

Brand New 511

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

Chapter 511: A New Physique And Fighting Hollows

[Your body has developed hundreds of Physique Runes.]

[Your body has evolved its own Physique: the [Spirit Tree Maiden] Physique.]

[Your body Physical Strength, Physical Defense, Agility, Dexterity, and Reflexes have increased greatly.]

[You've become much stronger.]

[Your Physique Runes have transformed and created new Techniques: [Spirit Fist], [Piercing Tree Kick], [Yggdrasil's Endurance], and [Rapid Self-Regeneration]]

The voice once more echoed within my mind as I was "reborn". And upon breaking out of my tree cocoon, I was naked. I was a bit terrified, but I had prepared well enough and quickly wore some new clothes, which I had stored in my Inventory just in case.

And the results of the Physique? Amazing. I felt much stronger. In fact, I never thought I would feel this strong before in my entire life. And my body really showed it! My belly was slightly harder now, and there were clear muscles there!

My legs were also strong and slightly muscular, and my arms didn't felt so thin anymore. The best part? I was able to exert my Mana into my body and strengthen my muscles even more, similar to the Wood Muscles Spell, but innately and much better and stronger.

"Hah!" I punched the air, as a powerful shockwave suddenly emerged out of my fist.

TRUUUUMMM...!

The entire house trembled for a bit.

"W-Woah..." I was surprised with myself. "I'm super strong! Almost feels like I am Planta IRL now..."

"Well you are..." Said Rita while sighing . "Anyways, would you look at these!" She looked at my belly. "A six pack! Holy shit."

Mark stood there glancing at my six pack as he dropped his jaw, blushing a bit.

"A-Ah, is it disgusting?" I wondered.

"What? No! It's... super-hot actually." Mark honestly said.

"D-Do you have to be so honest?!" I asked in embarrassment.

"Ahahaha! You two are cute together!" Laughed the Great Spirit. "Now, I think we are done here soooo... let me drink some more tea, also these cookies are to die for!"

"Amazing! With this much strength we've gained, I am itching to go hunt monsters now..." Said Lily.

"Lily you're surprisingly adaptive to these things." I said. "Rita was freaking out a lot at the beginning."

"E-Eh? Really?" Lily wondered. "I... Well, when I was younger I loved reading fantasy books, especially those of female protagonists that were magicians, or heroines... I always wished to be strong like them... So this is like a dream come true!"

She was surprisingly childish sometimes, despite her age. That was super cute, actually. Lily is too cute for this world.

"Hahah, is that so?" I giggled, giving her a head pat.

"Yeah! Let's go hunt some monsters already!" She said like a little girl.

"Ahem! Well, until some sort of Gate shows up, the only thing we could hunt for now are Hollows, but I guess that could suffice. They come to us rather commonly, if it wasn't for the charms protecting us." Said Mark.

"Then how about we hunt some in the backyard of your house, Lily? It is all covered by walls so nobody is going to find out." I said with a smile.

"H-Hollows, huh? Alright!" She nodded.

Like that, we moved to her backyard and I activated a special Charm that was named "Monster Attractor" which attracts Hollows and other Monsters.

FLAAASH!

The power spread around our surroundings, and it wasn't even a minute when...

"OOOOHHHH!"

"MANA... MANAAAAA...!"

"DELICIOUS MANAAAA...!"

Dozens of Hollows showed up, crawling through the backyard's walls and jumping to the other side easily, they were of all shapes and sizes, formless masses of black mud with red eyes, sometimes human-like faces that were like white masks stuck to their bodies.

"Oooh, would you look at this! We've got tons today!" The Great Spirit said. "Alright! How about we clean up this city of these pests for a bit? Let's do some community work, heh. Most of them are F Rank! Some are E Rank, and one... two are D Rank! Make sure to finish them quickly."

Hollows came pouring into Lily's large backyard like a sea of black mud. Some had the shapes of giant centipedes covered on skull-like masks, Swarm-type Hollows. Others resembled chimeras of cats and dogs with multiple heads, Beast-type Hollows. And a few of them were humanoid giants, with large masks with horns, and even holding weapons made out of their own crystalized black mud, Ogre-type Hollows.

"SHAAAAAHHH!!!" The giant D Rank Centipede Hollow roared furiously, moving its many legs rapidly and rushing towards us.

Lily stepped forward, imbuing her Mana and Spiritual Energy into her muscles and her pickaxe. All her equipment glowed at once, stacking all their buffs and potential abilities, enhancing her strength even further.

"[Earth Shattering Strike]!"

CLAAAASSSH!!!

An enormous strike that made the ground around us tremble emerged, hitting the giant centipede hollow on its head, as giant spikes made of rock emerged one after the other, piercing through its giant body.

Hollows might be the most common monster, but they were surprisingly frail, even D Rank Hollows, mostly because they lacked flesh, muscles, and bones to make their bodies harder.

BAAAAAM!

The giant centipede hollow fell into the floor, suddenly beginning to bleed out its black mud everywhere, and then...

POOOF!

It exploded into black smoke, leaving behind some black mud, white masks, and a giant hollow crystal.

"Woow! That was so cool! Uwaah! I feel a bit dizzy but I think I can keep going!" Lily ended being a surprisingly competent fighter. She smashed F Rank Hollows with a single hit of her powerful pickaxe, and anything else struggled to keep up against her, especially with our support.

I tried out my Physique Techniques as well, fighting against three Ogre-type Hollows at once, each one being as tall as four meters and holding giant axes made of crystalized black mud, their blows were strong, shaking the ground, but I evaded them swiftly, my senses even allowed me to slightly predict the trajectory of their this.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"HYAAA!"

I jumped in midair, kicking one of them in the face, as my leg transformed into a sharp wooden spear, piercing through the hollow's mask, and shattering it.

CLAAAASH!

"GRUOOOHHHH...!"

POOOF!

The rest of the hollow exploded into black smoke, dying on the spot.

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Chapter 512: Cleaning The City Off Threats

I continued trying out my new Techniques, they all packed more than just a mere punch. Their power was rather surprising, with a few Spirit Fists and Piercing Tree Kicks I was able to easily kill Hollows

within the E+ Rank of strength, and with some more intensity and magic, even D Ranked Hollows were no exception.

Although I can also fight using my weapon and hitting things really hard by unleashing powerful blows, these physical attacks always spend some Mana and Spiritual Energy to be strong, the stronger they are, the more they drain away at my energy.

However, with these Physique Techniques, it is not the case, they require incredibly small quantities of energies to utilize, and pack a really strong power. However, I have yet to grow accustomed to fight physically like this, so maybe it would be good to take Karate Classes or something.

