

## Domain 361

### Chapter 361

Although it wasn't by much, Natasha's allies relaxed a little around Ryan. Still, even when Ryan asked to attack the monsters from the walls that protected the city, some survivors kept an eye on him. Regardless, he managed to kill several Cursed Eyes before they could get too close, and thus, he obtained a lot of Soul Essences. Since Ryan was now free to fight the monsters, he also could use his skills.

#### Mana Potion

Effect: Restores 52 points of mana.

"Hehe, not bad, huh," Ryan smiled in satisfaction after he produced his first potion.

The skill description didn't mention it, but it looked like some of Ryan's attributes also influenced the potions' quality. While it wasn't much, Ryan would welcome all bonuses that he could get. In any case, creating potions was as fun as sniping monsters from hundreds of meters away, so time passed really fast, and Natasha showed herself around dinnertime.

"Do you intend to stay here throughout the whole night?" Natasha asked. "We have some free houses available here."

"I will stay here," Ryan replied. "Clearing the dungeon will take a lot of time and effort, so I want to decrease the number of monsters as much as possible while I can."

The Medusa's dungeon was twenty kilometers away from their current position, and that was why the Cursed Eyes attacked the city pretty much everyday with numbers that were close to the four-digit mark. Somehow, they even could tell that many survivors were nearby, so the city was actually a good hunting spot. That fight only got dire because Natasha and some other powerful survivors weren't with them.

“So, you really intend to clear this dungeon first,” Natasha said and sat at the border of the wall. “This might take a while. Maybe we should check the other two dungeons. I heard that they had been cleared.”

“You didn’t go there to get the classes?” Ryan asked.

“No, the people here needed me,” Natasha replied. “I used the coins you gave me to buy some equipment, so the survivors here might survive on their own now. Anyway, while we changed our agreement a little bit, you still have to pay to use our dungeon.”

“One million coins, huh...” Ryan said, and then he had an idea. “How about this: I will teach you Purification, and I won’t have to pay you anything to use this dungeon.”

“You can teach me the skill?” Natasha asked. “Is that the power of another class?”

“Yes,” Ryan nodded.

“... This skill is very valuable, so why didn’t you ask me not to pay to use all the other dungeons?” Natasha frowned.

“The other dungeons are being controlled by other people, right?” Ryan asked. “I am sure you will need some coins to make us use those places as fast as possible. I don’t mind paying for them, as long as I can have that.”

Natasha decided to think for a few moments. In the end, it was pretty evident that it was an excellent deal. While she could equip many of her soldiers with those one million coins, she couldn’t buy items that prevent petrification. Purification will prevent entirely many lives from being lost, and that wasn’t something coins or equipment could do against Cursed Eyes.

Natasha accepted the offer, and Ryan made her his student. After that, he had to show her Purification many times, and that took the whole night, but that wasn’t a problem since he managed to level up some skills and classes he rarely used, and even better, he saved one million coins.

“The cost is quite high, huh,” Natasha said while she was reading the description of the skill. “I will have to create a decent stock of mana potions to be able to prevent any losses on our side. Regardless, the sun will rise soon, so I am going to prepare those who are going to join us in the fight.”

Ryan nodded after hearing that. In any case, things have been proceeding reasonably well even though he was in a country he had never been before. Natasha was reasonable, and the survivors of the area were starting to think that Ryan wasn't someone who came to cause problems. If anything, they only had a problem because he could do too many things. That was absolutely normal. In times like these, people fear even more the things that they couldn't understand and those that had more power than them.

“Did you notice anything weird, Femradial?” Ryan asked.

“Nothing aside from the fact that you are pretty friendly toward that woman,” Femradial said. “There are people in your country that helped you much more, and you didn't treat them fairly.”

“I am just trying to be diplomatic here,” Ryan said.

“Whatever you say,” Femradial said.

In any case, now Ryan just has to worry about one thing, should he use two crossbows to fight or not? Probably, for the time being, it was better to stick with his Frost Crossbow since using two crossbows would reveal to anyone in the area his full capabilities. Also, depending on how many soldiers Natasha wanted to bring with her, perhaps he won't have to worry all that much... until he finds the bosses.

In the end, Ryan couldn't help but frown when Natasha appeared with only twenty-five survivors. That was a pretty small number considering that they were going to clear a dungeon that broke four times, and the fifth dungeon break was only a few days away.

“You look confused,” Natasha said. “You can relax because those guys are the strongest ones here. I wish that we could take more, but we can't exactly leave the city unprotected.”

“You are the leader here, so I won't question your decisions,” Ryan said. “Still, I was hoping to clear the dungeon before the next dungeon break.”

Natasha frowned when she heard that and almost laughed. It sounded like a joke, but Ryan didn't look like he just made a joke. Ryan seemed more insane than he looked...

Class: Hunter Lv 70 (+ 01 UP / Elementalist Lv 55 / Monk Lv 16 (-)

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

Rank: 160th

Health: 1356/1356 (3, 81/s)

Mana: 2082/2082 (3, 81/s)

Stamina: 1863/1863 (3,81/s)

Strength: 31 (+166) (+130)

Dexterity: 2150 (+1488) (+95)

Speed: 140 (+694) (+48)

Intelligence: 81 (+584) (+33)

Endurance: 28 (+131) (+160)

Control: 06 (+746) (+10)

Mentality: 08 (+36) (+70)

Luck: 74 (+15)

Recovery: 850 (+1077) (+360)

Willpower: 30 (+36) (+40)

Coins: 18.985.441

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Paralyzing Arrow Lv 11 (+ 10 UP), Spiritual Poison Lv 06, Fool's Curse Lv 01, Spiritual Attack Lv 01,

Passive Physical Skills: Alchemy Lv 01, Auto-Medication Lv 01

Spells: Purification Lv 11 (+ 04 UP), Mind Armor Lv 06 (+ 05 UP), Silence Lv 01, Potion Creation Lv 01,

Support Skills: Freeze Resistance Lv 16 (+ 03 UP), Improved Creation Lv 04 (+ 03 UP), Petrification Resistance Lv 01,

Classes:

Combat: Sage Lv 57 (+ 01 UP), Beastmaster Lv 35 (+ 01 UP), Summoner Lv 36 (+ 04 UP), Enchanter Lv 05 (+ 04 UP), Combat Mechanic Lv 03 (+ 02 UP), Magehunter Lv 01,

Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 28 (+ 03 UP), Merchant Lv 12 (+ 03 UP), Whitesmith Lv 11 (+ 03 UP), Alchemist Lv 01

Race: Centaur, Lesser Dragon

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The dungeon was located in a particular mountain a few miles away from Natasha's camp. However, even before the group could walk for half an hour, the number of encounters increased exponentially. There were many groves in the area, so the Cursed Eyes just wandered around there when they didn't try to destroy the camp.

"Oh, right... I have to make another crossbow and use Seal on those monsters," Ryan thought.

Ryan will have to leave that for another, but perhaps he won't even have the chance to make a crossbow since at least one soldier kept their eyes on Ryan. The only moment where he will have an opportunity to make a crossbow was when he takes a dump or something.

Regardless, Ryan confirmed his theory that most survivors chose the melee classes or the magic classes. From that group of twenty-seven survivors, only Ryan and Natasha used crossbows. No one else used bows or other throwable weapons.

"You are overly cautious with your skills," Femradiel said. "I used Appraisal on everyone here, and they can't cause any problems for us. Even I alone can kill them in a single moment."

"Let's not kill anyone without reason," Ryan thought. "I am more worried about information leaking, and I am not at the level where I can kill someone based on the possibility of them spreading information about my skills."

"You are truly naïve," Femradiel said and she seemed pretty unsatisfied.

"I would prefer to think that I am a man trying to be reasonable in an apocalyptic scenario," Ryan thought.

The human race already lost too many members of its species, and they certainly didn't need Ryan's help to walk at large steps toward extinction. Ryan didn't want to kill anyone unless they were a lost cause or they started the fight. His stealth style to fight had been made only to hunt monsters, not humans.

In any case, even though the terrain helped the Cursed Eyes, Ryan and Natasha managed to keep the monsters under control when they appeared in high numbers. Her crossbow couldn't slow down the monsters all that much, but she had an uncanny skill to cause critical hits. Even though Femradiel said that she was far weaker, Natasha's strength was far beyond her status represented. Even more than that, she wasn't afraid to join the frontlines to use Purification on her allies when they got hit by the Petrifying Gaze. She was indeed the core of the city's survivors, and it wasn't surprising that she was also the leader of the region.

Ryan had planned to take a look at the dungeon that day, but much to his disappointment, that never happened due to the frequent encounters. Things were looking really bad...

"When was the last time you guys approached the dungeon?" Ryan asked while frowning.

"Three months ago, before the first dungeon break," Natasha replied.

As expected, the situation was dire, and despite everything, the best Natasha and the people of the city managed to do was to hold their ground against the monsters. In the best-case scenario, they probably killed at least a good part of the Cursed Eyes that spawned in those four months, but only those that spawned regularly. There must be thousands of others that appeared when the dungeon breaks happened.

In the end, Ryan failed to think of any decent plan to take down that massive number of monsters. If they continue at that pace, they will only find the dungeon on the dungeon break day.

"Do you guys hunt at night here?" Ryan asked.

"No, that is suicide," Natasha frowned. "The visibility is terrible, and if we use flashlights, we will only become easy targets for the monsters."

“If you don’t mind, I would like to ask to hunt at night. We won’t make much progress if we keep fighting only during the day and while being so cautious,” Ryan said.

Natasha considered the idea. Now that she could use Purification, perhaps it was time to take some risks. Besides, Natasha knew that the number of bosses increases by a lot with each dungeon break. If her calculations were correct, almost five hundred Medusas would appear in five days. With so many monsters at their side, it was only natural that they would try to destroy all the nearby camps and then create a small army of stone humans.

Since she was already planning a plan to evacuate a good number of the city residents, Natasha already recognized the impending doom of her camp. Still, the real problem was that the monsters would quickly spread all over the country. For now, the other tier three dungeons were under control, but if those creatures attack the survivors’ camp by behind...

“I will try to recruit some soldiers to help us while hunting at night,” Natasha said. “However, I don’t think many will agree unless I decide to go. The more tired I get, the less effective I will be on the battlefield, so I will become a member of the support team and prevent casualties.”

“That is only natural,” Ryan nodded.

“I agreed with your idea. Now you will have to agree with mine,” Natasha said, and that made Ryan frown. “Honestly, I can’t believe that we can clear this dungeon in just five days, but if you are planning to do that, then we will offer you all our support. If you want that, then you will have to go all out as well.”

It looks like Natasha noticed that Ryan still had some leeway while he was fighting. While that wasn’t a bad thing per se, it wasn’t a good thing either. It wasn’t fair that he could hold back a little while everyone else was trying hard to survive. It looked like Ryan will have to use his two crossbows much sooner than he had planned.

“That is fine. I will do that,” Ryan said and then took out his Pestilence Crossbow from his spatial ring.



Natasha had to spend two hours before dinner to convince some survivors that fighting at night was necessary. Although she was the leader of the place, she wasn't an authoritarian leader. So aside from those who fought during the day, only ten survivors agreed to fight.

"Sorry about this. Many people think that trying to clear the dungeon now when we failed for four months is something impossible," Natasha said. "There are some that really fear the idea of fighting at night, but if we return tomorrow morning with everyone, many will change their minds."

Ryan nodded since it made sense. In any case, if he finds a way to make everyone return with better items, many more people will decide to join that mission. Depending on how well they fare, the number of Cursed Eyes attacking the city will decrease significantly. So, the survivors there will get fewer coins. Those who have a brain will be forced to join the mission if they want to keep getting stronger at a decent pace.

If Ryan really wanted to clear the dungeon in five days, he will have to compromise. Holding back was no longer an option, if anything. That was actually a good idea. If he shows a massive difference in strength, Ryan doubted that most people would try to pick a fight.

