

Endless Leveling Done Right! #Chapter 41: If You Are Going To Lie, At Least Make It Believable - Read Endless Leveling Done Right! Chapter 41: If You Are Going To Lie, At Least Make It Believable

Chapter 41 - If You Are Going To Lie, At Least Make It Believable

"Dim Dim."

"Really?"

"Dim."

Alex frowned after hearing Dim Dim's report.

According to the Dim Sum God, the temple was located at the north of the second floor. Unfortunately, there happened to be a very dangerous presence lurking in that direction, which was more terrifying than the red-eyed zebra jumping spider.

The young man was shaken after hearing this information, and he wondered if this was part of the Clawford Tribe's trial.

"Is it some kind of a Boss Monster?" Alex inquired.

"Dim." Dim Dim nodded.

Alex pondered a bit before arriving at a conclusion. 'It must be a Field Boss Monster. If that's the case, then going to the temple alone is akin to suicide.'

The young man wished to investigate what kind of monster was lurking near the temple.

But after Dim Dim said that it was more terrifying than the jumping spider he had fought, he decided that it wasn't worth taking a gamble just to see what kind of monster it was.

"We can't do this alone, Dim Dim," Alex decided. "Let's go find the exit that leads to the first floor. We will camp in that location and tell everyone of the dangers ahead."

"Dim." Dim Dim nodded in agreement.

Fortunately, the path that led to the first floor was in the opposite direction from the temple.

The two headed southward, fighting monsters along the way.

It didn't take long for Alex to understand that Dim Dim was purposely leading him to battles he could fight.

For this, he was very thankful.

With each battle, he was able to better understand his current strength, allowing him to plan his next moves better.

The boost in stats that he had received from scaling the stairs, as well as the hidden mission rewards, made him strong to the point that he no longer needed to fear fighting against a Rank 1 Monster in a one-on-one battle.

In fact, he believed that he could fight three of them at the same time.

But, not wanting to do anything reckless, he limited himself to fighting against one or two opponents.

Three hours later, Alex saw the stairs that led to the first floor.

Only then did he relax. To be fair, Dim Dim also assured him that there were no monsters nearby.

He then decided to create a make-shift camp and grill some fish that he had caught in the river earlier.

'I hope that some people show up soon,' Alex thought.

Eight hours had already passed since everyone entered the domain. Although the first floor was vast, the young man believed that there would be people who would stumble down the second floor sooner or later.

As if the heavens had heard his thoughts, Dim Dim sensed someone descending from the stairs and informed the young man about it.

When Alex saw who the newcomer was, the smile on his face vanished completely.

"Are you the first to arrive here?" Lavinia asked.

"I think?" Alex replied.

"You think?"

"I mean, I'm not sure if I'm the first. But I haven't seen anyone aside from you reach the second floor."

Lavinia nodded. "Fair enough. But what are you doing here?"

But before Alex could answer, new guests arrived on the second floor.

The four Catkins, who were following Lavinia, also descended from the stairs and saw the human talking to their princess.

The leader of the group, who went by the name Lioren, frowned because he was one of the Catkins who didn't like the idea of having a human enter the domain that the Clawford Tribe monopolized.

"Princess, is this human bullying you?" Lioren asked as he approached the two teenagers, who were talking to each other just now.

"Who can possibly bully me in the territory of the Clawford Tribe?" Lavinia asked back before shifting her attention back to Alex. "You still haven't answered my question. What are you doing here?"

"Actually, I came here to wait for people to arrive," Alex replied seriously. "According to Dim Dim, the temple is located in the north.

"However, there is a Field Boss wandering in that region. This monster is probably Rank 2 or higher. That's why I came here to wait for others, so that we can tea—"

"Impossible," Lioren interjected before Alex could finish what he was going to say. "Stop lying, human. There are no Rank 2 Monsters on the second floor. Also, there have never been any sightings of Boss Monsters here. If you are going to lie, at least make it believable."

