

Domain 221

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In the end, after checking the loot, Ryan realized that only the bosses dropped tomes, and none of the ones he killed dropped them. As for the items, only two rings picked his interest.

Magic Ring of the Immortal

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

Durability: 30/30

Those items couldn't be found in the dungeon shop. At least Ryan never found them until now. Regardless, he equipped them. Now he just has to worry about the huge pile of trash in front of him.

"I can buy them from you," Alissa said.

"Why?" Ryan frowned. "Your cultists already can obtain equipment by themselves."

"They are not my cultists..." Alissa said and then took a deep breath to calm down. "While that is true, I will need more soldiers, and they will need more equipment. I am in this part of the world because Mark told me that there are many survivors in Canada, but he also said that I need to work faster because some survivors joined the monsters' side and they are convincing others to do the same."

"By promising them power, I assume," Ryan said.

"Indeed," Alissa nodded.

Ryan didn't know if Mark gave Alissa that kind of information in order to help him indirectly. Still, he wouldn't lie to Alissa because she can read thoughts, so perhaps everything was just a coincidence. Ryan

offered to trade the equipment for some tomes, but Alissa refused that. Although she wasn't as cold as before, she still wanted to focus on increasing her soldiers' strength.

"I can't trade with you any tomes, but I can offer an alternative," Alissa said. "You see, I picked this class called Teacher, and I can register some students, so-"

"No," Ryan said.

"Well... I tried," Alissa shrugged.

In the end, Ryan sold all the items he obtained for two hundred thousand coins. He could buy two elemental transformation tomes with that many coins, but before looking for those, Ryan looked for the most expensive tomes he could obtain. Unfortunately, he didn't find Telekinesis or the spell that would grant him the power to store items in an alternative dimension... and Ryan was already getting tired of waiting so anxiously for it every single time. In the end, Ryan said screw it and bought the Earth Transformation and Wind Transformation tomes.

"Your fighting style seems kind of messy with all those skills you get," Alissa frowned and then said. "Still, that thing that you did earlier surprised me. Is it because of that you bought those tomes? To stop elemental attacks from hitting and then using them against your foes?"

"Kind of," Ryan replied.

After finishing their business in the dungeon shop, Alissa and Ryan entered the dungeon. Although they still had to face one more boss, they already knew how to defeat the monster. Instead of that, they were more worried as to why the creature was so weak. Although the cloaked monster tried to attack them, Alissa easily defeated it with a single punch that made the entire dungeon tremble.

"Can you use Appraisal on them?" Ryan asked. "What is the name of this thing?"

"Fake Shadow," Alissa replied. "I have been doing some research on mythology as of late, but I can't say that I saw or read anything closely related to this."

After the boss died, the shadow began to dissipate as if it was dust or something similar and lifeless. That kind of creature was totally different from all the bosses they met until now, and that worrisome.

“Orgar said that this creature is quite intriguing,” Alissa added. “While it resembles some lifeforms, it lacks some of their aspects. Based on his description, this creature is like a robot, but I don’t think any technology can create this.”

A robot... that was weird. A true machine wouldn’t demonstrate fear, and Ryan was certain that he felt the fear those creatures felt. In any case, his head was kind of fuzzy at that time, so he decided to keep quiet about it.

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: Templar, Ninja, and Enchanter.

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

“Two new classes, huh... They seem useful on their own, but I can’t miss this chance to get the Ninja class. I already know that it is a tier two class, so I don’t have any reason to risk it by picking others.”

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Ninja!

You obtained the following skills: Fire Shuriken, Mirror, and Lotus.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Fire Shuriken.

Effect: it grants you the power to summon a fire shuriken that explodes once it hits the target and causes damage around it. The damage is equal to strength + intelligence.

Cost: 50 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Mirror.

Effect: It grants you the chance to summon an ice mirror that reflects your figure. If the mirror is broken, the ice shards will cause damage divided by the number of foes around it. The total damage will be equal to your intelligence.

Cost: 100 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Lotus Blessing.

Effect: It increases your recovery passively by three points per level when meditating.

You obtained 01 status point.

Ryan couldn't help but frown since his image of ninjas were of typical assassins. However, based on the skills he received, they were more like hybrid mages. Regardless, the class gave him the bonuses that he wanted in status, so he couldn't complain.

“I don't use Meditation often, but it is only because I always focus on improving my main skills. Maybe I can train myself to make my body rest properly while I meditate... Hopefully, that will solve both problems.”

Maybe Ryan was a bit too optimistic, but sometimes, it was nice to have some hope. His life was already too grim with all that fighting. Hoping to be rewarded for his work was a bit too much, but expect that things will work out, in the end, was something that everyone deserved. As long as everyone does their

best to reach that outcome. Regardless, after that, Alissa and Ryan left the dungeon. They had no business with the world on the other side of the crystal for the time being.

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When Ryan and Alissa left the dungeon, they were welcomed by some new visitors. Now that the skeletons were out of the picture, the dire wolves felt like they were the owners of the region. However, Ryan eliminated them with some Thunder Arrows on their heads. After that, he dragged their bodies to the dungeon.

“You can go ahead,” Ryan said. “I will leave my salamander behind to guard this place, and he will need food to survive.”

“He? Your salamander is a she,” Alissa frowned.

“That is a small detail,” Ryan said.

“Well, knowing you, I know that it will be a waste of time to convince you to go together,” Alissa shrugged. “Don’t take your time. Otherwise, all the dragon hearts will go for my soldiers.”

After saying that, Alissa began to fly and headed North. While Ryan waited for more dire wolves to appear, he checked the free status points of his salamander. After doing some tests, Ryan realized that his pet could more or less fight against the archers and wizards, but the monster will have a hard time against the knights since they have high health and a shield.

“Let’s see what I can do about this...” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “You can’t use weapons or equipment... you can use potions, but that won’t solve the problems in the long run... can you actually learn skills from tomes?”

Ryan couldn’t think of anyone another way to suddenly strengthen a monster. Although most tomes disappear once he touches them, they won’t disappear if he buys a tome of skill, he already has... probably. Regardless, it was worth a try. A skill lives Passive Recover seemed like the best option, but even now, Ryan never found the tome in the shop. The same could be said about the skills he obtained by obtaining the DNA of some monsters.

In terms of offensive abilities, Electric Bullet seemed like the best option since the Skeleton Knights had some pieces of armor, and even their swords were made of metal. So, if the salamander learns that, the creature was bound to cause some damage and even paralyze the monsters for a few moments. The problem was: the tome costs 50.000 coins.

“I suppose it can’t be helped... it is an investment... an investment that will make me waste less time once I return to this dungeon to defeat the boss.”

Ryan hesitated, but in the end, he bought the tome. However, instead of grabbing it, he let it fall on the ground and gave the order for the salamander to grab. When that happened, the tome disappeared... the experiment had been a success. Without wasting any more time, Ryan gave the order for the salamander to use Thunder Bullet when the skeletons appeared, only that spell. It took a while for the monster to win the battles thanks to that. Still, in the end, eventually, the spell reached a level in which it could paralyze even the skeletons mages for a full second, even though they had high mentality and willpower.

“Now, let’s do some tests against the skeleton knights.”

For some reason, the salamander could only fire three Electric Bullets per second, but a single one was enough to stun the skeleton knights for half a second, even when they used their shields to block the projectile. As expected, the salamander had to use a lot more mana against them, but Ryan confirmed that the salamander could fight all the skeletons with such a spell alone.

“Good job... now I just have to stock enough food for you for four weeks,” Ryan sighed. “That will be a lot of work.”

In the end, Ryan had to work until midnight for him to kill the wolves and make sure that Earth wouldn’t absorb them. Regardless, it was finally time to head North, and without wasting time, Ryan left the skeletons’ dungeon behind.

At first, Ryan didn’t notice anything, but after running for half an hour, he began to feel weird... it was the same weird feeling he had before he found Zoe. This means... he was being watched.

“Crap... I tried to be careful, but as expected, some monsters can be really good at this. They aren’t dragons since their stealth skills suck. So... what is following me? Why they didn’t attack me while I was inside the dungeon?”

For obvious reasons, any not-brain-dead monster would have attacked Ryan in the dungeon since he wouldn’t have any chance of running away. The best option would be to use the purple crystal, but instead of using that and facing an enemy that he couldn’t imagine, Ryan would take his chances to face the enemy he could see.

“I can’t find it... and in this situation, I can’t cause as much as damage as possible on the first strike like usual. I will try to dash ahead and escape from its sight and then once I confirm that, I will prepare an ambush.”

The plan was simple, but it was better than planning something complicated which had to hang in too many factors to succeed. Ryan equipped his Sprinters’ Boots and then activated all his buffs that increase his speed and consumed only stamina. Ryan’s speed increased, and he ran as fast as possible. Not even the thick snow managed to slow him down. However, that weird feeling never left him alone.

“Persistent bastard... I can’t get angry. If this enemy can be this fast, I can’t let the blood rush to my head...” Ryan muttered under his breath.

Ryan didn’t want to run away from a fight against such an annoying enemy, but he wasn’t stupid enough to let the enemy have the first strike. Fighting in such conditions wasn’t good, so Ryan decided to run and reach his destination. If the thing that was pursuing him was that cowardly, then it wasn’t worthy of his time. However, after a few hours, when all the tension and the run began to wear down his mind a little bit, Ryan felt that the weird sensation was increasing. When he turned around, he saw a weird creature dashing toward him. Thanks to his Nocturnal Eyes, Ryan eventually saw what that thing was... it was a massive three-headed dog.

Class: Hunter Lv 46 (+ 02 UP) / Elementalist Lv 46 (+ 02 UP) / Monk Lv 16 (–)

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

Rank: 515th ρ???(?)???

Health: 501/501 (2.47 /s)

Mana: 889/889 (2.47 /s)

Stamina: 717/717(2.47 /s)

Strength: 30 (+123) (+60)

Dexterity: 860 (+672) (+27)

Speed: 70 (+281) (+28)

Intelligence: 80 (+309) (+3)

Endurance: 27 (+111) (+100)

Control: 06 (+302) (+10)

Mentality: 07 (+16) (+30)

Luck: 74 (+9)

Recovery: 560 (+702) (+220)

Willpower: 09 (+16)

Coins: 75.992

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 46 (+ 04 UP), Arrow Shower Lv 39 (+ 04 UP), Hawkeye Lv 07 (+ 04 UP), Bash Lv 07 (+ 06 UP),

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 47 (+ 04 UP), Concentration Lv 47 (+ 04 UP), Archery Lv 47 (+ 04 UP), Accuracy Lv 47 (+ 04 UP), Stealth Lv 35 (+ 04 UP), Precision Lv 40 (+ 02 UP), Swordsmanship Lv 36 (+ 04 UP), Hammer Mastery Lv 12 (+ 03 UP), Lotus Blessing Lv 01,

Spells: Earth Bullet Lv 09 (+ 05 UP), Active Spiritual Recovery Lv 41 (+ 03 UP), Call Lv 50 (+ 02 UP), Earth Manipulation Lv 44 (+ 02 UP), Water Manipulation Lv 28 (+ 03 UP), Wind Manipulation Lv 37 (+ 04 UP), Flash Lv 26 (+ 06 UP), Force Lv 15 (+ 05 UP), Fire Shuriken Lv 01, Mirror Lv 01,

Support Skills: Sleep Resistance Lv 23 (+ 02 UP), Nocturnal Eyes Lv 22 (+ 04 UP), Master's Support Lv 22 (+ 02 UP), Ice Bound Lv 06 (+ 06 UP), Cold Resistance Lv 09 (+ 08 UP), Darkness Resistance Lv 01, Gravity Resistance Lv 01,

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 44 (+ 02 UP), Beastmaster Lv 25 (+ 02 UP), Archer Lv 35 (+ 02 UP), Corsair Lv 11 (+ 02 UP), Combat Archer Lv 14 (+ 02 UP), Rogue Lv 05 (+ 02 UP), Sorcerer Lv 12 (+ 03 UP), Sniper Lv 10 (+ 05 UP), Ninja Lv 01,

Non-Combatant: Trickster Lv 10 (+ 02 UP),

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Ryan opened his eyes widely when a single word popped inside his head: Cerberus. The watchdog of the underworld... Ryan recalled Tristan's words... Cerberus was the offspring of Echidna, and Echidna had marked him... Ryan was getting popular, but he didn't feel happy about it.

