

## Brand New 1631

### Chapter 1631: Amazing Idea

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"I can't believe there's a place where other fairies would dare mock their appearance. They're widely known for being extremely beautiful and majestic." Katherine said.

"I see... I guess Nieve would've liked living in here, maybe... though right now, everyone respects her," I said with a smile, drinking the last bit of my tea.

"How did she get out of that situation though? Don't stop now, Elayne, it's your fault I got invested," Rita said, eating her sandwich.

"Yeah, yeah! Keep going please," Jenny nodded.

"Ahaha, okay, alright," I nodded. "Well, Nieve worked really hard to show everyone she wasn't what they said she was. At a young age she joined the Fairy Knight Order as a rookie soldier, they mocked her small and delicate-looking body and she often got bullied by other soldiers too but, she continued working hard and perseverated. Facing many challenges along the way, with each feat, she slowly showed the people that she wasn't what they said, and that indeed, she was someone strong willed and with also a kind heart."

"Kind heart? I mean I know she's a nice person but..." Rita said.

"Yes, despite how badly they treated her, Nieve never retaliated against those that bullied her..." I sighed. "I don't really like that sort of attitude but, well, it was her choice. Because of that though, as she showed kindness to even those that mocked her or bullied her, they slowly began to realize the sort of incredible person she was... and once she finally graduated from a mere soldier into a Fairy Knight, she was respected by her peers and received many apologies from them, which she accepted with kindness and humility. It seems that Titania taught her really well and raised her into a wonderful person. With Florie, the two of them eventually went to live together to their own Treehouse near the castle."

"Huh, that's really nice..." Mark smiled lightly. "I never knew her past, I guess even someone as stoic as her had it hard at some point... whenever you see her act, fight, and talk, you always think she always been that way, but... I suppose I was wrong."

"You weren't the only one, I also thought she had a stuck-up personality at first, but she has grown into me and she's honestly a great girl, she's precious," Rita smiled.

"I haven't known her for as much as everyone else but... Nieve is strong, really strong, especially for such a small body," Elena said. "She's a true master of her weapon, the rapier. And her ice magic is also incredible. She's definitely among our strongest fighters..."

"Yeah, I would put her in top three," I nodded.

"Eh?! Top three? So where do I go?" Rita asked.

"Top six," I giggled.

"Eeeh?!" Rita complained. "Who the hell is one and two then?"

"Mark would be one and then at second, it would probably be my daughter," I said.

"Wait a second so where do you even go, Elayne?" Lily wondered.

"I am not counting myself, that would be pretty hypocrite..." I said.

"I think were already being hypocrite!" Rita complained.

"Hahaha, okay, okay, sorry about that," I laughed. "You know I love you Rita, don't get mad..."

"Hmph!" Rita crossed her arms angrily.

"I wonder how Nieve would react if she heard how we were talking about her," I giggled. "I bet she'll get all embarrassed and won't even be able to talk properly, haha."

"Does she do that?" wondered my daughter.

"Yep," I nodded. "She's shy and cute... I miss her, she's like... well, kind of like a daughter to me, but also I see her as a great friend."

"Wow... well, it really sounds wonderful," Katherine said. "I'm so happy you've made great friends with another fairy, it makes me see that you're a very open-minded person, master! The more I hear about that world, the more curious I am about how it is, and the people that live in it... I wish I could go one day."

"Maybe you could, I mean, we haven't tried giving you a VR headset, right?" I wondered. "Hmm, I wonder if magical beings can register."

"I don't know, wouldn't they need an ID first and everything?" Mark asked.

"Right, but well, it's worth giving it a shot- Wait a second! I never thought about it either, but what if I give a Potential Cube to a VR Headset, I wonder if we could use them anywhere then?" I wondered.

"Damn! I wish I had some here, but we left them back home and I don't really want to go back just for that."

"That sounds like an amazing idea though, our phones ended evolving into some awesome stuff with just a cube," said Rita. "Maybe with an upgraded VR headgear, we could log-in anywhere even in this world..."

"Yeah," I nodded. "It does sound very interesting... maybe there could even be other abilities we might obtain, but for now let's leave that for another day, I suppose."

"You're all talking about stuff I don't really understand again..." Gabriel muttered, looking slightly irritated. "Hmmm, I'm satisfied, can't we get going? I want to see the crystal forest already! Big sis!"

"Okay, okay, we'll get going then Gabriel, don't be impatient," I sighed, patting his head and then grabbing him, carrying him like my baby. "You're so cute though! Mooch." I kissed his little forehead.

"Muh... I wanted to sleep with big sis... why didn't you let me?" he looked a bit angry again.

"Well, the rooms were really small..." I said. "Sorry, but you are a big boy, right? You said that earlier, so you have to sleep on your own, okay?"

"Umm... okay..." Gabriel nodded, he had been pretty moody lately, I guess he's finally hitting puberty. He's been growing faster and faster as he grows stronger... I wonder how long it'll be until he regains his adult stage. "It has been fun though! Heheh! Thanks for bringing me along big sis! I never visited a place so magical like this one before..."

"Oh really? What about Heaven then?" I asked.

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Chapter 1632 Moving On

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"What about Heaven then, Gabriel?" I asked. "Isn't that also kind of like... a Realm?"

"Aah, yeah but that one's boring, I mean you get bored of just clouds everywhere!" he said while rolling his eyes.

"Well, we are also honored to have an angel guest with us," Katherine said with a gentle smile. "King Oberon is rather fond of children, despite everything, he's an amazing father. I bet he will love Gabriel and might want to adopt him, fufu."

"Eeh? I don't want to be adopted!" Gabriel said angrily. "Big sis is all I need!" He hugged me tightly and kissed my cheek cutely.

Aww, he was melting my heart!

He's so baby.

Although I noticed Mark making a slightly annoyed face when he kissed me...

Why is he getting jealous of a child?

Geez... Find<sup>^</sup> the tr&ans+la<sup>^</sup>t-ion. on MV<sup>^</sup>&LE\*MP<sup>^</sup>YR.

Well...

Um, well, Gabriel is technically only a child temporarily so...

Technically he's an adult so he kissed me and...

Yeeeah, I can understand Mark getting a tiny bit upset, though he didn't voice anything.

"Anyway! Shall we go meet Cinnamon one last time before we depart?"

As everyone nodded and got ready for our road trip, Gabriel flew by my side, looking rather happy that I treated him with so much love. I suppose he was only moody because I didn't give him enough attention.

"Gabriel, don't you want your uncle to carry you piggyback?" asked Mark, trying to act friendly.

