

Brand New 481

Brand New Life Online: Rise Of The Goddess Of Harvest

Chapter 481: Traitorous Demon

CLAAAAAASSSHHHH!!!

Josuke's blazing charge was intercepted by Phantasmos Demonic Blade, which overflowed with the power of Hellberos. It as no normal Blade, as it was forged using the souls of many unfortunate ghosts and the bones of skeletons, and then cursed with the blood of Albert himself into a powerful Living Weapon.

"GIVE ALBERT BACK!!!" Josuke roared. His entire body was being taken over by the Vermillion Bird's powers. His skin looked as if it was getting constantly charred and healed due to the flames burning and healing effects.

His back grew two pairs of enormous blazing wings, and his hands became like the claws of an eagle. His entire face changed, as it was covered on a helmet made of fire resembling a ferocious bird.

"Hahahaha! I have always wanted to fight such a powerful Spirit!" Laughed Phantasmos. "I shall enjoy feasting on you once I take down your vessel!"

Phantasmos put no effort into parrying all of the furious Josuke's attacks, which came with powerful explosions of flames with his gigantic Demonic Sword.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

"RAAAAHHHHH!!!"

Josuke roared furiously, raising one of his arms and gathering the flames into a gigantic fireball, firing it directly at Phantasmos with all his might.

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!

Flames covered the hall, as the bone throne was completely turned to ashes. However, Phantasmos remained. The Demonic Armor covering Albert made sure to protect him from holy attribute attacks.

"The Flames of the Vermillion Bird are sure strong." Phantasmos laughed. "However, thanks to fusing my powers with those of Hellberos, a Fire Demon, flames no longer can affect me."

BAAAAMMM!!!

His fist reached Josuke with fury, hitting his face and blowing him away from the spot in a single second.

CLAAAAAASSSHHHHH...!

Albert was already very strong by himself, but once his powers were forcefully merged with something like Phantasmos, the became truly frightening.

"Unngh... No... Not yet...! VERMILLION BIRD!"

"CRYAAAAAH!"

The Vermillion Bird once more surged from within Josuke's body, the single blow he received broke several of his bones, but they slowly started to regenerate with his flames.

FLASH!

However, before the young man could react in time, Phantasmos reached him in a mere second, swinging his gigantic Demonic Blade at him!

SLAAAAASSHHHH!!!!

"[Light Spirit Call]! [Light Spirit Barrier]!"

FLUOOOSH!

However, what greeted Phantasmos instead was Elayne, surging from the ground itself as if she popped up like a plant, and summoning dozens of tiny light spirits, fusing them together, and forming a barrier out of them in less than a second!

BOOOOOOOOMMMM!!!

The Demonic Power surging from the Demonic Blade was tremendous, however, shattering the barrier in just three seconds upon impacting it!

"YOU..." Phantasmos glared at Elayne, who had managed to grab Josuke and run away from the explosion before they were to target them.

"E-Elayne..." Josuke muttered.

"I told you to not be reckless!" Elayne reprimanded him. "You almost died!"

"A-Ah..." Josuke muttered, gasping for air. "Fuck..."

"No bad words!" Elayne said, reprimanding him further.

"Eh?! I am not your kid or something!" Josuke barked back.

"But you're acting like a child!" Elayne said.

"..." Josuke felt offended but couldn't help but find truth in her words.

He had jumped against a foe he knew could overpower him, and almost got sliced into two pieces. Despite all his strength, if he were to receive such a lethal blow, he would have surely died.

"Josuke, when you jump into battles reckless you always end up beaten down." Said Rose. "Don't be stupid and remain with us. If we're ever going to beat this thing, it'll be with everybody's efforts."

"Yeah, let me show you all of your efforts will amount to nothing."

TRUUUUMMMM...!

Phantasmos suddenly unleashed a powerful pressure from his body, slightly surprising everybody before a rain of phantasmal and demonic fireballs started falling over everybody!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOOM!!!

"Dammit!" Elayne muttered, quickly keeping everyone together by stretching her arms into branches, and jumping away while creating barriers made of light.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Each time she jumped, her spring-like plant-transformed legs shattered the ground below, while spreading nature through her Terrain Takeover Spell.

"What sort of pathetic runaway strategy is this?!" Laughed Phantasmos. "Come and fight me!!!"

FLAAAASH!

Phantasmos suddenly fused with Albert's body completely, turning it all into a mass of phantasmal energy and reaching Elayne in a mere second! The Demonic Blade was quickly launched into Elayne's head!

CLAAAAASSSHH!!!

However, a floating Shovel Staff intercepted it, unleashing a powerful Spiritual Aura that began to purify the blade, making it slightly shatter!

FLUOOSH!

"Nngh?!" Phantasmos was shocked by the spiritual power, quickly stepping back!

Elayne was given an opportunity, as she let everybody in the floor and then started blasting Phantasmos with all her magic. Everybody else followed with their spells!

"NOW!"

Blazing explosions, explosive shadow bullets, rays of light, spiritual flames, and spiritual beasts started attacking and bombarding Phantasmos with multiple attacks.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

"Tch...! You don't know your place, even after I've showed you my might?!" Phantasmos furiously said, as he unleashed his powers further, summoning several weapons made of bones and possessed by his own phantoms and enchanted with demonic power, firing them at everybody.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

However, three valiant Skeleton Knights surged, covered on the power of Spirits and Light, they intercepted all attacks, even after their bodies started shattering apart.

"You guys!" Elayne said worriedly.

"Do not worry about us, boss!"

"We've got this- UNGH!"

"Attack him! Whenever he conjures this magic, he has to stay still! Phantasmos is terrible at moving while using magic!"

"YOU FROM ALL BASTARDS?!" Phantasmos furiously reacted at the traitors. "I WILL MAKE SURE YOU ALL PERISH NOW!!! [Demonic Fall]!!!"

TRUUUUUMMMM....!

A gigantic sphere of Phantasmal and Demonic Flames emerged out of Phantasmos hands as he stood still, firing it at the three skeletons!

FLUOOOOSH!!

However, in that very moment, Mark, Rita, Josuke, and Rose appeared, attacking him from behind with their strongest attacks.

Meanwhile, Elayne remained with her loyal skeleton knights, protecting them.

"You don't have to act so knightly; I will protect my friends." Elayne said with a smile, before the gigantic sphere of demonic and phantasmal flames fell over her, consuming her completely..

BOOOOOOMMMMM!!!

"BOSS!!!"

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Chapter 482: Manifesting The Power Of The Gods

Mark pierced Phantasmos' armor with his dagger, which he made grow into a giant, red-colored sword using the same technique he used to beat the Undead Chimera.

CLAAASSSHH!

Rita unleashed a gigantic beam of Darkness, which she conjured by using the gathered Malice that Phantasmos constantly exuded.

BOOOOOOMMM!!!

Josuke unleashed all of his flames into the shape of a giant katana, slicing through the armor of Phantasmos with a blazing explosion.

SLAAAAASSHH!!

And Rose gathered her Blood Energy into a spiraling Blood Tempest, which both surrounded Phantasmos and started slashing and attacking him constantly.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

"NNGGH?! Y-YOUUU...! GRUUUAAGGGH...!"

Phantasmos couldn't take on the enormous onslaught of the strongest attacks everybody could offer, his armor instantly shattered into pieces and his sword was completely destroyed. At the same time, his phantasmal essence was almost completely purified!

BOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!

