

## **Zompiewolf 131**

### Chapter 131 - First Dungeon (3)

There were a lot of things about night creatures that no one knew. Especially their pack mentality. They were supposed to be wild mutated beasts who did not care about anything. However, that was far from the truth. For some strange reason, some of the species between the night creatures cared about each other enough to live in packs.

No one knew the reason behind this as most of the time night creatures followed a strict hierarchy in which those at the lower rung were constantly killed by the creatures above them. But for some strange reason, everything the werewolves knew about the night creatures became void once they were inside a 'dungeon'.

Unlike in the wild, the night creatures rarely if ever, fought amongst themselves. Instead, they behaved like a collective mind and did their best to exterminate the intruders. This was the reason why the beasts found inside a dungeon were much more dangerous than those found in the wild.

Also, the night creatures that lived inside a 'dungeon' were individually stronger than the same species found in the wild. The reason behind this was also not known to anyone. But the most popular belief was that when a night creature evolves, it becomes stronger which hence motivates the other creatures to do the same and they follow the evolved beast.

Thus being around the evolved being might expose them to some unknown radiation or aura which made them stronger. As for what was a dungeon... well, it wasn't exactly known either. But the brightest minds across the world had come up with one absurd explanation.

It would seem when a beast evolves, it decides to either isolate itself from the rest of the world or make a region where its dominance is unquestionable. They often hide in places such as caves or abandoned cities where their power slowly grows more and more.

This region then becomes crowded with the beasts who decided to follow the 'boss-level' beast's footsteps and is called a dungeon. Also, these beasts had a weird habit of collecting and in some cases generating rare gear and weapons which can be obtained after conquering a dungeon.

No one knew whether this theory had any credibility, but then again the adventurers did not care about it in the least. As long as they get paid enough, they would venture into the deadliest environments without a second thought.

This was the reason why after a dungeon had been cleared out, scholars and scientists went on an exploration trip to figure out the secrets hidden in those places.

"Well, that's all we know about dungeons and stuff." Virgil said while stroking his beard, "Do you need anything else?"

"No, that'll be enough. Thanks, Virgil." Ashton absent-mindedly replied while gazing down into the abandoned city they were contracted to clear out.

Lavina was also known as the city of monkey ghosts. It was a weird nickname but as Virgil explained why the city was nicknamed like that Ashton could see it making sense.

The forest around the city was once populated by monkeys who had mutated into night creatures called Monklins, which were essentially dead monkeys and hence the weird nickname of the city.

Apparently, right after winning over the humans in the region, the werewolves had tried to establish their own city in the middle of the forest. Everything was going great... until one day mutated beasts showed up there.

Since the city had been surrounded by forest, it was obvious there would be animals in it. Animals that would have mutated and turned into night creatures thanks to the virus. Back then, the night creatures whom the werewolves had fought were pathetically weak.

Therefore, they thought even if the creatures attacked them, their forces would have easily pushed them back. However, to their surprise, their overconfidence led to the demise of every single soldier, man, woman, child and human slave.

The creatures they fought were extremely agile and dominated the field instantly. However, the victory of the night creatures was short-lived as the back exterminated most of them, though it took them months to do so.

"You might be thinking if the night creatures were exterminated, why are we here?" The archer joined Ashton gazing over the ghost town while the knight watched them from behind.

"I wasn't." Ashton immediately replied not once looking in the direction of the platinum blonde woman, "Judging by the size of the forest, it's not possible to exterminate all of the creatures in just a few months. They must have missed some creatures who continued to reproduce and as a result, we're here now."

"You're not completely wrong. The soldiers did exterminate all the creatures they could find but it would appear the creatures have hidden breeding grounds." Renee, the archer continued while fidgeting in the black tank top she was wearing, "Every two years, Monklins, the indigenous night creatures reappear and an extermination quest is issued with a side exploration quest."

"Finding the hidden breeding grounds." Ashton completed what Renee was about to say.

Under the guise of an exploration quest, this was just an extermination quest where the participants were required to clear the area of any hostile presence. For an extermination quest, this quest of exterminating the Monklins was a highly rewarding quest.

'Also, this quest is perfect for someone like me.' Ashton was barely able to maintain his stoic expression as a thought crossed his mind.

With his heightened [Perception] skill, it was easier for him to try and find this hidden breeding ground which was supposed to be filled with rare gears and riches. Even if it wasn't, the reward for finding and clearing the so-called breeding grounds was more than enough for someone like Ashton.

But more importantly, since they had to cover a lot of area, thus they would have to individually take over a part to clear by themselves.

Which meant as long as he was careful, he could feast upon the beasts and level up his genes without any problems. Also, since the Monklins only appeared at night they would have to hunt them at night as well. Which meant the darkness would further help him to protect his secret.

'Now, all that's left to do is wait for the sun to disappear.. Then the feast will begin.'

Chapter 132 - Monklins (1)

As the sun was going down, the five of them gathered to discuss strategies. Since this mission was given to someone once every two years, they had all the information that they needed to come up with the fastest strategy to get over this quest.

The quickest strategy any of them knew about was the most obvious one. Divide and conquer, but instead of dividing their enemies, they were going to divide their team instead. Each of them would head into a different part of the forest and kill all night creatures they could find there.

The plan was simple but there was a problem. The curly brown-haired mage, Fae and the archer Renee needed someone to tank for them.

They weren't strong like the rest of them nor did they have heavy armour to protect them from the Monklin's agile blows. As a result, their plan of going their separate ways was immediately vetoed by the three of them.

"I know it will take a lot of time this way, but I think this is the best plan to ensure our safety." Markus chimed in while Ashton and the Knight stared at each other.

Ashton was a bit annoyed by the change of plans, but there wasn't anything he could have done to persuade them to put their lives in danger. If only Markus had not chimed in, Fae and Renee both would have agreed to the proposal and they would already be on their way to the forest, hunting Monklins.

Since the three of them were going to stick together, there was no way the knight would have let Ashton out of his sight either. After all, the king had made it his life's mission to protect Ashton no matter what.

Also, even though they were part of the same team, there was no reason for Ashton and the knight to blindly trust Markus and his group. For all they knew, they could try and betray them for rewards or something. Incidents where members of a party 'accidentally' died were very common after all.

"Fine, we'll divide into two groups then." Ashton sighed and began stretching his muscles, "You people take the north, we'll take care of the monsters in the south. Once you are done, we'll meet in the abandoned city, is that understood?"

All of them nodded and headed to their respective objectives. Once Markus and company were out of earshot, the knight asked Ashton a serious question... Could they trust them?

