#### Shadow 21

# Chapter 21: Besieged on all sides

'Would you join our group?' the man request ringed out in the empty streets, the wind blows his robe as he stand there.

For a while Azief mouth was about to say no...but then he remember something. How could he forget about such important thing!

Idiots! he inwardly thought.

He remembered the beast in the elementary school. That alien like things, that gooey green stuff coming out of its mouth.

That fucking beast! The last requirement to become a Chosen

His eyes look scrutinizing the group in front of him. Twelve people. He look at the Malay man, leading the 5 man.

Looks strong he mused. But for some reason Azief could feel an uncomfortable feeling looking at the man.

Then he looks at the Indian girl with her two friends. A stick as her weapons. Why did the world orb give her that?

Hmm he mused. He then tries to remember the quest requirements for Shadow Lord class acquirement.

He doesn't have to do it alone, he finally remembers.

Well, when you keep battling and responding to situation without a chance to compose yourself, certain thing got pushed out of your mind.

This best describes Azief right now.

The only thing that matter is that the beast is destroyed. The only thing that matters is the beast is defeated, no matter the means.

It didn't have any restriction.

He smiles. Then he asks.

'What is your name?' he said in a grave tone looking at the muscly man. Behind the muscly man, his voice startled the Indians ladies.

While the man holding the scimitar, is gripping his weapon tightly. For some reason, that man look like he is dead afraid of me Azief mused.

'My name is Hamad.' The muscly man replied, still looking cautious at Azief.

'Hamad. Where is your destination?' Azief follows up. By now, he has certain alternatives but he couldn't delay going home.

'The capital.' Hamad reply

'Yes.' Hamad nodded and Azief put his finger on his chin. But his general expression is hidden because of the hood.

'Hmm' Azief has to think about this.

'Are you joining them?' a voice from behind him piped up.

'We need to go fast. Our destination is different from them.' Sofia said, her voice was anxious, almost like pleading.

She is right Azief mused. This is not their real objectives. Their objective right now is going home, not to help strangers.

Azief knows that too. But....this is too good of an opportunity to pass up. Could he...Hmmm...there is another way.

But it's not certain that they will wait. But still, it is better than doing nothing.

He needs to move fast. Now that he has the strength to mow down zombies, he could go home.

Sofia is also a good support partner.

'Then how about this?' he said to the group. The group listens intently.

'I'll give you a choice. In 3 days I will come back here and help you go to the capital. But only if you waited. If you wait three days, then I'll show an opportunity of a lifetime.'

Azief said only this. He did not say what the opportunity was, remaining as vague as possible.

How could he say that he will ask them to fight that alien with him? Of course he couldn't say this.

Azief could be selfish and cold sometimes to strangers. But he is not entirely lying. After all there is still many loots that he left under the debris of the buildings when he runs away from Ah Seng shop.

It's just now, that he knows that there is a super creepy looking alien standing near that building, how could he bravely enter there again without some backup plan?

And if they help him defeat the alien they would also gain levels, and not to mention the alien certainly would drop some powerful loot.

'Three days?' Hamad asked.

'A lot could happen in three days' Hamad said frowning. He thought Lord Shadow could help them.

After all, seeing the disparity in power, Hamad has already regarded Lord Shadow with high estimation.

What he needs now, is someone strong.

'Yes, a lot could happen' Azief said, nodding in agreement. After all, he knows, he is asking for too much.

'Of course in this three days if you manage to level up sufficiently and is confident of your strength you don't have to wait for me. After all this is just a selfish request of mine. You also have your own

destination, your own goals and objectives. It's just that I have some matter I need to confirm if I were to join your group. The more the merrier, isn't that right? I know what you want. You want my power because my level is higher. Yes, it is only because my level is higher, that I could so overwhelmingly defeated you. There is no need to hide this from you. After all, not many survive this calamity. I'm not so cold not to even give some pointers. Not to mention you have a lot of people in your group.'

Hamad nodded.

'I wanted to join you. Of course I want to. After all, if there are more people, our ability to survive would also soar.'

The group behind Hamad agrees, nodding their head.

'But, I also have my own things to pursue. I could not leave here until I confirm one thing. Either you accept or not, I hold no hard feelings. Just think of it, that we have no fate.' Azief said.

Hamad then said.

'If we were to wait, where would we wait?' he said asking.

Then Azief smirked.

'If that is the problem, I have the solution. Nearby here, there is a supermarket. The zombies around it have been neutralized by me. You could go and wait there. There are still a lot of supplies.'

Hamad was silent for a while, thinking, contemplating. He did not answer. Then he said.

'We'll see.'

Azief just nodded.

Then he said.

'Farewell. Until three days later then' as his robe fluttered he walk away with the archer following him.

'An aura of a strong man' Lakshmi said from behind.

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# AN HOUR LATER

Stiff corpses fill the area, walking, crawling, squirming. Black blood drenched the tar, and limbs scattered everywhere like some abominable plants sprouting from the earth.

A woman and a man leisurely walking through this corpse infested land. Sometimes the lady would release and arrow which would always be ended with a shriek from the target.

The man sometimes leisurely slashes his black intimidating sword and heads would fly. Then the man stop walking as he approached one of the stiffs.

'This could work.' The man crouched and grabs something from a decapitated hand.

A key jangling with numerous key chains.

'This is his bike right?' In front of the man and woman is a sport bike. The man is Lord Shadow, the Archer is Sofia.

Sofia by now has level up to 13 and Azief is still his same level. It is hard to raise level just by killing zombies now.

Sofia took the Archer profession. Azief has explained to Sofia that choosing the Unique Class, will give you a super hard quest but the return is also good.

Being a Chosen means you have to also did some hard quest to make sure you are worthy to wield it.

She chooses to have a safe life.

'What do you think, Sofia?' Azief asked.

Sofia nodded

'I guess so. It looks like it's the right bike.'

'Hmm' he nodded.

He checks his pet taming time. 7 hours. Not that much anytime anymore before he could see his pet.

Azief starts the ignition and the bike started. Good. It works, he mused.

Quickly Azief rides it.

'What you are waiting for? Ride it.' Sofia blushed and ride behind Azief. She put her hand on his waist and Azief ride the bike.

There is still many stranded cars, buses, trucks, stuck on the streets but using a bike it is easy to maneuver through the abandoned vehicles and the burning cars.

There are the occasional zombies but with the speed of the bike, they could maneuver them safely.

He could just run using his feet and he would be even faster but that consume stamina. Not to mention the small city Temerloh is just near his village.

He then arrived at the bridge. And he stopped.

Why? Because he has notices it. Sofia might not have noticed because she has been closing her eyes the entire times.

Riding through the streets, there are many gore scenes, which should only have existed in a horror movie.

How could Sofia bear to see all the corpse and all the horror scene. Azief also many times wanted to puke or close his eyes, but he perseveres.

Fighting zombies is different than looking at the heart wrenching scene of a helpless struggle.

The corpse on the way, shows them that many have futilely tries to get into safety only to have their hopes crushed.

But what did he notices exactly? A horde of stiffs coming to them with speed and their lifeless body, some crawling, some in one leg, all with the intention of eating them.

'Why stop?' Sofia said as she opens her eyes. Then she looks in front of her. A bridge....a bridge full of stiffs.

She looks behind her, and an army of zombies. Front or back, zombies all around.

'You can't shoot arrows from behind as I zigzag riding the bike, can you?' Azief asked, hoping the answer would be yes.

But as always, things couldn't be that easy.

She shakes her head. Azief sighed. If she could, he could ram the zombies in the front while Sofia shoots from behind.

But thinking back, that plan is not really feasible. Then he has to make a stand right here.

Well, he could understand Sofia. It's not like they are the kind of people who would survive a zombie apocalypse or something like this.

Usually, in the movies, the people that survive this type of thing, is ex-military, a mad scientist, the old guy who spouts the world is ending type and the hidden ability type of man.

Not at all, like him and Sofia. He survived because of luck, she survived because he helps her.

Maybe, to survive this, we need each other. He mused as he smiles slightly.

What is this? I'm getting too bright. He shakes his head. Monologue in his own head is not helping anything.

'So I guess we have to fight them here on this bridge.'

'You mean-'she said as her face paled as understanding dawned on her.

Behind her were 100 zombies. On the bridge is another 100 give or take. Azief just smiles bitterly.

'You got a zombie, I got a zombie! Everybody got a zombie!' and Azief laugh a bit, chuckling at his own joke.

'What is that supposed to be?' Sofia asked.

'A joke?'

'Yes.' Azief replying, still holding his laughter as the zombies keep walking towards them, closer and closer with each step.

'You have the gall to joke? Right now?' Sofia said shaking her head incredulous.

'Why not? It's not like things could get any worse.' Then he nervously looked at the sky and said

'And, no, I'm not challenging you, World Orb. This is good enough shit for one day.' Sofia just shakes her head and readies her bow.

Seeing there is no other way, she really could only fight.

She has conquered her fear....a bit.

'I might raise another level like this' Azief said, smacking his lips. Level. Experience. Battle experience.

In this new world order, he will become a new existence, a powerful existence.

That is the only way to survive. He needs to keep reminding himself this, if he ever grows complacent.

'You....'Sofia said and she grabbed Azief robes, and stare straight at his eyes under the hood.

'I just level up to level 13. I can't fight that many zombies. You can handle it right?' She said, seeking confirmation.

Azief nodded.

'You just support me from behind.'

'Fine' she said, heaving a sigh of relief. After she fought many zombies they always drop arrows for her.

I guess it will only drop if archer is the one that kills it. The World Orb give items that is suitable for the people who kill it.

At least that is Azief deduction.

The groaning becomes louder, the footsteps also become faster. Some of them are running towards Azief.

Azief only smiles and he sheathes his sword, small black aura surrounding the weapons.

That is the only thing he could do right now, smiling.

'You're ready?' he ask Sofia as they stands on the bridge, two warriors looking perfectly comfortable with each other, facing a horde of zombies, approaching them, as the sun is beginning to show its face.

'Ready as I will ever be.' Sofia answer and she smirked.

'Don't die on me. You owe me too much. I wanted to collect the interest' Azief said, smirking.

'If you don't die, how could I?' Sofia said smiling in annoyance even though they might be in death door; she is unnerved by the confidence of Azief.

So different from her memory.

'I guess I will charge then?' Azief still ask this content of novelfullbook.com, if you reading this content please go to website novelfullbook.com to continue reading, fastest update hourly

'Go, already.'

'Be careful' Azief said, almost like a whisper. Sofia just smiles in understanding. No matter how cold Azief is, there is a hint of warmth in his voice.

Sofia recognizes this warmth. After all, Azief is not a psychopath. He of course, have some kind of compassion, if not he would never even help Sofia.

For someone who hates being called a hero, he sure does a hero's job she mused.

Azief then with his speed, charge to the hundred zombies as Sofia let loose her arrows.

The battle starts on the bridge. 200 stiff fighting two Homo sapiens. Who would survive? Who would die?

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#### Chapter 22: The bridge of parting

The sun is showing, the mist is clearing, a beautiful morning.....if not for the 200 zombie's attacking them Sofia mused, as her hand keep shooting to the horde.

She keeps her position stable.

She is focusing on the front while Azief is charging on the zombies behind them.

'Hooh' Sofia exclaimed as sometime she steal a glance at Azief position. I guess this zombie horde is not really a big problem for him. She mused

Azief is using his speed to charge the 100 army of zombies. He was like a beast that flitted around, leaving only dust behind him.

His sword is ready to reap some souls, and his eyes are full of killing intent.

'YARGH!' He yelled, giving himself some encouragement and he crashed to the horde, and he attacked, his dark blade emits its luster and first blood is draw.

First strike was a slashing right motion.

For a while the moaning and the groaning stop and Sofia could only hear the crisp sound of meat being sliced.

Ten zombies' was slashed to two, their head flies in the air and drop to the tar with a thud, their bodies followed after.

Azief smirked.

He did not stop his attack, instead he follow up with a spinning slashing motions, his feet turn and his sword spins like a grinder machine.

It was almost like he was dancing in the bridge, with heads and limbs as his fireworks, the spurting black blood his decorations and the harsh sounds of his swords swinging right and left, his song.

It was beautiful.

On the other sides of the battle, Sofia is jumping around while aiming at the zombies head. Her accuracy is top notch and her agility is also not bad.

Her confidence against zombies is rising.

As long as she maintains a considerable distance with the zombies there is nothing to fear from them.

If she feels herself to be overwhelmed she will retreat for a while before using Rain of Arrows.

It consumes a lot of her Spirit but it is useful when using it against a horde. The Accuracy drooped but it inflicts a lot of injuries.

Azief is still mowing down the zombie's horde on the back with relentless and fast attack, chopping down zombies like they were cow meat.

Black blood sputtered everywhere, heads rolled around his feet. For a while he truly look like a sovereign of darkness.

With a hood covering his face, with a black robe fluttering in the morning breeze and a black sword in his hand, and this many corpses around him, he looks like an undefeated Dark God.

Another zombies try to grab Azief when he is slashing one of the bigger zombies.

Azief swiftly sidestepped to the opposite direction and with a swift slash, the zombies head flew, black blood came out of its neck like a fountain, gushing out.

Each of the zombies that attacked Azief, he only need to sidestepped and slashed and their intestines would came out, their heads would flies, their limbs would be gone.

To Azief eyes, they are slow...too slow.

He sidestepped and he slashed. It is the same routine for each one of the zombies. Why should he change to other routine when this one works?

They are not ferocious beast like that Fanged Giant Cat which requires his full concentration and speed.

This is zombies and most of them is low level. There is a few who could run and stuff but even that few, compared to his speed is nothing threatening.

Then ten zombies leap to him.

