

Overgeared 51

Chapter 51

The media in each country reported the news that the first second class had appeared.

South Korea.

<Did you know that there was a second class? When a second class is obtained, the user has access to a wider range of weapons, skills and stats. In addition, every level up will give two additional stat points. Reporter Cho Sungjin will give more details. Reporter Cho Sungjin.>

<This is Cho Sungjin. At 1 a.m. today, information from the S.A. Group was released, revealing that the first second class was obtained in Satisfy. The type of second class hasn't been revealed yet, but experts predict that there is so much content in Satisfy that a myriad of second classes exist. The biggest advantage of getting a second class is that 12 stat points instead of 10 will be obtained with each level up...>

The United States.

<James, what is the identity of the first second class that emerged?>

<The S.A Group said that is isn't willing to disclose information about the second class that appeared. This is a decision to protect the information of the person who acquired the second class...>

The United Kingdom.

<I just received incredible breaking news. The first person who obtained the second class is from Mongolia.>

<They're from Mongolia? Do Mongols even know what Satisfy is?>

<Haha, these statistics definitely show that Mongols aren't interested in Satisfy. In most developed countries, around 60% of the population is playing Satisfy. Meanwhile, only 3% of the Mongolian population is playing Satisfy.>

<Oh dear... According to this statistic, our UK has 68% of the population playing Satisfy? This 68% of the British population couldn't acquire a second class, yet someone in Mongolia did... The British are advertising to the world that they aren't talented in the game.>

China.

<The S.A. Group is renowned for thoroughly managing their customer's information. Experts speculate that the information about the first second class being obtained by a Mongolian user was spread in order to promote Satisfy in Mongolia.>

<It is clear that the S.A. Group intends to dominate the world with Satisfy. Then intend to make everyone in the world slaves to Satisfy. Later on, the whole world might be dancing in the S.A. Group's hands. People will need treatment for Satisfy addiction...>

Japan.

<I'm proud that it's an Asian who acquired the first second class. When will a second class user be born in Japan?>

<As you know, 71% of Japan's population is enjoying Satisfy. There are many Japanese people who are playing Satisfy. Didn't a Japanese person obtain an epic class a few months ago? I expect a Japanese person to be the second user to obtain a second class.>

<Doesn't Korea have 73% of its population playing Satisfy? According to population ratio, Koreans enjoy Satisfy the most. Is there any possibility that the owner of the second user to obtain a second class will be born in Korea?>

<...Perhaps the S.A. Group will help a Korean obtain it...>

<There are no successful Korean users except for Yura, who is ranked 5th on the unified rankings. This is ironic, considering that Satisfy is a game made by a Korean company.>

<Speaking of which, there is a rumor that the S.A. Group is sponsoring Yura.>

<Is that so? What is the source of the rumor?>

<That... on the net...>

<Please refrain from making unfounded remarks. The slightest slip can cause an international issue.>

<I'm sorry...>

People's interest in the second class was so high that the media from all over the world organized a special program for the first second class.

On the other hand, Shin Youngwoo sighed after escaping from the dungeon, leaving Rabbit and logging out. As soon as he opened his eyes, he sat in front of the TV, boiled ramyun and trembled as he watched the news.

"I'm really envious... Getting two more stat points with every level up, isn't that completely a scam? What bastard got a second class? Ah, damn. I'm sick from envy."

Shin Youngwoo couldn't even imagine that he knew the first person who acquired the second class.

The whole family gathered for dinner.

I declared in front of my family, "I won't go to the labor office anymore."

It was a bolt from the blue!

"My son Youngwoo. You finally got a job? Great, my son! I believed in you."

"Wow, Oppa! Are you going to be an employee now? Congratulations! What should I prepare as a celebration gift?"

"Sob sob, Mother has been heartbroken in the meantime from all your suffering at the construction sites. Haven't you gone through a lot of trouble so far?"

I expected such reactions from my family. But reality was cruel.

Tak! There was a loud sound as my father placed the spoon down on the table.

"Are you going to start your life again?"

My mother sighed. "No matter how hard you work... How will you pay back the debt in the future and what will you do about marriage...?"

Sehee clicked her tongue. "How can an adult be so selfish? Are you thinking about relying on our parents until you're old? Oppa is terrible, how pathetic."

Unbelievable... Was this my family?

"Who is planning on playing around at home?" I exclaimed. "Why do you think that stopping the labor jobs is a sign of giving up? Why don't you think that your son and your Oppa has found a new job?"

Sehee's eyes widened like she was really surprised. "What? Oppa got a new job? There is a place that will accept Oppa?"

My mother spoke to herself. "Perhaps it is a job at a convenience store...? A convenience store job is easy, but the hourly rate is less than the labor jobs..."

My father asked me with a serious face. "Youngwoo, you haven't been deceived by a friend and dragged into a multi-level company like last time?"

"Hey! It isn't anything like that! I have an incredibly good job!"

"What is it?"

"It is a professional gamer. I will make money from the game! Don't you know that I'm a blacksmith in the game? This is a really good job and I can sell my items for an expensive price. With a little more luck, I can earn the equivalent of a CEO salary someday. A great merchant in the game has promised to support me."

"..."

In the sudden silence, my father spoke in an angry voice. "...So you want to stay home and play games?"

What? Why was he mad?

"It is easy to say. The more I play the game, the more money I can earn. Maybe I should live in the capsule all day. Hehe."

Ttaak!

"Keook...!"

The spoon flew and hit my forehead. My mother gave my father a new spoon and he threw it at my forehead again.

"Ack! Why? Why all of a sudden?"

"Tomorrow, go to the labor office."

"No, why? Didn't you hear my words? I will make money from the game!"

My mother wiped at her tears. "Gosh, your brother is really serious. You shouldn't be like this, Sehee."

What was my mother saying?

Sehee bit her lip angrily and shouted, "Please grow up, Oppa! You're going to make money from the game? Haven't you been playing for the past year? And your debt has only increased! Face reality!"

"No... it's different now. I have a new fate now that I'm a blacksmith... I've gone through a lot of things and now the best merchant will help me..."

"Stop talking about the game! The game is a joke!"

"..."

I tried to explain the details but they didn't listen to me. As I looked at the dark scene of chaos unfolding in front of me, I realized my family wouldn't believe me even if I explained it properly.

Then the next morning. Due to my crying mother, I had to change clothes and go to the workplace. I took a labor job and worked out the plan for the rest of my life. I needed to level up and complete the class quest, but the most important thing was making money.

'First, let's accept Rabbit's proposal.'

I didn't know yet how Rabbit would help me get rich. But I was sure that it wasn't an exaggeration. He was the second highest ranked person in the Mero Company, so he was obviously great. It would be good to trust him as a business partner.

'If I use Khan's smithy as a base, I can be very comfortable... Well, I hope to have more time to play the game. But first of all, I need to make money inside the game so that my parents will apologize.'

Satisfy news could be found at any time when turning on the TV or Internet. My parents should've come across people who became world famous or rich through Satisfy. But nevertheless, they didn't think I could make money with Satisfy. As Sehee said, it was because I spent one year... no, to be exact, I spent a year and a month already playing Satisfy.

'It isn't unreasonable that they don't trust me... I need proof to persuade my parents.'

That evening. I came home from work and immediately connected to Satisfy. Then I went to Khan's smithy.

"Ohh, welcome Grid!"

Khan greeted me with an incredibly bright expression. It wasn't just him. The anxiety on all the faces of the residents that I passed by had disappeared.

'Is Winston at peace? It looks like Euphemina and Rabbit did a good job.'

I asked Khan, "Has Rabbit come here?"

Khan's expression darkened. "Um... this letter arrived for you."

Khan handed me a letter. I read it.

[Mr. Grid.

This is Rabbit. Earl Steim couldn't excuse all the sins I committed against the people of Winston when I was still part of the Mero Company, so I couldn't receive a full pardon. My business plan with you is in vain. Mr Grid, with your abilities, you will become the richest person with your own strength. Please ask for Khan's advice and make wonderful items. Khan's artistic sense will be a great help to you. I will watch your myth from a distance and sincerely pray for your success.]

"Eh?"

What was this?

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Perhaps I was too stupid to understand the contents of the letter? It was like how I couldn't understand a barking dog. "Where is this person now?"

Khan carefully replied, "Earl Steim has sentenced him to 10 years in prison."

It was ridiculous.

"No, why? Wasn't Rabbit the one who helped Winston?"

"He is certainly a hero who saved Winston, but Winston was in this crisis in the first place due to the Mero Company. He eventually realized his sins, but the earl thinks it's too unreasonable to completely wash away his sins."

Dammit.

"Shit... What is this...?"

Didn't Rabbit promise to make me rich? But now he was trapped in prison? Stupid bastard! He said he would do something good for me, but it ended up like this.

Khan patted my shoulder as I was feeling frustrated. "I understand the sadness of seeing the person who rescued you now trapped in jail, but cheer up. You have your life. Don't be so frustrated."

What was he saying?

"No... I don't care about Rabbit right now... Oh, by the way, I heard that you were also arrested after me? You didn't get hurt, did you?"

Khan laughed. "Why are you worried about me when you were framed and insulted? Your heart is truly as wide as the sea. Ugh..."

The smiling man was once again in tears. "I actually heard the story. You were surrounded by knights, and didn't you open your mouth to protect me? Once again, I am deeply moved by you."

Was he referring to the incident in the interrogation room? I tried to give up Khan as the one who commissioned Huroi, but I couldn't answer because my mouth was gagged. I laughed awkwardly.

"Well... I could't sell you out."

"Sob... even if you were tortured... Grid! I believe that I can entrust it to you!"

"What?"

"This smithy!"

"... Huh?"

What did he mean by the smithy?

'Perhaps?'

Ah, I must've heard wrong. I shouldn't count my chickens before they were hatched. As I felt doubts, Khan smiled benignly and said, "You disguised yourself as my successor to defend this smithy and compete with the Mero Company. From then on, I have already thought of you as my successor. This smithy will be yours in the future."

"... No way."

There were some users who received a position from a NPC. But I'd never heard of a user becoming the successor of a business. Maybe I was the first.

"You aren't joking?"

"Haha, have I ever said anything false before? As you know, I don't have a successor. Very soon, I will become too old to work... then this smithy will lose its owner and be neglected. I don't want this smithy that has been in my family for generations to disappear. I sincerely want you to take over this smithy. You are Pagma's Descendant and have a great personality, so my ancestors will be delighted. Also, my son is dead..."

