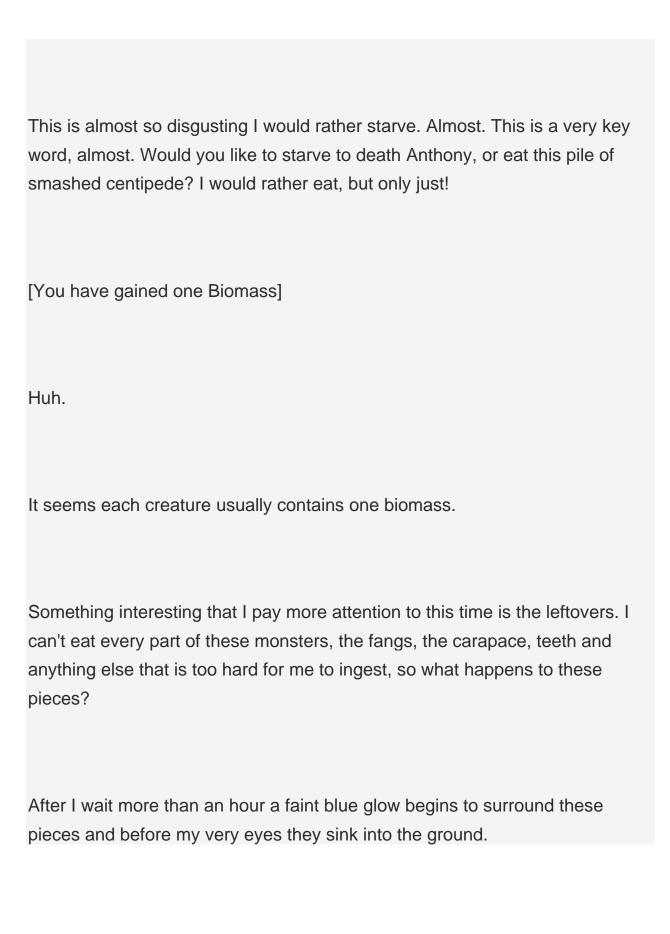
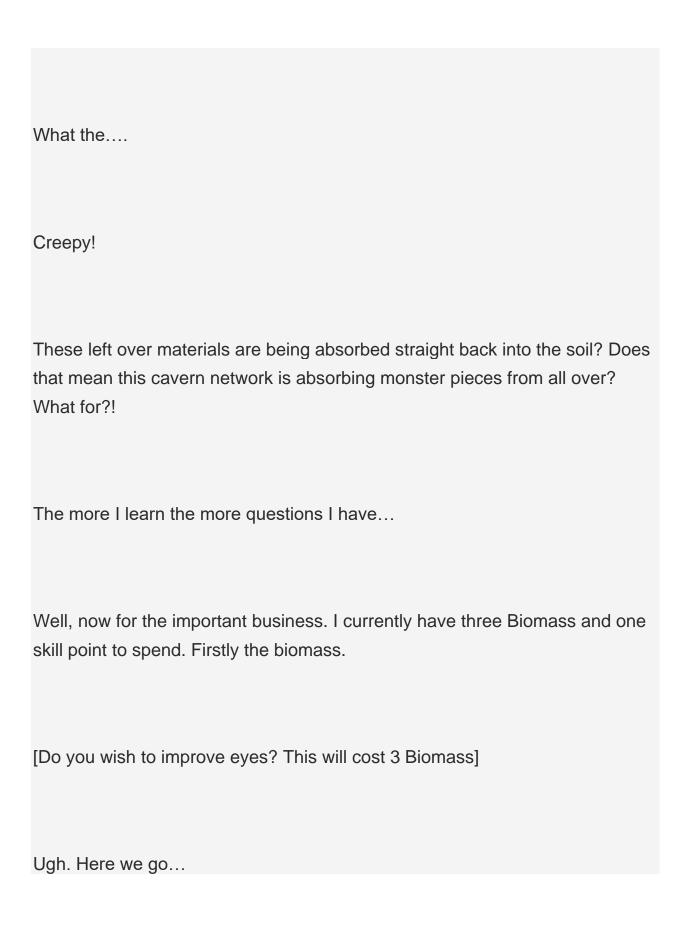
