

Brand New 631

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

Chapter 631: Clashing Against A Death General!

Behind the school building, a large quantity of black mist gathered outside, infecting the floor with Nether. Suddenly, several skeletal hands and phantasmal forms surged from the infected ground, the passerby panicked as they saw dozens of skeletons and ghosts emerge.

"Monsters in here too?!"

"Run!"

"That black mist... it is summoning them outside!"

"Run from the area!" A few police cars arrived at the scene, beginning to shoot at the skeletons with their guns.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

However, the bullets ended getting stuck in the hard bones, and only a few skeletons fell in the ground, but quickly stood back up and continued moving towards them.

"I-It's useless! Guns can't really kill skeletons!"

"Uuuuaarrgghh...!"

"Jon!"

And as if things couldn't get worse, one of the cops was suddenly possessed by a ghost, his eyes turned deep black and he began shooting with his gun everywhere!

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

"S-Shit!"

"Fuck! Where are the hunters?!"

"The ghosts are- Aaaarrgghh...!"

More and more cops started being possessed by the ghosts, their eyes glowing with black light as they started attacking and biting the other people.

It was utter chaos!

"Mom? MOM!" A little girl was looking for her mother that got missing in the commotion as hundreds of people ran away at once, only to suddenly find a huge skeleton behind her.

"GRAAAAH!" The skeleton mercilessly swung its huge bone sword against her!

SLAAAASH!

"Uwaaaagh!"

BOOOOOOMMM!!!

However, before the attack could reach the little girl, an explosion of darkness consumed the skeleton, crumbling into pieces!

At the same time as a wall made of stone protected the girl, appearing right in front of her...

"E-Eh? W-Wha?" The little girl looked confused, noticing two new figures that had appeared.

Two ladies, one covered on a dress made of darkness and the other on an armor made of stone and crystals, while wearing masks of shadows and rubies.

"Are you okay dear?" Asked the shadow lady. "Your mom's over there! Go with her and don't look back!"

"Catrina!" Her mother ran towards her daughter, hugging her tightly. "Let's go! Thank you so much!" Cried the woman, carrying her daughter away.

"That was close!" Lily sighed, carrying a hue pickaxe with herself.

"Not like we're not done yet!" Rita roared, glancing at the army of skeletons running towards them, and pointing her gun at them. "A normal gun can't work on them, but a magic gun does works! [Super Bullet Time]!"

FLAAASH!

Her eyes shone bright red, as Rita felt like the entire world around her became increasingly slower, while her movements became much faster! In mere seconds, channeling the power of the little Whitey, the Magic Light Mouse sitting over her head, she shoot down a dozen skeletons with fast light bullets!

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

The cops glanced in awe at the scene, each of Rita's bullets easily making the skeletons explode into pieces easily!

"I-Is that a magic gun?! Those expensive things that cost like a million dollars?!"

"Where did she got one?!"

"Amazing... She got a magic mouse!"

"All of you studs! Run away, you can't stand a chance against monsters if you're not awakened." Rita said. "Move it if you don't want me to shoot you down next!"

"R-Retreat!"

"Damn, she's fierce...!"

"Shit!"

The cops quickly started retreating as well, as Rita noticed Lily swinging her huge pickaxe against another dozen skeletons, which created several spikes made of rocks and crystals, emerging out of the ground!

"[Mountain Shattering Strike]!"

CRAAAAASSH! RUMBLE!

The entire streets trembled by her mighty blow, while the skeletons were all destroyed into pieces in an instant. Unaware of this, several people were filming them hiding inside their houses nearby.

"Move! Elayne's inside the building!" Said Rita.

"Okay!" Lily nodded. "But where's-"

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, a mass of flames descended from the skies, as a muscular man covered on an armor made of wood and flames emerged from the skies, unleashing sacred and spiritual flames around him!

"[Phoenix Spirit Flames]!"

FLUOOOOOSH!

The flames quickly burned through the dozens of ghosts flying around, completely purifying them, while not even harming the cops possessed, and freeing them from the ghosts inside of them.

"Run away while you can!" Mark roared, wearing a mask resembling a ferocious bird made of wood.

"A-An awakener?!"

"T-Thank you!"

"I thought I died!"

The cops instantly ran away without even thinking about it too deeply, they all knew they were fucked if they tried fighting those monsters again.

"There you are!" Rita said.

"You're here!" Lily said.

"The moment I read Elayne's message I came as fast as I could." Mark said. "Let's go inside the building! Quick!"

As her friends had already arrived in the scene, Elayne fought her way through the entire building, while constantly spreading her Domain of Nature to purify the ever-expanding Nether.

"[Spiritual Domain]! [Nature's Domain]! [Terrain Dominion]!!!" Elayne roared furiously and ferociously, desperate to find her daughter!

CLAAASH! CLAAASH! CLAAASH!

FLUOOOOOSH!

A huge shockwave of spiritual energy surged from her blows, blowing away dozens of skeletons and purifying more and more zombies and ghosts in her way.

At the same time, vines, grass, and trees grew across the corridors and spread across the several classrooms, inhibiting the deadly Nether from spreading and the Dark Mist from growing!

"T-There it is!" Elayne said, crushing through a dozen more skeletons as she found her daughter's classroom on the third floor at long last. However, something strange was happening there.

The surroundings were all covered on black, red, and purple crystals, overflowing with Nether. It was as if that place was being used to grow materials... And when she noticed that below these crystals there were still living students, Elayne snapped.

"Who is doing THIS?!" She roared, rushing towards the children to rescue them, only for the Nether in the floor to shake furiously!

RUMBLE!

FLUOOOOSH!

A huge shadow emerged from within the Nether, as Blackie quickly protected the reckless Elayne with a Shadow Barrier from a huge Death Beam!

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!

"W-Wha...?!" Elayne muttered, glancing at the enormous figure that surged from the Nether...

As tall as three meters, a skeleton wearing heavy black armor and holding a huge black sword greeted Elayne, overflowing with an energy as equally strong as other Death Generals.

"It is a pleasure to meet you, Yggdrasil. My name is Ernest, the Moonlight Death Knight." He said. "And I am the Death General that will avenge his fallen brethren!"

"MOVE!!!" Elayne roared with draconic fury, without caring about his stupid introduction, and clashing against him!

CRAAAAASSH!!!

Her weapon absorbed her Spiritual Energies and transformed into a huge green and golden sword, clashing against Ernest's black sword.

However, the death knight easily blocked her attack!

"You seem worried." He spoke with a smirk. "Don't tell me... Is someone dear to you within that Dungeon? I do wonder..."

"YOU BASTARD!!!" Elayne cried with fury, as golden flames surged from her entire body, shapeshifting into huge claws and attacking the death knight ferociously!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CRAASH! CRAASH!

"Hahaha... HAAAAHA! You're not bad at all! Just as my lord told me!" Laughed Ernest, surprisingly intercepting her tremendously strong attacks with that sword of his and his amazing sword mastery. "But I'm afraid I cannot move; my task is to protect Dorothea while... she does her job."

The knight swiftly kicked Elayne in her stomach, throwing her away!

CRAAAAASSH!!!

RUMBLE!

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

Chapter 632: Was It All A Dream?

Elena woke up like every other morning, the sun shone brightly across her room's windows, and she felt slightly hungry and dizzy. The first thing she did was walk into her bathroom and wash her face, only to find her body to be slightly off.

