

A VIP as Soon as You Log In

Chapter 91 A Man Growing Too Fast (8)

The metal thread shimmered with a translucent golden color. Kang Shin-hyuk was carefully stretching it out with his tongs to process it with a polishing tool carefully. They were working with a concentration so intense that they were barely breathing. Now all that remained was the finishing touches.

“Hey junior, praise me. Quickly praise this genius’s magic circle creation ability.”

“Wouldn’t it be better to praise my processing power above that?” The two young craftsmen fussed with each other as they reached the end of their work. If Lee Manwoo were there, they would’ve been too embarrassed to talk so candidly, but these days he hadn’t been showing up out of consideration for them.

“Apart from the processing ability... you’ve changed a lot in the short time since you’ve made that sword.”

“How so?”

“The second collaboration feels more comfortable?” Perhaps that was because Kang Shin-hyuk wasn’t focused on accommodating Le Na-hee anymore.

“Yes, your expression has improved. It was a woman, after all...”

“Do you really want to fight?”

“I’m joking.” The conversation between the two had also become smoother, not just their work together. But he did really wish she would stop making fun of him. Kang Shin-hyuk stood back up after their break, stretching out.

“Let’s get back to it. I want to finish up quickly.”

“Okay~” Lee Na-hee yawned, taking out a can of coffee from the club fridge. She took a sip before taking out several sugar cubes from a box on the desk, chewing on them one at a time. It was a peculiar sight, although one he was getting used to.

“Why don’t you add it to the coffee from the start?”

“It’s different.”

“Is it...?” He laughed off her response and entered the workshop. He placed the objects they had made on the workbench. The first was a black glove with metallic trinkets attached to it. If the metal thread they made were like a bullet, this glove could be called the gun. Each metal thread was ejected through a small hole in the tip of the glove fingers, and by touching buttons on the joints of the glove, it was possible to perform more complex operations like pulling the thread back or changing directions.

“How’d you come up with this?”

“Just look at comics. There are tons of people who can manipulate threads to cut through their enemies.”

“Wow, an otaku...”

“I just looked at that for reference. This should be a bit more manageable.” To be specific, the design had been taken from a comic called the Death Doll Company Dark Spider, which he had burned two years ago. There were many other weapon designs in there, like the God-King Sword or the Heaven-Hell Break Hammer, but most of them would remain quietly asleep without ever seeing the light.

“It’s easy to handle...I think it’s great, but it’s more like art.” Lee Na-hee examined the gloves seriously.

“It can be used to fight monsters, and even defeat them. But it’s a work of art that can’t be properly utilized without a specific trait or ability. It’s fun, for sure, and unique...but can it really be used?” It was an important point to consider, but Kang Shin-hyuk could only laugh.

“You don’t know my traits in detail.”

“Does this support your traits?” Lee Na-hee tilted her head as if it asks, ‘Is shooting a thread a martial art?’ While his Dragon’s Fan Dance would certainly be helpful in using it, that wasn’t quite what he was thinking. Kang Shin-hyuk raised his tongs with a sly expression.

“Let’s complete it, then I’ll demonstrate it later.”

“Alright, then...” She wasn’t convinced, but she nodded. She couldn’t understand its potential as a weapon, but she still acknowledged it was a great piece of work.

“Don’t waste any...”

“We calculated this from the start.” The last task was to cut the finished 100m long metal thread into five 20m parts that could shoot out from the glove. They would be stored in a combat case that was larger internally so that the thread could be stored without any problems. By attaching that case to the forearm and connecting it to the glove, the glove could fire the thread through the fingertips at any time. The work was completed once Lee Na-hee carved the final magic circle into the glove. At that moment, a message appeared in front of both of them at once.

-You’ve succeeded in creating [Lightning Spider Web (A-)] using both mana and spiritual power. Your proficiency with metallurgy has greatly increased.

-You’ve succeeded in creating [Lightning Cobweb (B)] with both mana and spiritual power. Your proficiency with metallurgy has increased.

-Synchronization has increased—current rate of 23.2%.

Kang Shin-hyuk let out a deep sigh. The spider web referred to the metal thread they made using the Lightning Urot, and the cobweb referred to the glove itself. He thought the rank might be lower because it was made with leather she had brought as the main material.

“I thought it was just cowhide.”

“It was from a lesser gorgon.”

“Lesser gorgon?!” Lesser was the name given to monsters that were of a lower class of their species. A lesser gorgon was a lower class of Gorgon, a bull monster that was at least S rank. It was a terrible monster that spewed a petrifying gas out of its massive metal body. The lower class had less power than a proper one, but it was still of good enough quality to ensure a B-rank artifact.

“I had nothing to worry about.”

“That’s why you should collaborate with me.”

“Alright.” She said it was just lying about the house. Did she really have such a thing just laying about? Her parents must be incredible, but he couldn’t bring that up. Lee Na-hee was focused on the artifacts they created, unaware of his internal struggles. He decided to examine them himself as well.

[Lightning cobweb]

[B rank]

[Special Abilities: Acceleration, Hardening]

*Acceleration: Speeds up the ejection and recovery speed of the thread.

* Hardening: Increases the hardness and binding force of the thread.

Honestly, he hadn’t been expecting much for the gloves. They were to handle the thread, and he had created them with the vague thought that it would be nice if they were strong. But they had ended up with a useful power that enhanced the ability of the thread. On the other hand, acceleration was probably from Lee Na-hee. She didn’t understand the concept behind the gloves, so she had just desired that the gloves would be easier to use.

“Senior, look at this too. It came out better than expected.”

“It’s B-rank. It’s a great thing to carry even for an active superhuman.” Unlike last time, when he had made the B-rank sword, he was more content with the end product this time.

“Look...it has a special ability.” Lee Na-hee let out a cry of excitement as she examined the thread.

“It’s crazy...” She handed the [Lightning Spider Web (A-)] over to him. Intrigued by her expression of joy, he confirmed the status of it himself. His expression soon mirrored hers.

[Lightning spider web]

[A-rank]

[Special Abilities: Lightning Stroke, Lightning Warfare, Wishful

*Lightning Stroke: At the user's will, the power of lightning can be added to the thread.

*Lightning Warfare: The speed of the thread doubles when lightning is added to it.

*Wishful: Spirit or mana can be injected to lengthen or shorten the length of the thread. The weight can also be adjusted.

"Oh..."

"Isn't it great?"

"It's amazing..." He had just thought it would be nice if it had the power of lightning. He thought that would be possible with his current abilities. But he had gone above that, thanks to his cooperation with Lee Na-hee.

"I was expecting it because it's A-rank, but this much is incredible."

"Three special abilities...and two of them enhance its lightning properties!" Lee Na-hee became excited when it came to artifacts.

"But this last one...maybe by studying it, we can reproduce one of the legendary artifacts. My enchantment and your ability has such an absurd possibility...!" Kang Shin-hyuk understood why she was excited; he could feel it too. This was the first time he had made an artifact with three special abilities.

"But, I wish I could make a staff or sword with this instead!"

"Well, I can handle this properly." Kang Shin-hyuk put the thread in the case and attached it to his forearm, putting on the glove afterward. It was light enough that it could be concealed in a coat.

"I'll try it now."

"It's dangerous, so point it away from me." Kang Shin-hyuk turned the glove around, checking to make sure his trait was applying to it. Once he confirmed it, there was no problem with the rest.

“Then...” Kang Shin-hyuk snapped his fingers with a loud popping sound. His jacket, which was across the room, was now wrapped in a translucent golden thread. He lifted his index finger, and it quickly flew toward him.

“Ah?!” Lee Na-hee let out a loud scream, unable to deny what she witnessed with her own eyes. She rushed over to him to check the jacket he had caught. The thread was already retreating back into the glove, not a trace on the jacket itself.

“How’d you do it?!”

“This is fun. I can move it at will, so next time I can check the multi-management and attack capabilities.”

“So how’d you do it?!” From the start, it was manufactured to be a tool to assist Kang Shin-hyuk’s mobility and power, but it was also possible to use it for more delicate operations. Maybe that was thanks to its third special ability. Kang Shin-hyuk stood up with a satisfied look.

“Thank you for helping me, senior. Thanks to you, I made a good weapon.”

“That’s it, so let me know in detail how you handled it...!”

“Then I’ll go. Actually, I have something to do.”

“Tell me!” Kang Shin-hyuk stood up and ignored Lee Na-hee, whose eyes were sparkling.

His weapon was finally complete.

Chapter 92 Death Doll History Shin Eun-hyuk (1)

A blacksmith all alone in a shelter somewhere in the perished world was pounding metal today as well.

-Janus’s whisper: Where do you work, Anvil Grandpa?

-In my workshop.

-Janus’s whisper: Oh, I see! Please tell me what your studio looks like!

-Don’t act like you haven’t heard.

The blacksmith laughed unintentionally at the bright tone of his friend, who was always cheery despite knowing his situation. He didn't usually look around as if he only brought back to mind the reality of his situation, but now he could look at his work studio with a lighter mind.

-This place...the only light it has aside from the furnace is a lamp. It gets dark when the furnace goes cold.

-Janus's whisper: Except when you sleep, I'm sure that you always have it burning since you're always working.

-Noisy. Anyway, it's big. The floor and walls are gray...although there are some bloodstains in several places.

-Janus's whisper: It would've been better not to list that.

There was a time he had to swallow back tears each time he reminisced about the blood on the walls, but now he was able to take it in stride. He was tired of crying.

-And... There's a desk and a bed.

-Janus's whisper: In your studio?

-I stay and eat here, as well.

-Janus's whisper: Huh, that's almost kind of cool.

-I had canned food piled up here before, but now I buy my meals from the transaction board.

-Janus's whisper: Grandpa...we'll go out and eat some delicious food, so reach VIP quickly, okay?

-You guys spoil me.

Coincidentally, on that same day, another member who liked him somewhat excessively also reached out to him.