At the same time, Elayne received the gigantic attack he unleashed, as her entire body was completely consumed by the flames. All the light barriers she had conjured were instantly destroyed, her shield was blown away, and her body... was slowly turned into ashes in front of the eyes of her familiars.

"BOSS!!!!"

"A-Aggh... Nnngh... Hah... HAHAHAHA...!"

Phantasmos started to laugh through Albert's face, his entire body was tattered and half-burned, but still remained alive.

"At least... I killed her... As long as I... accomplished my goal... It was all WORTH IT!" Phantasmos celebrated.

"And that's where you're wrong."

FLUOOOOOSH!

Suddenly, from within the ground, Elayne emerged as a small plant that regrew anew.

"Huh?! T-That trick again?!"

It wasn't a trick though. Thanks to her deeper connection with her Yggdryad Body in Arcadia through the Dungeon, Elayne was able to copy one of the powers of her body there... Yggdrasil's Avatar.

By transforming herself into roots and planting herself underground, which she did when she was bouncing over the floor while evading Phantasmos fireballs, she was able to create replicas of herself, while her main core remained underground.

Alongside that, she used Blackie's Shadow Travel Magic to facilitate her travel through the shadows underground, this was the reason the little cat was not present in the fight as he was working hard to help Elayne survive.

It was a tactic she could only do after having prepared a suitable battlefield through Territory Takeover and wouldn't be easy to replicate.

However, at the end, she outsmarted him.

"Y-YOUEEE! JUST FUCKING DIE!!!"

Phantasmos furiously unleashed a shockwave of Demonic Flames everywhere, covering the entire room! However, Elayne attacked back using her powerful magic, as she channeled the power of the Gods of Arcadia once more.

"[Pathway]!"

FLAAAAASSSHH!!!

[The Divinity [All Mother of Life and Souls] has manifested herself]

[The Divinity [Dark Lady Dressed By The Night] has manifested herself]

[The Divinity [Furious King of Blazing Flames] has manifested himself]

[The Divinity [Ruler of the Stars] has manifested herself]

[Several other Divinities have manifested themselves!]

[The Divinity [Wise King of Creation] has manifested himself!]

FLUOOOOSH!

With the power of their divinities, Elayne unleashed a shockwave of her own, spending the remaining amount of Mana she had gathered in an all-out attack!

"[Life and Light Chains of Restraint]!!!"

FLAASH!

Chains made of divinity of light and life emerged one after the other, wrapping around Albert's body as Elayne rushed towards his body, touching his forehead.

"I-It can't be...! All of them... All... the Gods?!"

Phantasmos quickly panicked as he even felt the presence of the God of Creation!

"Phantasmos, begone from this world!" He roared mightily, unleashing his powers.

"[Divine Punishment]" Elayne said, her body fully becoming the temporary vessel of all Arcadia's gods as her eyes shone brightly with all the colors of the rainbow, her hair became long and golden, and her skin gained countless divine runes all over, making her exude an aura of heavenly light.

FLAAAAAASSSSHHHHHH!!!

A gigantic divine light power covered all of Albert's body, purifying him from the evil taking over his body. Phantasmos struggled, but ultimately, he began fading away into nothingness, as his Magic Crystal was shattered piece by piece.

"Unnggh...! My King...! THANATOS...! MY KIIINNNNNGGGGGG...!"

FLUOOOOSH!

Screaming for his King, Phantasmos was completely destroyed, without nothing left behind, not even his Magic Crystal, which was promptly absorbed by Elayne.

However, that wasn't all. Elayne took the opportunity to deal with another entity festering within Albert's body.

"W-What?! AAAAGGH! T-THIS POWER...! THE POWER OF GODS... FROM ANOTHER WORLD?!"

Hellberos manifested himself before everybody else, resembling an entity with a slightly humanoid shape made of Demonic Flames.

"You've betrayed your friends and sold your friend's body to the enemy of your world." Elayne said.

"Give me a reason why I shouldn't end you right here, right now!"

"Unnnggghh...! I-I... cannot die! I am a Demon I- UUAAGGGHH...!"

Hellberos, for the first time in his life, had a taste of his own mortality as he saw his body dissipating into nothingness through the power of Arcadia's gods!

"N-No... I am supposed to- UUAAGGGH! STOP! PLEASE STOP!"

"Do you realize your own mortality now?! You are not above any of the people of Earth, there's no difference. You can die as well, Hellberos!"

"I was wrong! I...:"

Hellberos quickly began to realize that even him, a Demon so powerful, could die just as the one he was possessing. Was his own false belief of immortality what made him struggle to realize the bonds he had made and the preciousness they held?

"I am sorry... I WILL CHANGE! PLEASE!"

A demon kneeled before Elayne, asking for forgiveness.

"Empty promises won't lead anywhere..." Elayne said mercilessly, unleashing the last bit of her powers.

FLAAAAASSHHH!!!

"NOOOOO!!!"

Hellberos cried in agony, believing he was going to die.

CRASH!

However, the sound of chains wrapping his body echoed instead.

"Ungh? Eh?! W-what is this?!" He asked.

"These are Chains of Truth." Elayne said with a smile. "You will never betray him again. If you ever do, the punisher you receive will be severe. This is an assurance, so you better behave from now on, Hellberos."

"Hah... I guess that's fitting for someone like me..." Hellberos sighed. Hellberos returned back to Albert's body, as the entire hall remained in silence.

FLAAASH!

Elayne's [Pathway] Ability quickly dissipated, as she fell to her knees, completely tired. She started gasping for air, as her consciousness slowly was beginning to fade.

"Hahh... Hahh... W-We somehow did it, everybody." Elayne said, as she was greeted with Mark and Rita hugging her and Rose and Josuke running towards Albert.

"ELAYNE!" Mark and Rita cried, hugging her.

"ALBERT!" Josuke and Rose cried, hugging the unconscious Albert.

"W-We somehow made it." Elayne sighed.

"Please don't scare me like that! I really thought you died!" Cried Rita.

"You reprimanded Josuke for being reckless, but you're quite a reckless person yourself." Sighed Mark.

"I'm sorry..." Elayne sighed. "But if I shared this tactic with you guys, Phantasmos might have figured it out." She said, looking at Rose and Josuke hugging their friend while being on tears.

It seemed that despite how cold they treated one another, they really cared for each other as much as she did with her friends. She smiled sweetly, but this moment couldn't last forever.

RUMBLE!

The entire Dungeon started to break apart, as the walls shattered and black holes began emerging everywhere.

"Ah, the Dungeon's being destroyed! We need to hurry to the exit!" Elayne cried. "Falco! Can you bring us there?"

"CRAAAH!"

Everybody hurriedly jumped over Falco, as they fled as fast as possible.

FLAAAASH!

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Chapter 483: Escape! Chased By The Demon King!

RUMBLE!

TRUUUUMMM!

CRAAAAASH!

The entire dungeon was beginning to crumble apart! After Phantasmos' true defeat, the entire Dungeon's pillar was gone, and the breach between Dimensions that created the Dungeon was beginning to be destroyed.

Because of this, it seemed as if countless tiny black holes started appearing everywhere around the Dungeon starting from the area where Phantasmos perished, which continued growing larger and larger while consuming everything.

"CRAAAH!"

Falco cried loudly, afraid of the void attempting to devour them all. Elayne and everybody else were riding over his back. They were all thankful the bird was so big now, as nobody had the strength to even run as fast as Falco was flying.