Khan's face darkened the moment he brought out the story of his dead son. He stimulated a person's emotions so I asked him to make sure.

"Don't just say it with words. Write a contract! Then I will believe you and will work hard for the sake of this smithy!"

"..."

After a while, I received a contract from Khan about the smithy ownership transfer. Then a notification window popped up.

[You have obtained the position 'Smithy's Successor.']

[Smithy's Successor]

You will have the same status as the owner in Khan's Smithy.

"This isn't a dream, right?" I pinched myself as hard as I could. "It hurts..."

I used so much strength that my cheek was tingling. It wasn't a dream.

"This definitely isn't a dream! It's real. Hah...! Hahahat! Puhahaha! Yes! Oh yes! Ye~!"

I couldn't suppress my joy at the thought of this large two-storey smithy someday becoming mine. Khan looked at me smiling like crazy and declared, "I'm glad that you're so happy. You can definitely lead this smithy well."

"Of course! Now! Let's work. We will make great items and tell people how amazing our smithy is!"

"Ohh. Isn't this good? You're really motivated!"

I would receive recognition from my parents from my work at the smithy. I devoted myself to making items for the next few days. From morning to afternoon, I headed to the labor jobs. Then from night until dawn, I connected to Satisfy and made items.

"I am doing labor again... It seems I am unable to escape from the quagmire of labor..."

I was only sleeping for four hours a day due to excessive motivation. I was tired, but I could endure it due to the money, stats and skill experience accumulated.

The Tzedakah Guild only had 17 members, but they were composed of top rankers and a few elites!

Among the 17 people, Jishuka was the guild leader and she developed the habit of checking the auction house every day. It was because she was addicted to the performance of the Special Jaffa Arrows, which she bought around two months ago.

The Special Jaffa Arrows had the best attack power among the existing arrows. The Special Jaffa Arrows were twice as powerful as general Jaffa Arrows, and had a chance of ignoring the enemy's defense completely. Jishuka had been thrilled as she felt the excellent performance and destructive power of the Special Jaffa Arrows.

But after that first day, the Special Jaffa Arrows never appeared in the auction house again.

'Why?'

Usually blacksmiths would create thousands of arrows. In other words, it was likely that thousands of the Special Jaffa Arrows existed. But the creator of the Special Jaffa Arrows only offered up 99 at the auction.

'It can't be... has another guild already found the blacksmith?'

Jishuka became nervous. If another guild got their hands on the blacksmith and monopolized the items, Jishuka and her guild members would be cut off.

"It's Jishuka."

"Wow, her body looks even more amazing up close."

"Shall I give it a try?"

"Hey you. You will have a terrible experience."

Jishuka was the focus of people's attention as usual. The tanned skin and sensual body made the hearts of men pound. Many males were drawn to her sharp eyes and full lips.

Jishuka tried to ignore them, but there was a limit. The users started to gather after hearing that Jishuka was at the auction house, so it wasn't long before the auction house reached the limit.

"Can you get out of the way?"

The half moon eyes drew in the men. However, her heavy-handed tone caused an invisible wall around her. In the end, the men couldn't endure it anymore and gave way. After leaving the people at the auction house behind, Jishuka summoned a hologram keyboard.

Then she declared in the guild chat window.

{If you don't find the blacksmith within this month, you will all enter hell training.}

{Ohh! I welcome hell training!}

{Regas! Don't talk nonsense! It is called hell training for a reason.}

{Captain, to be honest, it is almost impossible to find a person in Satisfy with so little clues. Do you know how many users there are in Satisfy?}

{It can't happen.}

{...Ohh...I agree...}

The guild members started complaining. Jishuka told them seriously.

{A small guild of elites like us must be stronger than others in order to accurately show our value. We need the blacksmith to become stronger. So please find them.}

{Understood. I will be sure to find the blacksmith.}

{Hey! We should make a bet. 100 gold from each person for the one who finds them first!}

{What? I will make 1,600 gold if I win? Okay, I will find them!}

Jishuka was always tenacious. She truly was a steely woman. It was extremely rare for her to 'ask' something from them. Therefore, the guild members were able to realize the urgency of the situation and became motivated.

Only Regas had a complaint.

{I want to train...}

{Where are you? ^^}

Jishuka used emoticons! The guild members saw it and thought simultaneously.

'Captain is angry.'

'Regas is dead.'

At that time, there was a notice in the guild's chat window.

[Vantner has logged in.]

It was the appearance of Vantner, who finally took the top spot in the guardian knight rankings five days ago.

{Welcome Vantner.}

{Hey, why were you sleeping for seven hours? Aren't you being too lazy? Your ranking will be taken away.}

{I saw something interesting on the Internet. I was a little late because I was looking for articles related to the incident. Have you heard of a place called Winston?}

{A village in the north of the Eternal Kingdom?}

{Ah~ that place? I stopped by it once on my way to Bairan Village. Why? What's going on?}

{There was an item creation game that took place there. It was said that one of the competitors created an epic rated dagger in three hours.}

{A user, not an NPC?}

{Yes.}

{That person!}

{The blacksmith finally appeared!}

{We've got you!}

The guild members became excited. A blacksmith who could create an epic rated item in just three hours wasn't common. Even the number one blacksmith, Panmir wasn't capable of it.

Jishuka commanded.

{Everyone head to Winston! From now on, we will focus our investigation in Winston!}

{Understood!}

{If it's Winston... It will take around three days for me to get there.}

{I will take a week.}

{...The person who arrives the latest should be prepared. And Regas, if you don't arrive in half a day then I really will kill you ^^}

{C-Captain! I'm in the Burns Principality right now! It will take me two days to get to Winston on horseback!}

{Don't rely on a horse and run there directly! Then won't you somehow arrive in a day?}

{O-Ohhh! Can I arrive in half a day?}

{I will kill you if you don't arrive in half a day.}

{What should I do?}

The Tzedakah Guild started to gather in Winston.

Chapter 53

"Damn! Daaaaammnnnn!"

Katz, possessor of the third epic class, was furious.

Kuwek!

[You have killed the poisoned pioneer.]

[5]

[The poison-soaked cloth has been acquired.]

[543,500 experience has been acquired.]

"Ugh...!"

[You have killed the closed-off pioneer.]

[2]

[617,000 experience has been acquired.]

"This thingggg!"

A month ago, Katz finally got 39th on the unified rankings. It was the result of taking advantage of his epic class that was specialized in hunting. Katz had been fine until then. It only took him a month to get from 53rd to 39th, so he believed that the number one goal he was aiming for wasn't far behind.

But what was going on? Except for sleeping time, he sat in a capsule all day and hunted. However, his rankings stagnated at 39 and he couldn't increase it. Then today, his ranking dropped to 40th place. Katz's high pride was shattered.

"This is me! Why am I wandering around the 40th rank for a month?"

He got a great epic class, so he declared on air that he would win first place in the rankings. Then what was this? People from all over the world were laughing when they saw the list of rankers. The second son of 'JIN,' a leading Japanese conglomerate, was branded as a braggart to the world.

'I can't understand, no matter how I think about it.'

Katz didn't stop thinking while hunting monsters.

'The Blood Warrior's attack power and battle speed is unmatched. There is no other class that can hunt as quickly and easily as this. Then why isn't my ranking going up? How are those other people levelling up faster than me?'

Katz was currently level 215. From level 210, the amount of experience needed to level up increased significantly. This was called the hell section by rankers, yet Katz was quickly climbing the hill by hunting solo.

But his ranking wasn't going up. It was useless, despite the fact that his experience kept climbing. He utilized the power of his family, was armed with the strongest items and had the best class. Nevertheless, his ranking...

"I... it means my gaming skill is less than others!"

Katz couldn't understand.

"I've never missed the top spot in any game so far!"

Compared to his brother and sister who were called 'geniuses,' his brains were somewhat lacking. He had a weak temperament and he was totally excluded from being a successor. However, his talent at gaming exceeded his older brother and sister, and he was confident that he was the best in the world.

But now his pride was shattered.

"I can't accept it... I can't accept it!"

Katz was a loser in the real world who couldn't cross the wall of his brother and sister! He didn't want to be a loser even in Satisfy. So he made a decision.

'I will move my hunting ground. To a stronger place!'

Currently, Katz was hunting at a place filled with level 230 monsters. Monsters here appeared in groups of three and had different skills, so even the best rankers hunted in a party at this place.

Even Katz, who absorbed the enemy's health every time he attacked, had to rely heavily on potions to play solo here. Now he wanted to play solo at a higher level hunting ground? It was tough, no matter how excellent his class was. If he was the slightest bit careless, he would die and lose experience.

But Katz had money.

'I will arm myself with better equipment and potions.'

Katz' weapon, armor and accessories were all unique rated. But Katz wasn't satisfied. In particular, the performance of his armor and gauntlets were unsatisfactory.

[Armor of Great Sorrow]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 38/310 Defense: 459 Movement Speed: -11%

* Reflects 10% of the damage received.

* Once durability drops below 100, all stats will increase by 5%.

An armor that Daymode, a former knight, wore when he fought with Piaro and was falsely accused as a traitor.

Daymode's armor is filled with his grudges and pain.

User Restriction: Level 180 or higher. More than 750 strength. More than 600 stamina. Intermediate Heavy Armor Mastery Level 4 or higher.

Weight: 2,300

[Black Wind Gauntlets]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 110/170 Defense: 57 Attack Speed: +5% Accuracy +10%

Gauntlets used by the Black Wind Assassins.

It is very light and comfortable to wear, so you can attack the target faster and more securely.

User Restriction: Level 200 or higher. More than 220 agility.

Weight: 200

The Armor of Great Sorrow had very good options, but its defense was less than other heavy armor. Meanwhile, the Black Wind Gauntlets had a good basic performance, but no special options. Both of them were lacking despite being unique items.

"I need new armor and gauntlets."

Katz decided to log out. Then he went to the item trading site and looked at the list of armor and gauntlets. Tens of thousands of items appeared on the list, but he couldn't find any that were better than the Armor of Great Sorrow and Black Wind Gauntlets. At this point, the Armor of Great Sorrow and Black Wind Gauntlets were the best items.

"...Crazy."

