

Endless Leveling Done Right! #Chapter 29: Signs Of An Outbreak [Part 2] - Read Endless Leveling Done Right! Chapter 29: Signs Of An Outbreak [Part 2]

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"That sounds serious," Elaine commented. "But this can't be the first time the Town of Thaloria has dealt with a monster outbreak, right?"

Cynthia nodded. "Over the past two hundred years, there had been three monster outbreaks, each of which destroyed at least half of the town."

"That's right." Efa sighed. "My grandfather was a survivor of the last monster outbreak. He said that if Thaloria faced a calamity once again, I must leave and head to the capital city to ensure my safety."

As Alex listened from the side, he uncontrollably felt some doubt as to whether a monster outbreak was truly going to happen.

He still had knowledge about the game. The Town of Thaloria was the starting point of the players when they chose to begin their adventure in the Kingdom of Avalon, so it should be safe.

That said, he could only think of two possibilities.

First, the monster outbreak did happen. However, it was dealt with before it reached the city.

The second possibility was that the monster outbreak didn't happen, and the rumors spreading around the town merely came from the townsfolk's anxiety.

Both possibilities were likely. But truth be told, Alex was starting to feel unsure whether the events in the game would still follow their due course.

Perhaps noticing his slightly pale face, Dim Dim lightly tapped his hand and smiled at him.

"Dim!" Dim Dim said as he took out a bamboo steamer filled with white custard buns.

"Thank you, Dim Dim," Alex smiled and took one of the buns to eat. "Delicious."

"Dim Dim~" The Dim Sum God's smile widened, making the atmosphere at the table ease up a bit.

"Anyway, if a monster outbreak does happen, what will you do, Alex?" Seren asked.
"Will you evacuate with the townsfolk and head to the capital?"

The young man pondered a bit before peeking at his Master, who was quietly sipping his wine.

"Master, are you going to stay?" Alex asked.

"Yes," Cairo replied. "I've always wanted to experience a monster outbreak at least once in my lifetime."

The warriors, listening to Cairo's words, nodded in agreement.

"I can brag to my children and grandkids that I took part in a defense against a monster outbreak. That will be an amazing story to tell," Elaine commented.

"Uh... I'm torn." Efa sighed. "If Elaine stays, I feel like I should stay as well. She will probably haunt me in my dreams if she kicks the bucket, then blame me for it."

"Hahaha! I won't do that."

"... You say that now, but what if you really haunt me for life?"

Seren drank her wine silently while listening to the friendly banter of the two girls, whom she had momentarily fought side by side with.

Truth be told, she planned to stay in the Town of Thaloria to defend it.

Two of her friends had died protecting her from the goblins. She wouldn't be able to forgive herself if she simply ran away without doing anything.

Cynthia's thought was roughly along the same line. Back then, she had also wanted to die and had even tried to commit suicide when she had been captured, refusing to be treated as a broodmare by the goblins.

However, the goblin shaman had put her to sleep, preventing her from taking her life.

Thinking back, if she had succeeded with her plan, then she wouldn't have been saved by Alex.

Although the young man didn't know it, Cynthia planned to repay him for saving her life.

"I think I'll stay as well," Alex said after careful consideration. "If I can't survive this monster outbreak, then surviving the Dungeon of Beginnings will be impossible."

Cairo and the four girls looked at Alex in disbelief.

"Are you talking about THE Dungeon of Beginnings?" Efa asked. "The dungeon spanning over the Mistral Mountains that connects the Capital City of Harmonia with the south-eastern regions of the Kingdom of Avalon?"

"Yes." Alex nodded.

"Pfft!" Elaine chuckled before lightly patting his shoulder. "You're funny, Alex. The Dungeon of Beginnings is nothing compared to a monster outbreak. Besides, as long as you stay on the first floor of the dungeon, the enemies you'll face are Rank 1 Monsters at most."

"That's right." Seren nodded. "Wait, are you perhaps going to take the entrance exam for Frieden Academy? Is that the reason why you plan to challenge the Dungeon of Beginnings?"

"Something like that," Alex replied.

"Hehehe, do you want us to help you clear that dungeon?" Efa, who was confident that she wouldn't lose to Rank 1 Monsters, proposed. "You can treat it as my way of repaying my debt to you for saving my life."

"Oh, that sounds good." Elaine crossed her arms over her chest. "I never thought of that. Alex, just say the word, and I'll help you clear that dungeon."

