

RAISING A FEW WIVES IN A BEAST APOCALYPSE

Chapter 61 Oh my!...

One week later.....

Jade, Emily, Layla, Chloe, Hope, Audrey were all now at 5KN, 15KN, 15KN, 10KN, 20KN and 30KN respectively.

"Okay ladies, this has been a very busy week...and I think you're all strong enough to take on the weaker of the two Half-steps I sensed...that is if you want to. After all, the beast is stronger than the lizard king and I won't be helping."

"Tsk, who do you take us for?... besides I took care of that lizard king on my own after all. We can totally take care of the next monster easily if we work together". Jade immediately spoke up in arrogantly. Though she wasn't wrong, they were definitely a lot stronger than a week before.

"Although your words make sense, don't forget that you were under the boost of potential realisation at the time... and even if you all don't need it now, you shouldn't look down on your enemy like this or you'll regret it someday.". Muku said to her with a reproachful expression on his face, he really didn't like how Jade could be so arrogant sometimes, which could cost her her life someday.

Seeing him like this, Jade didn't say anything knowing that he was really serious. And well, she kinda really liked it when he showed concern for her. In fact that was the reason she acted arrogantly outwardly but has never actually done anything too over the top until now.

"Anyway, despite the way Jade said it. The underlying meaning is that, we're definitely ready for this fight, we're all almost at the peak after all... though it's kinda disheartening that none of us realised any potential throughout the week.". Emily spoke up for the girls.

They had actually already gone to her house earlier in the week. And like the usual, they didn't find anyone there. But she did find a letter from her mother that said they'd be going to the university safe zone. After which Emily decided that since it was like that, they should rather get stronger first before going there. Since for now, her family should be fine if they made it to the university. If not, then the chance of meeting them somewhere in the city would be pretty low even if they search. So they might as well focus on getting stronger while hoping to luckily meet her family somewhere by chance if they were still in the city.

"Good, lets go then". Muku said with a smile after seeing the other girls nod to Emily's words.

With that, they much toward the unknown beast began. With Jade complaining about having to walk everywhere like she normally did. Though the ones who really felt strain of constantly walking were the other girls since their classes weren't too physical despite making them stronger than normal people.

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"What an overwhelming aura, even more intense than yours big brother!" Hope said when the group got close enough to the beast to sense it.

It had actually taken refuge in a large mall. The huge front door was broken and the inside was dark, but they could hear crawling sounds from within. Which was enough to guess that they'd be facing an insect type beast, likely a spider since no other insect types had been seen.

And as if to prove the guess right, a swarm of more than three hundred spiders came out of the mall heading their way. The beast inside seemed to have quite the keen senses since they were still around half a kilometre away while it was in a building. Yet it sensed them and even sent attackers at them.

"Emily?". Muku called out while looking at Emily. She had proven to be the best choice when dealing with insects with her fire that would spread among them until they are all consumed. Because of this, Jade called her the group's bug repellent a few days back and almost got her tail burnt off. From then on, everyone has been careful about what they say to her when bugs are involved.

"Okay, I'll take care of them". Emily replied rolling her eyes. Why were they all acting like this?. She was only playing with Jade before, wasn't actually going to burn her tail off. It was just a joke, they didn't need to be so wary...well it was mostly a joke anyway.

"Scorched earth!"

Emily called out and a golden flame started spreading out in front of her. Going forward to meet the incoming spiders. At its peak the golden flame covered up an area of 100

square metres. And like the days before, the spiders were seemingly unafraid of the flame and met it head on. And of course, they were easily burned into oblivion, leaving only ashes behind. But each one that was burned would take a bit of the flame's power until it was all used up after killing around half of them. Emily could have made the spell stronger but she wanted to save some mana for the battle ahead. And so, a second weakened "scorched earth" was cast and the spiders were finished off.

But the battle wasn't over. 50 LR1, 30 MR1 And 15 PR1 giant spiders could be seen stepping out of the mall.

"Well damn!, didn't know it had all that with it, seems it masked their presence with its own. This beast seems a lot smarter than the ones before, to actually want to tire us out before stepping in...how devious...how human!" Muku said looking at the approaching beasts with keen interest.

He wasn't really worried since if he wanted, he could swash all of them right there and then. In fact, he was actually quite happy, after this battle, his whole team will be able to reach at least the peak of Rank One!. Then when the battle with the monster which he felt was close approaching, wouldn't be as hopeless as he felt it would be with their current strength.

"I guess we all have to step in this time". Layla calmly said, getting ready to battle. Cold air starting to radiate from her body.

She has been showing battle junky tendencies in recent days making everyone wonder what was up, or if she was just growing to really love battles. While in truth she was just eager to also realise her potential, the truth about Layla that no one knew was that she was actually super competitive. Just that she has always been at the top before the apocalypse so didn't show that side of her.

As for after, all the girls were relatively similar in strength so again didn't need to show it. But after Chloe's explosion, then Jade's super explosion, she couldn't hide that side of her anymore, though the others misunderstood her. And as to why she didn't try to compete with Muku?, well he was their teacher and has a legendary class so they were never really in the same category to even compete.

"Yeah" Chloe replied, lightning crackling around her arms and legs. For obvious reasons, she didn't dare cover her whole body. Her control wasn't enough for her to do that and not destroy her clothes yet.

The others got ready as well, green energy swirling around Jade which she called beast aura as she turned catgirl(old version). She hadn't been able to get into the advanced form ever since the lizard king battle. Her current strength was likely not good enough to support it.

Green poisonous gas coating Hope's hands making the others step away from her a bit. They'd seen her kill beasts from a distance throughout the week after all. She'd just raise her hands in the direction of the target, her poison then merges into the air and then, less than a minute later, the beast would drop dead, blood flowing out of its mouth, nose, and eyes. Seeing her insidious power oddly made Audrey not feel as bad about hers.

Audrey held both her arms out and both their nails started elongating until they were around a metre and half long. Faint grey mana radiating from them, which had caused the explosion of many beasts throughout the week.

Although, she had already fought...or more precisely massacred some spiders. Emily was still good to go, also getting ready to battle. Being the opposite of Layla, hot air started to radiate from her body after she got serious.

Muku just stood back, looking at all of them with a stupid grin on his face. He was looking at them like a father looking at the children he's painstakingly raised finally start to open their wings to fly out into the world. If the girls had seen this, they're definitely be pissed, after all they all started out together, he just evolved faster. So what gives him the right to look at them like that?.

"High quick!" (Jade)

"Lightning charge!" (Chloe)

"Frozen javelin!" (Layla)

"Burning spear!" (Emily)

"Whisperless death!" (Hope)

"Oh my!, I forgot to name my spell!" (Audrey)

Everyone who was about to run forward almost tripped and fell when they heard Audrey's shout.

Chapter 62 Golden Death Ray!

After Audrey's little episode, the battle finally went under way. Jade began slicing beasts at super speeds, only killed one or two of them since that's all she needed. But still continued to wound some more to make it easier for the others. Interestingly enough, despite having already reached the peak and with the realised potential, she didn't immediately climb up to Half-step(80%). Maybe a person doesn't rank up mid battle or in a situation where they can't afford to do it immediately. Which would be great, since if one was fighting a beast tide then suddenly froze while ranking up... wouldn't they be killed on the spot?.

Soon enough, Chloe also found herself in the same situation, but continued punching beasts with her lightning coated fists to stun them for the others. After a relatively long battle since the peak spiders were quite agile and sensitive to danger, the girls finally managed to finish it. Audrey was breathing heavily after slicing beasts all of over the place for so long.

Emily, Layla and Hope had slightly pale faces from all the mana they used. Emily had been throwing flame spears left and right while Layla was basically doing the same with her ice. Hope had been continuously expending her mana not only to keep her poison's potency strong enough, but also keep it away from the others who couldn't see it.

Jade and Chloe were doing a lot better since they immediately ranked up to Half-step after the battle. Luckily, this time Muku contained their breakthrough aura so the monster wasn't drawn over.

"Good job ladies....now that everyone has gotten to a point where killing beasts doesn't improve your strength, do you still want to fight the spider queen?". Muku asked, he'd totally understand if they didn't want to fight anymore after a long battle and having already reached their target.

"Although we've reached the peak, we still need to realise our potential after all. So maybe this battle is just what we need to step onto that path. We've long figured out that battle is the best way to realise potential after all". Layla spoke up quickly as if afraid someone would reject the idea. She might be a little tired but she could still fight for a while longer and felt that the pressure could be exactly what she needs to get the ball rolling on her potential realisation.

"Yeah, Layla is right" Emily supported Layla. While Hope and Audrey agreed to it. They also wanted to step onto the path to rank two after all. Jade and Chloe just looked on, they of course wanted to participate in the battle but felt it wouldn't be as impactful for them as it would be for the others so chose to stay out of this one.

"If that's what you want... I'll stop suppressing it then" Muku said with a little smile. As soon as his words fell, he drew back his telekinetic force that was pressing down on the spider queen that had been wanting to come out for a while now then....

"CRRRR!!"

(A/N: honestly what sound is a giant spider supposed to make?)

The spider queen's furious screech rang out. The girls gulped down in nervousness. Muku, Jade and Chloe immediately stepped back and started watching from a distance.

