

## **O Summoner 371**

### Chapter 371 - Bullying The Rabbits

Adrian and the others decided to meet later as Lycan has yet to procure the hair strand while Solstice had to get her armor fixed as the durability is already low. Adrian took the time to himself and went to level up Dodu. The Baby Slime only has a handful of skills that it can use.

Skill: Physical Damage Nullification

Tier: Legendary

Type: Passive

Effect: Cannot be damaged by any type of physical damage regardless of effect. The possessor of this skill is immune status effects that are the result of physical attacks.

Cooldown: None

Mana Cost: None

Cast Time: None

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Skill: Bubble Shot

Tier: Common

Type: Active Projectile

Effect: Fire a large bubble that deals 100% of the user's total attack damage.

Cooldown: 1 second

Mana Cost: 10 Mana Points

Cast Time: 1 second

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"If I kill the mobs that are below level 20 then I would not be giving experience to Dodu. I do not gain experience from killing those monsters myself so Dodu has to kill the monsters alone in order for experience to be gained." Adrian thought as he moved to the hunting grounds.

Adrian then saw mobs that are about level 10 which are Prairie Rabbits. This mobs were perfect for Dodu to kill as they only deal physical damage. They could hit Dodu as many times as they can, and the mobs would not even damage the baby slime.

"Dodu! Do your best!" Adrian cheered on as he remembered how Sirius and he started.

The Baby Slime looked determined as its master is cheering it on. The Baby Slime that should look fierce instead look cute due to its body characteristics. Fortunately for Adrian, only a few newbies are present in the hunting ground because Arkadia is rarely chosen as a village after the town of Genesis.

The fight between the Prairie Rabbit and Dodu is basically on the level of bullying because the former's attacks could not even damage the latter due to the Slime's innate skill. When Prairie Rabbits' health drop below 20%, they would usually run but they could not because of Sirius giving them the death glare.

The Prairie Rabbits are basically forced to fight to the death against the Dodu even though the Slime could only chip 1% of the Prairie Rabbit's health per attack. Adrian was doing this with a big smile on his face as he is encouraging his soulbound.

The newbies who were also hunting Prairie Rabbits could only lament the faith of the rabbits that encounter that dragonkin summoner (Adrian is still using Glamour to look like a dragonkin). The newbies even unconsciously kept their distance at the sight of Adrian and they even warned the other newbies not to go near him.

Reports on a Sadistic Summoner has been spread throughout the newbie thread. The reports stated that a high-level Summoner player is training his newly acquired soulbound by bullying lower-level mobs. A picture of the dragonkin form Adrian has been posted with captions, 'Do not get close to this summoner or you will get bullied'.

The summoner being reported did not know that he once became infamous due to this incident. He just happily trained his Baby Slime despite the ad rumors floating about him.

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"I got the hair strand." Lycan stated as they met up once again at the castle.

"Took you too long. You went to get a hair strand for two hours. We still have to find where they hold meetings or the next village they are going to recruit from." Adrian grumbled as he only has a few hours left before he must stop playing.

"He did not give the hair strand for free which is why I took so long. Even if I am the son of the duke, it does not mean that I should abuse my authority. He even looked at me funny when I asked for a strand. He thought I was going to curse him or something." Lycan replied.

"You do not need to worry about the location because we can just head to the village of the one that we captured. It is about a day of travel if we go by foot but only a few hours if we use a mode of transportation. It is called Moonshine Village." Solstice stated.

"You can teleport us there, right? If you do that then we would not need to travel by foot or carriage." Lycan asked as he remembered that the Daemos could use space magic.

"I could but that would mean we are going in blind. If we suddenly pop inside the town or above the town then they would raise their suspicion. We should ride Kanlaon there because he is fast and strong enough to carry all three of us.

It should take about two hours to reach there through flight, but we will fly high up in the clouds. When we are in the general area, we would descend using Teleportation. If I just teleport us there, then we would have to appear in the atmosphere. You guys could probably not survive the temperature there." Adrian answered as there are many variables in teleporting there.

"It is better to also ride our way there so that we can survey the area from above. We might even catch a glimpse of them having a meeting or going to their hideout." Solstice stated and the rest agreed as it is the safest way.

"Should we prepare anything for taking flight in the air?" Lycan asked as this is his first time flying in the air.

"You do not need to dress for the high altitude, but we need to be wary of attacks from flying monsters." Adrian stated as he suddenly has a flashback of his experience with a thunderbird.

"This time! I will have my revenge!" Adrian thought as his rage against the thunderbird welled up.

"So, we should be ready in case we get attacked by flying monsters. As long as they come near me the I could smack them down with my skill that grounds the target." Lycan stated as he flexed his muscles.

### Chapter 372 - Aerial Battles I

"Greater Summon: Kanlaon" Adrian chanted and a magic circle with a dragon insignia appeared mid-air.

Kanlaon appeared out of the magic circle in a flash of snow and fire. The magic circle became his gateway to manifest in the material world.

"I got to admit but do not tell your brother this. He is good in this game. I do not even know a player who has a dragon either as a mount or soulbound other than him. I am fairly sure that he is being hounded by the top guilds by now due to him being unique. We are already unique, but he is on another level." Lycan whispered to Solstice who just nodded in agreement.

"How can we rid him? He is only about five meters long and not that big." Solstice stated as she saw that Kanlaon is not that big as she thought the dragon would be.

"That is not Kanlaon's real size. He often uses that height because being bigger means that he is an easy target. Can you please get back to your real size Kanlaon?" Adrian stated.

Kanlaon nodded in agreement as the dragon suddenly coiled mid-air. Kanlaon performed something like a dance as his size became bigger and bigger until he was not 20 meters long. The great figure of the Frostfire Dragon beheld the castle of the Duke of Arkadia.

The guards that were there during that time could only open their mouths ajar due to seeing a dragon that is twenty meters long. Solstice was clearly amazed as she was speechless upon seeing Kanlaon's majestic form. If one looked closely then they would see Kanlaon smiling smugly.