Ok, this is unexpected Azief mused but he was ready to slash them with his active skills, Slashing Wind but then he was interrupted.

From behind him barrage of arrows rained down the zombies.

Each one of the arrows effectively and efficiently lodged itself on the brain of the zombies. Azief had to dodge the shower of black blood.

Azief look behind him and see Sofia smiling.

'You owe me!' She yelled.

'I owe you nothing!' he yelled back.

'Hmmph!' Sofia snorted.

He got it under control. She just loves to interfere.

Rain of Arrows and Accurate Shot. Two of Sofia skills that is very suitable for her archer profession.

Rain of Arrows creates a rain of energy arrows. It consumes a lot of the user spirit. Accurate Shot is used to shoot a powerful shot of arrows.

Another zombies leap up and Azief is once again interrupted.

What are you doing! He wanted to yell but he endures.

She uses her Accurate Shot. One of the arrows even penetrates a zombie head only to shot the rest of the three zombies behind it.

'I'm going to activate Rain of Arrows' she yelled.

'You need to be fast handling the back so we could defeat the front. They are hiding inside the buses and some of them are still stuck behind the big truck' she yelled again, looking at the advancing stiff.

Now, Azief understand. She helped because the front needs his melee attack. After all her specialty is long range attacks and his was melee combat.

Azief could understand her fear towards the zombies. If not for that damn fear, she would be a fine companion Azief just look at her and nodded.

'Careful with that' Azief yelled when Sofia activated Rain of Arrows. He is still worried about the range of the attack.

Even though rain of arrows is not as effective as Accurate shot it is an AOE attack.

If it was humans they are fighting right now, many would have died or suffer injuries, their bodies would be riddled by arrows.

But fighting zombies, it does not have meaning unless it hit the zombies head.

'Come on quick Azief. The front is coming faster!' Sofia is overwhelmed now and she couldn't retreat no more.

If she retreat again she would be truly trapped and bring trouble to Azief who is killing the back.

Every time Azief stamina runs low, he drinks the vials. Even though skill book and item hardly come by right now, the vials drop as usual.

Most of it is stored inside his ring. The other is stored inside Sofia storage rings.

'Wait a moment!' He yelled back.

'I'm almost finished' and he gripped his sword tighter.

By now the back has decreased its number by 50 zombies. This time the attack of the zombies becomes intensified.

The zombies become faster.

Some of them try to grab Azief again. Azief rolled on the ground escaping from their grab and taking some distance and he activated Slashing Wind and about 25 of them were cut into two.

They still crawled with their intestine dragging on the bridge, looking at him with that empty hole where it used to have eyes.

Azief while attacking the other zombies smashed the crawling zombies head with his feet.

Every time he stomped the zombies head, the tar cracked because of his powerful stomping. He realizes it too that the ground cracked.

He is becoming strong he mused.

Then with one last slash, the final zombie on the back finally all neutralized. Then a message appears.

YOUR SOUL ABSORBING ABILITIES HAVE REACHED THE REQUIREMENT FOR EVOLUTION. CHOOSE YOUR DESIRE SHADOW LORD ITEM TO EVOLVE.

'Clothes of shadow lord' he said. He has been thinking about this for a long time and he unhesitatingly chose the clothes of shadow lord.

THE CLOTHES OF SHADOW LORD HAS EVOLVED TO BE THE ROBE OF DARKNESS.

**ROBE OF DARKNESS** 

**INCREASE VITALITY BY 50** 

STEALTH STATS ACQUIRED

YOUR MOVEMENT WHEN HIDING WILL BE HARD TO BE DETECTED.

WHEN YOU ARE ANGRY OR YOUR MOOD IN AN UNSTABLE EMOTIONAL LEVEL, THIS ROBE WILL EMIT A BLACK AURA SHROUDING YOU WHICH WILL GIVE A BOOST OF 5 PERCENT TO STRENGTH AND AGILITY.

- HAVE ABILITY TO SELF TRANSFORM WHEN IT REACHED THE SOUL REQUIREMENT

Whoa! It rises a lot. He inwardly rejoices.

Vitality increased to 50. Like I thought! Choosing a unique class would always give you powerful stats.

Smiling Azief yelled.

'Hold them back for a while Sofia. I'm coming'

'Alright!' she yelled back. Like she got any other choice she mused. Sofia uses her Rain of Arrows again.

Her spirit is almost depleted from the constant usage and now she is just waiting for Azief to come help her.

Azief on the other hand is busy gulping vials of stamina potions, health and spirits potions. He looted all the gold, copper, and silvers.

Sometime he looks at Sofia and confirming that she could still hold on, he continued. She needs to be tempered by fire he mused.

Not to mention if worse comes to worse, with one leap he could arrive at Sofia position. As he search the battlefield, he found only one items and one skill books.

For now he put it inside his storage rings first. Then he rushed to Sofia aid.

'How is the situation?' He asked when he arrived at Sofia. Sofia barricaded herself behind a large car while sometime she snipes from the sides of the car.

'They are slowing down because of my attack' she said, while not forgetting to compliment herself.

'The bus is slowing them down' Azief said boringly as he look at the zombies, stuck at trying to pass a fricking bus.

Stupid stiffs he mused.

'Heh. I help'. She said proudly

'Fine.' And Azief analyze the battlefield as calm as possible.

His heart is still beating erratically, pounding like a drum after the last battle and now he need to risk his life again but for some reason; it's not as scary as the first time.

'I guess, you got accustomed to it huh, heart?' He said it to himself, barely a whisper as he smiles bitterly.

There is a bus in the middle of the bridge.

Probably it lost control during the fall and slide thus obstructing the other vehicles and right now stooping the advance of the zombies.

Though there is a gap since the bus did not cover the whole bridge.

It is easier for Sofia since she could shoot an arrow of any zombies who went through that gap.

It could be said, that it is a dinner serve in a platter.

But before long the zombie manages to tear down the hull of the bus and the bus no longer become a buffer.

'Did you level up?' Azief asked.

'Level 16.' Sofia reply while taking a breath

'Good' he said.

'It's my turn then.' And he smirked.

'Your clothes are different than the last time I see it' Sofia asked, realizing there is something different about Azief new clothes.

'Well' he said nonchalantly and then he runs towards the zombies hordes. He was excited and the black aura shrouded his attire.

Sofia looking from afar could see the black aura shrouding Azief is shocked.

What other things he has under his sleeve? she mused

This time Azief ignored any defensive maneuver, instead choosing to slash as powerful as he could.

He was almost like an unstoppable tornado fighting with the zombies.

Limbs fly out, heads scattered through the bridge like some decorations, and blood flow like it just rained.

It took about 15 minutes before the whole zombies on the bridge are eliminated.

And shockingly it is done only by one person....with some help from the back, Azief had to admit.

Damn, I could have done this all alone he mused.

Sofia level up to 19 and Azief is standing on the middle of the bridge like a victorious general.

Azief don't know why but as he level up the feeling that he is strong could not be denied. Another message popped up.

YOUR SOUL ABSORBING ABILITIES HAVE REACHED THE REQUIREMENT FOR EVOLUTION. CHOOSE YOUR DESIRE SHADOW LORD ITEM TO EVOLVE.

'Now this is fortunate. So, my items are evolving again.' This time he tries to upgrade the Dark Sword Of Souls only to be greeted by the rejection message

INSUFFICIENT FOR EVOLUTION.

It seems that to evolve the first stage of the Shadow Lord items it will take about a hundred or more zombies.

But for the second stage of evolution it might double that requirement.

Sofia on the other hand is collecting the loots. Many vials were dropped this time, and there are also some skill books and items.

Azief then try not to evolve his item.

And the windows disappeared. But when he touched the evolution trigger menu in the status windows the same message greeted him.

This time his mind begins to formulate plan.

Should he wait until the evolution reached the peak for the second stage evolution? After thinking for a while he decided against it.

'I evolve TROUSER OF SHADOW LORDS.'

THE TROUSER OF SHADOW LORD HAS EVOLVED TO BE THE LIGHTWEIGHT TROUSER OF DARKNESS.

LIGHTWEIGHT TROUSER OF DARKNESS.

**INCREASE AGILITY BY 15** 

YOUR MOVEMENT WILL BE FASTER.

WHEN YOU ARE ANGRY OR YOUR MOOD IN AN UNSTABLE EMOTIONAL LEVEL, THIS TROUSER WILL EMIT A BLACK AURA SHROUDING YOU WHICH WILL GIVE A BOOST OF 5 PERCENT TO AGILITY.

HAVE ABILITY TO SELF TRANSFORM WHEN IT REACHED THE SOUL REQUIREMENT

'Huhuhu' he laughed.

'What?' Sofia said as she heard the voice.

'Nothing' he replied, his cheeks was red because of embarrassment. He was too excited.

Thankfully his face is hide by the hood if not he really could not endure the embarrassment.

After finish collecting the loot they rest in one of the abandoned car. It was a minivan. Surrounding them was hundreds of zombie's decapitated head and limbs.

'What did it drop?'

'A few skill books and a lot of vials.' Sofia reply

'How many skill books?' he asked.

'This is the most important.' He stressed. this content of novelfullbook.com, if you reading this content please go to website novelfullbook.com to continue reading, fastest update hourly

'Three.' Sofia answered

'I'll take two you take one' Azief shamelessly said.

'What! I should take two, you should take one' Sofia countered.

'Why?'

'Because I'm a woman and weak.' She said confidently

'You don't seem weak to me when you shot those zombies head to smithereens.'

'My appearance deceives you. I was afraid, so afraid' she said suddenly showing a scared expression.

'Your acting ability is lousy' Azief said boringly.

'Tch. Count it as you just concedes it to me. My level is weaker than you, and even my skills are not as many as you.'

Azief look at the woman...and then he sighed.

'Fine, I might not be a good guy, but I could not let be so selfish.' After this they will also separate.

Consider it my lost he thinks inside his head.

'Fine, you take two but I will choose what skill book I want.'

'Fine' Sofia cheerfully responded.

Azief then took the books and examine it.

Levitation

Swift Kick

Fear Aura

This is the three skill books Sofia found. Levitation enables a person to levitate 100 centimeters from the ground.

That is all that it does. But Azief is sure that if he could level up this skill it could even exhibit signs of flying.

Swift Kick is an active skill. To execute it would consume 40 spirits and it will send a fierce wind gale kick at the target, dealing a lot of damage, presumably.

Fear Aura is giving a fearful aura to beast and zombies. Maybe if it is leveled up it will even works on humans.

'Come on, choose one' Sofia said impatiently

'Ok, fine, wait a bit' Azief said.

Then he choose Fear Aura

SKILL: FEAR AURA

YOU CAN EMIT AURA OF FEAR AFFECTING THE MENTAL STATE OF BEAST AND MUTATED SAPIENS IT WILL ALSO MAKE THEIR MOVEMENT SLOWER AND THEIR SPIRIT WILL BE LOWERED BY 2 PERCENT. A PASSIVE SKILL. TO USE IT, ONE NEED TO WILLS IT, THINKING IT IN THE MIND.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN THE SKILL?

'Yes' Azief reply.

'You've chosen, right? Sofia asked impatiently.

Azief nodded and Sofia grabbed the two books an quickly learned it. Light shone down on her and she smiles.

She gets out of the car and suddenly she released a kick to the air and a wind gale erupted from the tip of her feet sending itself to the air.

Powerful attack he inwardly thought.

After they drink stamina vials and spirit vials they continue their journey. This time, since the zombies on the bridge have all been annihilated, they should have take their time.

But Sofia was anxious and keep running and as they jump through the cars and vans that obstructed the streets finally they get pass the bridge.

Looking in front of them both of them look at each other with a wistful expression.

Sofia then said

'I guess this is it?'

'Yes.' Azief reply.

They have talked about this. Now Sofia is stronger than before, and braver, she could go by herself to her mother.

Of course she would still be in danger but it's not like Azief is invincible. In their new world, all places is full with dangers.

He is not strong enough yet to guaranteed she would be safe with him, not to mention he accompanying Sofia was a short term plan.

'We separated hall and half?' she ask

'Okay' Azief replies.

Sofia give the vials, separated half of it for her, the other half for him.

Azief could see she is anxious to go to her village by now Azief knows that she lives in the Wide Swamp village.

Azief live in Stone Cape Village.

After the bridge they would pass a sawmill and then they will be an intersection.

Entering that intersection would lead to his village. Going forward will go to her village. She could not accompanied him to his house, and Azief would like it that way.

This is his problem, he would solve it by himself.

Then Sofia extended her hand.

'Thanks for all the help.'

'Don't 'Azief said.

'I didn't do nothing much. It is mutual benefit.'

'Hmph' Sofia smiles

'For a man who doesn't like to be hero, you sure look like one.'

'What?!' he said flustered.

'Until we meet again' she said as she dashed forward from the bridge running with her fastest speed.

With the sun just getting up, her figures were like a heroine and Azief couldn't help but smile.

This time, his feelings weren't as heavy as before. Smiling he too dash forward, rushing to go....home.

# Chapter 23: The mystery looms

He has entered the intersection and what greeted him was a scene of devastation. There are no zombies coming towards him...only a lake of blood.

And slithering creatures, near the entrance of his village, slithering around the dead, eating their flesh.

Azief hold back the urge to puke.

A lot of blood. He mused, gripping his hand more tightly and strengthen his resolve.

He at least should have expected this. The devastation is almost as bad if not worse then what he has seen, coming here.

Bodies scattered about with frightening expression on their face, a black red crow eating a man eyeball, a silver rat eating a man finger, a red snake swallowing an old man, its belly is bulging in a shape of a child.

Probably the snake ate a child before and now it is trying to swallow the old man. Azief inwardly thought.

The entrance of his village is full with crawling and slithering beast....but they are all small.