"Hey!" Emily called out, they were doing it again!...well at least this time she wasn't the only one it was being done to do she felt a lot better about it actually.

"It's huge!" Hope called out. The spider queen was even larger than the lizard king. The monster in front of them was at least four and a half metres in height and had a large body, it kind of looked like a large version of a tarantula. Luckily the girls had been facing spiders for a while now or they definitely wouldn't have had the guts to fight the creature in front of them. It looked like something that crawled out of the nightmare realm for the sole purpose of terrorising people in reality. Not to mention it's monstrous aura, they were even wondering how Muku was able to suppress such a thing so easily.

"Great!, another monster with an element!" Emily complained looking at the darkness radiating from the beast's body.

"Hmm, it seems somewhat like my shadow element...but a lot more sinister" Layla said.

"Hey you two!, aren't you supposed to be preparing attacks to receive!?" Hope said with an exasperated look on her face. While she was already releasing her invisible poison(Whisperless death) in the direction of the spider, these two were just standing there talking.

"Oh right!, sorry". Emily said then prepared an attack, Layla didn't say anything but also did the same, they were both super embarrassed. Seems that caught a bit of the "Muku syndrome" of studying your enemy when you're supposed to be fighting.

"Burning heavens...Full force!" Emily called out, this time she didn't hold back. The sky above then turned golden due to her flames. Then the flames gathered together and concentrated on the area above the spider queen then descended on it.

Boom!

The flames, like most of Emily's attacks, exploded on impact.

"Frozen rain!". Layla called out and more than a hundred thick spears appeared in the sky above the spider that was still enshrouded in the dust and smoke from Emily's attack. Everyone knew the fight wouldn't be so easily won so they didn't wait to see it's state.

Bang! bang! bang!

One after the other, the spears hit the area where the spider queen was at high speeds.

"Sigh, all my work wasted". Hope complained, the concentrated of her poison in the area was about to reach a high stage were the spider would definitely be affected, but it was burnt away by Emily's attack. She and Emily's elements didn't make a good pair it seems. Seeing how her "whispering death" likely wouldn't work in the situation, she decided to give up on it and try to come up with something else.

The dust and smoke finally cleared and the spider was visible again. Around it, a see through black dome could be seen, and all the attacks were stopped by it it seemed. They

could see the eight cold eyes of the beast focused on them through the dome. Which made them feel a chill go down their spines, then...

Woosh!

The spider suddenly jumped forward at high speed and...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Layla managed to raise up three ice walls in front of them and by the time the spider broke them all, she and the others had already made their get away.

"That was close, how's it so fast!?" Emily said, the spider had really given her a scare with it's sudden movement.

"Watch out!". Hope said as she knocked Emily out of the way and both of them fell to the ground. As soon as they fell, a black arrow passed by the area Emily was standing. If Hope hadn't pushed her out of the way, she'd be dead with a hole through her head!.

"Focus Emily!, this thing isn't like the weak monsters we've faced before!". Layla called out as she set ice barriers around them, just in case the spider had another unexpected attack to through at them.

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From the sidelines...

"Well, that got a bit too close for comfort didn't it!?" Muku exclaimed, after the attack on Emily.

"Oh please, I bet you had the black arrow in your grasp from the start". Jade retorted while rolling her eyes. Though internally she was signing in relief.

"Be that as it may, that was still a dangerous situation!" Muku exclaimed.

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"I think we need to try something else, direct attacks will probably not even reach that thing". Hope said, she still couldn't think of anything that could work, so told the others, maybe they will be able to think of something.

"Oh, Layla, can't you, I don't know, get into its dome with your shadow element or something like that?". She suggested to Layla with glowing eyes.

"Then what?, get eaten alive before I can even cast a spell....hmm, I might have an idea, but you both will have to buy me some time". Layla replied, she was about to shrug off Hope's suggestion but it made her think of something she could try.

Hope and Emily who'd finally gotten over her brush with death nodded to Layla's plan. They didn't know what she wanted to do, but since she was basically the most reliable one in their group, they trusted her.

"Umm, I think you should attack first, your attacks mess with mine after all" Hope said to Emily who nodded in agreement.

"I think I'll try it now... Who knows, I might be able to get a hit in with it". Emily said to herself as she held her hands out, and created a triangle shape by holding them together.

"Hope, get ready to throw your best attack at it okay?" Emily said as sweat trickled down her face as she created her new spell. Hope was confused as to why Emily was so sure her attack would work, but nodded none the less. After all, she could feel hot energy building up around Emily and knew the next attack would definitely be something special. Not to mention Emily's now glowing golden eyes reminiscent of scenes she'd seen in the past.

"Golden death ray!". Emily called out and a beam with a thickness of around fifteen centimeters flew out from her hands. The spider was hit before it could even react, the black dome was actually broken through!. Luckily for it, Emily's aim was off or she might have ended the battle then and there. But it did get an extra hole just above its right legs. The beam went through its body and came out the other side.

"CRRRR!". The spider queen cried out in pain and anger from being injured by food.

Emily immediately felt all the power in her body disappear and she started falling to the ground. But surprisingly a smile appeared on her face as she fell.

Which was because it finally happened!

[30% of Pseudo-Legendary class potential realised.....]

Her numerous days of thinking of what she could come up with to realise her potential, paid off.

Chapter 63 Shadow Charged!....

Hope was quite shocked by what Emily just did. She'd imaged Emily would throw out another exploding attack or something like that. But not wasting the window she was given, she quickly released the spell she was preparing as the hole Emily had created was already closing.

"Descent of the poison cloud!" Hope exclaimed as a dark green cloud that suddenly appeared in the sky above the spider descended and enveloped it whole.

Most of the poison was stopped by the dome but some of it got through the two holes created by Emily's attack, one in the front and another in the back. Even so, the little that got through was quite effective as it had the spider's newly acquired wound to exploit. The spider started feeling dizzy and couldn't effectively attack as before. But that's all the poison managed to do since there wasn't a lot that got through the holes on the dome before they closed off.

"Sigh, my element really sucks when the enemy has a barrier spell". Hope spoke to herself dejectedly. Then her gaze suddenly snapped back in the direction of Layla. All her senses were warning her to run, but since she knew Layla wouldn't harm her, she didn't listen to them and just waited to see what would happen. The spider was taken care of for at least a minute as it fought off the poison's effect after all. As for Emily, she was swiftly taken away by Muku when she was still falling to the ground, so Hope didn't have any worries right then.

"Step out of the way!". Layla rather hoarse voice called out to her and without asking anything she immediately did. The threatening aura that was coming from Layla who was behind an ice wall was enough to answer any of her questions after all.

Ice cold air gathered in the sky above the battle field casting a shadow on everyone. Interestingly, the air was actually black in color like a raincloud. Hope couldn't help but shiver due to the coldness then it suddenly stopped feeling cold. Muku had stepped in, creating a force field that stopped the cold air from reaching her. To which she smiled broadly while internally thanking her attentive big brother.

"Shadow charged frozen sky lance!" Layla called out and two metre thick and seven metre tall black lance descended from within the raincloud like air descending on the spider that was still disoriented by the poison from Hope.

Just when everyone thought the black lance's sharp end was going to come into contact with the dome around the spider...it actually passed right through!. As of there was nothing there.

Stab!

"CRRRRRRR!". The spider queen cried out in pain as it was nailed down by the lance through its midsection unable to do anything other than scream and kick it's legs all over the place in pain.

A distance away, just like Emily, Layla also fell unconscious and Muku acted again. As soon as she lost consciousness, the lance that was pinning the spider down, immediately disappeared.

Just before she fainted, Layla heard a voice that made her just as happy as Emily...if not happier.

[50% of Pseudo-Legendary class potential realised...]

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"Did that attack just....". Muku spoke but didn't finish his sentence.

"Ignore the spider's defence?" Jade finished it.

"Yes...yes it did". Chloe replied.

Clearly they were all shocked by what they just witnessed, it might have been even more shocking than when Jade went berserk and soloed the lizard king!.

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Surprisingly the spider queen wasn't dead even with a big hole through her body. It even tried making a getaway then....

Wooo! Stab!

Audrey suddenly appeared in the sky above it and stabbed it right on the head with all her claws. It's dome had already disappeared, it couldn't maintain it in its current state.

(A/N: As for those wondering why she's only appearing now...it's definitely not because author-san had forgotten about her until after the battle...I swear!)

Actually at the beginning of the battle, Audrey realised that her close quarters fighting style wouldn't be able to do much when fighting such an enemy. It constantly had a barrier around it, and not to mention it was a lot stronger and faster than her, so getting close to it with her current strength would be asking for death. So she chose to stay back and only act if the situation required for her to act. And although she didn't need KP for now, she felt that it was better to kill the beast as not everyone will be able fight it like her group, so she was just doing the weaker people in the city a favour. Even in it's current state, it probably could still body a normal rank one evolver.

(A/N: And for those wondering why the spider only used these black arrow once. Well half-step beasts are usually only proficient in one spell. So, it being able to use the arrow even once was already good amazing. And no one would be caught if guard by it after it being used once already so there was no real point to using it again. P.s the Shadow panther was once a Half-step beast that reduced in rank after being injured in a battle)

"I sense a beast core from the spider queen's body". Jade said while looking at the spider queen after they walked over.

