

## Domain 181

### Chapter 181

Even Alissa didn't have the nerve to complain about the help that she never asked. After all, those people were fighting to free their hometown from the monsters' clutches. Besides, thanks to them and Ryan's area of effect buffs, the tide of the battle turned in their favor. However, they still would have some more surprises that day.

"They are coming..."

When they heard Orgar's voice, Alissa and Ryan finally noticed. Flying in the direction of the battle, they saw more than fifty demons. Even without using Appraisal, Ryan recognized them as the bosses that were spawned when the dungeon break occurred. Besides, unlike the ordinary succubus, those new monsters had wings, weapons, and they were also wearing pieces of armor that protect their vitals. The only thing that they had in common with the succubus is that they were all females. Ryan used Appraisal to confirm his suspicions, but he quite didn't believe in what he saw.

"Usintia, Charlith, Helova..." Ryan bit his lips in annoyance. "They are all different demons. How can this be?"

To think that different demons could have the same purpose... In any case, once again, Ryan felt that something was out of place. Just like before, he couldn't quite pinpoint what was wrong, but he noticed one thing. That weird feeling... he only had when he saw several bosses in the same place. Regardless, before Ryan could think of why he felt that, Alissa transformed into her dragon form.

"I will deal with them," Alissa declared. "Don't let a single one of my soldiers die. If you do that, we can negotiate the terms of cooperation."

It looked like if Ryan succeeds in that, Alissa will decrease the time they will have to work together. While that wasn't so bad since that was a good reason to do it, Ryan didn't want to face those monsters... He wanted to test his strength once more against powerful foes. Unfortunately, since he couldn't fly, Ryan couldn't join the battle. Alissa made sure to draw the bosses' attention and made them pursue her pretty fly in the sky, where his arrows couldn't reach. She was getting better at getting on his nerves... still, her awareness of the situation also improved.

“I guess she really doesn’t want to lose a single one of her soldiers...”

Ryan also didn’t feel like letting humans fighting so hard die. It wasn’t his style, but he began to offer support to all of the survivors by attacking those who were having a hard time against the succubus. However, instead of using his bow or magic projectiles, he used his magic weapons. A single scratch of his spear was enough to make the succubus get paralyzed for a second, while the sword could burn the monsters and make them scream in agony. After that, they would become easy targets for the survivors. However, ...

“Crap... this isn’t enough...”

Ryan was focusing on speed, but even so, slowly but certainly, the survivors were losing the fight against those massive numbers. If he couldn’t kill the monsters, Ryan couldn’t recover mana fast enough. If he kills the monsters, Ryan will spend more time and thus won’t be able to help those who are needed.

“Hey, you!” Ryan shouted. “Pick that spear on your right! Pay more attention to the drops, dumbass!”

Without any other choice, Ryan was forced to shout and give those commands. Although some survivors got geared up and thus decreased Ryan’s workload, things weren’t looking good. Some survivors began to faint due to exhaustion. It was only natural since they were only ordinary survivors less than a week ago. Still, Ryan didn’t feel like spoiling them due to that.

Suddenly, something fell from the sky and then hit a good number of the succubus, killing them instantly. Since the size was small, Ryan concluded that it was one boss that Alissa had defeated and thrown down in order to help the battle. However, much to Ryan’s despair, the boss began to levitate, even though all the bones of her limbs were broken.

“That idiot... at least finish them off before using them as projectiles,” Ryan clicked his tongue in annoyance.

Ryan decided to finish the creature off as fast as possible, but before he could attack, the blood of the creatures that just died began to move toward the demon. In a matter of seconds after absorbing all that blood, the demon was back to normal. As if things weren’t bad enough, the demon who was about

to fly and join the others in the battle against Alissa stopped and then began to look directly at Ryan. It looked like the succubus found her new target.

“Not good...” Ryan said. “Things are about to go downhill...”

Class: Hunter Lv 39 / Elementalist Lv 38/ Monk Lv 16 (-)

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

Rank: 669th

Health: 345/345 (1.67/s)

Mana: 609/609 (1.67/s) ρ??U??(??)???

Stamina: 444/444 (1.67/s)

Strength: 10 (+63) (+60)

Dexterity: 650 (+381) (+27)

Speed: 50 (+162) (+28)

Intelligence: 09 (+191) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+71) (+69)

Control: 06 (+205) (+10)

Mentality: 07 (+11)

Luck: 50 (+11)

Recovery: 375 (+429) (+200)

Willpower: 09 (+11)

Coins: 669.600

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Intimidation Lv 01, Backstab Lv 01,

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 39 (+ 02 UP), Concentration Lv 39 (+ 02 UP), Archery Lv 39 (+ 02 UP), Accuracy Lv 39 (+ 02 UP), Stealth Lv 29 (+ 04 UP), Pain Resistance Lv 09, Perception Lv 30 (+ 02 UP), Precision Lv 35 (+ 02 UP),

Spells: Mana Transfusion Lv 32 (+ 02 UP), Flame Arrow Lv 35 (+ 05 UP), Appraisal Lv 27 (+ 02 UP), Heal Lv 14 (+ 04 UP), Leg Shot Lv 01, Perfect Aim Lv 01, Magic Trap Lv 01, Plagiarism Lv 01,

Support Skills: Master's Support Lv 10 (+ 02 UP)

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 35, Beastmaster Lv 13, Archer Lv 27, Mercenary Lv 11, Corsair Lv 09, Summoner Lv 05, Combat Archer Lv 03, Rogue Lv 01,

Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 17, Trickster Lv 08, Bard Lv 03,

## Chapter 182

Ryan wasn't a good Samaritan, so even though that would be dangerous for the survivors, he decided to completely ignore them and focus his attack on the monster that was looking at him. The demon grinned, imagining how useful Ryan could be, but the grin disappeared when she began to feel the massive amount of energy Ryan was pouring into his bone arrow. For a moment, the monster didn't think Ryan would be stupid enough to empty all his energy against a single enemy when there were thousands of succubus nearby. The creature seriously underestimated Ryan's insanity...

When Ryan's mana and stamina dropped to twenty percent, the monster realized that Ryan wasn't joking, and he was determined to finish it off in a single strike. Fearing for its life, the demon flew toward Ryan, but then when the creature was ten meters away from him, it changed its direction and moved to his right side.

"Stupid monsters..." Ryan grinned and then adjusted his aim. "This is the oldest trick of the book."

Before firing the arrow, Ryan also activated Brute Arrow. The attack's power increased just a little bit, but he didn't do that to increase his firing power but because he wanted to make the demon hit and kill several other succubi again. Ryan succeeded in doing that, but his heart almost stopped when the corpse almost hit some survivors. He didn't think that such a thing could happen...

You obtained 28.950 coins.

The monster also dropped a weird bow... a bow that had the shape of the succubus wings, and at the same time, it was black and pink. Ryan picked the weapon, but he didn't even check its attributes... he didn't have mana to use it.

"Well, now... it looks I don't have any other choice," Ryan sighed while watching the battlefield.

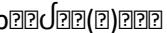
The conscious survivors were trying to protect the unconscious ones, but they were about to fall as well. In the end, Ryan had to choose between letting the survivors become sacrifices, or he makes all the sacrifices. It was a pity, but he didn't have to think all that much in the end.

Suddenly, the succubus eyes began to explode, and the survivors frowned when they saw that since they didn't notice anything that caused that. Even the monsters were shocked by that, but they eventually noticed that a single human was causing all that... Ryan. Using the Power of Money, Ryan attacked the monster's eyes. At the current level of the skill, it couldn't kill a single slime, but Ryan could do that by aiming properly, and since the succubus was that close, doing that was easy.

You spent 10 coins

You spent 10 coins

Congratulations! The skill Power of Money has leveled up.

Power of Money Lv 1 → Lv 2 

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: 100 coins per level

You obtained 01 status point.

You spent 200 coins

You spent 200 coins

...

“... Shut up, already,” Ryan said, annoyed.

Ryan's mood worsened when he noticed that he didn't obtain a single coin when the monsters' died whenever he used that skill. It couldn't be helped since that was to save the survivors, but... At the end of the world, the worst enemy of the human race was their damn conscience. Ryan just confirmed that.

In the blink of an eye, Power of Money leveled up many times, and thus Ryan's attacking speed increased greatly. Thanks to all that fighting, he confirmed that he could attack many times in a second. Maybe he also could do that with a bow, but as expected, he needed to train properly to be able to do that, and he also would need to increase his mana pool.

Once again, another boss fell from the sky, but this time, the creature didn't get up. The same thing happened several times, but since Ryan had already recovered his mana, he wasn't worried about them. He was worried about the fact that despite all that, they didn't try to retreat. They weren't mindless monsters, so why fight a battle that they couldn't win? However, eventually, Ryan began to wonder if they would be really defeated... blood began to fall from the sky, and Ryan knew that it was Alissa's blood.

“As expected, not even Alissa can fight against fifty mid-tier bosses by herself... I need to clean up things here before she is forced to retreat.”

Even though his mana was full, Ryan was forced to keep using Power of Money to help the survivors. Attacking with that skill was much more effective and faster, after all.

Although the survivors began to feel unconscious one after the other, the battle somehow ended without a single loss on the human side... Ryan had to sacrifice more than two hundred thousand coins to achieve that, but fortunately, the monsters still dropped items, so not everything was bad news.

Before Ryan could pick them up, he looked to the sky and saw the very moment several shooting stars falling. However, Ryan knew that those weren't exactly shooting stars. They were the bosses... still, he couldn't quite imagine how Alissa managed to attack all of them at the same time...

When the monsters hit the ground, the entire city trembled, and some dust waves spread toward all directions. Fortunately, nothing happened to the survivors since the impact had happened pretty far away. Ryan used Earth Manipulation to see the point of the impacts, only to see several ten meters large craters... and the corpses of the monsters without their limbs. After a while, Alissa appeared covered in bruises and bleeding from her nose and ears.

“Ah, that was refreshing...” Alissa said with a smile on her face. “I guess I underestimated these mid-tier bosses. Well, no matter, at least they dropped a lot of items. Now everyone will have some decent equipment.”

## Chapter 183

For some reason, Ryan didn't feel like asking about what happened with the other bosses' bodies. In any case, several of them dropped weapons, and Alissa made sure to distribute them among her soldiers when they woke up. Meanwhile, Ryan decided to check his new bow. As expected of a weapon that a demon dropped...

### Charm Bow

Effect: Consumes ten mana points to create an arrow capable of putting the target into a charmed status. This effect can only take place if the target has less intelligence and it only lasts for five seconds. The effect disappears when the target is attacked.

Dexterity + 20, intelligence + 20.

Durability: 60/60

“This is a very suspicious bow... in any case, it is a little better than my bone bow, but in terms of raw power, the bone bow still is the best option. I guess I will trade it.”

Suddenly, Alissa approached. The wounds on her body had completely disappeared, but one could tell that fight has taken quite a toll on her. She looked tired, and she was pale as well... it was only natural since she went as far as transforming into a dragon to defeat all of those monsters.

“Everyone said that you did something to protect them. They didn't understand what exactly,” Alissa said. “So, I guess you deserve half of the loot.”

“I can sell them or trade for the weapons you obtained by killing the bosses,” Ryan said. “I will buy them. The weapons will be given to those who decided to fight alongside me.”



“Is that so...” Ryan said. “I guess I will sell only half of them, then.”

“Why half?” Alissa asked. “I will give the other half to those guys, they deserved it, and your new group looks like the type who doesn’t want to share their toys with others.”

“Why are you spoiling these cowards?” Alissa asked while frowning.

“Without them, your soldiers would have died. They bought enough time for us,” Ryan said. “I am stubborn and prideful, but I am not blind and ungrateful.”