It was no use, even if he wanted to spend money. Katz cursed at the blacksmith users.

"Are the blacksmiths just playing around? When will they be able to create items superior to items obtained through hunting or quests? Shit, isn't this a dereliction of duty?"

There were at least two billion users in Satisfy. The demand for items was astronomical. But the growth of production class users was relatively slow, so supply couldn't keep up with demand. The users of Satisfy sincerely hoped for the appearance of a skilled blacksmith.

Euphemina was fortunate that she became aware of the blacksmith called Grid and asked him to make her an item. But right now, Euphemina didn't feel so good.

Frontier, the capital of Earl Steim.

In a place where hundreds of merchants came and went every day, Euphemina had stayed here for a week already. She gathered information from where she practically lived at the market, and she also monitored the item trading site and auction site every hour.

But she couldn't find a way to make the orb. No, all methods of making an orb seemed to have disappeared. Euphemina wasn't normally interested in how to make items, but now she realized how difficult it was. In particular, the methods of making items with a high level restriction was like obtaining a star in the sky.

"Ohh...in the end, all my efforts are in vain. Is crafting really that rare...?"

In the past month, Euphemina searched all the major cities in the Eternal Kingdom. However, she didn't get any results, so she wanted to cry. She earned 6,500 gold from the item creation game and Rabbit's quest, so she believed that she could easily obtain a production method using this money. However, reality was too cold.

'It is annoying but...'

Euphemina's expression stiffened in front of the auction house. It was because her unusually high insight stat detected someone's gaze. It had started two days ago. Unknown people were systematically monitoring her.

'Who is it?'

Euphemina was a secret ranker who renounced many benefits, including fame, by making her name private on the list of rankings. She operated carefully under many pseudonyms. In other words, it was unlikely for someone to catch onto her tail. This was her first experience with being monitored.

"It is unpleasant..."

Who? Why? How?

Euphemina entered a secluded alley. Then she spoke to the air, "Come out. I know that you're there."

"Come out. I know that you're there."

"...!!"

The words of the target he was observing caused Faker's heart to drop.

'Surely, she didn't see through my stealth?'

No, it was impossible. Faker was the genius who reached 1st place on the assassin ranking only eight months after starting Satisfy. Even Old Sword Demon, who had been the number one assassin since Satisfy launched, fell down before Faker's talent.

'A blacksmith can't detect my stealth.'

Faker was convinced and reported it to the party chat window.

(Does it make sense that she is referring to me? It must be you guys.)

There was a backlash.

(Don't make me laugh! We have secured a safe distance! She can't have noticed us!)

(Hey hey, she is staring in your direction in the first place...)

(ㄟ ㄟ ㄟ ㄟ ㄟ ㄟ ㄟ The number one assassin is found by a mere blacksmith.)

(Why did you stick so close...? You have too much pride as the number one assassin...)

Faker and his party members were all part of the Tzedakah Guild.

It was around a month ago.

The Tzedakah Guild received information about the item making game in Winston and quickly gathered in Winston. Then they collected information about the blacksmith who made the epic rated dagger. There were many people watching the game at the time, so it was easy for the Tzedakah Guild to gather information.

The blacksmith's ID was Erina. The gender was female. Her height was 160cm She was estimated to be between 17-19 years old. She had bright golden hair down to the waist and a beautiful appearance that was unforgettable.

The Tzedakah Guild completed a portrait of Erina based on witness statements, before splitting up to track down Erina. Then two days ago, Faker was able to find Erina at Frontier.

Jishuka heard the report from Faker and commanded.

{I will meet her in person. Keep watching her until I get to Frontier.}

And now.

Faker's surveillance was on the verge of being noticed by Erina.

gold has been acquired.gold has been acquired.

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No, it still wasn't certain that he'd been discovered. Faker's Stealth skill was at level 7. Even the top rankers would have trouble detecting him.

"..."

Faker held his breath in order to maintain a more complete stealth state. But he couldn't escape from Erina, no, Euphemina's insight.

"Don't peek at me like a pervert. If you don't come out, I'll make you come out."

This was Euphemina's final warning. Faker's party members became agitated at the dangerous atmosphere.

(Hey Faker, don't you think she really noticed?)

(It might be a mistake to keep hiding. Remove Stealth and reveal your identity.)

Faker replied angrily.

(Blacksmiths don't have any detection techniques. No, even if such techniques existed, there is no possibility that my stealth would be discovered. Don't worry about it. That woman is just making guesses...)

Faker's conversation was interrupted.

Peeeong!

A large explosion occurred in a radius of 3m around Euphemina's body.

“Kuk!”

Faker was in range so he rushed to escape the aftermath of the explosion. But Euphemina had no intention of letting him go.

“Angel’s Scream.”

Biiiiik.

“...?!”

Ultrasound waves rattled Faker’s eardrums. Faker made a pained expression as his ears started bleeding. Then Euphemina stared blankly at him and asked, “Who are you? Why are you watching me?”

‘Who are you?’ That was what Faker wanted to ask. How did a blacksmith use top-level magic in succession?

‘Perhaps?’

Faker was confused. He needed confirmation.

Sususuk.

Faker’s body move slightly and left dozens of afterimages. As Euphemina observed the scene, the hat she was wearing was peeled off by Faker. Faker was surprised. The face of the blonde woman, revealed by the hat, was exactly the same as their portrait. But the ID above her head wasn’t Erina, but Euphemina.

‘We were wrong from the beginning. All the information we gathered was false.’

Faker came to this conclusion. There were countless guilds who wanted to obtain the maker of the Special Jaffa Arrows. They were fiercely competing to avoid having the blacksmith stolen by other guilds. They would spread false information to disturb or trap the competing guilds.

Faker gritted his teeth.

‘We fell into a trap.’

In the worst case scenario, the item production game in Winston might be a false drama from the beginning. If so, the Tzedakah Guild was dancing on someone’s palm.

“Give it to me.” Euphemina took back her hat from the shocked Faker. Then she spoke in an angry voice. “Why are you taking away my belonging instead of answering the question? This is annoying.”

Faker stared at her. “What guild do you belong to?”

It was a puzzling question from Euphemina’s standpoint.

“I don’t understand what you are talking about. Rather, shouldn’t you answer? Why did you follow me for two days?”

“You must be joking... If so, I will use force to make you tell the truth.”

To define it simply, the Tzedakah Guild was a group of leaders. All of the guild members had aggressive tendencies. Euphemina also had a formidable temperament.

“...All the men I meet these days are like psychos.”

Grid was a person to be protected, no matter how much she didn't like it. However, Faker was different. She wanted to get rid of him for the insult.

“First you watched me, now you are threatening me? I'll have to fix that nasty head of yours. Lightning.”

Pachchik!

Static electricity appeared around Faker. At the same time, a lightning bolt fell from the clear sky.

Kwaang!

Faker avoided the lightning at a fast speed, producing dozens of afterimages. Then he appeared behind Euphemina. At that moment, Euphemina's hand touched Faker's abdomen.

“Unfortunately for you, I won't fall for the same technique twice.”

Peeng!

Faker's body was surrounded by flames. But Faker didn't even scream. He didn't feel any pain. Euphemina attacked the wrong target. In other words, the Faker standing behind Euphemina was a clone, not the real body.

Pakak!

“Ugh!”

Euphemina was struck in the side by a kick and fell down with a groan. Faker looked down at her and explained, "The same technique can be applied differently. It is certainly great that you can use magic without chanting, but you aren't my opponent.”

To be honest, Euphemina was nervous. It was the first time she had been hit in a battle against a user since becoming a Duplicator.

‘This man, he is strong.’

He used top-level assassin techniques and was good at fighting. He was an opponent to watch. But that was all.

"It is only a moment of elation. Ancient Queen's Knight.”

An intense light flashed. Faker recovered from his momentary loss of sight and was astonished. A knight in black armor had appeared in the air in front of him.

"Familiar...?!“

It was impossible for a magician to summon a familiar. A summoner class existed in Satisfy. A familiar had to be called using a summoner's authority.

-Kuaaaaah!

The Ancient Queen's Knight grabbed a part of the darkness around its body and held it like a sword towards Faker. The momentum was like a great mountain was going to hit him.

"Kuk!"

Originally, assassins used secret weapons. There was no chance of winning a head on fight against a knight.

Kwaang!

Faker narrowly avoided the attack from the knight. Due to this, the outer wall of a building was destroyed and dust scattered all over the place.

Pik!

Faker ignored the sharp piece of stone that scratched his cheek and ignored the knight. Then he threw three daggers towards the worried Euphemina. The dagger flew at a speed that couldn't be avoided by a magician. It wasn't useless even if she tried to defend with magic. Faker had tossed a dagger that had a hidden ability to explode in response to magic.

'That's it!'

Faker thought he won, but then something unexpected happened.

Sususuk.

Euphemina observed the three flying daggers, then her body moved slightly, creating afterimages and avoiding all the daggers.

'Unbelievable! After a familiar, is it an assassin's skill?'

Originally, it required extreme concentration to figure out which of the dozens of afterimages was the main body. However, Faker couldn't concentrate because the Ancient Queen's Knight was constantly attacking.

Faker's watching party members were forced to interfere.

"We're going to help!"

Faker shook his head.

"Are you still insisting on a one-on-one fight? Don't make me laugh! Don't ignore us!"

"It can't be helped. She isn't an opponent you can win against! Do you think we'll leave you alone?"

"Hiyah!"

Faker's party members were part of the Tzedakah Guild and also in the top rankings. But the four of them couldn't overpower Euphemina.

Over the past month, Euphemina had duplicated the techniques of rankers while searching for an orb production method, so she was currently in her strongest mode.

"Dragon Claws."

While the Ancient Queen's Knight tied up Faker's feet, large and sharp stone pillars rose in succession from the ground. Faker was forced to rush in every direction to defend himself, while a rain of fire poured down from the sky.

"She is using great spells in succession?"

"No way..."

The faces of Faker and the party members filled with despair. They got a glimpse of Euphemina's true power.

Jishuka's face distorted as she arrived at the collapsed scene in the middle of the city.

"Someone dares touch our guild?"

Before Satisfy was released, the Tzedakah Guild was the strongest armed group in L.T.S. that no one dared meet. Even the giant guilds were wary of the Tzedakah Guild. Jishuka was determined to make Tzedakah the strongest guild in Satisfy. Indeed, they had already become a famous guild among the top rankers.

