

Domain 81

Chapter 81

As if things weren't weird enough, Ryan noticed something unexpected when he approached the next bright area. There was a camp there... a camp in which he only found female guards. At the center of the camp, he found a hill and a cave... it was the velociraptor's dungeon.

"I didn't see female guards on the other camp, but I thought it was just a coincidence..." Ryan frowned. "This is hard to believe, but for some reason, they have two camps here. One camp has only men, and the other has only women..."

Things were way too weird. However, that explained why Arthur's mother was alone, even though she was close to both camps. She didn't like how things worked in both of them, so she decided to stay away, but since she was pregnant, she didn't have the strength to reach Shreveport. In any case, something pretty weird or severe happened to make the survivors divide themselves into two groups and by gender.

"That is so stupid..." Ryan sighed. "I don't really care what happened here. What I care about is the fact that we are at war against monsters, and we don't have time to fight each other. Well, at least I confirmed that this place isn't a good place for Arthur."

Ryan wanted to clear the dungeon, but that could be done later. Besides, it would be impossible for him to clear it alone while carrying a newborn baby. It was a pain in the ass, but he had to look for Mia. For all the damage she did to him, at the very least, he knew that she would treat Arthur like a real son.

"Even if they are slow, at this point in time, they should have cleared that dungeon," Ryan muttered and then turned around. "If that didn't happen, I will have to run and head there."

Congratulations! The skill Lurk has leveled up.

Effect: Decreases the sounds of your steps while moving.

Lurk Lv 4 → Lv 5

Cost: 0.3 mana per second

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Stealth has leveled up.

Stealth Lv 4 → Lv 5

Effect: Increases the chances of you dealing critical damage when attacking first by one percent per level.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Heal has leveled up.

Effect: Heals 1.1 points of health per second.

Heal Lv 1 → Lv 2

Cost: 01 mana per second.

You obtained 01 status point.

It took him the whole night, but eventually, Ryan was back in Shreveport. Although he was exhausted since Arthur woke up more than a few times and immediately started to cry, at the very least, he managed to level up some skills. Regardless, the sun was rising, and Ryan could finally see Arthur with more detail. As expected, he was quite a cute baby. A round face, his cheeks were a bit pinky, and his eyes were deep blue like the sky. However, now that he saw his eyes, Ryan let out a long sigh because that was the sign that he had woken up.

Again, Arthur began to cry... the cry was so loud and deep that the only explanation that Ryan came up with was that Arthur hated to be carried by men. Ryan tried to calm him down with Heal, but this time, it didn't help. Arthur was hungry... Fortunately, Ryan was back in the dungeon, and there he found some familiar faces.

"Ryan?" Daniel asked while frowning. "What... How... Holy crap, this kid is loud!"

Daniel tried to ask some things, but Arthur's cry prevented him from doing so. Regardless, Cole's group and Daniel's group joined Lilian's survivor's camp. Apparently, they appeared a few minutes after Ryan left. So, he made a mental note to rely on the speed of his decision making more frequently.

Although Ryan had come determined to ask Mia to look after Arthur, in the last moment, his cheap pride prevented him from doing so. It was growing weaker with each passing day, but those dark thoughts were still affecting Ryan's behavior.

"His mother died yesterday. His name is Arthur," Ryan said. "I'm looking for someone to look after him since a kid this small shouldn't stay with someone like me."

"What happened?" John asked. "You seem a little more on edge than usual."

"Long story short..." Ryan said and then took a deep breath. "There are two groups of survivors on the other side of the lake, but they are a bunch of morons, and Arthur's mother concluded that she couldn't trust neither of them. She fought, but since she gave birth recently, she was too weak and passed away." ρ??∪??(?)???

"I can look after him... if you don't mind," Mia said.

"... I will be counting on you then," Ryan said after a few seconds of silence.

Truth to be told, Ryan knew things would end that way. His whole act caused by his pride had been a waste of time. Still, he was quite relieved since Arthur couldn't have been looked after by someone better. As expected, the very moment Ryan passed him to Mia, Arthur stopped crying. Either Ryan emanated a dark aura that was terrible, or Arthur was a boy destined to become a cheeky kid.

“Ryan, those survivors...” Cole said. “Are they going to become a problem for us?”

“Who knows...” Ryan shrugged. “I hope they won’t be a problem for me. I’m in a bad mood, so maybe I won’t be able to hold back against them. Lilian, do you have a shovel lying around? I will need it.”

Ryan wanted to shovel to bury Arthur’s mother, but everyone thought that he was determined to dirty his hands with human blood. That was worrisome, but if he decided to do it, everyone there knew that no one could stop him.

Class: Hunter Lv 08 / Elementalist Lv 05/ Monk Lv 01 (–)

Race: Night Demon /–/–

Rank: 1200th

Health: 43/43 (0, 1399)

Mana: 59/59 (0, 1399)

Stamina: 53/53 (0,1399)

Strength: 10 (+5)

Dexterity: 61 (+23) (+12)

Speed: 30 (+10) (+3)

Intelligence: 09 (+10) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+16)

Control: 06 (+6) (+10)

Mentality: 07

Luck: 18

Recovery: 40 (+1) (+43)

Willpower: 09

Coins: 895

Status: 11

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 09, Throw Lv 04, Dash Lv 05, Rapid Shot Lv 05, Herculean Strength Lv 04, Fighter's Spirit Lv 01,

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 08, Concentration Lv 08, Archery Lv 08, Accuracy Lv 07, Stealth Lv 04, Pain Resistance Lv 01, Perception Lv 03, Rage Lv 05, Precision Lv 05, Swordsmanship Lv 02, Alert Lv 03, Cook Lv 02, Stalk Lv 02, Art of Sniping Lv 04, Tracking Lv 05, Spearmanship Lv 02, Knife Mastery Lv 03, Martial Arts Lv 02, Craft Lv 02, Shield Mastery Lv 03, Monk's Style Lv 01,

Spells: Analysis Lv 03, Lurk Lv 05, Mana Transfusion Lv 05, Meditation Lv 06, Flame Arrow Lv 07, Appraisal Lv 04, Lesser Fire Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Water Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Wind Enchantment Lv 06, Earth Bullet Lv 01, Heal Lv 02,

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 01, Fear Resistance Lv 02, Fire Resistance Lv 03, Heat Resistance Lv 04, Sleep Resistance Lv 05, Nocturnal Eyes Lv 02

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“Ryan, at least give them a chance,” Lilian said while giving a shovel to Ryan. “We can’t lose any more humans in this war, much less while fighting against each other.”