"Oh! Okay!" Gabriel, surprisingly, nodded happily, climbing Mark and sitting over his shoulders. "Hehhe! Wow it's high in here! Uncle you're tall!"

"Am I right? Hahaha!" Mark laughed, running around with the child.

Oh... Maybe he wasn't upset at all?

But why did he make that face?

Perhaps... he was jealous of me?!

So he does like Gabriel! Maybe he sees him as a little brother or a son?

Or well, a small family member.

He makes for a great uncle.

Once we reached the Fairy Guild, Cinnamon greeted us with the rest of the staff with gentle smiles.

"We heard that you were already leaving... it's a pity you didn't stay longer, we would've loved you around, it's not common to get human visitors after all," Cinnamons said, acting much gentler and nicer than before.

"Ah yeah! We came to say our last goodbyes, it was a short time, but I enjoyed the village, and the people was also amazing," I said. "Thank you for your warm welcome, everyone..."

"Please don't mind it, ma'am!"

"We just did our job, all those Owl Bears though, we're still butchering them all!"

"Still, that'll be plenty of money later on, so we appreciate it!"

The twin gnomes and their brownie assistant greeted me with laughter and gentle, kind smiles.

"I hope you can visit again!"

"We'll be waiting for you!"

"Come again whenever you can!"

"See ya!"

The rest of the staff waved their hands at us, saying their goodbyes. Fairies and Spirit Folk were all pretty laid-back people, even these that worked in offices. They were, overall, really nice people...

It just shows how great of a King Oberon is, he raised an amazing country in an even more wonderful Realm, and made sure his people would be nice and kind.

He doesn't make his people suffer, but he's also not overly nice, and he's just a... well, a just king, I believe.

I think he'll let us bring Katherine with us, judging by his people, he must be just as kind.

Though, I hope he doesn't flirt with me... or at least not too much.

Usually I wasn't really a magnet for me, through all my life I only managed to attract my late husband and Mark, but now since I've grown stronger and evolved, a lot of men tend to get charmed by me, which is a little annoying.

And they tend to be strong men as well, with important positions, so I can't just reject them and act cocky with them... It's a bit troublesome. Maybe if I was a woman into having my harem of handsome men, I would be super happy but honestly, Mark's all I need, I don't think I would be able to handle another man in my life, haha.

Anyway, once we got over our rides, Belle, Goldie, and Silver, we resumed our trip through the road, moving across the flower gardens while seeing all sorts of wonders that you can only find in this realm.

On the way to the mountains, we moved across several rivers, fished on a huge spirit lake where we met a lot of friendly Undines, Water Spirit Folk, and then, we finally reached the Crystal Forest.

"It should be around there, miss Elayne," a gentle Undine said, guiding us through the rocky areas, which were intricate and like a labyrinth. Her name was Yosemin, she was a young Undine that lived in that Spirit Lake with her seven sisters and her mother and grandmother.

Apparently Undines are a purely female spirit folk, they resemble beautiful girls with pale blue skin and gills for ears, alongside long green, blue, or red hair, and golden eyes, they had fish scales through the majority of their body, and long fish-like tails like those of mermaid, but with legs as well. They mostly wore conches to barely cover their bodies.

"Thank you Yosemin, you've been of great help guiding us around," I said with a relieved sigh, seeing the crystal forest and the village in the distance.

"Oh please don't mind it! You were the one that had slain the Invader of the Lake," she said with a thankful smile.

We had slain a giant Fish Skeleton trying to contaminate the Spirit Lake before, it was an easy slay, and it seemed to have been placed there by the Demon King of Death's army, most likely.

"We owed you as much kindness in return, you even went out of your way to heal the lake from the nether contaminating it! Thank you so much!" Yosemin said, hugging me and kissing my cheek.

"Eh? Why the kiss?" I wondered.

"We usually kiss male visitors that we like..." she blushed. "But I like you Lady Elayne..."

"...Eh?"

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## Chapter 1633: Arriving At The Mining City

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"We usually kiss male visitors that we like..." Yosemite the Undine said, blushing. "But I like you Lady Elayne..."

"Eh?!" I felt embarrassed. "S-Sorry, I am already... in a relationship."

"Ah, it's alright, I didn't mean romantically, hehe, just a platonic thing, just a small tradition, bear no importance to it," she said. "Ah, please, before you leave, have this as well."

She gave me a conch-shaped blue crystal attached to a necklace, it was shiny and sparkly, and seemed imbued with a lot of spirit energy.

"This is...? A necklace?"

"Yes, I made it on my own the other day! I had thought about gifting it to a travel I liked, so please carry it with you, it holds a little of my energy."

"Oh well! You really don't have to go so far, what we did was just on the moment, without thinking much..."

"It's alright! I'll never forgive my hero!" she hugged me again.

Aw, she's so sweet.

"..."

Mark looked a bit jealous though.

"A-Alright, enough hugs Yasmin, thanks for everything!"

"Yes, please take care!"

She waved her hand, turning into water and jumping into the river, which led her home safely.

"Aaand that was that... Uh, it was a bit awkward huh?" I wondered.

"Hahahaha!" Rita burst out laughing. "Are you now a prince charming, Elayne? No freaking way lol!"

"Hey Rita don't rub it! It isn't as if I asked to be treated like that, it just happened... I'm so sorry Mark!" I apologized to him.

"Don't worry, I guess it wasn't within your power to stop her..." sighed Mark. "Anyway, the necklace is nice though."

"Right? It's cute, I'll keep it as a souvenir," I nodded. "Anyway! So this is the crystal forest, right?" I tried to divert the conversation so nobody would mention this again.

"Ah, yeah, yeah, sorry I was just distracted thinking about how I could've gotten myself a cute Undine girlfriend if I had slain that damn fish..." Jenny was weirdly jealous... I guess she was bisexual, huh? I didn't know.

"I'm so sorry..." I apologized again, even though maybe I shouldn't have to.

"Hehehe, please give her some slack, Elayne is quite the charmer after all," Lily giggled. "I would be lying if I said I wasn't charmed by her kindness, she's also quite cute too."

"L-Lily?!" I gasped. "not you too?"

"Sorry, I didn't meant it romantically or something, fufu," Lily giggled, although she winked at me as if teasing me!

"Hey Mark be careful or they're going to steal your girlfriend," Rita said, teasing the poor Mark even more.

"Please don't joke about that..." Mark sighed. "A-Anyway, I know Elayne loves me, so let's cut that please. The village and the forest are right in front of us..."

"Ah, yeah..." My daughter seemed thankful we were changing the topic, she also looked annoyed by it. "Let's... uh, mine crystals."