"You should make your friends use some flashlights," Ryan said. "They will attract more monsters that way, and I will be able to kill more of them."

Natasha didn't like the idea of making her man become the bait for monsters, but in the end, she realized that Ryan had something in mind since he gave Furball the order to protect her. Still, that same thing didn't work for the survivors since they didn't like the idea of exposing themselves. Regardless, they only also understand that Ryan what Ryan was planning when they left the city, and Ryan began to fly.

"Femradiel, I am giving special permission to attack the Cursed Eyes in case they get too close to them," Ryan said. "Don't help them too much, though. Natasha needs to level up Purification as fast as possible."

"No more holding back, huh," Femradiel said. "I like that."

"Don't get carried away," Ryan said. "Furball will help them from the ground with his magic attacks, so I believe you won't have to work all that much."

Just as Ryan expected, the flashlights made the Cursed Eyes notice survivors from pretty far away. They immediately left their hideout to fight, but Ryan massacred them with his crossbows. Firing Posture could even be activated in the air, so Ryan's attacking speed doubled with two crossbows. When the survivors noticed that some enemies were approaching, it was too later. Ryan had already got rid of the majority of them.

In the end, the survivors on the ground killed the few Cursed Eyes that managed to approach them with their long-ranged attacks. Ryan just noticed thanks to the, but Earth magic was surprisingly useful against those creatures. It was probably because they were relatively light due to their weird body. Ryan made a mental note about that.

Since Ryan wasn't holding back anymore and he pretty much was leading the survivors, in just two hours, they covered the same amount of distance that they did during the day. What Nocturnal Eyes couldn't pick due to the high number of trees in the area, Awareness, and Radar covered for Ryan. Still proceeding in a straight line toward the dungeon was dangerous, so Ryan approached Natasha to change the plans' slight change.

"We will circle around the dungeon as we approach it," Ryan said. "If we go in a straight line ignoring the enemies in the area, eventually, we will be surrounded by them."

Natasha nodded at Ryan's words and proceeded to explain that to her allies. The Medusa's dungeon was in the West, so Ryan guided Natasha and the survivors toward the North since he felt a vast concentration of monsters in that direction. As usual, he got the attention of several of the Cursed Eyes when he attacked. Those who failed to find him in the dark sky of the night felt the presence of Natasha and the survivors. Still, Ryan slew the vast majority of the monsters before the situation could get dire. In the end, everyone's hunting speed increased considerably due to a large number of drops and few soldiers picking them. Everyone's strength significantly increased for a single night, and their morale was sky high even after hunting for ten hours non-stop. Despite that, Ryan decided to retreat when the sun began to rise.

"Hehe, fighting with two crossbows is even better than I expected," Ryan smiled confidently. "If I mana to get my hands on a crossbow enchanted with the thunder element, I bet that as long as I have mana, no monster will be able to approach me."

While poison was powerful and could make monsters suffer and paralyze them to some extent. The number of inorganic monsters that Ryan found in which were completely useless was pretty high.

However, the chances that he might find monsters that were strong against ice and thunder were pretty slim, and those elements were perfect for long-ranged fighters to keep the enemies at bay.

“Now, who is getting carried away?” Femradiel asked.

“I am not. This is just the truth of the facts,” Ryan shrugged. “Still, when am I going to find monsters that can use lightning attacks?”

“Maybe you shouldn’t be so eager to find them,” Femradiel said. “Dodging those types of attacks is pretty difficult.”

“No pain, no gain,” Ryan said. “Even worse than finding them, is not finding them and let their power increase endlessly.”

Although Natasha seemed pretty tired, she also got a decent number of loot and was pretty excited since it has been a long since her friends and she managed to kill so many monsters. Despite that, she still was reasonable enough to understand that she needed a few hours of sleep before the next round. In the meanwhile, Ryan created potions and prepared some crossbows.

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Petrification Crossbow (Stone) (+3)

Effect: fire bolts at the cost of twenty-five points of mana that might petrify your foes based on their level of mentality and willpower.

Dexterity + 91, Intelligence + 39

Durability: 60/60

“As expected, I won’t be able to make better weapons without leveling up certain skills,” Ryan nodded to himself after he finally used Seal on a Cursed Eye. “Maybe if I craft the weapons with a bit more care,

it will make them more powerful, but I am not good enough to make adjustments that can make a real difference.”

Natasha and the others frowned when they saw Ryan just half-killing the first Cursed Eye they found after breakfast. They frowned, even more when they saw an ordinary crossbow suddenly emitting a gray glow out of nowhere. They knew how to craft weapons, but they didn't know that humans could make magic weapons yet. In any case, Ryan stored the weapon away since it wouldn't be of any use against the Cursed Eyes.

Just as Natasha and Ryan predicted, many survivors decided to join them to hunt during the day, but what they didn't predict was that hunting monsters during the day would be way less efficient. They lost the surprise element that the darkness of the night granted them. Moreover, most of the Cursed Eyes flew toward Ryan when they found him... who could have thought that his weapon would be turned against him?

While the survivors seemed unsatisfied that Ryan was getting most of the coins, they decided to stay quiet when the monsters dropped items, and he showed no interest in them.

“It looks like we should focus on hunting at night,” Ryan said. “Femradiel, do you have any idea how many monsters are in this region?”

“Around fifty thousand, without counting the bosses,” Femradiel replied. “The number of bosses is 450.”

“Fifty thousand... that isn't so bad,” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “In any case, just as I had imagined, the people here didn't kill a single boss... when they find them, it might cause some problems.”

Ryan will have to find a way to boost the morale of the survivors. While defeating a little more than ten thousand Cursed Eyes every day wasn't much of a problem. He didn't want to fight all the bosses in a single day... which was too risky.

After thinking for a while, Ryan found a possible solution to that problem, but it was a double-edged sword that could cause some issues. Before talking with Natasha about that, Ryan decided to focus on the hunt. Based on Ryan's calculations, they killed around eight thousand Cursed Eyes during the day,

and they could double that number at night. Still, after sunset, Ryan and the others returned to the base, and he decided to tell Natasha about his plan.

“Natasha, I am thinking of increasing the Petrification Resistance of your allies,” Ryan said. “It is obvious that the Medusas will be much more powerful than those weak mobs. So, to decrease the strain on you and me since we are the only ones who can use Purification, that is necessary.”

“Wouldn’t it be better if you teach that skill to others as well?” Natasha asked.

“I can only have a certain number of students at a time, so that isn’t possible,” Ryan replied.

“I imagined that, so how do you plan on doing that?” Natasha asked.

“With this,” Ryan said and then took out a spear from his spatial ring

Petrification Spear (STONE) (+3)

Effect: it gives you the chance to petrify your foes based on their mentality and willpower.

Strength + 104, Speed + 52

Disability: 120/120

“... Do you plan on wounding my people with that?” Natasha frowned while looking at a replica of the Paralyzing Spear that had been enchanted with a soul of a Cursed Eye.

“Just a scratch should activate the petrification effect,” Ryan said. “The petrification will start slowly with that, but given that we need to make all the people here level up that resistance, that will help us.”

“I am not sure about this. It sounds too risky,” Natasha said.

“There is another option, but then you and your friends will have to use a lot of coins,” Ryan said. “I can sell some equipment to you guys. However, I wouldn’t recommend that since you will lose coins and won’t obtain status points.”

“... I can’t force my men to do that, but I am going to ask those who are interested in that,” Natasha said.

Ryan nodded since it was only natural. In the meantime, he scratched himself here and there to level up his own resistances. As expected, the more points on his body started to petrify, the faster the skill leveled up.

Since it was scary to lose his limbs’ feeling, Ryan ended up using Purification since he was flying and didn’t want to risk himself all that much.

In the end, only the most hardcore survivors, those who fought alongside Natasha since the very beginning, accepted Ryan’s offer. So, he helped them for a few hours before the next time they could leave the city to hunt at night again.

Once again, the trick to convince others was to be patient. Those who accepted to train their Petrification Resistance with Ryan fought more vigorously when the monsters approached, and thus, their hunting speed increased. Even when they got hit by the Petrifying Gaze, they didn’t fall back as the fact that slowed considerably due to just a few level-ups.

“Even though their Petrifying Gaze is at such high-level, the effects aren’t that strong when the survivors came in contact for just a few seconds,” Ryan nodded to himself in satisfaction. “In any case, we can’t stop now since the Medusas will be much more difficult to deal with.”

Thanks to his hard work and everyone’s high morale, Ryan and the others managed to slay the mobs in the region in just three days, and they finally found the dungeon. In the end, the sight of the bosses made Ryan frown...

Medusa – Lv 350

Health: 25.000/25.000

Mana: 55.000/55.000

Stamina: 15.000/15.000

Strength: 1000

Dexterity: 3000

Speed: 1500

Intelligence: 7500 (+1500)

Endurance: 2000

Control: 3500 (+500)

Mentality: 5000 (+500)

Luck: 500

Recovery: 10.000 (+1500)

Willpower: 5000 (+500)

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Scream Lv 300

Passive Physical Skills: Focus Lv 320, Improved Intelligence Lv 250

Spells: Petrifying Gaze Lv 350

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 300, Cold Resistance Lv 300, Freeze Resistance Lv 300, Shock Resistance Lv 300, Poison Resistance Lv 300, Petrification Resistance Lv 500,

“Femradiel, you said that the number of bosses was over four hundred... why I see only ten of them?” Ryan asked.

“The last time I checked, their numbers were much higher...” Femradiel said, and she looked as confused as Ryan. “I guess they noticed that someone troublesome was coming, and they decided to kill each other to create a small, but much more powerful army of bosses. If you look carefully, you can see some piles of stones around the dungeon.”

The dungeon was located in a valley that had just a few trees. There were some others’ traces, but it looked like those turned into stones and then disintegrated after a while when the battle between the bosses occurred. Regardless, the monsters’ level was worrisome, but what impressed Ryan most was the fact that the bosses pretty much resembled ordinary women. They were a bit tall, like more than two meters tall, but there were no snakes in the place of hair. The bosses wore those old one-piece dresses that many saw in some drawings that intended to represent how certain types of people used in ancient Greece. Aside from that, the Medusas pretty much didn’t look alike. Some were black-haired, some were blond, some even had red hair... Regardless, even from so far away, Ryan could tell that their eyes were crimson red, and they were ready to fight.

“You didn’t mention that they looked so human,” Ryan said.



“That is just a small detail,” Natasha said. “Anyway, I am more worried as to why their numbers are so low, but their levels are so high.”

Ryan explained to Natasha, and Femradiel told him. Still... it looked that all his preparations had been for naught. While those creatures' statuses weren't that impressive given their level, Ryan knew that the soldiers who might get hit by a single time Petrifying Gaze would turn into stone in just a few seconds.

The soldiers knew that, so their high-morale instantly dropped to low levels when they found the dungeon. In all honesty, Ryan didn't know if he was thankful for the fact that the number of monsters decreased. Maybe he could kill one with his barrage of bolts at a certain distance, but once the others close in, Ryan was certain that he couldn't escape. They had the double of his speed, after all. Not even Flash will save his ass once several of those creatures get close enough.

“What if we follow the legend and use the same method that the hero used to kill the Medusa?” Natasha asked.

“You are joking, right?” Ryan furrowed his eyebrows. “As if such obvious thing would work. Even if that did happen in reality, I am pretty sure those creatures would know that and wouldn't fall for the same trick.”

“You have a point...” Natasha said. “Anyway, I never thought that while even have the numerical advantage, we would feel so insecure. We have some ideas in how to deal with them, but I don't think we can prepare in time.”

“What are your ideas?” Ryan asked.

“Cover ourselves in full armor and not expose a single part of our bodies, that way, we can at least block their Petrifying Gaze a few times,” Natasha said. “We will have to throw away the parts hit by it, but I guess it is better than fighting unprotected.”