"There's no way to be sure they won't. However, I'm not here to trust them either." Ashton replied in an uncaring tone, "As long as they can do what I asked of them, I wouldn't bat an eye even if some of them die."

It appeared that the knight was not expecting to get such a straight and cold answer from someone who was just 16. But then again, it was about time he realised he wasn't talking to an ordinary noble brat either.

"While we hunt for the creatures, I'd like to ask something as well. That is if you don't mind obviously."

"Go ahead."

"What's your name?" Ashton asked as they headed deeper into the woods.

"The Royal guards don't have names. Only our captain has a name while the rest of us are just numbers. Makes it easier to order us around and assign tasks." The knight replied in a monotonous voice, "But to answer your question, I'm Seven."

"Weird..." Ashton shrugged his shoulder and everything went quiet again... too quiet.

"They are here." Seven mumbled under his breath.

In a flash, both of them had their weapons drawn. Ashton had his whip while Seven had his longsword. Then, they waited... however, nothing happened. But Ashton knew they were not hallucinating because his [Perception] was screaming at him. They were surrounded by hundreds of monklines.

"You wanna play this game? Fine by me."

Monklines might have wanted to pull a sneak attack on them, but Ashton had just the skill he needed to get rid of their advantage.

[Wolf's Mark has been activated.]

[Presence of more than five creatures found in the user's vicinity. Five nearest targets have been marked. Location of marked targets have been revealed.]

[Damage and Agility have been boosted by 50% for 3 minutes.]

The next moment five claw marks appeared in the air for both Ashton and Seven to see. Without even speaking a word to each other, the two of them dashed in opposite directions. Ashton used his whip to traverse in the forest easily and in no time he found the first of his target.

The Monklin's appearance was quite bizarre, unlike anything Ashton had seen before. They appeared like small humans with four arms, six charcoal-like eyes and a weird gooey greenish skin. However, the Monklin wasn't alone, there were at least a dozen others with him.

But before they could use their agile abilities on him, Ashton quickly disabled them using his armour's [Lure] ability. Since the Monklins were all below level 13, they could no longer use their skills, while giving Ashton the perfect opportunity to hunt them down.

With a single swing of his whip, Ashton caught the head of three monklins and ripped them off of their shoulders.

—

You have received 30% Exp by killing 3 <Lvl 10> Monklins.

Current Werewolf Level: 13



Current Werewolf skill points: 23

Current Exp: 48%

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However, Ashton wasn't done yet. After confirming that he was quite far away from Seven, he immediately activated the rest of his genes while battling through the pain from doing so and grabbed one of the severed heads before chomping it like an apple.

"Argh... It tastes like shit! And why the hell do I even know how shit tastes like?" Ashton involuntarily made a disgusted face but took another bite while also drinking some of the disgusting blood leaking out.

—

You have received 15% Exp by consuming the blood of a new creature.

You have levelled up! Exp limit has been reset.

Current Vampire Level: 10

You have received 6% Exp by consuming the blood of a <Lvl 10> Monklin.

Current vampire skill points: 15

Current Exp: 6%

You have received 20% Exp by consuming the flesh of a new creature.

You have levelled up! Exp limit has been reset.

Current Zombie Level: 9

You have received 12% Exp by consuming the flesh of a <Lvl 10> Monklin.

Current Zombie skill points: 9

Current Exp: 12%

—

This act of eating their kin in front of them enraged the rest of the Monklins, but they couldn't do a thing but run. They were afraid as despite despising Ashton, they did not want to meet an end like the three of them just did.

"Who gave you permission to run?" Ashton wiped the blood off his mouth and threw the head away before charging straight towards them.

Chapter 133 - Monklins (2)

—

You have received 30% Exp by killing 7 <Lvl 10> Monklins.

Current Werewolf Level: 14

Current Werewolf skill points: 28

Current Exp: 21%

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"I got less exp than last time. Looks like continuously killing the same creature gives lesser exp." Ashton mumbled absent-mindedly before quickly checking his stats.

Everything was going better than he had expected. It had been four hours since he began slaughtering the monklin and the results were promising. His werewolf genes were already on level 14 while the vampire and zombie genes were at 13 and 11 respectively.

However, Ashton was a bit disappointed. He had wanted to reach level 15 and get his werewolf class during this quest itself. But judging by how little exp he was being awarded now, he didn't think it would be possible for him to reach level 15.

He just killed seven monklin and all he got was 21% exp. Soon killing one monklin would give him one or even less than one exp. Also, after seeing how he had slaughtered the monklin, they were a bit hesitant to attack him. But not everything was gloomy in the forest.

Ashton had earned a lot of things by battling and killing these many monklin. Namely a new skill and a title, both of which were quite good.

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[Monklyn Slayer]: A common title earned after slaying a total of 50 monklin within 24 hours.

Title effect:

>> Boosts <agility> by 1 point per three Monklins killed.

>> Damage against all types of monklins is increased by 20%

—

Thanks to the title effect, Ashton's agility was now raised to 35 points, putting him on par with the agility of the monklins. The difference wasn't huge but Ashton could already feel his body was a bit lighter and easier to move around. The skill he obtained due to [Skill Absorption] also improved his agility.

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[Stride]: This skill allows the user to temporarily increase their agility by 20% for 1 minute. After 1 minute had passed, the increased agility will slowly decay (2% per second) back to normal. The duration of the skill can be improved by levelling up the skill.

Grade: Low (level 1)

Cooldown: 10 Minutes

Cost: 50 mana/use

Can be used: 10 times a day

Condition to upgrade the skill:

Use the skill and kill a high levelled target before the skill goes into cooldown.

Caution: Since the user cannot manipulate mana, using this skill isn't possible. Please reach level 15 to unlock <mana veins> within your body.

—

While obtaining a class was important for Ashton, he also wanted to unlock mana so that he could have access to better skills. Skills that might turn out to be crucial in future.

As for the battle, he was trying to get used to the [Aggravate] skill. But it was getting a bit out of hand. He didn't know why, but whenever he activated the skill, bloodlust took over his mind and all he could think about was killing his enemies.

Frankly, just using the skill was a bit scary because he had to keep all of his focus not to lose his mind. Even though he was there to kill the monklines in the first place, it would have been problematic for him to use the skill around his comrades as in his blind lust for blood, he might end up injuring them as well.

"Sooner or later, I have to take control over this skill. But it should be enough for now, no good will come from overexerting myself." Ashton decided to take a breather right there while being surrounded by headless monklin corpses.

His [Perception] had been honed to the limit as he had been using it relentlessly as he had to be on a lookout for potential trouble and also, to identify if someone other than the night creatures were coming towards him.

