

Level 4 Human in a Ruined World

#Chapter 101 - Read Level 4 Human in a Ruined World Chapter 101

Chapter 101

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 101: Strongest Sword Assembly (3)

“Ah...”

An exhalation burst out from Jo Sangik at once.

At least he understood what Yeongwoo’s response meant, that the distribution of the binary choice compensation would be divided fairly.

“Mr. Yeongwoo, considering all the unfortunate events today... let’s just let it go.”

As Jo Sangik cautiously approached the golden sphere and spoke, other Strongest Swords also noticed that something was going strangely awry.

“Sir, what does that mean?”

“What’s good and what’s not?”

“What... What could possibly be bad here...?”

While everyone harbored suspicions, none of them dared to imagine.

None of them had anticipated that the newly appointed Strongest Sword would consistently choose ‘Grant 30,000 karma.’

<<Choice Reward>>

[3,000,000 karma]

Or

[Grant 30,000 karma to all residents in the area]

Except for Yeongwoo and Jo Sangik, the rest naturally assumed that 3,000,000 karma would be selected as the reward for dealing with mutants.

Everyone present had always done so, and therefore, it was common sense.

However.

“When I first faced the binary choice, a friend who was with me said this.”

“.....?”

When Yeongwoo diverged into an irrelevant story, the Strongest Swords who had been focusing on him initially wore somewhat vacant expressions.

“...What did he say?”

The only one who somewhat entertained his words was Songpa’s Strongest Sword Oh Yeonhee.

Upon this, Yeongwoo quietly raised his hand toward the golden sphere and touched the ground with ‘Dragon’s Legacy’.

It was an implicit warning not to interfere with his impending actions.

“He said to choose 3,000,000 no matter what. He doesn’t want to give money to villains, and he wants to become stronger first to personally eliminate injustice.”

Upon hearing this, the Strongest Swords nodded with solemn expressions.

“That makes sense.”

“Even though we don’t know who he is, he spoke rightly.”

They too had once faced the first binary choice and had all chosen to monopolize the 3,000,000.

“So, what did you, Strongest Sword, do?”

Finally, Jo Sangik, who had begun to be drawn into this conversation, spoke for the first time.

This naturally redirected the attention back to Yeongwoo, and the Strongest Sword in question scratched his forehead in response.

“I chose 30,000.”

“Excuse me...?”

“Why did you do that?”

The Strongest Swords not only expressed surprise but also revealed feelings bordering on discomfort.

Because Yeongwoo's statement just now was tantamount to negating them.

Fighting mutants meant staking their lives.

As such, a Strongest Sword who successfully dealt with mutants would inevitably have a survival instinct as strong as their reward psychology, which ultimately led to the choice of monopolizing 3,000,000 in the binary choice.

In other words, whether it was a scoundrel like Jang Jeong-ho or a celebrity like Oh Yeonhee, they all had their own justifications for monopolizing 3,000,000.

“No, why did you choose 30,000? You directly killed mutants, right? Then you deserve a reward equal to that. You don't need to pretend to be a good person for no reason.”

Seongbuk's Strongest Sword Lee Yoobin spoke with a slightly angered tone.

Of course, since Yeongwoo had no intention of needlessly provoking the Strongest Sword, he quickly waved his hands.

“No, I'm not trying to talk about who's good or bad. At that time, I also struggled a lot with choosing the 3,000,000 monopoly.”

“Then why bring it up now...?”

This time, Dongjak's Strongest Sword Lee Hanwook muttered under his breath.

Upon this, Yeongwoo finally got to the point.

“I just want to ask for your understanding. From now on, I will choose to distribute 30,000 karma in front of you all.”

“...!”

As expected, the Strongest Swords were shocked, so Yeongwoo continued without pause.

“Previously, there was a high probability that even bad people would receive 30,000 karma. But now?”

“...?”

“Thanks to all of you, isn’t order restored now? There may still be criminals, but there are far fewer than before. However, the need for money has increased.”

Like soothing children, Yeongwoo gently coaxed the gathered monsters from various places.

Of course, it was a well-known fact that all the resources allocated for the Strongest Sword, including personnel and vehicles, were all money.

“It doesn’t mean you have to choose 30,000 karmas from now on. Because 3,000,000 karma is by no means a small amount of money. However...”

After Yeongwoo said this much, he counted the number of people in this place with his fingers.

“There are nine people here including myself. If we receive 3,000,000 karma and divide it, how much will each person get?”

It wasn’t a complicated calculation.

Roughly 330,000 karma.

“At least for today, giving up that much money isn’t a big deal. If each of us gives up about 300,000, we can provide the residents of the area with several times their daily income.”

“Are you suggesting volunteer work at this time? Ha, we’re not UNICEF.”

Sure enough, Jang Jeongho, famous for being a scoundrel, grumbled with a wrinkled forehead.

But just now, someone was moved by Yeongwoo’s impromptu speech, and that was none other than...

“Um... If Strongest Sword chooses to distribute 30,000, where does that money go?”

It was Yongsan’s Strongest Sword Kim Doha.

Although the mutants came from Gangdong-gu, he asked just in case because the place where the deceased was located was Yongsan-gu.

“That’s....”

Yeongwoo hesitated.

He had never caught mutants from other areas.

So from Yeongwoo's perspective, he had to choose 30,000 karma even more.

This kind of data had to be obtained when there was an opportunity.

"To be honest, I don't know. This is my first time catching mutants from other areas."

"Ah...."

Because Yeongwoo gave such an honest answer, Yongsan's Strongest Sword couldn't continue to indulge him.

'He's quite good at speaking... Maybe he's not good at politics because he's still young.'

Although Jo Sangik, who had been quietly listening, thought so, Yeongwoo's honesty was not due to his lack of ability to handle situations.

"Well, I think that's enough explanation, right? I would be more than happy if money were distributed to Yongsan, our assembly hall, but Gangdong-gu will also become a member of the federation soon, right? It's not a big loss."

Fundamentally, it was because he had power.

If someone were to oppose him, he had the power to turn them into a corpse, just like Jeong Hyunsik did.

"Then I'll proceed under the assumption that there's no objection."

As Yeongwoo said this and manipulated the golden sphere, the other Strongest Swords only gaped.

'I feel dizzy.'

It was because his actions were so similar to those of the deceased Jeong Hyunsik.

Of course, Jeong Hyunsik, as Gangnam's Strongest Sword, wouldn't have distributed 30,000 karma to the elite Strongest Swords, but still.

Thunk!

Pah-aat!

In the meantime, Yeongwoo ordered the golden sphere to distribute 30,000 karma to the Strongest Swords, whether they liked it or not.

And then.

Kwaa-at!

The sphere quickly started spinning.

Piyung!

Suddenly, it soared into the sky, drawing a golden arc in the sky.

“Huh?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“Uh...!”

Except for Jo Sangik, all the Strongest Swords in Seoul were greatly shocked by the ‘malfunction’ of the sphere, something they had never seen before.

The ‘3,000,000 karma monopoly’ they had been choosing all along was all about the sphere disappearing from its place after the post-processing.

Shuaaaaa!

And the golden sphere that had risen to the dark side of the sky in the meantime...

Puperpung!

It exploded into a golden burst in front of the Strongest Swords eyes.

“Wow!”

“Oh my god.”

“It’s like a fireworks show.”

Dongdaemun, Mapo, Seongbuk, Songpa, Yongsan, Dongjak, Gwanak, Seocho.

The eight monsters of Seoul momentarily forgot their worries and watched as the sky was filled with golden light.

Then.

“Huh?”

As the golden threads in the sky...

Suaaaaa...!

As if rain, they fell to the ground.

Chelgeureok.

Some of the Strongest Swords felt something more than just surprise, dropping their weapons.

It was a sight too miraculous for an ordinary human to comprehend.

“...This is called a golden rain.”

Jo Sangik said, extending his palm through the golden raindrops.

And this was a subtle hint that he had seen a golden rain once before with the newly appointed Strongest Sword, implying a political statement as well.

“Oh, golden rain.”

“Golden rain....”

“Haha.”

Regardless of Jo Sangik's intentions, the bewildered Strongest Sword repeated the word 'golden rain' like babies learning a new word.

And finally.

《Jeong Yeongwoo07, the Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword, has given up the 3,000,000 karma monopoly and gifted 30,000 karma to all residents of Yongsan.》

《30,000 karma will soon be issued in the form of commemorative coins. Get ready.》

The commemorative coins, the final event of the golden rain show, were issued.

“Commemorative coins?”

The response came without exception.

As someone muttered this, Jo Sangik pretended to know once again.

“Pay attention and catch them as they appear in the blink of an eye.”

And indeed, with a clicking sound above everyone's heads, three golden coins appeared.

"Oh!"

"Wow!"

"What's this again?"

The Strongest Swords, who had been standing with bright expressions so far, showed ghost-like quick movements when the coins suddenly appeared.

Pop, pop, pop!

Then, after carefully examining the shape of the coins in their hands, as if they had made a promise, everyone looked at Yeongwoo.

This was because the face of Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword Jeong Yeongwoo was engraved on the coins.

Then Yeongwoo, looking at the commemorative coins in his own hands, calmly said.

"If you distribute 30,000 karma, you can also have your face engraved on the coins."

This symbolic currency was also easy to use as a political propaganda tool.

But everyone knew that no one in this gathering would easily attempt it.

Before the fact that it would be difficult to get back some of the coins distributed to residents, it was a matter of direction.

Choosing to distribute 30,000 and starting to receive some of the coins back would give the public significant power from that point on.

It was like politicians pretending to bow down to the people only during election season.

'Even the coins need to be collected every day.'

The Strongest Swords of Seoul felt a strong opposition to this.

On the other hand, if they chose the 3,000,000 monopoly.

'At least I'll be comfortable.'

'And I'll be the only one getting stronger.'

In a way, this was the fundamental reason why the Strongest Swords had been choosing the 300,000 monopoly without any other concerns.

They wanted to get stronger themselves.

Although becoming the strongest might be difficult, they still desired to reign as the absolute authority within their own districts, which led them to choose the karma monopoly.

So, from their perspective, Yeongwoo, who had been choosing to distribute 30,000 from the first selection, seemed really odd.

And Yeongwoo himself.

'If this continues, we won't last more than a few days. The mutants are becoming too powerful too quickly.'

Just now, Gangdong couldn't handle the mutants alone.

And the same was true for Gwanak.

Why couldn't those who had been monopolizing 3,000,000 karma every day perform their roles properly?

It was simple.

The difficulty of the survival game called the arrival of mutants exceeded the growth rate of each Strongest Sword.

So what should they do?

Just as Yeongwoo was pondering the dark future, a messenger rushed over to where the Strongest Swords were.

Tap-tat!

"It's... urgent news!"

[TL/N: Again? Seriously?]

"...?"

What's this now?

Standing still where the golden rain had ceased, the Strongest Swords wondered what news the messenger had brought.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 102

[Translator – Night]

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Chapter 102: Finally, Disaster (1)

“Emergency? What’s going on?”

As Yongsan’s Strongest Sword recognized the face of the other person and inquired, the sweating inspector spat out his words along with rough breaths.

“People came from Gwangjin and Jongno. They couldn’t stop the mutants.”

“What...?”

Gwangjin, Jongno.

Although they belonged to the existing Seoul Federation, the areas that couldn’t attend today’s meeting.

Also, due to the current system where communication is impossible and Pavels are used, there was always a time lag in all news.

In other words, the decision that Gwangjin and Jongno Districts were no longer safe was made tens of minutes ago.

“Gwangjin is right above our area. I guess I should go and see for myself.”

Sensing the seriousness of the situation, Songpa’s Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee, proposed to suspend the meeting.

She meant to go and protect her own district.

“There’s still no news from the Jung-gu district... It’s probably a similar situation, right?”

Jo Sangik, mentioned another area that hadn’t attended the meeting yet.

Upon hearing this, Sungbuk’s Strongest Sword, Lee Yoobin, and Dongdaemun’s Jang Jeongho widened their eyes.

Their districts were adjacent to both the central district and Jongno.

“What’s going on... What’s happening right now?”

“Don’t we need to go too?”

If you want to use the strongest in each district, then that district must exist.

The Strongest Swords in the crowd were trapped in a different type of fear than they had felt before.

“So, does that mean there are mutants alive in Gwangjin, Jongno, and the Jung-gu? It’s already well past 3 PM, isn’t it?”

Finally, someone voiced the fear that had been kept inside, and from that point on, the atmosphere began to grow restless.

“Uh... Then it’s been abandoned for almost two hours, right?”

“ ... ”

Mutants.

And they would likely be very fierce mutants.

They would have realized it as soon as they returned to this world.

That damned world was still hostile to them.

What the feelings of those mutants would be if as soon as they opened their eyes, they would have to fight against the Strongest Swords waiting for them.

And if such a mutant succeeded in defeating the swords sent by the world to kill them.

“ ... ”

The Strongest Swords who had reached this point in their thoughts each turned their heads in the direction of their own districts.

And seeing this, Yeongwoo quickly proposed the next course of action.

“Let’s split into three teams and go to the problem areas. Since we can’t hold a meeting in this situation, as Yeonhee said.”

“Th... That’s fine.”

“Let’s do that.”

The Strongest Swords accepted Yeongwoo’s proposal as if they had been waiting for it, and soon, Gwanak’s Strongest Sword, Jo Sangik, announced to the nine Strongest Swords gathered around him.

“Let’s split into groups of three based on nearby districts and go. If there’s any issue that requires a majority decision, we’ll send someone from Seoul National University. Let’s all stay alive.”

“Let’s do it.”

Since this issue was a common concern for all Strongest Swords, no one objected.

“Yeongwoo, you come with us to Gwangjin. Gangnam is also near Gwangjin.”

Soon, Oh Yeonhee invited Yeongwoo to accompany them.

And behind her was Choi Namhee from Seocho, who was already raising her fighting spirit.

“Huh.”

As a former detective, her hostility had risen sharply.

It was obvious that mutants left unattended for over two hours would have committed a significant number of murders.

“Now, let’s go. Once the issues in each area are resolved, send reports to Seoul National University or Yongsan!”

With Jo Sangik’s words, the nine Strongest Swords of Seoul scattered in three directions.

* * *

Seocho, Songpa, Gangnam.

It would be appropriate to call the Strongest Swords of these three areas the “Gangnam Trio.”

Thud!

The three Strongest Swords dispatched urgently to investigate the situation in Gwangjin raced recklessly without checking each other’s speed, as if in a race.

The first reason was naturally because there was a high risk that the problems in Gwangjin would spread to their respective areas.

The second reason was...

‘Why are they so fast?’

It was the pride typical of Strongest Swords.

Generally, if your abilities are high, your running speed will also be fast.

So, when Strongest Swords run side by side like this, the superiority of their abilities naturally becomes evident.

Yeongwoo had experienced this once in Chungju.

Of course, he wasn’t running with his own two feet now, but you get the idea.

Clack! Clack! Clack!

As Yeongwoo sat on Negwig’s back and looked back, he saw Oh Yeonhee and Choi Namhee, both looking angry for some reason, and their expressions stiffening.

And they were getting further and further away.

It was because the two of them couldn’t catch up with Negwig’s running speed.

Even if they were Strongest Swords of Seoul, they couldn’t defeat a top-grade vehicle from outer space.

‘I feel a bit sorry.’

While thinking this way, Yeongwoo resolved the problems one by one that he had been unable to do due to the situation at the meeting hall.

Among them was...

「Rock Guardian」 – Mutant Gem

【Slot: Reduces all physical damage】

It was the task of equipping the gem obtained by defeating Kim Taejoon as the mutant.

‘I wonder... Should I attach this to my armor?’

It was an absurd line, but it made sense to Yeongwoo.

「Self-Generation」 – Mutant grade

【You can live without eating.】

【Energy is self-generated】

【–Empty slot–】

There was actually a gem slot in his armor.

‘Do I have to eat this too? Or...’

As Yeongwoo held the gem in his hand and brought it near his abdomen, Choi Namhee, the Strongest Sword from Seocho who was watching from behind, furrowed her brow.

“What’s that bastard up to now...?”

The Oh Yeonhee, who had overheard her, let out a strange laugh.

“Watch your words. If the ears are good, what will you do?”

“...!”

Meanwhile, despite bringing the gem near his abdomen, nothing happened, and Yeongwoo was making another decision.

‘Let’s try eating this too.’

Then he immediately threw the “Rock Guardian” into his mouth.

“Ugh!”

Because the gem was larger and sharper than he expected, it caused cuts in his throat, but it wasn’t a big problem as it would heal soon.

The important thing was solely...

‘Will it work...?’

Piiiiing!

「Self-Generation」 – Mutant Camouflage

【You can live without eating.】

【Energy is self-generated】

【Reduce all physical damage】

‘...Oh, it worked!’

After confirming that the tooltip of his armor had changed, Yeongwoo let out a relieved sigh.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

If this method hadn’t worked as expected, he would have had to cut open his own abdomen this time.

‘Now, all that’s left is...’

[Jeweler’s Touch]

|Wear two rings of hero grade or higher on your index and ring fingers each. (3/4)

It was the achievement he had been holding onto for a long time.

Yeongwoo took out a memento from Jeong Hyunsik that he had carefully stored in his pocket.

「Wave」 – Unique Ring

[Voice transmission to the Strongest Sword of the acquisition area.]

| Area: Seoul

Then he carefully slid the ring onto his ring finger.

Swish.

Suddenly, both of Yeongwoo’s hands grasped the air.

Piiiiing!

“What?”

He was so startled that he almost fell, but there was a worthwhile gain.

[Achievement Unlocked: Jeweler’s Touch]

|Achievement Grade: Epic

|Rank Achieved: #2

‘At last.’

A line of achievement cleared after a long time.