"Elayne, can't you make something using your Pathway?" Asked Rita panicking, seeing the black holes approaching.

"I-I can't... I recovered some Mana from Phantasmos' Magic Crystal but the amount of Divine Power my body took is too much, if I use it again I might... explode." Elayne sighed, being honest.

"Rita don't ask her something like that after everything she did!" Mark reprimanded Elayne's best friend.

"Geez, but where the heck is the exit then?!" Rita cried.

"Falco's following the wind coming from it! The exit must be near!" Mark said desperately. "Falco! Do you sense it?!"

"CRAAAAH!"

Falco nodded, flying faster and faster until in the faraway halls, an exit appeared, a Gate leading to the outside world!

"I-It's there!" Everyone said in unison.

"You will NOT escape from my domain, INCARNATION!"

RUMBLE!

However, right behind everybody, the void suddenly started distorting. Elayne and everybody else was shocked, gasping in horror as they saw the void distort and open up. Two enormous skeletal claws emerged from within, and then half of an enormous skull that could have belonged to a titan!

"Uwaaaahhhh!!!!" Rita cried in horror.

"W-What is that?!" Josuke asked.

"T-That's... a giant skeleton- Ungh?! T-This presence... So powerful...!" Rose muttered. "I had never felt something this powerful through all of my life!

The gigantic skeleton wearing black robes continued distorting space and tearing the void with his claws, attempting to reach closer and closer to Elayne and her friends.

"T-That's... It can't be, right?!" Mark muttered.

"W-Why?! Why is he appearing here, now from all times?!" Elayne cried.

"It's him... Thanatos, the Demon King of Death!" The Great Spirit confirmed their suspicion.

It was nobody else than HIM, the Demon King of Death, Thanatos! Josuke and Rose had no idea who he was, but they could figure out he was the big boss of this entire scheme.

"YOUUUUUUUUU... SHALL NOT... ESCAPE!!!"

TRUUUUMMMMM...!

The black holes suddenly started devouring everything even faster, as the skeleton summoned millions of ghosts and phantoms all around the party, directing them towards Elayne.

"Tear their souls apart into shreds, [Endless Abyssal Netherworld]!!!"

The ghosts and phantoms flew towards Elayne and company, attacking them with phantasmal flames, slashes, and attempting to grab their souls out of their bodies!

"Crap! I am so tired; I can't fight properly right now!" Rita cried, shooting magic bullets while using shadow tentacles to defend.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

"Get away!" Mark roared, making his arms grow larger and out of wood and flames, and punching the ghosts until they disappeared one after the other.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"Unngghh...! Why are you so stubborn, Thanatos?!" Asked Elayne furiously, glaring at the Demon King of Death. Her Aura started growing wider and wider, as she used her Spiritual Light to defend against Thanatos' attacks.

The only empty eye socket visible across the void began overflowing with phantasmal flames, furiously glaring at Elayne.

"This is the only way! I'll CRUSH you all!!!" Thanatos roared, opening his jaws and unleashing a massive beam of black-colored abyssal flames!

"Agh!"

Elayne quickly put her shield in front of her and imbued all the leftover Mana she had, summoning spirits to support her

FLAAAASH!

BOOOOOOOOMMMMMM!!!!

The gigantic Abyssal Death Flames Beam impacted the shield, as the power that Gaia imbued into them started activating, the Divine Shield of Life started being summoned, as the powerful attack from Thanatos was being reflected!

"Just be patient..." Elayne said with a furious glare. "I'll make sure to find you... And STOP you!"

FLUOOOOOSSSHHHH!!!

The Spiritual Energy and Light converged together, overpowering Thanatos powerful attack and then reaching his face, shattering his skull-face and leaving an empty hole in the middle of his forehead.

CRAAAAAAASSSHHHH!!!

"GRUUUAAGGGH...! Y-YOUUUU! RAAAAGGGHHHH!!!"

Thanatos furiously attempted to grab them, stretching his arms. Elayne and company saw them getting closer and closer, but Blackie suddenly attacked, channeling all of his shadows, the brave cat unleashed a powerful attack!

"MEREOOW!"

"UNGH?! A-A CAT?!"

CLAAAASSSHHHH!!!

A gigantic black cat paw emerged out of Blackie's shadows, impacting Thanatos claws, and shattering them into pieces before the entire party managed to fly off into the outside world, seconds before the Gate were to close!

"NOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!"

The scream of frustration of Thanatos echoed as the Gate closed, his claws attempted to reopen it, but the entire space was closing in, and his bony fingers were sliced apart, the entire dimensional breach was closed.

TRUUUUUMMMM...!

Falco flew across the skies, and then slowly descended into the forest, right where the Gate had been seconds ago.

"Cryaaaaeeegh..." The giant bird sighed in relief, resting over the floor, and then slowly beginning to shrink into his former small shape.

POOF!

"W-We somehow made it..." Elayne sighed.

"T-That was insane..." Josuke muttered. "Just... what sort of power did you use?!"

"Yeah?! You've been using insane powers all this time, Elayne! And... did you somehow knew that monster?" Rose wondered.

"N-No, I don't, but from what we've heard, that's the boss of the Undead... I am afraid he must be some sort of... Demon King from the world invading ours." Elayne sighed, gasping for air. "Eventually, we may have to face him to protect Earth..."

"T-That's... really terrible news." Sighed Josuke. "If such an entity is planning to destroy or conquer our world, we've gotta report this as fast as possible to the Agency."

"Yeah but, for now... Ugh, let me rest a bit, okay?" Rose sighed, sitting over the floor, as Albert's head was placed above her thighs. She smiled for a bit, relieved. "Let's be grateful we are still alive, and that we didn't lose anybody this time as well..."

"W-Who's there?!"

"Men! Hold your fire! IT'S THEM!"

"T-Them? The magicians that protected us from the monsters?!"

"They came out of the black hole!"

Suddenly, Elayne and company were surrounded by both Military Soldiers and the Canadian Police. However, a mysterious group of men wearing black robes led by a black man with sunglasses stepped in.

Both the police and the military stood there and let them do as they pleased, clearly, these people had an even higher governmental authority than them.

"Josuke, Rose, Albert, I am glad to see you back safe and sound." The man sighed in relief, as Elayne and her friends quickly stood up in surprise. "I assume you're the mysterious Awakeners that were protecting this town? An honor, my name is Agent Reagan of the Paranormal Agency led by the Canadian Government, SWORD."

The man swiftly presented his card to Elayne and her friends, the trio was so shocked of meeting such a charismatic and highly important man in their country they were paralyzed... Even though they had never heard of him before.

"Nice... to meet you, sir." Elayne said nervously.

"We've got a lot to talk, follow me." He said.

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Chapter 484: Celebrations & Dark Plans

Within Arcadia, the Gods celebrated Elayne's victory, although they all felt slightly exhausted themselves. After having shared their power with her through a long connection to another world, it was obvious they would feel tired. Especially due to their current circumstances.

"It seems everything ended alright." Sighed the God of Creation, resting over his seat and drinking a big cup of cold water. "Hahhh... Oh man, I need summer vacations, I can't take this job anymore."

"G-God of Creation, you can't say such a thing!" Gaia sighed. "Though, yes, it is very tiring..."

"Did you see Rita right there?! She was so strong! I am so proud of her! Tehee!" Giggled the Goddess of Darkness and Night, Nyx.

"Mark was alright too. Though he needs more strength, I can't believe he almost got killed by his damn pet." The God of Flames angrily said.

