

Extras 101

Chapter 101 New Class

It all happened the previous day.

The moment Rey left the KariBlanc Group's building with Noah, he got a congratulatory message from the System.

[Congratulations! You Have Advanced To A New Class]

'E-eh?!' Rey was initially startled by the whole thing, but since he was wearing a mask, no one could see the stupefied expression he made.

He was honestly very grateful for that.

'What is this, though...?'

Only the user of a System could see or interact with their respective System Messages. As such, despite being out in the open like this, only Rey could see the notification before him.

[Congratulations! Your Class 'Enigma' has been advanced to 'Elite Enigma' due to the wealth and strength you possess]

'A Class called Enigma?'

It was the first that Rey had heard of it, but since he was in the middle of the street—right within the Black Market—Rey thought it would be better to let the matter go for the moment.

'I'll check it out once I return to my room...'

And so he did.

Once he got back to his room, Rey opened his Status Window, and just as the System promised... his Class had changed!

[STATUS WINDOW]

- Name: Rey Skylar.
- Race: Human (Otherworlder)
- Class: Elite Enigma (B-Tier)
- Level: 19 (99.19% EXP)
- Life Force: 22 (+10)
- Mana Level: 65 (+10)
- Combat Ability: 30 (+10)
- Stat Points: 10
- Skills (Exclusive): [Doppel]
- Skills (Non-Exclusive): Nil

- Alignment: Neutral

[Additional Information]

You are a mystery to the world. While the underworld trembles in your presence, those on the surface do not understand your true strength

[End Of Information]

'W-Whoa! This can't be real!'

That was Rey's exact reaction when he looked through his Status Window.

'10 Stat Points added to each of my Stats? I'd have to Level Up ten times to get that number of Stat Points!'

That meant, despite him being a Level 19, he was as strong as a Level 29 Commoner!

'Or could it be that I'm using my Commoner Stat as a metric? This might be what's normal for the others with better Stats...'

The [Commoner] Class was F-Tier. It had no benefits, and was simply a sort of default Stat.

As such, he got the minimum Stat Points after Leveling Up, and he had no perks attached to his abilities.

It was sort of like earning minimum wage—no benefits, and just enough to survive.

'So this is what a B-Tier Class can do, huh? I wonder if the extra stats will keep rising the more I level up...'

Rey was excited for sure.

However, he wasn't done exploring the changes that had occurred to his Status Window.

He specifically tapped the name [Elite Enigma], so he could get more information about the Class.

... He wasn't disappointed.

[Class Information]

- Name: Elite Enigma

- Tier: B-Tier

- Cause: You have become a mystery—a man of many faces who actively lives dual lives. You belong to both darkness and light, and you are perceived too differently by the denizens of the world.

Are you weak? Are you strong? There doesn't seem to be a consensus on that.

[Class Privileges]

~ 10+ Base Stats addition for all your major Stat Areas

~ 1+ subsequent Stat Point for every Level Up

~ Natural Mask Effect can be activated (You can keep a poker face or make your reactions appear exactly as you intend, regardless of circumstances)

~ Naturally suppresses the effects of any 'Appraisal' cast on you. (If the Appraisal is weaker than this Effect, you can influence its results)

[End Of Information]

'Four different privileges? That's insane!'

Rey was beginning to get curious about the privileges that those with better Classes possessed.

'If a B-Tier has four privileges, then an A-Tier should have... five privileges?'

C-Tier would have three.

D-Tier would have two.

E-Tier would have one.

And then, F-Tier naturally had none.

Rey thought about Adonis and his Hero Class, estimating that he would have at least six privileges.

'That's insane. I honestly still can't wrap my head around this...'

The advantage of having a solid Class was slowly consuming Rey.

He hadn't yet asked anyone about details of their Class, because he didn't want to feel like he was missing out.

Having a better Class was mostly out of his control, so he didn't want to compound the issue or be distracted by such things.

However, with his new discovery, Rey felt something rise up within him.

'I need to get a higher Class! Somehow...'

Classes were influenced by a person's state of affairs, but it seemed like one had to reach a certain threshold for it to reflect.

Rey didn't know what the threshold was, so he couldn't make a rough estimate of what he had to achieve to advance.

This wasn't the same as Leveling Up at all.

'And there's also the fact that I don't really know what else I can do that'll trigger my path to advancing to a higher Class.'

The best thing Rey could think of was simply to keep doing what he was doing.

He had to double down on his actions.

'Keep my other life a secret. Operate in mysteries, ensuring the perceptions of those around me grow stronger...'

The polarizing views of both sides would probably influence how his Class would be perceived from this point onward.

Rey also guessed that the more people knew him for either being very strong or very weak, the more his Class would advance.

"That seems fair. Yeah... I should focus on that!"

Once he settled on that, Rey stole one last glance at his [Class Details].

"These are really good effects, though..." He mumbled.

He could affect Appraisals by either nullifying them or even altering their results.

That would come in handy.

'I'm only Level 19, so I probably shouldn't expect to be invincible against all Appraisals...'

If someone like Lucielle personally cast a Spell of that nature, Rey had to consider the possibility that he was toast.

'I wonder about that Oculus thing, though. Would it be able to detect my new Class?'

Rey knew the most likely answer was "Yes."

If the Oculus could detect people like Adonis, who had [The Hero]—an S-Tier Class—why wouldn't it be able to detect his own meager B-Tier Class?

That item was definitely stronger than his ability to resist Appraisals.

'I don't imagine that we won't encounter the Oculus again...'

If Rey had to guess, he would say that there would come a time where students were brought before the Oculus again to see if they had advanced a Class.

'It will be... problematic... if my new Class is found out.'

That would clearly show everyone that he was hiding something. Plus, if it was revealed to be a B-Tier Class, then he would no longer be perceived as a weak Extra.

What would then happen to his Class?

'Will I lose my Class? That would be bad...'

He hadn't done any research about Classes, but from what he read about the natural order of society, it was indeed possible for people to lose Classes.

Fallen Nobles who once had respectable Classes ended up losing them, taking on weaker Classes instead.

The same happened to merchants who went bankrupt, or warriors who lost their abilities to fight.

Classes reflected a person's current state, so Rey surmised that if that were to change for him... he would probably lose what he just got.

"I can't allow that!" He said to himself resolutely.

He found nothing wrong with the current state of things, and he wasn't willing to change the status quo.

'I just have to get stronger! Strong enough to resist the Oculus when the moment arrives.'

Once he had that thought engraved in mind, Rey finally took his shower and went to the library to meet Alicia, eventually apologizing and giving her the gift he got from KariBlanc

The rest of night went smoothly after all that.

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Chapter 102 The First Batch

The students—or rather, Otherworlders—understood what was expected of them.

As they all stood in the gladiator ring, different thoughts were going on in the respective minds of each one.

What kinds of monsters would they fight? Would they be strong? Would it be dangerous?

Naturally, some were scared. However, most of them were pretty excited about what they were about to experience.

They were confident that none of their instructors would let anything bad happen to them.

Their lives weren't at risk at all.

Among the excited ones was Rey. He was excited for two major reasons.

One... he naturally wanted to see how his Class would give him extra Stats after Leveling Up.

