

## World 121

### Chapter 121: Insect Swarm

"It's coming from the left as well!" Jeanny added.

"It's bloody coming from every direction!" Bluedaze said as she saw many Giant Ants coming towards them from the back as well.

Jack could see several of the red dots scurrying closer from his rear, he turned around and executed Swing. Four Giant Ants were cut through, their appendages were sliced apart. The Giant Ants were mostly level 12, Jack's high damage completely surpassed their defense tolerance that it created the dismembering effect even when the monsters' HP was still high. The Giant Ants which lost their legs became unable to move around, Jack continued to deliver damages to them with ease.

The other members started engaging the Ants as well. Light from Magician spells started flying around, lighting up the cave in a chaotic manner. Melee Fighters and Rangers hacked and slashes at the Giant Ants which got close.

"Hah! They are nothing!" Warpath said with pride as he danced around slashing the Giant Ants using his two swords.

Jack noticed the damages inflicted by Warpath. The damages by his second sword on his left hand was much lower than his right hand's sword. Could it be that his left sword was much inferior? But Jack didn't think the guy would keep around such a low-level common weapon.

Curious, Jack asked Peniel in his mind, 'the guy there, who used two swords. One of his swords dealt much lower damage. Is it because of the sword's quality?'

Jack could feel Peniel shifted her attention to Warpath, she then answered, "No, the sword he used are both uncommon grade and pretty high level. His off-hand deals lower damage because he does not possess the dual wielding skill?"

'Dual Wielding skill?'

"It's an elite class' skill that enable the user to deal same damage on both hands using one-handed weapons. You will find out later as more of you reached elite classes."

'I see. By the way, you can identify weapon's grade and level by only looking?'

"Heh, do you just realize how awesome I am?" Peniel replied with pride.

'Yes, yes, you are the greatest,' Jack said weakly.

While he was chatting with Peniel, Jack never stopped combatting the Giant Ants. The group pushed forwards among the swarms of insects. Thought the monster's numbers were large, each of them was weaker than normal monsters. Thus, with the group's skills and high levels, they were never really in danger. However, Jack could see a large swarm that was bigger than the current one was incoming.

"Haha, is this all there is to a dungeon? You should have contacted me earlier, then we would have cleared this dungeon sooner!" Warpath was showing off his arrogance once he found that the monsters were weak.

"Be careful! There are more coming!" Jack warned the others.

"Worry about your own self!" Warpath scorned. "Don't lump me together with the likes of you. These monsters are nothing in my eyes!"

As his words ended, most of the first wave of Giant Ant had died at their feet. But then they heard a low rumble from the depth of the tunnel. The torchlight was not bright enough to illuminate further parts of the cave.

Selena threw a Mana Bullet into the depth of the tunnel. The light showed countless red eye reflections at the far end. Their hairs stood on ends as they gazed at the sight. The numbers in this next swarm were easily three to four times the previous encounter.

"Formation!" Selena immediately yelled.

As the Giant Ants were all coming from the front this time, Silverwing's team move forward and they stood side by side with Queen Magenta's team. The Fighters and Rangers were at the front while Magicians hid at the back.

When the Giant Ants came into view, they could see larger ones amongst them. Jack scanned them and found out that they were level 13 Giant Ant Warriors. They had slightly redder tints on their carapace armor, and their mandibles were longer, with addition of two large antenna protruding from their heads.

"Be careful of the large ones!" Bludaze exclaimed, "they are Giant Ant Warriors. Their HP and defense were not much different from the normal Giant Ants, but they hit much harder. Try to take them out first!"

The Magicians on both teams casted their spells at once when the swarm of ants came into range. When their spells were on cooldown, they tossed their standard range attacks unceasingly. Jack reckoned they must have brought items that could replenished their staff's or wand's ammo to be able to keep throwing range attacks like that without worry.

The spells and range attacks all hit the Giant Ants, but the tide was too much for their attacks to have any effect. The swarm kept on coming without slowing at all.

Once they got closer, all the melee players unleashed their skills. Almost every fighter used the Swing skill, including Jack. Causing damages to all the front row insects who had arrived first. They then tried to keep as much Giant Ants as possible at bay, preventing them to pass through their line onto the Magicians behind.

But there were just too many of the insects. Several still got through. The Rangers then busied themselves, running around to kill the Giant Ants that came towards the Magicians.

The Giant Ants HP was not high, Jack only needed less than ten normal hits to kill one. With his speed, he could deliver normal attacks very rapidly, hence he managed to kill a lot of the Ants since they came

into contact. Silverwing's people were amazed by Jack's high damage. Wicked Witches' group on the other hand, were not aware as Jack was positioned at further end from their side. Jack tried not to use his skills except for Swing as he did not want to attract too much attention yet.

It took them almost fifteen minutes to clear out the swarm. Although there was no casualty, they were not without scratch as well. Many had their HP reduce to half. They immediately take advantage of current reprieve to consume some recovery items. They didn't know if the next swarm would be appearing soon.

"This is strange, the difficulty was slightly harder than our previous entry," Bluedaze said.

"That's right. We usually met such large swarm after further into the dungeon," Selena added.

"Could it probably because we have more stronger members now? That the dungeon was adjusting its difficulty based on the people who entered?" Sinreaper conjectured.

"Good thing is that the monsters' level remains the same," Jeanny said. "If they only increase the numbers, we should still be able to manage. It just meant we will burn through our recovery items faster."

"That's right, we should fight more conservatively," Sinreaper said. "Let's advance with caution, we should avoid combat if possible. Our target is to reach the end of the dungeon where the Boss is located."

The others nodded their agreement. After they had enough rest, they continued onwards. They again came to a fork. This time, there were three paths. Instead of randomly choosing one, they opt to send their rangers first. Since there were only two rangers on the team, Silverwing and the female ranger from Wicked Witches each took one path to scout. The rests waited behind.

After three minutes, the female ranger came back. "There are many Giant Ants that way. I do not recommend it. Have Silverwing returned?"

"No, he is still on the other path."

"Then I will go scout the third path," the female Ranger said.

Another minute passed before Silverwing was back.

"There are some Giant Ants, but it doesn't seem to be too many. We should be able to handle them easily," he said. Before he was about to ask about the female Ranger, she appeared from the third tunnel.

"This path is worse, we shouldn't go there," she said with a pale face.

"All right, let's go through this path then," Queen Magenta pointed at the path Silverwing had scouted.

They all then walked in.

Jack was helpless, if they could trust him, he could have told them which path had the least monsters' presence from the start. But he knew it was pointless, Warpath and Queen Magenta would not follow his advice, and he might end up exposing his treasure, so he just kept quiet and went with the flow.

## Chapter 122: Battle On A Rock Bridge

Jack did not mind encountering huge swarm like the one before actually, as it provided large numbers of monsters with low HP. He could harvest large number of souls to fill up his Container of Souls in this way. The others were also helping him get the souls as he could get them even if he was not the one killing the monsters. He just needed to stood close enough when they died.

Just from the last two swarms he had collected 72 souls. With the additions of the souls he still had left in the Container, added with the ones he collected from the Monsters during his travel this morning, he had 112 souls in the container. Already 10% from upgrading another basic skill.

He made a mental note to go look for Giant Ants hunting ground outside of this dungeon when he left. If he could find such large swarm of easy-to-kill monsters, he could quickly fill up his Containers of Souls.

As they proceeded, they met another wave of Giant Ants, but as Silverwing had mentioned, it was something that they could dealt with easily. They continued on and met a few more small waves.

When they met another fork, they repeated the previous strategy. They progressed slowly but surely, in this way, they saved up many of their recovery items, allowing them more stock for when they reached the Boss.

After another two more forks, they came into a large cavern hall. The ground disappeared into a deep chasm which they could not see the bottom. The path forward was a rock bridge that connected with the other end. The rock bridge was only around seven meters wide, so not much space to maneuver. They broke into two teams again like the first setup, the Wicked Witches group walked at the front while the White Scarfs group was following from behind.

They were worried that the rock bridge might not be sturdy enough so they walked slowly. The rock bridge was not supported by anything below, it was hanging from one end to the other. But after walking on the bridge for a while, they found it to be pretty solid. They then walked forward with a more relax manner, except for Jack.

