

## Domain 101

### Chapter 101

When the sun started to rise, Alissa woke up and then soon saw Ryan facing her. It looked like he was in a bad mood for some reason.

“Do I snore too loudly?” Alissa asked.

“Yes, but that is not the problem here,” Ryan said. “Look around and tell me what you see.”

“A peaceful... grove?” Alissa frowned.

“Yes... a peaceful grove,” Ryan said. “How can exist a peaceful grove when the world is ending thanks to the invasion of monsters and dragons?”

“Ah... about that,” Alissa forced an awkward smile. “Sorry, but apparently, the monster can’t approach me due to Orgar’s spirit inside my body. Even monsters are afraid of death, and since the difference of power is too big, they keep a certain distance.”

Ryan sighed. At some point, he began to imagine that was the case. Still, it would be troublesome if he only faces monsters inside dungeons unless the speed of her dragon form makes him cross hundreds of kilometers in a couple of hours.

“Anyway... you said that you looked for other people to help you, right?” Ryan asked. “How were things in other cities? Did you investigate any place other than America?”

“... You had to make me remember that,” Alissa sighed. “Most of the major cities have been nuked, I found some monsters nearby even though those areas probably have a high-level of radiation, but I found no-survivors near them. That being said, I didn’t have time to check all states, but I do know that New York, Washington, San Diego, and Miami are still standing. The dragons destroyed most of the things in those places, but they haven’t been nuked. And no, I didn’t go to other countries, I can only speak English, after all.”

Maybe Ryan was super estimating the power of a dragon. After all, Orgar did say that he thinks that their powers have decreased. In any case, some cities were still standing despite being overrun by monsters. While that wasn't exactly good, at least the whole country hadn't gone to hell.

"What? Do you want to go to those places and play the hero?" Alissa asked.

"If I have the opportunity and I am close enough, I would like to go there and kill the monsters," Ryan said. "After all, the more monsters I fight, the more coins I gain and the faster my skills level up."

"Mmm... I guess that is fine then," Alissa rubbed her chin and then said.

What was fine? The fact that the person she decided to work with was working with only his goals in mind or the fact that he wasn't interested in helping on the construction of other survivors' camps? Either way, that kind of word made Ryan confirm that Alissa really hated goody-two-shoes. Probably because not a single one of them never did anything for her. Although that kind of thinking was dangerous, Ryan had no reason to correct her.

"We don't have anything to eat here," Alissa said. "So, let's find a dungeon."

"Good thinking. While you can hold your own with your current powers, he needs to become stronger since most likely. We will face more powerful foes on other worlds."

Ryan was aware that without some preparations and the surprise element, he probably couldn't even kill a T-Rex, but hear that from a monster whose species was destroying Earth was annoying. Even though Orgar was probably unrelated to all the destruction caused by his brothers and the sisters or whatever they call themselves. In any case, Ryan's job would start with him cleaning a dungeon, so he couldn't ask for more.

"Hop on," Alissa said.

In the next moment, and very suddenly, Alissa turned into a massive black dragon. Even Ryan was left speechless since the whole transformation happened without him seeing a smoke curtain or seeing her

body becoming grossly massive. In any case, after recovery from the shock, Ryan jumped on her back and immediately began to hold a scale with his left hand. ρ??J??(?)???

“Heh... I thought you would be more careful while jumping on a girl’s back,” Alissa said.

“I don’t see any girls here,” Ryan said. “Just shut up and find the nearest dungeon.”

“Ugh,” Alissa grunted.

“Who died and made you the leader of this team?”

“A team? Where? I don’t see any,” Ryan said. “We are only working together for the sake of convenience. If you guys hadn’t saved me, I would have refused your offer without thinking twice.”

“Really? Even though you would be able to cross long distances without moving your legs?” Alissa asked.

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Now, just like I said, start to fly. There are monsters to be killed and coins to be received.”

Although she started slowly since Alissa wasn’t that used yet to the massive body of a dragon. Eventually, she began to fly at unbelievable speed and several kilometers above the soil. From that distance, no one would recognize a dragon... only another dragon. That kind of thing gave Ryan another idea... shouldn’t he hunt other dragons with the help of those two? In the end, he changed his mind because he wanted to do that alone. Besides, even though he was different, Orgar probably wouldn’t fight against other members of his race.

Regardless, Ryan had a hard time trying not to fall while using a single hand. Fortunately, Alissa’s speed was impressive, and she found another dungeon several dozens of kilometers away from Shreveport. The monsters being spawned there were salamanders, so Ryan wasn’t quite sure if they would be a tasty breakfast.

Salamander – Lv 10

Health: 300/300

Mana: 800 /800

Stamina: 400/400

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Dash Lv 10

Passive Physical Skills: Iron Skin Lv 15

Spells: Flamethrower Lv 15

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 40

“It is just me, or they are becoming quite stronger by the day?” Ryan muttered while Alissa was approaching the dungeon.

“Apparently, while monsters don’t have some parts of the system that humans have, they have a certain characteristic,” Alissa said. “They can become naturally stronger if the level of mana in a certain planet increases. Although I didn’t do anything for a few days after Orgar gave me his powers, some skills just leveled up by themselves.”

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That was bad... really bad. Humans could grow stronger pretty fast, but if dragons and monsters continue to get even stronger just like that... the war against monsters wouldn’t end well for the humans. Ryan was doing his part, so he didn’t have to worry about too much. As expected, the salamanders began to run away when they felt the approach of a dragon.

“It looks like the limit of their senses is two hundred meters,” Ryan said and then pulled his bow. “I guess this isn’t half bad.”

Without wasting time, Ryan began to fire. Even at that distance and while the monsters were running, he hit several of them before running out of mana. It was all thanks to his high dexterity that also increase the speed of his projectiles.

You obtained eighteen coins.

You obtained eighteen coins.

You obtained eighteen coins.

...

“Not bad, not bad at all,” Ryan said after he jumped from Alissa’s back and then landed. “Although this might not be the best place to use the flame sword, it is a decent place to... hunt.”

Ryan frowned, and then his mouth was hanging open when he saw Alissa, on her dragon form, taking out the bone arrows and then eating the salamanders as a whole. It was quite a gruesome sight, considering that her normal form was of a human.

“Didn’t I mention you?” Alissa asked. “Dragons have a pretty impressive appetite. Unless I eat in this form, I will have to spend the entire day eating things to satisfy my hunger.”

That wasn’t quite what Ryan was worried about, but... Regardless, he decided to focus on his job ahead. For some reason, the salamanders left the dungeon as usual, even though Alissa was nearby. They only felt her presence and started to run when they stepped out of the dungeon. While that was weird, Ryan decided to think that it was because the whole dungeon was like a part of the purple crystal, and due to the mana of the crystal, they couldn’t tell what was waiting for them outside the dungeon.

“This reminds me... I left a decent amount of equipment on that dungeon,” Ryan sighed. “Oh, well... returning with Alissa would be a pain in the ass since those guys will annoy me with their questions.”

Although his coins were pilling up nicely, Ryan decided to do something else instead of just firing arrows. He was twenty meters away from the dungeon, and from that distance, the chances of him missing were virtually none. That wasn't much training for his aim, so he decided to use Fire Manipulation.

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When the salamanders opened their mouth and used Flamethrower, Ryan blocked the attack with their left hand. Although the heat was quite strong, he completely could stop their attacks... for three seconds. The level of the skill was low, so Ryan had to use a lot of mana to stop it.

“I guess this is fine,” Ryan said. “Since I can train Heat Resistance and Fire Manipulation.”

“You should hurry up. Our goal here is to make you obtain a new class and get stronger just like that. While coins can be useful, killing monsters at this speed isn't worth the hassle.”

It wasn't from a dragon's perspective, but from Ryan's was. Humans weren't born unbelievably powerful like dragons, so they had to proceed steadily. Still, it's kind of makes sense. It would be more efficient if Ryan clears as many dungeons as possible.

“I want to obtain a class, too,” Alissa said. “I don't know when I will be able to train it, though.”

“I guess that is fine,” Ryan said. “Just don't attack, but stay inside the last part of the dungeon, and that should be enough.”

Salamanders were stronger than velociraptors. At least the system recognized that since they could Flamethrower pretty frequently. That being said, Ryan couldn't imagine the boss of that dungeon being stronger than a T-rex. Still, Ryan bought those same ten potions of mana and stamina.

“I guess this much is fine,” Ryan nodded to himself. “It is just enough for we have to have a fair fight.”

“You sure worry about the weirdest things,” Alissa said, and then she began pulling to the outside of the dungeon the last salamander Ryan killed. “I guess this is a male’s pride, right Orgar?”

“You aren’t that off the mark. Still, he is far from the level of pride of dragons. Creatures like us would never bring potions to a fight.”

“If I were born knowing how to fly and breathe fire, I probably wouldn’t prepare this much either,” Ryan shrugged.

Without wasting any more time, Ryan and Alissa entered the dungeon. Although they couldn’t see anything that was emitting that, the place was quite hot. The theory that the dungeon itself was part of the purple crystal was becoming more and more logical. In any case, Ryan began to wonder how Alissa was planning to take all the salamanders’ bodies to outside the dungeon, but the truth is, she wasn’t planning to do that. When Ryan turned around to ask that, he saw her head transforming and then in a single bite. She chews the salamander before returning back to normal. That didn’t make any sense since the monsters couldn’t have been digested that fast.

“What?” Alissa asked.

“From all the weirdest things I saw since the monsters appeared, you definitely take the first place,” Ryan frowned. “I can imagine that hospital food isn’t that good, but from my perspective, you adapted yourself to the diet of a dragon pretty fast.”

“Well, you know what they say: there is no better sauce than hunger,” Alissa said.

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As expected, the boss of the dungeon was just a big salamander. Although Ryan was disappointed, the status of the monsters was anything but disappointing. Most people would have a hard time against the monster, but not Ryan, who could cause a lot of damage with the first strike.

Elder Salamander – Lv 40

Health: 4.000 /4.000

Mana: 8.000 /8.000

Stamina: 7.000/7.000

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Roar Lv 20

Passive Physical Skills: Iron Skin Lv 35

Spells: Flamethrower Lv 35

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 80

Congratulations! The skill Appraisal has leveled up.

Appraisal Lv 9 → Lv 10

Effect: This shows you the basic information of all living beings. The amount of information shown will increase the more the skill levels up.

Cost: 10 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

“Mmm... As expected, the stronger the monster, the faster the skills used on them level up,” Ryan nodded to himself. “Hey, do you guys mind if I level up Appraisal a little bit here?”



"I don't mind," Alissa said.

"I am not sure how long humans consider a little bit in terms of time. If it is ten minutes, then sure go ahead."

It wasn't very pleasant to ask for the opinions of others, but Ryan didn't have much another choice there, even though he wanted to train an essential skill. It was a bit risky, but Ryan decided to use all his mana potions to level up Appraisal as much as possible in a short amount of time. He was more or less confident that he wouldn't need much mana to defeat that monster, after all. In the end, Ryan leveled up Appraisal three more times by using those potions.

Elder Salamander – Lv 40

Health: 4.000 /4.00

Mana: 8.000 /8.000

Stamina: 7.000/7.000

Strength: 350 (+30)

Dexterity: 450 (+40)  $\rho_{\text{??}} \cup_{\text{??}} (\text{?})_{\text{??}}$

Speed: 500 (+80)

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Roar Lv 20

Passive Physical Skills: Iron Skin Lv 35

Spells: Flamethrower Lv 35

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 80

“You are such a serious guy...” Alissa said. “Orgar was joking, you know.”

“I was not.”

“We are a team now, Orgar,” Alissa said. “We have to act in a manner that will benefit us all.”

“He said that we are not a team, and he is right. Besides, he owes you and not the other way around. Until he shows some result, you shouldn’t let him do whatever he wants.”

“But I will get a class for free after this,” Alissa said.

” True, but you could have obtained yourself much faster alone.”

Ryan sighed. Things were much noisier than he expected they would be. Next time, he would give all the coins and the items he has; if someone saves his life again, it would be better than be forced to hear all that bullshit. After making a mental note of not accepting such a partnership even again, Ryan began to prepare for the attack.