The appearance of a large dragon caused a commotion due to a maid passing by. She suddenly ran and called the guards as she was freaking out. Even Duke Lycaon came out of his study to see what the commotion was really about only to behold the figure of a dragon.

The maid's reaction is understandable because dragons were not recorded to be all benevolent, especially the western dragons. Western dragons are reported to come to any place they fancy and is said to be treated with utmost respect. If not, then the western dragon will unleash his wrath upon the that place for being rude to him or her.

"Let us go. What are you waiting for and hop on?!" Adrian stated as he already jumped to ride on Kanlaon's neck. Solstice and Lycan looked at each other and just helplessly sighed.

"Ladies first!" Lycan gestured and Solstice jumped on aboard then he followed her.

"Sorry about the commotion!" Adrian told the duke before they finally flew to the sky. Those at the castle could only see a black dot in the sky after a few seconds.

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"Wow! We are really flying right now! This is what the dragonkins and the gnomes that have a magitech plane must feel like. Flying in mid-air really has that magical feeling but why do we not feel air pressure?" Lycan asked while he is still jovial from the feeling of flying.

"Kanlaon is using his mastery of the elements of fire and ice to produce some sort of invisible shield that blocks the air pressure. If you jump about three meters away, then that protection will be no more as you will be blown away with the speed we are flying." Adrian explained.

As Adrian is explaining how they do not feel the air pressure, Kanlaon suddenly informed Adrian that some monsters are coming.

"Can we not out speed them?" Adrian asked as only a few winged monsters could catch up to Kanlaon's speed.

"No master. It seems that they are faster than me because they are reaching us much faster than I could fly away." Kanlaon replied.

"Everyone! Please get ready because we have guests. Paradox, Summon the Primordial Armament: Bow!" Adrian stated and the other two looked around them while Kanlaon stopped in place.

"What are we fighting!?" Solstice asked as she is not that helpful when the sun is up. Some of her strength is sealed due to the sunlight.

"Just support your boytoy so that you guys do not get thrown away from where you are standing. We do not need to win if the enemy is stronger than us. We just need to weaken it down enough for us to escape. Loot will not stay floating in the sky even if we shoot it down." Adrian stated as he pulled his bow that now looks different due to the gold outlines.

Adrian noticed that there is not only one enemy but a flock of them as five birds flying in a V-formation could be seen getting close to them. The flying monsters were so fast that Adrian could not identify them using his evil eye.

"Shooting Star!" Adrian casted his first skill.

The attack looked like it was before the bow became a Primordial Armament but there was a gold sheen in the meteor like attack that was not present before. The Shooting Star travelled towards the flock of birds and ruined their formation due to one of them getting hit. The bird that was hit plummeted down.

The four remaining birds became furious and flew faster than ever. Kanlaon who saw this released a hailstorm from the Orb of True Ice. The birds that were speeding up suddenly slowed down due to the sudden change in temperature. Adrian finally had a good look on their aggressors.

"Griffins." Adrian stated which made the two become more battle ready.

Solstice then checked the map and saw that they were just on top of the mountain that the Griffons like to perch on as the map was marked with a Griffin emblem. She then cut her palm so that blood could come out. She then used the blood to shape herself a sword.

Lycan brought out his weapons as well and it was a knuckle with spikes. Adrian who saw this could only rely on them for protection if some griffin manages to get close to them.

"Kanlaon fly away slowly while I create a distraction. We are at their territory so leaving it should calm them down." Adrian commanded and Kanlaon followed.

## Chapter 373 - Aerial Battles II

The griffins are unrelenting as one of their own got shot down. They wanted to punish the trespassers of their territory, but it seems that those same trespassers are powerful enough to contend with them. Griffins are proud creatures and call themselves as 'Lords of the Sky'.

The intense hailstorm that suddenly befell their area not only hindered their flight but also their vision. A few moments later, a scream from another griffon sounded. That griffon was hit by the wing which made it plummet down like the other one.

The griffin taking the lead knows that such attack would not be able to take them down which is why he did not command to save the two that fell. They would be back in the air after a few minutes of recuperating. The griffins that are left became even more determined to bring down their foes.

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"Are they not afraid of dragons?" Solstice asked as she has seen other winged monsters steer clear of Kanlaon during their flight.

"The ones who fled upon seeing Kanlaon are probably just normal flying monsters. Griffins are monsters that re spoken about in legends. Also, their levels are 180 which is higher than Kanlaon so we are not going to survive if we stay here for long." Adrian stated as he kept firing arrows to gain more distance from the three griffons.

Adrian did not get a system notification that he got experience when he shot down two griffins, so he is sure that those two are still alive. Staying in their locations would only be disastrous because the two griffins would eventually return to get vengeance.

Suddenly, a sound of something like a jet could be heard from behind them. A loud thud happened, and Adrian is suddenly thrown off Kanlaon. Adrian immediately took flight using his wings so that he does not fall to the ground.

[You have been damaged by a Griffin.]

Adrian looked at his health and he lost 30% his health with the attack he received. He saw that the Griffin that attacked him is once again circling back to attack him. Before the Griffin's attack connects to Adrian, he used Blink to evade it and arrive back on Kanlaon.

Three more jet like sounds came from around them and he saw that the remaining griffins are now very serious in attacking. Solstice did not panic as she used more of her health to create a field full of bloody stars. Lycan also got ready to use the skill that can bring down aerial units.

Kanlaon stayed in place in fear of another one of his passengers falling. Adrian has no other choice but to try and shoot down the three griffins before the two that fell down came back. He wanted to aim at the Griffins but they were flying in an erratic pattern so Adrian could not predict where they will attack.

The bright side is that they became wary due to the bloody stars scattered in the air. One of them touched it and that griffin immediately got a bleeding status effect. The blood that came out from that griffin became a bloody star that protected them. The downside is that they cannot move from their location.

"Anyone has an idea on how we can escape from this place?" Adrian asked as he thought of summoning his other soulbounds but only Saena could be useful in this situation but even she would just get bullied.

"If I summon Saena to heal our team then the griffins might focus their attack on him. The only way to escape is with a diversion." Adrian thought but then Solstice saw the weakness of the jet like Griffins.