Unlike in Arcadia where I have a Player Avatar and I can activate and learn Skills without having to actually learn how to fight and everything else, in real life I cannot just button smash my way through... Well, I can, but that'll overspend too much Mana and Spiritual Energy.

In our last fight, I ended using all of my strength and energy and was too tired to properly fight against the Demon King when he manifested himself... If it wasn't for the Gods and my friends' aid, he would have managed to capture us.

So that's why I must develop a way to fight without overspending all my energy, especially in areas where I cannot expand my Spiritual Terrain to regain Mana and Spiritual Energy faster, such as Dungeons, which seem too infected with Miasma and Nether to do it effectively.

And because of that, I was considering taking some self-defense classes in a Martial Arts place. Not exactly Karate, I mean, whatever works...

"Phew... I am so exhausted. You didn't tell us we were going to fight monsters today!" Rita complained. She had used her magic to crush many of the hollows.

"Well technically Hollows are the most harmless of monsters compared to everything else, they don't harm people unless they see or detect your Mana, and they just mostly wander aimlessly." Said Mark. "Though, with the increase in people with Magic, their attacks might be reported more and more."

"We've killed more than a hundred now though..." I said. "I think we've at least made the city more secure for the moment, until new ones form naturally."

"Haha, using a giant pickaxe to crush things was so fun!" Lily said. "Using magic in real life is really shocking... I never thought there could ever be such a thing."

"It is really shocking, isn't it?" I sighed. "Though, I wish we could go back to our more normal days..."

"I can't say I am not enjoying this a bit..." Mark said. "However, I guess you're right..."

"There's still a lot of questions without answers though." I sighed. "Like the relationship between Earth and Arcadia, and the Demon Kings... And everything else."

"What?! You two are so boring! This is awesome!" Rita said. "I love my magic; I can do the shores so easily now..."

"You're using magic to do shores?!" Asked Mark. "W-What about your family?"

"They can't see a single thing." Rita shrugged. "Anyways, we've got tons of loot here! What do we do with this?"

All over Lily's backyard, there were over a hundred black crystals glowing with black auras. They were all our loot or today's hunt. I was honestly feeling pretty tired right now, so I wanted to go back home and have a nap.

But we should use these items while we have them, might as well grow as strong as we can before getting surprised while being unprepared, right?

"Alright, let's do some little strengthening before leaving." I nodded. "Let's absorb these the old-fashioned way because it is more efficient than just absorbing the rocks right away."

Like that, we taught Lily how to do the magic circles to absorb Magic Crystals and we divided our loot equally between the four, so there wouldn't be any complains. Everyone worked together so it was quite fair.

The only bad thing about Hollows is that they only leave either shattered pieces of their masks, or tiny black crystals, or their black mud, none of them are edible, and are better off as materials for crafting, so we cannot enhance our physique by eating them.

[You have absorbed a tremendous quantity of high-quality Mana.]

[Hundreds of new Spiritual Runes have been inscribed within the Magic Circle.]

[Your Magic Circle has improved from Tier 2 Rank 8 to Tier 2 Rank 9.]

[Several New Spells have been created: [Spiritual Battle Aura], [Spiritual Muscle Enhancement]]

[Your Magic Power has greatly improved.]

[You are growing closer to awakening your own Innate Ability.]

I heard the voice once more, whispering to my ears. I was wondering what this entity could be, but as I asked anybody if they knew, nobody had an idea. I was the only one that could hear her words.

"Do you know what this voice is?" I asked the Great Spirit.

"Hmm, I can faintly sense something speaking to your mind." She said. "But I have no idea either... Though, its origins seems to be this very world, somewhere... deep?"

"Deep?" I wondered. "You mean underground?!"

"I... Am not really sure. I am really unfamiliar with this world's magic or any entities." She said while shrugging. "The only thing I'm sure of is that there's another guy above the skies, I think that's the god you guys believe on, or something? He's tremendously powerful yet he only watches and does nothing else."

"So the voice is not from Earth's "god"..." I sighed. "Come to think of it, do you know what that god is? Is he similar to Arcadia's Gods?"

"Not at all." The Great Spirit explained. "He's a "god" artificially created from all of Earth's humanity's beliefs. It is complicated to explain, and this is as much as I've figured out. Though, the voice you hear seems to be coming from this planet itself..."

The planet itself whispers to my mind...?

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Chapter 513: The Voice Of The World

The more I learn about this creepy god floating in space above Earth the more worried I grow. So Humanity's beliefs did give birth to a "god", magical and spiritual being that was formed from people's beliefs, which concentrated into divine power over thousands of years.

The Great Spirit is capable of analyzing the skies because they're clear much better than the ground below us because it is tightly coated with Mana and Divine Energy, so while she could give us a more detailed explanation about the alien above our heads, she can't really say for sure if the voice was the world itself, or something more.

But if that's true, the entirety of Planet Earth is a living being? It hasn't been really confirmed, but if its true then... That's crazy. Maybe Mother Earth is actually our goddess, while the being we have unwillingly created only embodies our religious beliefs.

I wonder if these two entities, if they truly exists, have some sort of relationship... Or maybe none at all and they have never interacted with each other.

I suppose it doesn't really matter now, but maybe in the future, I could one day have the opportunity to talk with them or something... I mean, so many crazy things have happened in my life that this doesn't seem so crazy of a possibility anymore.

Anyways, Mark and Rita became Tier 2 Rank 5 after the strengthening, while Lily reached Tier 2 Rank 1 after absorbing her share. There was a slightly big gap between me and Rita and Mark of 4 Ranks, most likely because I absorbed the magic crystal of Gustaf, that one Death General which was of very high quality and had tons of mana.

Lily offered us some tea to relax after all the exercise, and we spent the next hour drinking herbal tea, eating snacks, and talking about everything we've gone through. Naturally, the conversation about the guys from SWORD surged.

"So they gave you their number?" Wondered Rita. "Have they sent any messages so far?"

"Nope, none." I said. "I assume they're really busy, after all they're agents. I don't want to bother them, honestly..."

"That girl named Rose was really nice though." I added. "I think I made of her a new friend."

"Josuke was also a cool guy." Mark said. "I wish I could learn more about him, maybe he could teach me how to properly fight with my fire magic."

"And who was the other guy? The one with the demon?" Asked Rita.

"Oh, Albert, I think." I said. "We didn't had time to interact with him, but he seemed like a decent person? I think... Though Rose and Josuke did say he is the most ruthless of the three."

"Hah~ Those two were kinda hot, weren't they? Handsome young men, packed with muscles, strong, with an air of mystery~" Rita said while daydreaming. "What I would give to be in my younger years and flirt with them..."

"I-I don't know if that's something a married woman should be saying..." Said Lily while sipping tea.