However, Jack's concern was not about the rock bridge sturdiness. His worry came from the red dots in his radar. The radar showed an ample number of red dots along the bridge, but he did not see any monsters. There were no moving creatures on the bridge except for them.

He turned his head to look around, he did not see anything except the vast chasm that seemed to be bottomless. Was the radar broken? He thought.

"Looking for something?" Sinreaper asked when he saw Jack's strange behavior.

"Nothing," Jack answered, but he was still feeling unsettled. The radar had always been correct all this time, there was no reason for it to give wrong information at this time. If he could not see the monsters represented by the red dots on this bridge, could it be...

A realization came to him. He slowly lifted his head up. He could see some shadows wiggling on the ceiling of the cavern. Sinreaper and Bluedaze who had been aware of Jack's strange behavior, followed his gaze to the ceiling. They could also see that there were some things above.

"Above!" Bluedaze warned the others.

It was not known whether it was due to Bluedaze's shout, or that the monsters had decided to assault at this time. Dark figures started falling down from the ceiling. The things fell right in the middle of their formation. The things scurrying back to their feet, the fall didn't cause them any harm. The teams could see that the things falling were Giant Ants.

At the same time, there were more Giant Ants came out from the side of the bridge. They had been crawling at the bottom side of the bridge, waiting for a coordinated strike with their brethren that came down from the ceiling.

Although taken by surprise, everyone in the team was an expert. They didn't panic by the ambush. They immediately started attacking the nearest monsters. But because the Giant Ants appeared from all directions, they could not keep their formation. They were losing HP as they attacked the Giant Ants.

Jack used Swing to cut a large number of Giant Ants, but he could hear Bluedaze and Sinreaper from behind were having trouble as they were not melee class. Honeycomb and Silverwing tried their best to protect them but they were also having trouble themselves fending assaults from all directions.

Another Giant Ant came falling near Jack. In this condition, he decided he should get serious a bit. He used Power Strike on the falling Giant Ant, it hit the creature and threw it far away, over the bridge and into the pit below. Seeing it, Jack thought of an idea.

He looked around and saw a Giant Ant that was climbing up from the edge. He dashed to the creature. He sent a cut on its legs before he shoved a strong kick towards its body. The kick didn't cause any damage, but it pushed the Giant Ant away from the bridge. Without anything to hold onto, its body starting to plummet into the abyss below.

"You don't need to kill them, just push them into the pit!" Jack yelled at the others.

Everyone immediately realized that it was a viable solution for the situation. They then proceeded to attack and pushed the Giant Ants to the edge before sending them plummeting down.

They continued to push forwards by pushing the monsters aside and sending them off the bridge. The Magicians and Rangers used their attacks to stun or stop the Giant Ant's movement while the Fighters used their strength to push the Giant Ants off the bridge.

But the Giant Ants kept falling from above and crawled up from the side. There did not seem to be an end to them no matter how many they pushed down the pit.

"Keep advancing!" Silverwing told them. There were too many Giant Ants to deal with, they could only try to get to the other side first.

More of the Giant Ants stacked in their front and blocking their way, which slowed down the advance of Wicked Witches team. White Scarfs team which had been staying a distance behind them had now arrived by their side.

Silverwing immediately gave the order for them to combine formation, "two fighters at the front and two at the back! Strength based fighters to the front to force our path forwards. The other two with

more dexterity behind to prevent the monsters from approaching. Rangers and Magicians at the middle to support Fighters in the front!"

Warpath was already at the front, his ego did not allow him to move to the back.

"I have invested much dexterity to my stats, I will guard the rear," Jeanny said as he brandished her spear and stab at the monsters coming from behind.

"I have put much of my free points to my strength stat," Honeycomb said as she looked at Jack.

"Go," Jack told her. He was sure that both his strength and dexterity were higher than hers, but he preferred to stay behind rather than fighting beside Warpath. Honeycomb ran to the front, using his shield to slam and pushed at the Giant Ants while kept on slashing at them.

They continued pushing forward little by little, while innumerable Giant Ants had been pushed down to their demise. There were just around ten meters left till they reached the other side. As they focused on pushing the Giant Ant, they did not realize a large shadow appearing on the rock outcrop above the entrance to the other side of the bridge.

When the team got closer to the entrance, Honeycomb finally saw the thing lurking above.

"What is that?!" She exclaimed in horror.

The shadow didn't linger anymore once it knew it had been found out. It jumped forward into the middle of the group formation. The players immediately scurried forward to avoid the thing from landing on them. Jack and Jeanny was too far back, so they wouldn't be able to follow, they moved back instead.

The female ranger from Wicked Witches unfortunately failed to follow the group pushing forward. She was late and the large monster landed on her. The multiple appendages stabbed at her and used its weight to pin her down to the floor. She screamed from the pain. The large monster was a giant insect with black carapace. It had two layers of large and thick carapace that extended from the middle of its back. The carapace looked to be very tough.

## **Chapter 123: Separated**

Jack Inspected the large insect.

Giant Armored Beetle (Basic monster, Insect), level 14

HP: 1400

The Giant Beetle continued to stab on the female Ranger with its razor sharp legs. The female Ranger was helpless as she was pinned down. She continued to suffer damages without being able to escape. In desperation, she stabbed the monster on top of her using her knife but the damage she inflicted was negligible.

Jeanny who saw her comrades was suffering immediately ran forward and stabbed at the Giant Beetle with her spear. But her damage was much reduced compared to when she was attacking the Giant Ants. The thick carapace of the Beetle served as a solid shield that soaked the damage dealt to it. Jack could

not provide help as there were many Giant Ants coming from the rear, he doubled his effort to slice at them and pushed them off the edge.

Jeanny who saw that her attacks were ineffective, decided to use her skill. Her spear's tip glowed and created a bright straight line as she drove it forward. The energy on the tip drilled into the thick carapace of the Giant Beetle.

Critical! 108 damage!

What skill was that? Jack thought in his mind when he saw Jeanny's move.

The Giant Beetle was damaged, but it still would not budge. It continued to attack the female Ranger whose HP was already critical.

The group in front had reached the entrance to the other side, which was strangely devoid of monsters. Bluedaze and Sinreaper sent range attacks at the Beetle, but their attacks were also having little effect.

"We have to leave them behind!" Warpath said.

"What? No way! We can fight that monster," Bluedaze said.

"We will just be wasting resources, we have each lost much HP. We still need to save our recovery potions for the Boss if we are to clear this dungeon!"

"There are three people there, we lose much manpower if we leave them!" Bluedaze countered.

"Two people," Warpath said as he saw the female Ranger's HP was finally depleted. The Giant Beetle now shifted its focus to Jack and Jeanny.

When Warpath saw the others were still hesitating, he added, "they won't be able to make it here. There is no way they could push that Giant Beetle aside. Even if they tried to kill it, they will be swarmed by the Giant Ants from behind. By the time we done helping them in killing this Giant Beetle, they would have lost their life anyway. Then we will be losing time, potions, and manpower!"

"Let's go," Queen Magenta said as she decided that Warpath's thinking was sound.

Silverwing and his people were still hesitating, but then they heard Jack's shout, "go! Don't worry about us, we will catch up."

Pretentious prick, Warpath thought in his mind, but he chose not to said it out this time. Since Jack wanted to pretend to act tough to the end, then let him act tough. He had never met someone who was still trying to save face even when his life was in danger like this. He thought Jack must have planned to use this as an excuse when he died in this dungeon. Such a naïve thought, he would still be able to put the blame on him if they ended up failing to clear this dungeon.

Silverwing on the other hand, did not think that Jack was just pretending to be tough. He admitted that he could not see any way out for him in this situation, but maybe the guy had some trick up his sleeves to save himself from this. With Jack's reassurance, Silverwing finally agreed to go forward first.

"I will be waiting for you at the Boss fight, don't die!" He shouted at Jack.

Jack didn't reply as he was busy warding off the swarm of Giant Ants that kept on coming towards him from behind. Jack took a glance and saw them leave, while Jeanny was busy dealing with the Giant Beetle. She did not seem to be faring too well. If this place was a wide open space and there were no Giant Ants around to interfere, maybe she could take on this Giant Beetle.