"Oh, I'll get it" Audrey said and dug out the core from the beast's chest area, just above the hole. The core was pitch black in color and gave off a sinister air.

"So, what are we going to do with it?" She asked looking at Muku.

"Hmm, we'll leave it to Layla, Emily and Hope to decide, this one is their spoil after all". Muku replied looking at Hope.

"I don't want it, Layla and Emily will decide what to use it for when they wake up". Hope said while shaking her head when Audrey tried to hand it over to her.

"Well okay, and I feel it might be useful to Layla, we'll just wait for them to wake up". Muku said taking the core from Audrey and putting it in his bag which was designated to be the one to use to carry random things by the girls somewhere along the lines. With that, the group left the area....

What they didn't know was that a monster had been watching their battle from the start. Even Jade and Muku sensed nothing.

After the two deaths before, the monster actually deduced that the spider would likely be the next to be attacked and started camping close by. The spider didn't even know that their ruler was living so close to it for around three days. Which was the last time Muku sensed its presence.

Seeing them go away, a look of amusement appeared in the monster's eyes but it didn't do anything and waited for them to go further away away before coming out of hiding and consuming the spider's body and going away.

It had bigger issues to worry about right now....time was almost up after all...

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More than a kilometre from the battle scene, Muku's group could be seen sitting in a mansion. They had coincidentally wandered to the area where Chloe's house was. And after Chloe mentioned it, they just had to go see it. Which is where they were right now.

"So you lived in this large place all by yourself?". Jade asked Chloe looking at her with pity instead of envy. While it was envious to have such a big house, there was nothing envious about living in it alone.

"Well, not completely, I did have a personal maid who came during the day" Chloe said with a slight smile, but it didn't hide the sadness within her eyes.

"Aw, don't worry, you won't ever be alone from now on okay". Jade immediately stood up and hugged Chloe, Hope joined in as well. Muku and Audrey just looked on with slight smiles on their faces witnessing the beautiful scene.

"Thanks". Chloe said, trying to hold back her tears, but failed. Though after a while she managed to calm down.

"Mmm". Just then, Emily woke up. It had at most been an hour since she fainted. Meaning she woke up a lot sooner than even Chloe from before by at least three hours.

"So, how much did you realise?". Hope asked excitedly not even waiting for Emily to gain her bearings. Well at this point, to their group, fainting after battle automatically meant potential had been awakened so Hope's question wasn't that weird... though a bit too

quick. What they didn't know was that normal people realise 5% at most, at once, so their bodies don't get overwhelmed leading to going unconscious. Maybe that's just the difference between legends and normal people.

"30%" Emily replied as a smile appeared on her face.

"Woah, congratulations, I'm so envious!" Hope exclaimed. She was really happy for Emily. Being as observant as she was, although she didn't say anything, she'd long noticed that Emily and Layla were really frustrated about not having realised any of their potential yet. So knowing that Emily would finally relax a little after this, made her happy. The others also congratulated her after Hope, making Emily's smile even broader, blinding Muku for a second.

Around thirty minutes later, Layla also awoke. And when they heard that she'd awakened 50%. Another round of congratulations ensued. Now only Hope and Audrey were left at the peak.. though unlike the ones before them, neither of them felt too much pressure because of their situation, all they really cared about was being together with everyone else. And they knew that eventually even they would realise theirs, so there was no need to rush.....

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Back at the school portal.....

98% of it was already blue, meaning in a few hours at most.....

Chapter 64 Personal base acquired!

"Hey, I got an idea! Why don't we make this our base? I mean sure, we could go back to the stadium or even go to the university, but wouldn't our own private base be a lot better than those crowded places?". Jade suddenly said, prompting everyone into thought.

And honestly, no one was against it. They had gotten used to the company of each other so much that living in a crowded area with a lot of strangers didn't sound very appealing to them.

"Hmm, what about our family members if we find them?". Emily asked, she still had the hope of finding her family members.

"Simple! We just bring them here; this place can house at least fifty people from its large size...quite frankly, no offence, Chloe, but I think your father was crazy when he built this mansion and left you alone in it". Jade replied to Emily while conveniently cursing Chloe's dad while at it. Which made Chloe smile wryly since she couldn't disagree with her words.

"If it's like that, then I accept, I also don't like living with thousands of random people if it can be avoided. But we'll have to at least go check the university out just in case some of our family members are there". Emily agreed to Jade's idea.

"Then I guess we might as well go gather food and some other necessities for the rest of the day. It's still only midday after all, and we don't have anything else to do anyway" Layla chimed in, expressing her agreement with her words.

Muku, who had chosen to take a back seat in the discussion, just nodded in agreement along with Hope and Audrey. He quite liked it when they didn't always look to him for every decision. They were living in perilous times, so the group shouldn't depend on him for everything. As it would be broken the moment something happens to him that way, which he didn't want to happen.

And so the group got to it. There were a few food shops close by, so it didn't take long for them to collect what they needed.

"Hmm... unlike Chloe here, the rest of us still need clothes; any idea where we can get them, Chloe?" Layla asked while looking at Chloe.

"Well, the closest is the mall...the same one where the spider lived". Chloe replied then left the decision of what they will do to the rest of the group.

"There's no way it could have covered the whole place with webs, right? So let's go check it out" Emily gave her opinion.

"I want a phone, so lets go check it out!" Hope gave her opinion as well, her reason making the others smile wryly. Though they couldn't disagree that they also wanted one, modern-day people basically can't live without a phone after all.

"Well, we still got a bit of daylight left, we might as well go". Muku spoke, and with that, they went...

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I'm in front of the mall...

Scorched earth, craters and smashed cars...the place looked like a war zone.

"Wow, did Emily and Layla do all of this!?" Hope exclaimed looking at the ruined area. This was the first time they revisited their battle scene after all.

"Hey! You were part of that battle, too, you know!". Emily shouted out.

"True, but...have you ever seen poison that burns the ground or stabs it, leaving a huge hole in it?". Hope retorted with a smug smile that made Emily want to throw a fireball at her face; even Layla gave her a side glance before looking away. But neither of them could deny her statement.

"Yeah, we know Emily and Layla are destructive, but....where are the bodies?". Jade spoke, and that's when Emily said Hope realised that there wasn't even a single beast body on the scene, from the spider queen to the unranked spiders; everything was gone.

"They've probably already been devoured by other beasts; it's been a while since we left after all", Layla spoke, answering Jade's question, though she knew Jade was just asking a rhetoric question since it's quite easy to come to such a conclusion without even thinking much.

"Yeah, it makes me wonder if we can also eat beast meat...sure, not the spiders, but that lizard and snake meat seems quite tasty". Jade said soon after Layla finished speaking.

"So that's was your aim from the start huh!?, I already told you that no one is going to be eating alien meat in our group! Who knows what it will do to us!?" Muku quickly shut Jade down again. He was wondering why she'd asked an obvious question before, but after her follow-up, he realised she was just building up to the matter she's been mentioning every now and then ever since a while back.

"Come on, man! You know I have beast instincts, right? So if I feel like something is okay, then it is.. probably". Jade defended herself, but her last word made those who were planning to support her quickly lose confidence.

"Fine! We'll do it like this: as soon as our current food ends, we'll try some beast meat, okay?". Muku relented a bit, he knew she'd keep on saying it until she got her way, so he might as well compromise for the sake of peace.

"Yay!, I can't wait!" Jade was happy. She could accept waiting for a while since evolvers like them ate a lot of food. Their consumption had been getting even higher the stronger they got, so even if they managed to gather a lot of food, it would only last them a few days at most, and she'd finally get to try beast meat!

"Good, now shut up so we can get to business and quickly return home". Muku said to her as he began walking toward the mall, which was still as dark as ever. The rest followed behind him. Jade didn't even argue with what he said because she was afraid he might take back his words about beast meat if she argued with him.

"Did the spiders break all the lights or something?". Hope asked after stepping into the dark building.

"Hmm, let me try something". Chloe said then walked toward a certain corner then...

Click!

After a little sound, the lights of the whole building came on. Then they noticed that all the windows were covered with webs, which was why the whole building was so dark even though it was daytime. It appears the spider came in during the day when the lights were turned off.

"Oh, that's a lot better...or not," Hope said with a smile that quickly disappeared.

The first floor was covered with spider webs left and right. And there were human-sized cocoons all over the place, along with large spider eggs that were a lot more than the cocoons. The sight looked quite horrific as the human-sized cocoons had humans in them who were likely the food prepared for the spiders that would hatch out of the hundreds of eggs lying around. So Hope's short-lived happiness was understandable.

"Should I burn everything?" Emily said her eyes already glowing fiery gold, anger visible in them.

"Do that and you'll burn down the whole mall, might even burn down a few other buildings as well," Muku spoke, indirectly saying no.

"Layla", Muku called out; Layla nodded, then...

"Frozen world". Layla said in a low voice, and then frost spread out all over the room, freezing everything in place. Only the area they were standing wasn't frozen. Not because she has great control but because Muku set up a field.

"Break". She said again then..

Crack! Crack! Crack!..... Boom!