"It must be nice to have Sponsors... I have yet to pick someone." Sighed the Goddess of Earth. "Ah, though Lily seems available, right?"

"Ahem. Before we begin speaking such things, how about we discuss what just happened? Thanatos was somehow able to rip apart space and attempt to get to Elayne..." Sighed the Goddess of Space said. "I don't remember him having these powers..."

"It must have been something he was able to do because the Dungeon was created by his Death General. After all, Phantasmos was able to disrupt and distort the cracks using his phantom soul." Said the God of Creation. "However, now that we've closed that big crack, it shouldn't be possible for him to manifest himself so easily... I hope."

"The system is working really hard to try to close things up, but we've spent a considerable amount of Divine Power after that, so I believe we won't be able to hasten our process." Sighed Gaia. "If only... we could gain more Divine Power faster."

"Well, we're only husks at the end, what we can achieve is not a ten percent of what the former rulers could." The God of Creation sighed. "Without the System to support this, it would already be a lost cause..."

"Perhaps if we wouldn't had designed the Game and brought the Players and the energy within their actions and souls that affected the Fate of Arcadia... Earth might had fallen for an even worse fate than it already has." Nyx sighed. "Ah, talking about Players, is the next update ready?"

"I am finishing it off~" Said the Goddess of Water, clicking a system hologram and doing tons of high speed programing. "We've gathered a lot of Information within the Fate Nexus, so it should be easy to implement... Hopefully with this, we could incentivize Players to grow stronger as well. The best-case scenario would be if they could somehow ally Elayne... Though, at the end of the day, it will depend in her own charisma and leadership abilities."

"I trust her." Gaia nodded. "I know she'll manage, as long as we can support her like we've done so far."

"She better do." The God of Fire sighed. "We're betting too much on her and her friends at this point..."

Meanwhile, within the depths of the Underworld, over a throne of bones, a damaged Demon King of Death groaned in fury and frustration. His scream quickly started making the entire Underworld tremble.

"GRAAAAAHHH! I ALMOST... I ALMOST GOT HER! SO FRUSTRATING!"

TRUUUUUUMMMM...!

The floor started shattering and the ceiling began falling apart. However, if he continued like this, the entire Underworld may end up getting destroyed... Therefore, his Generals quickly came to his side.

"Milord, it would be recommended if you stopped trying to destroy the Underworld, it is our home."

"I know you're furious, Lord Thanatos, but be patient, please! I'll make sure to show them all... what true suffering is!"

"If we all die because of you then what's the point..."

"Ah..." Thanatos muttered, quickly regaining his sanity. "Hmmm... That's right."

He quickly sat down, cooling off. The flames covering his body quickly dissipated as he became as cold as a corpse. He was hungry, so he began devouring souls and slowly regenerating his body.

"I saw her with my eyes. She is strong. She reflected my attack." He sighed. "We cannot take her for granted like Gustaf and Phantasmos did... We must take a more aggressive approach, and also a more cunning one..."

"I have a suggestion, milord~" Giggled one of his Death Generals, resembling a shadow in the shape of a little girl with long gray hair and a single red eye.

She flew towards his ear and explained to him her plan secretly.

"Hoh?" Thanatos found it amusing. "Interesting... Very well, Dorothea, I shall entrust you this task. If it really comes to fruition, then crushing her will no longer be a challenge."

"Fufufu~ Of course, my lord." Dorothea giggled viciously.

The other Death Generals glanced at each other, feeling curious about what Dorothea had suggested.

"My lord, I also have my own suggestion!"

"Me too."

"I would also be glad if you could trust my idea."

Thanatos, however, raised his hand and stopped them.

"For now, help Dorothea in her own tasks." Said Thanatos. "While the last gift that Phantasmos left is slowly preparing, we shall prepare yet another one for them. Unlike my savage predecessor, we must take different approaches... Let us be several steps ahead, my generals."

"Yes, milord."

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After the Dungeon Break, Elayne and company were all brought to a tent set up by the military in the middle of the area of catastrophe, where they were greeted by more members of SWORD, the Agency that seems to have been made to protect the country from Supernatural Threats.

"I am sure my companions here have already told you a bit about our organization, after all they often cannot keep their mouths shut." Sighed Reagan. "But our organization is funded by the government and with the sole purpose of protecting our country from Supernatural Threats."

Elayne nodded timidly while hearing the tall and intimidating man.

"Lady, am I scaring you? I'm sorry, was I a bit too rough?" However, Reagan suddenly realized Elayne and her friends were so scared they were paralyzed.

"A-Ah... A-A bit." Elayne said.

"My god, have I really lost touch?" Sighed Reagan. "Anyways. We have no vile intentions with you all. We've been told to actually congratulate you and thank you in the name of the country for protecting this humble town from the menace of these otherworldly monsters. ...And of course, to give you all an offer."

Reagan quickly got slightly more serious once more, so much that a dark aura began emanating from his body without him realizing. Josuke and Rose sighed, smacking the man's head.

"You're scaring them again, Reagan."

"Boss please stop letting your aura out."

"Again?! Dammit... But they're so pretty, do you want me to be calm in front of two gorgeous ladies?" Reagan sighed. "Ahem, anyways... Ah, what was I talking about?" Reagan wondered. "Right, that..."

"Huh?" Rita felt slightly surprised. "Isn't this guy kind of a goof or is it my idea?"

"Hahah..." Elayne giggled a bit.

"T-That's not a personality I expected from someone on his career..." Mark said.

"Hey! I am a responsible man! I just... I often forget things." He sighed. "Anyways! Let's go to the point. What do you intend to do from now on? The future where people with powers will become commonplace is already approaching, and as monsters grow in numbers... The only thing we can do to protect each other is to fight together."

The man quickly handled some documents.

"Therefore, I am offering you all a chance of your lives to become this country's first ever Hunters, and represent Canada." He said. "Ah, well, the other two options are joining SWORD... But you'll have to keep your identities a secret, and its hard being a secret agent, I don't recommend it for civilians."

Elayne, Mark, and Rita were thrown from one challenge to another! Right after defeating Phantasmos, they were offered... a chance of their lives.

"Hunters...?" Elayne wondered. "Ugh, w-we just dealt with so many things, is it okay if we can rest for now?"

"Oh! My bad." Reagan said. "I was so excited to meet people so strong that I kind of jumped the shark there... You're free to consider it for now."

Elayne sighed in relief, as she quickly walked away with her friends after saying goodbyes to Josuke and Rose and getting their phone numbers.

Brand New Life Online: Rise Of The Goddess Of Harvest **Chapter 485: SWORD Members Reunited**

"So that's what happened..." Albert sighed. "I can't believe you sold me out like this, bastard."

It was the next morning, and Albert had finally woken up from his slumber. Rose and Josuke quickly explained to him what had happened, and how Hellberos sold him out for a couple of souls...

"Yep, he literally just sold you out, I can't believe it myself." Rose sighed.

"But it happened." Josuke said with a pissed-off glare, crossing his arms.

"Oi, Hellberos, come out for a minute." Albert sighed.

FLUOOSH!

Suddenly, his aura condensed into the appearance of an entity made of Demonic Flames. Hellberos manifested himself before all of them. He often acted cocky in front of them, but now he was quite afraid.

"A-Albert..." Hellberos sighed. "I... I am sorry."

"Yeah? Saying that won't get to me, even if you've never apologized for anything ever before." Said Albert angrily.

