

Beast Master 1331

Chapter 1331 The Right Vibe

Rae's design plan was to have the buildings start out a bit shorter, with the classrooms making up the first ring around the tower, as the grounds closest to it were outdoor training areas already.

There was no reason to change what was working, and having the shortest buildings in the middle allowed her to create the visual impression that the tower was an object caught in the web, weighting it down.

Her first decision was what colour the new buildings should be. The old ones were boring, made of mostly bricks.

That design didn't blend in with anything, and it didn't really work with the vibe she was going for.

"Powerful enough to protect hatchlings" was what Rae wanted the Academy to convey.

Making everything out of easy to climb and easy to destroy brick wasn't exactly a statement of power.

But dark and brooding wasn't well suited to the open plains, where the Academy was situated. It would be better to go with something more nature themed. Trees might be a bit too hippie. But there had to be a compromise in between going full nature priest and full spider goddess.

Then she had a most brilliant idea. They could go fully modern instead.

The central spire was a huge white stone spire, and the thought of making a whole academy out of such bright stone gave Rae the ick. However, she could make it all out of crystal, and that would be pretty good.

All crystal wasn't really practical.

But the reflective windows of the Capital's big buildings were reflective. So, she could use them for the shiny bits. Then the local tan sandstone for the rest.

Make the Academy blend in with the surroundings, like the stones of the badlands.

Or a giant anthill.

Still good enough for a hive of humans.

Karl tried not to laugh as Rae rapidly adjusted what she thought that the buildings should look like, and then did it over again, when she realized that you couldn't have both sandstone and walls of mirrored windows.

She could have sandstone lower levels, with mirrored glass spires out of the buildings that should be taller, though.

And rounded walkways, so they looked like they were made of webbing nets.

[Make them open, but protected from rain and cold with a barrier.] Hawk suggested.

Then, it wouldn't feel like they were trapped inside, even if they were out of the rain.

Karl was beginning to fear the nightmare of impossible physics that Rae's design was going to turn into. Fortunately, Remi had architecture books with her. They would serve as the basis for the buildings, and then magic would make the rest of Rae's plans possible.

Working with mental communications, the whole plan was finished in five minutes, and Karl had just started to clean up the ground level.

The teachers were already going through the ruins of the buildings, separating surviving supplies and materials from the rubble, while the blue dragons frantically sorted through the Library's ruins, recovering scrolls and books.

They wouldn't be ready to start working nearly as early as Karl had initially expected.

For one, there were all the personal items in the dorms that would need to be collected, but all of the academy equipment that was still salvageable in the rubble.

"We should probably bring everyone up out of the bunkers so they can try to recover what's left of their personal items." Karl suggested.

The Headmaster shook his head.

"No, that will only cause more chaos. Grab the equipment that we can't replace, and the Academy will issue store credits for the rest. If it were valuable, it would be in their inventory. Nobody leaves valuables loose in their rooms."

Karl shook his head. "I meant more sentimental. The sort of things that would be up on the walls, or displayed on their desk. But I can sort through that as we work, and then put everything that survived into the lost and found for them to search later."

Cara tilted her head a little. [I can do that. Just give me few more hours and I will be mobile again.]

[Is that wound healing?] Karl asked gently.

[Not really. But it's bandaged and stitched, so I'm recovering slowly. I would say that it's going to be a month or two before I'm fully healed, unless Big Sister

Matilda helps me out.

She's a bit busy at the moment.

The crazy Octopus had friends who are upset that she ate him. Apparently, he was someone's rebellious pet, and they are not happy that he broke half their nature preserve out and got himself killed.]

Something had a Supreme Ranked Octopus as a pet?

No, it was better not to dwell on that part of the conversation.

[Alright, we can wait for your wounds to heal before you come out to join the team. Who wants to be on collection duty? Grab anything that looks precious as we work through the rubble.]

[Oh, I will do that. We're almost done cleaning up here. We just need to save the Dana Mage from the Beast Temple Acolytes. She's really popular.] Tian

suggested.

[Is all the fighting done?]

[Yep. And we cleaned up, and cooked some barbecue, and now we're

celebrating some of the little ones advancing.] Tian agreed.

[And that's why Dana can't escape, isn't it? She's covered in puppies and

hatchlings.]

Tian laughed. [She's got a baby snake in her hair with no intentions of leaving.]

[I would suggest turning off Fox Charm, but I don't think that it would help. Even without the active, the passive is always on at some level.] [Yeah, we tried that. It didn't help. If you try to separate them from the Dana,

they cry.]

Karl's laughter caught the attention of the teachers, but he just tapped his head, letting them know that it was something going on elsewhere, and that he wasn't laughing at Rae's planning session, or their discussion of what to salvage before the area was cleared.

[They all think we're crazy anyhow. Don't worry about it too much.] Cara informed him in a smug tone that was somehow still pained. [We're trying to make a good impression. All heroic and such. Remember?]

[Overrated.]

Chapter 1332 And The Right Magic

Dana never did manage to fully escape from the Beast God Acolytes, and ended up leaving a portal to the temple open when she returned, carrying a Gryphon puppy, with a Spirit Snake in her hair.

"I hear that we're planning to... What did you do to the Academy?"

Karl waved to her, and the snake in her hair waved back, wiggling its head.

"I might have landed on it in dragon form. Things got a bit out of hand, but there is one surviving building, and the underground bunkers are safe. We even got to the generator back online, so the students are safe while they wait for us.

Tian volunteered to look for precious items in the rubble to put in the lost and found." Karl explained.

"And what will the Academy do now that everyone is homeless?" Dana asked. "They won't be for long. Rae is going to help us rebuild. Between me, Tian and Leo, we can come up with enough basic structure that we can make a whole new Academy."

[Me? I don't know that magic.] Leo replied.