Jack was just about to use his Life Burning Art when he caught a glimpse of another opening apart from the one at the end of this bridge. But this opening was located on the wall at a lower elevation from the bridge. There was a rock protrusion that came out from the cavern wall that led to that opening. If they jumped from this height, they should be able to reach that rock protrusion. The question was where will that opening led? They might end up in a worse situation if they stumbled into an insect's nest, and be further separated from the others if they entered that opening.

Their current situation did not allow Jack to ponder too long. Jeanny was losing HP at a fast pace. He had to decide whether to use his buff skill or bet on that opening on the wall.

He used a Swing on the Giant Ants' legs in front of him, immobilizing them. He then ran to where Jeanny was, he used Power Strike on that Giant Beetle, driving the heavy insect back a few steps.

"Come with me!" Jack said. He had decided to take the gamble on that hidden opening. If he used either his Life Burning Art or Overlimit at this place, he would not be able to use it again during the Boss fight, as those skills had very long cooldown.

Jeanny who was still amazed from seeing Jack managed to push the large Beetle back, was further dumbstruck when she saw him running to the edge of the bridge and jumped off. She saw him landed on a strange rocky platform below, she was still confused when he looked up and yelled at her, "what are you waiting for? Hurry and jump!"

She looked back and realized the Giant Beetle and swarm of Giant Ants were coming towards her. She didn't have enough time to think of anything, she instinctively jumped off the bridge towards Jack.

Jack saw her approaching, but she had jumped without a running start. She did not have enough push to cover the distance! Jeanny seemed to have realized it as well mid-flight as her eyes widened with fear.

Jack extended his arm forward to catch her, but she was still a distance away, there was no way he could grab her. Luckily, Jeanny also instinctively put his hand forward, which was coincidentally holding her spear. The long spear covered enough distance for Jack to grab it on its shaft.

Jack held onto the spear shaft tightly as Jeanny hanged above the dark and bottomless pit. Jack wondered if they would get a normal death of one level penalty if they fell into the pit here, but he wasn't keen to find out. Jeanny was also grabbing her spear tightly, the weapon had become her lifeline at the moment.

Good thing that Jack had high strength stat. Despite using only one hand, with his other hand grabbing part of the rock protrusion for a hand grip, he could still pull Jeanny up.

The girl fell on her back after got pulled up safely. she was panting as she tried to catch her breath. She and Jack looked at the rows of large insects staring at them from the rock bridge above. Some were so eager to get to them that they actually jumped on their own and fell to the dark abyss below.

Jack rose to his feet and said, "let's go."



Jeanny was confused and was just about to ask, to where? When she saw a hole opening on the wall at the end of this rock platform they were on. She was surprised that Jack managed to notice this hidden opening during the fight. She quickly got up and followed behind Jack.

"Will we be able to rejoin the others?" She asked.

"Hope so," Jack answered vaguely as he himself was also not sure.

They then entered the dark opening on the wall.

## **Chapter 124: Why Do You Stay With Them?**

It was complete darkness inside. Jack stored his round shield and took out a torch. He lighted up the torch and the luminance showed that they were in a small round room. There was another opening at the far end wall. They went into it and found themselves inside a narrow passageway. With no other path to take, they proceeded along this passageway.

They walked for quite a long distance along the passageway. Good thing was there was no monster, it would be hard to fight in such a cramped space. They came out into a decent size cavern hall. It was empty inside, with just a number of boulders spreading around the hall. The hall was bright enough from some sort of natural light source that Jack couldn't identify, so he stored his torch. He looked along the walls but found no other exit apart from the one they had just entered.

"Dead end?" Jeanny said when she also noticed the room was without any other exit.

"It shouldn't be," Jack mumbled. "If this world follows game rules, it wouldn't create a place where we can get to but has no exit. After all, we cannot jump back up to the bridge where we jumped down from. Even if there are no longer any monster there, we still can't jump that high to get back to that bridge."

"But I don't see any other way," Jeanny said. "Could there be another opening at the alleyway we came from?"

"No, I have paid attention to it, this is the only place we can come to," Jack replied. "Take a rest first, you had lost quite some HP. Just let your Natural Body Recovery do the healing and save up your potions. I will try to see if there are any hidden passages around."

Jack then walked again along the cavern wall, while Jeanny took a sit on one of the boulders and let herself rest. Jack checked for any abnormality on the wall, he used his hands also to touch the rocky surface to feel if there was anything out of place. He glanced at Jeanny while moving along the wall.

"What was that skill you use against that Giant Beetle back there?" He asked her. "It was not a standard fighter skill."

Jeanny looked at him in a daze, she was lost in a thought just now. When the question registered, she answered, "it was a skill called Penetrating Stab, it can ignore defense and add a 10% chance for critical damage."

"How did you learn it?"

"It's from a technique book, I got it when I slayed an elite monster."

"That was lucky of you," Jack commented. "But you are quite good to be able to kill an elite monster."

"It was not easy," she replied. "Plus, I was not alone."

"Is that why you used a spear? It does compliment that Stab skill of yours better using that type of weapon."

"Not really. I've always prefer using spear. This is my favorite weapon when I was playing past VR RPG games."

"Then you are rather lucky to get that weapon. I haven't seen many people using spear in this world, it must be pretty rare to drop."

"Yes, but I didn't get it myself. This spear was originally gotten by one of my guild members when they were grinding for experience. When I heard that she had gotten a spear weapon, I immediately find her and proposed to trade. Since she was not used to using a spear, she agreed to it."

"What grade was the spear?"

"It was uncommon."

"Cool," Jack said. He had checked half of the cavern wall, nothing unusual yet.

"I saw the damage you dealt to the monsters, is it your weapon or your stats," Jeanny asked.

"Both," Jack answered simply.

"What level are you?"

Jack hesitated.

"What is it? You are not willing to let me know?" She said. "I've tried to Inspect you, but I can't find out any information, even your name is undetected. That is very unusual, how do you do it?"

Jack shrugged, "I wear an equipment that have the ability to prevent others from inspecting."

"Well, that is certainly more rare than my spear," Jeanny said. "So are you going to tell me your level or not?"

"You are not going to believe me even if I tell you."

"Try me."

"Sixteen."

"No way!"

"Told you."

Jeanny observed him for a while, "you are not joking, are you?"

Jack shrugged again.

"No wonder Silverwing is pretty confident about you," she said. "Queen Magenta and Warpath always said that you were just lucky to get first rank in level during the Tutorial period. If they know your level now, they wouldn't have had the same thought."

"They are free to think whatever they want. Their narrow mindedness will be their hindrance."

Jack turned to Jeanny, then asked seriously, "why are you with them anyway? I saw how that Queen Magenta treated you. She didn't seem to be a fan of you."

"I... It was my own fault," Jeanny replied with a low head.

"No, it's not," Jack said sternly. "She was not showing any respect at all to you as a fellow guild mate. Why do you stay in a guild that treat you so?"

"I have no choice."

Jack frowned, "why do you say that?"

"The guild of Wicked Witches was founded by a workshop company in which my family had a share of. I've always been good with games and organizing people, so my family asked me to join the workshop. I admit that many of the leaders in the guild are unsavory, especially that Queen Magenta. But her family have a bigger share on the workshop, so there is really nothing I can do. I just have to endure while continue working there."

She then continued with a self-mockery laugh, "I also still need the income to continue with my college, I've come from a family that require us to earn our own money once we passed age eighteen."

"Are you kidding me?" Jack said.

"Huh?" Jeanny was confused by Jack's reaction.

"Are you being serious?" Jack repeated. "Do you even realize what have happened to the world?"

"What do you mean?"

"The world has already turned. We are not living with the same set of rules anymore. Don't you notice?"

Jeanny expression went blank, "but... but this is just temporary, right? Things will get back to normal, won't it."

"Please tell me you don't really believe that..."

She was silent.

Jack continued, "whatever that made the world to turn into this game world, I don't think it is temporary. I don't think if we will ever find out the reason why the world has turned. But if you want to survive in this world, you cannot treat it as a simple game like you do when everything was still normal. In the past, games were just temporary past times when we still have to deal with problems in the real world. Now, this is the real world. We have better get used to it if we are to survive."

When he saw her staying silent, he sighed and said with soft words, "you can also look at this as a second chance. Whatever rules that tied you before, it is no longer binding now. You need to make your

own choice and live your own lives. Don't let those old rules defined what you are anymore. You can be better, don't depend on those that look down on you. Find people who you really care for if you want to be in a group, not because you have to."