“That goes without saying,” Ryan said. “Still, I won’t take any chances.”

For the first time, no one tried to stop Ryan or go with him. Shreveport was their home, after all. There was no point in abandoning after finally recovering or returning. Besides, even though most of the things there had been lost, it still was the best place to create a decent base and then make it stronger. Before leaving, Ryan saw in the corner of his vision Zoe and her father talking about something. Even though one member of their family died, they were all smiles. It was only natural, Ryan thought, considering that they thought that they had lost everything. It wouldn’t be easy, but they could rebuild their home and their lives there. Such an option wasn’t available for Ryan.

“Ryan, we just discovered something incredible!” Lilian said just when Ryan began to walk.

“What now?” Ryan asked, visibly annoyed by the interruption.

“Apparently, people can give each other coins if they hold their hands,” Lilian said.

“So what?” Ryan frowned.

“We can use coins to trade things with each other now,” Lilian said. “For example, we can buy information with them.”

“That is kind of obvious,” Ryan frowned and then looked toward Cole’s and Daniel’s group, but they avoided his gaze.

“So, you are going to clear another dungeon, right?” Lilian tried to smile and look as normal as possible. “If you succeed, we want to buy the information on how you did. In order to decrease the number of casualties, learn how to defeat a boss before the fight is absolutely necessary.”

Those guy’s act sucked. It was clear as a day that John and probably Cole created a method for them to keep contact with Ryan. That was meaningless since Ryan was planning to share information, to begin with, at least when dungeons were related. After all, he couldn’t help to think that he would find dungeons just by walking around in a direction. While some dungeons were easy to find, others weren’t. In any case, let things go as they wanted was annoying. So, Ryan decided to leave a doubt in their minds.

“I don’t think I need coins from others,” Ryan said and then began to walk. “I can get them myself by fighting. If I’m in a good mood, I will come and sell the information you want.”

Without wasting any more time, Ryan decided to activate Dash since he saw Cole’s group approaching and it looked like they would keep him there all day. Moving like the wind, and he disappeared in the distance. All that traveling was kind of wearing down his nerves, so Ryan made a mental note of taking a day off once he clears the next dungeon. Most likely, he wouldn’t be able to do that, but taking it easy for a few hours should be enough. $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x) dx$

“It looks like fatigue can build up even while mana and stamina are full... I should be fine for one or two, but might performance will probably decrease even if that is the case. I need to be careful.”

For the sake of efficiency, Ryan used Flame Arrow when monsters approached. His stamina was being used to train Dash, so he needed to put his mana to good use as well. That being said, Ryan didn’t feel like his growth was being fast enough. It was only natural since the more they level up, the harder it gets for the skills to level up again. Still, Ryan wanted more.

Eventually, Ryan reached the place where Arthur’s mother was. Since it was day, he decided to hurry up since there was no telling if those two groups of idiots would send scouts to keep the area around watched. Still, in the meantime, Ryan decided to think of the options available to him.

“To speed my training, I can use items that increase my recovery, use potions, and even use Meditation. While Meditation seemed the best option, in the long run, the others are more efficient in the beginning... However, given that these weapons have game-like effects, maybe there is something else I can do. Like using weapons that drain the energy of my foes and give them to me.”

Such items could only be found in the late stages of most games, but Ryan wasn't living a game. That was reality. So, perhaps he could find those. However, he will have to increase his luck a lot or save some coins for a while.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Strong Arms.

Effect: Increases your strength by one point per level on your arms temporarily.

Cost: 01 mana per second

You obtained 01 status point.

While Ryan was thinking about that, he received a pleasant surprise. He learned the version of Herculean Strength that consumes mana instead of stamina. That was amazing since he somehow used mana without activating any other skill. However, the surprises didn't end there.

Congratulations! Your class Monk has leveled up.

Monk Lv 1 → Lv 2

Strength + 2, Speed + 2, Health + 1, Mana + 1, Stamina + 1, Control +1.

“... It looks like I leveled up just by doing some physical exercise,” Ryan rubbed his chin. “I need to study the system even further.”

Based on his experience, Ryan concluded that he could level up all his classes while fighting. However, he could do almost the same outside fighting. Certain activities could train the skills of certain classes, after all. The training is just as important as gaining battle experience. As a hunter, Ryan knew that very well.

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Although Ryan could use only one hand, thanks to Herculean Strength and Strong Arms, he finished Arthur's mother's grave pretty fast. In the end, he even prayed for her to find peace in the afterlife. However, despite all that, he was in a bad mood because he noticed that he had been watched for a while, and they have been watching for him to get tired.

"Come out, or are you afraid of a one-handed man?" Ryan asked.

He didn't notice that, but Ryan confirmed that both camps' scouts have been keeping their eyes on him for a while when a group of five men and another group of four women appeared. Apparently, they didn't notice each other's presence as well, so even though they had planned to talk with Ryan, a fight immediately broke out.

"These guys..." Ryan sighed. "They can't be for real..."

For the first time in a while, Ryan didn't know what to do. Despite the small difference in numbers, the fight was quite even for both sides. However, since Ryan stayed quiet and didn't do anything for quite a while, both groups noticed that he wasn't a member of neither.

"Hey, help us here. I will make sure to reward you," A tall man said.

"Don't listen to him. If you do, he will only use you as he did with us!" A black-haired woman shouted.

The tall man had black, short hair and quite a physique. He looked like someone who spent decades hitting the gym. His main weapon was a long sword as big as himself. However, even though the woman was small and thin, she could stop the guy's attack with relative ease and even counterattack with a short sword. Ryan knew more than anyone else the power of status points and skills. Still, he couldn't imagine someone obtaining the physical strength to stop a massive sword like that with a short one.

