everything down below.

"[Yggdrasil Armor]!" Elayne reinforced her own defenses and those of her threw new Skeletons and Blackie, as all four of them were now wearing wonderful wooden armors filled with spiritual power.
"ATTACK!"

She and her Familiars rushed forward, fighting Gustaf head on! Enormous wooden fists began hitting the giant skeleton while bullets made of light started slowly piercing through his bones and armor.

BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAAM!

"We'll take care of his damn shield arm then!" The three skeletons said, running towards their former boss.

"YOU TRAITORS!" Gustaf roared, trying to shield bash the trio.

CRAAAASH!

However, all three of them together were able to hold back his enormous strength thanks to their new evolutions and the aid of Elayne's magic. Their black swords suddenly were covered in spiritual power and wood, becoming Spiritual Wood Swords.

"Y-You can hold into my shield bash?!" Muttered Gustaf in shock.

"Heh, well, there's a little guy helping too!"

"Right, little boss?"

"Yeah!"

"MEOW!"

Blackie had suddenly fused with the shadows, transforming into a giant black panther, and shaping his entire shadow body into a giant hand, holding Gustaf's shield!

"YOU BASTARDSSSS...!"

Gustaf only grew more furious, ignoring the attacks from Elayne and attempting to crush her familiars first, using his gigantic axe!

"RAAAAAHHH! [Deadly Decapitation]!"

TRUUUUUUUMMMM....!

His Axe unleashed a massive shockwave of pure Nether and Darkness, as it hit the four Familiars with a single, devastating attack!

CLAAAAAASSSHHHHHH....!

The ground started to shatter all around as the four were blown away by the shockwave alone. However, Gustaf's distraction only gave Elayne and Rose the time to act.

"Irene! [Plant Manipulation]! [Spiritual Infusion]!"

Elayne imbued several spirits she just created using Spirit Creation into her weapon, and then shapeshifted her using Plant Manipulation because she was primarily made of wood! Irene's entire body temporarily transformed into a majestic and gigantic golden sword made of gold and spiritual wood, as the power of Nature, Earth, Wind, and Fire Spirits resonated within her.

"[Light Sword]!"

However, that wasn't all, as Elayne covered her sword with the power of her newly acquired Light Element Magic, making Irene shine as if it were the very Divine Sword Excalibur itself!

SLAAAASSSSHHHHHH...!

"UUUAAAGGGH...!"

Gustaf tried to hold back Elayne, only to realize his legs were pierced by the swords of the three skeletons and also by Blackie's shadows, giving him little time to evade.

CRAAAAASHHHHH...!

His arm holding the shield was quickly sliced apart, alongside half of his torso by Elayne's attack, only for Gustaf's aura to explode as thousands of souls emerged, trying to hold back Elayne and her familiars, and pushing them back.

"[Thousand Souls Legion]!!! Hold them off!" Gustaf roared, pushing everyone away from him forcefully with his thousands of souls he had eaten and enslaved.

BAAAAM!

Elayne ended losing her balance as most of the plants fusing with her ended drying out the moment the ghosts wrapped around her, falling into the floor.

"Unnggh...!" Elayne muttered, seeing thousands of souls screaming in agony at her. "Dammit, there are too many of them!" Elayne cried. "I have to... find something, somehow- Ah!"

Elayne quickly took some of the Magic Crystals she had and crushed it, absorbing its Mana and then inscribing a new Spell inside of her own Magic Circle.

"If I don't have a solution, I'll create it!"

FLUOSH!

[You have inscribed a large quantity of Holy Light Runes inside of your Magic Circle.]

[You have created the [Exorcism] Spell.]

"[Exorcism]!"

FLAAAAAASSSH!

A bright light emerged out of her own hands, as the souls that touched it suddenly started to squirm in agony and disappear one after the other. Unlike monsters, they were just souls, once exorcized, they would simply disappear from this area.