Jeanny continued to be silent, but Jack could see that she was pondering on his words. So he didn't say anything more. He got back to check the wall. But even after he made a full circle, he still did not find anything odd.

Could it really be a dead end?

He looked at the entrance where they came from. Did he need to double back and checked along the passageway as well? But he was pretty confident he did not see anything odd as well along that passageway they had come from.

He was at a loss for what to do next, he asked Peniel in his mind, 'do you have any idea how to find an exit from here?'

"nope," she answered simply.

## **Chapter 125: Giant Ant Queen**

After escaping the rock bridge, Silverwing and the others had been travelling through a long and winding tunnel. There were some Giant Ants and Giant Ant Warriors but the numbers were not as overwhelming as previous, so they could handle them easily. They saw a light at the end of the tunnel.

They came out of the tunnel and found themselves in a huge cavern hall with mostly flat ground. Some large boulders spread around the hall sparsely. They walked in as they looked around.

"I don't see any path to take," Bluedaze mentioned. "Is this the end of the line?"

"If so, where is the dungeon boss?" Warpath asked.

Before anyone could answer, a loud shrill cry was heard from above. They looked up just as a gigantic thing fell down from the ceiling above, landing right in front of them. The thing landed with a boom and created a small tremor.

Everyone was staring at the thing that had appeared abruptly in front of them with consternation. Its appearance was similar to the Giant Ants, except that it was much larger. Its height reached almost four meters while its length was around ten meters. It also had the middle section which was proportionately bigger, and the rear part of its body look swollen with bright red color. Its head had long antenna with addition to two large horns above its eyes. Its appendages were covered by sharp hairs and ended with long scythe-like claws. Every step it took punctured a deep hole into the ground.

Sinreaper Inspected the gigantic monstrosities.

Giant Queen Ant (Elite boss, Insect), level 15

HP: 10,300

Experience awarded: 3,020

Strength: 132

Physical Defense: 290

Magical Defense: 290

Sinreaper had improved his Inspect skill to Advanced Apprentice. Combined with the special effect of the Hermit Glasses he equipped, his Inspect skill had the effect of an Advanced Expert. Hence, he could see more information when scanning a monster.

"That's the dungeon boss, all right," he said to the others. "And it's a level 15 Elite. It has very high defenses."

"An Elite? Shouldn't be a problem." Warpath exclaimed as he brandished his two swords, "I've killed an Elite before, thought it was a level 13. Difference shouldn't be too big. I'll take point, you people just focus on giving me support!"

Warpath rushed forward with confidence. Selena and Queen Magenta both casted Mana Bullet at the boss. With their members down to three against White Scarfs' four players, they were at a disadvantage. They tried to get the first strike on the boss to secure more points for the dungeon clear rankings.

The two Mana Bullets hit the Giant Queen Ant's horned head. It produced 59 and 65 damages. The two Magicians were stunned, normally their Mana Bullet spell could score three digits number. But its damage was now reduced by almost half against this Boss. They did not put much importance when Sinreaper mentioned about the Boss' high defenses, now they knew he was telling the truth.

The Giant Queen Ant shrugged its head as if it just got an itch. It looked at the direction of the two Magicians that had just hit it, and uttered a piercing cry. A ripple of energy was discharged from its mouth as it caused the surrounding air to shudder. A bullet of air shot out explosively from the Queen Ant's mouth and left a trail of mist along its path.

"Watch out!" Selena had faster reaction as she pushed Queen Magenta aside and managed to duck at the last second. The air bullet passed through their sides and hit the wall behind. The wall that was hit exploded spectacularly, causing chunks of rock to rain down on the intruders.

Such an explosive attack! If they were hit directly by the bullet, they could most likely get killed instantly.

Warpath who was running towards the boss was also taken aback by the attack. He felt lucky that he was not the one targeted by the boss. But when he looked back at the Giant Queen Ant, he could see the monster had put its attention on him.

The Queen Ant crawled forward with explosive speed. Its six long legs scurried with extremely fast speed. Warpath was surprised that it had arrived in front of him in an instant, and one of its legs with sharp scythe-like end was slashing at him. Fortunately, his reaction was not slow, he managed to duck but a second slash from the monster's other leg came at his side. He had no choice but to parry. It caused him damage and pushed him away with great force.

The boss chased after Warpath relentlessly. He scrambled pitifully as he put all his attention into dodging and parrying, he had no chance to attack at all.

"What are you people just standing there for?" Queen Magenta yelled at Silverwing's group who were still stunned by the boss' prowess. She and Selena casted their spells again on the Queen Ant to attract her attention in order to relieve some pressure from Warpath.

Silverwing gave his orders, "Honeycomb, go and support Warpath, prioritize on defending. Bluedaze and Sinreaper spread out, hit it with your range attacks from different directions. I will look for an opportunity from behind."

The four of them then spread out and made their own moves. Bluedaze and Sinreaper took positions opposite from Wicked Witches' Magicians. This way, they could attack the boss from four different positions. Honeycomb came to Warpath's side and cover his left side so that he could concentrate more on the right side. While Silverwing sneaked to the Queen Ant's back, he sent a Swift Stab once he saw the chance.

The Queen Ant which felt his rear was stabbed, furiously turned around. Silverwing was stunned by its speed of turning. At one second he was facing the Ant's swelled-up abdomen, the next he was staring down at the Queen Ant's gigantic mandibles. He was having the fright of his life when said mandible suddenly darted towards him. He reflexively used Roll to evade. If he was any slower in responding, his neck would have suffered the mandible's cut. It would surely cause a critical damage if it did not kill him outright.

The Queen Ant slashed its front legs at the escaping Silverwing. This time he didn't managed to escape, it grazed through his shoulder and sent him flying. He received 78 damage which was almost a third of his life. Just a graze and the damage was so high, he was having the fright of his life.

After sending the pestering backstabber away, the Queen Ant made a low crouch. The players were confused by its move. The heavy mass of the Queen Ant suddenly floated up into the air. It was leaping through the air heading towards Queen Magenta.

Stricken with terror by the sight, Queen Magenta threw away all manner of elegance and ran for her life. The Queen Ant landed with a crushing force, causing the ground around to tremble and crack. Queen Magenta who was in the process of running away, tripped due to the tremor, but she quickly rose back up and ran again as fast as she could.

In the empty cavern hall, Jack and Jeanny was still at a loss. Jeanny had rested and her HP was already back to full, she was joining Jack in searching along the cavern wall now.

Jack had circled the wall twice, he still could not find anything out of ordinary. Frustrated, he decided to rest first, he walked to one of the boulders to sit down. While he was walking, he noticed a green marking in his God-Eye monocle. It was marking one of the boulders not far away.

He immediately headed towards that boulder. He arrived at it and inspected it. Nothing out of ordinary as well, just a normal boulder. But the monocle clearly marking it as something valuable. Jack touched the boulder and walked around it while touching its surface.

"What are you doing?" Jeanny asked when she saw Jack's odd behavior.

"I think there's something with the boulder," Jack answered honestly.

"I don't see anything's wrong with it," Jeanny said. "Why do you think there is something to it?"

"Just a feeling," Jack was not about to explain about his God-Eye monocle.

"Maybe we can attack it?" Jeanny suggested.

"Eh?"

"Just a thought. In RPG games you sometimes met common looking object which you can break, right?"

Jack thought about it and thought she was right. He also heard Peniel's voice, "she can be right, you know. Most of the items in this world are breakable, and some contains valuables."

Jack pulled out his sword.

"Ok, stand back," he said, then he made a slash at the boulder.

The sword collided with the hard surface of the rock and made a loud clanging sound. A damage of 82 appeared above the rock.

It had damage count! Then the rock was really a special item, which was meant to be destroyed to reveal the content inside. He made another two hits. The rocky boulder crumbled at the third hit and revealed a bronze color treasure box.

## **Chapter 126: Hidden Path**

"Treasure Box?"

The two of them were surprised to find a treasure box here. With a little bit of disappointment, they thought they gonna find a secret path out of here.

"Do you bring lockpick?" Jeanny asked.

"I did. Do you?" Jack replied.

She nodded, and said, "whoever managed to open it will get the treasure, what say you?"

"I'm okay with that arrangement."