Without wasting time, Ryan used Water Manipulation and Water Transformation to create a platform beneath his feet, and then he began to levitate. He had to stay away from that creature, and fortunately, Cerberus didn't have wings... However, when the monster was one hundred meters away from him, the creature leaped toward Ryan, who was fifty meters above the ground.

Ryan used Wind Manipulation to block the monster's attack while he moved to the side, but the creature barely slowed down. For the first time, Ryan jumped from his platform and soon after used Extra Jump. Somehow, he dodged the attack, but he managed to see the creature up close, and that didn't help him.

Cerberus was five meters long, and his fur was completely dark while it also emanated a purple-like miasma. The creature had some sharp-looking claws that made Ryan felt shivers, but what scared the crap out of him were those red-blood-like eyes... not even dragons managed to scare him so much in the past. The creature looked at him as if he couldn't even be considered a worthy foe.

Before Ryan could fall, he used Wind Manipulation, recovered his shield, and began to fly again while standing over it. More mana was being used thanks to that, but it was better than getting close to the ground where Cerberus had the total advantage.

Ryan used Appraisal to confirm what were his chances against that beast. Unfortunately, he didn't obtain a single piece of information since the skill failed. That hadn't been the first time, but for the first time, Ryan felt pretty annoyed.

"Fuck... why those tough bastards always manage to counter Appraisal?"

When Cerberus landed, Ryan was fifty meters above the ground again, but he didn't stop. He increased the distance over them while also heading North. However, Cerberus fired some massive Magma Spheres toward Ryan, and his speed decreased in order to dodge the attacks. Although the monster didn't have a good aim, its attacks still damaged Ryan quite a bit due to the heat.

"Not good..." Ryan bit his lips. "This creature has the same power as dragons, but it is much scarier and more troublesome."

For a single moment, the head that was firing the Magma Spheres stopped. That was on the left side, the head on the right side moved, but Ryan didn't see anything happening. However, his instincts still

warned him of the danger. Ryan used Flash and moved. When he turned around, he saw a massive block of ice falling from the sky and passing through the place he had been half a second ago. ρ??(???)???

“Fire plus earth magic equals magma, and now this freak can even use ice magic to create instantly something that massive... I can't win fighting fair and square...”

Ryan recognized that fact a bit too fast, but thanks to it, he managed to take away the beast's momentum. When he looked at Cerberus again, Ryan used Power of Money as fast as he could on the middle's head. He aimed at the beast's eyes, but as if the creature could see the invisible attacks, it always moved its head to prevent being blinded by them.

Little by little, the head of the middle was getting dirty with blood. Although Ryan didn't destroy the monster's eyes, at least the blood would make things a bit difficult for it. However, much to Ryan's shock, at some moment, the monster stopped dodging the attacks, and he finally destroyed one of its eyes. However, the left head fired several Magma Spheres. Ryan managed to dodge them, but for a single moment, he lost sight of the right head... he knew that the monster had planned that. Ryan looked upward and saw several massive blocks of ice falling over him. Ryan froze...

In the end, Ryan recovered and used Flash to escape the attacks. However, by doing so, he used all his mana. While he was falling, Ryan managed to grab and use some mana potions on his backpack, but he was fully aware that he couldn't win... he was just stalling for time.

“Shit... who could have thought that I would be this pathetic when I can't deal the first blow. Maybe I relied too much on that tactic to finish off tougher opponents, and now I had too little experience to find a way out of this mess.”

After thinking as fast as he could, Ryan found a way to seal those annoying spells of the beast... he just had to fly on the ground and close enough to the monster. At the very least, Cerberus won't be able to create those massive blocks of ice since the monster also would get wounded by it.

As for the Magma Spheres, Ryan was confident that those wouldn't kill him. Why? Because Cerberus never fired several of them to hit the same spot on him. That wouldn't make sense since the blocks of ice could smash him to pieces, but Ryan had a feeling that Cerberus had come to capture him. Waiting for him to get away from any dungeon, in a place where no one will be able to help him... the monster considered those factors, so it looked obvious that what was its goal.

“I am using too much mana while flying... I will have to rely on stamina to dodge Cerberus attacks and use mana to attack. It is the only way.”

Ryan jumped and then spread around his magic weapons. The same way that fucking beast could try to surprise him, Ryan could do the same and attack by several angles. When Cerberus attacked again, Ryan used Flash and grabbed his Paralyzing Spear. He was determined to pierce that up the monster's eyes... or at least die trying.

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Ryan used Throw alongside the buffs that could increase his strength and then aimed at the left head of the monster. At the same time, he used the Power of Money and tried to destroy the eyes of the right head. As expected, the monster fired several Magma Spheres to repel the spear, and the creature actually succeeded, but its attacks didn't reach Ryan. Moreover, the right head didn't do anything aside from protecting its eyes.

“It looked I can prevent the monster from using spells... but I don't think I can seal the skills of both heads at the same time using Power of Money alone.”

While the monster was focusing on Ryan, the beast got caught off-guard, and the magic gauntlets attacked its back. The monster looked a bit annoyed, but only that. Since the monster could use ice spells, it looked like it had some resistance to that as well. The fire was no good either, but Ryan decided to attack as much as possible with the gauntlets and his fire swords since Bleed still would work.

Naturally, Cerberus noticed Ryan's plans and got annoyed by them. Being attacked by all sides was annoying... suddenly, the monster dashed forward, and Ryan hurried to block the monster with his shield. Wind magic alone didn't work before, so Ryan used Earth Manipulation and Water Manipulation to reinforce his tactic. Cerberus slowed down, but in the end, he jumped to the side and disappeared.

“That is...!” Ryan said in shock.

The monster used Flash; Ryan was one hundred percent sure of it. A few moments later, Ryan felt something biting his left arm, and he saw the huge monster and its three heads very close to him. Much to his surprise, his arm wasn't bitten by the head in the middle. However, at a scary pace, Ryan felt his body losing strength.

Congratulations! The skill Poison Resistance has leveled up.

Poison Resistance Lv 15 → Lv 17

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Paralysis Resistance.

Effect: Decreases the effect caused by all types of attacks that may cause paralysis by one point per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Ryan's heart began to beat faster... poison that could paralyze the nerves... what a terrifying combination. He used his magic to attack with his weapons, but in the end, he had to hold back a little since Cerberus could use him as a shield. In the end, he lost control over his magic weapons and even everything on his body aside from his eyes. ρ??∪??(?)???

“You caused me no small amount of trouble, human,” Cerberus said with an angry tone with the left head. “But rest assured, you won't die yet. Mother wants to personally rip your apart for what you have done to my brothers.”

Ryan's suspicious were correct... in the end, he started to get dragged down by Cerberus to somewhere. Ryan tried to use his magic, but he failed many times. Although magic was something his spirit was able to use, it looked like he had to concentrate to some extent with his body.

“No... that can't be true... I managed to use magic when those fuckers used that weird spell. I should be able to use it.”

Instead of attacking, Ryan tried to do the same thing he did before. Use Heal since the poison was decreasing his health to dangerous levels. Besides, once he manages to get the hang of it, he will be able

The monster roared, hoping that would make Ryan's eardrums explode. They indeed got damaged, but Ryan didn't pass out since he used Heal to recover from the damage. Cerberus, which was now completely covered in blood, dashed toward Ryan. By the look of the things, he decided not to obey his mother's orders anymore. What a good son... in the end, Cerberus didn't hit Ryan since it was blinded by rage, but at least the creature managed to stop exposing its eyes to his attacks.

Without much of choice, Ryan was forced to stop. If he hits Cerberus with the power of money, he will reveal his position. Cerberus didn't feel like moving as well, and since the creature was already losing too much blood, it decided to play it safe. In the next moment, several blocks of ice began to fall around the creature.

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Ryan was in a bind. The only safe place was close to Cerberus, but even though the rage blinded the senses of the beast, the creature was smart enough to control its magic just right, and the space between the range of the attacks and the place where the monster was too small to fit the paralyzed Ryan.

"Screw it. At the very least, this dirty dog will go down with me... Wait, what if..."

Since he didn't have mana to do anything, Ryan's only option was to accept the risks. In the end, the blocks of ice fell around Cerberus, and the creature didn't notice anything unusual. However, after a while, the monster was attacked several times on its faces. That was odd, there was nothing in the direction the attacks come from aside from the blocks of ice, and Cerberus knew that Ryan could only use its weird technique as long as there is nothing blocking its path.

In the end, Cerberus dashed toward the block of ice and easily smashed it. Although he couldn't see right now, Cerberus noticed that the attack broke too easily... as if the insides of his ice projectiles were hollow. The monster understood what had happened. Ryan used its weird spell to damage the blocks of ice and create a space where he wouldn't be smashed. As if that wasn't enough, he created a route inside the blocks of ice to attack Cerberus without being noticed.

"Don't underestimate me, human," Cerberus howled. "I won't fall for the same trick twice."

Cerberus destroyed the blocks of ice one after the other in order to find Ryan, but in the end, he didn't feel his presence or hear his corpse being smashed. He wasn't there... he probably had used that chance to escape...

"What a stupid dog..." Ryan muttered a hundred meters away from Cerberus. "As if I would use the same trick against a monster than can think and talk."

Much to Cerberus's surprise, Ryan didn't escape and began to attack again. Ryan's coins were quickly reaching its bottom, but he couldn't care less about that. He will definitely send that fucking monster back to hell, where it was its right place to stay forever.

When Cerberus finally located Ryan, the monster dashed toward him. However, he found gifts along the way. From the sky, the Paralyzing Spear fell and pierced the back of the monster's head slightly. For a few seconds, the monster was paralyzed, but only that. After resuming its hunt, the monster suddenly rolled on the ground when something hit its left side and broke a lot of its ribs. Ryan used his hammer and made it spin quite a bit, but the result had been better than he had expected.

After that, Cerberus got cautious of other surprises, but that only worked for Ryan's favor since he didn't stop using Power of Money. When the beast finally noticed that it was dancing on the palm of Ryan's hands, rage took control over everything. Cerberus began to fire Magma Spheres toward Ryan's direction like a machine gun. The blocks of ice also began to fell, but Ryan never got hit because he was kitting. The area between him and Cerberus was too large and the beast had no idea how long his range was.

In the end, the monster eventually died when Ryan only had three thousand coins left to use. That means that Cerberus had fifty thousand health points, but considering the spells the monster used, mana was probably its best weapon.

"No coins... fucking dog," Ryan clicked his tongue. "Next time, I will make sure to hunt and make you pay for this."

Ryan was one hundred percent sure that Cerberus would return. All bosses could return, after all. Fortunately, not everything was bad knew for Ryan. He managed to level up some skills, and Power of Money leveled up quite a lot, and finally, a new bow appeared... ρ??∪??(?)???

Congratulations! The skill Power of Money has leveled up.

Power of Money Lv 17 → Lv 22

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 05 status points.

Sagittarians' Bow

Effect: Consumes ten points of mana to create a magic arrow. Dexterity + 50, Speed + 20

Added Effect: Recovers one point of stamina whenever you fire one arrow.

Durability: 90/90

“Not bad...” Ryan said, satisfied. “I just need to get rid of this damn paralysis, and then I will be able to test the bow.”

Ryan imagined that perhaps the poison wouldn't leave his body. The paralysis won't disappear but considering that he was starting to feel a lot colder, and Poison Resistance and Paralysis Resistance were leveling up quite fast, it was only a matter of time before he can move again. Still, Ryan was worried because even though he can still fight, he felt too defenseless in that situation.