"Huh?"

She looked herself into the mirror but found she was much smaller than she remembered. Her hair was shorter, and even her tiny hands weren't as big as before.

Elena couldn't really understand... She tried to remember what she was doing before, she knew she was doing something, and that something else happened, that was very important.

However, no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't properly remember.

"Was it a dream?" She wondered.

Walking to the dining room for breakfast, she heard a voice.

"Hm? You woke up pretty early today, little princess."

"Hello dad..."

Dad?

Elena suddenly stopped walking, as she glanced at the figure of the tall man in front of her, with short black hair and slightly pale skin, and bright green eyes.

This man... It was someone she had long ago lost, someone that was so dear to her, someone that... no matter how long has passed, she could never forget.

"You're alive...?"

Elena stepped back, incapable of realizing what she was seeing.

Without realizing it, tears quickly started falling from her eyes like rivers, the appearance of someone long gone made her hands tremble.

"Y-Yes? I'm alive. What's wrong?" Her father asked. "Aw, did you had some sort of nightmare?"

"I-I..." Elena tried to remember the reason exactly why she thought like that, but nothing resurfaced.

"Maybe... I... I remember that you died, and that... you left us..."

Her father walked to her side and hugged her tightly, his big and warm arms embracing her smaller body made Elena felt an even bigger sense of nostalgia, she couldn't stop crying.

"I've never gone anywhere, and I haven't died yet, come on." He laughed. "It was just a little nightmare, everything's alright, okay? I'll never leave your side."

"Dad!" Elena cried more, hugging her father tightly, and weeping over his chest. "Don't leave me..."

"Hahaha, calm down. I won't go anywhere..." Her father laughed, cleaning her tears with a handkerchief. "There, it's all right now. How about we have some breakfast? Oh! Maybe we should prepare something for your mom? To surprise her in bed!"

"M-Mom..." Elena nodded. "Y-Yeah!"

Without being able to find whatever made her think of her father's death, she slowly started to accept this reality as the truth, nodding happily.

Even if she was little, she helped however she could, breaking some eggs, and helping her father make some scrambled eggs.

Later, she gathered some fruits and then, some milk and orange juice, alongside a few toasts, of course, they couldn't forget the pancakes.

"Pancake! Pancake!" Elena giggled adorably, as she looked at her father making her favorite pancakes.

"Hehe, you really love your dad's pancakes, don't you?" Laughed her father, giving her a gentle head pat. "Alright, they're done!"

"Syrup!" Elena ran to the fridge, opening it and taking out a bottle filled with maple syrup, a staple on all Canadian houses.

"Ah yes! How could I ever forget the Maple Syrup! Hahaha." Her father gave her a little kiss in her cheek as he carried her on his arm, while gently adding Maple Syrup over the pile of pancakes, alongside some berries.

A beautiful breakfast was done, it was so beautiful and colorful that it seemed almost made of plastic by how perfect it was. Both father and daughter's eyes shone brightly at the sight.

"And it's done!" Her father smiled.

"Mommy will love it!" Elena smiled innocently.

The two walked towards the room where mom was sleeping, slowly opening to not wake her up, and then bringing the whole breakfast to the bed.

"Mom! Breakfast!" Little Elena called, as her mother slowly opened her eyes.

"Hm? Elena? What's wrong- Huh?! You made me a breakfast?!" Her mother quickly opened her eyes, sitting down in the bed.

"Happy birthday!" Her husband and her daughter celebrated, as the mother giggled, smiling happily.

"Hehehe... You didn't need to go so far!" She blushed a bit, feeling embarrassed. "Dear, you made a lot though!"

"It wouldn't had been a birthday breakfast if we didn't added all the things you loved!" Laughed her husband. "Happy birthday." He gently kissed her, as she hugged him back.

Elena smiled, feeling fulfilled as she saw the adorable relationship between her two parents. While some girls at school had divorced parents, and such things became more common, her parents always loved one another, and whenever they discussed, the next day they would be weeping and forgiving one another.

"Now let's eat pancakes!" Elena giggled, jumping into the bed, and almost making the coffee, milk, and orange juice spill over. "O-Oops!"

"B-Be careful!" Her father and mother said at the same time, holding the beverage seconds before they were to fall.

"Geez! What am I going to do with such a cute and spoiled little princess?" Giggled her mother, giving her a kiss in her little nose. "Alright, I know what you want! I will give you a part of these pancakes, only because you're a princess!"

"Yummy!" Elena giggled, eating a small piece of the pancakes, covered on maple syrup and whipped cream. "Daddy's pancakes are the best!"

"Must be because he adds some vanilla?" Wondered her mother, blushing while eating them. "They're indeed really good."

"Hahahaha, you're just over praising me now... It is nothing too special, come on." Her husband couldn't help but feel embarrassed, sitting next to them and enjoying a toast with scrambled eggs while drinking coffee. "It's nice that your birthday's on the weekend."

"E-Eh? We're going somewhere?" Wondered Elena's mom.

"Of course! We can't stay all day in the house when it's your birthday, my love." Laughed her husband. "Let's go to the... amusement park then! How about it? Elena, you up?"

"Yesh!" Elena jumped over the bed as her parents quickly lifted the drinks before they were to spill.

"Geez, be careful dear!" Her mother sighed.

"Hahaha, let her be, kids have to be happy!" Laughed her father.

Whatever weird nightmare she had before, it didn't matter anymore.

Elena was happy to be with them... with her whole family.

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

Chapter 633: A Mother's Unyielding Spirit!

(A Few Minutes Ago)

Darkness enveloped them when Monika cried, telling everyone to escape. Elena's shadows flickered as three skeletons emerged from within them, wrapped on wooden armors, one holding a small sphere which generated a wall of darkness protecting Elena and her friends from the explosion and the impact of the Dungeon being created.

"Shit! The wave of Mana is coming! Everyone's going to get sucked inside of that gate!"

"We can't save everyone! Protect the young lady and her friends!"

"Huh?! Everyone's unconscious!"

The skeletons noticed that seconds before the dungeon gate was created, every student fell unconscious, one of them swiftly realized the reason.

"It must be the Mana Shock! Their bodies ended taking on the Mana that came out, forcing their bodies to adapt!"

"Shit, are some of them turning into zombies?!"

"Grab the young lady and her friends! Quickly! Shadow Orb!"

Using the Shadow Orb given to them by Elayne, the skeletons swiftly hugged Elena and her friends, expanding their roots and branches around them, while a wave of shadows further reinforced the defenses.

There was no time to escape now, even if they jumped off the window, they would get sucked into the dungeon's gate midway through anyways!

TRUUUUUUMMM...!

"It's coming!"

"Brace yourselves!"

"Uuaarrgh!"

Everything turned black, as the three skeletons were instantly transferred into the depths of a Dungeon. When they finally felt like moving, they realized the three girls were safe, though something was stuck in the back of their heads, resembling a...

"A pillow? What is this?!"

"It doesn't get out!"

"Some sort of curse?! Ugh, I don't know!"

The trio quickly got up while carrying the girls, trying to find a door leading outside of this labyrinthian place, only to be chased by strange creatures at every corner.

"We can't find the entrance!"

"At most we need to hold on until our boss comes back!"

"Agh! Dammit!"

The three skeletons ended being cornered by the monsters, leaving the three girls behind them as all three braved against an army of powerful creatures emerging from the Dungeon.