'I'm very close, so I should be able to reach Level 20 today...'

Then, there was the second reason.

'I want to see how everyone does in this practical exercise...'

They had never fought monsters during training, so this would be a new experience for most of the people gathered in the massive inner field.

'How will they fare? How will they use their abilities? I want to see...'

To be honest, Rey was only very curious about a select group of people.

The first was undoubtedly Adonis, but Alicia was a close second.

There was also Billy, and the rising star of the Alpha Class—Belle.

Rey was also curious about Trisha's abilities, and he wanted to see if she had improved since he last saw her fight.

'I'm also curious about how she uses that sword...'

He smiled as he saw the thing hanging properly on her waist.

'This should be fun.'

"GUUURRRR..."

Rey's excitement slowly began to drop when he first saw the caliber of monsters that were being summoned by the eleven Summoners and Lucielle.

Magic Circles of varying colors and sizes had appeared on the ground, a considerable distance from the students, as they waited for the promised time.

This wasn't the first time they would be engaging in joint training, but it was never anything like this.

The massive ring was enough for the students to spread out and do their own thing, but what happened was that a lot of students found themselves in groups.

Clusters of students littered the stage as a result.

'Even I have...' Rey had thought as he glanced at both his left and right.

"Are you scared, Rey?"

"Let's try our best, Rey!"

Tricia and Alicia—two of the prettiest and strongest girls around—were beside him.

'This isn't what I wanted! You people are disturbing me!'

Of course, Rey could not say what was on his mind, so he instead decided to just smile with absolute determination.

"Yeah... I'm a bit scared but... let's do our best!"

Like Magic, his facial reaction conformed to the meaning of the words he uttered, allowing him to make the most genuine expression anyone could make.

Anxiety... mixed with resolve.

Of course, this didn't last very long. Once the Magic Circles began to spit out the first batch of monsters, tension was high in the room.

Even Rey felt it!

However, once the summoning was done, and Rey found himself staring at DemiWolves, weaker versions of NightWolves, he nearly lost interest.

Demi-Wolves were much smaller and skinnier than NightWolves.

They had similar black fur, but they didn't have any special ability going for them. Their strongest—or practically only weapons—were their sharp claws and fangs.

These were E-Tier Monsters. On the same Level as mob monsters like Goblins and the likes.

'At least they're stronger than Slimes, right?' Rey smiled wryly.

It would have made his heart sink if they were made to fight slimes after all the training and preparations they had gone through for such a day.

"These are DemiWolves. They're wild monsters that are usually found in desert regions, where there is scarce food and water."

If their extremely lean stature didn't give this away, then their hungry eyes definitely sold the story to the listening students.

They paid attention as Lucielle explained further.

"Their claws and fangs are especially useful for tearing apart flesh and crushing bones. As you can see, they're very desperate creatures.

As if waiting for their cue, the DemiWolves began to snarl and bark.

Their growls frightened a lot of students, but most of them still maintained a facade of excitement.

For the first time since they came here, they would be allowed to kill something!

Some students wanted that stimulation.

"Once the light of the Magic Circle stops glowing, the barrier holding the monsters back will be broken, and they will rush towards you..."

Lucielle's smile widened as soon as she said this.

"Show no mercy."

~VWUUSH!~

Following her words, the Magic Circles faded away, soon vanishing as if they were never there to begin with.

The result?

"ROOOOAARRR!"

"GURRRAAAHHHH!"

"KURRRRRRR...!!!"

The wild beasts instantly left their positions and began to rush towards the students.

Many students had already started activating their Skills or utilizing whatever Magic Spells they learned. Others took Martial Arts, rooting their bodies in place as they waited for the DemiWolves to come.

A few seemed to find themselves paralyzed, unable to do anything but watch in horror as wild beasts rushed towards them.

However, before any of the wolves could reach any of these groups of people...

~WHOOOOOSH!~

... A flash of light suddenly shot through the ring, causing a strong wind to blow all across the area.

The brightness of it was blinding, as golden fragments radiated from the direction of the unparalleled illumination that manifested before them.

And then—

~SWOOOSH!~

A single slash was heard by everyone who dared to listen. Their squinted eyes saw only one person slashing as he stood right in front of the horde of DemiWolves.

His single swing caused a rumble to engulf the area—almost as if a thunderstorm had begun to brew.

As the air unfurled around him, and space itself seemed to undulate... his golden power washed through the enemies.

Resulting only in the inevitable.

~BOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!~

The shock that radiated from Adonis' strike sent debris and chunks of Monster meat skittering across the entire ring.

Blood and gore danced around him, though not a single one dared reach his perfect form.

And so, as everyone watched on in downright shock—seeing as Adonis single-handedly killed all the summoned monsters—he looked back at them and smiled calmly.

"Don't worry too much. These are weak monsters..."

The students trembled, all in sheer awe.

Their Hero had taken the lead and showed them how it was done.

No fancy Martial Arts or complicated Magic Spells.

... Just pure, unparalleled strength.

Smoke began to rise around Adonis, revealing the carcasses of the DemiWolves around him, as well as the gleaming stones that were already being displayed from within and without their torn bodies—Monster Cores.

"Next round, please." Adonis told the shocked summoners, who began to work on the next Summon.

As they did so, Adonis turned and smiled at his peers.

It was a kind and heroic one, devoid of any malice.

"There's no need to hesitate. Just use all you've learned and kill them."

It felt strange hearing those words being uttered from the lips of their dear Hero, but everyone listened attentively.

Inspiration had come.

"We can win."

Chapter 103 Free For All

After Adonis' display, no one showed fear.

They couldn't, even if they wanted to. The overwhelming power that the Hero displayed was enough to inspire many.

It spurred even the most fragile of them forward as they desired to also slash through the enemies.

"We're not gonna let you have all that EXP, Adonis!"

"Haha! Here I come as well!"

"Save some of that EXP for us! Only God knows what Level you're in now!"

"Hehehe! I can't wait!"

As words like these rushed from the lips of his classmates, Rey felt a smile tugged at his lips as he watched Adonis step back from the new summoned monsters.

'He's going to give everyone a chance to Level Up now. How considerate of him...'

The only reason Adonis had sprung up during the first round, snagging all the kills, was for the good of the entire class.

He must have thought that by doing something so radical, he would spur the rest to let go of the strands of hesitation that held them back.

Everyone would be willing to fight!

'And it worked! Looks like we're all motivated now...'

He noticed how Trisha was grinning while brandishing her blade.

Even Alicia seemed to leak out a small smile as she prepared her Magic.

'It's weird to see everyone so excited about killing...'

Rey knew it was probably hypocritical for him to think this, considering how much pleasure he also derived from slaughtering Monsters.

But, the thing is... he had always seen himself as different.

'I thought I was just crazy and weird, but it seems that's not the case at all.'

As Rey observed the sadistic expressions of the teenagers around him, he became privy to a dark truth.

'Everyone wants to kill so badly...'

Whether it was to relieve their stress, or to test out their abilities without any need to hold back... they were raring to go.

Rey made a wide grin underneath his mask.

'So, all of this is normal, then? Merciless slaughter of our enemies...'

He, just like everyone else around him, was normal.

However, once he had this thought, another contrasting one surfaced in his mind.