“Although I won, I am not stupid enough to think that was Cerberus' true strength... Echidna wants to kill me, but she didn't come and sent one of her minions. Just as we imagined, the level of mana on Earth influences the strength of the monsters. Unless I try really hard, next time I face Cerberus, I might die.” Ryan concluded.

One can be arrogant and prideful, but one can't be stupid. In that kind of situation, Ryan couldn't get carried and lose his focus. Besides, what was the meaning of feeling happy about the victory when he almost wet his pants dozens of times during the fight? As usual, Ryan had to keep fighting to obtain the strength to annihilate his foes without much problem. Given how many monsters were roaming around Earth, that was the only type of strength one has to have in order to survive. He also has to stop relying on the Power of Money since it was counterproductive in the long run.

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While Ryan was recovering from the poison's effects, fifteen minutes had passed after Cerberus's defeat. Then, he suddenly spawned in the middle of an island that seemed like a paradise. The forest around was so green and full of life, the ponds had crystal clear water, and one could feel a lot of energy coming from it. Small birds were singing non-stop in the distance... it felt like a place in which all tired souls could rest and recover forever.

However, even in such a place, the scary-looking Cerberus couldn't help but show an expression of utter shame. His head was so down that the ground was already wounding him. He was using that much strength to press his head against the ground, after all.

"You already returned, Cerberus," Echidna said. "How unusual. When was the last time that you failed?"

Although Echidna was called the mother of monsters and her offspring looked pretty scary, she herself was a world-class beauty. For some reason, she wasn't half-snake like Tristan said. The only animalistic thing she had in her body was a pair of fangs she had on her mouth that was just lightly long. Her hair was red, and her eyes were green, emerald-like green. For some reason, she was wearing some leaves as clothing to cover her parts, but it only worked to make her more alluring... in any case, it looked like Ryan was destined to have more problems with redheads...

"I am deeply ashamed, mother," Cerberus said.

"No excuses?" Echidna frowned. "A human won against you fair and square? I thought the Reptilians messed up, and I wanted to confirm that myself, but it looks like he isn't so bad... to think that humans still have this much potential after we left them so many years ago. That is intriguing."

Cerberus didn't say anything. Just talking with his mother after such a defeat was embarrassing enough to make him think of taking his own life. However, that was a waste of time since his existence was bound to a dungeon.

"Anyway, don't feel too bad about it," Echidna said. "Your strength decreases what, fifty times on Earth? Just be patient, and soon you will be able to show your true power there. What are you going to do now?"

"I will return to my post," Cerberus said.

"Such a hardworking child... Don't let your feelings control your actions too much," Echidna said. "Don't forget to keep an eye on the other humans either."

"Understood," Cerberus said and then vanished.

After Cerberus disappeared, Echidna took her time to study Cerberus's memories. Although he indeed lost, she recognized that Ryan struggled quite a bit. Still, for someone who didn't have a clear fighting style mastered, he certainly looked something else... Aside from Ryan, Echidna also took an interest in the female dragon that fought alongside Ryan a few hours before Cerberus ambushed him.

"Earth has become quite fun," Echidna smiled and then licked her lips. "I can't wait..."

The effects of the poison on Ryan's body only started to disappear when the sun started to rise. As if that wasn't annoying enough, Cerberus' poison still managed to decrease Ryan's health even after three hours. The creature was really on another level...

"I need to level up Radar..." Ryan muttered. "I can't let another monster sneak up on me again like that. That being said, I need to prepare more for that kind of situation." ρ??√??(?)???

While that idea was obvious, Ryan knew he probably wouldn't be able to accomplish it. He had too many goals, and accomplishing all of them required different actions and skills. To defeat dragons, Ryan

needed more power. To avoid ambushes, Ryan needed to increase his tracking skills, to decrease the effects of dungeon breaks, he needed more mana and tamed monsters...

“I also need a fucking storage device...” Ryan sighed after collecting his weapons and somehow storing them inside his backpack. “Anyway, this news is really cool, and the extra effect is really interesting. Maybe I can obtain similar skills.”

The Sagittarian’s’ bow looked like as if it was made of eagle’s feathers. Both ends of the weapon really looked like eagle’s wings. Although Ryan was someone who valued efficiency above everything else, he was pretty eager to use a bow that had such a cool design.

After organizing his things, Ryan headed North. Although that slowed him down a little bit, he didn’t use any spells that could increase his speed. Instead of that, he used all his mana to train Radar. Unfortunately, or perhaps, fortunately, he didn’t have much time to train the skill since he eventually found Lake Ontario, and much to his surprise, some megalodons were there, fighting dragons.

“Now that I think about it... this lake becomes a river downstream and then reaches the ocean eventually. Still, to think that those monsters would come this far...”

“You are late,” Alissa suddenly appeared out of nowhere, and Ryan almost had a heart attack. “You didn’t notice my approach, huh. I guess my training is complete. By the way, where did you get that bow?”

Ryan took a deep breath to calm down... Alissa not only had the nerve to appear like that and even acts as if it wasn’t something important or annoying. Regardless, for some reason, it looked like she didn’t fight and had been training. Although Ryan was curious, he decided not to pry. It wasn’t like he would get anything by asking.

“That is none of your business,” Ryan said abruptly.

“It looks like you managed to fight and defeat a formidable foe... impressive, but it also looked like you made some serious enemies.”

“What happened, Orgar?” Alissa asked.

“Well, do you know the legendary...”

“If you tell her anything about it, our deal is over,” Ryan said

“You can’t just decide that! Men don’t go back on their word!”

“Technically, I am a male of many species, so the effects of such words are less effective on me,” Ryan said. “Anyway, I won’t say it again. There is no sense in Alissa not reading my mind when you report her every single thing.”

Chapter 227

It took a while, but Alissa eventually gave up on asking what happened. At first, Ryan thought about telling her in order to warn the others, but in the end, that was unnecessary. It was pretty obvious that those sapient monsters had a lot of pride, so the chances of them going to attack other humans relatively close to Ryan to annoy him were quite low. Besides, even though it might be dangerous, the base survivors have been training to obtain the strength to protect themselves. So, Ryan didn’t have to worry about Arthur’s safety, even more so when Alissa was so close to him.

“I am starting to think that I should return to the times where I read your mind,” Alissa said. “Since you do so many things that piss me off, maybe I should do the same.”

“Go on, I give you permission to do it,” Ryan said full of confidence.

Alissa frowned. Ryan said that directly and even though he didn’t look like he was planning something, it was obviously a trap. In the end, Alissa regretted that because Ryan discovered the ultimate technique to counter the power of mind-reading. One just has to imagine a clear image of the other person naked.

When Alissa saw the image that Ryan had in his head, she got so angry and flustered that the dragons and megalodons in the distance stopped fighting since they felt her presence for a few moments.

“How dare you imagine me naked?” Alissa asked while clenching her teeth.

“How dare you read my mind?” Ryan asked.

“You gave me permission!” Alissa said.

“Just to show you what will happen from now on when you try to do that,” Ryan said. “No... next time, I will imagine you in some embarrassing positions. My instincts have been getting pretty good lately, so I bet I will notice even when Orgar tries to read my mind. If that happens, I will increase the erotism level in my head.”

“You wouldn’t dare...” Alissa said.

“Do you want to bet?” Ryan asked.

Although Ryan felt like he was wasting time, something like that was necessary to avoid headaches in the future. Alissa has been doing whatever the hell she wants as of late, so someone has to teach her a lesson, and that was the only thing that came to Ryan’s mind since she was somewhat an innocent girl.

“Anyway, what have you been waiting for?” Ryan asked. “I can see only four dragons in the area. Surely you can take them down alone.”

“... Orgar said that I could learn one thing or two from you,” Alissa took a deep breath and then explained. “Even for me, it is difficult to fight megalodons in the water if they have more than five of them in the area. So, I have been training to improve my stealth, and now I was about to test the power of a concentrated surprise attack.”

Alissa was going to imitate Ryan... which was odd since he felt like his fighting style was all over the place as of late. However, she probably has the skills and status to be much more effective than him. Maybe that will even give Ryan some insights about how he can improve by watching someone who had the strength that he wanted.

“Well then, show me what you got,” Ryan said.

“Why are you so cooperative?” Alissa frowned. “Don’t you want the dragon hearts?”

“I am in a good mood, so I will let you do what you want, for now,” Ryan said.

Truth to be told, Ryan wanted to confirm Alissa had enough firepower with bows to kill the megalodon while they were underwater, but first, he had to see what she could do against dragons. Fighting them was easy in her draconic form, but she needed some time even while using the same techniques in her human form.

“I want your old bow,” Alissa declared. “The bolts of my crossbows aren’t strong enough to withstand a charged attack.”

“And I want the power to explode dragons’ heads without moving a finger,” Ryan said. “I can sell it to you for fifty thousand coins.”

“So, stingy... fine,” Alissa said.

Although it was odd that Alissa didn’t have a bow of that level, Ryan didn’t waste time questioning her about it. Most likely, she also had the skills to repair weapons, so Ryan didn’t have to warn her.

“All right, although it isn’t my style, I can give you some pointers as to how to deal with a perfect surprise attack. You already know how to disappear from the dragons’ radar, but that isn’t enough. You have to conceal your killing intent. Don’t get nervous and don’t think about anything while you pull the string, just thinking that you are doing something else, not that you are preparing an attack to kill a dragon.”

That was quite the explanation, and it was weird coming from a dragon, but Ryan knew that Orgar wasn’t wrong. He already knew how to do that to a certain extent. He just needed to learn how to make a full of energy projectile fly without warning the targets.

“Those are low-level dragons, so once you take down one of them, the others will try to escape. Attacking with his style while moving isn’t recommendable, so you only have one option.”

“Kill as many of them as possible with the first strike and wound the others with the attack as well?” Alissa asked.

“Yes, I can tell you some ways to do that with a single attack, but you should find a way alone. You need to get used to that task as soon as possible.”

That was quite surprising given how quick to spoil Alissa the dragon was, but it looked like Orgar already was preparing Alissa for the future. After thinking for a while, Alissa came up with an answer. At least, judging by the smugness on her face, it looked like she planned something quite flashy.

Chapter 228

While Alissa was preparing her attack, Ryan checked once more the dragons and sighed once again. For some reason, the number of dead dragons was too high... the targets ahead were three red dragons and one brown dragon.

“I wonder if the red ones are stronger and the number of others is small because the megalodons have an easy time killing them... anyway, it looks like Alissa won’t be able to use her fire attacks, perhaps not even those dark flames. Even though she has the power of a dragon, elemental resistances play an important role most of the time.”

Alissa prepared the bow, and when the bone arrow appeared, she pulled the string. Weirdly enough, she had a smirk on her face. First a smug expression and now a smirk... Ryan couldn’t help but frown at this weird girl. It doesn’t matter what she was planning. Acting like that before a fight seemed wrong...

In just a few seconds, Ryan saw some cracks appearing on the bone bow. As expected, Alissa could pour much more energy in just a few moments in comparison to Ryan. He didn’t know if she had activated any buffs, but Ryan saw clearly when Alissa poured mana around the arrow and changed the nature of it to lightning. The air around them changed, and the energy concentration was so intense that the temperature rose several degrees.

“Hey...” Ryan frowned while taking a few steps backward after feeling the danger.

Suddenly, the battle in the distance stopped, and the four dragons looked in their direction. Although Alissa didn't emit her killing intent, she went too far gathering energy. However, before the dragons could even think of running away, she fired the arrow.

Somehow, Ryan managed to see that the bone arrow didn't endure all that vast energy concentration. Even before the attack hit one dragon, the projectile became dust. However, the energy still followed its trajectory as if nothing had happened and pierced the thick neck of a red dragon and immediately beheaded it.

After that, the mana and stamina on the attack expanded until it caused an explosion of flames and bolts of lightning. The dragons around got hit by flames and the bolts of lightning as well. Although the red dragons endured the flames, the bolts of lightning completely paralyzed them. As for the earth dragon... the creature didn't resist the explosion and fell dead after the half of its body was completely annihilated by it.