"They cannot make sharp turns due to the speed they are flying. We can use that to our advantage when attacking." Solstice stated as they suddenly formulated a plan on how to deal with the remaining griffins.

The griffins did not stop using their Supersonic Speed as the archer perched on the dragon can shoot them down in their normal speed. Although using the skill Supersonic Speed takes a heavy toll on their stamina, the griffins would gladly sacrifice that in order to become victorious in their confrontation.

"The Hailstorm is no longer doing anything except damage them a little. We need to do the plan fast before they regain their original speeds." Adrian stated and the two nodded.

Solstice took back the blood stars and returned them to the liquid state as she needed her full health for what they are going to do next. Lycan then transformed his feet to that of a werewolf. Adrian then cast Chrono Sift on Lycan.

One of the Griffins saw that the air mine field has already receded and thought that the weak person that cast that can no longer sustain it. It smugly charged towards the man who smells like a wolf as it determined that one to be the weakest person there.

"Paradox, cast Chrono Lag on that Griffin." Adrian stated as the floating cube flew at a fast pace to and fired an orb with a small gear at the Griffin.

The Griffin suddenly slowed down a lot in its flight which made the remaining two charge towards Adrian's group as they know that their slowed down companion would be struck down, but they were already far too late.

"Smack Down!" Lycan shouted as he was already on top of the griffin.

His spiked knuckles hit the griffin's head clearly which made it become bloody and it made it lose consciousness. The slowed down Griffin plummeted to the ground while its blood was collected by Solstice. She then forged the blood into a spear and shot it at one of the Griffins.

The griffin that she shot the blood spear was not able to avoid the spear because her blood weapons possess the special ability of the individual whose blood was used. The Griffin leader is left but it did not back down as it tried to kill Lycan who was now free falling.

"Quantum Cascade" Adrian cast its modified version where it can only pull one person.

Adrian pulled Lycan back to their location and the Griffin leader could only glare at them with anger.

#### Chapter 374 - Moonshine Village

The Griffin leader that was left I suddenly covered in a faint orange aura. The winds suddenly became turbulent as four strong tornadoes surrounded them. Even Kanlaon's control over the wind pressure could not protect them.

The four tornadoes started releasing wind blades while slowly converging towards their location. Kanlaon used all its concentration to conjure up two large spherical barriers with different element. The flame sphere weakened the wind blade while the frost sphere stopped the weakened wind blades.

The spherical barriers did not stop the incoming four tornadoes though. The four tornadoes kept clashing on the barriers that Kanlaon is already pushing his mana through its limits. For Kanlaon to fly, he still needs some mana for it which is why Kanlaon does not regenerate mana when flying.

"Orion's Wrath!" Adrian chanted as he flew up above the barrier.

Adrian fired three Shooting Stars in succession in order to hit the nonmoving griffin that is channeling its skill in order to control the four tornadoes. The first shooting star did not hit the griffin due to an invisible wind barrier but that immediately cracked upon the second hit.

The third Shooting Star damaged the griffin and stopped its channeling. The griffin is tougher than it seems due it not falling down despite receiving the attack. Adrian did not stop though as he immediately told everyone to hang on because he is already planning their escape.

"Chrono Lag" Adrian casted that to the injured Griffin.

"Chrono Shift! Kanlaon full speed ahead. Everyone, please hold on tight." Adrian casted that to Kanlaon as he warned the two after.

The Griffin tried to follow Kanlaon who is now flying at full speed, but its initial start was so sluggish that it lost motivation to follow. Though the group was able to escape the pursuit of the griffins, the extremely fast flight did not become easy due to them hanging for their lives.

Kanlaon's control over the temperature has yet to reach the extreme so it is understandable that he could not deflect the most extreme wind pressure. The good news would be that they reached the destination much earlier than expected.

They hovered on top the clouds to avoid the detection of the Alpha if that individual is in Moonshine village. Adrian took the hair strand and the Faceless Mask out and fed the first item to the latter. A look of disgust came from both Lycan and Solstice upon seeing the already horrific mask devour the hair strand.

"Let me cast Soul Form Transformation on you guys first." Adrian stated as he made the two become ghosts.

"The transformation would cancel immediately when you guys use an attack against a corporeal body. You can fight spirit type monsters in that form without worry though. Also, you guys will receive twice the magic damage in that form so be sure to evade magic spells because you are still vulnerable to that." Adrian explained.

He then wore the Faceless Mask again in order to transform himself into the werewolf that Lycan got the hair strand from. The mask affixed into his head like before and it spread throughout his body until he became a faceless and genderless being.

"Wow! That item really gives you the fright. It even transforms you into a hideous beast." Solstice commented.

"This is what the Faceless Ones look like in their default form. They are a worshipper of a dark god so if you see someone like this then you need to report it to a holy church so that they could order a subjugation." Adrian stated but him just having a mouth made the other two become horrified.

"Can you just transform now? Your current form is giving me nightmare fuel." Lycan commented.

"Why? I think it is kind of cool." Adrian thought as he always like the strange and horrific.

"I am pretty sure that if he happened upon a character that is part hideous monster then he would have become that." Solstice thought as she knows the tendencies of her little brother.

[Please choose a form to transform into.]

Adrian then saw three panels which has a human, an elf and a werewolf as pictures. Adrian saw that the werewolf that he will transform into looks like a human and has the same stature as Adrian. It seems that Lycan took in consideration what Adrian's real physical body looks like so that he can easily maneuver in the new body.

The werewolf that Lycan chose is about in his mid-twenties that has the same height as Adrian. His hair is brown while his eyes are green. Adrian chose the werewolf transformation and his featureless body started shifting to that of the individual he chose to transform into.

"Wow! You are actually a carbon copy of that person that I took the hair strand from. The resemblance is uncanny and creepy." Lycan stated in shock.

"No wonder the description of that mask is like that. Though your clothes are still the same." Solstice commented.

Adrian then changed into his beginner clothes. He then saw that the Cube of Paradox still floating beside him, so he stored it in his inventory first. He then unsummoned Kanlaon to the surprise of the two because they thought that they would plummet to the ground.