Rats, crows, snakes. But it is not gigantic like the beast he fought before. Should he have come faster? He thought to himself.

He takes a rest before moving from his initial position in the bridge. Searching for items and vials, or anything that could strengthen himself.

He alos rtake this moment to learn one of the skill books he found.

He took it and he elarns it

**EYE OF NIGHT** 

PASSIVE SKILL. WILL ACQUIRE NIGHT VISION AND SEES FARTHER THAN DAYTIME. SENSES AT NIGHT WILL BE GREATLY ENHANCED.

'Hmm' Azief said. This will complement nicely with stealth and his other skills.

He then checked the items.

It was a brown pills and it smiles really bad. At the time Azief did not have time to check the pill but now he have the time so he sniffed it and he almost barf. this content of novelfullbook.com, if you reading this content please go to website novelfullbook.com to continue reading, fastest update hourly

He then checks the information of the pills.

DIARRHEA PILL

WORK EFFECTIVELY FOR MONSTERS OR HOMO SAPIENS BELOW LEVEL 20. WILL CAUSE ANYONE EATING IT TO SUFFER TERRIBLE DIARRHEA. TO LEARN THE RECIPE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS NEED TO BE CLEARED.

**REQUIREMENTS: EAT THE PILLS** 

AN ALCHEMIST (PRODUCTION SKILLS IS NOT YET UNLOCKED)

Azief decided then. Even if he fulfills the requirement he would not eat this unappetizing pills.

But Azief then had an inspiration. More like, a revelation. Production skills exist.

And it has not yet be unlocked.....which means if his level is high enough or he did something that fit the criteria the production skills will be unlocked.

If there is a diarrheas pill wont there be like some EXP pills or pills that give boost to stats or something that would improve the body?

'Hmm' and this time he smiles. Anyway, this might be useful later. So, he keeps the pills inside his storage rings.

Finished with this, he looks at another direction.

He looks at the direction of Sofia village and as he expected there is a lot of beast corpse littered the streets.

He knows this is Sofia doings. Arrows riddled the beast corpse. Her experience must be harrowing.

He shut his mind of from Sofia.

Sofia has her objectives, he has his. He uses his fear Aura and black aura wafted from his body and some of the rat freeze on spot.

The snake however only shivers a bit before they change their target to him.

Azief did not wait. He kicked the ground and in one second he already arrived in front of the swallowing snake, and with one slash the snakes was slices like tofu.

A few rats tries to run away but Azief quickly activated Slashing Wind and the fleeing rat all turned to pool of blood.

In a few minutes the snakes slithers away; the rats flee to the holes and burrow themselves deep inside it, and the crows flies to the sky, squawking.

'Huu' he sighed.

He looked at the empty streets. Even though the snakes and the rats even the crows, are low leveled, they are a lot of them.

It's good that they are intimidated of him.

If he has to fight them all, it would take a long time. He would win...he believes but it will take a long time.

And the longer it is, the higher the probability that his family did not make it. But he did not entertain that thought.

Or at least he tries not to.

In his heart...however there is this nagging sensation...that coming here is a big mistake...that he should have make that deduction long ago, that his family couldn't possibly survives the initial fall.

'Hope' he said louder than he expected. Hope that keep him going. His feeling is complicated when it is about his family.

He shakes his head and tries to push this out of his mind.

Azief crouched and examines the snakes. He removed the black thing inside the snake bodies and the windows telling that it is safe to eat the meat appeared again.

He then stores it inside his storage ring.

He searches for a bead but he could not find it. Not all beast drop bead he deduced. Only certain types of beast or maybe it depend on luck.

He moved forward passing Amir house and entering the village.

There is the hill he mused. But when he reached the hill, he was shocked. His gaze is looking at this bizarre scene in front of him.

A palm print can be seen imprinted itself on the hill.

A beast! he inwardly thought in shock.

There is a giant beast here! As he moved from the hills, he could see from far away his First Uncle and Third Uncle house.

Should he check their houses first? He then hesitated before making a decision. He needs to check it too.

So he slides down the hill and arrive at the narrow path, near the swamp. The swamp was swamped with snakes.

'Heh' he smiles.

I could even make a pun with swamp he mused chuckling at his own joke. He brought out of his sword as power surged through his body.

He then dashed forward dispatching the small snakes that obstruct his way with one slash of his sword, the snakes powerless in front of him.

Hundreds of them were sliced like leaves.

This time Azief did not stop to collect the snake meat instead he dashed forward leaving the snake meat.

He is too anxious to look at his uncle's condition.

Then he arrived at the entrance of his Third Uncle house. His first uncle house is behind his third uncle house, so he had to check his third uncle house first.

Opening the gates and with just one glance, he could already imagine the outcome of his curiosity.

He closes his eyes and take a deep breath.

'Breathe, breathe slowly. Azief, be calm' he said to himself.

'Take a deep breath and be calm. There is nothing you could do. Breathe' he keeps saying, almost like a chant and he open his eyes again.

He spread his divine sense trying to ascertain if there is an enemy but there isn't.

He takes a step and another step and another step, trying his hardest to look at the corpse in front of him.

The front door was open and her Third Aunty could be seen sprawling on the front yard, a deep gash behind her back, her head was full of holes, something resembling a claw marks.

Azief expression turned hard.

Passing the corpse he enters the house, cautious with each step. Whatever that did this, might still be here.

Entering, another scene shocked him and he gripped his sword tighter.

Blood trail can be seen from the kitchen area leading to the front door, a bloody hand print on the TV and he could see his nephew bodies, split into two, the lower part on top of the living room table, the upper part on the sofa.

His face shows that he suffers heavily before his life was snuffed out, his eyes was gouged out, a hole was dug from his stomachs, his intestines juts out and fill the living room table, a slush of black blood still drips from his wound.

The boy was young...just a 15 year old kid.

Azief avert his gaze. He then went to the kitchen and finally he could deduce what happened in this third uncle house.

Whatever beast that did this come from the back. How did he deduce this?

The back part of the house disappeared, leaving only debris of stones and the corpse of his third uncle.

Even though his third uncle face was smashed into a pool of blood, he could recognize his figure anywhere.

A little stocky and tall. Azief did not say anything, only offering condolence in his heart.

He then spread his divine sense again but he could not find any enemies near his vicinity or at least enemies that could hurt him.

Whatever that had attacked this place has flee to other places.

From the back of his third uncle house, he walk straight to his first uncle house but he did not have to enter to know that his first uncle is no more.

Why?

Because his first uncle house was flattened by something very big, leaving only a large foot print.

The footprint is almost square...and it reminds Azief of a Brontosaurus foot print. He cast out his divine sense again as a precaution but does not find anything other than the small beast nearby.

Confirming that his third uncle and first uncle are dead...his worries only grew.

He then dash from his first uncle house and in no time he is in the narrow path again, and climbing the hill with his greatest speed.

Looking down the hill his eyes that could see further than before, he determined that there is not giant beast nearby.

He jump down the hill and rushed forward.

The distance from the hill and his house is only 1 kilometers so with his speed he run like the wind, slicing the snakes, the wasp and the other small beast that tries to obstruct his way.

500 meters he mused as his feet keep running.

His stamina is declining but with his large supplies of vials, he quickly gulps a stamina potions and spirit potions.

As he run, he slashes. As he slashes, the beast scattered.

100 meters he mused and then seeing the small ditch in front of his house, his heart beats fast.

In front of his house there is a small ditch and then finally...he reached home.

The creaky, rusted gates, the stone wall that his father built a year ago, the green grass in front of the garage, the white orange mix color of his house, because of the flood a few years ago.

All of it was still the same....but for some reason, his heart could not calm down. It was silent, eerily silent.

He hopes that his family is safe. He hopes his family is at least well. He walked from the ditch and step by step he came closer to the gate.

Opening it, it creaks and in a village where this is no one, the creaking sound awfully loud. He steps forward again but he could not hear any sound.

Only the winds.

He did not dare cast out Divine sense, fearing of what he might discover...fearing that his family is all dead.

Closer and closer he came to the front door. The front door is still closed; there is no sign of blood anywhere, not in the front yard, not in the grass, nowhere...only silence.

Fear crept inside his heart.

An absolute silence that give birth to countless of horrible imagination inside Azief minds. He closes his eyes, and he chants again, calming down his nerve and he grab the knob and turn it to the right.

The door opens.

He hoped that he did not see anything that would make him regret. He hope...that his family had hidden themselves well.

But what greeted him ....was despair.

#### Chapter 24: Reborn anew

It was a shadow of a figure stamped on the pink wall. There is no trace of blood only shadows of people trying to run from something.

If he wanted to describe what it is, then it could be described like someone who has died of a nuclear blast.

He sees the red figure on the wall, and he could make a faint figure of a man holding the hand of a woman with children running behind them.

His family.

He has no doubt about this. All the things in the living room has disintegrated, only ashes and dust remains.

There must be some beast that could do this. A beast that has some unique power this kind of thought cross Azief mind.

Unconsciously, tears started to fall from his eyes. His knees become weak and he collapsed lifelessly on the living room.

No matter, how their relation is, they are still families. But this state did not last long. Azief quickly steel himself and he got up....but his hand still trembling.

His knees are still wobbly and his heart is still beating furiously, an indescribable anger rising up from his heart and stuck at his throat.

At this moment he wanted to wail and yelled to the heavens. But he endures it. He endures the unfairness, he endures his anger, he endures the pain.

Because there is nothing else he could do.

He was powerless before and he is powerless now.

This sense of....defeat....is not something unfamiliar. All of his life, he never did achieve anything great.

He always had great aspirations but he never had the means.

And never before has he is being confronted by his own powerlessness other than now. The feeling he felt. The fear and anger.

Fear to this new world, fear that from now on....he would be alone. And anger to the world for what has happen.

He is truly alone now. No family. He has no close friend other than Nizam and Yusof. Other than that, he only has his family.

But he got up. He got up because he has to survive. If the world is expecting him to fall and crumble, he would prove the world wrong!

He gritted his teeth, his eye is still red, he clenches his hand and he got up. In life, there are certain defining moments that shape a person.

And for Azief, that moment was the moment he determined himself to survive. He was reborn at that moment.

He didn't know it, but his heart has already hardened and his determination only fires him up.

He tried to surmise what happens here.

Seeing the way that they died Azief begins to believe there is some weird beast prowling around his village.

His mind also flashed towards the peculiar way his third uncle and First uncle demise. He also notices that he barely met a stiff when he is entering the village.

And most of the zombies he met in the intersection did not come from this village.

Living in a village, he almost knows everyone.

At least, once is a while, when there is a feast (it is called kenduri in my country, but I don't know what to call it in English so I wrote feast) he could see the elders and the villagers.

But what made him uncomfortable is that he doesn't know what it is.

There is something nagging in the back of his mind, sensing that there is something eerily wrong about his village.

He scans his surrounding but he could not find any hostile's monster and this is what makes him feel more unnerved.

There should be many zombies. Even though his village is small, there should be at least a few that has turned into a zombie but there isn't.

Only monsters. And none of that gigantic beast.

Some crow, a little snakes and a few rodents. At least it should have a horde of zombies prowling around like in the city.

He moved forward and enters his room.

He could only see ashes but the wall of the house is fine, only the thing inside the room was completely disintegrated.

What manner of creature did this? he thinks to himself.

His room was clean; he then walked to his sister room. The same. And to his parents room. The same.

They all left dust and ashes.

It was like a nuclear blast happens inside this house but the house is perfectly fine. There is another thing that bothers Azief.

It has been a few days.

Supposedly, his third uncle and first uncle should have turned into stiffs but they didn't. Something bizarre is happening in this village.

He then came to the living room again, looking at the figures the wall. He doesn't know what to say...or do.

The tears come again but this time he quickly wipes it.

He then crouched down and he caressed one of the figures. It is his youngest little brother. He was only ten years old.

The world is unfair!

Azief always plays with him when he has the spare time. Then he looks at the figure of her mother.

Even though they rarely talk, her mother still cares for him, in her own way. Azief knows this and realizes this.

They both are clumsy, in the way they expressed their feelings towards each other, but Azief understands.

And then his quiet father.

It seems fathers are like god. Distant and aloof. They are complicated emotions inside him...It was not sadness...but regret, maybe.

He was a 23 years old man, with no job or prospect, he is not yet married, and he has no money.

He still lives in his parents' house, and rarely helped his parents other than helping washing the plates, or cleans the yard.

Other people sons, each month give some allowance money to their parents but he couldn't even do that because his job gives him only a little bit of money.

Even living for himself was hard enough.

His parent did not say anything or tries to rid him out of the house and for that he is always grateful.

But he like other sons also wanted to make his parent proud. Wanted them to live in luxury and repay their care.

To be a filial son.

Then looking at the figure of his parent he said, eyes streaming with tears, teeth gritted in angers, eyes bloodshot, like a devil just escapes from hell, his robe emitting a black aura around him, making him look like a Death God

'Watch over your son. Your son will someday be a great man, shaking the world and make you proud in the Afterlife. No one will not know my name! And if I ever get to know, what beast did this to you, I will end its life, grind its meat and make it suffers a thousand fold of your pain!'

That is the only thing he could offer. A promise to the dead. At least, this way he could motivate himself.

With one last look, he exited the house with tears filling his eyes.

The clouds still is blue, and the wind pushes the clouds. It was a sunny day. But a gloomy atmosphere surrounds Lord Shadow.

He went inside his neighbor hose. This time the circumstance of his neighbor death is also suspicious.

It enhances Azief initial conclusion. That there is some weird beast running around his village.

Their heads were all missing and their bodies were mutilated to such gory extent.

However Azief has.....for some reason, has accustomed himself to seeing such level of gore.