It was a darker proposal that he had no choice but to consider.

'... Could it be that we're all just crazy?'

~BOOOOOOM!~

Rey could see Billy's Fire Magic engulfing a bunch of DemiWolves that dared to near him.

The rest were met with his merciless blade that butchered their flesh and splattered their blood.

~SWISH!~

He could see how Trisha expertly wielded her blade and combined it with her Martial Arts prowess to plow down her foe.

The unparalleled skill with the sword that she had was unrivaled. Rey could not see anyone around him replicate it. freeweb novel. com

As her perfectly toned muscles bulged with each movement, her sword struck even faster, until it far exceeded the limits of the natural eye.

She was simply cutting through DemiWolves as though they were mere pieces of meat tossed in the air.

Then, there was Alicia.

~SHIIIIIIII~

Ice pervaded everything around her, turning all of her enemies into nothing but statues.

The air around her grew so cold that even Rey shivered slightly as he ran away from her immediate location.

It felt like the perfect chance to escape, so he didn't waste it.

In-between Trisha's hack and slash, and the insane effectiveness of Alicia's Ice Magic, Rey was yet to find a single DemiWolf to defeat.

If he continued staying around them, there was a good chance he would never get to Level Up.

Rey didn't want that.

~WHOOSH!~

Amidst the commotion, a DireWolf suddenly lunged at him from nowhere.

At least, that was how it seemed like to everyone.

However, in actuality, Rey had activated his [Force] Skill to pull the DemiWolf in his direction.

'This way, it'll seem more believable!' Rey grinned internally, watching the beast near him from above.

"REY!" He could hear a few voices shout his name, and it sounded like they were worried for him.

'Please don't ruin this for me!' He begged internally as the creature now jumped on his body.

'I just want to Level Up!'

Rey fell to the ground, pretending to have been toppled down by the weight of the extremely lean creature.

He could sense incoming footsteps, but thankfully they were too late.

~SQUELCH!~

His bladed hand exited the back of the DemiWolf right as it was about to bite off Rey's face.

Blood and innards gushed out, causing the beast to groan a little before turning cold from death.

Rey shoved the monster aside, grunting as if he was affected by its practically weightless body.

'Urgh... I'm covered in blood...' Rey made a gag face as he rose to his feet, his official first prey drowning in its pool of blood and gore.

"Rey, are you okay?"

"That was dangerous! But you... actually won? Badass!"

Alicia's worried face was sharply complimented by a shove from Trisha.

It seemed both girls were quite worried for him.

'My image as a weakling remains. That's good!' Was the only thing on his mind as all this was happening.

He could see a couple of eyes on him, but he ignored them.

'They're probably surprised that I managed to kill a DemiWolf on my own, even though I made it seem like an accident...'

Rey stared at his bladed appendage and in a single ~GLUP~, he turned it back to his normal hand.

'I can just use the Skill that everyone thinks I have and kill Monsters by drawing my prey next to me.'

It was a perfect strategy.

"Do you need any help? I'm already in Level 3." Alicia asked with a smirk.

"Really? Me too!" Trisha responded with a big grin.

"Really...? What's your EXP percentage? I'm almost going to be in Level 4..."

"Ahh, well, I'm on the low end."

Rey noticed Alicia flashing a triumphant smile, as if she had just won some kind of game. He wanted to think it was just his imagination, but he knew what he saw.

"I guess I'll just have to work hard so I don't get left behind." Trisha raised her fist in a fierce, but good-willed competitive spirit.

"Sure. You can try." Alicia only responded with a nod.

Rey decided it was much better for his mental health, and also for his goals, to steer away from the two women.

"I think I'm fine on my own. Let me not get in your way..." Rey's voice trailed as he took gradual steps back.

"Are you sure?"

"I don't really mind, but you do you."

Rey nodded vehemently as he ran off, waving at them while shouting "Good luck!"

As he ran off and spotted the next prey, he went over what had just occurred.

'I don't want to guess wrong, but for a moment there it felt like they were competing...'

Rey never knew Trisha and Alicia had some kind of rivalry.

Perhaps it was something that just started.

'If that's the case, then... am I the cause?' He wondered to himself, finally spotting a DemiWolf in the distance.

Rey smiled, chuckling lightly to himself as he shook his head.

'Na! That can't be...'

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Chapter 104 Leveling Up

'Yayyy! I finally reached Level 20!'

Rey was so happy to have finally crossed the threshold for Leveling Up.

Despite him being so close to the required EXP for his next Level Up, it still took him quite a few tries for him to finally cross over.

'I guess DemiWolves really are that weak...'

It could have been that, or the fact that they were Summoned Monsters.

Either way, since Rey considered his goal achieved, he decided to return to the two girls who also seemed to be done dispatching their batch.

'Looks like everyone is also rounding up. I can't remember what round this is now, since I wasn't paying that much attention, but...'

It was impressive how all the students had acclimated to this new style of fighting.

Most still stuck to the formal style of fighting—especially when it came to Martial Arts—but Rey was pleased to see Trisha and a few others utilize unique styles to fight.

The styles they used were ripped from various Martial Art Techniques and blended together to create unique styles of combat that best allowed their abilities to shine.

For example, Trisha had [Greater Lightning Magic], [Danger Sense], and [Counter], and her Class was [Swordsman], so she relied more on her strengths and warded off enemies in close range, rather than relying on the closing-in techniques that they were taught in Martial Arts.

She also performed a lot of movements that required being in a small circle. As a result of confining her actions to a particular range, they were more powerful and she could deal with several opponents as they got closer to her.

'That's probably why she was able to Level Up as quickly as Alicia...'

The only time she left her position was to find a cluster of DemiWolves that she could kill.

It was flawless—well, almost.

'At some point, the monsters began avoiding her, which meant she would have to pick them off one after the other.

That was highly inefficient, so it was only inevitable that she would lose the Level Up race.

"I'm currently at Level 6. What about you, Trisha?" Alicia asked with a bright smile.

"Level 5... but my EXP count shows I'll soon reach Level 6!"

"Wow! What a coincidence. Mine also shows I'll soon reach Level 7!"

As Rey approached the ladies and heard this, he decided it was probably best not to get any closer to them.

'But this is weird. They're Leveling Up much faster than expected.'

It had only been about an hour, yet they were growing at such an absurd pace.

'I remember what it took me to get this strong. What's going on...?'

Was it due to their Class? Was their Class helping them Level Up faster or something?

'I'm so jealous...' Rey nearly shed tears.

He began to wonder what Level Adonis was in. He was so curious, but he knew he couldn't just walk up to the Hero and ask.

As he thought this, he saw someone approach Adonis, who was just finishing up a DemiWolf that was closest to his position.

Adonis hadn't killed a lot of Monsters since his first act, but that didn't mean he would stab a few creatures who drew too close to him.

Just because he was giving everyone a chance, that didn't mean he wouldn't eliminate any danger to his well-being

That was the rationale behind it.

Rey found it hard to consider the DemiWolves to be a major threat to Adonis, but he shrugged it all off.

Adonis was already doing a lot for the group by staying out of most of the Farming, so no one would blame him if he picked off a few Monsters at intervals.