-Tsukuyo's whisper: I hope you become a VIP. We could spend all day together, and I could hold you in my arms!

-After my wife's death, I pledged not to be with another woman.

-Tsukuyo's whisper: Ah, somehow it's a dignity like a lion...! I want to meet you soon.

-You still don't listen to me properly.

The two discussed his life as a blacksmith, much like he had with Janus.

-Tsukuyo's whisper: I'm confident in my cooking. I can't let you, my beloved, fill your stomach with weird things. On the day you become a VIP, I will help you find a proper meal.

-Fox.

After Tsukuyo's affection-filled message, a smaller one flashed before him, too quick to notice.

-Tsukuyo's whisper: There are so many things I want to do for you! I'm confident in my cooking, but I also have some good knowledge of tea. I even make my own refreshments to go with it. There's this one called yokan.

-Yokan? I haven't heard of it.

-Tsukuyo's whisper: It takes two days to make, but it's very delicious. The day you become a VIP, let's drink tea together with my homemade yokan.

-Thank you, but as I said, I made a vow...

-Tsukuyo's whisper: I can't wait.

-...

The blacksmith was stunned into silence. This person wasn't listening to anything he said. However, he couldn't say anything against it.

-...Yes, please do.

-Tsukuyo's whisper:...Yes.

She responded with a message that was trembling with her feelings.

-Entering My Room. The ratio of time to Earth has been adjusted to 1 to 2. The amount of time you can stay is five hours a day, and it is possible to stay longer by consuming HP.

“Wow, it’s definitely similar.” Kang Shin-hyuk sat down on the floor, recalling his dream from earlier that day. Perhaps it was because of his increasing synchronization that his dream had been about Anvil’s home.

“The wall and the lamp are exactly the same...” Kang Shin-hyuk realized he had been Anvil in his dream earlier as he watched the cold furnace begin to heat up. He had been able to bring in the furnace and anvil from his past life’s workshop after completing his last dimensional quest.

“It said one to two.”

-With the third liberation, the rate will further increase.

It was just like it had been in the other dimensions. Given that he would only age at the rate of Earth’s time, it would be stupid not to use it as much as possible.

“Now if only it had a fitness facility.”

-After restoring your previous life’s workshops, I will bring one in.

The administrator happily nodded at his words. A strict blacksmith would never allow one to lift weights in their workshop, but it was fine for Shin-hyuk.

-But you probably don’t want to train right now.

“Absolutely.” That could be done with Shinyoung’s facilities. No, he had already done his training for the day. Now he was focused on making a product that would be a brother to the one he made with Lee Na-hee.

“I wasn’t confident until now...” He began to produce the materials he had gathered from the spider queen. He had thought of making the metal thread because of his encounter with the spiders. That lightning web had been created due to that idle thought, though he had no idea the results would be so good.

-It wasn't possible to check its information before.

"I didn't have an emotion skill then." But now it was different. His training in Gromas proved fruitful, and now he had an A-rank emotion skill.

[Venom Princess Spider's Thread]

[A+ rank]

[A thread gland that can produce a vast amount of spider web. It is dangerous to handle, as it is toxic.]

[Venom Princess Spider's Spinneret]

[A rank]

[An organ that emits and manipulates the spider web. Even when re-attached, it cannot be used. This can be fixed by re-establishing a connection in another form, but a separate spider web is necessary.]

"Not a queen, but a princess?!"

-Really, it doesn't matter. However, a 500HP bonus for your show of surprise!

"Why?!" Wasn't that just spoiling him? Besides, this item was already plenty of value.

-It is a valuable by-product, but not everyone can capture its abilities. This was likely due to the special circumstances behind its birth.

It had been some odd circumstances. He wondered if he should combine the Shinfeng orb with the items, but fortunately, he didn't need to. The spider princess had left one other material.

[Venom Princess Spider's Manastone]

[S-rank]

[The source and core of a powerful organism. This mana stone emits magical power different from a normal mana stone.]

That was the spider's mana stone, which had been energized by half of that orb. Which meant it was imbued with spiritual power.

"I kind of wish it would've been a skill stone."

-True, a thread production skill would've been useful. Maybe if it came out from your wrist...

"...No, never mind." Kang Shin-hyuk gently withdrew his complaints. It was good enough that he could use this gemstone to make a powerful artifact. He was planning on trying Mana Craft for the first time in his life. No, rather, perhaps it was Soul Craft.

-It's not the first time. You restored the Shinfeng orb before, as well as the Heavenly Spirit. Those clearly went into the realm of All Craft.

"That just because I was desperate, I didn't intend to do it. But now I have a clear goal in mind." The administrator had told him that he, in his past life, had reached the realm of All Craft with only his metallurgy. But that wasn't him. If it weren't for his experiences in Gromas, he would've never considered processing these materials.

-Do you have some more confidence now?

"No, not quite...but I want to try it." At Gromas, he had learned that was enough.

-2,00HP bonus!

"Thank you." Kang Shin-hyuk readied himself. He put the thread, spinneret, and magic stone before him as he concentrated quietly. He was trying to replicate that feeling he had when he created the Great Heavenly Spirit before. That image of placing materials on an imaginary anvil and forging them to create an object. It felt different, but the situation was better this time. The materials were easier to handle for one, and less was on the line.

'And I already know what to make.' It was a bit regrettable that Lee Na-hee wasn't around to help, but he could ask her to enchant it later.

"Let's try." After taking control of his own mind, he closed his eyes and awakened the spiritual power inside of him, letting it resonate with the materials in front of him.

'Now, move according to my will.' The mana stone greedily absorbed the spiritual power Kang Shin-hyuk stretched out to it, radiating a dazzling light as it merged with the thread gland and the spinneret. Golden color began to spill out from between Shin-hyuk's eyelids, mixing with the light emanating from the materials. He was vaguely aware that his trait was activated.

'I'm not amplifying my ability or my weapon, but all of the substances in the artifact to make it something of a higher quality...this...' It wasn't a trait that would end with an S-rank. It still had one more condition to evolve, but he was already confident in that fact.

'Keep focusing.' He covered all of the materials with his spiritual power as he started his work in full. He recalled the experience making the metal threads and gloves, trying to realize it through these materials. It wasn't as difficult as he had been nervous about. Didn't he already make SS-ranked items? Moreover, since the rate of synchronization was increasing each day, he was able to approach this Soul Craft skillfully.

'Good, I can feel it changing.' The spinneret was formed into the same type of glove he had made with Lee Na-hee, and the thread was turning into something he could fire at any time. He focused strongly on the mana stone, trying to use his spiritual power to amplify the items with its power.

'It'll be difficult to enchant since the material quality is so high. Lee Na-hee won't be able to process it properly.' He could ask her if her abilities strengthened again. Kang Shin-hyuk finished the process with a smile on his lips. His golden eyes intensified as the object was completed. The glove and case for the web were combined organically, creating a more compact form than the lightning web.

-Tsukuyo wants to visit My Room. Do you want to allow it?

-A fox. Please refuse.

His concentration was almost broken by the message that arrived without warning. He managed to keep his mind together but accidentally made a mistake in focusing on his work.

-You have accepted the visit request. Tsukuyo will enter My Room soon.

-No!

It had been a while since he had seen the administrator's exclamation mark. Kang Shin-hyuk thought so blankly as he lifted his head, his task finally complete.

"What?!"

Chapter 93 Death Doll History Shin Eun-hyuk (2)

-You succeeded in making [Venom Princess Soul (A+)] using an abundance of spiritual power with excellent materials. Metallurgy proficiency has increased considerably!

-Synchronization has slightly increased—current rate of 23.6%.

[Venom Princess Soul]

[A+ rank]

[Special Abilities: Toxic, Capture, Poisonous Lady, Seal]

*Toxic: The thread contains a strong toxic property.

*Capture: The binding power and toxicity of the thread are strengthened.

*Poisonous Lady: The power of the spider princess amplifies the wearer's agility by one level (max SS. Rank). By injecting energy, the thread can increase in size and toxicity.

*Seal

[The glove contains the power of the spider princess who failed to become a queen. Due to the lack of the creator's ability, the artifact's limits were not reached. There is room for further development.]

It was a luxurious product that would be valuable even on the Hero Universe trading board. The three special abilities were incredible, and each one of them served to help increase the thread's toxicity. Although given the common nature of poison resistance, Kang Shin-hyuk wondered how useful that would be. At least one of them even directly strengthened your status, and it even had a hidden trait that had yet to be unlocked. The sentiment that his ability was lacking stung a bit, but it was true he didn't match up to the original Anvil yet. It was best if he just gently accepted it and strove for better in the future.

“Hmm.” But that wasn’t a problem. What was a problem, however, was the new presence that had appeared in the middle of his My Room, which was watching him with an overwhelming presence.

“Indeed... that’s why.” The being...no, Tsukuyo, was staring right at him. He almost screamed reflexively at the creepy feeling running down his spine.

-Member, there is no escape from reality. She’s looking at you!

The administrator’s cold words brought him back to the real world. He exhaled a deep breath and nodded. A young woman in a black silk garment embroidered with golden thread stood still before him. The silk clung to her body, emphasizing it, with a luxurious-looking wrapping around her waist that attracted attention. Further down, the silk split to the side to reveal her thighs. It was obvious she was in excellent shape.

-You’re still escaping reality.

‘That’s right, damn it!’ Tsukuyo tilted her head, her ebony hair flowing down past her waist like a wave. His eyes were stuck to her.

“Hm.” Rouge-painted lips clashed tantalizingly with her pale skin, tilted in an odd expression as she noticed where his gaze was headed.

“Nothing comes even when I look at you.” Her impression was quiet and mysterious, like the moonlit night her name implied. It clashed with the image he had of her from her messages through the Hero Universe. She had confessed her love to Anvil over twenty years ago, yet she only looked like she was in her early twenties.