All the spider eggs that had been frozen exploded into frozen chunks that went all over the place. Everyone including Muku were startled by Layla's display. He thought she was going to toss ice arrows that would freeze in place at them or something.

He could have taken care of it, but no one wanted to see how the spider eggs looked like squashed or with swords going through them with juices flowing out of them. Even Chloe could have killed them with her lightning, but that would have cooked them. But again, no one wanted to know what they smelled like after being cooked. The place was already stinky enough.

"Interesting spell". He couldn't help but comment.

"Thanks". Layla said, a slight smile surfacing on her face for a second before it went back to being neutral.

"Can we continue now?". Jade said, visibly jealous. He had never complimented any of her spells!.

After that, they headed for the frozen escalator to the next floor. Basically ignored the first floor, barely could stomach looking at it. The second floor was mostly filled with clothes stores, so they looked into that. Luckily, some shops had their doors closed, or the bad smell from the spiders would have gotten on the clothes like most of the clothes on the floor. Everyone, including Chloe, who already had clothes back home, filled up a huge bag with as many clothes as they could. She was a girl, after all; how could she ever say no to clothes?

The third floor was filled with utility and tech shops. Everyone got what they wanted. The latest mobile phones and laptops even got spares. Another big bag was filled. The girls tossed in everything they found appealing; after all, Muku was going to carry everything with his telekinesis, so they didn't have to worry about it causing them problems. As for causing him problems?...well that's his problem.

After getting everything they wanted, the group left the mall and returned to Chloe's mansion, or is it their mansion?...

Chapter 65 Level Two World Evolution

Back at the mansion.....

It was around 7pm the group had already had dinner and taken their baths. Now, they were just lazing around, talking and laughing.

"Oh hey!, I suddenly remember something!". Muku said and got up under the curious and confused look of the girls. He returned after a bit and in his hands was the black core from before. Seeing it, the eyes of most of the girls look up in realisation. While Layla and Emily, who were unconscious at the time, were surprised, they could guess that the core was likely from the spider, but the fact that it even had a core, which was super rare, was the surprising part. Seeing it, both Jade and Layla felt a sudden urge to consume it, just that Jade's urge was only a fraction of Layla's.

"As you two might have guessed, this beast core is from the spider queen and so since you two dealt with it, it's yours. Hope already said she doesn't want it" Muku said while handing the beat core to Layla. He'd already seen how Emily didn't seem interested in it while Layla seemed like she was close to pouncing on him if he didn't hand it over. So he quickly handed it over to her.

"You keep it, just remember that you owe me and Hope a favour for it", Emily said, looking at Layla, who was holding the core like she was prepared to fight to the death for it while looking back at her. She could clearly see that Layla wasn't going to give it up no matter what, so might as well ask for a favour. Not like the core was useful to her other than as a mana charger anyway.

"Sure," Layla said and immediately brought the core up to her mouth.

As soon as the core touched her tongue it melted into her mouth. Immediately, a black aura shot out of her body, and luckily, Muku contained it in time, or it would have literally blown the roof off. Her already black hair seemed to turn even blacker. Her hazel eyes turned black, the aura kept on rising until it threatened to break through Muku's telekinesis cage, then finally stopped. The others were surprised that he was even able to contain it actually. Then Layla received a surprising prompt.

[95% of Pseudo-Legendary class potential realised....]

Just like that, Layla became theoretically the strongest member of their group. Her already out-of-control aura from the earlier rank-up was now even more heavy. And on top of the chill her aura gave off, there was now also a faint sinister feeling to it. Muku had to suppress her aura into a space a metre around her for Hope and Audrey to breathe properly as they hadn't even stepped into the Half-step stage yet. Luckily, Emily's aura was under control, maybe because it was only 30% so she could control it.

"Let me guess, your realised potential increased?". Muku calmly spoke while looking at Layla's newly black eyes that gave off a dangerous feeling.

"95%". Layla only said the percentage and everyone in the room felt like thunder went off in their heads from the shock.

...

At the same time at the school portal...

99.9% of it was now blue then....100% of it turned blue.

[World mana has reached a sufficient level. Initiating Level 2 World Evolution in 5 minutes. You're advised to seek shelter in safe zones if possible. There is a high possibility that any building that is not designated as a safe zone will crumble due to immense shaking. All are advised to proceed cautiously]

...

Just as the group was about to express their shock at Layla's absurd power increase. The group, along with everyone else on the planet received a prompt that shook them to their very core. Their already perilous situation was about to get even worse! Just when they were starting to think they could relax a bit too.

"What should we do?" Muku asked his group the question that everyone else on the planet was either asking their companions or themselves after hearing the prompt.

Everyone everywhere felt uneasy... accept those chillin' in safe zones. If the people at the stadium weren't starved due to the increase in food shortages, they would be jumping for joy. That is until they realise that food would be even harder for them to get now.

"Should we make our way toward the university?. If we run, we should be able to make it in 30 minutes". Chloe gave her opinion. Although it saddened her to know that her home was going to be destroyed in less than five minutes, she still prioritised the group's safety.

"Wait!, we literally just made this place our base!. We can't just leave now! Can't we just do something to stop it from shaking?". Jade voiced her opinion, she didn't want to give up on their new place. And definitely didn't want to live with thousands of strangers in cramped rooms.

"Well that's not possible so, sorry, we should pack up and leave". Emily quickly burst her bubble, but everyone could tell that even she was unwilling.

"Actually, that might not be impossible". Muku suddenly chimed in, a thoughtful expression on his face. He was wondering if he could pull it off or not.

"Really!?" Jade asked with hope blazing in her eyes. Even the other girls looked at Muku, asking the same question, but with their eyes.

"Yeah, though I'm not sure if I have enough mana, we don't know how long it will last after all". Muku replied to them with uncertainty. But the girls ls were already over the moon; they even casually ignored the later part of his statement. In their minds, if he says he can do something, then he can definitely do it. None of them wanted to leave after all.

"Hhm? Muku looked behind him after someone poked his shoulder. It turned out to be Audrey. Before he could ask anything, she handed him the half-used mana core she acquired from the MR1 spider a week before. Muku got emotional and almost hugged Audrey on the spot. She seemed to have sensed it, as she jumped away as soon as he got

the thought like a scared rabbit. Luckily the girls didn't notice their exchange as they were all stuck in their own little worlds.

Muku was unfazed by Audrey's action. In fact, he was even glad she did it as it would have been more awkward if he had actually hugged her.

{At least someone cares for my plight. She's so cute; I just want to marry her right now...if I wasn't certain that Layla would stab me in the heart with an icicle, I can't defend against that. And the rest probably wouldn't mind assisting her in murdering me}. Muku thought to himself but didn't show it on his face. If the girls knew what he was thinking they'd probably nod in agreement.

.....

Less than five minutes later....

[Your five minutes is up. Commencing World Evolution in 3....2....1...0]

As soon as the voice stopped speaking in everyone's head. Everything started shaking. Muku immediately covered the whole mansion along with the wall with his telekinesis and....lifted it all off the ground along with the group it was on. A big hole was left in the place the mansion stood before as it now floated two metres in the sky.

Muku's face started perspiring like crazy. Not because of the huge mana expenditure he was going through but the pressure his mind was going through to keep on focusing on keeping the building up. Telekinesis was all about one's mental state after all. The girls were all looking at him with worry on their faces, taking turns wiping away the sweat that kept on gathering on his face. His eyes were shut tight from the moment he began, and so he couldn't even see what the girls were doing, nor sense it for that matter. That's how focused he was...he had to be.

.....

At the stadium....

The people were all gathered at the edge of the barrier looking outside. They felt like they were in a different dimension from the rest of the world. While they stood still, everything outside the barrier was shaking like crazy, and buildings were breaking crumbling down like the voice said. Tar on the roads was getting ripped apart as the ground.... stretched?. That's right, buildings weren't just being destroyed, they were actually also moving away from the stadium in their ruined state. It almost seemed like the world was... increasing in size.

Looking at the scene outside the barrier, the people realised that the world they knew was gone. They were now in the apocalyptic age and things will never go back to what they were before. This realisation motivated some to get stronger after the world's evolution ends. While most became even more cowardly and would die within the safety of the barrier, they now thought that even stepping on the ground outside of the barrier was dangerous.

Unluckily for those who got their confidence due to the incident, they will realise that... getting stronger from scratch has become even more dangerous than before.

Tom and his group looked on with neutral expressions on their faces. But if one looked closer, they would see the despair in their eyes. They knew that with their weak classes, they might not be able to survive the new world anymore. They wouldn't be able to even struggle to survive like before.

...

At the university....

A handsome young man with fiery red hair, along with his group of companions, also looked on at the scenes outside the barrier. As if to mock everyone, there was a bright full moon in the sky that allowed people to see quite clearly what was going on outside the barrier. But unlike Tom's group, this group of youngsters looked at what was happening with excitement in their eyes.

.....

At the school (ruins).....

Mr Swindon and his accomplice who were still too scared to exit the building even after the warning. Were now dead beneath the rubble of the once glorious highschool.

The portal was now around a kilometre away. Completely blue, bestial sounds coming from the other side, as if waiting for the world to stop shaking before coming through....