[Don't know that magic yet. I will talk to the dragons to get you plant growth type magic, so you can do the woodworking for us.]

The turtle nodded slowly. If that was how they wanted to do it, it wasn't a problem. Tian and Opal were back now, and their magic would take care of most of the things. You didn't need a lot of real wood when you could emulate it with advanced illusions.

Secure in the knowledge that he wouldn't actually be asked to do an excessive amount of work, the Turtle floated out of his space to examine the rubble of the Academy firsthand.

[It doesn't smell like salt here. This place is weird.] He decided.

[You're over a thousand kilometres from the ocean. Of course, it doesn't smell like salt water.] Hawk noted.

That was one of its best selling points.

As he floated over the rubble, Leo started to collect anything that didn't look like building or furniture, just using gravity magic to pick it up and put it in his space.

There were a lot of little things in the dorm spaces, and as he sorted the rubble, he just kept finding more of them under the layers of stone.

The other buildings likely wouldn't have much, but the job was surprisingly easy now that he had gotten started. They would be finished with the personal belongings long before the dragons were finished with the Library.

The Academy Library didn't actually contain many valuable or rare tomes. Any of those that arrived here were specifically ordered for students who needed them. But there were large numbers of textbooks, reference materials, and other books that needed to be rescued.

Fortunately for Rae, she could work around the area where the Library was. [Karl, let's get going. Start your spell thing.] She demanded.

[What do you even want me to start with?]

Rae sighed. [Right. One building at a time, we can't do everything at the same time.]

In theory, it was possible. But trying to make that many buildings and the complex spells that would form their amenities, while also removing the rubble, was not a simple matter, and Rae's focus bounced around too much for the formation of the spell.

Karl and Tian began with the elimination of the Rubble, using [Earth Manipulation] to turn it into the basis for the lower levels of the structures, while also digging the basements and the footings for the new towers. They would need to support a lot of weight, or the Academy would end up tilting, and that would be a whole new level of chaos.

With Mythic Rank magic, it was no problem to bring magically reinforced pillars up from the deepest bedrock, or to create a reinforced stone supportive grid to keep the buildings from breaking free of their anchors.

Later construction would have to work around it if they wanted to go deeper than where the existing underground structures were, but that was a problem for the next team.

With Rae's guidance, they made the whole underground lattice, and then the pillars to support the entire complex first, before finishing the buildings that would make up the inner ring.

These were the classrooms, the boring areas.

Rae's plan was that as people could be packed into their seats, these could be the smallest buildings, and they would be the least valuable structures if the tower was attacked.

They were also the easiest for everyone to make, as they were just stone boxes with lights and classrooms. There wasn't even a good reason to build traps and fun stuff into them.

That let her finish them quickly and move on to connecting them with a walkway on the third level, then building the second ring.

This would be the first residential area.

If she made two rings of residential, she could make extra nice ones for the seniors and teachers, then an outer ring for the newbies and weak ones.

There were more of them than there were strong people, so they needed the bigger ring.

The staff of the Academy watched in awe as Rae began her work on the residential ring of the new academy design. Their expressions slowly turned from wonder to confusion, and back to wonder as the new Academy buildings were assembled by Karl, guided by the visions of the beasts, from the base structure out.

Fortunately for the technologically minded Golden Dragon Nation, this time Remi had learned basic architecture, so they weren't just relying on magic and luck to keep the buildings intact.

If they had built them the way that they had built Drodh's first upgraded development, there was a strong chance that none of the teachers would dare

to move in.

As it was, the teachers' major concern was all the additional magic that Karl

was adding, and the dozens of rune carved stones that Leo was floating around and dropping into the basements of the new buildings before the structures

were added.

A little warning about what they might find when they moved in would have

been nice.

Chapter 1333 Interior Enhancement

[What are we allowed to do to the inside of the residential area?] Opal asked as Karl finished the first ring of residential buildings.

[Nothing that will actually hinder the students who are staying in the dorms. I am going to add runes to create suite by suite Illusionary Domains for you to shape, just try to add things that will help them train or study, and make them for at least half warrior classes.

There are always so many more base warriors than anyone else that we don't want to run out of suitable rooms for them.] Karl explained.

[Got it. I will work on rooms for the warriors, then make half of them work for other classes as well. Everything but clerics, right? If I remember, the clerics get their own place.] Opal agreed.

[That's right. They have a separate academy where they learn all the religious doctrine and the magic that is specific to the clerics.

Remi, can you go find me a blue dragon and get us some nature magic type spells for Leo? Tell them that I have two new spells that I will donate to their Library in exchange, but I don't have time to make them until I'm finished here.] Karl instructed.

[Will do! Oh, I should bring the Wendy back! No, she's busy in Drodh, doing the same thing that we are. Never mind.] Remi decided.

The young Oni Demon had gained the Demonic Array Master class, and she had the Runecrafting skill, so she was particularly well suited to making new buildings that were imbued with creative forms of magic.

More people collaborating on how to do the interiors would make them much more fun.

Even Rae agreed.

Karl considered the dilemma for a moment, then smirked. [I have the solution.] He opened the Tiny World just a bit, letting in the mana of the Immortal Realm at a very low dose, so that he could use it to modify the mana of the space later, but also help the hatchlings grow.

Then, he went looking for people who weren't busy.

Librarian Ike, Bertie the Red Dragon, and Button, plus Lyric, who was supposed to be accompanying Button anyhow.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, sorry to wake you from your naps. However, I need your assistance with this spell. I will extend the group ritual to you, and you will be pulled into a mind link to help us reform the Academy.

We need your inputs and specific magics to help us properly form dorms for students." Karl explained.

To say Button was excited to be included might have been the year's greatest understatement.

"I get to help! Nice. Okay. Hey, I can hear your thoughts. Wow, that building is huge. Sister Bertie, can we have a huge shining tower too? With a blanket fort on the top."