"I agree." I facepalmed.

"H-Hey! What's wrong with daydreaming sometimes? It's not like I am being unfaithful, just having a little imagination here and there...!" Rita said.

"A-Anyways..." Mark said. "I was thinking if it could be possible to meet them again, but I am afraid they might immediately assume we want to be agents or something. I think that if we could deepen our relationships with them, we could learn much more about this hidden magic world, or whatever it is called, and we could also learn from them in the ways they fight and deal with monsters."

"I agree to that as well." I nodded. "Well, I will try! I'll contact Rose right now and send her a message..."

Mark got me excited; his idea was actually good. If we could learn from them, it would be nice. I don't really need to go to some other weird place if I just ask Rose politely to teach me her Self-Defense Techniques to better take advantage of my Physique and the Physique Techniques.

So I sent her an elaborated message...

<Friend: Rose (SWORD Agent, colleagues only)>

[Elayne]: [Hello Rose, how are you doing? We've been thinking with our friends if it could be possible to meet again? Of course, if you're busy then don't bother. We were thinking in learning more about you guys and SWORD, and perhaps about your self-defense battle techniques... I want to learn how to fight better after all. Of course, this won't be without compensation. I think you're a pretty nice person, so I would like to see you again! Ah, no compromise though, so think about it!]

It was one hell of a text wall, but it was all I wanted to say concentrated into a single message. Let's see if she ever reads it or something- Ah, she read it.

That was fast!

Ding!

Ah?! She answered already?!

<Friend: Rose (SWORD Agent, colleagues only)>

[Rose]: [Hello Elayne, been a few days since then.]

[Rose]: [I was actually thinking the same thing as you, but the boss is annoying, so I don't want him to just try to recruit you or something...]

[Rose]: [How about we meet privately? Just you and your friends somewhere in the city?]

[Rose]: [I was thinking on a café or something]

[Rose]: [And yeah I am free for the rest of the month, we actually don't work every day like workaholics, hahah]

She sent a lot of messages! I guess she really wants to meet with us.

"She said that she wants to meet us, it'll be just her though, but that's already better than I imagined." I said with a smile. "She wants to meet with us in a café or something... How about it?"

"Sure!" Rita nodded.

"I'm in." Mark nodded.

"O-Oh, can I go as well?" Lily asked.

"For sure! We'll introduce you to her." I said with a smile.

<Friend: Rose (SWORD Agent, colleagues only)>

[Elayne]: [Sure! Let's meet tomorrow in the evening in the Café Le Piece, you know that one?]

[Rose]: [I do, I go there every day to satiate my coffee and sweets addiction, lol]

[Elayne]: [Then it's decided! I've got a new friend to show you too.]

[Rose]: [Oh nice, looking forward to it, Elayne!]

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Chapter 514: Back Home

<Friend: Rose (SWORD Agent, colleagues only)>

[Elayne]: [Sure! Let's meet tomorrow in the evening in the Café Le Piece, you know that one?]

[Rose]: [I do, I go there every day to satiate my coffee and sweets addiction, lol]

[Elayne]: [Then it's decided! I've got a new friend to show you too.]

[Rose]: [Oh nice, looking forward to it, Elayne!]

After that message, we chatted for a bit more, as we set up an hour for our meeting in the café. They were all rather excited to meet the Dhampir girl once more, who was actually older than all of us, yet maintained a young appearance, resembling my daughter a bit.

"I hope that we can get to know her better~" Rita said. "I wonder if she knows any hot vampire guy out there?"

"Rita why are you asking such a thing." I sighed. "Just having her as a friend is enough already!"

"A-Ahahah, it was a joke!" Rita said.

She's been a bit horny lately.

"Well, anyways, we'll be going for now. I am rather tired, honestly." I sighed. "Thank you for everything Lily! I'll come pick you up tomorrow at 4 pm."

"Sure! I'll be looking forward to it." Lily said.

I hugged her tightly and gave her a kiss in her cheek before departing. When she hugged me back, I felt like she could have broken my ribs if I wasn't strong myself...

"L-Lily, try to practice controlling that strength of yours." I said.

"Y-Yes! I will." Lily felt a bit embarrassed.

"Don't worry partner, we'll get it done in no time!" Her pickaxe, Tierra, spoke, floating in midair.

I don't know if I can trust in a talking weapon, but I'll leave it to her. Like that, we made our way back home. Rita quickly decided to go back home as she had to make dinner for her family, while Mark decided to accompany me back to my house after I invited him to help me make dinner.

"Ah, been a while since you've invited me..." Mark said with a nostalgic sigh. "Ah, remember when you invited me to a date and your daughter was really angered?"

"D-Don't remind me of such embarrassing things..." I sighed, while beginning to peel potatoes while he was cutting meat for the stew we were going to prepare.

"Embarrassing? It was really cute." Mark said. "I never thought you would be the one to invite me to a date like that... I was honestly so happy back then it felt like I was in a dream."

"D-Dream? That much?" I asked in surprise. "You're exaggerating..."

"I'm not, I was just that happy." Mark said, looking into the window as the sun slowly began to set down the horizon. "S-Since that day that I fell for you even more than before."

"I-Is that so?" I felt like my cheeks were getting warmer, was I blushing? "I was honestly surprised you accepted... I thought I looked creepy or something."

"Creepy?" Laughed Mark. "Don't say those things, there's no way someone as adorable as you could ever be creepy."

"Adorable? Geez, it's not like I'm a little girl anymore..." I sighed. "W-Well, you're cute too."

"Hahaha, I don't think anybody else but you have ever told me I am cute..." Mark giggled cheerfully. He finished cutting the meat into small cubes, washed his hands, and then gently hugged me from behind.

Uwaah! T-This is advanced lovey-dovey! He's really bold! But it makes me happy too...

I stopped peeling potatoes as I gave him a glance, our faces were so close together, we ended kissing almost instinctively.

His lips were so soft and warm, kissing him made my heartbeat become so fast...

He gently grabbed my hips, making me feel slightly embarrassed, but I couldn't deny that it also made me happy.

Once our long kiss finished, he looked into my eyes.

"I love you." He said without any other word.

Why is he so cute?!

"I-I love you too." I kissed his nose.

"Mom!"

However, our romantic moment was swiftly interrupted by my daughter.

"Y-Yes dear?!" I asked, quickly letting go of him a bit brutishly, my strength was enough to throw Mark into the walls.

BAAM!

"Ouch..."

"Uwaah! S-Sorry! Are you okay?!"

"Hahah, yeah, don't worry."

I swiftly helped him stand back up again and healed him from the pain, though he said he was fine, I felt too guilty!

"Mom!"

"What is it, Elena?"

"What are you making for dinner?"

"Sigh..."