"I think my familiars need to evolve," Anna suddenly said. "I heard this voice saying they had eaten enough monsters and their cores... And that they could evolve if I gave them compatible spirit stones and magic ores. Could we find them there?"

"Oh? Sure thing!" I nodded. "So you need materials to evolve your pets, huh? It's usually not that way with mine..."

"Ah yeah, the Summoner and Tamer Classes have special evolutions for our familiars, as they're very specially tied to us, as they evolve we also grow stronger," Anna explained. "So it's like our own Rank Up trial."

"Oh, so that's it!" I nodded. "To think such a mechanic transferred to IRL as well, outside of BNLO..."

"Sounds interesting! I like that at least its familiar..." Elisa said.

"Yeah...!" Monica nodded.

As we moved through the forest, which resembled a beautiful forest made of crystal trees of all colors and shapes, which even bore strange crystal fruits, we reached the village.

It was larger than I imagined, and there were a lot of equipment that helped the inhabitants mine as much as they wanted.

We also witnessed what resembled to be a strange airship with artificial wings flying away into the capital while carrying a lot of these colorful crystals.

It looks like they're constantly providing that place with valuable resources.

"Hey, who are you?"

"First time I see humans around here..."

"Wait is that an angel?!"

We were greeted by a trio of gnomes guarding the village's gates, the moment they looked at us they all had varied expressions of surprise, even more when they saw Gabriel.

"Um, hello, we are visitors from Earth, Druids. We were authorized entrance by the Fairy Guild Master from the Atlas Flower Garden Village, Cinnamon," I said, showing them a letter she gave to me to make it easier for us to get through the gates. Apparently security was a bit tighter here because there are reports of people infiltrating the mines and stealing.

"Hmm? Let me read..."

"Ah, I see..."

"Has that Cinnamon chosen their gender yet? Or are they still weird about it?"

"Uh, I don't know, but she seems to be growing fonder of being called a female," I said with a gentle smile. "Uh, does that have anything to do with...?"

"If she became a chick then I might ask her out..."

"Oi shut up and get serious!"

"Anyway, you're free to enter, please take the letter again, it'll help you enter the other villages associated with the kingdom."

"Ah! Thank you very much, let's go everyone!" I said.

"Wait, please no mounts, they're too big, can't you leave them outside?"

"Yeah as you can see our village's plenty small, those huge things are going to stomp the whole thing down!"

"You don't have to leave them outside, there's a huge stable for magical mounts at the southern corner of the city, please go there, it is cheap, and they'll feed them well."

"Oh, thank you!" I nodded.

We quickly climbed out of our mounts and made our way there on foot, while glancing at the small city itself, most buildings were made of stone bricks or even crystals, blocky and not mushroom-shaped at all, they were more like dwarven architecture.

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Chapter 1634: A City Of Gnomes And Goblins

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The gnomes and goblins watched at us with curiosity and surprise as we made our way through the streets, there were also a lot of brownies here and there, and very few fairies. Although whenever we saw them, they wore wealthy-looking robes and looked like nobles coming here for business rather than working in the mines.

"Is this the stable the guards talked about?" I wondered, as we stood in front of a large open area with wooden walls surrounding it, there were several large mount beasts standing there, while being fed.

These beasts were pretty interesting, some resembled small, feathered velociraptors with sharp black beaks and colorful crowns made of feathers, others looked like three-headed purple snakes, a few were giant Owl Bears with gentler appearances, probably domesticated, and we also saw large lions and other creatures.

"Looks like in this Realm mounts are... well, not exactly horses, huh?" Rita wondered.

"In fact there's not even a single horse around here, wow!" Lily said.

"D-Do gnomes really ride those giant lions?" I wondered.

As we glanced at the various mounts, a brownie girl with purple hair greeted us, she was wearing a cute white dress and didn't seem to be the miner type, she also was wearing a straw hat.

"Hello! Long time no see humans around these parts! Are you coming to leave us your little pets here? So cute! First time I saw them around here. That's a huge goat with golden horns, a fish and... huh? Some kind of serpent?"

"Uh, yeah," I nodded, it was better to not say they were dragons. "They're-"

"I am not a fish but a glorious dragon! Please refrain from ever calling me like that ever again!" Goldie said angrily, looking rather adorable than intimidating.

"Hahaha! I didn't know there were Flying Fish that could talk! So he calls himself a dragon?" Laughed the Brownie girl.

"Please don't mind him," I sighed. "He does like talking as if he's an actual dragon, but he clearly ISN'T, right?"

I glared at him, as Goldie gasped, realizing it was better to go with the flow.

"Uuh... Hmph! Whatever... if you don't believe me then that's not my problem! But I expect a great treatment here and plenty of treats!" He demanded.

"Sure thing~" The Brownie girl nodded. "Payment is ten little spirit crystal coins per day, per beast."

"Hey isn't that a little too expensive? How can anyone afford that?" Rita complained.

"Expensive? Well if you're the owners of such high quality mounts I would assume you've got enough cash, also the time and effort we put into taking care of them is calculated into the price! Also the bigger they are the more expensive it is, ten coins is the maximum price," the girl explained. "I won't lower my prices so, you in or not?"

"Sure thing, please don't worry about my friend, she just like complaining," I giggled, paying the thirty coins right away. "Alright Belle, please just stay inside and be a nice girl, okay?"

I caressed her big head and kissed her snout, and she licked my face cutely.

"Heheh, aren't you a cutie? Good girl."

"Waow, you sure are lovely with that huge goat! You're good at taming beasties, aren't you lady?"

"Y-Yeah, we are Druids from Earth..."

"I see! Gotcha, name's Berry, what's yours?"

"I'm Elayne, thank you for your warm welcome, we just arrived here. We plan to stay for the night and resume our travels to the mountains, we're moving to the capital you see."

"Ooh, taking the scenic route I see! Well if you're really tourists, might as well see as many wonders as you can! Honestly not even I know how vast this Realm is, it's always filled with magical places and stuff."

"Yeah! We're excited to enter the mines and get some magic or spirit ores for ourselves, you see, my daughter-in-law here needs some materials to evolve her Familiars," I explained. "She doesn't have them out right now but she's a Summoner that can summon or unsummon them as she pleases."

"A-Ah, yes!" Anna muttered; a bit nervous that I was introducing her as my daughter-in-law to strangers.

"I see! Well that'll be a little complicated, they don't let just anybody enter the mines anymore. Back then this place had more touristic approaches but after a lot of people started just entering the mines to rob the miners from their stuff, that was promptly cancelled," Berry explained.

"So is there no way for us to enter?" I wondered.

