### **Adventures of Ari Overshadow**

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Ari and his newfound friends have been traveling for a long time now, with their 'leader', Stan. So far, Ari has gotten three friends, and they are in... a desert. Will Stan truely be the one and only Evil king?

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#### 1 - In the Desert

Tch. Tch. Ari's shoes were worn out from walking so much. "How and why are we in the middle of this desert? We've been here for at least three days now, and I'm starved," Ari said in the wanting to release hisself from famine.

Linda turned from in front, and scowled back towards him. "How do you think I feel?! I haven't had a bath, and I feel all gritty-like. I don't even feel like singing..." Stan, of course was cooped up inside of Ari's shadow, and didn't want to come out.

"If it weren't for that idiot, Stan, we'd be--" Rosalyn was interrupted by Big Bull.

"Yo, is that the tower over there, sis?" All of them--Ari, Linda, Rosalyn, and Big Bull squinted their eyes to see ahead.

"Finally! I thought we'd never get here," said Rosalyn while wiping off her forehead. "Ow! Darn... Remind me to not do that out here." The sand was on all of their faces, and Rosalyn had scratched herself trying to wipe sweat off. She looked at the ground and noticed there was bones under her, and she fell backwards with a terrorized look on her face, and crawled slowly away. SHLNGGG! There was a glare from the light right under a skull-- it was a tiny gear-shaped thing.

Ari stepped forward, and moved the skull off the gear. "Hm? I've been seeing a lot of these things lately. I wonder what or where they came from..."

Linda skipped over to Rosalyn, and helped her up. "You m'kay, Rosy?"

Rosalyn brushed herself off. "Yeah," she started, "thanks, Linda." She smiled warmly.

Linda smiled back, and Big bull stated, "C'mon. We're allIllmost there, I can practically punch it n--" Big Bull had fell into a huge room, with a loud plop fastly following. He looked mad, then stood back up. "As I was saying, I can practically punch it N---" Big Bull once again fell through the ground, but this time, it was through a strange floor, and it sounded like he broke through nine--maybe ten--levels of it. The group looked down into the deep hole. This time, unlike the other, there was no noise afterwards. "Uhm.... Think we should go after him? I don't really see an entrance nearby." Ari looked around. He saw a catcus, and it had a strange small hole on it. "Hm?..." Ari walked over, with Linda and Rosalyn following close behind. "It...It's a button.." He pushed it, and a flight of stairs had appeared out of the yellow, sandy ground.

"... How ironic," said Rosalyn, while blinking. "Well, don't just stand there, let's go in." She had tooken a few steps, with the other following her. When they were down the small flight of stairs, something had caught Rosalyns eye.

It had obviously caught Ari's eye, too, because he had ran over to it. " Hey, guys, it's another one of those journal things. Wonder why--" He had stopped midsentence, and was looking wide eyed at the healing products laying before his eyes. There were many of them, and it looked as if the pile was from Heaven, shining brightly.

Rosalyn had walked up beside Ari, cautious of another flight of stairs that had een barred shut. "Strange, I don't know if we should even take them. Maybe we should only use them when we need them." Rosalyn had nudged Ari out of the way a bit, to read a note that was left on the journal. Looking at it with a serious-touch on her face, she read aloud, "'Use this to write only where you're at, annd to write how many days you've been on your journey. Don't forget to write your names.'... "While sighing, she had tooken out a pen, and wrote down her name. "It's not going to hurt anything, so, why not?" She had given the pen to Ari, for it was his turn to scratch his name.

He looked at Rosalyn confused, then asked, "Why in the hell are you writing your name? It could--"

"Just do it. They're giving us these items for health, the least we could do is give them our name." Rosalyn kind of had a point there, and smiled.

Ari hesitantly nodded, then wrote down his name sloppily, handing the pen to Linda. She wrote her name, too, and had put hearts all around it, and turned to Ari, blushing. "Your last name is...

Overshadow? That's soooo sweet..." She had begun to daydream, while grinning.

Stan had appeared out of Ari's shadow, and snatched the pen from Linda. "Your wasting our time." He had wrote down his full, entire name.

Rosalyn, while closing the journal, had started to laugh. "\*Stanley Hihat Trinidad the fourteenth, eh? Sounds like the name of a 'true evil tyrant'." Her voice was sarcastic and slurred a bit with laughter.

\*Stanley Hihat Trinidad XIV (Uhh, I think that's fourteen..@,@) is his real name, heheh.

## 2 - Inside the Dungeons

After they had all writen their names in the book, and Rosalyn had muted her laughing at Stan's name, Ari had slowly sneaked through the door at the back of the room. He looked around the dark room, and walked forward, thinking he wouldn't see anything special. He had walked about ten steps, then had almost fell into a passage of water, but he had fell backwards, instead. "WOAH!.... Eh... I don't know how deep it is. . . I think we should just. . . find a different way. . ." Squinting through the darkness, he could barely see a few bridges, shaped like arcs. He gestured to Rosalyn and Linda to follow him along, and the three slowly walked across the small bridge.