Alissa left after hearing that. As usual, she didn’t seem satisfied with Ryan’s choices. After all, he seemed fair to some people and unfair to others. Regardless, even though the monsters dropped some decent gear, only the bosses dropped items that interested Ryan, and those already belong to Alissa and her groupies. So, Ryan sold half of his drops for one hundred thousand coins. The items probably were most valuable than that, but Ryan didn’t feel like wasting checking their prices on the shop.

“Are you giving all of this to us?” The middle-aged woman asked while watching dozens of items that the succubus dropped. “Why?”

“Because they are useless to me, but they may have some to you,” Ryan replied. “Besides, you deserved it. Hopefully, with this, all of you will understand that this is the current world we live in. You fight and win, and then you can enjoy another day and perhaps some rewards like this. Everything is over if you die. As for running away... you already know what will happens if you do that again. By the way, what is your name?”

“... Helena,” The middle-aged woman replied.

“You and the others can go and play with the giant ants,” Ryan said. “With this equipment, you probably won’t die. Use the dungeon while you can because I don’t know what will happen once this job is over.”

Ryan has yet to find a way to ‘seal’ the treants and giant ants’ dungeons. The first was impossible for Helena and the others, but they could hold their own against the ants. Regardless, now Ryan just had to

wait for Alissa and the others to recover and for the things to solve themselves. As expected, before noon, some things began to change in Washington.

Suddenly, a curtain of dust coming from the north began to approach, and after a while, Ryan and the others identified some military vehicles approaching. Those were probably the guys who talked with the survivors via radio. Still, to think that they would only show themselves now...

Alissa was even angrier at them than she was in comparison to the second group of survivors. Ryan could even feel Orgar's aura getting agitated... which wasn't good. Although Ryan was also pretty angry, he decided to ignore that group. As for Alissa, she crossed her arms and put herself on the way of the vehicles. Since it was evident that this group watched the whole battle, they knew what Alissa could do, so the vehicles stopped several meters away from her. Seeing who was inside them was impossible since the glasses were dark and bullet-proof, but it looked like Alissa could see everyone inside of it anyway. Her expression only got worse when a tall, pale man left one of the vehicles and walked toward Alissa.

"Hello, my name is Matthew Rockfield," The man said, and he slightly bowed his head. "I am the director of Washington's Police Department."

"And?" Alissa asked.

"I would like to thank you for saving the citizens of our city," Matthew said.

"Don't you mean: I would like to thank you for using me to kill all the monsters of your city?" Alissa asked. "Maybe you should also thank them for using them to confirm if we were enemies or not."

"Although that may seem suspicious, I did what I did, imagining that you two weren't enemies," Matthew said. "We only didn't help because we thought we only would get in the way. We lost many of our forces and resources trying to fight these beasts."

"You may be satisfied with this excuse, but I am not," Alissa said and then turned around and left.

Although Ryan didn't feel like talking with them, he was forced to in order to obtain some answers. He was pretty sure Mark would need the help of a director of the Washington Police Department. After all, those vehicles probably belonged to the white house. He came from that direction.

## Chapter 184

“You seem to be a bit calmer,” Matthew said. “Can we talk about our circumstances?”

“I am fine with it, but I also have some questions,” Ryan said.

“I will try to answer them to the best of my ability,” Matthew said.

“I am sure...” Ryan frowned. “You were in the white house, right? What are you doing there, and how come you were monitoring us?”

“Although we lost control over most of our technology, we still can use some devices,” Matthew explained. They may not be useful for combat, but they were more than enough to observe the city’s situations. As to why I came from the white house, I solved some business that morning in the area when the monsters appeared. My family and I took refuge there, as well as many other individuals.”

“The president?” Ryan asked.

“... This information isn’t something I can discuss with you,” Matthew said.

“Then, this talk is over,” Ryan said and then turned. “I only need to talk with the person who is your first in command.”

“I am the first in command of this city,” Matthew said, and then he whispered. “Every single other person above in the chain in command died when the monsters appeared, or they went missing.”

Matthew wasn’t so dumb. Apparently, he couldn’t openly say the president’s status, but he was smart enough not to let Ryan lose interest in any negotiation with him. Still... the president was probably missing. Ryan would bet that he probably died. He just needed a single piece of information to confirm that.

“if you tell me where the president was when the monsters appeared, I will tell you everything I know, except the things about her,” Ryan said and then pointed toward Alissa.

Matthew bit his lips in exasperation. Information was one of the things he needed the most, but he couldn't risk and spread about what may happen to the president. However, after eight weeks without receiving a single piece of information from outside Washington, he didn't have many hopes about it.

“... He was on an airplane when it happened,” Matthew whispered. “Please, don't share this information with anyone... if some countries hear about this...”

“You sure are optimistic about the situation of other countries,” Ryan said. “Do you seriously think anyone has the leisure to worry about world domination right now?”

Ryan wasn't stupid enough to spread that news. Still, he wasn't so sure if Alissa cared about the country's information as much as him. However, what was the worse thing that could happen to a semi-destroyed country? Unless some asshole has a lot of nukes to use, only an idiot will use such weapons to make sure that not another American would be able to see another day.

In any case, Matthew decided to ask several things to Ryan. About what he knew regarding dungeons, monsters, the situation outside Washington, and why they came to the city. Ryan explained some things, but he kept others as a secret as usual. There was no need for his classes to others, and the location of the secret base was only interested in those who wanted to work with Mark. p??J??(?)???

As expected, Matthew didn't like what he heard. After a while, he gave the sign to some of his men leave the cars and join their conversation. Apparently, he needed their perspective before deciding anything.

“So, you are saying that people like us who live near dungeons but have no classes are screwed?” Matthew asked.

“Pretty much,” Ryan nodded. “You can obtain four classes with the dungeons here, but I doubt you can grow strong enough to survive by yourselves. The monsters grow stronger each day, and the dungeon breaks create an army of them every month and also strengthen. Besides, all this fighting isn't the problem is what lies in the other side of the dungeons.”

Matthew was aware of it. Thanks to his surveillance system, he saw many men being captured by the succubus, and they never saw them again. Unfortunately, the drones they used couldn't work inside dungeons.

"That is the gist of things," Ryan added. "Still, you are really clueless about everything. Can I assume that you don't know that some cities were nuked?"

"I imagined that such a thing would happen... but I have no idea which cities suffered such fate," Matthew said.

Maybe Matthew was lying. Still, Ryan decided to trust him. A man in his position wouldn't dare to push the button, which would instantly kill so many people. Few people would have the nerve to do it, and they could only be found in even higher positions in the government. Regardless, Ryan will have to work harder in order to find who nuked Dallas and destroyed his parents' graves. He won't rest until he makes the bastard regret being born on this world...

"Well... I once more I apologize for not helping you and the others on the fight," Matthew said. "I once again thank you for freeing us from the clutches of the monsters, but it is time to take my leave here."

Ryan nodded. Since Matthew didn't even bring the idea of joining whatever group Ryan belonged to, he also didn't feel the need to invite him. Somehow, Ryan could tell that Matthew and his men would stay behind and wait for the president. Many of those who worked for him were still hidden below the white house, after all.

"Are you done talking with them?" Alissa appeared and asked.

"Yeah," Ryan nodded.

"We are going to challenge the dungeon and check the thing on the other side," Alissa declared. "After this, since you managed to protect everyone, you are free to go to wherever you want. We won't have to work together anymore."

"What a death flag..." Ryan sighed.

That was pretty good, and Ryan didn't feel like he owed Alissa anything anymore. After all, he protected her subordinates. Still, Ryan was worried about what Alissa will do in the future. She changed, and she was more proactive now, but at the same time, she grew, giving less value to Ryan's intentions and opinions. He had to see how things will change back in the base and if she will change regarding Arthur as well.

## Chapter 185

When Ryan approached the dungeon, he understood what Alissa meant by we are going to challenge the dungeon. Although her subordinates were going to obtain their new classes, they seemed far less ready for battle than before. It was obvious that Alissa wasn't planning to take them to the other side. Still... that raised some questions. Why not go alone? Why go with Ryan when she just said that they don't have to work together anymore? Maybe Alissa still recognized his usefulness, even though she now clearly disliked Ryan.

"Well, it doesn't really matter... now that my debt has been paid, I don't have to worry about several things. Collecting intel and moving around won't be that convenient, but at least, I will be able to measure my own strength with more ease. I also won't have to worry about the amount of time I will have to stay on a single dungeon."

Since Alissa didn't mention if she learned anything by reading the bosses' minds, Ryan was looking forward to the conversation they were going to have with the last boss. However, when the group approached the last part of the dungeon, Alissa created a black Fireball and then increased the magic projectile's power. It was clear that she wanted to kill the boss without wasting a single second.

"I thought she could only use that on her dragon form... I guess I was wrong."

Ryan didn't even have the time to check the name of the demon. The very moment Alissa saw a clear path to hit the target, she fired her Fireball of dark flames... the monster was burned to a crisp instantly.

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: Guard, Navigator, and Alchemist.

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

"Two classes that I already saw before... Navigator seems like a non-combat class, but it is the only option to keep increasing my primary status."

Once again, Ryan felt compelled to make a bet. He recalled that Alissa picked the Alchemist class and was able to make some potions using monsters' parts. If Ryan finds the right dungeon, not only will he be able to train that class quite a bit, but he also will create a decent stock of potions for free... but in the end, Ryan decided to play it safe. After that job was over, he will have to fight alone again, and that means that dragons won't leave him alone. Ryan will have to keep increasing his dexterity to be able to kill them as fast as possible.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Navigator!

You obtained the following skills: Search, Radar, Destination.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Search.

Effect: Looks for the localization of people and monsters registered in your memory.

Cost: 100 mana

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Radar.

Effect: This shows you the position of all creatures around you. The range is ten meters multiplied by the level of the skills.

Cost: 10 mana per second

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Destination.

Effect: It grants you the power to select a destination and find the best route to reach it. You also will be warned of monsters' approach when this skill is active.

Cost: 05 mana per second.

You obtained 01 status point.

As expected, Ryan's guess was right. It was a non-combat class, so he will have some trouble leveling it up. However, the skills were quite interesting and seemed pretty useful. Ryan tested the Search skill once and then confirmed that Arthur still was in the base. He couldn't see him or the surroundings, but he could feel the place... probably because that skill should be used along with Destination for the purpose of finding monsters and humans.

Still, while Alissa and the others were choosing their new classes, Ryan decided to train Radar since that was one of the skills he needed most. Although it will take a while before the skill becomes really useful with a decent range, it wouldn't level up unless Ryan uses it in moments like that.

"All right, you guys can wait outside," Alissa said. "We will return after a while. Even if we take some time there, don't do anything reckless and don't even think about using the purple crystal to follow me. Is that clear?"

"Yes, Ma'am."

While Alissa was giving orders, Ryan finally recalled something. They didn't find any sign of the men who the succubus had captured. In the end, it was clear that they had been teleported to the other world. However, Ryan couldn't help but wonder if the monsters went there with them or if they just made



them touch the crystal. If the monsters could go back and forth by using the crystal, they wouldn't have to die and fight like they had no other choice... unless even their death serves some purpose. Ryan couldn't understand why the minions would sacrifice themselves like that, but at the very least, the bosses don't have any reason to fear death. After all, they will respawn twenty-four hours after their death.

“Let's hope that they didn't join their side... I don't want to kill any more humans. Too many humans already died since all of this started.”

After she finished giving her orders, Alissa faced Ryan. Both of them were relatively ready. Relatively because they had no idea what they will find on the other side... Alissa didn't seem very much worried about the risk of failure, but Ryan was. He didn't want to die while knowing so little about this crazy situation. Regardless, eventually, they touched the purple crystal.

## Chapter 186

When they opened their eyes again, Ryan and Alissa saw themselves in the middle of a weird garden. The place was quite dense, and the plants around had been cut in a manner that now they looked like walls. The 'walls' were green, but they could thousands of a weird ref flower that they had never seen before emanating pollen every single moment. The smell wasn't unpleasant. It actually was quite good, but...