The red dragon laughed. "Yes, we can make one later. First, we will make the new school for the humans, and then when we get home, we can talk about making new buildings for the hatchling school."

It would be a real life practice run for the upgrades to their living spaces in the Tiny World.

It took them a few minutes to get up to speed on what Rae had already done, and the interior layout of the dorms, which were rapidly being changed as Karl mentally copied the runes for the [Illusionary Domain] spell onto the walls of every suite.

That, they realized, was where they came in.

What the caster visualized could come to life in the illusion, and Opal would make it permanent.

[Reality Warp] her new Mythic Ranked skill, was perfect for creating rooms. They would be Mythic Ranked solid objects, and even if they were destroyed, the whole room could be reset to default state by a teacher in a matter of seconds.

That gave them a lot of leeway to work with, while the creativity of the beasts and Button made the rooms much more interesting than anything that Bertie or Ike would have added.

"If you needed that sort of creativity, why call us?" Ike asked.

"Because I don't know all the spells that need to be added. If you focus on adding a spell into the Illusionary Domain, I will be able to understand the runes needed to imbue the effect.

It's a workaround to my limitations, like having you enchant an object for me to add runes to. Only, you're adding real magic to an illusory world. There are a few things that you will need to make on your own, though. I need nature stones for the kitchens, and I need someone to teach Leo, our hard shelled friend, how to use plant growth magic, so he can rebuild the gardens and forests around the Academy.

At Mythic Rank, it will be much faster for him to do it than to have anyone else try." Karl explained.

The blue dragon smiled. "I will give him the spells he needs now. We have them all prepared for the nature dragon type hatchlings, plus some extras, in case someone eats a book they were supposed to learn."

Button laughed at his words, and the dragon sighed.

You couldn't give a baby dragon anything without them trying to eat it. Getting them to understand that books were for learning took constant supervision until the newborns understood that a full mind was just as important as a full

belly.

Ike handed over a stack of books, and Leo came down to join the group, instead of floating overhead where he had a better view.

[Sister Opal, you should make a separate illusion where they can stand and work on rooms. It's easier to visualize if you're in the illusion that needs to be

transferred.] Leo suggested.

Tian stared at his new brother in shock. That was absolutely brilliant.

They had been on the ground, trying to visualize the changes they wanted to make to the rooms, when they could have just made the rooms inside an illusion, and then had Opal imprint the vision onto the magical runes.

Chapter 1334 Dorms Done

Karl smiled as the group started to get excited, and Leo pressed his nose against the stack of books.

{Skill Learned} [Plant Growth]

{Skill Learned} [Advanced Food Creation]

{Skill Learned} [Create Water]

{Skill Learned} [Mend Object]

Those were all spells taught to the clerics, including the basic repair spell that Tessa and Lotus had used dozens of times to repair their clothing and equipment in the past.

Now, Karl usually just made new things to replace the broken ones, but that hadn't always been an option, and Mend Object, or the advanced versions that the clerics had, was a lifesaver.

Karl continued to add runes to the rooms as Rae, Remi and Cara shaped the buildings. Then, Opal, Tian and the others formed the interiors.

Opal made them a simple workspace, where they could add effects and decor to the rooms.

"Don't spend too much time per room. We've got thousands to do, so just make a dozen or so templates, and then you can apply them to every residential floor." Karl warned.

Opal mentally grumbled. Twelve room designs for a whole tower was no fun. But the Karl was right about making thousands of individual ones taking far too long.

Already, Sister Rae was three buildings ahead of them on the construction, and she was getting faster as she practiced.

{These are the newbie buildings} Tian explained so that the dragons would understand what they needed in the rooms.

"Alright, we will save the elaborate additions for the teachers and senior students. Wait, are these apartments or dorms? Why does that pattern have a kitchen?" Bertie asked.

{That one's for the Alchemists.} Tian explained proudly.

If they weren't Alchemists when they arrived, they soon could be, with a fully stocked lab space in their room.

Or, it could just go to a foodie like Hawk, who would make fancier dishes than what the cafeteria offered. He did recall the bird saying that getting raw ingredients and cooking for yourself was an option before.

But the units didn't usually have a full kitchen. At most, a hot plate and a small fridge.

That was already pushing the culinary limits of most of the students, and when there was professionally made food available downstairs, it wasn't a big deal that the dorms didn't have much for cooking facilities.

The new layout was sure to cause some staffing issues, though. Every residential building had a cafeteria or restaurant at the bottom of it, which spread the cooking staff over many new locations, and Karl had no idea if they had enough staff for that.

[Should we add staff to the illusions, now that the dragons are adding spells to create food?] Opal asked.

[That's not a bad idea. A scary lunch lady is necessary to every cafeteria.] Thor agreed.

Karl chuckled at his insistence. If he saw that old lunch lady now, she wouldn't be nearly as scary as when he was a baby bird that didn't know whether he could take extra plates of raw meat.

But he also had the Mystic Cooking skill, so they could make a really good lunch lady.

The dragons didn't realize what was going on until Karl started to form the spells for the kitchen.

"What are you doing?" Ike asked as Karl formed the runes to add the chefs to the building.

"I'm helping them sort out staffing. We have the Mystic Cooking skill available to many of our staff members in Zilaz, so I thought that adding some constructs who could use it here in the kitchens of the Academy would benefit everyone.

The meals that they make can add bonuses to the one who eats them, so they should be more effective at training students than just letting them go by trial and error.

The Golden Dragon Nation is lagging behind both in skills and resources, so I intend to give them a hand up, and allow them to at least compete to the best of their abilities on the continent.

That way, they shouldn't be left behind or invaded as the mana level starts to increase.

They're getting more Totems on this continent now, and that suggests that they will start having mythic leaders soon, similar to the Dragon Isles.

But this continent isn't at all prepared for that change in power levels. Karl explained.