Back to the matter at hand, Rey noticed the blond girl with a cute face and a short physique approach Adonis and got curious.

The girl's name was Belle, and her very friendly personality as well as charming face, won the goodwill of many people.

She wasn't very popular back on Earth, but she was liked by a lot of people due to her cute nature and friendly demeanor.

Rey hadn't spoken to her personally, but he heard Billy say multiple times that if his heart didn't belong to Alicia, he would have picked Belle as his second choice.

That was how cute she was.

Thanks to her petite physique, she also had quite an appealing body. She appeared slender, but her natural endowments made her body seem much more attractive than it would normally be.

She had an especially large rack on her chest despite her small stature, and her ass wasn't lacking as well.

Rey wasn't interested in Belle's body, though—at least, not too much.

He was mostly interested in the conversation she was having with Adonis.

"... Level 6, huh? That's impressive. Well done, Belle."

"Teehee!"

Rey assumed that Belle had just told Adonis about her current Level, making him impressed.

'Same Level as Alicia, huh? Not bad...'

Since Belle was among the strongest in the Alpha Class—only surpassed by Adonis and Alicia—that made sense.

'I heard she has the [Great Mage] Class. That's B-Tier...'

Belle was also the most talented when it came to Magic—with Adonis, of course being an exception to this.

As the Hero, it seemed Adonis was just perfect at everything.

Magic, Martial Arts... you name it.

He was simply the best.

But Belle was close second to him in Magic, with Alicia lagging behind her.

In Martial Arts, it was Adonis, then Billy, and then Alicia.

As a result of this, one could say that while Alicia lost to Billy in Martial Arts and Belle in Magic, she was still the best of both worlds.

That was what made her second rank in Alpha Class.

Belle was only slightly better than Billy, which made her third.

Billy was fourth. .com

"What about you, Adonis? What is your Level?" As Rey heard this, his ears perked up.

Curiosity drowned his senses that he could not think of anything else other than the conversation that was about to unfold.

'Tell her, Adonis! Say it!'

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Chapter 105 Clear Disparity

Rey found it strange that Belle had just asked the question so casually, but after considering the fact that she freely told him hers, it had to mean they were close.

Since he didn't know the nature of their relationship, he decided to take his mind off it and just listen like the busybody that he was.

As he stood still there, a sudden voice came.

"Hey, Rey... do you have a moment?"

Rey heard something like a whisper behind him, but now wasn't the time.

"You really did well with those—"

"Not now! Hold on..." Rey didn't even bother looking behind him as he kept his gaze on the two.

"O-okay..."

He felt a little bad for what he did, but this was a crucial moment for him.

Once he heard what he wanted, he would apologize and hear the person out.

Since he didn't recognize the voice, it was probably a random student.

"... Ah, I'm in Level 9 now."

'WHAAAAAT?!' Rey couldn't believe his ears.

"Almost Level 10 too..."

'HOW IS THIS EVEN FAIR?!' He wanted to scream this out, but he controlled his expression.

If it wasn't for the effect of his Class, Rey was certain he would scream in downright shock.

'I knew life was unfair, but not to this degree!'

How could Adonis have Leveled Up nine times in just a single day?

It made no sense to Rey!

'I worked my ass off in the Dungeon, and he just became half my Level in a single day? Is there no such thing as justice anymore?'

And it wasn't like Adonis had fought some overpowered monsters or something.

These were summoned E-Tier Monsters!

They weren't supposed to give him any considerable amount of EXP!

'So why...?! WHYYYYYYY?!'

There was only one answer to his question, and Rey knew it already.

'His Hero Class! It has to be!'

It was an S-Tier Class, so of course it had to have numerous privileges that would be considered broken by Rey's standards.

Of course, Rey knew he couldn't complain since he had quite the broken Skill himself, but this felt a little too unfair for him.

'I had to sacrifice all my other prospects just to get that Skill...'

To obtain [Doppel], he left behind the Classes and Skills he could have obtained.

This was all he had...

'But Adonis had like three OP Skills and he also has that OP Class. Isn't that too broken?'

Rey had tried over and over again to calculate how it was possible for Adonis to have so many overpowered abilities, but he still didn't get it.

'Even with 100 Karma, that shouldn't be possible.'

As far he knew, Karma was over 100. Was it possible that Adonis had a Karma that was over that limit?

'No way. The rules were clearly stated...'

It wasn't like Adonis had two lifetimes worth of Karma, so how the hell did he get so many broken Skills?

'I still can't wrap my head around it. I guess it was just preferential treatment from Seraph, or maybe a discount...'

If that was the case, then there was nothing he could do

"It's also possible that he got the 'First Comer' privilege, so there's that..." Rey whispered to himself.

It was while mumbling that he remembered the voice he heard from behind him.

"Ah, sorry about that. I was distracted by—" He halted his speech and looked behind him, not seeing anyone there.

It seemed the person had walked off since Rey didn't respond to him on time.

'Now I feel awful...'

However, Rey wasn't allowed to dwell on his feelings on the matter for too long.

"Otherworlders, we are going to end today's session here."

As Rey heard the voice from above the stage, his face twisted to form a look of surprise fre ewebn ovel

'What? Already?!'

Lucielle's announcement seemed to elicit some pleasant groans and sighs of relief among the students, but Rey was genuinely puzzled.

'Isn't this too early?'

The average time he spent in a Dungeon was four to five hours, all so he could grind and increase his Level.

He thought this practical session was meant to simulate that experience, or at least put a lot more pressure on the students.

But, he was wrong.

'It's just been a little over an hour and we're quitting now? Why...?'

Rey only had to look at the faces of his instructors to understand why.

'They're exhausted. I see now... so that's how it is...'

Summoner was a very rare class to have, and while it was indeed very powerful, it wasn't invincible.

Summoning Magic cost a lot of Mana, which meant those who used it tended to run out of energy faster than regular Mages.

Rey noticed a lot of potion vials around them and realized that they had been doing their best to recover their Mana while training the students.

Unfortunately, they had reached burnout.

'Summoning Magic can only be used a certain amount of times a day. If used too much, it affects the laws of the world in a detrimental manner and that can be harmful to both the user and his environment...'

Rey had learned that in the Library, since Alicia recommended it to him.

It was a book that had to do with Tamers and Summoners, which was why she had picked it up to read.

Once she was done, she wouldn't stop gushing over it, so she recommended it to him.

'It seems like they can only do this a limited number of times, and they get very exhausted after they reach their limits...'

All so they could help the Otherworlders with their grind.

'I can see why the Nation wanted to use the Dungeons and not this safer, more controlled way to Level Up.'

Other than the fact that Summoned Monsters were weaker, there were also a few other considerations to put in mind.

'For one, the numbers aren't exactly satisfactory. Summoners can only summon so many at a time...'

Then there was the glaring issue of Mana Usage.

'Those potions must cost a lot. If they have to be using so many per day, then it'll cost the United Human Alliance a good deal of resources.'

The Summoners also had limits, so after a little over an hour, they had to clock out.

'That means we can't experience true battle with this method. Our ability to Level Up is also very limited.'

With all of these placed into consideration, Rey could see why this had to be a temporary measure.

It wasn't sustainable at all.