"Should I look for Seven and Virgil or should I try to find the breeding ground?"

Since the Monklins were no longer coming after him, he had two choices. Either he could start searching for the hidden breeding ground of the Monklins or he could look for his teammates.

It had been hours since he had seen anyone other than monklins and although he didn't care whether they lived or die, it would be a hassle if someone were to die.

"I'm sure they can take care of themselves. Looking for the breeding grounds takes priority for now." Ashton wiped the dirt off of his armour and pushed his perception to the limit.

That was the only way for him to find something that had remained hidden to the naked eye for decades now. However, before he could make much progress, there was a loud explosion on the north side of the forest followed by a huge cloud of smoke.

"The hell was that?" Ashton immediately raced in the direction of the explosion, ignoring the task of finding the hidden breeding ground.

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Meanwhile at the northside of the forest...

A bloodied Virgil stood in front of Renee and Fae who was desperately trying to heal the hammer-wielding man. However, her low-grade healing spell did not seem to be working and there was no time for Virgil to drink an HP potion either.

Renee had taken out her secondary weapon, a rusty dagger as her bow had been shattered into pieces. However, it had been a long time since she had used a dagger in the first place. Virgil was their only hope of survival, but now he himself was on the verge of dying.

"This is bullshit!" Renee cursed at her weakness, "There was no information about this beast in the quest request!"

Suddenly it dawned upon them why this repetitive quest had a higher reward than ever before. It was because one of the monklins had evolved. The 8 foot tall, grey-furred beast in front of them was the king of monklins, an elite who was at a level... 20 night creature. It had to be that strong at the very least considering how it singlehandedly overwhelmed three level 15 adventurers.

"Go... I'll hold it off... for as long as I can..." Virgil weakly mumbled.



Virgil was barely able to hold on to his hammer, which was also drenched in his blood. His words might have been brave, but considering the state he was in, it would be a miracle if he could even buy them a second to escape.

"If we die, we die together, remember?" Renee replied with a faint smile as tears rolled down her cheeks, "Fae, don't care about conserving mana. Just sue what you have to heal this brutish moron."

"Renee, NO!" Fae yelled at her but it was too late, Renne had already charged at the elite monklin with her dagger.

Within moments she was within the creature's reach and it lashed out, intending to kill her by smashing her into the ground. However, the moment the creature raised its hands over his head, he found a couple of arrows dug deep within them.

"Starting a party without me eh?" Ashton breathlessly spoke while brandishing his crossbow, "Too bad I'm right on time to poop all over it.. Oi, miss archer, back up a bit will ya? I wouldn't want to hit you or something with my bad aim."

## Chapter 134 - Dungeon Slayer (1)

Moments earlier...

Ashton found himself racing towards the direction of the explosion. He was doing it out of some noble intention of saving Virgil and his squad or something. He simply wanted to know what was going on there. Also, the three of them could have accidentally stumbled across the fabled breeding ground and if that was the case, then Ashton was not gonna waste his time anymore.

"Well, if nothing else, at least I'll be able to get enough exp to level up. But first... gotta deactivate the genes. I'm pretty sure Seven is also headed in that direction." Ashton mumbled to himself as he jumped over a fallen tree, "And I don't wanna expose my secrets just yet."

The explosion was very far away so it took him a lot of time to even get in the vicinity. However, as he did he couldn't believe what he was seeing in front of him. Even from a distance, the creature was easily visible to him after all, this Monklin was way bigger than the one Ashton had been bullying till now.

Also, the monklin's appearance was different as well. Instead of being covered in the green goo, this creature was covered in fur. However, when Ashton used [Detection] on the beast, he realised it wasn't a monklin at all. It was a different species called Gorillan.

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Name: Gorillan

Species: Monklins

Status: Enraged

Class: Brawler

Age: 3 years

Gender: male

Grade: F-tier

Affiliation: Gorillan Queen

Level: 21

Stats:

HP: 8000/8000

Damage: 90

Armour: 65

Stealth: 0

Stamina: 80

Agility: 30

Intelligence: 5

Nature:

Chaotic: 5% chance of inflicting 2% additional damage after using a skill.

Abilities/skills/spells:

Hell Smash

Grievous Claw

Seismic Throw

Resistance(s):

>> Piercing (50% damage reduction from piercing weapons)

Remark:

Gorillan, also known as the king of Monklins, is a rare night creature not often spotted as it enjoys its sleep and can sometimes sleep through a decade. However, if something interrupts its sleep, it enters an enraged state which boosts its damage by 100% while reducing the defence by 30%.

Once enraged, only their mates can calm them down as only one of them sleeps while the other mate protects them. Usually, it's the male who often guards the females who also happen to sleep more often than the males.

Note: Humans were afraid to go against normal gorillas, if you think you can fight a mutated and overgrown bastard like this one then maybe you need to get your head checked. You might be missing an important organ there.

- Lucifer

—

Ashton ignored Lucifer's expert opinion and wanted to attack the beast. In his mind, he wanted to level up as fast as he could to get his hand on a class. But for that, he needed to kill or at least keep inflicting damage to the Gorillan till he levelled up again.

The safest way to do that would have been to attack the beast from a range and not charge in like a certain foolish bitch was doing. Ashton immediately took out the crossbow he had taken from the female bloodsucker he killed back in Maddencreek as it was the only ranged weapon he had and shot multiple shots at the gigantic creature.

Since the gorillan was huge, he didn't even have to aim properly. Ashton randomly took his shots and most of them landed right on the creature's body.

—

You have received 7% Exp by doing 50 HP damage to <Lvl 21> Gorillan.

Current Werewolf Level: 14

Current Werewolf skill points: 28

Current Exp: 28%

—

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Back to the present...

Ashton had made every calculation he could think of... all of them but one. What would he do now that the creature's agro was on him? It couldn't simply keep shooting at the Gorillan getting 5% exp per hit.

Then there was the decay factor, the more he would hit the giant the lesser exp he would get the next time. He could keep shooting the damn thing again and again only to level up in his dreams. Also, he only had a limited number of arrows, they wouldn't even last a couple of minutes, let alone hours.

"There's no other way. I will have to use everything in my arsenal to even stand a chance against him." Ashton thought to himself as the Gorillan came rushing towards him.

It was a good thing Ashton surpassed the Gorillan in terms of agility and easily rushed past him. As for the gorillan, he was so focused on Ashton, he ended up totalling down a couple of trees before tripping over himself.

"On your left, slowpoke!" Ashton flipped the Gorilla off as he arrived next to Virgil who was now on his knees.