After watching things for a while, Ryan noticed that the woman was using some kind of magic. At the very last moment before the impact, the big guy's sword slowed down, and the power of his attacks decreased.

“Is that... Telekinesis?” Ryan frowned. “That is a pretty useful skill... still, I can’t imagine monsters dropping that kind of thing so soon.”

Velociraptors weren’t that strong, so they shouldn’t drop something as convenient as that. Maybe the boss of their dungeon could drop that, but Ryan was having a hard time imagining the boss of such monsters. He was having even more difficulties imagining their strength.

For a while, Ryan thought of ignoring their fight and head straight for the dungeon. However, he felt that those two were the leaders of each group. So, maybe it was a good idea to wait for them a little bit. They were stronger than the others and also were the only ones who had the confidence to shout and talk with a stranger in the middle of a fight. It took a while, but both sides were forced to back down when their leaders simultaneously hit each other and when their shoulders began to bleed deeply.

“Are you done?” Ryan asked.

“Who are you?” The black-haired woman asked.

“It doesn’t matter who I am,” Ryan replied. “What does matter is the fact that thanks to your groups, a certain pregnant woman was forced to give birth here and then protect her child in her weakened state. Maybe you two didn’t realize, but your petty squabbles, in a way, caused her death.”

“... Where is her kid?” The woman asked.

“Why do you care?” Ryan glared at her. “Are you feeling responsible for it? It is too late now; her kid is with someone that will look after him.”

“You can blame these crazy bitches for Sydney’s death,” The tall man said. “They decided to take the dungeons to themselves, they failed, and thanks to it, many monsters are around and eating humans.”

“That is because you guys attacked us before!” The woman howled. “You always attack when some of us are having difficulties clearing the dungeon!”

“Don’t blame us for your weakness,” The man said.

“You asshole...” The woman bit her lips.

“I don’t care... I don’t fucking care,” Ryan said. “For all that I care, you two can keep fighting until both of you die. I just waited until now to say one thing: I will use the dungeon, whether you like it or not. If any of you do anything suspicious, I will kill you and your friends. That way, I will be able to use your camp for a while longer.”

Neither of them liked to be threatened, but those two noticed that Ryan wasn’t bluffing. They could see the madness in his eyes... he wasn’t joking. Even though he didn’t know Sydney, her death messed with his head quite a bit, or perhaps it was the fact that Arthur became an orphan and would never see his mother’s face.

“You seem to be a good man,” The woman said. “I’m willing to let you use the dungeon if you accept some of our conditions.”

“If you join her side, you will make an enemy out of us,” The man said. “Believe me, you will regret it later.”

“... I think you two are misunderstanding something here,” Ryan glared at them. “I’m not asking for permission; I’m telling you what I’m going to do if you get on my way. Still, it looks like words aren’t enough to convince you, so maybe I should make an example out of you. I will bet that this will make things simpler for me later.”

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Ryan was prepared to cause some pain, but in the end, both leaders decided to back down. They were wounded, and for some reason, they didn’t feel like threatening a one-handed man who seemed pretty confident about himself. Still, since he was going to the dungeon no matter what, his path overlapped with the woman.

“My name is Angela. Thank you for helping Sydney,” Angela said with her face down. “She was a member of our camp, but she disappeared three days ago when our group split. Some people of both sides died, so that must have been what made her stay away from us.”

Ryan didn't have anything to say, so he just stayed silent. Whatever Angela might say was bound to be some pathetic excuses, so there was no point in wasting his time. Still, he couldn't force Angela to shut up, so he heard her side of the story. Apparently, she and many other people used the bridge to escape when the dragons appeared. However, they ended up finding the velociraptors dungeon and couldn't move in any direction. After much fighting, they managed to get some skills and fight the monsters. At first, things worked well since everyone was trying hard, but some individuals started to get greedy and decided to keep the loot to themselves after a while. Apparently, the big guy was the one who wanted to be the leader of the group, and since he was the strongest, they should focus on increasing his strength.

That was logical in Ryan's mind. If he had the right mindset to a leader and weren't afraid of monsters, the loot would be better in his hands. However, the big guy and his friends changed and decided to treat the other survivors like servants. They even tried to force themselves on the women of the group. Three days ago, a fight broke out, and the survivor's group that didn't have fifty members were divided in two. Obviously, not all people who decided to follow the big guy were assholes. In fact, he was just a bit arrogant. The people who followed him just did because he seemed more reliable.

The same thing could be said by the women who are following Angela. They just thought having a female leader would make things easier for them. In the end, it was a mess caused by idiots. Ryan felt even more determined to leave them alone.

"You came from Shreveport, right?" Angela asked. "I assume that is where you left Sydney's child. Do you have friends there? It became peaceful just after a few days?"

"Go see yourself," Ryan said. "You only need to know that the people there won't accept to work with idiots."

Although those words had been directed to Angela, only her companions glared at Ryan. Those kinds of people were no good. When things start to get messy, they whisper sweet words in the ear of some people in order to gain some advantages. The fact that they have the dungeon under their control was probably they never tried to take Angela's place, that and because of her Telekinesis. For the good or the worse, they couldn't keep the other group of survivors away without her.

"I can't blame you for not being friendly," Angela said. "Still, it would be in your and our best interest if at least we trade some information. You want to clear the dungeon because you know what happens

when one dungeon is cleared. We want to know that too. As for the intel we have, it is about the boss of the dungeon.”

“If you defeat the boss, you can open that treasure box and gain one of three classes,” Ryan explained. “Alongside with it, you will gain three skills. Now then, tell me about the boss.”

Although his words were a bit suspicious, Angela and her friends didn’t doubt Ryan. They knew about the class option in the menu, and he was probably confident in dealing with them because he had some skills, like Angela had Telekinesis. It was obvious.

“What are the classes we can get?” Angela asked.

“I will answer only this question... try not to test my patience any further,” Ryan said. “The classes change from dungeon to dungeon, so I don’t know which classes I will get by clearing that one.”

“Is that so...” Angela rubbed her chin thoughtfully since she didn’t sense any hesitation in Ryan’s words. “Well, it must be a pretty decent power up... after all, to get our hands in the class, we have to beat a T-rex.”