"Dim Dim!" Dim Dim glared at the teenage Catkin who was accusing Alex of being a liar.

The one who had given the information to Alex was the Dim Sum God itself.

This meant that Lioren was telling Dim Dim that it was a liar, which made the little one very angry.

Unfazed by Dim Dim's glare, Lioren even sneered in disdain before asking a question.

"Very well, let's say that what you say is true," he suggested. "Then what is the Boss Monster lurking in the north?"

"I don't know what it is." Alex shook his head. "I didn't dare to take a look. However, I trust Dim Dim. If it says that there's a Boss Monster that is more dangerous than a red-eyed zebra jumping spider, then going there will be very dangerous."

Lioren crossed his arms over his chest, not believing anything the young man had said.

"Princess, his words cannot be trusted. How about we all go to the north together? Even if there is a monster lurking there, we will be able to defeat it if we all work together."

Lavinia didn't reply to Lioren's words because she was busy paying close attention to Alex's and Dim Dim's expressions.

Aside from her Swordsmanship training, she had also been taught the arts of Truth Sensing.

Just as the name implied, this was a way to check if someone was lying or not.

From what she could tell, both Alex and Dim Dim weren't lying.

Although she was confident that she could defeat a red-eyed zebra jumping spider, she took the young man's warning to heart.

"Then let's stay here for the night," Lavinia decided after thinking of the best way to approach this problem. "If what you say is true, then we need to warn the others coming to the second floor about the dangers waiting ahead."

Catkins had excellent night vision, so they could see well at night. But, as a member of the Hartwell Clan, Lavinia thought that it was her duty to keep her people safe from any danger.

While she didn't believe Alex and Dim Dim entirely, she also didn't reject the possibility that they were telling the truth.

After all, according to her Truth Sense, both of them weren't lying.

As such, she would give them the benefit of the doubt.

"My lady, how about my group scout the north and confirm whether this human is telling the truth or not?" Lioren proposed.

"No," Lavinia replied. "Everyone will stay here for the night. We will all check the north together tomorrow."

"If you guys really want to do something, you can head west from here," Alex commented. "There is a river there where you can catch some fish. Your young miss might be craving something aside from beef jerky."

Lioren glanced at the young man because he thought that his words were sensible. However, he didn't utter any words of thanks. Instead, he simply gestured for one of his men to follow him.

"The two of you stay here to protect Young Miss," Lioren ordered. "I don't feel safe leaving her with a human."

After getting the acknowledgement of his two companions, the Catkin and one of his friends headed to the river to catch some fish.

Alex understood that they had the right to be wary of him, so he no longer spoke to Lavinia and returned to grilling the fish he had caught earlier.

Although he didn't want to admit it, he felt a lot safer knowing that they would be heading to the north tomorrow as a group, allowing them to team up against whatever monster was waiting for them in the Etherion Temple.

Chapter 42 - Night Raid [Part 1]

As the Etherion Domain descended into the darkness of the night, more Catkins arrived on the second floor.

To their surprise, they saw that a camp had been set up just a few meters away from the entrance.

Seeing Lavinia leading the other Catkins, the newcomers didn't think twice before joining her side. In any case, they were also curious why their princess was gathering people.

"Does she perhaps want to challenge the third floor and is looking for people to follow her?" one of the Catkins asked her friend.

"I don't know. But if that is what the Young Miss wants, I don't think there'll be many who will refuse to join her," the friend answered.

Out of curiosity, they asked the Catkins who had arrived earlier about it. Apparently, according to the only human in their entourage, there was a Rank 2 Boss Monster at the north of the domain.

Unfortunately, the temple was also located in the north, which made the Catkins anxious.

"Don't worry. All of us will help the Young Miss defeat it," declared Lioren, whom many recognized as one of the strongest Catkins of their generation. "For now, it's best that we all rest. Tomorrow, we will see if the human is just spouting a bunch of lies."