Congratulations! The skill Poison Resistance has leveled up.

Poison Resistance Lv 5 → Lv 6

You obtained 01 status point.

Ryan immediately covered his nose, but when he did that, the pollen began to fly around his body and then eventually touched his skin. He felt like those were ants that were biting him. The points where the pollen touched began to turn green. It was a poison that caused damage, so he could counter with Heal, but the more Ryan lets the pollen touch him, the stronger the damage over time will become.

Suddenly, Alissa cast a magic barrier around them. As expected, she wasn't dumb enough to use only on herself. In any case, now that Ryan looked at her, he noticed that she was looking at the sky for some reason. When Ryan did the same... he found a massive chunk of earth flying in the distance.

"Floating blocks of earth..." Ryan sighed. "Oh boy."

That was probably the location of their target. While that was fine and all, Ryan couldn't help but wonder... why their enemies always had to be so damn more powerful than him? Not only could they create their base in a flying fortress, but they also managed to create a massive garden that could emit so many pollens that the color of the sky changed from blue to pinkish red.

"I want to conserve my energy, so I will fly on human form," Alissa said. "You should create an earth platform and fly using that."

Ryan thought that something like that was possible, but he could only do so for a couple of minutes with his current magic powers. Although he had some mana potions, those were for the fight... in any case, spending them would be better than flying, always depending on Alissa. Against dragons, Ryan will need the battle experience to fight and fly at the same time, so that was a good chance for that. ρ??(??)??  
?

Although that flying chunk of earth could be seen pretty easily, the place wasn't quite close as Ryan imagined. However, thanks to the fact that he had to fly for several minutes, he managed to notice several things. First of all, the garden wasn't a real garden... it was like a labyrinth of poisonous plants created to weaken all the invaders. In the distance, the only color Ryan could see was green and red, so perhaps, the labyrinth had been created to kill the previous species of that planet. It was insane, but it was also highly possible that the labyrinth covered the whole planet.

"I guess we are close enough," Alissa said, and then she began to fly low.

Ryan accompanied her, already imagining what she was planning to do. Still, he couldn't help but shrug at the idea of attacking their base without seeing things from another angle. After all, they only saw the lower part of the massive floating rock. In any case, Ryan could only watch since the rock was like ten kilometers above the ground level, and Alissa was always the one who decides what to do during those jobs.

Alissa transformed into her dragon form, and then she began to create another massive fireball of dark flames. However, before her attack could grow any further, some vines raised from the ground and grabbed her legs. Several other vines did the same in just a few moments until Alissa suddenly lost all her sense of touch coming from her legs. Alissa tried to fly, but before that also could happen, all the labyrinth moved toward her while completely ignoring Ryan. In the blink of an eye, Alissa was enveloped by the labyrinth and became a massive sphere of plants. That also revealed the true state of that world... it was a lifeless land where Ryan could only see the colors: brown, white, and black. It looked like all the resources and nutrients of that planet had been drained by something.

“Hopefully, I will learn something from this... if I manage to escape.”

Alissa wasn't dead. Ryan could feel her presence, and the sphere enveloping her still was moving. So, she was fighting back. The problem was: will she be able to free herself? Ryan had no idea. Before he could think of any way to solve that situation, Ryan suddenly heard a voice.

“Are you the two that Baal mentioned? How utterly pathetic!”

That voice was filled with amazement and absolute contempt. Still, it didn't surprise Ryan since it was clear that it belonged to a demon... coming from that massive rock, a single being came flying. As usual, Ryan tried to use Appraisal, but the skill failed... it looked like it was time to learn the improved version of that skill.

Based on the voice, Ryan already knew that the demon was a female. However, she was much bigger if compared to ordinary women. The demon was like two and a half meters long, and she was also quite fit. Ryan didn't expect any less, given that she had a green great sword on her back. Unlike the demons, Ryan saw before, that one only had a single horn in the middle of her forehead. Her eyes were completely black, but the irises had a silver tone. The demon also had two pairs of bat-like wings. One pair was recurved upward and the other downward. Still, the demons' most prominent features were her red hair, her smile full of confidence, and her bikini armor. Ryan couldn't help but wonder what she thought when she chose that bikini armor. At the very least, she didn't think that will protect her vitals. Still, as expected of the leader of the succubus.

## Chapter 187

“Oh?” The female demon said while looking at Ryan. “I didn't expect the human Baal mentioned would be this interesting. You look quite average, but your eyes... I like them.”

Ryan didn't have time to concentrate on Power Shot, so the best way to cause damage was to rely on his magic weapons. He didn't have much time to train using all of them with wind magic and also use that magic to recover Ryan's mana with potions, but he will have to learn by trying now that it had come to this.

"I see, I see," The demon said. "After losing your parents, you learned that your best friend and fiancée had an affair. No wonder you are so conflicted inside. You can't bring yourself to trust others, but at the same time, you can't completely ignore them. It must be tough to try to honor the memories of others when your world is on the brink of annihilation, huh?"

Ryan bit his lips in annoyance,... to find another monster that could read his mind was so freaking annoying that he was having a hard time controlling his urges to punch the fucking demon. Even worse, it was a demon who liked to hear her own voice.

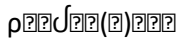
"Ah, such sweet despair!" The demon said. "It is so nice to see someone so conflicted struggling not to show how much in pain they are. It is even better to see all that energy being used in a battle that you cannot win alone. Still, you insist on rushing toward your death... Ah. What a pity... it looks like you are really seeking your death."

Ryan opened his eyes widely when he heard that. Was that true? He was doing something like that without even noticing? Or was that the words of a demon trying to make him lose his cool? Ryan couldn't tell...

"My name is Lilith, fourth general of Lucifer's army," Lilith stopped smiling and then faced Ryan with a serious expression. "I thought you would be a fine addition to my collection, but I am not interested in toys that already want to die before I start to playing with them."

Lilith... another name of a pretty known demon. It looked like things were bound to become worse while dealing with those unknown forces. Regardless, Ryan just learned what happened to the men who were captured. Judging by Lilith's words, they probably didn't have a nice time since her goal was to make them wish for their own deaths. Still... she couldn't have a collection of dead toys...

"I guess it makes sense, you are trying to find meaning in your life by helping others," Lilith said. "As much as you think it is annoying, you can't move on without trying to convince yourself that you are doing something meaningful... what a complicated man you are."

“... For a demon, you sure talk a lot,” Ryan said and then fired dozens of Flame Arrows. 

Ryan went all out, but his projectiles stopped in front of Lilith when she raised her right hand. As if that wasn't enough, all his Flame Arrows became a single arrow, and then the projectile turned in his direction. Ryan had planned to reach that level of control over the enemies' spell, but it was quite shocking to see what he wanted to achieve being used against him.

As if things couldn't get any worse, his spear, sword, and hammer also stopped a few meters before they could hit Lilith. Ryan had used wind magic to move them when she was busy blocking the Flame Arrows, but the surprising attack failed miserably.

“Telekinesis...”

“I am impressed and disappointed,” Lilith declared. “I am impressed that you reached this level of power in such a short time. The fact that you do everything to gain power and win maybe helped you with that. But I am disappointed that you thought only this level of power would be enough to face us. I heard that human arrogance knows no limits, but... I didn't think it was this bad.”

Lilith fired the giant Flame Arrow toward Ryan alongside his magic weapons. He tried to dodge to the side, but the weapons followed him. To make things worse, their speed far exceeded Ryan's, and he barely had time to use his shield to block them. Although he succeeded, Ryan was still sent flying toward the ground. The impact raised a pretty large curtain of dust and also created a small crater. Ryan's health dropped to dangerous levels, and a lot of his bones were broken.

Congratulations! The skill Pain Resistance has leveled up.

Pain Resistance Lv 09 → Lv 12

Effect: Decreases the pain caused by all types of attacks by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

“Shit... this is what I get from focusing solely on increasing my firing power.” Ryan cursed after biting his lips.

Ryan’s backpack hit the ground, and all the potions inside of it broke. Some of the liquid recovered his mana, but most of them was flowing outside the backpack. Ryan used Heal to recover himself, but even though his health was full in no time, his broken bones didn’t mend that fast. Still, for some reason, Lilith didn’t try to finish him off.

“You seem pretty confident that given time, you can one-shot kill anyone,” Lilith said. “Go on, do it. Show me your best attack, and I will show you how utterly foolish you are. I need to get some fun out of this, at least.”

Ryan bit his lips in annoyance... that was the chance he wanted, but he didn’t expect that the enemy would give him that opportunity and only to humiliate him. Still, he could make the damn monster regret its choice. With all the liquid inside the backpack, Ryan managed to concentrate Power Short for three full minutes. Thanks to that, his bow was about to break, but in the end, Lilith didn’t show any sign of concern on her face.

## Chapter 188

At the last moment, Ryan hesitated. That would be his most powerful attack, and yet... something inside him was telling that it wasn’t enough. Not against an opponent of that level. Lilith’s face, full of confidence, only made Ryan more certain of it. Then Ryan realized it... Lilith almost killed him with a single magic attack. A combination of elemental manipulations and Telekinesis. However, she didn’t look like a mage... her forte was probably her physical strength, and yet... she defeated him with something she wasn’t good at. She never even tried to draw her sword...

“What is wrong?” Lilith asked. “Losing confidence? You certainly took your time for that? I honestly can’t believe that you never felt like this before. You have been pretty lucky, haven’t you? Always fighting enemies that could be defeated.”

That was true... Ryan always knew that he had been lucky. A dungeon of the weakest species of monsters appeared close to him, and he was one of the first humans to obtain a class. Still... he always thought that he had worked hard, but... perhaps that had been only his ego comforting him.

“SHUT UP!” Ryan shouted and then fired his arrow in his rage.

In the end, thanks to all that power, the string of his bow broke, and Ryan was also sent flying backward due to the mass release of energy. However, when he stopped and got up, he saw that Lilith was holding the bone arrow with two fingers. She managed to disperse all that energy with two fingers... after a few moments, the bone arrow turned into dust.

“I guess this isn’t half bad,” Lilith said while looking at her fingers slightly bleeding. “You probably have potential, but you won’t live to reach it.”

With his eyes wide open, Ryan heard all of that without showing a single reaction... he had been utterly defeated. His most powerful attack, the best conditions, and yet... he didn’t manage to do anything against the demon. What had he been doing for the last two months? He did nothing but fight. Ryan had become a power-seeking idiot who treated others harshly because they were stupid for trying to increase their strength with numbers, and yet... that was all he could accomplish. Was he just an arrogant man who didn’t have the skills to back-up his attitude? Those questions began to torment him...

Even Alissa had learned something that made her admit that she alone wouldn’t be able to defeat her enemies. Although she didn’t share that information, maybe it was related to the current situation. Ryan refused to admit that he couldn’t survive alone, but if there are many more enemies like Lilith out there, then...

“I guess I can understand how come Baal didn’t defeat you,” Lilith said while looking at the massive sphere that was enveloping Alissa. “Although he lost some of his powers, a high-class dragon still is quite the troublesome foe.”

Suddenly, the sphere began to be burned by black flames. Alissa finally was managing to free herself, but when she appeared, Alissa already looked exhausted... that prison took quite the toll on her.

????(?)???

“This is annoying, Orgar... but it looks like only can fight her,” Alissa said while she was trying to catch her breath.

“Under normal circumstances, I would gladly accept this task, but it is impossible. I can’t defeat her on her own territory. With my full mana, maybe, but not with this amount and while she has those damn plants under her control.”

Alissa also clicked her tongue in annoyance... to think that she would be forced to retreat without obtaining a single piece of information. She understood when she saw those three dragons that things were much more complicated than she thought, but still...