Ryan used his Incomplete Reptilian Transformation and then created a bone arrow. He wouldn’t be able to use a full-powered Power Shot without mana potions, but that was fine. He just needs to hit the target’s head a single time, and then the rest would be easy. When his transformation was about to be canceled, Ryan fired the arrow, and in the next moment, a huge impact happened at the end of the dungeon. Even though Ryan only the Elder salamander’s head, the dungeon trembled slightly, and some dust fell on his head. The creature didn’t die instantly, but Ryan confirmed that his attack destroyed a good part of the monster’s head. Even pieces of the monster’s brain were left on the ground.

“That is a monster’s vitality for you,” Ryan said after he was forcefully moved to the last part of the dungeon. “Its brain suffered a lot of damage, but it is alive.”

“What a gruesome sight... I don’t think I will be able to eat this one,” Alissa frowned.

“You should see yourself transforming and eating the salamanders...” Ryan said and then began to meditate to recover his mana.

Although the boss had more health than T-rex, it didn’t have nearly the same amount of endurance. That was probably because the monster could use magic. Regardless, after a while, Ryan finished the boss, but he didn’t receive any notification aside from the coins that he received. The boss was that weak...

You obtained 800 coins.

“That was pretty impressive,” Alissa said while pointing at his potions on Ryan’s backpack. “No wonder you defeated that red dragon. Still, it is quite surprising that you are the type who worries too much.”

The boss dropped a single ring... conveniently enough. It was another ring of the immortal. After that, he headed toward the treasure chest, hoping that the classes there would excite him more than the boss did.

Congratulations! You have cleared the dungeon and obtained its treasure! As a reward for your achievement, you can obtain one of the three following classes: Spy, Marine, and Sage.

Please be aware that clearing this dungeon again won’t give you the chance to unlock the other remaining classes. If you want to obtain them, you will have to search for those in other dungeons.

“Those were some weird classes...” Ryan frowned. “It looks like your luck isn’t that good this time.”

“It looks like I can’t see the classes unless you choose yours,” Alissa said. “Well, it doesn’t matter if the classes are useful or not. My status thanks to Orgar are stupidly high, and so is the skill list.”

Now that Ryan thought about it, what would happen if Alissa obtains a class that will grant her skills that she already has? That piece of information seemed interesting, so Ryan hurried to choose his next class.

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Since Ryan wasn't planning to fight on the sea anytime soon and he already was satisfied with his stealth skills, for the time being, he decided to pick the Sage class. He had no idea which skills he would obtain from getting that, so he was kind of excited.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Sage!

You obtained the following skills: Mana Shield, Meditation, and Active Spiritual Recovery.

Your mana and intelligence will increase by two points, your health, stamina, recovery, and control will increase by one point whenever you level up your class.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Mana Shield.

Effect: It creates a shield of mana that can block attacks from a single direction. The shield will last until it suffers enough damage to be destroyed.

Durability: Intelligence x 10%

Cost: 10 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! Considering that you already have the skill Meditation, your skill will level up five times.

You obtained 01 status point.

You obtained 01 status point.

You obtained 01 status point.

You obtained 01 status point.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Active Spiritual Recovery.

Effect: Recovers your mana after defeating your enemies. The amount of mana recovered will be equal to the level of this skill.

You obtained 01 status point.

In the end, Ryan didn't have to wait. He learned the answer to his last question by himself. While not learning a new skill was a bit disappointing, leveling up one that he had fives in the blink of an eye and even obtain the status points wasn't half bad. ρ??∪??(??)???

"You look satisfied," Alissa frowned. "I guess even you can smile now and then... here comes the frowning again."

"... Whatever," Ryan sighed. "You can choose your class now."

While Alissa was busy considering her options, Ryan resumed his task of hunting salamanders. While he was doing that, he confirmed that Alissa was right. Even with the world in that situation, he still could enjoy himself. At first, it looked like he was pursuing power for the sake of pursuing power, but Ryan realized that wasn't the case. He was pursuing that sense of accomplishment that he could only feel after getting a new class. He worked hard and deserved that reward. The stronger were rewarded in that world, and Ryan felt good while being rewarded for his accomplishments, but he couldn't help but

wonder... was that really fine? Many others out there didn't have the same luck as him of finding a perfect dungeon near his home.

"I thought I was an unlucky guy... I lost my parents, my fiancée cheated on me with my best friend, and then the end of the world came. However, there are people out there who have been even more unlucky than me."

Zoe, Arthur... even Alissa had it harder than Ryan. For obvious reasons, Ryan started to feel pretty pathetic while recalling how he acted in the last weeks... he truly lost everything in a single week, but he also had everything for twenty-two years. Maybe, Ryan was...

"I should stop thinking. I survive until now with this mindset, and I don't plan to change it."

"Our mission here is over. Let's move on."

Only now, Ryan realized that he wasn't actually hearing Orgar. The dragon was using Telepathy to talk directly into his and Alissa's mind. While that was impressive, Ryan was more interested in what else the dragons could do since they looked like a limitless source of power.

"You sure are in a hurry," Ryan said. "Do dragons have a short lifespan or something?"

"Fool. Dragons are the creatures who have the strongest life force, add that with the source of power know as mana and even the weakest of us can live for hundreds of years."

"I thought you had amnesia," Ryan said. "How do you know that?"

"I conclude that after combining the information I obtained after using certain skills. For example, I have a skill that can tell me your lifespan, and I use that information and then make some calculations every time you increase one of your attributes."

Dragons really had some useful skills... to a point where Ryan thought it was pretty unfair. They were already very powerful, to begin with, and they could even see the lifespan of all creatures...

“Sorry, Ryan, but we all will have to compromise here,” Alissa said when they left the dungeon. “Orgar keeps nagging me that we focus on looking for the information we want. So, in order for all of us to feel satisfied, we will investigate one big city every day and explore a single dungeon after.”

“I don’t mind, considering that some cities got nuked, then it is pretty obvious that we will find some dungeons there,” Ryan said. “Besides, as I said before, I won’t mind hunting the thousands of monsters that are in those places. Still... you decided that to make me and Orgar comfortable, but what about you? What do you really want to do?”

“Me? I am fine with whatever happens,” Alissa smiled. “I can walk, fly and go to anywhere I want. That is more than I ever asked for, so I am more than satisfied.”

Alissa didn’t have a goal... she was helping Orgar, but she didn’t want to do anything else. While that wasn’t unexpected given that she was sick in a hospital and slowly dying a few weeks ago and now she has draconic powers, it was a bit sad. Still, it was better than seeking world domination... a huge deal of people in her position would try that, after all.

“This nearest big city that I didn’t investigate was Houston,” Alissa said. “We are going there, and I think you should prepare yourself because I can feel the presence of some dragons in that direction.”

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Dragons... Ryan wouldn’t mind hunting more of them since those beasts were destroying his home planet. However, even though he was a hot-blooded guy, Ryan knew that his chances of dying fighting against another dragon were pretty high under normal circumstances. First of all, he was planning to fight alone. After all, Orgar was a dragon, and Alissa wanted to help a dragon. Although Orgar didn’t seem angry at Ryan for killing one, he wouldn’t work together with him to slay his kin. Not that he was planning to do that in the first place.

“Well, now... what should I do?”

Currently, Ryan was on Alissa’s back on her dragon form while she was flying toward Houston. With that speed, they would arrive in less than an hour. So, Ryan had less than one hour to come up with a plan of how to fight the dragons.

“Don’t worry, Ryan,” Alissa said. “Even though I am not a real dragon, they won’t attack me, and thus they will leave you alone as well. I saw some of them before, and they couldn’t even look at me directly.”

Ryan considered that, but that wasn’t the problem. Would he ignore the creatures that were destroying his planet even though he didn’t have to fight? The answer was no. Although he couldn’t care less about most people, he couldn’t just turn a blind eye to the monsters that were attacking Earth for no good reason.

“What are you going to do if I decide to fight them?” Ryan asked.

“Just watch, I guess,” Alissa replied. “Orgar has no reason to fight them, so I don’t have it either. Still, I can understand why you would want to fight them. That being said, I won’t help if that happens.”

“While that is fine by me, are you sure that you are fine with that?” Ryan asked. “Should you really use the opinions and wishes of others to create your own opinions and wishes?”

“Yes, he is my savior, after all,” Alissa said. “Whether human civilization falls or not, it doesn’t matter to me. Whatever happens, even if all humans perish, I know that this planet will continue to exist in the end. Even if that doesn’t happen, I won’t feel bothered by it. I will just move to another planet while I search for the answer Orgar wants.”

That was a pretty harsh way of thinking for a human... considering the stories of sick women Ryan saw in countless movies, people in Alissa’s position were supposed to think that all life was precious. However, for some reason, while Alissa was on the bed of a hospital for who knows how long, she accepted from the deepest parts of her heart that the survival of the fittest was absolute even though she wasn’t one of the fittest.

Was that due to Orgar’s power? Did Orgar make Alissa change her mindset? Or Alissa truly believed in that since the very beginning? Ryan had no idea which was the correct option. Things were a bit more complicated for him. While he doesn’t mind helping a few people here and there, ultimately, Ryan only wanted to focus on clearing dungeons. However, considering that most dragons saw humans as an easy pretty and they were destroying everything, they will always be Ryan’s enemies.



“I guess things aren’t as simple as I thought they were...”

In the end, Ryan decided to fight. He was determined not to run away from those who see him as an enemy or food. Even if the odds were against him, he would fight. One would have to try really hard to force Ryan to become a part of the food chain’s bottom. ρ??∪??(?)???

Unfortunately, all that thinking was for naught. When they reached Houston, they found that the city hadn’t been nuked. However, the dragons weren’t there... even though the place had been burned down almost completely due to them.

“Did you make a mistake?” Ryan asked.

“No, they are in this direction, but they are a bit further south,” Alissa replied. “It looks like they are fighting in the ocean.”

“Against the navy?” Ryan asked.

“Against other monsters...” Alissa replied. “Dragons are probably the most powerful race of monsters, but they can’t exactly fight in all ambients. It looks like the megalodons are giving them quite a lot of trouble.”

“Megalodons? Seriously?” Ryan opened his eyes widely.

“Yep, we will find other species of dinosaurs in other continents... probably,” Alissa said. “Anyway, it looks like this is a jackpot.”

Ryan had looked only for dragons, so he missed the small monsters that could fly. When he focused his eyes on them, Ryan couldn’t help but frown. It was a species of monster than he had never seen before, even in games... he saw it in some animations and movies, but... he never expected to see them in real life. Those creatures were humanoid, but they were far from humans, even farthest than any kind of monster. They had a pair of horns on their heads, fallen angel wings full of holes were on their backs. Their skin was red... so red that it looked like they didn’t have several layers of skin that they should have. Their eyes were completely black, and even though some of them looked like men and women, they had no genitals.

“Those are...” Ryan frowned.

“Humanoid demons,” Alissa said. “Maybe the dragons left this place since they got tired of fighting those creatures.”

Now that Alissa mentioned it, Ryan looked down and saw those creatures fighting against other monsters. While some were on their side, the vast majority was against them, and what’s more... they were completely ruthless. Some of them were even laughing just after cutting off the limbs of their foes.

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“You said this is a jackpot... how so?” Ryan asked. “I can’t imagine us getting any information from those creatures. Even if we torture them, they look like they would enjoy the torture.”

“The creatures outside the dungeon are just minions,” Alissa said. “We will find their boss inside the dungeon, and the creature will probably be even more intelligent than humans and less vicious than demons.”

Ryan wasn’t so sure of that. When Alissa stopped flying above one of the few buildings that still was standing and then became a human again, a demon flew toward them as if they were the most delicious meal in the world. That was weird. Even in her human form, Alissa still had the presence of a dragon... yet, the demon didn’t care about that.

Ryan fired a Flame Arrow, and then it exploded on the creature’s head. For a while, the headless demon began to fall, but after a few seconds, the head was back in its place. That was some crazy level of regenerative ability.

“Try to destroy its head and heart at the same time.”

Although he was about to fire a rain of magic arrows on the demon, Ryan decided to follow Orgar’s instructions. As expected, his next two attacks landed on those places, and this time, the demon died for good.

You obtained 50 coins.

"I can feel that the dungeon is in the center of Houston, but the place is crowded with monsters," Alissa said. "Those which sided with the demons won't let us advance in peace, and if we ignore them, we will get surrounded inside the dungeon."