The young Catkin threw the young man a sidelong glance before telling the newcomers to eat and rest for the time being.

"Muuu!"

"Dim Dim, you look cute when you're pouting."

"Dim!"

"Don't worry. I'll ask that Lioren guy to apologize to you tomorrow after they see the Boss with their own eyes," Alex said in an attempt to pacify the pouting Dim Sum God after Lioren once again implied that they were liars.

The young man lightly patted Dim Dim's head before glancing at the Catkin camp, which now had nearly thirty members.

'With this many Catkins, we can definitely defeat that Boss Monster,' Alex thought.

The way they gathered reminded him of the early days of Endless Leveling Online. At that time, a Rank 4 Boss Monster had blocked access to the forest. It had possessed both speed and power, and had been cutting players down with a single blow.

The players had been forced to camp outside, forming massive parties to take it down. They even reached thousands in number, unintentionally conducting the first-ever Boss Raid. But even with their numbers, they were forced to retreat.

Then someone suggested throwing stones, reasoning that even minimal damage could add up. The players rallied behind the idea, and although many died, they finally brought the predator mantis down.

As a reward, the Game Master had praised their teamwork and gifted everyone a special item.

But in the end, that had just been a game. Alex was now clear that this world and the people around him were real and no longer just made of data, so he uncontrollably felt a little anxious about the battle that would happen tomorrow.

He didn't want any of the Catkins to die. That was why he had gone to the entrance of the second floor to warn them about the Boss Monster lurking in the north of the domain.

Now that almost everyone had gathered, he hoped they could work together to defeat the boss without losing anyone from their group.

"Dim Dim, I will be relying on your help tomorrow, okay?" Alex said softly to the Dim Sum God perched on the palms of his hands. "You will be my trump card."

"Dim" Dim Dim nodded with determination. "Dim Dim."

"Thank you," Alex replied. "I will do my best to be careful."

After that, the young man was prepared to rest when Dim Dim suddenly looked to the north with a frown.

A minute later, Dim Dim's face turned grim before warning the young man to prepare himself for battle.

"Dim Dim!" the Dim Sum God shouted before jumping on top of Alex's head.

Without any hesitation, the young man summoned his sword and shield and ran toward the Catkin Camp.

"Everyone, monsters are heading our way!" Alex yelled with all of his might. "Prepare for battle!"

Lavinia, who was just about to rest, immediately responded to Alex's shout.

She sprinted to the front of their camp and unsheathed her sword whip, ready to strike.

Lioren and the other Catkins gathered beside the second princess of the Hartwell Clan, ready to defend her if need be.

Unlike earlier, when Lioren had downplayed Alex's words and called him a liar, the Catkin now remained silent and simply held his sword at the ready.

Catkins had a strong sense of hearing, so they were able to hear the muffled movements within the forest.

Soon, the growls, howls, and roars of the monsters headed in their direction reverberated in the surroundings.

Cairo and Ramza, who were monitoring everything from the start, both had solemn expressions on their faces.

Although they hadn't seen the Boss Monster that Alex was talking about, Cairo believed that his disciple was telling the truth.

Ramza even wanted to stop the trial. Unfortunately, that was impossible at this point in time.

The Domain couldn't be opened by brute force, and they would have to wait before the ten-day trial was over.

Feeling helpless, the two could only watch as Alex, Lavinia, and the other Catkins stanced themselves in preparation for the monster stampede heading their way.

Chapter 43 - Night Raid [Part 2]

"All of you, get behind me!" Lavinia ordered as soon as her night vision pierced through the shadows and locked onto the horde of feral dogs breaking past the trees that bordered their camp.

At first, Alex only heard the sound of wood snapping, but soon enough, he saw the dogs' dark outlines, backlit by the full moon's light. Seeing the countless pairs of eyes shining eerily in the darkness made his skin crawl.

Fortunately, with the stars granting them dim light, the young man was able to make out the monsters more clearly as they drew closer with every step.