“Excuse me?” Ryan frowned. “Can you say that again?”

“Your reaction is kind of weak...” Angela said. “I guess I can assume you didn’t face anything that big until now. That is why I said I would let you use our dungeon with some conditions. Well, if you think that you still can do it, feel free to do so.”

Ryan had a hard time believing in those words, but then again, all the bosses he faced so far were some sort of evolution of the base monsters that spawn in the dungeon. However, it looked like the difficulty was increased by more than a few levels.

Their camp was surprisingly small, and Ryan could only count thirteen survivors, half of them were heavily wounded and have teeth marks all over their bodies. The dungeon entrance was at the base of a pretty large mountain, but that wasn’t the problem. The problem was the size of the entrance... it was like fifteen meters tall and ten meters wide... a T-rex probably could pass through that. Until now, all the

dungeons Ryan found were pretty small, but it was because the monsters inside of it didn't need a large path.

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Ryan didn't feel like wasting time and confirming if Angela was lying or not. If his next opponent was really a T-rex, then he will try to challenge it the very moment he sees it. Ryan felt he would do that because he couldn't imagine the rewards such a creature would give him. His greedy would put him in a bad situation, and given that he had survived some tough fights in the last few days, his confidence had grown a bit too much to the point where he could threaten several survivors, even though he only had a single hand.

"You guys can go somewhere else," Ryan said to the five guards watching the entrance of the dungeon. "I will handle this."

Ryan wasn't the only one who grew arrogant in the last few days, those five women stepped on the ground trying to intimidate Ryan, but they retreated when they saw Angela looking at them. Angela herself also wanted to see the power of someone who had a class. She couldn't have imagined that Ryan had three.

Velociraptor- Lv 05

Health: 150/150

Mana: 50/50

Stamina: 200/200

"Level five, huh," Ryan muttered. "I guess this will do."

Ryan could easily kill an opponent with that much health, even with his old crossbow, but his goal wasn't to kill the monsters as fast as possible. His goal was to become stronger. So, he shot several Earth Bullets

on the monster's head. The beast was much tougher than Ryan, though, or maybe it was due to the fact that his intelligence was low... either way, he had to fire six bullets to kill it. However...

Congratulations! The skill Earth Bullet has leveled up.

Earth Bullet Lv 1 → Lv 2

Effect: It fires an Earth Bullet. The damage caused will be equal to your dexterity plus your intelligence + 30%

Cost: 05 mana

You obtained 01 status point.

You obtained eight coins.

"I can do this for a while," Ryan nodded to himself and then sat on the ground to meditate.

When the next monster appeared, Ryan defeated it after firing five Earth Bullets. That was progress, but his mana was quickly decreasing. It was kind of a waste to do that only to defeat monsters of that level, but he bought several mana potions when his mana became empty and only stopped after one hour when Earth Bullet reached level four.

"Now it is time to put me at risk a little bit," Ryan sighed since he also could see the insanity of his next plan. "No pain, no gain."

Angela watched Ryan patiently for one hour. Although it was rather impressive that he could defeat so many velociraptors on his own, it wasn't that amazing since he was buying potions. However, now she saw him running toward the next monster, unarmed. A one-handed man wanted to have a fistfight with a velociraptor. If that wasn't madness, she didn't know what it was. Ryan was also of the same mind, but then again: no pain, no gain. ρ??∪??(?)???

When the monster saw Ryan moving towards itself, it just wasted time and tried to attack his neck. That had been a bad move. As a hunter, Ryan had learned that he should use all opportunities to make his arrows land on the target. He didn't have a weapon, but he had his legs. For a second, Ryan activated Herculean Strength and Fighter's Spirit. When that happened, the monster got kicked in the neck and immediately began to tremble in pain. As one would expect, they didn't have many muscles there.

While the monster was busy trying to alleviate the pain, Ryan corrected his posture by moving his gravity center to the right side a little bit. When the monster recovered from the first attack, the beast found Ryan's right leg moving toward his face. A perfect roundhouse kick not only cracked the beast's skull but also broke its neck.

You obtained eight coins.

Congratulations! The skill Fighter's Spirit has leveled up.

Fighter's Spirit Lv 1 → Lv 2

Effect: Increases your speed and strength by one point per level when fighting without weapons.

Cost: 10 mana and 10 stamina

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Monk's Style has leveled up.

Monk's Style Lv 1 → Lv 2

Effect: Decreases your foes' endurance by one point per level when attacking using punches and kicks.

You obtained 01 status point.

Congratulations! The skill Pain Resistance has leveled up.

Pain Resistance Lv 1 → Lv 2

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

You obtained 01 status point.

“Ouch... that hurts!” Ryan howled since the throbbing pain in his feet was more than annoying. “Still, I’m glad I didn’t forget how to do that.”

In any case, Ryan confirmed once again that the stronger the opponent, the faster his skills level up. If Ryan level-ups his class after fighting another velociraptor with kicks alone, then that would only confirm things once and for all. However, before doing that, he had to heal his feet. Although he attacked just two times, he lost fifteen points of health.

“A melee fighting style saves a lot of mana and stamina,” Ryan nodded to himself. “However, there is always the chance to lose one’s neck while fighting so close to the monsters. Even though I’m faster than them since my endurance isn’t high, my attacks also wound me... this system really is trying to screw with me.”

Although Ryan had some martial knowledge, that had been a good experience for him. After all, he had experience in fighting against humans, and he never really fought them seriously, so he never broke his bones or the opponents’ bones. Still, that wasn’t so bad. Even though it wasn’t efficient, Ryan was enjoying himself.

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Just like before, Ryan fought until the skills he used reached level four. Fortunately, when that happened, his Monk class also reached the same level, so things looked good.

Congratulations! The skill Heal has leveled up.

Effect: Heals 1.2 points of health per second.

Heal Lv 2 → Lv 3

Cost: 01 mana per second.

You obtained 01 status point.

“You really can heal your wounds...” Angela said, a bit surprised. “Does that prevent you from getting hungry? Did you get that skill from a tome, or it was when you obtained your class?”

“Now that you mentioned, I don’t feel hungry when I use this...” Ryan rubbed his chin. “Yeah... I obtained it when I got a class. There is a dungeon on the other side of the lake. If you defeat the boss, you and your friends can learn it.”