Contrary to their expectation, it was Adrian that fell down, but he used Teleportation to arrive safely at the ground. He chose an area hidden in thick bushes so that he can evade the sight of others. Solstice and Lycan just floated down to the ground.

"Maybe tell us next time that we can float in the air in this form before suddenly sealing our flying mount." Solstice grumbled but Adrian looked around the area before he answered her.



"Sorry about that. I am in a rush because mom sent me a message that dinner is ready, so we got to finish fast. We should check in an inn here at Moonshine Village before logging out so that we are not suspicious." Adrian told them but from an outsiders point of view it looked like he was talking to the wind.

## Chapter 375 - Inside Moonshine Village

The trio went inside Moonshine Village though only one of them could be really seen. According to Lycan, only the village chief and three families in this village are werewolves. The reason that the village is named Moonshine is due to the fact that they produce an alcohol that is named Moonshine.

Moonshine is basically the alcohol that is the special product and main source of income of the village. Adrian wanted to try the alcohol but he is still underage but that would change tomorrow because it would be his birthday which means he turns 18.

Alcohol is very present in the game due to one race that loves it and that is the dwarves. There is a saying in the dwarves' hometown which is 'If you cannot forge well then you must brew well'. Alcohol is also a bargaining chip for some NPCs that love them.

It was even reported that a player managed to score a legendary item chest because he escorted an unknown NPC to a bar that made great alcohol. This report made the players who are legal age scour the continent to find the best liquor and buy them from those stores.

Not only does becoming of legal age unlock the alcohol item but it also allows the player to visit certain parts of the city which has been prohibited before. The player still has the discretion if he wanted to visit those sections of the game though as it is not a must.

Legal ages also vary depending on the country of origin which is why Adrian's country uses 18 as the legal age while others are age 14 or as high as the age of 21. Moonshine Village is like any other village upon closer inspection. The only thing different is the large warehouses that is used to make the Moonshine. It seems that every family has a different brewing method.

"The villagers here seem to be fine and happy as smiles could be seen from their faces. I know that this village is not that close to Arkadia but they do not look like people who would plan a revolt." Adrian muttered quietly so that only the two in spirit form could hear him.

"You would think that but what you are looking at right now might not be werewolves and just ordinary humans. Werewolves will mainly be hunters that hunt for game so that they can curve their hunger for blood." Lycan stated.

"Is there like a meter where you like see if you get pent up or something?" Adrian asked but he knows that meters like that would only be available to players.

"I do not actually but every time that I kill a monster, there is this type of feeling that gets alleviated somehow like I get calm." Lycan answered.

"So, it is like the Daemos when space or time becomes anomalous. It is not indicated that we have that ability as a skill, but something ingrained into the character." Adrian thought.

"You should go and get hunting missions so that you can get close to the other werewolves. They would be able to smell that you are one of them if that happens." Lycan stated.

"Good thing that I possess the Weapon Mastery skill or else this plan would already be down the drain." Adrian replied as he looked for the Adventurers Guild that every settlement has.

Adventurers Guilds in Pandemonium is more like a guild that profits on selling monster parts or rare medicines. Villages like this one should have one but only in small scale. The capital cities though have an Adventurers Guild building that rival that of the Merchant Guild's building.

Adrian managed to find a small shack that has a wooden signboard with the letters saying 'Adventurers Guild' written on it. There was not even a door present in the simple shack probably due to the confidence of the person in charge or the establishment being open all the time.

Adrian stepped foot inside and immediately an aura of ferociousness suddenly assaulted him as numerous individuals eyed him down. The stares came from three people inside the small shack that are chatting while sitting at a small circular wooden table.

"Those three are werewolves. They could probably smell the stench of a werewolf from you. We are the territorial kind, so they tried assessing your strength by releasing their hidden bloodlust at you. Act like you are frozen. I did get that hair strand from a werewolf that is only about level 40 after all." Lycan stated.

Adrian did as he is instructed and acted like he froze due to fear. He pretended to regain his senses when he heard the clerk at the Adventurers Guild call him out. The aura of ferociousness directed at him also vanished the moment he was asked by the clerk.

"Do you need something, young lad? You are not lost, are you? Our sign clearly states that this is the Adventurers Guild despite the establishment being rather shabby." The Adventurers Guild Clerk stated as he knows that not many from a village that produced alcohol comes to their establishment.

"I am actually looking for work as I am now an orphan due to my village being attacked by bandits. My parents were adventurers and they always told me stories of their past before they decided to retire after having me. Sadly, they did all they can so that I could run away from the bandits.

I have been drifting from place to place ever since. I just happen to pass by this village to restock on money as my saving are rather tight right now." Adrian stated as he concocted a story just on the top of his head.

If the people in the Adventurers Guild could see invisible people right now, then they would see that Solstice is clapping her hands like no tomorrow. Even she almost cried due to the sob story that Adrian told with great acting. Lycan however did not buy any of it and just saw a newbie actor trying to land a role he could not get even with his life.

#### Chapter 376 - Someone Is Following Me

"There are no great hunting missions posted on that bulletin, young lad. If you want, you can join our team to hunt in the nearby forest just south of Moonshine Village." A man who looks like he is in his early thirties stated as he put his hand on Adrian's shoulder while smiling broadly.

"There you go again, Rollin. Trying to rope in a fledgling in our hunts. You should avoid hunting with us I you cannot handle our intimidating gaze kid. Grow a bit more and we might let you join." A man with numerous scars on his arms stated.

"Umph" The third man just nodded in agreement with what the man with scars stated.

"We can just let him be our porter we would only teach him how to hunt but he would not really participate in the hunt himself. He is still too green for that as the beasts we hunt emits such a thick aura of bloodlust that he might pause like what he did when he entered." Rollin stated.

"The name is Amoux and the silent guy there is Lowe. If you really want to, then you could join us as a porter. We would still pay you but your share will be lesser than our share but that would be enough to continue your travels if you do not stay here at our quaint village." Amoux stated as he smiled towards Adrian.