"This is a pretty good hunt spot," Ryan said. "So, I guess it is my turn now."

"If we wait for you to defeat all of them alone, we will have to stay here for weeks. Alissa, you should just decimate them."

Ryan clicked his tongue. Truth be told, he wanted all the coins those demons would give to himself. Also, considering how troublesome they were, it was evident that Ryan would be able to level up his skills at a crazy pace.

"Come on, Orgar," Alissa said. "It would be a waste if I were to do that. I won't be able to level up a single skill, and I don't have any use for the coins. However, Ryan would be able to benefit a lot if he were to do this alone."

"She is completely right, Orgar," Ryan nodded with a smile on his face. "You should listen to Alissa more often."

"Besides, he would owe us another one if we let him do that," Alissa said. "No matter what you say, even you recognize his potential."

"... Now that I think about it," Ryan said. "You should listen to Orgar more often. Go on. You can decimate the demons."

It was a pity, but Ryan would rather let that chance go than make his debt increase. Although that opportunity wouldn't be the same as saving his life, Ryan didn't want to feel indebted to anyone. If he let that happen, it will come a time where he will be forced to make a decision: do whatever he wants or let his conscience bother him. While working alone, few things could bother Ryan more than his conscience, after all.

“You really hate to owe things to others, huh,” Alissa sighed. “Although I can do that, I won’t. Fighting while using draconic powers isn’t easy and takes a toll on my mind and body. While I can nullify that toll on my body by eating a lot of monsters, the same can’t be said about my mind. Just like you saw yesterday, I need to sleep like a log to recharge my batteries. There is no way that I can sleep like that every night, not while there is a hungry male so close.”

“Don’t flatter yourself...” Ryan sighed.

“Sorry, Orgar,” Alissa said. “I have been improving. My body can’t withstand all your power yet, so we will take to it slowly for a while.”

“It can’t be helped. In any case, fighting against this type of enemy will probably help you in that regard, so this will be an investment.”

It was really weird that a dragon couldn’t get angry at humans even in that situation. That being said, Ryan decided not to think too much about it since he had no idea if the monster could read his mind or not.

Despite the fact that Houston was pretty huge, the demons flew toward the building they were in the very moment they felt Alissa’s presence. Thanks to the level ups of Meditation, Ryan was managing to hold them back, but Alissa was forced to join the fray in the end. Although Ryan was killing the flying demons, other troublesome creatures were attacking the building.

Corrupted Slime – Lv 20

Health: 500 /500

Mana: 800 /800

Stamina: 500/500

Strength: 150 (+20)

Dexterity: 250 (+80)

Speed: 100 (+30)

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Corrupted Touch Lv 20

Passive Physical Skills: Regeneration Lv 80

Spells: Corrupted Ball Lv 50

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 80

“Corrupted Slime?” Ryan frowned. “Their name is like that because the demons corrupted them or something?”

“Maybe, well, we don’t have to worry about it, right?” Alissa asked and then fired some Ice Arrows that froze the slimes instantly and made them crack. “Since we can defeat them before they can get close enough.”

True, but Ryan wasn’t worried about their safety. He was worried about what would happen if those creatures spread around the country and corrupt every single monster, or worse, what would happen if they corrupt every single human. Would they become demons? That kind of virus has a cure? Ryan was worried about that, but Alissa couldn’t care less about it.

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Since that had been the first-time monsters didn’t run away from her, Alissa was enjoying herself while obtaining the coins even though she had no use for them. She also obtained several items since they

spent the entire day at the top of that building killing monsters. Again, she had no use for items, but she felt happy just by wearing them. As for Ryan's loot, he didn't have much luck.

"It looks like they are heading toward every direction without thinking too much about it," Ryan said while watching the creatures moving through the darkness of the night. "You can rest if you want. The slimes apparently will leave us alone during the night. They don't have the same senses as the demons, and they certainly don't have good eyesight."

"If you say so," Alissa said. "I guess I will grab a few things from the interior of this building."

With a single punch, Alissa broke the floor of the top of the building, and then she jumped inside the hole. Even though that building had been originally a hotel, it somehow survived the dragons' attack, only to be damaged after by a human. After a while, Alissa appeared carrying a bed.

"What am I doing with my life..."

Who could have imagined that one day monsters would appear out nowhere? Still, not even in his wildest dreams, Ryan would have imagined that one day he would work with a woman who couldn't care less about the life and death of other humans and with a dragon, while other dragons were destroying every single thing created by humans.

Although Alissa held back on the use of her powers a little bit, as soon as she laid on the bed, she began to snore. Still, not even that made Ryan think seriously about certain things. What was going to see inside that dungeon that in the middle of Houston? He always thought that the night demon's blood that he drank was just another thing that referred to a random monster species, but it wasn't. After drinking that, he could have turned into a monster, just like them, if he had been unlucky. Ryan had been relying on luck too much... even though he lost his dominating hand, and even though he survived after defeating the red dragon, thanks to Alissa.

"I need to develop that fighting style... that way, I will save mana and only use it when it is absolutely necessary."

Ryan had plenty of crap items that he could use to train after that day's hunting, but he decided to use his bone arrows since he could create an unlimited supply of them. When the demons began to approach, as usual, he exploded their heads with Flame Arrows, but instead of using another to hit their

heats, Ryan threw the bone arrows using only his left hand. Although his accuracy was amazing, the arrows weren't penetrating enough to hit the monster's hearts. After Ryan leveled up Appraisal a few more times, he understood why that was happening.

Corrupted Slime – Lv 20

Health: 500 /500

Mana: 800 /800

Stamina: 500/500

Strength: 350 (+200)

Dexterity: 350 (+80)

Speed: 300 (+30)

Intelligence: 50 (+10)

Endurance: 550 (+110)

Control: 120 (+50)

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Ecstasy Lv 80

Passive Physical Skills: Regeneration Lv 150

Spells: Fly Lv 50

Support Skills: Night Vision Lv 80

“Can these freaks get even more annoying? Damn... high endurance and this crazy level of regeneration. Still, to think that they are flying using magic as well... no wonder they are so fast.”

Even if he uses Lesser Wind Enchantment, Ryan wasn't sure the bone arrows would pierce the flesh and hit the hearts. Fortunately, just as he had expected, Throw was leveling up like crazy, and the power behind it was improving. If he puts the few points he had into strength, Ryan was confident that the problem would be solved, but he didn't. He wanted to focus solely on increasing his dexterity and recovery unless a tough situation forces him to change his mind.

Although spending another night without sleeping was rough, Ryan was more than satisfied with his progress. Aside from the Monk and Blacksmith class, the others leveled up more than once, and also his main skills improved considerably. When Alissa woke up, it was already morning again, she approached Ryan to apologize, but then she stopped when she saw the mountain of demon corpses in front of the building and the hundreds of bone arrows that were aimed at their hearts.

“Sorry for making you take all turns of the watch...” Alissa said. “Anyway, did you torture them or something? I am pretty sure your arrows were supposed to pierce right through them.” ρ??(???)???

“No problem, and I was just using them as test subjects,” Ryan shrugged. “Regardless, I think we can approach the dungeon a little today since from a while, the number of demons coming to this direction decreased.”

“I see...” Alissa rubbed her chin thoughtfully. “Orgar, do you think I can eat those slimes? I am kind of hungry, but I don't want to eat the humanoid demons. Should I look for other monsters around this area?”

“You can eat them just fine; their corruption might transform or curse human beings, but your stomach is much more powerful now. You can resist it.”



Ryan didn't think that was the real problem, but he didn't intend to join that weird conversation. Regardless, before leaving the building, Ryan decided to recover the bone arrows that still could be used. Fortunately, most of them were completely fine, even though the demons fell from forty meters of height. Suddenly, all the bone arrows began to leave the demons' body, and then they were aligned in front of Ryan. He looked around only to see Alissa smiling proudly... another person who could use Telekinesis.

"I really want to learn that..."

Class: Hunter Lv 20 / Elementalist Lv 18/ Monk Lv 09 (-)

Race: Night Demon /Reptilian/-

Rank: 930th

Health: 67/75 (0, 4116)

Mana: 126/138 (0, 4116)

Stamina: 90/96 (0,4116)

Strength: 10 (+24) (+30)

Dexterity: 193 (+51) (+27)

Speed: 30 (+38) (+3)

Intelligence: 09 (+47) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+40)

Control: 06 (+37) (+10)

Mentality: 07

Luck: 30

Recovery: 96 (+103) (+48)

Willpower: 09

Coins: 45525

Status: 74

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 21, Throw Lv 15 (+ 08 UP), Herculean Strength Lv 10 (+ 04 UP)

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 20 (+ 03 UP), Concentration Lv 20 (+ 03 UP), Archery Lv 20 (+ 03 UP), Accuracy Lv 20 (+ 03 UP), Art of Sniping Lv 18 (+ 04 UP), Passive Recovery Lv 08 (+ 03 UP)

Spells: Appraisal Lv 16 (+ 03 UP), Arms Lv 10 (+ 04 UP), Active Spiritual Recovery Lv 05 (+ 04 UP),

Support Skills: Sleep Resistance Lv 08 (+ 02 UP), Nocturnal Eyes Lv 08 (+ 02 UP),

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 04

Non-Combat: Blacksmith Lv 02,

## Chapter 108

Much to Ryan's despair, Alissa, just by seeing his face, she discovered that he really wanted to learn Telekinesis. Weirdly enough, even though that was the power and the knowledge she obtained through Orgar's spirit, she knew how to teach someone the best way to learn Telekinesis. While that was awesome, Ryan didn't want to owe her a single more thing.

"I'm fine," Ryan said. "You don't need to teach me. I will find my own way to learn it or buy the tome."

"... What do you think, Orgar?" Alissa asked. "His pride is reaching the same level of dragons at a crazy speed, right?"

"I do not think so."

Although it would be convenient to learn Telekinesis as soon as possible, it would be inconvenient in the long run. When people help each other, a bond is formed, and even if that isn't something they decided to do consciously if an opportunity arises, they will help each other again. Ryan didn't want that, not anymore. He truly wanted to live by his own rules and doing whatever he wanted alone. So, it would be great if Ryan could save Alissa's life to cancel his debt, but with the power that she had, that chance probably will never come. That is why he decided to help her, but at the same time, he would do everything in his power for when the time comes to cut all his ties with her. It looked like a pretty harsh way of life, but it was perfect for Ryan since he wouldn't have to worry about small stuff that would keep bothering him if he isn't careful.

Regardless, so many things happened that Ryan forgot that he learned some spells by himself. The fact that he was also so focused on leveling up his main skills also contributed to that, but it was time to keep improving his magic skills, even though the only thing he wanted was to keep increase his attack range and power.

"Learning Telekinesis by myself seems impossible without getting incredibly lucky, but I should be able to learn more simple spells. The problem is: all the magical knowledge that I obtained is quite

complicated to understand and study. The tomes don't give me all the details of how to use mana, and they just make me able to use it. It is like trying to teach someone who to breathe..."

While Ryan was thinking about that, they approached the demons' territory, and the creatures began to bother them even more frequently. Thanks to Strong Arms and Herculean Strength, Ryan was also to pierce the demons' head and heart with his bone arrows just by throwing them and thus save some mana. Now he just has to find a way to use that mana to learn new things.

"It is quite a weird fighting style," Alissa said while she was freezing some slimes with ice shards, and then she ate them after transforming for a second. "Yep, this isn't as good as ice cream, but it will do."

Ryan thought the last person who could say anything about weirdness was Alissa, but he decided not to say that out loud. Thanks to the training last night, Ryan could fight the demons without having to use too much of his mana. Still, that was only possible because the demons were vicious but stupid enough always to try to attack him by flying in a straight line. Besides, they didn't have long-ranged attacks. Against an enemy with sharp instincts or a bit smarter, Ryan wouldn't be able to hit the mark that frequently. Still, that much was fine since he was only starting to develop that fighting style.

ρ??∪??(?)???

Unfortunately, even though Ryan had some mana to use and experiment with new techniques and spells, he had no idea how to perform them. He wanted to learn things like Fireball, Firewall, Fire Tornado, but he didn't have a single clue as to how to make his mana become turn like that. Rather, he didn't even know to use his mana outside his body without a medium.