However, it was unexpected that the rank achieved was second.

This meant that someone had gathered four hero-grade or higher rings before him.

‘Who could it be...? I don’t recall seeing anyone at the meeting wearing four rings each.’

Of course, it wasn’t immediately important.

Plop!

Soon, achievement rewards appeared in the air.

‘What’s this?’

Because the objects generated were smaller than expected, Yeongwoo hastily reached out to grab them.

Thud.

In his hand appeared circular objects even smaller than a crimson coin.

These items, about the size of a ten-won coin, were none other than...

「Void Stone」 – Epic tool

【Add slot to equipment.】

And there were even two of them.

‘Oh... Can they be added to any equipment? Can I punch two slots into one piece of equipment?’

Whatever the case, it was clear that it was a tool that allowed something previously impossible.

‘I should keep it for the equipment I’ll use for a lifetime...’

Yeongwoo naturally thought of the word ‘lifetime’ but then stopped abruptly.

“...”

Lifetime.

It was a thought that arose from wondering how long he could live in this world.

|Created: April 8, 1992, 11:41 PM, with involuntary intentional modifications.

|Extinction: November 7, 2028, 8:36 PM, beaten to death by a drunken attacker while returning home.

According to the original fate record before the reset, Yeongwoo could only live for three more years.

It was a story about living those three years in anticipation of the moment he would be beaten to death by an attacker on his way home.

But now...

Creak.

As Yeongwoo unknowingly tightened the reins, Negwig, sensing it, turned his head slightly.

Although they hadn't spent a long time together, at least the density of that time was high enough for Yeongwoo to notice that something was different from usual.

Squelch

When Yeongwoo didn't give any further instructions, Negwig turned his head back to the front.

And around this time...

Paaaah!

There was a change in the corner of the vision of the three Strongest Swords.

|Currently staying in the area: 'Gwangjin'.

|The Strongest Sword in this area is 'Kim Sangyoung 66'. 294th, 0 defenses.

They had finally arrived in the problematic district, Gwangjin.

“What the fuck.”

And soon, a string of coarse curses poured out of Choi Namhee's mouth.

"294th? This bastard...! Is this some kind of error?"

Although she seemed extremely angry, in reality, she was scared.

Choi Namhee knew well that there could be no errors in the system that constructed this world.

[The Strongest Sword in this area is 'Kim Sangyoung 66'. 294th, 0 defenses.

"Are you telling me the Strongest Sword has changed 293 times...? Is that possible?"

Oh Yeonhee, too, seemed incredulous at the state of affairs in Gwangjin, her mouth hanging open as she stared into space.

Still, she continued to follow Yeongwoo on the other side.

And Yeongwoo, leading the group, remained silent.

"..."

He had a more miserable expression than anyone else in this place.

From Gumi, Gyeongsangbuk-do, to Seoul.

Having passed through countless regions, he had witnessed such phenomena for the first time.

Kwoong!

Suddenly, a rumble was heard from a considerable distance, and the region status they were observing changed.

Pat.

[The Strongest Sword in this area is 'Kim Sungwoo102'. 295th, 0 defenses.

At this, one word escaped Yeongwoo's tightly closed lips.

"Ah."

The horrific incident in Gimcheon was being replicated in Seoul.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 103

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 103: Finally, Disaster (2)

「Hey, stand straight...!」

The thunderous voice peculiar to mutants echoed through the air.

Upon this, the people forming a line about ten meters long panicked and stood up straight.

This place is now in the middle of Children's Grand Park in Gwangjin-gu, Seoul.

And those standing in rows according to the mutant's orders were none other than the personnel from Gwangjin-gu Police Station and monster contractors.

Simply put, they were the second strongest individuals in Gwangjin-gu after the Strongest Sword.

They were the security personnel of Gwangjin-gu and the next vested interests.

But now, they were merely pawns in the mutant's plan.

「Alright, next!」

Cha Dooseong, a mutant on the third day in Gwangjin-gu, pointed his finger towards the human formation.

More precisely, he called forth someone bearing the title 'Gwangjin's Strongest Sword' over their head.

「Don't annoy me and come out quickly, before everyone else is killed.」

As the impatient mutant issued a threat, finally, a man tremblingly stepped out of the formation.

This man's name was Kim Seongwoo 102.

He was also the 295th Strongest Sword of Gwangjin-gu.

“Uh, ugh....”

His face was already soaked with tears, and his body was stiffened to the point where he couldn't walk properly.

Understandably so.

“....”

In the place he was called to, the 294th Strongest Sword lay fallen, having died in battle earlier.

And from that corpse, about four meters away, lay the beginning of all this calamity, Strongest Sword Jang Taemin⁰⁴, dead.

‘Fuck.’

Kim Seong-woo looked at the corpse of the first Strongest Sword with eyes full of sorrow.

If he hadn't lost to Cha Dooseong, he wouldn't have had to stand in this position as the 295th Strongest Sword.

But before facing Cha Dooseong in a real fight, the first Strongest Sword had sensed his impending defeat and hastily sent out a call, rallying all the forces of Gwangjin-gu.

In response, Kim Seongwoo and other skilled individuals from Gwangjin-gu answered the call, but it was already too late.

—Boom, Bang!

I still can't forget it.

The sound that echoed as I stepped into the Children's Grand Park to chase the mutant's mark.

Until then, Jang Taemin was still alive.

—Boom, Thud!

However, his limbs were all twisted back, rendering him unable to fight anymore.

And standing before the completely ruined body of Jang Taemin was a mutant, casting a long shadow over him.

Once the strongest presence in Gwangjin-gu, Jang Taemin's face continued to be hit.

—Boom... Thud.

[Sports Athlete – Cha Dooseong]

Upon seeing the mutant's name tag, the supporting troops froze in an instant.

Cha Dooseong.

He was a genius boxer, a former Olympic gold medalist in boxing.

However, due to his violent nature, he was expelled from the boxing world after causing assault incidents, and thereafter, he lived a downward spiral life, engaging in assault, extortion, vandalism, and other crimes.

So, it was only natural that such a person would become a candidate for elimination.

But who could have known?

Later, given the choice, Cha Dooseong chose to become a 'mutant' and returned to Gwangjin-gu on the third day of the reset.

Then he killed all the hundreds of skilled individuals from Gwangjin-gu who had come at Jang Taemin's call.

Nonetheless, still unable to calm his anger, he began to play with the remaining survivors.

A game known as the sparring of death.

If someone could dodge even one punch from Cha Dooseong, they could leave this place alive.

But of course, no one succeeded, and now it was Kim Seongwoo's turn.

「Over here.」

Finally, Cha Dooseong pointed with his pale finger at Kim Seongwoo.

Cha Dooseong, a mutant on the third day in Gwangjin-gu, was about two meters tall, resembling a ghoul, a monster that tears apart corpses.

“Phew... huff.”

Breathless.

After Kim Seong-woo stood in the designated spot, he closed his eyes tightly and then opened them again.

Given that he had been called up to this point... he must already consider himself dead.

As he glanced briefly at the back, he saw dozens of survivors watching him anxiously with equally restless expressions.

Soon, after he dies, the 296th Gwangjin Strongest Sword will be born among them.

“...Ah.”

His legs trembled.

Finally, he saw Cha Dooseong’s horrifying shadow cast by his own feet.

And then.

-Clank!

“Huh...?”

Beyond Cha Dooseong’s shoulders, a superhuman riding a black horse appeared from the direction of the park entrance.

* * *

Clack, clack!

A chilling sound of iron hooves, so unfamiliar it sent shivers down one’s spine.

The skilled individuals from Gwangjin-gu who were lined up in front of Cha Dooseong were in despair.

They thought another mutant had appeared.

But.

「What... what’s this god-awful smell?」

Seeing a fearful glint pass over Cha Dooseong’s face for the first time, their thoughts changed.

‘What... could it be?’

‘Isn’t there only one smell that mutants react to that much?’

‘...Mutant equipment.’

Indeed.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

In this world, only mutant-grade equipment with the scent of dead mutants could unsettle a mutant by smell alone.

[This equipment contains the scent of a mutant. Another mutant can detect and be wary of it.

In other words, the person approaching from the other side was not a mutant but someone wearing mutant equipment...

“Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword...?”

Someone in the audience read the purple title of the approaching opponent within visible range.

Then others, as if deranged, repeated the same word.

“Strongest Sword? Strongest Sword?”

“Strongest Sword has arrived?”

Then, at some point, the mood shifted slightly.

“Wait, where did Strongest Sword come from?”

Although it was a miracle that Strongest Sword appeared before everyone died, that alone wasn’t enough.

Because the Strongest Sword who appeared had to face none other than Cha Doo-seong, a former Olympic gold medalist in boxing who now possessed the powerful physique of a ghoul.

Seeing how he easily subdued Gwangjin Strongest Sword Jang Taemin as if breaking a twig, it was clear that any ordinary Strongest Sword was not going to be enough.

At least.

‘We need someone like Gangnam’s Strongest Sword...’

The moment the prospective deceased thought this, the Strongest Sword in question, who had approached within about twenty meters, leaped off his horse.

Thud!

Then, his black cloak fluttered, revealing the golden armor hidden beneath it.

“Huh.”

“...Oh?”

The golden equipment, including three pieces of Golden Gear, and even the Artifact Helmet, ‘Vanguard’ a reward of the Golden Route.

This Strongest Sword, or rather Jeong Yeongwoo⁰⁷, had appeared more convincingly than anyone else since the reset.

Though not perfect, he closely resembled a knight from fantasy.

Click.

As Yeongwoo finally touched the ground with his silver-white boots, Cha Dooseong, who had been only glancing back until then, straightened up fully.

「What are you?」

Cha Dooseong’s twisted nose snarled incessantly, the smell of the mutant equipment having become much stronger than before.

Though the Strongest Sword who was currently struggling over there emitted a disturbing smell, it was definitely not to this extent.

In other words, the newcomer this time was much stronger than the Strongest Sword he had killed just hours ago.

「What are you doing?」

Cha Dooseong asked, his tone much angrier than before.

Finally, Yeongwoo spoke up.

“Don’t you know? As far as I know, mutants can even read Hangul properly.”

Even Yeongwoo’s tone was sharp.

It was evident even without mixing words that this mutant had a twisted personality.

In addition to that, the hundreds of corpses scattered around the Children's Park... if one didn't get emotionally moved by that, they wouldn't be human.

"What's up? Come at me."

As Yeongwoo confirmed his opponent's height and pulled out Underdog, preparing to engage, Cha Dooseong, sensing something different about this one, tensed his body.

But then.

"Wait a moment!"

An unexpected figure intervened between the two monsters.

"...?"

As a startled Yeongwoo turned his head towards the source of the sound, the face of Gwangjin's Strongest Sword, Kim Seongwoo¹⁰², with a frightened expression, came into view.

And soon, the line that followed from his mouth was:

"Ho... Are you alone?"

"Yes...?"

A completely unreasonable question based on suspicion, asking if there really was only one of him.

"What about the others? Like Jeong Hyeonsik?"

"Ah."

Only now did Yeongwoo understand what his opponent was worried about and nodded briefly.

After all, he had seen the Gwangjin Strongest Sword suffer a crushing defeat earlier, and for nearly two hours, he had been humiliated by the mutant, so it could be considered a very natural reaction.

"Don't worry. Two more..."

Just as Yeongwoo was trying to reassure his opponent.

Swoosh!

With a tremendous noise, a sensory decay notification appeared.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the original 800 to 2,410.」

“...!”

Through this, it could be inferred that the opponent's sensory value was a whopping 3,220.

‘What, this guy. His stats are even higher than Kim Taejoon’s.’

Of course, Yeongwoo had not been idle during this time.

Currently, Yeongwoo's stats had once again increased due to the “Idealist” effect, and on top of that...

「Golden Oath」 - Legendary Breastplate

【Reduces enemy attack power by 50%.】

【Accumulated Golden Ratio: 6】

He even had a new suit of armor boasting overwhelming defensive capabilities.

Thanks to this.

Swish!

“...Huh.”

Yeongwoo, who had once lagged behind even in ordinary races among civilians, managed to avoid the punches of a boxing gold medalist.

「Is this...?」

Cha Dooseong wore an expression of disbelief.

Although there was a considerable distance between him and his opponent, he never dreamed he could dodge the punches like this.

「You lucky bastard.」

Eventually, Cha Dooseong, his pride scratched, assumed a full-fledged fighting stance, and just as Yeongwoo was about to face him with his sword, a quest notification suddenly sounded.

[Dogo] “Romanticism”

[Mission] Engage in a solo battle with Cha Dooseong using bare hands and win.

[Reward] 2 million karma

[Special] You must disclose the fact that you are supported by Dogo.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 104

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 104: Finally, Disaster (3)

“What...?”

Yeongwoo, upon seeing the quest details, doubted his eyes.

Even during the ‘Headhunter’ quest, where he had to sever the seven heads of Strongest Sword, it was somewhat blatant, but this time it was an outright real-time quest.

[Dogo] “Romanticism”

[Mission] Engage in a solo battle with Cha Dooseong using bare hands and win.

[Reward] 2 million karma

[Special] You must disclose the fact that you are supported by Dogo.

They did not specify the opponent as ‘Cha Dooseong’ outright.

This was evidence that the entity giving out the quest was observing their situation.

‘Why did they give me another quest when I haven’t even completed the first one yet...? Could it be that they didn’t like my choice?’

The first Dogo quest in Seoul, ‘Headhunter,’ occurred when all the Strongest Swords of the Seoul Federation gathered in one place.

In other words, what Dogo wanted to stage at that time was a showdown between the outsider, Jeong Yeongwoo, and the assembly of Strongest Sword.

A confrontation between the Strongest Sword supported by Dogo and the seven strongest individuals in Seoul.

The reward was a whopping 5 million karma.

‘It’s certainly a large sum of money, but... it’s not worth leaving Seoul defenseless.’

Perhaps that’s why this quest came about.

This time, Yeongwoo alone had to face the danger.

And the reward of 2 million was certainly not insignificant.

‘So, what I must absolutely observe to clear this quest is...’

[Mission] Engage in a solo battle with Cha Dooseong using bare hands and win.

‘Bare hands, solo battle...’

You can’t use weapons, and no one else can intervene in the fight.

‘More than anything, having a solo battle is probably the most difficult. The two of them will be here soon.’

Sure enough, at that moment, there was a sudden movement behind Yeongwoo.

Tap!

Finally, Songpa’s Strongest Sword and Seocho’s Strongest Sword arrived at the scene.

“No, this crazy bastard.”

As expected, Seocho’s Choi Namhee, a former detective, rolled her eyes in exasperation.

Seeing the bodies piled up like mountains in the park, she was furious.

Shwaaaack!

As she immediately drew her sword, Yeongwoo stepped back from Cha Dooseong and simultaneously blocked Choi Namhee.

“Ms. Namhee, hold on a moment!”

“What...?”

Choi Namhee, momentarily annoyed, spat out.

She was annoyed because her flow was interrupted, even though she could start smashing the mutant's head right away.

But since Yeongwoo would lose 2 million immediately if Choi Namhee intervened, he had to at least make up some nonsense to ensure a solo battle.

“I want to fight first. Alone.”

“....?”

“What are you talking about?”

Even Oh Yeonhee, who was maintaining some composure, widened her eyes.

It was a completely incomprehensible story even in common sense.

The survivors of Gwangjin-gu, who had been unable to say anything until now, erupted into chaos as if they were driven to the edge of a cliff.

“Why alone?”

“Why suddenly like this? Why now of all times?”

“Don't he know who the opponent is...?”

A situation of madness where nothing comes to mind except for the word ‘crazy.’

Amidst this, the only one laughing was Cha Dooseong, the mutant.

「He's really an interesting guy.」

Although there was a gut feeling that this tough guy with a strange title wouldn't be an ordinary opponent, it didn't make him afraid.

The former Gwangjin's Strongest Sword he had faced earlier was so weak.

So, even if he were to face a Strongest Sword from another region, they wouldn't be much stronger than a dead man.

「Indeed, unless it's a time like this, there won't be a chance to fight against someone like me. Stupid, but brave.」

Then Oh Yeonhee, sticking closely behind Yeongwoo, spoke with a grimace.

“Are you really crazy? Does it make sense to deliberately fight alone? What’s going on?”

To this, Yeongwoo alternated looks between her and Choi Namhee and said,

“I have achievements to fulfill. I feel like I won’t be able to resolve them if not now. Please understand.”

“Even so, this…”

“If it really doesn’t seem right, I’ll request support. Please help me then.”

“…”

Even so, the expressions of the two Strongest Swords were still difficult to persuade.

There is a time and place for everything.

But since the new Strongest Sword insisted on fighting alone, there was no reason to break the harmony by insisting otherwise.

“He’s really out of his mind.”

Eventually, Oh Yeonhee raised both hands, and following her, Seocho’s Strongest Sword Choi Namhee also stepped back.

“If it seems like you’re falling behind, we’ll step in right away.”

“Yes. Understood.”

Thus began the solo duel between Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword and the mutant Cha Dooseong.

However, the real shocking event was just beginning.

As Yeongwoo stood in front of Cha Dooseong, he put the Underdog he had been holding in his hand on the ground and assumed a combat stance, following his opponent.

It was such a sloppy posture that it was evident he didn’t even know the ‘stance’ of combat.

So, eventually,

「Kkuukukkk...!」

Cha Dooseong, who was staring blankly at him, burst into laughter.

「You're going to fight like that with me?」

Then, in an instant, his face turned cold.

「This bastard... Does he think I look like a fool just because he avoided one punch by chance earlier?」

Before becoming a mutant, Cha Dooseong was a human, a boxing player proud of his fists and medals.

Therefore, he felt extreme humiliation that someone who couldn't even properly hold a stance dared to challenge him to a fistfight.