"The only annoying thing about the Dungeon of Beginnings is that the layout shifts every twelve hours. It's basically impossible to map. Also, there are plenty of entrances. So, which one are you planning to take?"

"The Entrance at Briarwood Village," Alex answered without hesitation.

"Briarwood Village?" Seren frowned. "That's a very remote village. It will take you a day to reach that place by airship. Do you really have to go there?"

"Yes." Alex nodded. "It has to be Briarwood Village."

"Can you tell us why?" Efa, who was now genuinely curious about why the young man wanted to go to that town no matter what.

Alex didn't answer right away. Instead, he pondered for a while on how to answer her question.

"I want to see a friend that I still haven't met," he finally answered.

"You want to meet a friend you still haven't met?" Seren blinked. "Can you really say that the two of you are friends even if you still haven't met each other?"

"No," Alex replied. "And that's the reason why I want to see him, so we can be friends."

Cairo felt that there was something more to Alex's story, but he didn't try to pry into his disciple's private matters.

In the end, the group ate, drank, and talked about each other's adventures, putting aside all problems for the time being.

If the monster outbreak did happen, then they would just act accordingly. Until then, they would just focus on this happy moment and celebrate their escape from the hands of their captors.

Meanwhile, inside the Floating Forest...

The Goblin Chieftain and the Orc Chieftain were having a meeting.

The orcs ruled the north of the forest, while the goblins ruled the south.

Since the orcs were mostly located deep in the forest, they were rarely seen by people.

Most of the time, adventurers would find themselves faced with groups of hobgoblins hunting together. This was why only those who were confident in their skills would venture near the center of the Floating Forest.

The Orc Chieftain and the Goblin Chieftain exchanged a cup of blood with each other, sealing their temporary alliance.

Their numbers had increased exponentially over the decade and, with it, friction between the two groups had grown tense as of late.

The only way to resolve the problem was to expand their territory, and the only way to do that was to conquer the nearby town.

As long as they managed to succeed in their plans, they would have a stronghold they could use to rule over the southern regions of the Kingdom of Avalon.

With the alliance sealed by the pact of blood, they would now start preparing their armies for the invasion of the Town of Thalaria, which stood between them and the wide world that was theirs for the taking.

Chapter 30 - Exclusive To Protagonists

The party continued until late that night.

Everyone in the Cat Tail's Inn decided that talking about the possible monster outbreak wouldn't change anything.

At most, it would only make people more anxious and fearful.

So instead of dwelling on it, they all drank their worries away. Alex did the same, and woke up with a bad hangover.

"Ugh..." he winced as he raised his left hand to hold his aching head. "I shouldn't have gotten carried away last night."

He was starting to regret getting riled up by Elaine and joining their drinking contest.

Although he had drunk some canned beers back on Earth, they were nothing compared to the mead served in the Cat Tail's Inn.

Wanting to wash his face and freshen up a bit, the young man propped himself up in the bed.

However, instead of touching the bed, he touched something soft, which made him wonder if he accidentally crushed Dim Dim, who might be sleeping beside him.

"Sorry!" Alex gasped. "Are you alright, Dim Di—"

The young man wasn't able to finish what he was going to say next as his gaze landed on the beautiful lady, who had long, dark brown hair, sleeping beside him.

She was none other than the Swordsman, Elaine, with whom Alex had had a drinking contest last night.

It was then that Alex realized that the soft thing that he had touched earlier belonged to this lady.

"Ah!" Alex tried to move back, extending his left hand backward.

However, just like his right hand, his left hand landed on something soft, making the young man's body stiffen as his brain blanked out for a brief moment.

Turning his head to the side, he saw the petite and pretty Efa, who was also sleeping beside him.

Looking at where his hand was touching the young lady, the young man momentarily forgot his hangover.

The only thing on his mind at the moment was to check whether he was dreaming or not.

In order to make sure that he wasn't dreaming, he gave Efa's soft hill a light squeeze, eliciting a subtle moan from the sleeping girl.

"I see," Alex muttered. "This must be what 100% pure cotton feels like."

Fortunately, the Swordswoman and the Scout were at least wearing their clothes, making Alex sigh in relief.

If he had woken up with two naked ladies on the bed beside him, he might have started to smack his head to try and recall what had happened last night.

It would have been a shame if he couldn't remember anything, especially the "plot" on how things had gone during his drunken state.

Perhaps due to the shock and stimulation, Alex's hangover completely disappeared.

But just as he was about to pull his hands reluctantly from those soft and enticing hills, the young man noticed that he wasn't wearing any clothes, with the exception of his underwear.