"You all did exceptionally well today. I am certain you were all able to Level Up at least once or twice, thus growing stronger."

Rey already knew where this was all going, so he braced himself.

Lucielle brought out a Truthseeker as she descended to the stage. Her long white hair and crimson eyes made her appear ethereal in her descent.

"Please state how many times you Leveled Up so we can measure your growth."

The moment Rey heard this, he almost made the heaviest sigh of relief imaginable.

'Haaaa! That was a close one!'

If he had been asked what Level he was, he would be in hot water.

Fortunately, the question was framed in such a way that he could escape scrutiny.

'I'll just tell them the truth.' Rey smiled as it soon approached his turn to speak.

Once it did, he opened his lips and uttered the words.

"I only Leveled Up once."

*

Chapter 106 Meeting Belle

The training session ended and every student went their own way.

Rey found himself walking with Alicia, while Trisha had gone off to talk to her friends.

'... Thankfully.' He nearly sighed in relief.

As they walked to their Living Quarters, a voice called out for both of them.

"Rey, Alicia! Good one out there today!"

Rey recognized the voice, but he still turned back to look at the face of the one who made it.

It was none other than Adonis.

Beside him was Belle, who was waving gently as she gave her cute smile.

"I'm proud of you guys." He seemed to genuinely mean what he said, but Rey couldn't help but feel heat rising in his chest.

'You leveled up nine times in just an hour, you bastard! Don't give me that!'

He honestly felt like punching Adonis, but he kept himself under control.

'What kind of past life did this guy have to be so—?'

"I'm currently heading to training, so I thought maybe Belle here could go with you guys to our quarters."

The moment Adonis said this, Rey felt his envy dissipate.

'What am I thinking? Adonis trains hardcore every day. He works hard, and he's always been the most diligent out of everyone here.'

He wasn't merely 'lucky.'

Sure, he had the best Class among everyone else, but wasn't that simply because he was such a responsible person back on Earth?

If he wasn't, how would he have gotten such a high Karma? Even when they first met Seraph, he had ensured to calm everyone down.

He wasn't just some entitled lucky guy.

'While I was being average, he was doing his best in school...'

Sure, Adonis seemed like the kind of perfect guy that anyone would want to be.

But, Rey was sure it had taken some measure of effort—no, probably tons of it—for him to end up this way.

'I still feel bitter, but there's no helping it. Life isn't fair, so there's no point dwelling on it.'

Rather than being so fixated on Adonis, he just had to try his best as well.

'I'll grow strong in my own way.'

"Sure. I don't mind." Alicia responded to Adonis' question, causing Rey's mind to return back to the conversation at hand.

"Haha! Thanks, Alicia. Hope you don't mind too much, Rey?"

As he felt the weight of Adonis' gaze on him, Rey felt uncomfortable.

Adonis' expression of compassion and innocence was too much for him, especially since he had just recently thought negatively of him.

"S-sure. I don't mind." Rey managed to leak out.

The smile on their Hero's face widened as he closed his eyes with glee.

"Thanks guys! Once again... good work!"

He waved them goodbye and jogged off, almost as if he was in a hurry to train.

'Damn. Does that guy ever rest...?' Rey found himself thinking as he stared at Adonis' broad back.

He didn't have time to dwell on the thought, though, as a clapping sound shook him out of his thoughts once more.

"Alright! Shall we get going?" Belle's cute voice echoed in the air, causing Rey to unconsciously make a smile.

'Gahh! She's got me!'

It was said that any man who heard Belle's cute voice had no choice but to smile.

This was a special kind of Skill that Belle always had, even when they were on Earth.

And now, it seemed like a part of her.

'She also has the A-Tier Skill [Grand Charm], so there's that...'

It was never confirmed that Belle used that on those around her, though, so Rey didn't think he was under the effect.

'Besides, she's just always been like this...' His thoughts trailed.

"Sorry about all of this. I never really feel comfortable walking by myself, so Adonis didn't want to let me walk back alone. Thankfully, he saw you and placed me in your care."

Rey and Alicia shrugged, emphasizing that it wasn't a big deal at all.

"It's cool."

"Yeah..."

"Thanks, guys!"

As Belle flashed her signature smile, Rey felt his cold, dark heart melt a little.

He noticed Alicia's stare on him, so he quickly wiped off whatever grin he had on his face.

'Let's just go...'

Thankfully, before he realized it, all three of them were walking to their Living Quarters.

Belle was engaged in a conversation with Alicia, as if they were friends, and Rey was kept to the sidelines.

He didn't mind, though.

'It'll be too awkward for me. I don't think I have anything to say.'

Unfortunately for Rey, he was forcefully thrust into the conversation by the same cute voice that seemed to hide such innocence and wonder.

"Why are you so weak, Rey?"

'... Eh?'

Rey's thoughts came to a grinding halt as he heard those words.

He could have never imagined that a girl like her could be so blunt—so open about something like this.

He cast his gaze on her, and a bright smile was on her face. She seemed like nothing more than a cute Angel.

Of course, not on Seraph's level, but still...

'Maybe I didn't hear her correctly.'

"I asked why you're so weak, Rey." Belle repeated her question, almost as if he didn't hear it the first time.

"W-well... I... I don't really know how to answer that, so..."

He looked at Alicia, hoping he could get her assistance. However, the moment he did so, he noticed something strange,

Alicia's eyes were glowing pink, and she was smiling strangely.

Rey instantly knew what it was.

'[Grand Charm]...?'

Alicia was currently under the effects of Belle's Skill, so she was an invalid in the conversation.

'How long..? How long has she been absent during the walk?'

Rey stopped moving his legs, prompting Belle and Alicia to stop moving as well.

"What do you think you're doing?" Rey asked with a slight frown.

He was asking that question out of anger, caution, and just downright confusion.

The Belle he knew wasn't like this.

Back on Earth, she had been the sweetest person—at least, based on what everyone was saying.

Even when they arrived here, nothing changed.

So... what was the issue exactly?

"Hmm? I'm not sure I understand your question. I should be asking you why you stopped walking."

Rey felt his heart thump as he saw her empty smile.

What used to strike him as cute and angelic now seemed hollow.

It felt repulsive.

"Let's continue walking, Re—"

"No." Rey took a step back, his glare increasing as he glared at her.

'I thought she was more interested in Alicia due to how they were talking so well, but... could her target have been me from the start?'

Rey didn't consider himself a narcissist, so he never placed too much importance on himself.

However, this sudden twist was what he couldn't understand.

What other explanation was there?

"Why do you have to be so stubborn? For a weakling, you sure are impudent..."

Rey's heart raced as he stared into Belle's eyes. They were glowing bright pink.

"All you have to do is listen to what I say and be a good boy... okay?"

Her grin widened as she uttered those words.

The air was still as Belle watched Rey turn stiff as a doll. No longer did he step back or display any animosity.

Instead, his eyes began to glow pink and a creepy smile began to form on his face.

Finally, he opened his lips and spoke.

"... Okay."

*

Chapter 107 The Charmer

Belle was a sociopath.

Ever since she was young, she always knew what was right and wrong, but she just never cared much for it.

What she truly wanted was what was right for her.

Still, she put on a mask that let everyone see the perfect person she knew how to be.