Ashton was no expert, but his condition did not look good at all. His blood was everywhere and despite Fae's best of attempts, she could only manage to stop the bleeding but not heal the wounds.

"You'll owe me for this." Ashton joked before handing Virgil a couple of high-grade Hp potions that Ashton had bought from the black market, "Now get away from here asap. I don't want you guys anywhere remotely close to me."

"Are you mad?" Renee immediately retorted but was silenced by Ashton.

"You charged right at him with a dagger that wouldn't even pierce through its fur and I'm the mad one?" Ashton scoffed, "Virgil needs to get out of here and it would take both of you to do that. So get going."

It looked like Renee wanted to say something else, but Fae stopped her, "He is correct. We have to get out of here, if we don't then we'll only end up as a burden to him."

Seeing no other way, Renee slipped under Virgil's shoulders and got him back to his feet, "We'll inform the guild about the situation. Just keep the bastard busy till then."

"Yeah, yeah. Now go."

Right as the trio disappeared into the forest, the Gorillan finally got back to his feet and once again charged right towards Ashton.

"Oh shit, here we go again," Ashton mumbled with a smile.

[Skill: Wolf's Mark has been activated. Agility and Damage boosted by 10%]



[Armour skill: Lure has been activated. The efficiency of Gorillan's skill has been reduced by 60%]

[Title [Monklin Slayer] is in effect. You'll deal 20% more damage to the Gorillan.]

[Skill: Aggravate has been activated.]

## Chapter 135 - Dungeon Slayer (2)

It might look like Ashton had a plan, but in all honesty, he didn't. All he knew was that he was facing an enemy who had more than 6 levels than him. Normal strategies wouldn't work against him and there was no way he would have survived a head-on battle with the Gorillan.

Also, he could not use the rest of his genes because Seven could appear there at any moment. And Ashton did not want him to know his secret because Seven would have immediately reported it to Jonathan. Who in turn would have had Ashton dissected in hopes of obtaining the secret to his powers and possibly replicating it.

But Ashton wasn't that big of a fool to take on the Gorillan without thinking about everything. He was aware that the Gorillan had lower intelligence and agility than him. While He wasn't sure how he would use the Gorillan's low intelligence against him but he knew of a way to use his agility against him. Like he was doing now.

'As long as I can dodge the bastard's attacks and keep inflicting wounds on him using [Aggravate], he would sooner or later bleed to his death.' Ashton thought as he once again charged right into the Gorillan.

In theory, his plan should have worked, but it was taking too much time. All thanks to the thick fur shrouding the Gorillan. The fur attacked as a layer of armour for the Gorillan and well, most of Ashton's attacks were being rendered useless because of the Gorillan's resistance to piercing damage.

Also, Ashton was having a hard time getting through the Gorillan's fur while only using his werewolf claws. In other words... Ashton's attacks were only giving the bastard shallow wounds which did not seem to have any lasting effects on the gorillan.

Then there was the problem of Ashton slowly succumbing to his bloodlust. The more he used [Aggravate], the more he seemed to be losing his shit. However, he wasn't the only one losing his mind.

Even though Ashton's attacks only felt like mosquito bites to the Gorillan, they were enough to make the gorillan even more irritated than he already was. Thus, he too was losing his focus. Twice the gorillan had the opportunity to smack Ashton away from him, but he missed both opportunities hilariously.

But there was a ray of hope shining brightly at the end of the tunnel. Thanks to gorillan's missed attacks, Ashton was continuously making his way towards level 15.

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You have received 7% Exp from dodging an attack.

Current Exp: 49%

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'Almost halfway through...' Ashton sighed heavily as he managed to dodge yet another attack, 'but I'm getting a bit tired now.'

The gorillan had quite some endurance, but Ashton who had now been continuously fighting for hours was starting to have a hard time. He had not taken this into account but his endurance was lacking after chasing around the Monklins.

Chasing and killing Monklins was fun, but they also ended up sucking his endurance up like vampires sucking the blood of their victims.

"Where the fck is Seven!?" Ashton yelled out in frustration, "If he doesn't want to show up at least tell me somehow so that I can use my other genes to pound this bastard down!"

Seven was at least at level 30. For him handling the Gorillan should have been an easy task. But for some bullshit reason, he wasn't there yet. Little did Ashton know Seven had been there for a long time, hiding in the trees and studying more about Ashton's fighting style like Jonathan had instructed him to do.

Seven might have been appointed to accompany Ashton in the dungeon, but his second set of instructions had been very clear. He was to let Ashton grow on his own without interfering and watch him through the shadows.

But Jonathan was not all that heartless... well, actually he was but he didn't want Ashton to die before he had accomplished all of the tasks assigned to him. Thus Seven was allowed to interfere once he deemed Ashton to be in grave danger, but not a second before it was absolutely necessary.

"I already lost his sight while fighting the Monklins and couldn't gather the initial data on him. But I'm not gonna miss this chance again." Seven mumbled to himself before taking out his sword and sharpening it, "It doesn't look like the kid will be able to finish off the gorillan for some time. Might as well use it to do something productive."

In the meantime, Ashton kept doing whatever he could to chip away some of Gorillan's HP. Slowly, the shallow wounds he had been inflicted started piling up on top of each other. On top of that, since the wounds couldn't heal unless either Ashton allowed them to or he got knocked out, the gorillan was continuously losing blood. Enough blood to make him lose 100 HP per minute.

However, because of the absurdly high amount of health the gorillan had, it would take him well over an hour before to die because of blood loss and Ashton wasn't sure if he had enough endurance to keep it going for that long.

"Alright... time to come up with a new strategy," Ashton mumbled and deactivated [Aggravate] skill before he went completely berserk, "since the idea of chipping away his HP isn't working, I'd have to focus on levelling up instead."

There were four ways for him to get exp quickly. Killing something, attacking something or dodging hits and last was getting hit.

Since killing the gorillan was out of option and attacking and dodging wasn't giving him as much exp as he wanted... it left him with one option only. He had to allow the Gorillan to hit him and hope he wouldn't die before levelling up.

It was a risky move... Nah, it was probably the shittiest plan anyone had ever made in the history of the planet. But he was the only one who could come up with such a suicidal plan. Though for once, Ashton did not care about it in the least.

"Looks like I am a masochist... damn that bitchy mistress! She turned me into something so despicable." Ashton gritted his teeth hard and shut his eyes before walking right under the Gorillan, "Do it, bastard, fulfil your desire!"

"The hell is he doing!?"

Seven saw everything from the tree he was hiding him and immediately rushed to help Ashton. But he was too late.. Ashton was too close to the gorillan and got hit right in the head before Seven could reach them.