But being well known was separate from being the strongest. In order to reign as the strongest, they couldn't show even a hint of weakness.

Jishuka commanded. "Find her right now. We'll show the dignity of the Tzedakah Guild by shattering her."

The opponent was someone who defeated four guild members, including Faker. According to the testimony of the witnesses, she could use the skills of all types of classes. Her strength probably wasn't normal.

'Maybe she has an hidden class.'

But Jishuka wasn't afraid. The true power of the Tzedakah Guild hadn't been shown yet. Thus, this was the beginning of the bad relationship between Euphemina and the Tzedakah Guild.

Chapter 55

I didn't leave the smithy for the entirety of last month. From the moment I connected to Satisfy to the time I logged out, I stayed at the smithy the whole time. In the meantime, I was able to establish some facts that I knew dimly or discovered new facts.

First, making the same items repeatedly wasn't effective in raising the skill experience. Every time I made a different item, the skill experience would rise at a good rate.

Secondly, the better the materials, the higher the possibility that the item would have a higher rating.

For example, when making two iron swords based on the same production method, the iron sword with the poor-quality metal had a close to 100% chance of being a normal rating, whereas the one made with the finest metal had a relatively high probability of receiving a rare rating.

Thirdly, even when I was making items with the same production method and materials, the ones that I spent longer on were the ones that were more likely to have a higher rating.

It was very fortunate that I managed to make a unique dagger in only three hours. I had to invest at least half an hour if I wanted to make an item higher than a rare rating. In other words, the number of items that could be produced in one day was very limited, so increasing my stats wasn't as easy of a feat as I thought it would be.

Fourthly, if I wanted to be a good blacksmith, I had to invest points in stamina, as well as in strength and in dexterity.

The equipment and minerals used in a smithy were mostly heavy, so I needed high strength to work efficiently. When making an item, I needed to have a lot of stamina if I didn't want to become exhausted.

So I really liked my high strength and stamina stat.

"Pant pant...aren't you still young? You can't be exhausted yet."

Unlike Khan who took a break every time an item was completed, I was able to produce items constantly without taking a break when I was connected to Satisfy.

In the past month, I created 73 items, meaning I produced an average of two or more items a day. 11 of the 73 items had a rare rating and 3 of the 73 had an epic rating. As a result, all of my stats increased by 34 points.

I currently had 11 types of stats: strength, stamina, agility, intelligence, dexterity, persistence, composure, indomitable, dignity, insight and courage. If 11 stats increased by 34 points each, this meant it was increased by 374 points, which was equivalent to gaining 37 levels.

But I was dissatisfied. Why? I made 73 items. I invested at least six hours every time I made an item. The materials were also as good as possible within my range.

However, I never made one unique rated item, let alone a legendary one. Wasn't this too much?

'I only got three epic rated items... Crazy. Is this a legendary blacksmith? Ah, I'm so tired.'

Every time I made an item, I earnestly prayed for a unique rating. However, it was almost always a normal rating. Every time, I felt an incredible sense of disappointment and wanted to curse at the game.

The only comfort was that the level of my production skills increased.

[Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship Skill]

Lv. 2

Produce equipment items that you know how to make.

You can create the production methods for a new item with the 'Legendary Blacksmith's Creation' skill.

There is a certain probability of producing rare~ epic rated items.

There is a rare probability of creating unique rated items.

There is a very rare probability of creating legendary rated items.

All stats of a production item will increase by 12%.

* When rare rated items are produced, all stats will permanently rise by +2 and reputation throughout the continent will rise by +30.

* When epic rated items are produced, all stats will permanently rise by +4 and reputation throughout the continent will rise by +80.

* When unique rated items are produced, all stats will permanently rise by +12 and reputation throughout the continent will rise by +300.

* When legendary rated items are produced, all stats will permanently rise by +25 and reputation throughout the continent will rise by +1,000.

* Something special will occur with every five legendary items created.

[Legendary Blacksmith's Creation Skill]

You can create three equipment item production methods every time the skill level of the 'Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship Skill' goes up.

Number of items that can be created at present: 5/6.

* When items are produced using this skill, the name of the creator is automatically placed on the item.

[Legendary Blacksmith's Breath]

Lv. 2

When you are concentrating on making an item, the will of Pagma's Descendant will fill the production item.

All stats of a production item will increase by 7%.

There is a rare chance of giving special features to your production items.

In addition to the increase in my skill levels, there was something else that was gratifying. I had created dozens of items in Khan's smithy over the past month. Khan wanted to pass on as much knowledge to me as possible before he retired, so I was given one new production method every day.

This was an enormous harvest. The original method of acquiring production items was to perform specific quests, and the level of difficulty varied. Thus, it was very difficult to find item production methods. I was fortunate enough to acquire many production methods without the need for separate quests, thanks to being Khan's successor.

I pulled out a book from my inventory. The title was 'List of Items Production Methods.' The book described the details of the production methods I learned. The table of contents had expanded. Starting from my own 'Failure' to the Jaffa Arrows I learned in Bairan, to the dozens of works acquired from Khan...

It was exciting.

'When I was in Bairan Village, I had only four production methods, including the axe, pickaxe, Jaffa Arrow and Failure...'

When I looked at the production methods, Euphemina entered my mind.

'Why hasn't that woman come with the method to create the orb?'

Euphemina wanted me to make an orb for her. That's why it was highly likely that she would bring the best production method. Then I would be able to get my hands on a production method for free.

I was happy just imagining it. No, wait...

"If...if there is only one chance... what if Euphemina brings me the production method and materials, only for me to make a normal-rated orb?"

Would she take my life? Maybe Euphemina would keep me locked up somewhere until I managed to complete a unique rated orb.

"If it is her..." I recalled the psychotic smile on Euphemina's face as she burned the lord's bodyguards. "...What will she do to me?"

I no longer waited for Euphemina. Rather, I wished that she would never show up. I shook with terror. Then the door of the smithy opened.

"Hiik! E-Euphemina?!"

There was an old saying that a tiger would come when mentioned. It felt like Euphemina had been waiting for me to mention her. Fortunately, the people who arrived at the smithy wasn't Euphemina. At first glance, they looked like two incredibly high-level male users.

"Is this Khan's smithy?"

"I am Khan... why are you looking for me?"

They started questioning Khan. "You competed in the item production game with a traveller called Erina a month ago right?"

"That's right..."

"Is she really a blacksmith? Did you witness her making the item with your own eyes?"

"The question is strange. Is she a blacksmith? Of course she is a blacksmith. She was hired by the Mero Company to participate in the game and I have directly experienced her great blacksmith skills. No, who on earth are you? Why are you asking such strange questions?"

The men disregarded Khan's question and talked among themselves. Then they asked Khan again.

"Is the Mero Company the only organization involved in the item production game? Is there any chance of other organizations being involved?"

"Cough!"

Displeasure appeared on Khan's face. He had been friendly because they were young boys of a similar age to his son, but they ignored his questions and only cared about themselves. The men didn't care at all about Khan. Rather, they began to talk over Khan.

"Why aren't you answering? If you know anything, shouldn't you tell me? It is better if you don't waste our time."

It was like a threat.

How funny.

This was Khan's smithy. These people were guests. They weren't in the position to question Khan. Then what was with their attitude?

They were talking down to Khan, who was similar to their grandfathers. They were ignoring Khan because he was an NPC. In fact, this wasn't unusual among users. Certainly, NPCs weren't human. They were just part of the system program, artificial intelligences.

But I knew. Despite being artificially made, Khan had his own memories and feelings. He could feel anger and hopelessness. He could cry when sad and laugh when happy. He was someone I could count on. And sometimes he missed his dead son.

So I was angry at those who treated Khan casually. "Hey, you over there, what is with your attitude? What right do you have to threaten Khan? Eh?"

They looked me up and down and laughed as they saw my dirty clothes and old blacksmith hammer.

"Who is this? When did he get here?"

What? Why were they speaking impolitely when I wasn't an NPC?

"When did I get here? I am obviously an employee here. Why are you so arrogant when entering someone else's business? Huh? Is this your business?"

"Arrogant? Don't make me laugh. We just want cooperation."

"Is that the attitude of someone seeking cooperation?"

"Hah... should we have visited with orange juice?"

I really hated people like this. Looking at their equipment, they seemed to be rankers close to level 200. However, I couldn't help being honest when seeing their expressions.

His companion started mediation. "You shouldn't get so heated up against a beginner."

"Sigh, okay. I have to calm down. Damn, my nerves are irritated after Faker was attacked. Hey, beginner blacksmith, we are looking for the woman. We are in a hurry to find her so we were inadvertently rude to the NPC. It was a mistake. I'm sorry. Is it okay now? So please move out of the way."

"You should apologize to Khan, not me."

"....."

They started ignoring me. They asked Khan once again.

“Khan, answer me. Do you know if Erina is associated with any organizations besides the Mero Company?”

Was he worried that I would get hurt? Khan hid me behind his back and replied.

Chapter 56

"I don't know. I only met her when we competed in the game, so how could I know so much about her?"

"Didn't you team up with your successor and participated in the fight? He also didn't notice anything about Erina?"

“Yes.”

These guys couldn't even guess that I was Khan's successor. Maybe it was because I looked like a beginner, as no one would think that the successor of the prestigious blacksmith Khan would be a beginner.

“...Sheesh.” Whether it was because they were irritated at not gaining anything, or because he was an NPC, the men left without saying goodbye to Khan.

I pulled out salt from my inventory and sprinkled it in front of the smithy.

“Phew, unlucky bastards. Don't come back again.”

Khan scratched his head as he looked at me. "Shouldn't you be sprinkling coarse salt?"

“...Ah, is that so? Hum hum, let's go back to work.”

As I turned back to the furnace, Khan opened his mouth and asked, "Are you going to work today without resting?"

"Of course.”

"The more I look, the more I feel admiration. You already have excellent skills, but you aren't satisfied and you keep working hard...”

Excellent skills... If my skills were really excellent, I would've created a unique and legendary rated item among the 73 items that I made. But not only did a unique rating not emerge, I only made three epic rated items.

I was still lacking. I needed to raise my skill level further. I would make a lot of money and show my parents.

'I need to be quickly recognized by my parents...'

The fact that I had less time to play the game was a big problem.

Ttang!Ttang!