He stills feel uncomfortable, but he can't barf every time he sees a horrifying corpse.

After all, for some reason, Azief believes he would meet many more corpses like this in his journey.

Uncle Zulkifli is his neighbor.

He is short, stocky man. His corpse is at the living room, his hand gripping tightly a kris.(keris is a weapon. google it for anyone interested)

But his head is nowhere to be found, only a pool of blood from his severed neck.

As he walked deeper inside the house, he could see a naked young woman. This must be the second daughter he mused.

Azief knew the second daughter of his neighbor.

Slightly tall than the first daughter, she also has a whiter skin. She left for Australia before, learning there....but it seems she return.

She should have stayed there, Azief mused.

Azief crouched down and looked at the corpse. The woman breast.....was severed from the chest with maggot eating the meat.

The white skins were stained with the red blood, and the deep scratches, leaving a deep gash.

But it was not that, that attract his attention, it was the white thing on her vagina. Azief looked and at first he thought she was raped....but then where is the rapist?

Looking at her nails and hands, there is signs of struggle. The wounds are indication of that. There is also some kind of fur stuck on her nails.

Azief examines this with rapt attention. She was raped, there is no doubt about it.

Then a thought crystallizes inside his head.

Could it be, whatever that killed her, is trying to mate with her? Its sounds absurd but if this is true.....Azief shudders thinking of this.

But in the city he never sees this kind of corpse. Another mystery he mused.

He neared the corpse and tries to smell the corpse. The smell was of course not pleasant but when Azief smells near her vagina, he really wanted to puke.

It was rotten but the white things smell pungent. It's semen he is confident with his answer.

He is calmly analyzing the corpse. Anything could be a clue.

'Hmm' he sighed as he got up.

'Whatever that attacked them, is not the same thing that attacked my family' he said.

He walks again to another room. Another woman. Auntie Ta. Also dies the same way even more brutal.

It seems the area around her thigh all were ripped apart. There is also the semen sprayed around the corpses.

It was a ghastly scene. Around the corpse was maggot, wriggling about, near the wounds and some is inside the corpse stomach, moving about

Maybe, my family died in a better way he said consoling himself. At least whatever beast that killed his family, did not submit such torture to its victim.

Walking to the kitchen he had to be careful not to slip because blood pools from the kitchen, flowing to the living room.

This time, he found another deformed corpse.

'Another children' he sighed.

The boy name was Syakir and was a friend of his younger brother. Their age is not that far apart.

The body is missing its lower part and the head is also not there. What beast did this? He mused.

Other than the occasional snakes and rats, he found no other beast. Could they have retreated from this village? this content of novelfullbook.com, if you reading this content please go to website novelfullbook.com to continue reading, fastest update hourly

There are too many bizarre things that is happening in his village. It is not like the pattern of attack he sees before in his way home.

Zombies attack is quite simple and while they are dangerous, they do not try to \*\*\*\* anyone.

They are mostly moving log.

They don't even have any ideas. Their strategy consists of trying their hardest to charge at their targets.

They are stupid, EXP farming method.

But Azief is also cautious.

If he did not know the level of his enemies and even what they are, not to mention he doesn't even knows the abilities of these monster, remaining here might be a problem.

He wanted to avenge his parents at least and kill whatever beast that kills his parents but he is also faced with the possibility, that the beast has long fled the area.

If they do not flee the area, then they have moved deeper to Across Log village. And then he has also has to consider the level of his enemies.

If they are stronger...hmmm...he wanted to avenge his parents, not send himself too early to meet his parents.

'Hmm' he needs reinforcement.

It took him about 6 hours since the battle at the bridge and he checks his taming time. 1 hour left.

He needs reinforcement and one person comes to mind.

'I guess, I have to fetch her.'

He said, his face was grim and full of determination. He then went out of his neighbor house and look at his old house.

'I will avenge you' he said, looking wistfully at his house.

Saying this, he dashed out from his neighbor house, heading back to the entrance of his village, his heart is full with despair but his face showed a calm expression.

A cold calmness, sharp like a blade.

# Chapter 25: The world is changing, one step at a time

The bloody step finally stops. He looks left and right. He is near the entrance of Wide Swamp village.

There are not many obstacles that hinder his movements other than the abandoned cars and trucks that sometimes block the roads.

He looks behind him. Countless of stiff, lying on the tar streets, with arrows stuck on their head.

Sometimes Azief also spotted a few scenes where the tar street was riddled with small holes no doubt from the rain of Arrows skills.

It's not hard to find Sofia trails. Follow the bodies he mused.

He knows he needs reinforcement if he wanted to kill whatever beast that terrorizes his village.

And he also knows that in group, he is safer. He is secure and his safety would also increase.

So, he has already made a plan when he set out to find Sofia.

When he set out from his village dashing from the entrance of his village to Sofia village he met many zombies.

He slashed them all, kill them all, but even after killing several of them, Azief level did not increase.

He also did not find any roaming beast. Whether they have gone far away or they are hiding in some villages.

First he would recruit Sofia. If Sofia parents is still alive, then the plan would have to be changed a bit or he has to find another companion.

If that doesn't work, he still has a backup plan. That is joining with Hamad group to help him kill the alien in the elementary school.

Then when he has reached the criteria to become a full-fledged Chosen, he will set out to his village and kill whatever beast that has terrorize his village.

Azief acknowledge that both of his plans has flaws but he has to make do with what little resources he have.

Sofia approval hinges on the condition of her mother, while Hamad group approval hinges on that they are waiting for him.

If he gets Sofia, Sofia might be inclined to join him fighting the beats in his village.

But Hamad group?

Azief knows, that they will only, if persuaded strongly, help him with only the beast in the elementary schools.

They might not help him with the beast in his village.

He enters the entrance of the village. He takes a deep breath and drinks the stamina vials, gulping it down.

Suddenly a light shone down on him, trapping him, his body felt frozen. He could not move.

'What is this?' Azief fearfully said.

The light form like a prison, imprisoning him inside the sphere of the light.

Then he could see from the confines of his light prison, the world shakes again, some of the stall near the entrance of the village crumbles, and the light shone downs on the cars and buses and they all disintegrated into dust.

The hospital beside the entrance also disintegrated, and corpses inside the hospital fall down onto the hard ground with a thud after the hospitals vanished.

However the stiff corpse was not attacked by this light.

Then another shakes happen. Azief could not move....but he could feel his body is getting healed inside the light, his muscles is resting and his body feel comfortable.

He could feel his stamina is recovered.

What is this light? he mused. It doesn't seem to harm him. It only binds him.

As he thinks of this suddenly the tar cracked and from it emerges green grass. Slowly the tar streets was disintegrated by this grass as it covered the land.

It vines and it crawls, covering everything in green.

Unbeknown to Azief, the same phenomena that happens to him now, is happening all over the world.

His world is undergoing another change by the World Orb. A stream of water appears from some of the cracks, creating a picturesque scene.

Trees bloomed into existence and flowers emerges from the cracks.

The stiff corpse was disintegrated into the soil and become fertilizer for the grass, as tree suddenly spouted from the ground.

For fifteen minutes Azief was in the confines of the light and finally he was released. Azief then looked in front of him.

Grass all around, trees and most of the buildings were disintegrated around him. When he looked towards his east, he could see a mountain peak.

What surprising is that, Azief knows that there is no mountain around that area.

There is Smile Mountain but it is not around that area. Looking at the area of Smile Mountain, he could see a gigantic mountain, reaching the clouds. this content of novelfullbook.com, if you reading this content please go to website novelfullbook.com to continue reading, fastest update hourly

Whatever this mountain is, it is not the old Smile Mountain.

There are no buildings anymore.

Even the hospitals near the village entrance was transformed into a large vast of lands with huge trees, resembling a great forest.

It was like the places that Azief knows before, in a second changes to a new world. Azief walked through the grass and crouched down.

There is a signs that survives the light.

Azief look at it.

Wide Swamp Village. It is still his world...but for some reason, Azief could not believe it.

The air become more refreshing and evens the smell of smokes and soot can no longer be smell.

It was like Azief on top of a mountain peak breathing fresh air.

Then suddenly a notification appears.

- -WORLD TRANSFORMATION HAS BEEN INITIATED-
- -DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH LEVELED MONSTER HAS BEEN ACHIEVED-
- -THE PANGAEA WILL ONCE AGAIN BE SEPARATED UNTIL THE NEXT TRANSFORMATION-

Then the notification stops. World Transformation? Pangea? What does this all means? Azief did not realize it but the world has changed back to their initial positions.

Japan which was united with Russia and North Korea when the first world transformation begins has now once again returned to its original position, an island nation.

Only the people that lives around this border see that scene where land in front of them suddenly disappeared

Azief shook his head. For now, this doesn't concern him. However he is worried about Sofia.

He moved forward and enters the village. In front of the village, the downward hill is no longer replaced by soothing that resembles a garden.

Colorful flowers fill the once tar downward hill. Smells of fresh blooming fklowers can be smell.

He walks ahead not having time to enjoy such scenery because of the anxiousness in his heart.

Follow the bodies he mused.

Even though the geographical location of this place has been slightly transformed, and even the wooden house has disappeared, Azief could still recognize some of the places.

He once used to hang around this village when he was teenager.

In the afternoon he and his friends used to ride their bike and explore the villages nearby. The Far Swamp village, the Rhino Swamp Village, Bachok village and River Gau village and so on and so forth, so he has some knowledge of this place.

Even though the house has vanished, even the pillars but the stiffs did not disappear. Now this bothers Azief even more.

Why did in his village there is no stiff but here in Sofia village there is stiff?

Is there something different here? No, he shakes his head. The different thing happens in his village.

This might be the normal patterns.

The normal pattern is when people are bitten by the beast, a few hours later they would turn to stiffs.

How long does it take for the corpses to turn to stiff?

Azief need to research this later. And whether it is possible to cure zombies...this too must be researched.

After all there are alchemists. Seeing the description on the pills he got, then Alchemist will exist someday when they reached the requirement.

He keeps walking.

Unlike his village, the snakes and rats did not appear. Only stiffs. Could the stiffs eat the snake and rats?

'Hmm' this is too early to make any conclusion Azief thinks to himself.

Azief wanted to understand about this new world so that he could survive it.

Knowledge is power. Soon enough Azief smell an aromatic smell. The smell of meat. Azief instead of running to the source of smell, walk slowly.

He had a guess who produce this smell. After all he has swept this place with his Divine Sense

As he navigates himself inside the bushes he finally could see from where the smell come from.

It was a peach tree. How did it appear, Azief don't know. He keeps walking forward.

Cleaning himself up, he emerges out from the bushes. The sound startled the person roasting the meat and quickly the bow behind her back was aimed at him.

Azief only smiles bitterly.

Seeing the blood covered Sofia, with eyes that were swollen, and her distraught appearance, one could guess her experience.

'It's you.' She said listlessly and quickly she lowered down her bow and stares at Azief....not knowing what to do.

She almost looks like she was lost. There are signs of tears on her eyes, and she look like she aged ten years.

The wind blows it gentle breeze, caressing Azief faces, as his robe fluttered slightly. He looks the person in front of him and he smiles bitterly.

For a moment, there is only the sound of the wind and the smell of the meat.

Sofia look at him and he look at Sofia, both have seen terrible thing...and Azief could see in her eyes.....there is despair now.

No more hope....Only despair. And he approached her.

\*\*\*

### Chapter 26: If the world does not want to help, then fight the world! if the world dare obstruct, de

'Hmm' Azief sighs.

Sofia was sitting under the Peach tree, shading her from the sun. Dried leaves was scattered around the fire to make it bigger.

In her hand, is a skewered snake roasted on the spitfire.

Not far behind the trees were remnants of houses. There are some traces of old houses and a lot of stiff corpse can be seen on the patch of green land.

'May I join you?' Azief said

She just nodded listlessly. Azief walk to her and sit on the chopped log beside her.

For a moment they do not speak to each other, just looking at the fire, Sofia keep roasting the meat.

The firewood crackles and sometimes Sofia would use her hands to fan the flames.

Sofia eat the meat, her face shows no emotions. Azief could only feel coldness coming from her.

She gives one skewered snake to Azief and Azief bites it. It was supposed to be delicious but Azief could not feel excited from it.

And seeing Sofia listless face, Azief had the feeling that her experience is no better than him, if not worse.

They eat in silence.

They are no beast that came to attack them or snakes that slithers, or any rats that came peeking.

There isn't even an sound of stiffs groaning. Azief divine sense monitored the area and he could sense nothing dangerous or out of the ordinary.

They finished eating and Sofia leaned herself at the tree, looking at the sky, like someone who has lost the will to live.

Azief would even believe it, if Sofia would let herself die under the tree. She did not look like she will move from the tree.

Then, looking at Sofia face, he resolves himself.

'So....how did it go?' Azief asked.

She did not say anything...but her eyes started getting moist. Slowly, a tear formed and it falls to the ground.

She did not say anything but Azief could feel her grief. She must have her own traumatic experience.

Azief has his, and she has hers.

She was vulnerable, she was exposed, she was weak....but she was also beautiful, all at the same time.

At that moment, under the tree, looking at the skies, with eyes that was full with tears.....she was beautiful.

Azief knows, nothing he could say could calm her. Nothing that he could say, could console her.

So, he edged closer and guided her head to his shoulders. But he could lend her his shoulder to cry on he mused.

So, Sofia leaned in to Azief chest and she cried and she howled and she wailed, beating Azief chest, unleashing a cries that could rend any man hearts.

Azief hugged her and let her cries.

For five minutes, one could only hear the cries, the Job like lamentations, the curses and then finally the tears stopped, the curses stopped and so is the lamentation.

Azief bears it all because he could understand the pain.