"I was wrong, okay? I was just wrong! I-I... Well, I was just tempted. I am a Demon after all! I embody sins." Sighed Hellberos.

"Don't try to get away from this by just blaming your own race now." Rose said.

"You were greedy and cocky." Albert said. "We have been together for so long and you sold me out for a couple of souls?! I thought we were partners... I thought we were like brothers."

"Albert..." Hellberos felt very guilty. And the divine chains wrapping around his body didn't help in making things any better.

The demon slowly started to realize how much he meant to his vessel. He was not just a tool for Albert to gain power, but the young man saw him as a friend, as his brother, even.

"I was always alone... You were always the only one at my side. Don't you know how it feels that you've betrayed me like this? I could have... died, and you would have done nothing about it either? Would you have laughed at my death?! Even after everything..." Albert sighed, gritting his teeth.

"G-Geh... Please calm down! You're getting all dramatic now!" Hellberos sighed. "Ugh! You humans are such drama queens! It's not like I can ever betray you ever again! That priestess witch woman used some power on me, now look, I am all wrapped in these chains. If I ever betray you I'll probably get killed for real..."

Another reason why Hellberos saw his relationship with his human allies as "fleeting" and "meaningless" was due to his old age and his idea that he was immortal. That while his life would continue all others would end soon, making everything pointless to him.

But against Elayne, he finally learned he could get killed, for real. This... awakened something on him. Just like how all humans learn to appreciate life because they will one day die, he began to do the same, realizing that the bonds he had made... may not truly be meaningless.

"I was just detached..." Sighed Hellberos. "I learned about my own mortality. And... about the horrors that are invading this world, the entities that desire it. I've realized that I cannot let these aliens take over this world I want for myself either! If you don't believe I've changed, then I'm going to show it to you over time, just you wait!"

"Sigh... Well, I'm stuck with a bastard like you even if I didn't want to, so it's not like I can do a thing about it." Albert sighed. "Though I am beginning to think I won't be giving you any offerings in a while, so you can learn to be a bit of a better bastard!"

"W-What?! But..." Hellberos complained.

"You're all stuffed with souls that guy gave to you and you're asking for offerings now?!" Rose said angrily.

"Aggh..." Hellberos sighed. "Well, even before you've been starving me! I am a demon; I need to eat souls and good sacrifices! But you're all goody-two-shoes, so it's hard to satiate myself."

"Huh... Ungrateful bastard." Albert sighed.

"Well, Hellberos, that might be changing soon." Said Reagan, that appeared on the hotel room where everybody was resting.

"Boss!" Said Albert. "I..."

"Ah, don't apologize about it, it wasn't your fault." Reagan said. "It was this bastard's fault."

"Ungh...!" Hellberos sensed a powerful Dark Aura coming from Reagan, that even intimidated an entity such as him.

Reagan quickly took out a piece of white-colored stone, which emanated a powerful aura of phantasmal essence.

"This is a piece of the giant bones left behind by those Undead Monsters." Said Reagan. "The one left by the giant skeleton that you guys told me about are especially powerful. Does it looks tasty?"

"Agh! T-That's a bone?! It has so many souls- no, it doesn't have any but it has... It is something similar to their essence." Said Hellberos.

"I see, just as I thought." Reagan nodded. "It seems these items possess something that Necromancers often refer as "Nether" and "Phantom Energy", the second is what composes 50% of a soul. I suppose the remains of these Undead Monsters can feed you well, Hellberos."

"I-Is that so?" Hellberos was surprised. "...I never thought about it that way."

"Also, this." Reagan also showed his subordinates a Magic Crystals. "It is rare for Magic Crystals to naturally form inside monsters, but every single monster, even the Undead we defeated with the military's aid held these. With varied sizes, but all of them were packed with Mana... This and other materials from monsters might give us the advantage we need, if we could craft armor and weapons..."

"Actually, someone had already begun doing that..." Rose sighed.

"Huh? Ah... Don't tell me..." Reagan sighed.

"Yep, Elayne already was done with it." Laughed Rose.

"Hah, that lady's quite cunning... She didn't revealed any of her secrets to us... Just how wary is she of us?" Reagan sighed, sitting over a chair. "I don't want to force her but we really need her in our side."

"There's no need to force her." Rose said, crossing her arms. "And I won't let you or anybody extort her either. But... I know she will do the right thing to protect this country and our people, especially her family. She did everything just for them after all."

Rose's faith in Elayne was quite staggering, but Reagan decided to trust her.

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Chapter 486: Aren't They A Bit Too Strong?

Rose and Josuke quickly began explaining to Reagan, Hellberos, and Albert what they saw from Elayne and her two friends, Rita, and Mark. They explained them from the Magic Weapons and Armor, to their incredible abilities with Magic, their Familiars, Spirits, and that one Divine Power Elayne possessed. Of course, they also spoke about what they heard from them and the monsters they fought.

"Okay, okay! This is WAY too much information to take! Once I make this all into a document the HQ is going to go insane." Sighed Reagan. "And... Honestly, even I am going insane right now! Aren't they too strong?! And they just awakened? And all the powers they have... And their connection with the

monster named Phantasmos... Also you said that the big bone comes from a guy named "Demon King of Death Thanatos"?! This isn't some Dragon Quest game! What the hell is going on in here?!"

"We were honestly just as shocked as you. We barely managed to escape the Demon King's claws before he were to catch us. He seemed, however, strangely fixated with Elayne. He really wanted to kill her in specific." Rose was worried. "I think Elayne is... hiding many secrets from us, but no matter how much I remember her gaze, her words, and her emotions, I can never detect a hint of malice. If she's ever hiding things from us, its because she's afraid and may not trust us yet."

"Or maybe... She's worried, Mark was also that kind of man. And Rita too, despite how crazy she acted. They were all honest and humble people, too good to be honest." Josuke said. "I believe Awakeners may have something to do with the monsters and this other world named "Arcadia"... If possible, we need to earn their trust and become their allies, even if they don't want to join anything."

"I agree. I sadly didn't see any of it myself but I trust these two." Said Albert. "And if she really helped me in putting this idiot on his place, then all for the better... Also I think these chains she put on him... They are more than that, I can feel them revitalizing my body and... giving me some new power I never thought I would have before." Albert could feel some sort of holy spiritual power flowing through his veins, which didn't disrupted his demonic energy either, it merged and melded with it harmoniously. "She's probably an incredible person, someone that could... maybe save all of humanity with her powers."

"I can't believe someone like that came from Canada from all places! Oh man, I am so proud of my humble country! Americans are still trying to find their superman, hahaha! But we got ourselves a literal goddess!" Reagan celebrated.

However, all three of his subordinates glared at him while raising an eyebrow.

"A-Ahem! I was just joking..." Reagan sighed. "Anyways, with the current trend of creating things named Hero Guilds with Awakened people that our country has begun working on, making Elayne and her friends into our very first Hunters would be greatly beneficial..."

"I guess that can be a thing." Rose said. "I only spent a few hours with her but... I am quite good at reading people's emotions and thoughts through their eyes and words. I can confidently say Elayne will not be interested at all at first. She seems... very grounded. She wants a stable life and is only fighting and growing stronger to protect such a stable life. She's a mother of a child, and wants to stay at her daughter's side. She works somewhere, right? And she just wants to stay there. If we force her out of her comfort zone, I think she may not like it."

"The best approach then would be a slow introduction to these things?" Reagan said. "Hah... I guess I have to calm down."