"You look troubled," Alissa said. "What is going on?"

"It is nothing," Ryan said and then cast a Mana Shield in front of them to block the dark sphere that a slime fired.

Ryan tried to apply the principles of Mana Transfusion and Fire Manipulation in order to control some earth, but he failed. Weirdly enough, he thought that was the exact thing would have to do in order to learn Earth Manipulation, but he failed anyway. It wasn't that surprising that he wasn't skilled at using mana since he wasn't that creative. Still, it was a bit annoying.

"I guess I will have to improvise with the cards that I have on my hand..."

Manipulate earth wasn't possible, but then Ryan tried to create an earth knife by using Auto-Production. Somehow, by using one hundred points of mana, Ryan created the knife, but the system didn't even recognize that as a weapon since it was so weak and frail.

Congratulations! The skill Auto-Production has leveled up.

Auto-Production Lv 1 → Lv 3

You obtained 02 status points.

“I need to level up skills like these and make them more efficient. Maybe in the future, they will give me some insight. Besides, it is much less troublesome to trust in this kind of skill instead of something like magic training.”

Magic would be necessary to fight from now on, but given that he wasn't skilled at learning new things and spells were stupidly expensive, Ryan decided to use the things that he already knew and improve the simple tools in his hands. Throwing arrows like darts wasn't impressive for the time being, but if Ryan keeps improving it, he will probably reach a crazy level at it one day.

## Chapter 109

Surprisingly enough, Ryan and Alissa managed to walk inside of Houston for several kilometers before they were forced to stop. The number of monsters attacking them increased, but their hard work paid off. According to Orgar, Alissa was becoming stronger just by using the draconic powers, and thus the toll on her body and mind was decreasing. Ryan also obtained a useful tome.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Bronze Skin.

Effect: It passively increases your endurance by one point per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Although Ryan didn't have a real need to increase his endurance since he killed his opponents from pretty far away, he welcomed that skill. He would welcome all other passive ones since they could level up without consuming his mana or stamina. In any case, at some points, there were forces to stop their progress. Not because of monsters, but because they found some humans still in Houston. That was very surprising considering that almost a month passed since the monsters appeared. However, some survivors managed to survive with the little food they have by sheltering themselves in semi-buried parking lots.

"You two are from the government?" A skinny and weary old man asked. "Thank god someone came to rescue us, and..."

"We are not from the government," Alissa said in a harsh tone. "If you didn't notice, one month has passed, and you waited this whole time to be rescued?"

Even Ryan felt troubled by Alissa's words. Although he also was annoyed by finding some survivors who, even after this long, decided not to fight, he wasn't a hypocrite not to see their side. Ryan was lucky since he could face beatable enemies at the very beginning, but those survivors weren't since they had to deal with the vicious and powerful demons.

The middle-aged man was taken aback by Alissa's words, and so were the people behind him since Alissa looked strange and she emanated a powerful aura. Thanks to that, he and the people stayed silent for quite a while.

"... Do you guys know where Shreveport is?" Ryan asked after a long sigh. "Go North-East, and you will find the city. There you will find a group of morons that will be willing to help you guys out."

"But... the monsters..." The man said.

"We came from that direction, so the path is more or less safe to a certain extent," Ryan said. "We also left some weapons behind since they were useless to us. You can pick them if you want. Still, they are just a tool. Unless you sharpen your resolve to fight, they will be useless. Don't wait to be rescued again. Otherwise, you will starve to death waiting."

Although Ryan tried to be as comprehensible as possible, that man and his companions spent several minutes looking at the direction they came from in order to confirm that there were no monsters. Even though they saw several corpses, they were taking their sweet time.  $\rho???\cup???(?)???$

“Just go already!” Alissa shouted.

“Yes!” The old man trembled and then escaped to the direction Ryan mentioned.

Alissa clicked her tongue while watching the survivors leaving the city and picking the weapons left behind. Truth to be told, she couldn’t imagine them reaching Shreveport, even though they probably will only find slimes, giant bees, and velociraptors along the way.

“You are naïve, Ryan,” Alissa said. “Someday, that naivety will come to bite and may even cause your downfall.”

“Maybe, but at the very least, with this, I bought some time,” Ryan shrugged. “My noisy conscience won’t force me to make a mistake somewhere.”

At first, Ryan thought Alissa would become a bit more flexible after seeing some survivors struggling, but he was wrong. Alissa got so mad seeing people that she considered cowards that she almost attacked them. If they had spent just a few more seconds there, perhaps she would have attacked them.

“Anyway, it is getting dark again,” Ryan said after looking around. “Let’s find a place to stay during the night.”

Unfortunately, there weren’t many tall buildings so close to the center of the city still standing. Ryan had to thank the demons for that, so he had to be content with a three-store tall mall. Fortunately, even though they lost the advantage of the high ground, the mall was relatively intact. Unlike the giant bees, the demons didn’t find pleasure in collecting the human food. They only found pleasure in violence. Thus, for most of its part, the mall was fine.

“I’m not tired, so I will stay on guard duty,” Alissa said. “You can go and sleep.”

Instead of sleeping, Ryan looked for anything inside the mall that still could be eaten, and he stuffs himself with it. Although Alissa was in a bad mood thanks to the survivors' encounter, that wasn't his problem. Ryan probably won't become as harsh as her, and he couldn't see any point in trying to change her perspective. Besides, the more he involves himself with others' problems, the more problems Ryan will be bringing to himself.

"I will prevent that from happening at any cost."

Although that was a rare chance for him to sleep while someone else was guarding the area, Ryan didn't relax all that much. Not even Heal helped him with that. It looked like his body got stronger, and he didn't need to sleep all that often anymore. Still, Ryan made sure to let this body rest and relax as much as possible. For some reason, his instincts were telling him that the survivors would be the least annoying thing they would find in their path to the demons' dungeon, and as far as Ryan was concerned, that made a lot of sense.

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The next day when Ryan woke up, he headed to the top of the mall only to find Alissa snoring loudly. He sighed. By some miracle, the demons didn't find her and destroyed the mall. However, it looked like that hadn't been the case. Even though she was sleeping, a Flame Arrow appeared right above and flew in a straight line. Ryan looked in that direction and saw the exact moment a flying demon exploded and died.

"I guess Orgar doesn't need to sleep much... he is obviously the one who did that."

After a while, Alissa woke up confused. She didn't even notice that she falls asleep at some point, but she quickly fixed her posture and cleaned the drool out of her mouth.

"My bad," Alissa forced a smile and then scratched the back of her head.

"Don't apologize," Ryan said. "It was also my fault for leaving such an important job on the hands of someone so... so... Anyway, I guess we can reach the dungeon today."

"At least finish your sentence..." Alissa sighed.



Although Orgar could cover for Alissa, that wasn't really the issue. She was trying to obtain power by her own merits, but it was clear that Alissa wasn't suited for several types of jobs. The chances of them challenging the boss that day were quite low, but even though Ryan wanted some time to prepare, he thought it would be best if they talk with the boss as early as possible since some serious problems might happen by camping near the dungeon.

"The chances of me finding a decent class there is pretty high as well... since the demons are the strongest type of enemy, I found so far aside from the dragons."

After reading themselves, Ryan and Alissa headed to the dungeon. Since they were only a few kilometers away from it, they finally were forced to face another type of demonic creature.

Corrupted Giant Bee – Lv 20

Health: 700 /700

Mana: 700 /700

Stamina: 1.000/1.000

Strength: 350 (+50)

Dexterity: 350 (+40)

Speed: 400 (+30)

Intelligence: 50 (+10)

Endurance: 150 (+40)

Control: 120 (+50)

## Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Frenzy Lv 40

Passive Physical Skills: Regeneration Lv 40

Spells: Fly Lv 30

Support Skills: Night Vision Lv 40

"I guess at this point in time, it is pretty obvious that they become stronger when they become demons," Ryan frowned when he saw the black eyes of the giant bees. "Oh, well... more coins for us."

Alissa was responsible for killing the slimes, and since she had to spend some time eating them, the job of attacking the bees was Ryan's. Although their endurance was low, the bees weren't as stupid as the flying demons. They could fly to the side the very moment they saw Ryan throwing his bone arrows and completely avoid them. It was annoying, but Ryan had to use the Flame Arrows to kill them.

"Since I can't learn new spells on my own, I might as well train the offensive ones that I already have."

Fortunately, even though the number of enemies had increased, Ryan and Alissa's movement speed didn't decrease since the previous day they got some room to breathe thanks to Ryan's new fighting style. Even if that weren't the case, it was fine since Ryan has been saving some status points. If things get harder, he can always use them. Fortunately, that never happened, and even better, they reached the dungeon, and there was a single sign of a dragon nearby.

"Something is off..." Ryan frowned. "At this point in time, our presence here should have been noticed by the dragons. Some of them are fighting together, right? Why not a single one of them came to see you?"

" Probably because they think I disgraced the pride of our race by siding with a weak species."

That makes sense since Orgar was also pretty prideful. Still, that was a bit too convenient... and Ryan didn't like that. It felt like an important piece of the puzzle was missing, and Ryan had no idea where he would find it. ρ???(?)???

“We still have some hours before sunset,” Alissa said while looking at the sky. “What should we do? Rest and enter the dungeon tomorrow or attack right now? I am fine with either.”

In any other situation, Ryan would have said to enter the dungeon and challenge the boss. He did that many times before, even when he had many doubts in his head. However, the situation was different, and coming up with an answer wasn't so simple when dragons were a part of the equation.

“You should enter now and clear it. Even if the boss is stronger than we had imagined, you should be able to defeat it with ease, even though that will be a bit mentally taxing. If they don't give the answers, we are looking for. We will go to the other side of the dungeon.”

That had been the plan since the very beginning, but now that he thought about it, Ryan began to imagine what he would see on the other side... a world of demons? A world of demons being invaded by monsters? Hell? Either way, all possibilities were quite scary.

“I wonder why I am getting nervous now... I faced worse odds by fighting alone the red dragon, and this time I am not alone... even though I plan to fight alone.”

Regardless, Ryan was getting ahead of himself since they had to talk with the boss first and then fight if they don't find the answers they were looking for. Hell, Ryan was planning to fight the boss even if they give him the answer they want because there is no way in hell he would leave those creatures to roam around his home planet.

Class: Hunter Lv 20 / Elementalist Lv 18/ Monk Lv 09 (–)

Race: Night Demon /Reptilian/–

Rank: 909th

Health: 75/75 (0, 4933)

Mana: 150 /150 (0, 4933)

Stamina: 96/96 (0,4933)

Strength: 10 (+24) (+30)

Dexterity: 250 (+60) (+27)

Speed: 30 (+38) (+3)

Intelligence: 09 (+47) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+41)

Control: 06 (+37) (+10)

Mentality: 07

Luck: 30

Recovery: 125 (+123) (+48)

Willpower: 09

Coins: 60099

Status: 00

## Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 21, Throw Lv 19 (+ 4UP), Dash Lv 07, Rapid Shot Lv 08, Herculean Strength Lv 12 (+ 2UP), Fighter's Spirit Lv 06,

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 21 (+ 1UP), Concentration Lv 21 (+ 1UP), Archery Lv 21, Accuracy Lv 21 (+ 1UP), Stealth Lv 07, Pain Resistance Lv 09, Perception Lv 12, Rage Lv 05, Precision Lv 20 (+ 2UP), Swordsmanship Lv 06, Alert Lv 12 (+ 2UP), Cook Lv 03, Stalk Lv 02, Art of Sniping Lv 20, Tracking Lv 05, Spearmanship Lv 05, Knife Mastery Lv 05, Martial Arts Lv 05, Craft Lv 02, Shield Mastery Lv 03, Monk's Style Lv 04, Whip Mastery Lv 05, Ax Mastery Lv 05, Magnet Lv 01, Passive Recovery Lv 10, Bronze Skin Lv 01,

Spells: Analysis Lv 05, Lurk Lv 08, Mana Transfusion Lv 20, Meditation Lv 14, Flame Arrow Lv 14, Appraisal Lv 16, Lesser Fire Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Water Enchantment Lv 10, Lesser Wind Enchantment Lv 10, Earth Bullet Lv 04, Heal Lv 06, Strong Arms Lv 12 (+ 2UP), Repair Lv 03, Auto-Production Lv 03, Lesser Poisonous Enchantment Lv 01, Incomplete Reptilian Transformation Lv 05, Strong Legs Lv 01, Fire Manipulation Lv 02, Mana Shield Lv 04, Active Spiritual Recovery Lv 08,

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 01, Fear Resistance Lv 04, Fire Resistance Lv 03, Heat Resistance Lv 04, Sleep Resistance Lv 08, Nocturnal Eyes Lv 08, Poison Resistance Lv 05, Wind Resistance Lv 01,

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 04

Non-Combat: Blacksmith Lv 02,

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Although Ryan spent his status usual in dexterity and recovery, this time, he also put some into mana in order to increase the time his transformation could last. Aside from that, Ryan bought a tome that cost

him forty thousand coins. Although he could buy several cheaper tomes in order to obtain a few status points, Ryan decided to buy something that would be useful for the next battle.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Bleed.