The crackling campfire in the background cast long, flickering shadows across the Catkins, who were now geared up for battle.

"Serpent Lash!" Lavinia's sword whip unfurled with a hiss, striking in a weaving arc like a serpent hunting prey.

The first line of feral dogs that happened to be in the way of her strike were instantly sliced in half.

However, a single slash, no matter how strong, couldn't possibly stop the stampede's momentum. Without care, the other feral dogs ran past the carcasses of their fallen comrades, who were starting to turn into particles of light.

Alex raised his shield and brought his sword to the ready, slipping into a defensive stance.

He was a few meters away from Lavinia, who had turned into a warrior princess of death, decimating everything that came close to her deadly sword whip.

But Lavinia was just an individual. A single stone couldn't block the flow of the river.

Soon, chaos erupted in the camp as Alex and the other Catkins joined the battle.

"Ah!" one of the Catkins shouted in pain as he was bitten on the arm by one of the feral dogs that had targeted his blind spot.

Fortunately, his friend had been quick to act and killed the monster before any lasting damage was done.

But as the battle progressed, more and more Catkins were getting injured.

Some even chose to fight back-to-back, ensuring that all sides were covered.

Even Alex, who wasn't close to any Catkin present, didn't hesitate to follow suit and group up with the others.

"Protect the Young Miss!" Lioren rallied the other Catkins. Despite their injuries, they still heeded his call and moved quickly.

The Hartwell Clan was the spiritual leader of the Clawford Tribe, so if they could help it, they would not allow anyone from their family to get hurt.

Lavinia knew how much damage it would cost the tribe if she continued to hold back, so she took out an emblem from her storage ring and raised it high up in the air.

"From stone-bound hills and forest deep,

I call the beast from primal sleep.

Let fang and paw now walk the land,

Dire bear, rise at my command!"

A magic circle appeared in front of Lavinia, and soon, a Rank 3 dire bear materialized on the battlefield.

< Dire Bear >

Monster Rank: Rank 3

Monster Grade: Uncommon

Health: 700/ 700

Attack: 50 - 100

Note: A terror of the deep wilds, the dire bear is an unstoppable force. Its very presence warps the land around it, as if the forest itself is trembling in fear. Few creatures dare to challenge it, and even fewer survive the encounter.

At the sound of a primal roar, the feral dogs were stunned for a brief moment.

The dire bear unleashed its savage fury upon those who were attacking its master. Its three-meter tall figure sent feral dogs flying with every swipe of its claws.

It mauled and bit everything in its path, making the Catkins all cheer for their Young Miss, who had summoned a creature to fight for their side.

Thanks to the powerful addition to their team, they finally got a breather from all the fighting.

But despite many of their comrades dying from a single attack of the dire bear, the crazed feral dogs didn't back down.

Lavinia had hoped the dire bear would intimidate the dog pack, yet it oddly had the opposite effect, as the monsters had become more vicious.

They even lunged at the bear with bestial savageness, as if wanting to tear its flesh apart.

Even she was taken aback by this scene. Weaker monsters were normally intimidated by monsters stronger than they were, so she had expected them to retreat.

It didn't take long before the dire bear was swarmed by the dogs. Although it was still alive, it had visibly taken serious damage from the attacks of its weaker opponents.

As the battle continued, Dim Dim once again felt danger in the air.

The Dim Sum God focused its senses in the direction from which it sensed the dangerous feeling was coming.

Soon enough, it discovered the hidden enemy lurking in the shadows, enjoying the desperation of the Catkins as they fought a battle of life and death.

"Dim Dim!"

"What?!"

Alex's body subconsciously shuddered when he heard Dim Dim's warning.

"Everyone, the Boss Monster is lurking nearby!" Alex shouted. "Be careful not to get ambushed!"

Lavinia's and Lioren's faces both turned grim after hearing the young man's warning.

