

Domain 141

Chapter 141

As much convenient as it was, causing dungeon breaks was dangerous. It was only natural that Ryan wouldn't be able to use such an efficient method to grow stronger. Regardless, after finishing the monsters of the second dungeon break and getting his hands on his loot. Ryan decided to return to Shreveport since it was late, and he will have to waste sometime carrying everything he got on his improvised iron cart. As expected, it made a lot of noise, but Ryan didn't face any problems due to the monsters the noisy attracted.

Class: Hunter Lv 31 / Elementalist Lv 30/ Monk Lv 09 (-)

Race: Night Demon /Reptilian/ Ice Fox (-)

Rank: 812th

Health: 204/204 (1/s)

Mana: 371/371 (1/s)

Stamina: 265/265 (1/s)

Strength: 10 (+39) (+30)

Dexterity: 400 (+163) (+27)

Speed: 50 (+91) (+3)

Intelligence: 09 (+107) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+15) (+61)

Control: 06 (+130) (+10)

Mentality: 07 (+5)

Luck: 30

Recovery: 250 (+262) (+200)

Willpower: 09 (+5)

Coins: 79.350

Status:

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 30 (+2 UP), Dash Lv 12 (+5 UP), Rapid Shot Lv 24 (+13 UP), Arrow Shower Lv 30 (+29 UP), Tackle Lv 06 (+5 UP),

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 29 (+2 UP), Concentration Lv 29 (+2 UP), Archery Lv 29 (+2 UP), Accuracy Lv 29 (+2 UP), Perception Lv 20 (+2 UP), Precision Lv 29 (+2 UP), Art of Sniping Lv 30 (+2 UP), Craft Lv 15 (+14 UP), Magnet Lv 16 (+5 UP), Passive Recovery Lv 23 (+2 UP), Bronze Skin Lv 13 (+7 UP), Bleed Lv 23 (+2 UP), Focus Lv 04 (+3 UP), Morale Lv 04 (+3 UP), p???

Spells: Mana Transfusion Lv 26 (+3 UP), Repair Lv 12 (+6 UP), Auto-Production Lv 18 (+15 UP), Mana Shield Lv 09, Active Spiritual Recovery Lv 20 (+2 UP), Quick Legs Lv 07 (+6 UP), Detection Lv 05 (+5 UP)

Support Skills: Nocturnal Eyes Lv 10 (+2 UP)

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 25, Beastmaster Lv 06, Archer Lv 15, Mercenary Lv 05,

Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 11,

“Who could have imagined that I would be able to progress this much by fighting slimes...” Ryan frowned while checking his status. “That being said, it came with a cost...”

Ryan obtained around one hundred status points thanks to the slimes, and he divided them between recovery, mana, and dexterity. Still, what really made his progress was the level-ups of his Archer class since each level up increased his status by fourteen points. While that was insanely useful and convenient, it was also quite scary... Ryan couldn't help but ponder if something weird won't happen considering that his body was getting stronger too fast.

Regardless, when Ryan returned to Shreveport, it was already pretty late. Still, despite his warnings, a massive bonfire was illuminating the area around the dungeon. If those idiots die or not, it was none of Ryan's business, but Ryan couldn't think the same if Arthur dies. In any case, Alissa was probably the one who made the bonfire, and since her presence could be felt from very far away by other dragons, then Shreveport was fine. Ryan found some lookouts before getting closer to the dungeon, but they recognized him and didn't make a fuss, even though he had no idea who they were.

There were several tents around the dungeon as well, more than enough to grant the chance to one hundred or so people to rest while others stay on guard duty. Much to Ryan's displeasure, Daniel was one of the people who was still working. For some reason, he looked pretty tired.

“Hey... you finally returned,” Daniel said. “Your friend is over there on Mia and Arthur's tent. I told her that the boss spawned one hour ago, but she ignored me.”

Ryan sighed. He could understand that some people would need a break now and then with the world in that state, but Alissa wasn't normal, and she didn't need to rest as much as the others. In any case, she

was enjoying too much looking after Arthur, and Ryan was afraid that she would ask something unreasonable pretty soon. She definitely was that kind of girl, after all.

“I got all this while I was cleaning a dungeon, and I also obtained some interesting pieces of information,” Ryan said. “Do you want to buy them?”

“Sure, we can deal with this later when Tristan and Natalia wake up,” Daniel said. “They are responsible for this kind of thing since they have some useful skills. Let’s talk for a little bit meanwhile.”

“I am not here to talk. I am here to do business,” Ryan said, and then he headed toward Mia’s tent.

When Ryan arrived there, he saw Arthur sleeping and Alissa looking at him. She looked pretty satisfied for some odd reason, as for Mia, who was on the opposite side of the tent, she looked exhausted.

“Why didn’t you clear the dungeon yet?” Ryan asked. “Didn’t you say you want to obtain some classes?”

“That can wait,” Alissa said. “Besides, it is already late. We can do this tomorrow.”

While that was a reasonable argument, it doesn’t matter if it is late or not. Alissa could clear most dungeons in less than five minutes if she wants to. Still, while that was true, Alissa’s body still wasn’t that efficient at using draconic powers. So, he decided to leave her alone for the time being.

“When you intend to clear the dungeon?” Ryan asked. “There are others in this area. I want you to clear all of them tomorrow.”

“Before breakfast is fine with you?” Alissa asked.

Ryan sighed. More and more, he was missing the days when he was working alone, and he didn’t have to endure that bullshit. Regardless, Ryan was also a bit tired since the events of Las Vegas still were bothering him. So, he laid in a place where the grass wasn’t that tall, and the warmth of the bonfire still could reach him while he rests. Unfortunately, Daniel had other plans. Ryan was too tired to be sarcastic, but in the end, Daniel deserved to hear some bullshit.

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"I must admit," Ryan said. "You have nerves of steel and the tenacity of a cockroach. It doesn't matter how many times I tell you to fuck off. You always return to piss me off. You are not starting to like this, are you?"

"My stubbornness is one of the few virtues that I have, after all," Daniel said.

"Who said that could be considered a virtue?" Ryan frowned.

"Seriously, Ryan," Daniel said. "Alissa is really a dragon? I am starting to believe that is the case since the dragon we saw earlier seemed like the one who caught you after you killed the red dragon."

Ryan didn't want to talk, but Daniel was annoying to the point where only harsh words wouldn't make him stop. So, Ryan decided to annoy him as well by forcing him to lose coins if he wants to get some answers. It was time to rip off some idiots.

"One hundred coins," Ryan said.

"What?" Daniel frowned.

"The answer to your question will cost you one hundred coins," Ryan replied.

Strangely enough, Daniel gave Ryan the coins. Either he had a lot, or Ryan just asked for too little. Regardless, Ryan wouldn't do the same mistake again. Still, he had to keep his words, even to Daniel.

"She is that dragon that you saw after I killed the red dragon," Ryan explained. "I am only with her now because I owe her a little bit, and I still have to help her for a while longer, or until she finds the answer, she is looking for."

Which is?" Daniel asked.

“That will cost you three hundred coins,” Ryan replied.

“She is looking for three hundred coins?” Daniel frowned again.

“... The answer to that question will cost you three hundred coins,” Ryan said. “I fought goblins smarter than you.”

Once again, Daniel paid the coins. At that point in time, it was obvious that Ryan was selling information. While the free coins weren't so bad, he wasn't feeling good since he had to talk with Daniel. That was a sign that Ryan still was immature since he couldn't put his feelings aside while he was doing business.

“The dragon inside her wants to know why dragons are the only creatures that were teleported to other planets without the use of the crystal,” Ryan said, trying to end the conversation there. ρ??∫??(?)???

“I can't even imagine where you will find the answer...” Daniel said, a bit surprised. “Can you tell me what are you guys exactly doing to find that answer?”

“Five hundred coins,” Ryan said.

“Man... you sure are greedy,” Daniel sighed. “All the coins that I worked hard to save are quickly disappearing.”

That gave Ryan an odd sense of satisfaction, but Daniel still paid for the answer. Ryan should have asked for more because the answer to that question was very long. For the time being, humans didn't have to worry about Baal, but eventually, if the human race survives the effects of those dungeon breaks, they will have to deal with the demons.

“Baal... seriously?” Daniel asked with a pale expression. “From the game and from the myths?”

“I don’t know if the demon has any relation with the games or with the myths,” Ryan replied. “All that I know is that he is damn powerful. Enough to take down more than a few dragons alone, and that his boss is called Lucifer Morningstar.”

“Oh, crap... this is really bad,” Daniel said. “Still, I am thankful for getting some answers from you. We tried to talk with Alissa, but she ignored our questions and never stopped asking things about us. Although we didn’t answer any of them, she never stopped asking more.”

Ryan facepalmed. Alissa did the exact way Ryan had imagined she would. Regardless, what was done was done, and something like that was practical. Even without asking things, she would read the others’ minds, and little by little would discover more about Ryan. That was annoying as hell, but Ryan doubted that she would have the nerve to use that knowledge against him. Besides, warning them about her powers would be completely useless. Mind reading was that useful, after all.

“About the things that you learned and about the location of the dungeons,” Daniel said. “How much are you going to ask for them?”

“One thousand coins for each piece of information,” Ryan said. “If you don’t have it, go look for someone who has at least ten thousand coins. This isn’t up for debate since I already gave you guys too much information for free. Don’t even try to bargain since this kind of information comes with the cost of my life.”

“All right, I will solve this problem by morning,” Daniel said, and then he left.

Ryan finally had some time to rest and have some peace of mind. Still, he couldn’t quite relax since so many tents with strangers were around him. Although he was the stranger in the camp, only that didn’t make him feel less uncomfortable. Regardless, he only needed to endure that for a while longer, and then he and Alissa will leave Shreveport. The problem with Arthur wasn’t solved yet, but Ryan was confident that after his warning, the camp wouldn’t fall by the dragons’ attacks so easily.

In any case, now that he had some peace of mind, Ryan noticed that he didn’t see Angela and Holland around. If they had caused some problem, Daniel would have mentioned them. Still, not knowing what happened to them was a bit annoying since he was the one who gave them the information about the camp.

It took a while, but eventually, Ryan managed to fall asleep and have a good night's rest. However, a massive headache was waiting for him when he woke up. Alissa left the tent while holding Arthur in her arms, and she said to him that they should take him with them. That girl has finally done it...

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"No," Ryan said. "This isn't up for debate."

"Why not?" Alissa asked.

"Because I said so," Ryan replied. "Besides, Mia is his guardian, and it doesn't look like she agreed to this."

"It doesn't matter. You are the one whose his mother asked to protect him," Alissa said. "Together, we can protect him better than anyone else."

"Incredible, you can still say this with a straight face after getting unconscious while fighting Baal," Ryan said. "I didn't do anything in that fight, so I can't complain. Still, that doesn't change that fact. Anyway, let me say this as bluntly as possible: Alissa, you can decide everything related to our work while I have to help you. However, this is the only thing I won't accept. Insist, and our temporary partnership will end right here, and I won't care if I will end up ignoring my debt. Aside from that, if you insist on taking Arthur on this journey to find the answers you are looking for, you will become my enemy. Maybe I won't be able to defeat you, but I am pretty sure that I will be able to buy time in order for you not to ever seeing him again."

"All right, all right. My bad... I got carried away," Alissa said, a bit pale. "Geez... you can really be a pain in the ass sometimes. Still, you won't mind if I visit him now and then, right?"

"That is none of my business," Ryan said. "However, try to do anything more than that, and you will become my enemy."

Even Ryan was a bit surprised with his reaction. Still, it was understandable since he had a strong sense of responsibility toward Arthur even though the kid apparently hated him. It wouldn't be weird to say that Arthur was the only thing preventing Ryan from becoming a power-seeking cold-blood man. After



all, even though he felt bad about the death of Las Vegas survivors, he didn't drop a single tear for them. He was bothered by it, but only to the extent where he thought that it was regrettable.