Ryan knew that dragons had enough energy to pull off that kind of attack, but they weren't that skilled at controlling it. Since they have so much pride in their strength, they never felt the need to rely on control. Just overpowering their opponents was good enough. Regardless, Alissa managed to use their powers in a very efficient manner. The only problem was the aftermath of doing something she never did before. Alissa fell on her knees and trembled a little while holding her head.

"You went too far, controlling mana like that when you never tried before made your brain overload with that huge amount of willpower you need to control it. Anyway, you should get back to normal in a few minutes."

It looked like Alissa was suffering from a pretty harsh migraine... in the end, Ryan learned that quite a lot by observing someone who had the power that he wanted. Mainly, just obtaining that level of strength wasn't enough. He needed to reach a certain level of mastery in control, or he might become like a machine that overheats pretty quickly.

"Go finish them off," Alissa declared. "I will join you in a few minutes."

Ryan considered ignoring the idea since even though the explosion made the dragon bodies fly away and land on the land, he thought the megalodons would find a way to devour them. However, they wouldn't have the nerve to expose themselves like that when an unknown creature just killed two dragons and wounded two others heavily with a single attack. ρ??∪??(?)???

When he started to fly using his shield as a platform, Ryan confirmed his suspicion, the megalodons have left the area. They probably headed downstream... if that was good or bad, that was something Ryan couldn't tell.

“Orgar said that she is getting better at controlling his powers, but she has been obtaining classes at a steady pace... most likely, her ability to control those powers is only one of the many factors that explain her growth. Alissa probably didn't learn many skills by herself, but the status bonuses of the classes can't be ignored.”

Although he will never admit that, one of Ryan's many goals was to one day surpass Alissa, but since she was also constantly improving, it looked like that goal will never be achieved.

To make sure that the dragons wouldn't try anything, Ryan paralyzed one with his spear and attacked the other relentlessly with his gauntlets. Of course, he did that by using wind magic. Those beasts were heavily wounded, but Ryan was fully aware that nothing was more dangerous than a wounded beast.

You obtained 11.598 coins.

You obtained 9.952 coins.

“Feels like I am being rewarded for something that I didn't do. Regardless, I can't let these kinds of monsters recover... one of them dropped an ax, and the two fire dragons that died first dropped some items as well. Considering that dragons gave me fifty thousand coins, I guess I don't deserve even their drops and dragon hearts.”

Regardless, Ryan satisfied his curiosity and he was prepared to pay such a price when he let Alissa attack first. So, such a thing didn't bother him all that much. After a while, Alissa finally appeared and grabbed her items. However, since she was flying pretty slowly, it looked like she wasn't fully recovered. Weirdly enough, even some dire wolves began to show up.

“Well... that was unexpected,” Ryan frowned. “Did they lose their sense of danger?”

“Wild animals and monsters have good instincts. Although they know that Alissa is more powerful than them, they also know that she is in bad condition.”

Ryan decided to guard that knowledge in his head. Brute strength wasn't everything... it was obvious since his best weapon was his bow, and he wouldn't be able to use it if he loses both of his hands.

Chapter 229

Although he forgot that before, when he had the chance, after beating the crap out of some of them, Ryan tamed one dire wolf, he would never say that out loud, but those monsters were too cool. Of all the monsters he had tamed before, they were by far the most awesome, and their strength was also impressive.

“You said that you didn't like animals,” Alissa frowned. “I guess that was just you being bashful in your own weird way.”

It wasn't a matter of liking or disliking. Ryan just never wanted pets because he didn't think they deserve to be caged. As for the tamed dire wolf, he was cool, but he was a cool tool for battle. That being said, Ryan felt a bit conflicted in thinking like that. He had bidden their will with magic, but he could feel the connection between them, so at the very least, Ryan had to treat them like real partners. After all, they will never betray him.

“All right, boy,” Ryan said. “Show me what you can do.”

While Alissa was recovering, Ryan equipped his shield and gave the order for the dire wolf to use Ice Arrow. As expected, the attacks couldn't surpass the shield's defenses, but the weight of every projectile managed to push him back several centimeters. At the same time, the dire wolf was suffering some damage and training its Pain Resistance.

“For the time being, your job will be to train Dash and Ice Arrow,” Ryan declared. “When you feel hungry, you can eat them.”

Alissa was finally ready to move on, and since there wasn't a dungeon nearby in which the dire wolf could guard, it was the best order Ryan could give him. Taking him with them wasn't going to help in the fight against the Fenrir's after all.

"Are you sure you don't want even a single dragon heart?" Alissa asked.

"I want, but I don't want to gain anything I don't deserve," Ryan said.

Alissa shrugged and then marched toward North, they had already entered the dire wolves' territory, so there was no need to fly. Besides, that would reveal their approach. Although Alissa had some skill that could make her completely undetectable, it wasn't like she could maintain that state forever. She needed mana and concentration, and she lacked the ability to stay concentrated for long periods.

"As I expected, this bow isn't powerful enough to endure your power. The other one is probably fifty percent better and can show a better performance."

"This isn't for sale," Ryan declared.

"How about two dragon hearts for it?" Alissa asked.

"You are pretty dumb, aren't you?" Ryan asked.

"... Why do you think that?" Alissa clenched her fist and then asked.

"Although dragon hearts are useful and they make me stronger, I can't attack with dragon hearts alone," Ryan said. "I can only show the power of my status with a decent weapon. Even if you can destroy a mountain with a single punch, it is stupid to do so when you can do the same thing by using a weapon and spending only half of the energy." $\rho \int \sqrt{r^2} (r) \rho \int$

It seemed logical for Ryan, but for someone like Alissa, who could transform into a dragon and make several of them run away just with her presence alone, the same thing couldn't be said. Regardless, even though they advanced pretty close to Lake Ontario, they never found a single megalodon. Ryan

thought of asking Alissa to move away a little bit, but that wouldn't change anything since he didn't have the power to slay them in just a few moments.

Although the megalodons avoided Alissa's presence, the dire wolves at some point stopped doing that... probably because Ryan and Alissa were getting closer to their destination.

Congratulations! The skill Cold Resistance has leveled up.

Cold Lv 11 → Lv 12

Effect: Decreases the damage caused by all ice-type attacks and the effects of cold environments by one point per level, even when they don't damage you directly.

You obtained 01 status point.

"Crap... this is getting pretty intense," Ryan muttered while trying to warm his chest with his arms. "I shouldn't have left the salamander behind."

"Or maybe you should have brought some proper clothes," Alissa said. "Anyway, it looks like things will get even colder from now on."

Although Alissa was wearing some proper thick winter clothes, she looked way too comfortable. Most likely, the power she received from Orgar made her close to immune to cold. Regardless, Alissa was right because they could see some thick snow clouds a few kilometers ahead of them. That was normal in that kind of environment. What wasn't normal was the fact that the clouds weren't moving as they should. They were just moving in circles...

"It looks like Alissa's actions made all the dragons in the area wary of her. According to Mark, the number of dragons in this area was around one hundred, but the number of presences I feel is too low, and they are very far away."

"Hehehe, my bad," Alissa showed an embarrassed smile.

Great... Ryan had come for the dragon hears, and the dragon hears weren't there anymore. That was annoying, but at least some sweet coins a new class was waiting for him, and by the look of things, the class he will get in the dire wolves' dungeon was bound to be awesome.

"We just crossed the border," Alissa said. "The dungeon is in a place called Kemptville."

"Not anymore, now whatever was there became a mountain of snow," Ryan said. "Anyway... why are you telling me that?"

"Just saying what Mark said to me since you left without asking anything," Alissa shrugged. "You need to know more about the places you are going to fight."

"How is that knowledge going to help you?" Ryan asked.

"Maybe not today... but one day I will," Alissa frowned.

Alissa was probably trying to develop some habits to impress her soldiers, and while that was admirable, Ryan couldn't help but wonder why she was trying to look like a proper leader in front of him.

Chapter 230

Before Ryan and Alissa could get any closer to the dungeon, suddenly, an army of dire wolves appeared and charged at them. Ryan and Alissa equipped their bows, and without ceremony, they charged Power Shot. After ten seconds, they fired, and dozens of dire wolves exploded, the power of Ryan's attack was considerably weaker, but something like that didn't bother him anymore.

You obtained 65 coins.

You obtained 55 coins.

You obtained 51 coins.

...

Although dozens of them died in a single instant, the other didn't slow down even a bit. As if they were machines programmed to kill, the dire wolves continued their charge.

"Let's retreat while we attack," Ryan said. "If we go too far here, the bosses will join the fight, and I don't intend to underestimate another mythological creature. Even more so when the current one had the nerve to fight Odin."

Alissa thought of taunting Ryan a little bit, but she shook the idea out of her head. The number of dire wolves was massive, and they didn't have time to waste. Ryan thought of using his magic wand and use Thunder Arrow since, most likely, the dire wolves would suffer a lot of damage, but he decided to keep using his new bow since he could recover his stamina, and thus, he will train his legs. However, much to his surprise, even though they run until they reached the border again, the dire wolves never stopped coming.

"Now that is surprising... they have this many pawns to spare?" Ryan frowned.

It seemed like the enemy was trying to buy time, but that kind of strategy was flawed when the attackers were people like Ryan and Alissa who could fight for quite even against when they had a massive numerical disadvantage. Moreover, they will keep getting stronger at a steady pace like that. Such a strategy doesn't make any sense.

Ryan decided to fly while using his shield and then looked around the area while charging another Power Shot. He didn't see anything out of place, but relying on his eyes alone wasn't enough to clear his worries.

"Do you think this is a trap?" Alissa asked. "I can feel the presence of basically all monsters in the area, and I can't sense anyone approaching aside from those."

"As I said, I don't intend to underestimate a wolf that challenged a Nordic god," Ryan said. ρ??∪??(?)??
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When his mana was empty, Ryan fired the Power Shot and managed to recover half of his mana after killing ten dire wolves. That was nice and all, but unfortunately, such a strategy wouldn't work since Ryan could only recover so much stamina. Without any other choice, Ryan returned to the ground and decided to attack the wolves with his tree fire swords. His control over them gave Ryan the chance to kill the monsters and recover his mana faster than he could spend... still. The situation wasn't improving.

"Time to use the crossbows again," Alissa sighed.

"No, wait... try to use your magic weapons and use Telekinesis to control them."

"Hey... aren't you two doing that to piss me off, right?" Ryan asked.

"No, she will be able to train her control by fighting like that, and she has too many magic items. By doing that, she will be able to train several of her masteries."

That seemed like a proper explanation, but at the same time, Ryan felt that it was a pretty cheap one as well. Why didn't they do that before? Why now of all times? In any case, Alissa didn't hesitate, and she called dozens of weapons from her storage dimension. Without wasting time, Alissa followed Orgar's orders, and she started to decimate the monsters just like that. Fortunately, she wasn't shameless enough to make her weapons spin like Ryan, or maybe she didn't do it because she didn't need that.

The dire wolves were being, and their fur also could work as a layer of armor, but they were on slaughtered while Ryan and Alissa were using their weapons remotely. When the wolves' advance was completely stopped, the monsters suddenly stopped and then began to retreat.

"As expected, the bosses are also controlling them," Ryan said.

"We need to assume that the next time we approach, things won't repeat like this. They will definitely try to crush us with sheer numbers. The chances of the bosses joining the fight will also increase."

Ryan agreed with that. The real problem was to how to counter such a possible move. If they focus too much on that possibility, they could even fall for a worse trap... it was hard for him to think that, but

Ryan couldn't imagine himself solving that situation alone. He was looking for tougher opponents to face, but his strength wasn't enough to deal with those situations...

"Whatever the most difficult is the job, the more rewarded I will be... Besides, I should be thankful that dragons aren't around to bother us."