"Umph!" Lowe nodded once more.

"Think about our offer, young lad. Come on boys. We need to hunt as the village festival is about to come." Rollin stated as he rounded up his two companions.

"Do not worry and it would be better for you to accept their offer. They are good people and like to guide young aspiring adventurers from this village. They are also something like the village's unofficial guards because they are the ones to break up fights if they happen upon them.

The intense intimidating aura that they released earlier is also part of them looking out for the young aspiring adventurers. They always do that in order to drive away the weak hearted young lads that wants to become adventurers. This line of work is extremely dangerous after all." The Adventurers Guild Clerk stated so that Adrian does not get offended for being tested.

"I see. I will keep that in mind. I might join them later on after I get a good night's rest. Is there an inn here that is cheap?" Adrian asked and the clerk happily told him the way.

Just outside of the Adventurers Guild, Adrian could sense that he was being watched. There was no killing intent but rather it was something like when someone wants to pull you in a networking scam. Adrian felt that gaze, so he hurried on his way to the inn without even looking back.

Solstice and Lycan though saw how Adrian is acting so they looked around. The two of them saw a hooded individual following Adrian. They wanted to come close to that hooded individual but if it was one of the followers of that other alpha then they would undoubtedly be sensitive to being observed.

The hooded individual tried to talk to Adrian on the way, but he carefully weaved through the people at the market that was near the location of the inn. Every time that the hooded individual was about to touch Adrian, Soleil and Lycan would try touching the person next to Adrian o get their attention thereby diverting the hooded individual's touch.

Adrian managed to find the inn that the Adventurers Guild Clerk stated, and he rented it for ten days. Solstice and Lycan cancelled their soul form as the three need to discuss what to do next before they log out to handle their issues in the real world.

"Those three are undeniably werewolves. I can sense their aura of ferociousness is the same as that of Lycan. From the Adventurers Guild Clerk's suggestion, it seem that they are not bad people. Though I doubt that they are part of that other alpha's faction." Adrian shared.

"What makes you say that?" Lycan asked.

"They love this village too much for them to leave. If they really wanted fame and adventure, then they would have left the village a long time ago. Though the rejected young werewolf wannabe adventurers might be the ones who are joining this Alpha's Pack." Adrian suggested.

"Does it concern the hooded individual that was following you?" Solstice asked.

"I already felt the gaze of someone when I entered the Adventurers Guild. You guys would not feel that gaze because it was not directed at you guys and becoming soul forms dulls down your physical senses. It is still an odd coincidence that someone followed me, the moment I walked out after those three werewolves went out." Adrian argued.

"I also thought that it was suspicious that someone followed you after exiting the Adventurers Guild. If they wanted to ask a question, then that person should have entered already or asked the three werewolves that went out before us." Solstice added.

"Should I follow that hooded individual then? Your skill will not dissipate in effect if you log out right?" Lycan asked as he wanted to continue with the quest as he still has a bit more time left.

"It will not dissipate but you need to heed my warnings though. You can phase right through objects, but it would drain your mana. 1000 Mana Points would be reduced per square meter of phasing. You are also very vulnerable to magic attacks. You might get one shot in that form by a high-level wizard." Adrian warned Lycan.

"I will just observe that hooded individual while I still have time left. It seems that hooded individual is waiting at the restaurant part of the inn." Lycan answered with determination.

"I am fine with that. Sis?" Adrian asked Solstice.

"Fine but be careful. I do not want to save your sorry ass from a prison again." Solstice stated as she kissed Lycan's cheek.

"Yuck. I will just cast the spell right away. I do not want to see you guys flirting." Adrian stated as he cast the Soul Form Transformation skill and immediately logged out after.

"Seriously, that impatient brat! Anyways, be incredibly careful." Solstice kissed Lycan once more and logged out.

Lycan then proceeded with following the hooded individual that followed Adrian with the remaining time he can log-in inside the game. The hooded individual waited a little while in an empty table before going out of the inn as it seems the person that it was waiting for did not meet him or her.

#### Chapter 377 - Night Before The Birthday

That night as Adrian and his family were discussing on what they are about to do tomorrow since it is the day that Adrian finally becomes an adult. In society's eyes but not from his mother's eyes because all mothers view their children as babies regardless of their real age.

A private plane arrived at an airport just two hours away from Adrian's house. Out came a lavish looking old man dressed in the finest suits handcrafted by the most expensive Italian Seamstress. This was none other than Adrian's grandfather, Gerard.

He would have arrived early, but he became too busy picking up a present for his grandson's 18th birthday that would be tomorrow. He made sure to pick up souvenirs from the countries that Adrian had already visited once.

He even bought Adrian a gift that is so limited edition that it only had one copy of it in the world. For Gerard, the happiness of his cute grandson that would now learn that he has the most awesome grandfather in the world.

"Bernard, have all the gifts be wrapped before morning tomorrow. Also have the limousine prepared for tomorrow. Has my son booked some sort of theme park or any establishment for the big event tomorrow?" Gerard asked as he wanted to arrive before his grandson leaves his house.

"The sources tell us that no one in the name of Richard Dubois has rented any establishment for this day. It is highly likely that a party would be held at their house due to your daughter-in-law buying party stuff and two carts full of food." Bernard replied.

"I see then that is good. Prepare the gift for my daughter also. Since she is the wife of my son, then that automatically makes her my daughter." Gerard announced as five servants are loading up the gifts in a delivery truck that they already rented beforehand.

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Meanwhile at Adrian's house....

The family is now prepping for their tradition when someone is about to celebrate a birthday the next day and that is making Lumpia of Fried Spring Rolls. It is basically a spring roll that is deep fried in oil and we all know that anything deep fried is bound to be good.

The procedure for making Lumpia is rather quite easy. You must have your preferred choice of ground protein which can be pork, beef or chicken depending on the cook, but Adrian's family always uses ground pork.

Diced carrots, diced bell peppers, diced onion and diced garlic are then added to the ground pork. An egg is then added as a binding agent along with a tablespoon of flour so that the meat juices do not make the rice paper soggy.