"Yeah, you forced yourself on the when they just came out of a dungeon. They got our numbers now so there's a possibility. Over time, the entire world will probably transform. Monsters will become common place, and hunters, normal awakened people will often fight them to protect humanity. Once we reach that moment, Elayne won't be able to stay still. It would be better to slowly introduce her to these things and explain to her we need her help." Rose explained.

"I understand." Reagan nodded. "The abilities she has and the monsters coming here from the world named Arcadia, amongst many other things... We'll need to study them separately. Let us not involve her yet. Honestly, I am afraid to make her mad. Ladies that are always nice and calm are terrifying when they get mad..."

"When are Hunters being publicly recognized though?" Wondered Josuke.

"Not any time soon, maybe in a few months from now." Reagan sighed. "We need to gather more of them first. Making Elayne and her friends our first Hunters would surely make our country stand out quite well. Well! I'm leaving the recruiting task to you three, kids! I am already getting tons of messages from HQ and they want to check the monsters we've killed and all these new materials, so I'll be out for now."

"Alright, and our pay?" Rose asked.

"A-Ah, right, I'll be sending it through the week!" Reagan laughed nervously.

"You didn't forgot about it again, did you not?!" Josuke asked furiously.

"I-I didn't! I swear I didn't! Anyways, bye for now!" Reagan quickly escaped from the hotel room.

BAAM!

As the door closed, the trio sighed.

"I guess it could be said our new mission is to somehow recruit her and her friends, it's not going to be easy." Said Albert.

"Well, we don't exactly need to recruit them, as long as they understand that we want to be their allies it should be enough." Rose said. "I won't let you two force them into anything! No extortion either! I am okay with blackmailing bastards, but honest and humble people don't deserve that!"

"Ugh, okay!" Sighed Albert, crossing his arms. "I heard you the first time, no blackmailing..."

"I bet he was thinking on doing something nasty." Sighed Josuke.

"He's really the vessel of a demon." Rose said.

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Chapter 487: National Security Chaos

(Elayne's POV)

Last night was sure something... insane. We stayed all night protecting the town and fighting the monsters, and then were all sucked inside a Dungeon where we had to give it our all to fight the bosses inside and finally, defeat Phantasmos.

But even after that, that Demon King almost got us! Ugh, it was frustrating I was unable to do anything else than that, but... Well, at the very least, we were all safe. The Military and the SWORD Agents reported us that there were no casualties, and they said that we were able to protect everybody.

It was such a big thing that a Sergeant said I would soon receive some sort of... prize, or a medal of honor for having saved so many people. Mark and Rita too. I don't know how that'll happen, but I guess they'll give to us one day.

They promised our identities to be kept a secret, and Reagan promised us we should be safe as well. He was really nice, and stopped the military men from questioning me more, he barely asked me anything and then let us go like that... Even I was surprised.

Once we got back home, we saw the barrier we erected slowly dissipate. The Familiars we made also turned back to plants and it seemed that any other monster left behind was eliminated swiftly by the Military and the SWORD Agents.

They also said they were going to leave a group of Military men equipped with new Mana-fueled weapons to deal with monsters, alongside some SWORD Agents to protect the town from now on, so I felt relieved.

Nonetheless, the barrier we made can emerge once more rather fast as long as it gathers enough Mana from the environment, and it will activate whenever one of the Nature Spirits around the area alerts me of a monster stampede or something.

For now, this is all I can do...

We sneaked back home and slept. My family, funnily enough, slept through the entire incident and only a few people woke up. But as the morning came and I walked downstairs after taking a bath to have breakfast with everybody, everyone was shocked of the news.

"They said there were monsters outside attacking the town!" My father was shocked.

"Monsters?! I thought the Gates thing was fake?" Harry wondered.

"No it all happened for real! I saw some of the monster carcasses when I was on town." Said my father.

"I-It is all real, monsters really have begun appearing in our country..."

"Well, it was always real, dad, it was shown in the TV, you just love to never believe anything." My sister sighed, Mary often times was annoyed by my father's skepticism for everything.

"Yeah, yeah, you don't have to get so mad at your father, I believe everything now! Those things were far too realistic when I saw them! T-There were giant boars with red and black fur the size of bears, and bears three times as bigger than normal! A-And there were those zombie and skeleton things... They were mobilizing them rapidly, but a lot of people saw them and took pictures. It wasn't as if they were trying to hide it anymore." My father sighed.

"G-Good morning there, everyone." I said with a smile. Mark and Rita also greeted my family.

"Oh, you three are finally awake! A lot of stuff happened last night!" My father said.

"I did see what happened, it's all over the news nowadays..." I sighed. "T-To think there are really monsters going around nowadays."

"Yeah..." Mary sighed. "Look, they started showing on the TV this incident, it's all over the News now and even more, they started showing special methods and warnings to deal with monsters."

In the TV, they were showing a special illustrated guide, showing what civilians must do in the case they are in front of a monster.

"As many of you know, after the incident that happened over a week ago, the First Contact, extraterrestrial organisms known as "monsters" have begun to spread around our land."

"Much like animals, Monsters are savage and wild, meeting one could be a dangerous thing by itself, but fighting one is something you must never do."

"First, if you ever see a monster or spot it from afar. Run away and tell your authorities about it as soon as possible."

"Second, if a monster shows up in front of you and you don't have enough time to run away, hide. Hiding inside a house, behind walls, or closets is recommended while making sure you contact authorities as soon as possible."

"Third, if you somehow cannot contact authorities and there is no other way for you to hide either, then pick whatever item you have and hold your ground until authorities arrive. There are a variety of monsters and there are many ways to fend them differently. Usually, long sticks like brooms can keep you and the monster in a good distance."

The TV program continued with more and more instructions.

"Wow, this is crap, so we can't literally do anything if we get across one but to die?" My daughter said. "T-This is scary..."

"Well, they announced they were going to begin selling Magic Bullet Guns, but those are probably expensive... and you need a license to use them." Anna sighed.

"Money shouldn't be a problem." Elisa said while frowning. "I'll try to find them so everyone here can get some personal protection. I can arrange so everyone can get a license easily as well. I'll begin seeing the market from now on, I've seen that they're preparing an entire new market for magic-imbued weapons and armor."

"E-Eh? Really?" Harry asked in surprise. "Wow, you're going so far for us, Elisa?"

"Of course! All of you are my family now." Elisa giggled.

She... got really attached to my entire family in just a week staying here.

"Milady you shouldn't be so rash about these things..." Her bodyguard said.

"I know what I am doing!" She said angrily.

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Chapter 488: A Changing World

"Now, now, Elisa. Don't be so concerned, also I believe this is not the place to talk about... guns and stuff." I sighed. "Yeah, monsters exist but it's not like everything is hopeless."

"Oh yeah, they also said there were some mysterious magicians doing some work here?" Wondered Rita. "I saw it on the news as well!"

"Oh right, yeah." Mark nodded.

"Ah, that's true..." My father said. "They said there were three magicians that didn't revealed their identities, but they protected the town by erecting a barrier... Pretty crazy. So even magic's real now, this is batshit insane!"

"I remember... They also said something about people awakening magic powers." Said my mother. "It seems that in the first contact, some sort of magic infiltrated into our world and people compatible with it started developing magic themselves... They said on the TV if anybody has developed these abilities, they must contact the nearby police station, it seems they can be registered as something like... Urban Guards or whatever? To defeat monsters if they show up. They even get paid for it, but it's all new so I am not sure if there's anybody in that job yet."