Effect: It makes your foes bleed for five seconds by every wounded caused by you. The damage per second will be equal to the level of the skill.

You obtained 01 status point.

The effects weren't incredible at level one, but Ryan could see the potential of the skill. After that, he bought ten rings that increased his recovery even further. Ryan used all his coins, but once again, he felt satisfied with the investment.

Silver Ring of the Immortal

Effect: Increases the user's recovery by ten points.

Durability: 25/25

"You sure like to wear a lot of rings," Alissa frowned. "And here I thought you were a boring guy that only wears simple clothes without putting too much into it, but with those rings, you look like someone with a weird fashion sense."

"No, I am definitely a boring guy that uses whatever without caring about fashion and that kind of nonsense," Ryan said.

Maybe it was because of that that Mia cheated on him... she was pretty but also fashionable. In any case, recalling that only made a vein pop out on Ryan's forehead. In any case, he could only hope that his anger would strengthen the power of his attacks. In any case, before entering the dungeon, Ryan took several things from his backpack and put them near the entrance of the dungeon. Those things were his old rings and the pieces of iron he got here and there. After that, he killed just enough demons to buy ten mana potions and ten stamina potions.

“Not that I don’t trust you,” Alissa said. “but I don’t intend to let you fight alone this time. Orgar’s goal is important to me, and you still owe me one, so I can’t let you die yet.”

“Yet?” Ryan frowned. “Well, I understand. Just do whatever you want. You are the leader here.”

“Am I?” Alissa asked. “Is that right, Orgar?”

“I would like to say no, but since my spirit is inside of you and you can only control the body, I can’t exactly disagree.”

“I see...” Alissa smirked. “In that case... follow my lead, maggots! Today we will feast on their blood and entrails! I always wanted to say that.”

Ryan decided to stay quiet since nothing that he says would make him feel less uncomfortable. Despite her words, Alissa didn’t want to attack first and ask later... unless the boss proves to be troublesome and uncooperative. After that, they began to walk toward the end of the dungeon. When some demons appeared, Ryan readied himself to fight, but Alissa stopped him.

“Leave this to me,” Alissa said. “We need to make some preparations in order to make the boss listen to us.”

Although he wasn’t quite sure what Alissa meant by that, he began to understand when she transformed her right hand into a dragon hand and then grabbed the demon. After that, she just began to walk while carrying the demon as if nothing had happened. The same thing happened several times until, by the moment they reached the last part of the dungeon, Alissa had ten demons under her absolute mercy. ρϩϩϩϩ(ϩ)ϩϩϩ

When Ryan finally reached the dungeon’s last section, he saw the usual purple crystal and treasure box. However, this time the boss was very different from all the others. He was sitting on a throne of bones... as if he was trying to show that he was the king of something. Ryan decided to refer to the creature as he since the monster looked more masculine than he actually was. The beast was tall, and its muscles were amazing. Unlike the other creatures, the skin of that one didn’t look as if it had been flayed. The horns of that one were longer, and Ryan was pretty sure he used it as weapons, and the wings on his

back were completely dark, but there were no holes. On his right hand, Ryan could see a trident... it looked pretty fearsome since it was red and black.

Bolvath – Lv 60

Health: 25.000 /25.000

Mana: 20.000 /20.000

Stamina: 15.000/15.000

Strength: 1250 (+150)

Dexterity: 1500 (+400)

Speed: 1400 (+230)

Intelligence: 500 (+160)

Endurance: 1100 (+150)

Control: 800 (+150)

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Corrupting Touch Lv 200

Passive Physical Skills: Regeneration Lv 200



Spells: Summon Skeleton Lv 100

Support Skills: Passive Recovery Lv 100

In the end, Ryan's instincts were right. He had been nervous for a very good reason. The enemy this time was very different from the others. Although it wasn't at the level of a dragon, he could see by watching the eyes of the creature that he wouldn't be underestimated, and a few tricks wouldn't help him. In any case, Ryan couldn't attack first since they had come to talk before anything, so he was forced to walk to the last part of the dungeon alongside Alissa.

"I didn't expect to receive visitors so soon..." Bolvath said while ignoring Ryan and looking solely at Alissa. "Still, I can understand why my predictions were off the mark. It is a pity; we were so close."

Those were some weird words... was the demon trying to buy time? Why would he say those words? He was expecting for something to happen inside the dungeon? After thinking for a while, Ryan concluded. The bosses didn't exist inside the dungeons for no good reason. Their existence had a meaning... almost one month had passed since the dungeons appeared and Ryan couldn't believe that some bosses would stay there for a month without reason. There was only one explanation... their existences were bound to cause dungeon breaks.

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"Hey, asshole," Ryan said. "What were you waiting for here? A dungeon break is going to happen, isn't it?"

"Don't talk to me, worm," Bolvath said. "If you were alone here, I would be feasting on your entrails right now. Be thankful that you are not alone."

"Sorry, Alissa," Ryan pulled his bow and then began to charge one Power Shot. "I am going to start the interrogation myself."

After a few seconds, just when his mana and stamina became empty, Ryan fired his bone arrow. At that exact same time, Bolvath summoned several skeletons in front of him. The monsters got destroyed one after another with ease, but in the end, the arrow lost a lot of power after hitting so many targets, and

Bolvath stopped the bone arrow with his right hand. However, he paid the price for underestimating Ryan. The arrow stopped before it reached his face, but it passed through his right hand.

“Interesting... even worms can cause this much damage if they are given a chance,” Bolvath said. “But as you can see, you can only do this much.”

Ryan picked several other potions, but then Alissa stopped him. She let him do what he wanted once, but that was enough. Even if it was temporary, they were a team, and they couldn't just do whatever they want without considering the others.

“Answer his question,” Alissa said.

“I thought you weren't interested in other humans,” Bolvath frowned. “Well... if you need to know, I will answer it. It won't change anything on the grand scale, after all. Your little friend is right. Dungeon breaks will happen all over the world when the dungeons that have been cleared yet complete one month of existence.”

Ryan was left speechless after hearing that. He couldn't even begin to imagine what else would be left of the earth if the vast majority of the world dungeons break at the same time. Dozens of demons like Bolvath, T-rexes, would roam free on Earth for who knows how long. Although a good number of humans cleared dungeons, Ryan was certain that most of them were working together. So, things weren't looking good.

“Why do you look so surprised?” Alissa asked. “If you are that worried about humans, you shouldn't always try to work alone.”

“This and that are different things,” Ryan said. “You are right. I plan to work alone until the day of death, but that doesn't change the fact that I am fighting on the human side. Those dungeon breaks will deal a massive force to our forces.”

“You are right, but so what?” Alissa frowned. “What can you do to prevent that? Absolutely nothing. So, I don't understand why you look so troubled.”

That was an understatement, but all in all, Alissa was right. In two or three days, the dungeons will break. Even if Ryan plans to clear some dungeons or alert other survivors, he won't be able to change the overall severity of the situation. Besides, even if he wanted, he couldn't. Ryan owed Alissa, and he didn't plan to go back on his word. It was just... the situation got so much complicated that Ryan couldn't help but panic for a second. ρ??(??)???

"Well, back to the topic," Alissa said. "We are here because we want to ask you a few things. Answer the questions honestly, because if you lie, I will know, and I will do this."

Without a hint of hesitation, Alissa closed her hand and smashed the demons until they become a pulp of things that couldn't be recognized or described. Now was the time to say that Ryan was troubled since his temporary partner was basically acting like a maniacal homicide.

"What was the point of that?" Bolvath asked. "You are going to do that anyway in the end since I don't have the answers you are looking for. It is unfortunate, but the current me can't do a thing against even in your weakened state."

The current me... that proved that monsters were getting stronger by the day. That was bad... and the situation wouldn't improve. Now, more than ever, Ryan had to hunt the monsters like there is no tomorrow.

"Still, before dying... I need to warn you of something," Bolvath said. "You are trying to mess with forces that you can't understand. I don't respect your attitude, but I respect your power. To understand what I am mean by this, come tomorrow twenty-four hours after killing me, and you will see the meaning of my words."

If the demon was begging for his life, that certainly didn't look like the case, or he lacked in persuasive power. Ryan looked at Alissa, trying to hear some explanation, but she just shrugged. As for Orgar, he just stayed silent the whole time.

"Thank you for your cooperation," Alissa said. "As a sign of my gratitude, I will kill you without, and you won't even feel a thing."

Although Alissa said he would die without feeling any pain, she didn't say anything about fear or anxiety. She slowly created a fireball in front of her right hand, and the fireball grew until it was five meters wide,

and the flames were so strong that Ryan was forced to move backward several meters. When Alissa fired, the projectile hit the demon and didn't leave anything behind... that was the power of Orgar in a weakened state. It couldn't even be compared to that red dragon.

You obtained 200 coins.

"Well, now... what should we do?" Alissa asked.

"As much as I am interested in seeing the other side of the crystal, I think we should see what that demon was talking about. Let's wait twenty-four hours, and after that, we will decide our next move."

"Is that fine with you, Ryan?" Alissa asked.

"Yeah," Ryan nodded.

## Chapter 113

Ryan couldn't have asked for more since he will be able to slay demons for twenty-four hours straight and increase his power even more. That being said, he was feeling quite conflicted about the treasure chest. He wounded the demon, but was that enough to make him deserve a new class? He honestly didn't believe that was the case. Still, considering that the dungeon breaks will happen in a few days, he would need all the strength he can get.

"You can go first," Ryan said. "You did most of the job by yourself, after all."

"All right then," Alissa nodded.

Congratulations! You have cleared the dungeon and obtained its treasure! As a reward for your achievement, you can obtain one of the three following classes: Barbarian, Beastmaster, and Alchemist.

Please be aware that clearing this dungeon again won't give you the chance to unlock the other remaining classes. If you want to obtain them, you will have to search for those in other dungeons.

“Now we are talking,” Ryan smiled. “I didn’t do much to deserve a new class, but my feeling was right... the classes here are better than the usual.”

As usual, Ryan was interested in the melee class. Besides, it would be weird to be a Barbarian with a single arm. Alchemist also seemed interesting; Ryan had a feeling that he would obtain some interesting skills even better than the ones he gained when he became a Blacksmith. Perhaps he would be able to create potions and save some coins. While that was nice and all, Ryan knew from the very moment he saw the name Beastmaster that he would choose that class. Not only seemed interesting, but in a way, it was what Ryan needed as a long-ranged fighter, something that would tank the monsters for him and would be one hundred percent loyal thanks to magic. That was the only type of loyalty Ryan could trust right now.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Beastmaster!

You obtained the following skills: Tame, Call, and Master’s Support.

Your dexterity and stamina will increase by four points, your health, mana, speed, and control will increase by two points whenever you level up your class.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Tame.

Effect: It gives you the chance to tame a monster or an animal. The more wounded the creature, the higher are the chances of the Tame skill to work. If the creature is too strong and the skill level is low, the skill won’t work.

Cost: 100 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Call.

Effect: It doesn't matter where your tamed beast is. Whenever you use this skill, the monster will hear your call and head toward you.

Extra Effect: for every five levels you have in this skill, you will be able to tame another beast.

Cost: 10 mana

You obtained 01 status point.  $\rho_{\text{??}} \sqrt{\text{??}(\text{?})\text{??}}$

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Master's Support.

Effect: Whenever you are around, your tamed beasts recover their energy faster. The rate of recovery is equal to the level of this skill per minute.