Each family has their own recipe on how to tackle Lumpia, but Adrian's family uses five spice, chicken bouillon powder and a sprinkle of sesame oil to make the party snack taste divine. The mixture is then mixed thoroughly until it becomes paste like. Add salt and pepper to adjust the taste after frying some of the meat to test the flavor.

After the meat and vegetable mixture has been adjusted, you then use one spoonful of the meat mixture and put it on the rice paper. You then roll the rice paper until you make the finished version of the spring roll. Deep fry the spring roll until it is golden brown, and the rice paper becomes crispy.

(Author's Note: I became hungry just by writing this. Sorry if you feel the same. Picture of the said party snack: /wp-content/uploads/2017/06/lumpiang-shanghai-4-1.jpg)

"Uhh! My hands have become numb just by rolling this. I may have rolled a fifty of them already." Adrian grumbled but his hands still kept on rolling the Lumpia.

"You always complain about that every time we make this spring rolls. I have rolled doubled the amount you have made, and do you see me complaining?" Mina asked Adrian.

"Its just the process of making them is so labor intensive if it is this much but it is always the first to be cleared on the table. Mom, can you leave some inside the fridge? I want to know that I will still have some left even if I do not eat much during the celebration." Adrian stated.

"I got you my little baby boy. Mother has got you covered. You are not the only one in this family that likes this stuff. Your dad goes crazy for this stuff and always grumbles whenever he gets left with nothing. He basically inhales this stuff even though he is so bad at making this." Maria, Adrian's mother, stated while teasing her husband.

"It is not my fault that these things are too darn good. So, can I already fry some so we can taste them. You know...Quality Control. We ought to check the food before we serve it the guests." Richard stated as his eyes glowed like a hawk upon seeing his rolled spring rolls.

"You better fry the ones you made dad. They do not look ready for the party tomorrow. They look sloppy while mine looks like the ones that you serve in five-star restaurants." Adrian teased. But in reality, he is helping his father get the deed done. Even he wants a taste of this delicious morsel.

"You are right. The ten that I initially rolled looks like someone stepped on them. We should sacrifice this ten in order to see if they taste good." Richard stated with anticipation. He even swallowed a couple of times indicating that he was already salivating.

(Author's note: I am already salivating. Remember to tell me not to write about food on an empty stomach.)

"Just fry the darn things already. We both know that you two are just too eager to eat the spring rolls." Maria stated which made her husband immediately turn on the stove. It seems he has already prepared the oil a bit earlier as if he expected this to happen.

"The oil is not yet in the right temperature, dad. I have seen this on a cooking show that the oil must come to temperature or the skin will not be crispy." Adrian stated.

"Is it the show where the chef is always badmouthing the cooks if they cook it raw." Richard asked with keen interest.

"It seems great mind think alike. I always watch that show because it is interesting. It seems his great grandfather also had that attitude back when he was a chef." Adrian replied.

"Those two are at it again." Mina exhaustedly stated.

"Leave them be. They go crazy about their favorite food." Maria replied with an exhausted smile as she always sees this scene when they make spring rolls.

Chapter 378 - Birthday

The next day came and Adrian excitedly got up his bed. Today is his birthday and he is now 18 years old. The endless possibilities of what he can do amazes him but today is his day. He is simply happy that he would be able to spend the day with the family he loves and cherishes.

His friends would also come to his house today. Those that can come anyway as he also tried inviting Creepysoo, Vayu and Soleil but unfortunately, they could not come due to personal circumstances and living in other countries.

Adrian also tried his best to wash up by himself as he could now walk like normal with the aid of the exoskeleton. He went down to their living room to see that his mother is already cooking spaghetti which is a staple party food from where they are from.

Another food that Adrian is looking forward to is the whole roasted pig being cooked in the open area behind their house. The amazing smell of Lechon (the whole roasted pig) woke him up from his dreams. The ones who are roasting the pig is the guards that Adrian's family has hired.

Adrian's mother is also receiving help from the wives of the guards as they are preparing for a feast as Marlon, Esmeralda and Alberto's family are all coming for the feast as their families are long time friends with Adrian's family. Adrian is quite shocked that his closest friends' mothers hit it off so well as if they were the ones who have been friends the longest.

"Good morning, dad!" Adrian greeted his dad that is currently having his morning coffee.

"Good morning, son. Did your sister wake up yet? She takes too long to get ready so you better tell her to get ready soon as guests will arrive in about three hours." Richard stated as he remembered that Mina always tries to look pretty whenever guests come to the house.

Suddenly, the head guard which Adrian calls Uncle Lito suddenly rushes inside the house. He does not look panicked but more like he is troubled by something. This usually happens when someone is at the door wanting Adrian's father to invest in their business.

"Boss, someone who is proclaiming to be your father is at the from gate. He even bought a delivery truck full of stuff. We already checked the inside of the delivery truck and it is full of presents. No bombs detected in the presents so it should be safe." Uncle Lito stated.

"Did you already tell the old man to leave when you first told me about this incident a few minutes earlier?" Richard asked.

"Yes Sir! But the old man strongly insisted that he is your father. He even showed me the I.D that has your surname that is the same as him. And if I were to be honest, he scares me." Uncle Lito replied.

A limousine then suddenly pulls over just a few meters away from Adrian's house. The limousine door opens and from it a person that Adrian would describe as a 'dandy' came out. Adrian looked at his father and he could see his face making a helpless sigh and tired expression.

"Have I not raised you to always respect your elders, Richard? Though I applaud you for the added security as you have been dealt with numerous troublemakers in the past. You got that from me at least." The dandy old man stated.

"Hello, Dad. Nice of you to drop by unannounced." Richard stated while gritting his teeth as he came out to greet his father.

Adrian is so shocked with news of knowing that he still has a grandparent that he went to tell his mother. He always thought that he no longer had grandparents due to his father or mother not telling stories about them. He always thought that it brought them painful memories when they remember them, so he did never bring it up.

Upon hearing what Adrian said, Maria immediately fixed her hair and clothes. She then went outside to meet with her husband's father. Mina who is now ready to receive guests saw that there was a sudden commotion outside and asked Adrian about it.