Chapter 66 Hallowed Ground!

Back at the floating mansion....

Muku was still pushing his mind past its limits; at this point, all he was thinking was, "Hold it a little longer".

The girls kept on looking at him with worry on their faces but didn't interrupt as they knew it was a critical moment. Hope suddenly thought of an idea and so tried to implement it. A gentle light green glow, as opposed to her usual sinister-looking dark green gas that she usually displayed, appeared on her hands.

She then held her hands on top of Muku's head, even touching his black hair a bit. Her eyes closed, clearly trying to concentrate; the others didn't try to stop her. They just looked on with curiosity looking to see if what she wanted to try would work. Instead of the usual surface healing she did, she was trying to do a deeper level heal that affected a person's mind. She tried for more than a minute with no success but didn't give up. Instead, she burnt through even more of her mana to make it work. So much so that a holy green glow surrounded her, when it touched the others, they felt their nerves start to relax.

[40% of Pseudo-Legendary class potential realised....]

Surprisingly, she instantly realised more potential than Emily and Chloe! Maybe because she developed a spell that affected the mind which was something that can't be easily done. As soon as she got the message, her aura exploded out in the room, but luckily, unlike everyone else before her, her's was gentle and didn't harm anything. The entire room was now bathed in a green glow and the girls around her felt so relaxed by it that some of them almost moaned in satisfaction but managed to hold themselves back. Their bodies felt the best they had ever been; it was like all the hidden fatigue, whether physical or mental, that was plaguing them was eradicated by Hope's spell.... intact, that's exactly what happened.

As for Muku, his once extremely tense face was now a lot more relaxed. It seemed Hope's spell managed to have the effect she wanted it to have. She finally opened her eyes, and looking at Muku's now visibly relaxed expression, Hope smiled a bit and fell into Audrey's waiting hands. She didn't smile because of the awakened potential, but because she managed to assist her big brother.

"Wow, what an OP spell! So holy-like!". Jade exclaimed in a low voice; she, like everyone else, was greatly impressed by Hope's new spell. They were already used to destruction spells, so seeing something so powerful yet not destructive was an amazing experience.

"What do you think she'll name it?". Emily asked curiously.

"Maybe..."Hallowed ground"?. I certainly felt like I was standing on holy ground at the time." Jade gave her guess. The others couldn't help but agree with her suggestion; they also felt that way.

"Tsk, and they call my element holy?". Emily said, expressing her jealousy, albeit jokingly, since everyone could tell she wasn't really jealous.

"Umm, I think you're forgetting her other side". Layla finally chimed in, reminding people of Hope's poison element that had killed beasts before they even knew what was happening.

"Oh, right!.....no wonder her class is called Baneful Healer. She's like a fallen angel that still has her divine power or something," Jade said while joking as well.

Seeing them, Audrey couldn't help but smile tenderly looking at them, her motherly love overflowing. She could tell that they were only joking around as a way to distract their minds from what was happening around them. Since worrying wouldn't help anything, they'd rather take the positive approach by joking around. As for herself, even though she quickly realised that she was now the only one who hadn't yet reached the Half-step stage. She wasn't bothered by it; after all, it was something that could happen at any time based on what she had witnessed so far, so there was no need to stress about it.

.....

Around ten minutes later.....

Although Muku's mental state was improved by Hope's spell, his mana was still not enough. Luckily it was only by just a bit, which he replenished a bit with the beast core. Just when it was about to run out again, the shaking and expanding outside finally stopped. As soon as he sensed it he immediately lowered the mansion back to the ground. Instead of the hole he was expecting to place it back into...it landed on top of another building's ruin. Fortunately, it was a small house's ruin so it was easily squashed by the huge mansion.

"Phew, that was hard!" Muku spoke up as soon as he finished placing the mansion back on the ground.

[70% of Legendary Class potential realised]

And he got a prompt that made him super happy immediately after he spoke. It had been a while since he'd thought of anything that was considered worthy of having realised more of his potential after all. As someone who could be considered a seasoned H-S R2 evolver, the increase of 20% was easily brought under his control, and like before, he didn't faint. Maybe legends really are just built differently.

Before he could react, he was immediately surrounded by four figures and got his breath squeezed out of his. If it wasn't for the familiar heads trying to dig into his upper body from all sides, he'd have thought he was under attack. Apparently, the girls thought they were giving him a hug.

"Hey let go, you're going to kill him!" Audrey, who had smiled when the four girls went to hug Muku, immediately shouted after noticing his face turn blue. The brats seemed to have forgotten that they were no longer normal people, especially Jade who was hugging Muku from the back and squeezing his stomach. Audrey was even afraid that if she took a bit longer to shout, he might have vomited his intestines out.

Hearing Audrey's shout the girls finally realised what they were doing. Jade immediately sped out of the room in embarrassment. Emily hid behind Audrey. Chloe went to sit beside the unconscious Hope, placed Hope's head on her lap and started playing with her hair, not daring to look up.

Layla was the only one left standing in front of Muku, she also happened to be the one who hugged him from the front. She immediately created an ice dome around herself as soon as their eyes met, surprising everyone there. Her reaction was definitely the most unexpected and exaggerated.

Muku looked around the room, knowing that no one but Audrey would talk to him at that time. He walked over to Chloe and Hope, Chloe froze while still looking down. Muku lifted Hope and carried her out of the room.

"For tonight we don't know what will happen next, so at least three people should be awake at once, I'll take second watch". He said as he walked out.

He went to Hope's room, placed her on the bed and walked out going to his own. Normally, he'd take the first watch, but he needed to rest as he was really drained from what he had just done.

Although the girls didn't say anything, they did what he said. In fact, they all stayed up, other than Hope, of course. She actually didn't wake up the whole night, the spell and the potential realisation likely took more out of her than everyone thought. And surprisingly even Muku didn't wake up, but they could understand.

Because of Hope's spell, the rest of the girls didn't have any trouble staying up all night. They even had a feeling that they'd still be as energetic as they were in that moment even when morning comes.

.....

The next morning.....

All manner of beasts had been coming out of the portals ever since the world stopped shaking. And it was happening all over the world. They were even more varied than the ones that first appeared. As anyone can easily guess, many beasts that came out of the portal were legit Rank Two! That wasn't even the worst part, a few Rank Threes managed to slip through. Every portal spat out one Rank Three along with many lower ranks. Their mere aura affects the weather around them.

And like most cities, the city in which Muku's group wherein was surrounded by four portals. One in each cardinal point, though they were in the outskirts and were pushed even further. The closest portal to Muku's group was the Northern side portal.

....

At the northern portal....

Like the school portal and every other portal in the world, it had turned blue from green and spat out beasts for hours.

The weather around the portal started to change out of nowhere. Snow started falling in a country that had never snowed before. The portal increased in size. Then a huge white paw stepped through, followed by a massive body.

It was a giant white wolf around fifteen metres tall with giant cold blue eyes that would send a chill down the spine of anyone who dared stare at them.

The area within a kilometre of the wolf was quickly covered by snow. That's right, it was a genuine Rank 3 beast. The new king of the north.

"AWOOOOO!!"

The Wolf king howled to the sky as if to let those close enough that their new king had arrived.

Chapter 67 End of the "Humans on Top" Age

"Hhm?" Muku jumped up from his bed suddenly and looked toward the North. He faintly heard a howl from that direction, which, despite not sounding too intimidating, caused goosebumps to cover his whole body. He felt like if they headed North at that time, they would all die before they even knew what killed them.

Surprisingly, unlike Muku, Jade wasn't intimidated by the howl...well, she was, but even more than that, she felt anger. For some reason, she felt like she was being challenged by the howl. If she didn't have enough self-control, she might have run toward the howl at that very moment. Luckily, she did, and not to mention, she, along with almost everyone in their group, could sense bullshitly strong auras all over the place. They basically felt like ants in front of anteaters.

So let alone speeding into the distance, Jade didn't dare even release her aura, though none of the strong auras were particularly close by or would care about weaklings like them. What was close to them in the moment was actually uncountable beasts that were all at least Rank one and many of them were even Half-step Rank Twos. Luckily not all the beasts seemed to be moving toward the city(ruins). Most were actually going toward the forest. It seems like normal animals; beasts prefer places covered by vegetation, trees and the like.

"Surviving just got a lot harder hasn't it"? Chloe asked a rhetorical question with a wry smile on her face. Just when they basically just reached the top of the food chain. They were tossed back down before they could even properly relax. The others also shared her sentiments as they silently agreed.

"Don't be disheartened by this turn of events. We managed to climb up before, and I'm certain we can do it again. Just that this time it will be a bit harder." Muku's voice rang out in the room as he walked in. Hearing him and his words, the girls all felt a bit better. As he said, unlike the first time, they weren't completely new to the experience of climbing up the food chain so it should be a lot easier than before. Well, at least deciding what to do will be easier.

"I'm sorry for not waking up; I guess I was a lot more spent than I thought; I'll make it up to all of you later. As for now, I think we need to survey our surroundings while trying to get to Rank Two as soon as we can." Without waiting for the girls to say anything, or remember last night's incident, he continued speaking.

As he finished speaking, Hope walked into the room, still looking a bit groggy. Everyone turned her way when she greeted them.