「I'll beat you until every bone in your body is shattered.」

Then, with a sharp gleam in his eyes, Cha Dooseong rushed towards Yeongwoo.

Thud!

A forward step worthy of a gold medalist.

Choi Namhee, the only one here who had trained in martial arts, immediately realized Cha Dooseong's movements and grabbed his forehead.

“You bastard, you're really crazy.”

These words were directed at Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword Jeong Yeongwoo.

To dare to challenge a top-tier boxer bare-handed was madness, indeed.

Moreover, Cha Dooseong now had the body of a ghoul, standing at a towering height of 2 meters.

Therefore, due to the significant reach difference, a close-range fight itself was impossible.

In almost every situation, he would be the one to take the first hit.

And now, Yeongwoo was keenly feeling that as well.

“Phew.”

As Yeongwoo exhaled within his clumsy guard, the fist came flying in from a much farther distance than he had thought.

Swish!

The fist was so fast that it momentarily made a whip-like sound, and sensing it, Oh Yeonhee adjusted her sword stance.

It seemed like it wouldn't work.

However.

Swoosh!

Yeongwoo, who had been standing with a sloppy pose until now, suddenly raised his guard tightly and bent both knees.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Then his upper body naturally descended in a diagonal line.

Whoosh!

Simultaneously, Cha Dooseong's fist swept through the space where Yeongwoo's head had been, missing its target.

“...!”

Yeongwoo had evaded the opponent's fist once again.

So, what just happened was...

“...Ducking.”

Choi Namhee murmured involuntarily.

It was one of the basic evasion techniques in boxing, typically used to avoid straight attacks like jabs while aiming for a counterattack.

In other words,

‘If he has used it correctly by now...’

With an inexplicable sense of anticipation, Choi Namhee widened her pupils as Yeongwoo's upper body, lowered in ducking position, rotated like a slanted ring.

‘What...?’

Though it was amateurish, it was clearly a predictive weaving for the opponent's follow-up.

Currently, Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword is showing the level of game management at least at the level of a city-level regional competition in terms of tactics alone.

「You bastard!」

Cha Doo-seong's right straight cut through the air in anger.

Damn it!

Since Youngwoo's upper body was already rotating at an angle, he ended up narrowly splitting the empty space again.

「What...?」

At this point, Cha Dooseong was convinced.

His opponent had some inexplicable ability.

Every time he reached out his fist, he couldn't describe it, but he felt a sudden decrease in attack speed and power.

And judging by all the skills the opponent had demonstrated so far, it was clear that this was purely a hoax caused by that unknown ability.

「You... what the hell.」

Just as Cha Dooseong was about to voice his suspicion.

Thunk!

Yeongwoo's upper body, which was in the midst of weaving, came to a halt.

Wham!

From bottom to top.

A rather weighty light uppercut shot out.

“Wow...!”

Seeing this, Choi Namhee’s mouth, which had been gaping wide open, widened even further.

To face a boxing gold medalist and deliver a ducking, weaving, uppercut combo.

And not even taking a single hit in between.

To Choi Namhee, it looked like a miracle in itself.

And then...

「....Damn」

For Cha Dooseong, who had lived his whole life as a boxing genius, this was nothing short of a disaster.

Shwooat!

Of course, due to Cha Dooseong’s body bent in evasion, Yeongwoo’s uppercut ended up cutting through the air, accomplishing nothing.

At least, it was too obvious a pattern for Cha Dooseong.

But the important thing was.

“What, what’s...?”

“Is that guy also a boxer?”

“What’s happening?”

Like the reactions of the Gwangjin survivors, at least from the outside, it seemed like the fight between the two was making sense.

Moreover, Yeongwoo was gradually getting more accustomed to ‘bare-handed combat.’

‘Ha... Is this worth it?’

Although he was currently moving clumsily as instructed by ‘Rohm’s Bottom,’ he could instinctively feel it.

If he could properly execute this instruction, he would be able to bring down the opponent sufficiently.

“Huu...”

Meanwhile, the hologram in front of him was once again assuming a fighting stance.

It was time for another round against the mutant boxer.

‘Is he still using boxing style again...? Even if so, wouldn’t it be better to wrestle instead, considering the opponent is a gold medalist...?’

Yeongwoo silently questioned his martial arts inwardly.

Wasn’t tackling not very effective against Jeong Hyunsik back then?

But naturally, there was no answer coming back.

‘Right. Let’s give it another shot.’

As the hologram in front of him took a forward step this time, Yeongwoo stretched his leg forward blindly.

Then, this time, Cha Dooseong prepared to counter the attack with ducking as the opponent’s attack came out.

Swoosh.

He was planning to dodge to the side while the opponent’s attack was coming out, thinking of throwing a check hook.

If things went well, he could hit the throat or jaw directly and knock them down.

Thus began the third match between the two fighters.

Thud!

Eventually, Illusion that wrapped around Yeongwoo’s foot pushed forcefully against the ground.

「.....!」

The moment Cha Dooseong interpreted it as a forward one-two and pulled his chin and upper body downwards.

Boom!

Suddenly, Yeongwoo’s right foot kicked off the ground, sending his knee bouncing into the air.

It was a flying knee kick, prepared by Rohm's Bottom, fighting like a prisoner.

「This son of a...!」

Cha Dooseong hurriedly raised both arms to protect his face, thinking like this.

‘W... Wasn't this boxing rules?’

Before the monologue in his head could finish, a flying knee kick struck his guard.

Kwaaaah!

Then, shortly after, a trembling voice came from behind Jeong Yeongwoo's knee.

“This battle is supported by Dogo, a galactic-scale weapon brand...”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 105

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 105: Finally, Disaster (4)

No one here would have any disagreement.

The fact is that everyone is now witnessing a bizarre scene that is difficult to see twice in one's life.

Kwaaak!

The boxing gold medalist who had manifested into a ghoul was delivered a flying knee kick by Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword.

Then, strange lines, so absurd that they seemed terrifying, flowed from the Strongest Sword's mouth.

“This battle is supported by the intergalactic weapon brand Dogo... I am Jeong Yeongwoo 07, the strongest in Gyeongbuk and Gangnam, representing humanity on Earth.”

“Ah...?”

“What?”

Songpa’s Strongest Sword, Seocho’s Strongest Sword, and dozens of masters from Gwangjin-gu all opened their mouths at the same time.

Incomprehensible.

Is this what they call fear of the unknown...?

Forgetting for a moment that he was also human before being a mutant, Cha Dooseong stared blankly at the local Strongest Sword in front of him.

「What... did you just say?」

However, Yeongwoo was preoccupied with something else.

‘What’s this?’

He just realized that Cha Dooseong’s arms, which blocked the knee kick, were wrapped in a gray metal armor.

So, this is probably...

‘Oh, it’s a weapon. Because this person doesn’t have a sword.’

Is that why?

Even though there was clearly hostile physical contact, Cha Dooseong seemed to be unaffected by the pain.

Just like Kim Taejoon’s granite exterior, Cha Dooseong’s arms were also being treated as both weapons and armor.

‘If that’s the case, I have to break through the guard and land an effective hit.’

While Yeongwoo was thinking this way, Rohm signaled the next move.

It was none other than...

‘...Low kick?’

From the start, these cunning and vicious prisoners had no intention of using anything but their fists against the boxers.

Since a hologram was already striking Cha Dooseong’s left leg heavily, Yeongwoo swiftly moved his body.

Hyaat!

As Yeongwoo twisted his pelvis to kick low, Cha Dooseong noticed and withdrew his body smoothly.

「This bastard.」

He then looked at Yeongwoo with a puzzled expression.

It was because he felt that this martial charlatan surprisingly knew well about boxing evasion techniques.

Boxers generally maintain a wide gap between their legs.

About 1.5 times wider compared to the basic stance of a kickboxer.

This is necessary to control the weight distribution, which moves rapidly due to punches, ducking, weaving, and so on, in a stable manner.

As a result, they were naturally vulnerable to attacks targeting the legs like low kicks.

Hyaeek!

Even to Yeongwoo's clumsy low kick, Cha Dooseong reacted excessively.

「You...」

But who was Cha Dooseong?

He was once at the pinnacle as a boxer.

Moreover, because he had been involved in all sorts of disputes and fights even after being expelled from the boxing world, he was not only skilled in combat as a sport.

Shaaat!

Eventually, Cha Dooseong slipped away sideways, disappearing from Yeongwoo's sight.

“...!”

Yeongwoo quickly twisted his body to chase after Cha Dooseong.

Hyaeek!

But it was too late, as a body hook shot out from the position already occupied by the opponent in his field of view.

Pweeooeok!

“Oof...!”

For a moment, he felt intense pain in his side.

“Ha... huh?”

But soon, all the pain disappeared.

「Berserker」 – Mutant Charm

[Ignore a certain level of pain.]

Due to the overwhelming strength of Cha Dooseong’s punch, ‘Berserker’ blocked the pain.

「...Huh?」

Cha Dooseong felt discomfort once again.

To his surprise, as he instinctively weaved, Yeongwoo’s elbow flashed over his head like lightning.

‘Crazy, he’s really something else.’

Yeongwoo admired inwardly as he watched Cha Dooseong evade once again.

Then...

Baaack!

Once again, an uppercut came from below, hitting his chin and lifting his head upward.

“Ugh!”

As Cha Dooseong withdrew his upper body with a weave, he simultaneously threw a left uppercut.

Hit squarely on the chin, Yeongwoo’s vision completely lifted upwards, leaving him vulnerable to the opponent’s follow-up.

The liver shot, also known as the ‘body shot.’

Pwong!

With an unbelievable sound of impact, Cha Dooseong's punch completely scrambled Yeongwoo's organs.

"Cough!"

Blood gushed from his mouth as if it were flowing back through his esophagus.

Since Yeongwoo's blood was practically toxic, contact had to be avoided, but Cha Dooseong didn't know that.

「You bastard, die.」

Thinking he had finally broken through the opponent's 'luck,' Cha Dooseong smoothly swung a left hook as Yeongwoo's head, drenched in blood, descended back due to gravity.

Hyaeek!

「You son of a bitch!」

Taeaeaeang!

A strange sound rang out from Yeongwoo's head as it was struck by the hook.

「Vanguard」 – Relic Helmet

【This helmet does not get damaged.】

This is because the helmet covering Yeongwoo's head was equipment that could not be 'damaged'.

Of course, that didn't stop his kinetic energy, so Yeongwoo's head turned violently and blood spurted out.

"Pugh!"

「Huh? What...?」

A strange sensation he had never felt before in his life.

Then, suddenly, excruciating pain engulfed his entire body.

「Agh...!」

Nevertheless, even in this situation, Cha Dooseong didn't forget that he was in a match, no, in a duel.

He quickly stepped back to increase the distance between him and his opponent.

Truly, the epitome of mental strength.

'Oh my god.'

Yeongwoo was astonished at two things.

First, Cha Dooseong's incredible mental fortitude as seen before, and second.

Tatat!

Amidst this, 'Rohm's Bottom' was casting a spell to kick Cha Dooseong's left leg.

'A martial art that's essentially based on the floor.'

Yeongwoo thought this while already launching a retaliatory low kick following the hologram.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Rushing towards the opponent, who couldn't even properly open his eyes due to experiencing the taste of agony.

"You're done for!"

As Yeongwoo willingly became one with Rohm's Bottom, he mercilessly lunged at Cha Dooseong, causing a brief but palpable anxiety among the audience.

However.

「Ugh!」

Cha Dooseong was much more vicious than people had anticipated.

Feeling a threatening aura beyond the shredded view, he rather attacked Yeongwoo.

It was a brawl driven purely by physicality and determination.

Hyaet!

As Cha Dooseong closed the distance, Yeongwoo's low kick only grazed his thigh.

Meanwhile.

Thunk!

Planting his foot firmly on the ground with a forward step, Cha Dooseong immediately swung his upper body and unleashed a short hook.

Essentially, it was a response akin to hoping for a lucky punch when cornered during a match.

However, it was the best course of action for now.

Leaving the distance open would only allow continuous low kicks.

「Gaaah... ..!」

As Cha Dooseong started the fight with a scream that was unclear whether it was a shout or a scream, Rohm's bottom ordered Yeongwoo to backstep.

Retreating to set up a slow barrage of low kicks.

However.

“...Fuck it.”

Yeongwoo didn't heed the advice of the legendary martial arts.

Firstly, because he knew he could win without going that far, and secondly, he wanted to quickly put a stop to that bastard's antics.

The notorious 'stubborn' tendencies recognized by the system emerged again.

“Fuck it, that's enough.”

Boooom!

Eventually, as Yeongwoo began to mix it up with Cha Dooseong, something unexpected happened.

Ding!

The distinctive notification sound of the Dogo quest rang out, and a system message appeared.

《Quest rewards have been increased.》

Indeed, the ‘Romanticism’ reward had risen from 2 million karma to 3 million.

[Dogo] “Romanticism”

[Mission] Engage in a solo battle with Cha Dooseong using bare hands and win.

[Reward] 3 million karma

[Special] You must disclose the fact that you are supported by Dogo.

“Huh...?”

It was such a surprising event in the midst of the brawl that Yeongwoo was momentarily stunned, and as a result, Cha Dooseong’s heavy hook grazed his head, eliciting yet another fountain of blood.

“Arrgh!”

Thunk-thunk!

Blood soared into the sky, then quickly rained down on Yeongwoo and Cha Dooseong.

The audience murmured in disbelief at the sight.

“What the...?”

The scene before them had become so bizarre that it was no longer recognizable as a fight.

And at this point, Rohm’s Bottom also relented to Yeongwoo’s stubbornness and presented an alternative.

Thunk!

As the hologram, which was stepping back, realigned itself, it began to throw a hook while stepping on Cha Dooseong’s left foot.

“Ah.”

Sensing that the brutal fight was coming to an end, Yeongwoo immediately followed the guide.

Kwaak!

As Yeongwoo stepped on Cha Dooseong's outstretched left foot, the dynamics of the brawl changed drastically.

With Cha Dooseong's left foot pinned down, the movement of his left ankle was naturally restricted, reducing the effectiveness of all attacks involving the lower body.

On the other hand, Yeongwoo could still unleash most of his attacks with full force.

Thud, thwack!

From then on, it was essentially like hitting a frozen piece of meat tethered to a ring.

「Urgh!」

Despite being a gold medalist, Cha Dooseong showed a decent guard rate even in such situations.

However...

Due to the accumulation of too much damage from the previous brawl and pain infliction, even his sturdy guard gradually weakened.

Thud!

When Yeongwoo suddenly started focusing on attacking his abdomen, the pain from that area became too much to ignore, and Cha Dooseong occasionally lowered his guard completely to defend his abdomen.

‘It's over.’

This was a fact even Yeongwoo, who wasn't familiar with boxing, could understand.

The opponent's face was completely messed up.

Thud, whack!

As the essentially one-sided beating continued, survivors from Gwangjin District began to open their mouths one by one.

“Ah...”

It was because they sensed the impending doom.

It was reminiscent of the scene they witnessed when they first arrived at this park in response to the call of Gwangjin's Strongest Sword.

That vicious violence was now being fully reciprocated upon Cha Dooseong.

Thwack, smack!

“...”

Yet, no one in this place felt joy or amusement at this.

Thwack.

“...”

Eventually, when Cha Dooseong's legs lost their strength, he knelt on the ground, and Yeongwoo grabbed his head with both hands.

Crack.

Then...

Swoosh!

This time, Yeongwoo precisely delivered a flying knee to Cha Dooseong's forehead.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 106

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 106: Finally, Disaster (5)

Thunk!

An ominous sound of impact.

Then, a rough sensation was transmitted to Yeongwoo's palm, which was wrapped around Cha Dooseong's head.

It was because Cha Dooseong's skull was shattered, causing his scalp to twist.

He was probably dead from that blow.

“...Ugh.”

As Yeongwoo shuddered and withdrew his hand from his opponent, Cha Dooseong's hefty body slumped to the ground.

Boom!

Then, a beam of white light shot up from his head.

Paaaat!

It was evidence that the mutant had died.

“.....”

Perhaps that was the mutant's soul.

Yeongwoo watched until the light from Cha Dooseong's body completely disappeared into the sky.

Then, shortly after.

Ping!

With a brief notification sound, the quest completion message appeared.

[Quest Completed – “Romanticism”]

[Reward Issued]

|3,000,000 Karma

As promised, the reward had been increased to 3,000,000 Karma, and once again, it was provided in the form of...

Swish!

A credit card.

“Huh?”

“Ugh...!”

As a piece of iron rapidly descended from the sky, everyone except Yeongwoo panicked.

To them, it seemed like a small blade was falling.

But Yeongwoo, who was already receiving his second reward, anticipated the location where the card would arrive and waited.

Thud.

He lightly picked up the card, which stopped precisely 1.5 meters above the ground.

Then, the number 3,000,000 floated above the card.

“3 million...?”

Sure enough, Seocho’s Strongest Sword Choi Namhee, who sensed that it was some kind of payment, muttered with widened eyes.

Receiving 3 million in one lump sum was something that could only be encountered through the “Binary Choice” quest.

But this time, even before touching the golden orb, this distant Strongest Sword had somehow pulled money from somewhere.

“What is this? What in the world...?”

As if urging Yeongwoo to listen, Choi Namhee muttered aloud.

However, Yeongwoo didn’t have the confidence to explain to them about universal brands or anything like that.

“.....”

He omitted an explanation about the “card” and placed his hand on the orb.

“I’ll invoke the Golden Ratio once again. Any objections?”

It was practically a notification from Yeongwoo.

Despite overlooking the fact that Yeongwoo had fought this battle entirely on his own, no one dared to raise objections to him, who was covered in blood.