#### Chapter 136 - Revenger (1)

A moment later, everything went dark as Ashton went flying in the opposite direction. He lost consciousness the moment Gorillan's fist connected with his face which was a good thing as he would not want to know what happened to him next.

After colliding and totalling down at least a dozen trees, Ashton finally stopped rolling around. But his condition did not look great. Although his armour cushioned most of the damage, he still got his head split open and blood oozed out of his facial orifices.

While he was still unconscious multiple notifications popped up in front of him, basically informing him about the injuries he sustained. But Ashton couldn't see nor interact with them.

With just one attack, his health was reduced from 97% to 5%, and even that was reducing rapidly. But then all of a sudden it stopped declining. In a flash, his wounds started to heal by themselves like some miracle. Then the final notification appeared before his closed eyes.

—

You have received 60% Exp by getting hit by <Lvl 21> Gorillan.

You have levelled up! All wounds have been healed and HP has been restored to the maximum.

Current Werewolf Level: 15

Current Werewolf skill points: 30

Current Exp: 0%

After analysing your skillset, you can pick up one of the following classes:

2039c Error encountered. There is only one class that can be assigned to the user.

Automatically assigning the mentioned class to the user.

Congratulations! You have obtained a new werewolf Class: [Revenger]

You have obtained two class abilities: [Revenge] and [Rearrange]

You have unlocked Mana.

You can now use mana based skills.

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In the meantime, Seven stood in front of the Gorillan unable to comprehend what had just happened there. Why would that idiot not dodge the attack!? It didn't seem like he was suicidal or anything, then why the hell did he do something like this?

No matter what Seven thought, he knew he was fcked. Jonathan would not let this kind of thing slide. On top of that, he was supposed to protect Ashton from scenarios like these from ever taking place. But he had failed miserably.

"He'll kill me... he'll make me beg for death..." Seven hysterically began mumbling to himself, completely ignoring the fact that the Gorillan was still there, right in front of him.

Well, his life was already over. Why would he care about defeating a Gorillan? In fact, no matter what the gorillan did to him, it would be far better than what the king would do to him once he got to know that he failed in protecting his 'property'.

Seven thought about running away, but he knew that would only enrage the king even more. he could even find out about the love of his life and torture her till he surrendered himself. He could not allow something like that to happen.

No matter what he did, he was screwed... completely screwed. His life was over. The only way he would ever have peace would be if he died right there. That way, everyone else would think he died while protecting Ashton till his last breath.

"Yes... it's the only way. I have to die."

Seven had simply thought about it and his body started moving on its own. Everything was a bit hazy. He couldn't focus on anything anymore. Still, his body was working on autopilot.



His armour fell right next to his feet while he brought the sword right in front of his heart. He took a deep breath and was about to plunge the sword in his chest when he felt something rush past him. Maybe it was due to his hazy vision or simply his inability but he couldn't see what had rushed past him.

However, a moment later, he saw it clearly... it was Ashton. His hair, his face, his armour, everything was soaked in blood and yet there wasn't a single wound on his body. A moment later he jumped in the air.

Ashton was at eye level with the gorillan and the next moment he kicked the creature right in the head. Seven didn't know what he had expected to happen, but he certainly did not expect the 8-foot tall creature to get flung sideways with a simple kick of someone who should have been level 14.

Then it hit him. The reason why Ashton allowed the gorillan to hit him...

"He wanted to level up..." Seven mumbled absentmindedly.

He was still shocked. Out of all the ways a werewolf could earn exp, this was the most... unconventional way. Not a single soul that Seven knew had ever used such a trick to achieve their goals.

But even if Ashton levelled up and got a class, it didn't mean he could do what he just did. From what seven remembered, no matter what skill or ability a werewolf had, they would have to choose their first class from one of the five basic classes.

Warrior, Defender, Archer, Assassin and Magician. These were the only classes a werewolf could obtain. But the problem here was... none of these classes had the explosive damage output like what Ashton just showed off.

Also, even if he had obtained a class, he was still at level 15. How could someone like that knock out a creature that had to be at least at level 20? It simply didn't make any sense! If it hadn't happened right in front of him, he would have never believed it either.

"Why are you topless? Were you giving the bastard a strip or something? And I thought I was weird." Ashton looked over his shoulder, "I mean... I'm not one to judge but really?"

—

You have received 70% Exp by dealing 5400 HP worth of damage to <Lvl 21> Gorillan.

Skill: [Aggravate] is in effect. <Lvl 21> Gorillan is losing 300 HP per minute.

Current Exp: 70%

Skill: [Revenge] is now in cooldown.

Cooldown: 6 days 23 hours 55 minutes.

—

"Fck, he's still alive?" Ashton sighed heavily before appearing in front of Seven in a flash, "I'm sorry about this. Well... not really."

"Sorry about what-"

Before Seven could even complete what he was saying, Ashton knocked him unconscious. Then rushed back towards the Gorillan who was struggling to get back to his feet.

"Not consuming your flesh and blood would be such a waste..." Ashton mumbled with a sadistic smile on his face, "I wonder what kind of skill I would get from you. Well, there's only one way to find out. While I am at it, might as well get some of Seven's blood.. Now that I have some mana, it will be good to have some better skills."

Chapter 137 - Revenger (2)

—

Vampire Skill: [Skill Absorption] activated. Attempting to absorb the skill [Hell Smash] from the prey.

Required gene to learn the skill: None.

The skill is an evolved version of a basic attack skill and can be learned by any species. Proceeding with absorption.

Due to the inefficiency of [Skill Absorption], only partial absorption could happen. As a result, the active skill [Hell Smash (lvl 10)] has been turned into the active skill [Rock Pound (lvl 1)].

(Note: The user is recommended to upgrade [Skill Absorption] as soon as they can.)

—

"Yeah, I'm already on it." Ashton stretched his neck for a bit before checking the information about the skill.

Ashton didn't know but the skill, [Rock Pound], was nothing special. As the system said, it was a basic attack skill that could be later evolved into [Hell Smash]. For now, the skill would only deal additional damage in a wide area and knock the targets back a bit.

The effect of [Hell Smash] didn't change much but the effects were more serious as it could both stun the targets as well as inflict bleeding on them.

"No point wondering what [Hell smash] can do if I don't have to skill. At least I levelled up all of my genes by a bit and I can finally use mana."

—

Name: Ashton Fenrir

Species: Zombie (Active), Vampire (Active), Werewolf (Active), Human (Deceased).