Regardless, in order to calm down Ryan, who apparently woke up in a bad mood, Alissa decided to clear the dungeon and receive her new class. Meanwhile, Ryan was doing business with Tristan and Natalia. Fortunately, he obtained enough coins to buy the Wind Manipulation tome. However, he was more worried as to why Natalia was staring at him.

"What?" Ryan asked.

"You helped me before, and I am thankful for it, but why did you abandon your friends even though you helped so many strangers?" Natalia asked.

"I don't remember abandoning any friends," Ryan shrugged. "As to why I helped some strangers, it is because I imagined they would be useful down the road, just like now you two are being useful."

"Ouch, that was harsh, Ryan," Tristan forced a smile. ρ??∪??(??)???

"What do you prefer: the harsh truth or a sweet lie?" Ryan asked.

"Can I have a mix of them?" Tristan asked. "I don't like things that are too sour or too sweet."

"Good luck finding someone who can do that for you," Ryan said and then headed to the dungeon and bought the tome.

"Hahaha, Ryan looks like a soldier who is constantly in the combat mode," Tristan laughed a little. "This is a bit sad, but don't feel too bad about it, Natalia. We know what he experienced in the past months, so it can't be helped."

"I am not feeling bad for myself," Natalia and then she began to pull the iron cart filled with the equipment.

As far as Ryan was concerned, most of his equipment was already more powerful than those that could be acquired through the dungeon shop. The only exception were his gloves, boots, chainmail, and helmet that he never got. Apparently, he could use amulets as well. In any case, he could buy five types of equipment. That being said, the best of each type cost around twenty thousand coins. To buy five, he would need one hundred thousand... it was an amount Ryan could easily get if he causes a few dungeons breaks on the goblins' dungeon. So, he decided to buy mana potions with the coins he still had. All in order to train his Wind Manipulation as fast as possible.

In the blink of an eye, just by controlling his bone arrows with the Wind Manipulation and by using the potions, the skill reached level twenty even before Alissa could return. In any case, even though the wind was quite useful, Ryan couldn't just attack his foes with invisible attacks. The very moment he starts to the concentrated wind in a certain area, the wind becomes more 'visible,' mana probably also had an influence over that, but that much was okay with him.

"Let's get going," Alissa said. "I want to return before lunch."

"For what reason are you planning to return to this place so soon?" Ryan asked.

"To play with Arthur, obviously," Alissa said.

"What happened to your goal?" Ryan frowned.

"Like I said, we don't have to hurry," Alissa said. "Also, Orgar said that I should focus on my building my strength in case we find another troublesome enemy in the future. So, it is fine."

"That is not fine. If you really want to build your own strength, you should get more classes and level them up," Ryan said. "Don't try to mess with me, Alissa. Our agreement was to work for six months in order to find the answers you want. I don't plan to work those six months, so you can't slack off now."

"I guess you have a point," Alissa rubbed her chin. "What do you think of working two days and then have a day off? No, I won't accept working more than three days straight without a break."

Alissa truly was a pain in the ass, but unfortunately, she was the leader of the operations regarding the things that she wanted to learn. Besides, that wasn't so bad. Some time away from that massive pain in the ass would help him a lot.

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In the end, as silly as that sounded, Alissa decided that she would have a day off every three days. Ryan sighed because her sole goal was to have an excuse to see Arthur. With the world ending due to the invasion of monsters, any sane person wouldn't decide or have the leisure to have a day off. Regardless, she was the one to give the calls anything related to their mission, so Ryan couldn't say no to her decision.

Although Ryan had no real reason to go with Alissa, he went to the dungeons with her. Unlike the slimes' dungeon, some survivors who were working with Daniel, Cole, and Lilian were guarding the velociraptors and the globins' dungeon. Thankfully, they didn't cause any problems for them. So, before lunch, Alissa had already cleared the four dungeons of that area. Leveling up the classes could be done anywhere, so their job there was over.

"Where are we heading next?" Ryan asked.

"Apparently, your friends managed to communicate with the survivors of Indianapolis somehow," Alissa replied. "The people there, after having to hide from the dragons, are surrounded by three species of monsters, and they can't leave the region. So, we can face a lot of monsters there thanks to the dungeon breaks and clear three dungeons at the same time."

The idea of rescuing the survivors didn't even pass by Alissa's mind, and yet, she looked so ready to take Arthur with her on her dangerous trips. Although Ryan blatantly refused, perhaps looking after a defenseless child would fix her attitude. That being said, the idea of playing hero never crossed Ryan's mind as well.

"It is your call," Ryan said.

Alissa didn't have to hear that twice. Without wasting any more time, she flew toward Indianapolis. In any case, after seeing so many big cities being destroyed by monsters, it became evident to Ryan that dungeons appeared conveniently close to where high numbers of people lived. After flying for several

hours, Alissa and Ryan finally arrived at their destination, and there they found a few species of somewhat troublesome monsters.

Golem – Lv 30

Health: 600/600

Mana: 300/300

Stamina: 600/600

Strength: 450

Dexterity: 100

Speed: 50

Intelligence: 50

Endurance: 500

Control: 250

Mentality: 500

Luck: 100

Recovery: 600

## Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Earthquake Lv 50

Passive Physical Skills: Steel Skin Lv 50

Spells: Earth Bullet Lv 50

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 150

Giant Bee – Lv 30

Health: 300/300

Mana: 500/500

Stamina: 500/500

Strength: 150

Dexterity: 400

Speed: 450

Intelligence: 100

Endurance: 150

Control: 350

Mentality: 150

Luck: 250 ρ??∪??(?)???

Recovery: 250

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Sting Lv 45

Passive Physical Skills: Bleed Lv 15

Spells: Fly Lv 25

Support Skills: Wind Resistance Lv 50

Poisonous Frog – Lv 30

Health: 400/400

Mana: 400/400

Stamina: 300/300

Strength: 250

Dexterity: 300

Speed: 100

Intelligence: 250

Endurance: 200

Control: 250

Mentality: 350

Luck: 150

Recovery: 250

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Poisonous Touch Lv 40

Passive Physical Skills: Leap Lv 50

Spells: Poison Bullet Lv 50

Support Skills: Poison Resistance Lv 150

“This is odd... the city is crowded with those three species of monsters, but I am pretty sure the golems have the advantage against the other species. So, why the number of creatures in all species is nearly identical?”

Golems were supposed to be inorganic monsters, so even though frogs might damage them, it wouldn't be as nearly as effective in an organic target. As for the giant bees, even though they are fast and have a high attack, the golems are sturdy, and Bleed is useless against them.

"I would bet a Golem would be a decent pet for you," Alissa said. "Unfortunately, your skill can only level up when you are close to your pets, and right now, you can't tame a third monster."

"... You are correct," Ryan said.

As much as Ryan wanted, he couldn't just ignore Alissa. He had to maintain a certain level of friendliness at least while working, even though it was just an act. Regardless, after studying the city from above for a while, Alissa decided to land on the southern side of the city and then attack the poisonous frogs first.

"You will have to deal with them for a while," Alissa said. "I am hungry, but since they are poisonous, I will have to nullify their poison and heal the damage that they might cause to my stomach."

Ryan really didn't need to hear that... Still, considering that Alissa spends the previous day playing with Arthur, it was understandable that she would go as far as eating poisonous monsters. Ryan also felt of doing the same since he needed to level up his Poison Resistance, and he would rather do it outside of combats instead of in the middle of a fight.

"Come to think of it... I can create poison to some extent. Can I use that on myself to train Poison Resistance and Lesser Poisonous Enchantment?"

It would be a rather convenient method of training, but at the same time dubious way of training if it were possible. Still, self-harm wouldn't be the first thing that would make Ryan question his sanity at this point in time. Besides, in order to take down anyone or anything that may stand in his way, Ryan wouldn't have the luxury to chose his methods to get stronger. He would choose them all and worry about small things later.

Regardless, after a while, Ryan finally understood the real meaning of Alissa's words. Although she could hit her foes from a long distance, sometimes, she misses, and when she misses not only she alerts the foe that she tried to kill but all the other creatures in the area. Ryan barely missed, but even if he misses while he was four hundred meters away from his targets, the impact wouldn't be that powerful. So, without any ceremony and while hidden behind a grove, Ryan began to snipe the poisonous frogs.



You obtained twenty-four coins.

You obtained twenty-four coins.

You obtained twenty-four coins.

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After nonchalantly killing the monsters who were hundreds of kilometers away from him, Ryan finally understood how powerful he had become. Although he had to stop now and then since he emptied his mana, he didn't miss a single time, and his arrows flew so fast that the monsters didn't even have the chance to react. With a bow and without a scope, he probably was at the level of the best snipers in the world. To progress so much in a single month, it was as impressive as it was scary. Still, Ryan felt pretty good about that.

"Well, I guess this is what humans can do. Can they pursue a single goal without caring about anything else? Even though I didn't do exactly that all the time, I still gained a lot by changing my focus now and then."

"This is taking too long," Alissa said. "I will transfer some of my mana to you. That way, you will use more skills and slay them faster."

"You can transfer mana to other living beings?" Ryan frowned.

"Of course," Alissa said. "If you obtain the class that is the upgraded version of Sage, you will be able to do that too."

Although it was weird, that made sense. After all, Archer was like the upgraded version of Hunter. Not only that, the status he gained by each level up was two times better than the hunter class.

"No, I don't need your help," Ryan said. "Besides, we don't need to hurry. Once you fill your belly, our pace will increase many times more, after all."

“Seriously,” Alissa sighed. “Didn’t you say that you would leave all the decisions about our mission to me?”

Ryan grunted in annoyance. Although he did say that in the heat of the moment and to make it clear that they wouldn’t take Arthur anywhere, he couldn’t just go back on his word now for the sake of convenience. In the end, Ryan was forced to obey Alissa. Regardless, he made a mental note to watch out for his words in the future.

“She is probably doing this to make sure that we will clear this area in the next three days, so I guess it is fine.”






In any case, even though Alissa was helping him with mana, Ryan had to work for some time since, despite his long-range, he still needed some time to aim. That was probably one of the things he needed to work with. A slow sniper wasn’t that efficient, after all.

After a while, Ryan noticed that he couldn’t see any other monster in the area close to the poisonous frog’s dungeon. That was weird, given that three dungeons broke in areas very close by. Maybe despite the high numbers, the monsters didn’t want to challenge each other near their territories since the bosses always stayed close to the dungeon. Instead of fighting each other and decreasing their numbers, even without an agreement between them, the monsters felt better just by keeping their forces spawning endlessly.

“I guess this is one of the things I will only understand once I obtain the chance to create a dungeon on another planet.”

Congratulations! You have reached the rank of the 800 strongest humans! Keep clearing dungeons and defeating monsters to raise your rank, and you might receive some nice rewards!

Current Rank: 798th

You obtained Paralyzing Spear.     

While Ryan was busy thinking, he received a notification that he didn't receive in a while. Still, he couldn't help but smile when he saw that. Not because of his position, but because of his reward. Even without analyzing the weapon, he knew it was on par with his Flame Sword, a weapon that a dragon dropped.

Paralyzing Spear

Effect: It electrocutes the foe upon contact. The electric damage is equal to your intelligence per second. Strength + 30, Speed + 20

Durability: 60/60

The yellow spear was like a modified version of his sword, and of course, it was more appropriate to be used as a thrown weapon than the sword. It was quite weird that he would feel that satisfied after receiving something thanks to his luck, but Ryan couldn't negate that he was in a good mood.

"It is time to level up my Wind Manipulation seriously. With wind, it will be harder, or at least it will take some time for my foes to see what I am doing."

To do some tests, Ryan decided to control his Flame Sword with the wind around. After throwing, the sword would burn everything it was touching for five seconds, but while Ryan had some wind around the weapon, the effect didn't end after five seconds. It was perfect.

"Do you want to make a collection of weapons with cool effects or something?" Alissa asked. "I can help you with that."

"That is not necessary," Ryan said. "I won't feel satisfied in obtaining weapons without working hard to get them."

Congratulations! The skill Spearmanship has leveled up.