"That's a lot of words for 'I'm helping my friends power level' isn't it?" Ike asked.

"No, we've got other buildings in the complex for that. This one is just dinner."

The blue dragon smirked at Karl's flippant answer, but he wasn't lying. Blue dragons always knew when someone lied to them.

But the process wasn't destined to be as horrible as he had expected. Once the first building of a design was up, they directly duplicated it for the adjoining buildings, with identical rooms and basic enchantments in each.

The amount of mana involved was immense, and the buildings were recreated from the ground up, with runes engraved in every room as it was constructed, then protective spells layered over the entire structure.

The dorms for the teachers were nearly the same in design, except that Rae made them into proper apartments, with separate bedrooms, a full kitchen, and a suspicious number of hard points to hang training equipment from. What she thought that the teachers were going to be training for in their rooms was a mystery, but when Karl asked, Rae was adamant that any fewer would

lead to a shortage.

Overall, the whole complex turned out rather well, Karl thought. He still had hundreds of runic enhancements to make, but the kitchens had a cook that could make their food products, the dorms had furniture, the connecting hallways had security traps, and the building itself was protected by an Eternal Lightning barrier, so that nothing under the Mythic Rank was likely to cause serious property damage in the future.

All that was left were the smaller details, and then bringing everyone out of the bunkers to retrieve their personal belongings from the lost and found piles.

Chapter 1335 Double The Fun

At the Guild House in Drodh, everyone was working hard to keep the city operational, while the Earth Magic users planned the reconstruction of the city. The situation was far more casual than either Thor or Tessa had expected, given that there were now Dwarves from two different nations here to assist Lord Drodh in the project.

It had started with just the Dwarves of Bara, but their initiative had brought over a delegation from the city of Amunz in Zindab. Dwarven craftsmen were intensely competitive, and the chance to fully redesign and rebuild a city didn't come around very often.

It would be a lasting monument to the craftsmanship of the ones who rebuilt it, and that wasn't a chance that they were willing to pass up.

The capital of Zindab had taken an attack, but the nation was heavily populated, and there were millions of residents, including hundreds of Mythic Rank adventurers, close enough to respond when the portals opened.

They shouldn't have worried much, though.

Zindab was not just home to an enormous population of Hill Dwarves, it was also home to an enormous population of Hill Giants.

The two groups did not get along well, but when someone dared to attack them, they were willing to forego their millennia long rivalry for the day.

The invaders never stood a chance.

Lord Drodh didn't mind at all that there was competition to rebuild his city. In fact, they were even haggling down the cost as part of their argument over who got to do the work.

He already knew what the eventual outcome would be. One team would rebuild the Redwood Sprawl, while the other would work on the Forest Gate district and the Fool's Walk, also known as the riverfront shopping district.

That was the more prestigious section, and the right that they were currently arguing for.

But Tessa had an idea that might help things along.

"You know, the layout of the city doesn't have to be the same after the construction as before.

As long as there is enough housing for everyone who survived, and then a bit more for the next generation, you can completely change it up. Why not expand the shopping district to both sides of the river, and add a few more bridges?

Well, the bridges need repair anyhow, so you could just expand them as well. Our craftsmen from the Darklight Host are already working to rebuild the Frostfire Gate district outside the walls, so there isn't nearly as much worry about emergency housing, and you can just focus on making the inner city into somewhere that people would actually like to live.

The two districts that took the most damage were both older districts, primarily occupied by workers, so they'll need a bit of everything, and this is a chance to make all new landmarks for them." She repeated, trying to bring them back on track.

"Right, right. How are we going to work this? On pure visual appeal, structural integrity or something else?" One of the Dwarves asked.

Tessa smiled. "Oh no, that would be too easy. Sturdy buildings are a given, with you making them. So, we will go on two factors. Visual appeal and... Sales. Whatever team can create a shopping district that draws more customers over the month after completion wins.

Then, we can judge the residential areas separately on efficiency, resident satisfaction, and any other factors you would like."

That was enough to get the Dwarves going, and within minutes, blueprints were being made and the arguments between the two sides nearly stopped. Other than sporadic insults about the differing design styles of the other group. While they argued, Rae and Karl finished the outer rings of buildings in the new Academy layout, while Leo used his new skills to regrow trees and grass in the surrounding area.

The students needed somewhere to train outdoors, and Leo was certain that they also needed sports fields to help them unwind.

With berserkers, how could they not need contact sports?

From the top of the Trial Tower, Rac examined her hard work. It had turned into a most wonderful web, almost like a glittering glass and steel forest growing up out of the grasslands.

Leo had done his best to reconstruct the areas around the Academy, but a few

of their favourite things were going to need repairs by someone else.

Like the railroad tracks, and Hawk's beloved field of earth mice, which were

almost all wiped out by the aftermath of the battle.

A few had survived, but not enough to make for an entertaining route to the Academy this year.

All that was left was one final feature. The Rogue Training course.

The others had left the illusion for that building alone. Rae was the resident

expert on the topic, and not even the dragons they had brought out to help had wanted to mess with her vision.

[Rae, why are you blocking your thoughts?] Karl asked as she got started on the project.

[It's a surprise.]

Karl frowned. He was not the one who would be doing the course.

Whatever. If Rae terrified the Rogues, it could be mental fortitude training.

Inside the Illusionary Domain, Rae formed an eternally dark evening, lit only by moonlight. Then she added a lovely forest, with some less threatening residents, like the steel weaver spiders, some dire wolves and tree pythons.

Then, she added a few replicas of her favourite art installations to remind the students which areas were more dangerous, and started on the interior training

course.

The design of the house was a maze, while the whole place was made to look like a crumbling cabin in the woods, with an extensive underground tunnel and

room network.

Some sections were military style labs, some were monster caves. But the challenge level could be controlled by a teacher from the entrance to the training area, and she put in automatic teleportation triggers as safety

measures.