"What is all the fuss about?" Mina asked.

"Apparently, we have a grandfather at our father side. He just suddenly brought with him a limousine and a delivery truck with him." Adrian replied.

"I know that they probably have some issues and adults are talking but I am an adult, and you are also technically an adult." Mina stated.

"So as adults. We can listen in on their conversation. Ladies first!" Adrian gestured as they went to the location of their parents.

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"Dad, why are you really here? You do know that I cut off all ties with the family because I no longer want the inheritance." Richard stated in a tired tone.

"You do not have to worry about that as I did not come here for you but for my grandson. I even bought all this presents just for him." Gerard stated.

"Really!" Adrian shouted in excitement as he saw tons of presents being unloaded in front of the house.

"Well, if not for you then who else? I see that you grew up to become a fine young man. You look just like me when I was in my teens. Who knew I was that handsome when I was young? Hohoho." Gerard complimented himself.

"You can just call me Grandpa or Gramps. Whatever you prefer as long as you are happy with it. Do you want to see the very special present that I got just for you?" Gerard asked Adrian and the latter just nodded in agreement due to the excitement.

"Bernard, unwrap the gift that I got for my grandson." Gerard commanded and his faithful butler did as he was told.

A box that is about a meter in height is then presented before Adrian. Bernard then gestured the young master to open it himself. Adrian anxiously opened the box and was surprised to the point that blood rushed over his head.

The gift that he was given was non-other than the first ever small statue of the game Pandemonium. The statue basically contains the human, orc, dwarf, elf, and gnome which are the five starting races posed in a battle position. The human is dressed as a paladin, the orc as a berserker, the dwarf carrying a hammer, the elf carrying a bow and the gnome throwing magitech bombs.



"This is the limited-edition statue of Pandemonium! It is said that this is the only copy in existence. How did you get it!? No scratch that! You are the best grandpa ever." Adrian shouted as he fawned over the statue.

Gerard's ears reverberated with the last sentence that Adrian stated. He even unconsciously used the camera function of his haloswatch to take dozens of pictures of Adrian. Richard looked exhausted trying to deal with his father, so Maria just advised him to deal with it later after the party.

The guests came and the party started. Adrian's gifts did not end with just the statue as his newly acquired grandfather bought him all his favorite snacks all around the world. His friends even got a bit jealous, but Adrian shared some of his snacks with them.

Mina did not say anything because she was handed a box. She almost fainted after peeking at it.

#### Chapter 379 - Not An Accident After All

The party ended in peace as Adrian's grandfather is not like those stuck-up rich people that look down on other people not on his level. Although Gerard could act like that if he really needed to. He needed to know more about his family which is why he talked to all the people invited to the party.

From the conversations that Gerard has gathered from the close friends of his son's family, he noticed that his son is doing well in life but not as well as him. Still, it seems that his son is focusing on investing on people who have big dreams.

"As expected of my son, he is a good judge of character but that also means that some unwanted people would want the taste of success due to the nickname he has got." Gerard thought to himself as he sipped the juice that his daughter gave him.

'Start-Up Wizard' that is the nickname that Adrian's father Richard has got due to the insane track record of successful businesses that he invested upon. Although not all businesses that he invested became overly successful, the businesses did not become bankrupt but the reason for that would be the passion of the owners of the businesses rather than Richard's money.

"I would have to talk to my son in later date because I need to spoil my grandson today. I finally managed to get invited without being forceful after all." Gerard thought as he is sitting in the living room sofa the day after Adrian's birthday.

"Honey, what should we do with your father? We cannot let him leave now that he sat on the sofa even if you want him to. Your son already invited him, and it is not like you were banished from your home. You only forfeited your inheritance not your relationship." Maria argued.

"What is my grandson doing at this time? Even though he invited me, he did not come and fetch me from the gate." Gerard stated as he wiped a tear on his right cheek.

"Do not be overbearing. He has yet to walk properly but he has been showing progress. Walking all the way to the gate would still be too much for him. He is currently inside his favorite game right now so you cannot bother him. He only gets out during mealtimes." Richard argued as he took a seat across his father.

"If that is the case then I would like to stay for lunch." Gerard stated as he smiled while the look on his son became hopeless.

"Why are you really here dad? You did not come just because it is my son's birthday. Also, it is creepy to know what he likes." Richard stated.

"You do know that my grandson has a social media page, right? And you are correct to assume that I did not just come here for his birthday but that is the reason that I came early." Gerard replied as he took a sip once more.

"Then why are you really here for?" Richard asked.

"I am telling you that Adrian's accident is not really an accident." Gerard stated in a serious tone in which Adrian's parents' faces also turned serious.

"The police and investigators already said that it was an accident and nothing more. Adrian even got a medal of heroism from the mayor even though it was just his stunt to get more voters." Richard stated.

"My dear son, even though I am old, I am very much caught up to the technology today except for the ones in the entertainment sector of course. The bus that hit my grandson should have an emergency stop option as it was installed with the latest sensor that would make the bus stop immediately by planting spikes onto the ground.

Oddly enough, there were no signs of that electric bus' anti-crash mechanism to activate. This is the reason why bus accidents have been reduced to 1%. The bus should have already stopped or slowed down upon sensing the little girl a few meters away." Gerard stated in serious tone.

"There should be no reason for the mother and the little girl to be culprits because I already investigated them just in case. All results pointed out that they are really mother and daughter that just happened to be there at the time. The bus driver is also the same which I why we did not revoke his license." Richard replied.

"The mother and daughter are innocent and also the bus driver. But did you not check the passengers? Also did you dig deep enough regarding the mother of the child? What if they were placed there because of someone?" Gerard stated in a serious tone.

"Elaborate!" Maria stated in a calm voice but, in a tone, filled with rage.

"Oh! I like her. You did an incredibly good job son. I am very proud of you but back to the matter at hand. It seems that there were traces of an electromagnetic later being used which made the anti-accident mechanism activate and made the bus speed up instead of slowing down." Gerard stated.

"And the mother and daughter?" Richard asked.