While thinking for a while, Ryan recognized that it was a decent idea. It just needed some adaptations. Even if they use a shield or something else to block petrifying gaze, the effect will eventually pass to other parts of the equipment or their bodies if they keep holding that equipment.

“Most of you guys have decent long-ranged spells, right?” Ryan asked. “Instead of focusing on defense, you should focus on attacking.”

“... That doesn’t seem like a wise idea,” Natasha frowned.

“We don’t want to let our numbers decrease. We don’t want to let anyone become a status in front of others either since that will cause unrest,” Ryan said. “So, our main focus will be to prevent that. Full armor and big shields will only slow down you guys, and given the difference in speed, that isn’t a good idea. So, I will focus on defense for you guys.”

“How so?” Natasha frowned.

“Like this, I guess,” Ryan said.

Ryan used Earth Manipulation and made some blocks of earth fly around them. They were big enough to cover even the bosses, so their attacks won’t turn anyone into stone unless they fly or jump. Ryan considered creating proper shields to withstand the monsters’ power, but that would be a waste of time.

“I guess that might work,” Natasha rubbed her chin thoughtfully. “If you control ten of them every single moment, you can block all the petrifying gazes of the monsters, and that skill is the real problem. Still, you will have to show everyone that you can watch their backs with those. Just the theory alone won’t make them think that this is a good idea.”

Ryan nodded. He wished that he had done that sooner when the number of Cursed Eyes was high. Regardless, even though it took a while for the newly spawned Cursed Eyes to find them, Ryan managed to make a demonstration of what he was planning.

Somehow, he convinced one of the soldiers to fight alone against three Cursed Eyes, and against that number of foes, Ryan easily managed to block their field of vision toward the soldier. When the earth blocks got petrified, Ryan threw them toward the monsters and bought some seconds, while he created other blocks. Thanks to it, they managed to convince the other survivors that that was a fight that they could win.

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Ryan, Natasha, and the others found the dungeon around noon. They wouldn't have much time to defeat all the bosses, but they still decided to face them that same day. There were some reasons for that. Even though Ryan and Natasha convinced the survivors to fight, they might change their minds if they return to their homes. While that wasn't really a problem for Ryan, he wanted to make his job easier by fighting with as many soldiers as possible.

After making some preparations, which were mostly just making some blocks of earth in which the Medusas wouldn't break so easily with a body slam or something. Ryan proceeded to pick his Sagittarians' bow. He couldn't use his enchanted arrows with his crossbow after all.

"Do you have a collection of weapons or something?" Natasha asked.

Since he was concentrating, Ryan ignored Natasha's question. He couldn't afford to fail right now, and Ryan was determined to kill at least a single boss with the first strike. Despite the apparent reason for his action, Femradiel still decided to talk with him in such an important moment.

"If you don't mind, I can help you a little bit in this fight," Femradiel said. "I can control the earth blocks with Telekinesis, or I can control your arms and fight with the crossbows. The choice is yours."

"Did you forget our deal?" Ryan asked.

"No... I was just trying to help since you are so afraid of letting those strangers down," Femradiel replied.

"...Are you better than me at using Telekinesis?" Ryan asked.

"I am, but you wouldn't want me to use my powers, right?" Femradiel said. "I was going to fight relying on your status. At the very least, I can be as good as you. Perhaps a little more if I don't use Zen."

That was more than good enough... in the end, Ryan let Femradiel join the fight. There was no reason to let his pride get in the way when human lives were on the line. It would be disastrous if they lose humans with that level of strength, after all.

Ryan began to prepare his Power Shot. While Natasha and her allies already expected that he would use that skill, they didn't expect that Ryan would charge it for more than ten minutes, even without using any potions. Eventually, there was so much energy on the projectile that even without using Appraisal or Analysis, Natasha noticed that Ryan was being damaged, just like his bow. At the last moment, Ryan activated Incomplete Reptilian Transformation, Deadly Aim, Perfect Aim, and then fired. Even before the arrow could land on the target, Ryan had already stored away his bow and equipped his crossbows.

Three kilometers away from their current position, a massive explosion happened, but the energy only spread for a single moment since Ryan used a frost arrow. In the end, the legs of three Medusas froze, and other received considerable damage, but Ryan failed at killing the one he aimed at.

Ryan didn't even waste time clicking his tongue. He just aimed his crossbows at his first target and made bolts rain over the beast. While the monsters were recovering from the Power Shot, Ryan managed to finish off his first target, but when that happened, the others found him, Natasha, and the soldiers.

You obtained 1.110.000 coins.

Ryan selected a new target, but in just a few seconds, he missed so many times that he couldn't help but frown. The speed of the Medusas running wasn't a joke... in the end, Ryan was forced to fire his frost arrows toward the monsters in order to slow them down a little bit. It worked, but Ryan barely caused any damage.

Natasha and the others only joined the fight when the bosses were five hundred meters away from them, and their accuracy dropped even more than Ryan's. While they were approaching, the bosses tried to hit Ryan with Stone Arrows that looked more like Stone Spears, but he dodged them all while he fired his bolts. Two medusas jumped to attack him, but they only hit the air when Ryan used Flash.

The other monsters finally reached the survivors on the ground, but since they tried to split apart from them with their bare hands, Femradiel stopped them by firing the stone blocks at their faces. The bosses got stunned by the attack, and the survivors bombarded them with magic attacks, Ryan joined them. Still, even so, the monsters were barely flinching... as expected of the elemental resistances that were above three hundred.

“It looks like they are also weak against earth magic,” Femradiel said.

“Not like I can attack with a crossbow that have such elemental affinity,” Ryan protested.

The two medusas that attacked Ryan were back for more, and it looked like they had no intention of letting him attack nonstop. Ryan used Flash again, and immediately took out his hammer and axe from the special ring.

“I won’t be able to protect them effectively if you move away from your current position,” Femradiel warned. “Also, while relying on your status, you shouldn’t control more than two of those magic weapons. Otherwise, you will have a hard time using potions.”

Ryan already knew that, but he didn’t complain. He made his weapons spin as fast as possible before making them fly toward the monsters. Hopefully those won’t turn into stones too fast. Ryan really likes their effects, after all. The bosses tried to punch away the magic weapons and actually, one of them succeeded, but the other broke its arm when it got hit by the hammer. Ryan chose those weapons for their weight, but he had forgotten that the earth element enchanted the hammer. Ryan smirked thanks to that...

After making sure to aim at their lower half, Ryan made his hammer spin again, while the ax was flying around the monsters to draw their attention. While the wounded boss was trying to prevent its legs from being crushed and the other was focused on the ax, Ryan made the remaining frost arrows rain over them.

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In the air, and while it was falling, the monster couldn’t do anything. So, Ryan pierced the monster with his three fire swords. While they didn’t have much piercing power like the Paralyzing Spear, Ryan solved that problem by making them spin.

“Let’s hope that you won’t get addicted to using your weapons like a skewer,” Femradiel said.

The monster tried to use Petrifying Gaze on the fire swords, but whenever it tried, Ryan attacked its face with his bolts. Little by little, thanks to the power of his Telekinesis, Ryan stabbed through the monsters with his magic weapons. Femradiel was right, that was a pretty nasty way to kill an enemy, but Ryan couldn't care less about that. In the end, the monsters died at the same time, unable to resist the power of Ryan's magic weapons passing through them.

You obtained 854.632 coins.

You obtained 785.998 coins.

Ryan sighed in relief again, but then he quickly looked at the battlefield near him. Natasha and her friends were still fighting the remaining bosses, and after a few seconds, another one fell. Ryan decided to give them a hand, but Natasha stopped him.

"Stop! We can do this!" Natasha said while she was running around healing those who had got hit by the Petrifying Gaze. "If we do less than you together, we will only be embarrassing ourselves."

Ryan couldn't see any meaning in that when he already did more than them faster, but in the end, he decided to just watch the fight. Femradiel kept using earth of blocks to stop the monsters now and then, but only that.

"For someone so greedy, I didn't expect you would leave them alone when there are so many coins to be received," Femradiel said.

"I don't want to hear that from a dragon," Ryan said. "Regardless, this is necessary to make Natasha feel indebted to me. Humans are troublesome creatures, but I can tell that Natasha is someone who has a deep sense of responsibility. After this, she will be much more helpful than before."

"You certainly are calculative," Femradiel said.

"I would like to think that I am just using my head. After all, I need to be rewarded for my work here," Ryan said. "Without me, they would have never cleared the dungeon."

It took a while, but in the end, Natasha and the others managed to defeat the bosses without losing a single soldier before sunset. The battle had been so intense for them that they had to let themselves fall on the ground bathed with their blood and the monsters' blood.

While they were resting, Ryan sent a skeleton to inside the dungeon. He gave the monster the order to reach the end and then return as fast as possible. Some Cursed Eyes would spawn, so he made the skeleton carry five battle machines that would probably be enough to defeat the mob monsters. If there is a boss hidden in there, the skeleton won't return... but in the end, the skelly returned.

"Enough resting," Natasha declared. "It is time to harvest the fruits of our hard work."

Much to everyone's surprise, the medusas didn't drop anything. While they received a lot of coins, they still hoped that they would receive items or tomes. Ryan even forgot to look for those. He truly was only interested in the next class. Much to Ryan's surprise, the underground dungeon was really different from the ordinary ones. The walls weren't as rustic as the others. In fact, it looked like they were in some sort of building that had many walls and intersections... it looked like a real maze.

"What was the story where a Greek hero had to find a monster in a labyrinth?" Ryan asked. "Was it the minotaur? The Medusa? Or both?"

"I don't remember that either..." Natasha frowned.

Ryan was forced to raise his guard again, but in the end, he only found Cursed Eyes along the way. The maze wasn't that complex either, so after a couple of hours, they found the last part of the dungeon.

"You can go first, Ryan," Natasha said. "Without you, we wouldn't have won against those beasts."

"You are right," Ryan shrugged.

"You could learn to be a bit humbler, though," Natasha laughed.

Congratulations! You have cleared the dungeon and obtained its treasure! As a reward for your achievement, you can obtain one of three following classes: Royal Guard, Dark Slayer, and Conjurer.

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.

At that point in time, it was only natural that Ryan wouldn't be able to recognize if he saw a class or not before. Conjurer, he was certain that he had seen, but not Royal Guard. As for Dark Slayer, he was certain that the class was a new one. It didn't look like a proper long-ranged class, but Ryan picked that anyway.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Dark Slayer!

You obtained the following skills: Sonic Blade, Hunt, and Motivation.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Sonic Blade.

Effect: It grants you the power to enchant a melee weapon with pure energy and fire the energy as a projectile at the enemy at supersonic speed. The damage caused will be equal to your strength, intelligence, and dexterity plus one percent per level.

Cost: 100 mana and 100 stamina

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Hunt.

Effect: It grants you the chance to select a target, and whenever you are fighting that target, your movement speed will increase by a percentage according to the level of the skill.

Cost: 100 mana.



Duration: 60 seconds

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Motivation.

Effect: when defeating your targets, your health, mana, and stamina will be restored by two points multiplied by the level of the skill.

You obtained 01 status point.

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As expected, the new class wouldn't help Ryan all that much to improve his archer's skills. Still, those were pretty interesting skills. Sonic Blade was particularly interesting since Ryan had to use mana and stamina because it was the first skill. Regardless, he stepped back to give Natasha and the others the chance to pick their own classes.

"Mission accomplished," Femradiel said. "What is the next step?"

"Wait for Natasha to help me," Ryan replied. "Based on what she told me, the other tier three dungeons in this country have already been cleared. Based on my experience, tons of people would be there waiting every day to get their hands on those classes, so I have to rely on her."

"Despite everything, you still want to be diplomatic, huh," Femradiel said. "Anyway, I will return to my plan of focusing on using Zen."

Since Natasha and her friends had already decided a long time ago which type of fighters they wanted to be, they didn't waste much time choosing their next classes. Unfortunately, some of them didn't get a chance to pick a new class, but they felt satisfied in staying behind to keep guarding the dungeon.