“I didn’t think you would welcome me. There’s not even a chair.”

“I’m sorry, but I made a mistake while I was working. I wasn’t even ready to serve customers.” Kang Shin-hyuk found his resolve and shook his head, trying to ignore Tsukuyo’s voice, which seemed to cling to him. He wanted to convey the meaning of, ‘I’m not ready yet, so leave,’ but she nodded as if she already knew that.

“Thanks to that, I saw something good. This time I’ll be patient.” She flicked her finger, and a nice wooden table with two chairs appeared. She clearly had no intention of leaving.

“Then... let’s talk.” She sat down and tapped on the table, signaling for him to sit down as well.

“I’ve received all of the items you’ve posted on the transaction board previously.” Kang Shin-hyuk had sat down, finding it inevitable, but he soon raised his head at her words.

“...All of them?”

“All. Of. Them.” He checked the sale messages, confirming she was telling the truth. She had bought all of them, sometimes for two or three times the listed price.

“It was difficult. All of them had traces of Anvil, but at the same time, they weren’t from him...I couldn’t honestly bring myself to resent or love you, so I thought a lot.”

“I apologize, but in my previous life, I wasn’t in a relationship with you.”

-3,000HP bonus for resolved members!

Kang Shin-hyuk received a bonus from the administrator, who was excited by him rebuking Tsukuyo’s words. She only smiled back, however.

“I remembered that I didn’t have to hesitate anymore. If I can’t confirm through the work, I can just look at the craftsman to check...”

-I tried to hide you from her.

Kang Shin-hyuk – that was the ID Anvil – was revealed to be a VIP thanks to him accepting the dimensional quest.

“The answer I gave you hasn’t changed. I don’t intend to delete my ID, even if you judge me. I don’t even know how to erase it.”

“No, you don’t have to.”

“No?”

“I thought about it a bit...” She let out a laugh that was so charming it scared him. He felt like he would be hypnotized.

"I was convinced when I saw you." She pointed to the Venom Princess Soul, the black leather glove he held in his hands. He had accidentally accepted her request in the middle of his work, and he had been too immersed in finishing to notice here. He felt a bit embarrassed suddenly.

"I see."

"I had a lot I wanted to say, but now that's enough. You have the talent to breathe life into inanimate objects and lead them to completion. The things you make... I've decided to watch you in the future." It felt great to hear she would no longer demand he delete his ID or tell him he wasn't Anvil. No, actually, it had been a while since he had received such a message.

"Now that we've taken care of that, let's enjoy some tea together."

"...Tea?"

"I'm not a proud woman, but I have confidence in that." A sense of déjà vu washed over him as he recalled the dream he had earlier. He decided to remain still, however, as the situation felt like it might be dangerous if he refused. She procured a teacup and a teapot from her inventory, with a flick of her hand, the pot filled with water. Then, with another swift motion, it began to boil. She carefully added tea leaves to it once it cooled slightly. Each movement was so delicate and beautiful that it captivated him as he watched.

-Member.

'Yeah?'

-Is this an enemy's psychic attack? If so, I will immediately banish the fox.

'I don't think so...'

-It's an enemy.

The teacup was placed in front of him before he could respond to the administrator's frank assertions. Tsukuyo was looking at him with clear eyes as the steam from the cup wafted a pleasant scent past him.

"Please."

“Well...thank you.” Kang Shin-hyuk gently lifted the cup and drank. It was a pleasant temperature, neither too hot nor lukewarm. He felt refreshed like his mind was clearing immediately, as he sipped at it.

“I’m glad you like it. I also brought refreshments. This is my homemade yokan. I prepared it before coming today.” He knew of that, too; it had also been in his dream. He decided not to mention that either and took a bite of it. He had thought it would be more suited to an old man’s tastes, but it was delicious. It has a soft texture and a subtly sweet taste. Kang Shin-hyuk had eaten many high-quality foods since coming to Shinyoung, but this beat them all out easily.

“It’s delicious.”

“I’m happy. I wanted to feed you this.” Tsukuyo nodded, satisfied, and sipped at her own tea. Her dark hair fluttered with each small movement, filling Kang Shin-hyuk with an indescribable emotion. For a while, the two quietly ate and drank. He had never imagined he would be able to spend such a gentle time with her given her first message she sent to him, but life was full of the unknown. As he considered that...

“Already? This damn bitch...” Suddenly, Tsukuyo muttered something and looked into the air. Kang Shin-hyuk roughly guessed what had happened. Perhaps that was the administrator’s job.

“I believe I have to go. I didn’t know visiting a My Room would be so tricky.”

“Is it not common?”

“No. The amount of VIPs in the Hero Universe can be counted on one hand, and you are the only one I’ve cared about.” Tsukuyo replied like she had heard a funny joke and stood up. She waved the table and chair away as Shin-hyuk stood up, then approached him with a large cloth in hand.

“This is a lunch box I made. I’ve wanted to hear your impressions, so I couldn’t help it. I’m knowledgeable about cooking, so it should be alright. Would you accept it?” The distance between them had disappeared in the blink of an eye, and his cheeks reddened. He quietly accepted the lunch box, carefully holding it with both hands. She held on to it as well, as if she felt unfortunate she had to leave.

“What should I call you from now on?”

“Are you saying you’re okay with me?”

“Yes. If you’ve changed, then I want to get to know the you now.” Wasn’t she much more mature than a certain granddaughter? Her first impression had been bad, but it was born from a misunderstanding. Kang Shin-hyuk took a deep breath to steady himself before answering honestly.

“I don’t intend to deny my previous life, nor do I intend to obsess over it. So, please call me whatever you’re comfortable with. Anvil or Kang Shin-hyuk...I believe it is all me.”

“Indeed... I’m satisfied. Then, I shall continue to call you Anvil.” Thanks to the administrator’s teachings, Kang Shin-hyuk felt like he had found some center inside of him. Tsukuyo nodded, apparently pleased with his answer, and quietly let go of the lunch box. Kang Shin-hyuk began to put it away in his inventory or at least tried too as Tsukuyo’s lips came into contact with his own.

-Whaaaaat?!

“?!”

“Huh...” It was a perfect surprise attack. The lunchbox had sealed away his hands, and the moment he moved to put it away, she had rushed right in. He couldn’t move, trembling in place like a shark struck by a harpoon. Tsukuyo moved away from him, barely satisfied with a brief taste. A thin line of saliva was broken as their lips parted.

“Heh...you and Eunah haven’t grown this close yet, right? Yes, your first kiss was not with Eunah, but this Tsukuyo...!” With that, she disappeared from his My Room. The administrator’s message filled his eyes.

-I was off guard! I thought she was satisfied with just drinking tea...!
Appropriate punishment will be imposed on members who act unfairly to the owner of a My Room. She won’t be allowed to visit again unless you give her permission...you don’t mean to, right?

“...Administrator?”

-No?

Kang Shin-hyuk couldn't convey the emotions warring inside of him, so he kept quiet. The strongest emotion inside of him was the enormous guilt he felt towards Claire.

"Should I wash my lips with muddy water first?"

-Member, are you okay?!

"No, it's alright, so please calm down." After taking a step he hadn't been prepared for, Kang Shin-hyuk was so agitated that he didn't notice the change in the corner of his My Room.

It was a teacup with warm steam wafting off of it and a small plate with yokan.

Chapter 94 Death Doll History Shin Eun-hyuk (3)

"Shin-hyuk, what happened?"

"Why was I caught right away?!" That night, Claire had greeted him as such when he went to the frontline bar as soon as she saw him. He stepped back in fear, but she smiled.

"By the way you walk. It's somber, but not completely...like a rainy sky."

"Are you a detective?"

"So what's going on? A woman? Oh, it's a woman." She had arrived at the correct answer immediately. Kang Shin-hyuk let out a sigh and covered his face.

"You know it's Tsukuyo."

"Ah, that one Eunah always curses."

"She came to My Room."

"Really? On Earth?"

"No, not that..." My Room was an intermediate space between dimensions, so it was easier to visit than another dimension. Although you still had to be a VIP. He wondered if she could even reach Earth.

“Still, wasn’t she threatening you? Was it okay to meet her?” Claire’s worried gaze landed on Kang Shin-hyuk’s heart. She was so innocently worried about him, which made him feel even guilty.

“Because she saw me working, it looks like she recognized me as Anvil.”

“Huh? Is that so...?” Tsukuyo loved Anvil so much that she found it unacceptable for anyone else to use his ID, last Claire had heard. She tensed slightly, and Kang Shin-hyuk knew he could not hide it from the person he liked, so he decided to confess.

“She kissed me.”

“I knew it! She’s a more aggressive sex offender than Eunah!” That sentence implied Eunah was still a sex offender, which he wondered if that was okay. Shin Eunah had never tried anything like that with him. Claire pushed on without knowing what was going on in Kang Shin-hyuk’s mind at that moment. He was genuinely worried about their friendship.

“No, I still don’t know the whole story. Was it just on the lips?”

“I felt like it went a little further...a bit more exploratory...”

“She’s the worst!” He recalled the feeling of her lips, and a chill went up to his spine. It was too overstimulating for him; if it weren’t for Anvil’s calming influence, he wouldn’t have been able to stand it. He felt a bit weird as she looked at him with eyes filled with both joy and sadness.

“...Are you not mad?”

“Are you angry at yourself?” Kang Shin-hyuk stiffened as he realized his mistake. However, before he could respond, the entrance opened up to bring him blessed relief.

“I’m here!”

“...!”

“...!” Shin Eunah arrived in a black suit that was the uniform of the Superhuman Association Special Task Force. Today she had her hair raised up. Kang Shin-hyuk and Claire exchanged a wordless glance. They both knew it wouldn’t end well if she discovered what had happened with Tsukuyo.

“Hello, senior.”

“Huh? Grandpa...what happened?” How come everyone knew as soon as they saw it? Kang Shin-hyuk desperately glanced at Claire, who nodded and was quick to jump in for him.