Although they have been healing thanks to recovery, Ryan noticed that Angela and her friends had a lot of scars on their bodies. They were idiots, but they were idiots who survived when the city was getting attacked by dragons. For the good or worse, the human race would need all survivors in the war against monsters. Besides, there was no point in getting overly worried about them, the number of survivors in Shreveport was high, and most of them were loyal to Lilian, Cole, and John. Although they were a bit naïve, Anna had sharp eyes. Carter also seemed the type who knew how to read between the lines, so they probably will notice if some troublemakers join them or if someone tries anything funny.

Regardless, Ryan had trained his melee skills, so it was time to select other skills to train. Based on his experience, Ryan concluded that the skills get twenty percent more practice to level up after each level up. While that wasn’t so bad, he didn’t want to spend more than one or two days at that dungeon. It was unreasonable to hope to obtain the strength to defeat a Jurassic predator with just that level of strength, but that kind of unrealistic goal would keep Ryan focused if anything.

“What kind of weapons you guys have here?” Ryan asked. “I want to borrow some for a while.”

At that point in time, Angela had already noticed what Ryan was doing. Although he was a bit wild, if not bloodthirsty, he wasn’t stupid. Even before seeing the boss, he knew that he wasn’t strong enough, so

he decided to train his skills and gain status points. That was exactly what Angela and her friends had been doing since they obtained control over the dungeon, but since the big guy and his friends attack pretty often, they haven't been progressing as much as they wanted.

"I can sell you some, but I want intel, not coins," Angela said. "You don't have to tell me which classes you picked, but I want to know the locations of the dungeons, you know. If you convince me that I can obtain classes in those places without risking our lives, I can leave this place to you. I don't know many things about games, but I do know that the dungeons you cleared were easier than this one. You seem the type who likes to work alone, after all."

That was a bit unreasonable, but it was because Angela had confidence that she and her friends could achieve the same thing a man with a single hand could. While Ryan knew that something like that was only obvious, things weren't that simple.

"Bring that guy and his friends here," Ryan said.

"What?" Angela frowned.

"Do you want the power to survive?" Ryan asked. "Then learn to compromise. You don't have to forgive them, and you don't have to work with them. Still, if your goal is the survival of your group, then you know what you need to do. What is more important for you? The pride of your group or the opportunity to gain three classes?"

Angela opened her eyes widely after hearing that. She couldn't believe that Ryan obtained three classes, and he was offering that power to her and her friends. That was based on the experience she had with the big guy's group, but those with power only want the power to themselves and don't want to share it. While that was a common way of thinking, it only showed how little confidence some people had in them. That couldn't be applied to Ryan.

"... Why do you want to give this information to them?" Angela hesitated. "He threatened you, didn't he?"

"That is true, but I have my own reasons," Ryan replied. "Bring him here, and you will understand."

Angela still was hesitating, but given that some of her friends liked that proposal, she decided to follow Ryan's instructions. Still, that was only part of the reason. The memories of a few days ago were still engraved in their minds. Dragons destroying buildings in mere moments, people being burned to a crisp while others were buried alive... Not a single sane person would want to experience that again, and in order to prevent that, everyone needed power.

Ryan nodded to himself when he saw Angela and her friends heading to the other camp. He had some preparations to make in order to make things as convenient as possible for him. So, he opened his status screen.

"In the end, it looks like I can't snipe a boss," Ryan said. "That being said, I don't feel like relying on mana that frequently. While doing that will give me the chance to face hordes of enemies, I feel like facing only big guns will be more rewarding, and to do that, I only need to keep increasing my dexterity."

Class: Hunter Lv 08 / Elementalist Lv 05/ Monk Lv 04 (-)

Race: Night Demon /-/-

Rank: 1200th

Health: 32/46 (0, 1399)

Mana: 58/62 (0, 1399)

Stamina: 47/56 (0,1399)

Strength: 10 (+11)

Dexterity: 89 (+23) (+12)

Speed: 30 (+16) (+3)

Intelligence: 09 (+10) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+16)

Control: 06 (+9) (+10)

Mentality: 07

Luck: 18

Recovery: 40 (+1) (+43)

Willpower: 09

Coins: 1152

Status: 00

Chapter 87

Ryan had twenty-eight status points, and he allocated them all in dexterity without a hint of hesitation. Thanks to that, he noticed a few changes. His eyesight got much better all of a sudden, and his left hand wasn't trembling while he was holding the steel crossbow. While that was nice and all, it hadn't been Ryan's goal.

It took a while, probably because they thought it was some kind of trap, but the big guy and his friends eventually came. Those people don't really know when to relax. Both sides had weapons in their hands and were ready to fight.

"What is your name?" Ryan asked.

“Holland,” The big buy replied.

“Well, Holland, I have an offer for you and your friends, just like I have one for Angela and her friends,” Ryan said. “But first, why don’t you sit down for a little bit and then we talk. Angela, I’m a bit thirsty. Do you have some water?”

“... Yeah.” Angela frowned.

While Angela was grabbing a water bottle, a velociraptor appeared. Since Ryan was pretty relaxed while sitting on the ground, Holland and his friends prepared for a fight. However, Ryan just turned around for a second and then fired a Flame Arrow. The magic projectile hit the monster’s head and exploded it. When the smoke disappeared, everything above the creature’s neck had become a small chunk of burned flesh. It was quite a grueling sight. Some of the survivors even threw up. As for Angela and Holland, they gulped.

“This is the power that I offer you, well, not really,” Ryan said. “I’m just going to tell you about the places where you can obtain this power. The rest is up to you.”

“Why would you tell that to us?” Holland asked.

“Well, the main reason is because you will be forced to leave this place, and I will be able to focus on my own things,” Ryan replied. “The second reason is that for the good or the worst, all humans, even people like you, need to grow stronger as fast as possible. The third reason is that I know you will notice something when you clear the second dungeon. For example, I noticed that there are at least one thousand survivors more powerful than me. I wonder what you guys will notice at that moment...”