“I guess it is time to celebrate,” Natasha smiled from ear to ear. “Let’s drink until we fall!”

It was the first time Ryan saw Natasha in a non-combat mode, and now he finally realized that she was amazingly beautiful. Given that she was tall, blond, blue-eyed, and Russian, he could picture her as a model quite easily. Still, weirdly enough, Ryan only realized those facts objectively. He didn’t think of getting closer to her... it looked like he wasn’t just traumatized with redheads. He was also traumatized by too attractive women. That was sad in many ways,

“When are we going to the next dungeon?” Ryan asked.

“Already in a business mode?” Natasha asked. “With my current speed, we will have to run for thirty-six hours to reach the next level three dungeon. So, we can go tomorrow morning.”

“Will you be up for such a journey after partying the entire night?” Ryan asked.

“I am a responsible leader. You can rest assured that everything will be ready tomorrow at the first light,” Natasha said.

After returning to the camp, Natasha gave some survivors the order to bring the best food and drinks. Only at times like these people could truly relax. However, Ryan decided to celebrate on the city’s walls while resting his body against Furball’s warm fur. Some survivors came to greet him and offer drinks, but Ryan didn’t understand a single thing they said. Still, he managed to solve the situation by forcing a few smiles and drinking a few vodka shots. Russians really liked their vodka, so they didn’t offer too much to Ryan, fortunately.

At the end, when morning came, the whole camp was silent since pretty much everyone was dead drunk. Aside from Ryan and Furball, no one else was guarding the place or was up for battle.

“Responsible leader, huh,” Ryan facepalmed.

There was no point in being unpleasant at such a moment, so Ryan waited until noon while taking a few naps for Natasha. She showed up around that time, looking like crap. As expected, she was enduring one hell of a hangover.

“You can climb on Furball if you want. Just give him the directions,” Ryan said with a smile on his face.

“Oh... I will accept your kind offer,” Natasha said.

In the end, Natasha regretted accepting that offer. Furball’s speed was insane. Thanks to it, Natasha’s stomach quickly turned up. After throwing up just a single time, he decided to run, but since her speed in that state was laughable, Ryan gave her a ride with a stone block. While it was fast thanks to Ryan’s telekinesis, it was much steadier, so Natasha had a pleasant trip while she was recovering from the hangover.

“With this current speed, I guess we will arrive tomorrow before sunset,” Natasha said. “Can you keep it up?”

“No problem,” Ryan said while he was on Furball’s back.

“Now that we are here, I can give you some warning,” Natasha said. “You worked hard to earn our trust, but I don’t think things will work out that easily on the two next dungeons.”

“I already imagined that,” Ryan said.

“The number of survivors in those two camps is pretty high, but that isn’t a problem. The problem is the leaders of those places,” Natasha said. “They are real troublesome nationalists, and they value certain things above anything else, aside from their nationalism. You will have a hard time there, but if you endure everything quietly, we can clear the dungeon in just a few days.”

“That will depend on what I will have to endure,” Ryan said. “You already saw me acting with you and your friends. That is as much as diplomatic I can be.”

In the end, Natasha sighed. While she didn’t know Ryan for a long time, it was clear that he wasn’t someone who would let others do whatever they want to him. He was strong, and while he wasn’t arrogant, he wasn’t a pushover either. Natasha could tell that Ryan had to do many unpleasant things to survive, and she could know that he killed many humans, and he wouldn’t hesitate to do that again if it is necessary.

“I don’t like those two either, but despite everything, they are respected leaders. Many even idolize them,” Natasha said. “If you accept their provocations, you will end up making an enemy out of many people.”

“Well, I will try my best to avoid wasting my time,” Ryan said. “I also don’t kill indiscriminately; I only kill those who point their weapons at me. I can’t lower my standards any further, so I will rely on you to prevent those things from escalating to a dangerous level.”

“I will do my best, but don’t expect miracles,” Natasha shrugged.

Ryan and Natasha kept traveling westward until they found the next day another walled city that he had no idea how to pronounce the name. Unlike the place Natasha was living, that camp was at least twenty times larger, and Ryan was expecting an equally massive number of survivors living there. Regardless, Ryan was genuinely impressed by how much of a good job the place’s leader had done. While Natasha described them as unpleasant people, at least they were competent. Ryan and Natasha didn’t find a single monster in hundreds of kilometers, after all.

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When Ryan and Natasha approached the gates of the city, dozens of guards pointed crossbows at them. Ryan confirmed that neither of them had many points in dexterity so that they wouldn’t cause much damage. His mana also began to drop, proving that they were trying to use Appraisal on him.

Natasha stepped forward and spoke with the guards in Russian. While they did recognize her, they seemed pretty angry that she brought a stranger with her, or maybe it was due to the fact that she left her post behind so suddenly. In the end, the guards used a radio to communicate with someone, and Natasha stepped back.

“They are talking with Irina, the leader of this city,” Natasha said with a frown on her face.

“So, the leader of this place is also a woman?” Ryan asked, visibly surprised.

“Got a problem with that?” Natasha asked.

“Not a problem, but I can’t deny that I am surprised,” Ryan shrugged.

“She is difficult in certain senses, but you will probably be fine if you ignore all her bullshit and reply only to her serious questions,” Natasha said.

Ryan and Natasha had to wait for three hours for them to be received by the said Irina. It was clear that she made them wait for her on purpose. The city was big, but not that big. Irina was another gorgeous woman. She had long, straight black hair and quite a physique. It was hard to know if she practiced some martial art before the monster’s arrival, but it wouldn’t surprise Ryan if she had got that body in the last five months. She was carrying a massive purple sword on her back, after all.

Irina appeared accompanied by several bodyguards, and for some reason, they were all tall guys with great physiques who also had a smug smile on their faces. Those were the type of men who Ryan tended not to get along well since they were quick to look down on him. Regardless, Ryan’s mana started to decrease like crazy again, but he didn’t let that faze him.

“Who gave you the order to come here today, Natasha?” Irina asked while ignoring Ryan. “I heard that you had a few problems with the stone humans a few days ago. How come you decided to show up yourself when you can’t even keep your dungeon in check.”

“I don’t owe any explanations to someone who didn’t even try to clear that dungeon,” Natasha said. “Regardless, everything is under control now, we cleared the dungeon, and now I am here to use your dungeon with him.”

Ryan frowned because he couldn’t understand why they were talking in English. While that was convenient, it was confusing. Also, it was weird that Irina knew that Ryan could speak the language. While he was American, people with his facial features could be found all over the world.

“That is impossible,” Irina said. “We have hundreds of survivors on the line to receive their classes.”

“We can pay for it,” Natasha said.

Irina frowned and tried to see things through Natasha. She could tell that she got strong, a lot stronger than the last time they met. Still, Irina was having a hard time believing that Natasha cleared a dungeon with less than one hundred survivors, a dungeon that had broken four times. The fifth dungeon break was about to happen, so unless Natasha had gone mad, what she said was really true.

“... I will confirm this later,” Irina said. “If you wish to enter the city, your friend here will have to give us all his equipment, and that beast will stay out of the city.”

“That won’t be necessary. Whatever he may do inside the city, I will take full responsibility,” Natasha said.

“... You certainly will,” Irina said that without hiding her displeasure.

After saying that, Irina left the area, but fortunately, she didn’t forget to give the guards the orders to open the gates. Ryan, Natasha, and Furball finally could enter.

“She is lovely, as you said,” Ryan said.

Unlike the other places Ryan found in the Russian territory, that city looked pretty neat. The houses weren’t made of wood, and their design seemed pretty modern. It looked like some mages who could use earth magic had been busy there.

The inhabitants of the place didn’t even try to hide their displeasure. Since those who could use Appraisal couldn’t check Ryan’s statuses, they were crazy enough to taunt someone who they had no idea how strong he was. Fortunately, or perhaps as expected, no one went too far with the cheap taunts since Furball was quite fearsome and didn’t leave Ryan’s side.

“We will talk with her again about that to obtain access to the dungeon,” Natasha said. “You should come with me since some people might try to pick a fight with you if I leave you alone.”

“I suppose it can’t be helped,” Ryan said.

Much to Ryan's surprise, the dungeon was located in the center of the city, even though some really rough-looking monsters called orcs were spawning from the dungeon.

Orc – Lv 180

Health: 7500/7500

Mana: 1500/1500

Stamina: 5000/5000

Strength: 2500 (+300)

Dexterity: 500

Speed: 750

Intelligence: 250

Endurance: 4000 (+800)

Control: 500

Mentality: 1200 (+300)

Luck: 500

Recovery: 4500 (+600)

Willpower: 1200 (+300)

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Charge Lv 150, Frenzy Lv 120

Passive Physical Skills: Spearmanship Lv 140, Swordsmanship Lv 140, Shield Mastery Lv 120

Spells: Fireball Lv 80, Ice Arrow Lv 80,

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 100, Cold Resistance Lv 100, Electric Resistance Lv 100, Poison Resistance Lv 100,

However, the most impressive thing in that place was a mansion that had been built in front of the dungeon. Only someone stupid, or very arrogant would build a house in front of a tier-three dungeon.

“She lives here,” Natasha said. “ She will probably make us wait again, but we don’t have any other choice aside from enduring it.”

Ryan was okay with waiting. Unless that woman planned to make them wait for more than a day, he could endure, but only precisely that amount.

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In the end, after just a couple of hours, the sun began to set, so Natasha shrugged and said to Ryan that was the perfect excuse for Irina to ignore them for several more hours. Ryan got impatient, but when morning came, the fucking bitch finally showed herself.



“It is so unpleasant to see your face so early in the morning, Natasha,” Irina said. “What do you want? Be quick. I am a busy person.”

“You know what we want. We want to use the dungeon,” Natasha said. “Let us use it already, and we will be on our way as soon as we clear it. That will be the best for you and for us.”

“Even if you pay to use the dungeon, I can’t just let you use it as soon as possible,” Irina said. “I am the leader here, but I am reasonable, and I can’t let my gains interfere with the progress of my subordinates.”

“Bullshit, as if you care about such a thing,” Natasha said. “We will pay you five hundred thousand coins to use the dungeon today. If you let us use the dungeon alone, we will pay the double of that amount.”

After hearing that, Irina stopped walking and faced Natasha with a frown. She couldn’t believe that she had so many coins to spare. Besides, what is the point of paying the double of that ridiculous amount just to clear the dungeon alone and waste more time-fighting?

“Who are you, and what are you doing here?” Irina asked, finally looking at Ryan.

“My name is Ryan, and I am in a quest to become a Pokémon master,” Ryan replied.

“Wow, we have a joker here,” Irina said. “If you really want to use this dungeon, you might want to choose your words more carefully.”

“Is that so? I might consider that in the future,” Ryan shrugged.

Irina clicked her tongue in annoyance, but she didn’t do anything aside from that. Regardless, gaining that many coins wasn’t something she could easily do nowadays since many people worked for her and used the dungeon. Besides, she liked her current life, where many obeyed her commands without a second thought. So, she couldn’t be unreasonable without... a reason.

“If you pay those two million, I can let you use the dungeon today alongside some other survivors,” Irina said after thinking for a few minutes. “But after this, you will have to give me a hand with something. Apparently, you grew stronger since the last time, so I want to check your growth.”

“We are in a hurry here, so we can’t help you with anything,” Natasha said. “Besides, who is going to help someone as unpleasant as you?”

“Is that so? Then, you won’t have access to the dungeon,” Irina said and then turned around.

Natasha clenched her teeth and fists in anger. While she did have more coins, it would be crazy to offer any more to clear a single dungeon. Not only that, it would make her and Ryan appear too suspicious.

“Just accept her offer,” Ryan said. “She is probably going to ask us to fight some monsters or clear a dungeon or two that she is having a hard time guarding. This is nothing.”