Maybe not all of her pain could be understood, but he could understand a fraction of it. The pain of losing someone....losing a family....to feel completely alone, in this new and terrifying world.

It was a special kind of agony, a special kind of torment, to be alone...and afraid. And Azief understand what it feels to be alone...to be afraid.

They were in embrace, under the tree, both of them, losing someone important that day, both of them faces their own agony, in their own way.

Azief by becoming more stubborn, intend to defy, while Sofia cries and become determined.

Both of them lost something that day, but they also gain something.

Azief gain his indomitable Will and Sofia gain courage....Azief because he refuse to obey the world orders that has conspire to buried him under his own misery, Sofia because she has no choice.

She must be valiant.

Sofia stifles a sob and she releases herself from Azief chest.

'You're ok?' Azief said, there is a hint of concern in his voice.

Sofia nodded weakly. And then she asked

'Why did you come here?'

The wind sways, bringing new springs, autumn leaves fall shedding the past. A fateful encounter leads to fateful destiny. Encounter and parting is destined.

A lifetime relationship, an oath spoken, only death would defy.

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'Let us raise hell in this new era!' Azief said, looking towards Sofia with his eyes fiery. His usually cold eyes, and usually uncaring manners disappeared.

It was full of determination, fiery enthusiasm and a glint of madness.

A few scattered leaves beneath Sofia feet was blown away by the wind and there is something in his eyes, that Sofia could not ignore.

There is determination, a steel determination.

'I will not inquire what has happens to your parent but if I may guess, they're dead.' Azief said.

'Y..ou!' Sofia was about to get angry when Azief said

Like mine! He said gritting his teeth.

'I have no else in this world other than my family. They were not loving or joyful parents but they did not abuse me either. They try their best. They struggle against the world. They try to do right! They follow the rules! They pay taxes, pray to God, and they live a live not lying to people. The world is unfair! The people are unfair! The evil rules the world and the good perish. It is a world of wolves. And my parents were sheep! You, Sofia. Do you have anyone else other than your mother?'

Azief asked, his eyes looking intently at her. There is anger in his eyes, a silent fury and regret.

'No' she said, her voice was cold.

'HAHAHAHA' Azief laughed unrestrained and he got up from the log.

His hood cover his face, and his robe fluttered wildly, his robe emitting this black aura that shrouded him.

'You have no one else in this world! So do I!'

He declared and he looks at the skies.

'When I was a child my parents always told me these three things. Do good. Treat people like you want yourselves to be treated. Always be grateful! And I did all these things. I did good, but people did evil! I treat people well, people betrayed me! I was grateful but people repay kindness with enmity! And the longer I live, the more I see. Good people don't last long. Good deed is not repaid. My father lives his whole life as a security guard. To me, I have always felt grateful to him. Even though he rarely has time for my mother, for me, or my siblings, as I grow older I understand what he has sacrificed for the family. Not one moment in my life, I was ashamed of my father works. He never lied even when he could. He never did evil even if the person deserves it. But people have always scorned my father. To this kind of people, I did not befriend them and they do not befriend me. I did not befriend them because their obnoxious behavior. They did not befriend me because they think I'm not worthy.' this content of novelfullbook.com, if you reading this content please go to website novelfullbook.com to continue reading, fastest update hourly

Azief said all of this passionately like a declaration of some sorts. He looks to the sky, like he wanted to crush the clouds, and trample the heavens.

His rage is a towering fury! How could he accept what happen to his family! Even he survives!

#### Even he!

God should have save his little brother, should save his mother and father. Not him! Out of everyone in his family, he deserves the least to survive.

Is it survivor guilt's? Azief don't know. But he keep his gaze at the skies, looking it like he wanted to declare his intention to the world.

He then looked at Sofia and sees her dried up tears. Her mother must have a great meaning in her life.

Her mother shouldn't have died. Good people supposed to be rewarded not punished.

'This is a world of wolfs. The world doesn't care whether you do good or evil! It will still keep moving unceasingly, caring nothing about us, mortals! It does not care a bit about good or evil! The world doesn't judge men by their worth, and it isn't about what just! Evil men can hold power their whole lives and be wept for when they pass. Innocent men can be spent like coins because it's convenient. I will not be like that! IF THE WORLD DOES NOT WANT TO HELP ME, THEN I WILL FIGHT THE WORLD! IF THE WORLD DARE OBSTRUCT, I WILL DESTROY IT! In this new era, I would raise hell, so that in my death, everyone would remember my name! I will carve my name in history! How about it Sofia? Will you follow me?'

He said and his eyes look expectantly. This is his declaration, bold and arrogant!

If the world does not want to help him, then he will fight the world! If the world dare obstruct him, he will destroy it!

Isn't this arrogant!

'I...' and she thought about all those moments she was with him, and how she has lost everything.

She lost her mother, and the way she lost her....rend her heart apart.

Thinking about it, she wanted to cry again. Wanted to wail again. Wanted to scream again until her throats could not scream.

Wanted to mourn...for as long as she possibly could. Wanted to run and hide.

But the tears did not come. She endures it. The wail does not come. She endures it. The scream did not come either. She endures it.

She did not run nor did she hides. She bears it. All the pain, all the anger, all the grief and a new emotions surge.

Anger. Wrath. A burning fury. To the world! To everything! And Azief words resound in her ears.

THIS IS A WORLD OF WOLF!!!

'Yes' she mused.

World of wolfs and she is a sheep. And sheep get eaten by wolf. And she remembers Azief story about his father and about his mother.

Her mother is not any different. And that's why she loves her. But the world takes her mother away from her.

She was not rewarded. All of her sufferings, all of her patience with the world did her no good.

IF THE WORLD DOES NOT WANT TO HELP ME, THEN I WILL FIGHT THE WORLD!!! IF THE WORLD DARE OBSTRUCT, I WILL DESTROY IT!!

This word stuck inside Sofia mind, resonated strongly with her sentiment and touched her anger.

She got up, with fury in her hearts, with fiery determination shining in her eyes and she hold out her hand.

'Let us raise hell.....Lord Shadow' Sofia coldly said and she shook Azief stretched hands. Thus, Lord Shadow and Sofia the Divine Archer was born that day.

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In years to come, this momentous event was referred as the Promise beneath the Peach Tree.

Sofia was the first companion of Lord Shadow as they carved their name in history

Chapter 27: Me and you, against the world

After a few hours burying one stiff and mourning in front of the makeshift grave, Sofia has calmed down.

It is useless making a grave Azief would usually say but for some reason he couldn't say it this time.

She is building a grave for her mother.

Azief began understanding what happens and why Sofia was so unnerved before. Burt he kept his silence.

There is time for saying something and there is time for silence. And Azief knows that this is a time for silence.

He just watches from behind, waiting. Then after she calm down Azief began asking Sofia to prepare herself.

She is level 17 right now.

Then preparing herself, slinging the bow behind her back, arrows ready for her to released, she is ready.

Wiping the tears on her eyes, she steeled herself for the new world. Determined not to be a sheep.

'So, what is our objective?' Sofia asked Azief.

Azief looked at Sofia while his eyes darted left and right looking around the bushes. He spotted a few places that were transformed by the System.

He could see there are monsters if they go deeper. But not any large beast. Azief don't know if that is a blessing or not.

Azief wanted to strengthen himself fast.

A trove of experience and items. But he decided to bolster his rank first.

'Our objective is the monster at the elementary school.' He said. He first needs to become....Shadow Lord and enjoy the benefits of a Chosen.

Sofia of course knows that Azief needs to defeat the monster in the elementary school to become a full-fledged Unique Class.

'Are you using me?' Sofia eyes narrow.

'Yes' Azief said and he said it shamelessly with no change on his facial expression.

'You!'

'We use each other, Sofia. We benefited each other. Me and you.' He said, looking sincerely at Sofia.

Azief is many things and has many flaws in his character but if there is one virtue that enables him to have friends, is that he is steadfast and loyal.

Once he has a good opinion of someone he would surely make friends with such person. Azief is not one that makes friends lightly.

He weights all the pros and cons before choosing a friend. But once he chosen, he will not regret.

Then he said it

'You and me against the world.' He said smiling, looking at the sky. Sofia was stunned.

'Us? Against the world?'

'Yes. us.' Azief said

'The world order has crumbles, the world itself have changed. Look around you Sofia. Peach tree in the middle of nowhere, green grass as far as the eyes could see' and then Azief pointed to a peak of mountain

'A mountain that reaches the clouds, monsters and undead roamed the world. This is our opportunity make a name for ourselves.'

'How?' Sofia asked. Azief looked back at Sofia, and he seems to be thinking then he said.

'Become stronger. The World Orb has warned us. Be strong....or perish. If you don't want to perish be strong. Survive. Grovel if you must. Stay alive! And be strong! That's it.'

'But....can we?' Sofia asked as Azief began walking. Sofia follows from behind.

'Why not? Of all the people that perish, we survived. Both of us survived all that horrors. Whether by luck or by the machinations of fate or by destiny or by coincidence, we survive'

'And that....makes you think we are chosen.' She said snickering. Sofia believes that Azief feel that they were chosen.

A self-form of megalomania, to think that the world revolved around themselves but Azief quickly dispel her thoughts.

'Hah!' Azief gives a dry laugh.

'Chosen? No, we're not chosen, Sofia. If you think like that, abandon that thought. We were random cause. No reason, no rhyme, but we survive, a product of luck and chance. If anything, we are cursed. But we do have advantage' he said as he cut the bush in front of him with his blades.

A few snakes slithers on the ground.

Azief stomp it with his feet and blood splashed on the ground.

'An advantage?' Sofia said as she released her arrows at one of the snakes.

'Yes, a head start. Right now, all around the world I guess, there are some people like us. Survived the resurrection of the undead. Fight the roaming beast like I did. Seen terrible things like we have. Experience sorrows and despair. And all of them, countless of people forged by fire, have walk to the new future. Some would cling to the old ways. Surely there are a few people who would try to rebuild the old systems out of the ashes. They will fail. Some people are bad at understanding the changes that is happening right now. But of course they would be also those who are fast in understanding. Some would fall and descend to their most primal and animalistic instinct, killing and doing whatever they like. I'm not surprised if we encounter some kind of crazy man creating a tribe, or a man pronouncing themselves as prophet'

He said, his eyes already anticipating the dark possibilities of the future.

'If you meet a person like that, there is no need to reason with them, Sofia. Just put an arrow in their head. As there are heroes emerging in chaos times, villains and crazy people also would be born. We have a head start...and we better grab it. Before they realized it'

'Hmm' Sofia nodded as she slings back her bow behind her back.

'It seems you have thought a lot about this.' She said

Then Azief look at the peach tree behind him, watching the swaying branches of the trees, and release a sigh.

'Do you have any other thing left here?'

'What do you mean?'

'Baggage, perhaps?' He asked. And Sofia understands. Anything she regrets about, other things that needs to be cleaned up.

Sofia understands that Azief and her, they probably won't be coming here for a few years. Looking at the grave of her mother, closing her eyes, she answers.

'No' she said.

'Good, then we will move.' Azief lead the way and begins walking. They were both astounded after they leave the peach tree.

All they could see was a huge forest. The place where Azief was confined before has a stream of clear white flowing water.

The sound of the water flowing creates a calming feelings and the fresh clear air helps. The greenery is astonishing.

It was like nature was never tainted before.

There are no longer tar roads, modern transportations or buildings. It was like the world made anew.

On top of them, they could see a clear blue sky with bird flying around. Large trees provide shades from the sun.

'This is....something' Sofia said in astonishment as they walked through the forest. Azief nodded in agreement.

They take a rest under the shades, near the creek of water. Then Azief take one of the large bottles in his storage rings, pour out the content of the bottle and then fill it up with the creek water.

The creek water doesn't seem like it is polluted and it just has been created, so the chance of it being polluted by anything is minuscule.

'Do you have supplies?' Azief asked Sofia as he stores the bottle back inside his storage rings.

Sofia nodded.

'At least the System didn't take that' Azief said in relief.

He looks around and he could see that all of the buildings he pass during his journey coming here, all vanished, like it never existed.

He also checks his storage rings and there is still a lot of snacks.

'Do you recognize the way to the elementary school?' Sofia asked.

'Even though the road has disappeared and were surrounded by the forest, I think I can still pinpoint the area.'

'I'll follow you then.' They got up from their resting places and they walked again. Then Azief remember something.

'Wait a bit' he said and he halted his movement and he smiles. How could he forget?

'What?' Sofia stopped.

'I remember that the time has ended'

'What time?' she asked .Azief smiles in glee.

'Just wait. I'll give you a shock'. He remembers something very important. His pet. This is a perfect opportunity to summon his pet.

'Summon' he wills it in his mind.

And then a notification appears.

SUMMONING SUCCESSFUL

SLOT FOR SUMMONING BEAST REMAINS: 9

A portal appears behind Azief back and from that portal appears the Strong Fist Badger. The strong fist badger come in front of him and kneels.

Then a notification appears.

The status window of his pet appears in front of him

NAME – GENDER MALE

RACE STRONG BADGER FIST

**CLASS ORDINARY** 

PASSIVE SKILL

**BODY FORTIFICATION** 

DIGGING

**ORE MINING** 

MINERAL MINING

**SMELL SENSES** 

ANIMAL INSTINCT

**ACTIVE SKILLS** 

STRONG PUNCH

SLASHING WIND

**IDENTIFYING EYES** 

SHRIEK OF BADGERS

**SPECIAL ATTRIBUTE** 

NONE SPECIAL SKILLS

**NONE** 

It is not the same like his status window. It only shows Azief skills. And then there is also special skills and special attribute.

But Azief could see that this Badger is one hell of a monster. Ore mining, mineral mining, digging, all these techniques would help if he could become a blacksmith or alchemist.