Spearmanship Lv 5 → Lv 6

Effect: Increases damage when using spears and lances by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Ryan got caught off guard by receiving that notification, but after thinking for a while, it made sense since he was controlling the spear directly with his Wind Manipulation. Now Ryan had one more reason to keep improving that weird fighting style of his. Still, he sticks with his bow and arrow for the mission for the sake of convenience and speed. After six hours of hunting, they finally dealt with the monsters that were one kilometer away from the dungeon. So, it was time to challenge the bosses. However, before that could happen, he suddenly heard the sound of something noisy and heavy approach. Ryan thought were the golems for a moment, but the sound was too rhythmic to be them. Besides, the noise was coming from the south. After he jumped to see things from a better angle, Ryan saw several tanks heading to the dungeon.

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“I guess humans don’t need to be careful inside those,” Ryan said while he was watching the tanks hitting the frogs and passing over them. “At least against this type of enemy.”

Alissa and Ryan tried to finish the monsters quietly, and they killed more than one thousand without warning any of them. However, the tanks were so noisy that all the frogs in the area were moving toward the tanks. Still, Ryan couldn’t see the tanks being stopped. After all, the best weapon of the frogs was their poison.

“Something is off...” Alissa said. “I feel kind of weird.”

“It is because you are being watched from above. Those things made by human hands are watching you, and I am guessing this isn’t the first time.”

“We are being watched by satellites?” Ryan asked, surprised. “This isn’t good... it looks like some troublesome humans known about your draconic powers.”

“I can’t see how that is a problem, but it is a bit annoying,” Alissa said.

Alissa lacked the imagination to see how troublesome things could get with her existence as the center. Regardless, that was something they would have to deal with, and now they were being watched by satellites, Ryan couldn't do anything about it.

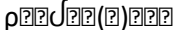
"Whatever, I can't let them get all the coins and drops for themselves," Ryan said and then began to run to approach the dungeon and the battle.

When Ryan got close enough, he used Arrow Shower. It didn't kill the monsters as fast as it did with the slimes, but thanks to Alissa's support, he didn't have to worry about running out of mana. In any case, whoever was driving the tanks, at least, was smart enough not to use their cannons. Otherwise, their presence would be revealed to the other monsters on the other sides of the city.

Surprisingly, the battle didn't last that long, even against forty or so bosses. Apparently, only the monsters that were spawned thanks to the dungeon breaks stayed around the dungeon while all the others spread around the country. Truth to be told, Ryan didn't know if that was bad or good.

"What should we do?" Alissa asked. "I want to complain to those guys' boss for a violation of my privacy."

Ryan frowned... as if someone had the leisure to worry about that kind of thing in a war against countless species of monsters. In any case, Ryan was quite interested as to why he didn't see any sign of the army in three months. Those who were police officers probably couldn't do much and probably had to hid their identities since ordinary people would demand to be protected by them. Only idiots like Cole and his friends would blatantly say that they were cops.

"Let's clear the dungeon and move on after checking the drops," Ryan said. "We don't have anything to do with the army, and we have our own business here." 

Although Ryan killed a lot of monsters, even more than the ten or so tanks, he only picked the small ores and things like rings that could increase statuses since he didn't have a big backpack, and he didn't want to hear Alissa complain that she was being treated like a truck or something.

Silently, Alissa and Ryan approached the dungeon, but then one of the tanks blocked their way. Ryan sighed... to think that things would go that way, he felt more and more compelled not to work with humans in the future.

“This dungeon is a property of the United States of America,” A tall and muscular man said after leaving the tank. “As such, its control and use are completely under the control of the government. We can’t let you use it for a while.”

“You are joking, right?” Ryan asked.

“Do I look like someone who tells jokes, young man?” The man said after stepping forward and looking at Ryan from above since he was pretty tall.

“No, you don’t look like someone who tells jokes, old man,” Ryan said. “At least not the funny ones.”

The man wearing a military uniform and several symbols and medals that Ryan had not a single idea of they each represented glared at him after his eyebrows twitched. Ryan had planned to be courteous enough since those guys helped him and saved him a lot of time, but there was no point in going too far if he was planning to demand some unreasonable things.

“We arrived here first, and you only attacked after confirming that we decreased the monsters’ forces by half,” Alissa said. “You have no right to claim anything.”

“I have no idea what you are talking about, young lady,” The man said. “We are in times of war, and citizens like yourselves need to listen to certain authorities if you want to survive.”

Alissa frowned, and at the same time, the other soldiers in the other tanks left their position and stayed behind the tall man. All of them were heavily armed, and Alissa could also sense a weird smell coming from all of them. Alissa just raised her right arm a little, and then twenty-soldiers pointed their guns at her.

“You guys are pretty cautious of this young lady,” Ryan said. “I wonder why? Does she look dangerous to you? It is almost like you knew she could do something dangerous just by moving her arm.”

That was a huge farce, but Ryan and Alissa couldn't just play on those guys' hands. Brute strength was enough to deal with monsters, but not when the foes were other humans. Killing them would be easy, but they shouldn't do it even if they have a good reason because they are supposed to be working for the country.

"Careful, now," The tall man said. "I am a high-ranked officer of the country. Harming my soldiers and me can be considered an act of treason and terrorism, and in times like this, every single person close to terrorists won't be treated well."

Ryan got the message, if they do anything to those guys, they will be treated like terrorists, and so were the people who were even just a bit closer to them. In the end, things became clear as the day, it was unreasonable, but that guy was working for someone who wanted Shreveport and perhaps even Alissa's power. His blood began to boil, imagining what could happen if someone close to that guy decides to attack the survivors there... what would happen to Arthur? Before Ryan could think or do anything, Alissa created a magic barrier and sealed herself and those guys inside it.

"This idiot..." Ryan sighed.

## Chapter 147

"What did you say? Huh?" Alissa glared at the tall man with vicious eyes. "Who were you threatening before? I dare you to say it out loud!"

"Hey, Alissa," Ryan said. "Don't kill any of them. If you do, things will get too complicated and my hands are already full."

"But they threatened Arthur!" Alissa said.

"No buts," Ryan said. "If you make an enemy out of them, I won't let you get closer to Arthur ever again. I can't let him get close to someone who makes enemies out of everyone this easily."

While Ryan and Alissa were talking, the tall man and his subordinates finally noticed the situation they were in. Without any other choice, they decided to do what they came to do. They equipped their guns and fired some weird darts at Alissa.

“Ah, that weird smell was coming from this,” Alissa said after she created a Mana Shield to block the projectiles.

Ryan had no idea what that was, but most likely, those guys came prepared to taunt Alissa and put her to sleep with some paralyzing dart. Too bad for them, but the darts never hit her. However, they kept firing them, and after a while, the darts began to emit a thick gas. In the blink of an eye, the gas covered the entire magic barrier. Suddenly, the barrier disappeared, and when the gas dissipated, Ryan saw Alissa and the soldiers unconscious on the floor.

“She can even be more hotblooded than me,” Ryan sighed. “Hey, Orgar. Is she alright?”

Ryan checked Alissa’s pulse and confirmed that she was only sleeping and the same happened to the soldiers. Regardless, Orgar didn’t answer Ryan, and Alissa’s presence was weak, so somehow, he had been put to sleep as well. That was no normal sleeping gas... Suddenly, Ryan turned around when he heard the high pitching sound of projectiles flying. At the same time, he activated Mana Shield. He already knew what those darts could do, so the very moment they touched the ground, Ryan buried them with Earth Manipulation.

That situation continued for a while until the projectiles stopped coming, and attackers wondered why the sleeping gas wasn’t appearing. At the same time, Ryan ran toward the direction where the attacks came from and almost passed by a group of suspicious individuals wearing green clothes and trying to disguise themselves with the ambient. Ryan activated Herculean Strength and Strong Arms. Alongside his Monk’s skills, he punched everyone in the stomach before they could get up properly. In the blink of an eye, Ryan knocked out ten individuals that were probably partners of the soldiers. ρ??∪??(?)???

“Geez... just what the heck is going on all of a sudden?” Ryan sighed. “So many problems keep coming one after the other...”

While Ryan was thinking about it, he put all of those agents and soldiers in a line and then proceeded to bury their limbs underground. Ryan didn’t wound them, but he couldn’t let them move freely since they had some statuses here and there. Besides, they got close enough to use darts without letting Ryan notice them.



“I can’t let my guard down since humans have weapons strong enough to put dragons to sleep.”

Regardless, now more than ever, it was clear that whoever was giving orders to those people, they wanted Alissa. Ryan was hoping for a more elaborate plan to capture her, but it was only natural that the options to capture a dragon were rather limited. Ryan tried to heal Alissa in order to make her wake up, but not even that worked. Without any other choice, Ryan was forced to wait for her to wake up. Ryan was pretty bored since the frogs were very slowly leaving the dungeon, so in the time between the battles, he decided to check the interior of the tanks.

“This is quite interesting...” Ryan smirked. “I need to use chances like these whenever possible for future reference.”

Amidst all the things inside the tank, Ryan saw a weird radio that had a red light glowing. It was probably the superiors of these guys... truth to be told, Ryan wanted to investigate the matter a bit more, even though that would slow them their progress of clearing those three dungeons. Why? Because he wanted to learn who was the asshole who gave the order to nuke Dallas. Since all communications got cut off, no one had any idea what the government was up to or if the president was alive, but it looked like they were securing some dungeons here and there to build their forces, just like the survivors on Shreveport.

“I don’t need to talk with them now,” Ryan concluded. “Alissa can read their minds, and learn where their base is will be easy.”

After waiting for one hour, Ryan felt Orgar’s presence growing again, and the dragon cursed when he woke up. Apparently, he was quite ashamed of falling asleep due to the attack of such weak lifeforms.

“To think that your species would be able to use monsters’ blood like this... Still, as expected, you are not a warrior race. Such a method is only used by cowards who have no pride and honor. The chances of the people of this world surviving for long is low.”

“What are you?” Ryan frowned. “Knight from the Middle Ages? Anyway, can’t you force Alissa to wake up? We don’t have time to waste here.”

Orgar didn’t answer Ryan, but little by little, a certain gas began to leave Alissa’s body through her nose. After a while, she woke up and rubbed her eyes as if she had really taken a nap and if nothing was

wrong. She only recalled what happened when she saw the soldiers and agents sleeping nearby. A vein started to bulge on her forehead, but in the end, she didn't do anything with them. Alissa knew that Ryan wasn't the type to bluff about certain things.

"You almost ended up digging your own grave..." Ryan said. "I hope you learned your lesson."

## Chapter 148

In the end, Ryan and Alissa couldn't just leave the soldiers behind while they clear the dungeon, and they couldn't go separately as well. So, Alissa made sure to lock them in some spheres of earth and then rolled the spheres toward the dungeon. That was probably a not place to sleep, but Ryan didn't feel any pity, they tried to kill or at least put him to sleep to do who knows what. Besides, he certainly wouldn't bring them to the boss room after they tried to knock them out.

Regardless, clearing the dungeon went as smoothly as always. The boss was basically a big frog that could spit a lot of poison, but it didn't do anything against Ryan and Alissa since the creature was slow. Training his Poison Resistance could wait, so Ryan hurried to finish off the creature.

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: Viking, Trickster, and Teacher.

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.

"Two new classes... Viking I already saw before, and Teacher seems interesting, but I won't bet this time either. Besides, the name Trickster is also quite... fascinating."

Ryan thought that while he was smiling. Considering that Viking was a class that he saw when he obtained a basic class, he wasn't expecting much from Trickster, and yet, Ryan could feel that his class wasn't going to disappoint him.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Trickster!

You obtained the following skills: Extra Leap, Flash, and Sprinter.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Extra Leap.

Effect: It grants you the chance to use jump in mid-air.

Cost: 20 mana and 20 stamina

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Flash.

Effect: It grants you the power to move instantly to a place in your field of vision. The distance will be the level of the skill in meters.

Cost: 50 mana.  $\rho_{\text{??}} \sqrt{\text{??}(\text{?})\text{??}}$

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Sprinter.

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

You obtained 01 status point.