"So how should we do it? We take turn unlocking it?"

"How many lockpick do you bring?" Jack asked instead.

"Five," Jeanny answered.

"What's your lockpick level?"

"Still basic apprentice. It's not like there are many treasure boxes lying around for practicing."

Jack nodded, "that's true. Well, in that case, you can go first trying all your five lockpicks. If you managed to open it, I won't make a fuss about it."

"Are you serious? Won't that be unfair to you?" Jeanny felt Jack was just trying to be a gentleman by giving her the advantage.

"Have you ever tried opening a treasure chest with a lockpick before?" Jack asked back.

"No..."

"Then go ahead with your five lockpicks, don't worry about me."

Jeanny didn't argue anymore, she took out her lockpicks and get ready to insert them into the keyhole. She seemed to try to get the feel of the way.

"Do you know how to use the lockpicks?" Jack asked her.

"I've heard about the how from my guildmate, she read the information from a book in the library."

Since she didn't look confident enough, Jack gave her pointers about what to do, just like how Peniel instructed him on his first try.

"You have done it before?" Jeanny was amazed.

"Yes," Jack answered simply, and urged her to do it as he had instructed.

When the unlocking failed, she looked disappointed, then frowned and said, "I failed, but I get proficiency?"

Jack explained to her as Peniel had explained to him.

"Go ahead, try the next one," he said.

Not long after, she had broken all her five lockpicks. With a downcast expression, she stepped aside.

"Your turn," she said.

Jack got to position in front of the treasure box and got to work. He had had quite a number of practices on the last treasure box, so his unlocking process felt natural.

"It seemed like you have done this many times before?" Jeanny asked as he saw the fluidness of Jack's unlocking.

"Many times, yes. Number of treasure box unlocked, only one," Jack replied.

"How many lockpicks you used to unlock that one treasure box?"

"Twenty six," he answered. Technically, one of the twenty six was John's, but it was pointless for him to go into details.

Jeanny face was blank. "no wonder you asked me to go first. You know my five lockpicks won't be enough to open this treasure box."

"Well, technically, if your luck is good, you can still open it with only five lockpicks. It's just that having less lockpicks meaning the odd was much lower." Jack didn't add that those twenty six tries were already aided by his enormous luck stat.

"How many lockpicks do you have actually?"

"Not including the one that has broken just now, one hundred."

"O— one hundred...?" Jeanny was stupefied. Who in the right mind would spent so many coins for simple lockpicks? But if she had known the odd of opening a treasure chest with lockpicks was so low, she



might have bought more as well. She then took a mental note to buy more lockpicks after she got out of this dungeon.

Jack continued working on the treasure chest. It took him more tries this time. The treasure locks finally clicked and opened on his thirty sixth tries. Jack was depressed, he actually hoped he could fail a bit more times so that his Lockpick skill could upgrade to Intermediate Apprentice. Currently he was at proficiency of 998 points. Just a tiny 2 points left!

The treasure chest lid opened and revealed six items inside with some coins.

Jack glanced at Jeanny, and said, "how about we share half?"

"No, we have agreed on the term. These items are yours, fair and square."

Well, nobody could blame him for not being gentlemanly then. He took the out the items and checked them one by one. There was one uncommon magic staff, now he only needed three more to transform them into a rare staff. One normal medium armor chest piece, one normal medium armor boots, two steel ores, and one green color gemstone. Jack inspected the gemstone and found it to be a common grade Emerald. The coins were 12 silver coins and 58 copper coins.

Jack stored them all into his inventory bag unceremoniously.

He then walked around the room, checking on all the boulders to make sure he did not miss any markings from his God-eye monocle. But the only boulder with valuable was the one with that treasure box. Now they were back to their previous condition, still stuck inside this room with no path forward.

"What now?" Jeanny asked.

Jack did not know how to answer.

Silverwing and the others had spent almost thirty minutes entangling with the Giant Queen Ant. Most of the times they were just running around helplessly, trying to avoid the Queen's onslaught. During the time, The Queen Ant had shot another explosive air bullet two more times since the first. It took the Ant Queen quite a long interval in between shots.

Miraculously, no one had died yet. Several times they came close to dying, but they had still managed to use their restorative potions to get back to a safe threshold. However, because they were too busy trying to stay alive, they didn't deal much damage to the boss either. They could only chip its health little by little. The problem was, their restorative potion stock was getting thinner. At this rate, they would not be able to kill the boss before they ran out of their potions.

"How much potions do you still have?" Queen Magenta asked Selena.

"After this one, I only have three left," she said as she took out a bottle and emptied the content into her throat.

Queen Magenta was unwilling. They had tried their best but they could only bring the boss' health to almost half.

"I don't think the team from White Scarfs could last any longer as well," Selena said.

Warpath was also having difficulty. Despite his martial skill, the Queen Ant was too fast and too savage, he was quite skillful already to be able to deliver scant attacks from time to time.

When the boss' HP reached exactly 50%, it gave a soul-piercing shriek. The entire cavern hall shook from the sound.

Since they could not find any way forward. Jack and Jeanny ended up just sit down in a relax manner and having a chat. They were talking about several mundane things and also sharing tips about this game world.

"Tell her if she prefers using spear, she should choose Knight class for her Advanced class," Peniel said to Jack.

'Why is that?' Jack asked her in his mind.

"Because there is an elite class branching from Knight class that specialized in using spear as a weapon," she answered.

When Jack was about to told that information to Jeanny, they heard a sound that sounded like a monster shriek from the distant, not long after, the entire room shook.

"What's with the shaking?" Jeanny asked.

Jack stood up once the shaking was over. "The strange shriek seemed to be coming from that direction," he said as he walked towards where he heard the shriek was coming from.

"Huh?" He noticed the part of the wall straight ahead of him had shown some kind of marking in his God-Eye monacle.

That was not there before, Jack thought in his mind.

"Probably whatever caused the shaking had triggered it," Peniel explained.

He looked at the wall. The God-eye monacle was only showing a mark telling him that the wall held an important secret, this could be the hidden path they had been looking for, but the monacle did not inform him what to do about it. He placed his hands on it pressing on every surface to see if something could be moved, but with no success.

"What are you doing?" Jeanny asked as she came over. "We have already checked this part of the wall as well, right?"

Probably I can hit it like the boulder that held the treasure chest before? The thought came to Jack's mind.

With the idea, he took out his Storm Breaker. Jeanny was surprised by his action, but she didn't make any comment. Jack sent a slash onto the rock wall. A number of damages appear the same way as when he hit the boulder from before.

It was working! Jack exclaimed in his mind.

## **Chapter 127: Raiding The Ants' Nest**

"I've been thinking," Jeanny said as she watched Jack delivered hit after hit against the destructible wall. "How do you know there is something in this section of the wall? You have also known about that boulder that had the treasure chest inside."

Since they opened the treasure chest, Jeanny had gone around hitting every piece of available boulder, but none of them getting any response or producing damage numbers upon her hits. Jack was just sitting in the corner watching her. And just now she had stab at the wall adjacent to the one Jack was currently hitting, there was also no reaction. She strongly suspected that Jack did not have found out about this wall simply by luck. Same case as that boulder from before as well.

"Just a feeling," Jack gave the same explanation as he had when Peniel asked about the boulder.

Jeanny didn't push further, if the guy did not want to tell her, there was nothing she could do.

The wall crumbled on the seventh hit. It was more tenacious compared to the boulder. Before them laid another long dark corridor.

"Let's go," Jack said as he reequipped the torch and took the lead into the dark corridor.

The corridor was similar to the previous passageway they passed through. It was a linear path, there was no fork. After a short distance of walking, Jack noticed some red dots scattered around not far to the front. His sword was still on his right hand. He gripped it tightly.

"Don't let down your guard," he told Jeanny who was following behind.

They came out to a bright and gigantic cavern hall, around four to five times the one they had been before. The hall this time was not a flat terrain but had several miniature rocky hills and valleys around it. Many places to hide around the place. The red dots that Jack had noticed were within this huge hall, hiding away from sight.

What was more notable within this hall was the whole place seemingly filled with round egg-like objects with silky surface. Jack approached some of the closest ones and realized that the surface was covered by silver colored slime. It was disgusting. The egg-like objects were not registered in his radar, but his monocle marked all the eggs with red markers.