“I was joking around with him.”

“Hey... joking about what?”

“Eunah, why don’t you stop looking at me like that? I didn’t actually do anything.”

“...” Shin Eunah looked at Claire with a gaze colder than dry ice, but she soon turned her head away with a hum.

“Are you busy this Friday, junior?”

“Friday...yes, I’ll be participating in an artifact contest.”

“Oh yeah, he’ll be working with me that night.”

“...The contest?” Claire was clearly relieved the topic changed. Shin Eunah tilted her head at the pair.

“I thought it would be a good time to perform a mission under the name Shin Eun-hyuk. Of course, with me.” He had been planning on exploring various dungeons and gates under his identity as Shin Eun-hyuk with Shin Eunah over the summer vacation. However, it seemed that a mission had popped up sooner.

“If it’s later in the day, I can make time. I only have to stay for the presentation, then I can leave.”

“The World Rookies Artifact Creation Contest, right?”

“Yes, that’s right.” The contest would be held in the 17th-floor convention hall in the 5-star hotel Lubron, which was adjacent to the Choin shopping center. All ten teams in the finals were able to stay at the hotel for free.

“You know about it?”

“It is at the Choin shopping center.”

“A lot of people actually participate, Claire included.” Was it really such a great contest? Kang Shin-hyuk tilted his head in confusion.

“I actually became famous from it.”

“Sister Claire?!”

“Are you surprised? I am an alchemist.”

“No, not about that. Was the competition that big?”

“It is labeled ‘World.’”

“There are many cases where the world bit is an exaggeration.”

“This is a real world-class contest.” Kang Shin-hyuk had expected maybe the whole country at most, given Lee Manwoo’s words. He trembled.

“Can I replace my entry?”

“That’s the part you care about?”

“I mean, the item I submitted is only B-rank.”

“That’ll be enough.”

“Okay, enough of that.” Shin Eunah clapped her hands, trying to bring it back to their original discussion.

“Go participate normally. After you receive the grand prize, you just need to change clothes, so you won’t get caught and join up with me. The operations will actually be held at the same place as the contest.”

“Eh?”

“There has been some information that something might happen there, although it may be nothing.”

“It would be fun if an incident broke out. Kang Shin-hyuk vanishes, and suddenly in his place, an elite member of the association appears!”

“Please stop fantasizing, sister.” It sounded too ominous because it might actually happen. He ignored the goosebumps rising on his arms as Claire turned to Shin Eunah.

“Can I go too? I want to see Shin-hyuk win the grand prize.”

“Ah...” Shin Eunah was less excited about that, but Claire seemed intent on going regardless. The door opened before they could continue on the subject, the first guest of the day sitting down at the bar counter without any surprise towards the bar’s inhabitants.

“Still working as a bartender today, eh sister?”

“What can I do for you?” Kang Shin-hyuk quickly interposed between Claire and the guest. After working at the bar for a few days, he could now entertain even active superhumans casually.

“Gin Fizz. Today, I want something made by you.”

“Okay.” Kang Shin-hyuk had succeeded in honing his bartending skills thanks to his two months of training in Gromas. He lacked the ability to imbue it with powers, as he wasn’t an alchemist, but that didn’t matter for customers who weren’t going out to hunt.

“So, my young friend...”

“Yes?” The middle-aged superhuman looked at Kang Shin-hyuk as he prepared his drink.

“I know just by looking at you. What sort of girl are you sleeping with?”

“Hm?!” The top of his face was covered with a mask, how could he tell?

“Who is sleeping with whom?”

“I haven’t been!”

“Oh, then is it a man?”

“No?!” It took three hours to calm down Shin Eunah, who had exploded after hearing the customer’s idle comments. He tried to leave quietly but was caught by Claire. She imposed a month-long ban on Shin Eunah for her part.

The contest was held on Friday morning.

-A damage increase buff has been applied as a bonus for today's login. For 24 hours, a 30% boost has been applied to all attacks.

The message that appeared before Kang Shin-hyuk as he awoke felt rather aggressive. The timing felt almost too good.

"Why today?"

-The login bonus is completely random, unlike roulette. Member, how about playing roulette today?

"Did you listen to me? Administrator, that makes it sound like something is sure to happen!" The administrator had been pushing him to spin the roulette as you couldn't collect more coins until you spent the ones you had. However, he had been more focused on the status growth buff, so he had been keeping his coins to increase his odds.

-The roulette is the best reward among the bonuses. It is recommended to turn in your five coins as soon as possible.

"Okay, okay..." He decided to follow along with the administrator. He had nothing to lose by listening to his advice... most of the time.

-Play the VIP Roulette. Throw the dart whenever you want!

Pretending to be careless, Kang Shin-hyuk idly threw the dart that materialized in his hand. It hit the roulette that had appeared in front of him.

-Congratulations, member! Hero Universe's hidden system is now open!

"Huh?" The message made his heart pound. Before he could ask any questions, the administrator followed it up.

-Momentary equipment change function is now open! You can save clothes, weapons, and other equipment all at once, then replace your current equipment by recalling it! All equipment stored in a set slot is amplified by 10%! You can specify up to three sets.

“Is something going to happen today?!” It was a function that fit the situation he was in today.

...No, of course, it was an incredibly useful feature too!

Chapter 95 Death Doll History Shin Eun-hyuk (4)

Kang Shin-hyuk set up an equipment set while shivering in anticipation of his uncertain future. It was his two web gloves, a uniform provided to him by Shin Eunah, the mask that hid his identity, and a Shin Eun-hyuk exclusive piece of equipment he had made yesterday. He saved it away in set #2, leaving the first slot empty for his strongest equipment that he would one day make.

[Lee Na-hee: We'll meet in front of the main gate at 10.]

Lee Na-hee's message arrived as he was doing some simple training in his room. He considered it for a moment before deciding to respond.

[No matter what happens today, don't be surprised. Pretend you don't know me.]

[Lee Na-hee: What did you do?]

[Something might happen later...if it does, please pretend you don't know me then.]

Lee Na-hee took a while to reply but finally sent an emoji with stars for eyes.

[Lee Na-hee: (emoji)]

[Lee Na-hee: I'm looking forward to it!]

[No, don't expect it'll happen.]

[Lee Na-hee: I'll bring a good quality camera!]

[Don't bring it. Don't take pictures.]

He washed up after training and dressed up in his school uniform before heading off to the Royal Class-exclusive restaurant.

“Shin-hyuk!”

“Yes, yes.” Eating breakfast with Karen and Eleanor very morning had now been ingrained in him. He consumed a plate of consommé soup with a sigh as Karen watched him.

“Are you going to school today?”

“No.” It was still a test week, and students who had finished testing didn’t have to attend. The student councils would be held next week, but there wasn’t much else to do. Students freed from the exam were finally allowed to relax.

“Good, then let’s go play! Vice-captain, you said you were thinking about going to the exhibition, right?”

“I did?” At Karen’s words, Eleanor was one who was most surprised. Kang Shin-hyuk couldn’t even retort at Karen’s blatant ploys.

“You got an invitation, right vice-captain?”

“Yes, I did...shall we go together?” Eleanor was quick to agree to the proposal, which would let her spend more time with Kang Shin-hyuk. He rejected it, however, with an expression of regret.

“I already have plans. Didn’t you hear from Lee Na-hee?”

“Na-hee?” Eleanor tilted her head as her eyes widened.

“Ah. You’re also going to the contest. You also made it to the finals?”

“I’m going with my senior. It’s a joint venture for our club.”

“I heard you were in the same club.” The two were close. He wondered if that was some group formed by people who were bothered by the Crowns of the school. Eleanor nodded, unaware of Shin-hyuk’s rude thoughts.

“Isn’t Na-hee pretty?”

“I’ll ignore that. We’re just junior and senior.”

“I see...”

“Actually, the place I was going to was there.” Kang Shin-hyuk stopped, stiffening in place.

“The World Rookies Creator Contest?”

“Yes. I got the invitation from Na-hee.”

“...” Kang Shin-hyuk trembled.

“Senior Eleanor, it may be a little dangerous today. I think it would be best not to go.”

“Aren’t you going too?”

“...Yeah.”

“Then, I will too.” Kang Shin-hyuk finally conceded to her and lowered his head. He had to pray nothing would actually happen at the contest hall, or that he wouldn’t be recognized if something did. And that Lee Na-hee would stay quiet, even if she recognized the lightning web.

At least the food he had for breakfast was very tasty.

“A grand prize, gold, silver, bronze, and then just encouragement. Since the finals include ten teams, only about half will win anything.”

“Just getting in the finals is enough to brag.” Lee Manwoo was driving to the venue, responding to Kang Shin-hyuk’s mutterings. Since they were heading there in the name of the club, it was natural for the teacher in charge to take them.

“But you told me I had to win.”

“That’s because you’re in Shinyoung.”

“Yeah.” Shinyoung was the world’s top elite education institution, though it provided no specialized training on production. If he couldn’t win a prize, he would have no right to touch a hammer again.

“Not like you need to worry about winning the prize. What matters is how much you upstage the others.”

“Grandpa...”

“Don’t get too upset now.” The group arrived at the hotel and were guided by a doorman inside. Most of the attention was on Kang Shin-hyuk and Lee Na-hee, as they wore the neat uniform of Shinyoung. Perhaps it was also due to Lee Na-hee’s beauty.

“Look, it’s Shinyoung.”

“Have they participated in the contest before?”

“Come look. Shinyoung doesn’t normally have producers.” There were quite a few other students who had arrived for the contest, amazed by the two. Kang Shin-hyuk was beginning to realize the prestige Shinyoung truly held in the world. It had often seemed so insignificant when he compared it to the Hero Universe and the people within it, but for these people, it was different.