She was calling me from her room just to ask me that.

"Beef Stew!"

"Eh? Is that it?"

"It's yummy! Don't say that!"

"..."

I guess she probably went to play the game again...

"She's a bit cocky." Mark pointed out.

"Ah, well, it's my fault for spoiling her so much." I sighed, as I finished preparing the last things and left the stew boiling.

"Well, it still feels like she loves you a lot." Mark said. "I'm sorry if this sounds rude or something, but your relationship has improved a lot since the first time I meet her."

"Do you think so?" I wondered. "Well yeah, she has become nicer... I hope I'm doing a good job..."

"You certainly are! Come on, have some more self-confidence." Mark said. "I think you're the best mother out there. You work hard for her and all."

"Maybe..." I sighed. "I guess you might be right... Ah, about that... There was something I've been thinking for a while."

"What is it?" He wondered.

"W-Well, it is about our jobs..." I said. "The last months I've received very generous incomes from my videos, the donations and ad revenue made already over ten thousand dollars..."

"E-Eh?! That much?!" Mark asked. "Ah... Maybe I should start streaming as well? I haven't done it..."

"Yeah about that... Well, it is pretty obvious but I am earning much more than I actually get paid in the mini market... And with the world changing, I could also make money selling magic items too." I said. "So I was considering quitting... my job."

"Oh..." Mark suddenly looked down in the floor, as if I had ripped the soul out of his body...

"M-Mark?"

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Chapter 515: Mark's Support

"A-Are you okay?" I asked. "I'm sorry Mark, I'll stay! Okay? Don't make that face..."

"Ah..." Mark quickly calmed himself down. "I-I'm fine, sorry. I just... got a bit sad, but I think it's fine, if you are already earning much more and want to focus on everything else, I recommend it, in fact."

"E-Eh?" I was surprised.

He looked so sad before but composed himself very quickly afterwards...

"That job is only limiting you, to be honest." Mark said. "Honestly, I am happy as long as you are."

"Mark..." I felt even more captivated by him. "Really?"

"Yeah, don't worry about a single thing and do whatever your heart calls you for." He said.

"A-And what about you?" I asked. "You can also earn money the way I did, we could... work together. M-Maybe I can add you to my channel..."

"That would feel like I'm leeching off your fame..." Mark sighed. "Unlike you I don't have that inventory ability, so I cannot materialize magic items either, and it would feel cheap if I ask you to take them out because I'll still be relying on your own powers."

"Y-You don't have to feel like that, I would happily-"

"Nah, it's fine, really." He said with eyes filled with conviction and love. "I want the best for you. I'll keep working in the mini market, after all my position is rather important... I would feel a bit bad if I leave everything behind without a proper replacement."

"I see..." I nodded.

"Though, it'll never be the same without you every morning there..." He sighed. "You have... always been the only person that brightened my day in that gloomy job."

"Mark... It is not like we're over or something, dummy... You can come to my house any day and any time! You don't even need to ask!" I said. "I-I could also go visit yours from time to time."

"R-Really?" Mark felt surprised.

It seemed he was being too timid to ask me that himself... I guess he still have certain topics that make him embarrassed.

"Of course... W-We're a couple now, dummy, that's what we're supposed to do." I giggled a bit. "It really seems like you have little experience."

"Sorry..." He sighed. "I honestly didn't know I could just come here whenever I wanted... I thought it might have been imprudent or rude."

"Not at all! If it's you, you can even sleep in my bed." I giggled.

"W-What? Really?!" He asked, blushing.

Gosh, he's really adorable, that innocent side of him is lovely.

"Yeah~" I giggled.

I quickly walked to his side and decided to sit down over his legs.

"We can also do this~" I said, smiling at him.

"E-Elayne..." Mark said.

I hugged him tightly.

"I kind of wanted you to stream with me though..." I sighed.

"Ah, sorry..." Mark sighed. "Well, if you really want to I can always be your guest, I am a guild member after all. But I won't accept any money that you're earning, keep that money for yourself and your daughter."

"Geez, what am I going to do with you? You're too humble~" I sighed, giving him a head pat.

"Honestly, being like this with you is enough payment..." He said, as the two of us cuddled over the couch.

"You're really corny sometimes." I laughed.

"S-Should I stop?" He asked.

"Oh no, I love it." I giggled, giving him a kiss in his cheek. "I love you the way you are, honestly."

Mark blushed even more, resembling a bright red tomato.

"T-That one really killed me..." He kissed my cheek. "I want to kiss you, and kiss you some more... Is that okay?"

"Yeah, it's okay~" I answered, as we started kissing rather passionately while cuddling in the couch.

Mark started kissing my neck and gently smelling the scent of my hair. He gently hugged my belly, without actually touching anything else, he was really prudent.

Feeling his warmth and love made me feel so... so in the clouds! As we started making up, time went flying and I started to smell the stew getting a bit... burnt.

"Uwaah! T-The stew!" I quickly jumped off the couch and ran to see the stew.

However, when I took a look, it was all black, everything ended burning! And the water evaporated...

"Aw... I-It burnt..."

"Geez, what is that smell?"

My daughter walked out of the room.

"Huh? Mark's here?" She wondered.

"A-Ah, hello Elena." Mark greeted her. "Looks like... we'll have fried chicken for today's dinner! Or maybe pizza? Burger?" He wondered.

"Sigh... I guess we have no other option, it's too late to make something else." I sighed.

"Oh? I see, were you two making out in the couch and then the stew burned?" Elena smirked while crossing her arms, she looked at me with a very teasing smile!

"W-What are you talking about, my daughter?" I asked while blushing a bit. "T-That's not it!"

"Y-Yeah! We were... both in the bathroom." He said.

"That's right." I nodded.

"Hahaha, fine. I want pizza though~" She said.

"Sure, pizza... Elayne, what do you want?" He wondered.

"You're inviting?" I asked.

"Of course." He smiled.

Ah, he's an angel.

"T-Then pizza too!"

Like that, we ended having a small family dinner with pizza instead. It was actually one of the expensive pizzerias in the city, not the cheap, mass-produced outlets out there, so it was much more expensive, but really delicious.

Ah, and I loved the garlic sticks too, they were so fresh and yummy. That coupled with the ice cream we had in my freezer made for a crazy fulfilling, yet highly caloric dinner...

After we were done, my daughter swiftly walked back to her room.

"Elena, remember that you have school tomorrow, don't play for too long, okay?" I asked.

"Okaaay~" She said, closing the room's door.

Meanwhile, with Mark we continued watching movies while drinking wine, until we both fell asleep in the couch... We were actually really tired from the Hollow Hunt.

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Chapter 516: Elayne Quits Her Job

Ding! Ding! Ding!