Ryan’s words seemed really ominous, but that wasn’t enough to faze Angela and Holland. They will only understand the difference of power when they get their second class, after all. Still, if they don’t realize it even at that moment, then they were a lost cause.

“Now, I can tell you the locations of two relatively easy dungeons to clear,” Ryan said. “I can give you the location of three, but if you mess up, there will be some consequences.”

“What kind of consequences?” Angela asked. ¶¶¶(¶)¶¶¶

“Well, a group of people that I know is currently guarding one of those dungeons,” Ryan said. “While I don’t care about them, Arthur is with them. Arthur is the child of your friend Sydney... so, considering that, you might even gain their help. They probably won’t hesitate since they will know I gave this information to you. However, if you do something, like backstabbing them, I will not forgive you. Did you see that? You will wish that you had the same fate. If only one of you try anything funny, I will exterminate all the members of that group. Believe me, I may not be around when you get your class or in the near future, but I will know that you are plotting something, and before you put your plans into action, I will stop you and make you regret being born in this world.”

Another velociraptor appeared, and Ryan exploded the head of the beast as well. The idea of suffering a destiny worst than that made most of the survivors turn pale. They weren’t quite sure if Ryan had the power to know what they were thinking or doing from far away, but they didn’t feel like testing if that was the face.

“I will hear your answer in one hour,” Ryan said and then laid on the grass.

Although he looked pretty relaxed, Ryan killed mercilessly all the monsters that came from the dungeon. Angela and Holland could also do the same and without help, but they couldn’t do it in that same position. They wanted that power... no, they needed that power. Still, it seemed that to obtain it, they had to involve themselves with some difficult people, and if they try anything suspicious, Ryan will exterminate them even by accident. He certainly has the power since he killed the velociraptors that way for one hour without getting tired. Not only that, he was planning to fight an apex predator of the Jurassic period alone. It was clear that he was insane enough to turn all his threats into reality. As if that wasn’t enough, he was getting stronger by the minute, and they clearly could see that.

Congratulations! Your class Hunter has leveled up.

Hunter Lv 8 → Lv 9

Dexterity + 2, Stamina + 2, Health + 1, Mana + 1, Speed + 1, Control +1.

Congratulations! Your class Elementalist has leveled up.

Elementalist Lv 5 → Lv 6

Intelligence + 2, Mana + 2, Health + 1, stamina + 1, recovery + 1, control +1.

“We accept your offer,” Angela declared after one hour. “We don’t want to work directly with them, but we don’t see any reason why we shouldn’t ally ourselves with other groups.”

“Although we didn’t like your words, we share the same opinion in some aspects,” Holland said. “We will also accept your offer.”

Chapter 88

Without wasting any time, both groups began to prepare their things in order to carry them back to Shreveport. They didn’t have much, so it was fine. Regardless, to avoid any problems, Ryan gave them the order to choose a side of the river, and the other group would choose the opposite direction.

“When you find the survivor’s camp, look for Cole or John,” Ryan said. “When you see them say those words: Ryan sent us if we mess up, he said that he is going to do the dirty job. If you change a single word, they will know, and I will know. So, try to work hard in order to become real survivors and stop being morons.”

His words were harsh, but even though they were difficult to accept, some of them knew that Ryan was right. They messed up when things got a little better and let the idea of power get on their heads. In any case, no one protested, and both groups left the dungeon and headed toward Shreveport.

“Well, now... it is time to play with my new toys,” Ryan said while looking at the weapons Angela have to him.

Ax, sword, spear, dagger, and there was even a whip. As expected, camping outside a dungeon was really a pretty decent business. Even though Ryan killed who knows how many monsters, he never found a whip... or perhaps one of Angela’s friends bought them through the dungeon shop.

“Let’s start with this bad boy,” Ryan picked the whip and then started to move it around. “Although it is in my best interest to level up my classes, leveling up this should be faster.”

Ryan had no experience in using whips, but the weapon didn’t get any close to hitting him, thanks to his high dexterity. Also, surprisingly enough, the power behind the weapon was the real deal. When Ryan hit a velociraptor with it, the creature screamed in agony since the whip left a massive wound on its face.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Whip Mastery.

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

You obtained 01 status point.

“Mmm... it looks like the whip’s damage is related with my dexterity, just like in the games I played in the past,” Ryan nodded to himself in satisfaction.

Although that seemed accurate, whips weren’t that strong if compared to crossbows. So, Ryan had to attack four times before killing a velociraptor. In any case, at some point, Ryan realized that fighting with a single hand with any other weapon aside from whip was going to be pretty difficult, even if he uses Heal frequently. So, he decided to damage the monster’s legs with the whip and then finish them off with other weapons.

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Ax Mastery.

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

You obtained 01 status point.

“I guess I can also damage their legs with Flame Arrow and use the other weapons,” Ryan nodded to himself. “That way, I will also level up my classes.”





It wasn't easy to properly calculate how much time Ryan needed to level up his low-level skills to a certain point. However, since he managed to level up Whip and Ax Mastery to level five in just two hours, he decided that it would be a pretty good idea to return to his fundamentals.

"Let's see, with my current recovery," Ryan opened his skill list and then checked Power Shot. "I can keep the skill active for three seconds in order to kill each velociraptor. Considering that I don't need mana for that, I will use my mana to level up Lesser Water Enchantment."

It was quite weird to be some mathematical and precise while hunting monsters, but since the system was in its core an RPG, Ryan didn't have any other choice. It would be more fun if he could find a dungeon whose current strength was barely enough to stop the monsters for the sake of efficiency, but that was a bit too much to ask for.