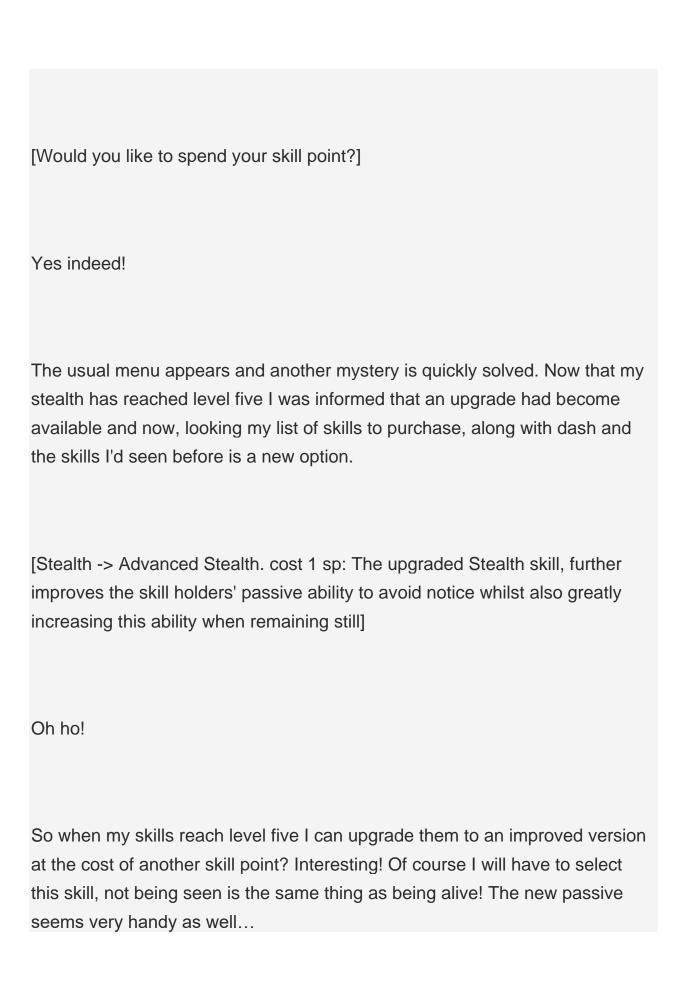
## **Chapter 17 The deep roads**