"Well there are some, you could register in the Miners Guild but that might be a bit of a hassle... Wait, are you already registered in the Fairy Guild?" she asked.

"Oh yeah we are," I nodded. "Will that help?"

"Yep! If you're already registered then you can easily register in the Miners Guild without much hassle, you can skip the paperwork and everything, although you still need to pay a fee," Berry said.

"Well that's convenient, shall we go there then? Where's the building, Berry? Do you know?" I asked.

"It's just over there at Red Crystal Street," she pointed into the distance. "See that huge building shaped as a hammer and a pickaxe made of crystals? That's the guild."

"Alright! Thank you very much for all your guidance, Berry, we really appreciate it," I nodded. "Alright everyone, let's go."

We moved through the busy streets, reaching Red Crystal Street after a few minutes of getting distracted by various things, opening the door of the guild to be greeted by a bunch of Gnomes, Brownies, Goblins, and the occasional Fairy walking and flying everywhere, it was perhaps even busier than in the Fairy Guild at the Atlas Flower Garden Village.

And... Well, once we stepped into the building, there was an awkward silence, as every person inside glared at us in silence with weirded out faces for a few seconds.

"Um, hello! We come from Earth... We... we're Druids. We came to register... to the Miners Guild."

"HUH?!"

They really didn't understand why we would ever want to register...

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Chapter 1635: The Miners Guild

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After leaving Belle, Silver, and Goldie in safe stables for the day, we moved through the busy streets, seeing people here and there, even food stalls that we avoided for the time being as we were in a little hurry to register and then get to mining for materials.

It didn't take us long as we took some twist and turns to reach the Red Crystal Street after a few minutes of getting distracted by various things. The building itself was quite beautiful, almost entirely made out of spirit crystals of various colors.

I had no idea how they even built this, perhaps by using magic. Brownies are well known for being capable of manipulating Earth Elements but... Maybe I shouldn't put the logic from Arcadia to the Spirit Races of this Realm. After all, the Fairies of Arcadia are pretty different compared to the ones from here.

As we opened the door, we were immediately greeted by a bunch of Gnomes, Brownies, Goblins, and the occasional Fairy walking and flying everywhere, it was perhaps even busier than in the Fairy Guild at

the Atlas Flower Garden Village. The people here carried paperwork, bags of coins, and materials everywhere.

We also saw a large groups of Goblins and Gnomes carrying containers full of materials and then bringing them inside an airship at the back of the guild, which then quickly flew away. It seemed that the capital constantly needed these resources to function, I imagine they had some sort of magic technology fueled by spirit crystals.

"Okay so here we are and... Uh."

And, well, once we stepped into the building, there was an awkward silence, as every person inside glared at us in silence with weirded out faces for a few seconds. They even stopped doing whatever they were doing before, only staring at us as if we were the total and complete weirdos in here. And honestly, well, they aren't wrong.

"Um, hello! We come from Earth... We... we're Druids. We came to register... to the Miners Guild." I said, stuttering a bit due to the slight pressure I felt from all the glares.

And...

"HUH?!"

They really didn't understand why we would ever want to register; their reaction was almost completely unified as I spoke to them with a slightly gentle tone of voice.

"Um... is it weird?" I asked nervously. "We are druids from Earth, humans... Hello?"

"A-Ah, yes, uh, well, it's quite weird to even see this! I don't think I've ever seen a human in like... hundreds of years," said one of the old gnomes in the counter.

"Yeah this is really weird, but I guess I did hear something about some appearing... was it from the Atlas Garden place? But how did they get in here so quickly?" a goblin wondered, readjusting his glasses while giving us a sharp glance.

"You heard about that, and you didn't say anything?!" a Brownie woman asked angrily, glaring at the bald goblin with her furrowed eyebrows.

"Well I didn't quite believe it," the goblin sighed.

"Um, I know our presence in here is strange, but we got a letter from Cinnamon," I said. "Here."

I gave the letter to the goblin, who started reading it with attention and full seriousness, they seemed to not even really trust us either if they went that far.

"I see... It seems you're heroes, eh? Did you really hunt hundreds of Owl Bears?! That seems ridiculous..." the gnome said.

"Wait, hundreds?!" the goblin asked.

"That has to be false..." the brownie girl said.

"No it's the truth, this has Cinnamon's sign and stamp, and even their own mana signature, this is as genuine as it can get," the gnome said. "Cinnamon has always been an incredibly serious, stuck-up person, so I'll have to believe them with this one. Welcome to the Miners Guild, sorry for the rough welcome, we aren't used to folks from other realms or planets visiting us."

"It's fine, don't worry," I said with a nod. "Right guys? It's alright right?"

"Y-Yeah?" Rita said. "I don't really care as long as we get registered."

"Can we register though?" Mark asked. "I heard that you don't welcome just any person as a member or something."

"Ah yes, usually we would have kicked you out," said the goblin. "But if you really got a letter of approval from Cinnamon, then we're sure we can make you an associate of our Guild."

"It's not that cheap, and if you plan to add everyone with you into a party registration, it'll cost you even more," the gnome said.

"Do you even have the money to afford all that?" the brownie girl asked.

"Of course, I just got it from hunting and selling the Owl Bears after all," I nodded. "How much is it to register? Can I use this Rune to register, or do you embed a new one?"

"Hm, well, we embed a new one," explained the goblin. "But this new one is connected to the Fairy Guild Rune, so you can share the benefits and the ranks... usually we don't let many do this but you're all special I suppose."

"Indeed, so please walk in here, the price to register would be... Hmm, I suppose three... no, let's go for two big spirit coins," said the goblin, nodding. "I suppose we can give you a discount if you're a hero."

"Well, thanks!" I nodded, quickly paying and then registering.

As that happened, my Rune glowed brightly, suddenly gaining a second rune to it, which was of brown and yellow color, showing a pickaxe surrounding by crystals and stones.

[You have successfully registered in the Miners Guild! The Rune has been manifested, and it has been connected with your first Rune, sharing the same Tier.]

[You have gained the {Miners Guild Magical Contract Rune: Group Leader (Bronze Tier)} Effects: While you are in possession of this Rune, your Physical Strength and Vitality increases by 30% and your Stamina Regeneration Speed increase by 50% permanently.]

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Chapter 1636: A New Rune

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I suddenly felt stronger and tougher, as if I had exercised for a whole month... And I didn't feel as tired either, even though we just fought a giant skeleton fish from that lake... We didn't find any more of the by the way. But we are suspicious there might be a crystal near this town, or even inside.