Status: Zompirewolf

Class: Revenger (werewolf class), unassigned (vampire class), unassigned (zombie class)

Title: [Defiant], [Novice Brewer], [Monklin Slayer]

Age: 16 years

Gender: Male

Grade: F-tier (Evolution is possible)

Affiliation: Werewolves.

Level:

> Werewolf Level: 15 (70%)

> Vampire Level: 14 (65%)

> Zombie Level: 13 (22%)

Stats:

HP: 3500/3500

Mana: 500/500

Damage: 45

Armour: 30

Stealth: 30

Stamina: 45

Agility: 40

Intelligence: 29

---

However, upon obtaining level 15, not only did he get a new class and two new abilities, but all of his stats also increased by 5 points, which was a welcomed surprise. Also Apart from getting 500 points of mana, his HP increased to 3500 from 3000.

But there was something else. He was notified by the system that now whenever he levelled up or killed a higher levelled being, he would get a free stat point which he could freely use to increase his stats, HP or mana.

Still, the main attractions of levelling up were his new Revenger class and the two most precious skills he got from it. Even though he was a bit bummed out that he could not select a class of his choice, the class that he got was supposed to be a <Unique> class. So it was supposedly the best starting class he could get his hands on.

---

>> [Revenge]: A class-exclusive skill belonging to the [Revenger] class. This skill allows the user to temporarily decrease their Armour by 20% for 30 seconds. During this period, the user will accumulate damage from every attack received.

After 30 seconds had passed, the user will dish out 2x of the accumulated damage to a single target in one attack or deal 1.2x damage to everyone who dealt damage to the user in an area. The duration of the skill can be improved by levelling up the skill.

Grade: Low (level 1)

Cooldown: 1 week

Cost: 400 mana/use

Condition to upgrade the skill: None. The skill can only be upgraded by getting familiar with using the skill.

>> [Rearrange]: A class-exclusive skill belonging to the [Revenger] class. This skill allows the user to temporarily rearrange their total stat points as per their will for three minutes. During this period, the user will not be able to change back the stats even if they wanted to.

After 3 minutes had passed, all of the stats will return back to normal and skill will enter cooldown. The duration of this skill can be extended upon levelling up.



Grade: Low (level 1)

Cooldown: 1 day

Cost: 50 mana/use

Condition to upgrade the skill: None. The skill can only be upgraded by getting familiar with using the skill.

—

"It sucks I can't just dump enough points and level up the skills right now. But it is still better than I could have expected." Ashton sighed before checking up on Seven who was still lying unconscious on the ground.

Ashton did not know why the heck was he still knocked out. But it was good considering he could get enough blood from him to get at least one skill from him. The only problem was... [Skill Absorption] was still in cooldown and would be for 24 hours.

Also, it had been a while since Virgil and his team left to inform the guild about their misfortune of encountering a Gorillan. Which meant the reinforcements could get there at any moment. But that didn't mean Ashton was gonna let Seven just go away like that.

Ashton took the man's sword and plunged it into Seven's open palm, before quickly collecting his blood in a vial and storing it inside his inventory. Once that was done, Ashton poured some healing potion on his hand and voila! The wound had healed completely.

"I guess this is it then..." Ashton mumbled and the following moment his legs gave out.

He wanted to continue looking for the hidden lair or the breeding grounds of the Monklins, but he was exhausted after taking down the Gorillan. It was better for him to rest a bit before hastily charging into the unknown as he did before with the Gorillan.

While he was laying down, a dangerous thought entered his mind. It was something he had not given attention to before as he was understandably preoccupied. Where the hell did Seven appear from out of nowhere?

'Was he hiding somewhere near? Or did he get here at the last moment by coincidence?' Ashton thought to himself, 'Even if I give him the benefit of doubt, it made no sense why he wanted to kill himself rather than killing the damned monster?'

He looked over at the unconscious knight who still had a look of surprise on his face.

"Looks like we'll have a long chat when you wake up."

Chapter 138 - Fame? No Thanks. (1)

As Ashton was expecting, the reinforcements arrived a few minutes later. Most of them were level 15 while a couple were at level 20 among the dozen people who showed up there. They probably wanted

to take credit for killing the gorillan because when they saw the beast was lying lifeless there, their faces fell.

But that did not stop some of those greedy bastards to try and salvage some materials from the gorillan. After all, despite having somewhat low levels, these creatures were quite rare and their bones and fur could fetch a high price.

However, before they could put their plan into action, Seven got back up and all of them immediately stopped. After all, none of them was neither brave nor foolish enough to anger a royal knight.

"The hell do you think you bastards are doing?"

"N-Nothing! We were just checking to see whether the monster was still alive or not." One of the adventurer's squealed before hastily backing away.

Although Seven was still a bit confused as to what had happened before he collapsed, he had more important things to take care of. Like protecting the monster's corpse from getting defiled by these punks.

"These corpse belongs to the participants of the raid. All of you please back off." Seven yelled back at them and surprisingly they obeyed his command.

'Looks like getting on the king's side was beneficial after all.' Ashton was silently observing everything from the sidelines, 'Looking at the difference of how these fckers were behaving before and now, they must be afraid of offending a royal knight. Should I try to bully these people after I become one as well? It would be fun but nah... too much fun isn't good for my health.'

"Where is he?" Ashton heard Renee's voice coming from the mob of adventurers, "Have you seen a white-haired kid?"

Ashton could hear her because of his perception when in reality, both of them were quite far away. Also, Ashton was not in the mood for a meet and greet session so he was hoping she wouldn't spot him. But one should never underestimate the eyesight of an archer.

A moment later she already spotted Ashton and raced towards him, while Fae barely managed to keep up to her speed. As he saw Renee rushing towards him, he tried to calmly stop her, but it seemed she had a different idea as she pulled him in for a hug into the vastness of her cleavage.

"The heck!" Ashton heard someone exclaim.

"Lucky bastard..." Yet another one chimed in.

"Maybe I should try finding another Gorillan..."

Ashton could feel the jealous eyes of the adventurers on him as Renee kept pulling him deep and deep into the valley of snu snu. Ashton could have easily pulled away if he wanted to. But since this was the first time he had a 'direct' non-aggressive contact with a female, he didn't know how to react to the softness of Renee's skin around his face.

Seven thought of intervening, but then changed his mind at the last second. Ashton had killed the Gorillan all by himself and it would be unfair if he didn't get some sort of reward for it, right?

"Renee, that's enough! Don't forget he's technically royalty!" Fae retorted, probably because she was not as endowed as Renee was in a certain department.

"Oh, my apologies! I got carried away!" Renee pulled back and immediately bowed before Ashton... but in doing so, she accidentally ended up headbutting his nose instead, "Fck! I'm sorry again!"