“I can’t read your mind, and I have no interest in other women,” Lilith declared. “So, I will end this quickly.”

Lilith grabbed her sword, and at the same time, Alissa’s body began to shine. The light expanded until Lilith could barely keep her eyes open. As expected, against light magic, the demons were weak, but only that was everything that Alissa could do. She charged toward Lilith in order to fool her, but in the last moment, when Lilith prepared her attack, Alissa changed her direction.

“We are leaving.” Alissa declared via Telepathy.

Ryan, who still was in trying to understand where he failed and how he reached that situation, managed to react to Alissa’s words. That was pathetic, but the only thing he could do was to run away. Ryan couldn’t fly fast enough while he stands above an earth platform, so he sent himself flying by creating an earth hand and throwing him like a spear. In the blink of an eye, they reached the teleportation point. However, before they could escape, they saw a massive green energy beam following them behind. Lilith finally had swung her sword... The attack was splitting earth like grass, so it was clear that things will get pretty messy if they hit by it.

“Hang in there, Alissa,” Orgar said.

Orgar took control over Alissa’s body and then become a dragon for a single moment, and then it happened... for whatever reason, the magic projectile stopped moving. No... the entire world stopped. Ryan’s consciousness still was working, but he couldn’t move a single finger. Before he could try to understand what happened, Orgar punched him, and then he touched the teleportation point. Soon after, Orgar and Alissa followed him.



When Ryan returned to Earth, the pain of Orgar's punch started to torment him. Still, despite that, Ryan couldn't bring himself to complain or even worry about that. The fight against Lilith still was bothering him... the result, the things he heard... he couldn't accept any of them. Still, coming up with excuses will only make him feel like a fool, so the only thing Ryan could do was to deal with his frustration in silence. However, that only made things more complicated than Ryan could have imagined.

## Chapter 189

When Alissa left the dungeon, her followers sighed in relief. She seemed exhausted and quite angry, but she was alive, and that was more than enough for them. As for Ryan, no one cared about his return, and he couldn't care less about the fact that no one was waiting for him either. Still, before leaving the dungeon, he filled his backpack with stamina and mana potions again.

"I can't let these coins go to waste again. If I had died back there, those wouldn't have served any purpose. From now on, I will use all of them to train my skills as fast as possible."

Ryan didn't know if he had done since the very beginning, things could have been different against Lilith, but still, at the moment, that was the only thing he could do to lessen the frustration he was feeling. He will have to think much harder to completely erase that feeling of his body or fight and train like there was no tomorrow and then obtain the power to kick those demons' asses. That will definitely make him feel better.

"Have you learned your lesson?" Alissa asked.

"No," Ryan replied as if it was a matter of fact.

"... I guess the demon was right. You have a death wish," Alissa sighed and then shrugged. "I give up. You can go and die trying to satisfy your pride. I think that will be better for Arthur and me."

By that, Alissa probably meant that she wouldn't have to worry about anyone getting in her way if one day she decides to look after him alone. Or maybe that was just Ryan's mindset making things bad things due to the situation. Alissa improved in some aspects, so she grew a little. Maybe she won't become that unreasonable again.

“So, you heard that, huh?” Ryan furrowed his eyebrows. “You can’t trust the words of a demon that easily.”

“Indeed, but aren’t you pretty shaken by it?” Alissa asked. “Why would lies bother you so much? Anyway, this isn’t a topic that interests me any longer. Thanks for your help all this time and for treating me like a normal human being. Try not to die full of regrets.”

Alissa was all over the place, so Ryan couldn’t tell if she was thankful for giving those warnings or if she was sarcastic. Regardless, her words had some truth in them, Ryan refuted what the demon said, but deep down... he somewhat always knew that he was walking in a fair line that could cause his death any moment. ρ??(??(??)???)

After leaving with her soldiers to give them other classes, Ryan was left alone with his thoughts. In the end, he still had to solve the situation with the second group and how to ‘seal’ the dungeons, but right at that moment, he wanted to do something else, and that was to train alone and increase his powers.

“I wonder if I am not just repeating the same mistakes... I focused only on myself in those two months, but in the end...”

It wasn’t very pleasant to second-guess himself, but Ryan couldn’t help it given the circumstances. Still, Ryan decided to finish what he had started at the very least regarding the second group of survivors. As for sealing the dungeons, it wasn’t his job to make every single city peaceful again, so he decided to stop thinking about it since after thinking for several days, he didn’t find a proper answer.

Helena and the survivors still were guarding the Giant Ants’ dungeon. Although they had some scars here and there, their numbers didn’t decrease, probably because they had more than enough coins to buy health potions.

“My job here is over,” Ryan approached then and declared. “Alissa and the others probably won’t bother you anymore, so you can stay here if you want. However, unless you want to repeat the same disaster, you guys will have to divide yourself to clear those three dungeons, and with your current strength, I don’t think that is possible. In any case, I can take you guys to a relatively safe place. You will be able to sleep in a bed and not worry about being attacked while you sleep. The only real problem is that the commander of the place is a Colonel of the army.”

“The army... you say,” Helena frowned. “Can we trust them? We have been waiting for them for so long...”

“I don’t think you should, but as you already know, the officers in our country aren’t receiving orders from anyone else, so you can’t exactly blame them for something like that,” Ryan explained. “Besides, if you feel unsatisfied, you can always leave later. Just like me, you don’t have an obligation to become anyone’s soldier.”

Since Ryan felt that talking with Helena was easy, she became the voice of the group more or less. After giving their opinions to her, they reached an agreement. Although they wouldn’t work with Ryan, at least they knew he wouldn’t recommend them to go to an unreasonable place. Also, considering that they learned from their previous mistakes, the survivors decided that they would keep their independence level while working with others. All that in order to be able to take their own decisions when the time comes.

“We will go with you,” Helena declared.

“All right, then pack your things and prepare yourselves,” Ryan said. “The trip will be long, and you guys will have to make good use of Dash and stamina potions. That will serve as good training. Also... if you guys cause problems while you stay in that base or if you leave it, I will have to deal with you, and depending on your actions, you may not like what I will do.”

The survivors gulped when they heard that. They recalled the moment Ryan made the eyes of the succubus explode, and they still couldn’t understand how he did it. Although he was planning to do that with humans, Ryan reached a point where he couldn’t hesitate anymore. Whatever happens, he will try to avoid reliving that frustration, and maybe he will have to pay a high price to achieve that.

## Chapter 190

Somehow, even though Ryan had to stop and slow down several times since he was the only one who could find monsters before the monsters find them, he and the survivors reached the base in less than a day. That was quite surprising given that some folks were over sixty, and there were a few kids as well among that group. Another fact that completely helped them in that regard was that they avoided dragons completely, even though they saw three along the way. In any case, Mark was waiting for Ryan when he and the others arrived.

"It seemed you succeeded again," Mark said. "Still, I can't understand why you and Alissa split up."

"That is none of your business," Ryan said. "If you want to talk with me, that is fine, but you will have to do so while we walk. I will leave again soon. Sorry, but I have too many things to do and too little time."

"All right," Mark said. "Alissa returned earlier with her... followers? However, I didn't hear a report from her. I tried to talk with her, but as usual... she is a difficult one."

Ryan sighed... that was the downside of working with people who valued stiff rules too much. In any case, Ryan gave a proper summary of the events because otherwise, Mark won't be able to plan his actions accordingly, and for the good or for the worse, his actions might help or prejudice Ryan, even if they weren't originally his goals.

"To think that the president..." Hugo muttered in shock.

"Don't speak of this, Hugo," Mark said. "We don't know if... anyway, we can't let the situation scare any further than this. It is regrettable, but it looks like we can only rely on ourselves from now on. In any case, it is good that we learned this sooner than later."

Ryan, Mark, and Hugo finally reached the warehouse. Thankfully since the place was well-cooled down, the meat of the dragons didn't rot. However, Ryan had a hard time wondering how he was going to eat the frozen dragon hearts. If he cooks them, will they lose their effects? Hopefully not.

"Do you want to sell your dragons' heart?" Ryan asked.

"Why do you want it?" Mark asked. "We started analyzing every single piece of the dragons, but..."

Ryan began to wonder if he should even sell that valuable information about dragon hearts. It was a pity, but he couldn't show interest in anything, and others won't ask the reason behind it. Still, will that affect the world all that much? How many humans out there can fight dragons? It was possibly one hundred or even less... although there were six hundred people stronger than Ryan, a good part of them wasn't insane like he was.

“I will sell you that information for one hundred thousand coins,” Ryan said.

“What?” Mark asked in shock.

“Are you insane?” Hugo joined the conversation. “There is no way that we have so many available coins!”

“Well, I won’t give this information for free,” Ryan said.

“... How about we sell the dragon heart for one hundred thousand coins?” Mark rubbed his chin thoughtfully.

“You are a real pain in the ass...” Ryan frowned. “I guess it is fine. If you give me dragon heart, I will tell you its use.”

After receiving the dragon heart, Ryan began to eat it like that. Although he never ate anything uncooked, something like that wouldn’t stop him now. As expected, the fact that it was frozen only made things worse, but in the end, after Ryan finished that terrible meal, he felt more than satisfied with it.

Your speed increased by twenty points.

Ryan told what just had happened, but Mark and Hugo had a hard time processing what they heard... they couldn’t believe that just eating something would have such an effect even though that something was a dragon’s heart. In any case, despite the fact that the dragon hearts were bigger than a human’s head, Ryan ate the other two without ceremony. When he felt sick of it, he made everything go down by drinking water. He needed more power, much more power, and the best way to achieve it was by hunting dragons.

Your dexterity increased by twenty points.

Your intelligence increased by twenty points.

“I was lucky, but I can’t rely on luck. I should kill as many dragons as I can, but I should focus on those that can increase my dexterity.”

“Although that piece of information is valuable, I don’t think we will be able to use it for the time being,” Mark said. “In any case, I thank you for the help this time. However, I need to ask, what are your plans right now?”

“I will clear as many dungeons as possible,” Ryan declared. “Meanwhile, you should create a map with the location of all dungeons in our country. I will need that, and I helped more than I should to deserve that.”

“Certainly,” Mark nodded. “We owe you quite a lot. Still, is there something else we can help you with?”

“There is, but I will leave that for later,” Ryan replied. “If you try to do too many things at once, you will end up doing a half-assed job at all of them. Just focus on finding the survivors that you want and finding the dungeons for me.”

Before leaving, Ryan decided to grab some bones and scales of the dragons he defeated. It was time to check if they could make better arrows than the ones his bows could make. Hopefully, Ryan will be able to create some reusable arrows, if that doesn’t happen... He will have to use them to create projectiles to deal with small fries. Although tough opponents will make him stronger faster, the small fries will grant him enough coins to train for long periods of time. Ryan will definitely need both of those aspects. Besides, it wasn’t like the powerhouses were just lying around waiting for him.

## Chapter 191

Before leaving the base, Ryan checked Arthur by using Search. As expected, Alissa was with him. Apparently, her soldiers were also with her, but they were not foolish enough to cause a ruckus and make the kid cry.

After that, Ryan left the base and went straight to the golems’ dungeon. Those creatures had a pretty sturdy body, so they will be the perfect test subjects. Somehow, even though the string broke when he

attacks Lilith, the bow was back to normal when he used Repair, and durability was complete again. So, now that he knew that, Ryan doesn't have to hold back anymore.

Using the dragon bones, he created a perfect copy of his bone arrows. Although the system didn't recognize it as a weapon and showed its status, Ryan could tell that the projectile was much more powerful than the regular arrows he bow could produce. Not only were they heavier, but they also a much better balance.

Without a hint of hesitation, Ryan fired one of those at the middle of one of the golems' bodies. Although the soldiers guarding the area frowned when Ryan suddenly appeared, they didn't complain when Ryan did their job. They wanted to slack off a little. Regardless... the impact caused a loud noise, and like Alissa's attacks, it made the golem explode into several pieces. When Ryan went to check the arrow, he noticed that the projectile only lost a little bit of its tip.