Quietly, hugging closer to Ari, Linda commented, "I-I... Think I heard something over there. . ." She pointed straight in front of Ari, with a shaking hand. She had felt something poke her hand while it was still pointing, and she shrieked with fear "AHH! Something touched me!" She had recoiled furiously, jumping backwards onto Rosalyn, landing on the ground hard.

Rosalyn made a small noise when Linda had caused them to fall back on the ground, and was now pushing Linda off of her, saying, "Watch it!" She had also whispered to herself mocking Linda, calling her a prep. She stood back up, and looked in front of her. No Ari.

"Uhh, Ari?" She waved her hands in front of her, because it was possible that she just couldn't see him from the lack of light. She felt nothing. "Quit kidding around, now's not the time, who knows where Big Bull is--" She stopped mid-sentence, and had noticed Ari was just behind her, not moving.

Ari had drawn his sword out, and his back was facing Rosalyn. He ran forward, and jumped in the air, and while coming back down, sliced something straight in half. Not much later a sound of clay shattering filled the room, and Linda looked at Ari filled with awe, as she stood up beside Rosalyn.

"W-wow, Ari," was the only thing her mouth would let her say. She walked to where he was shyly, and looked down at a shattered pot.

With no expression on his face, he sheathed his sword. "I don't know why there would be giant pots here, but compared to everything else I've been through, it doesn't really surprise me. And if something strong attacks, Stan won't be able to help. No light, no shadows," he looked at Rosalyn seriously, "and that might be bad, because we've also lost Big Bull's help."

Linda following, he started walking across another bridge, when Rosalyn had ran in front of him and stopped. "Wait. That pot you destroyed, the last times we saw those, we usually had to destroy a certain number of them letting us advance the floor below. That's probably the case here, too." Holding her white-rose rapier in hand, she threw the parasol on the ground. "No shadows, remember," she asked with a smirk appearing on her face.

Ari smiled. "Linda, the pots here didn't seem too strong, so how about you go over there and check for one? You could crack it up easy, just hammer it with your microphone. I'll go to a different place, and slice another."

They all agree, and separate into the pitch-black. Ari wanders around for a couple of minutes, then runs into his pot, and it lurches forward, causing him to fly into a wall, crashing straight through. The pot magically floats up a little bit, and turns it's top towards Ari, gaining up energy for an attack. Ari, closing his eyes half-way in the eye-scorching, skin tingling light, had looked to be hopeless. As he started to stand, trying to dodge the attack, Stan had popped out, because there was now light.

Wasting Ari's precious seconds to move, Stan had stretched forward, and fell right on the pot, causing it to shatter into small pieces about the size of grains of sand, and the strange energy was slowly fading away. "Boy, be more careful, I can't become the Evil King if I have a dead body for a carrier." As the light

faded away, so did the 2-D shadow.

Rosalyn, being a little bit late, had ran across a couple of bridges, to see what was happening. "Ari! What in the world just happened?!" Her gaze fastly turned to the huge hole in the wall directly behind Ari. She stood in shock that his bones weren't broken, more amazed that he was still conscious. Ari slowly sunk to his knees, for the attack that Stan used on the pot was an attack that used up a lot of his power and energy. "Stupid pot threw me into the wall. That's it, nothing more or less." Linda had skipped slowly up beside Rosalyn, with a smile on her face. "The pot I destroyed had money inside of it! A lot, too!" She was grinning with her eyes closed, and the floor started to slight jump up and down, like an earthquake.

Rosalyn had took a defensive stance, and looked annoyed, then remembered the small hatch leading downstairs. The shaking of the ground stopped, and Rosalyn walked over to Ari, hauling him over her back. We'll go back and heal you. You need it, heh, you can't even stand up. Then we'll go down below, and defeat whatever's down there." Finding her way back through the darkness, she was sure she'd seen light coming from downstairs earlier. Maybe, she thought, Stan'll be able to help next time. Linda had stowed all of her money beside the healing products. "Nobody's gonna come get it and it'll be in my way, so... I'll just leave it here!" Linda sat down beside Ari and Rosalyn, and started humming the song Stan had taught her earlier (The one about Evil kings and dominating the world). She watched as Ari was quickly being healed, and stood back up, ready to go down to the next level. Walking to the stairs with Ari and Rosalyn close behind, she heard a man's voice from the entrance.
"You shouldn't enter, I caution you. As simple it may look, there are more floors than two. If you don't heed my warning, it might end your lives. Everybody who enters there never survives."