She made tons of friends, and she had very few enemies. The few that she had—those who were able to see past her facade—were dealt with promptly.

Of course, she had never killed anyone... but there was more than one way to ruin a person.

Belle's experience in High School was similar.

However, despite her prim and proper behavior and her obvious appeal, she couldn't get past two social walls that stood far taller than her.

Alicia and Adonis.

These two were the most popular in their class, as well as two of the most popular students in school.

It annoyed her.

It irked Belle to her core that she couldn't triumph over them.

She could not beat Alicia in looks, and Adonis had a more authentic personality than she.

The standard grew even higher when they started dating, and ultimately broke up.

Everyone was talking about them!

No one... had her time any longer.

Of course she wasn't hated, but she simply didn't have the attention that she used to get.

But then, she was going to have her revenge.

Before she could properly carry out her plan on Earth, they were transported to this place.

And so, she chose to complete it all here.

... One step at a time.

"Haha! Now that wasn't so hard, was it?" Belle grinned as she looked at Rey.

He was looking very similar to Alicia, as well as all her other classmates

"Everyone is now under my control. Except Adonis, of course. I can't take that risk..."

Since Adonis had the Hero Class and had a much higher Level than she, Belle wasn't confident in her ability to charm him.

Her A-Tier Skill [Grand Charm] allowed her to completely obtain the allegiance of any target of hers as long as they heard her voice or looked into her eyes—both as well—when she activated the Skill.

Using this Skill, she had managed to gain the allegiance of literally everyone in both Alpha and Beta Class.

Of course, she did so at intervals since using the Skill drained practically all of her Mana.

'But now that I've Leveled Up, I can use it twice and still have a bit of Mana left.'

Both Rey and Alicia had been charmed with barely any time serving as an interval.

'Leveling Up really has its perks...' Belle's smile grew wider.

"With everyone on my side now, I can finally ruin you two..."

She had intentionally gotten close to Adonis to figure out an opening, but so far there seemed to be nothing.

After seeing what happened to Adam, she knew she had to be extra careful.

Why in the world did Adam go to Adonis' room to kill him? Belle still wasn't sure.

That wasn't her order.

Her Skill had a permanent mark on a person, as long as she maintained proximity with them every once in a while.

Since they all slept close to one another, shared the same living room, and now trained with each other, that meant she could control any of her classmates anytime she wanted.

Of course, they wouldn't always have their wide grin and glowing eyes.

"I'll use these pawns to frame Alicia and Adonis and make them scapegoats. Or, should I just make Alicia fight Adonis, leading to the both of them getting severely injured? Ahh... no, that won't work."

The problem with that plan was that it would potentially take one or both of the strongest members of their class off the board.

Belle wasn't stupid. She knew how much this world needed Alicia and Adonis to save it.

'They both have SS-Tier Skills. They're our best chance at stopping the Dragons...'

Belle still wasn't sure whether or not she wanted to remain in this world, but since she was living in it, she had to help out.

It wasn't out of any selfless inclination, but simply a selfish desire to survive.

Nothing more... nothing less.

"Now, then... all three of us should walk together. We'll draw too much attention if we're just standing still like this."

In response to this, Rey and Alicia moved beside her and they walked together

"Also remove those stupid grins from your faces. Act natural."

The pink glows in their eyes dimmed out, and their expressions became fairly normal.

Rey's natural expression was perfect, but there still seemed to be something artificial about Alicia's expression.

It didn't matter, though.

Everyone was under her command, anyway.

"I guess I'll just have to wait for us to defeat the Dragons before I can properly deal with them. They're too powerful to be compromised now." Belle mumbled with slight frustration.

"Be grateful, Alicia. You and Adonis won't have what's coming to you. Why not thank me?"

"Thank... you."

"I didn't mean that literally, idiot. Honestly... these things..."

As Belle sighed and shook her head, she took her eyes off Alicia and cast her gaze to Rey.

"Why couldn't they be as weak as you? I would have used them like the ragdolls they are..."

Rey's expression remained the same since he was nothing but her puppet.

"Weaklings like you aren't so bad, though." Her smile widened as she poked Rey a few times on his cheek.

It seemed she found it cute, so she did a few times and giggled like a child.

"You make for the best toys."

Belle kept enjoying herself as she and her two dolls entered their Living Quarters and parted ways in their respective rooms.

Of course, they weren't going to forget what just happened to them, and they would simply remember what Belle wanted them to.

That was just how much influence she had on them.

"What the fuck..?!"

Rey collapsed on his bed as he stared at his ceiling in horror.

His face expressed profound confusion as he contemplated on the events that had just transpired.

... All that he witnessed.

"What the hell was that just now?"

*

Chapter 108 Determination To Grow

Rey was still reeling from shock after everything he had just experienced.

He touched his face and remembered how the crazy girl known as Belle kept poking him and laughing about it.

"She's crazy..." Rey muttered with wide open eyes.

'If I wasn't careful... I would have completely fallen under her spell. That's too dangerous!'

Back then, when she was moving closer to him, his [Danger Sense] Skill kept sending alarms to his head.

Rey was so glad he listened.

He used [Blindness] to shut off his eyes and [Grand Sound Magic] to ensure his ears wouldn't hear a single thing that Belle said.

Since he knew the conditions for activating [Grand Charm], a Skill he already had, it wasn't too difficult to avoid it.

It wasn't until his [Danger Sense] died down that he deactivated his [Blindness] and allowed her words to be audible again.

He used the [Mimic] Skill to replicate Alicia's glowing eyes and his Class privilege let him fake the part of being under Belle's control.

If that hadn't been the case, he probably wouldn't have gotten away with it.

'It seems my Level isn't high enough to resist that Skill. It's too dangerous...'

Rey had the Skill, and he knew how it operated. He had also tested it out on monsters, but since every enemy he faced was considerably weaker than him, he never felt like it was too powerful.

But now he understood.

"It's in A-Tier for a reason..." He whispered.

"Still... to think that was her goal all along..."

Since he was in his right senses throughout the entire ordeal, Rey heard everything Belle mumbled to herself.

.... Everything!

'So she's after Alicia and Adonis, huh? That's insane. What did they ever do to her?'

Rey knew it wasn't any of his business, but he found such a radical switch in personality to be very perplexing for him.

'I guess I'm not the only one keeping secrets...'

Thankfully, from what he heard, she didn't plan on enacting her evil scheme anytime soon.

That meant they were both safe... for now.

"I should probably just pretend like I'm under her influence for the time being."

There was nothing to gain from making Belle his enemy.

From what he heard, she literally had the entire class wrapped around her little finger.

Belle also had more credibility and importance to the United Human Alliance and their Royal Council than he did.

If he tried to stir something, she could end up letting it backfire on him.

'And I doubt the Council will pick me over her.'

Rey knew he could probably try to work from the shadows to stop her, but he found all of that to be unnecessary.

This wasn't even his fight.

Rey was also pretty certain that this wasn't the mastermind he was searching for, since it didn't fit the profile.

Belle's ability would have let her just make Rey admit to his crimes, or even incriminate himself.

There would have been no need for such a convoluted mess. Besides, she already made it clear who her targets were.

She didn't really need him to achieve it.