The alarm back in my room slowly woke us up. Mark was the first to panic, looking around in shock.

"Huh? What...? Ah! Did I fell asleep in here!?" He was shocked.

"Hahaha, i-it's fine... We had fun." I said with a smile.

"Hahh... Well, it still seven in the morning, I guess I can still make it." He quickly stood up.

"I'll make you some breakfast then, dear." I said, giving him a kiss. "Also you can go take a bath first."

"Thank you!" He rushed to the bathroom in my room.

I stretched a bit and then quickly prepared some breakfast. This time I wanted something lighter, so I only made some toasts with coffee, and the usual pancakes for Elena.

The smell of pancakes woke her up as she rushed to the bathroom and came ready to eat breakfast only ten minutes later.

"Yawn... Mornin'..." She said while yawning, she looked very sleepy.

"Geez, you're all sleepy again, dear." I sighed, giving her a hug and a kiss in her forehead.

Through the kiss, I conjured a spell to revitalize her a bit and make her feel much better and healthier.

FLAAASH!

She didn't noticed the light, but quickly felt like she woke up much better, her face also looked even prettier.

"Hm? Ah... I feel much better?" She wondered. "Is it the coffee? It really helps..."

"Y-Yeah! The coffee." I giggled.

Once Mark was done, he quickly joined us in the breakfast.

"Good morning everyone." He said, sitting down and eating the toasts. "Ah, this is delicious."

"It is just a toast dear." I giggled a bit more.

"Huh? He stayed in the house?" My daughter whispered to me.

"Y-Yeah..." I said. "Y-You said it was okay, right?"

"Ah... Well, yeah, you can do whatever you want." My daughter shrugged. "Though... are you two in a relationship now?"

"Well yeah, I wanted to tell you about it..." I felt a bit embarrassed. "We're a couple now..."

"Well, that's... fine." She said. "Actually, finally. You two are so in love, it felt so weird you were delaying it for so long."

"A-Ah, well, yeah..." Mark got a bit embarrassed as well.

My daughter was really blunt sometimes. Anyways, once we were done, we quickly went to her school on Mark's car, and left her to her own devices.

I had yet to explain her about quitting my job in the mini market, mostly because the reason I'm doing it is due to the money I earn making the videos in-game.

"You should just tell her you're Planta, I don't know why you're hiding it so much." He said. "It is the perfect time now, I think."

"Huh..." I sighed. "Yeah, I know, I don't know why I am being like this, though I feel like she might get angry if I reveal this to her."

"I think she had matured a lot since I saw her the first time." He said. "If you love her, and she loves you, maybe you should trust her."

"Hah, you're right." I sighed. "How do I tell her though? If I reveal it through my player avatar, she might think Planta's a creep pretending to her mom."

"Yeah, just tell it to her in person." Mark nodded. "Once you do it, you'll feel much better. It's not like she'll learn you have magic for now, and as time goes on and it normalizes more, you'll be able to reveal this to her as well eventually."

"Right... You're right." I nodded. "I was doubting so much but I guess how you've put it; it does makes sense. I should stop being so dumb."

"You're not dumb, you're actually just a really good mother, so much that you just worry too much." Mark said, patting my shoulder. "If you want, I can be at your side too, I'm Titan after all."

"Could you?" I asked.

"Of course, leave it to me." He said with a smile.

Like that, we walked back to the minimarket, where I signed some papers to announce I was quitting, I was also getting a remuneration for all my job for the next three months.

"I can't believe you're quitting your job, Elayne! We'll miss youuuu!" Jenny started crying while hugging me.

"You were the one that worked the hardest around here...."

"Yeah, this is a shock."

"I hope everything goes well for you from now on!"

Other coworkers were here, Jenny was the one I had grown most attached to, so she felt really sad, as if we were about to never see each other again forever...

"Jenny you can add me to your phone, right? Let's add each other!" I said with a smile.

"Oh?! Really?!" She asked. "I never thought about it..."

"Well you're always in the clouds sometimes..." I sighed.

Like that, I got the numbers of all my coworkers actually, though I'll most likely just chat with Jenny because she's the only one I am closer to. I've been watching over her for years now too.

"Thank you for everything, everyone. This job... It has been a huge part of my life for so many years, it is quite hard to leave it all behind now but... I want to grab the opportunities I have now. I am hoping the best for all of you as well!" I said with a smile.

Mark ended hosting a little party in the mini market with our coworkers too, a "goodbye party" of sorts. He was being a bit dramatic, but I still liked it, everyone got to have a break in Monday, which is the day we all hate.

"So what are you even going to dedicate yourself now? With everything going on I am a bit worried, jobs might become rarer." Said one of my coworkers, a slightly old lady with blonde hair named Jenifer.

"Ah, I'll become a Streamer!" I said with a smile.

"S-Streamer?!" Everyone reacted the same, as Mark giggled a bit behind me.

"W-Wait, lewd streamer? Like those girls on twitch that asks for donations if they show their-" I quickly stopped Jenny from saying something unthinkable.

"No, dummy!" I sighed, crossing my arms. "Game streaming in the Virtual Reality Game, Brand New Life online. Just the last two months I earned over 10k dollars on ad revenue alone."

"Huh?!" Jenny was shocked. "Wait, I also play that game!"

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Chapter 517: BNLO Streamer

"You do? The I guess you know of Planta?" I asked with a giggle.

"Player Planta, oh that super popular chick- Wait, don't tell me..." Jenny opened her mouth wide open.

"You're Planta?! Makes sense you're quitting then!"

"Yeah, hahaha. I'll dedicate myself full time to making videos and sometimes streaming." I said with a smile.

And of course, I'll be selling magic items to SWORD secretly, or so goes my plan. Though I'll have to see how that goes, it might be harder than I imagine.

"Huh, so playing virtual reality games and streaming makes so much money..." Jenifer said.

"It is interesting, yeah... But I doubt I'm made for that, it's more for the younger people. I don't really like video games." Sighed another coworker, a bald guy named Hector.

"Hmm, I don't think I have the money to afford that, haha..." Another laughed.

"I am also playing the game from time to time." Mark said.

"Eh? You do?!"

"Well, maybe it is not that bad..."

"Huh..."

Their reaction was really crazy, I guess they've gotta act a bit like bootlickers if its Mark because he's their boss and all...

"Anyways! I am currently Level 66 in the game!" Jenny said.

"What are you playing as?" Mark wondered.

"Me? Oh I wanted to experiment a lot with the races and all so I became a Slime, haha." She laughed. "I recently evolved into a Poison Slime. My job's Tamer, though I have yet to get to rank up this class... I think I'm playing pretty badly..."