"How are you feeling dear?" Audrey asked her a question instead of replying. After all, Hope took way too long to wake up and they were all very worried.

"I'm feeling great, actually, see", Hope replied while flexing her nonexistent biceps. Seeing her like that, everyone smiled; they could tell that she really was fine now.

"Thanks for the assistance last night, Hope. Without you, I wouldn't have been able to succeed". Muku thanked her for what she did. Although he couldn't sense his surroundings at the time, he could still sense when a foreign energy invaded his body. He easily realised that it was Hope's mana, so he didn't try to eject it from his body and let her do what she wanted. Which left him pleasantly surprised when it got rid of his mental exhaustion, allowing him to hang on until the end. When he opened his eyes and saw her lying on the couch unconscious, it was easy for him to figure out what happened.

"No problem big brother, I love helping you out whenever I can!" Hope exclaimed with a big happy smile on her face, her previous sleepiness nowhere to be found.

"I have the best little sister ever, anyway do you want to join us?.... Normally, we'd start by bathing, but we no longer have electricity. Sigh, even author-san can't help us this time." Muku spoke already missing the old days.

"Sure, let's go; we can always think of some way to get water after we return". Hope replied, smiling even more; she didn't really care about anything he said after saying that she was the best little sister ever; it was the first time he called her "little sister", after all.

With that, the group walked out of the house. By this time, the four girls had remembered the hug incident, and although they hadn't run away like before, they still hadn't actively spoken to Muku.

"What tha!". Jade exclaimed as soon as they walked out through the gate. Everywhere she looked, all she saw was a destroyed world, no buildings around them managed to survive the earthquake. Everything was broken down. It all painted a clear picture, a picture that conveyed one meaning..."The age of humanity's rule had come to an end"

....

Just like the area around Muku's group, everywhere all over the world was like that. Of course, there were a few buildings outside of the safe zones that miraculously managed to survive. But they took so much damage that they'd eventually fall on their own even if another earthquake didn't happen.

As always, when a group of humans are advised to do something, there will be some hardheaded fellows who won't do it. In this case, those fellows all lost their lives or would lose it soon enough. After all, they didn't exit from their buildings even after being cautioned to. Due to this, they were all crushed when the buildings crumbled down. Many, if not all, regretted their decision, but it was too late, and they died in regret. Maybe, fortunately, it wasn't just humans that were killed by crumbling buildings. Countless unranked and many LR1 beasts who were indoors were also killed.

Of course, some wanted to exit from their buildings but couldn't. Either because others stopped them while holding knives and with crazy looks in their eyes, or there were beasts in the building or just outside of it. No matter the reason, they were crushed, too; the world was never fair...

Those who were outside at the time witnessed a marvel they will never forget until they die. Also, there was a rather high chance they got separated from the people who were standing right next to them. Then killed off by beasts before they could meet up again. The few who were too close to portals were also killed off by the beasts that came out of them before they could even think of running. Such was the difference in strength between them and the beasts.

Then, some lived close to the sea, and even if they managed to exit their residences on time, they were still swept away by floods. And quickly consumed by the recently returned megalodons or some other huge monster of the deep.

The people who died in less than a day of the evolution were at least half of the people who died since the beginning of the apocalypse. In a nutshell, only the people in safe zones had it easy.

....

"Umm, are we still sure about not joining either the university or the stadium?" Muku couldn't help but ask after they properly scouted their surroundings. To say that they were basically living in a sea of beasts at this point was no exaggeration.

"Definitely!". The girls all replied at once. It seems he had underestimated the desire to have their own place that the girls had.

"Okay, if you say so....but I'm sure we could easily be the leaders of either of those places if we wanted to." Muku tried one more time.

"We aren't going!" Jade snapped at him in annoyance.

"Do you want to be a leader to thousands of people?" Layla asked him calmly.

"Hell no! And Jade, shout at me again, and we'll have a round two right here, right now". Muku replied to Layla and Jade in one sentence. Jade quickly shut up and walked a bit further away from him.

"And neither do we; on top of it,, we also don't want to be under anyone's rule. Do you think the leaders of the safe zones would appreciate having strong people they can't command around?" Layla expressed her thoughts, completely ignoring the whole Jade incident.

"I know all that, but the situation here is a lot different from before. I'm not sure if I can still keep everyone safe like before". Muku replied; he'd already considered everything Layla said but still felt it was better than exposing the girls to so much danger.

"Good that you can't, you never had to from the beginning. We're a team, and so we're supposed to keep each other safe. Not just let you do everything." Emily chimed in before Layla could speak, while the other girls nodded in agreement. Though inside they were happy that he cared so much for them that he was willing to put himself in such an uncomfortable position.

Of course, they also knew the risk they were taking by not joining a safe zone. But they felt that with each other's help, they could definitely survive without a safe zone. And with their talent, it won't take them long to climb back up the food chain again. Not to mention the words that Adam said about the safe zones only lasting until the third level of evolution. So, getting a head start on how to survive in a situation without a safe zone isn't a bad thing. They will be a lot more prepared when the time comes and the situation will definitely be a lot more perilous.

"Fine, if that's what you all want. For now let's go bother some Half-step Rank Two beasts and see if we can realise the rest of our potential and evolve to Rank Two.". Muku finally relented. Though he wasn't too broken up about it, he also liked their current situation after all. Just that he felt that he had to consider what the girls wanted.

Chapter 68 Blood Corruption!

"Now I can't help but wonder if the lizard king was actually a lizard king or just a lizard baron pretending to be king?". Muku said with his hand on his chin while looking in front of him. The girls looked at him and rolled their eyes. Not like it had told them it was king, they are the ones who named it that, yet hear he was shamelessly blaming it.

The reason why Muku even said such a thing was because of the ten Half-step R2 giant lizards surrounding them. Each seemed to at least be as strong as the one Jade killed before, while some were even stronger.

"Jade, I think they are here for you. Should we step back and let you handle it like last time?". Muku spoke while looking at Jade with a serious expression on his face as if he was really going to it if she agreed.

"Well, sure, you can definitely step back, just be ready to collect my corpse soon after...if there's any left. Oh, and send me away with the words of a love song, okay?". Jade replied while rolling her eyes, the others giggled after hearing her answer. She threw in a reference from the song "If I Die Young" by "The Band Perry". Muku definitely didn't see that coming and didn't know how to respond.

"Well, I refuse to let you get stabbed by the sharp knife of a short life, so I'll help you out". Muku spoke after finally thinking of a comeback, and before Jade could say anything else, he'd already jumped toward the closest lizard. Everyone else also engaged some lizards of their own.

"Mother, do you want me to assist you?" Layla asked Audrey while distracting three lizards with her ice attacks. Muku was fighting two, Jade two, Chloe one, Emily one, Hope one, Layla was also supposed to fight two and Audrey the last one due to their current strength. But Layla was worried that Audrey might not be able to fight the lizard since she was still just a peak rank one.

"Thanks for worrying for me, dear, but I'm okay; I can at least distract you while you deal with your own fights. Who knows, maybe I will be able to realise some potential this way" Audrey replied with a loving smile on her face, but resolution radiated from her eyes. Seeing her like this, although she wanted to say something else, Layla chose to remain quiet as she could tell her mother wouldn't back down no matter what she said. And maybe she was right, this could just be what she needed to realise her potential.

"Okay, just be careful okay". Layla said before going closer to the two lizards she was to deal with, hoping to kill them quickly and come back to watch over her mother.

"Sigh, what a good child I have. I shouldn't let her down". Audrey spoke to herself, then sped toward the lizard that was left for her to fight. Although it was the weakest one among all the giant lizards present, it was still a lot stronger than her.

"Roar!" Seeing the weakling of the group of prey they had surrounded running toward it with unmasked killing intent, the giant lizard roared in anger. It felt insulted, like how a human would feel insulted if a chicken directed killing intent at them...unless the human is one of those who are actually afraid of a chickens that is.

Boom!

A low booming sound was heard as a large earth spike rose from the ground below Audrey just as she stepped on it. It seems the beast had good timing as Audrey barely had time to react. Although she managed to get out of the way, her arm, which she had subconsciously put in front of her as a form of defence, was cut open from the elbow to her hand.

Luckily for the beast, Layla was preoccupied at the time and didn't see what happened or it might have just made her use her shadow charged. Audrey held herself from screaming in pain as she knew Layla would definitely get involved if she made a sound.

{If I can affect other people's blood with my mana, I should be able to affect mine right?} Audrey thought to herself as she kept on dodging the lizard's earth spikes. It didn't try to do anything else other than that, likely playing with her since it sensed no danger from her.

This, in turn, gave her more time to experiment with herself; she knew what she was doing was probably super dangerous. If she messed it up, she might blow up her own hand, which was the only thing she could do with her mana when it came into contact with blood so far. After trying out everything she could think of for about a minute while jumping around the place, she finally managed to mix her mana into her blood and stop it from flowing out. If she wanted to stop it from coming out, she would have just created a

barrier around the injury. But that was something anyone could do, and she wanted to do more. Another minute passed by, and she finally got what she wanted.