As expected, Ryan got very surprised with the skills he obtained... a bit too surprised in the face thanks to their usefulness and their crazy cost. Flash was amazing. It was basically a teleportation, but the range sucked, and training that skill will take a long while due to the price.

“Now... what should we do with those guys outside?” Alissa asked.

“We can’t exactly ignore them since they have their eyes on Shreveport and on us,” Ryan said. “We also can’t cause too many problems since, for the good or the worse, they are a part of what is left of the government of this country. Regardless, they tried to capture you, and they threatened Shreveport, so I guess we can get some answers from their boss.”

“Excellent an idea!” Alissa hit her fists. “I will give a piece of my mind to the asshole who threatened my little cute Arthur.”

Ryan didn’t want to ask when Arthur became her property since that would become a huge pain in the ass. Still, in comparison with what they were about to do, it looked like a small problem.

“We will have to interrogate them when they wake up,” Alissa said. “I flew for quite a while over this country, and I have been in this area before, but I don’t remember seeing anything close to a military base.”

It was a secret base... it was only obvious since most dragons had good instincts, and they knew what they should destroy. Only a hidden base would survive the first attack since they couldn’t evaluate something that they couldn’t see.

“Anyway, if you don’t want to waste any more time, you should try to cancel the gas inside their bodies,” Ryan said. “After all, if it weren’t for Orgar, you would still be sleeping right now.”

Alissa was forced to use some purification spell, and after a while, the soldiers and agents began to wake up. Torture was completely unnecessary when the interrogator could read minds, so Alissa just asked once how she could reach their base. The tall man just looked away and waited for the torture that never came.

“I got it,” Alissa said. “Let’s go.”

After turning into a dragon, Alissa freed those guys, and without wasting any more time, Ryan and she left for the secret military base. Surprisingly enough, the base was hidden beneath a golf field ten kilometers away from there. As weird as that sounded, the entrance for those who worked and now lived inside that base was what once had been a pet shop. After looking for a while, Alissa found a hidden door that had an electronic lock. With a single punch, she broke everything and revealed a staircase that would lead them underground.

“I am glad to see that our taxes were used to build cool places like this,” Ryan said.

Faster than they had imagined, Ryan and Alissa began to hear the tanks approach. However, they ignored them since they couldn't attack them while they were so close to the base. Ryan and Alissa found several other massive locks along the way, but as usual, Alissa broke everything. Locks had no meaning against her... even two meters thick iron walls were useless against her in her human form.

After a while, they finally found the base... at least a massive room which the soldiers used to train their marksmanship, and there they found hundreds of snipers pointing their weapons at them. As expected, they were trying to mess with a nest of some troublesome bees.

## Chapter 149

“Don't forget what I said, Alissa,” Ryan said. “If you become an enemy of the big guns of this country, I won't let you get close to Arthur again.”

“You don't have to repeat it,” Alissa said, a bit annoyed. “I know that already.”

Against that number of snipers, it doesn't matter what they try to do. They will get hit by bullets or by paralyzing darts since that floor was only five meters tall. Still, for some reason, the snipers didn't attack first. They were waiting for something...

“Hello, everyone,” Ryan said with a smile on his face. “Can you guys bring the people who are the leaders of this place? We came to negotiate. As you know, if this girl wanted, she could have exploded this place completely, but instead of that, she used the doors... in a certain sense.”

It looked like Ryan's social skills rusted a lot in the last weeks because the snipers didn't even flinch at his words. Now that he thought about it, only weirdoes and suspicious people would try to be friendly in a moment like that.

"I don't have time for this shit," Alissa said.

"Hey, what are you planning to..." Ryan said.

Alissa suddenly opened her mouth, and then that same gas that knocked her out filled that massive room in just a few seconds. The snipers tried to attack, but this time Alissa made sure to create a magic barrier where she would stay on the outside. In the blink of an eye, three hundred snipers were knocked out. Having such convenient power was pretty boring, but it was pretty convenient because alone, Ryan couldn't imagine any other way of solving things without killing everyone.

"Let's hurry," Alissa said. "When I read that guy's mind, I learned that they don't have many soldiers here. We just knocked out most of them. Still, the leader of this place has an escape route, and he is probably going to use it."

Alissa hurried ahead since she couldn't let that chance go away, Ryan had no idea what she was planning to do going ahead and alone, but he already gave his warning twice. If despite that, she still messes up, then it wouldn't be his problem.

The underground base was pretty big, much bigger than the golf field. There was a small town above it, but it probably had been built as a disguise. The number of bedrooms, warehouses, training rooms was pretty big. Ryan could even feel the presence of the families of the soldiers Alissa just knocked out.

After running for quite a while, Ryan heard the sound of something pretty massive opening. On the last part of the massive secret base, Ryan found a parking lot that was filled with choppers and those high-tech airplanes used by the air force. Ryan found one of those choppers being piloted by a grey-haired old man, but Alissa was preventing the chopper from flying with a single hand. He was probably the leader of the place.

It was quite the sight to see a golf field opening just give room for aircraft to fly. Still, Ryan couldn't help but sigh. That was a pretty decent base, but the number of people there was relatively small, and they were crazy enough to try to go against a dragon in order to do who knows what. In the end, the old man

gave up since he knew very well what Alissa was capable of. Regardless, at the very least, he had the decency of not begging for his life in front of the might of a dragon. He just waited for the inevitable...

“You were the one who threatened my little Arthur and me, right?” Alissa asked. “If you do that again... no, if you even think about it, you will regret it.”

After saying that, she touched the old man’s forehead and used some spell. What she did was impossible to know, and she didn’t explain either, but at the very least, the glint on the old man’s eyes proved that he understood the message.

“My name is Ryan,” Ryan said. “What is your name and rank?”

“I am Colonel Mark Hughes, the man in command of this base,” The old man who was wearing clothes as if he was on vacation in Hawaii said. “Why are you trying to be so polite now after all you did with my men?”

“They are alive, and well, so I think I held back pretty well considering that you tried to knock us out to do who knows what,” Ryan replied. “Regardless, my father served in the army, so I have some respect for you and the others who are still serving in times like these. As such, I am willing to forget what you did if you give me some information.”

“If it is a secret of the country, I don’t intend to reveal anything,” The colonel said.

“Do you know who nuked Dallas?” Ryan asked. “Do you know who nuked the other cities of our country?”

Although the colonel stayed silent, it was useless since Alissa could read his mind. Ryan looked at her, but she just shook her head. He didn’t know anything, or he was completely unrelated to everything that happened. Honestly, Ryan felt good after learning because he didn’t know what he would do when he finds the bastard who pushed the button. Dallas was just another city to Ryan, but the fact that his parents’ grave was nuked was something he couldn’t forgive.

“Well, that is all,” Ryan said. “Don’t do something against the idiots or against us on Shreveport. Also, after we clear the dungeons around Indianapolis, you can do whatever you want with them.”

Class: Hunter Lv 33 / Elementalist Lv 30/ Monk Lv 09 (-)

Race: Night Demon /Reptilian/ Ice Fox (-)

Rank: 785th p??c??(??)???

Health: 204/217 (1.32/s)

Mana: 371/412 (1.32/s)

Stamina: 265/283 (1.32/s)

Strength: 10 (+39) (+60)

Dexterity: 421 (+184) (+27)

Speed: 50 (+99) (+23)

Intelligence: 09 (+107) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+15) (+61)

Control: 06 (+140) (+10)

Mentality: 07 (+5)

Luck: 30



Recovery: 290 (+292) (+200)

Willpower: 09 (+5)

Coins: 39.550

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Arrow Shower Lv 30 (+ 5 UP), Extra Jump Lv 01,

Passive Physical Skills: Precision Lv 33 (+ 4 UP), Art of Sniping Lv 34 (+ 5 UP), Magnet Lv 21 (+ 3 UP),  
Passive Recovery Lv 26 (+ 3 UP), Bleed Lv 26 (+ 3 UP), Focus Lv 0 (+ 4 UP), Morale Lv 08 (+ 4 UP), Sprinter  
Lv 01

Spells: Active Spiritual Recovery Lv 24 (+ 2 UP)

Support Skills:

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 27, Beastmaster Lv 06, Archer Lv 19, Mercenary Lv 05,

Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 11, Trickster Lv 01,

Chapter 150

After saying that, Ryan and Alissa decided to leave through the compartment the old man had planned to use to escape. However, it looked like he wanted to bother them a little more.

“Wait, your country needs you,” The colonel said. “As you can see, we have limited personnel, and...”

“No thanks, uncle Sam,” Ryan said. “Although I respected those who serve, I have no intention of joining your ranks. I know very well how the game of power is played, and I don’t want to be a piece. That being said, I believe the idiots in Shreveport may want to join you. Do you want to negotiate with them?”

“Hey, Ryan... What are you planning?” Alissa frowned.

“Think about it, Arthur would be pretty safe in a place which dragons never found before,” Ryan replied. “Whatever you did to him, you made sure that he won’t be able to touch him and the others, right?”

“Yeah, but...” Alissa hesitated. “They threatened us and the others.”

“Yes, and thanks to it, we found a good place for Arthur to live,” Ryan said. “Besides, the people here have access to satellites, so we will be able to save a lot of time looking for the dungeons. The time which you will be able to save and use to stay with Arthur.”

“Why are you suddenly being so considerate?” Alissa frowned. “It is making me feel a bit uncomfortable, actually.”

“... I am practical and logical, that is all,” Ryan said and then turned around. “What do you say about this, Colonel? Do you want their help? They are idiots, but they can be useful as long as you change your ways slightly. I am sure you will gain a lot more than just trying to use them to do some shady work blatantly. Think carefully because a chance like this doesn’t come often.”

As soon as Ryan finished saying that, the soldiers and agents who he fought outside appeared and pointed their guns at him and Alissa, but the Colonel gave them the sign to stop. Although the offer wasn’t so bad, the Colonel wasn’t so sure if he should accept it. He was a sixty-five-year-old man who earned all the authority that he had, and he always made full use of it. So, he wasn’t quite sure if he would be able to change his way and become a leader of powerful survivors or just an authority that demands respect no matter what.

“... I need to talk with them first and see if this can work,” The colonel said. “Still, you talk like you don’t belong to their group, but you still are interested in having access to our resources and technology. Do you plan to work with us or not?”

“I will clear the dungeons; you clean the path for you and the others,” Ryan said. “Do you want even more than that? Anyway, we can take you to Shreveport after we clear the dungeons around Indianapolis. So, wait patiently.”

“Sir!” The tall man which threatened Alissa and Ryan before stepped forward. “You can’t leave this base, sir. It is not safe.”

“It is necessary,” The colonel said. “We didn’t do much in an entire month, and we need to adapt faster because the dragons are returning.”

His men respect the Colonel quite a bit, so even though they wanted to protest, they couldn’t go against his decision more than that. Besides, even if it was dangerous, he would have a dragon as an escort. No one could ask for more.

“Well, we will go now and return once we clear the dungeons,” Ryan said. “Make your preparations because this girl here has a reason to return fast. Also, send some of your men to guard the frog’s dungeon. With guns, it will be faster and more efficient to kill them inside the dungeon while their numbers are low. Do the same later after we clear the other dungeons.”

“You! Mind your tongue while you speak with the Colonel!” The tall man said.

“Sorry, sorry,” Ryan shrugged. “I am not very knowledgeable with this serious stuff of the army.”

Prideful and angry people were too noisy, so Ryan and Alissa left before they could give that mana any other reason to shout. Although the situation had been more or less solved pacifically, Alissa seemed in a bad mood. She was too clingy to Arthur, and she didn’t want to let him live in a military base.

“What else did you discover from the Colonel?” Ryan asked.

“Not much...” Alissa said, a bit annoyed. “All that I discovered is that it has been a while since the people here managed to contact other military bases. Due to the megalodons’ attacks, the navy has been almost completely wiped out. Aside from that, it looks like places like these don’t have to follow or obey the rules of people from outside since the chain of command is in a mess due to the lack of communications.”