"Ish phine," Ashton somehow managed to get that out while covering his nose to stop the blood.

Although everyone had seen why Ashton's nose was bleeding, they could help but get suspicious that there was an entirely different reason for his nosebleed. This time, Seven intervened. Pulling a boy in cleavage and breaking his nose were two different things.

But Ashton gestured him to stop before Seven ended up doing something unnecessary.

"Lay back and let me take a look at it," Fae instructed Ashton who complied with the request.

A moment later Ashton's nose was fixed but he learned a valuable lesson that day. Women were very dangerous. Especially a woman like Renee. It was better if he stayed further away from her for the moment as he did not want his face to get restructured by her steel-like forehead...

Once he was all healed up, thanks to Fae, the girls respectfully apologised and thanked him for saving their lives. If he had not attacked the gorillan when he did, they would have certainly perished. They wanted to repay his kindness with anything he wanted but Ashton refused.

Probably because his intentions behind going after the gorillan weren't noble or some shit as these people were thinking. He did not save them or told them to leave out of goodwill. He simply wanted to all-out against the night creature and for that he needed them out of his sight.

After all, in the event they got to know about his secret, he would not have hesitated even for a second before killing them himself. And that would not have been 'noble' of him, would it?

But as usual, people were making him out to be a 'hero' for something he only did to fulfil his desire of levelling up and getting a class. Still, he couldn't simply tell them that now could he? Thankfully, Seven intervened before things could get out of hand again.

"I think we should head back to the guild to get the rewards and file a report. I think the assistant manager would be really interested in knowing how the gorillan died." Seven said with an enigmatic look, "But the rest of these people would have to stay back. After all, gorillans always move in pairs. They'd need to look out for his mate, the queen."

"Yeah. Let's get going. The travel portal should not be far from here.." Ashton agreed and the four of them left for the guild.

Chapter 139 - Fame? No Thanks. (2)

The portal network in Deja was much better than any other city in Lycania. This was obvious, since there wasn't any city as important as Deja, with maybe the exception of Contingent. It was thanks to this extensive network of portals Ashton and Seven were able to get back to the guild within minutes.

At the same time, 'butchers' were immediately deployed under Finnely's instruction. Butchers were the people who were experts in dismantling rare night creature corpses with minimal wastage. But since their talents were quite unique, the price for their service was also high. That's why most of the low ranking adventurers preferred to dismantle on their own.

However, if the killed beast was rare, they would often inform the guild about it who would send in some in-house Butchers to do it for them. In such an event the adventurers were adequately compensated and they didn't even have to pay for the butchers. In other words, it was a win-win situation for everyone.

But this time it was different. Although the Gorillan was a rare species and was always in demand by researchers, it wasn't worth it to send in a bunch of butchers. But Finnely did so as he was an opportunist.

Firstly, using the butchers would make Ashton see him in favourable light which in turn would get him closer to the king. And finally... he did not want to offend the king by letting them know that appearance of the gorillan wasn't a coincidence. As it all happened because of not properly researching the quest before handing it to Ashton.

If the king got to know about it, he would not be pleased and although he wouldn't do anything to him directly as every worker under the guild was protected by the guild master herself. But Finnely knew how king Jonathan was infamous for making the lives of those who cross him without getting involved by himself... through using the Conundrum.

Since no one knew who were the members of the CONundrum, even the guild master would not be able to protect him if Jonathan decided to hold him accountable in case anything happened to Ashton.

He was pacing up and down in his room ever since he got to know about the gorilla. But even then he wasn't worried all that much because a royal knight was with Ashton... that was until he heard the female archer say that it wasn't the royal knight facing the beast, but Ashton.

He was worried about Ashton's safety as it was directly linked to his. After all, that was what the king had written in the recommendation letter he sent along with the knight.

A moment later Finnely heard a knock on the door and rushed to open it immediately. His heart wasn't pounding or anything, but it was beating faster than it used to. Especially after he saw Ashton drenched in blood.

Thankfully, it didn't seem like he was injured or something. The same went for the knight accompanying him. A couple of moments passed and Finnely realised how weird his slacked jaw must be looking for the two of them and immediately regained his stoic demeanour.

"It's good to see both of you unharmed." he smiled before inviting them inside his office, "Would you like to have a drink or something?"

Seven was a bit thirsty and would love to drink some wine or beer to calm his nerves at the same time. But Ashton beat him to it and ordered some water. Seven threw Ashton a pleading look but Ashton completely ignored him.

After everyone got settled down, Finnely began talking once again.



"Firstly, I would like to apologise for the incompetence from the Guild's side. I have already launched an inquiry to punish everyone who was involved in the debriefing of the dungeon." Finnely breathlessly said, "On top of that, I am personally willing to compensate for the troubles you undoubtedly faced."

Ashton kept nodding every now and then as Finnely kept blabbering about things that were of no interest to him. He just wanted to get his reward and possibly to get to know what the guild would do now. But before he could start up with his enquiries, there were a couple of more things Finnely wanted to ask them.

"How did you manage to kill the gorilla?" However, to no one's surprise, he did not ask the question to Ashton but to Seven.

'This certainly makes things easier for me.' Ashton turned to face Seven and nodded.

Upon getting the 'signal', Seven started spouting bullshit about how he cornered the beast and killed him. Nonetheless, even though it was a made-up tale, the details of the events were extremely realistic. No 16-year-old kid went berserk and killed a being that was about 6 levels stronger than him.

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A few minutes before...

Ashton had already notified Seven about his intentions of making him the hero of all this because he did not want the guild to start investigating him. But that's not what he told Seven to persuade him. Instead, he blackmailed him using his loyalty to the king.

As they were on their way back to the guild, Ashton figured out the reason why Seven was about to kill himself right before the gorillan and used it as a bargaining chip.

As long as he did as Ashton told him to, he would keep what actually happened during the quest a secret and if Seven refused, Ashton would inform the king about the royal knight's failure to protect him. It was a dirty move but it was what Ashton needed in order to keep his identity and class a secret.

Although Ashton didn't know whether his hunch was correct or not, he had a feeling his class was something the rest of them wouldn't believe even existed. If they did, they would try to get their hands on him to learn more about him and how the heck he got such a broken class.

After Ashton was done blackmailing Seven, the latter only had one question.

"Don't you want the fame? I mean, it would be huge news. As far as I can remember, Gorillans are troublesome to deal with even if someone is at the same level as them and you killed it while being at a much lower level than him."

"Fame? No thanks. I don't like it when everyone's eyes are on me." Ashton sarcastically replied.