You obtained 01 status point.

The skills were so interesting that Ryan even frowned a little. The effects of Tame made him recall Pokémon. As for the other skills, they were essentially support skills for the beasts that he might tame in the future.

"Let me guess," Alissa said. "You picked the Beastmaster class."

"I guess my way of thinking isn't that complex," Ryan said.

"You are right," Alissa shrugged. "But you also look the type who like animals."

That wasn't true. Ryan never had a pet in his entire life, not because he didn't like animals, but because he always thought they should be as free as they could since, in a sense, humans can also create their own jails due to their intelligence.

“I am not someone that needy,” Ryan said. “I just thought that I could only do so much by myself, and having a few monsters here and there to help will come in handy to clean this world from those invaders.”

“Well, I choose the Alchemist class since I already have a wild beast inside of me,” Alissa said.

You might want to rephrase that; it was what Ryan thought but decided not to say it out loud. In any case, Ryan began to slay demons since they began to spawn as usual. Taming them was out of the question since they were vicious, and most people wouldn't recognize them as an ally even if they save their lives.

Unfortunately, the options weren't that diverse in that area, so Ryan would have to look for monsters to tame outside Houston. However, that would have to wait since Ryan would be responsible for slaying the demons that will come out from the dungeon.

“If you don't mind, I would like to test the skills of the alchemist class,” Alissa said. “You can stay and fight demons alone.”

“That was my plan, to begin with...” Ryan said. “Are you planning to go somewhere? Besides, didn't you already have those skills?”

“Yeah, but only now I discovered what they could do,” Alissa replied. “There is a number of skills I didn't test, after all.”

Ryan thought Alchemists could only create potions or things like that, but it looked like things weren't so simple. That became obvious since Alissa turned into a dragon and left the area to do something. Now that he had the dungeon for himself, Ryan would have the chance to improve his new fighting style. When the first demon left the dungeon, the beast was welcomed with the Flame sword on its head. The weapon not only destroyed it, but it also prevented that crazy regeneration for five seconds. After those five seconds, the flames died out because apparently, it wasn't in Ryan's possession anymore.

“All right, as expected, the attack power is more than satisfactory even without buffs,” Ryan nodded to himself. “Now I just need another weapon with a different effect, and then I will be able to slay these demons without spending a single point of mana.”

## Chapter 114

Although the variety on the dungeon shop was amazing, and by killing demons, Ryan would be able to obtain forty thousand coins every day, he didn't find anything at the same level as his flame sword. How could he? That was the item he received after killing a red dragon, after all.

"Maybe the dungeon shop will improve in the future, but I can't exactly wait for it," Ryan scratched the back of his head. "For that fighting style to work, I need several weapons with a decent durability, and that has different effects."

Ryan would need a way to create his own magic weapon, but doing that seemed impossible since he couldn't create a single Fireball. To make matters worse, Ryan didn't find a single tome that could help him with that. Confirming his theory that the dungeon shop could improve, he saw a few tomes that he hadn't seen before, but then again, he couldn't just wait for it.

"I guess the only way is to keep killing bosses and hope that they will drop something decent, at least for the time being," Ryan sighed. "Speaking of which, that demon didn't drop anything... Considering that Alissa was the one who killed maybe her luck influenced that. Knowing how dragons can be prideful, her luck is probably low."

Although Ryan didn't get anything decent since he killed so many demons, the number of items they dropped increased. That was the downside of trying to work solo. He couldn't sell those items to others. He wasn't exactly solo anymore, but the last person who needed items was Alissa. Aside from new magic weapons, Ryan needed a magic bag, or whatever is the name of the thing that can store a crazy number of things. That way wouldn't just have to leave his loot behind. The problem was a magic item that could do that was supposed to be even more powerful than the ones he already wanted for his new fighting style.

"So many problems..." Ryan sighed again.

After a few hours and before the sun could set, Alissa returned while humming. She seemed in a good mood. While that was fine and all, Ryan didn't want to ask what happened. It would be better if their relationship stays as neutral as possible. Besides, he still was thinking of how to solve his own problems.



“Hey, Ryan,” Alissa said and then made a massive blue-edged sword appear out of nowhere. “I created this with Orgar’s help.”

Azure Edge (Ice) (+5)

Effect: It freezes the foe upon contact. The ice damage is equal to your intelligence + (400%) per second. Strength + 150, Endurance + 120

Durability: 150/150

Ryan froze due to the shock. Putting the fact that Alissa seemed like a little kid who found a new toy, the fact that she created something like that was insane. The effects, the bonus statuses... even the fact that she took the sword from what seemed to be a storage dimension was amazing. It wasn’t crazy to say that she had all the skills that Ryan wanted, or to be more specific, Orgar had. Still, it wasn’t insane either to say that Ryan wanted the dragons’ power for himself.

“How exactly did you make that?” Ryan asked.

“Well, you see,” Alissa said with a large smile on her face. “I was hunting some megalodons to test my new skills, and this sword was dropped by one of them. Then, I used some high-level alchemist skills to seal their spirits in this. Orgar knew exactly what I had to do. I ended up forgetting to use the ones that I wanted because this is too amazing.”

“Indeed...” Ryan said while thinking about those high-level alchemist skills.

“Now, I will be able to fight while holding back my draconic powers,” Alissa said while swinging around that massive sword. “Thus, I won’t have to sleep so much after a single day of fighting.”

Alissa still looked quite frail despite all the monsters that she was eating. Thanks to it, her swinging around a sword bigger than her was really weird. Having an existence like her nearby was really troublesome in some aspects, but at least her power was so far above Ryan’s level that he would never feel satisfied with his current level. In that sense, she was really useful.

“Good, you can test that theory tomorrow morning,” Ryan said. “I don’t want to leave the guard duty to you again until we confirm that.”

“I already confirmed that. I just killed a megalodon using only this sword,” Alissa frowned. “Anyway, are you planning to go somewhere tomorrow morning?”








“More or less, but I will be back before the twenty-four hours pass,” Ryan said.

Although he probably could kill his tamed beasts, Ryan didn’t want to use the demons to test his new skills. He was fighting them as enemies, but even though they were vicious bastards, he couldn’t go down another level in his decency and treat them like lab rats. Although he did something similar when he was throwing bone arrows, this time would be different since tame would bound them to his will... probably.

In any case, Ryan spent the night thinking of how to solve his current problems, but unfortunately, not a single solution had been found. Although his decision-making speed was insane, his creativity was seriously lacking.

Class: Hunter Lv 22 / Elementalist Lv 20/ Monk Lv 09 (–)

Race: Night Demon /Reptilian/–

Rank: 903rd       

Health: 75/85 (0, 6566)

Mana: 150 /162 (0, 6566)

Stamina: 96/110 (0,6566)

Strength: 10 (+32) (+30)

Dexterity: 250 (+71) (+27)

Speed: 30 (+44) (+3)

Intelligence: 09 (+47) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+41)

Control: 06 (+43) (+10)

Mentality: 07

Luck: 30

Recovery: 125 (+169) (+100)

Willpower: 09

Coins: 43500

Status: 40

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 21, Throw Lv 22 (+3 UP), Dash Lv 07, Rapid Shot Lv 08, Herculean Strength Lv 12, Fighter's Spirit Lv 06,

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 22 (+1UP), Concentration Lv 22 (+1 UP), Archery Lv 22 (+1 UP), Accuracy Lv 22 (+1 UP), Stealth Lv 07, Pain Resistance Lv 09, Perception Lv 12, Rage Lv 05, Precision Lv 22 (+2UP), Swordsmanship Lv 12 (+6 UP), Alert Lv 12, Cook Lv 03, Stalk Lv 02, Art of Sniping Lv 20, Tracking

Lv 05, Spearmanship Lv 05, Knife Mastery Lv 05, Martial Arts Lv 05, Craft Lv 02, Shield Mastery Lv 03, Monk's Style Lv 04, Whip Mastery Lv 05, Ax Mastery Lv 05, Magnet Lv 08 (+3 UP),

Passive Recovery Lv 14 (+4 UP), Bronze Skin Lv 01, Bleed Lv 10 (+9 UP),

Spells: Analysis Lv 05, Lurk Lv 08, Mana Transfusion Lv 20, Meditation Lv 14, Flame Arrow Lv 14, Appraisal Lv 19 (+3 UP), Lesser Fire Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Water Enchantment Lv 10, Lesser Wind Enchantment Lv 10, Earth Bullet Lv 04, Heal Lv 06, Strong Arms Lv 12, Repair Lv 06 (+3 UP), Auto-Production Lv 03, Lesser Poisonous Enchantment Lv 01, Incomplete Reptilian Transformation Lv 05, Strong Legs Lv 01, Fire Manipulation Lv 03 (+3 UP), Mana Shield Lv 04, Active Spiritual Recovery Lv 12 (+4 UP), Tame Lv 01, Call Lv 01,

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 01, Fear Resistance Lv 04, Fire Resistance Lv 03, Heat Resistance Lv 04, Sleep Resistance Lv 08, Nocturnal Eyes Lv 08, Poison Resistance Lv 05, Wind Resistance Lv 01, Master's Support Lv 01

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 07, Beastmaster Lv 01,

Non-Combat: Blacksmith Lv 04,

Chapter 115

Although Ryan had some coins to spend, he decided to look for a monster to summon instead of using the coins already when morning came. Maybe that change of pace would refresh his head and give him some insight into what he should do... hopefully.

"You know..." Alissa sighed. "If we help you, that kind of thing can be done easily."

"Who will guard the dungeon, then?" Ryan asked.

“Is there a need to guard the dungeon?” Alissa frowned. “There is no one here aside from us, so you don’t need to worry about the demons killing your innocent civilians.”

“I wasn’t thinking about that,” Ryan said. “It is just that I would feel more relieved knowing that there aren’t many demons on this side corrupting monsters. Soon, the number of monsters on Earth will spike, and things will become even more troublesome if those crazy numbers become even more powerful due to the corruption.”

It was clear that the demons could strengthen the monsters by corrupting them. Maybe, if they corrupt a megalodon, even a dragon wouldn’t be able to hunt them, but as far as Ryan was concerned, it would be great if those beasts could just kill each other until they become extinct again.

“Well, I can’t exactly give you any orders, and now that I think about it, it will be faster if you give me a lift,” Ryan said. “So, do as you see fit.”

Alissa didn’t have to hear it twice. She transformed into a dragon, and then she used Telekinesis to make Ryan hop in. that had been a bit annoying, but Ryan knew that he had to endure it for the time being. Besides, so far, he received more in comparison to all the problems he had to deal with Alissa’s presence.

“So, what monster are you looking for?” Alissa asked.

“A T-rex would be perfect, but it would be a pain to get so close to Shreveport again and find those guys,” Ryan replied. “You look unexpectedly excited for this. Dragons can’t use Tame?”

“We don’t need such low-level magic that has so many restrictions. We don’t need minions either, but if some of us want, we can turn most monsters into our slaves without much difficulty.”

“You sure sound proud while saying that,” Ryan said.

Ryan’s goal was to leave his tamed beast behind slaying demons, and since he didn’t know if they could grow stronger just like him, he had decided that his first tamed beast had to be something at least at the same level as a T-rex. The problem was, Ryan didn’t find such a monster yet.

“Well, even I didn’t find many monsters with that level of power,” Alissa said. “If we had time, we could keep searching, but we don’t have. I guess you will have to contend yourself with an Elder Salamander.”

“I suppose so,” Ryan said.

The salamander’s dungeon was still the same as ever, and there wasn’t a sign of humans getting close to the area. Without wasting too much time, Ryan bought some mana potions and then headed toward the last part of the dungeon. In the end, Ryan didn’t even use the potions, not as he had planned to. The potions were to keep using Tame if the skill fails more than a few times. Ryan shot four bone arrows at the limbs of the monster and immobilized it. After that, he fired several Earth Bullets until the beast collapsed after getting hit so many times in the head. The monster had less than ten percent of its health, so Ryan decided to use Tame.

A light blue aura coming from Ryan’s hands moved toward the monster and enveloped the beast. However, the salamander trembled at the last minute, and the aura dissipated.

“Not unconscious enough, huh,” Ryan said and then hit the monster’s head with the hilt of his flame sword.