Anyway, this rune's effects were really just the best! Instead of the Fairy Rune that strengthened Spirit Magic and Mana Regeneration Speed, this did the complete opposite, boosting my physical strength and vitality, and then a stamina regeneration speed boost.

Overall, both complemented pretty well, and it made me wonder if there were any other Runes left behind to collect.

"Alright, this is amazing, just by having this rune I felt stronger and less tired!" I said happily.

"Indeed, that's the power of our Rune," nodded the goblin. "It helps anyone that registers become much stronger and capable the higher their Tier is! This is how our miners can work so tirelessly and easily."

"I see, that's amazing," Mark nodded. "I also do feel some of the effects of the rune, even though we don't have it imbued into our bodies, we are somewhat connected to it."

"Yeah, but I don't think it's nowhere as good as the power Elayne gets from having it, I think we might only get less than half its effects," Rita explained. "Kind of unfair but... I guess it's also fair somewhat, she's carrying the thing and paid for it."

"I do appreciate the strength I gained..." Elena said. "Maybe it'll be nice when hunting too. I wonder if it carries over to BNLO's Avatars as well?"

"We'll have to see!" said Elisa. "But I sure hope so, this permanent boost we get is really nice and handy."

"Hmm, I agree, more Mana recovery is nice for someone like me forced to use only magic all the time," Monica nodded.

"I appreciate it," Anna said. "But I also want those materials..."

"Be more patient!" Gabriel told her, looking a bit angry, making Anna furrow her eyebrows and then raise them in surprise that the boy just told her to shut up, haha.

"I remember you had to pay more for the fairy guild registration..." Mark said to me. "Is the Miner Registration just cheaper?" He asked the receptionists.

"Oh no, she gets discounts thanks to her benefits at high tier and also because of Cinnamon's favor, she said she would pay for half of your registration expenses," explained the gnome.

"That's so nice of her..." I said with a smile. "Anyway, we came here primarily to just pass the day until tomorrow, where we'll depart to the snow mountains. We also wanted to dig for some materials, especial Stones for Anna's familiars."

"You need materials to evolve a familiar, or many?" the goblin asked. "Do you know which ones you need?"

"Yeah, I can more or less "feel" what material they need to continue evolving," Anna said. "It would be..."

I looked at Anna's information through my Magic Phone to see what she had...

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Anna: Magic Circle (Tier 3: Rank 1). Spirit Beast Summoner Magic Circle, 2100 Summoner Runes

Engraved Spells: {Summon Familiar: Green Wolf}, {Mana Connection}, {Summon Familiar: Shadow Crow}, {Familiar And Summoner Connection}, {Summon Familiar: Young Phoenix}, {Familiar Elemental Beam}, {Beast Familiar Spiritualization}, {Familiar Magic Armor}, {Familiar Evolution}, {Gren Wolf's Emerald Storm}, {Shadow Crow's Abyssal Shadow Spears}, {Young Phoenix's Blazing Inferno}.

In-Game Familiars: Red Phoenix, Emerald Storm Wolf, Titan Stone Golem, Giant Fang-Toothed Ice Weasel.

Physique: [Spiritual Summoner Physique (Tier 2: Rank 2)]

Engraved Physique Techniques: {Spiritually Attuned Summoner}, {Share Reflexes: Summoned Familiar}, {Share Strength: Summoned Familiar}, {Share Speed: Summoner Familiar}, {Share Elemental Affinities: Summoner Familiar}.

[1 Summoner Rune = 3 Fire, Darkness, Nature Runs (More Elements are added based in the contracted Familiars)]

Weapon: [Divine Spiritual Magic Beast Summoner Witch Broom Staff (A Rank)] Potential Abilities: [STR & AGI +50% (B)] [Spiritual Familiar Elemental Cannon (B)] [Great Familiar Spiritual Resonance (B)] [MP & INT +50% (B)] [Divine Spiritual Familiar Elemental Fortress (A)] [Divine Spiritual Familiar Blessing (A)] [Summon Familiar: Mithril Golem (A)] [Summon Familiar: Holy Scarab (B)] [Summon Familiar: Sea Serpent (B)] [Divinely Blessed Weapon: Yggdragon (B)]

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Oh wow this was more detailed than I imagined!

So this is how strong Anna currently is when compared to myself or others, not bad for how little she had actually fought and trained IRL, and I can tell the power of her Avatar flows through her, probably making her a bit stronger too.

A lot of her abilities were all about specialization of the usage of Summoned Familiars, from using their power to conjure powerful spells, to connect with them, boost them, buff them, give them armors, and even later on, sharing their traits and abilities with herself.

Then there was her weapon, her beloved Witch Broom Staff, which had also grown since its last reforging, gaining new abilities and more. Currently, she has a lot of powerful familiars ready to fight for her.

"Okay so I need Emerald Wind Core Stone for my Green Wolf, an Abyssal Shadow Mithril Fragment for my Shadow Crow, a Fiery Blazing Stone of Perpetual Flames for my Young Phoenix, Super Mithril Alloy for Mithril Golem, a Holy Dune Stone for Holy Scarab, and lastly I need a Spiritual Sea Stone for my Sea Serpent," she explained thoroughly, as the goblin and the gnome nodded.

"You should probably visit the underground mines and go down through the three layers, each layer has rarer materials not even us can easily enter because of our limitations and jobs," explained the goblin. "I am sure you can find those complicated materials over there, all things considered..."

"Really?!" Anna wondered.

"If you can't find them once you're done with your trip, we might have to help by trying to find them in our warehouses, though they won't be cheap at all," the brownie girl said, tying her long pink hair into a ponytail. "Alright, now that we got explanations out of the way, and you know what you came here for, there's something we would like to ask you. "

"Hm? What is it?" I asked. "I'll do my best to try and help if we can."

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#### Chapter 1637: The Threat Of The Mines

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"Well yes, there's been this increase lately in the number of monsters appearing underground, and they're stopping our mining works quite a lot, some areas had been sealed entirely because of those things making the ceiling crumble down," explained the gnome.

"What are they?" I wondered curiously.

"Moles," the goblin said angrily. "Damned moles! Giant Moles! The size of horses! Those damned Moles crawl around, dig as they please, steal and eat our mined resources, and then dig away as if nothing. Back then they were manageable though..."

"Yeah, back then we could handle them more or less, but right now they had become even more dangerous and have multiplied," the brownie woman said. "Last report stated there was a group of at least over three hundred of these moles gathered in an open area... based in your recent report and that of Cinnamon, we could assume they're being influenced by a Corruption Crystal placed by Undead coming from another world."

"Wait what? Really?" wondered the goblin. "I read briefly about that, just what the hell are those?"