It made sense, but Ryan was a bit disappointed since somehow, the people there still could control one satellite. Regardless, Ryan wanted to make use of that because he needed to know how the people in the other countries were doing. As far as he knows, the monsters were a threat to every single human being, but if creatures like demons decide to make alliances with humans to wipe out some countries and save others... things could become disastrous.

“I don’t like this plan of yours,” Alissa said.

“I can say the same about your working policies,” Ryan said. “Regardless, if things don’t work out with the people of this base, you can always overthrow them later, as long as you have a good excuse and don’t massacre the people here, they will follow you. Humans will do pretty much everything to survive. Still, before doing that, you will have to make someone learn how to operate the satellites. I want to use them for a long time.”

## Chapter 151

Before leaving the military base, Alissa made sure to repair to some extent the things that she destroyed, and after leaving the place, she explained to Ryan what she did to the old man. It was called the subordinate’s seal, a spell that a dragon could use to control other living beings. Alissa made sure to hold back, so the Colonel wouldn’t suddenly change his behavior, and the only thing he would be unable to do was to give the order for his men to hurt any other human. There were some holes in that technique, but for the time being, it was sufficient. At least Alissa said so.

“It is all right. I put a spell on Arthur,” Alissa said. “If any spell hits him, the mana will be dispersed, and at the same time, he will be teleported to where I am.”

Ryan glared at her... to do such a thing without asking for permission or telling anyone... Although that was the perfect protection for Arthur, it didn’t change the fact that Alissa was going too far. Still... to think that dragons could even teleport things and even other living beings... their power seemed endless.

“Let’s kill the bees this time,” Alissa declared. “I can’t eat them, so this time I will help on the fight.”

Although her bolts, when missed, scared the bees, and some of them ran away after noticing her presence, Alissa managed to kill around ninety percent of the giant bees that she tried to skill. It was a pity, but Ryan received a lot fewer coins. On the other hand, they managed to finish off the monsters that the dungeon spawned before sunset, and now they just have to worry about the bosses and clear the dungeon. Some of Ryan’s skill and classes leveled up a few times, but Trickster wasn’t one of them since it wasn’t a combat class. That was a real pity since that class granted the bonus that he needed.

Still, even though they managed to free two-thirds of the city, they didn’t find any survivors. It was because of Alissa’s presence that could make even humans who never used mana before trembling in fear, but in the end, that wasn’t really a problem. Their goal there was to kill the monsters and clear the dungeons, not save people and make another survivors’ camp. If they had a brain, the Colonel and his men would help the survivors later. Otherwise, they will never obtain the cooperation of those in Shreveport.

At some point, Ryan noticed that he was losing a good chance to train and see the shortcomings of the fighting style he wanted to have. So, he bought some mana potions at the dungeon shop before challenging the giant bee, which was the dungeon’s boss. It wasn’t at the level of his arrows as expected, but by using Wind Manipulation, Ryan could control the Flame Sword and the Paralyzing Spear and make them fly around twenty meters per second. It was probably just enough to fight the boss.

“I will take care of this boss,” Ryan said. “It shouldn’t take too much time, even with only two weapons.”

“It is fine,” Alissa said. “Although the golems will be a bit more troublesome, I bet we will wrap up things here tomorrow.”

Although Ryan could make his weapons move at that speed, he could only do so for a full minute with his mana and recovery. That was why he bought some potions, he decided to be cautious, but he just worried too much in the end. Once he fired the Paralyzing Spear and hit the target, the boss was done. Flying monsters were weak against electricity... and that wasn’t just the logic of a game. Adding that to the fact that the boss was just a giant insect, the beast suffered even more damage when the Flame Sword began to do its magic. In the end, the monster didn’t do anything and only lasted for twenty seconds.

“Nice... this is the exact thing that I envisioned that I would be able to do with this fighting style. Still, I can’t get carried away. This time the target was weak against both of my weapons, after all. Besides, the speed of the projectiles needs to be improved for surprise attacks.”

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: Slayer, Corsair, and Priest.

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.

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“Three new classes... that is good, but now that I know that even the second class might enhance the status that I want, it won’t be that helpful if I can’t level up during the fights.”

Ryan was fully aware that it would be weird if he could level up several classes at the same time, even more, those which would increase the status that he wanted. Still, he wouldn’t stop looking until he finds the classes, which were the upgraded versions of Hunter and Archer. Regardless, the name was weird, but Ryan still chose Corsair. Hopefully, it wouldn’t be another one in which he can only level up by using certain skills.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Corsair!

You obtained the following skills: Power of Money, Tax, and Lady Luck.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Power of Money.

Effect: It grants you the chance to cause direct damage to your foe’s health by using coins. You can cause one hundred points of damage per level, and the cost will be equal to the damage caused.

Cost: 10 coins per level

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Tax.

Effect: It increases passively the number of coins you can obtain by defeating a target by 0.1 percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Lady Luck.

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

You obtained 01 status point.

## Chapter 152

“If anything, those sure are some interesting skill...” Ryan frowned while reading the description of the skills he obtained.

Truth to be told, they weren't half-bad. They would be useful in the long run, and as far as Ryan knew, he could damage with one hundred percent of accuracy every enemy in his field of vision with the Power of Money. He would have to use a lot of coins, but... even so, the skill had a lot of potential.

As usual, Ryan didn't ask the class which Alissa picked, and at that point in time, she wouldn't show any emotion by getting one of those weak classes. Unless she gets the dragon knight or dragon archer class, nothing would surprise or excite her.

When Ryan and Alissa left the dungeon, they found the Colonel's men waiting for them. Although they weren't friendly, they weren't crazy enough to pick up a fight with them. Besides, as far as both parties were concerned, they were the ones who started the first fight.

“We will watch this dungeon,” A female officer said.

At the very least, even though they caused some problems, they were working hard since it was already dark and most people couldn't see anything without some devices that the soldiers were using. In any case, Ryan wondered where the tall man was. Ryan didn't use Appraisal on him, but he looked to be the strongest of the group.

“All right,” Ryan said.

Even amidst the destroyed city, Alissa managed to recover two beds and some sheets. Ryan didn't know if she had done that on purpose, but she decided to put them in front of the dungeon where everyone could see her sleeping comfortably in the open... while she was snoring. As for Ryan, he couldn't quite trust his new semi-temporary allies yet, and since he couldn't read minds like Alissa and he didn't have a dragon as a watchdog either, he spent the night resting with his eyes closed but with his ears wide open.

When morning came, Ryan was surprised to see the Colonel visiting his men who were guarding the dungeon. Ryan saw the tall man studying him with a serious and angry expression on his face alongside him. Now that he thought about it, those two seemed pretty similar with the exception of their size. Maybe they were father and son or something. That would explain why the tall man was still annoyed.

“It looks like even you two have to stop now and then to rest,” Colonel said while watching Alissa snoring. “Regardless, I have come to inform you that the preparations are completed. Hugo and I are going with you two.”

“You didn't have to come all this way to inform us,” Ryan said. “We were planning to pick you up on the base.”

“It is all right,” The colonel said while looking around. “It has been a while since I left the base and breathed some fresh air. Regardless, I am still having trouble believing that only a human and... a human who has the power of the dragons managed to secure this entire area by themselves. I must apologize for what we did yesterday. We have been watching you two for a few days and imagining that we could obtain this power by ourselves. We did what we did.”



“Desperate times, I am sure,” Ryan frowned, imagining what the colonel had planned to do with him to obtain his power.

Ryan had no intention of forgiving the Colonel and his men for their actions. However, there was no reason to hold a grudge when they could be useful to him. He wanted to believe that he wouldn't have done the same in their position, but Ryan didn't know if he would be able to if he hadn't been lucky when the monsters appeared.

After a while, Alissa woke up, and they began to prepare to work again. For some reason, the Colonel and the tall man wanted to accompany them. While it was fine since they were using surprise attacks to kill the monsters instead of some tricks or techniques, even Ryan didn't like to be watched while he was working. As for Alissa, she hated the idea with a passion.

“You aren't going to learn anything just by watching,” Alissa said. “If you truly wanted to obtain power, you should follow Ryan's footsteps. Kill some slimes and then goblins and slowly build your strength until you are strong enough to face a dragon alone. Well, I am not sure if just following his footsteps is enough, he can be reckless sometimes, and you two don't look like you will do the same.”

Ryan facepalmed... as if Alissa weren't even more reckless. Regardless, Ryan decided to forget about it and just focus on the task ahead because whether he liked it or not, he was helping other humans to gain power, and he needed even more strength in order not to get screwed in a world where humans can fire arrows that have the same power of cannon bullets.

Against golems, sniping them without making much noise was close to impossible since their bodies were sturdy as hell. Although only exploding their heads was enough to destroy them, the noise caused was pretty loud. Fortunately, they were slow, and since they were inorganic creatures, they couldn't feel fear for their lives. The only thing they felt was the desire to attack any opponents that entered their territory.

“You have a pretty good aim for someone who is using a weird bow and weird arrows,” The colonel said. “Are you using some sort of skill to improve your aim and the range of your arrows?”

“Nope, I am not using any skill to do that,” Ryan replied. “If you want to do the same, you just have to have high dexterity and a good weapon that can emulate your dexterity. With those two, and a few moments of concentration, you can hit your targets from a pretty significant distance.”

## Chapter 153

In the end, Ryan gave some pointers to the Colonel and his men. Although he was giving for free the information, that was basically the secret of the best method he could use to hunt the monsters. He didn't feel bad or worried. Ryan intended to use only long-ranged attacks against a large number of enemies and while his other fighting style was being developed. Besides, he had other secrets that were more useful, and other people weren't aware of it. So, it was fine.

As for Alissa, no one could learn much by watching her. She was impatient, and since she relied too much on her draconic powers, one could easily notice that she lacked discipline and technique. For others, it may look like she was wasting her draconic powers, but for Ryan, who knew the life she had before the monsters' arrival, it was only natural that she would be like that.

"Now that I think about it..." Ryan turned around and faced the Colonel, "Alissa, didn't you say that Cole and the others were communicating with survivors of Indianapolis? I can't imagine the people having the leisure to do that with so many monsters around this area."

"Yes... we were the ones who were talking with your friends," the Colonel sighed. "There is no point in denying. We intended to lure you two to this place. Alissa's existence intrigued us and I thought..."

"I see..." Ryan frowned. "It looks like the situation forced you to make several bad moves. You have been lucky and unlucky at the same time, Colonel."

"I am fully aware of it," the Colonel said.

It looked like the Colonel politics were changing little by little. At least it looked that way since he was less secretive and more sincere. By the look of things, his partnership with the people of Shreveport was going to succeed. Thanks to that, Ryan noticed that he would have to do something about the dungeons, and the only thing he could do was to leave a tamed monster behind. The problem was: would his skills level up fast enough if he goes to check things with his salamander and desert wolf?

"I also need to keep in check the dungeons and the date that I cleared them. Considering that each dungeon break makes the monsters level up by four levels, things might get really complicated in a few years if those dungeon breaks continue to happen over and over again."

Without having any means to communicate with others over long distances, leaving some survivors behind wasn't wise. Not only because it wasn't safe, but because those people wouldn't be monitored. In the worst-case scenario, they might end up creating camps and forcing other people who join them to do whatever the heck they want.

Considering the skills that he had, using the tamed monsters was the only solution, but truth to be told, Ryan couldn't imagine those skills leveling up fast enough and give him the chance to guard all the dungeons he already cleared. While Ryan was being troubled by that problem, the day ended, and they finally killed all the ordinary golems around the dungeon, and now they just have to worry about the bosses.

Iron Golem – Lv 60

Health: 9.000/9.000

Mana: 4.500/4.500

Stamina: 6.000/6.000

Strength: 2.500

Dexterity: 600

Speed: 300

Intelligence: 350

Endurance: 3.000  $\rho_{\text{??}} \sqrt{\text{??}(\text{?})\text{??}}$

Control: 1000

Mentality: 2.000

Luck: 700

Recovery: 3.500

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Earthquake Lv 100

Passive Physical Skills: Steel Skin Lv 100

Spells: Earth Bullet Lv 100

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 250

“I think you guys should fall back for now,” Ryan said after using Appraisal and analyzing the monster’s status in the distance. “Even if Alissa goes all out, something still might go wrong against fifty of those monsters.