And above all, even to the Strongest Swords, Yeongwoo seemed different.

‘Who is this person, and what is he doing...?’

Songpa’s Strongest Sword Oh Yeonhee’s gaze turned toward the sky where the card had been shot down from earlier.

Once you become a Strongest Sword who has killed a mutant three days in a row, it's natural to develop curiosity about the structure of this world.

It was only natural that interest in Karma, the common currency of the reset world, would grow.

But to think that there was someone who received Karma falling from the sky...?

Something beyond curiosity was bound to arise.

"I guess Gwangjin-gu needs a lot of money to recover from the damage."

In the end, Oh Yeonhee nodded on behalf of everyone in the audience, and Yeongwoo manipulated the golden orb upon seeing it.

[Distribute 30,000 Karma to all residents in the area]

The orb that received Yeongwoo's command quickly trembled and then, as always, burst into the sky.

Boom!

Already, it was the third time the golden rain had fallen over Seoul.

As the golden light that dyed the sky began to fall to the ground, the survivors of Gwangjin-gu opened their mouths in awe.

And the two Strongest Swords who had followed Yeongwoo also marvelled once again.

As humans, it was inevitable.

"Hmm. It's still amazing to see."

"Judging from the fact that this rain only falls when distributing 30,000, it seems."

Oh Yeonhee was about to add more words, but she closed her mouth.

She almost let her thoughts slip out unintentionally.

Perhaps this was the 'answer'.

《Gyeongbuk' Strongest Sword 'Jeong Yeongwoo07' gave up his monopoly on 3 million karma and gifted 30,000 karma to all Gwangjin residents.》

《Soon, 30,000 Karma will be paid in the form of commemorative coins. Get ready.》

Then, the commemorative coins, the final event of the golden rain, were created.

Pop, pop!

For the survivors of Gwangjin-gu, who had their lives saved thanks to Yeongwoo, and likewise for the two Strongest Swords who had lost at least 1 million in bonuses because of Yeongwoo, coins with this troublemaker's face engraved on them were given in threes.

"Uh..."

"....."

As Seocho and Songpa Strongest Swords looked fixedly at the now familiar 'Jeong Yeongwoo coin,' the originator of the portraits approached and spoke.

"Thank you for your understanding."

Of course, as he was still covered in blood, the two Strongest Swords facing Yeongwoo could only give awkward smiles.

"Well, is it all over now? Have you received all the rewards? What about equipment?"

Choi Namhee subtly aimed for item distribution, but it was hopeless.

"Yes. Since we agreed to return to our respective areas after finishing the job, I guess I'll go to Gangnam."

After saying this, Yeongwoo looked at the Gwangjin-gu inspectors standing awkwardly on the other side.

"What about Gwangjin-gu now? It's practically without a Strongest sword."

As Yeongwoo said, Gwangjin-gu was now literally desolate.

Although the survival infrastructure represented by 'residence' was preserved thanks to the mutants not venturing outside the children's park, there were no Strongest Sword to stop tomorrow's mutant.

"That's right."

"Yes. This is the first time we've encountered such a situation..."

Seocho and Songpa Strongest Swords showed simultaneous expressions of embarrassment.

They had never thought that the Strongest Swords would be unable to defeat the mutants.

But starting today, the third day of the reset, things began to happen.

Then what would happen on the fourth day tomorrow?

“.....”

The Strongest Swords realized once again that the reset was a ‘disaster’.

And those who were not Strongest Swords had been living in disaster from the beginning.

“We should start retrieving the bodies. Thanks to those who were here, the residents of the area were not harmed.”

Choi Namhee said, thinking like a former police officer.

Upon this, Songpa’s Oh Yeonhee told Yeongwoo.

“Gangnam might not be in a state of chaos right now. We’ll handle it here and ask for manpower from the Yongsan area, so go see for yourself.”

“Is it okay, though? Then I’ll be in your debt for now.”

After bowing to the two Strongest Swords and the inspectors of Gwangjin-gu, Yeongwoo immediately summoned Negwig.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Then, in the distance, Negwig, who had been emitting a strong sense of unease, came running and stood before Yeongwoo.

Squeak!

And then.

Peek!

Golden goblin, who had secretly massaged the body of the Gwangjin Strongest Sword, came running.

‘What were you doing?’

Seeing this, Yeongwoo realized after a moment.

‘...Ah.’

He had been distracted by the grim sight of the Grand Park and hadn’t bothered to collect the ‘spoils.’

It was a cruel story, but even the deceased Gwangjin Strongest Sword, who had been killed by Cha Dooseong, would have had their own signature equipment.

Chuckle!

Moreover, there was something inside the partially open dimensional pouch of the golden goblin.

Probably the deceased’s belongings.

It was something that couldn’t be done as a human, but ironically, the golden goblin wasn’t human, nor was it even from Earth.

“P-Please wait!”

Though the 295th Gwangjin’s Strongest Sword came running belatedly to see them off...

Swoosh!

Yeongwoo had already left, just like an arrow shot by a goblin.

* * *

The current time, 4:14 PM.

Although he was in a precarious position riding on a horse from another world, Yeongwoo felt genuinely peaceful.

From being the roommate of Im Bonghee, the r*pist who hid his past, to the present, there had been too much going on.

And during all those events, Yeongwoo had never let his guard down, mainly because he was always in the position of the weak or the challenger.

But now...

Swoosh, swoosh!

As Negwig carrying Yeongwoo left a black trail and passed through the intersection of the Konkuk University entrance, the people standing by the roadside stared blankly at the spot where the unidentified object had passed, startled.

Although the speed was so fast, they couldn't understand what they had just seen due to the strange appearance of the target.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo felt a deep sense of relief that he was no longer under threat in this world, even if he caused a bit of trouble.

At least there would be no need to risk his life anymore, at least not today.

'Until the grand announcement, there's still over three hours left. I'll take a break for once.'

Swoosh!

Passing through Konkuk University, crossing Dukseom Bridge, and finally reaching Gangnam via Cheongdam Bridge, Yeongwoo's dilated pupils suddenly widened.

"Huh?"

People dressed in suits were lined up on both sides of the 1.2-kilometer-long Cheongdam Bridge.

'Could they be Taewon Group employees?'

Of course, judging by the fact that some were leaning on the railing or sitting on the ground, they seemed to be taking a break.

Perhaps they had sent out surveillance teams to every bridge without knowing which one the new Gangnam Strongest Swords would use.

Regardless, as time passed, it became clear that they were Taewon Group employees.

Swoosh!

As Negwig made a grand entrance onto Cheongdam Bridge, the people who had been absent-mindedly standing there quickly reformed their ranks.

And most importantly...

Swoosh-

About 200 meters ahead, at the center of the bridge, seeing people struggling to raise something, it was clear.

Crackle!

『We welcome Jeong Yeongwoo's inauguration as Gangnam's Strongest Sword.』

– All executives and employees of Taewon Group

It was none other than a banner.

A welcome banner for Jeong Yeongwoo's inauguration as Gangnam's Strongest Sword in the reset world...

Although it was handwritten, it gave off a more corporate vibe because of it.

You could glimpse the stubbornness and desire to somehow implement something from the previous world.

“Welcome! Jeong Yeongwoo...!”

Soon, all the Taewon Group members bowed respectfully towards the Strongest Swords passing by on horseback, and Yeongwoo entered Gangnam like a victorious general.

* * *

At the same time, on the outskirts of Bugok-dong in Gumi City, Gyeongsangbuk-do.

A boy appeared, holding a long staff, in an area where the Gyeongbu Expressway connecting Gimcheon and Gumi passes through.

“Phew, it's still the same here.”

His hands were full of calluses, and his legs seemed even more ruggedly used.

After glancing at the regional situation in the air, the boy looked at two red pillars dominating the airspace over Gumi.

Then.

“It seems the old man really went to Seoul.”

With a strange smile, he stretched his bare feet inward towards Gumi City.

[The current area you are in is 'Gumi.'

[There is no Strongest Sword in this area.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 107

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 107: On a Pitch-Black Night (1)

Gumi, Gyeongsangbuk-do.

A memorable place where Yechan and Yeongwoo had their first battle against monsters, as well as where they received the 'existing fate record'.

Of course, Yechan didn't revisit this place out of nostalgia.

He came here purely for one reason.

'Two of them. It's a windfall.'

By now, he judged that there would be a pile of mutants or descendants of monsters in the Gyeongsangbuk-do area.

As expected, there were two mutant markers in Gumi.

'On the 2nd and 3rd day, those guys are probably together, right?'

If that's the case, caution was necessary.

Because by the 3rd day of the reset, the gap in combat power between mutants had become significant.

Just today, he managed to catch about four mutants of the 3rd day, but one of them was unusually strong.

'There isn't a single monster.'

Yechan quickly crossed Gumi City and confirmed that there were no blue pillars of light visible around.

'Hmm.'

There are mainly two reasons why there are no monsters in a neglected city like this.

First, it could be because monster hunters who roam neglected cities like this have swept through.

However, since hunters who search on a city-wide scale generally have a large number of members, it was almost impossible not to encounter mutants.

And secondly, it could be because the mutants themselves drove out the monsters.

‘Probably this one.’

Now Yechan was quite the expert in this world.

After parting ways with Yeongwoo, Gumi’s Strongest Sword, he explored numerous cities and towns.

On the 2nd day of the reset, Yechan, who had parted ways with Yeongwoo, headed not to Seoul but rather to Jeonbuk.

It wasn’t a clear plan; it was the result of vaguely stepping on the pedal with the thought of standing alone from now on.

Also, due to the fact that people are more frightening than monsters, there was also the instinctual desire to head to areas where human presence seemed scarce.

And before long, he realized.

Jeonbuk, Chungnam, Gyeongbuk...

The regions corresponding to the central layer of this country’s terrain became ruins one by one starting from the 2nd day of the reset.

There could be various reasons, but it was mostly because the Strongest Swords of those regions moved elsewhere or died.

For some reason, most Strongest Swords started to move to metropolitan areas like Seoul or Busan after experiencing the first day of the reset.

And this was true not only for the Strongest Swords but also for the residents of those regions.

Is it a human instinct?

Wanting to stay in places with many people if possible.

“.....”

For Yechan, who had the opposite tendency, it was hard to understand.

Anyway, because the majority left for big cities, the areas Yechan visited were all filled with monsters and mutants.

Thanks to that, sometimes he witnessed the astonishing sight of mutants and monsters waging war.

Of course, on the other hand, there were also cases where monsters negotiated with mutants to obtain territorial rights.

‘It’s definitely an area to avoid stepping foot in.’

So, Yechan targeted areas where only monsters remained because mutants had left for other regions first.

By catching just a few monsters separated from the group, he could significantly increase his abilities.

And when he grew to the point where it was difficult to die against monster opponents, he challenged mutants for the first time.

A snake-shaped mutant perched on the roof of the Muju County Office.

[Muju County Governor – Song Iktae]

Despite his terrifying appearance, his actual power wasn’t that impressive.

Strictly speaking, Yechan, who had caught about a hundred monsters for this challenge, was in an overpowered state.

Easily dispatching the first mutant than expected, Yechan chose 3 million karma without hesitation, and from then on, it was smooth sailing.

Everything encountered in the ruined city was all about money.

20,000 karma for each monster, 3 million for a mutant.

From the 3rd day onward, he began meeting traders who had come from various places, buying equipment and martial arts skills, and as a result, he reached his current state.

A nameless powerhouse roaming around Gyeongsangbuk-do and Jeollabuk-do.

He didn’t even have a single title of a Strongest Sword, but his total stats were unparalleled.

However, he rarely encountered anyone, so he didn't attract external attention.

Whack!

In Yechan's sight as he crossed Gumi City, a red pillar of light finally approached.

'It's a mutant. They're here.'

As he went a bit further, he saw a huge beast perched on the rooftop of a 4-story building on the other side.

[Comedian – Kim Jonggu]

Kim Jonggu.

Once a famous entertainer who appeared in various entertainment shows but was expelled from the broadcasting industry due to repeated drunk driving incidents.

Thanks to his actions, he had become a hellhound, emitting sparks near his nose every time he exhaled.

「What's this smell?」

Kim Jonggu, who had been staring at the ground blankly, suddenly raised his head and immediately looked towards where Yechan was.

It was because he caught the scent of mutant equipment emanating from him.

「What, you're a kid.」

He exuded an unusual aura for an ordinary 'kid,' but since Kim Jonggu hadn't properly competed with a skilled opponent since returning to this world, he didn't pay much attention.

「Kid, I want to take it easy today, so go back.」

“Uh...?”

Yechan hesitated at the unexpected kindness.

Then, in the process of shifting his foot to the side, he stepped on something.

Clang!

It was none other than...

“Wow.”

A crimson coin.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

There were not just one or two, but hundreds scattered around the 4-story building Kim Jonggu had chosen as his residence.

In other words, these were remnants of monsters that should have filled the entire area.

Probably, this was where Kim Jonggu had engaged in a large-scale battle with monsters while taking control of this area.

“...Unbelievable.”

While Yechan was amazed at the coins scattered around, Kim Jonggu gently opened one of his eyes, which had been closed, and said.

「Take it if you need it. But don't come back again. And don't go to Seoul either. This uncle is giving you a pass.」

At this, Yechan's expression, which was about to eagerly pick up the coins, suddenly turned cold.

“...Why not Seoul?”

Then, Kim Jong-gu, slightly surprised by the sudden change in the 'kid's' attitude, said,

「Why... because it's dangerous.」

“Why is Seoul dangerous? There are lots of people, and surely there are Strongest Swords...”

As Yechan was talking up to this point, he suddenly realized.

“But what are you guys waiting for here?”

At the mention of 'you guys' by Yechan, Kim Jonggu's eyes widened, and right on cue, a large shadow emerged from the right side of the building where Yechan was.

Swoosh!

[Gumi City Councilor – Im Taehong]

Another mutant who was staying in Gumi, Im Taehong.

Also known as 'Shadow,' he manifested as a shadow human with a towering height of up to 4 meters.

In other words, due to Yechan's actions, a 4-meter shadow was looming over him.

「The stench is too much, and there's too much talk. Let's just kill him.」

Soon, a sharp voice flowed from the shadow on the ground.

Kim Jonggu wrinkled his nose in disgust, but rather, Yechan was the first to prepare for battle.

Swish!

As he swung the long red spear he held in his right hand onto the ground, the twisted blade of the spear glowed crimson in a strange shape.

“If you're planning to attack Seoul, think again. You guys won't even be able to handle me.”

Yechan thought they were waiting for the 4th-day mutant to arrive to attack Seoul.

Given the circumstances, there was no reason for two mutants to remain in this wasteland.

And indeed, that seemed to be the case.

「Who do you think you are, trying to stop us?」

Im Taehong's voice was much more ruthless than before.

At that moment, the surroundings were already filled with pitch-blackness beyond Yechan's feet, probably a preparation unique to shadow humans.

In response, Yechan shouted as he struck the darkened ground with the spear he had laid out.

“I'll call myself Gyeongbuk's Strongest Spear...!”

* * *

Gangnam-gu.

A large autonomous district encompassing affluent neighborhoods such as Yeoksam, Cheongdam, and Nonhyeon, collectively known as 'Gangnam.'

Before the reset, its population was 530,000, making it the third most populous among Seoul's 25 districts, a ranking that probably hadn't changed much even now.

Because Gangnam was the neighborhood where all the people of Seoul who were still alive wanted to live.

Of course, this was only true during the tenure of former Strongest Sword Jeong Hyunsik.

Nowadays, rumors about Jeong Hyunsik's downfall had spread far and wide throughout Gangnam.

And Yeongwoo could clearly feel it.

"Is that him?"

"Is that the Gangnam's Strongest Sword...?"

"If he's from Gyeongbuk, is he someone who rose from the provinces?"

"He's riding on monsters."

As Yeongwoo followed the guide from the Taewon Group's Intelligence Team from Cheongdam Bridge to COEX in Samseong-dong, residents who came out to wait on the streets didn't stop murmuring.

'If I had known it would be like this, I would have just said I would take a car.'

Yeongwoo squinted his eyes as he saw even more people gathering on the other side.

When he was about to exit Cheongdam Bridge, the Taewon Group staff clearly suggested taking the car they had brought along since there would be a lot of people on the way.

However, at that time, he refused because he felt it would be more uncomfortable to leave Negwig behind and follow alone.

'But it was a big mistake.'

When Yeongwoo looked back, he could see that the residents who had been following him closely on the road were taken aback.

Anyway, they were curious about the person who would follow in Jeong Hyunsik's footsteps to protect this area.

Then, the mobile police officers on bikes who were following near Yeongwoo formed a kind of barrier, separating the residents from Yeongwoo, allowing him some distance.

And in the meantime, COEX in Samseong-dong, which was used as the headquarters of the Taewon Group, came into view.

It was a strategically important area with the Han River to the north and Tanchon to the east, with an overwhelming land area and buildings.

It was especially a masterpiece of artificial construction where you could secure even the most valuable resource in this world, 'residence,' as it was adjacent to the InterContinental Hotel and the Parnas Hotel.

'So, Taewon is Gangnam.'

Yeongwoo widened his eyes as he saw another long procession of Taewon's intelligence in front of COEX.

Surely, not all of these people were actual Taewon employees...

Most likely, after the reset, Taewon absorbed numerous personnel in the process of taking control of Gangnam.

Anyway, Yeongwoo passed through the bureaucratic hospitality procession and reached the entrance of COEX.

There, a middle-aged man with security guards stood waiting and slowly approached Yeongwoo.

"Oh... Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo!"

This well-built man in his 50s was named Baek Dohwan, 47 years old.

He was a former Taewon Life CEO and the current CEO of the Taewon Group, making him a significant figure in Gangnam's administration.