But for now, he doesn't need that passive skill of his pet. He quickly names the beast Badge.

He always has been terrible naming things so he couldn't care less. Looking at the status window of his pet it really is different from his status windows.

It doesn't have level and such.

There is also a limit to capturing beast. Ten is the limit Azief presumes.

Maybe those who choose Beast Tamer or some class that is related to rearing beast would have a larger slot.

But just because you can tame beast doesn't mean you will tame one. It is hard because you have to weaken them, and not kill them.

Not to mention there is a limit of 10.

Azief don't know if his pet is permanent or not. What he means if he has recruited ten beasts would he have no other choice but to keep that beast?

What if he encounters another beast more powerful and has a lot more potential? What then?

If it is permanent summoning, then Azief would lose a chance.

If the beast he captured and tamed can be released when he found a new and more powerful beast, then Azief would not worry that much.

This World Orb system! Send me some tutorial manual at least. Then he realizes something else.

What is that? Ordinary class? Does beast have class? Azief touch the screen written ordinary and then another explanation appear.

YOUR PET IS OF ORDINARY CLASS.

Then appears the list of ranks in my mind.

[Ordinary] [Extraordinary] [Unique] [Legendary] [Apex] [Godly] [Heavenly] [Ultimate] [Otherworldly]

Azief understand then. Class up or evolution right? He mused.

The beast could also evolve. Azief look at Sofia, her hand is at her bow, ready to release her arrow at the beast.

'Put down the bow. It's my beast.' Azief said, chuckling

'Your beast?' she asked incredulous, her eyes look at the beast from head to toe.

'Yes, I have the Beast Tamer skill that is why I could tame this beast.' Slowly she put the bow back behind her back.

She come closer to the beast and looks at it.

'What do you intend to do with it?'

'Level him up. As we walked through this forest surely there will be some stiffs and beast that we will come across. Three is better than two, right?'

Sofia just nodded. Then the beast got up and Azief said.

'Destroy any snakes or rat you found. If you found any beast that is beyond your capability, retreat.'

Azief of course got all the information on how to order the beast when the notification appears so he quickly orders Badge to work.

Better level him up until he could class up.

The Badgers nodded and began walking in front of them.

'Sofia you support him'

'Ok' she said. Azief and Sofia then keep walking. When the snakes and rats drops vials, they would quickly loot it and stores it.

These vials are important.

Azief did not join in killing the snakes and the rats because he knows it will not help him that much.

In about 15 minutes they encounter a problem.

Azief knows they are on the right track and Sofia knows it to but the scene in front of them make them slack jawed.

The Temerloh Bridge that has long connected the villages and the town....has disappeared and in front of them right now is a cliff.

The wind blows Azief robe as he stand there dumfounded. The bridge disappeared...how can he cross to the city right now?

Under it is the Pahang River, no longer brown colour because of the development project and the sand reclamation but blue as the skies, with large crocodiles could be seen sometime showing their head on the water surface.

Sofia look at Azief dumbfounded expression and ask

'What now?'

Azief look across the cliff and could see the city....now transformed into a forest. He shakes his head, looks at the sky and said.

'You never let me off easy, do you World Orb?' He said, clearly he could not accept this.

His plan was perfect. At least, it was perfect before. Then looking at the hill beside the cliff he said.

'Then I guess we have to swim across.' Saying that, he climbed down the right side of the cliff and is sliding down. this content of novelfullbook.com, if you reading this content please go to website novelfullbook.com to continue reading, fastest update hourly

Sofia shaking her head, and then follows him from behind. And as she climbed down she is thinking to herself.

What did I sign up for following him?

## Chapter 28: Crossing the river

As they climb down they could see some weird palm trees and bamboo tress sprouting like mushroom after a rain.

Instead of coconut in the palm tree, there is something red as its fruits. The bamboo tree on the other hand.....is quite normal, like a normal bamboo tree.

'Weird' Azief said whispering under his breath.

But Azief couldn't have the time to check the palm tree instead he arrived at the bottom and begun examining the shores.

The sandy bank of the river overlooking the city.

He climbed down to the bank and look at the city across from where he is standing. He looked at the clear water of the river.

'It has always been brown' Azief said

Sofia nodded as she walked three steps behind Azief, maintaining a lookout. Azief on the other hand is admiring the view.

This is the first time he saw that the Pahang River could be so beautiful.

His mother once told him that when his mother was a child, the colour of the river was clear, blue and beautiful.

But Azief did not had the chance to see the scenery that her mother always talked about because by the time he was born the river turns cloudy and brown.

'So, how do you swim?' Azief asked looking at Sofia. Sofia was dumfounded.

'You don't know how to swim?' she said realizing why Azief is asking her this question.

He shakes his head, confirming Sofia confusion. She could not help but be shocked. This guy is clearly intending to cross the river but he does not know how to swim!

Is he an idiot!

'I thought you said we are going to swim across.' She said trying to calm herself again, by taking a deep breath

'Yes, I did say that.' Azief said as he walk around the sandy bank and his eyes look around left and right, searching for something.

Sofia follows from behind.

'But you don't know how to swim?' Sofia said, her annoyance can slightly be heard in her trembling voice.

'I can learn' he said.

'Now? Right at this instant?'

'Now. Right at this instant' he said. But his eye is still looking around. Azief is of course is not that stupid but he doesn't want to give the satisfaction to Sofia that he is incapable of swimming.

He already has a plan if he could not swim across. Seeing the threat in the river, he of course thinks of other alternative in crossing the river.

He is just messing with Sofia. Looking at the river he also realized a life threatening problem and sooner or later, Sofia would realize it too.

When that time comes he will let Sofia choose. This is his quest and if Sofia get caught up in it she might die, so....he will ask her later.

When it matters.

'You're insane.' She said exasperatedly

To be honest, Azief once attend swimming lesson when he was in college. It was mandatory really, since his course obligated him to learn swimming.

But he was never any proficient in it.

As long as he keeps paddling his feet and moves his arm he would not drown.....but floating himself on water, he never did get a hang of that.

Azief look at the river again and sighed

Not to mention there is the crocodiles looking at him and Sofia, like they are its meal. At times like these, Azief wanted a skill to know the level of his enemies or at least their rank.

By now, Azief has some understanding of beast. They do not have levels like human but rank.

Ordinary would be like his pet. He could only imagined Ultimate rank beast.

'AH!' Azief remembered something.

'What?' Sofia said shock suddenly hearing Azief yelling. Sofia was looking at the water and thinking how to get across.

She is still annoyed at Azief. She realized that Azief is messing with her, so she focus her mind on other thing, namely on how to cross the river.

'Couldn't I just ask my pet to swim?' Azief said a flash of inspiration. Why couldn't he let his pet swim and he rides from behind.

His pet is also large and could accommodate him.

'Swim' he said to Badge. The badger nodded and then jumps into the water....only to drown.

The badger struggles to move forward and struggle pitifully and Sofia began to worry about his pet.

'Azief' she said, her eyes glaring at him. Fine he thought inwardly

'Return back' Azief said and the portal opens and Badge was sucked into the portal. The portal could be activated if the beast is not that far with the owner.

The higher the rank, the wider the range of summoning or unsummoning.

Summoning would always open a portal behind the owner back but unsummoning could be done from far away depending on the rank of the beast.

'So, that didn't work' he said nonchalantly. Sofia chuckles.

'Did you look at badge face? It was so pitiful.' Sofia then broke into laughter. Azief also cracked a smile.

He also sees the desperate look of his badger. It is kind of funny.

'We make a raft then!' Azief declared and Sofia just nodded. Seeing that Azief gaze always linger round the bamboo tree near the river bank, Sofia already guessed Azief thoughts.

And that is exactly what Azief is thinking

There is bamboo tree nearby so he could just cut that. It also helps if they are attack by the crocodiles.

At least the raft could provide at least some type of protection....no matter how miniscule.

Of course Azief is not entirely ignorant on how to swim it just that he is not confident he could swim that far to the city.

'Can you swim?' Azief asked Sofia. Sofia smirked and then floats.

'I do not know how to swim but I can levitate' she said. One of her skills she got before when she was fighting alongside Azief in the bridge.

One of the skill she got was levitation. She smiles arrogantly, a smug smile, she one upped Azief.

'But you can't move when you levitate right?' Azief said and the arrogant smile in Sofia mouth faltered.

She floats back down, looking annoyed at Azief. Azief just chuckles in satisfaction

'Now, help me make the raft.' Azief said as he walks to the bamboo trees, readying his blade to chop the bamboo shoots.

'Fine' she said.

For hours they worked alongside each other. Azief cut the bamboo shoot while Sofia arranged it.

Sometime the crocodile would try to come to shore but usually Sofia would deter the crocodile by attacking with her rain of arrows.

Then seeing that Sofia does not a thing about how to build a raft Azief orders her to be the lookout.

Sofia was impressed. She didn't know Azief could build a raft since no one teach this in school.

And Azief don't strikes Sofia as an outdoor man or the type of man who likes to do stuff like building stuff.

If anything Azief looks like he hasn't seen the sun for a very long time.

And she is right.

But Azief is a writer, albeit, an amateur writer. Azief had a lot of things in his mind and sometimes the best way to release what he felt in his mind is to write the stuff down.

He joined an amateur writing sites and active in it for a few months before shutting down his account because of the negativity about his story.

He just makes a love triangle and the people flames him from it so he stopped writing....at least he stopped posting it in the site.

Anyway, as he researched many things when he wrote the story, he also accidentally research on how to build a raft.

Who would have thought knowing such stuff actually could have a practical application in modern life?

Thinking about it Azief smiles under his hood, thinking that it was a stroke of luck he knows how to build a raft.

Azief slashed four pieces of bamboo tree with ease like cutting leaves while Sofia now take care of the lookout.

Even though they didn't see any zombies horde, which is weird, they still need to be cautious.

And then there is still the crocodile near them, that is constantly watching over them.

Azief began building the raft with the four large piece of bamboo. One set is about 8 feet long, the other 12 feet.

He then places the longer piece on the bottom, the shorter one on top to form a square.

He then uses the vines he pulls from the nearby tree, up in the bank to lash together everything.

He makes sure it is lash tightly.

It is the foundation of the raft, the frame. He then secure smaller bamboo pieces side-by-side on top of the frame until it's completely covered.

Then he ties four more bamboo sections to the far edges of the pontoons, spanning the length.

Sofia was looking at Azief diligently working on making the raft and sometimes she would shot the few crocodile that came on the bank.

The crocodile is not gigantic and easy to handle but their physical appearance is a bit different from the kind of crocodile she sees in zoos but she couldn't describe what different about it.

If they are attack by the arrow they retreat, but the arrow could not penetrate the scaly armour only annoy them.

But what is weird is that the crocodile did not attack them....like they are testing her and Azief.

Sofia had a bad premonition about this and Azief also share the same feeling. But he must cross the river to get to the city.

What worries Azief is that he could feel that there is something big inside the river....and he has a pretty good guess on what that is.

A gigantic beast. This is what he first realizes when he arrive don the city bank and by now, Azief is pretty sure, that Sofia has also realized it too.

There is the mutated beast and then there is the gigantic beast.

The mutated beast is like the mutated snakes or rats he found in the villages or the horned chicken and Vampiric bats he found when he was in the city.

The gigantic beast is like the beast that he fight with Tan or the beast that is in the Elementary School.

The experience Azief get fighting such beast is massive as well. When he defeated the gigantic beast, his level shot up in almost an unbelievable rate.

But mutated beast gives only a little bit of XP and easily dispatched by a high leveled player.

In about half an hour Azief already completed the raft. With his strength it is easily completed.

'I'm finished.' He said and Sofia jumped from her lookout and landed on the bank.

She nodded, looking at the river with her worried expression and Azief nodded. They both understand there is no time to lose.

It is evening and it is getting dark.

But both of them also understand that crossing this river safely would not be as easy.

While Azief utilizes his sense to determine whether there is a gigantic best inside the river, Sofia also has her way.

Maintaining a lookout from high up on the bank, she chanced upon something.

There was this one moment when Azief was busy building the raft, she could see a large shadow underneath the water....swimming.

It was like a building...swimming underneath the river. One could only imagine the size of the monster beneath the river.

It would mostly resemble a dinosaur like crocodile....a supercroc as it is so famously termed.

She once watches National Geographic and they show that once upon a time, crocodile is even bigger than the Tyrannosaurus Rex and even eat Tyrannosaurus Rex for its meal.

So even if she does not show it, she is nervous an afraid as hell.

She stands beside Azief as Azief is preparing to take off. She hold Azief arm, look at him and was about to warn him but Azief gripped her hand.

'I know' he said.

'But?' She asked.

'We have to do it.' Then he stopped before continuing.

'I have to do it' he said.

'There is no other choice?' she asked again.

'There is no shortcut in becoming strong. Sometime we have to face death in the face.'

'I think I have been facing death for too long, that I'm sick seeing him' Sofia replies smirking

'False bravado' Azief said, smiling bitterly.

'At least I have that.' She replied but she also realized that Azief hand is trembling. Both of them know what is ahead of them.

They're betting on their luck. There is of course, maybe another way.

Maybe they could go back to Sofia village and climb the mountains and find experience there, or return to Azief village and grind their experience there.....but who could guarantee that there is no other beast like the beast in the river?

Who could guarantee that the next beast they would encounter is not some godly beast that they could not defeat?

Life is unpredictable and cruel.

You can run away and hide. Or you can face death in the eyes, and instead of running and hiding, or crying, sobbing uncontrollably, fear with your knees wobbling, you could look death in the eyes and wink.

That's right. Azief wanted to wink at death. He wants to mock death. But the only way to mock death is to stare death right in front of his face.