"I guess using powerful arrows can also increase my attack power and save the durability of my bow... it would be perfect if you could turn this kind of arrow into a magic item with a specific effect."

Ryan did some tests and confirmed that he could repair those arrows, and each one of them could kill at least ten golems before they start to lose some piercing power. They will be useful when Ryan starts to hunt dragons, but their weight was a problem, and Ryan didn't have a quiver to store those long arrows. In the end, he could only carry around five of them.

"Well, if anything, they will be useful when I hit them alongside my hammer... the bone arrows will resist the attacks and pierce the dragons' body even deeper."

The bones will be good arrows. The question was: what could the scales become? Defensive gear? Ryan certainly didn't have the skills to make them, and unless they give bonus statuses, it would be a waste to wear in the place of chainmail and breastplate. Although another single attack almost killed him, Ryan still wanted to make more weapons. However, this time, throwing knives would be the best option. Thanks to the fact that they were incredibly sharp, Ryan would be able to kill several small fries with them easily, and if he uses Wind Manipulation, things will be even more interesting since the scales weren't heavy.

"Although that seems interesting, the limit of their attack power and speed will always be related to me. Also, if I have to rely on mana all the time, it will be meaningless when a really tough enemy appears... I guess making my own rapid-fire crossbow and make the bolts with the scales will be more useful."

Ryan always had some ores to use, so crafting a crossbow wasn't a problem. Besides, he could use such a weapon with a single hand, so that wasn't so bad. However, there were other problems. Without mana, the weapon won't be able to reload magically fast, and Ryan still will have to recover his bolts after using them... he would save time during fights, but he will have to waste some in between. In the end, wasting time was necessary to level up his skills, and even though that would consume his mana, fighting like that would make his skills level up... so, it wasn't like wasting time.

"Yep, the answer to everything is... recovery."

After deciding to keep the bones and scales of the dragon stored, for the time being, Ryan decided to head southeast this time. Based on the things he knew, Ryan had to keep hunting dragons for several reasons. The main reason was to strengthen himself and the second reason was to control the damage they might cause. Considering that they were fighting against the megalodons over dominance of the coast of the country, Ryan knew the perfect place to find both monsters: Miami.

"I don't think I can gain anything like dragon hearts by fighting megalodons, and I can't kill them unless they leave the ocean. Still, since they are tough opponents, my skills will level up fast. Besides, there are some big cities between here and there, and based on my experience, I am bound to found a few dungeons around those places."

Alone, Ryan will have to work hard to clear the dungeons that already broke and are about to break again. However, that itself was fine. He was expecting to return to the base in a few days. Ryan was determined to grind like there was no tomorrow for quite a while. Unless something happens, he won't stop until he gets the strength to kick some demons' asses.







Class: Hunter Lv 41 (+ 02 UP) / Elementalist Lv 40 (+ 02 UP)/ Monk Lv 16 (-)

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

Rank: 611th

Health: 364/367 (1. 78/s)



Mana: 676/676 (1.78/s)      

Stamina: 495/495 (1.78/s)

Strength: 10 (+63) (+60)

Dexterity: 700 (+430) (+27)

Speed: 70 (+184) (+28)

Intelligence: 09 (+231) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+71) (+69)

Control: 06 (+227) (+10)

Mentality: 07 (+11)

Luck: 50 (+9)

Recovery: 400 (+469) (+200)

Willpower: 09 (+11)

Coins: 619.900

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 38 (+ 05 UP), Power of Money Lv 06 (+ 05 UP)

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 41 (+ 02 UP), Concentration Lv 41 (+ 02 UP), Archery Lv 41 (+ 02 UP), Accuracy Lv 41 (+ 02 UP), Stealth Lv 31 (+ 02 UP), Pain Resistance Lv 12 (+ 03 UP), Rage Lv 15 (+ 05 UP), Swordsmanship Lv 25 (+ 03 UP), Spearmanship Lv 17 (+ 04 UP), Hammer Mastery Lv 01

Spells: Heal Lv 17 (+ 03 UP), Repair Lv 15 (+ 03 UP), Auto-Production Lv 25 (+ 03 UP), Earth Manipulation Lv 30 (+ 05 UP), Wind Manipulation Lv 33 (+ 03 UP), War Drum Lv 06 (+ 05 UP), Mana Arrow Lv 08 (+ 07 UP), Search Lv 05 (+ 04 UP), Radar Lv 09 (+ 08 UP), Destination Lv 01

Support Skills: Sleep Resistance Lv 16 (+ 03 UP), Charm Resistance Lv 01, Illusion Resistance Lv 01,

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 35, Beastmaster Lv 16 (+ 03 UP), Archer Lv 30 (+ 03 UP), Combat Archer Lv 07 (+ 03 UP),

Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 20 (+ 05 UP), Bard Lv 03 (+ 02 UP), Navigator Lv 04 (+ 03 UP),

Chapter 192

After seeing dragons flying more than a few times, Ryan noticed a few patterns. It was really simple, but if he were close to the east coast, the dragons would always appear coming from the east and head west. In the opposite situation, the opposite would also happen. After thinking for a while, Ryan concluded that some dragons were just that weak. After noticing that the battle wouldn't become easy against the megalodons, they would change their hunting spot. He will have to see the dragons fighting on the ocean to confirm that, but Ryan was fairly confident on that theory. So, right now, he was hiding a few kilometers away from the West side of Nashville, hunting reptilians and waiting for a dragon to show up.

Reptilian – Lv 45

Health: 750/750

Mana: 750/750

Stamina: 750/750

Strength: 350 (+40)

Dexterity: 350 (+40)

Speed: 350 (+100)

Intelligence: 350 (+50)

Endurance: 350 (+150)

Control: 350 (+50)

Mentality: 350 (+50)

Luck: 350

Recovery: 350 (+200)

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Furious Charge Lv 50  $\rho_{\text{??}}\text{C}_{\text{??}}(\text{?})_{\text{??}}$

Passive Physical Skills: Passive Recovery Lv 20

Spells: Water Spear Lv 50

Support Skills: Water Resistance Lv 80, Wind Resistance Lv 40

“Mmm... they have some well-balanced status. Still, it is kind of weird that I know I have their DNA on me. In any case, it is kind of surprising that they have the same level as the succubus. They don't seem much more troublesome like them. From my perspective, melee monsters are kind of easy to hunt. The only problem is their endurance and recovery.”

Reptilians were humanoid creatures that could walk on two feet and also had spears as their weapons. They were similar to Sahuagins, but their green hide seemed sturdier. Despite their status, they were heavy and could create small craters when they jump since they had a great physique and were two meters tall. Surprisingly enough, they were pretty quick on their feet as well.

Although Ryan could easily kill them with his ordinary shots, he couldn't because the monsters always walked in six groups. Ryan never saw them talking, but they were smart enough to use their numbers and make create a perfect encirclement around Nashville. The very moment Ryan starts a fight, the next two groups of Reptilians one hundred meters away will definitely appear before he finishes the first six. If things go wrong, other groups may also join the fight. That would be disastrous in more senses than one.

“Shit... I don't have time to be cautious against small fries... I have to keep advancing as fast as possible, but...”

Although that also worked well for Ryan, the fact that Ryan had many obstacles, such as trees, prevented him from sniping the monsters from so much far away. If Ryan creates a tower with Earth Manipulation, he might nullify that problem. However, he will also reveal himself to the monsters. In the end, he decided to do exactly that. First things first, he had to create holes in that encirclement, and Ryan will only achieve that by killing those creatures.

“This will be a good practice... I need to make the most out of this situation, anyway.”

After he created his vantage point, Ryan could see the city ahead of him quite well, and despite some exceptions, he also could see the Reptilians and their encirclement. His range had become greater than that, but currently, Ryan was five hundred meters away from the monsters. He decided to attack from

that distance because even though his range was greater, he needed some time to aim. From that distance, Ryan only needed two seconds.

Without wasting time, Ryan began his attack. When his first arrow struck the head of the first monster, the creature fell dead instantly. The other Reptilians frowned since they didn't understand what had happened. When the creatures finally noticed the arrow, another victim had fallen. At that exact same moment, the monsters grunted, and Ryan heard that even from very far away. He didn't know what they said, but Ryan imagined the translation since four groups began to run toward his direction.

You obtained 40 coins.

You obtained 40 coins.

Thanks to the obstacles, Ryan managed to eliminate two full entire parties before the monsters finally saw him. Enraged, the creatures fired Water Spears toward him, but they only hit Ryan's vantage point and saved him from the trouble of destroying it. While Ryan was fallen after jumping from the tower, three other Reptilians fell dead after being attacked by behind by Ryan's spear, sword and hammer.

Ryan surprised the enemies by hiding his weapons behind some bushes. He thought the shock would also paralyze the other monsters... but it didn't. The creatures ignored their fallen friends and attacked Ryan with more Water Spears before he could land. Their attack sent Ryan flying for dozens of meters, but thanks to his shield's effect, they also suffered some damage. Thanks to that surprise, Ryan gained a few more seconds to attack three other monsters with his magic weapons.

At that point in time, the Reptilians were smart enough to understand that they couldn't kill Ryan, so they did the only thing they could do... run away. Ryan clicked his tongue in annoyance since it was clear that they wanted to alert their friends. Although he could chase them by using some buffs, he didn't have enough mana. His backpack was filled with them, but he had decided to use them only against the big guns. In the end, Ryan managed to kill three of those six thanks to Power of Money.

“Let's hide and see what they are going to do now.”

Much to Ryan's surprise, nothing really changed. For a while, the hole on the encirclement stayed there, but then eventually, four new parties arrived to close the hole. Although that wasn't so bad, it wasn't exactly good for Ryan either since it was just too weird.

“Let’s see if they will keep doing that for long.” Ryan smiled viciously.

## Chapter 193

Much to Ryan’s annoyance, the same thing happened over and over again. Eventually, after he killed hundreds of Reptilians, they decreased the size of their encirclement by taking retreating a little. However, that much progress wasn’t enough for Ryan.

“I wonder why I didn’t see any other species of monsters until now... all the other big cities had at least four dungeons nearby them. Also, this encirclement is quite bold considering that dragons can appear left and right.”

It was getting late, and the sun was setting, so Ryan could always infiltrate at night by flying using an earth platform. However, that was only avoiding the problem, not solving it, and he also could get surrounded by the monsters if something goes wrong.

“I guess I will have to do that again in order to save time.”

By that, Ryan meant to use the Power of Money. By using that skill, he could attack and kill the monsters even faster than he could with his bow. The first attack would be the key. Ryan needed to exterminate an entire Reptilians party without giving them a single second to alert their allies. Fortunately, he already knew how to do that.

After sunset, Ryan began to fly using an earth platform. Thanks to the darkness of the night and the fact the monsters made bonfires to illuminate things around them. The monsters never noticed their approach or when he used Wind Manipulation to make his magic weapons fly toward the heads of a party of Reptilians. At the same time, Ryan fired a single arrow and completely destroyed the head of one of them. A few moments later, the magic weapons did their magic, and Ryan finally finished things off with Power of Money.

“Success... still, when those bastards are going to leave their weapons behind? Their spears always disappear when they die, but they seem pretty sharp...”

Putting such things aside, Ryan decided to work fast. He couldn't let the monsters notice that something happened. Even though everything was dark, every single bit of noise could be heard from hundred meters away.

"The magic weapons can do half of the job, but things could become much faster if I had made some knives with the scales... live and learn. Adapt, overcome, improvise."

Ryan repeated the same thing he did several times previously, but instead of flying on an earth platform, he did it from the ground. Although his coins weren't increasing since he was constantly using Power of Money, at the very least, he managed to eliminate several parties in just a few hours. Also, Ryan finally noticed why he didn't see any other monster until now. It was because of the encirclement... the Reptilians were killing all the monsters that were spawning in the area for some reason.