“They are tough?” the Colonel asked.

“They are very tough,” Ryan said.

Ryan felt that something was off somewhere regarding the golems, but he couldn’t pinpoint exactly what that was. In any case, sniping those creatures wasn’t completely out of the question since they were even larger than the ordinary golems and easier targets. However, Ryan would need to use Power Shot, and it doesn’t matter how much stronger he gets against an even more powerful creature. He would need some time to charge his attacks. So, even if he attacks five hundred meters away from the monsters before he can kill even ten of them, the others will reach his location.

“Solving this by transforming into a dragon would be easy, but not fun,” Alissa said. “So, I will only use my bolts and some simple elemental magic.”

Although someone might think that Alissa was underestimating the golems, even basic magic on her hands was deadly. Besides, she wasn't exactly dumb to do something that would end up making her waste time and thus delay her work. In any case, the first strike was on Ryan's hands.

“Let's see what I can do with ten seconds.”

Ryan prepared his arrow and then activated Power Shot. Hopefully, he wouldn't need to charge his attacks for ten seconds to kill a single boss. However, given the endurance of those creatures, Ryan couldn't expect much. In the end, just to make sure that he would cause as much damage as possible, Ryan even used Lesser Water Enchantment. When he fired his projectile, the damage knocked down the monster and even froze and cracked a good part of the golem's head. Ryan saw the creature's core there, but since it hadn't been completely destroyed. The monster began to regenerate.

“Ah, come on...” Ryan sighed and fired another arrow to finish the job.

The monsters finally noticed Ryan's presence, and they began to move toward him. It was a bit annoying to know that even with all his power, Ryan alone could only take down three of those beasts without running out of mana. Fortunately, that also made Ryan aware that he had a lot of room to grow.

You obtained 2.000 coins.

## Chapter 154

Ryan wasn't the type to make the same mistakes twice, so when his mana got empty, he retreated a little, grabbed his backpack, and used the potions he had bought to use in emergencies. He had to hurry since the golems were approaching, and he killed only three. However, his tension and hurry had been for naught. Alongside her bolts, Alissa fired Ice Spears that completely froze the golems' heads. Before they could even fall due to that, she destroyed their frozen head with those bolts.

“For the good or the worse, Alissa’s presence is useful. The number of times in which my life had been in danger decreased since I met her, but I will never stop being motivated to keep improving thanks to her. After all, while she is holding back, she can kill ten times more monsters while I am serious.”

Ryan and Alissa killed thirty of the bosses before the remaining of them could get close enough to attack with Earth Bullets. Alissa frowned since he didn’t expect they would reach that far. Still, she solved that problem easily by increasing the size of her Ice Spears. Not only she managed to destroy the enemies’ projectiles with that, but she also killed some golems with her magic. In the end, Alissa killed forty-three iron golems, and Ryan, who gave his all, killed only seven.

“You are not good enough to estimate your foe’s strength with your eyes alone. You need a lot more practice. Against an opponent of this level, it is laughable that they got this close.”

While Orgar was nitpicky, Ryan decided to check the loot. Although a lot of items were dropped, and some of them were pretty decent, Ryan only picked those there were dropped from the monsters he killed. Fortunately, his luck had been good, and his equipment was finally going to be upgraded a little bit.

Iron Breastplate

Effect: Health + 10, Endurance + 8

Durability: 45/45

Mantle of the Wanderer

Effect: Speed + 5, Stamina + 15

Durability: 45/45

“It looks like I can use the breastplate over the chainmail and still get the statuses... not bad. As for the cloak, I am more interested in this old piece of clothing will be useful against the cold wind of the night.”

“Mmm... what am I going to do with all this?” Alissa said, looking troubled by the items that she obtained but had no use for.

“Sell, donate, trade... you can do a lot of things with it,” Ryan replied.

“I don’t need any more coins than I already have, and I certainly don’t want to help other humans for free,” Alissa said. “As for the last option, I doubt that other humans have the things that I can’t find.”

Alissa was complaining because she had problems others would beg to have. Still, Ryan decided to ignore her. Nothing good would come from arguing with someone who complains when they don’t have any reason to do so. Regardless, before she could solve her problems, she just put away her items on the dimension which she used to store all sorts of things.

“Now that I think about it, even though she says that, she never leaves anything behind. All the drops she obtained, she stored in wherever she put her things. Which reminds me, she stored some beds there before, but she always looks for other beds when we arrive in other cities.”

That was beyond weird, but then again, Ryan decided to forget about it. It was only natural that they defeated the dungeon’s final boss with ease after fighting against fifty of them earlier. This time, Ryan’s expectations were quite high since both of them worked a lot more than they did on the previous dungeons.

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: Gladiator, Ninja, and Summoner.  
p??(???)???

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.

“We hit the jackpot this time, three new classes, and all of them look interesting... that being said, I don’t need a melee class, so Gladiator is out. Well, about the others... what should I do?”

Ninja seemed pretty cool, and Ryan was quite certain the status bonuses would help him increase his power with a bow even more. However, Summoner seemed like the class Ryan would need to keep the dungeons in check... For the first time in a while, Ryan had no idea what he should do.

“Mmm... maybe Summoner doesn't have the limitations of the Beastmaster class... that would be really helpful. Still, I feel like relying too much on monsters is making me stray away from the fighting style that I want.”

In the end, Ryan decided to make a bet... if he losses, hopefully, he will have another chance to get the Ninja class in the near future, and he wouldn't hate himself for too long.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Summoner!

You obtained the following skills: Summon Slime, Summon Giant Bee, and Protect.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Summon Slime.

Effect: It grants you the power to summon a slime.

Cost: 250 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Summon Giant Bee.

Effect: It grants you the power to summon a Giant Bee.

Cost: 500 mana



You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Protect.

Effect: It grants you the power to cast a barrier around your or your allies. The spell can only last for three hundred seconds, and it increases the target endurance by five points per level.

Cost: 50 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Chapter 155

Ryan facepalmed because it looked like he messed up again. Although the skills seemed useful and have apparently no limitations, the cost to use them was too damn high. Ryan couldn't even use one of them with his current mana. To test the skill, Ryan used Summon Slime, but when he saw the monster's status, his head began to ache.

Slime Lv 01

Health: 50/50

Mana: 50/50

Stamina: 50/50

Strength: 10

Dexterity: 10

Speed: 10

Intelligence: 10

Endurance: 10

Control: 10

Mentality: 10

Luck: 10

Recovery: 10

Willpower: 10

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills:

Passive Physical Skills:

Spells: Earth Arrow Lv 10, Fireball Lv 10, Wind Arrow Lv 10, Water Blade Lv 10

Support Skills:

“It looks like summoned monsters can’t obtain status points like the tamed ones... which means they can only grow stronger when they level up, and I can’t teach this guy new skills. Shit... this one here can’t even defeat a single slime that is spawning on this world.”

Ryan didn’t know if he was supposed to be happy since the monster was stronger than him when the monsters appeared or if he should feel sad that humans before were pathetically weak. In any case, maybe things weren’t that bad... As far as Ryan knew, he could summon as many slimes as he wanted, and they wouldn’t consume his mana after being summoned. So just by being alive, maybe they could make the skill level up, or at the very least, when they use their skills.

“If I learn the spell that Alissa used to transfer mana to me, they will be able to fight for longer... then again. Maybe it will be more efficient if I use all my mana to summon more of them.”

It looked like Ryan was a natural gambler. Instead of properly following the safe path, he liked to take some risks even though there was a path of him that was pretty steady—all for the sake of an unstable path that could grant him with some impressive rewards. Regardless, Ryan learned he wasn’t disciplined as much as he thought he was...

“It looks like our job here is over,” Alissa said after choosing a new class without putting much thought into it. “Can we finally go home now?”

“Home?” Ryan frowned.

“My home is wherever Arthur is,” Alissa said.

“Right... we can return whenever you decide. It is your call,” Ryan said. “You are the one who is going to carry us, after all.”

“Let’s say that your friends decide to work the Colonel. How do you intend to make cross such a large distance?” Alissa asked.

“For the last time... they are not my friends,” Ryan said after a long sigh. “That is up to you. Do you intend to let Arthur cross several hundred kilometers of monster territory alone, or do you intend to help Mia and the others? I will just have to let you know that you can’t take him away from her.”

“So, you are passing that problem to me?” Alissa asked. “Well, I guess that is fine if we take things slowly. That way, I will have a lot of time to spend with Arthur.”

Ryan sighed... maybe he made a mistake by trying to annoy Alissa the same way she could annoy him. Regardless, Ryan began to use his head and think of what he should do while Alissa transports Shreveport’s survivors toward the secret military base. It wasn’t set in stone that Cole, John, and the others would come, but if Ryan had to bet, he would say they would accept to work with some military guys for the sake of efficiency. That way, they will be able to find more survivors and rescue them faster.

After leaving the dungeon, Ryan wondered if he should buy something, but in the end, he decided to do that later. If his tamed monsters were still alive, he would probably get a lot more coins from them. So, it would be better to make his decision after checking that.

“It looks like you already reached your goal,” Mark said, visibly surprised. “When do you plan to depart?”

“Right now,” Alissa said, and then she transformed into her dragon form.

Although Mark and his men knew that Alissa wasn’t as bloodthirsty as the other dragons, they couldn’t help but flinch and gulp while that massive thing was so close to them. Still, despite their obvious reluctance, Mark and Hugo still climbed Alissa’s back and then prepared themselves since they were fully aware the trip would be anything but comfortable.

“Don’t go too fast,” Ryan said. “If the colonel dies and his men at his base never see him again, they will know who to blame for that.”

“What a pain...” Alissa sighed.

Ryan couldn't quite understand why Alissa got so attached to Arthur, but in the end, she endured the wish of just rushing ahead to return to Shreveport. Although she was only flying at half of her usual speed, the colonel passed out many times along, and Hugo looked like he was about to throw up during the whole trip. Fortunately, he endured the feeling because he didn't want to anger Alissa anymore than he already was by treating her like a vehicle.

Class: Hunter Lv 33 / Elementalist Lv 30/ Monk Lv 09 (-)

Race: Night Demon /Reptilian/ Ice Fox (-)

Rank: 739th

Health: 230/230 (1.32/s)

Mana: 417/417 (1.32/s)

Stamina: 297/297 (1.32/s)

Strength: 10 (+39) (+60)

Dexterity: 421 (+186) (+27)

Speed: 50 (+100) (+28)

Intelligence: 09 (+111) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+15) (+69)

Control: 06 (+142) (+10)

Mentality: 07 (+5)

Luck: 30 (+1)

Recovery: 290 (+294) (+200)

Willpower: 09 (+5)

Coins: 94.550

Status: 29

Skill List

Offensive Extra Jump Lv 01, Power of Money Lv 01,

Passive Physical Skills: Sprinter Lv 01, Tax Lv 01, Lady Luck Lv 01,

Spells: Flash Lv 01, Summon Slime Lv 01, Summon Giant Bee Lv 01, Protect Lv 01,

Support Skills:

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 27, Beastmaster Lv 06, Archer Lv 19, Mercenary Lv 05, Corsair Lv 01, Summoner Lv 01,

Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 11, Trickster Lv 01,

Chapter 156

It was around midnight when they finally arrived in Shreveport. Somehow, some lookouts managed to see Alissa's approach and warn all of the survivors despite the darkness. Just like before, all of them ran to the dungeon, and also, just like before, Ryan had to solve that mess again.

"This isn't good for our heart," Daniel sighed. "Anyway, it looks like you found some survivors."

Alissa completely ignored Daniel, and she ran to see Arthur sleeping in Mia's arms. Ryan also ignored him because this time he saw some faces he didn't see the last time he had been there, John was one of them, as well as Holland and Angela.

"This is colonel Mark Hughes. He has a proposal to all of you," Ryan said. "Just give him a minute to recover from the trip."