While Ryan was checking the loot, he pondered seriously about the options that he had, but in fact, he didn't a single idea as to how to prevent themselves from falling for a trap. At the very least, the things he could do alone wouldn't help all that much.

"Let's attack from above," Alissa said. "Mythological creatures or not, the enemies are still wolves, right? Wolves can't fly."

"Until two months ago, humans couldn't use magic either," Ryan said. "So, your logic might be flawed. I can't use magic, but I can more or less fly. Since I can use elemental manipulation for that, some monsters might be able to do it as well."

"Yeah, but at least they won't be able to fight on the terrain they prefer," Alissa said. "Besides, if we use our human form, they won't notice us if we approach from the sky."

"I only my human form..." Ryan frowned. "Anyway, you will only spend unnecessary mana by trying to make me go with you. While you attack from above, I will attack from ground level after confirming something."

Chapter 231

At first, Alissa thought Ryan was only uncooperative and unsociable like always, but since he looked deep in thought about something, she decided to concluded that wasn't the case.

While Alissa was preparing her attack, Ryan disappeared underneath the snow and approached the dire wolves' dungeon. Although all that snow worked to fortify the defenses around the dungeon and wolves had no problem running over it, the monsters were wrong if they think that they were the only ones who could benefit from it.

It took a while since Ryan made sure that he didn't make any noise or left any trail of his presence, but eventually, he returned to the point where the fight started and in which he could see the dungeon. Although the area in front of the place the snow wasn't so deep, the snow's concentration above it really makes it look like the dungeon was located in a snow mountain.

"Mmm... I didn't think their number was that low... We didn't kill that many either..."

Ryan frowned since he couldn't see even a thousand dire wolves guarding the dungeon. Besides, the bosses were nowhere to be seen... something was off there. Before Ryan could even think of what that was, he saw a rain of magic arrows falling from the sky. He didn't know if it was intentional or not, but Alissa surely decided to act at the perfect moment...

The magic arrows fell and hit dozens of dire wolves, killing them without giving the poor beasts the chance to retaliate, and then suddenly, from the snow, dozens of thousands of dire wolves appeared. They were hidden underneath the snow, just like Ryan and some of them were just a few dozen meters away from him.

"I crap... If I had tried to be just a little more aggressive, I would have stumbled on them."

Cold sweat covered Ryan's face. If he had been found, he could have escaped, but not unscathed... dodge the barrage of ice arrow of thousands of those wolves was nearly impossible. Regardless, even though Alissa was kilometers above them and out of their reach, the dire wolves somehow managed to manipulate the snow and create shields above them. Although some of them still died after that, in the end, Alissa only wasted her time and mana by keeping attacking.

In any case, Ryan made sure to memorize the position the dire wolves were in before retreating a few kilometers. It seemed like a waste of time, but he created hundreds of magic traps in the area between the dungeon and the place where he left Alissa behind. Although he imagined that she would get mad and dash at the monsters since her actions proved futile, she didn't do anything like that. However, while Ryan was busy making Magic Traps, she suddenly appeared underneath the snow.

"What the hell..." Ryan frowned. "Do you really want to make me have a heart attack?"

Alissa's skill was so powerful that not even Radar could detect her presence. It was like you could only see her if she lets you. As for everyone else, unless they have her permission, they will never find her.

"I thought you were too prideful to rely on traps..." Alissa frowned.

"As if pride would stop me from clearing this dungeon," Ryan said. "Besides, I don't need to be prideful when the enemies want to crush me with sheer numbers."

"You should consider engraving those words in your heart, Alissa. You are getting too used to overpowering your enemies as of late."

Ryan wondered why Orgar was saying that when Alissa probably was just copying his usual behavior. In any case, he was looking more and more like a father trying to educate his teenage daughter, who was in her rebellious phase.

"You can attack the dire wolves again like that, but I would recommend doing that from other positions," Ryan said. "I don't think that you aren't stupid enough for that, but I don't want to underestimate you. So, whatever you do, don't make the dire wolves come to this place."

"... Maybe I will do since you everything you say makes me thing that you want to pick a fight," Alissa said after a long sigh.

Alissa looked at the magic marks created by Ryan on the ground and then rubbed her chin thoughtfully. He had no idea what she was thinking, but she created another mark above it for some reason. Ryan couldn't see the mark, but he felt like she used a similar spell.

"With your magic power, the skill will snare the monsters for a few seconds," Alissa explained. "Killing them won't be possible, but with another magic trap, they will definitely suffer critical damage."

"... Is that so?" Ryan frowned. "Maybe I should have created two layers of the magic trap to make sure that they would die."

"... You are such a pain in the ass..." Alissa sighed.

Unfortunately, Ryan couldn't say that Alissa was wrong. Regardless, while working together for who knows how long, they created thousands of magic traps. Since Alissa had a lot more mana, sometimes she created the two types of traps. Although that surprised Alissa a little, Ryan didn't complain. As he said before, he wouldn't let her pride get in the way, but she didn't imagine that Ryan would go as far as working with others, even those who he cared so little... there was no point in being unpleasant to those who help him, even though they might have some hidden goals in their mind. As long as they were useful... Was that mindset correct? Ryan couldn't tell anymore.

"Thank you..." Orgar said, in a weird calm tone.

Ryan frowned when he suddenly heard Orgar's voice. For a moment, he frowned and thought he had imagined things. Why the hell Orgar would thank him for anything? At the very least, he had no reason to do it. However, when he saw the dubious look in Alissa's face, Ryan understood that it hadn't been his imagination.

Class: Hunter Lv 47 (+ 01 UP / Elementalist Lv 47 (+ 01 UP)/ Monk Lv 16 (-) 

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

Rank: 510th

Health: 533/533 (2.47 /s)

Mana: 955/955 (2.47 /s)

Stamina: 759/759(2.47 /s)

Strength: 30 (+131) (+60)

Dexterity: 896 (+700) (+57)

Speed: 70 (+299) (+48)

Intelligence: 80 (+329) (+3)

Endurance: 27 (+111) (+100)

Control: 06 (+315) (+10)

Mentality: 07 (+16) (+30)

Luck: 74 (+9)

Recovery: 600 (+719) (+220)

Willpower: 09 (+16)

Coins: 135.221

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Dash Lv 23 (+ 02 UP), Hawkeye Lv 09 (+ 02 UP)

Passive Physical Skills: Swordsmanship Lv 38 (+ 02 UP), Spearmanship Lv 26 (+ 02 UP), Martial Arts Lv 09 (+ 04 UP), Shield Mastery Lv 32 (+ 02 UP), Sprinter Lv 15 (+ 03 UP), Hammer Mastery Lv 15 (+ 03 UP),

Spells: Heal Lv 32 (+ 02 UP), Incomplete Reptilian Transformation Lv 23 (+ 02 UP), Tame Lv 50 (+ 02 UP), Flash Lv 26 (+ 06 UP), Radar Lv 17 (+ 04 UP), Stamina Restoration Lv 09 (+ 08 UP), Fire Shuriken Lv 07 (+ 06 UP),

Support Skills: Poison Resistance Lv 23 (+ 06 UP), Ice Bound Lv 10 (+ 03 UP), Cold Resistance Lv 15 (+ 06 UP), Paralysis Resistance Lv 11 (+ 10 UP),

Classes:

Combat: Combat Archer Lv 15 (+ 01 UP), Sorcerer Lv 12 (+ 03 UP), Sniper Lv 11 (+ 01 UP), Ninja Lv 03 (+ 02 UP),

Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 21 (+ 01 UP), Trickster Lv 11 (+ 01 UP),

Chapter 232

In the end, Ryan decided not to think too much about it Orgar's actions or goals. As long as they don't cause him problems directly or indirectly, they were none of his business.

Regardless, even though Alissa decided to play it safe by using traps. Eventually, she got sick of it. She looked so annoyed and bored that one could see steam leaving her ears. Strangely enough, after some point, she began to smirk. After twenty-four hours of creating traps non-stop, Alissa was laughing like a psychopath criminal.

"What is wrong with you?" Ryan asked.

"It is nothing... I am just imagining those damn monsters exploding one after the other," Alissa replied with a large grin on her face.

"It is nothing... she says," Ryan frowned.

In any case, although they have been careful not to find out, Ryan couldn't help but worry that they succeeded. It was convenient that Alissa's presence couldn't be felt even when she created magic traps. Even so... things were proceeding too favorably, and Ryan had enough experience to know that wasn't a good thing.

“It is too soon to go home... let’s play a bit more,” Alissa smiled viciously.

Alissa was probably exhausted... at that point in time, it was only natural since she had a weak body in the beginning and only recently was getting used to her new body... Regardless, what Ryan had been waiting for finally appeared in the distance. Some pretty fast shadows left the dungeon in the distance. For some reason, they spread around in all directions.

“That isn’t good...” Ryan said. “They are coming... so calm the fuck down a little.”

–” You are too tired, Alissa. Let me fight while you rest a little.”

“Not when things are just getting fun,” Alissa said.

Ryan sighed. He didn’t know how the body division worked for those two, but at that moment, it felt like Alissa would cause more problems than help. Someone with Orgar’s battle experience would be useful, and once he decides to go all out, a fight against the legendary Nordic wolf wouldn’t seem so insane.

“Just don’t complain later once things get out of hand...” Orgar warned.

Unfortunately, Alissa didn’t want to take a break. Regardless, Ryan was decided to make it do with what he had. Hopefully, his charged attack would kill more than one or two bosses. Based on his experiences, those mythological creatures weren’t that legendary like their legends, so they could be easily killed.

Although his bow was enduring a lot more of the concentrated energy than Ryan thought, the chance to use on the enemies he wanted never to come, the shadows that represented the bosses never showed...

“Come on... you have got to be kidding me,” Ryan bit his lips in annoyance.

Since Ryan was using mana to recover his stamina as well, his mana eventually reached the bottom... it would be a pain in the ass to charge another attack like that again, but it couldn’t be helped.

When Ryan fired, the impact made him fly backward and then roll on the ground for several meters. Although the snow decreased the pain a little, it looked like he had gone a bit too far... his Power Shot hit a concentration of dire wolves in the distance. The energy dispersed and created a vacuum in the area, sending snow and the monsters alike flying toward all directions while killing many and breaking the bones of a few lucky ones. In the blink of an eye, Ryan's mana was full again. However, he knew that it wasn't time to celebrate, he activated Radar, and as expected, he felt the presence of something approaching...

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Ryan got up as fast as possible and then put the shield in front of him and toward the direction where he felt that presence. It was as scary as Cerberus. Ryan saw a black wolf running toward him, the creature was massive, and despite its size and the fact that a big ass leash made of dark metal was on its necks, it was lightning fast.

Although he used earth, wind, and snow to reinforce his shield's defense, the five-meter-long wolf easily kicked the spiked shield and sent it flying in the distance, breaking in several pieces. Not even Cerberus managed to do that with a single strike, so Ryan couldn't understand how a single boss managed to have so much attack power.

In the end, Fenrir reached Ryan, but before the creature could hit him, he used Flash and appeared on the left side of the creature. The monster passed by him, but its eyes never left Ryan. That had been a mistake. Suddenly a massive dragon's claw fell over Fenrir's body, but despite the surprise attack, Alissa didn't manage to crush the Nordic wolf-like she had planned. The monster even managed to get up while ignoring the weight behind Alissa's attack.

"Be a good doggy and stay down!" Alissa said and then used her other claw to smash Fenrir. "Ryan, I got this. Just make sure that the dire wolves won't interfere!"

"My ass that I will let you do whatever you want again," Ryan said. "This motherfucker targeted me first. I will make him regret this."

Ryan was unreasonable, but he wouldn't be able to live his life in a new world if whenever a tough opponent appears, he lets someone else take care of the problem. While Alissa was holding the beast down, he prepared another Power Shot, but then Ryan suddenly felt a shiver... something was coming. When he turned around, Ryan saw an even darker Fenrir coming from behind.

“Aw, come on...” Ryan looked upward and used Flash.