"Boss, please, come quickly!"

"Ugh... We can't hold back much longer!"

"These monsters are way too strong!"

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In front of Elayne, a powerful new Death General had emerged, protecting the Gate leading inside the Dungeon that was created, a tall, powerful skeleton knight wearing black armor and wielding a gigantic black sword.

His name was Ernest and his loyalty towards the Demon King of Death, Thanatos, knew no bounds. With his might, he singlehandedly held off Elayne from trespassing the domain that Dorothea had told him to not allow anybody to enter.

"Ungh..." Elayne groaned, slowly standing back up, her stomach was bleeding as a huge wound was left behind.

She felt as if her insides were about to burst, she tightly held her stomach with her hands, as her entire body emanated large quantities of Mana. Her flesh turned into wood and her blood into sap, through the power of Self-Regeneration within her physique coupled with her Magic Spells, she healed a deadly wound that would have killed any normal person in seconds.

The hole left behind quickly regenerated, growing more wood anew, and restoring Elayne's energy as she looked at Ernest with eyes filled with a deadly, fiery conviction.

"Not bad for a measly human." Ernest laughed. "To think that the Avatar of Yggdrasil turned out to be a normal woman... This is certainly not something honorable to do. I know you can't forgive me, but I have to apologize. Now, leave. Unlike my peers, I do not enjoy taking the lives of innocents. I only do all of this for my lord, whose purposes go beyond my measly judgement."

"You talk like you feel sorry, but around you there's the bodies of many innocents, covered on that weird crystal... Just what are you doing with the kids?! Where's my daughter?! WHERE'S ELENA?!" Elayne roared furiously, her entire body exuding even more power as roots wrapped around her, covered on golden scales.

A long tail grew on her back and even wings made of wood and leaves emerged above her shoulders. Her head was covered by a dragon head-shaped helmet.

"The humans of this world possess a powerful soul; my lord desires their souls and energy. He'll harvest them in the form of Demonite, a unique crystal that he can use to create equipment for his army." Said Ernest. "It is... a necessary sacrifice so we can go against our fate. We cannot waste our new chance. My lord lost everything once... He cannot bear to lose everything again."

"You think that talking like a poor little knight will change my mind, or even make me feel any empathy for you?" Elayne said, her face showing clear hatred. "If you get on my way... Then I won't have any mercy."

"I suppose we cannot resolve things by talking." Ernest sighed. "I can understand your pain, but my lord's-"

"I don't give a fuck about your LORD!" Elayne roared, rushing towards Ernest and swinging her weapon, now fused with the Spirits of Fire, Light, and Earth and growing into the shape of a sword, overflowing with golden, holy flames.

CLAAAAASSH!

The impact of her sword unleashed a wave of golden flames, covering Ernest's entire body, as he was forced to step back and then spin with his huge body, unleashing a devastating slash of pure darkness with his huge, black sword.

"[Death Knight Blade Arts]: [Nether's Slash]!"

SLAAAASH!

"NGH!" Elayne gritted her teeth as she put her shield in front of her, resisting the tremendous impact, her much lighter body was once more thrown away, as she fell down the school's stairs.

BAAAAAMM...!

"I said it already, I cannot let you pass!" Ernest roared, his empty eye sockets glowing with bright blue light.

"[Spiritual Battle Aura]! [Spiritual Muscle Enhancement]!"

Elayne conjured her two newest Spells, enhancing her entire body's muscles tremendously as she let Spiritual Energy flow across her body. At the same time as a powerful Spiritual Battle Aura covered her still-regenerating body.

"And for my daughter, I will never give up!" She roared, rushing towards the Undead Knight once more, and clashing against his sword with her own.

CLAAAAASH!

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

Chapter 634: The Cavalry Is Here

"Elayne! You need to be careful, this bastard's at least B Rank! He might even be stronger than Gustaf... Phantamos was a joke without having someone to possess, so Gustaf has been the strongest guy you've fought in Earth. This guy might be even stronger!" The Great Spirit whispered to Elayne's mind. "His ability and techniques with the sword are superb!"

"I know! But it's not as if I have any other way!" Elayne cried, as her sword clashed against Ernest's black blade.

As the two clashed against one another, it was quite clear who was much more experienced with one and who wasn't. Ernest parried her blows with ease and constantly covered Elayne's body with powerful slashing blows.

"Your sword techniques are incredibly poor!" Ernest roared. "Do you truly believe you can go against me with such feeble attacks?!"

"Of course not, that's why I've got magic!" Elayne roared, her Aura overflowing as hundreds of Light Bullets pierced through Ernest's armor, slowly beginning to spread many cracks through it!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Ungh?!" Ernest stepped back in pain, only to see Elayne's sword change its shape, as she imbued several tiny Earth Spirits that floated around her Terrain.

"[Spirit Fusion]!"

FLAAASH!

The sword became a huge stone hammer, imbued with holy light, she quickly unleashed a powerful exorcizing smite!

"[Wide-Area Exorcism]! [Heavenly Light Flash]!"

BAAAAAAMMM...!

Combining two of her strongest anti-undead spells at once, Elayne unleashed a powerful smithing attack with her huge hammer, Ernest barely managing to defend using his enormous sword.

However, the impact alone created shockwaves of heavenly light that started to burn his body. His cracked black armor began to shatter and crumble apart as well.

"Y-YOU...!" Ernest roared, quickly swinging his sword against Elayne in an act of clear desperation. Overflowing with large quantities of Nether, a tremendous slicing wave reached Elayne in a mere second! "[Underworld's Punishment]!"

SLAAAAASSH!

"[Light Spirit Call]!" Elayne cried, as several sparks of light, tiny spirits of light emerged around her. Her fists overflowing with the power of her Armor and Equipment as the might of the Yggdragon emerged from within as well. "[Yggdragon's Light Breath]!"

Both techniques clashed against one another, darkness and light exploding and making the entire school building tremble, the windows shattered and the floor beneath them started to gain countless cracks.

BOOOOOOAMMM...!

"RAAAAAH!" The Death Knight pushed through the huge explosion, emerging from within the black smoke and pointing his sword towards Elayne's head. "I'll behead you in name of my lord!"

SLAAAASH!

"[Life and Light Chains of Restraint]!"

Before the huge sword attack could reach Elayne's neck, several chains made of light and life spirits emerged around the Death Knight's body, restraining his arms and legs, and stopping his movements.

"Ungh?! What the...?!" Ernest groaned. "More tricks?! You witch!"

"Call me whatever you want, you're just a freaking skeleton!" Elayne cried, one of her arms suddenly growing ten of times larger, composed of pure wood, as she overcharged it with several spirits at once. "[Elemental Spirit Fist]!"

BAAAAAMMM...!

"URGH?!"

The huge impact hit Ernest's entire body, the death knight's armor shattered into pieces as his huge skeleton body was launched through the air, hitting the walls at the end of the corridor and piercing through it!

CRAAAAASSH!

With a groan of agony, the death knight fell into the floor below, his entire body beginning to crumble apart. Elayne wanted to run into the gate while it was open, but she couldn't leave that monster roaming the city either.

"Dammit!" She ran outside the school, confronting the still kicking Death Knight as his crack-covered body slowly stood back up, his sword seemed completely unscathed.

"I've underestimated you, Yggdrasil..." Ernest groaned, his eyes glowing with bright blue flames.