Some of the traps would otherwise be fatal, so she set them to transport the Rogues to a safe spot instead of letting them splatter on the bottom of a pit full of spikes, assuming they fell that far.

Triggering the trap was only a partial fail if you could stop your descent.

If you triggered it and hid inside, then reset the trap, it was an excellent hiding spot. So, she didn't want the trap to trigger the safety too early.

Chapter 1336 Haunted House

"Alright, I am finished. If you want to send a rogue through, they should be able to test my obstacle course.

I did make a map for the teachers, in case someone gets confused. But there are controls by the door, so you can just teleport lost students back to you at the end of class." Rae explained as Karl finished the last of the runes to make her vision into permanent reality.

The exact details were obscured by the illusion spell, but some things, like the undead armies, the golems and other actual threats needed to be created separately, or they wouldn't react properly.

Niall appeared next to Rae and took the map from her.

"Oh, you're here too. Good to see you. I made a section in here just for you. You can't get to it without permission, or without opening the vault door. See, right there is the Inquisition training area." Rae explained.

"And what is that?" Niall asked.

"It's wonderful. Nothing but a crowded temple with one golem hidden among the illusionary occupants, so that students can hunt the traitor. I designed twenty different betrayal situations, some up to a week long, if it takes them that long." Rae explained with immense pride.

Niall stared at her in impressed shock.

"That is above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you, Lady Rae. Teaching students how to use their skills is one thing. Teaching them how to use their brains is much more difficult.

Especially when the enemy looks like a friend."

Rae smirked. "Some of us understand that better than others. Sister Lotus is still mad that someone killed her pet frog"

The Inquisitor, made a 'get on with it' gesture, hoping for an explanation.

"She has a skill called [If Not Friend, Why Friend Shaped?] and she used it to tame one of the invading frogs in Drodh. Unfortunately, that only makes wild beasts friendly to her, and nobody else got the memo, so one of the Myths killed it."

Niall looked at the map of the training grounds, then smiled. "What is the goal of the forest?"

"You can use it two ways. Either to test combat abilities, or you can set a prize in the forest and have the students hunt for it with strong monsters around. That should test their stealth skills and their navigation abilities." Rae offered.

"And how many of the students should we expect to cry or wet themselves the first time they enter the trials?"

"Not more than half."

Niall laughed at her estimate. If nothing else, it would make their rogues into hardened Elites and not soft school children by the time that they had to go out into the world.

Then he turned to one of the teachers, a young man in leather armour. "Professor, would you like to test the trial grounds? Lady Rae is quite creative, and you have many self rescue skills for individual missions.

There are safety measures installed as well, but someone needs to test the layout to ensure it's suitable."

Niall winked at Rae, who smiled at the teacher in a way that made his blood run cold.

He definitely got the feeling that this was not a child-friendly installation.

"Alright. You set the scenario, and I will run through a mission." He reluctantly agreed.

Niall nodded and stepped into the training area, then stifled a laugh at what he saw. There was a floating magical screen with training missions right at the entrance, so he picked a building exploration one, and called for the teacher.

"Come in."

The professor stepped in with his eyes closed, to keep from being blinded by the change of light, then immediately shrieked when he opened them.

His blade was in his hand, and his heart was beating hard in his chest by the time that he realized the gruesome sight in front of him was not a zombie giant, but a pair of Hill Giants impaled on spikes and used as lantern holders.

"Gods, what is wrong with you? Are you trying to scare me to death?" He demanded.

"Hey, they were here when I arrived. The mission is to find the hidden intelligence in the basement of the house. The scenario doesn't provide any information other than that it's in the basement, and that there are guard animals on duty, so approach stealthily." Niall informed him with growing glee. Rae was quite proud of her art installation. It was a huge hit on the battlefield the first time that she had brought it out. But here in a dark forest, with the art moved back into the trees, it was even better.

What the original needed was just the right setting. Here in the dark, with the glowing stones in their eye sockets, the corpses of the Giants gave a menacing presence, enhanced by a bit of trickery from Rae's work, so that anyone who entered would feel the ominous aura that properly suited her training grounds.

The Rogue Class teacher quickly schooled his expression, and activated a stealth skill to move to the open door of what looked like a decrepit cabin.

But he didn't enter.

First, he circled the house, looking for side entrances, basement windows, and anything else that would give him a hint about what he would find inside.

The basement had a single light, not enough to illuminate the whole room, but enough that you couldn't move easily without risking being seen, should there be someone in the basement.

Other than that, it was mostly open, loaded with stored trinkets and junk.

That would make it harder to find what he needed, and the teacher silently cursed Rae in his mind.

But [Shadow Step] took him into a dark corner of the basement, and the search was on. The only problem was that [Track Magical Items] was leading him to a corner of the basement where there was no chance that the item might be in the piles.

Carefully, he moved across the room, and examined the wall that his skill was

leading him to.

A hidden door.

Of course, it wouldn't be as simple a mission as digging through piles of junk in the basement. But without a specific skill targeting magical items, he would

have had to check.

That spider and the inquisitor really knew how to mess with you.

Chapter 1337 Elite Academy Life

"Can more enter while he is working?" Inquisitor Niall asked as he watched the replay from the teacher's station at the entrance to the Rogue Training building.

Rae nodded happily. "You can come and go freely. It isn't an instance like the Trial Tower. But that also means if someone kills the living things inside, you'll have to use mana to replace them.

Most of them are part of the illusionary domain, and easy to replace. But some of the stronger ones are actual golems and summoned creatures.

Those will take more mana.

The adjustment for the power level of the creatures inside is here on the panel. I set it to default to Commander Rank, which is manageable for all the teachers, but you can turn it all the way up to Totem Rank if you want."