Class: Hunter Lv 09 / Elementalist Lv 06/ Monk Lv 04 (-)

Race: Night Demon /-/-

Rank: 1165th    

Health: 32/48 (0, 1399)

Mana: 58/65 (0, 1399)

Stamina: 47/59 (0,1399)

Strength: 10 (+11)

Dexterity: 89 (+25) (+12)

Speed: 30 (+17) (+3)

Intelligence: 09 (+12) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+16)

Control: 06 (+11) (+10)

Mentality: 07

Luck: 18

Recovery: 40 (+5) (+43)

Willpower: 09

Coins: 9052

Status: 52

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 09, Throw Lv 04, Dash Lv 05, Rapid Shot Lv 05, Herculean Strength Lv 04, Fighter's Spirit Lv 04,

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 10, Concentration Lv 10, Archery Lv 10, Accuracy Lv 09, Stealth Lv 05, Pain Resistance Lv 02, Perception Lv 05, Rage Lv 05, Precision Lv 07, Swordsmanship Lv 05, Alert Lv 05, Cook Lv 02, Stalk Lv 02, Art of Sniping Lv 06, Tracking Lv 05, Spearmanship Lv 05, Knife Mastery Lv 05, Martial Arts Lv 05, Craft Lv 02, Shield Mastery Lv 03, Monk's Style Lv 04, Whip Mastery Lv 05, Ax Mastery Lv 05,

Spells: Analysis Lv 05, Lurk Lv 05, Mana Transfusion Lv 07, Meditation Lv 06, Flame Arrow Lv 07, Appraisal Lv 06, Lesser Fire Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Water Enchantment Lv 06, Lesser Wind Enchantment Lv 06, Earth Bullet Lv 04, Heal Lv 05, Strong Arms Lv 04,

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 01, Fear Resistance Lv 02, Fire Resistance Lv 03, Heat Resistance Lv 04, Sleep Resistance Lv 05, Nocturnal Eyes Lv 04

“Holy crap... this place is much better than I thought,” Ryan muttered in surprise after killing velociraptors for more than one day straight. “Putting the coins aside... how could I have thought that my skills could level up so fast here...”

Even Ryan’s classes progressed quite a bit. That was awesome, considering that he didn’t see himself in danger, not even a single time. Although that felt like a very boring manual work, things were actually different since Ryan could see his progress, and it was more than decent. With so many free statuses, he even began to think that if he puts all of them into dexterity, he might kill in one shot the T-rex.

“Ha-ha, as if... it must be my tired mind trying to fool me.” Ryan forced a smile.

Chapter 89

Ryan decided not to get carried away because he lost his dominant arm the last time he did that. Still, he was running out of time because his food supply was over. Returning to Shreveport and leave the dungeon alone was out of the question since the monsters would spread out and make things complicated for him later. So, without having any other choice, Ryan decided to cook some velociraptor’s meat.

“It looks like my ability to cut meat increased alongside my Swordsmanship,” Ryan frowned while he was cutting the last velociraptor he killed and separating the meat from the hide.

After a while, Ryan began to cook the meat. Truth to be told, it didn’t look that good. Even more so considering that the hide was close by and the dismantled dinosaur was creepy as hell. Fortunately, after a while, Ryan began to feel a good smell.

“I wish I had some salt... that way, I would be able to disguise the taste,” Ryan sighed.

He just wanted to fill his belly. Ryan wasn't the type who eats anything for the taste, after all. In any case, despite the interruptions, Ryan was caught off-guard by the good taste of the meat. It wasn't excellent and, by far, wasn't the best meat he had ever had, but it wasn't half bad either.

"It has quite a unique flavor..." Ryan muttered in satisfaction. "Let's just hope this isn't poisonous or can make me sick."

Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Poison Resistance.






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

You obtained 01 status point.

Ryan gulped after receiving that notification. Only at that moment, he noticed that he was sweating quite a bit, and his health had decreased... maybe it was some kind of poison that would dehydrate him to death... Ryan's heart began to beat faster, but then when he used to Heal on this stomach, the effects disappeared immediately.

"Well, it is not like I need mana to defeat the velociraptors," Ryan shrugged. "If anything, it will be more convenient if I keep leveling up Poison Resistance."

Congratulations! The skill Cook has leveled up.

Cook Lv 2 → Lv 3     

Effect: Increases the effectiveness and speed of your cooking. It also increases your ability when using monster's meat.

You obtained 01 status point.

“Heal, Cook, Poison Resistance...” Ryan muttered. “Three birds, one stone. Not bad, I guess.”

Although Ryan was making a lot of progress, he wasn't satisfied. Mostly because he was trying to learn other skills but didn't obtain any result, somehow, he could intuitively control his mana. That was why he obtained Strong Arms. However, he was having a hard time trying to do anything similar. It would be really convenient if he could learn Telekinesis, but since that seemed like a high-level magic skill, Ryan was pretty sure he wouldn't be able to learn it anytime soon.

“I can't even create a Fireball or craft my own arrows,” Ryan sighed. “There is no way that I will be able to learn Telekinesis.”

Although Ryan was having a hard time learning new skills by himself, he could get tomes at any given time. He had plenty of coins, and the velociraptors dropped several things that he could sell to the people on Shreveport, so coins weren't a problem. Well, it was a problem since with ten thousand coins, the best thing Ryan could learn was an Ice Arrow.

“There is no Telekinesis tome in the shop...” Ryan rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “If there was one, I don't think I would have enough coins to buy. Still, that makes me wonder why there are certain tomes be sold while others weren't. Anyway, instead of learning a single spell, maybe I should learn a skill that will help me learn others.”

The prices were terrible, but at least the variety of things that one could obtain weren't half bad. Still, Ryan had to look for a while to find what he was looking for, and as expected, the price was insane.

Earth Manipulation Tome

Effect: Grants you the power to manipulate the earth element.

Price: 100.000 coins

That kind of power will certainly help Ryan learn other skills. Unfortunately, Ryan will have to fight for more than ten days nonstop in that dungeon to obtain enough coins. That was beyond crazy.

“It feels like saving coins to buy that is worth the hassle,” Ryan nodded to himself. “That being said, I can’t afford to stay here for ten days...”

In the end, Ryan decided to increase his luck a little bit in order to give him the chance to obtain a tome or two. The problem was: for how long should he stay in that place, killing velociraptors? While his skills were growing, Ryan himself didn’t feel that growth since he wasn’t being challenged. The real challenge was at the end of the dungeon...

“One more day...” Ryan said. “I will stay here for another day and then challenge the boss. If I fail, then that is it. That was the limit of my existence. There is no meaning in grinding endlessly if, in the end, not even the boss will pose to be a challenge.”