He does not want to die, but he does not want to live like before either.

He wanted to be resolute and unyielding. He wanted to be someone....who matters. He wanted strength.

He decided he wanted to cross the river. Since he decided to cross the river he will cross it, no matter the obstacle. He is stubborn. No...to be more exact, he decided to be stubborn.

Decided....that he needs to risk his life. He need to bet his life, muster his courage, face his fears, and survive it, to become stronger, to become someone that matters

Azief then hold Sofia hand, and look at her eyes and ask.

'You can go away you know. You don't have to follow me' he said. He decided to face death....but he couldn't decide that for her.

When they talk about crossing the river they did not think that there is a gigantic beast underneath the river.

Looking at Sofia, he is reminded of Tan and how he failed to save him....and he doesn't want the same thing happened to Sofia.

Sofia look at those eyes, there is no hesitation; there is slight fear but also an unyielding perseverance in those hazel eyes.

'You and me' she said, a smile on her face.

She dropped down her head, looking at the sand on her feet and then she raise up her head and her eyes locked with Azief and remembering their promise underneath the peach tree she said

'You and me against the world, remember?'

'Hmph' Azief smiles.

'Yes, you and me, against the world.' Azief said, a slight bitter smile formed on his mouth, as his clear hazel looking in front of him. this content of novelfullbook.com, if you reading this content please go to website novelfullbook.com to continue reading, fastest update hourly

Saying this, they push the raft to the river and jump on the raft as the river current push them sideways.

Azief took out his makeshift oars and give one to Sofia.

And they began paddling to the city.

Chapter 29: Embracing the cold

The water was still. Azief is paddling slowly, looking left and left and below, looking at the large shadow and he take a big gulp and steel his resolve.

Sofia is preparing her arrows, looking left and right and looking below she gulped and she look at Azief, both of them feeling and doing the same thing.

She could see the shadow of the beast which she and Azief have decided to call Supercroc.

Slowly, slowly they paddle and then one of the small crocodile began showing its face. The water ripples outward as more and more crocodiles emerged.

They looked like normal crocodiles only that their nostrils were positioned on the tops of their heads rather than the tips of their snouts.

They circle behind their raft but they did not attack, just circling around behind and did not even bother to try to encircle the raft which is strange.

'Sofia, vigilance' Azief said, as he keep paddling.

For some reason, he felt that to reach the shore of the city is somehow an arduous expedition when it is not that far.

The current push them sideways, but Azief arm strength prevent them from getting washed away by the currents.

And the current is not that hard or fast that Azief could not handle it. What he is most afraid of is the supercroc if it would suddenly attack them.

They are now in the middle of the river and the supercroc did not do anything to them, no movement from it, almost like it didn't care about the raft.

But Azief still could not dispel the bad feeling in his heart.

Azief once has the opportunity to learn kayaking. He had a Diploma in Tourism Management and one of the courses is marine related fields.

He learns scuba diving, swimming, kayaking, safe and rescue and many others.

While he could not claim he is the best in the kayaking, he at least has some good basic on how to steer a raft.

Though he used kayak in his studies, the principles is not that different and considering the strength he possess now, the speed in which Azief used to cross the river could only be described as he is riding a motorboat.

'Azief, there is movement!' Sofia said, almost yelling.

Sofia was surveying the surrounding when Azief was paddling when she realizes the crocodiles in the river suddenly dive down and the shadow beneath them suddenly getting bigger and is emerging.

Azief who is paddling could also see that the shadow is approaching them from below.

'Shit, shit, shit!' He looked at Sofia. Then he looked at the fast approaching supercroc and he made his choice.

'Try to survive' he said to Sofia.

'I'll see you on the other side'

'That's a promise' Sofia said and they both almost like they have agreed beforehand jumps upwards like they were flying.

Then from beneath the river a blast occurred like a bomb being thrown into the river and a gigantic crocodile appears from the water blast trying to eat Azief and Sofia, its gigantic jaws is trying to gobble up the two humans.

Sofia jump to the right to avoid herself being eaten and then she dived down inside the river with a plop.

The moment she dived down she swims underwater...her destination?

Across the shore.

She did not look back and she is not worried about Azief. Azief is stronger than her and surely he would arrive at the shore faster than her so she using her hand keeps swimming forward not looking back.

Some of the small crocodiles chasing her from behind. She could not use her arrows underwater. And she could not stop either.

In her mind and her eyes is only the shore.

Azief on the other hand, has decided to do something....stupid.

Sofia thought that Azief would also do what she did which is to avoid the crocodile but Azief knows that someone had to stall the crocodile and between the two of them, he is the only one who could do that.

He is not a self-sacrificing hero.....but he knows he is the only one who could do this.

At least, he is the only one who could do this between the two of them.

He will stall the crocodile and when he jumped instead of diving down to the river, he landed behind the supercroc large body.

Azief was shocked and awe by the supercroc physical characteristic.

It has long bodies, splayed limbs, and narrow, flat, tooth-studded snouts with powerful jaws and it also has an enormous size.

It measured about 40 feet long from head to tail and weighed in the neighborhood of 10 tons.

The only way to describe it is as terrible and monstrous.

Landing on the back of the crocodile, Azief tries to remain calm. His balance is flawless. As he increase in level he did find that all of his sense, abilities are all heightened.

While the very notion of remaining calm during fighting a 40 feet long and ten ton crocodiles may seem preposterous, ridiculous even, doing so may be the only thing that saves his life.

'He is just EXP. Boss-like creature. It must have a weakness' Azief muttered as he gripped his hand, sheathed his bald and run around on the back of the crocodiles.

If anyone could see him right now, it is like an ant running around on a human arm. Like Kratos fighting Gaia.

The crocodile then splashed into the river water and another huge splash shakes the rivers, ripples resonating everywhere.

The other crocodiles disperse from the area leaving Azief and Sofia.....and the Supercroc.

Azief then remember something about his last fight about the beast.

Even though the beast he fights with has greater power than him, they are also equipped with a weakness.

Azief is aiming for this weakness. The crocodile look left and right still not realizing that the humans its chasing is behind his back.

Azief could see that Sofia has begun emerging to the surface of water to take some breath as she is swimming vigorously to the shore, not looking back, a dozen of crocodile following her from behind.

The crocodiles did not come towards the Supercroc probably because the Supercroc also eats crocodile.

When Azief jump upwards before, Azief could see that the Supercroc eat the small crocodiles.

When Azief said small, it doesn't mean that the crocodile was small, but it is small compared to the Supercroc.

Sofia who is swimming right now, of course did not think Azief is right now on the back of the croc and even risking his life for hers.

The Supercroc is not going back into the river. If he did Azief could then jump and also join Sofia in swimming away.

He might not know swimming but he could still manage.

But even if he follows from behind, Azief knows, how could they outmatch the crocodile in the water.

Someone needs to stay. Someone needs to stall. And he is the leader of the group. There is a reason why leaders have the privilege of ordering the people beneath them.

Why? Because when shits hit the fan, it is the leader job to clean it. The leader bears the hard work, the daunting work and as such has the privilege of ordering the subordinate to work.

At least, that is how it is for Azief.

The Supercroc locates its target and using its large feet it dashed forward. And its target is Sofia. Right now it still doesn't realize Azief is on his back.

Not good Azief said inwardly.

The croc is chasing Sofia now and with its speed, it could reach her in matter of second.

Azief run as fast as the wind, with water splashing around his black robe and the sound of wind rushing in his ears as he decide to attack the croc.

He remembered on things about fighting a crocodile. As he remembers one of the weaknesses of a crocodile, he activated Fear Aura and he jumped up the air.

The moment he activated Fear Aura, the crocodile quickly realizes someone is behind it.

But the croc did not turn and Azief who was in the air; stab downward like a thunder striking the earth, attacking perfect and accurately at the crocodile eyes.

He turns in midair, performing one of the moves he once saw in TV.

When he strikes he activated Slashing wind, making it a double damage. One from the wind slice and another from his brute strength.

While the croc scale was hard, there are someplace where the croc is relay vulnerable and it is at this place, Azief believe lies it weakness.

## **DOUBLE DAMAGE ACHIEVED**

The eyes were bleeding as Azief landed on the tip of the crocodile mouth. The croc releases something resembling shrieks from its mouth, expressing its pain.

Azief did not delay in his next attack. He doesn't have time to stop. He needs to use the opportunity he had to defeat the croc.

As the croc is now bleeding from its right eyes, Azief now is charging from the tip of the mouth to the left eyes, running through its nose and when he arrived in front of its left eye, Azief stabs the crocodile repeatedly.

One strikes, two strikes, three strikes, quickly it reaches a dozen strikes.

With his arm speed and the frequency of his tabbing, the croc left eyes was turn into a squishy matter as the crocodile roared in pain.

Azief was forced to jump backwards, as the crocodile roll around the water.

When the croc rolled again to his original position Azief then landed again on the back of the crocodile.

It is possible to do because he jump really high and it takes about 20 seconds for him to fall while the crocodile only rolls for 5 seconds and reached its original position in another 5 seconds which gave him an estimate of how high he needs to jump and how far he can jump to reach the best possible distance and time to land exactly at the back of the Supercroc.

Now the croc is no longer interested in chasing Sofia instead it began to focus on killing this human running behind its back.

People say that the eye of the tornado is the safest place.

Now, Azief knows, that's true.

He is standing on the crocodile back but the crocodile could not do anything to him other than rolling along a few times in the water.

Every time Azief felt that the croc would roll, Azief would jump upwards before landing back.

If he only had Levitation skills, he could use this kind of tactic to mess around with the croc.

It is also lucky that the croc is stupid. If only it turns around a little longer or dives straight inside the river, how could Azief land on his back?

He would surely drown. But what Azief doesn't know was that the ebast is not some normal beast, it was gigantic beast.

Even if there is 10 men with Azief level, they could not defeat the croc.

This is a suicide mission. Even if Azief blinds the croc eyes, how could Azief defeat such monsters?

This is why the Supercroc did not roll around for too long or dives straight into the river because it look down on Azief.

Then suddenly the crocodile roll again with force and the impact of his giant body rolling around the river, create a spiral in the water and splashing of water rose for ten meters around the area, while at the same time dispersing many of the other crocodile in the river and this time it caught Azief in surprise.

Azief was drenched from the water and his vision was hindered by the splashing

Blood is still bleeding from it eyes and it only uses its sense of smell and touch to try shaking off Azief from it back.

Azief was shaken off and in midair he was struck by the crocodile tails and it was like he was being hit by a truck as he coughed up blood and his skin shredded around his stomach area.

Azief was thrown far away when the crocodile turn his direction, looking at him and charged forward, opening its mouth and was about to swallow him whole.

But at this juncture he maneuvered himself and using his feet kick one of the teeth of the Supercroc and he shot farther away but not yet far away enough from the range of attack of the croc.

Azief hand was in the range of the crocodile mouth and the croc did not let this opportunity go.

With one bite, Azief who was in midair yelled in pain, his scream drowned by the splashing water.

Sofia on the other hand could not see what is happening behind her because she is frantically trying to run from the crocs.

All she could hear was the mighty splashing of water and the feeling that there is a struggle going behind her.

Azief look at his left hand. His left hand was bitten and stuck in the gap of the crocodile teeth but the teeth pierce his pinky fingers and his pinky finger was crushed already, only meat in tatters.

The crocodile is now trying to drag Azief down.

And considering its weight, to drag Azief down is easy. Even though Azief hand is as strong as steel it was easily bitten by the crocodile.

Azief knows if the croc drag him down, it's over for him.

So, he quickly made a decision.

'FUCK!' He cursed as he steel his body for what is coming. Gritting his teeth he swings his blade to his left hand and cutting his own hand off.

And blood spurted from his amputated hand. It gushes out. The blood didn't gush in a constant flow, but in time with the beating of his heart.

And the pain? Oh, the pain! He wanted to pass out but he couldn't. He tries to shut it off but he cant.

So, he gritted his teeth, enduring the pain, trying to remain conscious. The crocodile is blind on both eyes.

Luck and circumstances saves him again. If Azief was thrown just a little bit deeper inside range of attack of the croc, instead of losing his arm he would be swallowed down inside the croc stomach.

If he did not kick the croc teeth and uses it as propulsion, he would end up as a meal for the croc.

When the croc come rushing at him before, he could see the croc large bowels and in it, was full of zombies in squishy goo, some is being disintegrated in its stomach.

Maybe that is why Azief could not see any zombies since he came to the bridge. Maybe all of them were eaten by this supercroc.

Azief then fall down to the river but the moment his feet reached the water, he propels himself up using all, of his strength on his feet and a water blast erupted as he once again jump onto the croc back.

He stands there, bloodied and weary.

The blood drips on the back of the croc. The blood is leaving his body, his left hand arm becomes pale, and the pulses in his heart began to beat slower, weaker.

His stomach is full of ripped flesh and the water makes him winces in pain, but he forces himself to remain upright and conscious.

Strength also leaves his body since there are some rings enhancing strength in his left hand.

Now his left hand is in the deep river.

At least his storage rings are in his right hand so he quickly conjures up health potion and with one hand gulped it down.

The bleeding slowly stopped around his stomach areas but the missing hand did not reform.

Using his right hand he held the stump and from the bandage he got from the storage rings he quickly tightened it almost like a professional.

Occasionally the croc would roll around but it did not dive inside.

Then Azief could sense a large horde of monster is coming here. He wanted to curse. What now? he mused.

But then opening his eyes he could see.

The retreating small crocodile before is coming again but it did not chase Sofia who is nearing the shores but is coming towards the large croc.

More and more join this horde of crocodiles, swimming to charge the Supercroc.

Could it be?

Azief could see a ray of hope. But even though he sees it, it did not change his current situation. He is feeling unimaginable pain.