"Crystallizations of Demonic and Nether which work to corrupt a surrounding area," I explained. "They usually come with some sort of deadly swamp-like domain that consumes all life around it. When monsters, or well, spirit beasts in this case, absorb the energy it produces, they become corrupted, larger, stronger, tend to evolve into bigger forms, and reproduce super quickly too."

"And you think that could be it?" the gnome wondered. "Hmm, indeed, if you were to actually destroy that crystal, if you find it, and hunt moles, we'll pay you plenty for all that effort."

"Really?" I wondered.

"Yes, there's currently some missions here to hunt moles but we've mostly got miners here, nobody is going to go out of their way to hunt creatures," the brownie woman said.

"If you can hunt a lot, we'll give you an extra!" the goblin said, rubbing his hands.

"Hmmm~! Alright, well, I was already going to do it anyway, so sure thing!" I nodded with a smile.

"Alright everyone, shall we go have a little adventure underground? It shouldn't take too long all things considered."

"Sure, let's get going then," Mark nodded.

"Uuuh, actually I kind of feel hungry, isn't anybody hungry?" Rita asked. "We could grab a bite before departing."

"I'm hungry yeah," Elena nodded. "Been like five hours since we ate breakfast mom."

"Me too, I was wondering what we could eat in here..." Anna nodded.

"There's no hurry!" Monica said with a nod. "So we could... um, enjoy the place?"

"Elayne I'm really hungry I'm not going anywhere until I get a meal!" Jenny complained.

"Okay, okay, calm down... I get it," I nodded. "Let's go "grab a bite" as Rita said. It's only fair enough, I guess everyone's just super hungry. I didn't even realize it had been that long since we ate. I suppose that's because I can produce my own food through photosynthesis."

"Wait, you can photosynthesize? I mean we've grown stronger with Physiques and all but we're still humans..." my daughter said, confused.

"Ah maybe, but thanks to a Soul Bound Skill, the Photosynthesis Skill was added into the mix," I explained. "I once used it to create a Fusion Skill named [Yggdryad's Divine Spiritual Presence], which wasn't Soul Bound, but then it evolved into a Soul Bound Skill called [Divine Aeternitas Yggdragon Heavenly Spiritual Presence]! Like this I can provide myself with food through bathing in the sunlight if I want, although it is nowhere near as satisfying and nutritious as normal food, but it helps me not feel too hungry, sometimes I could go whole days without eating..."

"That's sure damn convenient! Can Mark do the same? He doesn't even look hungry either," Rita said.

"Ah yeah, it's the same for me," he nodded. "Ents also have Photosynthesis Skills, which I fused into another, and then it evolved into a soul bound skill... With Elayne both of us are pretty similar, haha."

"Damn plants..." Jenny groaned. "You guys got it way too easy!"

"Heheh, we're just joking, we also like eating, shall we go eat then Mark?" I asked him.

"Sure, I wouldn't mind a meal, and to taste what they got in here," Mark nodded. "Excuse me sir, what places do you recommend?"

"Name's Grofunton," the gnome said. "That goblin over there is Ershkiek, and the lady over there is Redberries."

"Oh, so you're the receptionist or...?" I asked.

"We're more than that, we're like Cinnamon at the Fairy Guild," explained Ershkiek, writing some documents after drinking some coffee. Yes they got coffee in this Realm. "We manage this place together, just one is not enough."

"I see..." I nodded.

"Anyhow, there's a bunch of nice places around here but I would recommend you the biggest place... It would be the Old Log's Eatery," said Redberries. "It's handled by gnomes, and they mostly sell a lot of their food, which should be enough to fill the belly of large people like you, humans. They got meat, fish, potatoes, rice, noodles, all the stuff you people love... I would rather have fruits though, I don't understand how gnomes love all that greasy food so much, but you humans are the same right?"

"I guess we are..." I nodded. "Thank you!"

We walked outside the building, looking around the busy streets while trying not to bump into the little people walking around. Despite meeting other races, they were all generally smaller than us, not even the tallest gnome could reach past our hips. Humans were truly "big people" to them, and so we gained a lot of weird stares.

"Look mom, it's big people!"

"It has been hundreds of years since they last visited, huh?"

"They're kind of strange, their auras aren't exactly human, but more spiritual."

"That's how Druids are! They're the only humans allowed to enter our Realm anyway."

"I've heard they can turn into wild beasts! Is that true?"

The people of this damn village sure loved gossiping.

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Chapter 1638: Visiting A Gnome Restaurant

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"Look mom, it's big people!"

"It has been hundreds of years since they last visited, huh?"

"They're kind of strange, their auras aren't exactly human, but more spiritual."

"That's how Druids are! They're the only humans allowed to enter our Realm anyway."

"I've heard they can turn into wild beasts! Is that true?"

The people of this damn village sure loved gossiping way more than the Fairies at the Atlas Flower Garden Village, truly obnoxious, but it clearly showed us how different the culture and people of each village was.

"And here we are! Old Log's Eatery," I said with a nod, as we finally managed to find the place after walking around the streets for a few minutes.

The building was built out of a giant log from an even larger giant tree, carved open with doors, windows, and everything. There was also a large axe just attached to the log, giving it a really unique appearance. People sometimes entered and walked out, there wasn't anybody waiting for new guests outside though, so we assumed we had to just step inside.

"Alright, I'll go first and see if we can find some tables for all of us," I said, walking inside, Mark and Katherine followed me.

Once we got inside, we were greeted by loud music and chatting from countless people, there were large groups of gnomes and goblins everywhere, laughing, drinking, and eating. Most seemed to be workers and miners, wearing their work clothes and even helmets with glowing stones.

"There does seem to be a few unused tables over there," Mark said, pointing into the distance. "What do you think, Elayne?"

"Ah yeah I see them," I nodded.

"Um, excuse me?" Katherine called for a waiter that was passing by the waiter looked at us with shock, realizing we were humans.

"My! First time in my life I see people this damn tall! You're humans right?" she said, she was a young-looking gnome girl with short red hair and big blue eyes alongside freckles over her face, she looked sweet and amicable.

"Yeah we are," I nodded. "And this is our friend. Don you happen to have some tables? We got a lot of friends outside waiting."

"How much people?" the girl asked.

"Around... Uh," I started counting.

There's Rita, Lily, Jenny, Gabriel, Elena, Anna, Elisa, and Monica, right? I didn't miss anybody else I think?

So yeah, that plus the three of us, that would be...

"Tables for a group of around eleven people..." I said. "Is it too much? We were recommended by the guild masters."