All the blood that was all over her and the lizard's battlefield started to gather together on the ground, unbeknownst to the lizard. Audrey didn't show any changes of expression on her face and continued dodging the lizard like she did before, but this time there was a glow of excitement threatening to break out of her eyes.

After a bit more time, all of Audrey's blood gathered into a little red blob and then took the shape of a short dagger. That's right, Audrey had learned blood manipulation.

The dagger then made its way to the unsuspecting giant lizard that was merrily toying with its food, then...

Woosh!

Stab!

"Rooooar!" The giant lizard roared loudly in pain, but its comrades couldn't come to help it as they were all also going through their own painful experiences or were already dead.

"I'm not done!.... BLOOD CORRUPTION!" Audrey called out and the lizard immediately stopped roaring and just stood still. Then its remaining yellow eye turned completely blood red, quickly followed by its green scales that also turned blood red.

BOOM!

A blood-red aura immediately exploded out of Audrey's body. Everyone around her felt suffocated by it, they felt like their blood wanted to jump out of their bodies, which they had to resist with all their might. This was the case whether it was the girls or the remaining two lizards that Layla was fighting. Muku was the only one who felt completely fine, hell he even felt like the aura was giving him a massage. No, it wasn't because of his strength or class, it was because of his bloodline, the very source of Audrey's current strength and abilities. Not that he could also manipulate blood; that was just it having personalised itself to Audrey's class, but the core of it was still the same. And there was no way a small flame could burn the raging fire it originated from after all.

Luckily Muku noticed what was happening with the girls and shielded them with his aura. He then conveniently killed off the two remaining lizards.

....

[Unique Class potential fully realised. Evolution to Rank Two commencing....]

This was the prompt Audrey received just before her aura exploded. Then her body was plagued by a familiar numbness, this time more intense. She could almost feel her cells being improved throughout her whole body.

That's right, Audrey was the first one in their group to reach Rank 2. That's right, she realised all of her potential in one battle. When she opened her eyes again, her aura quickly started getting sucked back into her body until no one could even sense that she was actually a legit Rank Two or even an Evolver for that matter. That is if it wasn't for the dangerous feeling she gave off even without releasing her aura.

And to the dismay of the others she now looked even more gorgeous. Muku could already imagine the headaches they have every time they come across any man or woman,, for that matter, who can't control their lust. He also couldn't help but wonder if the other girls would also end up as beautiful as her. If it really turned out like that, wouldn't he be hated by every man they meet?.

"So not this is the strength of an initial stage Rank Two huh?... We wouldn't have even been able to fight back if it was an enemy fighting back. Just the aura was enough to defeat us all. If I knew that before, I'd have voted for going to a safe zone!" Jade exclaimed, still in shock from how strong Audrey's aura was. And she's the weakest of the Rank Twos!?.

"Let's get out of here, who knows if no Rank Two beasts are making their way here wanting to get rid of future potential?" Muku spoke up bringing the girl out of their stupor.

And with that, Muku's group quickly left the scene. Luckily they were fighting a distance away from their base. After so many times of them causing commissions after battles, there was no way Muku would allow them to fight close to home and draw in beasts to them.

No one even bothered to ask about the blood-red giant lizard that was following behind them.

....

Like Muku predicted, around ten minutes after they left, a Mid Rank Two beast that was close by really did show up on the scene. Although it didn't find the one who broke through. It still found free food and that was good enough for it. So it merrily feasted; everyone likes free things, after all.

Chapter 69 Battles!

A few minutes before Audrey's breakthrough...

On Jade's side, she was faced by two giant lizards stronger than the one she soloed before.

"Damn, just looking at them makes me angry". Jade spoke to herself as her eyes started glowing green. But she didn't manage to access her berserk mode transformation. Maybe because her emotions weren't strong enough, though she was pissed off non the less.

"Roar!". Before the beasts could do it, she roared first. Her roar sounded a lot like a tiger's. As soon as the roar reached the beasts, they were stunned in place. Then Jade used her high quickly as she sped toward the beasts. She threw out a slap at one of them, and just as it was about to reach the beast's face, her hand was covered by her beast aura that took the form of a giant tiger claw with long, sharp claws. She then took a swipe at the beast's throat, ripping it off then did the same on the other one all within one second. By the time the stun effect wore off the beasts no longer had throats and choked on their own blood for a few seconds before dying. It was definitely a beastly way of fighting.

"Hmm, I sense a beast core in this one, lucky me!" She spoke to herself as she ripped the beast's chest open and took out a core that glowed with a dirt brown colour.

She then looked around her with a proud expression on her face. She thought that she was the first to finish killing off her beasts, only to see Muku sitting on the head of a beast that had a crushed neck like the one beside it. They looked like they had been strangled to death.

{Okay how's anyone supposed to fight that?... I'm just glad we're on the same side}. She thought to herself as she walked over.

The two then started watching the other battles...

...

Emily's battle.....

Being a mage type with little improvement to her physical prowess, Emily was having a horrible time fighting the giant lizard. She had to always be on guard if she didn't want to suddenly be skewered by the earth spikes. If it wasn't because of Muku intervening in the beginning and moving her out of the way, she might already be dead.

Unluckily for her who thought he was going to finish the battle for her, he didn't. He even looked away from her to signal his stance which made her smile wryly. How did he expect a mage like her to fight this thing that kept on erecting earth spikes wherever you stood?. And so, her struggles began....

The beast wasn't giving her time to concentrate and cast her spells. Which she didn't know was a problem until then; maybe that's why Muku left her alone; she and Hope were the only ones in their group who couldn't cast spells while moving. Which made her current situation a great learning opportunity.

Fortunately, after a while of struggling, she finally got the hang of it. Though she could only do the most basic spells for now.

"Flame burst barrage!!" She screamed while sending out one exploding fireball after the other at the lizard. The beast ignored her first few fireballs, but when they reached its scales and melted them away, it quickly switched from offence to defence. Instead of attacking with them, it now used the earth spikes as a wall between it and Emily.

Emily took it as a chance, she stopped in her tracks and prepared a strong spell.

"Hehehe you're mine now, Burning heavens!". Emily's crazy side leaked out a bit as she prepared her spell. As soon as she cast it, the sky above the lizard turned golden. Before the lizard could react, it was completely enveloped by the golden flames that suddenly appeared in the sky above it.

"Roooooar!". Just like anyone else in the situation, it roared in pain and tried to run away. But its eyes had already been burned, so it couldn't see where it was going as it ran in a

random direction. Unluckily for it, the flames weren't burning out and persistently burned away its flesh. It was literally getting cooked alive. Jade, in the distance, couldn't help but gulp down some saliva after her nose caught the scent of the beast. If Muku wasn't beside her, she might have gone to rip off a chunk of the burning beast.

Whoosh! Stab!

A giant silver blade flew off from Muku's direction and embedded itself into the beast's head. The scene seemed a bit cruel in his eyes. Emily even looked at him with a grateful look in her eyes; she also didn't want the beast to suffer so much. But she was helpless as its high defence was preventing the flame from killing it right away.

With her beast killed, Emily went to join Muku and Jade. Surprisingly, Hope was already there when she arrived. Meaning she finished her battle even faster than her.

...

Hope's battle...

"Poisoned earth!"

Unlike Emily, she didn't give the beast a chance to build momentum. As soon as she shouted the spell name, a dark green poisonous gas rose from the ground beneath her and the lizard. In a few seconds, they were completely enveloped. Not only could the lizard no

longer see her, but it started to get dizzier each second that passed by as the poison made its way into its body. But it was far from getting killed by it.

"Well, this will take a while". Even though they were completely covered by the poisonous gas, unlike the lizard, Hope could see things clearly.

"I know!... Poison earth: next level!" The dark green poison turned even darker, now looking closer to black than green. As soon as the darker and stronger poison made its way into the beast's body it immediately spat out a mouthful of blood and fell to the ground powerlessly. It died off soon after, its scales showing signs of having been corroded a bit, which showed how strong the poison was. So there was no way its internal organs could survive it.

After making sure it was dead, Hope cancelled her spell and walked toward Muku and Jade. Her face was a bit pale looking; it took quite a bit of her mana to increase the potency of her poison. Seeing how she was the third to finish, she was kind of proud of herself.

.....

Chloe's battle...

"Should we tell her to be a bit more serious?". Emily asked the others she was with as they looked at Chloe's battle. Unlike her, Chloe wasn't having any trouble at all, the girl was actually playing around with the lizard instead of ending the battle.

"No, let her have her fun. It looks like she's about to finish it off anyway". Muku replied with a little smile on his face.

From the beginning, Chloe didn't have any trouble with dodging the earth spikes. After a while it kind of got fun for her, dodging them, stepping on them and propelling herself all over the place. Especially looking at the lizard that seemed helpless on how to catch her. Although she was having fun, she was also trying to get better control of her lightning so that she could fight all out without it destroying her clothes.

"Hmm, seems it's about time I end it" She spoke to herself after seeing that four people had already finished their battles.

"Lightning blitz!" She shouted the name of her spell, and her already super-fast speed increased. She started circling the lizard at such a fast speed that all it could see was a blue lightning circle surrounding it, unable to see Chloe's figure at all, until...

Whoosh! Bang! Boom!