Considering his plan to keep increasing his dexterity non-stop, Ryan wouldn’t have many chances to attack the boss. That being said, with his dexterity at that level, missing a shot in a confined space was virtually impossible. It was a bit reckless to think that things would go as exactly as he planned, but he knew the best way to eliminate a massive enemy.

Chapter 90

After another day of grinding, Ryan nodded in satisfaction while looking at his status and skills. Thanks to his increased dexterity, Ryan reached a point where he could hit enemies 150 meters away from him with ease, even though he was using his left arm.

Class: Hunter Lv 11 / Elementalist Lv 08/ Monk Lv 05 (–)

Race: Night Demon /–/–

Rank: 1112th

Health: 48/48 (0, 1500)

Mana: 73/73 (0, 1500)

Stamina: 67/67 (0,1500)

Strength: 10 (+15)

Dexterity: 193 (+29) (+12)

Speed: 30 (+23) (+3)

Intelligence: 09 (+16) (+3)

Endurance: 07 (+16)

Control: 06 (+17) (+10)

Mentality: 07

Luck: 30

Recovery: 40 (+7) (+43)

Willpower: 09

Coins: 17022

Status: 00

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Power Shot Lv 15, Throw Lv 07, Dash Lv 07, Rapid Shot Lv 08, Herculean Strength Lv 06, Fighter's Spirit Lv 06,

Passive Physical Skills: Eagle Eyes Lv 12, Concentration Lv 12, Archery Lv 12, Accuracy Lv 11, Stealth Lv 07, Pain Resistance Lv 02, Perception Lv 08, Rage Lv 05, Precision Lv 10, Swordsmanship Lv 06, Alert Lv 05, Cook Lv 03, Stalk Lv 02, Art of Sniping Lv 10, Tracking Lv 05, Spearmanship Lv 05, Knife Mastery Lv 05, Martial Arts Lv 05, Craft Lv 02, Shield Mastery Lv 03, Monk's Style Lv 04, Whip Mastery Lv 05, Ax Mastery Lv 05, p??U??(?)???

Spells: Analysis Lv 05, Lurk Lv 08, Mana Transfusion Lv 10, Meditation Lv 09, Flame Arrow Lv 07, Appraisal Lv 09, Lesser Fire Enchantment Lv 03, Lesser Water Enchantment Lv 09, Lesser Wind Enchantment Lv 06, Earth Bullet Lv 04, Heal Lv 05, Strong Arms Lv 04,

Support Skills: Earth Resistance Lv 01, Fear Resistance Lv 02, Fire Resistance Lv 03, Heat Resistance Lv 04, Sleep Resistance Lv 06, Nocturnal Eyes Lv 06, Poison Resistance Lv 05,

After using all the free points, he had, Ryan decided to test his offensive power and he actually felt pity toward the poor velociraptor. His steel bolt hit the monster's head and made it explode. Probably not even a grenade could do that... Ryan's attack reached a point that was even influencing his steel bolt. The weapon trembled every time Ryan used it, and when the bolts crossed the air, it flew, causing a high-pitching sound he never heard before. Although his eyes were good, the projectiles could fly at a speed that not even he could see.

"I guess dexterity even influences the speed of projectiles," Ryan frowned. "Anyway, it looks like focusing on a single stat also has its own demerits... since bows and crossbows rely alone of dexterity, focusing on that alone makes them reach their true potential much faster than they should."

Given that his normal attacks could cause that much damage, Ryan was looking forward to the power of his level fifteen Power Shot. In any case, he couldn't but once again think that he was getting powerful too fast. It was true that he had a dungeon to himself, and that wasn't something that others had, but still...

"Oh, well," Ryan shrugged. "It is not like I'm some sort of idiot who will plan world domination with this power. I just need and want power because I can obtain it now, just like everyone else. Besides, it is not like it is an option considering that there are dragons on Earth. Anyway, let's play with the T-rex."

Although Ryan wanted to test his skills, just to be safe, he left his things at the dungeon entrance and decided to carry only the gear that he was wearing, his steel crossbow and ten mana potions, and other ten stamina potions. Although he could buy more, he wouldn't feel satisfied if he defeats the monster only because he had such an advantage over the beast.

Ryan knew that the dungeon was immense, but it looked like he underestimated its true dimensions. Even though he walked for a full hour, he didn't find the end of it. As if that wasn't enough, the path was heading downward at a steady pace, and the temperature was rising to the point where even Ryan began to sweat.

Still, eventually, they found the lair of the beast. As expected, he found a purple crystal, a treasure box, and the dungeon's boss. Ryan gulped when he saw that massive beast. It was exactly like the monster he saw in that movie... even though the boss was sleeping in front of the crystal, Ryan felt a massive pressure. As far as he could remember, T-rexes could weight between four tons, and who knows what could be the limit of those beasts... and that one seemed to be on the large size.

"Well... let's hope a good loot from this one since I didn't get any tome despite having increased my luck yesterday," Ryan said, and then pointed his crossbow at the beast. "Cheers to the fact that I always have the right for the pre-emptive strike."

There was no point in attacking first if Ryan doesn't attack with the maximum of his power. So, he held his crossbow steadily and began to charge his Power Shot alongside Lesser Wind Enchantment. It would be nice if his spell could work like Power Shot which its power would increase with every passing moment, but that wasn't the case. Still, after receiving so much energy, the crossbow began to tremble, and Ryan was having a hard time keeping the aim steady. Fortunately, the very moment Ryan's stamina was emptied, his aim was perfectly aligned with the beast's left eye. So, he pulled the trigger.

Although the T-rex woke up at the very moment, it didn't have time to react. Ryan's steel bot hit the monster's left eye and made the eyeball and every piece of flesh nearby explode. The sight of a velociraptor getting destroyed by his arrows couldn't even be compared to that. If his ordinary shots had the power of a grenade, that full-powered shot had the power of a tank.

Tyrannosaurus Rex- Lv 25

Health: 2535/3500

Mana: 1500/1500

Stamina: 2000/2000

Skill List

Offensive Physical Skills: Charge Lv 30

Passive Physical Skills: Iron Skin Lv 40

Spells: Scream Lv 20

Support Skills: Fire Resistance Lv 50

However, it looked like this time. He might have tried to bite more than he could chew...