Interesting, so they're going to slowly introduce Hunters in this way... I guess Mark was right about how they were going to do it. All of this feels a bit crazy, but after going through all the things we did, this was eventually going to happen. I am worried about my family, but they seem to be reacting just as I expected, freaking out, some accepting it quicker, it depends in their age, honestly.

"Interesting! If I awakened something I would surely go there and beat some monsters to a pulp! I don't want any of these bastards to get in my lane!" My father said.

"Have any of you awakened something?" Wondered Mary, looking around.

However, nobody seemed to have awakened anything. Knowing my family they would quickly reveal it anyways, and I confirmed it by trying to sense Mana in them, nobody had Mana, so Hollows shouldn't target them either anyways.

Though, remembering that woman that was being attacked by Hollows a few days ago... She was most likely going to awaken some power. I bet a few people of this town had already begun showing some abilities, and in the big city that must be even more common.

For now I want to slowly adapt to what's happening. But if I ever see monsters, I'll have to jump into action. I need someone that could tell me... Ah, Rose and Josuke, right! I added them to my phone. I guess I could keep on close contact with them.

Though if possible, I don't want to draw unwanted attention to myself or my family. So... I might want to keep my identity a secret. I can just make some sort of mask using my Nature Magi, made of wood? I guess that could work.

Ah, now it sounds like I'll have a superheroine secret identity... but it can't be helped.

"Don't worry about a thing, Elena. Mommy's going to always watch your back! If a monster shows up I'll stop him with all I have so you can run away to safety!" I said with a wink.

"Mom... don't you dare do something so dangerous." She said while looking at me slightly angered.

"A-Ahahah... I-I was just trying to cheer you up, dear." I sighed, giving her a head pat.

"Let's get the magic guns." She said, her eyes glowing sharply.

"A-Ah... I guess there's no helping it, isn't it?" I sighed.

Like that, we continued through the entire morning discussing and talking about everything that has happened. The world slowly changing, the disbelief, and how we need to accept a world like this. My family easily began to accept it, but it was clear by checking online that many didn't.

I saw many comments in these new sites of people angered, saying this was all fake news, that they had never seen monsters. Some said that the monsters in the videos were just CGI and that the pictures were obviously just made costumes or puppets like in movies.

I guess people's free to believe whatever they want, and I don't feel at all like forcing others to believe or accept other things. I've never really had that sort of talent anyways.

At the end, we visited the town and saw many other people talking with the police and military men around there. We saw some SWORD Agents, but they seemed to not mind us at all.

Although some were still on disbelief, once a few people showed up, things changed.

"H-Hey! In the TV they said I had to contact the police, right? I-I think I have some sort of power..." A young woman showed up, she was the very same person we rescued from a hollow back then. "I-I can somehow make things levitate..."

She suddenly showed the entire crowd gathered in the town's plaza as she stared making pens move around. It was most likely Telekinesis.

"S-She has powers?!"

"An awakened?!"

"W-Woah, is this not a trick, right?"

"Can you show that again?!"

Dozens of people started swarming her. She was shocked. Honestly this was one of the reasons why I would rather... not reveal my identity as someone with powers. Rita and Mark seemed to agree. In fact Rita wanted to keep her identity a secret to be some sort of "phantom witch" or whatever.

"Uwaaaah! P-Please stay away from me! D-Don't get closer!" The girl panicked a bit, until some military men quickly invited her to the police station, where I saw using my Spiritual Gaze that they started asking her a few questions and such. Seems like they were trustworthy about what they said.

From what I overheard...

"Well, you're not the first that has showed up so we've figured out things a bit more. According to the government we can give you two options." Said a Sergeant. "You can either decide to become a Guardian or opt for acting independently as a Hunter, for both you'll need a license and to be registered."

I see, Guardians probably cooperate with the Police while Hunters work independently, interesting.

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Chapter 489: Going Out For Some Drinks With Friends

Once we went back home after my family satiated their curiosity by asking the authorities about if what happened was truly, truly real, I discussed what I heard with the Great Spirit, Mark, and Rita once we had some time alone while tending the horses.

"I see! You humans really adapt quickly!" The Great Spirit was surprised. "I guess Hunters are more of an advanced type of job, so they're not going to be made public yet, but Guardians do, and that's because they work with the Police, huh?"

"It means that also... can't people with powers also fight crime?" Wondered Mark. "That's not something I had considered, but I guess it's really happening."

"Yeah, it is quite obvious they're not going to just become monster hunters like the independent Hunters. Also the whole thing about making a Hunter Guild wasn't revealed either, I guess that's even more of a top secret they only offered to us." Rita analyzed, becoming oddly serious.

"I was thinking that maybe we should remain with our identities a secret for now. Once things normalize some more, we could perhaps attempt to reveal our identities, later on." I sighed. "Though I am afraid that if I reveal my identity, bad people may target our families."

"Yeah, that's one of the things we should be worried about." Rita sighed. "The whole 'public figure' is not my thing."

"I don't have anything to lose so I don't really mind, but I understand." Mark nodded. "Until the Hunter's society develops some more, let's just stay as vigilantes."

"And about Phantasmos... Yaaay! We defeated him!" I said, quickly changing the subject and hugging the two of them. "Well done! We deserve a celebration and also some good rest! I don't know when the Demon King will begin acting again but if he'll just keep targeting me, then it shouldn't be so hard to eliminate the problem by luring his lackeys."

"Yeah, we should probably go to some restaurant or a bar later." Mark recommended.

"Hmmm, well, once we log back into Arcadia, you can ask the Gods if he's planning something." Said Rita.

"Yep." I nodded. "We've got a lot to do there, so next week we'll be doing tons of things there to make up for all the time we've been preparing."

"Alright! Now let's go drink something! Let's spend our last day here enjoying some good liquor somewhere!" Rita said, raising her arms.

"Fine, fine~" Mark sighed. "We should enjoy our victory."

"Yep, let's go." I nodded. "I left enough protection on everyone already."

While we were walking around, I constantly conjured so many charms and spells on my family to protect them I emptied my entire Mana Pool several times. I assigned Spiritual Guardians into their Shadows with Rita's help as she shared her Shadow Spirits with me, and then I covered the entire house with Spirits and Barriers.

With that, the house had pretty much become a living being... But it will remain looking as a normal house for now. Everyone now has charms imbued into their very bodies which can repel Hollows and Monsters naturally, and I added some revitalizing charms on my old parents so they feel better and less tired.

I also created a few new spells after I raised to Tier 2 Rank 8, such as Spirit Tree Checkpoint, and Nature's Teleportation, alongside some Mass Charm Production, allowing me to plant some special trees that'll allow me to instantly teleport to them through the second spell, Nature's Teleportation. My limit is three trees right now, so I left one at the back of my house and the other two... Well, I'll see what I do with them.

I put a lot of emphasis on my daughter, and gave Blackie the task of watching over her whenever I was not around, so I left him within her own shadows, without her even realizing. Although the girls were worried, at the end they just logged back in the game and lost themselves in Arcadia for now.

And like that, while drinking and enjoying some nice dinner in a fancy restaurant here, I spent the night happily with my friends. Hahh~ I really needed some good break.

"Bwahahaha! And tell I told him: "Then why don't you shut up and have sex with me already?!", and he looked at me with a really angry face!" Rita laughed while being completely drunk. She was talking about her anecdotes with her husband.