Chloe suddenly broke away from the circle, and her tiny lightning-coated punch made contact with the beast's chin, and its head exploded at the top of it. The lizard died on the spot, not even completely sure how it died.

"Wow, the lightning punch worked even better than when I first used it!. I'm really getting stronger huh. Though I still have some work to do with my control". Chloe was

extremely happy with her current abilities, but when she looked down at her clothes, her happiness was greatly reduced. Although the situation wasn't as exaggerated as last time when she was left completely naked, her current clothes managed to hold on. Just that they were left looking like rags with many holes on them and there was a lot of smoke coming out of them. But at least everything that should be hidden was still hidden.

She immediately wanted to ask Layla to make a dome for her to change in, but surprisingly, Layla was still in battle. She could only swallow her embarrassment and ask Muku, who happily helped her.

...

Layla's battle...

She was perplexed, with her strength, she should have been able to kill the two lizards in less than a minute. But for some reason, she could penetrate their defence. Even considered using her shadow charge, but remembering how it would cause a commission as well as leave her drained, she decided against it and continued to trade spikes with them. She just assumed that maybe they were some sought of unreasonably tough variants.

What she didn't know was that the reason why she couldn't penetrate their scales was because Muku was secretly defending them with his telekinesis at the last moment. Not because he wanted to mess with Layla, but because of Audrey. He knew that as soon as Layla finished her battle, she would kill off Audrey's lizard, which wouldn't be good for Audrey's growth. Especially then when he could vaguely sense that she was close to a breakthrough. Though there was no way he would have guessed that she was going to jump straight onto Rank Two from PR1.

And so, Audrey broke through, Muku killed off Layla's beasts and they made their getaway. No one even found out what he had been doing, though Jade, who had been sitting with him for the longest time, had her doubts. But knowing how it could lead to spanking if she spoke up, she didn't dare say anything...

Chapter 70 Flexible Beast Aura

Back at the base....

"No fair!, I thought Layla was my only competition on who would make it to Rank Two first, but for Ms Audrey to jump the line like that!". Jade said with a pout on her face.

"Oh, stop complaining; if you weren't so lazy, maybe you would have reached Rank Two a long time ago". Layla replied to her with an eye roll. After all, Jade had been at 80% for more than a week and even that came due to her emotions.

"Hhm, you might be right...oh hey, I just remembered something; I found a core in one of the lizards; I wonder what skill I'll get this time?" Jade didn't disagree with Layla, she was just venting with no real intent behind it. And she happened to remember the core because of it, which she immediately went to get from her bag.

"So, do you think it's going to increase her PR percentage?" Hope asked Chloe, eyes full of curiosity.

"Hmm, I don't know, but I doubt it" Chloe replied with uncertainty.

"I'm almost positive her PR won't be affected. Her situation is unique compared to the rest. Her class doesn't actually have an element, her beast transformation is her power. So beast cores, which are elemental in nature, can't affect her potential realisation. But it's not necessarily a bad thing, after all, her class can likely use skills from any element...well, at least that's what I think". Layla chimed in, giving her take on the matter.

"I'm back!" Before anyone could say anything, Jade's voice was heard as she returned.

"I'm surprised you didn't consume it on the spot when you got it actually... you know what, don't respond to that, just consume it and let us see.". Muku spoke, like everyone else; he couldn't wait to see what would happen after she consumed it.

Other than rolling her eyes, Jade didn't do anything else as she quickly brought the core to her mouth. She also could barely hold herself back. A familiar scene of the core melting into her mouth as soon as it touches her tongue appeared.

Boom!

Immediately after, her aura exploded. Like usual Muku had to contain it. Which wasn't hard because Jade's aura didn't get stronger, she just lost control of it for a bit. Which half confirmed Layla's theory. A few seconds later, Jade opened her eyes, which she had closed; a smile immediately appeared on her face.

"So, what did you get?" Hope asked.

"Let's go outside and I'll show you". Replied Jade as she walked toward the exit.

...

Because of the mansion's awkward sitting position, on top of some rubble, Jade couldn't try out her new skill inside the gate. She couldn't help but complain to Muku about when he'll fix it.

"Now, prepared to be amazed". Jade said with a smug smile on her face.

"Earth spikes!" Before anyone could say anything in response, she cast the skill. A huge five-metre-tall earth spike rose in the group in front of her. It was even bigger than the ones the lizards cast, maybe because of her higher strength.

"Wow!!, but.....why is it green?" Hope was really amazed and then asked the question on everyone's mind, including Jade herself.

"I have no idea" Jade replied, also looking at the spike with confusion in her eyes.

"Hmm, I don't think that's an earth spike...well, it is, but at the same time, it's not". Muku spoke, confusing everyone. Before asking him what he meant, they took a closer look at the spike, and they finally understood what he meant.

"So after Layla consumes a beast core, her beast aura imitates the properties of the skill within the core. Which makes that earth spike actually a beast aura earth spike?. What an interesting power you have Jade". Layla made her thoughts known. Everyone had long noticed how she'd become a chatterbox whenever something new and interesting was found.

"Well that sucks, and here I was thinking of having all the elements one day". Jade said with a sad look on her face, but her eyes betrayed what she really thought. She was excited to have such a power.

"Well, isn't that a bit too OP then?". Emily asked an envious look on her face.

"Not exactly, I'm pretty sure she can't tweak what skill she learned and can only use it in its exact form. Meaning there's no room for diversity with it like spells. Which I guess can be said to be the difference between spells and skills". Muku chimed in and expressed his thoughts on the matter.

Hearing his words, Jade's expression went dark; she had assumed that she could use earth element-type attacks now. She quickly put it to the test but, like Muku said, she could only use earth spikes of different sizes and nothing else. All her happiness immediately drained away, her dream of tossing a few spells from a distance was immediately squashed in its infancy.

"Don't be like that, you can still learn many more skills after all. Maybe one day you'll burn your enemies with a green flame or strike them down with green lightning and there's also a chance of stabbing them with green swords". Seeing Jade's bummed-out expression, Muku immediately tried to cheer her up. And cheer her up he did, her eyes were now sparkling with a dreamy look in them, likely thinking of all the scenarios Muku described to her. The others smiled wryly at how, despite how much they fought, Muku always knew how to bring Jade's mood up.

"Yeah!, one day I'll have at least one of all your spells as my skills. Hhmp, I'll show you all one day that my class is the best out of everyone here". As usual, Jade immediately got smug, prompting the others to roll their eyes, but they didn't say anything, not wanting to get into an argument with the unreasonable girl.

"Just don't kill us for it, I doubt humans would have beast cores". Muku said jokingly.

"Like I'd even think of doing such a thing, how would I show off if I killed you then?" Jade replied rolling her eyes in annoyance.

"If you say so....now, Audrey, why don't you introduce us to your new friend here?". Muku said, jumping from Jade to Audrey in one statement. After hearing what he said, the others immediately shifted their eyes from Jade to Audrey and the blood-red giant lizard beside her that she'd left outside the gate.

"Oh right, it doesn't have a name; I only created it in the heat of the moment, wanting to see if I could. There's no point in naming it since it will likely die within two more days because its body can't resist the blood corrosion for long.". Audrey replied, explaining the giant lizard's presence.

"Oh, okay, and I guess we never congratulated you for reaching Rank 2, so let me be the first to say, Congratulations, Audrey", Muku replied and congratulated her on her breakthrough.

"Thank you" Audrey accepted the congratulations shyly. Then the others congratulated her as well. Everyone was happy that she broke through, now with her here, they felt more secure about their lives. Especially after she showed them the strength of a Rank Two through her aura. They all knew that even if they grouped up against Audrey now, they'd likely still be killed in less than a minute, Muku included.

"Okay, let's return and come up with a game plan for the future. Clearly, potential realisation is unpredictable, so we should look into other matters while hoping that we realise it along the way," Muku said as he walked back to the mansion.

...

Back at the mansion....

"So, what's our next step?" He asked, though he had some suggestions, he'd rather include everyone in the discussion.

"I think it's about time we visited the university don't you think?" Jade suggested she had been observing Layla for a few days and noticed that sometimes she seemed to get lost in thought, and a sad expression would appear on her face. She'd quickly cover it up with a smile, but Jade would have already noticed it. And there was only one reason for Emily to be like that, which was the unknown situation of her family. Of course, most of them,

including her, also had such sad moments, but for them, they were almost certain that their families were dead, but Emily wasn't yet, so it ate at her more than the rest.

"Hmm, sure, I also think it's about time we visited the other safe zone of the city. I'm curious to see if they are as weak as the stadium. We'll set out tomorrow then" Muku agreed, while the others nodded. Although they hadn't seen Emily's sad moments, they had long noticed that her glow seemed to have dimmed down by quite a bit, and they could all guess why.

"Umm...so the water issue?" Chloe suddenly asked something everyone had forgotten. It was almost the end of the day, and they still had no water. As Evolvers, they didn't need to drink water as much as normal people so it had easily slipped their minds.

"Oh, right! I had forgotten about that; thanks for reminding me. I got the perfect solution for it. Let's go outside and I'll show you!" Muku replied to Chloe as he got up and headed for the door.

The others followed behind with curiosity in their eyes, they wondered what his solution was. Was he going to make it rain or something?

Is that why his class was called divine?...