The Rogue stared at Rac for a moment, and the spider shrugged. "What? Your skills will get rusty if you don't practice, and I give you another four hours before you're forced to advance to the Totem Rank just by standing here."

Still, a Totem Ranked haunted forest was a bit excessive in a facility designed to train children.

Karl watched their interaction, and decided to add a few details for clarity.

"The spell itself is Mythic Rank. The fact that it stops at Totem Ranked is for safety. You see, the Mythic Blessing reduces damage by ninety percent. So, the core structure of the spell will only take ten percent damage from Totem Ranked targets, meaning that it is easier to repair and maintain.

But it also will only take one percent damage from students, as the Totem and Mythic Blessings stack.

At that rate, the natural regeneration of most of the elements in an Illusionary Domain will cause them to self repair without anyone having to take direct action." He explained.

"That is true for every training building that we constructed. So, if someone can find Professor Tank, he can go wild in the Berserker Training room without worrying too much about damaging stuff.

Well, as long as the students are in the safe room. The aftershocks of a Totem Ranked battle normally cover many kilometres, so they'll be bouncing off the walls of the Domain." Rae added.

That was one complication that they hadn't been able to remove. The Illusionary Domain could only be so much bigger than the building that they put it in, but the shockwaves of a high-level battle covered quite a large area.

As evidenced by the lack of any standing trees within fifty kilometres of the Academy.

It was a good thing that Karl and Oobleck hadn't fought a running battle, or they would have almost certainly gotten one or two towns within the radius of their destruction.

While the foliage wouldn't survive any better next time, there might still be some buildings standing if another similar fight occurred over the Academy.

It wasn't much, but even if Karl crashed down on the Rogue training building, it would only punch a hole in the roof.

"That is going to be incredible. You did create some extra space in the dorms, right?" Niall asked.

Rae nodded, then winked at him. "I also made an extra building styled as apartments, just in case you have a sudden surge in teaching staff."

Niall smiled, then paused.

"You didn't add it out of benevolence, did you? It's there because you didn't want to mess up the pattern of the web you created, and there were identical buildings at the other three cardinal directions." He realized.

"Oh, he's good. Yes, I put it there for symmetry. But the current teaching staff only needs two buildings, and not even all of the two buildings, so there is an extra for teachers and a building for guests. Rae explained.

"Rae designed enough space for the student population of the Academy to triple. That might put a strain on teaching staff, but if things keep up the way they've been going, you'll need all the space and possibly a second Academy location." Karl informed the gathered staff.

Rita shrugged. "Another Academy Location is inevitable. We have been calculating the number of likely students, and there are already plans to create one in the Capital. The new potion that Remi gave us has awakened so many students that we're hardly using the skill forcing method these days, and we're getting over half the students as Elites."

Karl smirked at her. "Soon, you will have to rename them. When half the population has a Class, 'Elite' doesn't hit quite the same."

Rita rolled her eyes. "You know, they're only Elites after they graduate, right? We're considering changing the graduation requirements so that only the strongest gain the title of Elite, while the majority of the population might have a class, but not the status.

It will be hard on the pride of the older generations, but many of our students have already started to call us 'legacy' Elites.

They know that things have changed, and the new generation is growing faster than any before them. Look at Sybil. She's already as powerful as I am, and she's barely old enough for a standard admission."

Karl shook his head. "Sybil is a special case. How are her cars doing, by the way?"

"Still sensitive. Most of the time, she wears earplugs to dampen the excess noise. But when she's working, they're possibly her most valuable asset. You can't even hide by staying perfectly still because she will hear your heartbeat."

Rita explained.

Rae smiled. "We should make her a vampire. She would be an amazing vampire with hearing like that."

Sybil frowned at her. "Thank you, but no changing my species. How would you even do that?"

Rae shrugged. "There has to be some way. I'm sure that if I asked Nilla he would know the answer. You would like him, Nilla is funny, and his blood smells like

cookies."

Sybil rolled her eyes. She was not the least bit interested in how the vampire's blood smelled.

Chapter 1338 Let Them Out

"Should we start letting everyone out of the bunkers now that the new

Academy is complete?" The Headmaster asked, eager to get the rest of the day underway.

"I don't see why not. Just get some teachers to work the lost and found pile. Everyone will be eager to recover what they can of their personal belongings, and then you can start sorting them into their new dorms.

You might want to send the teachers through first, though.

If they know the layouts, they'll be better prepared to get their students into the right room for their skills and personality."

Opal's avatar, an Elf with her wings on its back, waved at Karl to get his attention.

"We still have illusionary replicas of the rooms active. They can just look inside and pick the one that they like best. I will lock the doors as we run out of each specific design in their designated building" She suggested.

That sounded like a much more efficient method than making the teachers sort it out and analyze the choices. Fortunately, they had watched the process, and had some idea what each dorm was like.

That would let the students with individual tutors have an advantage.

Well, the individual tutors who were powerful enough to have been on guard above ground. So, only a few dozen of them at most, out of thousands.

"Headmaster, you can start bringing everyone up at your discretion. I recommend one bunker at a time, but you can prioritize however you want." Karl offered.

The Headmaster nodded. The best way would be to get the teachers settled first, but they couldn't take all the teachers out of the bunkers and leave just students.

There would be panic, and that would slow down the rest of the process.

So, it would be best to settle the teachers last.

They could help the students get settled, then find their own new dorms at the end of the day. They would also have the most personal items to replace, as the students arrived with nothing, and everything they had was likely to have come from the Academy warehouse, which was collapsed, but mostly salvageable.

Looking at the collection of resources, Karl had to sigh. It was junk. It was all junk.

Fortunately for the Academy, they had a solution already created. The new supply room could turn out metal weapons and armour made of higher grade materials, and while they might not be enchanted, much less Runecrafted, they were still better than what was available before.

Earth Manipulation couldn't make some of the higher grade metals, which were imbued with mana and carried their own magic. But for basic metals and stones, there was no trouble at all.