'Besides... there's still time. I can't afford to be worrying about her schemes now.'

As long as the world still needed the Otherworlders, she wasn't going to harm Adonis and Alicia in any real sense.

'Right now I should focus on Leveling Up and getting stronger.'

Even now, as Rey sat on his bed, he couldn't help but think about Adonis and what he was up to in training.

The thought alone motivated Rey to get up and prepare for the only place he knew he could get stronger—The Royal Dungeon.

"Wait for me, Adonis! I'll be sure to catch up to you!"

~WHOOOSH!~

As Adonis swung his blade, sweat sprayed from his body, staining the wooden floor of his private training room.

Several broken blades lay by the side, and right now he was wielding yet another.

~SWISH!~

His muscles contracted as he neatly made arcs with his sword. As the air was sliced by his concentrated blade, the force exerted made it crack.

His muscular body took a few more steps, dancing as he made swings with different styles while applying varying forms of footwork.

And then...

~CRACK!~

... Hid blade shattered once again.

"Haaaa... haaa..."

Adonis leaked out heavy breaths as he tossed aside the broken blade that he wielded.

His eyes darted to a corner in the room where there were still a couple more blades left.

"I guess... I'll have to get more soon..."

More heavy breaths escaped his lips as he walked to the corner and got another blade.

The calluses on his palm became overshadowed as he grasped the hilt of his next sword.

He walked to another side of the massive training room where the shards of broken blades were yet to stain the ground.

"Haaaaa..."

Adonis took a deep breath and closed his eyes, ready to begin yet another set.

"Not enough..." He whispered to himself.

Memories of his past flashes in his head, but he shoved them aside.

All of those horrors did not exist anymore.

The threat that they would return caused his heart to ache, but that only made Adonis grip his blade even harder.

Resolve pervaded the entirety of his demeanor as he perfected his stance.

'I won't let anyone else get hurt...'

He took comfort in the happy memories he had in this second chance he had.

He was able to come out of his shell more, have new friends, find new people... have a lot more fun.

But also... he had been able to get stronger!

As a Level 10 Hero, Adonis was as strong as a Level 100 Commoner.

Still...

"... It's not enough!" He yelled out.

There was no way he could afford to get complacent now.

The monsters he had to face were a lot more powerful than commoners. If he wanted to reach their level, he had to grow a lot stronger.

'Brutus should be back from the Dungeon very soon. Probably in a few days...'

Once he returned, they would get back on track and the events were going to play out exactly the way they were supposed to.

'I got the Item I wanted. I'll use it to open a fissure in space and draw in stronger monsters so I can Level Up faster.'

If possible, others would also be able to get much stronger with the experience.

Adonis knew it would be scary for them. He was sorry about that.

However, it had to be done.

'I need to be at least Level 50 before I can confidently say I can take down a Dragon.'

Adonis feared for his classmates who didn't know what despair awaited them with the Dragons that were still nothing more than looming threats at present.

People like Rey came to his mind, and Adonis couldn't help but make a sad smile.

'One day... maybe he'll be strong. But, he doesn't have to be.'

That was why HE was here!

To make sure Rey, and his other classmates, wouldn't suffer the way they did the last time.

"I'll change everything..." Adonis muttered to himself, once again swinging his blade and sending sweat splashing all around him.

"... And I'll save everyone!"

*

Chapter 109 Return To The Royal Dungeon

Training continued as usual the following day.

Each day, there would be a separate training session that only took up a few hours in the morning. Afterwards, the students would take a long break and go to the Grand Stage for their battle with Monsters.

That was the new arrangement for the effective growth of every student.

The training was for them to acclimate to their new Levels, which meant more advanced or prolonged use of their abilities.

And, the practical session was meant for the students to grind Levels.

Once they were done with everything, it would be around 1:00 PM, and so the students were free to spend the day as they wished.

Some spent it in the Town, exploring more in the market, or just taking strolls around.

Others chose to remain in their rooms or enjoy the grandeur of the Royal Capital.

Some spent it training and trying to better themselves.

There was one that spent her time in the Library.

However, out of all the twenty-eight students, one existed who didn't fit into any of these boxes.

He indeed left for town, but he didn't do so to hang around.

No... his goal was different.

"Hehehe... hehehehe... hahahahaha!!!"

A young man in a dark cloak and black mask that resembled a skull was standing at the entrance of a cave-like construction.

There was no one present, so the area was deserted.

"I'm finally back here..." His voice hummed as he gave a slight smirk underneath his mask.

Thanks to the suspicion that a dangerous monster was lurking around in the Royal Dungeon, the Royal Council ceased all mining activities within the Dungeon.

With Mining temporarily halted, processing and refining soon followed.

Before long, the once bustling Royal Dungeon grounds had become deserted—almost in an eerie manner.

'Looks like they also got rid of that barrier that surrounded the Refinery...'

Considering the fact that there was no work ongoing, it would be a waste to consistently use Mana Crystals.

No poisonous gas or loud noise was currently being leaked.

Everywhere was just dead silent and clear.

Since Rey had never seen the place like this before, it initially appeared strange.

He was used to it now, though.

'Well... let's venture in...'

Rey ventured into the darkness, his perception already dialed up to eleven. All his senses were heightened, and he was already prepared for any form of defense should the need call for it.

It was already the second day of training, and while he had come here the previous day, it was mostly for investigation purposes.

He didn't actually descend past the Eighth Floor.

'It's just as Lucielle and Brutus said. The Hobs and DarkWolves are no more...'

Rey never saw their bodies, so he assumed that they were probably burned up by Lucielle's Magic.

'The same applies to the Monkey Monsters.'

As a result of that, he wasn't able to investigate any further to confirm everything that Lucielle and Brutus had said.

Still, Rey saw enough to convince him of the truth.

All the minerals and resources that should have been present on the Floors had been stripped away.

... Everything!

'I shouldn't get too riled up. Brutus and his team will handle that. I should just focus on grinding Levels.'

The biggest concern Rey had when returning here was that he'd encounter Brutus. However, after donning his dark mask and concealing his identity, he felt a little more anonymous.

His senses were also perked up so he would be able to detect any approaching individual—or individuals as the case may be.

With these preparations already made, Rey doubted he would be caught off-guard.

'If I sense Brutus close to me, I'll just hide or something.' That was his line of reasoning. .com

Rey was also concerned about what his actions would cause if they found more dead Monsters that he had killed, but after thinking on it for too long, he could only offer one solution.

'I'll burn their corpses. That should hide the evidence, I suppose...'

He considered taking away the minerals, since the Royal Council already suspected the creature they were looking for to be that kind of monster, but Rey just couldn't do it with a clean conscience.

Besides, he considered his current wealth enough at the moment.

There was no need to get too greedy.

At least, when it came to money.

'Maybe I'll encounter the one truly responsible if I stay here long enough...'

That said, killing Monsters and Leveling Up was his top priority.

Curfew was 8:00 PM, so he could legitimately walk through the front gates of the Royal Estate without a need to sneak out.

It took less than an hour to get here, and less to return, which meant he had the usual five hours for training.

'I better make it count!'

And so, as Rey ventured deeper into the depths of the Dungeon, aiming for the 9th Floor, he only thought of how to get stronger.