As I concentrated on making the items, Khan sat at the counter and sold the items I made to the customers. It was a very desirable system; other users would go green in envy if they saw this.

Why? There were three ways that ordinary users could sell items to other users:

Firstly - they could open up a street stall and sell them to users directly.

Secondly - they could sell items at the auction site.

Thirdly, they could post the items to be sold on a cash transaction site.

In the first case, a lot of time could be wasted waiting for customers to come. In addition, bargaining with the customers was frequent and could be stressful. The second and third options saved time but there were high fees involved.

In other words, it meant that a normal user had to take time and money to sell the items. But I was different. Khan sold the items on my behalf, saving me time. He also didn't charge me a sales commission.

I just needed to make the items, while Khan sold them and gave the proceeds back to me. If I steadily made money by producing more than two items a day, I would surely become rich someday...

"...I'm still waiting! This is rotten. No, shit. Does this make sense? I am a legendary class so why can't I make a legendary item?"

On that day, the S.A. Group Headquarter's operations team received an email.

Title: Look and you will see.

Contents: If you look at my information, you can see that I'm a legendary blacksmith. So why can't I make any legendary items? If I am a legendary blacksmith, isn't it normal for me to be able to make a legendary item? No, I didn't do anything else for a month and made 73 items, but there were no legendary items at all. Yes? I didn't create a single unique item and only made three epic items, so isn't this manipulation? Yes? You are probably manipulating this right? Huh? Right? Ah, look. This is really X. Do you want me to snap? Should I go there? Eh? The materials and production method are good, so isn't this manipulation, you #

The employee who checked the email thought it was absurd.

"What manipulation... First he should raise the level..."

Level 10 users and level 100 users. Assuming that both of them had the same dexterity stat and skill level, a level 100 user was more likely to produce a higher rated item than the level 10 user.

In other words, the higher the level of the maker, the better the item. This was common sense among users with production classes. However, this wasn't known by the user who obtained a legendary class.

The employees sighed as a group.

"It is painful to see that great class..."

Then someone said. "If the contents of the email aren't false, he really is an unlucky person. With the Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship Skill, he only made 3 epic items out of 73? Unique and legendary items are unlikely because their probabilities are low, but there is a fixed probability of creating an epic item. Looking at this, doesn't he really seem cursed?"

All the employees were sympathetic.

“He really is a person with bad luck...”

"No wonder why he feels doubts about manipulation..."

“If it is really possible to intervene, I would like to increase his chances of making higher rated items.”

From that day onwards, Grid became famous for his bad luck among the game operators.

The 73 items I made were weapons and armor with a level 60 limit. The total sales amount was 1,590 gold, with a net profit of 1,079 gold. This was equivalent to exactly 1,294,800 won when converted to cash.

The game, which I played for 5~6 hours a day, earned me around 1.3 million won a month. If I quit going to the labor office, I would be able to make three times as much money. In addition, if I was fortunate enough to make a unique or legendary item, I could earn tens of millions of won.

However, my parents didn't agree, as they knew that the number of people who made money from the game was very low. Furthermore, I had been playing for over a year, and yet I still couldn't escape my debt.

That's right. In society and in my home, I was treated as someone with bad credit. My parents overlapped with the first and second financial institutions that rejected me.

‘Should I sell the Ideal Dagger? No, no. It isn't time yet.’

I could sell the Ideal Dagger as a means of proving to my parents that I could make money through Satisfy. But I couldn't sell the Ideal Dagger. The reason for this was the terms of use for the Ideal Dagger.

In order to meet the Ideal Dagger's usage conditions, the passive skill called Advanced Dagger Mastery was needed. But at the moment, the top rankers of each class only had intermediate level skills.

If I put up the Ideal Dagger on the trading site in this situation, only the merchants thinking of future profits would flock to it. Therefore, the merchants were likely to bid at the cheapest price possible and it was likely that the dagger would be sold at an unsatisfactory price. I had to hold onto the Ideal Dagger for the moment.

It was four in the morning. I reached the end of my limit at the thought of going to the labor office.

"Do I have to live like this forever..."

Four in the morning was when most people would still be dreaming. But I had to work until 6 p.m. just for 90,000 won per day, while my body suffered. I could endure it if it was my only way of making money like before, but now it was different!

I was able to make more money from playing the game than doing labor work, so going to the labor office was just a waste of time!

"Shit...I want a unique or legendary item. Or if I make a lot of epic items, it will help persuade my parents that I am making a profit... Urgh, dammit. I feel angry as soon as I open my eyes. It can't be helped. I should get some cold air. Huh? This..."

As I was exiting my front door to go on a walk around the neighborhood, I saw a flyer sticking out from the newspaper.

[September 10th! The long-awaited opening!

The best capsule room is open!

There are 150 top of the line capsules!

It is fully equipped with cafe facilities.

Delicious food cooked by a 5 star hotel chef.

A feast of beauties and handsome workers!

* Please don't ask for the employee' telephone numbers.

On September 10th, for just one day! Any customers who sign up will receive a 30% discount on the capsule room fee for a lifetime!]

Heok... a lifetime discount on a capsule room? The capsule room was 6,000 won per hour. If it was a 30% discount...

"This is it!" I got a good idea.

"Okay!"

I headed back to my room. I changed into my work clothes and opened the door.

"Huh? Your work clothes? Are you going to work already? Isn't it only 4.10 a.m.?" My puzzled mother asked and I vigorously nodded.

"That's right! I am going work! Hahahahaha!"

"... Why are you so full of energy in the morning?"

"Puhahaha! Of course! I am young and overflowing with energy. Then Mother, Father! I will go to work early this time! Puhahahahat!"

"Youngwoo, are you sick or something...?"

"Yes... I am worried..."

I left the house while my parents felt worried. Today was September 10th! I looked for the newly opened capsule room. The colorful banners hung outside a building to announce the opening of the capsule room.

"This will be my job starting from today. Puhahahahat!"

Yes, I was going to quit the labor jobs today. Now I would play Satisfy from the moment I got up to when I fell asleep. I would spend the morning and afternoon in the capsule room. Then I would play at home at night.

"Now I can work harder to make items. Puhahahat!"

Recently, Khan's smithy was a great source of interest for users.

Among the items sold at Khan's smithy, there were level 60 equipment made by a craftsman with great talent and potential, but lacking in experience and reputation. His equipment had an almost 20% better performance than normal items. Even the normal rated items were comparable to rare rated equipment at the same level.

The users called this the 'Unknown Craftsman Series' and it was very popular. The performance was good but the price was rather expensive. However, money wasn't a problem. They couldn't live without this equipment.

The users entered Khan's smithy on a daily basis.

"Did the unknown craftsman make any more items?"

"I will buy any items he made! I will pay however much you want, so please sell it to me!"

"Give me his name. I personally want to ask him to make me an item. Yes? Where can I meet him?"

The users wanted to have items made by the unknown craftsman, or they were curious about his identity.

But Khan never replied.

Grid always made a limited number of items due to time restrictions, and he didn't want others to know his identity.

Ttang!Ttang!

The crowd at the counter never imagined that the beginner user hammering at the furnace behind Khan would be the one they were looking for.

Chapter 57

During the time I worked at the labor office, I played Satisfy for an average of five to six hours a day. But that changed after I changed to the capsule room. My play time increased by around 10 hours, and now I was connected to Satisfy more than 15 hours a day on average.

Thanks to that, I could produce double the number of items a day.

[The Legendary Blacksmith's Breath has increased the effectiveness of your production items.]

[Legendary Blacksmith's Breath]

Lv. 2

When you are concentrating on making an item, the will of Pagma's Descendant will fill the production item.

All stats of a production item will increase by 7%.

There is a rare chance of giving special features to your production items.

"Please give me legendary this time..."

Currently, I was producing a plate armor with a level limit of 120, based on a newly acquired production method. The value of the materials used was a huge 483 gold! This was one fifth of all my assets. It was the most expensive item I'd made so far.

I invested a lot of money, but was worried it would turn out to be a normal item, so I spent 20 hours making it.

"...Yes, I'm honestly not hoping for a legendary rated item. But at least give me unique. Please..."

I was a legendary blacksmith, so I needed some hope! I fervently joined together the last sheet of iron. Then the armor was completed.

[Very Delicate Plate Armor]

Rating: Epic

Durability: 272/272 Defense: 303 Movement Speed: -6%

* There is a small chance of completely defending against stab attacks.

An armour made by a craftsman with great skills and potential, but lacks experience and reputation.

By applying thinly refined steel plates in two layers, defense and movement has increased.

User Restriction: Level 120 or higher. More than 380 strength.

More than 400 stamina. Intermediate Heavy Armor Mastery.

[An epic rated item was produced, so all stats have permanently risen by +4 and reputation throughout the continent has risen by +80.]

"Dammit!"

It was an epic item. I was glad that it wasn't a normal or rare item, but it wasn't satisfying, considering the amount of time and effort I invested. With thinking about the raw materials value and the capsule fee, there wasn't much profit.

Khan didn't know my thoughts and praised me.

"Did you really make this armor using the method I gave you? Why did it turn out so differently despite using the same method? You're truly amazing!"

"Phew... how much can I get for this?"

I asked without expecting much. Then Khan said something incredible. “Hrmm... honestly, it is hard to measure the exact price. But one thing is clear. You can get a higher price auctioning this to the knights rather than selling it at the smithy.”

“Eh?”

Auction it off to the knights? The fact that NPC knights were buying items at an auction was amazing. But I was surprised at the idea of selling level 120 armor to at least level 180 knights.

Khan explained.

“A month ago, I witnessed and admired the knights’ armor at the procession for the newly appointed lady. I could see that there is a great blacksmith at Frontier. But now that I’ve seen your work, it is much better than the work from Frontier’s blacksmith. Haha, it’s only natural, since you’re Pagma’s Descendant.”

Oh...my armor’s performance was good enough to appeal to level 180+ knights? Indeed, I had the Legendary Blacksmith’s Craftsmanship Skill and the Legendary Blacksmith’s Breath. They raised the item stats by 12% and 7% respectively. It might be an epic rating, but the performance of this Very Delicate Plate Armor was equivalent to a level 180 normal or rare armor.

‘There is an added option thanks to the breath skill.’

I asked about the most important part. “If my item is bought at the auction, what’s the fee I’ll have to pay?”