"Oh by the guild masters?! Well if they sent you here you must be important! Let me arrange something for ya, wait here please," the girl said, quickly sprinting back to the kitchen and then coming back with two more gnomes, they started moving tables and seats, arranging a large corner just for us. "That should be enough right?"

"Yes, please come inside, everyone!" I said, as I opened the doors and the rest of our group entered the large area, shocking the rest of the clients.

We sat down rather uncomfortably over the small seats, around the small tables, as the girl came back with water for everyone, and some warm, freshly baked bread with butter and berry jam at the side.

"Here's some water and bread in the house," she said, winking at me. "Anyway! What do you want to eat? There's this big menu; I'll send you the information to your Runes."

With a wave of her hand, I suddenly saw a magical projection appear in front of us all, which allowed us to see the huge menu this place had.

"Once you're ready you can call me with the rune!"

As she walked away, we began inspecting the menu, there was a lot of meat in the menu, and indeed, rice, noodles, potatoes, and the like in various combined preparations.

Everyone was pretty hungry though, so they chose what they wanted to eat pretty quickly. As for me, I wanted something simple, so I ordered roasted Crystal-eating Wyrms beef and cheese-filled potatoes with a side of colorful salad, and to drink, a mix of fruit juices and tea called "The Energizer", it had no alcohol as well.

"Alright, I'll come back with your orders in a few more minutes, please wait! I'll bring more bread." The waiter lady quickly brought more of their delicious bread, which everyone had devoured, it was still warm, and it tasted amazing, with a hint of honey sweetness to it.

"So this place looks pretty nice, I like the whole vibe of it," Rita said.

"Yeah! Isn't it nice?" Lily nodded. "I never imagined that we would be eating and trying out restaurants in this Realm, but despite how different it could be, there's still this weird feeling of familiarity."

"Indeed, despite how much we could be different from Human society and Earth, there's many things that make us similar too, such as that we enjoy eating food," Katherine giggled. "Or that we are hardworking people."

"True," Rita nodded. "Anyway, didn't the gnome guy said something about the Mines having three layers? What was that all about? I didn't hear quite well."

"I don't know much about this place myself, but I know that there are two mines," said Katherine. "The Mining Forest is where the people go mine the crystals from the labyrinthian crystal forest, it's the safest place usually, although there's still Spirit Beasts and Golems lurking here and there... then there's the Underground Mines, which are a bit more dangerous and specialized groups usually go down there through special routes, you can find more high quality stuff down there from what I've gathered, and that's where we might find Anna's required material for her Familiars to evolve."

"Interesting," I nodded. "And there's three layers, the deeper the higher the quality?"

"I think so, it wouldn't be a bad idea to just skip right to the third layer," said Katherine.

"Oh I'm itching to mine some with my pickaxe!" Lily said. "Right Tierra? Are you looking forward to it? You even got skills for it now."

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Chapter 1639: Trying Out The Food

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"Hell yeah Lily! I want to mine and show off just how tough I've become now! I'm going to find you the best materials you could ever find!" Tierra responded, floating by her side. It was indeed just a talking, floating magic pickaxe. It surprised a few people.

"Looks like you're looking forward to it I guess! Well I'm glad," I smiled. "Thugh, the thing about the Giant Moles... they're Spirit Beasts, right?"

"Yeah, they aren't really called just "Giant Moles" but that's how we usually call them," Katherine said. "They're Spirit Beasts better known by the fairies as Earth Eaters, they're powerful Earth-attribute Spirit Beasts that can grow up to fifty meters of length and got giant claws they use to dig and destroy anything underground, which they then eat."

"They sound like a terrible plague," Mark said. "How do you deal with them?"

"They aren't that aggressive or territorial, a good scare can usually fend them off," Katherine said. "I think they used some sort of flowers or mushrooms that produce smells they don't like, so they run. But not anymore it seems, they're now apparently multiplying and even stronger than before, aggressive, and territorial... definitely suspicious."

"Yeah, there must be something going on," I nodded. "Oh, they're coming with our food already?"

I noticed the waiter girl coming back, carrying with her some tables with little wheels and bringing all the plates, serving them to each person that wanted them, the plates, despite what we thought, weren't small at all! Each meal was usually thrice as big as a human plate, the gnomes are more than their size showed us.

"Please enjoy it! If you want anything else just call me!"

"Alright, thank you."

As she walked away, we started digging in, I tried out what I ordered, the roasted, nicely seasoned beef of a crystal-eating wyrm from the underground mines. Apparently a dragon-type monster close to the family of snake-like dragons known as wurms or something.

The meat was... despite what I thought the meat of a monster that eats crystals would be, was incredibly soft, melting in my mouth as I took a few bites. It had a strong meaty flavor, with a nice savory and sweet sauce. Delicious.

The cheese-filled potatoes were whole potatoes that were filled with cheese and then seasoned on top, and then baked, the potatoes themselves were soft and fluffy, and the cheese was really tasty, with a strong milky taste and rather salty, it must be milk made using the cattle they raise here, definitely not your normal cow or goats.

It was a lot of meat too, like four slices nicely roasted and seasoned, and five potatoes, so I ate things slowly while enjoying "The Energizer" which was really sweet but also refreshing.

Everyone had ordered their own meals as well, from rice, noodles, and a lot of meat, nobody here ordered meat, even Katherine was giving meat a try, mostly fish though, but she seemed to like it.

"Phew, I think we're almost done here... Hey girl, do you have any desserts?" I called for the cute Gnome girl.

"Ah yes ma'am!" The waiter girl ran to my side.

"This is the desserts menu," the waiter girl said, showing us the menu. "Unlike other places made by Fairies we don't have as many desserts but there's still a lot of classic ones from Gnome and Goblin cuisine."

"Interesting..." I nodded. "I want that one, the Chocolate Parfait with Sweetwood Sauce."

"Good choice!" she said, nodding. "About the rest...?"

She quickly wrote down what we wanted and ran away, coming back five minutes later with all the desserts. The parfait I bought had ice cream, whipped cream, small cookies, fruit, and even a little flan on top, and the Sweetwood sauce was like a combination of cinnamon and honey with a strong pine tree scent, very unique, making this entire meal a wonderful experience.

"So from everything you've purchased... that would be 125 Spirit Coins," she said. "Do you wish to add a tip of 5%?"

"Y-You also got tips in here?" I wondered, feeling slightly shocked. "Um, sure I guess, you've been a good girl."

"Thank you!" she smiled adorably.

After she calculated and we paid her, we walked away from the restaurant feeling both satisfied and energized, we made our way to the Underground Mines entrance, which was being currently guarded by soldiers and where people weren't allowed to enter, looks like the whole Mole business had forced them to close the whole place down.