Although the monster’s health dropped to five percent, Ryan still had to try more than a few times. However, eventually, perhaps because Tame leveled up quite a bit, the skill worked.

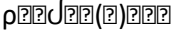
Congratulations! You tamed the Elder Salamander!

The Elder Salamander lost his blessing as a dungeon boss.

Elder Salamander

Health: 35/800

Mana: 1.600/1.600

Stamina: 1.400/1.400 

Strength: 150

Dexterity: 250

Speed: 150

Intelligence: 450

Endurance: 100

Control: 400

Mentality: 350

Luck: 20

Recovery: 400

Willpower: 150

Coins: —

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Roar Lv 10

Passive Physical Skills: Iron Skin Lv 15

Spells: Flamethrower Lv 15

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 30

“What the heck is this...” Ryan frowned. “Dungeon boss blessing?”

Something very weird was going on, but then Ryan recalled the demons’ words the previous day. It made sense that the elder salamander would lose something by abandoning its role as a dungeon boss, but Ryan didn’t expect it would become so much weaker. Its health, mana, and stamina decreased until it becomes twenty percent of its original point. The fact that the monster only had four skills despite having so many points allocated was also weird.

“Well, look on the bright side,” Alissa said. “The value of status is 00, so your pet can learn new skills and allocate those points in whatever you want.”

“... You can read my mind?” Ryan asked.

“Nope, you are just that easy to read,” Alissa smiled.

Ryan didn’t believe in that. Several times, Alissa acted as if she could read Ryan’s mind. At first, he thought that he was just a simple guy, but even so, for a girl who spent years on a hospital bed, Alissa was too good at reading people. Strangely good.

“Although you don’t have many curves, your body is quite attractive.”

Ryan thought that just to confirm his suspicions. As expected, Alissa’s smile broke a little, and she looked to the side, a little embarrassed... she really could read his mind. That was beyond annoying. It was disgusting... Still, Ryan didn’t say anything. He just turned around to mind his own problems. Now, more



than ever, he was decided to pay his debt and get away from this pair of powerful and equally annoying beasts.

## Chapter 116

“Sorry, sorry!” Alissa said. “I won’t do it again!”

While Ryan was healing the Elder Salamander, Alissa asked for forgiveness several times, but he just ignored her and kept working. He already knew more or less how he could strengthen the salamander, so he had to work fast.

“Please, don’t ignore me,” Alissa said.

“I am not ignoring you, you can read my mind, so I don’t need to see or talk to you,” Ryan said.

“I said that I wouldn’t use it again!” Alissa said.

After a while, the salamander woke up, and Ryan felt a strange glint in the monster’s eyes. There was no malice or violence. There was only a sense of familiarity. Weirdly enough, Ryan also could feel a connection between him and the monster as if their thoughts were in harmony and they could understand each other just with their eyes.

“Come on, say something,” Alissa said.

“Something,” Ryan said and then sat on the back of the salamander.

“Kid, you should show more respect to the person who saved your life.”

“Dragon, I am showing my respect by working with you two,” Ryan said. “Don’t expect anything more than this.”

Even without giving the order, the salamander began to run toward the exit of the dungeon, and after a while, the monster learned Dash. As expected, training his first beast wouldn't be that complicated, but it would be a bit time-consuming since the salamander learned that skill and just obtained a single status point.

After a while, Alissa also left the dungeon and joined Ryan, but it didn't look like he wanted to fly on her back again. He didn't have any reason to do that again. After all, the elder salamander was quite fast. A bit uncomfortable to use as a vehicle, but fast.

"I will see you back at the entrance of the demons' dungeon," Ryan said. "I should be able to arrive in time with my salamander." ㄹㄹㄹㄹㄹㄹ(ㄹ)ㄹㄹㄹ

Ryan left without waiting for an answer. Even though Alissa looked really sorry for what she did, it didn't change the fact that she did it. Ryan was determined not to become allies or friends of anyone. A good reason for that was because he had become merciless in that kind of relationship. He did his best not to offend or make others sad, but everything he received in return was deceptions. Staying away from everyone as much as possible, he wouldn't have to deal with that kind of problem again, and he was more than satisfied with it.

Although the salamander had to stop to rest a few times, Ryan and his new monster arrived one hour before the time limit. The fact that Dash leveled up several times contributed to that. Still, Ryan had planned to train the monster a little more, but no monster approached since Alissa flew close to them.

"Come on, Ryan, try to be a bit reasonable," Alissa said. "You can't be this harsh after a single mess up."

Ryan turned around and glared at Alissa, but in the end, he shook his head. She probably didn't have much experience in dealing with other people since she spent a good part of her life in a hospital bed. That was probably why she was treating what she did like a little mistake. It was indeed a small mistake, but just enough to make Ryan threaten her like everyone else.

"You sure are insistent," Ryan said. "Why do you care if I forgive you or not? I thought that you don't care if other humans live or die since you waited to be helped for who knows how long while you were in the hospital, but none helped you."

“You can read minds too?” Alissa frowned. “If that is the case, we are even.”

“Are you stupid?” Ryan asked. “Anyone with half of a brain would have concluded that.”

“Come on, Ryan,” Alissa pleaded. “We are friends, right? You are my first human friend.”

“Use your power and see if I am lying now,” Ryan said. “We are not friends and will never be. Although you saved my life once, you are no better than any other human, not even with your powers. As such, I will treat you like I treat everyone else, like strangers.”

Surprisingly, Ryan saw some tears appearing in Alissa’s eyes, but not even that made his resolve tremble. He had already chosen his path, and in his path, he won’t forgive anyone that messes with him in any sort of way. He may not want to kill Mia and Alissa, but he won’t show any mercy even while talking to them. Suddenly, the aura around Alissa’s body changed. It was obvious that Orgar got mad at Ryan. However, he couldn’t care less.

“Little worm... if you say anything that will hurt Alissa’s feelings again, I will make you regret being born in this world. Death won’t be a mercy that will give you and...”

“Wow, such cliché lines,” Ryan said. “I guess I couldn’t have expected anything more from an oversized lizard. Don’t underestimate me, monster. I may not be able to defeat you now, but I won’t run from a fight against you, not today, nor never. Don’t think that your strength scares me.”

“... All right, stop fighting,” Alissa said with her head down. “I did something wrong, and you two don’t have any reason to fight, so stop.”

Ryan didn’t feel like talking, and since Alissa and Orgar didn’t say anything after that, he didn’t have any reason to do so. Instead of wasting time with that, he decided to train his salamander as much as possible. After all, he planned to use the purple crystal soon alongside Alissa and Orgar, and Ryan had no idea when he would return.

Although that whole situation with Alissa messed up with his rhythm, Ryan still didn't forget to think about what he learned when he tamed the salamander, so he considered a few possibilities. It looked a bit unrealistic, but it was highly probable that bosses had a certain level of immortality. Although he defeated the elder salamander a few days ago, the next boss had the exact same strength. If he were living a game, Ryan would think that would make sense, but he wasn't. So that was the only explanation.

"Monsters can grow stronger the more mana Earth absorbs... that would explain why we still can defeat certain monsters despite the fact that they probably had decades to grow stronger, and we humans only had a single month. I can understand why the elder salamander was supposed to be one of the strongest monsters in its own world, but I can't imagine Bolvath being the strongest in the world of the demons."

Ryan had too little information, so he could only presume that kind of thing, and since Orgar and Alissa were looking for another type of information, they weren't interested in that. As far as they were concerned, dragons seemed above the system.

"I guess I will put my pride aside for a little bit..."

The elder salamander was quite smart, so the monster could learn skills relatively fast and even things that weren't skills. Thanks to that, Ryan found a way to kill Bolvath alone. That bothered him a little, but since he had decided to put his pride aside, in the end, Ryan decided to do it.

When the time came, Ryan entered the dungeon without waiting for Alissa and Orgar. Still, they followed him alongside the elder salamander. Despite the fact that he didn't have a watch, Ryan knew exactly the time the boss would spawn. Exactly one minute before that could happen, Ryan began to prepare his attack. That would be his most powerful shot, and he was quite looking forward to it. When Power Shot and Incomplete Reptilian Transformation emptied his mana, the elder salamander tossed several potions using its tongue toward Ryan, the potions broke, and the liquid restores his energy. At the same time, the durability of his bow began to decrease. Still, Ryan continued to charge the attack because he knew that his bow would endure until the last second.

Exactly one minute after he began to charge the attack, Bolvath appeared in front of the crystal, and then he frowned when he saw Ryan pointing his bow at his head. Meanwhile, Ryan smirked from ear to ear.

"Hello again, mother fucker," Ryan said.

Ryan fired the arrow, and Bolvath summoned his skeletons to block the attack. However, all the skeletons became dust after getting hit by that arrow. Even faster than he could blink, the bone arrow hit the demon's head, and the impact caused an explosion that destroyed the whole body into several pieces.

You obtained 10.000 coins.

"Pretty good for a worm, right?" Ryan asked and then smashed one of the flesh pieces that once had been a part of the Bolvath body. "Cockroach-looking bastard."

Alissa couldn't help but look away while Ryan was enjoying himself. He never looked like he had any fun while fighting, but now it looked like he had a lot of fun, but that was only because he was angry, and it was due to her actions. Ryan wasn't the type to shout and scream when he was angry and frustrated. His own way to cope with that was to make his enemies suffer. Even though Alissa wasn't much better, she didn't like to see Ryan like that.

"It looks like the dungeon masters have some privileges. The capacity to revive in their dungeon is one of them. Still, he wasn't supposed to be the strongest of his species. So, that means..." ρ??ϕ??(?)???

"The demons are invading other planets as well," Alissa said. "They only send Bolvath to look after this dungeon because they thought he would be enough... they were almost right."

The existence of someone like Alissa wasn't on anyone's plans, but Ryan was also an anomaly. Given time, he would be able to take even dragons since his growth seems superior to them, and he always chooses the best method to fight his enemies without letting anyone or anything hold him back.

"Be prepared because the chances of you fighting several enemies of the level of that demon at the same time is pretty high."

"Well, we will see that once we arrive on their planet," Alissa said. "The problem is: against that type of opponent, only the big shots might have the answers we are looking for, and considering their attitude, the demons are probably divided hierarchy with their power as a basis."

“Indeed, but worry not. I can still offer you some assistance even in a spiritual form, and if something happens, I have a contingency plan.”

While Alissa and Orgar were talking, Ryan grabbed the spoils of that battle. He was quite interested in the trident Orgar had on his hands since the skeletons only appeared when he swung it. Still, the trident always disappeared when he died. Fortunately, Ryan had been nicely rewarded.

Spiked Steel Shield

Effect: Reflects one percent of the damage back to the enemy. Health + 30, Endurance + 20

Durability: 100/100

“It is not what I wanted, but I guess this will do,” Ryan equipped the shield on his left arm. “Even after all this fighting, my defensive attributes are incredibly low, after all.”

Alissa approached, and then she looked at the crystal. It was time to investigate the world on the other side. Still, before going, Ryan gave some orders to his salamander. Like not to leave the dungeon and kill all demons. At the same time, the salamander was supposed to meditate between battles in order to recover its mana. It would be nice if the monster could fulfill that job, but Ryan wouldn't be much of it since he didn't have time to properly train the monster.

Chapter 118

Ryan and Alissa touched the purple crystal at the same time, and when they did, a powerful light enveloped them and forced them to close their eyes. The light soon disappeared, and they saw themselves in the middle of a forest, and they couldn't see a single demon nearby.

“I see now... it looks like they have a lot more information than us.”

“What do you mean?” Alissa asked.

“The crystal is behind us, but there is no one nearby. That means that the demons can control the flow of demons even from far away. Speaking of which, they already noticed our presence. Unless you want to be attacked by an army, you should prepare for battle or hide.”

That was weird. Not only could the demons spawn endless on Earth, but they also could control the purple crystal. Why couldn't humans do the same? It was not like they had the leisure to invade other planets.

“What do you think, Ryan?” Alissa asked.

“You are the leader here, and this mission is to discover something you want,” Ryan replied while looking around. “It is your call.”

“... Do you know what is the limit of their tracking skills, Orgar?” Alissa asked.

“They are using the crystal to find us, so if we get away from the crystal, it should be enough for the time being. They are a race of warriors, and their senses aren't that good, after all.”