"Ah, well, if you want to we can meet in-game. I've never seen a slime player before, it would be fun!" I said. "I could help you level up and get better quests, Jenny."

"Wow! Really?! Okay, that's a promise then!" She giggled greedily.

"Is this a good idea?" Mark wondered while whispering to me.

"Well, I like Jenny, so I guess it's fine. The more friends we have the better, right?" I wondered.

"I guess." Mark shrugged.

He didn't had the best impressions of Jenny, after all she slept in her job, ate and drank the products and acted as if she didn't. And was overall a bit of a mess, but was always available for any hour, even entire night shifts for various consecutive days, and she was also pretty reliable as she knew how to fight and often always fended off thieves.

Anyways, Jenny's avatar name was "Slimey" funnily enough, though it is quite the name... We'll call her just Jenny for now even in-game, well, most of the time.

The day went by and I stayed working in my last day with everybody just out of courtesy. The hour to meet Rose was rapidly approaching and we were already getting ready to get going with Mark.

I already messaged Rita and Lily, so we'll meet there with Rose very soon. I hope everything goes well and we can reach some sort of stable conversation that could give away a friendship!

And also... I would love if that friendship could facilitate negotiations.

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After over a whole week of a break, Elena was once more back to high school. She seemed slightly bored as usual, sitting in her desk while writing what the teacher said and paying attention. Even though she was a total game addict, her grades were actually really good.

One of the reasons why her mother spoiled her to the point of even buying her a VR Headset despite how expensive they are was... Because she was a very good student, so Elayne always felt the necessity to reward her daughter for her hard work, to incentivize her to continue studying diligently.

It was something that actual good parents did, which Elayne learned from her own parents, a reason why her grades were also really good when she was a high schooler. Often times, parents gave it for granted that their children must always have excellent grades as a "necessity" and as a "payment" for them raising them.

However, such behavior often creates an even bigger distance between parent and son, and as the child feels unrewarded for their constant efforts, their motivation to continue studying dwindle.

Not only Elene was a gorgeous looking girl, but her good manners, often expressionless and pretty face, and her black eyes, combined with her amazing grades and excellent behavior in classes made her someone that everyone admired.

Her mother wasn't completely aware of this, however... Elayne knew the "other side" of her daughter after all, so she would never believe she was seen like this. Some students in her classroom sometimes even called her "majestic"!

Though, while there were those that shone and were admired such as her, there were also those students that were the complete opposite... In the all-girls school, there were all types of girls. Although it was the most expensive school around, there was always those more unfortunate, with less popularity and much worse grades.

And today, as the girls were back from their break and were discussing all their good times, professor Emily arrived bringing the "good" news.

"Hello girls! I'm sure you're having a good time talking about your break but let's begin classes right away, okay?" She asked. "Oh right, today I've got your first semester grades ready! Are you girls excited?!"

Emily, the brown-haired lady, which was around the same age as Elayne, looked as half of her classroom looked at her in horror... Days like these were where many girls would have a heart attack as they realized their efforts were just not good enough... and also days where girls that worked the hardest would feel rewarded the most.

"Anna... 75. You need to get better, study more and make sure to pay more attention." Said the professor.

"A-Ah, yes." Anna sighed; she had been studying with Elena diligently yet her grades were still quite low.

"Elisa... 92, excellent as always." The professor said.

"Heh, couldn't had expected less!" Elisa said cockily, many students glared at her...

"Elena! ...100! As usual." Said the professor. "Keep up the good work, dear."

Elena nodded without saying a word.

"Monica... 47." Said the professor. "We'll need to talk after classes."

All the class began talking rumors about this girl in specific, someone sitting at the end of the classroom, with long black hair with a slight shade of purple, big black eyes, and pale as snow skin.

Many called her a ghost.

"A-Ah... I-I failed again..." She muttered, trying to ignore the classroom talking about her.

They often called her a "ghost", others called her the "shut-in", and some always laughed at her social anxiety and bad looks.

However, as she was growing used to them, Monica glanced at Elena who was reading a book gracefully.

Although her expression seemed saddened, and she even looked like she was about to cry, within the depths of her heart, several emotions were swirling together.

"Hah... I wish I could be like her..."

"So perfect and amazing in everything..."

"She's so pretty and beautiful too... I can't believe she's always sitting with that ugly Anna, she's just as ugly as I am..."

She continued thinking these dark thoughts, as something much darker started swelling from within her heart, her aura slowly turned black, however, nobody in the classroom noticed.

But that wasn't all.

Something else... was watching her.

"Heheh, would you look at that... A perfect vessel."

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Chapter 518: If Only...

Once the girls were in their last break before the last classes, Anna, Elena, and Elisa were having a snack in their desks while discussing about the game.

However, Anna, who was the most perceptive, couldn't help but realize the deadly glare someone was giving to them, especially to her and Elena...

"Hey Elene, have you not noticed how that creep is glaring at us all the time? It gets on my nerves..." Anna sighed, pointing at Monica who drinking some juice, while her big, black eyes were glaring at them as if she was piercing through their souls.

There was... certainly something weird with the girl. But Elena never truly paid attention to her at all, nor had ever talked with her before either. But that glare was... something creepy.

"Huh? Ah... She's really glaring at me." Elena glanced at her back; their eyes met.

"Gah?! Ugh- Cough, cough...!" Suddenly, Monica was shocked when Elena glanced back, coughing her juice and getting it all over her desk.

"Are you okay?" Elena asked, standing up and giving her a handkerchief she had, while using some toilet paper to clean the desk. "Sorry for startling you."

"Uwaah?! E-E-E-E-Elena?!" Monica almost had a heart attack as Elena walked to her side and helped her out.

"Yeah, that's my name." Elena said with an expressionless face. "Are you okay?"

Monica suddenly grew redder and redder as she saw Elena right at her side. She could even smell the sweet, floral scent of her hair!

"A-Abahabaah- Guagh... F-Fi... F-Fine! I'm fine..." Monica began groaning due to her stuttering. Her words seemed almost incomprehensible until the end.

"Um, okay..." Elena said, as she attempted to walk away. "Be careful next time."

"Y-Y-Yeah!" Monica cried, nodding nervously.

She quickly noticed how everyone in the classroom were looking at the peculiar scene, glaring at her angrily... Anna didn't help because she was rather harsh with her.

"Hey, don't blame it all on Elena, you were glaring us all the time." Anna said.

"E-Eh? A-Ahh... S-Sorry! I'm sorryyyy!" Monica suddenly started crying, while running away from the classroom.

"Seriously, what a creep."

"She's really a weirdo."

"That girl can't even speak properly."

"Shouldn't she be in a school for disabled people or people with special needs?"

"Hahaha!"

The other classmates that were around started joking around and laughing at her.