The people that was gathered around the school panicked as they saw a huge skeleton of over three meters of height holding a black sword fall from the school, and their heroine, the masked lady, appear, jumping out to confront him.

"T-That's a huge skeleton...!"

"Where did it come from?!"

"A-A boss monster?"

In their surprise, many started filming. Ernest paid no mind to the onlookers, as his eyes were fixated on Elayne jumping from the school.

"Surprising, you're not going to save your daughter right away?" He asked. "Now that the way is open..."

"And let a monster like you roam the city? I have to destroy you before that happens." Elayne sighed.

"Though, without your armor, you shouldn't-"

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, the Death Knight disappeared from the scene, arriving a split of a second later behind Elayne, his entire body shrouded on a phantasmal armor, not physical anymore, yet that still granted him special powers.

"Despite the lack of technique, your heart is that of a knight, I see." Ernest roared, his huge black sword hitting Elayne from behind!

"MEREOW!"

However, the loud roar of a cat echoed, emerging from Elayne's shadows, Blackie created a powerful wall of darkness, managing to block the strong guillotine attack for a split of a second enough time for Elayne to step back!

"Blackie! Thank you!" Elayne sighed in relief, as her cat appeared from within her shadows, glancing at the skeleton while groaning furiously, the same groan that cats often do when they fight each other.

"Grrrrhhh..." He waved his tail angrily, powerful shadows emerging from within.

"Your familiar is your life saver once more." Ernest sighed. "But can it save you from this?!"
[Netherworld's Inferno]!"

Suddenly, the blue jewel on Ernest's chest glowed bright blue with phantasmal energy, as a huge magic circle emerged above Elayne and Blackie, unleashing a devastating inferno of phantasmal flames!

"Blackie!" Elayne cried, as she protected her savior with her own body, trying to run away but still being caught by the explosion.

BOOOOOOMMMMM...!

"Uwaaah!"

"N-No!"

"The lady!"

The people started to scream in panic, some began to run away the moment they realized Elayne could have been killed right there, leaving them with the skeleton to their own fates.

"Huh?!"

"No! Wait, look!"

"Who are they?!"

The people quickly noticed three new figures appearing within the smoke that the explosion provoked, their combined powers conjuring a barrier that protected Elayne from the explosion.

"Took you long enough..." Elayne sighed in relief as she saw her friends arrive in the very last moment.

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

Chapter 635: Going All Out!

"Huh?!" Ernest stepped back, surprised that three more powerful humans had arrived. "Disgraceful, not only did you bring your familiar to this fight but even the rest of your allies, I thought you had the heart of a knight, but you're nothing but a witch..."

Elayne slowly stood back up as she confronted Ernest's words with her friends.

"I never said I was a knight to begin with...." She said angrily. "You and your stupid code of a knight will die today. I won't even spare your soul."

"She's angry, alright..." Rita nodded, deciding to not mess around with Elayne right now.

"So this is another Death General?" Mark asked.

"Yeah." Elayne sighed. "He's guarding the Gate leading to the Dungeon where my daughter and everyone else is trapped..."

"Well, he's missing his armor." Lily said. "How hard could it be-"

FLAAASH!

As if to respond to Lily's question, the Death Knight appeared right at the left side of Lily, rapidly swinging his huge black sword.

CLAAANK!

However, the sword only hit a huge wall made of stone that Lily summoned in that very second, buying enough time for everyone to step back.

"He's super-fast for his size!" Rita panicked.

"Most likely because he lost his armor..." Mark said. "But he's wearing armor... Made of phantoms?"

"It is his second armor; it somehow is boosting his speed beyond what he could before. He was rather slow before!" Elayne said.

"That's right. Sadly for you lot, knowing this won't change your fate."

Ernest emerged right above everyone, his sword descending from above like a huge pillar of stone, overflowing with darkness.

CRAAAASSH! RUMBLE!

The floor beneath crumbled, generating countless cracks. Several underground pipes exploded, letting out water. However, what greeted Ernest's blade was another, a sword made of dragon flames, Mark's knife.

"Another wannabe swordsman?!" Laughed Ernest, swinging his blade once more as he unleashed a terrific wave of Nether Energy. "Begone from my SIGHT!"

SLAAAASSH!

"Wannabe swordsman?!" Laughed Mark, smiling fiercely as his eyes glowed bright red. "Nah, I'm just a fire mage. [Quadruple Slash]! [True Red Dragon Flames]!"

Mark swung his blade-form knife only once, but four slashes of true red dragon flames emerged at once, impacting against Ernest's powerful attack and generating several blazing explosions at once!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Ngh?!" The Death Knight noticed as his phantasmal aura started to flicker, the dragon flames consuming part of its powers and weakening it. "You're not bad...! But this is not near as enough! [Death Knight Blade Arts]: [Nether Sword Ki Aura]!"

FLUOOOSH!

The huge skeleton suddenly conjured ten blades made of phantom and sword ki at once, which rotated around him as if he could control their very movements with utmost precision.

"He can do that?!" Rita panicked.

"You've pushed me this far; it wouldn't be right for me to not go all-out now!" Ernest roared, rushing towards Mark as he fired the swords towards him and everyone else.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Rita and Lily managed to evade some of them while their shields intercepted a few as they ran in circles, meanwhile, Mark was the most overwhelmed as he had to tank six of them at once while swinging his blazing sword.

CLANK! CLANK! CLAAANK!

"Dammit!" Mark gritted his teeth as one of the swords pierced his chest, suddenly beginning to glow!
"Ungh?! Argh!"

"NO!" Elayne screamed, barely making it close to Mark before the sword piercing his chest exploded!

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!

"Haha... He was strong, but too foolish." Ernest slowly walked towards Mark to see his dismembered body. "Now- huh?!"

Only to realize that Mark was barely alive, his body having been divided in two as he turned his physique into blazing wood, the explosion blasting a large piece of his detached body where the sword was stuck, Elayne quickly helped him regrow what was missing.

"Wicked Yggdrasil and their tricks!" Ernest roared angrily, about to attack once more only to find Elayne's roots wrapping around his legs, while shadow tentacles appeared from his shadows and restrained him, Rita and Blackie working in tandem. "Urgh?!"

"[Life and Light Chains of Restraint]!" Elayne roared, conjuring the leftover spirits she had around her into chains wrapping around his arms, forcing the Death Knight into submission!

CLANK! CLANK!

"AAARRGHHH...! LET GO OF ME!" The skeleton roared, trying to force his way out of his restraints! And it was working, as his strength managed to destroy a few tentacles and even shatter some of the chains.

"Now!" Mark roared.

"Alright!" Rita nodded.

"Let's do this!" Elayne led them.

"Okay!" Lily nodded nervously.

Their powered-up dragon weapons all absorbed their Mana, while Ernest tried to free himself, he saw four enormous blasts of magic and dragon power reaching him, his empty black eyes filled with utter fear as the phantom flames within flickered.

"[Yggdragon's Life Flames]!"

"[Red Dragon Queen's Breath]!"

"[Blue Dragon King's Bullet Cannon]!"

"[Draconic Mother Earth's Wrath]!"

Their elemental powers spiraled together, forming into a gigantic roaring dragon made of life and nature, flames, darkness, and stone, as it opened its jaws, engulfing the Death Knight completely!

"MY LORD...!"

BOOOOOOMMMMM...!