Chapter 17 The deep roads
That centipede was not a pretty sight ripped right in half, with its internal organs spilling out
Urk
However I couldn't pass up the precious opportunity that the hideous remains of the creature represented. Sweet, sweet biomass!
Using all of my guile, I retrieved the corpse, one half at a time and returned to the security of my nest for the Feast.
Holy moly this is awful eating.

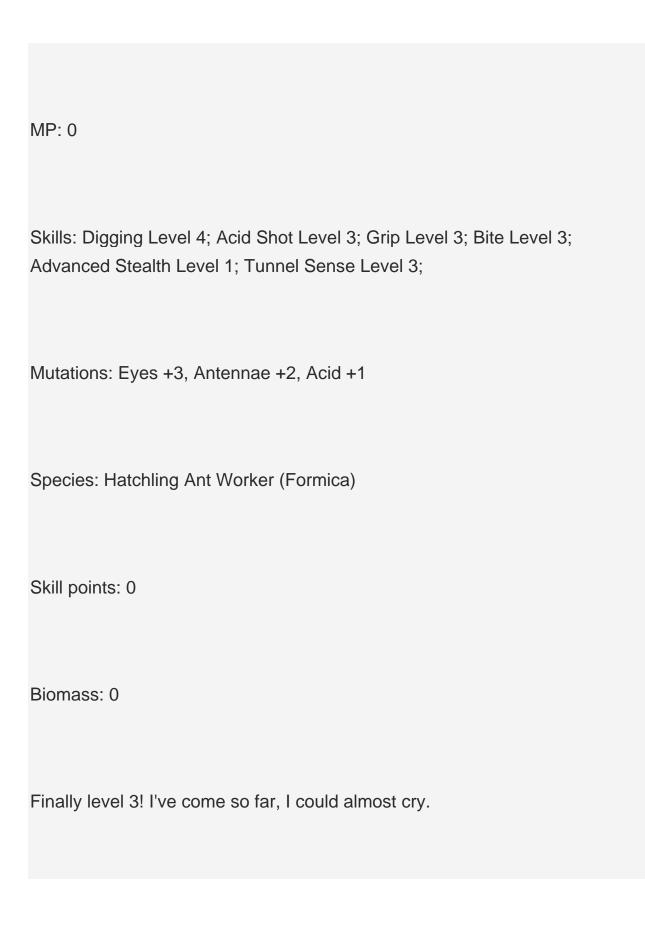


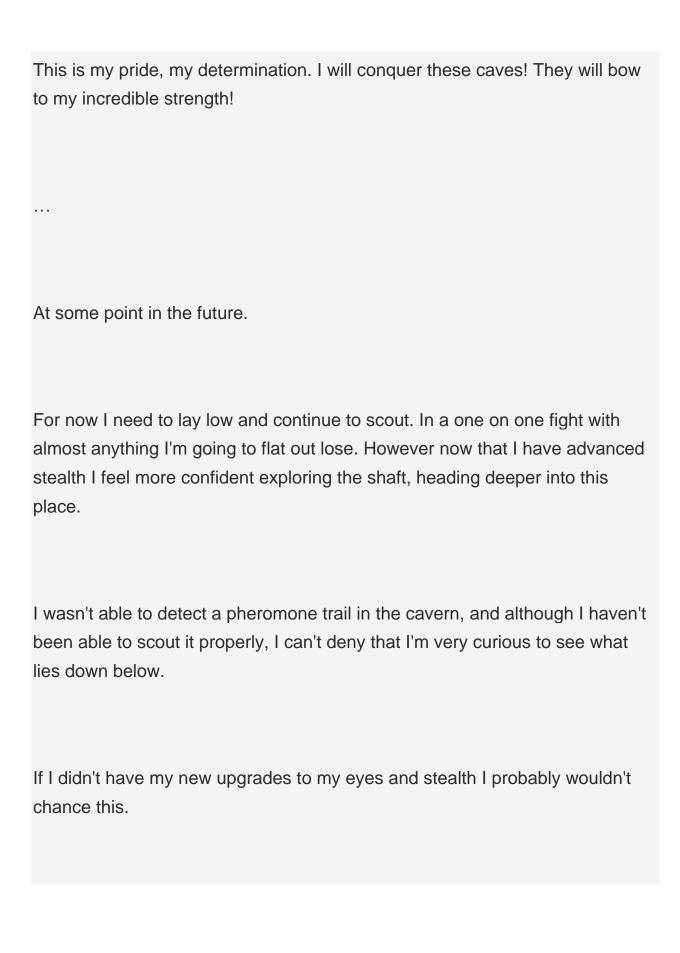


Yyyyes.
gggggggggUUUUOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!
The itch!! ITS WORSE THAT BEFOREEEEEEEEEEE!!!
How?? HOW CAN IT WORSE!?!
As if an entire swarm of bees has decided my eyeballs were the greatest offense to their species, my eyes light up with spectacularly intense itching. After much scrabbling, rolling and beating my head against the wall the feeling finally fades away.
Phew.
Now to the next task, assigning my skill point!