Again, he dodged the attack, and soon after, he attacked the other Fenrir by above. Although he hit the mark, which was the top of the monster’s head, the creature just became a shadow and then dispersed... the fragments of the shadow then were sucked by Fenrir’s body, and the boss suddenly was strong enough to counter the power of Alissa’s claws.

“What the heck...” Alissa muttered in shock and with a frown on her face.

“I see there are no several bosses... there is only a single boss... Most bosses are weaker than they were supposed to be since the mana level on Earth is low, but it looks like this guy found a way to counter that. Instead of sending new creatures when the dungeon breaks happened, Fenrir used to send more of his power from the other side.”

That made sense, but Ryan couldn’t believe that such a mad wolf seemed capable of having such an idea. Another question was how someone or something could do that. Unfortunately, Ryan had no idea how the monsters could do it or how he could counter such an effect. To make matters worse, Ryan saw more than one shadow leaving the dungeon. Since the monster didn’t absorb all of them when they appeared, it looked like Fenrir couldn’t just do that freely, but even so... the monster’s strength was many levels above all ordinary bosses they had fought until now.

“Who cares about that?” Alissa asked and then tried to grab Fenrir with both claws. “I just have to... ugh.”

Fenrir used all its strength to push back Alissa’s hands for a single moment, and then the monster used its own claws to damage her. A lot of blood started to come from her wound, but in the blink of an eye, she closed it with a healing spell. $\rho\tau\tau\tau\cup\tau\tau(\tau)\tau\tau\tau$

Fenrir finally realized that ignoring Alissa wasn’t a good idea and charged at her. Even though its body was ten times smaller, the monster hit her stomach and pushed her back for several minutes. Ryan, who was preparing another Power Shot, suddenly heard Orgar’s voice.

“Don’t use elemental magic. His basic resistances are too high.”

Ryan was planning to gain some piercing power by using wind magic, but it looked like that wasn't a good idea. The skill was at a low level, but since the foe was powerful, it would level up a lot in just a single moment. So, Ryan decided to use Lesser Poison Enchantment. At the very least, it would combine well with, Bleed.

When Fenrir finally noticed what Ryan was planning, it was already too late. He fired the arrow the very moment the creature stopped moving. Even though Ryan didn't have much time to charge, Fenrir's back still moved a few centimeters to the side when it got hit. Moreover, the wound started to bleed and got purple due to the poison.

Congratulations! The skill Lesser Poisonous Enchantment has leveled up.

Lesser Poisonous Enchantment Lv 1 → Lv 11

Effect: Increases the power of your attacks by adding the properties of poison. The extra damage caused will be equal to your intelligence + 30%, and it will last for five seconds.

Cost: 20 mana per attack.

You obtained 10 status points.

The monster looked annoyed at Ryan, but in the end, the creature didn't have much time to plan anything. Alissa recovered from the attack and fired some Thunder Spears at Fenrir. The creature avoided some projectiles, but others landed on the mark and paralyzed the beast for a few moments.

Ryan more or less could visualize their victory if he and Alissa work together, but there were some problems. The Fenrir's shadows moved around and ready to help the creature and the dire wolves that were starting to circulate around the traps. Some of them were dying while trying to pinpoint where the traps are, but it was only a matter of time before Ryan and Alissa got surrounded.

“We can't ignore the shadows and the dire wolves, but I can't let Alissa fight Fenrir alone either... Fenrir needs to die first. If that happens, I bet that its shadows won't be able to do much aside from controlling the dire wolves. The question is: how can we defeat this beast fast enough?”

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Ryan tried to find a solution to the problem, but nothing came to his mind. Just like Alissa said, perhaps he should focus on stand by and focus on support by eliminating the dire wolves. Their numbers were pretty high, so it wasn't like he was running away from the battle. Still...

"What am I doing here when I am having a hard time against oversized dogs and wolves? Why am I acting like a big shot when I can't even solve this situation by myself... all this time-fighting nonstop, and I am still not able to deal with all enemies on my path." Ryan clenched his fists.

Ryan bit his lips in exasperation. Since that day, he didn't improve even a single bit? He wasn't good enough for anything... Who was Ryan? Is just a guy full of pride that couldn't do anything by himself even after losing his parents and being betrayed by his fiancée and by his best friend?

Those doubts in his head annoyed the crap out of him, but Ryan barely could keep them away from his head for more than five minutes since pretty much every time he had to deal with those difficult situations. Lilith was right... It looked like Ryan was just a pathetic little man.

"I will show you all..." Ryan muttered. "Worms like you won't be able to laugh at me for long."

No one heard what Ryan said, but Fenrir, Alissa, and Orgar could feel that something changed in the air. When they looked around to see what had happened, they saw Ryan using his bow with a single hand and pulling the string with his mouth. However, the strangest thing about that scene was the fact that Ryan was using his Paralyzing Spear in the place of a proper arrow. He was determined to combine his weapons like that, and he would use all his mana to restore his stamina and use all that stamina to use a Power Shot like no other.

"Hey, Orgar... isn't Ryan a bit weird?" Alissa asked.

"You already know about the doubts that he has in his mind, so it shouldn't have surprised you that he snapped now. Moving around to help him now and then only delayed the unavoidable."

The first time Alissa and Orgar saw Ryan, they learned everything about him. Essentially, he was just a guy who had lost all the confidence that he had as a man. After losing his parents, he lost the only two people he could share his doubts and fears with. He lost two important pillars of his life. When he saw what Daniel and Mia did, he lost the faith that he had in the future and noticed that his present life was a lie... they never valued him as much as he valued them.

In the end, the only Ryan had left after losing those four pillars were the things he learned along the way. The most important thing to learn was how to rely on himself. His father taught him that, and thanks to it, he manages to survive alone until now. The small confidence he had in his skills got shattered time and time again, against Baal, Lilith, Cerberus, and now against Fenrir. He didn't want to prove anything to anyone, but to keep living, Ryan had to prove to himself that he was something, that he could do things by himself. ρ??(???)???

Alissa and Orgar saw how desperate Ryan was to prove to himself his own value. He was so eager to do it that he lost his hand and still kept moving forward without complaining. However, a single person can only do so much. Ryan's path surely would lead him to his ruin.

Alissa had decided to help him since he never looked at her as a monster or as someone pathetic. Still, time and time again, he refused her help and friendship. In the end, she thought that some shock of reality would help, and thus she decided to let him stay alone for a while, but that only led to the current situation.

“What can we do now, Orgar?” Alissa asked.

“Absolutely nothing. He is completely on edge, and people like only accept two outcomes: reach his goals or die trying. If you get on his way to save his life or just to achieve victory, he will never be the same and he will never reach his true potential.”

“But if he succeeds...” Alissa said.

“While I can't deny that such a possibility exists, he is a difficult human. He won't get satisfied easily. He will keep searching for new enemies until who knows how long...”

Alissa was conflicted. She didn't know if she should help her first human friend or if she should just let see him fighting for his goal or die trying. In the end, she decided to watch since Fenrir was grunting

while looking at Ryan. The monster could feel the danger for its life, but at the same time, it didn't have the nerve to show its back to Alissa in order to attack Ryan.

While Fenrir hesitated, Ryan continued to charge his attack. Alissa decided to at least offer that much support, but in the end, that situation didn't last for long. The dire wolves finally found the places in the distance in which Ryan and Alissa didn't put magic traps, and they were finally turning around the death trap and about to join the battle. Alissa clicked her tongue in annoyance... in the end, someone had to stop them, and that someone was her.

"Wait, Alissa. Just fighting them isn't enough. Return to your human form and grab the best of your magic weapons. You will need to get rid of them like before since they are coming from two sides."

"That is impossible. I won't be able to control so many weapons from such a distance," Alissa said.

"It is okay if you relax your body, and as long as we use the same skill, we can fight together. My power is more intense so that I will kill the wolves of the other side."

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Alissa hesitated a little since it wasn't her style to stay in a single position in such a dire situation, but since she trusted Orgar, she decided to obey him. The very moment Alissa returned to her human form, Fenrir dashed toward Ryan. However, he had already expected that. Ryan was angry, but he wasn't blind.

Like lightning, the Paralyzing Spear flew toward Fenrir, and as expected, the sudden movement of the bow and the spear made Ryan fly dozens of meters backward, but in the end, he managed to land while standing and only broke a few ribs. As for Fenrir... the creature tried to block the spear with its left paw, but the projectile pierced it all the way to the other side and even had enough power to pierce the ground a few centimeters... completely locking Fenrir in a single place.

The beast grunted while blood gushed from the wound. Despite the unbelievable amount of pain the monster was suffering, it still had enough willpower to use the other paw and try to get rid of the spear.

"Who said you could do that?" Ryan asked with a vicious look on his face.

Ryan equipped his hammer and dashed toward the beast. When he was twenty meters away, Ryan swung his weapon and then disappeared. He reappeared a moment later with the Incomplete Reptilian Transformation already active. Even before Fenrir could even think of attacking him, Ryan nailed the spear on the ground even more after hitting it with his hammer.

“UUUUUUUUUUURRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!”

Fenrir grunted in pain and finally recovered the will to counterattack, but Ryan moved away with Flash and escaped completely unscathed. Although he managed to do something not even Alissa managed to do, Ryan didn't lower his guard. His mana was almost empty, and the shadows still were lurking around, waiting for their chance to strike or to increase the power of the original. $\rho \int (\rho) \rho$

Ryan looked to the sides and saw Alissa's weapons destroying and chopping the dire wolves in many pieces. He didn't have to worry about the small fries. Ryan could focus solely on Fenrir and its shadows. The problem was: he didn't have enough mana, nor could he recover fast enough. It was barely noticeable, but Fenrir was pulling the Paralyzing Spear away from the ground just by using its wounded left paw. The monster was using the right paw because it was preparing to smash Ryan once he gets close enough. Even if he uses Flash, he probably won't escape.

“Aside from the spear, only my swords are appropriate to be used in the place of arrows... although my special bone arrows could be of some use, they won't have the same piercing power as the magic weapons... I won't have any other choice but to use them. However, I will need some time to prepare an attack that will also pierce one of the other limbs of this monster.”

Time and stamina, but Ryan didn't have either. Even though he was constantly recovering his stamina passively and actively with his Stamina Restoration while focusing his mana solely to recover his stamina, Ryan only had a single another method to attack: Power of Money. However, for two reasons, Ryan was determined not to use that skill. The first was because he wouldn't be able to gain a single coin even after defeating Fenrir. That couldn't happen since the monster had the strength of several bosses. Naturally, the number of coins he could receive would be outstanding. As for the second reason... it would be too easy, and it wouldn't satisfy Ryan. Not, if he uses it directly, at least...

Ryan nocked his Flame Sword and then began to prepare a Power Shot. Fenrir looked at him and stopped trying to get rid of the spear, the creature was determined to block the attack, and even though Ryan didn't have enough energy to cause the same amount of damage as he did it before, Fenrir wasn't a beast that survived this far underestimating its foes.

Much to Fenrir's surprise, Ryan's energy began to be recovered at a more intense pace. The beast didn't understand what was going on, but eventually, Fenrir noticed that now and then, Ryan would look at the battlefield in the distance for a single moment. Fenrir followed his line of sight and saw the moments a few dire wolves simply exploded for no apparent reason. Its foe did something, and that something recovered his energy.

More and more Power Shot received more energy and quickly reached the level where its attack could pose a real problem to Fenrir. Knowing that time was of the essence, Fenrir suddenly attacked the ground with its left paw and made a lot of cracks in the area around itself. The monster raised its left paw, and now the Paralyzing Spear was only stuck in a small block of earth.

Ryan clicked his tongue... the beast wasn't free but certainly recovered some of its mobility. Ryan wasn't confident that he had enough energy to cause any real damage with the next attack, but it looked like he didn't have any other choice.