After a few minutes, the Colonel recovered and began to talk. Surprisingly, he talked about how the world ended from his perspective and about the number of men he lost who tried to protect those same men's families. He also mentioned that he has been keeping an eye on the survivors of Shreveport for the last few days, thanks to Alissa and Ryan's presence. It was a bit too sudden given his usual methods, but the colonel really was trying to change his ways.

As expected, Cole and John didn't find the prospect of joining the army in this situation a bad idea. After all, they wouldn't be soldiers but an independent force that would work with Mark and his men. However, Lilian and Daniel didn't seem that eager to accept the proposal for some reason.

"While I think that is the best thing we could do considering our whole group, I can't decide this for every single person here," Lilian said.

"While I think the majority will want to join, a good part won't accept it," Daniel said. "What do you think, Ryan?"

"Don't ask me. I am not a part of any group," Ryan replied.

"But aren't you going to work with the general now and then?" Daniel insisted.

“He is a colonel, and yes, but only now and then when I see fit,” Ryan replied. “He has some resources. I think it will be useful. I am sure he can also find my skills useful in some sort of way.”

“I think we should leave some people behind,” Mia said.

“Mia?” Daniel frowned at her words.

“You know, because of the dungeons,” Mia added. “We can’t let the monsters multiply, and in terms of efficiency, it will be better if we leave at least six of us in each dungeon.”

That was an option that Ryan considered, but he didn’t want to use. Things go wrong somewhere, and those survivors might become a problem in the future. He would rather leave his tamed beasts behind and obtain all the possible coins and rewards of a certain dungeon to himself. Ryan knew that he was becoming quite greedy as of late, but things would be better that way since the chance of a bad turn of events would decrease.

“If you don’t mind, we need some time to talk among ourselves,” John said. “Can we give you a proper answer tomorrow morning?”

“Of course,” Mark said.

Ryan wanted to see things being solved as fast as possible since he planned to check his tamed beasts while Alissa moves the survivors to Indianapolis. However, even though he could face most monsters, facing more than one dragon at a time was out of the question. Besides, Ryan would need some time to prepare. Considering all that, it would be better if he moves at night since he was going to separate from Alissa for a while.

In any case, since Ryan didn’t have anything better to do, he decided to train his elemental manipulations as well as level up Meditation. However, it looked like fate had other plans for him.

“Big bro!” Zoe waved her hands while she was approaching alongside her father.



“... I am not your big bro,” Ryan replied after a few seconds of silence and then closed his eyes again.

“Thank you for helping Daddy!” Zoe said.

Ryan sighed. In the end, he could be harsh as much as he wanted to adults, but not to such a sweet child. Still, getting close to others wasn't something he was interested in any longer, so he decided to finish that conversation as fast as possible.

“I don't need your thanks,” Ryan said. “Rather than that, repay the favor with some information. Did you guys see many dragons coming and going around these parts?”

“Yes,” Miles replied. “I believe we saw between fifteen and twenty dragons in the last three days. It is quite tiring to be at alert for so long. Fortunately, nothing happened, and we all responded to the threat in time.”

That was good. It showed that those idiots weren't a lost cause. Still, the number was smaller than Ryan thought... maybe even though they can't fight the megalodons on the sea, they are still trying to fight them close to those areas. Fantasy stories taught Ryan that dragons were prideful creatures. Orgar was a fine example of that.

“I see, that is all, now we are even,” Ryan said.

“Big bro, are you going to stay with us now?” Zoe asked. “Daddy and I are going with everyone to the place you said, right Daddy?”

“Yes,” Miles nodded.

“I am not your...” Ryan took a deep breath to calm down again. “I don't intend to stay to any place for long. That is all you need to know.”

Zoe changed quite a bit in the last few days. Before, she was a timid child who had some attitude, but now she was happy that he was with her father... the loss of her mother was something said, but she

already had moved on from it. Looking at Zoe, Ryan couldn't help but wonder if he shouldn't do the same... move on from his past instead of letting the pain he felt before control most of his actions.

## Chapter 157

When morning came, Ryan confirmed his suspicion. Those who wanted to stay behind were quite the suspicious group. One of them and who decided to stay in the velociraptor's dungeon was that tall friend of Daniel. Weirdly enough, five girls would stay and guard that dungeon with him. While looking at the guy and the harem he formed in the last month, Ryan couldn't help but laugh a little.

"Why are you laughing, asshole?" Daniel's friend asked.

"For absolutely no reason in particular," Ryan turned around, but he didn't stop laughing.

The world was ending, and most people don't have the leisure to do anything aside from struggle, but that guy was... Ryan shook his head and decided to forget about it. In any case, it was just too weird that someone could be that carefree when the only thing he could do when a dragon appeared was to run.

"Are you sure of that, Adrian?" Daniel asked, visibly troubled by his friends' actions.

"Yeah, sorry, but... I am not good with stiff rules," Adrian said. "We lost everything when those monsters appeared, and I don't want to lose my freedom as well."

He would be more convincing if five curvy women weren't behind him. In any case, at least that gave Ryan a hint. After using Appraisal on all the groups that would stay behind, Ryan confirmed his worries. All of the people who would stay behind were like the second strongest parties of their respective groups. Maybe it was a coincidence, but Cole, Daniel, Lilian, and their respective friends were the strongest of each group. Maybe those guys who would stay behind weren't plotting something, but it was very clear that they didn't want to be the number two.

"Around thirty survivors decided to stay behind while 120 are going to join your group," John said. "I hope we can get along well together."

“Certainly,” Mark said and then offered a handshake to John.

Ryan wasn't the type who would believe in those types of agreements. He would rather wait and see how things would proceed instead of blindly trusting someone. Still, he didn't feel like mock those who still thought that humans' words had some value in them.

“How do you guys intend to reach the base?” Alissa asked with Arthur in her arms.

“We recovered some vehicles in the last few days that should help us with that,” John replied. “Although running would be a bit faster, we have certain things that we can't leave behind or carry in our arms alone. That being said, we will have to stop many times if the monsters get in our way or if the terrain isn't appropriate.”

“I will help you guys with that,” Alissa said. “We exchange. Arthur will stay with me the whole time.”

Before anyone could protest, Alissa began to fly in her human form toward the base's direction. Eventually, she found out the vehicles John mentioned, and then she began to open the path ahead. While the survivors were heading toward the vehicles, Ryan turned around and headed toward the opposite direction. As expected, he shocked many people since he didn't tell anyone what he planned, but eventually, Orgar would tell Alissa, and then she would explain everything.

Now that Ryan was alone, he felt a sense of freedom that he couldn't express with words. However, at the same time, he didn't drop his guard. He was alone, and he couldn't only rely on himself to survive and avoid problems. That was great, but at the same time, it was risky.

“I can't waste too much time fighting since that can draw the attention of dragons. A trail of corpses is something I can't leave behind... I guess my best bet is to use Dash and train Stealth as much as possible. That way, maybe I will be able to avoid the dragons.”

That was a bit tiring, but Ryan only used Dash after he checked. The whole area ahead was free of monsters, and he always stopped when he found an appropriate place to hide, like the back of trees and some rocks. When he was crossing urbanized areas, he made sure to hide behind cars, fences, and energy poles. Ryan found a few monsters here and there, but he managed to avoid them relying solely on Dash and Stealth. Although that had been quite nerve-wracking, Ryan reached Houston at sunset

without having to kill a single monster. Even better, he couldn't see a single demon walking around the streets.

"Good, it looks like the elder salamander has been doing a good job."

Unfortunately, Ryan was forced to stop and use Earth Manipulation to dig a hole in the ground and then hid inside of it. He heard the familiar sound of a massive monster flapping its wings in the distance, and he didn't have to see with his own eyes to confirm that was a dragon passing nearby. Fortunately, Ryan trained that skill just enough to be able to hide in just two seconds. He didn't feel the approach of the dragon, so the creature passed by him without noticing.

"I need to be careful since manipulating asphalt and concrete isn't possible for some reason..."

Fortunately, the night came, and Ryan was now able to hide with more ease, but he didn't have to worry since he didn't find any monster while he headed toward the demons' dungeon.

Congratulations! The skill Tame has leveled up.



Tame Lv 12 → Lv 20

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 08 status points.

Congratulations! The skill Call has leveled up.

Call Lv 10 → Lv 20     

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

Cost: 10 mana

You obtained 10 status points.

Elder Salamander

Health: 658/800

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: 290

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Roar Lv 10

Passive Physical Skills: Iron Skin Lv 55, Dash Lv 60

Spells: Flamethrower Lv 65,

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 30, Meditation Lv 40, Pain Resistance Lv 40

You received 245.600 coins.

“Holy crap... you have been working hard, haven't you?” Ryan said, astonished after receiving those coins.

With that crazy number of coins, Ryan had several ideas. The chances of them failing were quite high, but he decided to make some bets once again.

Chapter 158

Based on Ryan's calculations, if they don't stop, the survivors alongside Alissa will arrive at the military base in a little more than sixty hours. Although Ryan could reach the place faster than then, he still had to stop and check things with the desert wolf he left guarding another dungeon near Las Vegas. Regardless, Ryan still forced himself to summon a slime and make the monster attack his salamander. When the monster's mana ran out, Ryan bought a potion and poured it over the creature. He did that many times for several hours...

Congratulations! The skill Summon Slime has leveled up.

Summon Slime Lv 1 → Lv 11

Effect: It grants you the power to summon a slime.

Cost: 250 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

"I guess this is enough."

Ryan had to spend twenty thousand coins in mana potions to make the skill reach that level, but at the same time, he also made his salamander learn some elemental resistances and level them up. So, if anything, that had been a good investment. Based on the slime status, Ryan confirmed that the monster's strength was equal to the ordinary slimes spawned by that dungeon. Meaning, his slimes could face level eleven slimes spawned by the dungeon. It wasn't his current goal, but at least that taught Ryan some things.

"Let's see what I can buy with this... not a single weapon here is at the same level of my bow, sword, and spear. This is a pity. Let's see what tomes I can get..."

Unlike the weapons section, the tomes session was quite weird. The tomes sold there were quite expensive. Some of them cost exactly the same amount of coins that he had. That raised some questions in Ryan's head, but he understood one thing. All types of skills could be learned using tomes, as long as he had enough coins to pay for them.

Regardless, even though there were some spells Ryan could learn, he didn't find many that could fit his fighting style. He also confirmed that the Telekinesis tome was very expensive... hopefully, if he saves his coins and adds them with the ones he is probably going to receive by finding his desert wolf, it would be enough. However, was it really worth spending so many coins on a single skill? Ryan's luck hasn't been impressive as of late, but there is always a chance that he might get that tome. After all, he was slaying monsters day and night.

"Speaking of drops, I don't see many of them here..."

There were some items inside the dungeon, but they weren't that valuable. Still, considering the number of days which his salamander stayed there, Ryan imagined he would find a lot more. Maybe its low luck was the cause of it, or maybe just like some monsters disappear after dying after a while, the items also disappear. That was unreasonable, but complaining won't change anything. 🤔🤔🤔🤔(🤔)🤔🤔🤔

"For some reason, all the monsters that Alissa kills never disappear... is it because they always explode when she attacks?"

Ryan insisted on finding some useful tomes, but most of the ones he found were offensive spells that only would be useful in the hands of those who stupid amounts of mana. Considering the utility of his elemental manipulations, Ryan decided to look for the improved version of those spells, but he didn't find them. It probably would be more costly, but it would be awesome if Ryan could create the elements using his mana alone.

"Not good... I am not finding anything that will be useful for the fighting style I am developing... I guess I just need to keep working hard and hope that eventually, I will find something useful in the shop."

Just when Ryan was about to give up and move on, he found a single tome that would, without a doubt, help him quite a bit. However, the cost was insane. Fortunately, it was a passive skill, so Ryan would be able to level it up without worrying about mana.

Improved Concentration Tome

Effect: Passively increases your dexterity by five points per level.



Price: 300.000 coins

“Oh, well... who cares about this imaginary money,” Ryan said. “I can’t let something like that get in my way.”