After a long sigh, Natasha nodded. As far as Ryan was concerned, wasting a few days hunting monsters wasn’t a total waste of time. There was also the fact that Irina wanted to see what Ryan could do, but that wasn’t much of a problem either. He just had to stick with his fighting style that relies on a single crossbow. Besides, that was a good chance for him to recover the coins that he was going to spend.

“That was the correct decision,” Irina smiled after Ryan and Natasha paid her. “It has been a while, so it will be fun to fight alongside you again.”

“Yeah, right,” Natasha said while looking away.

“The operation to clear the dungeon will start in two hours. Stay close and prepare yourself accordingly,” Irina said.

Even after Irina left, Natasha’s mood didn’t improve. It looked like they had a story together, but Ryan wasn’t interested enough to ask. However, unlike Ryan, Natasha wasn’t someone who enjoyed too much silence.

“Irina, Victor, and I were acquaintances before the monsters’ arrival, we fought together for many weeks, but eventually, we divided our group in three to clear those difficult dungeons,” Natasha said.

“Who is Victor?” Ryan asked.

“The other leader who has a level three dungeon under his control,” Natasha replied. “We weren’t that close, but I thought we could consider ourselves brothers in arms, but then those assholes changed when they got lucky and obtained some skills and weapons. They used that to gain influence, and, in the end, they tried to become the only leader of a group of thousands. That didn’t work, and they didn’t dare to fight among themselves and cause casualties, so we split into three groups. The most difficult dungeon that we found was left to me, and they used the others that seemed easier to clear to increase their power and influence.”

“That is a common modus operandi. I can’t imagine why you were surprised when that happened,” Ryan said.

“Didn’t you fight together with some people when the monsters’ arrived?” Natasha asked.

“I fought now and then to clear some dungeon, but only that,” Ryan replied.

“Well... no wonder you so easily left your country to obtain more power,” Natasha said.

Natasha wanted to ask if Ryan had left someone behind, but that was a difficult topic. With the world in such a state, it wasn’t hard to find survivors that lost all their families and friends. Most of the time, touching those subjects could cause more problems as well. So, she decided to stay quiet about it. Besides, even though it wasn’t much, Natasha had some preparations to make.

Class: Hunter Lv 72 (+ 02 UP / Elementalist Lv 55 / Monk Lv 16 (–))

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

Rank: 145th

Health: 1449/1449 (4,11/s)

Mana: 2185/2185 (4,11/s)

Stamina: 2051/2051 (4,11/s)

Strength: 31 (+166) (+130)

Dexterity: 2300 (+1612) (+95)

Speed: 140 (+759) (+48)

Intelligence: 81 (+662) (+33)

Endurance: 28 (+131) (+160)

Control: 06 (+812) (+10)

Mentality: 08 (+46) (+70)

Luck: 74 (+15)

Recovery: 900 (+1167) (+360)

Willpower: 30 (+46) (+40)

Coins: 26.985.441

Status: 00

## Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 93 (+ 03 UP), Sonic Blade Lv 01,

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 70 (+ 02 UP), Concentration Lv 70 (+ 02 UP), Archery Lv 70 (+ 02 UP), Accuracy Lv 70 (+ 02 UP), Stealth Lv 57 (+ 04 UP), Alchemy Lv 11 (+ 10 UP), Auto-Medication Lv 10 (+ 09 UP), Motivation Lv 01,

Spells: Magic Upgrade Lv 14 (+ 03 UP), Silence Lv 01, Potion Creation Lv 08 (+ 07 UP), Hunt Lv 01,

Support Skills: Petrification Resistance Lv 18 (+ 17 UP),

## Classes:

Combat: Beastmaster Lv 37 (+ 01 UP), Archer Lv 64 (+ 02 UP), Combat Archer Lv 49 (+ 03 UP), Weapons Master Lv 22 (+ 03 UP), Sentinel Lv 14 (+ 01 UP), Enchanter Lv 05 (+ 04 UP), Demon Hunter Lv 15 (+ 03 UP), Ranger Lv 12 (+ 03 UP), Magehunter Lv 01, Dark Slayer Lv 01,

Non-Combatant: Blacksmith Lv 31 (+ 03 UP), Teacher Lv 05 (+02 UP), Merchant Lv 15 (+ 03 UP), Whitesmith Lv 14 (+ 03 UP), Alchemist Lv 07 (+ 06 UP)

Race: Centaur, Lesser Dragon

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Unlike most warriors Ryan had seen so far, Irina was wearing just some small pieces of armor. Since they emitted different magic colors, they were probably good against various types of magic. Natasha was the same, but while that was only natural since she was a long-ranged fighter, their styles were much different. Overall, Irina exposed a lot of her skin. That was a sight for some sore eyes, but it seemed that she was going too far to make the others pay attention to her from Ryan's perspectives.

In any case, while they waited, Ryan watched the fights against the orcs up-close. Orcs were like goblins, but they had pig-like faces, and they were even taller than the hobgoblin Ryan fought before. They used many types of weapons and even could use magic, but unlike the goblins, they weren't stupid enough to leave items behind and strengthen the humans even further. Overall, the survivors of that city had around five classes, and two of them were necessary to face a single orc.

"I guess their strength is that they are smart and balanced status-wise," Ryan muttered. "Otherwise, it would be weird to consider them powerful tier-three monsters."

"Alone, they seem weak, but I heard that when the boss is around for some reason, their spawning speed increases, and also they gain a boost in strength based on the time the boss stays alive and their level," Natasha said. "All in all, they can become a pain in the ass if their dungeons spawn at least once."

Ryan nodded after hearing that, but then again, they weren't a threat for him. Long-ranged magic couldn't even compare in terms of range with his bolts. So, creatures like orcs that were balanced at fighting up-close and in middle-range were easy targets for him.

"Let's get going, today is a busy day, so I will fight alone in order to buy time," Irina declared.

While that was boring, it couldn't be helped. Strangely enough, no one complained either. The group consisted of twenty-four survivors, and aside from Irina, Natasha, and Ryan, all the others only had one or two classes. They certainly weren't at the level where they could fight the orcs.

Irina entered the dungeon and guided everyone. When the first monster appeared, Ryan barely saw the moment where she charged forward and split the beast in half. Although she was an annoying bitch full of herself, she was the real deal when it comes to fighting.

"That is one of the skills that she gained that is the core of her strength," Natasha explained. "I don't know the name, but it increases her movement and attack speed exponentially."

Irina

Class: Swordsman Lv 60 / Silent Killer Lv 55 / Swordmaster Lv 51 (–)

Race: Illusionary Wasp/-/ —

Rank: 185th

Health: 1950 /1950

Mana: 1550/1550

Stamina: 1601/1601

Strength: 2050 (+350) (+130)

Dexterity: 250 (+150) (+40)

Speed: 1620 (+300) (+90)

Intelligence: 220 (+150) (+30)

Endurance: 100 (+110) (+160)

Control: 06 (+120) (+30)

Mentality: 40 (+40) (+30)

Luck: 150 (+50)

Recovery: 600 (+350) (+100)

Willpower: 30 (+40) (+20)

Coins: 2.103.36

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills:

Passive: Swordsmanship Lv 80,

Spells:

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 75, Cold Resistance Lv 60, Electric Resistance Lv 50

Ryan got curious, so he used Appraisal when Irina killed another orc. In the end, he couldn't help but frown at what he saw. The number of skills he could see was weirdly small... it looked like she didn't know Mind Armor, but she knew a few tricks to hide some of her skills.

"I need to level up Appraisal faster..." Ryan thought.

"For someone who likes to avoid unpleasant surprises, it surprises me that you didn't do that sooner," Femradiel said.

Femradiel was kind of quiet as of late. Probably because Ryan couldn't talk to her out loud that frequently anymore. Regardless, she was the same as ever. Since the dungeon didn't have many intersections and the place looked just like an ordinary cave. Eventually, they found the last part of the dungeon. However, the boss hadn't spawned yet.

Irina began to concentrate, which made Ryan frown since she didn't look like someone who would do things seriously. Suddenly, the boss spawned, and Irina disappeared like a blur and attacked the



creature. Although her reaction time had been perfect, the monster still managed to block her attack slightly, and, in the end, her sword only cut the boss's shoulder slightly.

The orc boss was like three meters tall, and it looked like his body was made only of muscles. The creature's sword was longer than Irina's, but the monster swung it with lightning speed to block the attack. Irina tried to overpower the boss with sheer strength, but in the end, she failed and kicked the monster's chin and retreated a few steps.

The boss pointed its left hand toward her and fired several Fireballs, Irina cut only the first one, causing a small explosion, and in the next moment, she appeared behind the creature and made her sword pierce the monster's back. While the beast was growling in agony, she stepped back and then returned and kicked her sword, making a big wound to open on the monster's back. After that, things were pretty much one-sided. Irina kept using her sword to make the beast agonize. Not even a boss could do much aside from suffering when a big sword was impaling them. That being said, Ryan felt that the beast didn't resist all that much... the sword probably had some effect that paralyzed the beast or at least prevented it from trying hard.

"An anesthetic effect?" Ryan thought.

"Seems like it," Femradiel said.

While that was very convenient, Ryan couldn't deny Irina's strength. Besides, even if she were lucky, she had to fight some tough enemies to obtain such a useful sword. Her arrogance was well-founded. In any case, that didn't mean that Ryan had a good reason to endure her company or annoying behavior. Only the dungeons that she had under her control could be considered reasons for that.

## Chapter 373

Congratulations! You have cleared the dungeon and obtained its treasure! As a reward for your achievement, you can obtain one of three following classes: Frost Guardian, Silent Killer, and Puppet Master.

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 nodded to himself in satisfaction since he didn't see those classes before, and he was one hundred percent sure of it. Given that Frost Guardian was one of those specialized classes, it made sense why a melee fighter like Irina picked the Silent Killer class. Still, Ryan was slightly bothered by the fact that he wasn't lucky enough to obtain another class that would directly support his fighting style.

Congratulations! You have become a Level one Silent Killer!

You obtained the following skills: Skill Camouflage, Silent Attack, and Silent Movement.

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

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Skill Camouflage.

Effect: It grants you the power to hide some of your skills from skills like Appraisal. For every five levels, you can hide one more skill.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Silent Attack.

Effect: By consuming mana, you can make your attacks completely inaudible at the cost of your mana.

Cost: 100 mana per second

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Silent Movement.

Effect: By consuming mana, you can make your body move without making any sound.

Cost: 100 mana per second.

You obtained 01 status point.

Although the cost of the skills was pretty high, they were more useful than Ryan thought. Even better, since they consumed mana per second instead of per attack, Ryan will be able to slay many enemies without alerting others. It looked like leveling up that class will be pretty straightforward.

After his turn ended, Ryan waited for the others. Irina was still fighting the orcs that were occasionally spawning; for Natasha, she seemed pretty unsatisfied about something. Once again, Ryan decided not to involve himself with the problems of others. While Natasha already proved that she could be trusted when she said that she would take responsibility for his actions, Ryan wanted to keep a certain distance from others. Working together was fine, but some space was required. Otherwise, he would recall what happened to Lucia and the others pretty much every moment.

“Two down, one to go, right?” Natasha asked. “Now we just need to help his bitch for a few days.”

“I can hear you,” Irina said.

“I talked with that intention from the beginning...” Natasha said. “Anyway, you seem someone who is a natural with long-ranged weapons, Ryan. What did you do before the monsters arrived?”

“Getting personal, aren’t we?” Ryan frowned. “What I was before didn’t help me become better with bows and crossbows. Regardless, my Dad taught me how to use a bow for several years, and I used the knowledge to survive.”

“I see... I never had any real training with long-ranged weapons. I just chose the crossbow as a weapon because it seemed easy to use,” Natasha said. “Do you have any tips for me?”

“Practice every day and keep increasing your dexterity like there is no tomorrow,” Ryan replied.