A huge magical explosion of colors spread out around the surroundings, Lily hurriedly generating walls made of stone to protect the civilians stupidly watching what was happening, the people raised their eyes into the sky, seeing the colorful smoke appear up there.

"U-Ungh..." Ernest was still somehow there, but as a pile of bones, his Magic Crystal Core covered in cracks, crumbling down into pieces. "Milord Thanatos... I...!"

"Shut up. I won't even give you the chance to say goodbye." Elayne appeared before him.

CRASH!

Before he could even speak anymore, Elayne crushed his skull and his Magic Crystal Core into pieces, without letting him do anything else... She was furious. Blackie suddenly appeared behind her, as if to answer her emotions, the adorable black cat swallowed Ernest's soul viciously.

"It's done..." Mark sighed in relief.

"Not yet, we've still got that whole dungeon to do!" Rita said. "Let's hurry!"

"Yeah!" Lily nodded.

"You're right... Not only Elena but Elisa, Anna, and even Monica and the other classmates!" Mark said. "Elayne, let's go!"

"Let's go!" Elayne nodded, without any time to lose, she stored whatever was left of Ernest inside her Inventory while running back into the ruined school building.

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

Chapter 636: Laplace

Crack, crack...!

CRAAASH!

The walls protecting the surroundings of the school slowly shattered as countless roots and branches brought dozens of more healed students.

"Students! There were still some more left!"

"Quickly! Call the medics!"

"We have to bring them all to the hospital right away!"

Medics quickly carried them into the ambulances, as they kept moving to the hospital one after another. However, although it seemed as if most students were saved, the heroes had yet to arrive.

"These aren't all the students though..." The director sighed, talking to a TV Station Reporter. "E- Especially that class where the Dungeon Gate opened... Dozens of girls must have been sucked inside! I think the masked hunters went inside of that dungeon to rescue them!"

As this was shown in the news, Elayne and her friends glowed with bright auras of Mana as they confronted the Dungeon Gate, a spiraling void of darkness leading to a different dimension.

A realm between Earth and Arcadia, a connection between both worlds. A truth that only they knew completely within Earth, as the Gods had entrusted such truth to them.

[You have absorbed a large quantity of Mana.]

[Dozens Runes have been inscribed within the Magic Circle.]

[Your Magic Circle has grown stronger.]

[Your Magic Circle Rank has increased from Rank 2 Tier 9 to Rank 2 Tier 10.]

[New Spells have been Generated: [Holy Light Spirit Smite], [Yggdragon's Spirit Breath], [Draconic Aura]]

[Your Magic Power has improved and your Mana has fully recovered.]

"Did everyone absorb the Magic Crystals?" Elayne asked.

"Yeah." Mark nodded. "I feel much stronger, and my Mana has recovered..."

"Yep." Rita nodded. "Now let's get there already! Ugh, though it's a bit scary..."

"I did as well." Lily said, glancing at Elayne.

Elayne had distributed the huge magic crystal from Ernest to all four of them, as they were fragmented into tiny pieces. After purifying them with her spiritual light and absorbing them in just a couple of seconds, her Magic Circle finally improved to the peak of Rank 2.

Three new Spells were generated, related to her newest abilities and powers, especially the techniques she used, all of them would be useful for what had to come.

"Now, let's not waste any more time..." Elayne swallowed saliva, as she spread out her branches and roots around her friends, tightly grabbing them with her so they wouldn't get separated once inside.

"Let's go!"

FLAAASH!

All four of them entered the Dungeon Gate at the same time, as they felt like they were falling through a long tube made of black and purple colored energy, twisting constantly between dimensional membranes.

"Uwaaaah!" Rita screamed in horror as they suddenly appeared in the other side, jumping out of the Dungeon Gates connecting with the outside world.

FLAAASH!

All four of them rolled over the cold floor, wrapped around by Elayne's roots and branches, they didn't fell nor hit the ground too strongly, but it was still a horrific experience.

"W-We're here..." Elayne sighed, letting go of her group as she glanced around her. "This place..."

"Woah, what's the fashion sense of the guy that made this?" Rita wondered.

"It looks like... Some sort of colorful, fantastic castle. As if it were all made out of toys." Said Mark, analyzing his surroundings.

"It looks kind of cute if you ask me..." Lily sighed, stretching her arms.

Indeed, just as they said, the dungeon they had entered wasn't just a series of caves interconnected like before, but it resembled the interior of some sort of castle.

The floor was paved with black and white ceramic. There were huge, purple pillars connecting to the red and gold ceiling, and they also noticed various toys lying around, from dolls, to wooden horses, and more.

Until now they always thought Dungeons were more like an expression of nature, like a cave, or maybe a forest, but they never expected that it could resemble such a fantastical thing.

"Elayne, can you sense Elena and her friends?!" Asked Mark.

"I... I can!" Elayne's eyes glowed with bright gold and green light. "In fact, I can sense a large quantity of Mana coming from the far northwest. Could it be that all the trapped students are in a single room? Though Elena and her friends... I think they're a bit apart from the main group, maybe because the skeletons rescued them."

"We have to hurry! Lead the way!" Rita said while panicking.

"Yeah!" Lily nodded.

"Maybe if we bring out Falco..." Mark said. "Falco! [Familiar Summon]!"

FLAAASH!

Falco quickly emerged out of thin air, the small bird was actually in Earth, but thanks to the useful Familiar Summon Spell, they were able to summon their Familiars wherever they were.

"CRAAAAH!" Falco roared, quickly beginning to absorb Mark's Mana until it grew into a huge size.

However, as they were about to use the bird to rapidly reach the girls, Falco... exploded into pink mist!

POOF!

And what was left was a small wooden toy in the shape of a bird?!

"EEH?!"

Everyone screamed in shock, only to find out there was a tall, lanky figure at the end of the corridor, who slowly walked towards them.

It resembled some sort of clown or jester, with long arms and legs, wearing a colorful triple-topped hat. His fingers were just as long and huge.

The jester wore a mask, hiding his true appearance, the mask looked like a laughing clown.

"Nuh-huh, you can't just use that! Banned!" Laughed the clown, everyone's eyes glanced in shock at the new entity that had emerged.

"F-Falco...!" Mark cried, holding the bird-shaped wooden toy. "You bastard! Who are you?!"

"Oh my! My bad, I forgot to introduce myself." Laughed the jester. "But first of all, I must welcome you to milady's Dungeon! The Castle of Illusion, Dreams, and Nightmares, Laplace!"

"La... place?" Asked Elayne, her eye twitching. "What kind of joke is this?! Where are the kids?! Are you a Death General too?"

"Hmmm~ Something like that." Laughed the clown. "My name is Laplace, a humble servant of Milady Dorothea. I am a being that could be said to be both real... and not. I am the manifestation of her dreams, of her nightmares, of her fears! Oh, and even her love! And also, her eternal guardian."

The jester's eyes glowed bright red beneath the mask.

"I welcome you, Lady Yggdrasil. We've been waiting for you."

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

Chapter 637: A Strange Dungeon

"Laplace, was it? What do you want? If you want a fight, we'll fight." Elayne said, pointing her shovel at him.

"O-Oh! Wait a bit there! I am not the fighting type like that poor old guy of Ernest!" Laplace laughed, floating in midair, and suddenly sitting over the ceiling. "Milady has allowed me full control over this dungeon, whatsoever! And she said that her lord cannot wait for all of you to die... So here I am, poor little me, given the task of making you suffer as much as possible! But that ain't that fun, right? Not without fair games, and I love games!"