They were already at their wits' end with the feral dogs. If another dangerous monster joined the battle, they would not be able to hold on!

It was then that a mighty roar reached everyone's ears as the dire bear sent all the dogs clinging to its body flying.

The dire bear's health had decreased drastically, and it had now entered its Berserk State.

In this state, it couldn't determine friend from foe. The only thing on its mind was to attack the nearest figures near it and crush them to oblivion. Even Lavinia didn't dare to stay close and hurriedly backed away.

But just as the Dire Bear steadily killed the feral dogs left and right, a dark shadow fell upon it.

Alex, Lavinia, and the other Catkins watched in horror as a giant spider sank its venomous fangs into the dire beast, who was completely caught by surprise by its sneak attack.

After delivering its venomous bite, the jumping spider leapt back, allowing everyone to get a good look at it.

Alex's face turned pale as soon as the information about the red-striped zebra jumping spider flashed in front of his eyes.

Then and there, he knew the creature was one they couldn't possibly hope to defeat, no matter what they did.

"Everyone, run to the first floor!" Alex shouted. "That's the Field Boss Monster Dim Dim was talking about!"

The moment the young man's shout reached everyone's ears, the jumping spider took off a second time.

But this time, it didn't jump toward the dying dire bear but the Catkins, who all stood rooted to the floor due to fear.

Chapter 44: Now Is Not The Time For Bickering

Everyone had frozen in fear except three individuals.

Alex, Lavinia, and Dim Dim were unaffected by the intimidation the Boss Monster had unleashed.

Lavinia's tolerance to the presence of stronger monsters had been improved by her father and grandfather deliberately taking her to dungeons far beyond her level in the past.

As for Alex, he had simply found his battle against the jumping spider in the past so memorable that he had often meditated and ran simulations inside his head, trying to figure out how he could deal with that kind of enemy.

But the jumping spider he had fought in the past wouldn't hold a candle to the monstrosity before him.

Each of the Boss Monster's legs was at least three to four meters long.

It was truly a mutated menace that made the dire bear look cute in comparison.

Just as the jumping spider was about to land on its first Catkin victim, a wall of light blocked its path.

A moment later, Ramza's voice reached everyone's ears.

"All of you run to the first floor now!" the Patriarch ordered. "I won't be able to hold it for long!"

When Ramza had noticed the situation escalating, he had looked for the artifact inside the secret room that would allow him to interfere with the domain for a brief period of time and had activated it at the perfect time.

He had cast a barrier that protected the teenagers from the Boss Monster.

However, there was a time limit, and he couldn't hold off the Boss Monster for a long time.

Ramza wasn't in the domain in person. Otherwise, he would have already squashed the jumping spider like a bug.

Unfortunately, the only thing he could do now was maintain the barrier protecting the teenagers, giving them time to escape.

"Carry the wounded, and head to the first floor!" Lavinia ordered. "Hurry!"

The young lady didn't hesitate to help support one of the Catkins, who had been injured in the leg by the feral dogs.

Alex also assisted another Catkin, who seemed to have lost the strength in his legs due to fear.

When all the Catkins had finally escaped to the first floor, Ramza sealed the exit, preventing the Boss Monster from following them.

But this was only meant to delay the inevitable.

The seal would be undone after two days and, when that time came, nothing would stop the Boss Monster from advancing to the first floor to hunt the Catkins.

"Listen up, all of you. Do not ask how I can talk to all of you right now," Ramza said seriously. "All you need to know is I have locked the exit of the second floor, but it will only last for two days."

At first, the Catkins felt relieved that their lord had prevented the monster from following them. But after hearing that this was only temporary, all of them felt despair.

They needed to survive for at least seven more days before being automatically kicked out of the domain.

Although no one said it out loud, they believed that surviving the next few days would be a near-impossible task.

"I know what all of you are thinking and feeling right now, but we have no way to forcefully open the domain and bring all of you out, even if we wanted to. This is a matter of life and death, I want all of you to work together to defeat that mutant.