It could even make Mana Jade up to Overlord quality.

Good enough for anything that the Academy would be turning out in the near future. Even on the Dragon Isles, if you were getting close to Overlord Rank, you were normally well past your school years.

But he really should teach the skill to a few teachers in the crafting section how to use Runecrafting, so they could make better stuff for the students.

They had given the Golden Divine Academy a new garden, an Illusionary Domain with excellent growing conditions and intensified mana, thanks to a mana crystal designed to emit excess into the area. But while that would help them grow replacement magical resources, someone still needed to make the armour and weapons.

Remi giggled at the thought. [Full Role Reversal. Now, we're back making a whole new academy, and providing the resources that they didn't have to help us. Next, you'll have to start teaching classes here, become a guest lecturer and complete the loop.]

The thought was hilarious to Remi, seeing Karl teaching a whole class full of children.

Then, it occurred to her that it could happen with whole classes full of baby dragons, and suddenly it made a whole lot more sense.

It was just that humans weren't cute enough for the thought to make sense. If it was beasts, then it was completely normal for the Karl to be the one teaching them.

The first bunker's residents began to make their way to the surface, and Karl noted that it was mostly the Berserker Class students, along with the Agility Warriors, who trained in the same section of the courtyard.

With all the old buildings gone, he had lost his points of reference. But the students had it much worse.

They didn't know that the old Academy was gone until they reached the surface, and saw that there was a gleaming city built where their homes should

have been.

"Professor Tank? What happened? Where are we? Has anyone seen my lucky bottle cap collection?" The berserkers asked all at once.

"The Academy was attacked and heavily damaged. It was rebuilt while you were in the bunkers, and now we are going to get you settled into new dorms, so

that class can start tomorrow." Tank insisted.

"Classes two days after the Academy was destroyed? Shouldn't we at least get a long weekend out of this?" One of the boys pleaded.

Tank frowned, then looked at a calendar from his inventory.

"Alright, we can give you one extra day off. No more than that or you'll get fat and lazy"

The berserker smiled at the big man. Everyone in the Berserker Class knew that Tank couldn't go more than a day or two without training, and that extended to

his students.

Getting a third day was already an exception.

What they didn't know was that Tank had just realized that he could have a

whole day to himself, testing the new training facilities with other teachers near his power level, if they gave the kids a long weekend.

"The lost and found, also known as the personal items we managed to recover from the rubble of the old Academy, will be open tomorrow.

For now, everyone line up single file next to this door.

Inside, you will find an illusionary domain with a representation of each of the dorm room styles available. You will pick one that suits you, and inform the teachers on duty, so they can assign you a dorm." Tank informed them. "Certain doors will not open for you. If you can't open the door yourself, you can't choose that room. Having someone else let you in will not make the room available for you to choose.

Senior students get better dorm room options.

Sorry, not sorry." Opal's avatar added.

Chapter 1339 No Patience

Getting them to wait patiently in line was a lost cause. None of the students knew how many of each room were available, and everyone wanted to be the first to choose.

They also didn't know that they were the first bunker to be released, which made it even more fun for Rae and Opal to watch.

Even if they all picked the same one of the warrior focused rooms, there weren't enough of them in this group to use them all up.

The first few students walked in, looking through the open doors until they found one that they thought was promising.

Nobody wanted to waste time and risk the good rooms being taken by the person behind them, so it was a quick glance, and if the room looked good, they would go in and check.

Seconds later, a terrified shriek, followed by the roar of a bear, and then the cheering of a student came from one of the dorms.

"What the hell is that? You can't put that in a dorm room." A mage stammered, clearly rattled.

"Oh, that's a berserker room. If you press the big red button, you get a random monster to fight on the balcony." Rae explained.

"WHY!?!"

Rae shrugged. "The berserker seems happy."

Tank laughed. "Press button, fist fight a bear. What's not to love?"

Rae smirked. "It might also give you a vicious kitten to play with for half an hour. It's good that way."

The big berserker thumped his thigh as he laughed, then shook his head with happy tears in his eyes. "Now that's the sort of random generation that we need. Could be a Dire Bear, could be a Moor Cat kitten. Either way, you get entertainment."

All the berserkers in line began to eye that particular door.

The student who had entered was a Commander Rank senior, so they could only hope that it was available to all of them, and that they would even get a chance to look at it, as the student was still fighting the bear.

After a moment to recover, the mage checked a few more rooms, then settled on one that had a magical whiteboard, where he could write out spell theory and test it without wasting parchment.

That was one down, and more students rushed forward to see if they could get exactly the room they had hoped for.

The old method was both enlightening and disappointing to many of them. This way seemed like it was more fair, as they got a full preview. However, the rooms were still limited, and if they were too late, the good stuff would still be gone, just like had happened to them during their initial selection.

The teachers had no intention of letting that tradition die.

It was the first test that students underwent, and it helped build relationships as well as familiarizing the new students with their first skill.

However, one major thing had changed. No longer did they have to guess what class the students were, or how to activate their skill. The system was much more complete, and they just needed to read the guidelines to see their class name, skill description and other basic information when they woke up on the train.

The location of the Golden Divine Academy still wasn't public knowledge, though it certainly wasn't hidden from any of the other nations anymore. That was no longer a major concern, as they had larger issues to deal with. Especially after the invasion from the Immortal Realm.

But the mystique and prestige were part of the experience, and they didn't want random visitors showing up. Many of the kids would face no end of harassment from family members who wanted them to immediately start sending extra money home, or who wanted to arrange political marriages in advance.

Keeping outsiders away from the Academy was the reason there were no good roads directly here, and why they hadn't moved the campus closer to

civilization.

"Hey, there is a room here that has nothing in it." One of the warriors complained.

"Just turn it on." Rae called.

"How do I do that?"