"He talks like a child..." Rita sighed. "Is this really a Death General?"

"Come on now, don't say that... Or do you want to turn into a wooden doll too?" Giggled Laplace.

"Can you really turn everyone into one?" Asked Mark. "That's a ridiculous power!"

"Well, essentially... I- Ah, why should I even explain it." Laughed Laplace. "Anyways! Let's play a game fair and square..."

POOF! POOF! POOF!

Suddenly, three large doors appeared in front of the four, each one with a 1, 2, and 3 numbers. They were overflowing with an aura of pink and black colored mana.

"These are your options. Choose a door. One of them will bring you closer to the girls! The other two will bring you into a monster infested room! And you can't leave until you kill all the monsters." Giggled Laplace. "Now, choose!"

Elayne and her friends glanced at the doors and then at one another, speaking through Telepathy to communicate their thoughts. Laplace seemed incapable of reading their thoughts thankfully.

"This is odd, if he has such an absolute power, why is he bothering with us like this?" Mark asked.

"There's no way he can do that so easily though. He probably has rules he needs to follow, he's something like... a Spirit of sorts, a Dungeon Spirit." Said the Great Spirit. "He works based on rules, and we need to beat him with his own rules, even if they're wicked."

"Are you serious?!" Rita cried. "He's nuts! And he creeps the shit out of me! Can't we beat him to death instead? My gun's ready!"

"And risk getting turned into a doll?" Elayne asked. "It pains me more than all of you, but I think we must play along for now. An opportunity will arise within the chaos, and we'll strike him down when he least expects it."

"Alright..." Mark nodded. "I'll trust Elayne."

"I can already read through his components, what he said is not a lie, he's indeed a manifestation of dreams." Said the Great Spirit. "What a strange power..."

"Ahem! Are you guys okay? You've been just standing there... Hmm, maybe I should turn one of you into a puppet again?" Laughed Laplace.

"Fine." Elayne said. "Let's play a game, Laplace, if you're so bored... However, if we win such trial, you'll turn Falco back to normal and bring us to my daughter."

"Hmmm, fufu, alright~" Laplace laughed with an almost demonic giggle. "I like that attitude, Yggdrasil... I don't have any idea why lord Thanatos hates you so much, but this'll be fun. Fine, let's play along! There'll be only three trials, the first one is the door one! Come on! Do it! Choose a door!"

Elayne nodded, walking in front of the three doors with her group. They started to think which one would bring them closer.

"Maybe the one with least amount of Mana?" Mark suggested through telepathy. "It would be the one where there wouldn't be as many monsters because they generate mana naturally, right?"

"You're right..." Elayne nodded. "Shall we then?"

Elayne and her group stepped into the second door, and then, slowly opened it.

FLAAASH!

All four of them were sucked into the other side of the door, arriving at a small room, no larger than the size of Elayne's room back in her home. There were no doors, or any other corridors leading anywhere...

"What is this?" Elayne asked, looking around. "We failed?!"

"Hahahaha! Did you thought the door with least amount of Mana would bring you closer?! Dumbasses! It was all a trick!" Laughed Laplace. "Now let's see if you can survive the wave of monsters! If you can, you'll get to move on the next trial, hehe..."

"Did you purposely changed the door's contents?" Rita asked, Laplace's voice echoed from within the walls.

"It is my dungeon so I make the rules, you choose to play by MY rules, no?" Laplace laughed. "Now, come on! Time to die~"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Several magic circles appeared around the four of them, as dozens of monsters were summoned from within them, almost like an endless swarm.

They resembled toys, from wooden horses to moving dolls, teddy bears, and even colorful balls with eyes...

"Let's play~ Let's play~"

And they all giggled with girly, childish voices while slowly moving towards them.

"Eeep! This is so creepy!" Cried Rita, stepping back as the monsters approached them.

Their sizes were around the same size of a cat, but they were already almost a hundred. And their Mana Auras were nothing to scoff at either.

"Each one is at least E+ Rank! Some are D Rank! They're camouflaging in between the weaker ones!" The Great Spirit said.

"Be careful! Summon your barriers quickly!" Elayne said. "Don't let their cute and small appearances trick you!"

"Gyehehehe! Let's play!!!" A Teddy Bear with a missing eye and a fur of black color leaped forward, leading an army of dozens of toys that jumped over Lily, their jaws revealed sharp fangs, biting through Lily's legs!

However, Lily didn't scream, her legs were as hard as stone, and the toys sharp teeth ended being destroyed the moment they tried to bite them.

"[Crystal Spear]!"

Lily hit the toys biting her with her huge pickaxe, crushing them at the same time as the impact generated dozens of spears made of crystal, piercing the bodies of a dozen toys at once!

CRAAAASH!

"Grrgg! You bastard!" The black teddy bear leaped towards Lily, shattering her crystal spears, and then kicking her in the stomach.

BAAAAM...!

"Ungh?!" Lily cried, feeling that the small toy was most likely a D Rank! "T-There's a D Rank there!"

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

Chapter 638: Fighting Against An Army Of Toy Monsters

Laplace sat down over a large pink cushion while glancing at the scene through an orb projecting what was happening to him, on his lanky hands, there was a huge bag of caramel-covered popcorn.

"Fufu, look at them struggle!" The clown laughed, devouring the crunchy snacks. "This is way more entertaining than just fighting them! I'll slowly chip away your strength until you're so weak even I can kill you with a flick of my fingers..."

The jester smiled devilishly, his eyes glowing bright red with excitement...

Meanwhile, inside the monster-filled room.

CRAAAASH!

As Lily crushed a dozen toys to death with her powerful pickaxe and her crystal magic spell, one of the most resilient toys started overflowing with a red aura of anger.

"Grrgg! You bastard!" The black teddy bear leaped towards Lily, shattering her crystal spears with ease as it charged towards her, and then kicking her in the stomach.

BAAAAM...!

"Ungh?!" Lily cried, feeling that the small toy was most likely a D Rank! "T-There's a D Rank here!"

Lily held her ground as everyone else put their eyes on the black teddy bear, while Mark, Rita, and Elayne used their magic to constantly kill the surrounding toys coming from them, they left what they were doing and ganged on the black teddy bear!

No bigger than a meter of height, the plushie had the strength of a Hollow Legion all on his own! And if there were more of these, things would get even more complicated.

"Kill it!" Elayne roared, as she summoned several arrows of light and fired them at the teddy bear.
"[Spirit Light Arrows]!"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Gryyeeeh! You heartless monsters, trying to kill a humble teddy bear!" The teddy bear evaded the arrows swiftly, only for shadow tentacles to emerge from beneath and tightly holding him in place.
"Ugh?!"

"Burn." Mark's blazing knife unleashed four slashes of dragon flames, hitting the teddy bear directly!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! BOOOM!

"Gryyyyyeeeghhh...!"

Its loud shriek echoed across the chambers as the teddy bear exploded into ashes, leaving behind a tiny magic crystal, no bigger than a thumb.

"It's gone!" Said Elayne.

"There's more coming!" Rita cried, defending with her shadow barriers and her bullets against several wooden toys resembling horses and soldiers mounting them.