“The proceeds for the knights’ auction is from the castle. It is organized in the name of the lady. Nobles have high pride, so they aren’t aiming for personal gain. There is no fee at all.”

I immediately decided. “Okay. I will put it up for auction.”

“Good decision. The auction takes place in two days, so I’ll go at that time.”

“Nope. I’ll go.”

“Huh? It is okay?”

“Yes. I’ve been stuck inside for a month, so I want to go outside for a while.”

“Ah, yes. Then take this with you. This will prove your identity so you can enter the auction without any extra procedures.”

[You have obtained the token of ‘Smithy’s Successor.’]

How much could I sell this armor for? If I followed Khan’s words, could I make a lot of money...?

‘No, don’t expect too much. If my expectations are lower, I won’t be so disappointed.’

I was someone with no luck. I had experienced disappointment more than once or twice. So I steadied my heart.

Khan suggested, “Why don’t you aim at making an armor that is better than this one in the next two days? Wouldn’t it be better to show several works if you’re participating in the auction?”

“That’s true.”

For the next two days, I invested 20 hours a day and made two items. Unfortunately, the result was one normal and one epic.

“No, how can I make a normal item after spending 20 hours on it? It should at least be a rare item.’

Did this make sense? No matter how I thought about it, this was due to the S.A. Group. They were worried that my legendary class would destroy the balance, so they gave me the worst probabilities when making items.

If not, I might be more unlucky than I knew...

There were two reasons why the ruler of a territory would host regular auctions for the knights. First of all, it was to help the knights obtain the best equipment. The second reason was to use it as an opportunity to find skilled people.

Why were they trying to find skilled people? It was to make a business deal. The people who created the most outstanding works at the auction had permission to deliver goods to the lord. It was an opportunity to open a door in life.

Buzz, buzz.

Winston Castle’s annex lobby.

Dozens of people who came to present the items at this auction were gathered with a nervous expression. There were users and NPCs. There were also several blacksmiths.

I looked at blacksmiths and thought.

‘If there is an outstanding blacksmith, I want to recruit them for our smithy.’

I could assign new blacksmiths to do all types of errands and get a commission from selling the items made by the blacksmiths.

‘Once Khan steps down and I become the owner, I will run the smithy with the intention of recruiting new blacksmiths.’

The auctioneer showed up while I was thinking about a type of slave project.

“The auction will start in 20 minutes. The auction will last for three hours, and you can stay in the waiting room while it’s ongoing.”

Then a notification window popped up.

[You have entered the auction hosted by the lady. Please submit the items to be listed and the minimum bid for that item.]

I opened my inventory. Then I checked the details of the items appearing in the auction for one last time.

[Very Delicate Plate Armor]

Rating: Epic

Durability: 272/272 Defense: 303 Movement Speed: -6%

* There is a small chance of completely defending against stab attacks.

An armour made by a craftsman with great skills and potential, but lacks experience and reputation.

By applying thinly refined steel plates in two layers, defense and movement has increased.

User Restriction: Level 120 or higher. More than 380 strength. More than 400 stamina. Intermediate Heavy Armor Mastery.

[Seemingly Plain Gauntlets]

Rating: Epic

Durability: 83/83 Defense: 29

Attack Speed: +4% Accuracy: +8%

Gauntlets made by a craftsman with great skills and potential, but lacks experience and reputation.

The exterior doesn't look like anything special, but it works surprisingly well when worn.

User Restriction: Level 120 or higher. More than 1,000 agility.

"As planned, these two..."

I decided to register these two items at the auction.

[Please set a minimum bid price for the Very Delicate Plate Armor.]

[Please set a minimum bid price for the Seemingly Plain Gauntlets.]

'Hrmm...what should I set it as?'

I normally made level 60 equipment. This was the first time I made level 120 equipment, and I wasn't sure of its value.

'I would like to raise the price as high as possible when considering the cost of materials and labor... but if it is too expensive, there might not be a big...'

As I was in distress, a white-haired boy approached me.

"Mister~ is there a problem?"

"You...?"

"Hello. I'm called Steng. My class is a blacksmith. I was watching you, and you also seem like a blacksmith. This seems like your first auction, so I thought I would help you."

The boy smiled as he said his name. There was something familiar about the name.

'Who is Steng...?'

It was a name I knew clearly, but I couldn't remember why I knew it. I didn't know if I couldn't remember because my memory was bad or because it wasn't important.

I explained to Steng. "I'm worried because I can't decide on the bid price of the items to be auctioned."

Steng blinked with surprise. "Your teacher didn't set a bid price?"

"Teacher?"

"The teacher who gave you this quest. Aren't you showing your teacher's items at this auction?"

What was he talking about? I was puzzled as Steng pulled out a one-handed sword in a brilliant sheath.

"This is the special weapon that my teacher created for this auction. Isn't it amazing? It's a rare item with a level limit of 190."

Glossary of Common Korean Terms.

Chapter 58

A rare item didn't seem that great, but I just nodded because I didn't want to nitpick. Steng laughed, put his sword away, and sighed.

"Hah~ when will us users be able to submit our own items to the lady's auction?"

I felt it from the beginning, but there was something strange about the conversation. I had to ask Steng in order to correct the misguided conversation.

"So...the reason you're here right now isn't to put an item you created up for auction? You're doing a quest to place your master's item up for auction?"

Steng smiled and replied. "Of course. Even the number one blacksmith, Panmir, can't create items that can be shown at auction, so how could I?"

"...Can you share the quest information?"

"Huh? Why?"

"No, I just wanted to check."

"Sure. It isn't a secret, so I'll show you."

[The player 'Steng' wants to share the quest information. Would you like to accept?]

I accepted and the quest information appeared.

[Teacher's Errand]

Difficulty: C.

This is the first auction that will be held after the appointment of the new lady of Winston.

Blacksmith Razvan will use this auction as an opportunity to show his skills to the lady of Winston and to get a foothold in Winston.

So he gave you, his disciple, an errand.

Quest Clear Conditions: Submit Razvan's work to the lady of Winston's auction.

Quest Clear Reward: 20 gold.

* If Razvan's work is successfully bid on at the auction, he will give you a new production method...

I forgot, but general blacksmith users often had NPC blacksmiths as a teacher. By steadily carrying out the quests given to them by their teacher, they could raise the level of their blacksmith skills and gain new production methods.

I was fortunate that Khan gave me production methods without any conditions.

'I'm certain of it after seeing this quest information.'

The users didn't come here to submit their works to the auction. They were running errands for their teachers, just like Steng. As Steng said, it was impossible for the present production class users to produce outstanding items that would satisfy the lady and knights of Winston.

I could see it clearly. The difference between me and a general user was huge. I didn't feel much inspiration when I made an epic rated item, but ordinary users were just happy at making rare grade items. I was desperately happy as I realized the greatness of a legendary profession.

"If you don't mind, can I look at your teacher's item?" Steng asked me with a passionate gaze.

I refused him. It felt like something troublesome would happen. "I don't want to do that."

Steng felt regret. "I see. Then it can't be helped. By the way, it's amazing. Your teacher didn't set a bid price..."

"Yes. Do you happen to know the average price for armor and gauntlets with a level limit of 120?"

"Even if the items are the same level, the options are different. Well, normal armor is 300 gold and gauntlets are 100 gold."

"Epic rating?"

"Wow! Did you master make epic items? Making epic items is really uncommon!" Steng admired it before kindly giving me an answer. "The price of epic items vary depending on the options, but shouldn't the armor be a minimum of 1,800 gold and the gauntlets 600 gold?"

"...What?"

100 gold was 120,000 won. In other words, if the Very Delicate Plate Armor and Seemingly Plain Gauntlets were sold at 1,800 gold and 600 gold respectively, I would earn 2.88 million won. Only seven days after starting work in the capsule room, a huge amount of money was entering my hands.

'No, no. If I deduct the materials cost and capsule room fee, the net profit is around 2 million won.'

Anyway, I was satisfied. Yes, let's not cling to unique or legendary items. If I make two epic items a week, I could earn 8 million won in a month!

'I can pay off the debt soon!'

I had a total debt of 10 million won. After obtaining a legendary class in Satisfy, it seemed like this debt of 10 million won wasn't very big, but it was a huge burden to me a few months ago. I also had to pay the interest on the loan, so I hadn't made a dent in repaying it. I was able to somehow manage with the labor jobs, but now...

Anyway! I would finally be able to live a debt-free life. My fear towards the employees from Mother's Heart is Happy would disappear.

"Kukukuku..."

A debt-free life! I imagined a dignified life and couldn't suppress the laughter. Then I suddenly met Steng's eyes. Steng's complexion turned blue after he witnessed me laughing.

...I had felt it in the past, but my smile was really the worst.

Children cried when I smiled. People started swearing instantly when I smiled. People took money out of my pocket when I smiled. People bought me cigarettes when I smiled. Women were unhappy when I smiled.

'After I pay off my debt, I should get plastic surgery...'

I was seriously distressed about this as I set the minimum bid based on the price Steng told me.

[You have set the minimum bid price for the Very Delicate Plate Armor at 1,800 gold. Is this correct?]

"Yes."

[You have set a minimum bid price for the Seemingly Plain Gauntlets at 600 gold. Is this correct?]

"Yes."

[The items have successfully been registered at the auction.]

Everyone finished registering their items. The auctioneer confirmed it and showed us to the waiting room. There was a large tiger leather rug on the floor and ornaments made of gold and silver on the shelves. The chandelier sparkled. It was an incredibly luxurious place for common people like me.

'How extravagant would the lady's room be?'

As I was stunned by the wealth that nobility possessed, Steng came up to me and spoke.

"You can't pick up the ornaments over there. I've been involved in a lot of auctions while running errands for my teacher, and there are always people who try to steal things from the castle. They were discovered and punished... Grid should be careful."

"Yes, I understand...I won't. Hey, wait! Do you think I am a thief? Anyone would feel bad when hearing it."

“S-Sorry.” Steng quickly apologized and stepped away from me. However, he continued glancing at me. He seemed to suspect that I would steal something. I showed him a laugh and was branded as a criminal.

‘Sigh, that bastard. He has a discerning eye.’

I had to give up on stealing. I only wanted to take one candlestick, but it couldn’t be helped while he was watching. I sat on the couch in anticipation of the results that would appear in three hours and decided to take a nap.