"I've heard a lot about you. You must have been through a lot. I'm Baek Dohwan from Taewon."

Baek Dohwan glanced at Yeongwoo, slightly bowing his waist.

He was assessing what kind of person he was dealing with.

But Yeongwoo didn't care about such things.

Suddenly, as the Serpent of Greed raised its head, he looked beyond COEX.

-Hiss...

Startled by the sound, Baek Dohwan took a step back, and then Yeongwoo asked.

"What's up there?"

Yeongwoo pointed vaguely with his hand, but Baek Dohwan immediately understood what he was looking for.

"Most likely... You're referring to the former Strongest Sword's office."

Because, coincidentally, there was the office of Jeong Hyunsik where Yeongwoo pointed.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 108

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 108: On a Pitch Black Night (2)

Former Gangnam's Strongest Sword, Taewon Group 'Executive Director' Jeong Hyunsik.

His office and lodging were on the 32nd floor of the Parnas Hotel across from COEX, in the Presidential Suite.

Before the reset, the daily accommodation fee for this high-priced room was a whopping 15 million won.

Of course, there was no way the Serpent of Greed would turn its head for such a reason.

「Serpent of Greed」 – Epic Compass

【Always seeks rarity.】

'Rare things... generally refers to equipment or something essential at the moment.'

Whatever it was, it meant there was something valuable in that room.

"Over here."

Baek Dohwan, who guided Yeongwoo to the lobby of the Parnas Hotel, pushed open the large glass door of the entrance and led the way.

Then, he cautiously said, glancing at the four parked cars shaped like ala in front of the entrance.

"Um... there's one problem."

"What is it?"

"The elevators here only operate at night."

"Oh."

The elevator would start moving once the building began to be classified as a 'residence' as the day-shift service commenced.

The petrification phenomenon had been applied to the entire Parnas Hotel.

In other words.

"So how did the Strongest Sword get to his room?"

Even as Yeongwoo spoke, he was already looking towards the emergency exit in the corner of the lobby.

Considering it was Jeong Hyunsik, could there have been another way?

If not climbing the exterior walls of the building, the only option would be to use the stairs.

And sure enough.

"Although it is assumed that you only use the room at night... in unavoidable circumstances, you would have used the emergency exit."

Baek Dohwan's hand immediately pointed to the emergency exit.

"Yes. I understand for now."

As Yeongwoo nodded, intending to use the emergency exit, Baek Dohwan hastily added a follow-up.

“Um... so, do you plan to stay in the room today?”

“Well, do I have other matters to attend to today?”

“If it’s okay with you, I was planning to personally introduce you to Gangnam District. Since you probably aren’t familiar with this area.....”

This was probably one of Baek Dohwan’s political activities.

Yeongwoo wanted to accommodate him if possible, but there was too much to do immediately.

There were the spoils held by the Golden Goblin, the karma distributed in the form of cards, and the equipment obtained from the past two battles that needed to be properly examined.

“I see. But I’d like to take it easy today.”

“Oh, I see. Still, you need to keep communicating with us, so I’ll assign a resident employee. Is that okay with you?”

“Yes. Please do.”

After nodding, Yeongwoo immediately began to ascend the emergency exit.

Thud, thud!

Climbing the stairs from the 1st to the 32nd floor.

Yeongwoo couldn’t help but laugh as the golden goblin, adorned with spatial pockets, followed closely behind him.

Although he didn’t particularly want to receive any extravagant protocol, it was amusing to see someone who was touted as the strongest in the region climbing so many stairs himself.

“Goodness, what is this? It’s truly a disaster.”

The impending ‘ruin’ finally hit him.

Yet, if it had been the previous Yeongwoo, he probably wouldn't have been able to climb these stairs in a month.

Yeongwoo arrived at the entrance to the 32nd floor in an instant, took a deep breath, and pushed open the door leading to the corridor.

Squeak-

There, he could see a hotel corridor with a peculiar patterned rug.

'Is it over there?'

The room number given by Baek Dohwan was 3233.

At the end of the corridor stretching to the left, there was a large door, which seemed to be the room where Jeong Hyun-sik had stayed alone.

Creak, creak.

It had been a long time since he'd been in a space where even a pin dropping could be heard.

– Click.....

Even the golden goblin seemed to feel unfamiliar in this environment so different from the fields it had been running around in.

'Do I need a key card or something?'

Finally arriving at room 3233 with some hesitation, Yeongwoo pulled down the door handle.

Clunk.

The sound of the lock being released echoed.

Then, as Yeongwoo pulled, the door opened.

"...Oh."

The space revealed beyond the door was a room so spacious and luxurious that it made one forget why they had come in search of 'precious things'.

"You used this spacious room alone? It must have had a hefty rental fee."

Yeongwoo, who had been marveling, quickly regained his composure and moved in the direction indicated by the serpent of greed.

– Shhhh.

Naturally, he passed through the spacious living room and reached the office space arranged in the corner of the room.

And there.

“...Huh.”

Now, he found an ‘item’ blatantly without the snake’s assistance.

A white coin casually placed on the desk as if it were nothing.

Thud.

As Yeongwoo touched the coin, a tremendous tooltip appeared.

「Blank Check」 – Unique Currency

【Once, it transforms into touched currency.】

“...!”

Blank Check.

It was something he had seen once before through a merchant.

‘Did he just leave it like this?’

Of course, even if he had obtained a safe and put it in, in a world where the superhumans ruled, it would have been meaningless.

‘Maybe he left it here so he wouldn’t use it carelessly.’

Yeongwoo shook his head in disbelief.

He couldn’t help but think that Jeong Hyunsik was not an ordinary person.

“Putting it there won’t activate it immediately, right?”

As Yeongwoo asked the golden goblin while holding the Blank Check, the goblin raised both arms high and shook its feet.

– Kit! Kit!

It must mean it wanted Yeongwoo to hand it over quickly.

Yeongwoo handed the Blank Check to the goblin, confirmed that it put it in the spatial pocket, and then instructed again.

“Take it out.”

Fortunately, the goblin handed back the Blank Check in its unused state.

‘It seems reliable in performance.’

After all, its purpose was to collect and store equipment.

But the real settlement would start now.

He needed to examine the equipment obtained from the mutants today and the equipment from the 1st Gwangjin’s Strongest Sword brought by the golden goblin.

Since the meeting in Yongsan, he had acquired only two mutant equipment.

「Deformed Claw」 – Mutant Necklace

【Increased power against beast-type enemies.】

「Frost Crown」 – Mutant Helmet

【20% cold resistance】

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

‘Oh, such a helmet.’

Yeongwoo couldn’t help feeling regretful when he saw the “Ice Crown.”

Of course, he knew someday this would happen, given the large amount of equipment he was collecting, but...

‘So, that’s why it asked me to buy the Extractor back then.’

「Extractor」 – Ancient one-handed hammer

【Change equipment into gems for slots.】

He still remembered it as it was the first item he saw during his trade with the merchant.

At that time, the price of that hammer was 40,000 karma.

Now, it might seem like a small amount, but back then, it was quite a sum.

“Just seeing Jeong Hyunsik having a Blank Check... I might encounter the same item again someday.”

When that time comes, he should buy it without hesitation.

Yeongwoo decided to wear the “Deformed Claw” for now, handed the “Frost Crown” to the golden goblin, and instructed it to keep it in the pocket.

“Now, let’s take a look at the equipment of the 1st Gwangjin’s Strongest Sword.”

When Yeongwoo issued this command, the goblin began rummaging through the spatial pockets.

– Kit!

Then, to Yeongwoo’s surprise and anticipation, the goblin pulled out a piece of equipment.

Thunk.

It was none other than...

「Climber」 – Mutant Pants

【Leap distance tripled.】

“Pants...? There are pants among the equipment?”

Even the unique effect was peculiar.

Increasing leap distance... Was it for fighting giants or something?

‘Tripled effect is quite remarkable.’

Coincidentally, the pants he was currently wearing were almost burnt and torn, almost to the point of being in tatters.

‘If I had waited a little longer, I would have been walking around in my underwear... It’s a good thing it happened now.’

As Yeongwoo touched the “Climber,” the pants swiftly disappeared and appeared on Yeongwoo’s lower body.

Swoosh!

‘It’s too tight, isn’t it? Anyway, next...’

As Yeongwoo glanced at the goblin, it presented a hatchet and a ring this time.

「Merciless」 – Mutant one-handed axe

【Increase power against opponents with a total lower stat sum than the wearer.】

「Agility」 – Mutation Ring

【When sense is the highest attribute, gain 10% damage reduction.】

‘Oh, Agility is quite good.’

While he already had good weapons, accessories like rings were always welcome.

Moreover, this one seemed perfect for Yeongwoo, who used sense abduction.

‘The stronger the opponent, the higher the probability of Agility activating. If I want it to be constantly active, I just need to focus more on sense.’

Through a series of settlements, Yeongwoo ultimately gained increased power against beast-type enemies, conditional damage reduction, and tripled leap distance...

Yeongwoo briefly looked at the “Climber,” which looked like leather pants, and finally began the long-delayed project.

Putting the money where his mouth was.

Snatch!

「Change character settings」

|Appearance

|Attributes

‘Let’s give it a try.’

This time, what Yeongwoo was going to do was change his appearance.

He had already designated an appearance preset optimized for combat, and the exact amount of money needed for this was 2,116,000 karma.

* Available karma: 3,112,500

With the whopping cash he had, nearly 3.11 million, there was no better time to make a decision than now.

“Hoo.”

He had experimented with mutant corneas in his eyeballs and changed his appearance before, but altering the structure and size of his body was a different challenge altogether.

It meant becoming a completely different entity outwardly.

‘... External, external appearance.’

When Yeongwoo selected exterior change, another interface appeared.

「For user convenience, we provide three types of preset collections.」

|Combat

|Charm

|Special

It was a menu he hadn’t seen in a while.

When Yeongwoo chose ‘Combat’ among the three presets, a semi-transparent window opened on the left side of his field of view, displaying dozens of body samples.

“Oh my god.”

Even though it was his second time seeing it, he still hadn’t quite adapted.

These samples, in stark nakedness, showed human body types deemed advantageous by the system for combat.

Around 2 meters tall, perfectly balanced upper and lower bodies both aesthetically and functionally.

“...”

Yeongwoo, who knew well that his own arms and legs were somewhat short and his upper body skeleton was unimpressive, felt a strange sensation as he looked at the nearly perfect bodies.

It felt like the phrase 'Innate 4th Grade' was floating around in his mind.

Perhaps this was also a form of inferiority complex.

But even this inferiority complex might be a 4th-grade trait.

Yeongwoo cleared away messy thoughts and called up the body preset he had chosen in advance.

Then, a body sample appeared, very similar to what he had seen before, but strangely familiar to Yeongwoo's eyes.

And underneath it...

[2,116,000]

The total karma required for that body was written there.

2,116,000 karma.

It was still a considerable amount of money, but now that his total stats had increased, it was definitely worth investing in.

Increased reach due to elongated arms and increased stride due to extended legs.

These were not things that could be obtained simply by increasing stats.

'In fact, it's practically plastic surgery.'

Yeongwoo chuckled and approved the preset payment.

Then, a final confirmation message, almost like a warning, appeared.

「All appearance changes are permanent, and some elements may be inherited when the next generation is created.」

「Do you want to proceed?」

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 109

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 109: On a Pitch Black Night (3)

“Yes. I will proceed.”

For some reason, it felt necessary, so Yeongwoo responded clearly with determination.

This seemed like an incredibly important matter.

Especially the phrase ‘inherit the genetics upon the creation of the next generation’ stabbed sharply at his heart.

Could the concept of ‘my next generation’ come to fruition in this lifetime?

As Yeongwoo made a troubled expression, his entire body was enveloped in light.

“Gasp!”

Then, a very strange pain, which not even the Berserker Talisman could block, wrapped around his whole body.

“Ugh...!”

Could this be growing pains?

While pondering such absurd thoughts, Yeongwoo searched the spacious room for a mirror.

It was to witness his body expanding in real-time.

Because moments like this were rare and hard to come by.

‘Found it.’

Finally, Yeongwoo found a large full-body mirror between the reception room and the kitchen, and he stood straight in front of it.

Thud.

Then, he saw his body wrapped in a blinding white light.

And the sight of that light gradually expanding.

‘Wow, what’s this?’

As Yeongwoo watched his own head, the only part not covered by light, gradually moving upwards, he felt an overwhelming sense of unease.

This was... because it was a scene of his height actually increasing in real-time.

Not only that.

It was evident to the naked eye that his arms were getting longer too.

‘Shi...!’

Eventually, steam emanated from his entire body, and all the equipment he was wearing fell to the ground.

Clatter!

Then, as the light enveloping his body dissipated, his bare skin was exposed.

‘Ha.’

Though he was completely naked without a single piece of equipment, Yeongwoo felt no embarrassment; instead, he was busy exploring his body.

There were abdominal muscles he had never seen in his life, and even the major muscles of the legs, such as the quadriceps, were smoothly developed like a dolphin’s dorsal ridge.

With the addition of the upper body skeleton, his shoulders had widened, and even his collarbones looked beautiful.

‘This is unbelievable.’

Yeongwoo muttered the phrase “unbelievable” repeatedly as he examined every corner of his body.

2,116,000 karma.

The money needed to become a completely different organism from before.

At this moment, Yeongwoo felt that the large sum of money was not wasted at all.

There was a shock and satisfaction beyond what he had imagined.

‘So, there’s an option to change appearance.’

As his body underwent a transformation beyond belief, Yeongwoo cunningly thought that he also wanted to match the level of his appearance.

Of course, it was something that would be of no use in combat, so it was a luxury he didn’t even dare to consider at the moment.

‘With just money, you can change your body and face as you please... Is this really reality?’

Yeongwoo pinched his reconstructed arm, wondering if he wasn’t just dreaming a long dream.

“...Ugh.”

As if to confirm, the reddened skin indicated that all of this was not a dream.

“This is truly unbelievable.”

As Yeongwoo murmured, at that moment, a slight movement came from the mirror-covered wall opposite to him, towards the reception room direction.

Rustle.

“...!”

At this, Yeongwoo’s heightened alertness skyrocketed, and in the blink of an eye, the ‘Dragon’s Legacy’ in his hand sliced through the air.

Swish!

“Who’s there?”

As Yeongwoo menacingly approached the reception room, the ‘Dragon’s Legacy’ flared up ominously.

There was someone of Grade 2 or lower nearby.

And shortly after,

“I-I’m sorry. I kept knocking on the door, but there was no answer...”

Along with a woman’s voice, a hand suddenly popped out from behind the wall of the reception room, slowly waving its wrist as if waving a white flag.

‘What...?’

At this, Yeongwoo first showed a bewildered expression, then belatedly realized.

Come to think of it, didn’t Baek Dohwan mention sending a staff member over here?

“Um... if it’s alright with you, may I come out and introduce myself now?”

As the problematic staff member hiding behind the wall attempted to come out slowly, Yeongwoo nodded his head to signal her to do so.

‘Oh?’

Then, he realized that he was currently in a state of nudity.

“Ah, wait a moment!”

However, she had already extended her head from her bowed position with an expression of apology.

Then,

“...Ah.”

She let out an ambiguous remark.

It was a momentary lapse, but there was clearly a pause, and in that moment, Yeongwoo saw a fleeting trace of disdain in her eyes.

Nevertheless, her subsequent voice showed no hint of regret.

“It’s a pleasure to meet you for the first time, Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo! I am Assistant Manager Lim Suna, from the first secretary’s office.”

“...Ah.”

“It’s an honor to serve you. If you need anything in the future, please feel free to ask me.”

“Um... yes, for now, just a moment...”

As Yeongwoo awkwardly wavered, barely concealing his lower body with the ‘Dragon’s Legacy,’ Lim Suna walked somewhere with brisk steps, and then returned holding a gray robe.

She was already well aware of both the structure of this room and the locations of supplies.

Because...

“President Jeong Hyunsik also requested my assistance. Since he was so unique... This should be fine.”

What did she mean by “this should be fine” and what exactly was “this”?

Taking the robe with a hesitant gesture, Yeongwoo felt like his appearance was becoming increasingly ridiculous and wanted to make some excuse.

“Actually, just a moment ago...”

However, Lim Suna had already reached the mirror and was looking at Yeongwoo’s scattered equipment on the floor, so he had no choice but to hold his tongue.

To anyone, it was obvious that Yeongwoo had undressed himself in front of the mirror and was admiring his own physique.

“Do you like the room? Actually, we have prepared another accommodation, but if you prefer, you can continue using this room as it is.”

As Lim Suna spoke while trying to tidy up the equipment in front of the mirror, Yeongwoo, who was taken aback, stopped her.

“I-I’ll do it myself!”

A swift forward movement from Yeongwoo, the combined might of Gyeongbuk and Gangnam’s Strongest Sword.

Swish!

Although it was a light movement with no intent of threat, he was now over two meters tall and wearing a robe, so there was a momentous aura.

“...Gasp.”

Lim Suna, who had maintained her composure well until now, almost let out a scream.

She also had some vague fear of the person in front of her.

Although she had handled the famously difficult second-generation chaebol, Jeong Hyunsik, and her previous position in the previous world was as an assistant manager in the secretary’s office, she was not immune to fear.

No, rather, she knew well that the scariest thing in this world was people, having dealt with many.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Moreover, the subject she was now in charge of was the person who had killed the esteemed Gangnam's Strongest Sword, Jeong Hyunsik, after killing his son.

'I heard he cut off the president's head in front of his son's body. That garbage of a son, Jeong Gysang, was beyond saving, so I'm grateful for that part at least. But still...'

'What kind of person in the world would think of beheading both the son and the father...? As long as you don't go crazy.'