“I’ve heard rumors that Shinyoung holds some great production skills.” It wasn’t a student who spoke up, but rather the young man leading them. Perhaps he was their teacher. His gaze was focused on Lee Manwoo.

“Teacher, are you okay?”

“Don’t worry, I was prepared for this from the moment I agreed to help you.”

“...” Kang Shin-hyuk was worried, but Lee Manwoo just snorted. Lee Na-hee glanced at her grandfather with a slightly affronted expression, but the three eventually pushed on to the convention hall under the hotel staff’s guidance.

“Wow, they have security too. Is it because of the artifacts?”

“There is that, but this is also a place to judge the future of the artifact production industry. Representatives from the industry, guilds, and even governments are paying attention here.”

“Wow...” Lee Manwoo wasn’t exaggerating. There were only ten teams in the finals, but hundreds more had come to watch. Many of them were people Kang Shin-hyuk had seen in the news before.

“Hey, junior, let’s use it too.”

“It’s already too late. Shh.”

“Hm? What are you two talking about? You’re getting along a lot better than last time.” Lee Manwoo was beaming at them happily as more people filled the banquet hall. Among them was, of course, the Alchemist and the Thunder Empress.

“It’s the Empress! Let’s go say hello. Please introduce me.”

“Ah, aren’t you working?” Lee Na-hee was quick to ask Kang Shin-hyuk for favor as she subtly mocked him. She had heard from her grandfather that the Empress had her eye on him. Shin Eunah was pushing away all those who tried to approach her with just her cold gaze, however.

“Oh, Shin-hyuk!”

“Ugh!” Instead, Claire had arrived, wearing skinny jeans and a lacy blouse. She exuded a refreshing charm that attracted attention like a magnet.

“Uh...” Kang Shin-hyuk was mentally pushed back, and Lee Na-hee physically took a step back. The people around them also seemed similarly surprised.

“Sister Claire, I thought we were pretending to not know each other...?”

“Ah, it’s okay now. Rather, you need to get out in front of people and make yourself a target. Besides, I prepared a disguise for you.”

“Is that okay? Is it really okay?!”

“Junior, you...”

“Who’s this pretty girl? Oh, a club senior? Hi! I’m an alchemist.”

“Yes...yes. Hello.” Lee Na-hee nodded blankly and shook Claire’s hand, who then turned to Lee Manwoo.

“Then, you must be the Great Chief.”

“...Hm.”

“Nice to meet you. I heard a lot about you from Shin-hyuk.” Claire also asked Lee Manwoo for a handshake, which he agreed to with an embarrassed expression. She let out a satisfied laugh.

"It looks like you've been working hard with Shin-hyuk. Although he seems seasoned, he's still lacking in some ways. Having a senior in the industry to rely on is a great help."

"My sister or my mother?"

"Just the guardian of a boy with a secret. Suddenly appearing and then disappearing after playing her role."

"That's messed up." Claire's fantasizing hadn't improved at all. She smiled proudly and patted Kang Shin-hyuk on the shoulder.

"I'll buy you some chicken when you win the grand prize. Look forward to it!" Many people around them tried to approach Claire as she left them, but she waved them off. Even Lee Manwoo had a blank expression on his face after she came and left like a whirlwind.

"...Junior." Lee Na-hee was gazing at the hand she had shaken Claire's hand with.

"Now I know who my junior was scorned by."

"Let's be quiet, please."

"If the opponent is the Alchemist...wow...I'm sorry for teasing you..."

"You're still making fun of me?"

"A woman who's both prettier than me and has larger breasts..."

"You're really shameless." Lee Manwoo, on the other hand, was watching Claire as she left with a look of admiration.

"Sir?"

"Hm?"

"I'm sorry for making fun of you."

"He is someone who will be very helpful to you. You need to work hard."

“Let’s stop and sit down.” Kang Shin-hyuk felt a cold gaze on his back. It was probably Shin Eunah’s, so he tried to ignore it as he led the group.

Thirty minutes later, the final result of the contest was announced, attracting a lot of attention.

The work that won the lowest award was a D+ rank artifact.

Chapter 96 Death Doll History Shin Eun-hyuk (5)

Kang Shin-hyuk and Lee Na-hee, thanks to the encounter with Claire, sat down in separate seats without meeting Eleanor and Karen in the contest hall. The other teams glared at them, but the adults that led them were astonished to see Lee Manwoo.

“You’re the Great Chief.”

“I heard you were in Shinyoung.”

“Are those his disciples?”

“Goodness!”

“There was a D+ grade for the lowest award, but they might have exceeded the C-rank.”

An hour after the start of the event was the announcement of the Gold Prize and the Grand Prize. The atmosphere was at its peak.

“Gold goes to the German Ebiger Hammer Team! Their work is a glove crafted from the skin of a fire worm and tied together with exquisite enchanting. It contains the fire attribute that allows the wielder to attack with fire! The official appraisal has placed it at C-rank.”

“Ooooh!”

“An attribute!” People began to stand up and clap. The Ebiger Hammer team stood up to receive their award. Neither of them held the image of a traditional craftsman, but rather it was a team composed of a gentle-looking brown-haired boy and a beautiful slim blonde.

“Those two made a C-rank artifact by themselves?!”

“It’s made of fire worm leather, right? That’s an expensive ingredient.”

“I still have to admit it’s an absurd achievement.” Kang Shin-hyuk watched the two accept their award as he heard the voices of the gallery behind him. He didn’t even dare imagine what might’ve happened if he had brought his lightning spider web here.

“If a C-rank artifact didn’t get the grand prize, then this year’s grand prize goes above C-rank?”

“It may be the same rank, but with a better effect.” How would they react when they learned the artifact that won was B-rank? Kang Shin-hyuk’s stomach began to ache as he thought about it.

“Look over there, there’s a student in Shinyoung’s uniform.”

“No matter how elite Shinyoung is, they look down on the creation of artifacts. Isn’t it wrong that he passed the preliminaries?”

“That’s quite a face.” Lee Na-hee pinched Kang Shin-hyuk’s side, noticing he was having trouble calming down. Her eyes were shining bright with the same excitement he felt, however.

“Don’t let it get to you.”

“Alright...”

“Stop looking around so awkwardly.”

“Now we are going to announce the grand prize.”

“It is what you’ve been waiting for!” While Lee Na-hee and Kang Shin-hyuk were bickering together, the moderator finally came back to the mic. The two German students were lingering, looking around the banquet hall with gazes full of anticipation. He knew it in a second. They wanted to know who had beat them for the grand prize. Kang Shin-hyuk frowned, sensing things would become annoying soon.

“The 15th World Rookies Creator Contest, the glorious grand prize... this is it!” Staff from inside the banquet hall carried out a large case. Several people were leaning over and standing up to take a look at what was in it.

“Unbelievable... are you saying that was made by students? Look at that beautiful line of the blade!”

“It’s amazing... there was someone who could make this among the students this year?”

“It reminds me of the time the Alchemist showed up. Come to think of it, isn’t she here today? Did she know about this?”

“Who is it?! Who the hell made it?!” The crowd’s reaction was completely different from when the gold price was announced, as people stood up and hollered. Even the gold prize winners were staring at the sword blankly.

“I guess everyone recognized it right away! It is the [Shield Guardian’s Long Sword] completed with skillful enchanting using only the most basic magic metal, Kenyon! It is an item that boasts two special abilities, one that boosts the wearer’s defense and one that generates shields. Its rating is a whopping B-rank! It’s a miraculous gem created by the power of just two people!”

“Ooooh!”

“It’s awesome!”

“Ha? Everyone seems to be blind.” The applause was growing in response to the moderator’s exciting commentary. Lee Na-hee, however, seemed to be growing angry.

“My influence was only a fraction of the real work...”

“No. It was created by both of you working together. It is thanks to both of your hard work that it reached this level.”

“You were just using me as a shield to protect your student. You’re terrible.” Lee Na-hee was pouting, but she seemed somewhat appeased by Lee Manwoo’s words.

‘It would be difficult to create a C+ rank artifact by myself.’ Lee Na-hee was aware that her grandfather was considerate. However, she was able to admit to and accept the skill gap between her and Kang Shin-hyuk. Rather, she felt motivated to improve her skills enough to keep up with him in the future.

“The creators of this masterpiece are from the Shinyoung Training School’s Artifact Creation Club! Enchanter Lee Na-hee and Kang Shin-hyuk!”

“What?!” The moment they learned the names of the creators, a shock swept through the hall. Shinyoung’s students, who were focused on cultivating combat abilities as superhumans, created a B-rank artifact?

“What?!”

“It can’t be!”

“I heard that the Great Chief is staying at Shinyoung, maybe he made it!”

“Don’t be stupid!” Shin-hyuk briefly wondered if the convention hall had been turned upside down at such a commotion. The moderator was quick to calm the gallery, but at that moment, a vibration rocked the building. It was amazing timing.

“Huh?!”

“It’s collapsing!”

-Eunah’s whisper: Come quickly.

Shin Eunah’s whisper came in right after. She was already spreading a shield to protect the hall.

“Ahhhh!”

“Run away!”

“Everyone keep calm! This convention hall is being kept safe by the Superhuman Association!” The moderator’s shouts were lost in the roar of the people panicking. The members of the association were quick to move in and begin evacuating people, but there were too many people in the audience for them to keep a hold on the situation.

“Grandpa, are you okay?! Hey junior, we... huh?” Lee Na-hee turned to find Kang Shin-hyuk as she and her grandfather were stuck to each other, but he wasn’t there.

As the shockwave ran through the banquet hall, smoke bombs were exploding throughout the spacious room. The confusion was spreading quickly because of it. But thanks to that, there was a chance for Kang Shin-hyuk to escape.

'I have to learn to hide.' Kang Shin-hyuk escaped from the party and switched his equipment using the convenient function he had obtained earlier. He had his lightning web and Venom Princess Soul in hand, with a mask on his face to cover his identity, and his body was wrapped in a suit. It very much resembled a character in his notebooks from junior high.