Irene was Winston’s new lady and the only daughter of Earl Steim. She currently only had the title of an Earl, but she would become an Earl later on. In other words, she was the next successor to Earl Steim and the one who would be a peak figure in the north.

Therefore, her knights had a sense of burden and responsibility that other people couldn’t imagine.

‘We have to be the best knights for Lady Irene.’

Irene’s knights didn’t neglect training their minds and bodies. But there was a limit to the body and talents. Therefore, they coveted powerful equipment that would make up for any lacking parts.

The auction held today in Winston was very disappointing.

“There is nothing good.”

Winston had become a big city due to breakthroughs in the north. However, it was still lacking compared to Frontier. It was the same for the abilities of the technicians. The accessories, clothes and armor shown at the auction were all inferior. Some technicians submitted good items, but it wasn’t enough for the knights.

Two hours had passed since the auction started, but there hadn’t been a single bidder on any of the items so far. In this disappointed atmosphere, the auctioneer smiled widely.

“You should pay attention to these items.”

“Oh...!”

As the armor and gauntlets were revealed, the sleepy-looking knights burst out with excitement.

“How great!”

“It is difficult to find such armor in Frontier.”

The knights examined the armor and gauntlets closely before asking the auctioneer.

“Who was the blacksmith that made this? Is it the rumoured Khan?”

Khan was a blacksmith who was somewhat renowned in Frontier. The knights guessed that Khan was the one who made the armor and gauntlets. But the auctioneer gave an interesting answer.

“Not exactly. They were made by Khan’s successor. He is revered by the residents of Winston and is one of the three heroes.”

“Hoh... The rumoured righteous blacksmith?”

“Yes.”

The knights smiled warmly.

“There is such a great person here in Winston. A person with an exemplary personality and excellent skills... He will be one of the talented people working for Irene one day.”

"Its value is much higher. I will bid 2,000 gold."

"You are only giving 2,000 gold? Your eyes are terrible! I will bid 2,500 gold!"

“2,800!”

"Why are you trying to take something that I saw first? I will bid 3,000 gold, so everyone give up!"

Earl Steim was considered one of the wealthiest nobles in the Eternal Kingdom. Therefore, the knights of the family were paid a huge salary. The knights were overflowing with money, so the bid prices of the armor and gauntlets made by Grid skyrocketed.

“Mister Grid. Mister Grid.”

Uhh... what? Was it time to go to the labor office? I slept without knowing anything about the world and woke up due to someone shaking me.

“Mister Grid, the auction has ended.”

“Ah...”

That’s right. This place wasn’t my house.

‘This is... It has already been a week since I quit the labor jobs, but I’m still worried about needing to go...’

I wanted to quickly escape from the trauma of the labor jobs, so I quickly left the waiting room with Steng. Then I headed to the lobby where the auctioneer was waiting. The auction manager confirmed the number of people and said.

“There was a total of six items auctioned off at this auction.”

The crowd was shaken.

“Only six? I put up seven items alone...”

"Weren't there over 100 entries? Yet only six succeeded?"

This was ominous.

'What if my items weren't won? Did I set the minimum bid too high? If I knew this, I would've set it at a cheaper price.'

As I was feeling troubled, the auctioneer called out the list of items that had been sold.

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"Ms. Clarice's presented work, the 'Diamond Necklace that Causes a Slight Change in Sensation' has been won for 453 gold. Mr. Grees' presented work, 'Cold Protection Inner Armor' has been won for 189 gold. Mr. Piglet's presented work, the 'Bitter but Superior Strength Potion' has been won for 15 gold each. Mr. Steng's presented work, the 'Long Sword that Easily Harmonizes with Magic' has been won for 1,900 gold."

The people whose items were won cheered.

Steng also rejoiced.

"My teacher's work was sold! Teacher will be very pleased!"

Stein would be given a new production method with this quest clear reward. He approached me with the intention of receiving congratulations, but my stomach hurt and my mouth didn't open.

'Dammit. My items weren't won after all... Shit, I should've made the price cheaper.'

As I was trembling with anger and regret.

"Mr. Grid's presented work, the 'Very Delicate Plate Armor' has been won for 3,500 gold. The 'Seemingly Plain Gauntlets' have been won for 2,000 gold."

"...Eh?"

I doubted my ears. Did he say 3,500 gold just now? It wasn't 2,000 gold?

The other people freaked out.

"No way... How can an item be sold for such an expensive price?"

"As expected from epic items! The level limit is also over 100..."

Steng sent me a look of envy. "Amazing! Your teacher must be an incredibly good blacksmith! Is he a blacksmith with the Advanced Blacksmith's Craftsmanship skill? Huh?"

"..."

I couldn't hear anything. The words 'I made money' and 'jackpot' echoed through my head. 5,500 gold in cash was...

'6,600,000 won...'

A huge sum that would require 73 days of labor was earned in just one week. It was also from two epic items!

"Abo...abooooo..."

I wanted to cheer, but my mouth wasn't working well. The auctioneer spoke while I was completely baffled.

"Mr. Grid, the administrator wants to meet you. Follow me."

Steng congratulated me. "Wow! Now you will be entitled to deliver goods to the castle. The smithy will become quite busy and the quests you will receive from your master will be enormous! Congratulations!"

Steng was sincerely happy, unlike me who felt pained when I saw him doing well. He was still in his mid-teens, but he was very friendly. I liked it. Once I became the owner of the smithy, I would be sure to recruit him. He seemed like the type who wouldn't complain over some unreasonable labor.

"Thank you for congratulating me. Then I'll see you next time."

I gave Steng the kindest smile possible as I looked forward to our reunion someday. Steng looked blue as he took a few steps back and replied.

"Ah, goodbye."

I said goodbye to Steng and headed to the administrator's office. The administrator was a middle-aged man. He had an impressive mustache and welcomed me warmly.

"Ohh, you're Grid! I was very impressed after seeing your work. I was wondering how you became the smithy's successor at such a young age, but I'm fully convinced after seeing your skills! Come, sit down."

The administrator and I sat across from each other. A maid emerged with some tea.

'Wow...the scent of this Elpa tea is different.'

The fragrance of the Elpa tea that Khan made for me was very weak. I had to hold my nose to the cup in order to barely smell something. But the Elpa tea here was intensely spicy. I could enjoy the scene without putting my teacup to my nose.

'Expensive tea leaves are used.'

When else would I get the opportunity to drink such expensive tea for free? I drained the hot tea and handed the empty cup to the maid.

"Another cup, please."

"Yes."

Gulp.

"One more cup."

"Yes."

"Kya~~! One more cup!"

"...Yes." The administrator gave a hearty laugh after the fourth cup of tea. "According to the residents, you are someone with a heroic appearance... Yet you aren't nervous at all in front of someone with a high position."

Did I make a mistake? I belatedly realized, but the administrator shook his head.

"Be as comfortable as you want. It's fine."

"...Ah, yes."

The administrator seemed to be a person who didn't like formalities. He cut to the chase. "I would like to distribute your equipment to the lady's knights and soldiers, what do you think? Are you willing to do business with us?"

Okay, it finally came. I wanted to accept the deal right away, but there were a few things to keep in mind.

"I don't know if you know, but our smithy is doing extremely well right now. I will be busy, so I'm not sure if I will have enough time to make equipment for the knights and soldiers."

I didn't want to make equipment for the soldiers. Considering the average level of the soldiers, I needed to make level 50 items, which wouldn't make me a lot of money.

'I know for sure after this auction. The more high level the item limit, the greater the profit. It's much better to make one level 120 item than a dozen level 50 items.'

The administrator nodded.

"I see. Come to think of it, there is tremendous craftsmanship in your work. You probably invest quite a lot of time and effort every time you make an item. I was stupid to ask you to make hundreds or thousands of supplies for the soldiers. If so, I will change the criteria. Please just create equipment for the knights."

"Yes, I understand."

Good, the story was going well. Then the administrator surprised me with his next words. "But I have a condition. The equipment to be distributed to the knights should be better than the works submitted to the auction today."

"Huh?"

The two items submitted today had an epic rating. In other words, the administrator was telling me to deliver items above the epic rating.

'This crazy person. If I invest more than 20 hours every time I make an item, there isn't any guarantee that I won't get a normal rating.'

The administrator spoke while I was confused.

"Of course, I know that making such great works is difficult. So I promise that I will buy it at a higher price."

"A higher price...?"

"It will be 10% more than the winning bids in today's auction. Of course, if you make a work that is much better than the ones submitted today, I am willing to pay a higher price."

There was no need to listen any longer. I stood up and cried out. "Okay! I will return to the smithy right now. Then I'm going!"

The administrator called me back while I was motivated to make items quickly.

"First of all, please make me three swords. Some of the knights' weapons have been compromised due to an incident not long ago."

Then the quest information rose up.

[Business with the Administrator (1)]

Difficulty: A

Winston's administrator, Vladi, has asked you to make equipment for the knights.

He has given you a good deal in consideration of your high skills. If you let him down, this business deal will be immediately destroyed.

Quest Clear Conditions: Make at least three epic rated swords with a level limit between 120~180, and deliver it within a week.

Quest Clear Rewards: Depends on the level of the items delivered.

Quest Failure: The business deal with the administrator is cancelled and the quest will be destroyed.

'Isn't this quite good...?'

I invested 20 hours for each item over the past few days and made three items. Two of them had an epic rating and one had a normal rating. It meant I had a two-thirds chance of creating an epic item. It seemed possible to create three epic items in a week.

'Unless my luck suddenly disappears and I don't get any epic items, this is a quest that can definitely be cleared!'

I was filled with a strong confidence as I left the castle. As I walked along the road to the smithy, the residents approached me and whispered.

"Mr. Grid, some people are following you."

"That's right. You should be careful, because they might be bad people."

My affinity with the residents was at the maximum so they showed me great favor. They would let me know if danger was approaching.

"Following me?"

Who was it? I gazed in the direction that the residents indicated. At the entrance of an alley, under the shade of a tree, behind a street vendors, etc. Suspicious people were hiding their bodies as much as possible.

"Wow...aren't a lot of people following me?"

I got goose bumps. Was I the target of a mysterious assassination organization like the protagonist of a movie?

... No, it didn't seem like it when I looked closely. As I looked closely at the faces of those following me, I saw that they were people who were at the auction. They were following me to find out who my blacksmith was.