Lim Suna looked at the new Gangnam's Strongest Sword, who was clumsily picking up the equipment on the floor, with a somewhat fearful gaze.

Yet, she quickly corrected her trembling breath.

In any case, the first reason was that she had a sense of professionalism to provide proper service as the new Strongest Sword's dedicated secretary, and the second reason was that she did not want to be belittled by such a dishonest murderer.

"Are the other accommodations that are said to be prepared in advance similar in size to this one?"

When Yeongwoo, who was gathering his equipment in his arms as soon as possible, asked this, Lim Suna looked confused for a moment.

It was because she perceived that this human butcher had some dissatisfaction with the treatment from the company.

"We assigned you to the largest room available, although it's slightly smaller than this one, and we paid extra attention to the amenities, so you shouldn't have any inconvenience during your stay. As I mentioned earlier, you can continue to use this room as it is. The rental fee will be fully covered by Taewon."

Upon hearing this, Yeongwoo tilted his head and said.

"It's just that the room seems too big."

"Yes...?"

“Rooms like this must have a hefty rental fee, right? Motel rooms start at a minimum of 3,000 won, but isn’t using a hotel room too extravagant when all you need to do is shower and sleep?”

As Yeongwoo muttered quietly, Lim Suna’s pupils shook even more noticeably than before.

Although she had dealt with many executives before and after the reset, this type of complaint was unprecedented.

However, she understood well what the other party was trying to say, so she immediately began to persuade him.

“As you mentioned, we can look into relatively cheaper accommodations. However, those places are usually used by residents, and more importantly...”

Her explanation was that the standard rooms around here had already been preoccupied by quick-witted residents.

Like most cities, Gangnam had a relatively good public safety system, but once the sun went down, there was an increase in robberies.

Therefore, residents preferred to live near the Strongest Sword’s lodgings for safety reasons.

Since no one would dare attempt robbery in front of the Strongest Sword’s residence, even if they were the most heinous criminals.

In other words, if Yongsan was the capital of “New Seoul,” then around Yeongwoo’s residence became the capital of Gangnam.

Taewon Group wanted to keep Yeongwoo near the headquarters for this reason, even if it meant paying high rental fees.

“...I see.”

In contrast to Lim Suna’s grand explanation, Yeongwoo concluded with a brief response.

Then, after glancing at the equipment in his arms, he said.

“Let’s stay here for today. However, I’d prefer to change to a cheaper place tomorrow.”

“Yes, understood.”

“And could you send someone to Seoul National University? My colleagues might be staying there. If they’ve arrived safely, they need to be brought here.”

He was referring to Jongsu and Taeyoung, who went to find Kim Taejoon’s family.

“Of course. I’ll take care of it right away.”

“Yes, that’s all. Is there anything else I need to check with Taewon? I’d like to take a break for a while if everything’s done.”

At Yeongwoo’s words, Lim Suna pursed her lips.

“Well, actually, there’s a scheduled city tour with Baek Dohwan, the CEO, at six o’clock this afternoon, but I’ll cancel it.”

“Yes, please do.”

It seemed that Baek Dohwan wanted to use the new Strongest Sword as a sort of promotional material.

But Yeongwoo really wanted to rest.

Regardless of how others viewed him, Yeongwoo’s heart was not at ease in killing a father in front of his son’s dead body.

And after the brawl with the boxing gold medalist, Cha Dooseong...

There had been too much happening today.

“If you need anything, just press this button and call me. You can always make a request while the weather is clear.”

Tak.

Lim Suna placed a small walkie-talkie on the console table.

It was an old-fashioned transmitter and receiver that operated with batteries.

Yeongwoo, with a look of wonder, touched the walkie-talkie.

Lim Suna then bowed slightly and bid him farewell.

“I’ll take my leave now! Have a pleasant evening.”

“Yes, thank you for your hard work.”

As Yeongwoo, clad in a gown, moved to escort her, Lim Suna gestured that it was unnecessary.

While heading towards the door, she left a few instructions behind.

“Our staff will come to process this room for overnight stay at 9 p.m. I’ll also visit again at that time. Dinner will be served here at 7 p.m.”

Yeongwoo raised his hand slightly and added.

“I’ll take care of meals myself, so you don’t have to prepare anything. I’ll see you later at 9 p.m.”

“Are you sure?”

Suna, who had no idea that Yeongwoo had an alien in his stomach from another world, wondered why the other party was so stubborn, observing his stiffened face.

‘Well, maybe he doesn’t feel like eating after fighting with blood all over his face.’

Then, she smiled professionally and nodded as if she understood.

“All right. Have a good rest!”

As the entrance door of Room 3233 began to close, Yeongwoo finally felt at ease.

‘I’m free until nine o’clock.’

Yeongwoo poured out the equipment he had been carrying on his chest onto the console table, then lay down on the large sofa.

‘Now, what should I do?’

He had been running around so hectically every day that he even forgot how to relax.

For now, the only rest he had was to remove his equipment for a moment, as his eyes were already engaged in another task.

‘Right, I need to check the achievements.’

Finally, since he managed to get his hands on the jeweller, new achievements would have been added to the recommended achievement list.

Poof!

As Yeongwoo lay on the sofa and called up the achievement list, a new golden achievement, “Golden Journey,” began to be printed out one by one.

[Golden Journey]

|Summon the Golden Rain in the next area.

|Domestic (2/3) | Foreign (0/2)

[Perfect Orphan]

|Find and eliminate parents. (1/2)

[Nocturnal]

|Spend a night outside of your residence.

And finally,

“Huh...?”

As Yeongwoo, who was comfortably lying on the sofa, called out the achievements, his upper body automatically straightened up.

Because the name of the new achievement that appeared after a long time was:

[Ending Maker]

|Find the protagonist after the reset.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 110

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 110: On a Pitch Black Night (4)

“What, what is this?”

Due to the achievement-oriented nature of the “Stubborn” trait, Yeongwoo had only received exceptional achievements regardless of whether they were good or bad.

From being told to kill all his parents as a “Complete Orphan” to being a “Excellent Social Worker” who had to send mutants back after they were born.

And finally.

[Ending Maker]

|Discover the protagonist after the reset.

He had finally received an achievement with the name “Ending Maker.”

And in context, this “ending” was supposed to be the ending that Yeongwoo had in mind.

The conclusion.

It was the end of this world that had faced the unprecedented disaster called a reset.

‘Discover the protagonist...? You mean the main character?’

The conclusion of every story is made and confronted by the protagonist, right?

In other words, what this achievement implied was nothing other than finding the protagonist who was moving towards the end of this world.

However, there was a subtle point.

‘After the reset protagonist....’

It only says to find the protagonist after the reset, not to find a second-class or first-class protagonist.

‘What does this even mean?’

Perhaps there is more meaning implied than meets the eye.

Even in the past achievement of the Excellent Social Worker, it was only written to send mutants back after they were born, but in reality, it was an achievement that could only be achieved by activating the “Return” function through agreement with the other party.

‘Anyway, someone has taken on the role of the protagonist and is living somewhere.’

Fourth-tier extra, Jeong Yeongwoo wrinkled his nose.

Of course, there was no law that said the one who took on the role of the protagonist must be in Korea.

Isn't the reset something that happened all over the world?

So, it was rather strange that each country had a protagonist.

'If the protagonist is a foreigner... then there's a high chance they'll be in China, India, or the United States. After all, they have overwhelmingly large populations.'

Come to think of it, he doesn't know how this reset was applied to other countries.

And at this point, it was clear that very few people had thought about the situation in other countries.

If it weren't for the "Golden Journey," Yeongwoo wouldn't have easily come up with such a thought.

[Golden Journey]

|Summon golden rain in the next area.

|Domestic (2/3) |Foreign (0/2)

By tomorrow, all the domestic goals of the Golden Journey will be achieved.

'So, the next one is foreign.'

It wasn't just a matter of visiting a foreign country, but summoning golden rain there...?

It was hard to imagine.

'This is a headache.'

Thump.

Yeongwoo pressed his temples, feeling a tingling sensation, and buried himself on the sofa.

Then, for the first time in a while, a feeling of comfort enveloped not only his body but also his mind.

'Ah.'

Comfortable.

Soon, his eyelids grew heavy, and his vision began to darken.

Amidst this, a thought crossed his mind that he needed to check the time, but before he could act on it, consciousness shut off.

Then.

Thunk.

...

...

Thunk.

...

Thunk, thunk!

...

As always, the sound of the alarm clock woke him back to consciousness.

‘Is someone here already?’

I think it was said that Taewon Group employees would come at 9 o’clock at night, when it was time for the waiting room.

“Ugh.”

As Yeongwoo struggled to open his eyes, for a moment, a red eye-shaped icon seemed to linger in his vision before disappearing.

「One Eyed Sentinel」 – Mutant Cornea

【When you fall asleep, the sentinel stands guard.】

Evidence that the mutant cornea “One Eyed Sentinel” was on guard duty while he slept.

Swoosh.

As Yeongwoo sat up, he noticed that the window had turned pitch black unlike before.

‘What time is it now?’

As he glanced around to find his wristwatch, the system notification that he missed while sleeping unfolded before his eyes.

Bam!

「Nightfall has arrived.」

「Therefore, to ensure your right to sleep, the lodging service will begin in one hour.」

This was a pre-notice given one hour before the start of the common room service at 8 PM.

However, the current time Yeongwoo directly confirmed with his wristwatch was...

‘9:03 PM.’

Which meant, while the mutant cornea stood guard while the wearer slept, it also helped to remember the system notice that had passed.

‘Surprisingly useful...?’

This way, there wouldn’t be any risk of missing important notices while sleeping or unconscious.

And then.

「The common room service has started.」

「From now on, all buildings classified as ‘residences’ will be in an inviolable state due to the common room system.」

At 9 PM, a series of notifications that had appeared just before Yeongwoo woke up unfolded one by one.

Explanations about the residence occupancy method and dormitory fees...

Then, at the end, a really important part of the information was provided.

「By the way, today’s nighttime weather is Obsidian Rain.」

「Please be careful of physical damage.」

“What...!”

Yeongwoo exclaimed without realizing it and sat up completely.

Then he picked up a black cloak from among the equipment scattered on the floor.

Then.

Bam!

「Black Wind Cloak」 – Hero Cloak

【Nullifies Obsidian Rain.】

The tooltip of the cloak appeared and widened Yeongwoo's pupils.

The cloak he had bought thinking it might come in handy someday finally proved its worth.

Today's abnormal weather, Obsidian Rain.

And a cloak that nullified Obsidian Rain.

Moreover, he had inadvertently managed to get some rest, albeit briefly.

[Nocturnal]

| Spend a night outside the residence.

‘Today is the day to deal with the Nocturnal achievement.’

Yeongwoo eagerly donned the equipment.

Click.

With just touching the wear on each piece of equipment, they automatically attached to his body, so it took less than a minute to put on dozens of items.

「Obsidian Rain will occur 1 hour and 54 minutes later due to the abnormal weather.」

The climate notification finally appeared.

Next, a timer was displayed at the top of his field of vision.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

「01:54:32」

This meant that Obsidian Rain would fall starting at 11 PM, roughly two hours later.

‘After the lodging processing, I’ll take a shower first and... take a short rest, and then the rain should come down.’

Clack.

Lastly, Yeongwoo held the smoldering Legacy of Dragon in his hand and approached the room’s entrance.

Then he still sensed the presence of employees from Taewon outside the door, tapping it once again.

– Should I knock one more time?

– ...Yes, please.

Thunk!

Perhaps it was Lim Suna, who had witnessed an unusual sight when she entered without proper approval, warning not to enter without the leader’s consent.

Creak.

Eventually, as Yeongwoo opened the room door, the Taewon employees who had been about to knock again halted their arms.

Then.

“Uh...”

“Gasp?”

Reflexively, he lifted his head and looked at the newly appointed Strongest Sword.

A towering figure of 2 meters in height.

In addition, the title “Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword” emitted an imposing aura from above.

“You’re here because of the lodging?”

As the employees didn’t speak up, Yeongwoo initiated the conversation, and finally, Lim Suna, who had been behind them, walked out.

“Hello, Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo! Did you rest well?”

“Yes, thanks to you, I did.”

"I'm glad to hear that. As I mentioned earlier, I'm here to process the lodging for the room you're staying in. And..."

As Suna spoke up to this point, she suddenly lowered her head slightly in apology.

"There was something that was carried out without your approval, Mr. Yeongwoo. I apologize for that."

"...What is it?"

"There was an issue regarding refugee resettlement in Gwangjin, Gangdong, Jongno, and Jung-gu. It was about relocating residents from the areas where the Strongest Sword positions were vacant to nearby districts..."

This part of the explanation was Suna's explanation, stating that it was a kind of public service project conducted at Strongest Sword assembly level, and Taewon's representative, Baek Dohwan, had provided proxy approval.

"Since the approval was urgently needed, I judged it as unavoidable."

"Yes, it's... Actually, I appreciate you taking care of it on my behalf. So, are people from Gwangjin-gu coming to Gangnam?"

"Yes. Gangdong-gu will be accommodated in Songpa."

By now, the population movement between regions must be in full swing.

"Then, for a while, the mutants in the four areas will be left unattended."

"That's the case. For now, the federation hopes that Strongest Swords in adjacent areas will take care of it as much as possible."

"..."

It was not much different from saying that there was no way to deal with it.

'This is the worst.'

Yeongwoo thought so, but he also understood that there was no alternative.

This was an inevitable situation.

Regardless of the number of surviving Strongest Swords, it happened every day because mutants fell into 25 districts.

'The best I can do... is to catch the mutants appearing in Gangnam tomorrow as quickly as possible and then go to Gwangjin-gu.'

Strongest swords in other districts adjacent to the problem areas must be thinking the same thing.

In simple terms, it's a time attack from now on.

The longer each Strongest Sword fights against the mutants assigned to them, the higher the probability and number of local residents being slaughtered by the "neglected mutants" increases exponentially.

"...Not everyone knows about this yet, do they?"

When Yeongwoo asked this, Suna glanced at the employees processing the room and replied.

"Rumors spread so quickly... It's just a matter of time. And even if not, people will notice that refugees are coming in, and they'll know that something's going on."

When the conversation between the two reached this point, the employees who had been operating the lodging interface reported to Yeongwoo.

"Strongest Sword, the lodging setting is complete. If you set the number of people to '1' and enter, you can use the room right away."

Upon hearing this, Yeongwoo turned around to see a crimson tray filled with azure coins in front of the entrance to room 3233, shining brightly.

Since there were no higher currencies obtained from Taewon Group as achievement rewards, they had brought an excessive amount of azure coins.

But even that disappeared quickly.

– Kiiit!

The golden goblin, which had been hiding its presence from Yeongwoo's feet, swept the coins into its pocket with a greedy manner.

Swish, swish!

– Keekit!

As it made a noise, the employees finally regained their senses and started to step back, one by one.

“Uh, is it safe? Yeongwoo-nim.”

Lim Suna was also frightened by the golden creature.

“Yes. Since it doesn’t attack people, you can rest assured. I’d better leave quickly.”

With a troubled expression, Yeongwoo stood in front of the door.

Swoosh!

Then, the familiar interface that he had seen every night appeared, but with slightly unusual content.

Ping!

「Would you like to use the lodging service?」

[Parnas Hotel Room 3233]

| Space: Very spacious

| Facilities: Bathroom, television

| Rental fee: 62,000 Karma

| Period: Until 10 AM the next day

‘Television...?’

Yeongwoo, who thought he wouldn’t be surprised by anything anymore, involuntarily widened his eyes.

The items listed under the ‘Facilities’ category generally operated ignoring the laws of the previous world.

For example, even if the water supply facilities were not in good condition, one could still use water freely in the rental residence.

‘Now that I think about it, electricity was also working fine, so I could turn on the lights.’

In that case, how would the television provided by the rental system work?

What could one watch on a television in the reset world?

「How many people are planning to stay? Please enter the number of people.」

Then, as the prompt asked for the number of occupants, Yeongwoo quickly operated the hologram keypad.

「1」

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Level 4 Human in a Ruined World #Chapter 111 - Read Level 4 Human in a Ruined World Chapter 111

Chapter 111

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 111: On a Pitch Black Night (5)

Parnas Hotel, Room 3233.

A high-priced room where 62,000 karma must be paid in just one night.

As Yeongwoo stepped into the room, Lim Suna bowed behind him and greeted him.

“Well then, please rest. We’ll take our leave now.”

“Yes. Thank you as always.”

Bowing his head slightly to see off the Taewon Group employees, Yeongwoo immediately took off his equipment as soon as the entrance door closed.

Click, clack, thud!

From now until 10 a.m., this space would be protected by the rental system.

In other words, as long as no one forcibly enters, there would be no danger in this room.

Of course, when it’s 11 p.m. and the Obsidian rain starts, he would have to go outside, but until then, he wanted to enjoy uninterrupted rest.

“Unbelievable.”

Yeongwoo loosened the three weapons and belts on the floor, enjoying the safety.

Then he hurried to the bedroom.

Thud!

It was to confirm if there was really a television there.

And indeed, the bedroom he arrived at did have one.

“Wow...”

As Yeongwoo had hoped, there was a television.

Moreover, it was positioned in a way that he could watch it while lying on the bed.

“It’s huge.”

[PR/N: THAT’S WHAT SHE SAID]

The screen was so large that he thought it might as well be a window.

Upon this, Yeongwoo immediately grasped the remote control and pressed the power button.

Click.

Then.

Buzz...!

For a moment, the remote control seemed to turn into a hologram, and the television in question blinked.

Then.

Fwish!

With an eerie sound effect, the screen turned on.

“Oh, is it really working?”

Yeongwoo’s eyes widened at the unexpected development.

The television screen, which had just reflected Yeongwoo’s appearance, was now filled with gray noise.

Then suddenly.