"That's the only way you can survive. It's either you beat it or it beats you. Lavinia, do your best to keep everyone alive."

"Yes, Grandfather," Lavinia replied. "I will do my best."

Ramza sighed. It was unfortunate, but this was the extent of what he could do for the teenagers.

Everyone was uncontrollably down, including Alex.

Then out of nowhere, the young man heard his master's voice.

"Disciple, I know this is a selfish request, but I want you and my sister to survive," Cairo said. "You already fought a red-eyed zebra jumping spider and lived to tell the tale. If it's you, I believe you can find a way."

Alex sighed. "I'll do my best, Master. But I don't know if the others will want to cooperate with me."

"I will cooperate with you," Lavinia said without hesitation. "Just tell me what to do."

She knew that as long as she helped Alex, the other Catkins would follow suit.

"Very well. We will start our preparation tomorrow," Alex replied. "Everyone is tired, and some are even injured. We should all rest for now to recover our strength.

"Since the terrain of the first floor will change at midnight, we should all stick together to prevent us from getting separated. We also need to assign a night watch because there are still monsters roaming around the first floor.

"We will assign two people to guard for two hours before switching with the others. Dim Dim and I will take the first watch. Lavinia, you take the second."

"Don't order our Young Miss around!" complained Lioren, who did not want to obey the young man's order.

"Lioren, now is not the time for bickering," Lavinia stated coldly. "If you don't want to listen to his orders, you don't have to. I won't assign unwilling people to be night watchers after me."

The young lady then chose the least injured among the Catkins and taught them how to use the hourglass she brought out.

"Once all the sand on the upper chamber of this hourglass is down, exactly two hours have passed," Lavinia explained. "We will use this to time everyone's shifts."

After making sure everyone understood their roles, she handed the hourglass to Alex.

"Let's all find a safe place to rest for now," Alex suggested. "If any of our people suddenly go missing after the first floor changes its interior, please wake up Lavinia at once."

According to the clock in his status page, there were at least five more hours before midnight.

Lavinia would already be asleep by then, so someone needed to inform her if their people suddenly disappeared without warning.

Sensing their Young Miss might have become annoyed with him, Lioren decided to make up for his wrongs by volunteering for the third watch.

Lavinia agreed and ordered Lioren to wake her up if something unexpected happened during his shift.

Chapter 45: Conquering Adversity Is What Gamers Like Us Do Best, You Know?

After finding a safe place to rest, Alex and Dim Dim stood guard as the first watch of the night.

"Dim Dim, do you think we can win against that thing?" Alex asked.

To his surprise, Dim Dim didn't reply immediately. Instead, the little one locked eyes with Alex, studying him in silence. They stared at each other for almost a full minute, until the Dim Sum God finally smiled and gave a small nod.

"Dim."

Alex smiled and lightly patted the Dim Sum God's head because he understood what it was trying to tell him.

Even though it was difficult, he had no choice but to win.

For that was the only way to continue his journey in the world of Arcana.

"You're right, Dim Dim," Alex said softly. "Conquering adversity is what gamers like us do best, you know? It's just a Boss Monster. I'll kill it and get some experience points to level up!"

"Dim!" Dim Dim's smile widened after hearing the young man's reply.

After having a chat with the Dim Sum God, Alex decided that it was no use worrying about the what-ifs in life.

As a gamer, he had faced countless bosses before. Sure, he'd died more times than he could count, but he'd always come back for another round.

"Svalinn." Alex lightly touched the surface of the black shield he had summoned from his storage ring. "I don't know if you are sentient or if you understand my words. But I hope you will lend me your strength when the right time comes.

"Someone has to take hits, and none of the Catkins can do that. Only tanks like me dare to face a blow head-on. However, I can only do so much. In order to tank hits, I need a good shield, you know?"

Svalinn remained silent and simply listened to the young man's words.