"That room probably isn't for you."

The mages laughed. The directions were literally written on the wall next to the entrance. But they were written in runes, not common. Anyone with a mage or magic using type class could read them by default thanks to the system, but Warriors could not.

Once you turned the runes on, you got a bedroom in your choice of colour scheme. Or, you could set it up as a lab space. But when it was off, it was an open area for spell practice without risking your furniture.

Remi was particularly proud of that room.

A mage came forward to check it out, and then smiled happily as he realized what it could do.

"Oh, it even works for my Alchemy and herbalism classes. Though, that room with the balcony garden is probably better for herbalism and alchemy students. Why did they do this to us?" He muttered as he examined the space.

Having a clear answer for the housing options was no fun. There were at least two viable options for every class. Even the Berserkers had a dorm option with a training dummy in the corner if they couldn't get one with the push to fight

button.

The training dummy room was one of the most common, as they were built with the ratio of warriors to others in mind, so they were unlikely to run out of them, even if most of the combat oriented classes chose one.

However, there was one door that hadn't opened for anyone yet. The students assumed that it was intended for either seniors or teachers, but really it was just reserved for Beast Tamer type classes and there weren't any in this group. It had sleeping quarters for large animals, an expanded area compared to the other dorms, and a larger than normal bed.

One thing that they had learned from Thor and Cara was that given the option, sleeping next to someone was better than sleeping alone. Plus, most of the Beast Rangers had either Cerro or Moor Cat companions.

If they couldn't come out and relax in the dorm room, they would quickly get

grumpy.

Chapter 1340 The Right Room

When the first group was nearly complete, the teachers brought out another bunker full of students, and the explanations were given again before the process repeated.

As the students began to tell each other about the rooms that had already been opened, using the information from the students who had gone earlier and stopped to gossip before moving to their new dorm, the process became faster.

No longer did they have to guess what the basic features were, that was becoming common knowledge, along with what rooms were best for what classes.

Soon, they were able to move through cadets four and five at a time, with only a small portion going to check out specific rooms to see if there was something about them that would set them above the others in their minds.

That was making those at the end of the line concerned that they would not be able to get the rooms that they wanted, and Karl could tell that there was a good chance of a disturbance coming, so he decided to give them a bit of good

news.

"Students, relax. The dorms for the junior and senior classes are different buildings. There is no need to fear that the influx of new warriors will take all the good rooms. There are many suitable rooms left in the senior class dorms, and most of you will even be able to choose an upper or lower floor for your dorm." He called.

"Is the new academy that much larger?" One of the Commander Rank mages asked.

"It's nearly triple the capacity of the one that was here yesterday. Both in instruction building size and dorm capacity.

Fortunately for you, we also built indoor walkways between most of the buildings, so you can quickly and easily make it between your classes." Karl agreed.

It would actually be faster in some cases to go outside and run across the open ground around the Trial Tower to get to classes on the far side of the web. But they would realize that over the next few days as they got used to the layout of the new design.

While the students checked into their dorms, Karl checked in with Tessa and Thor to see how the rebuilding of Drodh was going.

Thor's mental voice was unconcerned as he detailed the situation.

[We have food stations set up in four spots around the city. Lotus and Ophelia have moved down by the docks because there are still ships coming in with wounded and damages. Some of the sea monsters escaped, but didn't go far. The medicine has spread all through the city, we gave it to everyone who would accept help.

What else is there?

Oh, right. The Dwarves are competing to see which side of the river will get more visitors once they're finished, and they're rebuilding the Sprawl into a decent neighbourhood.

I still think that they're building too many houses for a herd this size, but Dwarves can count, so they probably know what they're doing.

We've got a lot of new people here now, but the city outside the wall is rebuilding fast.

Wendy's dad and the furniture Dryads are making them materials to rebuild outside the city, just piles and piles of bulk metal sheets and boards.

The houses there were never good, but now they'll at least be made without leaks for a little while.

Someone is making bricks too, but that's on the outskirts.

The Alchemists say that they need the Tiny World opened soon. They are almost out of healing potion materials, and they need some other rare stuff that's only in there.]

Karl made a mental note to check on the supplies in Remi's space as well. She had to be low by now, as she was donating to the Alchemists twice a day.

But before anything else, Karl reopened the Tiny World entrance in the Zilaz Alliance House so that it could be accessed by the Guild Members who needed it, and the residents of the Tiny World could move about as they needed.

Not that they ever really left. But with emergencies going on, they might invite people in or take on a mission outside.

[Thank you. Oh, Button just went by looking for Lotus, should I have someone follow her?]

[Yes. Don't let her out of your sight until there is a guardian on her. If the little dragon wanders away, it will take days to find her again.] Karl replied.

It actually wouldn't. The Red Dragons had a tracking spell on her, and they would be alerted in the next few seconds that she had managed to run away. [Bertie is here with Lyric. They will catch the runaway.] Thor added a few seconds later.

Leo laughed at the chaos as he floated above Karl's head, deciphering the new skills that he had been granted. The clerics hadn't been stingy, so there were a lot of new spells for him to use.

He just needed to master them a little better. However, Rae objected to him growing vines up the sides of the buildings, no matter how cool it would be to

have flowering dorms.

This place also couldn't grow coconut trees, which was a disappointment.

What was a world without coconuts?

From Thor's thoughts, getting enough people to come and help out with Drodh during their time of need was not going to be an issue.

Their home nations trying to get them back home after were the ones who were in for a hard time.

Once the Dwarves had custom-built a new city to their own specifications, in an attempt to make it as profitable as they could, given the mostly Demon and Orc population of Drodh, there wouldn't be a lot of incentive for most of these craftsmen to leave.

At best, they might be lured back by a higher quality of living than what Drodh could provide, given their lower power level. But with so much Immortal Realm mana soaked into everything, that might not be true for much longer.