Giant Bee – Lv 34

Health: 330/330

Mana: 550/550

Stamina: 550/550

Strength: 160

Dexterity: 430

Speed: 470

Intelligence: 120

Endurance: 155

Control: 360

Mentality: 160

Luck: 250

Recovery: 270

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Sting Lv 50

Passive Physical Skills: Bleed Lv 25

Spells: Fly Lv 35

Support Skills: Wind Resistance Lv 60    

Velociraptor– Lv 40

Health: 1200/500

Mana: 400/400

Stamina: 1100/700

Strength: 350

Dexterity: 150



Speed: 300 (+100)

Intelligence: 250 (+50)

Endurance: 550 (+100)

Control: 150 (+50)

Mentality: 430 (+100)

Luck: 50

Recovery: 600 (+80)

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Bite Lv 50

Passive Physical Skills: Iron Skin Lv 25

Spells: Haste Lv 35

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 60

“That is odd... but I guess that would explain why their levels are higher.”

Again, Ryan could understand that fighting against other species will make the monsters stronger. Still, he couldn't understand how come the Reptilians managed to take over Nashville's entire territory. They

were stronger than the Giant Bees and Velociraptors, but not enough to dominate them completely. Considering the dungeon breaks, Ryan thought that the dinosaurs would have the upper hand thanks to the T-rexes. Still, it seemed a bit too soon to consider that since Ryan had no idea what were the Reptilian's bosses. Against that level of power, only raw power wouldn't be enough, but perhaps if the bosses were sapient creatures...

“At-rex will definitely be a pretty good tamed monster in this area. Not only a creature like that will give me a decent vantage point, but it will also draw the monsters' attention.”

In any case, despite the fact that Ryan broke and was completely destroying the monsters' encirclement, he didn't find a single T-rex. That was quite surprising, but it looked like the reptilians completely subjugated the monsters spawned during those seven weeks and those that appeared thanks to the dungeon break.

Ryan's blood began to boil since that was a sign that they concluded that humans were no longer a treat... he will make sure to pay them dearly for that... as if he was possessed by something, Ryan began to hunt the reptilians even faster than before. He didn't want to let his rage control his actions, but the idea of another species of monsters looking down on him was unbearable. Fortunately, Ryan stuck with his tactics at the very least, and he kept slaying those creatures without being noticed. However, eventually, Ryan was forced to stop because something interesting appeared.

Elves Wand

Effect: Grant you the power to use the skill: Thunder Arrow Lv 20. Intelligence + 30.

Cost: 20 mana

“Well, well... it looks I finally got lucky. Although this isn't a bow or a crossbow, such skill will definitely come in handy. The paralyzing effect of electric attacks is something I have been waiting for.”

Ryan wasn't the type of person who believed in fate and destiny, but he decided to think that he had been rewarded for keeping his cool at a decent level. Regardless, despite the fact that such skill wasn't actually his, the wand will join the ranks of his useful magic weapons. For someone like him who focused on surprise attacks and speed, electric attacks will decrease Ryan's chances of getting caught off guard. Hopefully, he will learn a skill by using the weapon as well.

## Chapter 194

You obtained 40 coins.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Wand Mastery.

Effect: Increases damage when using wands by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

As expected, Ryan learned a skill, and even though it wasn't much, each level up would help him a lot because Ryan had many classes and skills that increased his intelligence.

"My intelligence decides the speed and strength of my magic attacks, but since I am indirectly controlling my magic weapons with magic, magic projectiles will always be faster than them. I can use Thunder Arrow to paralyze my foes and then finish them off with other magic weapons or even with a charged Power Shot. It will depend on how resistant they are to electricity."

Thunder Arrow was quite noisy, so Ryan wouldn't be able to surprise all members of a full reptilian party. However, it could help Ryan with something else. After taking some deep breaths, Ryan pointed the wand to his hand, and then he cast Thunder Arrow.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Electric Resistance.

Effect: Decreases the damage caused by all electric-type attacks by one point.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Electric Resistance has leveled up.

Electric Resistance Lv 1 → Lv 5

Effect: Decreases the damage caused by all electric-type attacks by one point per level.

You obtained 04 status points.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Shock Resistance.

Effect: Decreases the effect caused by all electric-type attacks by one percent per level.  $\rho \int \sqrt{f(x)} dx$

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Shock Resistance has leveled up.

Shock Resistance Lv 1 → Lv 5

Effect: Decreases the damage caused by all electric-type attacks by one point per level.

You obtained 04 status points.

“Urgh... damn it... it was worse than I thought. Still, I guess it was worth the hassle...”

Ryan only aimed to scratch his hand, but in the end, the electric current didn't let him suffer just a little. Regardless, Ryan just confirmed several things with that, he could train his own resistance by wounding himself and that the system had skills that could resist negative effects. That will probably damage his psyche a little, but Ryan couldn't care less about such small details. As far as he was concerned, the world needed more crazy individuals now since reason didn't prevent the human race from being slaughtered by monsters.

Regardless, Ryan resumed his attack and proceeded to slaughter the reptilians. They only noticed the amount of damage Ryan had caused too late. After sunrise, the monsters noticed that one-fourth of her

allies had been killed overnight. Some monsters took the fallen place, but this time, the encirclement had to shrink considerably.

“How many of them did I kill? Around three thousand? As expected, their numbers don’t match. They can’t have less than ten thousand soldiers...”

Ryan imagined that some reptilians died when they tried to face the giant bees and velociraptors. Still, considering that they had won, they should have more monsters on their side since they leveled up and obtained the numerical advantage. There was always the chance that a good number of them would be staying around their dungeon, but leaving them there while they knew about a powerful enemy was massacring their forces, was stupid.

“No point in wondering about that... eventually, I will get the answers that I want.”

Although the encirclement decreased in size, things didn’t get easier for Ryan. The distance between the parties still was one hundred meters. However, thanks to the fact that they retreated, the parties had fewer obstacles in their field of vision. Thus, they could notice Ryan’s attacks much easily and thus counterattack. Considering their caution level, it was only obvious that will send more than five parties to hunt him down.

“Time to change tactics again...”

Ryan had a few options, go all out to finish that job as fast as possible by using Power of Money. Or he could try to save his coins and slowly kill the monsters by combining skills like Earth Manipulation and Lullaby. By creating an underground route, Ryan would be able to approach unnoticed, and then to save some mana, he will use Lullaby, put the enemies to sleep, and then finish them off quietly. Both of the options were fairly good, but in the end, the first one was the best. Why? Because Ryan could hide inside some bushes and then kill the monsters without showing his position. However, the cost of that was a problem... Ryan will have to spend 750 coins per monster.

“Screw it... I will do this.” Ryan muttered annoyed since he was sick of worrying about such a things.

Instead of saving coins to buy things that might or might not appear in the dungeon shop, Ryan decided to use them to massacre the monsters. Thanks to that, the reptilians began to die so fast that some of them panicked without knowing what to do for the first time. When four hundred of them died in less than half an hour, the monsters finally decided to abandon their encirclement. Although Ryan had to spend three hundred thousand coins to do that, he only felt satisfied seeing those freaks running toward the hole they came from.

“Now I have some peace to investigate this city... Still, I wonder if I should do it, this might have been a tactic to make me lower my guard.”

Nashville was pretty much destroyed, so the number of places the monsters could hide was absurdly high. Although Ryan has been training Radar, the skill still had a long way to go before it becomes usable in that kind of situation. Still, Ryan decided to look for the giant bees and velociraptors' dungeon before anything. He would need those classes, and he still can do several things to prevent the ambush from those monsters. As long as he finds one of those dungeons, Ryan will be able to buy as many potions as he can, and thus such things won't become a problem anymore... hopefully.

## Chapter 195

Much to Ryan's surprise, he found the dungeons pretty deep inside Nashville. However, he didn't find any sign of other monsters aside from those three. That was quite unexpected given the size of the place...

“Shit... the smell here is terrible. It looks like most people got buried alive, and the monsters exterminated those which escaped.”

The streets were dirt with dust, debris, and some stains on the ground that were probably signs of dry blood. Aside from the nuked cities that Ryan never checked, that city was probably in the worst situation of all cities that he saw before. He didn't know why, but the inhabitants didn't have any chance to fight.

“The least I can do for those who fall is to seal the dungeons, but... should I do that? Do I have to do that?”

Ryan recalled the conversation with Lilith and began to second-guess himself again. Should he try to work hard to exterminate the monsters when his intentions weren't that honest? He worried pretty

frequently about the things he could do for his world, but Ryan couldn't help but wonder if that wasn't just a mechanism of his head to make him feel good about himself. After all, he abandoned many groups of survivors. If he truly wished to improve the world's situation, he would have made a lot of more difference if he had worked with everyone in Shreveport.

"Shit... why do I have to think about such things now? I don't have time for this..."

That was what Ryan got by listening to the words of a demon: doubts. To make matters worse, the more he tried to think those were empty words, the more his consciousness convinced him that it wasn't the case. In the end, the best option was not to think and only fight. However, even that made Ryan wonder if it was enough... he didn't want to become like a monster who seeks power and nothing more.

In the end, Ryan just gave up about forgetting such a thing and just entered the giant bees' dungeon. As expected, he easily cleared the dungeon. A single arrow on the head using his special arrows had been enough to kill the boss. After that, Ryan used his mana potions to summon ten slimes. At the same time, he gave the order for them to use the only Fireball. When the next bee appeared, the creature died almost instantly.

"I guess ten of those are enough to defeat ordinary monsters, as for the boss... maybe fifty."

Ryan didn't want to wait for a full day to test that theory. In the end, he summoned only thirty more because he knew the skills would level up quite a bit in the meantime. Finally, after dealing with that business, Ryan opened the treasure box.

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

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.

Ryan was left speechless... he imagined that such a thing would happen someday, but now that it happened, Ryan couldn't help but let out a long sigh. He already has those three classes, so that Ryan wouldn't gain any new skill or status points. He will get some status points, but only that. ρ??(??)(?)???

“Whatever... let’s just move on.”

Congratulations! You have become a Level fifteen mercenary!

The following skills will level up five times: Focus, Morale, and Tackle.

Your health and strength increased by ten points, your endurance, stamina, mana, and mentality increased by five points.

Things could have been worse, but fortunately, the class leveled up, and Ryan still got some increase in his attributes. Unfortunately, Ryan didn’t have time to celebrate because the ground began to tremble, and he could hear a lot of noise coming from outside the dungeon.

“Shit... that really happened.”

Fortunately, Ryan didn’t use all his potions. So, he would be able to fight against the army. In fact, killing them will be easy while crossing the dungeon since they won’t have room to run away. However, even though Ryan waited for a while, not a single monster entered the dungeon.

“So, monsters can’t really enter dungeons... not even those who are small enough. Why? They used their dungeons to invade Earth, so... maybe they can’t use dungeons like that when they went to another planet using a dungeon that was theirs.”

It seemed like a convoluted explanation, but it made sense in Ryan’s head. Humans could use all dungeons since their goal was survival and not an invasion. However, the moment they use a dungeon to invade a certain planet, they will only use that same dungeon to come and go.

Ryan headed toward the entrance of the dungeon to confirm that. As expected, the place was surrounded by reptilians, but they didn’t seem ready to fight, and a stranger individual seems their leader. The creature was just like the other monsters. However, that one had a pair of red long swords on his back. The creature was also using full silver armor. The equipment seemed like it had been made using some creature’s parts since the blocks of metal looked like scales of a monster.



“Come forth, human,” The monster using silver armor said. “Our master wants to have a word with you.”