"T-That's really something..." I laughed a bit nervously. She was really loud. If I wasn't for the alcohol I would feel even more embarrassed.

"I feel pity for your husband." Mark said with a giggle. "How can he even deal with you?"

"Mostly because he has no other option, hehehe." Rita giggled. "S-So anyways! Hic... Anyways, Mark... You and... Elayne. So when? When are you having some segs?"

"W-What?!" Mark and I synchronized at the same time, asking the same question.

"Hahahaha! Why so shy about it? I can feel the sexual tension from all the way here!" She laughed.

"R-Rita stop talking nonsense!" I sighed. "Geez, you always get like this when you get drunk." I facepalmed. "Sorry Mark- Huh?"

However, Mark was all red and covering his face.

Ah, that's quite cute.

"A-Ah, I'm fine... I just got embarrassed. Ah, I am a bit dizzy. I think I've drank too much." He sighed.

"A-Ahahaha..." I giggled a bit. "Y-Yeah..."

"We went through a lot yesterday... Still remember when you were crying all over Mark when he got that wound, you were like "Nooo! Noo my beloved!!!" It was pure drama!" Rita laughed.

"Rita he was actually dying!" I sighed, getting all red.

"Still, you reacted a bit too much..." Rita smiled teasingly.

"I just... Mark's very important." I said.

"You're also very important to me." Mark said with a smile.

"M-Mark..." I sighed, feeling my heart beating faster.

H-Huh? Aren't we a bit too close? We were sitting in the same couch around a small table but... We are really close now that I realize

"Elayne you're... So precious to me."

"M-Mark..."

E-Eh? Why is my body moving on its own?!

Why are my lips getting closer to Mark's?

Uwaaaaah!

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Chapter 490: Wholesome Night

"Elayne..."

"Mark..."

Without me realizing, maybe because of the booze, my lips got much closer to Mark's. We got so close our shoulders and our legs touched, and I felt his hand touching my leg... It made my heart beat so fast I felt like I was about to die!

"A-Am I really precious to you?" I wondered, feeling all enamored.

"Of course you are... You've always been... my sun." He said while looking dizzy and adorable.

Ahhh, he was so cute and handsome I wanted to eat him whole!

S-Screw this!

I quickly approached my lips to his and felt his warmth lips touching mine.

It was... so nice. Kissing someone I like. I haven't done that for so long.

It was so passionate... it filled me with fuzzy feelings.

I ended holding his warm hand tightly, as if I didn't wanted to let him go.

I didn't wanted to let go of this moment, of his warmth, of his love.

Once our lips separated, he felt surprised.

"E-Elayne...? Y-You k-kissed me..."

"Eh? Ah? HUH?"

I quickly snapped back to my senses, suddenly realizing how bold I was.

"Kyaaaaah!"

I cried like a little girl.. and covered my face with my hands.

"I-I'm sorry Mark! I'm sorryyyy!" I cried, feeling all embarrassed.

"A-Ah, no, don't be sorry..." He sighed. "It was so good... I-I..."

"OH. MY. GOSH. You actually kissed! YOOOOOOO!!!" Rita began making a fuss, hitting the table with her hands. "SEGS!"

"Ugh, Rita, cut it out!" I sighed, feeling slightly tired. "W-We're better going back home now... We are too drunk, to be honest."

"Right." Mark nodded, still blushing while touching his lips. His eyes were shining brightly, he seemed very happy.

As we made our way back home, I had to help Rita move because she was barely standing. Because we were drunk we couldn't just go on Mark's car. Well, our house wasn't so far away.

"Zzzzz... Gaaah... Borgar... Cheemsurger... Frenchfry..."

"She's asleep already?" I sighed, having to carrying her over my back.

"S-She's seriously something..." Mark laughed a bit.

"Yeah." I sighed. "A-About the kiss..."

"Y-Yes?" He wondered.

"Did it not felt... weird?" I wondered.

"O-Oh, not at all..." Mark sighed. "It was... it was really good. I think it was my first kiss."

"First kiss?!" I asked. "M-Mark you're...?"

"Yeah..." He said. "Is it bad?"

"O-Of course not! But you're so handsome I thought you might have had a lot of girlfriends..." I said, panicking a bit. "I-I can't believe I stole your first kiss, oh dear..."

"Hahaha, you're overexaggerating." He said without feeling worried at all. "I am happy my first kiss was with you... Elayne I..."

Suddenly, we stopped walking as he looked at me.

"I..."

"Gaaooh..."

Rita, however, was too annoying.

"Ah, I'll tell you later." He sighed.

"S-Sure..." I said with a nod.

We kept talking about whatever for a little while, until we reached back home. Everybody was sleeping by now, I left Rita over her bed and then walked to the terrace with Mark.

"So what did you wanted to say?" I wondered.

I quickly noticed the full moon atop the starry skies looked almost romantic.

"I know it is... A bit obvious at this point." He said, slowly trying to boost his courage. "But..."

He held my hands, looking into my eyes.

"Elayne, I really... I really love you."

Mark sighed a bit, feeling relieved to have said it at long last.

"Hehe, I noticed it for a while now..."

"Hahh~ I knew it was obvious but... God, that much?"

"Yep! Though it took me a while to accept it because... Well, I was dummy."

"You're not dummy."

Mark sighed, suddenly caressing my head.

"You're really smart, and passionate, and so hardworking..."

Mark's compliments were like love arrows piercing my heart.

Gosh stop it! I am going to die out of all your cuteness!

"Mark..." I sighed; I looked back into his eyes. "I do... I also love you, for a while now too."

There I said it! Agh! It was so embarrassing! I-I can't believe it.

"I'm so happy... T-This is like a dream come true..." He sighed.

"A-Are you really okay... with me though?" I asked. "I am not as young as you are... I am a widow too... I even have a daughter."

"That never really stopped me from falling for you." He said with a charming, sweet smile. "I think those things are what made you in who you are, in the woman I love."

"Mark..." I couldn't help but hug him tightly.

He was so warm, and his arms wrapped around my body, and they felt so nice.

It felt so good and comforting to be embraced... and loved again.

"Y-You're crying?" He wondered, seeing as tears were flowing from my eyes.

"A-Ah, s-sorry..." I sighed. "I just felt... so happy I cried a bit..." I cleaned my eyes.

"It's fine." He said, cleaning my tears. "You're so cute..."

He gently held my chin and then gave me another kiss.

This was much longer and lovely, and rather confident too.

His lips were so soft and warm...

Once we separated our lips, my heart was about to explode from beating so fast...

"Mark I... Do you want to...?" I wondered.

"Huh?" He wondered.

"Like... You know." I said while feeling embarrassed.

"Oh, right..." Mark quickly realized what I meant. "I-I, it is a bit embarrassing but... Do you want to... well, be boyfriends for now?"

"A-Ahh!" I felt slightly surprised. "Y-You meant that..."

"Huh? What did you meant then?" He wondered.

Aahh, I felt like a pervert! I was the only one that actually wanted sex...

He's much more innocent than I thought.

But I kind of like that too...

"N-Nothing! Never mind! Let's do this slowly then!" I nodded, giving him a little kiss on his nose. "I would gladly... become your girlfriend."

"Elayne..." Mark smiled, giving me many more kisses.

We kissed like a couple of teenagers for a while, until we finally went to bed.

It was so lovely; I may never forget this night...

I love him so much.

He's... my world.

...

Well, after my daughter that's it!

I have priorities!