"The mother and daughter are innocent but not the boss of the mother that called her before the exact same time that her daughter's toy is suddenly flung onto the streets. That same toy has been tampered with because it was given by that mother's boss. They made it so elaborate to the point that an investigation would not pick up that it was a set-up." Gerard stated.

"Who is it?" Maria asked as she was already seething with anger that even scared her own husband.

"According to my investigation it was from a person named Edison Torrio who is actually someone who is somewhat renowned in the underworld. It seems that he came to you for a business proposal, but you rejected him." Gerard answered.

"If he did then he did not use his real name when he came to me. It is not uncommon for me to reject business proposals that can be used for shady means but that is not enough for him to warrant revenge." Richard replied.

"That is true because that accident should not have been that serious. It seems that all he wanted to do is send my grandson to the hospital for a few days, but you do know to never trust tools made by the black market. You do not have to worry though as I already sent men to teach this person a lesson. He also never approached you again after his plan got messed up." Gerard stated with a wicked smile.

"Honey, I need to calm my head so I will take a vacation for a few days. Take care of the kids while I am gone and do not order food from delivery as the fridge is already packed with ingredients." Maria stated as she went to their room to pack.

"You do not need to worry, my dear daughter. I also brought my chef with me, so the kids are in good hands." Gerard stated in an assuring manner.

Richard who saw her wife did not stop her because even he would be unable to stop her when she becomes like that. He just hopes that the 'vacation' that she will take would clear her mind.

#### Chapter 380 - Hunting With Werewolves

Three days have passed in-game time as Adrian did not log-in yesterday due to being center of attraction in the party yesterday. He finally returned into the game with his sister. Lycan did not do much yesterday because he was chatting with Adrian's sister.

Lycan followed the hooded individual that wanted to talk to Adrian, but he lost the individual in the forest. He also got the feeling that the hooded individual knew that he or she is being followed because he or she often looked back while Lycan was trailing her.

"If she disappeared into the forest then that would mean he or she would be more likely to be part of that other alpha's faction." Solstice surmised.

"The hooded individual did not come back to the inn though, so we are not sure about that. They might also be an acquaintance of the one we got the hair strand from." Lycan stated.

"They could have returned to the inn in a different attire, so you never know. If that hooded individual is still looking for me then they would once again try to get my attention when we go out." Adrian stated.

Adrian once again cast Soul Form Transformation on the two that will aid him in the mission. They decided to join the hunt that the three werewolves would undergo. They went down the inn, but no one tried to talk to Adrian as they hoped which means the hooded individual could have been an acquaintance of the person that they borrowed the face from.

"It could just mean they are having a meeting today thus that hooded individual is not present. They could also be participating in the hunt. We need to hurry as you have a much higher chance of being recruited if you participate in the hunt." Solstice stated and everyone is in agreement.

Adrian walked towards the Adventurers Guild without any disturbance. When he reached the Adventurers Guild, he happened upon the three werewolves fully armed. He greeted them politely as he is the youngest one there.

"Oh! Are you here to join the hunt, young lad?" Rollin asked with enthusiasm.

"If you can have me then that would be much appreciated." Adrian replied amicably.

"Yahaha! Of course, a young one like you needs to be guided properly so that you can grow up into a proper man. Just stick with us for a while and then you would have enough money to spend for the month." Rollin stated excitedly.

"If you are not bothered to have me then I am sorry for the intrusion." Adrian stated as he bowed deeply.

"You will be our porter though but that does not mean that you would always be safe as you know that monsters are unpredictable. Do you have a weapon?" Amoux stated as he wanted Adrian to be prepared if something unexpected happens.

"I use these daggers with me as a weapon and do not worry as I will prioritize escape first if I am in danger of dying." Adrian stated.

"Then we are all set. Let me give the young lad your bag as we would be able to hunt more if you participate." Rollin commanded and Lowe gave his bag to Adrian.

The bag that Adrian got was an ordinary large leather bag that is surprisingly enchanted with preservation magic. The temperature in the bag is about 15 degree Celsius so that the meat does not go bad even if they take all day to hunt.

"What are we hunting anyway?" Adrian asked as he was curious.

"We are going to hunt the Fanged Deer as it will be the meat used in the festival two days later." Amoux stated as they walked towards the forest.

"Fanged Deer are very tasty but difficult to hunt due to their speed and elusiveness. It also cannot be cornered easily as it is the type of monster that will fight to the death if that is its only choice." Rollin added.

Adrian could see that Rollin and the others are higher in level compared to the village NPCs because they were in the 130s. The fanged deer that they will hunt is in the same level range as Adrian could remember it due to him wanting a deer soulbound but not many are noted in books.

They entered the forest quietly as the fanged deer is very perceptive of its surroundings. A small rustle could immediately startle it if they are not careful. The fanged deer is not just a deer with fangs but a four-meter-tall deer with fangs that are two feet in length that also serves as heat sensors.

It has been two hours since they entered the forest and there were still no signs of the fanged deer. What they did hear is another group fighting what appears to be a Wild Cat.

"It is them again. Why do they choose to train those brainwashed kids here near our forest!" Rollin stated with anger.

"Let us go, young lad. You better not allow yourself to be brainwashed by them as we know you are a fledgling wolf yourself. They might woo you with sweet words like avenging your parents and such but do not listen to them. They are only leading the young generation of werewolves in a ditch." Amoux warned Adrian and it seems that they really perceive Adrian as a werewolf.

Upon hearing what Amoux said, Solstice decided to stay and watch over the other party. Lycan decided to accompany his girlfriend as Adrian would be fine by himself anyway. They could also warn Adrian if the other party will be heading towards Adrian's location.

"What do you guys mean when not become like them? Do you guys know what happened to some of them when they joined that group" Adrian asked as they once again continued their search for the fanged deer.

The three werewolves looked at each other before speaking the truth.

"Apparently there is another alpha that is not happy with the state that the werewolves are in. He used the unrest that the young werewolves are feeling to join his cause. Which is why whatever flowery words that they are using, you must never fall for them." Rollin warned.