Using only its right paw, Fenrir jumped, and in mid-air, the monster opened its mouth and breathed a wave of fire that was even more powerful than of the dragons Ryan fought so far. Instantly, hundreds of meters of snow melted, and the ground turned into magma-like substance. However, Ryan wasn't hit by it. He used Flash in the last moment and appeared a few meters in front of Fenrir. Even if he hadn't poured enough energy at that distance, he should be able to cause a lot of damage. Unfortunately, Ryan fired it too soon... in the corner of his vision. He saw a shadow approaching from the left side... it was one of Fenrir's shadows ready to come to the rescue.

Without mana and stamina to do anything, Ryan just did the only thing he could at the moment... he clenched his teeth and accepted the unavoidable pain.

Chapter 236

Alissa bit her lips in exasperation when she felt the presence of a shadow getting too close to Ryan. When her concentration broke thanks to that, the dire wolves approached quite a lot. However, she didn't feel Ryan's presence disappearing, so she managed to focus on the task ahead.

Ryan felt his bones getting crushed while he was falling. Although the shadow wasn't supposed to be solid, it looked like the damn monster could control its body's properties at will. In the end, Ryan decided to make good use of that opportunity and used his gauntlets to attack the monster. Even with

the little mana he had, as long as he decreases the falling speed and manages to move the monster away from him, he could survive.

In the end, much faster than he thought, the shadow dissipated soon after Ryan attacked the monster's red eyes. Fortunately, soon after that, Ryan fell right above a pile of snow right below where the original Fenrir was supposed to be. The monster also fell soon afterward a few meters away from Ryan. Both of them escaped falling on the magma created by Fenrir's flames.

Although Ryan was constantly using Heal to recover from his injuries, as expected, the broken bones weren't mending fast enough. With much difficulty, he managed to get up while covered in bruises and blood. Only to see Fenrir staring at him while also lying on the snow. The Paralyzing Spear still was in the same place, and the Flame Sword somehow managed to pierce the monster's right paw and even damage its right eye. Not only the monster's arms were unutilized, but the creature also couldn't even breathe fire anymore since the paw was covering its face and mouth.

Suddenly, the shadow that attacked Ryan appeared and then was absorbed by Fenrir. Although the beast gained some power and recovered some of its strength, it didn't manage to get rid of the weapons that were piercing its body.

"Serves you right, damn freak," Ryan said. "Just you wait. I will put you out of your misery soon enough."

"We can't have that. Fenrir had to wait for quite a while to recover that much power, and it would be a pit to make my pet do that all over again."

Ryan frowned when he heard another voice in his head, it was the same technique Orgar used to talk to him, but that voice wasn't his... As expected, Fenrir was being controlled by someone, the owner of that voice is probably Fenrir's master. The one who had the idea to use Fenrir's shadows to make him recover some of his power.

"I can't believe I found two interesting humans so soon. A woman who tamed a dragon and a human who managed to slay many beasts despite the obvious difference in strength. I guess that saying that you have is pretty accurate: hard times create strong men."

"Who are you, and what do you want?" Ryan asked. "If you are trying to recruit us, you are wasting your time. We will not work with you." ρ??∪??(?)???

“Work with me? Would it work with the ants that pass by your feet? You wouldn’t, right? So, of course not, I am not here to ask you to work with me, but you can work for me, just like many other humans did.”

Ryan’s suspicions were correct. Someone or something has been seducing the survivors of this region with sweet words. However, unlike Echidna, this unknown creature didn’t offer the power or anything similar. He just promised them the chance to become his servants... given how troublesome the dire wolves could be, Ryan could understand why they would accept that. Of course, understand and accept were two different things.

“I am a man who will not only rule over the Earth eventually. I will become the true emperor of the universe. There is no one more suited for that than me... there is no other who deserves such honor. With your strength, you will be able to achieve many things, and I reward splendidly my servants who work hard. Usually, I don’t even talk with creatures such as yourselves directly, but since you managed to cause this much trouble to Fenrir, I decided that you deserve that honor.”

So much bullshit... Ryan quickly got tired of it. In any case, at least all that talk refreshed his head, and now he had a good idea. Instead of nocking only a single Blazing Long Sword, he nocked both of them at the same time. To do that, he was forced to use Incomplete Reptilian Transformation, but that was a low price to pay. While Fenrir was struggling to get up, Ryan killed several dire wolves with Power of Money and recovered enough mana to maintain the spell and recover his stamina and power up his attack.

“How rude can a single human be? You didn’t even give me a proper answer, and you were already preparing to fight again? I don’t remember humans being that bloodthirsty.”

“Do you want my answer?” Ryan asked and then raised his crossbow. “Show yourself here with your ass exposed. I think an arrow up your ass is the answer that you are looking for.”

—” How disappointing... to think that humans became this unreasonable even after such a long time. All this progress you made in so many years didn’t change your real nature, huh. Well, it is a pity, but I guess I will smash you like the worms you are.”

“I will be waiting for it,” Ryan said. “Idiots like you are all talk but can’t do anything and doesn’t even have the courage to fight when the situation is unfavorable. Save your breath. Your threats have no

effect. When you have the courage to come, I will be waiting with a sharp enough arrow to stick up on your ass.”

“... Ryan, isn't it? I will make sure to guard your name in my mind. You may think that you have lost everything, but you couldn't be more wrong. You still can lose a lot more...”

Chapter 237

Ryan's ignored that voice, and then he fired his Blazing Long Swords. Fenrir didn't have any chance of dodging the attack. However, at the last moment, a shadow left its body and moved away from the battlefield at unbelievable speeds. Ryan's attack finally landed, and both swords pierced the head of the creature deeply.

You obtained 2.250.000 coins.

Congratulations! The skill Power Shot has leveled up.

Power Shot Lv 46 → Lv 62

Effect: Increases the dexterity temporarily by two points per second.

Cost: 31 Stamina per second

You obtained 16 status points.

Ryan frowned when he received those notifications. He had imagined that he would gain a lot, but not so much... and weirdly enough, the shadow escaped, so it meant that Ryan didn't finish off all the shadows that spawned in the dungeon breaks.

Regardless, when Fenrir was slain, the dire wolves suddenly stopped their charge for some reason. Alissa used that chance to use her Fire Breath and kill thousands of them in a few seconds. Although Ryan felt like helping and taking care of the monsters on the other side of the battlefield, something else picked

his interest, and he forgot about the numerous enemies that still were alive. The item that picked his interest was a red ax. The massive weapon was as big as Ryan himself, but what impressed him most was the red glow of the weapon... it didn't seem like a fire enchanted weapon, but...

Chaos Axe

Effect: Restores five points of your health every time you attack an organic monster with a melee attack.
Strength + 70, Endurance + 30

Durability: 150/150

"Not bad, huh," Ryan nodded to himself in satisfaction. "That being said, I just realized the true potential of my bow skills... in any case, this will be useful to learn some skills and train my body properly."

While Ryan was analyzing his new weapon, the dire wolves began to spread around the area and run away from Alissa and Orgar's rampage. Most likely, when the body was killed, Fenrir lost control over them. However, that shadow probably joined the other shadows to create a proper body, and the monster recovered its power to control the monsters. Fighting Alissa and Ryan was a waste of time and resources, so the monster or perhaps that voice decided to retreat.

"It looks like you somehow did it," Alissa suddenly approached and spoke.

"Yeah," Ryan said. p??J??(?)???

Ryan didn't look much different in Alissa's eyes. His attitude seemed the same, but his eyes seemed fiercer and more serious... just like Orgar said, he defeated a powerful foe, but that hadn't been enough for him. He was already thinking about the next fight and about the things he had to do in order to avoid facing the same problems he faced against Fenrir.

"You should slow down a little bit," Alissa said. "You are making enemies left and right without putting too much thought into it."

"Yeah," Ryan said.

Alissa sighed. Ryan wasn't even paying attention to what she was saying. She was just answering automatically. Regardless, it wasn't much, but Alissa managed to read Fenrir's mind. Although the beast didn't speak, the damn monster could do that. However, since it was like a mad dog, the monster rarely speaks... unless when its master gives the order.

"Do you want to know who was the owner of that voice?" Alissa asked.

"No, it doesn't matter," Ryan said. "Once those fuckers show up, I will hunt them down and won't stop until all of them are dead. That is everything that matters..."

Alissa sighed again. It looked like the old was kidnapped and put someone else on his body. He wasn't showing all that anger towards others anymore, nor was he unpleasant, but it wasn't like he got better. If anything, he got worse since now everything one could find in his mind was thirsty for power and wish to fight those monsters again as soon as possible.

"This is better than letting his pride getting shattered, right Orgar?" Alissa asked via Telepathy.

"Well... it is a question of perspective. You protected his pride, but now he is on the right path to becoming a machine who lives for fighting and proving his existence and value by only doing that. From my perspective, he has a lot of potential to survive this invasion of monsters with that mindset, but from your perspective as a human being, I am not so sure."

Alissa recognized what Orgar wanted to say, humans weren't machines, nor were they beasts that had to fight all moments of their awake lives. Ryan probably knew that, but he still embraced his savage side. He lived his life as a good person, and he didn't like where that led him, so it wasn't surprising that Ryan made such a choice.

"It looks like our job here is over," Alissa said. "Now we just have to pick our new class and then look for those who joined the monster's side."

"You can do that if you want, I am not going to look for them," Ryan said. "I have no business with those who abandoned Earth and joined the monster's side."

That seemed a bit too harsh, but Alissa recognized that Ryan had a point. She wanted to recruit some of the survivors of the area for her army, but as expected, Alissa wouldn't be able to trust those who switch sides that quickly. Her best bet was to look for survivors hidden in the area, but the chances of finding anyone alive in such a cold place were close to none.

“Well then... Let's get to our next class,” Alissa said.

Before doing that, Alissa recalled that she had to gather the loot. She killed thousands of dire wolves, so the number of equipment was pretty high. At first, she thought that Ryan would leave her behind and get his next class without a care, but surprisingly enough, he waited for her. He really had changed. In some aspects, he became more reasonable, but in others...

Chapter 238

For some odd reason, Ryan and Alissa didn't find any boss waiting for them at the dungeon's end. Although the dire wolves were still spawning, they always tried to escape before anything.

Congratulations! You have cleared the dungeon and obtained its treasure! As a reward for your achievement, you can obtain one of three following classes: Guardian, Demon Hunter, and High Priest.

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

Ryan's predictions hit the mark again. Those classes were obvious a whole new level above the others. Not only were their names impressive, but Ryan could also imagine how much use each class could be. Even though he was someone who was more or less specialized in fast and surprise attacks, as of late, Rya has been suffering quite a lot of damage. So, he even considered obtaining the Guardian class, even though Demon Hunter was the obvious choice. However, in the end... Ryan chose the High Priest class. With that one, he was one hundred percent sure that he would recover his lost arm.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one High Priest!

You obtained the following skills: Purification, Regeneration, and Full-Heal.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Purification.

Effect: Decreases the effect of negative effects. When this skill level is higher than the negative effect, the debuff will be completely removed.

Cost: 100 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Regeneration.

Effect: It grants you the chance to cast a healing spell that lasts for five minutes. The amount of health recovered will be equal to one per second.

Cost: 200 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Full-Heal.

Effect: Completely restores your body to its original state while recovering five hundred points of health.

Cost: 1000 mana.

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

Congratulations! You have reached the rank of the 500 strongest humans! Keep clearing dungeons and defeating monsters to raise your rank, and you might receive some nice rewards!

Current Rank: 475th

You obtained: Summon Golem Tome.

Ryan even had forgotten about the rank... Regardless, his rank increased quite a bit just by obtaining a single tier-three class. Not even defeating Fenrir and Cerberus made it increase all that much. It looked like Ryan's luck was finally turning around... the problem was the fact to use Summon Golem, he needed fifteen hundred points of mana. Although he didn't even have enough mana to use Full-Heal, he could use some points to solve that problem.

"Whatever, I will eventually reach that level of mana."