Little Alex greeted him with a standing ovation, forming a rather impressive tent, which made him facepalm.

"You were amazing last night, Alex."

The young man almost jumped in fright when Elaine suddenly spoke beside him.

"L-Last night?!" Alex stuttered. "What happened last night?!"

"You don't remember?" Elaine sheepishly looked at the young man, whose entire face had turned beet red.

"I-I don't," Alex answered, clearly flustered because he was clueless as to what Elaine was talking about.

Suddenly, someone hugged him from behind, and a soft, teasing voice whispered in his ear.

"You were so rough," Efa murmured before blowing in Alex's ear, making him shudder. "But, it felt good in the end, so I'll forgive you."

Alex stared blankly at Elaine while Efa hugged him from behind.

It was as if he had lost the ability to think and was at the mercy of the two beauties beside him.

"Pffft!" Elaine, finally unable to bear it, laughed out loud after seeing that Alex's brain had completely shut down.

Efa, who was hugging Alex from behind, also giggled, lightly patting the young man's head.

"Sorry. Our joke went too far," Efa whispered. "Nothing happened. Are you disappointed?"

"N-Nothing happened?" Alex asked like a robot, unable to process the current situation.

"Would you have preferred if something had happened?" Efa asked back. Her voice was filled with seductiveness, making the young man's body heat up.

Alex was tempted to say yes, but something told him that he would regret it if he really answered that.

In the end, he sighed and covered little Alex with a blanket.

The two ladies had been paying attention to the little guy since earlier.

Their faces were a little red because they were quite impressed with the young man's assets, especially since he was a few years younger than them.

"You got wasted drinking last night and were even unable to walk properly," Elaine explained, propping herself up from the bed. "That's why Efa and I took you back to your room."

"You were sweating a lot, so we took off your clothes and wiped you down to help cool you off. But it was already late, and with the town under curfew, we figured it was too much hassle to head back to our own inn, so we just stayed here."

"Oh." Alex, who vaguely recalled the part where he was dead drunk, nodded in understanding. "Thank you."

"We're friends, so it's perfectly normal to help each other," Efa answered. "Don't worry. It was dark last night, so we weren't able to see it properly. Are you feeling calm now?"

"Yes." Alex lied with a straight face. "I am fine now."

How could he possibly stay calm when a pretty girl was hugging him from behind and pressing her chest against his back?

He was a healthy young man, and this sort of stimulation from two pretty ladies was enough to make Little Alex want to eat some pie for breakfast.

"Well, then. Time for us to go," Elaine said before giving Alex a kiss on the cheek. "This is thank you for last night and for saving me. Don't worry, in the future, you can ask me for any favor. Remember... ANY FAVOR."

"The same goes to me," Efa kissed Alex's other cheek before whispering alluringly in his ear. "You can ask this big sister for any favor. Even a one night..."

Alex blinked once, then twice, because he clearly heard what Efa whispered to him.

After teasing him for a minute longer, the two ladies finally bade goodbye to the young man, who was still in a daze.

With a determined look on his face, he pinched his leg.

The pain he felt was proof that he was, in fact, not dreaming.

"Damn," Alex muttered. "Is this one of those so-called lucky events only exclusive to Protagonists?"

"Dim Dim?"

The Dim Sum God had just climbed up Alex's window and happened to hear the young man ask a question, making it wonder if the question was meant for it.

"Dim Dim!" Alex hurriedly went to the window to ask the Dim Sum God a question. "Where were you last night?"

"Dim Dim."

"Eh? Lily and Cupid called out to you, so you spent the night chatting with them?"

Dim Dim nodded. "Dim."

"So you have no idea what happened after Elaine and Efa brought me to my room?" Alex inquired.

Dim Dim shook his head. "Dim."

Scratching his head, Alex decided that he should no longer dwell on this topic.

Although a part of him felt relieved and disappointed at the same time, he could only blame himself for drinking so much that he was practically knocked unconscious.

'My body is quite sore,' Alex thought. 'I must have done stupid things while I was drunk. I also feel a little drained. I guess I should eat some bananas today.'

The young man then decided to take a shower before heading down to the tavern to have breakfast.

Meanwhile, Elaine and Efa, who were both headed back to their inn, gave each other a knowing smile.

"He was amazing, right?" Elaine asked.

"Yes," Efa replied. "No complaints here."

The two then chuckled as they thought of the clueless young man who had saved their lives despite being weaker than them.