Although Ryan said that, he spent several seconds forcing his finger to buy the tome. As expected, Ryan was really greedy, and just having a massive number of coins was enough to make him feel good even though the numbers by themselves didn’t have any use aside from buying things.

Ryan left the dungeon and then filled his backpack with mana and stamina potions. It was midnight, and he wanted to arrive in Las Vegas before sunrise. In fact, he wanted to finish all his business there and leave before sunrise since, in that area, he couldn’t do anything aside from using Earth Manipulation to hide from dragons.

“I also need to tame two other monsters... harpies don’t have much durability, so they are a no. As for the Earthworms... I would rather avoid them. My only options are the desert wolves and salamanders again.”

Although Ryan could have reached Las Vegas in time with his speed alone, he didn’t because he found several problems along the way... surprisingly enough, he found ten dragons along the way to Las Vegas. Apparently, dragons were also nocturnal creatures. Since they were getting on his nerves by delaying his plans, Ryan considered more than once killing those bastards, but in the end, he controlled his instincts since all those dragons were stronger than the red dragon he faced before.

“Let’s steadily build my strength, and then one day, I will kill every single of those fuckers with a single attack.”

Now more than ever, Ryan was greedy, but once he recognized that he was that kind of person, that didn’t bother him anymore. If anything, it was nice to have those grandiose goals... even though they might lead him to his death one day.

Chapter 159

Congratulations! The skill Tame has leveled up.

Tame Lv 20 → Lv 26

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 06 status points.

Congratulations! The skill Call has leveled up.

Call Lv 20 → Lv 25

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

Cost: 10 mana

You obtained 05 status points.

Desert Wolf Alpha

Health: 1.150/1.200

Mana: 1.200 /1.200

Stamina: 1.400/1.400

Strength: 350

Dexterity: 350

Speed: 350

Intelligence: 300

Endurance: 250

Control: 200

Mentality: 250

Luck: 200

Recovery: 350

Willpower: 150

Coins: — p??J??(?)???

Status: 190

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Steel Claws Lv 60

Passive Physical Skills: Iron Skin Lv 50, Dash Lv 50,

Spells: Quick Legs Lv 70, Meditation Lv 40,

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 50, Wind Resistance Lv 40, Pain Resistance Lv 30

You obtained 189.760 coins.

“It looks like you also worked quite a bit,” Ryan said and then patted the head of the oversized wolf. “Let’s see... few items here as well and no tomes. The wolf’s luck is ten times higher than the salamander, so maybe the items really disappear after a while.”

Although Ryan patted his monster’s head, he soon stopped after feeling the smell of blood coming from the wolf’s mouth. There were some signs of dried blood on the ground as well, the beast really all of its foes... Suddenly, Ryan didn’t feel like treating those creatures like pets. Although they were living beings, they weren’t much different than weapons of war.

Regardless, Ryan now has the power to have five beasts under his control. Although that was good, it was also bad since he didn’t have much time. It would be a pain to stop too many times at night because of the dragons.

“I guess I will just train another desert wolf in order to make it hunt the salamander in the other dungeon. I can’t think of any creature that can take down an earthworm aside from another earthworm. Still, even if I tame such a beast, the monster won’t last for long since their strength won’t be much higher than the ordinary monsters.”

As expected, Ryan went to the dungeon and tamed the boss pretty fast. While they were still at the dungeon, Ryan decided to make the monster endure some spartan training. After all, the salamanders were pretty fast long-ranged fighters. Although he focused on training the Fire Resistance of the monster, he also made the wolf learn other skills and trained them up to level ten. That was all he could do before noon.

“Things would be a bit simpler if I could make my monsters wear some gear, but I can’t. Strangely enough, all equipment found in the dungeon shops is all human-sized.”

Ryan thought that while he left the area. In the end, some things didn't work out the way he wanted before, so he decided not to let some failure bother him in the future again. Some things would work while others won't. Things were supposed to be that way.

On the way back, Ryan avoided fighting with monsters again. Maybe he was getting ahead of himself, but Ryan felt that he was becoming quite good at being stealthy. After all, he didn't have to fight a single time. In any case, Ryan probably had some time left, so he decided to return to Shreveport and check if the survivors that stayed behind were up to no good. He couldn't always ask Mark to check things now and then, but it was better to solve some problems early on. Unfortunately, Ryan didn't find anything in the three dungeons he visited. The survivors were just hunting monsters and living their lives as usual.

“Mmm... maybe a single betrayal messed with my mind more than I thought.”

After finishing his business in Shreveport, Ryan began to follow Alissa's trail and the others. Although he was managing to keep a decent pace, his mind was quite tired. So, Ryan began to wonder if he shouldn't stop to rest. The group was probably just one day and a half ahead of him, after all. Not sleeping for five days straight was finally affecting Ryan's mind.

“Nah, I need to continue... I can sleep as much as I want later on that base. Alissa won't mind since she will be thankful for having more time to stay with Arthur.”

Ryan hurried and used every chance to move. It would be a pain if he finds a dragon along the way, and his tiredness ends up making his stealthy skills become sloppy. In order to avoid facing that problem again in the future, Ryan made a mental note to take a one-hour nap every single day. That should do the trick, and Ryan wouldn't feel guilty by wasting too much time not practicing his skills.

“Something is wrong...”

After running for an entire night, Ryan noticed that something was off. He didn't find a single monster throughout the entire night, and even though on the previous one he saw ten dragons, he didn't find a single one that night.

Ryan's instincts alerted him that something very troublesome was about to happen... maybe a dragon noticed his presence and decided to play dumb in order to prepare a sure-kill trap on his path. Or

perhaps one of them decided to call their friends after analyzing Ryan and concluding that he wasn't an enemy they should mess with.

However, Ryan didn't find anything in all directions. He sharpened his senses, but aside from the lack of monsters, nothing seemed out of place. Come to think of it, Alissa said that she would help the survivors in that aspect. However, Ryan's predictions were far off the mark this time. Around noon of the next day, he noticed that the trail left by Alissa and the other was getting warmer. At the same time, he saw ten or so figures flying in the sky and heading toward the same directions... as expected, whenever something good happens in Ryan's life, something terrible happens soon after.

## Chapter 160

It didn't take long for Ryan to notice that ten dragons were following Alissa and the others. That was odd... Alissa and Orgar should have noticed them and decided to attack the monsters since they planned to do the same with them.

After thinking for a while, Ryan understood that the dragons were just following the humans from a safe distance because they wanted to see where the base was. All in order to completely wipe out their numbers and turn their base upside down. That was some devilish plan... as expected of dragons.

"Maybe Alissa is too distracted by playing with Arthur. However, I can't imagine Orgar dropping his guard for any reason... what now?"

Attacking the monsters was out of the question since if Ryan does that, the chances of the dragons ganging up on him were pretty high, and if that happens... he will die, for sure. Trying to take a roundabout route wouldn't work either. Ryan was one thousand kilometers away from Indianapolis. Maybe Alissa and the others were at half of that distance. So, he had less than eight hours to warn them.

"Oh man... what now?"

Whatever happens, Ryan couldn't let the dragons find the secret base, and he couldn't let them attack first either. Not only would the first make him lose a precious source of surveillance, but the second would decimate the survivors. Without a dungeon to hide inside, they would be sitting ducks. Even if Alissa has powers and she is stronger than the average dragon, she couldn't possibly defeat ten of them

alone, much less trying to protect Arthur. Unfortunately, Ryan couldn't think of any possible solution to that situation.

Ryan's luck really sucked... why he couldn't peacefully defeat just the right monsters to build his strength at a decent pace? Why always something unexpected had to happen so often? In any case, Ryan made up his mind. He would try to find a solution to that problem in the next two hours. If Ryan didn't find one, he would attack the dragons. He didn't want to become a sacrifice for the likes of Daniel and Mia, but strangely enough, he didn't mind putting his life at risk for Arthur's sake. The kid hated him down to an instinctual level, but that doesn't matter. He would do anything for that kid to have a future. That was the only thing he couldn't fail at.

Unfortunately, it looked like that was the only option. Ryan used his head for two hours to find a solution to that situation, but nothing came to his mind. It was unavoidable. He will have to fight ten dragons by himself. Hopefully, he will die buying enough time for Arthur to reach the secret base and to stroke his pride a little bit. He will at least take down two of those ten dragons.

"Yep, this is a decent goal considering this situation."

Ryan ran toward the dragons in order to enter the range of his bow. At the same time, he prepared his mind for that crazy battle. It wasn't much, but he used his ninety-two free status points in dexterity... all for the sake of increasing his attack power to the limit.

Weirdly enough, even though Ryan was nervous as hell, the dragons never noticed his approach, probably because they were too focused on Alissa in order not to be detected by her and Orgar.

"Maybe they are using some spell to conceal their presences... However, that doesn't explain why they are so close to each other."

Things would be different if Ryan were good at feeling the mana of their foes... Still, as long as he enters his range of attack, he will be able to use Appraisal and confirm that. The problem was: was that a good idea? Dragons were the most troublesome monsters Ryan faced so far, and Alissa could do many things with the powers she received from Orgar... in the end, Ryan decided not to try anything aside from attacking.

"This angle should be all right..."

Ryan moved to the Northeast a little bit until he confirmed that he was in a position where his attack would make the dragon that he hits collide against others. As much as he wanted to pierce an arrow deep down their asses as a payment for what they have been doing to Earth, Ryan couldn't since that only would enrage the beasts. In the end, the time finally came. Ryan began to concentrate his Power Shot, and even though the air around him changed due to the massive concentration of energy, none of the dragons noticed him.

When his mana and stamina got empty, Ryan fired the arrow. Even before hitting the target, Ryan was already smiling because his attack had been so powerful that his bow began to lose durability. That was all thanks to his massive dexterity... Regardless, half a second later, his bone arrow pierced the right-wing of a black dragon and also pierced deeply on its right side. The beast screamed in pain while the impact made the monster forcefully move to the side. As expected, his Power Shot's impact not only wounded deeply one of the dragons, but it also made the monster hit three others. At the same time, Ryan felt a wave of mana dispersing from them. They really were using some spell to conceal their presences...







Regardless, before the dragons could see what attacked them, Ryan hid behind a tree... fortunately, he had chosen to attack in a place in which he could hide very well.

Class: Hunter Lv 33 / Elementalist Lv 30/ Monk Lv 09 (-)

Race: Night Demon /Reptilian/ Ice Fox (-)

Rank: 739th

Health: 230/248 (1.32/s)

Mana: 425/451 (1.32/s)      

Stamina: 297/325 (1.32/s)

Strength: 10 (+39) (+60)



Dexterity: 513 (+223) (+27)

Speed: 50 (+114) (+28)

Intelligence: 09 (+111) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+15) (+69)

Control: 06 (+156) (+10)

Mentality: 07 (+5)

Luck: 30 (+5)

Recovery: 290 (+302) (+200)

Willpower: 09 (+5)

Coins: 205.650

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Dash Lv 19 (+ 07 UP)

Passive Physical Skills: Stealth Lv 22 (+ 05 UP), Sprinter Lv 12 (+ 11 UP), Tax Lv 05 (+ 04 UP), Lady Luck Lv 05 (+ 04 UP), Improved Concentration Lv 01,

Spells: Meditation Lv 20 (+ 03 UP), Fire Manipulation Lv 20 (+ 03 UP), Mana Shield Lv 09, Earth Manipulation Lv 25 (+ 02 UP), Water Manipulation Lv 18 (+ 03 UP), Wind Manipulation Lv 26 (+ 02 UP), Summon Slime Lv 11 (+ 10 UP)

Support Skills: Sleep Resistance Lv 11 (+ 03 UP), Nocturnal Eyes Lv 13 (+ 03 UP), Master's Support Lv 08 (+ 03 UP), Ice Bound Lv 01,

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 27, Beastmaster Lv 11, Archer Lv 19, Mercenary Lv 05, Corsair Lv 03, Summoner Lv 03,

Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 11, Trickster Lv 01,