"Well, then you are doing a terrible job at it." Seven shook his head before knocking on the assistant manager's door.

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Back in the present...

Seven was finally done portraying himself as the main character and since he was a level 30 High warrior, Finnely had no reason not to believe him. But deep down he was hoping all this was a lie and the kid was somehow the hero. He didn't know why he was having such absurd thoughts but it was what it was.

After his first question was answered, Finnely immediately followed it up with his final question.

"Did you manage to find the gorillan's mate?"

Seven shook his head along with Ashton and as they did, Finnely's expression turned gloomy. Ashton did not understand why, but Seven did. He was about to explain it to Ashton earlier but then everything happened so quickly that he couldn't. But Finnely was more than happy to do so.

"Gorillans are always found in pairs, a male and a female. They only have three purposes in their lives. To have as much sex as they can, to eat as much as they can to fuel their lust and sleep as much as they can to recover their lost energy."

He continued, "Since you found a male there, it's highly plausible there was a female in the vicinity as well considering they do not leave each other side for extended periods of time. However, since you killed the male... the female would be enraged and would definitely seek revenge."

Ashton immediately understood where Finnely was going with this. The female was going to become the new source of trouble for them. In other words... by killing the gorillan Ashton had released a whole new can of worms in the forest.

"You don't have to worry about a thing." Finnely reassured them, "We will send the best adventurers we can to hunt down the remaining gorillan. In fact, I should thank you for leaving something for us. That's all I needed from you two. You can leave now if you want and don't forget to claim your rewards from Mithila at the counter."

They got up and left, leaving Finnely alone with his thoughts. He was a bit troubled. The fact that there was another gorillan inside the forest was quite obvious, but if the queen was present there, she would have intervened in the battle and protected her mate.

Which led to three possibilities. One, that the gorillan was a widower and had no mate, or two, the Gorillan queen has more than one mate and thus did not care about the gorillan enough to save him. And third, she was somewhere far away and could not respond to her mate's cries for help.

The chances of the first and last scenario of happening were quite high. Whereas, considering the explosive growth in the number of monklin in the forest in comparison to the last decade, the second scenario of multiple partners appeared to be... true.

"I can just hope my fears are unfounded. Having more than one partner could only mean the gorillan queen has evolved into something else entirely.. Something no one has ever faced and lived to tell the tale."

Chapter 140 - Investments (1)

Like Finnely had advised them, Ashton and Seven headed to claim their rewards for subduing the gorillan and clearing the main quest. On top of that as an added bonus, Seven would also be given additional rewards after the gorillan corpse was sold.

However, Seven was a man of honour and discipline. He wasn't going to claim a reward for something he had no part in achieving. Therefore, he immediately handed over the money he got to Ashton without a tinge of hesitation.

Ashton was a bit surprised by Seven's 'weird' behaviour but he wasn't someone who would say no to money, especially now that he could use mana. The money he had could be spent to get better skill pages or gear so that the next time he goes into a dungeon, he wouldn't have to get hit in order to restore his health.

But before going on a shopping spree, Ashton wanted to visit a certain someone.

"Seven, do you have any idea where Virgil could have been taken? I mean there are multiple hospitals in the capital if I remember correctly."

"There are, but considering they were only copper and iron ranked adventurers, they would probably have to use the hospital with cheaper services." Seven replied while bobbing his head back and forth, "Why do you ask? Are you planning on visiting him?"

"Yeah. It would be rude to not do so and I also have some business with him." Ashton replied with a stoic expression, "You can just show me the way and leave. I'm sure you must have gotten a bit tired."

"Follow me." Seven shook his head and started walking, completely ignoring what Ashton had said.

Ashton was not completely right in his assumptions. While Seven indeed wanted to end his day there, he wasn't that tired that he would need to get rest, he did want to visit someone special. After all, he could have lost her forever in Ashton had not made a miraculous recovery.

That being said, he was still Ashton's bodyguard and had to accompany him everywhere he went. Also, in case something happened to Ashton, he wouldn't have been save either. In other words, Ashton's and his lives were linked the moment he accepted to become his bodyguard. Either they both lived or he dies, that's all there was to it.

As they walked to the hospital where Virgil was probably admitted, Ashton wanted to know more about the capital city and Seven was more than happy to answer any question he had.

Back when Ashton arrived in the city with the mistress, he thought the mistress chose the portal as it was the fastest way to arrive there. However, Seven clarified that while the portals were indeed the safest and fastest way to travel, the portals in Deja had a special purpose.

because the portals were the only way in or out of the city As Deja was not part of the mainland Lycania, but an island southwest to the mainland. The capital was formed on the island due to the strategic importance of the place.

Since the secured and authorised portal were the only way in and out of the city, it was almost impossible to launch a surprise attack on the city. As the portals were under surveillance every second on the day, no one could have used them to invade the city.

If someone tried to, they would simply shut the portals off and the king and his family would escape through one of the innumerable hidden paths.

No one knew the location of all of these paths as only the members of the royal guard even knew about these paths and all of them only knew about a separate path that the other knights did not. In simpler words, each knight only knew about one path that no one else did, not even the king.

This was another added security measure to ensure that in an unfortunate event that a knight was captured by the enemy and was forced to reveal the location of a hidden path, they would only be able to tell them about a path that the king would most definitely not take.

As the secret of that path would only be known to that knight and not the others, who would use a different path to ensure that the king safely makes it out of the capital and into the mainland.

Even though Ashton did not want to admit it, their plan was certainly flawless or at least had no noticeable flaws that popped up in his mind at the moment.

'Looks like not all werewolves are fools drunk on power. I gotta admit, if I ever make a city or something, I'll incorporate this as well. But maybe with a bit more caution considering a royal guard is freely giving me all this information.'

Seven continued talking about the city and its significance. But the thing that stuck most with Ashton was that there was a temple in Deja. Something that Ashton had not seen or heard about in any of the other cities he had mentioned.

Apparently, the temple was the place where all of the healers had to take mandatory training. Sadly, only the healers were allowed to enter these premises and no one else as everyone else was 'sinful', whatever the heck that meant.

Ashton wasn't sure how many sins someone like him could have committed but he was sure being a mutt was one of them. Either way, other than the temple and the palace, there was also a marketplace where people could buy anything they needed, weapons, gear, potions... everything.

But Seven Advised Ashton that if he ever needed to buy something, he could consult him or the king first as the royal family and the royal guards had their personal blacksmiths, potioners as well miscellaneous workers. Ashton made a mental note of everything Seven had to say about Deja and finally, they arrived at the hospital.

'Time to recruit someone else on the team.'