Meanwhile, as Elayne dealt with this. Her Familiars and Rose and her own Familiar fought against Gustaf, attacking his joints to make him trip, but his bones were so hard it was simply impossible.

Nonetheless, Rose was rather angered... she quickly absorbed the Crimson Wolf into her own body and then...

"[Blood Catastrophe]!"

FLUUUOOOOOSH!

A spiraling tornado of pure Blood Energy suddenly took over Gustaf, blowing him into the ceiling and then hitting it with all of its force, a loud explosion happened right after, as several of his bones finally gave up, shattering apart!

BOOOOOOOOMMMMM...!

However, was that it?!

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Chapter 470: The Power Of Light Magic

"[Exorcism]! [Life's Shield]!" Elayne roared, imbuing her new spell into her own shield as it began shining brightly, a gigantic barrier suddenly emerged and protected her from the energy-sucking power of the Souls enslaved by Gustaf, as their entire bodies began turning into ashes and disappearing one after the other!

FLUUOOOOOSSH!

"GRYAAAAHHHH...!"

"LORD GUSTAAF...!"

"I AM DISSAPEARING?! GEEEEHHHH...!"

POOF! POOF! POOF! POOF!

More and more souls started disappearing one after the other, as Elayne's powerful Shield's Hidden Ability, which was [Life Shield] something Gaia herself had left within her own weapon started to activate more and more.

"RAAAAAHHHH!"

FLUOOOOOOOSH!

The Life Shield suddenly shaped into her own armor, covering her completely. Elayne started charging forward while punching and hitting all the souls trying to stop her, while finally reaching Irene who had grown too big due to her transformation, and held her with her two armor, enchanting her muscles using her magic.

"[Wooden Muscles]!"

FLUOSH!

Her arms suddenly grew several times bigger, as she swung the gigantic sword and then imbued it with the Life Shield's Aura and the Exorcism Spell!

As she readied to attack, Rose blew Gustaf into the ceiling! However, was that enough? The giant skeleton was incredibly powerful, and even after all of that, he laughed.

"GAHAHAHAHA! You'll need MUCH more than that to finish me off! Even without an arm, as long as I have my trusty axe! I am invincible! There's a reason why I was once known as the Barbarian King of the Northern Lands!"

Gustaf hit landed over the floor once more, the very impact shook the entire dungeon once more, making the entire structure tremble. He furiously swung his axe at Rose and the rest of Elayne's familiars, unleashing a gigantic slash of phantasmal energy and darkness, blowing them away in mere seconds!

BOOOOOOOOMMMM!!!!

As he saw his former skeleton servants all shattered into the floor and Blackie and Rose unconscious, he quickly directed his gaze at Elayne once more.

"Now... It's time for you to-"

CLAAAAASSSHHHHHH...!

Before he could finish his words, the gigantic golden sword, Irene, pierced Gustaf's chest, shattering his gigantic magic crystal which was well hidden within his ribs and armor, and even slashing his very soul into two halves!

BAAAAAMMMM...!

"U-Unnggh?! W-Wha... AAAGH...! THIS... CAN'T BE...!"

It happened so suddenly that Gustaf was incapable of comprehending how it happened. However, he instantly felt the power of Gods themselves within Elayne and the sword Irene... It was very obvious the Gods would aid them in their endeavor of slaying another Death General if they could.

"[Pathway]!" Elayne roared, creating countless pathways leading to the power of the Gods and channeling them into her hands, and then combining them together with her spell... "[Divine Exorcism]!"

FLAAAAAASSSHHH!

"AAAAGGGH! THIS... NO... NOOOOOOOO...!"

The light consumed Gustaf in an instant, as his bones and even his armor were consumed completely, and turned into ashes. His soul squirmed in agony but then slowly faded away as well.

"This... to someone... as strong as me..."

Incapable of comprehending his quick defeat, Gustaf disappeared bitterly.