'What is this?' Jack asked Peniel in his mind.

"Don't know," she answered. "But if your God-Eye gives red markings to it, then it should be a hostile destructible."

'What's a hostile destructible?'

"It's something that you are supposed to destroy. It was something that might harm you if you leave it be or something that contains monster hatchlings. From the look here, I would say the latter. Usually you could only identify these things with a high level Inspect skill, I just can't stop being amazed by that eye thing you wear. Where exactly did you find that thing?"

'Never mind that. So we are supposed to destroy it? Let's get to work then,' Jack said as he brandished his sword.

He slashed at one of the egg things, a damage number appeared. Jeanny was dazed, why did this guy keep on assaulting inanimate objects?

After just two hits, the egg broke and some oozy liquid poured out. Jeanny immediately took a step back, the liquid looked disgusting and gave out unpleasant smell. They saw a figure dangling inside the broken egg-thing. Upon closer inspection, they recognized the thing was a deformed Giant Ant.

They looked at the cave floor filled with these eggs. There were probably hundreds of these things. If they all had Giant Ants inside, they would get badly swarmed if all these eggs hatched.

"We need to destroy all these egg things," Jack told Jeanny in a serious tone, who nodded with a grim expression.

"Let's spread out, the eggs don't seem to have much HP, but stay alert, there might be hatched Giant Ants around," Jack said as he looked at the red dots in the radar, they were unmoving. He decided to ignore them for the time being and destroyed as many as the eggs as possible.

The two of them spread out and started destroying the eggs. Even though the eggs did not provide experience points or drops, Jack noticed that each egg destroyed sent an almost imperceptible soulfire that was then absorbed by his body, which meant that destroying these eggs gave him soul points. Jack was ecstatic, even if each egg only gave 1 point, it would still be a large amount if he destroyed them all. Knowing this, he redoubled his effort, destroying egg by egg in a rapid manner.

Jack was afraid that triggering the red dots which were still hiding might cause the eggs to hatch, thus he had told Jeanny to focus on the eggs in the outer perimeter first. The red dots he saw was mainly located in the inner section. But without giving her accurate information, he could not expect her to completely avoid them.

When she got close to one of the red dots, Jack saw it moved. Jack immediately ran to her position, afraid that the eggs around her area would hatch and she would be overwhelmed. But when she came into view, Jack saw her fighting one monster, the eggs around her stayed calm.

The monster was the Giant Armored Beetle like the one they encountered on the rock bridge. But since it was only alone and the space was not as constricting as when they were at the rock bridge, Jeanny could still handle the monster. The way she moved and attacked with her spear was exceptionally skilled. No wonder she was chosen among her guild members to participate in clearing this dungeon.

At first Jack was thinking of lending her a hand, but after watching her for a while, he decided to let her deal with the monster. He went back to destroying the eggs as fast as possible. Now that he knew fighting the red dots would not trigger the eggs to hatch, he was having much freedom in making his move.

But he could not help but thought of something, if a fight nearby did not trigger the eggs to hatch. What exactly would trigger them?

When the Giant Ant Queen made a soul piercing shriek just after its HP dropped to 50%, ten Giant Ants had emerged from the holes in the wall. Silverwing and the Magicians in the team immediately engaged the Giant Ants while Warpath and Honeycomb desperately defended against the Boss' merciless assault.

Luckily, they had got used to the Ant Queen's attack patterns, hence they could still barely survive. They continued to burn through their recovery potions though.

After they took care of the ten Giant Ants, they returned their attention to the Boss again. With their recovery potions dwindling, they focused more on defense and only attacked when they were sure of their safety. This made their fight stretched longer.

While they did not suffer fatigue from overexertion as they would be in real life, they were still affected by mental fatigue. Honeycomb made a mistake and allowed the Giant Queen Ant to deal a fatal blow on her. She was struck by the Giant Queen Ant's explosive air shot. Her shield which had blocked many hits from the Queen Ant, finally shattered as its durability was depleted. She did not make it in time to replenish her life with her basic healing potion and was impaled by the Queen Ant's scythe claw. She lost her life.

With one defender short, Warpath were having more trouble restricting the Queen Ant's movements. The pressure on the Magicians who was responsible for chipping away the Boss' HP increased further, as the Queen Ant sometimes totally ignored Warpath and rushed to the magicians. It sometimes also shot out tiny sharp spikes from the gaps between its carapaces. This had several times caught the magicians off guard.

"This is my last healing potion!" Selena exclaimed when he drank the potion.

"I also only have one left..." Queen Magenta said bitterly.

Warpath who had been engaging the Boss in melee burnt through his recovery potions the most. He had been given by Queen Magenta twice the other members' stock due to him being assigned for tanking role, who would face the boss directly, but even his stock was down to the last bottle at the moment. The Boss itself still had around 30% of its life left.

The Queen Ant suddenly made another soul-piercing cry similar to the one that had summoned the ten Giant Ants previously. The Walls of the cave shook, and some portions of its walls started breaking and fell apart.

The cry immediately shattered the little bit of courage that Warpath still had in his heart. He said loudly to the others, "I don't think we can defeat this boss at this time, let's retreat to make another try later!" Even though dying in this dungeon only resulted in losing one level, he was still not willing.

## **Chapter 128: We Are Leaving!**

Silverwing's fighting spirit was higher than them, he urged them to continue, "we must persevere! The Boss has only a little life left, we must not let go of this chance!"

"Little life my ass!" Warpath spat. "It took us so long to reduce its life, and we have already run out of our potions. Do you want us all to die in a futile fight?"

"Focus on defending and evasion to survive, no need to attack."

"And how do you think we can win that way?" It was Queen Magenta that responded.

"We just need to buy time."

"For what?"

"Storm Wind will catch up!"

It was still good if he did not bring up Storm Wind's name, as when Warpath and Queen Magenta heard the name, they were further infuriated. Queen Magenta immediately shouted out, "you still dare to bring up that useless person? You didn't bring Grimclaw but instead bring that unknown guy. Where is he now? Perhaps he had run away by himself! Our failure this time is all due to him! We will deal with him once we are out of this dungeon, don't you dare try to protect him!"

"We are leaving!" she added with a conviction.

Silverwing was helpless to stop them. Weren't they a bit too unreasonable to blame Storm Wind for their failure? They were the ones that were clearly not strong enough to deal with the boss but made an excuse for it.

"You should have picked your helper better next time," Warpath smirked as he disengaged from the Queen Ant. The three from the Wicked Witches ran for the entrance.

"Hey! At least give me the Leader command if you plan to tap out!" Silverwing called out. Before they went into the dungeon, they had formed a party. Queen Magenta had demanded to take the position of leader. Silverwing was not interested to argue so he had acceded to her request.

Now that the woman wanted to quit the dungeon, he had to ask for the leader position. Otherwise, he did not know what would happen if the leader of a party exited the dungeon before the members. The best outcome would be the leadership was transferred automatically, the unfavorable outcome would be that they all got booted out when the leader exited. While the worst would be that they were killed off and ended up losing one level. He did not think that now was the time to experiment with these possibilities.

Although Queen Magenta was overbearing most of the time, she was not unreasonable to keep the leader position when she had decided to leave. She opened up her party interface and transferred the leadership to Silverwing, all the while continued running to the exit.

"Do not bother to look for cooperation with us anymore," she said before she ran out from the Boss' room. "We will look for cooperation with Death Associates or Corporate United."

The three disappeared from his view soon after. Silverwing was dejected, now apart from him within this hall, only Bluedaze and Sinreaper were left. They were running around like chicken who had lost their heads just to keep themselves alive.

Was he wrong to put his hope on Storm Wind? The reason he was still having hope was because he had checked his Party window and saw that Storm Wind was still alive and within the dungeon. After witnessing that guy's relationship with his friends, Silverwing knew that he was not the type to just run away. Silverwing was certain that he was still fighting his way to reach them. The question was whether they could survive until then. He had tried to send a message, but it seemed that this dungeon prevented message sending even between party members.

"That's strange," Sinreaper said.

"What is it?" Silverwing who was lost in his thought was clueless to what Sinreaper was referring to.

"The last time it made the shriek, some Giant Ants came out, but this time there was none..."