Natasha wanted to hear something more specific. After all, she was already doing that from the very beginning. Despite that, she could tell that the difference in skill was too great. Fortunately, it didn't look like Ryan was lying. He indeed seemed like someone who had a one-track mind, which was probably how he was mastering bows.

After a while, everyone picked their classes and then left the dungeon. Ryan and Natasha waited for Irina for them to proceed to do the rest of their agreement, but then Irina left the dungeon and headed toward her house.

"Aren't we going to depart now?" Natasha asked.

"Relax, I will just organize a few things. It will take just a moment," Irina replied.

Ryan wasn't the only one who was in a hurry, while her soldiers could control with ease the Medusas' dungeon. Fighting the bosses was another matter. She wanted to return as quickly as possible and help them. In the end, Irina's minute turned into half an hour. Natasha was so impatient that she was clicking her tongue pretty much every single moment.

"You will end up exploding a vein like that," Ryan said.

"Sorry... but this girl is just too much for me," Natasha said.

As if the situation wasn't unbearable enough for Natasha, Irina showed up along with her bodyguards. While they looked like bodyguards, the fact that they were all hunky guys made Ryan understand that they were probably her boyfriends, or at least, her relaxation toys... all of them.

"Are you fucking kidding me, Irina?" Natasha asked.

"What? I can't go on a journey without them," Irina replied.

"Are they going to be even a little bit useful in the fights?" Natasha asked.

“They will help me recover from the fatiguing fights. That is more than enough,” Irina shrugged.

At that point in time, even Ryan was speechless at Irina. The girl really needed to receive a wake-up call... she was wasting so much potential by acting like that, or perhaps she became that strong because of her nature. In any case, due to her actions, Natasha was about to snap.

“All right, before we depart, I must warn you guys that the enemies we are going to face are quite troublesome,” Irina said. “If things don’t work well or you don’t follow all my commands, I will pull some strings and make Victor completely ignore you. Thus, you will be unable to get another class. So, work hard not to disappoint me.”

“What are the enemies?” Ryan asked.

“Don’t talk to me; if I don’t give you permission, I will forgive you this time, but that won’t happen again...” Irina frowned. “The enemies are demons... very troublesome demons.”

#### Chapter 374

Demons... it has been a few weeks since Ryan heard of them. However, instead of being bothered by the fact that they were getting on his path again, Ryan felt thankful for the opportunity to slay those fuckers. It was much better to fight them than let them go do whatever they want unchecked. Another reason why Ryan wanted to hunt them, was his Demon Hunter class.

In any case, since Irina is an annoying bitch, Ryan couldn’t ask many questions to her. That was actually good since he also didn’t want to hold any conversation with someone like that. While Natasha didn’t have a different opinion, she was fully aware that they couldn’t go to the hunt without knowing anything. So, a few minutes after they left the city, Natasha decided to ask some questions.

“Tell us more about the demons,” Natasha said. “How are they? What are their weaknesses?”

“They are demons. What else do you need to hear?” Irina frowned. “Fire worked against them, but I don’t if that still is useful.”

“What do you mean by that?” Natasha asked.

“... Their dungeon appeared one month ago,” Irina began to explain after a long sigh. “At first, only small wasp-like creatures began to spawn, but after flying for a while, the wasps would find a place to hide, and then they would transform into a demonic-like plant. The plant would give birth to more wasp-like monsters after a while. When they eat, their reproduction speed increases exponentially... all in all, those are disgusting monsters that can alter an entire ecosystem in a matter of days by multiplying themselves. When I heard of them, I began to hunt those creatures since they had some troublesome abilities aside from their propagation, but then suddenly, the monsters became more powerful, and I was forced to retreat.”

Ryan frowned when he heard that the enemies were demon-like plants that, before being plants, they were wasps... Regardless, it looked like the dungeon master decided to intervene when Irina got on their way. If Irina managed to hunt many of those monsters alone, it looked like they were tier-two monsters, but the dungeon evolved and became a tier-three dungeon.

“I wonder why the dungeon only appeared one month ago...” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “All the other demonic dungeons appeared in the first month.”

“You have some experience fighting demons, right?” Natasha asked. “What can you tell us about them?”

“All in all, the demons that I heard and faced were direct subordinates of the devil himself,” Ryan said. “One of them was Baal, the second I faced was Lilith, and the third one was Mephisto.”

“... Are you serious?” Natasha asked with a massive frown on her face.

“If I tried to make a joke, I wouldn’t use the word demons in my sentences,” Ryan replied.

“Did you kill them?” Natasha asked.

“Nope, someone else and I got our asses kicked and barely survived the encounter,” Ryan shook his head. “Their level of power can’t be compared to anything we will face on earth in the next months or years. I fought Mephisto here on Earth. The bastard was so powerful that he was losing health every

second since he borrowed the body of one of his minions. That made me understand that they are so powerful that they can't show their true strength in the current state of our planet."

Natasha analyzed those pieces of information, but then she realized that Ryan didn't mention him fighting demonic plants, and he got a bit surprised when he heard about them. That means...

"So, the owner of the dungeon isn't Baal, Lilith, or Mephisto," Natasha said.

"That is my guess as well. This time, the fight will be against the army of another general of the demons' army," Ryan said.

"Do you think that what Irina experienced will happen again?" Natasha asked.

"I don't think so," Ryan shook his head. "I know a few things that a dungeon master can do, and raise the level of a dungeon is one of them, but that must cost a lot of mana or coins. Considering that we didn't find a single level four dungeon until now, I can only think that the dungeon masters think that it isn't worth making those appear here on Earth."

"So, we are being looked down, huh?" Natasha furrowed her eyebrows in anger.

"I guess we should feel thankful for that," Ryan said. "While those freaks underestimate us, they will give us plenty of chances to kill them."

Despite saying that, Ryan still could feel his blood boil just by thinking about Lilith. That demon rubbed a lot of salt on Ryan's wound, so he didn't intend to let the bitch go unpunished for long. Unfortunately, Ryan would need to be a little more patient. The difference in power wasn't something he couldn't even measure right, so he will need a few more tricks and tools in order to have his revenge.

Ryan and the others had to travel for two days to find the area where the demons' dungeon was located. They probably could have arrived faster, but since Irina was an annoying bitch, she refused to travel at night. Moreover, she was brazen enough not to take any turn on the guard duty. While she always left two or three of her clowns around to keep their eyes on Ryan, they failed miserably at their job. Ryan managed to train several skills without them noticing.

Regardless, after those days of travel, they finally found a group of survivors fighting some weird plants and wasps. Those were Irina's lackeys that she had left behind to keep the monsters in check. However, given that Ryan only found six of them and they were utterly exhausted, covered in bruises, and some parts of their body even had strange colorful colors, he assumed that things weren't going well. Natasha raised their guard because they finally entered the enemies' territory. Meanwhile, Ryan looked for the monsters in order to use Appraisal.

## Chapter 375

Demonic Wasp – Lv 160

Health: 1500/1500

Mana: 2500/2500

Stamina: 1000/1000

Strength: 500

Dexterity: 700

Speed: 600

Intelligence: 500

Endurance: 400

Control: 600



Mentality: 500

Luck: 500

Recovery: 900

Willpower: 500

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Anesthetic Bite Lv 110

Passive Physical Skills: Improved Speed Lv 50, Transformation Lv 100

Spells: Anesthetic Pollen Lv 120,

Support Skills: Cold Resistance Lv 70, Shock Resistance Lv 50, Electric Resistance Lv 40

While the attributes of the first wasp Ryan saw weren't that impressive, the fact that they reached level 160 in just a few weeks was worrisome. In any case, some of the skills that Ryan saw greatly interested him. Knowing them, it looked like Irina got her sword by killing one of those.

Before the monster could get too close, Ryan picked Frost Crossbow and killed the beast. The beast didn't even see the bolt coming. Meanwhile, Natasha had a hard time seeing the monster that Ryan attacked, while Irina and the others thought that Ryan was attacking the empty air since they didn't find the enemy.

"I left you guys far ahead if I remember correctly," Irina said to her soldiers. "Why did you retreat so much?"

"Apologies, ma'am," One of the soldiers replied. "We failed at holding them back, their level and numbers increased a lot more than we predicted."

"I can see that, I want more details," Irina said. "What are those marks in your bodies?"

"Don't worry, ma'am," The soldier replied. "Those will disappear in a few days; it is just a mark left by those damn plants. While they exist in our bodies, some of our status decreases exponentially."

Now that Ryan thought about it, every single of the soldiers there had melee weapons, and none of them had items that increased their magic attack or intelligence. So, it was only evident that they would fight up-close. It was hard to tell if Irina picked her strongest soldiers or just the most stupid ones. Even after against demons for a few minutes, anyone with half of a brain would understand that keeping a certain distance was absolutely necessary.

"Is that so..." Irina furrower her eyebrows. "You should rest now; we will take care of the monsters from here on out. Rest for a few days and then return to our camp. Give the order for a new team to come here in a week."

"Yes, ma'am," the soldier nodded.

Ryan wasn't entirely certain if he should rely on that kind of knowledge, but in certain games and books, there was a deeply connected demon with creatures like wasps... it was Beelzebub, the lord of the flies. While he didn't know much about the demon aside from that, Ryan knew that the demon was a powerful monster and sometimes was so powerful that it could even be compared to Baal. Their names were even similar... perhaps the fourth general was indeed Beelzebub.

"I don't think that demon will possess the bodies of those plants or of the wasps," Ryan thought. "One month has passed since the dungeon, so the dungeon broke at least once... some bosses will be waiting for us. I can only tell if the demon might possess them after taking a look at them."

“Here is how we are going to proceed,” Irina said. “Since you two are boring archers, you will attack the monsters and kill them before they get too close, since this area belongs to me, all the drops will be mine. No questions asked.”

“What?” Natasha protested. “This area is not yours; you didn’t clear the dungeon!”

“I have been keeping the monsters in check and no one tried to help, thus this area is mine,” Irina said. “I am the leader here and your opinion on the matter is irrelevant.”

“You little annoying bitch...” Natasha bit her lips in exasperation.

Ryan just watched everything in silence since he had imagined that something like that might happen. However, he had no intention of letting that crazy bitch earn the fruits of his hard work, and he already knew how to prevent that. Natasha and Irina found it strange that Ryan didn’t protest, but in the end, the matter ended there.

The more they headed southwest, the more wasps they found. While Ryan wanted to keep his skills hidden from people like Irina, he was forced to use Telekinesis to fly high and increase his field of vision. When he killed something, and that something dropped an item, Ryan buried the same item underground by using Telekinesis. Then when he passed above the item, he recovered it without letting anyone notice it.

Demonic Cocoon – Lv 160

Health: 5000/5000

Mana: 15000/15000

Stamina: 1000/1000

Strength: 200

Dexterity: 200

Speed: —

Intelligence: 5000

Endurance: 2000

Control: 1000

Mentality: 3000

Luck: 500

Recovery: 5000

Willpower: 3000

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Anesthetic Whip Lv 110

Passive Physical Skills: Improved Endurance Lv 70, Replication Lv 150

Spells: Anesthetic Pollen Lv 150,

Support Skills: Cold Resistance Lv 100, Shock Resistance Lv 100, Earth Resistance Lv 100, Fire Resistance Lv 100,

Once again, Ryan frowned when he saw the status of the first demonic plant he saw in the distance. Not only the statuses of the monsters were weird, but the name was also strange. The demonic plant made Ryan recall an octopus, but the creature, instead of a head, it had a cocoon that was used to give birth to more wasps. As for the tentacles, they were just like long leaves that could be used to protect the cocoon.

“More and more weird monsters are appearing as of late,” Natasha said while showing a disgusted expression.

Ryan couldn't agree more. Regardless, he bombarded the monster with his Frost Crossbow. The creature tried to block the attacks with its tentacles, but since Ryan attacked the same spot several times, the tentacles frozen and then broke into ice shards. Thanks to Corruption Sense, Ryan could feel the presence of many demons in the area, and based on what Irina said, they still had to walk for dozens of kilometers before reaching the dungeon...