Elena grew slightly angered at this whole situation.

"Anna, you didn't have to be so rude with her." Elena said. "She's just anxious, I was like her before."

"Okay, maybe... I went a bit overboard." Anna sighed. "But seriously, you couldn't sense it? She gives like... a really weird vibe. I just can't trust her."

"Hmp, aren't you being a bit too superficial?" Elisa laughed. "For someone so ungifted such as yourself, you're very cocky."

"Ungifted?! What does that even mean?" Anna asked.

"Ohohohoho! Find it out in google." Laughed Elisa.

"Hmm, anyways, I feel terrible now. You made her cry. You better apologize to her later." Said Elena.

"What? Why?!" Anna asked angrily.

"Just do it, okay?" Elena asked. "You make it feel hard to just be a decent human being, god..."

"Okay! Fine, don't get so angry now..." Anna sighed.

She was actually an asshole and a very rude girl, it is method of self defense she developed in her younger years, as Anna grew up in a very dangerous school. Making herself feel unapproachable to others... Though, this wasn't really the time to act like this.

Elena was her weakness, however, if she got angry at her, Anna would immediately try to cheer her up and change...

...

Meanwhile, Monica reached the girl's bathroom and started crying inside the toilet. She felt regret, anger, and frustration on herself, while at the same time, she became more and more envious of others.

"Sniff... Why am I so stupid and useless...?"

"I always makes things worse..."

"I wish I could be like them..."

"If only... I was like Anna, Elena would give me all her attention..."

"T-That damn Anna...!"

"If only... If only..."

Monica has been in these classes for two years now. At the beginning she had tried to be more sociable, but always failed to speak properly, and was too overwhelmed by other people.

The traumas of her childhood had marked her terribly, and it wasn't as if her family had changed since then, abusing her, never giving her attention or love, and never rewarding her for anything.

"If only" was always something she thought about.

These emotions swirling inside of her heart, and coursing across her body, emanating as a dark aura constantly amplified more and more since the First Contact.

Although she had no idea, several entities, especially Hollows, had been following her around, and draining away her dark emotions and mana, some even were born out of her own dark aura.

And such a fermentation of malice made her an incredibly perfect vessel for some vile entities from another world.

"If only, dear?"

As Monica cried, she suddenly heard the voice of a young girl around her same age.

"E-Eh?! W-Who's there?!"

She thought someone outside was bullying her after hearing her cry.

However, there was nobody in the bathroom.

"I am not outside the bathroom, actually."

"E-Eh? Where are you?"

"I am... inside of you."

"I-Inside?"

"I am someone that has been watching over you. Your suffering, your pain, your traumas, your frustration, your hate... It is all so very sad; it broke my heart..."

"E-Eh?"

Monica was confused, extremely so, but she couldn't deny that her words were soothing, and that they were making her feel comfortable, and understood by someone else.

"A-Are you a ghost? O-Or a spirit?" She wondered. Amongst her strange hobbies, Monica liked to investigate paranormal things.

"Fufu, it could be said I am both." Said the voice. "How about it? Do you want to be friends with me? I can give you the strength you want..."

"The strength... I want?" Monica asked, her eyes suddenly glowing red. "Yes... Let's... become friends..."

"Good~" Laughed the entity. "Let's be best buds from now on, alright, Monica~? Now, let's slowly plan out our week~"

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Chapter 519: Meeting With Rose

(Elayne's POV)

The classes ended earlier today for my daughter, probably because it was just the first day of the second semester, so she came to the mini market before going back home. She caught us off guard, to be honest... But maybe this was the best time to tell her about this with Mark at my side, and Jenny, I guess.

"Y-You're quitting your job to... stream BNLO?!" My daughter didn't take it easy at all. She almost threw up the soda can she was drinking. Her face of disbelief was incredibly shocking.

"Huh? Wait, what? Auntie Elayne you're going to play the game? Nice!" Anna said happily. "Let's play together then!"

"T-This is amazing! We can all join together!" Elisa celebrated.

Her friends were actually happy about this, but my daughter... had mixed opinions.

"T-This is a bit weird... Ugh, but I guess... you can do whatever you want." She sighed. "Though, are you sure about this? Maybe you won't even make it big, I think you might be sacrificing too much... I know a

lot of people is making money in this, even I am saving some but... still. Unless you're planning for Mark to maintain us?"

"Hahaha, honestly if you asked I would gladly but, that's not it, Elena." Mark said with a giggle. "Your mother wouldn't let me anyways..."

"Yeah, err... Well, how do I put it?" I wondered.

I tried to slowly muster the courage, sighing, and breathing calmly. I closed my eyes and then opened them again, looking back at her.

"I am... Well, we've already been friends in-game." I sighed.

"We had?" My daughter was left speechless.

"Yeah, I am so glad we've meet in-game already, I was able to know a lot about your other side and learn more about how awesome you are!" I said.

"W-Wait a second..." My daughter's face seemed to be slowly panicking.

"Don't tell me... Is your mom?" Anna asked, dropping the bag of potato chips she had in her hands

"Ah! Now that I think about it... She does really acts a lot like someone else..." Elisa said, while drinking some cold tea.

"Yep, I am... I am Planta." I sighed.

"EEEH?!" My daughter screamed so loud even my coworkers looked at us weirdly.

"Y-Yeah! I've been playing for a while now..." I sighed. "I wanted to tell you but... Only just recently you've opened up to me more, dear... I was a bit afraid. That you would think I am weird or cringe... It has been an almost therapeutic experience, it has helped me slowly grow as a person, and even move on..."

My daughter's eyes opened wide open, her eyebrows rising all the way to her forehead, as she slowly heard me talking. Slowly, she calmed down, looking into the floor.

"S-So you're Planta... You've been playing for almost half a year now..." She sighed. "I can't... Wow. My mother's a super popular player... I-I guess it is cringe, yeah... But after you said that I can't just... You know, run away and escape like a child."

"I-I was half-expecting that." I giggled a bit.

"Right...?" Mark laughed.

"H-Hey! Do you think I am that immature?" My daughter crossed her arms, blushing a bit. "I... Ugh, well, erm... Sorry for talking to you weirdly then, ah... L-Let's say DarkReaper's personality is... my way to cope with reality sometimes. I like being that way, to be however I want and relax... It is surprisingly effective at helping me emotionally..."

"Honestly I am super alright with that! I love how you are! It is like a whole new character and all!" I said. "Ah, right, I've already earned around seventeen thousand dollars from my videos in the last two

months, and I keep getting more and more ad revenue so, I think we're pretty alright. I've got a lot of money saved too."

"I guess there's no going back now... Ugh, this is still a bit cringe but maybe I should also help the house now, I do have a lot of money saved and all..." Elena said.