Silverwing looked at the walls around. Sinreaper was right, the shriek had been released some time ago, but nothing seemed to be out of ordinary, just some parts of the cave walls were broken and revealed larger holes. But nothing were coming out from those holes.

"Let's just consider it as good luck," he said. "Do not fight the Boss, continue running around to buy time."

"Will Storm Wind really come?" bluedaze tone did not sound confident.

"Let's hope so," Silverwing replied. His voice carried the same tone.

Jack and Jeanny had already cleared out two thirds of the eggs in the room. They had also killed three Giant Armored Beetle in the process, Jack could see there were only two other red dots left in the room. They would deal with them when they reached their places.

At the time, they heard another of the similar ear-piercing shriek from before. Once the shriek died down, Jack saw changes in his radar. The red dots that were just two previously, suddenly increased to innumerable all around them.

Jack immediately understood what it meant. He shouted to Jeanny, "watch out! The eggs are hatching!"

As his warning came out, the both of them heard many popping sounds. The eggs that were still unbroken cracked and shot out the slimy liquid inside. The eggs split apart and grotesque beings with six legs came crawling out. Their numbers made the two humans' skins crawled.

Realizing there were two intruders amongst them, the swarm immediately came upon them.

"W— what should we do?" Jeanny was at a loss after seeing the swarm that suddenly emerged.

Jack gritted his teeth, "what can we do? Just kill them all!"

"There are more than a hundred of them here!" Jeanny protested after hearing Jack's unreasonable suggestion.

"I will get their attention! You try to survive as best as possible!" After his words, he charged right into the middle of the swarm.

He was insane! Jeanny thought after seeing Jack's action.

Jack reequipped the round shield as he charged into the Giant Ants swarm. He first used Power Strike to send one of the closest Giant Ants shooting back. It bowled against its kins on its way and sent them tumbling. Jack then used Swing at close range to all the insects around him, cutting them all at the same time. After stopping the swarm momentum, he then weaved around them with his footwork while slashing with his sword and defending with his shield at the same time.

Jeanny was flabbergasted looking at Jack's reckless fighting style, but he was more shocked by the damage and force behind his every attack. Each of Jack's hit contain a force that either pushed the

monsters back or stopped their movement in the least. Such effect was only possible when there was a large disparity between their strength stat.

Most of the Giant Ants had focused their attention on Jack, but since the space was limited, some still scattered around and came to Jeanny. The incoming monsters awoke her from her stupor. She immediately used her spear to attack the Giant Ants that came into range.

Despite Jack's high stats, he still could not prevent himself from getting hit, as the hits came from all directions. He soon found himself surrounded by endless Giant Ants. But since the Giant Ants could only hit him from melee range, not many could hit him at one time. The ones at the back needed to wait for the ones in front to die first before they could proceed forward.

Jack completely relied on his high defense to soak the Giant Ants' damage, while he delivered non-stop attacks on his own. He had already activated his Heightened State skill to allow himself more frequent skill usages. But looking at the rate of speed by which he killed one Giant Ant compared to the damage he received, he would only be able to kill off half of the Giant Ants before his HP ran out.

He glanced at Jeanny who was fighting the Giant Ants from the side. He had a good feeling about the girl after their chat, he thought she was the type that could be trusted. He then looked at the Giant Ants surrounding him, no time to hesitate.

He stored his round shield and took out his magic staff.

## **Chapter 129: Obliterating The Swarm In The Nest**

Jack promptly casted the two spells in his arsenal and then continued with standard range attacks after it, while his right hand never stopped slashing. In this way, he practically doubled his damage output.

Jeanny was busy fighting against the Giant Ants that were coming at her, so she was not aware of the change in Jack's fighting style at first. But the light from the Mana Bullet and Energy Bolts eventually caught her attention and made her look.

When she finally registered Jack was fighting with both a sword and a magic staff, she was first confused. Then she saw him shooting range attacks from his staff. When Jack casted Mana Bullet again, she completely froze. She was awoken from her daze after one of the Giant Ants fighting her bit into her leg. The pain told her that she was not dreaming. She immediately stabbed the Giant Ant that had bit her.

But she could not help to keep on glancing at Jack, trying to make sure that she did not see it wrong. This made her having difficulty in fighting the Giant Ants. However, no matter how many times she saw it, Jack was still casting spells.

Was him a Magician that pretending to be a Fighter? That's not possible, she clearly remembered that he had also used Fighter's skills. In addition, a Magician could not equip anything apart from Cloth Armor. Their guild Magicians had tried it. They were able to put on the light armor onto their body, but it did not register as them equipping it. The defense stats stayed as if they were not wearing anything. Hence, if a Magician was wearing anything other than Cloth Armor, the armor would just become a mere decoration.



But Jack clearly had high defense from his medium armors, otherwise, he would not be able to last so long in the middle of that Giant Ants swarm.

Jeanny had the urge to ask him questions, but she was aware that now was not the time. They needed to settle their current situation first. Motivated by the urge to quickly eradicate these Giant Ants so she could start asking him questions, she redoubled her combat pace. She stabbed while sidestepping to keep herself in a safe distance from her enemies, a distance where her spear could reach them while they could not reach her.

Jack also changed his strategy, he no longer trying to compete with the swarm using his defense advantage. After he cut through a way out from the swarm's siege, he also utilized his advantage in speed. He ran around while blasting the Giant Ants with spells and range attacks, and slashed at those that came near. But he still maintained his position within the heart of the swarm, hence not many of the Giant Ants would divert their attention to Jeanny.

After killing innumerable Giant Ants, another Giant Armored Beetle appeared. It noticed Jeanny at first and was about to approach her, but Jack used Sword of Light at it. The crescent light sliced through a group of Giant Ants that was in the way, before it hit the Giant Beetle. Many of the Giant Ants received critical damages. The Giant Armored Beetle turned its attention to Jack after it was hit.

Jack did not stop there, he followed up with a Charge, mowing through the same group of Giant Ants before crashing onto the Giant Beetle. Before the Beetle could react, he swung his sword from underneath, executing Power Strike in an uppercut motion. The heavy Giant Beetle was smashed flying to the air and flipped around then crashing back to the ground on its back.

The Giant Beetle was now powerless as its appendages dangled in the air helplessly. It could not turn itself back. Jack was surprised, it could be done in this way? He was actually just fighting with instinct, he didn't realize he had found out the Giant Beetle's weakness with his daring move just now.

Not letting the opportunity passed, he slashed at the helpless Beetle while ignoring the other Giant Ants' attacks. He had also found out that the belly of the Giant Beetle was less armored and thus it suffered more damages compared to when it was in upright position.

Jeanny who had witnessed it was awestruck by it. She had spent much energy and time to kill just one Giant Armored Beetle, but now he saw Jack was bullying it without it had the ability to fight back.

The swarm continued to dwindle. Jeanny had to drink two basic healing potions during the battle, while Jack only took one to relieve himself when his HP reached critical state.

There was another Giant Armored Beetle, but Jack took care of it easily since he had now known about its weakness. But this weakness could only be exploited by Jack at this stage due to his overpowering strength. Because if any other Fighters tried to use the same move, their Power Strike would at most lifted the Giant Beetle a few centimeters above ground, before it fell back to the ground as if nothing had happened.

After a long and ceaseless battle, Jack and Jeanny finally obliterated the swarm. They fell to the ground panting. There were many coins scattered around what was their battlefield a minute ago. Some had even dropped items. They ignored the drops and let themselves rested for a while. At the same time their Natural Body Recovery worked and replenished their lost HP.

"Did you just use Magician skills?" Jeanny finally had the chance to ask.

"Didn't you already see it?" Jack replied.

"B– but how? Aren't you a Fighter?"

Jack nodded, "I am, but I am also a Magician."

"You have two classes?" Jeanny eyes widened.

"I do."

"How is that possible?"

Jack shrugged, "I acquired a legendary item through luck in the Tutorial Period, it granted me a second class."

"Le– legendary item...?"

"It was pure luck," Jack said, and then he stared at Jeanny and said seriously, "I would prefer no other people know about this. You are the first person to have known."

"Really?"

"Yes, so I hope you can keep it a secret. I would not have revealed my Magician class if it wasn't necessary just now, and if I don't think I can trust you. Now am I wrong to think that I can trust you?"

"I... All right, I won't tell anybody. You can trust me," Jeanny told him with an unflinching look.