'But I can't do anything without this mask! Does this uniform have to be black?' The black suit that covered his body was the uniform of the Superhuman Association Special Task Force. It was a C-rank artifact that resisted the enemy's attacks.

-Eunah's whisper: There's an enemy inside somewhere. If you find someone suspicious, take them down first.

-I'm on it.

-Eunah's whisper: We need to figure out who's likely to be targeted...

There was no time to suffer about his own outfit. Shin Eunah had switched to Thunder Empress mode and was moving quickly. She was quick to deduce an intruder was inside the banquet hall from the smoke bombs. They were special items that could deceive even a superhuman's sharp senses. It was at least a C-rank item. Of course, with Kang Shin-hyuk's high-level martial arts boosting his senses, he wasn't deceived.

"Ha."

"Kh?!" Kang Shin-hyuk twisted his left hand around, and two strings from the glove shot out. They wrapped around a man holding a knife in front of him, restraining him instantly. He was equipped with special equipment to see through the smokescreen, but he didn't expect to be caught so easily.

"Kahak?!" Spiritual power flowed through the threads to activate their lightning property. The man passed out right away from the intense shock. After confirming he had been safely neutralized, Kang Shin-hyuk smiled coolly and waved his hand lightly. The man was picked up by the threads and thrown at another man running toward him, slamming them both into a nearby wall. He

decided to test his Venom Princess Soul, sending out a single thread of poisonous spider web to tie them together.

“Excellent.” He cut away the web and strung them up on the wall. The advantage of the Venom Princess Soul was that it could infinitely create a web so long as he provided it with power, unlike the lightning spider web.

‘Even if it’s not connected, I can control the poison of the threads too.’ He made it himself, but it was a great fit for him. He couldn’t deny the strength of artifacts forged with spiritual power.

-Eunah’s whisper: The evacuation is in progress. What’s your situation?

-It’s okay. The enemies don’t appear to be strong.

-Eunah’s whisper: They probably didn’t come with the intention of winning. It’s most likely a violent protest on the surface, trying to cause a distraction while aiming for a different goal...

Shin-hyuk nodded at her whisper and kept moving. He found another enemy spreading more smoke bombs, immediately throwing him to the ground with a spider web. As he kept moving forward, he noticed something ahead of him. It was Eleanor, surrounded by a group of superhumans.

‘Was Eleanor the target? But she received an invitation from her friend; how could they have known she would be here?’ Kang Shin-hyuk rushed to her side with those thoughts playing out in his head. He fired off a web of lightning, but one of the superhumans around her deflected it.

“Who’s there?!”

“Ha!” Eleanor didn’t let the diversion created by Shin-hyuk go to waste. With her javelin in hand, she moved with enough momentum to break through the group.

“Haaah!”

“Stop her!”

“Huh?” Kang Shin-hyuk fired off more threads as their enemies gave chase to try and stop Eleanor. Five threads went out to stop the men from blocking her

course. They tried to strike at it like before, but that was what he was aiming for.

-Kssst!

“Ooh?!”

“Kh!” Although they succeeded in cutting out of the web, the terrible electricity contained in the threads radiated through their swords. Eleanor was able to capitalize on that gap and escape.

“Damn it!”

“Run away, don’t look back!”

“Karen!”

“Don’t worry!” Karen couldn’t catch up with Eleanor and was left in the half-broken circle of enemies.

“Kh!” Eleanor turned to rush back, but Kang Shin-hyuk reached out for her to stop, firing a poisonous web at Karen. The Venom Princess Soul could be used as a handy restraint tool so long as he didn’t will it to emit poison. In an instant, the web wrapped around Karen’s body, and she was pulled back to Shin-hyuk. At the same time, he used his lightning web to keep the enemies in check. They kept their distance, remembering the electricity that shocked them the last time they hit it.

“Thank you!”

“It’s not over yet.” Kang Shin-hyuk tried to lower his voice as he responded. This mask changed his hairstyle and face, but not his voice. He cursed Claire for not adding that function too.

“Huh? That voice...” He was caught!

“Karen, don’t worry about that right now!”

“No, but I’ve heard it before somewhere...”

“Karen!” Eleanor rebuked Karen as she prepared for battle, javelin in hand. Kang Shin-hyuk ignored her and spread out his hands, ten strands of spider webs shooting out in an instant.

“Well, that’s cool.”

“ ... ”

“Someone who uses thread as a weapon...yes, it’s like Death Doll Company...!” Kang Shin-hyuk decided to ignore Karen’s very existence.

However, considering she once suffered from the same thing he did, he decided not to get too angry.

Chapter 97 Death Doll History Shin Eun-hyuk (6)

Both Eleanor and Kare were unable to remove their eyes from the unknown man who suddenly appeared to save them. Kang Shin-hyuk was trying his best to avoid their gaze.

“Thank you.”

“Thank you!” Eleanor politely bowed her head and thanked him. Karen followed her lead and did the same, with a noble dignity that clashed with how she usually acted. Kang Shin-hyuk turned away, nodding his head without a sound.

“Oh, wait a minute... Eleanor! We have to go, this is your fault!”

“Hm?”

“Let’s go, we have to get to safety!”

“Wait, why are you mad?” Instead of investigating him further, Karen ground her teeth and turned around upon realizing the situation. Kang Shin-hyuk let out a sigh, letting them leave. They were strong enough that he didn’t need to worry about them now that they had defeated the group trying to capture them. He decided to push on, receiving a whisper from Shin Eunah.

-Eunah’s whisper: Now, I know what their main target was.

-What can I do to help?

-Eunah's whisper: It's already under control. The enemies seem to be planning on retreating soon, so...

-So?

-Eunah's whisper: There's one more guy we need to beat before then.

As expected, Shin Eunah, in her Thunder Empress mode, had no appreciation for the enemy. With a smile, Kang Shin-hyuk hit the floor running with a golden web fluttering behind him.

"Quick!"

"Catch him... what?!" Three people who tried to catch him from a side corridor were tangled up in his spider web. He used his spiritual power to shock them into submission as he kept running. He could feel his movements becoming more natural with his weapons. With Dragon's Fan Dance helping him accumulate experience with the weapon, he was beginning to get a handle on it. He had a smile on his lips as he readjusted his gloves.

"Huh?" At that moment, something flew in towards the back of his neck. He immediately turned, swinging five strands of the lightning web together. They unified into one strand, blocking what flew out to strike him, which was a problem.

-An irregular gate is occurring! Member, be careful!

What the web had cut was a black dodecahedron-shaped crystal. It had been cut neatly in half, and now thick dark energy was gradually spreading into the air around it, forming a gate.

-A+ class irregular gate [Iron Stormer Hornet's Honeycomb] has been released.

Kang Shin-hyuk jumped back and immediately whispered to Shin Eunah and Claire. He utilized the group message feature that allowed messages to be sent to multiple people at once.

-An irregular emissive gate just occurred! I think it's the same trick as before.

-Eunah's whisper: There too?

-Bartender's whisper: Just how many gates are these crazy assholes going to create?!

It seemed that there wasn't only one gate to deal with. The situation was turning into a real mess. Even with Shin Eunah, there was no sign of the turmoil subsiding.

-Is it Jormungand?

-Eunah's whisper: No, probably not. They don't move so clumsily. It's probably an organization connected to Jormungand.

-Bartender's whisper: Is the irregular gate generator such an easy thing to handle?

Maybe the technology wasn't perfect yet, so they deliberately gave prototypes to these guys. They must not have been able to create such objects at will, however. Otherwise, the governments of each country would've already collapsed.

-You've taken lower strength, agility, and stamina potions. For 30 minutes, each status will increase by one level.

In preparation for the emergency about to happen, Kang Shin-hyuk purchased and drank three status-boosting potions from the Hero Universe.

'With this, my strength and stamina are A+ rank. My agility is S-rank thanks to the Venom Princess Soul.' His spiritual power was also A+ rank, and his regeneration was B+. Considering his abilities, he was easily a top-level A+ rank superhuman. Unfortunately, however, the gate in front of him was A+ rank, as well.

-Eunah's whisper: Hold on, I'll be there as soon as I can.

-It's okay, I think I'll manage it somehow.

Kang Shin-hyuk took in a deep breath and extended his hands forward. The gate was increasing in size, and now he could hear a slight buzzing sound.

"Believe in yourself...!" Kang Shin-hyuk procured another potion. It was an intermediate spiritual recovery potion, one he could now purchase than when he unlocked the second liberation of his past life. He opened the lid and drank

it, manipulating the Venom Princess Soul on his right hand to shoot out spider webs around the gate. Soon the gate was surrounded by dozens of webs, shining translucent around it. He kept infusing spiritual power into the Venom Princess Soul as he fired out webs and drank potions to keep it going. By the time his work was done, the Iron Stormer Hornets were rushing out of the gates.

-Kiiii!

It was immediately caught in the spider web, letting out a terrible scream as it was killed by the toxic webs. The webs sagged slightly under its weight, but the floor and walls supporting the web stood strong. They had been reinforced by the magic Shin Eunah had cast earlier to keep the building intact.

-You've suppressed a monster that is harmful to the order of things. Bonus based on membership level! You received 20,000HP! As a VIP bonus, you receive an additional HP bonus equivalent to 50% of the reward, for a total of 30,000HP!

-The [Iron Stormer Hornet's Stinger] has been retrieved to the inventory by the automatic routing function.

"Alright, it works." Kang Shin-hyuk mumbled happily at the sight of the huge wasp laying lifeless in the webs. Since it was an A+ class irregular gate, he was worried the durability of the monster would exceed his spider web, but it worked out. It was probably thanks to the venomous nature of the web that was increased by its special abilities. No doubt, the 10% bonus to equipment stored in the equipment slots he unlocked through the VIP roulette had increased it further, as well as the bonus 30% from his login bonus. With all of that, it would be weird if he couldn't kill the enemy.