Pfft!

The noise momentarily stopped, then began to flow steadily in a certain direction.

‘...Ah.’

To the right.

At this, Yeongwoo pressed the right direction key on the remote control as if possessed.

Click.

Then, this time, the screen brightened so much that it was blinding.

“Ugh.”

Yeongwoo’s forehead wrinkled deeply at once.

However, he couldn’t help but relax his expression after hearing the sound coming from the television.

—How long do I have to keep doing this?

—Until we’re summoned again.

—When will that be?

—I don’t know either.

“What...”

Although it sounded like muffled sound quality as if listening through a wall, it was clear because of the voices.

This voice...

“Chairman?”

It was the mutant, or rather now, ‘friend’ Kim Taejoon, the chairman, and Hong Youngtae.

So, what Yeongwoo was looking at now was...

“No way...”

The room where Yeongwoo and the others had shook hands, also known as the “returnee’s room.”

A quarantine space without a sense of time, communication with the outside world, or any external contact.

“...Youngtae!”

Yeongwoo shouted loudly as he approached the television, but the two people on the screen didn’t even flinch.

They simply sat huddled in the endless expanse of white space, gazing endlessly at a white hourglass.

While Yeongwoo could see and hear them through the television, those two didn’t even know that someone was watching them.

“Hah.”

It was just as Youngtae had said before.

He had said that going back to the room with nothing to do would drive him crazy from boredom.

Thanks to the few times he had been summoned, he could buy an hourglass at least, but before that, there was nothing in the room but white walls.

—I’ll really go crazy if I stay like this.

Eventually, Chairman Kim Taejoon, dressed in white pajamas, sprang up from his seat.

Then he looked up at the ceiling, which was so white that he couldn’t tell if it was the ceiling or the sky.

—Should I just play chess? If I have that, maybe it’ll be a bit better.

At this, Youngtae, who had been staring intently at the hourglass, grabbed Chairman Kim Tae-joon’s sleeve.

—No, Chairman! We promised to endure and buy a television.

“Huh...?”

At this point, Yeongwoo’s ears perked up.

“You can buy a television? From there?”

If he hadn't misheard, he was sure.

The fact that there was a television among the items that could be purchased in the returnee's room.

If so, what would appear on the television screen over there?

'Perhaps they can see this world from over there, just as I can see that world now.'

Through this peculiar television, Yeongwoo finally realized why the rental system charged such a high fee for this room.

The rental fee of 62,000 karma for this room was essentially the usage fee for an irreplaceable function.

The spacious area and comfortable bedding were just extras.

'Then what did Jeong Hyunsik see here...? He didn't have anything like a whistle.'

Yeongwoo's gaze naturally turned back to the direction button on the remote control.

The two 'friends' on the screen eventually resolved to endure a little longer and sat down on the road.

—Hmm.

—...

The two of them began to gaze at the hourglass in silence again.

Since it seemed like nothing would happen for a while, Yeongwoo cautiously pressed the right direction button on the remote control again.

Click.

Would there really be another channel?

Click!

Eventually, as the screen shifted somewhere else, it became much more comfortable than before.

Because what was being broadcast on the second channel was the natural light of Earth.

More precisely, it was the view of a motel called Lusso located in Cheoin-gu, Yongin City, where the morning sunlight of Earth was shining.

“Ah...”

Yeongwoo, after confirming what was playing on the screen, involuntarily covered his mouth with his hand.

“This... the battle is supported by the intergalactic weapon brand Dogo.”

“What...?”

“I am Jwong Yeongwoo07, the strongest man in Gyeongbuk, Earth.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“What, what is this? This crazy guy.”

On the screen, the late Gyeongbuk’s Strongest sword, Jin, was as bewildered as ever.

Then, another scene, different but familiar, appeared.

“...It can’t be helped. This battle is supported by the intergalactic weapon brand Dogo.”

This was the moment when Yeongwoo informed Chairman Kim Taejoon of Dogo’s support.

“My goodness.”

Simply put, this channel was a collection of horrifying moments when Yeongwoo fulfilled his obligations as an advertising model.

“...”

If this continued, scenes like when he had kicked Cha Doo-seong, who was honestly boxing according to the rules, would appear.

So, Yeongwoo quickly pressed the direction button on the remote control.

Click!

Then, for the first time, a dark screen appeared.

“Huh...?”

Yeongwoo thought it was noise starting again and narrowed his eyes, but soon realized it wasn't.

"Hmm..."

Breathing sounds could be heard in the pitch-black screen.

And upon closer inspection of the dim screen, a certain figure was clearly visible.

"A... a person."

A person.

What Yeongwoo was seeing now was someone sleeping with all the lights off.

"What, could it really be a person?"

The reason for this thought was because the background on the screen looked like a motel somewhere.

'If that's a real person... are they showing somewhere in this world right now?'

If that were the case, what he was seeing now was likely a live broadcast.

Without knowing who it was, they had rented a room and fallen asleep as soon as the rental service started.

'It must have been a really tough day.'

Since the face of the person was too dark to confirm, Yeongwoo reluctantly changed the channel again.

Click!

Then, the screen suddenly brightened again.

Shoaaaa...!

It was accompanied by the sound of water out of nowhere.

"...?"

Yeongwoo's eyes widened in fear as the sight of a foreigner washing his wounded body filled his vision.

And the title above his head.

“Wh-what!”

Yeongwoo let out a scream-like sound.

『Swordmaster, London』

“No...!”

Although it was so alien, paradoxically, something that seemed to be known or not known stirred in his mind.

What he was looking at right now, no matter how you looked at it.

‘Isn’t that the Strongest Sword from abroad?’

No, more precisely, it should be ‘Swordmaster’.

It seemed that the concept of ‘Strongest Sword’ didn’t exist there.

“What’s this? Why are they showing this?”

Panicked, Yeongwoo repeatedly pressed the direction button on the remote control, and each time, people of different races appeared one by one.

And the forms of the titles each of them had on their heads were also different.

Guardian Sword, Sword Judge...

And some had the title ‘Five Heroes of Shanxi’, which Yeongwoo thought belonged to the Strongest Sword system of China.

“Is this all real?”

[TL/N: Chat is this real? Or is Yeongwoo tripping rn]

The ‘World’s Strongest’ channel Yeongwoo could see had a total of six channels.

And after scrolling through all the channels, it returned to the initial noisy screen.

He experienced all the contents that this strange television had to offer at least once.

Then.

-Taxes will be collected starting shortly at 10 p.m.

—The basic tax amount is 1,000 karma, and non-payers of taxes will be forfeited immediately at the time of collection.

A tax collection notice appeared in Yeongwoo's field of vision, informing him that it had already reached 10 p.m.

"Wow, already."

Yeongwoo, who had been engrossed in the television and had lost track of time, was suddenly brought back to reality.

Beep beep.

Suddenly, the alarm on Yeongwoo's wristwatch rang, indicating 10 p.m.

And at the same time.

-As of now, taxes will be collected.

|Basic tax: 1,000

|Deduction item: Single household

|Final tax: 500

For a moment, his body felt cold, and 500 karma in taxes was automatically withdrawn.

* Available Karma: 996,000

Tax payment completed.

Yeongwoo, who had once again endured another day, stared blankly at the disappearing tax details in his vision, then shifted his gaze back to the peculiar television.

With a calmer mind than before, he began to flip through the channels one by one.

These were the world's strongest individuals spending their night in their own ways.

'But why are they showing this? Is it to inform us that we will soon be going overseas?'

Perhaps they were the main characters or candidates for the new achievement, 'Ending Maker'.

Or maybe they were candidates for the lead role.

Anyway, one thing seemed certain.

‘Jeong Hyunsik must have seen something completely different from me. It seems that depending on the user, completely different channels are shown.’

Then what did Jeong Hyunsik, the original owner of the Dragon’s Legacy, see?

Yeongwoo pondered vaguely, then immediately straightened up and began to execute what he needed to do right away.

He started to memorize the titles and faces of the overseas strongmen shown on television.

Except for one person whose face couldn’t be confirmed due to the darkness of the screen, the owners of the other five channels clearly showed their titles and faces.

「00:58:14」

Now, there were about 58 minutes left until the Obsidian rain fell.

‘But it should only take about 20 minutes to memorize the five people. Five Heroes of Shanxi, Five Heroes of Shanxi, Five Heroes of Shanxi...!’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 112

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 112: On a Pitch Black Night (6)

Five Heroes of Shanxi.

Swordmaster, London.

Milan’s Guardian Sword.

Tokyo’s sword inspector.

Chicago’s slaughterer.

After memorizing the faces and names of the five strong men shown on TV, Yeongwoo took a shower for the first time in a while, washing his body soaked in blood.

Still, he kept turning over the strange experience he had earlier in his mind.

‘Then, could there be someone who saw me through the television?’

Even if there was such a person, there wouldn’t be many.

Because using a television required a significant amount of money, one had to be wealthy enough to integrate a large area like this or burn tens of thousands of karma in one night.

‘Normally, you can only watch TV in a rented state... I wonder if they broadcasted me taking a shower.’

Thinking like this, Yeongwoo came out of the bathroom and put on his equipment one by one.

And finally.

Click.

Wearing a black cloak, he reflected on the day’s last tasks.

「Black Wind Cloak」 - Hero’s Cloak

【Nullifies Obsidian Rain.】

When it’s soon 11 p.m., he had to go out to the street where the obsidian rain, which destroys the body, falls.

‘It says to spend one night for an achievement... How long exactly does that mean?’

[Nocturnal]

|Spend a night outside your residence.

It was unclear whether it meant until 10 a.m. when the rental ends, or simply until sunrise.

Perhaps at any time, the achievement might be completed when the rain stops.

The reason spending a night outside the residence could be an “achievement” was simply because the weather was dangerous.

‘Whatever, I have to go out to find out.’

The current time, 10:54 p.m.

Since the long-awaited obsidian rain would fall in about 6 minutes, Yeongwoo prepared to go out in earnest.

He turned off the problematic television, checked if he had all his equipment.

Then he put on the Dragon’s Legacy and Underdog on his waist, and held Dullahan’s sword in his hand.

If he encountered something outside in the rain, it was more likely to be a monster than a person.

In that case, the Black Sword was the most versatile.

Now, even his height had grown, so the maximum extension length of the sword would have increased.

Thud.

Eventually, as Yeongwoo opened the door of the guest room with the golden goblin, and came out into the corridor, Lim Suna, who happened to be waiting for the elevator on the other side of the corridor, turned back with surprised eyes.

“Uh... Where are you going? Yeongwoo.”

Then she looked at her wristwatch, wondering if she was correct.

The current time, 10:56 p.m.

4 minutes left until he would be torn apart if he stayed outside the room.

With an awkward smile, Yeongwoo walked slowly down the corridor.

“I guess the assistant manager is going home from work.”

“Yes... that’s right.”

Lim Suna looked at Yeongwoo suspiciously.

So Yeongwoo explained to her truthfully.

“I’m going out for a bit. I’ll come back when it’s bright.”

“You’re going outside?”

Lim Suna’s mouth hung open.

Leaving for the “outside” after the sun had completely set in this world was synonymous with an impossible agreement.

Other than the fact that abnormal weather killed people, nothing else was known, an undeniable realm.

“Can’t I just go outside?”

“Usually, that’s the case...”

Ding!

Since the elevator Suna was waiting for arrived just then, Yeongwoo bid her farewell without continuing the conversation.

“You go down first. I’ll take the stairs.”

“Wait, but...”

Just as Lim Suna was about to say something, Yeongwoo darted sideways like an arrow.

* * *

10:58 p.m.

Arriving at the hotel lobby, Yeongwoo glanced briefly at the elevator Suna had taken, still descending.

Then he passed through the spacious lobby and went out through the main entrance where his horse was parked.

Click, click.

As Yeongwoo stepped outside with a clang, his horse, which had been coiled up, unfolded with a loud noise.

-Kwii...!

Yeongwoo lightly mounted its back and grasped the black reins.

Following him, the golden goblin also climbed onto the horse.

-Keet!

“Are you okay? It’s about to rain soon.”

Yeongwoo asked the goblin, who seemed to understand and looked up at the sky.

And right on cue.

Kurrrrrrr...

An unusual sound echoed from somewhere high in the sky.

That was probably thunder.

Then, indeed.

Kwarrang!

A much larger thunderbolt struck, illuminating the sky with a brilliant flash.

“...!”

And at that moment, Yeongwoo saw it.

It was fleeting, but countless dots appeared in the sky illuminated by the lightning.

Kwaaaaaaa...!

Soon, a sound like that of cars driving in a long tunnel echoed.

“...It’s coming.”

The abnormal weather that erased the concept of “night” in this world.

Yeongwoo was witnessing the beginning of one of them for the first time.

「00:00:00」

As the time decreased to zero, the abnormal weather timer disappeared before Yeongwoo’s eyes, and at the same time, his vision began to split vertically into countless pieces.

Kududududuk!

“Oh my god.”

Obsidian rain.

It was literal.

Chunks of obsidian formed into icicle-like shapes fell from the sky, shattered upon hitting the ground, and melted away into the air.

Kwajak!

‘At this level, my body will not be damaged but rather turned into minced meat.’

Yeongwoo raised his arm, and the moment the obsidian rain touched his forearm, he saw it melt away.

This was the effect of the “Black Wind Cloak.”

On the other hand, the laws of physics applied normally to Negwig and the golden goblin.

This is because obsidian was continuously embedded in the outer shell of the four ears, making a loud noise as it broke.

Kakang, Kang! Kang!

The golden goblin also couldn’t get a grip due to the obsidian rain hitting its forehead, but despite that, it seemed like the lethality of this rain was only effective against creatures native to Earth.

“Hide under the cloak. You’ll feel better that way.”

Yeongwoo handed the end of the cloak to the golden goblin, then slowly pulled the reins to drive Negwig.

Where to?

He didn’t know yet.

The achievement system only gave him the mission to spend the night outside, nothing else.

He wondered if there might be a nighttime-specific quest, but there wasn’t one available.

There was only the obsidian rain and the dark cityscape, which split his vision haphazardly.

‘At least for a few hours... Let’s go outside Seoul for now.’

Just as monster hunters who hadn’t set foot in Seoul went to Gyeonggi Province or even farther, Yeongwoo decided to leave Seoul this time.

And while at it.

‘To the north.’

Toward the closest “foreign” country, North Korea.

As Yeongwoo drove Negwig northward, the creature emitted a sharp noise in the heart of Gangnam.

-Kwiiiiick!

Then Yeongwoo began to dash quickly in the direction he had chosen.

Kwasssh!

As a result, the windows of nearby residences, which were in a state of lodging and the lights were on, were opened one after another.

They thought that a monster that only appears at night had appeared.

Of course, Yeongwoo, riding an iron horse and waving a black cloak amidst the obsidian rain that tore people apart, looked like a monster to anyone who saw him.

Kwassh, kwakk!

In this way, Yeongwoo crossed Seoul, alternating between the noisy sound of iron hooves and Negwig’s cries, heading north.

Starting from Gangnam, he crossed the Han River, passed through Jung-gu, Seodaemun, and Eunpyeong, and finally set foot in Goyang, Gyeonggi Province.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Pat!

[The current residence area is “Goyang.”

[The Strongest Sword in this area is “Park Jeongjin02.” Rank 1, Defense 42.

‘Park Jeongjin...02. Goyang is still strong.’

Indeed, the population of Goyang is about twice that of most districts in Seoul.

So if someone became the strongest Sword in such a place, how strong would they be?

A whopping 42 defenses, and “1st Rank” indicating they monopolized all growth factors from the first day of reset.

In addition, the identification number 02 allowed them to see the opponent’s moves.

However, they probably couldn’t stop abnormal weather, so by now, they were likely taking shelter from the rain in their residence.

Kwasssh!

Just like before, Yeongwoo quickly passed through Goyang, spreading nighttime ghostly rumors in Gyeonggi Province.

It is said that from the night of the fourth day of reset, a monster wandering through abnormal weather appeared.

Kwak, Kwatt!

Having swiftly passed through Goyang, Yeongwoo finally arrived at Paju, where the North Korean Kaesong Industrial Complex and the border were located.

And then.

Pot!

And then.

Thud!

[The current residence area is “Paju.”

[There is no Strongest Sword in this area.

Yeongwoo learned that there was no Strongest Sword in Paju.

‘Could it be that Goyang’s Strongest Sword absorbed it?’

There was a fairly high possibility of that.

Because.

“Ah.”

As he went a bit further north, he spotted a pillar of red light burning fiercely in the distance.

Proof that Paju was unable to deal with mutants.

Probably, the Strongest Sword in Paju had always been vacant.

Kwaaaaaaa.....!

Perhaps it was because of the darkened surroundings, but the mark seemed much larger and darker than usual.

Kwassh!

As Yeongwoo drove Negwig straight toward the pillar of red light, he noticed the mark, which had been stationary all this time, momentarily flinch.

It probably caught wind of the “scent” from this direction.

Now, the distance to the mutants was about 2 kilometers.

Judging by the location of the mark, the opponent was not staying in the city center but somewhere near the nearby mountains.

‘Hiding to avoid the rain.’

Considering how the golden goblin had been tormented by the obsidian rain hitting its forehead, it was highly likely that the abnormal weather wasn’t pleasant for the mutants either.

Kwassh!

Eventually, the distance between Yeongwoo and the pillar of red light in the mountains decreased to several hundred meters, and at that moment, the eerie voice characteristic of mutants pierced the darkness.

「Why would you seek a monk on such a foul day?」

“...?”

A strange tone.

Anyway, having confirmed the presence of mutants in the mountains, Yeongwoo leaped off Negwig.

Thud!

“I didn’t come here to fight. If you’re okay with it, let’s have a conversation.”