Jack nodded, "thank you."

After catching their breath, they proceeded to pick up the drops. Jack split the spoils evenly. Jeanny demanded that Jack took the larger portion as most of the swarm was defeated by him, but he insisted on an even split. In the end Jeanny relented for the coins, but he insisted that Jack took all the items, which Jack complied.

The items were 2 common equipment he would dismantle, 1 boots which he stored for later combining using his Transformation Box, 2 iron ores, several cooking ingredients, and lots of Ant's Carapace which was the Giant Ant's trophy items. Combined with the ones he had collected since he started the dungeon, he had 72 of this Ant's Carapace.

By now, he had already completed his Hunting Quest for both Giant Ant and Giant Ant Warrior. In the swarm, there were also many Giant Ant Warriors in the mix, so Jack had also fulfilled his quota for that monster's hunting quest.

"Do you hear that?" After they defeated the swarm and finished collecting the loots, they no longer had anything in their mind, their senses now picked up on some hazy noises from afar.

Jeanny concentrated on her hearing. "It sounded like some people was having a battle," she said.

"It might be the rest of the team," Jack said.

"It came from here," Jeanny walked towards the direction where she thought the noise came from.

Jack followed. They came upon a crack on the wall. The opening was large enough for a person to fit through.

"I'll go first," Jack said, and then slipped himself through the opening.

### **Chapter 130: Battling The Giant Queen Ant**

In the Boss cavern hall, the three in Silverwing team was having trouble just to stay alive. With only three people to share the attention from the Ant Queen, the pressure was oppressive. They have not been able to make even one attack during the time, defending and evading had already taken out all their focus. And even so, they still receive damages from time to time.

"We can't go on like this, I've run out of potion!" bluedaze exclaimed.

"It appears we have reached our limits, let's retreat as well," Sinreaper suggested.

Silverwing gritted his teeth. Did he really have to give up on this? With the Wicked Witches falling out with them, it would be difficult for them in the next try, he doubted Death Associates and Corporate United would be interested to work with him. Those three might even banded together to block his guild from entering this dungeon.

Silverwing sighed. He had made his gamble for this dungeon, but it appeared that he had lost. A real leader was decisive even in his loss, since they could not hold on any longer, they should pull back.

"All right, let's retreat. I have the fastest speed, I will pull its attention while you two move—" His words were intercepted by a crescent light which suddenly flashed and cut onto the Giant Queen Ant's head.

Critical! 264 damage!

Silverwing was more shocked on the damage than on the fact that someone had interfered in the battle. Not one from either his team or the previous Wicked Witches team who had managed to deal a damage of more than two digits in a single hit, but the attack he had witnessed just now had scored a damage of more than 200!

The Giant Queen Ant immediately ignored the three insignificant flies it had been playing with, and turned to its new adversary, whom it considered to be more of a menace.

Jack who had just come out from one of the holes in the wall, executed his Sword of Light once he saw Silverwing was in a pinch. He himself was also shocked by the damage number, but the cause of his shock was reverse from Silverwing. He remembered that he had managed to score a damage of over 400 when he hit a critical against the Lizardman Bosses in their encampment, but against this titanic ant, it only took out over 200 of its HP.

Good thing was the Boss only had around 30% left, it seemed that the rest of the team had been struggling in fighting the Boss for some time. Jack looked around, only three people left? Did the others were killed already? But his party interface clearly showed Queen Magenta, Selena, and Warpath were still alive.

Jeanny also came out from the hole. She was glad to see Silverwing's team, and terrified when she saw the Giant Queen Ant's imposing presence. She was then worried when she saw no one from her Wicked Witches group.

"Is that the boss?" She asked, "where are the others? Are they the only one left?"

"Don't know," Jack replied, then said grimly, "Heads up, the boss is coming this way."

The boss was crawling rapidly with its six appendages, its gigantic body appeared weightless under its sprightly legs. It abruptly stopped mid-way and squatted down, which confused the two newcomers.

"Be careful! It's about to jump!" Silverwing shouted out.

The gigantic Queen Ant sprang forward like a stone shot out of a catapult. Jack and Jeanny had heard Silverwing's warning and made a move just before the Ant Queen jumped. Jack leaped and rolled to the right while Jeanny ran to the left.

Did all bosses have this jumping skill? Jack complained in his mind, referring to the Lizardman Chief jumping attack in the past.

When the Giant Queen Ant landed, it turned and went after Jack. It remembered him to be the one that had sent out that crescent light attack. Its front limb swiftly swiped at him. Jack had stored his Magic Staff, he was not intending to let too many people know about his secret. He had reequipped the Guard Round Shield. The sharp claw at the end of the Queen Ant's leg clashed with the round shield and scrapped along its surface. Jack was pushed back by the impact.

The strength of this Boss was immense, Jack thought, stronger than the Lizardman Chief when not in berserk. Considering the monster's size, it made sense.

Jeanny took the chance while the Boss's rear was facing her, and sent a Penetrating Stab. It thrust through the monster's defense and delivered full damage. Enraged, one of its rear limbs stabbed back. Jeanny who was about to make a second stab, did not expect the counterattack and suffered its full blow. She was thrown far away backwards before crashing at one part of a protruding wall. She lost almost half of her life.

She was shocked, only one hit already caused so much damage? She hurriedly took out a basic healing potion to replenish her HP. Luckily, the Giant Queen Ant did not consider her a threat, it was ignoring her and continued to go after Jack.

Jack was having difficulty in a melee standoff with the Queen Ant, as it could attack with its four front appendages while keeping its body balance with only its two rear legs. Despite his speed, Jack could only block and parry with his shield and sword without a chance to make an attack.

Silverwing and the others were dumbstruck by the display. The fellow could go toe to toe with the giant boss. Even when Warpath was fighting with the boss, he mostly utilized hit and run tactic.

Dealing with four attacking limbs while he himself could only use two, Jack finally could not keep up. He got grazed once and stabbed another time. He retreated to ease off the pressure.

"Hey, Magicians! What the hell are you doing just standing there for?" He shouted when he saw Bluedaze and Sinreaper were just standing there gaping.

His shout snapped the two of them to action, they started to send their spells from a safe range. Silverwing went to Jeanny who had rose back and was preparing to re-engage.

"Do you still have recovery potions?" He asked her.

"I still have three bottles."

"Can I have one?"

Jeanny gave her a bottle.

"Thanks! I will give you back once we are out of this dungeon," Silverwing said.

"Where are Selena and the others? Have they got killed?" Jeanny asked.

Silverwing drank the potion, returning his HP to a safe level, "no, they decided this boss is a lost cause, so they left."

"They left?" Jeanny's eyes was wide with disbelief. The boss' HP was low already, why did they let go of this chance?

Silverwing nodded, "they have run out of their recovery potions, they were unwilling to go all out and risk losing a level just for a slim chance. As you see, the Boss' defense is very high, all our attacks can only deal miniscule damage to it, while its one hit can take out a large chunk of our life. Before you two appear, we were just about to bolt as well."

"But not anymore?"

"Yeah, let's kill this overgrown insect!"

The Two of them used hit and run on the Giant Queen Ant from the rear. After experiencing the Queen Ant's swift counterattack, Jeanny no longer tried to do consecutive attacks. After she made a hit, she immediately retreated, making it difficult for the Queen Ant to hit her. Silverwing who was faster had gotten used to the way the Queen Ant was fighting, he was even more adept in his hit and run tactics.

The Giant Queen Ant just treated their hits as mosquitos' bites, since their damages were low. It continued to focus its attention on Jack whom it considered as the main threat. It made a screeching cry as its large mandible clacked and an energy ripple was formed around its mouth.

"Watch out! It will shoot an air bullet!" Bluedaze gave a warning.

Jack did not understand what she meant at first, but her tone sounded dire. So he immediately jumped back as he put both his shield and sword crossed in front of him. All of a sudden, a transparent ball of energy was shot out at high speed from the Queen Ant's mouth towards him. His position was too closed to the Queen Ant, thus he had no time to dodge.

Fortunately, he was already in a defensive position. The bullet hit his round shield. He could feel the air compressed during the moment of impact, and then burst out with explosive force. He was thrown away violently tens of meters away. His body skidded on the ground, leaving a long trail along the ground.