'This should be my new arrangement...'

The Ninth Floor was by far the strangest one out of everything Rey had ever seen before in that it was freezing cold.

'Oof... ' Rey felt a tinge of jitters visiting his body, but that didn't last long since his [Full Resistance] came into play.

The Ninth Floor felt like a land of eternal blizzards, and it was covered in Ice Fragments that stuck out walls like jagged blades.

The icicles hanging from the ceiling appeared to be more akin to long white spears than icicles, considering their length.

As they stood imposingly above Rey, he felt like they could fall on him at any moment.

As a result, ended up being a lot more vigilant than he would normally be.

'I wonder if I'll find any Monsters here...'

There was a good chance that Brutus and his team had killed all the Monsters here in their quest for the dangerous Monster who had invaded the upper Floors.

'But from what I saw, there doesn't seem to be any place that a Monster could have used to come to the Upper Floors...'

Maybe they had a [Phase] Skill, or something to that effect, but Rey honestly felt like that was 'reaching.'

Monsters preferred operating in their natural habitat, and other than the nomadic types, they would never leave their domains.

All Dungeon Monsters were evolutionarily predisposed to remain in their territory.

'Why would a Lower Floor Monster come to a Floor near the surface...?'

Still, the Royal Council had to take precautions, and they couldn't see any other alternative that best explained the situation.

'I just hope this investigation doesn't end up affecting my Leveling...'

Somehow, Rey doubted that would be the case.

'The entire goal of the investigation is to make the Floor safe enough for us to come in and Level Up. I don't think Brutus would kill Monsters meant for our purposes...'

He couldn't be sure until he saw for himself, though.

"GRUUUUUU!!"

As if reading his mind, a beast landed from the ceiling with a loud growl.

It had furry white skin, similar to the White Monkey Monsters, but this monster resembled an albino BigFoot more than anything else.

It had a savage expression on its face, which Rey considered to mean one thing.

"Wanna fight?"

*

Chapter 110 The Ninth Floor [Pt 1]

'Ah... I see. So that's how it is...'

Rey smiled as he stared at his opponent.

Even though his eyes were on the BigFoot-like creature, his senses had spread to the ceiling where it fell from.

'More of them are crawling above...'

Rey couldn't see them even if they tried. There was a reason he hadn't detected any until this one landed to confront him.

'A Camouflage Skill, maybe? Interesting...'

These creatures knew how to blend in well with their environment, so unless one really paid attention, it would be impossible to detect them.

'Even now, I can only properly sense their movements thanks to the sound they make and the slight distortions in space.

He couldn't properly see them.

'I already have [Stealth], which is more like turning me invisible. But I guess this isn't too bad...'

Once Rey raised his head and observed enough of the Skill, he reckoned that would be more than enough for it to be registered by [Doppel].

He sighed a little and turned his attention back to the BigFoot in front of him and gave a small smile to it.

The Monster appeared a little stunned, and Rey knew why.

"You guys were probably planning on getting the drop on me, right? You would act as the decoy while they would descend and make short work of me while I focused all my attention on you..."

"G-GRUUUU...?!"

From the flustered reaction of the Monster, Rey couldn't tell if it could actually understand him or if it was just upset to see him so calm.

Either way, it didn't really matter to him.

Not at this point.

"Sorry. As much as I'd like to play with you, I'm in a bit of a hurry now. There's someone I want to catch up to, so..." He raised his hand upward.

"... I can't afford to mess around."

There was no need to dawdle any longer while Adonis was advancing like a madman every day.

"[Greater Explosion]"

~BOOOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!~

A burst of bright crimson energy erupted from Rey's hand, sending a blast so destructive that the pressure alone completely shattered the numerous icicles in the ceiling, before the heat melted everything into oblivion.

The camouflaged beasts were not saved from this.

"GRUUUUAAAAAHHH!!!"

Their horrified screams filled the air as the flames of explosion burned them alive.

Fortunately, their suffering didn't last long.

Within a few seconds, they were already dead.

"G-Guuuu...!!!"

Rey already noticed the fright on the face of the BigFoot in front of him.

No longer did the creature have its fierce predatory expression, or any semblance of violence whatsoever.

It was simply frightened.

~WHOOSH~

In a gust of wind that the Monster didn't see coming, Rey appeared before it with a wide smile on his face.

"Die." Rey touched the Monster's chest.

A swift use of [Transmute] caused the creature to expand like a balloon, instantly bursting the next second.

Its blood and innards splattered across the room, staining the pure white and blue sparkles that filled the room.

As Its Monster Core appeared, a rain of dozens of Monster Cores descended from above.

'Ahh... this again.'

Rey currently didn't have much use for Monster Cores, but he considered it a waste for him to not harvest them or have them just lying around.

'At least, with Skills like [Explosion], I can just destroy their bodies and get the Cores straight away.'

There was no need for anything more.

'Their Skins of parts of their body could probably be used for Items. I might make a lot of money selling them too...'

But Rey knew this wasn't the time to be distracted by money.

Not only were the Monsters too large for him to fit into his sacks and throw into Subspace, but it was going to get in his way of dispatching the Monsters if he had to worry about their quality when killing them.

He didn't need that kind of hassle.

'Let's just focus on Leveling Up and taking the Monster Cores as my reward.'

There was no need for anything more.

As Rey advanced through the Icy lair of the BigFoot Monsters, he knew he had to be extra careful.

His senses were extremely sharp, and he could detect slight changes in the environment, even if he couldn't see the cause, but that didn't mean his detection abilities were perfect.

If they were, they would be in the SSS-Tier.

'There could be variants that possess other abilities that I'm not certain of. I can't be too careful.'

He would have activated [Safe Haven] to keep his defenses consistently up, but he didn't have the Mana to waste on that.

'Even though I'm Level 22 now, and I've been pouring all my Stat Points into Mana, it's still not enough...'

Rey doubted he could use any S-Tier Skill for more than a minute before fully draining himself of Mana.

He could probably activate SS-Tier Skill, but maintaining it for a few seconds would be tricky.

'Welp... I guess I really need to get those items as soon as possible!'

Rey shrugged off his current thoughts and focused on the situation at hand.

He could already detect slight changes in his environment.

'These monsters, based on their physique, and the fact that they're in a Lower Floor, are probably stronger than the Monkey Monsters...'

They also probably had resistance to a lot of attacks—perhaps physical and magical.

However, due to their Floor's climate, Rey was certain that they had to have a vulnerability to fire-based attacks.

As a result, he used abilities with that attribute in order to get a guaranteed hit.

"[Grand Fire Magic]"

Once activated, Rey summoned a massive wave of flames and launched it in multiple directions.

Like a flood of untold power, it rushed through the ice-based room, melting everything in its way.

"GRUAAAAAAHHH!!!"

"UGHAAAAHHHH!!!"

"GURRROOOOAAHHH!!!"

Rey heard multiple screams, but he simply kept moving forward.

The most efficient way to clear a Floor was to simply not be distracted by the enemies one encountered.

"I'll kill them as quickly as I can and reach the Boss."

Using his [Perception] and [Farsight] allowed him to detect the fallen Monster Cores, so he swiftly proceeded to pick them up and advance forward.

'This is a drag...'