"Hello! We came to mine in the mines and also slay the moles," I said.

"H-Humans?!" a guard muttered.

"Wait, and an angel?! That's an angel right?" the other said.

"I'm the great Archangel Gabriel!" Gabriel said proudly.

"S-So you came to that? You know that the entrance to the mines is currently closed, right?" asked the man. "It's too dangerous... and you say you're slaying moles?!"

"Do you have a license, a pass, something to prove you came to do that and you had the permission of someone of authority?" the other asked.

"Yes, yes, please read this letter, also check my rune," I said, showing it to them.

"You're Bronze? Well that's not bad..."

"Hmm, this letter is from... Huh?! The three guild masters? Wait..."

They began reading it in silence, they were two very muscular looking gnome old men, their auras were fairly strong as well, they were among the few that had cultivated their bodies.

"I see, so you come from the Atlas Flower Garden... you gained a recommendation from Cinnamon, huh?"

"And you were the one that solved their Owl Bear problem?! Amazing... well, you're a pretty large party... even with the recommendations we wouldn't let you go alone, but if you're over ten people, maybe it's fine."

"Yeah, go ahead, but please be careful. If you're in too much danger, don't even hesitate to come back!"

"Thank you!" I said. "Come on guys, let's go!"

We walked into the large entrance to the Underground Mines, walking through the colorful caves decorated with all sorts of colored magic and spirit crystals, naturally illuminating our path.

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Chapter 1640: Moving Into The Mysterious Mines

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"So where do we go?" Rita asked. "Do you have a map?"

"No but we can make one in my head," I said, expanding my Magical and Spiritual Senses down. "Hmm, it doesn't have that many paths... Okay, let's see."

I quickly imprinted the mental map I created by expanding my own senses everywhere and scanning the place. And where did I imprint it? Well, into my own leaves.

"There," I gave everyone a huge green leaf with the first layer entire map.

"Wow this is convenient... Since when you could place images in your own leaves?" Mark asked. "That's amazing control over your own body."

"I know right? Well I've been practicing and pushing these abilities to their limits lately," I said proudly. "So this is nothing, really! I've done even more awesome things."

"Hahah, I guess," Mark nodded.

"Hmm, this is convenient yeah, we can finally guide ourselves," Rita said.

"And if someone gets lost, we can use the map to get outside!" Elisa said.

"That shouldn't happen either way," I said. "You're all connected to me through that Divine Guardian Skill, so I can tell where you are. If someone gets lost, make sure to stay where you are and let out your Aura, I will make sure to find you no matter what."

"Alright let's go then," Mark nodded.

We walked through the corridors after that, seeing the beautiful crystals illuminate our paths, while we avoided some pits and saw the remains of people that had come here to mine, and died in the process. Giant claw marks and other weird holes could be seen, but I couldn't detect any life, the moles were long gone.

"Oh wow, there's corpses in here..." Anna muttered. "Shit..."

"Hmm, it seems they cannot retrieve them yet..." Elena sighed. "Mom, can't we bring them back?"

"Okay, once we get back to the surface we'll bring the bodies with us," I nodded. "For now, I would rather not carry them around."

"Yeah... I guess you're not wrong," Elena nodded, firmly grasping her knife, prepared for any attack. "It's weird, there's no presences at all, are the moles gone?"

"I believe they had a huge battle here and then once they confirmed their prey was dead, they quickly went deeper... I imagine they might be aiming for the richer ores and crystals at the third layer," I said.

"Wait, what?! If that were the case then I might end up without any materials for my besties!" Anna panicked, as her six summoned familiars walked by her side, looking at her with confused expressions, they were surely a colorful bunch.

"We should hurry then, the materials in here don't seem that high quality," said Lily. "Let's go!"

We ran through the corridors at a faster speed, rushing through, leaping, avoiding sharp crystals. The first layer was composed mostly of common caves of brown stone and dirt, and a lot of red, yellow, and blue crystals glowing faintly. The silence was deafening, but once we made our way to the final place, we found a problem.

The way down was blocked by several boulders, someone had left this here so nobody would ever dare go down, it seemed.

"They blocked our path?! Was that the damn moles?" Rita asked angrily. "Are you serious?! I had no idea they could do shit like this!"

"Well it seems they're pretty serious about the whole thing," I said. "Hmm..."

"Should we break through them?" Gabriel asked. "Let's do it!"

"No, wait!" I said. "If we are not careful the entire cave may collapse on us, we need tools specifically made for this type of job..."

I looked at Lily at that moment, as she nodded, smiling. She knew that this was her time to shine, and she didn't hesitate to go for it.

"I'll take care of this! I think I can focus the strike into the boulders, so the cave doesn't collapse."

Lily stepped forward, holding Tierra, her living weapon, and swinging her down with great strength.

CRAAASH!

RUMBLE!

The boulders were hit once, and countless cracks appeared through them, and then, she struck them again, and again, and again.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

Until...

BOOOM!

The boulders exploded into literal sand, disappearing without even damaging the surrounding cave at all, aside from making it tremble a little.

"That felt really nice~! I wanted to do that so badly!" she said happily. "Now with this, we're mostly done, let's advance!"

"Alright," I said.

We kept moving down, reaching the second layer.

And this is where things looked different, the caves weren't as narrow and thin, they were huge, and expansive, with giant colorful mushrooms illuminating our path.

At the same time, the crystals had different shapes here, and there were also large concentrations of magic metals growing here and there, shaped as cubes, triangles, or stars.

Yes, they had strange shapes that one would think are unnatural for an ore to naturally grow as but weren't.

"Oh wow, we're in the second layer, right?" Anna asked.

"Ohhhh!" Gabriel looked around. "I've never been in a place like this... it's huge compared to before."

"Yes, this must be the second layer," I nodded. "Let me remap it... Hmm, oh, it's thrice as big... as the first layer, huh? That'll take some time to figure a way down."

After a quick mapping and distributing the leaf maps, we moved forward, walking through the corridor we found could lead us down faster.

In the way, we found a large underground open area, a beautiful underground spring, surrounded by blue, yellow, and green crystals and metallic ore growths shaped as cubes, stars, and pyramids.

"Hmm, hey Anna, I think there might be some of the materials you need in here," I said. "Lily, can you mine a bit of everything?"

"Sure thing! I wanted to do that all along!" Lily became excited, holding Tierra tightly and swinging her up, down, to the left and right.

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

While she worked, the rest started exploring the open area, although up there we didn't find much life, there was a lot more in here. Aside from the giant mushrooms, there were a lot of weird fish down in this lake, glowing brightly, most looked eyeless too, blind.