"March forward, my soldiers!" The bigger of all the soldiers roared, raising a sharp needle-like spear, and leading his army of over twenty wooden knights and horses.

"RAAAAAH!" The little army roared, surrounding Rita, and attacking her from all sides.

Their big needle-shaped spears started piercing her skin as Rita, who didn't had that good of a defense, screamed in pain.

"Ouch! Ouch! You damn bitches!" Rita cried, imbuing her body with shadows as she activated her clothes' skills, covered by blue dragon scales, which helped her tank some damage, as she started blasting the soldiers with her gun.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

"Die, you giant demon monsters!" The wooden soldier leaped towards Rita, using the weight of the horse to push her down as her gun ended flying away when his spear pierced her hand!

CLASH!

"ARGH!" Rita screamed. "Fucking toy!"

"RITA!"

Elayne appeared right behind the toy, swinging her shovel with all her strength as her Mana flowed into it, alongside the power of light.

"[Holy Light Spirit Smite]!!!"

BAAAAAMMM...!

"Gruuaaggh...!"

The Wooden Knight Commander was shattered into pieces by Elayne's strongest spell and weapon technique so far, the huge explosion of spiritual light blasted the toy to smithereens, only leaving a pile of wooden pieces and a shattered magic crystal behind.

"Be careful!" Elayne cried, quickly healing Rita, and giving her the gun back. "Stay behind me!"

"O-Okay! Fucking hell! I didn't knew a damn toy would almost kill me!" Rita roared angrily. "I'm getting super pissed off! Die you little shits!"

Rita started using her Super Bullet Time, accelerating her movement speed as she rapidly blasted into pieces dozens of toys every second, consuming her Mana but quickly getting rid of a good chunk.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

"We can't lose here; this is nothing compared to fighting that Fafnir!" Elayne roared, smithing the toys with her shovel, shaped into a hammer of light.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

"It's a good thing that these toys are flammable!" Mark roared, swinging his knife around as four slashing blows were unleashed with each swing, slicing apart, and burning countless toys. At the same time as he spread the dragon flames, creating a Dragon Fire Snake Spirit to make a ring of fire, constantly burning the toys that were summoned.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"I'll crush them with stone walls!" Lily roared, crushing the toys with huge walls of stone. Sometimes which she even used to block their summoning circles altogether.

BAAM! BAAM! BAAAM...!

"There's a D Rank there!"

"A D Rank Ball is coming from there!"

"Kill the D Rank Knight that showed up again!"

"Two D Rank Teddy Bears to the left!"

In just a couple of minutes, through combined efforts and great cooperation, the group of four ended with the entire room completely empty, all monsters killed, and mountains of tiny magic crystals left.

They weren't as good as the big ones, but when they were hundreds, they eventually became a good source to farm them. Elayne knew that Laplace might get angry if they power-up midway through though, so she let her friends refill their Mana with them before saving them, without wanting to look suspicious.

"Laplace! We're done! Move to the next trial!" Elayne said. "You promised me... By the rules!"

"T-Tch..." Laplace gritted his sharp teeth, throwing away the popcorn bag as a door opened in the room, which led Elayne and her party into the next trial.

It felt like although he wanted to violate the rules, those were things he had said according to them, binding himself to his own words which he now regretted.

"Fine... You win, bastards." He sighed, appearing while floating in midair.

Elayne and her group were quickly brought to another place within the castle... A large, expansive area filled with all sorts of traps, and huge teddy bear monsters as big as four meters of height roaming around.

"Welcome to the second challenge! Hehehe... The Hall of Torture!"

Brand New Life Online: Rise Of The Goddess Of Harvest

Chapter 639: Playing Around With The Dream Dungeon's Rules

"The Hall of Torture?!" Rita panicked. "I-It really looks like it will be a torture for my ankles..."

"It looks like a playground, but everything's filled with deadly traps!" Laughed Laplace, very proud of his own creation. "Aren't you amazed?! Aren't you terrified?! Lady Dorothea never recognizes my genius designing talent! But you seem surprised!"

"I-It really does look quite dangerous." Mark sighed. "So we have to cross this? Maybe if we just fly using the broom..."

"No flying!" Laplace said. "That is the one and only rule! You cannot fly across any traps, you must go through them, however you can, but you MUST! Kukuku~!" The little Jester began to laugh maniacally.

"That's the only rule? To not fly?" Elayne asked, her eyes showing clear horror and fear!

"That's right! Hehehe! I can see you're terrified!" Laplace laughed.

However, the mood of Elayne quickly changed, smiling confidently.

"I see, so the only rule is not flying, you cannot disobey the rules you already set, isn't it?" Elayne smiled.

"H-Huh? What?" Laplace was confused. "Well... I can't. It is already set in stone!"

"Good." Elayne nodded, hitting the floor with her shovel. "[Wooden Shield]!"

FLUOOOSH!

Suddenly, Elayne conjured a large quantity of Wooden Shields, which she rearranged across the entire area, the deep pit below, covered on sharp spikes was covered on this wood, generating a huge and safe bridge to the other side.

There were huge Teddy Bears named Teddy Bear Sentinels, but they were completely ignored as Elayne set up a bridge. Looking at her friends.

"Let's go then! No flying as he said." She smiled confidently.

"T-That's right, that was the only rule." Mark smiled.

"Heh, serves you right dumbass." Rita smiled, pointing her gun at the Teddy Bear Sentinels. "I'll shoot down these guys for the Magic Crystals!"

BANG! BANG! BANG!

While leisurely walking across the bridge, Rita shoot down the bear sentinels from far away, who were completely incapable of fighting back from such a long distance, and brought them over by using long, Shadow Tentacles. Elayne quickly stored the magic crystals.

"We're here!" Lily smiled. "Phew, that was easy."

The entire group reached the other side in just five minutes and were already in front of the door leading to the next trial. Although they were incapable of seeing what face Laplace was making, the sound of his clenching fists and his legs hitting the ceiling could be heard very clearly.

"Y-You cheaters! That's not FAIR! You can't just ignore the traps!" Laplace started to complain like a little child.

"You didn't specify the rules." Said Elayne. "You only said: "Do not fly"... We didn't fly, and we crossed over, we played alongside your own rules."

"T-That's...!" Laplace suddenly stopped complaining and sighed.

It seemed he was indeed chained to his own self-made rules, as if the entire dungeon was like a playground, whenever he set a rule, it had to be obeyed, but also his lack of insight made it so there were many loopholes one could abuse if they played with words well enough.

Or so, this was Elayne's idea to win against someone that could turn them into dolls...

"I guess you won fair and square..." Laplace sighed, crossing his arms. "I admit your damn wits! But that doesn't mean the next trial will be easy either! A-And I've decided to change the rules a bit, it will be made of three different trials!"

"You can't do that though." Elayne stopped him. "You would be violating your already preset rules of saying that there are only three trials."

"Yeah, she's right." Mark nodded. "You're ignoring your own rules by changing the third trial to be composed of three more trials, that would make it five trials in total! You did not set a rule regarding this."

"T-That's right...!" Laplace was shocked that he couldn't fool them. "T-Then...!"

"But how about a deal?" Elayne giggled. "Right, Mark?"

"Yeah." Mark nodded. "Let's see... We'll do your three trials, and then let's make a fourth one. You like them, right? So let's make a fourth trial. In this trial, it will be a battle. We'll fight against one another. You cannot use tricks like turning people into dolls, and you'll be putting your life on the line, just like us."