“All right, let's become invisible and see how they will proceed from a safe distance,” Alissa said.

Ryan wondered how she planned to make him become invisible, but much to his surprised, Alissa touched his shoulder for a single instant, and then he saw his body becoming transparent alongside everything that was touching him. Without wasting any time, they began to run and left the forest. Finally, Ryan saw something that was more like a dense grove than a real forest. He wasn't in hell. In fact, he was in a pretty peaceful looking world. Ryan and Alissa saw a massive medieval-ish city at the north of their current position, but they didn't see any signs of smoke or destruction, but they did find a castle in the middle of the city. After a while, they saw a dark point coming from the city, those were the flying demons that had been sent to investigate the purple crystal, and their numbers were close to five hundred.

“They sent a small army of minions... their power level is no different from the ones that are spawned on the dungeon.”

“It looks like they aren’t that worried that someone came to their world,” Alissa said. “Is this even their world? I imagined that this place would be an entire warzone where demons would fight each other to death every single moment.”

“In any case, this at least confirms that Bolvath didn’t return to this world upon death. Otherwise, a proper and stronger army would have been sent to fight us.”

Ryan was also thinking among those lines. It didn’t make sense that the demons would have such a place as their real-world... maybe it was just a base they conquered after exterminating the previous inhabitants. Still, that made Ryan think that the demons were fighting in a much larger scale war. After all, any decent commander would feel threatened if enemies suddenly appear on their base. It was insane, but it looked like the demons might try to invade several other planets, and Earth wasn’t that important to them.

“What we should do now, Orgar?” Alissa said. “We need to find their leader, but it is wise just invade without any proper plan?”

“You have my power, so you don’t have to be that cautious. That being said, even you might find some problems if you don’t defeat the leader of the demons in that castle fast enough and ask what we want. A single one might not be able to kill you, but thousands of them can certainly stop you for a while and give them time to their leader prepare a big attack or run away.”

“I guess we need to decrease their fighting force, huh,” Alissa said. “Good, I feel like I am getting the hang of your power, and little by little, the tiredness is decreasing as well.”

Ryan didn’t have to receive any order, even from far away, and despite the fact that they were in the grove, he could see the demons around the purple crystal. So, he bombarded them with his Flame Arrows. Thanks to his Active Spiritual Recovery, Ryan could recover more mana than he used by killing a single demon. Thanks to it, he didn’t hold back. Alissa did the same. Alissa did the same, but instead of using magic, she crushed the demons with her big sword.

Congratulations! You have reached the rank of the 900 strongest humans! Keep clearing dungeons and defeating monsters to raise your rank, and you might receive some nice rewards!

Current Rank: 895th



You obtained 10.000 coins.

While Ryan was thankful for the reward, it was a pity that the things he could obtain were always random. Still, instead of worried about that, he was impressed by his own growth. He got lucky that the classes he obtained had certain useful skills, but that doesn't change the fact that he just killed almost two hundred demons in a couple of minutes. Much to his surprise, while Ryan was looking for the loot, Alissa grabbed a demon by the neck. Apparently, she managed to leave one alive in order to question the beast.

“Where can I find your leader?” Alissa asked.

Although Alissa was suffocating the monster, she didn't alleviate the grip on the beast's neck. She didn't need to hear one, she just had to make the monster think about something, and she would be able to clearly read the thought.

“Baal... is in the castle,” Alissa clicked her tongue. “This might be a bit difficult.”

Ryan had no idea what she was referring to, but he could imagine even without a proper explanation. More important than that, he was a bit worried by the name he heard... Baal. It was the name of a demon that he saw in some games, and that was just too weird to be a coincidence.

## Chapter 119

After thinking for a while, Ryan decided that whatever appears in front of him it wouldn't surprise him anymore. Dragons were supposed only to exist in humans' imagination, and now they were roaming on the Earth, so why get surprised that some demons also had the names of the ones he saw in games.

“Based on the things I discovered by reading the mind of that demon, our opponent this time might prove to be a bit difficult,” Alissa said. “His name is Baal, a demon and lord of corruption. His body is covered with his own blood-like armor, and apparently, whatever or whoever he touches or touches him becomes corrupt. If it is an inanimate object, it will become a mindless monster that only wants the blood of all living things. If it is another living being, it will become a demon just like the ones we have been fighting so far.”

“It is a problem that you can’t touch him, but you have plenty of other ways to attack.”

While that was true, that wasn’t the real problem. The problem was that they couldn’t let themselves be touched a single time since the power of the demon’s corruption is unrivaled. Maybe even a dragon wouldn’t be able to resist for more than a few seconds. As for Ryan, a single touch might transform him into a demon.

“Apparently, he is the only leader here,” Alissa said. “However, he isn’t the supreme leader of the demons’ army. There are four other generals like him and one leader.”

“What are their names?” Ryan asked.

“I don’t know. It isn’t important, right?” Alissa said. “He is at that castle, and the generals act independently, and they aren’t in this world, so we don’t have to worry about him asking for help or others coming to help him. That being said, that will only be true for a while. If they notice that something is weird, all of them might come to attack us.”

Ryan couldn’t even complain since he couldn’t obtain information as fast as her. In any case, he wanted to learn the other generals and leaders’ names to prepare himself mentally. In any case, even if the demon was as terrifying as it was in the game or in the legends the creature was mentioned, as long as it was made of flesh and bones, it wasn’t supposed to be impossible to kill... probably. Still, Ryan couldn’t help but think that perhaps this time, he was going to pick a fight with someone way out of his league. Even though he already declared openly that he would face Orgar if he has to.

“I am not too sure, but it also looks like that Baal is invading five other planets,” Alissa said. “So, his focus is divided. We can do this.”

Ryan sighed. He wished that things were that simple. If a demon was trying to invade five worlds using five dungeons, that means that he had the confidence to do so. Considering how many demons he could control at once, maybe he already invaded and countered a planet once or twice. Ryan would need all the help he can get, but unfortunately, those five hundred demons only dropped crappy items.

“Anyway, even though this planet isn’t as bad as thought, I don’t want to risk facing the five generals and the supreme leader of the demons,” Alissa said. “So, I think it would be in our best interest to deal with this Ball guy as fast as possible and then leave.”

“It is Baal. Still, you have a point. However, how do you plan with him and his army of demons?”

“It is simple,” Alissa replied. “I will face the Ball person, and Ryan will take out his minions. He has the skills to keep fighting against an army for an undetermined amount of time now. Are you okay with that, Ryan?”

“No problem,” Ryan said, imagining how things would turn out.

While two Flame Arrows were enough to kill ordinary demons, and Ryan could recover his mana by killing them, things weren’t that simple. If he makes a mistake, he will end up using more mana than he could recover. So, his capacity to fight non-stop was depending on his aim of always hit the targets. While he barely missed a shot since the monsters appeared, things might change in a war of attrition. After all, the longer someone stays focused, the easier it is to that focus wane. Still, that would be a chance like no other. While fighting the demons in just a few minutes, he received almost twenty thousand coins. Who knows how much he will earn by fighting the entire army under that demon’s control...?

“It is decided then,” Alissa said. “Still, we have to see the city and look for the best place to attack the castle. If that demon is the type to summon the demons from another dimension with magic, then we will have to start the fight inside the castle. If that isn’t the case, we have to find a good place for Ryan to have a complete battlefield vision. I am kind of bad at keeping looking on my surroundings, so I might mess up if some demon attacks my blind spots.”

Although Ryan was used to be the main attacker and always have the spotlight for himself, he didn’t feel bothered by his new role. Since the very moment he decided to help those two, it was clear that he would have a support role outside and during the battles. Besides, that was a good chance for him to see the full power of a dragon like Orgar. After all, Ryan truly believed that all dragons were his enemies, and he was determined to hunt them all.

While invisible, Ryan and Alissa moved toward that castle. Although they didn't notice from far away, when they entered that city, they confirmed several things. First of all, the place was completely desert, which only showed them that Baal was a demon able to summon demons from another dimension. The second thing they confirmed was the fate of the worlds' inhabitants who failed at fighting against the invasion. Half of the city was in ruins, and they couldn't feel a single presence of anything close to demons or any other species. Given that the shape of the houses was pretty similar to the humans of Earth, Ryan thought they were supposed pretty similar to humans, but it was hard to tell since here and there, Ryan found certain tools that had magic stones engraved in them. Unfortunately, those magic stones lost their power a long time ago.

"This is weird, we exterminated his army, but he didn't send any other demon to fight us after that," Alissa said.

"Most likely, he already knows that we are planning to attack him, and thus, he is conserving his strength."

That fight was going to be a pain in the ass for Ryan. Fighting in a confined place was something that he was used to, but only against small numbers of enemies. Even though the castle was massive, Ryan's range already surpassed the size of any conventional room.

"Orgar, how do you think this Ball guy will proceed with this battle?" Alissa asked. "Will he really wait for us to knock down his castle?"

"It is Baal... Unless he is a unicellular lifeform, he will not do something that stupid. My instincts are telling me that he will attack once you get on his range. I will bet that he will attack once you are five hundred meters away from the castle."

Ryan didn't know if he was thankful for the fact that the fight wouldn't happen inside the castle or if he would feel annoyed that once again, he won't have the chance to deal the first strike. In any case, Orgar's words really hit the mark. When Alissa and Ryan got around that range, a purple beam came from the castle and destroyed everything on its way. Even from that distance, the power of that attack was something, but Ryan had the chance to dodge. For some reason, Alissa just turned into a dragon and blocked the attack with her right hand.

Although Ryan thought that was some kind of magic that would have some kind of debuff as an extra effect, the purple ray made Alissa, even in her transformed form being pushed back quite a bit. Their foe continued to fire that spell for quite a while, but after noticing that Alissa was only using a single hand,

he stopped. Unfortunately, in the next moment, Ryan saw a dark cloud leaving the castle... another army of demons.

Ryan never did that before, but he decided to cast Flame Arrows with both hands hoping that would help him attack faster, and somehow... it did. Demons began to explode left and right, and even those who didn't get hit were forced to slow down due to the explosions. That bought Ryan so many times that he didn't see his mana bar getting empty. It was all thanks to his Active Spiritual Recovery.

"It looks like you have things under control here," Alissa said and then began to fly. "So, it is my turn to greet this Ball demon." ρ??(???)???

Strangely enough, Alissa didn't fly toward the castle. She just flew upward and then stopped at some point. Suddenly, the atmosphere stopped when she opened her mouth. A dark sphere of fire began to grow in front of her, and even though Ryan was a hundred meters away, the heat was distorting his vision. Even the demons were unable to keep flying with all that heat... it was like a sun was right above them.

"I guess I am not the only one who can charge attacks like that."

Even though Ryan was making a comparison, the difference in power of his attacks and with that was obvious. Suddenly, a shadow left the castle and flew toward Alissa. The shadow was pretty big, and even though Ryan was busy slaying demons, he had the chance to look at it. As expected, the demon was very different from the games Ryan saw the creature, but it still was terrifying. The beast was like five meters tall and had the body of the hulk. It was quite weird since Baal had summoning magic. Regardless, the demon didn't have a weapon in its hands, but its body had several spikes like in the back of its hands, elbows, and knees. The demon had four wings, and they were blood-like red.

Even though the attack wasn't ready, Alissa was forced to fire. For some reason, when the ball of dark fire hit the demon, it stopped. Ryan couldn't even look at it due to its power, but he could imagine the demon trying to hold back the attack. Still, the clash didn't last even a few seconds. The demon did something, and Alissa's attack exploded, and a small dark fireball began to hit and destroy the rest of the city.

A few seconds after that, Baal could be seen, and there wasn't a single wound on its body... now more than ever, Ryan concluded that he was an opponent that he couldn't defeat right now. Just like with Alissa, he couldn't even use Appraisal on him. Well, he could, but the skill always failed.

“To think that a dragon would side with the humans,” Baal said. “Even though your power is above most of your species, you dishonor them.”

“Watch your tongue, vicious beast. I did not side with the humans. I sided with a single human.”

“The number doesn’t matter,” Baal said and then looked at Ryan for a second. “Still, it looks like I underestimated the worms known as humans. Did you give your powers to him too?”

“No.”

“That is good, then,” Baal said and then disappeared before he reappeared, flying toward Ryan.