## Chapter 376

“You didn't improve a single bit, Natasha,” Irina said. “I am disappointed.”

“I don't want to hear that from someone who isn't doing anything,” Natasha said.

Since Ryan's range was at least five times longer than Natasha's, she didn't have many chances to fight. She only fought when they found dozens of demonic cocoons and wasps hidden underground, and Ryan decided not to attack with his max firing speed.

“Meanwhile, you are not half-bad,” Irina said while looking at Ryan. “You are at least a little better than this incompetent girl.”

“Is that so?” Ryan said while he was looking around for his next target.

“If you want, I can make you become the chief of the guard of my city,” Irina said. “While you are a foreigner, you have the skills to become a pretty decent guard. As my subordinate, the others won’t be able to do anything to you and in fact, they will treat you as one of our own people. Much better than working for someone like Natasha, don’t you agree?”

“I am not interested,” Ryan replied.

While she was troublesome, Irina wasn’t stupid. Even though she knew that Ryan was holding back, she had recognized his skills. Not only that, he was the first human whom she couldn’t see the status and skills. Despite that, she thought that Ryan was working for Natasha, and she couldn’t be more wrong.

“What a waste,” Irina shrugged. “If you had accepted and worked hard, perhaps I would have left you lick my feet once a day.”

Irina certainly had a high opinion of herself. In any case, instead of worrying about her high self-esteem, Ryan was more worried about the number of enemies. It has been a while since their progress decreased quite a lot. Now they were moving slower than walking due to the high number of encounters. While Ryan was training his archer classes, he wasn’t getting many coins. For some reason, the number of coins the wasps and cocoons gave him was pretty small.

You obtained 12 coins.

You obtained 15 coins.

“I guess the reason for this problem is that the monsters aren’t combat-oriented,” Ryan thought. “They were made to multiply fast and cause damage by spreading their pollen in a vast area.”

“You are correct,” Femradiel said. “It looks like this Beelzebub fellow managed to create high-levelled creatures that wouldn’t grant coins to humans, but still would cause some problems.”

While looking in the distance toward the dungeon, Ryan could see a yellow sky. That was the pollen emitted by the wasps and demonic cocoons. Fortunately, whenever he killed the monsters of a certain

area, the pollen would disappear from the area. After killing some wasps, Ryan waited for the pollen to dissipate, but a gust of wind made it fly toward him, Natasha, and Irina.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Spiritual Resistance.

Effect: Decreases the effect of skills and attacks that might cause direct damage to your mana.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Fatigue Resistance.

Effect: Decreases the effect of skills and attacks that might cause direct damage to your stamina.

You obtained 01 status point.

The skill Cursed Resistance has leveled up.

As expected, the pollen had numerous effects, but in essence, it was just an area of effect curse spell. Just like the soldiers that worked for Irina, several stains appeared around Ryan's body. They caused damage to Ryan's mana and stamina and also decreased all of his statuses up to a certain percentage. Regardless, Ryan got rid of them after using Purification a few times.

"It looks like those monsters are trying to create a massive zone where humans can't fight," Ryan said. "While dying from being poisoned or cursed is unlikely, they still can train their skills like this and thus, get stronger."

"It really is a roundabout way to corner humans," Natasha frowned after she used Purification on herself as well. "Did the other demons you faced use a similar strategy?"

"No... and that is what makes me worry," Ryan replied.

It would make sense if the sole goal of the dungeon master were to make the dungeon reach the max level using that strategy, but at that point in time, the demonic generals probably heard of Ryan. So, unless they were dead brain idiots, they were supposed to know that such a strategy wouldn't work against him. They also knew that Ryan was traveling through the continents, so it was only obvious that Ryan would eventually find them again.

In the end, the first day of the hunt ended without much progress. Ryan couldn't understand the goal of the dungeon master even after thinking about the situation for several hours. Regardless, Irina's bodyguards that didn't do a single thing the whole day, just like her, armed the camp and a massive tent for her. As for Ryan and Natasha, they only could make use of the campfire that they made.

"Are you going to take the first turn of the guard duty?" Natasha asked. "I think we should stay alert through the entire night together since we are close to the enemies' territory."

"If you can find them at night, you are free to join me," Ryan said. "However, if you can't find them easily, you should sleep. I am used to this kind of job."

Natasha nodded after hearing that, even at night, the difference in range was too big, so she wouldn't be able to kill many monsters. While everyone was busy resting, Ryan decided to put his plans in action.

Anesthetic Crossbow (Curse) (+3)

Effect: fire bolts at the cost of twenty-five points of mana that might numb the senses of your foes based on their level of mentality and willpower.

Dexterity + 91, Intelligence + 39

Durability: 60/60

Ryan also tried to create other crossbows that could cause direct that mage to the enemies' mana and stamina while it also caused real damage. However, he never obtained that effect. Despite that, he wasn't bothered by it. After all, he already had the skills that could do that.



## Chapter 377

During the whole night, Ryan only killed a few dozen wasps. A number much lower than he had expected... maybe they weren't nocturnal creatures, but even so, Ryan didn't drop his guard. To make good use of his time, Ryan trained the resistances that he will probably need against the bosses. When morning came, Ryan had leveled up his Curse Resistance, Spiritual Resistance, and Fatigue Resistance quite a bit, but those who saw him cutting himself with a knife didn't count that as training... it only made Ryan look like a madman. Only Natasha got used to that sight.

"Do you think we will succeed in clearing the dungeon in six days?" Natasha asked.

"Not if we rely on your crazy friend," Ryan replied. "I have a plan to increase our hunting speed, but I prefer to wait for a few more days to see if she won't do anything to help."

"If I were you, I wouldn't count on her," Natasha shrugged.

In fact, Ryan was counting on Irina, counting that she wouldn't be stupid enough to stay seven days in a region without gaining anything. She wanted the loot since she obviously got lucky and obtained that sword, but Ryan wouldn't let her gain a single drop. If she doesn't understand that, then Ryan and Natasha will have to clear the dungeon by themselves because that will confirm that Irina was a lost cause. Much to Ryan's and Natasha's surprise, that morning, Irina showed up with her sword in hand and with her defensive gear already equipped.

"This is going to take forever if I let you two do all the work," Irina said. "It can't be helped, so I am going to fight today and confirm if you two are slacking off or not."

"... How do you plan to fight when you are a melee fighter and the monsters that use those pollens do decrease status, mana, and stamina?" Natasha asked.

"I already have some resistance against it," Irina replied. "Usually, that wouldn't be enough to fight for long periods of time, but I saw you two using a spell that nullifies negative effects. So, I decided to speed up things."

Natasha looked at Ryan, but he just shrugged. Irina was fast so that she wouldn't breathe much of the pollen. Adding that to her resistances, she will be able to fight for quite a while before having the need to fall back.

"Ah, that's right..." Irina suddenly stopped and then turned around. "You should try hard because if I die, everyone will know that you two are the main culprits. I made sure to inform everyone back in my camp what I was going to do, after all."

That was a whole new level that someone could reach to motivate others to work hard. While Irina was annoying and a bitch, only that wasn't enough for Ryan to wish for her death.

Irina dashed forward without alerting anyone. Ryan began to levitate in order to offer her some support, but that had been unnecessary. Irina found several groups of wasps, and she fired some Fireballs at them. Ryan only understood what she was planning when she began to run back while luring hundreds of wasps.

Ryan made his bolts rain over the creatures, and eventually, Natasha joined him. When the bolts slowed down the monsters, Irina stopped, and then she swung her sword. Surprisingly, a blade of fire coming from her sword decimated dozens of the wasps... in the blink of an eye. They killed hundreds of wasps.

"I guess she can really do it when she puts her mind into it." Ryan said.

Now that Ryan thought about it, Irina also had the silent killer class so that she would be even more deadly at night. It was a pity since she probably will spend the night with her bodyguards. Fortunately, apparently, she tried to cover for that by working hard during the day. Thanks to that, they killed around twenty thousand wasps. Irina obtained many items, so when the sun began to set, she was in a good mood... even though Ryan managed to get the best ones and half of the total number.

"What is it?" Natasha frowned when Ryan offered a handshake.

"Just accept it," Ryan said.

In the end, after doing some calculations, Ryan paid Natasha for her hard work as well. Even though she was satisfied with the fact alone that that day they advanced five kilometers. Even without words, she understood that Ryan was doing something to prevent Irina from getting all the loot.

“Things proceeded well today,” Natasha said. “Maybe clearing the dungeon in the next five days is actually achievable.”

“I don’t think so... while we extinguished the pollen from several areas, the yellow sky in the horizon isn’t getting smaller,” Ryan said. “Knowing your friend, she might actually cause problems for us if we fail in clearing this dungeon, even though it is madness to do in seven days. However, she had good instincts, even without seeing my status she probably knows that this task can be completed if I go all out.”

“So, two crossbows style again?” Natasha asked.

“No, I was thinking of doing something more... effective against those monsters,” Ryan said and then summoned a golem. “This guy is an inorganic creature, while the wasps will be able to decrease its mana and stamina, I don’t think they will succeed at decreasing the other attributes, and with this... the golems become a fearsome army.”

Ryan obtained a lot of iron ores that day, so he could create battle machines freely and put them in his golems. Since that didn’t seem like something a proper archer would do, Natasha couldn’t help but frown, but she realized that his plan might actually help them quite a lot. Ryan wouldn’t get many coins in that job aside from the ones that he might get by selling items. Still, he didn’t hesitate in summoning thousands of them throughout the whole night. After all, he also obtained a lot of monsters’ soul essence that day, and his stock of mana potions was high.

## Chapter 378

Soon after sunrise, Irina led Ryan and Natasha toward the battlefield, but she frowned when she saw many massive footsteps on the ground, but not a single monster in sight. Not even wasps and demonic cocoons.

“It looks like someone has been busy,” Irina frowned while looking at Ryan.

Ryan ignored her. While he couldn't erase the footsteps, he still managed to give his golems the order to hide underground during the day. Irina knew that Ryan did something, but she couldn't tell exactly what, and she couldn't say if that thing was still around. That was what he needed to make her walk on her toes.

Ryan also managed to find most of the loot his golems obtained and hid them underground to get them later. So, as far as he was concerned, the plan had been a success. Now, he just needed to make sure that the dungeon would be cleared in five days.

"I am sensing that the monsters are retreating and creating a massive perimeter around the dungeon," Femradiel said. "It looks like you forced the dungeon master to act."

Ryan looked in the distance and saw the yellow in the sky decreasing in size but also getting more concentrated. Femradiel was correct. The dungeon master gave the order for its minions to retreat. While that was convenient since the area where Ryan had to search decreased, things were so simple.

"Something changed..." Irina said.

It looked like Irina noticed that as well. She really had sharp senses. Regardless, they confirmed that around noon that day when they saw hundreds of thousands of wasps around a certain mountain, and weirdly enough, the dungeon's entrance was almost at the peak of the mountain. Thousands of demonic cocoons were making more wasps spawn every single minute, and that made them feel as if they were fighting an endless battle.

In the center of that massive army of monsters, Ryan and Natasha saw thirty or creatures that weren't wasps or cocoons. Those were flies... gigantic flies that had big red eyes and disgusting rotten wings. Its paws were thin, but at the same time, they were made of some sort of metal, and it looked as sharp as hell. The overall color of the monster and Ryan couldn't help but think about the possibility of Beelzebub taking control over their bodies.

Beelzebub's Offspring – Lv 250

Health: 35.000/35.000

Mana: 70.000/70.000

Stamina: 15.000/15.000

Strength: 1500

Dexterity: 3000

Speed: 1000

Intelligence: 4500 (+ 600)

Endurance: 2500

Control: 2500

Mentality: 3500 (+ 300)

Luck: 500

Recovery: 7500 (+ 1500)

Willpower: 3500 (+ 300)

Coins: —

Status: —

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Pestilence Touch Lv 250, Cursed Blades Lv 200

Passive Physical Skills: Passive Recovery Lv 75, Active Spiritual Recovery Lv 100

Spells: Infestation Lv 150, Poisonous Catastrophe Lv 250, Sloth Inducement Lv 250

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 150, Thunder Resistance Lv 150, Poison Resistance Lv 250, Curse Resistance Lv 250

“Holy Freya...” Natasha muttered while showing an incredible disgusted expression. “What the heck is that?”