-Kiiii!

-Kyaaak!

-You've suppressed a monster that is harmful to the order of things. Bonus based on membership level! You received 21,000HP! As a VIP bonus, you receive an additional HP bonus equivalent to 50% of the reward, for a total of 31,500HP!

-You've suppressed a monster that is harmful to the order of things. Bonus based on membership level! You received 20,000HP....

Wasps flowed out of the gate only to be ripped apart by the spider webs, unaware of the fate that awaited them. As he watched, Kang Shin-hyuk could feel something approaching from behind him and fired off a lightning web.

“Kuhhh!” The thread pierced the abdomen of the man who was trying to ambush him from behind. Kang Shin-hyuk clicked his tongue and tied him up in a spider web. He probably had seriously injured the man, and he wondered if he might die from the shock of the web.

‘Was that too severe...? No, they’re the ones who released these gates around civilians...’ Kang Shin-hyuk felt no pleasure in killing, and he had no intention of killing people if he could help it. However, after seeing them make these gates, his hands naturally moved on their own. He wondered if it would be better to kill them so it wouldn’t happen again.

‘I need to make up my mind...this will be common in the future.’ Another vibration ran through the building as his heart wavered. Parts of the ceiling began to rain down as the roar of a terrible monster rang out. Shortly after, flashing lights filled the building. Shin Eunah was already taking care of it.

‘It must be a tremendous monster over there to damage the barrier she put up.’ Kang Shin-hyuk fired off more webs to reinforce his own trap.

“There’s a gate here too! I will... what?!” As he repaired the web, a woman in the same uniform as Kang Shin-hyuk ran up. Unlike his clothes that were still clean as he kept the enemies at a distance with his webs, hers were stained with blood.

“Are you a member of the task force?! I’ve never seen you before...! No, this isn’t the time! The gate...”

“Don’t move.”

“What is that...kh!” Kang Shin-hyuk caught her as she tried to approach the gate. She realized almost too late that a sharp thread was running right across her nose. Immediately after that, the gate vibrated loudly and spat out dozens of the hornets at once.

-Kiiii!

-Kyaaaah!

-You've suppressed several monsters that are harmful to the order of things. Bonus based on membership level! You received 457,000HP! As a VIP bonus, you receive an additional HP bonus equivalent to 50% of the reward, for a total of 685,500HP!

All of them were cut apart by the webs around the gate.

"What skill is that... no, an artifact? With my energy, I could get it to A-rank, but could I kill such a monster so easily?"

"Shh." Kang Shin-hyuk gestured to her to keep quiet and pulled out another spiritual power recovery potion. He drank it right away and continued to cover the area around the gate with spider webs.

"I am Shin Eun-hyuk, a member working directly under the head. You can leave this to me. It's dangerous, so don't approach the gate."

"Ah, ah, yes! Is that right, under the chief... Shin Eun-hyuk?" That's right; if the name were so similar to Shin Eunah's, then, of course, people would notice! He cursed his foolish senior.

"Do you happen to be her secret younger brother?!"

"I cannot afford to talk right now. Please focus on rescuing civilians."

"All civilians have been evacuated, and most of the enemies have been subdued. All that remains is the gate!"

"I will assist... what?!" As he tried to get rid of the association member, another showed up. It was a man in his thirties, wearing the same task force uniform. He also showed amazement at Kang Shin-hyuk and the spider web around the gate. The woman ran over to him quickly.

"Senior, did you hear? This person is moving under the direct control of the chief. His name is Shin Eun-hyuk!"

"Someone moving apart from the group... no, his name is Shin Eun-hyuk?" When would this stupid skit end? Kang Shin-hyuk felt like hiding in a hole. However, even in the midst of that, his web trap was grinding up the wasps that showed up. His HP had already accumulated in the ten million range.

“You can install traps like these every time? It makes emissive gates a walk in the park.”

“Traps like these were researched in the early days, but it wasn’t cost-effective. How the hell...?” It was because he could infinitely create spider webs so long as he had the energy. However, Kang Shin-hyuk couldn’t answer honestly, so he just shrugged and avoided their eyes.

-The boss monster will appear soon.

“We can talk afterward.”

“I didn’t know the chief would debut her secret younger brother like this...” The two’s suspicions were halted as the Gaia system alerted them that the boss monster would soon appear. Kang Shin-hyuk held his breath as he looked at the gate. The webs might help, but they wouldn’t be enough to stop a boss monster.

-Kiiii!

Kang Shin-hyuk grabbed his right hand the moment the huge queen wasp emerged through the gate. The webs around the gate contracted all at once to wrap around her.

-Kyaaaah!

“You can even do long-distance control?!”

“I want one too!” Surely there must be others within the Superhuman Association who had the same interests as he did in junior high.

The hundreds of webs began to glow green as they poisoned the queen wasp.

Chapter 98 Death Doll History Shin Eun-hyuk (7)

-Kyaaaaaaaaah!

The queen wasp reacted violently, vibrating its wings at a frightening speed as it splattered poison around. Kang Shin-hyuk stepped back, defending the two task force members just in time.

“Are you okay?! It’s on your face!”

“Kh...no problem.” The poison splattered on his clothes and face, melting his skin with a crackling noise, but it didn’t last long. He had trained his resist poison (SS+) up to A-rank thanks to the administrator’s advice. If he was afraid of poison in the first place, he never would have thought of making a weapon with it.

-Chiik...

His poison resistance was showing off its excellent skill. The poison was ridiculously toxic, but he was able to fend it off. His regeneration cleared up the remaining wounds.

‘Just a little splashed on me and did that. What about the Queen Wasp?’ Kang Shin-hyuk let out a deep laugh as he looked at the monster. It was still fluttering around viciously, but the venom was already worming its way deeper into its body to weaken it. It was already checkmated as soon as he had set up the webs around the gate. However, amid its struggle, it began to fire off wind blades.

“A boss monster that uses the wind property! Senior, we must also fight!”

“We will help out.”

“No.” Kang Shin-hyuk touched his wrist and responded coldly.

“I told you to leave this to me.” He was confident it would drop an item that would help him; he couldn’t make any concessions to the task force. Moreover, it was almost already dead from poison. Contrary to his intentions, however, the members of the association viewed his standoffish demeanor as even cooler.

“Wow...”

“...This is a guy who can see through to S-rank!” Kang Shin-hyuk ignored them and pulled out ten threads. The queen wasp fired off a blade of wind at him.

“Kh!” Kang Shin-hyuk’s eyes flashed as he put both his hands forward. The ten threads flashed out, cutting through the wind blades to reach the queen wasp’s body.

-Kyaaaah!

The pained screams of the queen wasp filled the building. Originally, its body wasn't so fragile as to be cut by such an attack, but the poison weakened it. Blood began to flow out from the boss as it was struck by threads filled with lightning and poison.

-Kiiiiiii!

"Come on!" The queen's wings beat more intensely as the queen gave in to anger, giving up all thought of saving herself to kill her foe. A whirlwind of green light began to well up around its wings.

"That's a strong monster, be careful!"

"Jormungand..."

"When the hell is the chief coming?!"

'She's probably not.' Kang Shin-hyuk mumbled to himself as he prepared to stop the queen. The other gates were still being stabilized by her and Claire, no doubt. She was trusting in Kang Shin-hyuk to deal with this one.

'Because this is my debut.' The purpose of today was for him to stand out and gather attention. Shin Eunah could've dealt with this monster instantly with her ability, but that would go against their plan. She was clearing the way for Kang Shin-hyuk to stand out as much as possible.

'But it's a good opportunity. I was lucky.' Kang Shin-hyuk pulled out a marble from his inventory. It was the golden-colored bead, which pulsed in tune with his own heart.

-Kiiii?

The queen wasp also seemed to sense the bead's energy, but it didn't stop gathering the green wind around it. Now, it looked like a small typhoon was forming around it, hiding the figure of the queen wasp. It was aiming right at him.

'Yeah, let's do this right.' He bent his knees, preparing himself to rush forward. His eyes glowed goldenly and resonated with the bead in his hand. He could feel a cool breeze wrap around him.

'This will be enough to boost Wind Mastery.' He held the Shinfeng orb in his hand. When he restored it, he knew nothing about it other than it produced spiritual power, but he knew that couldn't be all of it. He had a chance to study it in Gromas with his seniors' help, and thanks to that, he was able to gather a lot of information about it. His emotion skill had grown rapidly at that time, too, helping him in learning about it.

God Wind, or The Wind of God. The Shinfeng orb was an object that symbolizes the endless flow of wind. That is why it produced a seemingly infinite spiritual power. It was a supreme treasure that symbolized the wind attribute. It went without saying that it went well with his [Wind Mastery (A-)] skill. As a result of experimenting with it, the power of his Wind Mastery could greatly increase just by holding it in his hand. It would even increase his wind resistance. The Wind Mastery skill itself was a skill that simultaneously covered the ability to attack with wind and resist wind. In other words, with Wind Mastery, he had no need to learn to Resist Wind.

"You're going to rush that?!"

"Step back."

"No, what is with that posture? You can't hit it!"

"...Whoo." Kang Shin-hyuk shot off the floor, subtly faster than the queen wasp could complete her skill. He was reading the flow of mana around her, finding the moment to strike. The queen wasp rushed to meet him angrily, the typhoon of wind around her. Kang Shin-hyuk was sucked into the wind as the two collided.

-Kyaaaah!

The queen wasp let out a cry of victory too soon, as a second later, Kang Shin-hyuk pushed out through the wind. His body was covered in wounds from the wind. Even with his skill and the orb, the boss monster's skill couldn't be overlooked. But in the end, even the queen's special attack had failed.

"Break." Kang Shin-hyuk clenched his fists and crossed them in front of his chest. Ten threads were pulled tightly toward him. The ends of the webs were in the green whirlwind, wrapping around the queen wasp. The whirlwind did not stop, however, as they held the wasp down.