That was a nice try. Ryan couldn't help but laugh a little. In the end, he took a few steps back until he disappeared in the darkness and prepared one of his special bone arrows. That creature was definitely a boss, and Ryan was quite sure that he could steal its equipment or at least kill it with a single good attack. However, the monster did something unexpected.

“Here are some gifts as the sign of goodwill of our master,” The monster said and then threw away his swords to inside the dungeon. “Come with us, and you might receive even more.”

## Chapter 196

Well, now... that seemed like a problem. That was too good to be true, but after using Analysis on the two swords, Ryan concluded that they weren't cursed or anything. They were just really powerful swords.

### Blazing Long Sword

Effect: It burns the foe upon contact. The fire damage is equal to your intelligence per second. It grants you the skill: Fire Storm Lv 50. Cost: 50 mana per second.

Strength + 50, Endurance + 50

Durability: 90/90

Those were far stronger than any of his weapons and that only made Ryan more puzzled... how come the reptilians have weapons better than the ones he obtained killing dragons? That didn't make any sense.

“You can take the swords, and you don't want to come with me if you don't want to,” The reptilian said. “However, you must leave this city at this moment and promise that you won't attack us again.”

Ryan waited for a while to see if they had some other crazy proposal to him, but apparently, that was all they had to say. Something was really fishy... why give a gift to someone who decimated their forces? Why not attack the single human who did that when they had the numerical advantage?

"... Who is your boss, and what do they want with me?" Ryan asked.

"I am just a messenger, and I don't know the details," The reptilian said. "All that I know is that our master, Echidna, wants you to join our side or at the very least leave our base alone."

Echidna... Ryan heard that somewhere, but he couldn't quite recall where or who had that name. In the first place, it was weird that he could feel a sense of familiarity from a monster's name...

"It seems you don't trust. That is understandable," The reptilian said. "So, we will leave you alone for now. If you wish to speak with our master, you can head east to find our dungeon. If you don't show up until sunset, we will acknowledge your refusal, but if you stay in our territory... there won't be any other attempt of negotiation."

After saying that, all the reptilians left the area. Ryan used Radar and confirmed that they weren't close any longer... Still, he didn't feel relieved, only puzzled. Using the weapons that a monster gave him seemed weird, but Ryan wouldn't throw away such nice swords just for that. ρ??∪??(?)???

"Damn... I really need an inventory or something."

Ryan didn't drop his guard, but after leaving the dungeon, he felt safe enough to complain about his luggage that got heavier. Still, after a while, he returned to think about the question at hand. What should he do? Accept the gifts and leave? Or go talk with this Echidna?

First of all, those monsters were insane for thinking that just two swords could buy an entire city, destroyed or not. Second of all, there was no way Ryan would join the ranks of monsters. Not after seeing so much destruction they caused. In the end, Ryan chose the third option...

"I will keep the gifts and slay every single reptilian in this city... if there isn't anyone to complain, no one will complain."

Ryan felt like he was getting away despite all the doubts in his mind, but in the end, it was a fact that he couldn't leave those monsters alone. Besides, nothing good would come from leaving a monster that can negotiate with other alone, even more so when they can give powerful weapons like those swords so easily.

“They will probably stay on guard for a while, so I should leave them alone for the time being... I should search for the other dungeon.”

In a hurry, Ryan began to look for the velociraptors' dungeon. The enemies will notice that he wants to fight if they see him looking for the dungeon, so time was essential. While keeping Radar active. Ryan looked for the dungeon, and he found it. Unfortunately, he also found some reptilians guarding the place, and by some, Ryan meant hundreds of them.

“As expected, they are hunting the monsters and killing them as soon as they leave the dungeons... killing those isn't impossible, but I won't be able to do that without alerting the others.”

That was a pain in the ass, but Ryan will have to start with the hard part. It seemed like a waste of time, but Ryan decided to retreat for the time being and let the reptilians relax as much as possible. Once they are certain that Ryan left them alone, he will suddenly appear and surprise them. It was a simple plan, but the chances of it succeeding with the ideas he had in mind, it certainly would succeed.

For two days and one night, Ryan meditated outside Nashville. When he returned, the place was completely dark since it was around midnight, and the reptilian's army had decreased considerably. However, they were using that encirclement again. Unfortunately, the parties now were fifty meters away from each other.

“I guess they still are on guard... I can't waste any more time here.”

The smell of blood or any noise will alert the other parties, so Ryan will have to use one of his old ideas. Instead of using Water Manipulation and Lullaby, he will only use Earth Manipulation and then create an underground route below the encirclement and then bury the monsters alive. A lot of mana will be used to pull that off, but if things don't proceed fast enough, Ryan can always use Power of Money or at least return and buy some potions in the giant bees' dungeon.

“No... I need to save my coins. I don't know how many of those bosses I will have to face, but if I want to kill all of them, I will need to save the coins for later.”

Ryan had to work fast, so in order to make his Earth Manipulation be more effective, he put all his free status points into intelligence.

## Chapter 197

Creating an underground path while killing the monsters made Ryan lose a lot of time since he had to make sure to kill all the members of a single party at the same moment. As if that wasn't enough, he also had to create some earth statues around the campfires. Otherwise, the other camps would notice that their friends had been killed. Fortunately, things proceeded fairly well thanks to Active Spiritual Recovery.

“This is good and all, but I wonder if I can improve all of this... I feel like I need something else.”

Ryan used Incomplete Reptilian Transformation on his head to increase his magic and recovery, and that helped a little, but that also increased his mana consumption. Suddenly, Ryan had the crazy idea of using that skill to invade the monsters' camp while looking like one of them. Still, soon Ryan discarded that idea for obvious reasons like, there wasn't a reptilian who was missing one hand.

After doing that for several hours, Ryan began to feel the temperature rising. A new morning was coming, and by the look of things, Ryan didn't even finish off half of the monsters, and he still had to deal with the bosses.

“Shit... now what? I can't keep doing this forever.”

Fortunately, Ryan had closed the holes he had created to kill the reptilians, so the others will never know what killed their allies... probably. That boss could talk, and apparently, it had the same level of intelligence as the demon bosses, so Ryan couldn't just discard the possibility. In the end, Ryan decided to stay hidden underground and slowly kill the monsters one after the other while they investigate the surroundings.

In the beginning, things went smoothly as they could. The reptilians retreated when they noticed that some of their allies disappeared, and they even abandoned the velociraptors' dungeon. However, Ryan found some obstacles... concrete and asphalt. Until now, he managed to approach through the areas that had only plain old earth, but now the urbanized area of Nashville was getting in his way.

"I will have to hide behind the rubble. There is plenty of destroyed building that I can use... However, I am discovered while I am away from this hole... things will get messy."

To avoid problems, Ryan decided only to observe the area after leaving the underground path he created. His first instinct was to head to the dungeon and tame a T-rex and then get his next class, but he couldn't let the same thing that happened previously happen again while he is so close to their base.

After slowly moving to East for a few minutes, Ryan finally found the reptilians' dungeon. Surprisingly enough, the damn place appeared in the middle of a park. Not so surprisingly enough, around forty reptilians heavily armed and wearing some impressive armor were guarding the place.

"The number of bosses decreased... probably because these guys had to face some T-rexes. Ah... now I understand that weird feeling. I overlooked before, the more a certain species of monster level up, the more bosses a dungeon spawns when a dungeon break happens... that is some crazy shit."

Although that was a serious problem, it wasn't something Ryan had room to worry about. Those enemies were the only thing he could worry about at the moment. In any case, the things that didn't look it couldn't get worse. It got when Ryan used Appraisal.

Eci – Lv 65

Health: 3.500/3.500

Mana: 1.200/1.200

Stamina: 3.000/3.000

Strength: 450 (+50)

Dexterity: 350 (+100)

Speed: 450 (+150)  $\rho \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} (2) \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2}}$

Intelligence: 550 (+100)

Endurance: 400 (+150)

Control: 450 (+150)

Mentality: 550 (+150)

Luck: 300

Recovery: 600 (+450)

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Furious Charge Lv 80

Passive Physical Skills: Passive Recovery Lv 45, Swordsmanship Lv 80

Spells: Water Spear Lv 80

Support Skills: Water Resistance Lv 120, Wind Resistance Lv 60

“The heck? Why their levels...”

The level of the enemies suddenly spiked, but then Ryan quickly found an explanation. In a battle, those who contributed most received more rewards. Considering that the number of minions was relatively small, but the number of bosses was relatively high, it was safe to conclude that the bosses did most of the job in the fight against the T-rexes. Or maybe they used their minions like cannon fodder.

Although most of the bosses were pretty similar and used basically the same armor, their weapons varied. Swords, spears, hammers, knives... just like the succubus, each boss of the reptilians' dungeon were different beings. Maybe that was a common feature for dungeons that were controlled by sapient beings, but the bosses that spawned in dungeon breaks couldn't be the same...

"I keep thinking about those things when the easy way to obtain answers is to invade another planet... Let's focus on the task of eliminating all of them. The rest can wait."

Ryan has focused on the task again. Still, he couldn't think of any way of defeating those forty creatures before he gets surrounded. Maybe a shot with his special arrows and a few seconds of a charged Power Shot will do the trick. Still, it wasn't nearly enough to win.

Considering that another dungeon break was supposed to happen in less than a week, time wasn't something Ryan didn't have, and since they weren't stupid, the reptilians will wait exactly for that. The mission will only become harder, so Ryan couldn't just get his next class in the T-Rexes dungeon and then leave.

"Wait a minute... maybe time is actually on my side. If I use certain skills, then I..."

Ryan used Search and then confirmed that his slimes were still alive on the Giant Bees' dungeon. That was weird since the skill didn't level up... most likely, it worked in the same manner as his taming skills. Regardless, the Giant Bees weren't leaving the dungeon thanks to the slimes, and if Ryan also obtains full control over the velociraptors' dungeon... things were starting to get interesting.

## Chapter 198

Ryan retreated and then entered the velociraptors' dungeon. If those freaks really wanted to protect their dungeon that badly, Ryan gladly will let them. In exchange for that, they will have some unpleasant surprises in a few days.

Just as Ryan had expected, a T-Rex was there waiting for him when he reached the final part of the dungeon. Without thinking too much about it, Ryan beat the crap out of the monster and then used Tame.

Tyrannosaurus Rex- Lv 44

Health: 111/1800

Mana: 900/900

Stamina: 1500/1500

Strength: 450

Dexterity: 250

Speed: 150

Intelligence: 150

Endurance: 800

Control: 200

Mentality: 350

Luck: 200

Recovery: 500



Willpower: 350

Coins: —

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Charge Lv 40

Passive Physical Skills: Iron Skin Lv 50

Spells: Scream Lv 40

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 70

“Not bad, I guess... Still, it won’t be enough to take even a single of reptilians’ bosses. My monsters can’t leave the dungeon, so I will have to train them here.”

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: Knight, Pirate, and Sorcerer.

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.

With the things Ryan had in mind to do the next few days, the best option was to pick Sorcerer. Still, since that had been a regular occurrence these days, he began to question whether if it was fine or not to choose such a class. Magic classes were useful, but when it comes down to it, they weren’t even close in terms of utility with his classes that are related to physical long-ranged attacks. In the end, Ryan chose to be a Sorcerer.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Sorcerer! 🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉

You obtained the following skills: Fire Prison, Ice Chains, and Quagmire.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Fire Prison.

Effect: it creates a prison of flames that causes damage over time on that inside of it.

Cost: 10 mana per second

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Ice Chains.

Effect: You summon Ice Chains from the ground to stop your foes' movements and apply the slow effect on their legs.

Cost: 30 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Quagmire.

Effect: Creates a quagmire beneath your foes.

Cost: 20 mana per second.

You obtained 01 status point.

After that, Ryan healed the T-rex, he returned to the dungeon's entrance and bought as many potions as he could. He also used them soon after because he summoned Giant Bees whenever he had the chance. In just a few hours, he had used all his coins, but in exchange, Ryan managed to summon six hundred giant bees, and now the dungeon was noisy as hell.