“What did you see?” Irina asked. “My eyes aren’t as good as yours. My dexterity is pretty low, after all.”

“A boss... in the shape of a fly that will probably make you faint,” Natasha replied. “Those things are no good and their level is too high... we can’t face them with only the three of us here.”

“It still can get worse, that is more or less how I imagined Beelzebub would be. He is the lord of the flies, after all,” Ryan said. “Regardless, even if those are just its offspring, I would bet that he created them in order to become a good receptacle for its spirit.”

Ryan told them the time where he fought Mephisto. While that made him revive some bad memories, Ryan couldn’t just keep Natasha and Irina in the dark. A fight against a general of the demon’s army was something one would need a lot of preparation to survive, and winning was almost impossible.

“You said that you still won and you were weak at the time, so we can win here as well,” Irina said.

“I didn’t win in a direct fight, the conditions granted me the victory,” Ryan said. “Besides, it is impossible to say that Beelzebub can’t take control over the other bosses once he falls once. Defeating

an opponent like that once is already an incredibly feat, expect to do that thirty times isn't naiveness, is stupidity."

Ryan wanted more power. He wanted to defeat all the fuckers invading Earth as well. However, he couldn't let his greed for power and anger control his decisions. The golems might help against the mob monsters, but not against the bosses. At the very least, they needed a few days to think of a decent plan, but Irina didn't want that.

"I agree with Ryan, we are only a few days from your camp, we can ask for reinforcements without any issues," Natasha said. "I doubt that you need more than twenty soldiers to keep the dungeon there in check."

"I am the leader here, and I will give the calls," Irina declared. "We won't ask for reinforcements, the people back there aren't strong enough to deal with this, they won't be of any help here."

"Then, we should at least talk with Victor," Natasha said. "He is the strongest of us and his soldiers also train hard every single day and fight the monsters like madmen. They will certainly be useful here."

"I would rather choose death than ask that guy to help me," Irina said. "Besides, I want to keep this dungeon to myself... Still, I understand that challenging those monsters right now is a bad move. So, let's retreat for the time being while I think of a solution for this situation."

At least Irina wasn't stupid enough to charge in a situation like that. However, she was difficult enough to say that she was the one who would find a solution to the problem, and by the look of the things, she won't hear Ryan and Natasha's opinion on the matter.

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Irina's bodyguards armed the tent a few kilometers away from the dungeon, and Irina stayed inside the whole day. At least it looked like she was doing her job seriously since the bodyguards remained outside the entire time. Regardless, Ryan decided to think of some ways to solve the situation on his own. While Irina was the self-proclaimed leader of the operation, she was yet to learn that Ryan doesn't follow the orders of those who only have their own interests in mind.

“The bosses are the problem,” Ryan declared. “If we can take them out of the picture early on, even against that massive army, we might stand a chance.”

“I have a hard time believing in that,” Natasha said. “Even if you use your golems, they will be just overwhelmed by the sheer numbers.”

“That is fine, we can kite the monsters as much as we want since there is no camps nearby this place,” Ryan said. “We should focus here on eliminating the monsters no matter what because the larger their numbers, the faster they can level up and we can’t let them reach the max level.”

Ryan had explained to Natasha what might happen when the dungeons reach level one thousand. While she was having a hard time believing that the demons of the myths and other crazy creatures will be able to unleash hell on Earth even more than they already did, she was fully aware that Ryan wouldn’t be traveling around for no good reason. While he was weird, he wasn’t insane. Someone insane wouldn’t tolerate the mad behavior of Irina and probably wouldn’t be able to survive alone for this long.

In any case, Ryan had some ideas, but neither of them was particularly amazing. He wasn’t a master tactician, so the best he could do was to come up with small plans that will increase his chances in a fight little by little. However, several of those small plans might become a massive advantage later... for now, all the plans that Ryan had involved Natasha.

“What? It is weird when you start to stare at me all of a sudden,” Natasha said. “I thought my charms have no effect on you or that the end of the world made me look less appealing.”

“The hell are you talking about... You still have a lot of coins with you, right?” Ryan asked.

“We will need to increase your firepower. While I can teach you some skills, I can see that you don’t have some essential ones. Those are hard to teach, so you will have to buy them.”

“There is no dungeon nearby, so...” Natasha said.

“I have access to the dungeon shops wherever I go,” Ryan said. “Regardless, to become a little more like me, you will need Active Spiritual Recovery, Bleed, and Improved Concentration. Those skills will cost you 750.000 coins.”



“Is that really a good idea to spend so many coins in skills that will be at a low-level and I barely will be able to level up in a few days?” Natasha frowned.

“You won’t level them up all that much, but once the fight starts, you will have plenty of chances for that,” Ryan replied. “The last skill you will need is Firing Posture. I can teach you that.”

“I need to apologize,” Natasha said. “I thought you were a much colder person who wouldn’t help others and left your home country without thinking twice.”

“Don’t get all sentimental on me,” Ryan said. “I am just doing this because it is necessary. No matter what, I don’t want to leave those mother fuckers running around on my planet. That is why I am teaching you some useful skills, let’s just hope you won’t disappoint me.”

There were other skills Ryan could teach, but in the end, he would be revealing too much information about himself by teaching Natasha too many skills. As far as he was concerned, Natasha wasn’t a bad person per se, but no one could tell what someone might become once that someone becomes much more powerful than the others.

After Ryan helped Natasha with those skills, he began to think about what else he should do. Natasha needed a better weapon, but Ryan couldn’t create a useful magic item by using the wasps and cocoons’ souls. Then he had a certain idea... could he create magic items by using the souls of his summoned monsters? Actually... he could.

Heavy Crossbow (Earth) (+4)

Effect: fire bolts at the cost of fifteen points of mana that might stun your foes based on their level of mentality and willpower.

Dexterity + 98, Intelligence + 42

Durability: 65/65

Ryan used the soul of a golem... to think that even they had souls... Regardless, that weapon would be highly effective at stopping the swarms of monsters. Ryan made two more of those and then offered those two to Natasha.

“I can sell you those for one hundred thousand coins,” Ryan said. “How about it?”

Natasha saw Ryan easily creating magic items, and she couldn't help but be stunned by it. Not to mention, they were two times better than her current crossbow... it was insane to think that someone had the skills to create magic items that could easily cost fifty thousand coins.

“I will buy them,” Natasha said.

“Good Choice,” Ryan said.

The bosses didn't have high resistance against earth magic, but Ryan didn't want to use two crossbows of the same attribute. Besides, it wasn't like he would be able to stun them easily. While Natasha was using her new crossbow and training her unique skills, Ryan decided to think of a few more ideas to increase their chances of victory, and much to his surprise, it looked like Femradiel had been thinking about the same thing.

“You ignored the magic bow skill until now due to its cost, but that skill would be really useful right now,” Femradiel said.

Ryan nodded when he heard that... he didn't think of that before, but it wouldn't be awesome if he could create all his crossbows with that spell and use all of those effects at the same time? It was a pretty exciting idea... that would cost him lots of mana.

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In the end, Ryan failed at thinking of many new plans to help in the next fight. However, he and Natasha still spent the entire night training against a golem. The monster had high resistance against earth attacks, so Ryan managed to use Magic Bow and magically replicate his new crossbow for a period, and Natasha also trained her new skills.

“You really can do a lot,” Natasha said, visibly impressed.

“Anyone can do this much as long as they put their minds into training and keep clearing dungeons whenever possible,” Ryan said.

“I mean no offense, but I don’t think I can focus too much on that,” Natasha said. “There are many people who rely on me and I can’t let them down.”

“That is the path you chose,” Ryan shrugged. “As long as you don’t regret choosing that path, nothing says that you made an incorrect decision.”

It seemed like a bad move from Ryan’s perspective since he couldn’t trust many people to watch his back. However, the same things that applied to him didn’t apply to others. Regardless, a few minutes after sunrise, Irina showed herself, and she seemed pretty pissed.

“It looks like someone has been making all kinds of preparations without consulting my plans,” Irina said. “I hope you two won’t regret that later.”

“Getting this angry so early in the morning is weird even for you, Irina,” Natasha said. “If you are having a hard time coming with a plan, we might help you with something.”

“Why would I need the help of someone who failed at clearing a single dungeon for five months?” Irina asked. “The last thing that I need is to hear the advice of a stranger as well.”

“You don’t need to hear it, as long as you have a decent plan,” Ryan said. “I might be wrong, but I think you don’t have one. Just remember, you are the one who decided that we have to clear this dungeon in a week, and you are also the one who decided to retreat yesterday.”

Irina glared at Ryan; it was probably the same glare that Ryan showed when he used Power of the Money. In any case, Irina couldn’t say anything back because what Ryan said was the absolute truth. Ryan more or less could imagine why Irina didn’t manage to come up with any decent plan. It was probably because she was similar to him... she was someone who could only come up with plans where she was the core of everything. Ryan does that because he couldn’t trust others all that much, while

Irina probably does that because she wanted to show off. Either way, their behavior was troublesome in many ways.

Irina decided to say in silence while she was eating her breakfast. She still was trying to come up with a decent plan, but nothing really came to her mind. Ryan could respect that stubbornness, but he couldn't wait for it forever. As far as he was concerned, taking thirty of the bosses down wasn't something they couldn't do directly, and Irina wasn't used at doing things indirectly.

"Ah! Screw it!" Irina finally snapped. "We are going to kill those fuckers head on!"

Natasha looked at Ryan, but he only shrugged. Calling that a plan was beyond stupid... in the end, Ryan was forced to step forward and offer a better temporal solution. It was the best thing they could do right now.

"Let's attack the army of monsters at night," Ryan said. "You have the Silent Killer class, so do I. With those skills, we can decrease the number of enemies exponentially before they can find us."

"What is the difference between attack now and at night?" Irina asked. "In the end, we still will be surrounded by an army in thirty seconds."

"The army won't be a problem, the bosses are the problem," Ryan said and then made himself, Natasha, and Irina levitate with Telekinesis. "We can escape the army with this, but fighting the bosses will be rough since they really can fly, unlike us. That is why we are going to sneak in and kill some of them before the real fight starts."

Irina stayed silent while she considered Ryan's words. The wasps could fly, but they weren't that fast. So, they could escape from them. She recognized the fact that the bosses were the real problem, but even so, she was against the idea of following the lead of a foreigner. That was the reason why she was hesitating. Her only options were to throw away her pride or start a suicide attack.

"I have a better idea, I will fight those fuckers head on and you make sure that they won't surround me," Irina said. "We can do that at night, but you will spend too much mana by making the three of us fly. That will be your only job."

While Ryan couldn't see how come that was a better idea, some parts of it weren't completely useless. He recognized the fact that perhaps Natasha should say on a ground level alongside Furball. That way, they will divide the attention of the army of monsters, and Ryan also would recover some mana when Furball kills some monsters. The real problem is how to prevent Irina from getting surrounded. As expected, he will have to improvise and perhaps anger her a little bit.

“Prepare yourselves, we are going to attack after sunset,” Irina declared.

In the end, it looked like Ryan will be forced to rely on the Power of Money again. Even if he goes all out, the chances of him holding back a few of those bosses were close to none. Stopping almost thirty of them was definitely impossible.

“You know, you can always use Draconic Transformation,” Femradial said.

“That is not an option,” Ryan said. “Still, you have been very helpful as of late, so I will listen to other ideas you might give.”

“Yay, I am a helpful dragon, I can die happy knowing that I fulfilled my lifelong mission,” Femradial said.