So now my status is like this:
Name: Anthony
Level: 3
Might: 15
Toughness: 12
Cunning: 25
Will: 18
HP: 30



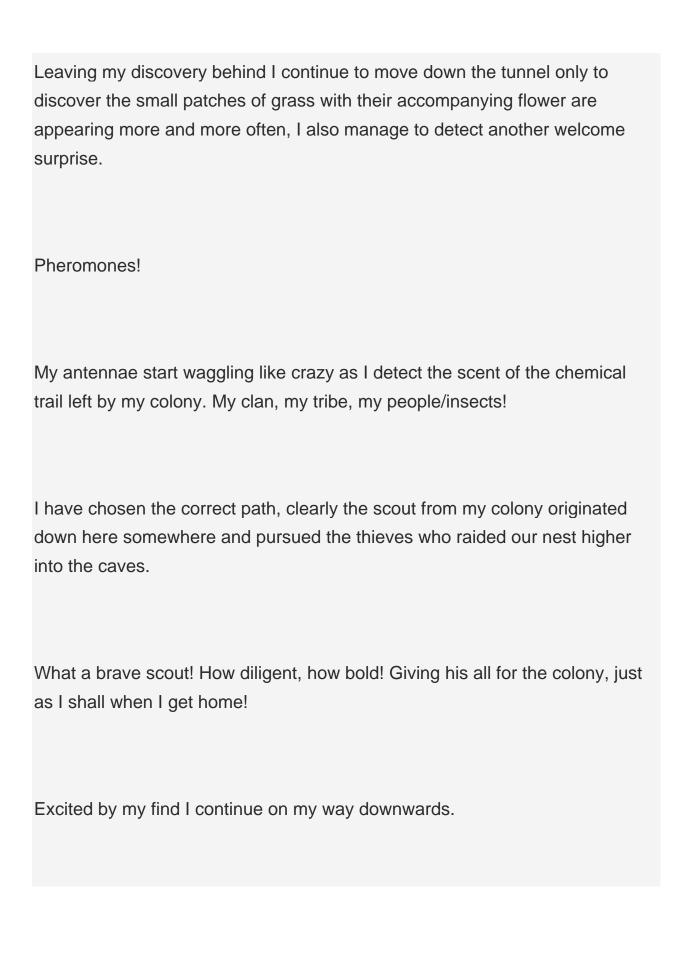


Time to witness what lies in the depths! Giving my antennae a quick clean (got to keep them shiny) I make my way out of the nest and back towards toward the shaft. Okay, this is a little tricky. Moving directly downwards still makes me a little nervous. It isn't something that humans can have a chance to do after all! Walking directly down a wall is one thing but walking down a black hole where I can't see the bottom is another entirely. Steady now, steady! Moving slowly I start to make my way down the shaft. Now that I think of it, it's actually quite bright here in this tunnel. The pulsing veins of blue soft blue light run the length of the walls here, illuminating the rock in their glow. Although not as bright as regular daylight or a light from my own world, it is a well-lit environment compared to what I've experienced so

As I continue to descend, the walls pulse every minute or so, the light waxing and waning in intensity, giving the shaft a very organic feel. Also, it's hard to

far in this place.

detect but, very slightly I think the light is becoming brighter the further down I go.
After cautiously climbing down fifty metres I see something that surprises me greatly.
What the heck is this?!
Growing out of the wall, directly atop a light vein is a small tuft of something similar to blue grass, except in the center of the small mound of plant matter is a stalk atop which is a tiny blue crystal flower.
There is plant life here in these caves?! How? There isn't any sunlight at all? Perhaps these veins in the walls are able to provide some kind of sustenance? The blue flower is extremely small but by shoving my ant face right up to it I can see it is exquisite in its detail.
Just beautiful.



Another forty metres down and the shaft comes to an abrupt end, instead, a narrow tunnel branches to the left. This tunnel is not at all straight, jagged corners and bends come one after the other, slowing my progress to a crawl.

I refuse to barrel blindly around corners in this place, there could be more spiders of all sorts of horrible things hiding. Especially since I'm worried that the monsters about the place will be stronger down here.

I crawl around another corner and the tunnel abruptly opens wide in front of me. What. The. Hell... is this?!