I asked the residents. "Keep them from following me. There's no need to worry, since they aren't dangerous."

The residents replied vigorously with resolute eyes.

"Okay. I do everything I can to help you!"

"Just leave it to me!"

The residents rolled up their sleeves. Dozens of them shouted at once. Then they ran towards those following me.

"W-What? Why are they grabbing us?"

"Hiik! What is with these NPCs?"

"Let go!"

Thus, things were quickly sorted out. I briefly thanked the residents and returned to the smithy. After describing the situation to Khan, I logged out.

"Hu... huhuhut!"

The capsule room. I wasn't able to suppress my laughter after emerging from the capsule.

"Puhahahahat! I am now rich!"

As soon as I shouted, everything seemed like reality instead of a dream. I earned 6.6 million won in just one week! I also got the right to deliver items to the castle. My 10 million won debt would soon be paid off and I could escape from my debt-ridden status.

One day, I would be able to drive a foreign car!

'Ahyoung will be sitting in the passenger seat!'

Huhuhu...I couldn't stop laughing from joy. I was so pleased that even tears emerged. Then an employee came up to me.

"Excuse me, you are being a nuisance to other customers, so please be quiet."

"I'm sorry."

I paid for the room and went home.

Shin Youngwoo left the capsule room.

The employee clicked his tongue.

"A person like that is talking about being rich... He laughed while saying he is rich. There's no doubt that he's crazy."

"Doesn't he seem jobless and homeless? Isn't he wearing the same work clothes every day? Right?"

"I think so too... He regularly uses the capsule."

The student employees were talking about Shin Youngwoo. Shin Youngwoo came to the capsule room early in the morning wearing the same clothes, so he seemed pathetic.

"I saw his member information, and he's 26 years old right now. Tsk tsk, how pathetic is his life? I shouldn't live like that after graduating from university."

"Stop talking about that person and let's talk about Satisfy. Did you know that I reached level 40 yesterday?"

"Wow, really? Amazing! I'm still level 39. Hey, where are you levelling up so quickly?"

"I was hunting. Fortunately, I obtained a rare item, so hunting became easier. I am faster due to the power of the item."

"Where is an item for magicians? Ah ~ ~ ~ I want a rare item. Hey, what level do you think that homeless person is?"

"Pff, look at him. Does he seem like he can play the game well? Satisfy is a world that is crueler than reality. A loser in reality has to be a loser in Satisfy. There's no need to worry. He isn't a high level user."

Chapter 60

In the past few months, Earl Steim thoroughly searched and demolished almost all the Yatan Temples in the north.

The Yatan Church was being punished for kidnapping a virgin to sacrifice her. But Earl Steim was especially fearful since his daughter Irene was kidnapped. It was fortunate that Irene was rescued, but he lost his most powerful shadow, Doran, in the process.

Earl Steim had a fierce desire to get rid of the Yatan Church. But the elders of Yatan were distributed in great numbers across the continent. It wasn't easy to kill those who bred endlessly like cockroaches. There was even a Yatan Temple on the outskirts of Winston.

"At the very least, there should be no more Yatan Temples in the north..."

Irene's hatred was just as strong as her father's. She couldn't tolerate the existence of the Yatan Church in Winston. She still hadn't forgotten the terrible fear she felt after being abducted by the believers of Yatan. She shook at the thought of being a victim again.

A few days ago, she sent out her army to destroy the Yatan Temple. But due to the heavy resistance of the believers, the army returned without any achievements. The number of casualties was 100 soldiers and three knights were seriously injured.

Irene proclaimed. "Reorganize the temple expedition. This time, make sure the temple burns to ashes!"

Irene showed great ambition by investing more troops. Irene touched the blue ring hanging from her necklace as she watched the troops.

"Doran...I will get revenge for you who sacrificed your life for me."

[Eighth Servant]

Difficulty Level: SS

You have become one of the most blessed beings of God Yatan. Head to the northern part of the Eternal Kingdom and save the believers who are being suppressed there!

If you spread the greatness of God Yatan to the pagans in the north, you will be given the position of the Eighth Servant.

Quest Clear Conditions: Earl Steim's army is constantly attacking the Yatan Temple in the north. Rescue at least 300 stranded temple believers.

Number of followers rescued so far: 0/300

Quest Clear Reward: The position of 'Eighth Servant.'

* Eighth Servant: The skill 'Infinite Faith' will be created. The skill 'Teaching Doctrines' will be generated.

The skill 'Divine Punishment' will be generated.

Quest Failure: Level -5. Faith -1,000

The soldiers in the north of the Eternal Kingdom were known for their strength. Obviously it would be a tough fight. But Yura didn't even hesitate to move towards Winston.

'I have to become stronger.'

Not long ago, Yura faced Agnus who was 7th on the unified rankings. Then she realized the greatness of an epic class. She felt helpless, just like when she confronted the mysterious man with the ID of Grid.

Now she had acquired an SS-grade quest. It was a golden opportunity. Yura was determined to use this quest as a stepping stone towards the ultimate goal of being first in the rankings.

I received a level 160 sword production method from Khan. But the production method was quite burdensome. Based on the list of ingredients required, it would cost 950 gold to make this sword.

"Well... it can't be helped."

I currently had 6,710 gold. With this money, I could only make seven swords. In addition, the number of swords I could make in a week was just seven.

“Seven. Isn’t it good that everything adds up to seven?”

In South Korea, the number seven was a symbol of good luck! I trusted the lucky number.

"I'll do it in one go~! An epic item is coming! Hehehehehe!"

I was caught up in the pleasant mood and hummed while spending 20 hours on the sword. And the completed work...

[Durable Longsword]

Rating: Normal

Durability: 250/250 Attack Power: 200

A sword made by a craftsman with great skill and potential but lacking in experience and reputation.

It won't be easily damaged after being tempered for a long time.

User Restriction: Level 160 or higher. More than 950 strength. Intermediate Sword Mastery.

Weight: 600

“...Who said that seven was a lucky number? Urgh, I want to kill them.”

One attempt flew away. It was normal to feel like cursing the system. However, the value of the materials couldn't be returned. I barely moved my legs that were trembling from anger and approached Khan.

"How much will this sell for?"

Khan looked at the sword for a long time before replying cautiously. "It is around 800 gold."

“W-What?”

I almost grabbed Khan's collar. The materials I used were worth 950 gold, but the value was only 800 gold? Then what was this?

"An equipment like this with the original conditions won't trade well. This is why..."

Khan elaborated.

Here was a brief summary:

A level 160 item would have a better basic performance than a level 120 item. Normal rated items had no options, while rare items had a small option attached. Depending on how the options were set up, a level 120 rare item often outperformed a normal level 160 item. Therefore, the prices of the two items didn't vary greatly.

People with money were more likely to buy the level 120 rare item than the level 160 normal item.

"In other words, get rid of the normal items..."

Khan comforted me. "But your equipment is good even with a low rating, so you won't see a big loss. Please be comforted by that."

'Comfort... Hah, this is really messed up.'

In the future, I could make six more swords. Based on the two-thirds probability of getting an epic item, I had a chance to clear the quest.

"Damn, this time it will surely work!"

I became extremely focused. Then I tried to make the best possible sword.

20 hours later.

The second sword was complete.

[Durable Longsword]

Rating: Normal

Durability: 250/250 Attack Power: 200

A sword made by a craftsman with great skill and potential, but lacking in experience and reputation.

It won't be easily damaged after being tempered for a long time.

User Restriction: Level 160 or higher. More than 950 strength. Intermediate Sword Mastery.

Weight: 600

"Hey, this #@!\$%~! The operators @\$:) Bastards! They are manipulating this #! No, why are you doing this?"

Khan brought me a cup of warm tea. "Have strength. Trials will come to everyone. If you overcome this trial..."

"Ah, don't talk to me! I am too annoyed right now."

"....."

I ran out of Khan's smithy and yelled towards the sky, "These damn operators! If you manipulated the probabilities, I will accuse you to the Consumer Rights Center! You #!#!!"

I used the best materials. I did my best during the production. If the operators had a minimum of conscience, a normal result wouldn't come out. I believed so and started making the third sword.

Ttang!Ttang!Ttang!

I barely slept for the past few days as I kept hammering. My shoulders were tired by I didn't stop hammering. It was a matter of pride. I had the title of the legendary blacksmith, so I couldn't keep making normal rated items. I would escape the manipulations of the operators and create an epic item.

... Not long ago, my goal was to create a unique or legendary item, but now, I was only aiming for epic. But what could I do? Reality wasn't kind so I had to settle for epic items.

It was dinner time. I had no appetite. I didn't know if the rice entered my mouth or my nose.

My mother was worried about me and asked with a bemused expression. "Hey Youngwoo, did something bad happen? I worked on those braised short ribs for a long time, so why are you sucking on bone for five minutes?"

"A pathetic person like me isn't qualified to eat meat..."

One and a half days had passed in reality, while 6 days passed in Satisfy. In the meantime, I made six swords and the result was three normal, one rare and two epic swords. Now I could make one more sword before the time limit was over, but I only had two epic rated items.

'I'm ruined... Ruined...'

When investing 20 hours to create an item, the probability of making an epic item was close to one third. In other words, the possibility of my remaining sword being an epic item was very low.

My quest 'Business with the Administrator' would soon be destroyed.

'I have a legendary class but I can't even make an epic item... I am a truly pathetic person who doesn't deserve food.'

The frustrated Sehee placed a braised rib on top of my rice bowl.

"What's new? Oppa, haven't you always been pathetic? Why do you need to look so weak now? I don't know what type of adversity Oppa is going through these days, but the only good thing about you is that you don't know how to give up. Right? When Oppa was in 6th grade in elementary school, you were able to memorize everyone from the 1st grade to 6th grade, so don't be frustrated this time and be patient. Oppa will surely be able to overcome these difficulties."

"S-Sehee... did you eat something bad?" I got goose bumps at the words that Sehee normally didn't say and asked my mother, "Mother, maybe there's something wrong with the braised ribs. Are these beef short ribs? Is this beef from cows with the mad cow disease?"

"These are pork ribs!"

Ppak!

Sehee picked up the piece of rib she gave me and threw it at me. The rib slid down the side of my face as I seriously wondered. Why was I being hit every time I sat down for a meal? Why was I being treated worse than a dog by my family members?