At least, Alex wanted to believe that the shield was listening to him.

Two hours later, he lightly woke the Catkin supposed to serve as the night watch alongside Lavinia up.

Since he didn't dare to casually touch the second princess of the Hartwell Clan, he decided to let one of her people handle that instead.

As soon as he was sure Lavinia had woken up, Alex went to a corner and slept.

Just like everyone else, the young man was also tired physically and mentally.

Lavinia's shift went smoothly, and after her, Lioren watched guard.

The Catkin glanced in the direction where Alex was sleeping before maintaining his vigil with his subordinate.

"I heard the environment of the first floor changes at midnight every day," Lioren's friend said. "Is that really true, or is it just something the adults only say to scare us?"

"It's true," Lioren asserted. "My father warned me about it. He has emphasized that I should find the path that leads to the second floor as fast as possible before the structure of the first floor changes."

The Catkin then glanced at the hourglass beside him.

'Anytime now,' Lioren thought.

Suddenly, just as the first floor was about to undergo some changes, Svalinn slipped out of Alex's storage ring and placed itself on the young man's chest, where Dim Dim was currently sleeping.

A few seconds later, the environment around Lioren and his subordinates transformed.

Instead of the makeshift camp everyone had set up together, they now found themselves near a river.

The two Catkins immediately started a headcount to check if one of their people was missing.

Fortunately, everyone else was accounted for, making the two sigh in relief.

But Lioren's subordinate suddenly noticed something different.

"Where's the human?" the Catkin asked. "I don't see him anywhere."

Lioren frowned as he turned to look in the direction where Alex was supposed to be sleeping.

But he saw no one in that spot.

Even the young man's "pet" was missing. The frown on Lioren's face deepened.

Still, after thinking about it, he only shook his head and looked at his subordinate with a serious expression on his face.

"I guess he went somewhere before the domain shift happened," Lioren said.

"A-Are you sure we shouldn't wake up Young Miss to tell her about this?" the Catkin asked.

"No," Lioren replied. "He just went to relieve himself. He will be back soon. There's no need to wake Young Miss up."

The Catkin reluctantly nodded before lowering his head.

Lioren's gaze scared him, so the only thing he could do was agree with his leader's statement.

Meanwhile, outside of the Etherion Domain, Ramza held an emergency meeting with the Elders of the Hartwell Clan.

His explanation of what was happening inside the dungeon made everyone present anxious.

"Is there really no way for us to bring the children out of the domain?" asked one of the Elders whose grandson was currently taking a trial.

"If there is a way, I would have already done it," Ramza answered. "Don't forget—Lavinia is also inside the domain."

The Elders were aware of the Mirrors of Etherion, which could see what was happening inside the domain.

However, the mirrors' views were limited to the teenagers taking the trial.

It couldn't lock on the location of the monster that was currently on the second floor, patiently waiting for Ramza's seal to weaken.

"Then are we just going to wait until the kids are dead?" another Elder asked in frustration. "Maybe we can destroy the gate and brute force our way in."

"Feel free to try." Ramza sighed. "This won't be our first attempt to break into the domain by force."

A depressing silence descended upon the meeting room. They had already thought of every possible way to cancel the trial, but there was simply no way to do it.

"The only thing we can do is to watch over them," another Elder said through gritted teeth. "If the kids really die by that monster's hand, I will personally enter the domain and tear it to pieces."

All the other Elders nodded in agreement, for this was also what they wanted to do.

That night, the decision makers of the Clawford Tribe assigned a few Elders to watch the mirrors and inform them if something unexpected happened.

They all decided to rest in the Hartwell Residence, so they could quickly gather in case of an emergency.

All of them hoped the giant jumping spider would leave the children alone.

Because if it didn't, the chances of the teenage Catkins leaving the domain alive were nearly non-existent.

Still, they hoped for a miracle.

After all, unless the worst-case scenario came to pass, the young Catkins would be able to live to see another day.