"Rose! Blackie!"

Elayne didn't had any time to relax, rushing towards her new Dhampir friend and her pet, Blackie. She quickly started to heal Blackie, who only had a broken leg and a few ribs, which slowly regenerated through her insanely powerful healing magic, further boosted by the still lingering effects of [Pathway] within her body.

And as for Rose, she quickly took out a small bottle with blood she had prepared beforehand, feeding it to her and slowly helping her recover her wounds through her natural powers, which were fueled by drinking rich blood. However, Rose was so tired she ended falling asleep, and so did Blackie.

Meanwhile, the three skeletons were all shattered into pieces over the floor, completely destroyed. Elayne felt slightly sad, they had joined her and even fought for her, yet ended dying, sacrificing themselves to help her defeat their former boss.

"He must have treated you very badly if you hated him so much..." She sighed. "I hope you three can rest in the afterlife, I'll make sure to purify your remains."

Elayne sighed, touching their bones, and caressing their skulls.

"Ahhhh~ My queen, please caress my ribs as much as you want~!"

"Oi shut up! You ruined the moment dumbass!"

"This guy's completely brainless in that skull!"

However, all three skulls started talking while Elayne was having a rather sad moment... She sighed, grabbing back her shovel, and about to dig them some new graves...

"W-Wait please don't do that boss!"

"W-We're fine! As long as our souls and our magic crystals are intact, we won't really die..."

"Although it might be a bit hard to recover from this..."

Elayne sighed while the Great Spirit started to laugh out loud.

"Hahahaha! These guys are shameless. How about you give them some new bodies? I think they could work as golems." Said the Great Spirit.

"Golems, huh?" Elayne wondered, quickly nodding. "Alright...!"

FLAAAASH!

She quickly started to rearrange their skeletons and fused them with many plants and even some spirits imbued into their bones. The Skeleton Trio was reborn anew, they still looked like skeletons, but now had regal muscles and armor made of wood and covered in flowers and all sort of nature.

[All [Nameless Dark Skeleton Guards (C Rank)] x3 have evolved into [Nameless Nature Skeleton's Knights (C+ Rank)] x3!]

[All of their physical abilities have been enhanced.]

[To further improve their abilities, naming them is recommended.]

The voice once more informed Elayne of what had occurred. These skeletons were rather versatile and had evolved a second time already. They were now Knights though, which sounded much cooler.

"UOOOH! These bodies ain't half bad, boss!"

"I can feel more connected with nature now! I am a nature's man!"

"My boner's gone... Ah, no, there it is!"

"Stop saying ridiculous things, geez!" Elayne reprimanded them a bit. She had also used their boss former bones and whatever leftover armor was left behind to repair them, making them even stronger.

Using her stronger connection with her World Tree Body, Elayne began creating Cooking Spirits and started using them, alongside the help of small Plant Familiars she created on the spot to make a temporary camp and also to cook some food.

"Anyways, do you three remember your former names? And what was your relationship with Gustaf anyways? How did you ended up serving the Demon King of Death?" The three skeletons looked at one another, sighing.

"Well our memories are a bit fuzzy, boss... But we do remember that we used to serve Gustaf back then."

"When we were alive..."

"It was... Loooong ago, so much that we barely remember when we were alive."

"Gustaf... Who was he?" Wondered Elayne.

"I remember he was something like... a Barbarian King, a Conqueror of Lands!"

"Gustaf the Barbarian King, yes! He was so cool back then, but he was a terrible boss!"

"Eventually... He ended serving someone, a Lord named... Err, what was his name?"

The skeletons began thinking but they couldn't remember either. Their memories, which were stored inside their souls, were already very fuzzy, trying to remember might only make them forget more.

However, Elayne ended learning much more than she expected. The Death Generals might have been famous people that once lived in Arcadia, Gustaf, the Barbarian King, was one of them.

Then... could Thanatos have such a past too?