"Eh?! A fourth trial... a battle?!" Laplace started to laugh. "You are too arrogant to think you can win against me in a battle! But fine, let's do that! I abide to your rules as well, and through our agreement, the previous rules have been changed!"

FLAAAASH!

A flash of pink light spread across the entire space, as if the rules of reality themselves changed. The Great Spirit was right all along, Laplace was some sort of Spirit of Dreams, and this entire reality could be considered a dream he manipulated, but somehow, perhaps to control him, Dorothea had forced him to obey "rules".

"The Rules have changed..." Laplace laughed. "Now, my dear guests, step into the next three trials if you're brave enough! Haahahahahah!"

"Uwaah! So smart, Elayne! I never thought this could be abused like that!" Lily said. "But I'm a bit worried... Won't he get ahead of himself and give us something insane as a trial?"

"We have to just bear through it, however we can." Elayne sighed. "Let's go, together!"

"Alright, fine..." Rita sighed. "You better invite me to a cold beer and some nachos later! Once we get your girl and the rest of the girls trapped here to safety."

"I-I don't think this is the time to talk about this..." Mark sighed. "Let's concentrate in the next trial, everyone."

"Yeah Rita, stop thinking about beer, let's go." Elayne said.

"Eh?! It's my way of coping! I mean look at this place! We're in an insane clown castle of nightmares!" Rita cried. "You better promise me that beer!"

"Fine, fine..." Elayne sighed, as they stepped into the next door.

And what greeted them was... a huge pitch-black hole, and the other door to the end of this hole.

"Welcome to the true third trial! The rules are... You can't fly, nor you can make bridges!" Laughed Laplace. "Hahaha! I got you now! Fall to your demise!"

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

Chapter 640: Fooling Laplace One Last Time

"Welcome to the Abyss Fall!" Laughed Laplace. "You can't use bridges nor flying! Isn't it impossible now?! I'm an evil genius!"

"A huge pit?!" Asked Rita. "Wait, do you want us to cross this by not flying nor making a bridge?! Wait, that's... Is it possible? Oh, there's still walls..."

"Yes that's right there are still walls but unless you're spiderman or something you can't just cross like-Gah?! What are you doing?!" Laplace was shocked that Elayne produced a sticky tree sap from her hands and started to easily move across the walls.

"Maybe I'm actually spiderman." Laughed Elayne, easily crossing the trial.

And then, she spread out her arms into huge vine tentacles and grabbed her friends from the other side, bringing them to her.

"Uwaaaah! This is still kind of scary!" Rita cried, looking into the pitch-black hole beneath leading to nowhere.

"T-That was quick." Mark was amazed.

"Is it my idea or is this... jester a bit stupid?" Lily talked through telepathy.

"He really is! He must be a young spirit." The Great Spirit laughed. "Just keep fooling him, that's the only way to win these ridiculous things! And once you're done with the trials... Beat his ass!"

"Y-Y-YOUUUU!" Laplace started raging. "Y-You'll see! The next trial will be the hardest! EVER!"

The doors opened, as Laplace kicked everyone into the room, as they landed in front of what seemed to be a complicated maze of colorful walls.

"Kuhahahaha! Welcome to the Maze of Madness!" Laplace was growing more desperate. "Y-You can't use flying, nor bridges... Nor sticky sap... Err, and no mapping skills, or clairvoyance, or anything that let's you easily map the maze! Hehehe..."

"Alright." Elayne nodded. "That's all the rules, right?"

"Yeah!" Laplace was very confident now. "Ah, a small reminder, there are many monsters around, deadly ones! And also traps that will tear you to shreds if you step in the wrong- W-Wait! What are you doing?! No! STOP!"

CRAAASH! CRAAASH! CRAAASH!

Mark grew his arms into huge wooden blazing arms and started hitting the walls, making them crumble down one after another.

"Let's go, I'll open the way to the end." Mark said.

"Oh my, you're so generous! I was going to do it myself, but I'm a bit tired now." Elayne smiled.

"Hahaha, leave it to me!" Mark roared, smashing the walls as Laplace observed yet another of his "genius" trials being completely decimated in a matter of minutes.

As he blew away the maze, the girls sat down to rest, drinking some tea that Elayne brought from her inventory, and eating cupcakes.

"I'm done!" Mark called, as the girls quickly walked through the whole passage and into the end of the large maze... ignoring absolutely everything else.

Elayne knew that once Laplace set the rules and they confirmed it with them, he was unable to change them. He could still try to change them but would be hit with a backlash, unless they agreed to the rule change, it couldn't be changed anymore.

This is how they abused his stupid trials and his ineptitude at the time of setting rules, never being able to completely close all loopholes, because from the very beginning that there were too many all the time if his games were so basic...

"GRAAARGH! The last trial is going to kill you all before you can even fight me!" Laplace was going insane, exuding an aura of red and black color. "Go there! GO INSIDE THERE!"

He forced everyone to step into the next room, as they were suddenly faced with something completely different this time, a huge... desert!

"Welcome to the Desert of Hopelessness! The door leading to the exit is... somewhere! Who knows?! You can't use any flying thing, nor detection magic! Nor any magic! Magic is forbidden actually." Laughed Laplace.

"I see..." Elayne nodded. "This sure looks hopeless now..."

"Ugh..." Rita sighed. "We'll be here for a while..."

"Hmm... Not really." Lily said. "I can't use magic, but naturally, I can sense something. Maybe it is my connection with the earth spirits."

She suddenly kneeled on the sand and touched it, her eyes glowed brightly out of nowhere. As if she connected with the sand itself.

"W-What are you doing?! You're braking the rules!!!" Laplace screamed desperately.

"Not really, if she did wouldn't she get penalized? She's not using magic but a unique ability of her body. You didn't specify what counts as magic. So maybe it only counts spells." Said Elayne with a giggle.

"T-That's...! W-Wait! No! NOOOO!" Laplace screamed as he looked like he was dying inside, looking at the group be led by Lily across the sands, until they found the door... in just like four minutes.

"T-This is unfair... You're unfair..." Laplace groaned. "Urgh..."

"Now, don't chicken out, Death General Laplace." Mark said. "Come and fight, as the rules say."

"S-Shit..."

Laplace entered the next room with everybody else, which resembled a huge Arena Stadium, where thousands of toy monsters were cheering around.

"Well, you win! Let's fight to the death, the old style... And with none of those doll-transforming tricks either, I guess." Laplace sighed. "Heh, you could had set more rules, is that everything? I'm pretty strong, you know? I rule this world of Dreams, I can shape it, and also gain infinite power from it!"

Laplace small body started growing larger and more muscular, until he became a huge muscular clown, his bulging muscles growing to a titanic size, his body height at least over ten meters. His red eyes glowed beneath his mask, which now barely covered his green colored goblin-like face.

"I am the God of Dreams Laplace! And I govern this world with my absolute might!" He laughed. "You foolishly wanted to fight me? Alright, let's fight!"

"Here he comes!" Elayne readied herself, channeling her powers.

"Let's end this ridiculous game." Rita sighed, her aura of darkness surging from within her body, as her gun pointed at Laplace.

"If possible, stay behind me." Said Mark, his body being set ablaze as a dragon-like armor made of wood emerged above his body.

"That should be my line!" Lily giggled, as she summoned large, floating shields made of stone that rotated around her body.