Congratulations! The skill Summon Giant Bee has leveled up.

Summon Giant Bee Lv 1 → Lv 16

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

Cost: 500 mana

You obtained 16 status points.

“Well, now... you can go and play with the T-rex,” Ryan gave the order to his monsters.

Although Ryan said play, it was more like bullying. The giant bees attacked the T-rex non-stop, and in order to prevent its death, Ryan mounted on the creatures' back and used Protect and Heal. Although that weird method of training wouldn't make his archer skills better, it was crazily efficient. After all, Ryan was training four skills at the same time while increasing the Pain Resistance of the T-rex. It was even better since the Giant Bees didn't have to use mana to keep attacking. At the end of the first day, Ryan made his Summon Giant Bee reach level twenty, and when the new T-rex appeared, Call already was at a level where Ryan could tame another monster.

“Hehe, now we are talking.... It looks like be a monster tamer is an easy way to become strong. However, given that one needs a lot of mana, anyone who wants to follow this route will end up becoming weak physically and probably won't have many offensive skills.”

Such a thing wasn't a problem if someone can find a safe place to stay while the monsters do all the work. However, it was evident that the monsters needed some support. Otherwise, they would die quickly, and the tamer or summoner will have a hard time trying to find new monsters and train them.

It didn't take long for Ryan to notice that his training method couldn't improve any further. Although he was using status points, the T-rexes obtained to increase their recovery. It wasn't enough, given that the Giant Bees were also getting stronger. Heal was also leveling up quite nicely, but even so...

"Next time, I should specifically look for a monster that can use healing skills. However, instead of using it to guard a dungeon, I should keep it with me for this kind of situation."

Although it was an advantage that the giant bees didn't have to use mana, it also meant that the T-rexes couldn't train a skill to counter their attacks. Although Pain Resistance was useful, it couldn't decrease the power of their attacks.

In any case, after five days, Ryan had five pretty well-trained T-rex under his control, and the Giant Bees were at level forty. Although he could make the skills level up a bit more, Ryan decided to stop that training and then focus on summoning more Giant Bees. When the entire dungeon was overflowing with monsters, Ryan decided that it was time to move on and put his plans in action. He didn't know if he could win just by using some monsters, but at the very least, Ryan knew that he did everything he could.

## Chapter 199

Outside the dungeon, the reptilians were getting impatient. For the last six days, they did nothing but worked to prevent losses and increase their strength. However, even though they achieved both of that and the second dungeon break was about to happen, the bosses didn't feel satisfied. They knew the human who attacked them before was still around. The fact that they didn't see a single velociraptor or giant bee was the proof that he did something or was doing something inside the dungeons. To make matters worse, they couldn't afford to leave the surroundings of their base. It would be better to keep all their forces in a single place.

"To think that a single human-caused us so much trouble when thousands of others didn't show any resistance..." Eci muttered in annoyance. "I hear stories of this, but to think I would actually see it from this perspective..."

Eci heard stories like that a long time ago, and he heard them recently when he received his new weapons: another pair of fire swords. Regardless, Eci refused to admit that such species could cause such problems to him and his brothers. The most plausible explanation is that the human had already joined the side of another dungeon master, and he obtained a good part of its powers. That wouldn't explain why he was working alone, but that was a small detail.

"We just have to endure this night, and then everything will be good as ours," Eci said while looking at the sunset. "In a few hours, we will expand our territory, and our species will grow much faster than before."

In the end, Eci's predictions were correct. That night would decide everything, but even though he prepared himself, his brothers, and his men, Eci still got caught off-guard. Suddenly, a weird sound began to be heard by the reptilians. However, they didn't see anything approaching. They even had set several campfires in the distance to make them notice the enemy's arrival, but that had been useless.

When they finally noticed what had happened, it was already too late. A massive swarm of giant bees attacked them from above. Although the monsters focused on attacking the bosses and applying the effects of Bleed on them, soon the bees spread around and began to attack the ordinary reptilians.

"They are just small fries! Don't fear and cut them to pieces!" Eci shouted.

Those creatures were nothing against the might of the reptilians. Moreover, not a single boss had fallen so far, so victory was more than assured. However, soon Eci heard other things, some high-pitching sounds began to be heard. It was almost inaudible thanks to the bees, but it was there. It didn't take long for Eci to confirm that he didn't imagine things because soon after, the bosses began to be hit with arrows on their heads, and they fell dead.

"East! He is in the East!" Eci shouted again. "Follow me! Once we kill him, his monsters will become a useless mob!"

Although that was absolutely true, Eci didn't think that Ryan would have more than a few tricks up his sleeve. He thought Ryan would retreat after seeing the entire army of reptilians heading toward him, but his predictions were off the mark. Before they could notice that something was off, fifteen or so bosses fell from Ryan's arrows. When the others got close enough to see him, they also saw the five T-rexes around him.  $\rho\text{??}\text{J}\text{??}(\text{?})\text{??}\text{?}$

“Go on,” Ryan said.

Just for a single second, the reptilians got surprised, but in that single second, the T-rexes attacked them and made several of the bosses fly. At the same time, Ryan fired three arrows and killed three other bosses. They thought the Giant Bees didn't hurt them, but they couldn't be more wrong. The Bleed status lowered their health just enough to grant Ryan the chance to kill them with a single attack.

Still, Ryan's turn to get surprised finally came. A T-rex tried to bit Eci, but he managed to stop the creature's mouth with his weapons. His vision field was a little obstructed thanks to the T-rexes, so Ryan couldn't use his bow. While he was thinking about what to do, Eci swung his swords and enlarged the smile on the T-rex face, and then he prepared a big swing. Suddenly, Eci's legs got stuck on the ground, and when he finally noticed that he had somehow sunk on the ground, a spear pierced his heart and paralyzed his body.

“Not enough, huh...” Ryan frowned.

The monster's thick skin prevented Ryan from finishing it off, but the attack gave just enough time for the T-rex to recover and then prepare to bit Eci... Ryan couldn't help furrow his eyebrows when he saw the creature being eaten alive. In any case, the shock only lasted for a second since Ryan saw one of his T-rexes falling. The battle had barely started, and they had already killed one of his five trump cards. Ryan couldn't relax...

Ryan resumed his hunting, but this time, he focused on using the Paralyzing Spear whenever possible to save his T-rexes. They were his only shield that prevented the bosses from getting too close to him after all. However, despite his efforts, all of the T-rexes fell, and Ryan still could see five relatively well bosses facing him.

“As expected, I am not a master tactician...”

Although the odds were against him, Ryan still had one trump card the reptilians didn't notice... and that was the fact that Ryan's mana never decreased a single point in the entire battle.

Fighting like that would be very weird, but Ryan put his bow on his back and then equipped his wand and shield. When the bosses attacked him with a barrage of Water Spears, Ryan was sent flying

backward even though he blocked the attacks. However, when he stopped, the monsters were still trembling due to the damage they suffered and gained just enough time to make Thunder Arrows fall over one of them. Another one fell. Ryan just had to kill four more.

“I can do this...”

## Chapter 200

The bosses only noticed what was going on when they attacked again, and another one fell due to the Thunder Arrows. As expected, they weren't good against electric attacks. However, now they knew that they couldn't let Ryan block their attacks. Slowly, the monsters began to walk around him, forming an encirclement.

“I am starting to hate this habit of yours...” Ryan muttered.

Fortunately, Ryan had a way to counter those freaks. He activated Radar and then used Wind Magic to control his hammer, spear, and sword. However, the monsters decided to be even more annoying, and they cast several Water Spears at the same time. Ryan was able to block only one of them with his shield, but the other magic projectiles stopped before hitting him.

“That used a lot of mana... I am lucky that my bees can restore it thanks to Active Spiritual Recovery,” Ryan said and then turned the Water Lances into spheres of water. “You guys are resistant against water, right? But what will happen if I drench you and then attack with Thunder Arrows?”

The bosses finally recovered from the surprise of their failure and used their spears to block the water spheres Ryan fired at them. However, Ryan didn't lose control over it and managed to drench the monsters with water. After that, he made Thunder Arrows rain over the monsters. Unfortunately, before he could kill them, the remaining monster charged and tried to take Ryan's head with a spear, but he reacted on time to block it with his shield.

A part of the damage was reflected to the monster, and Ryan used that chance to finish off the beast. The other two were half-dead, so they weren't much of a treat. In the end, Ryan sighed in relief since his plan somehow worked... to a certain extent.

You obtained 25.000 coins.

You obtained 25.000 coins.

You obtained 25.000 coins.

The battle wasn't over yet, but Ryan was exhausted since he barely had time to sleep in the last week. So, he used the mana his monsters were obtaining to summon even more monsters... he deserved at least a few minutes of rest. In any case, without their leaders, the reptilians weren't much stronger than monsters like golems. In the end, Ryan's bees finished things off for him.




"Holy crap..." Ryan said, shocked at the scene he caused. "To think that I could cause so much destruction... and gain so much loot."

Although Eci gave Ryan a pair of powerful swords, the bosses didn't drop anything close to it. Still, his defensive gear could finally be upgraded a little bit. Although Ryan also felt weird wearing it, he decided to equip a helmet as well. One that could cover his entire face. After noticing how useful Power of Money could be, it would be insanity to keep his eyes unprotected. The chances of him finding a monster or human who could use such skill were low, but Ryan decided to be careful anyway.

Silver Chainmail

Effect: Health + 15, Endurance + 15

Durability: 60/60

Iron Boots   

Effect: Endurance + 10, Mentality + 10

Durability: 50/50



Silver Helmet

Effect: Endurance + 15, Mentality + 15

Durability: 50/50

“Enough resting,” Ryan said and then got up. “The dungeon breaks will happen in a few hours. I don’t know what I will find south of here, but I guess I should retreat to the base. I need to see the results of Mark’s work and then research who this Echidna is. I don’t think it is the name of a demon, but...”

After the things that happened lately, Ryan wasn’t confident in his judgment anymore. He had a planet to arrive at Miami in a week, but he didn’t cover even one-third of that distance in the end. To make matters worse, dragons will become even more active on the continent since the number of megalodons will increase. Ryan needed to obtain new classes to obtain more power, but he also needed to find a way to deal with the oceans’ threat.

Regardless, Ryan decided to check the dungeon shop before clearing the dungeon. Thanks to the bosses, now he had 1.5 million coins. Hopefully, he could buy an excellent tome with that. Fortunately, his guess was right this time. Ryan could obtain a tome that will teach him how to fly or how to summon a golem. Those seemed nice, but Ryan just saw some tomes that seemed far more appealing.

Earth Transformation Tome

Effect: It grants you the power to transform the earth element, and it also increases the power of all earth attacks by one percent.

Price: 1.000.000 coins

The tomes that also had the utility in the other elements had the same price. Thanks to that, Ryan had no idea which one to pick, all what he knew was that he needed them because they, without a doubt, will increase his skill at countering the elemental attacks of the enemies.

“So far, most enemies had a high level of Fire Resistance. However, I didn’t see many who had high-level resistances of water and ice... transform the elements is the same thing as making them stronger, right? The second effect is like that, so Water Transformation will grant me the power to make the water turn into ice... hopefully.”

That seemed like another bet. Although Ryan still didn’t know which classes he will be able to pick in that dungeon, he still decided to select that tome. In the end, his suspicions were correct. With Water Transformation, he could transform water into ice and make it as hard as hell.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Water Transformation.

Effect: It grants you the power to transform the water element, and it also increases the power of all water attacks by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

After doing some tests, Ryan also confirmed that he could control the water in the atmosphere and then turn it into eventual ice. The process was kind of slow since he was preserving his mana, and the skill was at a low-level. However, Ryan understood that such a technique would help him a lot more than he had imagined.