-Kyaaaaaaah!

“Give up...!” He clenched his teeth and pulled his fists forward. Golden energy ran across the strands of the webs as he poured his spiritual power out into it.

“...Grrraaaaah!” The sound of his yelling was lost in the wind. He kept pulling, and soon an eerie sound cut through the wind. It wasn’t the sound of his threads breaking, however.

-Kyaaaaaaah!

It was the terrible death screams of the queen wasp. The wind scattered, and Kang Shin-hyuk felt his threads fall to the ground. They were wrapped around the stinger of the queen wasp, which was over a meter long.

“You pulled the stinger out of a living boss monster?!”

“That’s something we haven’t even done!” Even the task force members, who dealt with monsters almost daily, were astonished by him.

“Good.” Kang Shin-hyuk nodded and quickly stowed the stinger in his inventory.

-Kyaaaaaaah!

The queen wasp moved violently. She had lost her stinger and was slowly succumbing to poison. Her wide-open compound eyes flashed with a will to live as she still went after Shin-hyuk. However, the distance between them was too wide. His wounds had already healed from his regeneration ability, and his consumed spiritual power was being supplemented by the wind orb in his hand.

‘Although I can’t use it to recover in the middle of a battle yet.’ The orb hadn’t fully recovered, either. However, given that the opponent was a monster that dealt with wind, it was immeasurably useful this time.

“Let’s finish it now.”

-Shaaaaaaah!

The queen wasp rushed him, unable to even summon a blade of wind. Kang Shin-hyuk lifted his left hand’s index finger and waved it in the air with a smile. He poured all of his remaining spiritual power into a single strand, reinforcing it with his trait.

-Kii

A golden strand that shone bright lightning split the queen wasp in half.

Chapter 99 Beginning of Summer (1)

-You've suppressed a monster that is harmful to the order of things. Bonus based on membership level! You received 780,000HP! As a VIP bonus, you receive an additional HP bonus equivalent to 50% of the reward, for a total of 1,170,000HP!

-The proficiency of Dragon's Fan Dance has increased. Wind Mastery has grown to the C+ Rank. Resist Poison has grown to the A-rank.

Several lines of messages appeared before Kang Shin-hyuk at the moment he ended the queen wasp's life. He had gained tens of millions of HP in the process, so the HP gain wasn't too impressive to him, but his skill growth was huge. Suppressing a gate that was of a higher rank probably had a big impact on his skill increases.

-The irregular gate will disappear. You received [Queen Wasp's Wing Bracelet (S-)]!

"Wow?!" There was a huge gap between artifacts found in gates, known as natural artifacts, and ones made by modern artisans, known as artificial artifacts. Natural artifacts were difficult to obtain but often had great abilities. However, it didn't matter what the gate's level was, and it required luck to obtain one. Because of that, they were also very expensive. Although, Kang Shin-hyuk had found out that there were plenty of artisans in the Hero Universe who could make objects that rivaled and even surpassed natural artifacts.

'Odd.' This was the first time he had directly obtained a natural artifact, even considering his past life. It was also an S-rank artifact, which meant that the boss monster was S-rank. He took a moment to appreciate the fact that his web trap had actually worked.

'It's a good thing it was collected directly into my inventory through the routing function too.' Kang Shin-hyuk smiled bitterly as he turned to face the members of the task force who were watching him with wide-open eyes. If they had seen the wing bracelet appearing in place of the gate, there would have been an uproar.

-That's right. All features provided by the Hero Universe are immensely useful.

"Well... there's a lot of things I want to say about that, but this time it worked out, so I'll keep quiet." Kang Shin-hyuk let out a sigh of relief as he checked what he had gathered. At a glance, it seemed like the boss had also dropped a skill stone. It was unfortunate that they tried to hurt innocent people by summoning an irregular gate, but the results hadn't gone in their favor. He almost felt like he needed to thank them for the gifts he had received.

"The last gate has disappeared!"

"He must be a superhuman who belongs to the association."

"Must be a ranker. No monsters were able to get out of that gate!" As the situation began to calm down, more and more eyes began to focus on him. Maybe this was planned by Shin Eunah as well? He sighed and turned his head; Shin Eunah met his gaze from across the banquet hall. She had a warm smile on her lips for just a moment before her usual cold expression returned.

-Eunah's whisper: It was hard but good work. When you get a chance, take off and return. I'll take care of the rest and ask for the officials to continue with the award ceremony.

-You want to continue the award ceremony after that?!

Was this competition that big of a deal? Of course, the Superhuman Association had responded immediately and prevented civilian casualties, but it was still surprising.

-Eunah's whisper: It has to be shown that this kind of terrorism won't work.

-That's why...

Kang Shin-hyuk sent a message to say that he understood and looked around. Most of the people were trying to talk to him from a distance, unable to reach him, but members of the task force were approaching him to talk.

"Wow, who are you? I know we have a few domestic S rank superhumans, but I've never seen someone with such attack-specific traits before."

"There must be a reason Shin Eunah hid it...but why today? Shin Eun-hyuk, if it's okay, won't you talk with us?"

“...” What could he do in this situation? Members of the Superhuman Association were paying attention to him, not ordinary people.

-First of all, why don't you enter My Room to change your clothes?

‘But I’ll be caught if I return here.’

-I’ll offer some administrator service to manipulate the coordinates.

The Hero Universe was the best.

“He’s gone?!”

“He even had a space-related ability?”

“The younger brother of the Empress... she’s his sister, right?” Amid the crowd, an unassuming Kang Shin-hyuk returned wearing his school uniform, thanks to the administrator’s assistance. He let out a sigh as he stretched against the back of a pillar but soon felt a hand on his shoulder.

“Junior, if you’re going to do something fun like that, you should let me know.”

“Shh.” It was Lee Na-hee.

“What was with that poisonous web? It looked way stronger.”

“I’m not sure what you’re talking about.” Kang Shin-hyuk whistled innocently and pretended not to know Lee Na-hee. She giggled and slapped his shoulder.

“Okay, we’ll talk about it later.”

“I’ve nothing to talk about...? Anyway, I’m glad that my senior is also safe.”

“Huh, your clothes are surprisingly clean for this mess.”

“Ah.” He changed into his work uniform as soon as the attack occurred, so his uniform remained neat without a hint of dust. If he stood in front of people now, it would only look out of place. He busied himself, disheveling his outfit.

“How about now?”

“Still feels unnatural, but it’s better. Now let’s go. They say we have to continue with the awards ceremony.”

“I heard.”

“Ho, from whom?”

“... I’ve no idea what you mean.” Lee Na-hee tried to make fun of him a bit more but eventually quieted as they went on.

“Are there any officials from Shinyoung? Oh, this way!”

“We will restart the event in five minutes! If you are feeling unwell, please come to the lounge!”

“We apologize for the inconvenience. As an apology, we will be offering dinner at the hotel restaurant on the 30th floor afterward...” The hotel didn’t suffer much damage thanks to Shin Eunah’s rapid response, despite the terrible attack. The staff was cooperating with the association to restore the banquet hall to order and return the exhibits back to where they were. They were quick to protect the artifacts, so nothing was lost.

“The Korean branch of the association is really excellent. Some minor injuries, but no casualties.”

“What was that irregular gate? This year’s World Superhuman Conference will be noisy.”

“We shouldn’t wait for the conference. We need to take measures now.”

“Everyone, please take a seat! The ceremony will resume soon!” The contest hall was bustling once more. It was hard to imagine after they had just been attacked, but this crazy superhuman society was one that Kang Shin-hyuk was now a part of.

“In this World Rookies Creator Contest...”

-Eunah’s whisper: It’s been successful. A photo of you has already been posted.

-Damn it...

Shin Eunah and Kang Shin-hyuk were whispering as the moderator pushed on with the ceremonies.

-Eunah's whisper: Now, no matter where or how you work, it'll be fine.

-Is it really okay? I just wanted to enter gates, not become an employee of the association...

-Eunah's whisper: Grandpa...no, my junior, trust me. There won't be a problem at all...hm?

-What?

-Eunah's whisper: Why is everyone saying that my grandpa is actually my brother?!

-Because you picked a name that was too similar to your own!

Shin Eunah's reaction was more surprising than the misunderstanding. Kang Shin-hyuk contacted Claire next, who was quick to respond.

-Bartender's whisper: I was watching a video on my phone.

-What sort of video?

-Bartender's whisper: A video of Shin Eun-hyuk, the death puppeteer.

-Why is there a video up already?!

'What the hell was going on in the Internet world right now?! Who filmed it?' He wanted to find out who did and throttle them, but he had to accept the grand prize before he could.

-Shinyoung Artifact Creation club 2nd year Lee Na-hee and 1st year Kang Shin-hyuk, please come up!" Despite all that had happened, attention was still focused on Kang Shin-hyuk and Lee Na-hee. They could feel the heat of the gazes around them as they moved forward, especially those on the beautiful Lee Na-hee.

"Really made by two people...a B-rank artifact!"

"I'll need to watch them going forward, they'll be stars in the production field."

“I heard that she’s the Great Chief’s granddaughter, and he’s a disciple.”

“Ha! Amazing!”

“The irregular gates, that death puppeteer guy, and now this team. Things will be interesting.” Kang Shin-hyuk tried not to flinch away from the noise he heard around him. He felt like crying every time he heard the name ‘Death Puppeteer,’ but managed to soldier on. One day, he would find the person who came up with that name and kill them. Lee Na-hee was laughing beside him.

“Haahaha.”

“Ugh.”

Two large photos of Kang Shin-hyuk showed up in the newspaper the following day. One telling the story of the new S-rank superhuman that belongs to the Superhuman Association, and the other, the team who created a B-rank artifact.

Shin Eunah cut out Lee Na-hee from the picture but kept the rest of it.