He just realizes that one of the Supercroc teeth manage to injure him and blood is also gushing out from his left arm.

No matter how much pressure he applied, the blood had still gushed between his fingers and oozed.

The blood had spread to his dark robe making it seems even darker and black aura envelope Azief, making his feet feel lighter.

He could feel life, draining away from him, his body becoming cold.

'Heh' he smiles. He doesn't know why he smiles or why, but he smiles anyway, his mind is blank, but he smiles.

Is it because it is hopeless? Or is it because there is nothing else to do? His mind is blank right now.

If not this croc, the large horde would get him. Realizing this, he feels fatigued, feel tired. But he decided on one last thing.

He needs to leave some gift for this croc that cost him his limbs.

Then as he decided, this time he run forward, each steps harder than the last but he could not stop now.

He then jump and this time stab on the croc head and blood gushed like a fountain.

It's head is like a fountain of blood attracting more and more smalls crocodiles and then as he resigned himself to death, Azief jump from the top of the crocodile head. this content of novelfullbook.com, if you reading this content please go to website novelfullbook.com to continue reading, fastest update hourly

As he was about to fall into the river he look at that large wide open mouth of the Supercroc, he smiles, and laughed as he throws something since the Supercroc mouth and he fall to the river.

With a large sound he fall to the river. The area around his fall quickly turns red with blood keep gushing out from his ripped out hands and slash marks.

In the water, his head is pounding like a drum, every cell in his body screaming for oxygen.

He keep fighting until he could feel that his head is about to explode, his vein could burst right now, he has to take a breath but he doesn't have the energy.

Opening his mouth, trying to breath, he could feel the water assault his throats and he begins to fall.

He falls further and further into the darkness until it threatens to swallow him whole. Closing his eyes, he let the river take him away.

He smiles again.

His last view, is looking at the Supercroc fighting with a hundred crocodiles, its blood madly gushing about, and the supercroc struggles in vain.

'Take that!' he mused in satisfaction.

And as he let the darkness envelopes him, he thinks of his lofty ambition and the people that he left behind, the friends he had, and wondering, would they cry for him, if they knew he dies?

He wanted them to at least feel sorrows for him. Would Sofia mourn him? Would the Princess mourn him?

As he finally gives up to the cold and the darkness, he closes his eyes, eases up his body, opening his arm wide, he embraces his death and the deeper he falls.

And then, he at the last breath he takes....he smiles in contentment.

## Chapter 30: Once-in-a-lifetime experience

Opening his eyes, it was like he is doing some strenuous exercise. It felt heavy and everywhere in his body it ached.

He could feel the heat of fire near him and a damp towel on his head. In his stump is a bandage.

His stomach is bandage by gauze and his robe is folded neatly beside his bed.

His body is exposed but he is not cold. He could see a blanket on his body and he pushed it away with his right hand.

He looks around slowly. He is on land, with high trees, and the sound of crickets in the distance.

Then he heard a huge splashing.

It jolted him to shocks but he calmed himself down. Looking upwards he could see stars. He is not in the river but he is near one he deduced.

It's night he mused.

Did he survive? He looked around and he could see Sofia beside him, leaned on a huge tree branch, sleeping.

He on the other hand is lying on a bed of leaves. Beside him is about ten bottles of vials. Most of them is health potions if he has to hazard a guess.

Sofia must force it down my throat to try heal my injury, he mused.

He looks at his left hand. Then he sighed. He only has his right hand now. Even health vials could not help regrow lost limbs.

At least he knows now.

But Azief is not saddened by this fact. He is sure that there is other way to regrow back his hand.

Look at the bright side....which is....hmmm...he could not think of any bright side of losing an arm.

He sighed again

'Sofia' Azief weakly said

The girl quickly opens her eyes and then she finally realizes it was Azief.

'Azief! You're awake? Are you okay?' She said as she run to Azief and checks him.

'I'm okay' as he said this Sofia hugged him and one could hear her sobbing.

'You...why...didn't you....'she said stuttering at every sentence. Sofia felt guilty looking at his conditions.

He lost his hand because of her. By the time she was at the shore she began to realize that Azief was fighting the Supercroc.

When she realizes this, she jumps back into the river, trying to join the fight.

But it was that time she sees that hundreds of crocodile coming attacking the Supercroc, ravaging it like a pack of hyena.

But the Supercroc did not go down easy and Sofia was trying to see among the chaos where is he until she saw a silhouette falling into the river. this content of novelfullbook.com, if you reading this content please go to website novelfullbook.com to continue reading, fastest update hourly

Sofia quickly dives inside the river, swimming like mermaid.

Thanks to her high agility even though she is in the rivers, her speed did not deteriorate by much and she quickly arrive at his location.

By that time Sofia heart was in turmoil. She didn't think he would sacrifice so much just to keep her safe.

For the first time, she could feel that she could rely on him and sees him as a man.

When she saw him, falling deeper and deeper into the river without any response, her heart lurched as she quickly dragged his body upwards.

Avoiding the fierce fighting between the hundreds of crocodile with the Supercroc on the surface of the water, Sofia dragged Azief to the shore.

When they reach the city shore, his face was pale white, his skin was cold, and he was constantly bleeding from his wound.

A deep gash mark on his left arm, and a stump on what used to be his hand, and nonstop bleeding from the stomach.

As she uses cotton and gauze to bandage the wounds and stop the bleeding, her tears kept falling.

She places him under a huge tree, behind a large rock as she gather leaves to make a bed for him and take some dry wood to make a fire.

Then she disrobes him and cleans his wounds.

Sometimes when he went into shock, Sofia would pour some health vials inside his mouth and he would calm down.

She also makes a damp towel to try helping his body fight the heat. When the shocks stop, he was then inflicted by a fever.

It has been hours but the fight between the supercroc and the other crocodile is still not ending.

By the time he was settled in the city shore, the Supercroc has many injuries. Combined with Azief blinding both its eyes, the supercroc is in dire straits.

But the small crocodiles also have suffered many casualties.

Hundreds of crocodile corpse floats on the river, and the area around the clash is dye red, making it look like a river of blood.

Sofia is not that far from the shore which is why she could see the fight.

Sometimes the Supercroc would go underwater and the other crocodile would follow and then they will emerge back at the surface and fights again, each time fiercer than the last.

The area around their fight becomes bloodied as the clear blue water turns red because of their fight.

And the smell also began to reach the city shores which invite some beast to the shores.

Most of it is just some snakes and there is an ape like creature which is a little bit stronger than the normal beast she encountered.

She uses her rain of arrows to riddle it with arrows, protecting the unconscious Azief.

She rose to level 20 and put one skill points to her rains of arrows which make her rain of arrows more powerful and it also decrease the usage of SP to use the skills.

Sofia did not dare venture deeper into the city fearing that she would meet another beast which is why she camped out here, not too far from the city shore instead of making a camp deeper into the area.

She is also worried about him and she could not leave him behind, not after what he has done for her.

So, denying her survival instinct, instead of leaving him...she stays with him, nursing him until he recovers from his injury.

Then she leaned into the tree branch, tired and spent, and she surrendered her mind to the night.

It wasn't until he awakened that she was stirred and quickly she hugged him.

All these memories fill her mind when she hugged him and she was grateful that the only familiar face she has seen since the Fall is not dead.

Then releasing him from her hug, she stares at him, more like glaring at him and then she began to said with a voice that is trembling, with an appearance of messy hair and a swollen eyes, she said with a hint of anger and gratefulness

'Don't do that again' and finished saying this she hugged him again.

And he sits there, on the bed of leaves, unmoving, not knowing what to do. In his life, there is rarely a time where he hugs somebody or people hug him.

Even in his family there is no hugging.

So he smiles and he nodded his head. He could feel her body heat, her chest heaving and could hear her rushed heartbeat.

He didn't know....that hugging could be so sensual.

'Hmm' he replies in a non-committal gesture.

'It's okay now' he said.

'I'm okay'

Finally she released him and then he look at her, like he has never seen her before.

Sofia is not a world class beauty and Azief could say that even though he doesn't have many romantic relations with the opposite sex, he knows a few of pretty beautiful people.

And Sofia could not be considered a beauty that would make you look twice. She is innocent enough and beautiful enough for a girl in a village.

But for some reason, looking at her now, she looked beautiful in a way he couldn't describe.

And he smiles at himself. Like before, he smiles not knowing the reason he smiles. It was not hopelessness like before.

Could it be...and he extinguishes the thought.

Sofia finally realizing that she hugged him too tight before and hugging him with no clothes on, she could feel heat rushing to her cheeks and she almost yelps in surprise.

She blushed red in shyness and averts her gaze from Azief bare naked body.

'We can rest here for tonight' Sofia said after she calmed herself. Azief nodded.

By now he has heard the story of how she saved him from drowning and he has also heard about the attack of the crocodiles with the Supercroc.

Hearing this of course he is surprised.

The fact that he survives and the fact that the supercroc has been fighting for hours with almost an army of crocodile and is still not defeated, Azief is grateful enough that he only loses his hand.

Maybe his pill could sap the energy of the Supercroc and help the horde wins the war between the Supercroc and the Alliance of Crocs.

Azief decided to call them the Alliance of the crocs for laughs but Sofia was not laughing when she heard the joke.

She just says that he has a very terrible naming sense. He got up and he said.

'Help me to wear my robe.'

'Rest, Azief.' She said, clearly not agreeing with him even moving around. She worries too much.

He shakes his head. He wanted to see the monsters that have bitten his hand. He wanted to see its downfall with his own eyes.

'I want to check the battle.' He said to Sofia while Sofia just sighed.

'Why would you do that?' she asked.

'That beast made me amputate my own hand. If you could imagine cutting your own hand and the pain of doing it....'and he sighed then he continued.

'I wanted to see it last moment with my own eyes.' He said

'You...you stubborn oaf' she said.

Clearly she was angry yet she came forward and helps him with his robe. Then they walked nearing the shore and look behind the rock.

Sofia always maintained a lookout

By now hundreds of crocodiles bodies (this sounds wrong. Carcasses, corpses?) floats around the area.

There is only two crocodiles fighting the supercroc by now but the supercroc has been injured heavily.

It was bleeding from everywhere, its hard scale has already been shattered, and it has lost it right leg.

From the looks of it the two crocodiles going to win as it eat the exposed flesh of the large crocodiles, like they are feasting on a large banquet.

'There must be a lot of loot there, waiting to be looted' Azief said as he looked at the hundred dead crocodiles.

'Hmm' Sofia agreed and nods her head.

If not because that she feared that there is other hidden danger in the river, she would swim and loot them all.

'Look' Azief said and that startled Sofia.

'What?' The last moment of the Supercroc and there is a smirk in his face. Sofia feel chills looking at his smirk.

He looks at the stump on what used to be his hand and looking at the Supercroc last moment he heaved a sigh of relief.

'It is done' he said coldly, and his mind has already thinking about what's next and whether he needs to change his plan.

'Let's go and make a camp underneath the tree. We'll discuss other stuff in the morning'

Sofia nodded and they were about to return to the huge tree when suddenly Azief felt pain in his left arm and he fall down.

He falls suddenly and without warning and Sofia who was behind him was shocked and quickly she rushed to him, lying on the sand, wriggling in pain

'Azief, what's happening? Hey, answer me. Are you okay? Where do you feel pain? Tell me.' Sofia was anxious and perplexed on what just happens.

Azief is right now feeling a pain he never felt before, as blood jutted out from the stump and he could see in front of his eyes, as nerve and veins was formed out of thin air.

When the nerve and veins was completely constructed, flesh appears out of nowhere, this time encapsulating the nerve and veins; all the while he has to bear the pain that felt like he was being skinned alive.

Then as if that was not enough, he could hear his own bones cracked and he howls in pain.

Sofia was beside him hugging him, as he began seizing and Sofia looks at his pain like she could felt it and tears keep falling, fear, anxiety, all this is mixed in her emotions.

She doesn't want to lose the only person she knows in this dark and cold world. She has lost her mother, her boyfriend and now she is going to lose him too?

She could not accept that.

She could not accept another lost. And thinking of the dark days ahead, even if she survives, she would be alone again, and that thought scares her more than she cares to admit.

In Azief body, his bones keep breaking, almost like his bones were branches of a tree, the sound was popping and the broken bones can be heard loudly.

Then his bones reform and his skins stretched, which brought another level of pain, and his scream filled the area.

He howls and he screams, tears of pain flowed from his eyes, gritting his teeth, and Sofia is trying to hold him down as she is also scared and shocked at seeing this occurrence.

There is nothing she could do because she know nothing why this suddenly happens, so she could only cried because of fear and she hugged him trying to console him, trying to ease his pain somehow.

A minute later, the pain stop and so does the scream and then both of them look in awe and shock of what has transpired

Sofia is more shocked than him. She look at him as he gets up and she could see he was taller than before and even ....handsome than before.

Azief has this black spot on his face and scars because of acne but now, his face was flawless.

Looking at his arm, Sofia could see a well sculpted muscle and then she look at his height. Azief height is 172cm before but now he is 182 cm now.

Standing he emits some kind of a powerful aura, and with his black robe combined with the oppressive aura around him now, he looks almost like a death god.

Sofia who was close to him could feel herself feeling weak, like his aura is oppressing her somehow unintentionally.

His pale face before is now full of energy and he look healthier and powerful, like the injury he had before was a lie.

What has happened to him? she mused. Azief on the other hand is overjoyed and excited.

His hand returned. He also felt a primal strength coursing through his body, and he realizes that he is taller and stronger than before, the feeling like he is invincible and then a notification appears.

Looking at it, he was dumbstruck and then slowly a smile formed on his mouth, finally understanding what has happened to him.