After using the tome, Ryan used his free status points to increase his mana, and soon after, he used Full-Heal. As expected, his left arm was covered by light for a few seconds, but then when the light disappeared, his right arm was back to normal. After closing and opening his fist several times, Ryan confirmed that everything was fine.

"You finally did it, huh," Alissa said. "Congratulations!"

"Yeah," Ryan said.

"... Can't you say anything else?" Alissa asked, a bit annoyed. "If you say 'yeah' again, you will have to give me your new bow."

"Yeah," Ryan said.

Alissa clenched her teeth and fists in annoyance, but she didn't do anything else in the end. Regardless, Ryan finally achieved one of his long-term goals, but he didn't feel anything special. The only thing he felt was some relief because now he will be able to fight for long since he won't have to use Incomplete Reptilian Transformation every fucking time.

“We can’t say that the mission was a success, but at least we managed to decrease the population of monsters in a few thousand,” Alissa said. “What are you going to do now? Return and give your report to the General?”

“No, I can do that later,” Ryan said. “He is focused on watching the territory of our country, so I am going to check things here for a while.”

“Is that so...” Alissa sighed. “Well, I need a break after all this crap. I will give my guys a lift and give them and myself at least one week off. We deserve that. Try not to die like an idiot. If you do, nothing will prevent me from becoming Arthur’s new mother.”

After saying that, Alissa left the dungeon without looking behind. Ryan’s chance was a bit too radical. Still, at least with his mindset, monsters weren’t much of a problem, at least not the ordinary ones, and those who already suffered a defeat by his hands like Cerberus and Fenrir probably won’t try anything for a few days.

Although Ryan wanted to check if there were other dungeons in the area, first of all, he needed to level up Icebound as much as possible, alongside Cold Resistance and the skill that he was about to learn...

When another dire wolf appeared out of nowhere, Ryan swung his ax and then used Flash, he appeared and then his weapon cut the monster’s neck with a single strike. His attack had been so clean that not even blood gush to his clothes.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Axe Mastery.

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

You obtained 01 status point.

Although his health was already full, the ax’s effects managed to speed up a little bit the mending of his bones. Ryan learned another thing useful, but once again, his heart didn’t get excited. It was too soon to relax or get carried away. Ryan needed more power and more knowledge... until he obtains enough

power and knowledge to decimate his foes, he couldn't feel satisfied. Now more than ever, Ryan wanted to fight and keep fighting.

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Although Ryan considered the possibility, in the end, the dire wolves or the shadows of Fenrir never returned to the dungeon while he stayed there for two days. Icebound leveled up quite a bit, just like Ryan wanted, because he made sure to use mana whenever he had the chance. Still, even while fighting melee, the dire wolves weren't a threat for Ryan, so instead of hunting at that steady pace, he decided to look for more challenges once he reached a certain milestone... when he obtained two and a half million coins.

"Let's see what I can obtain with this..."

When Ryan opened the dungeon shop, the options he had increased quite a bit. For some reason, even the number of items had increased considerably, and now he could even see the upgraded version of his rings. However, instead of buying them, Ryan decided to check all the available tomes. He already has his arms back, and while the recovery was useful, it wasn't as useful as his dexterity.

"Not a sign of elemental creation... if my guess is right, I will only be able to buy them once I have ten million coins. That is absurd value, but also is the power to create the earth, water, wind, and fire out of nothing."

In the end, Ryan didn't find a spell that granted him the power to create another dimension in which he could store things. However, only now did he find a ring that worked the same way as the inventories in games.

Storage Ring (I)

Effect: it gives you the chance to store and take away items from a dimension directly connected to your mind. To store something, you must touch the object, and no other living being should be touching it. The object also can't wound you in order to be recognized as your property.

Space: 1.000 pounds

Cost: 500.000

That was weird... why only now such items appeared? Ryan certainly accessed the dungeon shop many times when he had much more coins than the current price of the item... maybe the things he could buy are related to his power, or his rank, or the number of dungeons he cleared. It was close to impossible to determine that.

In any case, Ryan bought the ring and then immediately tested it. As long as it was within a range of five meters around him, he could make the items appear just by thinking. That would be useful. The only problem was that Ryan would have to equip the ring to use it. In any case, Ryan solved the problem that was carrying his various magic items around, but while he was lucky, he wasn't that lucky. He didn't find the telekinesis tome being sold in the shop.

"I guess I will focus on completing the set of elemental transformations and then obtain the upgraded version of my rings. I also need a new shield since the other one was completely destroyed, and Repair can't do anything about it."

Magic Ring of the Immortal

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

Durability: 40/40

Cost: 20.000

Spiked Golden Shield

Effect: Reflects three percent of the damage back to the enemy. Health + 50, Endurance + 40

Durability: 200/200

Cost: 500.000

In the end, Ryan spent almost seven hundred thousand coins on those items, but considering that their effects and durability were much higher than the others, he felt like it had been a good investment. As for the other coins... Ryan decided to keep them for emergencies. Relying on Power of Money over and over again was annoying, but he couldn't negate that the skill saved his ass many times. Hopefully, that won't happen again now that Ryan had a storage device, and he filled it with mana and stamina potions.

According to Ryan's memory, Canada's capital was Ottawa. The city was only a few kilometers away from him up north. However, Ryan wasn't expecting to find anything so close to the dire wolves' dungeon. His goal was to find other dungeons, and since he didn't find any other monster until now, it was very clear that he wouldn't find dungeons in the area.

Montreal was another pretty big city, and it was only two hundred kilometers away from his position. While it seemed pretty close, it was his only option in the East direction. While he was heading West, Ryan made sure to train Fire Transformation as much as possible, and he learned that the skill basically increased the power of his fire attacks and also increased his control over flames. Thanks to it, Ryan managed to heat up things around him a little bit without burning his clothes. Training his body to withstand the cold was good and all, but it would be meaningless if he ends up suffering some frostbites.

"That asshole didn't give up on the region, huh. That massive cloud still didn't leave the area..."

Ryan stopped for a second to check things behind, but it looked like their victory didn't change all that much the situation in the border of the USA and Canada. Regardless, due to the fact that he hurried, Ryan managed to reach Montreal after six hours and just before sunset. Things weren't much better in there; everything was covered in snow, and few buildings in that big city were still standing... the only real difference was that Ryan could see a lot of dragons and megalodons fighting. $\rho \int (x) dx$

"It is time to kill some freaks..." Ryan smirked.

Just a few moments before Ryan could prepare for the fight. He saw a few monsters leaving the city only to see them attacked by dragons. Although he never saw those monsters before, he felt a weird sense of familiarity... thanks to his blood. Ryan finally found some ice foxes.

Ice Fox – Lv 50

Health: 800/800

Mana: 800/800

Stamina: 800/800

Strength: 400

Dexterity: 400

Speed: 400

Intelligence: 400

Endurance: 400

Control: 400

Mentality: 400

Luck: 250

Recovery: 200

Willpower: 400

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Dash Lv 40

Passive Physical Skills: Focus Lv 40,

Spells: Ice Arrow Lv 50, Ice Spear Lv 50, Water Manipulation Lv 80

Support Skills: Cold Resistance Lv 90, Water Resistance Lv 90

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The ice foxes weren't much different from the ones Ryan knew, they were only two times bigger, had white fur, and their eyes were deep blue. As for their strength... they were so average that they couldn't even try to resist the dragons and the megalodons. Regardless, Ryan was satisfied to know that a dungeon was waiting to be cleared in that area. He just has to deal with some dragons.

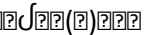
It wasn't a coincidence that all the dragons in the area had light-blue scales. After using Appraisal, Ryan confirmed that they were called ice dragons. It looked like they could resist quite a lot the megalodons' long-range attacks, but since their strength was just a bit above the first fire dragon Ryan killed, they weren't exactly in a good position.

-“If I use Incomplete Reptilian Transformation in the last moment, I probably still will be able to increase the power of my arrows by twenty percent. However, since the dragons are flying above the river, I might lose my arrows... I suppose I will use the special bone arrows.” Ryan concluded.

Ryan could see seven dragons flying above the river, but that doesn't mean some others might be hiding somewhere. Although given time, even his ordinary arrows could obtain that much power, Ryan decided to sacrifice his bone arrows for the sake of speed. Once the monsters fly toward him, he will have the option to use his magic weapons.

Just like before, Ryan prepared his Power Shot. Then he recalled that he couldn't risk letting the dragons fall on the river. If that happens, he will lose the dragon hearts... Although that annoyed a little, Ryan knew what he had to do.

After charging his Power Shot for ten seconds, Ryan fired his arrow. Although the projectile's piercing power was lacking, when his target got hit, the dragon almost fell on the river, but it managed to recover on time, even though the attack damaged heavily one of its wings. A few seconds later, another dragon got hit on its wings, and the beasts finally found Ryan standing at the top of a gigantic tree covered in snow. Although the wounded monsters tried to fly toward him, they failed since their wings got damaged, and they also had been poisoned. As for the other five dragons, they dashed toward Ryan without thinking twice.

Ryan nocked his Paralyzing Spear and then begun to charge the Power Shot, but in the end, he only had five seconds to do it. The monsters had already closed the distance and opened their mouths to fire something at him... Ryan didn't lose that chance. 

After firing the spear, Ryan watched the weapon flying in a straight line toward the mouth of the closes ice dragon. The creature created some ice spears and fired them, thinking that only that would stop Ryan's attack... the monster couldn't have been more wrong. The Paralyzing Spear destroyed everything in its path and pierced the upper layer of the dragon's mouth. Even though Ryan activated Incomplete Reptilian Transformation and Lesser Wind Enchantment... his weapon didn't pierce it enough. However, the dragon was now unable to close its mouth. One moment later, Ryan disappeared from the dragons' sight.

The creature looked in all directions looking for Ryan, but they didn't find him. As if that wasn't weird enough, the dragon that got hit by the Paralyzing Spear began to contort itself in pain. The dragons didn't understand what happened and, in the end, the dragon died and fell on the ground with its mouth open. The dragon's friends decided to check the corpse, but that also had been a mistake. When one of them got close enough to the mouth, something flew from the corpses' mouth and pierced another dragon's face. It was the Paralyzing Spear... and this time, Ryan had enough time to charge a one-hit K.O.

You obtained 45.000 coins.

You obtained 45.000 coins.

As fast as he could, Ryan left the corpse's mouth and looked for the loot while the dragons were in shock... unfortunately, he found nothing. That didn't make Ryan lose his focus, the two wounded dragons that he attacked first finally were close enough, and he chose them as his next targets.

Using Flash in the blink of an eye, Ryan covered the distance between them, and surprisingly enough, every time he reappeared after using Flash, a potion of mana appeared above him, and the liquid recovered the mana he had used.

When those dragons noticed what Ryan was about to do, they moved in different directions. That way, Ryan would be forced to show his back to one of them. However, he couldn't help but smirk at the dragons... in the end, they were just oversized lizards. Ryan grabbed his twin long swords and threw them toward the dragons, the monsters easily dodged the attack, but a few seconds later, their wings got destroyed. They didn't consider that Ryan would use wind manipulation to control the swords over such a distance and make them spin to the point where it could destroy dragons' wings... In fact, Ryan couldn't do that while controlling two weapons in different locations. Still, the elemental attributes of the weapons and dragons helped him in that regard.

Although Ryan defeated two and destroyed the mobility of the other two, there were three dragons still perfectly fine behind, so he couldn't get careless. Those two dragons realized that they couldn't underestimate him, so they changed their tactics. Ice Spears started to rain over Ryan, but in the end, not a single one of them hit him. While he was flying using his shield as support, Ryan started to charge another Power Shot. Meanwhile, he destroyed the Ice Spears with his eyes alone... thanks to the Power of Money.

Upon noticing that long-ranged attacks wouldn't work on Ryan, the ice dragons hesitated. As expected, Orgar was really leagues above ordinary dragons. Even while they faced opponents like Baal and Lilith, he never showed impatience or insecurity. Unlike those three dragons, he never even considered the possibility of running away as well...