"Ahahah, no worries dear, I'll handle things on my own. I know it might be risky but I really just... want to do what I love." I sighed.

"Wow, your mom's a gamer, can't believe how jealous I am now." Anna sighed.

"Yeah, to be honest..." Elisa sighed.

"I-It isn't as if I asked for this..." Elena sighed. "A-Anyways, I'll need to process this for a while, mom, so I'll get going. Are you not coming either? I mean you just quit your job and all..."

"Yeah, we'll go meet a friend with Mark and Rita in half an hour from now, so feel free to go back, dear. I'll make some delicious dinner for tonight, so if you're feeling hungry you girls can order food."

"Alright." Elena nodded, as I gave her a hug and a kiss in her cheek. "D-Don't be so clingy, we're in front of my friends!"

"Hehehe, what's so wrong with some love?" I giggled, giving her a head pat.

After that, my daughter and her friends went back home and with Mark, we quickly meet up with Rita and Lily, as we made our way to the café where we promised to meet up with Rose.

Once we landed there, we immediately detected her, sitting inside the café while drinking a cappuccino and happily eating a strawberry cheesecake. She also had several other cake slices at her side, croissants, and sandwiches.

Though, I don't think it was all for us, she was eating everything greedily... I guess Dhampir do need a lot of energy through eating but wow, I am amazed she can keep her figure by eating so much!

"Oh, there you are." Rose greeted us as we walked inside the café and found her.

"Hello Rose! Been a few days!" I said, hugging her tightly.

"Ugeh! Y-You've gotten stronger..." She muttered, as I ended hugging her a bit too hard.

"Hahaha, yeah, we just hunted a few hundred Hollows yesterday." I giggled.

"Y-You what...?!" She was shocked.

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Chapter 520: An Important Chat

After having revealed my daughter the truth about everything, and her surprisingly mature response and acceptance to the situation, we moved on and quickly meet with Rose, the new Dhampir friend I made in the incident that happened in my hometown.

She's a powerful ex-member of the Vatican in Europe, who was raised by the church to battle against Vampires, Werewolves, and other monsters. However, at some point she just left everything and moved to the continent of America, where she ended joining SWORD in Canada.

And since the incident in my hometown, it seems she has been taking a break, wandering around aimlessly for the most part. I mean, for how dangerous is her job, I can tell she needs a lot of time to unwind and take a good break, so it makes sense to me.

"You what?! You guys hunted over a hundred Hollows... yesterday?!" Rose asked with shock. "Ah, is this why I haven't seen any around the city at all? You've made the place surprisingly safe."

"P-Please, don't speak so out loud about this..." Lily sighed a bit.

"Ah, don't worry about it, I've set up a small silencing barrier using some simple magic." Rose said. "So-Ah! Who are you? I don't remember you at all!"

"A-Ah... I-I..." Lily got overwhelmed by Rose rather quickly.

"She's Lily, our friend." I said, hugging Lily's shoulders. "She also has developed an ability, and has magic slightly similar to our level, and lot of strength."

"Huh..." Rose analyzed Lily with her eyes, immediately nodding. "I can tell that... So this is the friend you wanted to introduce to me... Now with the whole Hunter stuff, have you decided joining something yet?"

She still ended talking about this topic, huh? Well, I guess it was inevitable.

"Not for now, we honestly wouldn't like to become public figures, nor be ordered around by the government anyways." I sighed.

"Well, Hunters have much more freedom, but yeah, they're forced to register in the government as people with powers. Even now there's still many people out there hiding their strength and abilities, there isn't any law as of now, but seeing how there's such a huge amount of people developing abilities... governments might begin putting up special laws to deal with them." Rose said. "Though, not like we should care about that anyways~"

She said something rather concerning but was extremely unconcerned!

"Hahah, it is nothing too bad, don't give me that face." Rose laughed, drinking her coffee.

"Hmm, well, it'll depend how things continue to advance further..." Sighed Mark. "For now we should just lay low. We can't really work for anybody for now, we want to just protect the city if the situation arises."

"I completely understand! But if you want to hide you identities, I'm guessing you'll get some sort of... cover?" Rose wondered. "As my annoying boss said before, becoming agents of SWORD will help you keep your identities a secret, and you don't even need to do all the missions either, we're more like mercenaries that do jobs after being paid first... Though that bastard tends to delay the pay a lot sometimes..."

"I see... It is quite intriguing..." I nodded.

If it was really like that, maybe joining didn't sound so bad. But even then, I don't really am feeling like doing any other job that is not related with protecting my city from the enemies coming from Arcadia that seem to be specifically aiming at me...

"But for now, let's leave that conversation for later." I sighed. "I am not really feeling like talking about these new opportunities, mostly because I am still rather used to my life as a civilian..."

"I get it." Rose giggled. "You guys are very different than me and my team, we've been in the job for years, I've been in the job for hundreds of years, in fact. Honestly, I envy your life style, so keep it."

She was as straightforward as I remember.

"Has there been any other monster sighting lately?" Mark asked.

"Yeah, like something we could whack around?" Rita wondered, slightly bored over the conversation.

"Lately, not really. But give it a few days and something might pop up." Rose sighed. "My two companions are wandering around the city, as they have been given the task of protecting it as well. Several secret paranormal agencies had sent their agents to protect cities for the moment, until the government can properly gather enough manpower on Hunters to be relatively self-sufficient, this might take several months, or over a year. Oh, your hometown's surrounding forests have been recently catalogued as Danger Zones, which will be the new title given to natural areas with monsters that emerge from mutated animals."

"Oh, I see..." I felt slightly worried.

"But don't worry, that town's more secure than it could ever be." Rose gave me a thumbs up. "Several SWORD agents are watching over it, and the military too~ Danger Zones might sound... well, dangerous, but they're treasure troves for magical materials, so the military and the agents are joining together to hunt the monsters and lower the danger levels, while profiting off it in the meantime."

"Ahh, well, that's pretty good." Mark said with an optimistic smile. "Now with the whole change since the First Contact, I bet there's tons of magical items and materials popping up everywhere."

"More than you could ever imagine." Rose facepalmed. "So many new materials, so many new qualifications, items, energies, and powers we've never seen before as well, many magic researchers and alchemists are having a field day investigating everything and trying to give names and tags to everything. In fact every single new monster is registered by several experts, a new monster compendium is beginning to be written. Which will later be published world-wide to guide civilians and hunters alike."

"Wow... This is surprisingly cool." Lily said in surprise, sipping some tea. "Seems like our world is constantly changing, yet the amazing minds of humanity are not giving up, and employing everything they can to aid our survival..."

"That was surprisingly deep coming from you..." Rita said.