In Korea, Yeongwoo was the only one who could try to negotiate with mutants like this.

However, the mutant in the mountains, who had no idea about this fact, responded with an incredulous tone.

「Haha! The stench is so strong, and the fourth of the Ten Evils is falsehood.」

Then the trees in the mountains began to rustle.

‘It’s coming.’

What kind of mutant would it be this time? No, more importantly.

‘Who on earth speaks like that?’

Yeongwoo felt that his opponent was likely large, so instead of his black sword, he pulled out his Underdog.

Swish!

And right on cue.

Kwoong!

A bulky silhouette emerged from the mountains where the voice had come from.

「Yaaaap!」

The opponent was none other than.

[Monk – Jo Seungtae]

It was none other than Jo Seungtae, also known as the “Colorful Robber.”

He was infamous for crimes such as drunk driving, sexual assault, and aggravated assault, with fewer sins he hadn’t committed physically.

Yeongwoo had heard his name through the news, as he was notorious enough.

For this reason, he was now running towards Yeongwoo as a half-dragon, half-rooster creature, a cockatrice.

Thud, thud, kugung!

As the distance between them narrowed, the red jewel on Yeongwoo's belt, indicating a presence of Grade 2 or lower, glowed brightly.

Yeongwoo, pulling out the jewel with his left hand, spoke sharply.

"Even scum like you gets a reaction from this sword, signifying you're still considered human. Let me erase you from this world altogether."

In response, Jo Seungtae bulged his eyes and opened his large beak.

「The monk has repented all sins! You too, shut your mouth and repent!」

Gruuuu...!

At first, Yeongwoo thought the beak was merely opening to speak, but as the dialogue ended, he felt a chilling energy gathering inside the creature's maw.

'What is that...?'

「Dieeeeeee!」

Suddenly, a gray breath spewed from the creature's gaping beak, but by then, Yeongwoo had already rolled away in an evasive maneuver to the side.

「This...!」

Caught off guard by Yeongwoo's unexpectedly agile movement, Jo Seungtae was still in shock when Yeongwoo swung both the Dragon's Legacy and the Underdog he held in his hands simultaneously.

Shiaaaaat!

As the weapons traced an X in the dim darkness, a flash of light followed along the path of the sword, and soon, the outline of a Dogo symbol appeared right where they intersected.

[Grade 2 Advertisement Space Utilization]

-The company logo will be printed on the weapon's trajectory.

And at the point where the patterns of the two weapons overlapped.

「Kkuk...!」

There lay the severed head of Jo Seungtae, the third mutant in Paju.

Yeongwoo had split his head into four pieces, to be precise.

Tsrrrrup!

As the heavy head of Jo Seungtae split into four pieces and fell to the ground, a white beam of light shot up into the sky from where his head had been.

Then...

“Huh...?”

Instead of the golden orb that should have appeared, a black orb manifested in its place.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 113

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 113: Night Dungeon (1)

“What... Why is it black?”

Amidst the obsidian rain falling from the murky sky, a black sphere...

Yeongwoo felt a vague sense of unease.

“Is it because it’s night? But it shouldn’t just be a different color, right...?”

In this world of the night, there was only Yeongwoo, a human.

So, he had no choice but to converse with the goblin, who was sheltering from the rain at the edge of his cloak.

-Keet!

Eventually, the little goblin reached out from under the cloak as if gesturing to touch the sphere.

Of course, it was highly unlikely that this Relic-level slave knew the secrets of this world.

He was probably just imitating what Yeongwoo had been doing whenever he touched the sphere.

Still, it was somewhat comforting.

“Well, leaving this here just because it looks a bit scary doesn’t make sense.”

In essence, he was talking to himself.

After hesitantly glancing around the dark surroundings, Yeongwoo cautiously reached out his hand towards the black sphere.

Tap.

Then, as usual, a system message appeared.

“Huh.”

The content was completely different from when it was ‘day’.

「New authority has been unlocked.」

|Dungeon

“Dungeon...?”

As Yeongwoo muttered to himself, a grayish wave emanated from the black sphere where he had placed his hand, spreading in all directions.

Bzzzt!

Suddenly, the colors of the entire area turned to shades of gray, as if they had crossed over to a parallel world.

-Purrrup!

The unidentified grade horse, Negwig, provided by Dogo, licked its lips.

It seemed to be disliking this endlessly silent space.

-Keey.....

Even the golden goblin let out a sharp, prolonged cry, unlike its usual behavior.

And a moment later.

Kwaadddd!

The ground beneath their feet began to tremble, and something began to happen.

“W-What’s...”

As Yeongwoo, taken aback, pushed Negwig back, the ground in front of them split open, and a huge structure rose up.

Kwaaaa...!

It was a pyramid.

However, it was a pyramid made of something black and sturdy, created in another world.

‘But why does it feel so familiar?’

Yeongwoo was overcome with a sense of déjà vu as he looked at the swollen “pyramid” that seemed to cover the entire sky.

And then he realized where this familiarity came from.

‘...Currency Exchange.’

It was like looking at that currency exchange that reflected no sunlight and gave a sense of discomfort on the first day of the reset.

‘Was it made in the same place?’

It was familiar, yet entirely unwelcome.

He wondered what would happen next this time.

“.....”

As Yeongwoo stared intently at the pyramid, a brightly lit rectangle appeared on the front of the pyramid.

Pip!

Upon Yeongwoo nudging Negwig forward, letters soon appeared above the problematic rectangle.

「Please dismount from the mount.」

“Oh...?”

A user-friendly interface, contrary to expectations.

Following the instructions, Yeongwoo dismounted from Negwig.

Clang!

Then, as the golden goblin also leaped down, almost simultaneously, another message appeared.

「You cannot bring slaves into this dungeon」

Keek! Ket!

Immediately, the golden goblin raised its ears and voiced angry protest.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo stroked his chin and nodded his head.

‘So, this is a dungeon after all. The appearance conditions must be so strict that I haven’t seen it until now...’

On the first day of the reset, many factors emerged, including quests, currencies, as several celebrities, including the president, chose ‘disbandment’.

Among them, Yeongwoo distinctly remembered the dungeons.

‘No wonder. I wondered why I couldn’t see any dungeons when monsters were falling from the sky every night.’

In fact, they were available for appearance every night, but no one came out to see them through the abnormal weather.

“Hoo...”

As Yeongwoo’s thoughts reached this point, he suddenly felt his heart racing.

He was excited to have reached the hidden elements of this world that no one had discovered so far.

Was this also a trait of the ‘stubborn’?

Clang.

As Yeongwoo left Negwig and the goblin behind and took another step towards the pyramid, a new message appeared in the glowing rectangle.

Paaat!

It was none other than the dungeon format.

[Pain of Iria]

|Dungeon Grade: Normal

|Difficulty: D

|Required Personnel: 3

‘This is surprisingly straightforward.’

Yeongwoo chuckled at the dungeon system he had commonly seen in games.

Then...

“Wait a moment.”

He checked the last letters written in the dungeon information again.

“Required Personnel?”

And it was three people.

“If it requires three people, who else is here besides me?”

With a resentful expression, Yeongwoo took another step towards the pyramid, and a whirlpool began to swirl in front of the pyramid, opening up space.

Whiirrrr!

So, this was...

‘A portal.’

It was the entrance to this dungeon.

‘But we need two more people.’

With a disappointed expression, Yeongwoo peered into the portal and discovered numbers written inside.

[0/3]

Of course, this didn't change the situation.

It simply meant that there was currently nobody inside this dungeon that required a total of three people.

'Too bad.'

Still, since he was already here, should he take a look inside the dungeon anyway?

Although the excitement had waned a bit, there was still some potential gain.

After all, now that he knew the appearance conditions of the dungeon, he could eventually recruit two more warriors and explore the dungeon.

'Anyway, let's go in and do some preliminary exploration...'

As Yeongwoo thought this, as he was about to step into the portal...

Pat!

[1/3]

The number inside the portal changed to '1/3.'

"Huh?"

Yeongwoo withdrew his foot at this, but the number didn't change back.

"What's this?"

Unless it was a system error, the current situation implied something significant.

"Could it be... someone is inside...?"

He couldn't help but think so.

In that case, who entered the dungeon from where?

"If that's the case, it means there are multiple entrances."

More precisely, someone came out tonight and summoned another dungeon from somewhere else.

"....."

Sssaaat!

Without hesitation, Yeongwoo drew his black sword.

Then, with heightened vigilance, he walked into the portal.

* * *

Portal.

In games or novels, it generally refers to ‘dimensional gates’ or ‘spatial transportation.’

Regardless, the core function of a portal is to instantly transport the user to their destination, no matter how far it may be.

So, Yeongwoo once wondered what it would feel like to experience portal movement in real life whenever he used portals in games.

But this time...

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Suaat!

He couldn't tell.

“Wow!”

Although the time passing through the portal was very short, he didn't feel anything during that time.

Despite taking just a few steps forward, he found himself in an entirely different place.

It was a spacious room that resembled an ancient ruin.

Clang!

As Yeongwoo, who had passed through the portal, instinctively stepped on the floor, he immediately heard a chilling sound from behind.

Shiriririk!

It was the sound of the portal closing.

“What...!”

Startled, Yeongwoo turned around, but the portal had already disappeared.

Then, someone who had been leaning against the opposite wall approached him, speaking with a voice that felt surprisingly welcoming.

“Don’t worry at all! You can leave anytime you want if you wish! But you shouldn’t leave yet!”

‘What... what do you mean?’

Only then did Yeongwoo realize that he had belatedly decided to be cautious of people.

“...Who’s there?”

“Oh, startled, aren’t you? It seems like everyone experiences that when using portals for the first time. Your memory blanks out for a moment.”

It was only then that Yeongwoo noticed a large brazier in the center of the room.

And on this brazier, there were numbers written in the same format as what he had seen in the portal.

[2/3]

‘It was 1/3 before, but now it changed to 2/3.’

Presumably, it was the result of the person on the other side of the brazier and the one on this side chatting incessantly.

In other words, two out of the required three for dungeon exploration had arrived.

And amidst all this, the other person continued to speak without pause.

“Now, shall we take a leisurely look at each other? I’m so curious about what you’re like.”

“.....”

Yeongwoo finally understood why the other person couldn’t stay still like a restless puppy.

“Did you happen to be here yesterday too?”

As Yeongwoo asked this, the figure across the brazier responded with a much more animated voice than before, clapping enthusiastically.

“No, how did you know...! That’s right! I stayed up all night yesterday waiting, but nobody came!”

“.....”

Despite the somewhat ridiculous tone, it meant that the other person was undoubtedly a skilled individual.

It meant that they had been able to pass through the abnormal weather for two consecutive days.

Either they were incredibly lucky or they had equipment that could ignore all weather conditions.

“Now, let’s slowly move to the right, shall we? Let’s see each other’s faces.”

Of course, they didn’t seem to be particularly sharp-witted.

“Um, whose right are we talking about? If we each go our own right, we’ll never meet.”

“Oh...! That’s right.”

“You should come out to the right from your perspective. Then I’ll move accordingly.”

“Okay!”

The other person readily accepted Yeongwoo’s suggestion.

And finally...

Clang, clang.

Step by step.

With the brazier between them, the two who had only exchanged voices began to close the distance little by little.

And as their faces gradually became visible under the light...

“Oh... Oh.”

“What... what’s going on?”

Both of them couldn't help but stiffen their expressions.

Because...

"Oh, you... for an Asian... you're tall."

"If you're Sicilian... aren't you from Italy?"

One was Korean, and the other was from Sicily, Italy.

『Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword』

『Guardian Sword of Sicily』

Two people from opposite sides of the Earth.

'Oh my god.'

Yeongwoo had a premonition that this dungeon was a place accessible to people from all over the world.

But if that were the case...

"Um, wait a moment."

A very strange sensation, or rather something close to fear, began to creep from the elbow to the back of the neck.

"What did you just say? Didn't you say you waited all night yesterday?"

Upon hearing this, the Italian swallowed heavily and looked around anxiously.

"Yes... I waited alone all night yesterday and then went back. But why are you saying this all of a sudden? It's a little scary."

Upon this, Yeongwoo felt as if his heart had stopped, so he briefly placed his hand on his chest.

"What day was it on the second day of the reset?"

"It was the second day. Of course."

"Then today is..."

"The third day..."

As the Italian counted on his fingers, his face finally stiffened.

He too realized.

That there was a significant discrepancy in this space, or rather in this meeting.

“...Time difference.”

As the Italian widened his eyes, Yeongwoo nodded.

“If you’re from Italy, there’s about an 8-hour time difference with Korea.”

“T-Then...”

“I also entered here on the third night. So, in Italy, it should be around three in the afternoon of the third day.”

“So, you mean... I’m experiencing events that haven’t happened yet?”

“At least from my perspective, yes. You, sir, have come from the future.”

“But I have memories of everything from three in the afternoon today until now. Rather, from my perspective... you’re the one who came from the past.”

“.....”

As the conversation reached this point, it was no longer surprising that the two had been effortlessly traversing the language barrier from the beginning.

And to make matters worse...

Shirring!

Once again, there was the sound of the portal closing from beyond the brazier.

The third party member had arrived at the dungeon.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 114

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 114: Night Dungeon (2)

[Tocantins Leopard]

The final party member, bearing a rather peculiar title, appeared in a significantly worse condition than the two who had arrived earlier, sporting wounds all over their body as if they had experienced particularly harsh days.

After glancing around with a terrified expression as the portal disappeared, they spotted the other two and immediately brandished their sword.

“What, what’s this? These guys...!”

One could see the multitude of injuries covering their body, indicating they had endured quite rough times.

With deep wounds on their face, just their presence alone stiffened the atmosphere.

“Huff!”

At the sound of the ‘leopard’s’ breath, as if about to charge forward, Sicilia’s Guardian Sword gestured for calmness, stepping back a few paces.

“Oh, calm down! We didn’t gather here to fight each other!”

On the other hand, Yeongwoo’s eyes widened as he noticed a new fact.

‘The Dragon’s Legacy....’

The Dragon’s Legacy, which hung from his belt, serving both as a Epic-grade weapon and a means to assess the opponent’s grade, had finally started to heat up.

「Dragon’s Legacy」 – Epic One-Handed Sword

【Classism.】

|Increases power against targets of Grade 2 and below.

Which meant...

“....”

Yeongwoo’s gaze fell upon the European who was earnestly trying to calm the third participant.

‘He was a Grade 1 human.’

Although it seemed the man wasn't the protagonist, judging by the fact that the achievement "Ending Maker" hadn't been completed.

But it was also a fact that he wasn't an ordinary person.

Swoosh.

As Yeongwoo belatedly turned his gaze towards 'Tocantins Leopard,' the opponent flinched and aimed the sword towards Yeongwoo.

"Are you... Chinese?"

"...I'm Korean. Where are you from?"

As Yeongwoo, towering at two meters tall, took a step forward with the torch behind him, a massive shadow covered the 'leopard's' feet.

"Why do you ask such things."

The man realized Yeongwoo's size and, emitting a more murderous gaze than before, assumed a combat stance.

"Strongest Sword... or whatever you are, you're probably the strongest in this area right now, yet you seem to have little patience. Shall we put down our weapons and have a conversation first?"

As Yeongwoo spoke and placed the black sword he had been holding onto the ground, the 'leopard,' who had been watching, flinched.

They refrained from attacking instinctively upon seeing the opponent lower their weapon.

Because...

[3/3]

They too had just noticed the numbers on the torch.

The number of people needed to explore this dungeon, three.

If they fought and even one of them died, most likely, that number would return to 2/3 again.

"If fighting leads to even one death, the number will probably return to 2/3."

“Ah, the world has become so dangerous lately that even exchanging greetings can be quite difficult, don’t you think?”

Gradually, Sicilia’s Guardian Sword intervened between the two strong individuals, nudging its way in.

Then, with his right hand, he tapped his chest and slightly bowed his upper body, greeting them.

“I am Ottavio Simorelli from Sicily. Strictly speaking, I am Italian.”

At this, the ‘leopard’ finally grasped the situation and stared blankly.

“I... Italy?”

Didn’t that Easterner earlier say he was Korean?

Italy, Korea, and...

“...I’m Ricardo Da Silva Tabares... I came from Tocantins Brazil.”

Brazil.

In other words, here they had representatives from East Asia, Southern Europe, and South America, each one.

“I’m Jeong Yeongwoo from Korea.”

Continuing with his self-introduction, Yeongwoo approached Ricardo.

Clank, clank.

As Yeongwoo made metallic noises approaching, Ricardo’s blade menacingly rose again.

However, Yeongwoo paid no attention and closed the distance with the opponent to about three meters.

Then.

Swish.

He extended his right hand into the air.

Which meant.

“If you want to continue this dungeon, shake hands with me. You were the only one pointing your sword here.”

As Yeongwoo requested a handshake, Ricardo looked bewildered, and Ottavio from Italy gazed at Yeongwoo as if he were very interesting.

Amidst this, the number displayed on the torch continued to indicate that there were still three people alive.

Having glanced at the number, Ricardo finally placed his weapon on the ground and took a step forward.

Then.

Thud!

Yeongwoo grabbed his outstretched hand vigorously.

“I apologize for earlier, friend.”

* * *

The time difference between Korea and Brazil is 12 hours.

The time difference between Italy and Korea is 8 hours.

The time difference between Brazil and Italy is 4 hours.

However, the moment they set foot inside the dungeon, not only did the time difference disappear, but time itself merged.

How, why does that happen?

After a while of futile discussion, the three agreed that they couldn't come to a conclusion.

Then, they decided to focus on the fundamental purpose of coming here: exploring the dungeon.

“Well... for now, all the people are here.”

Ottavio stroked his chin and looked around.

In this stone chamber that gave off an ancient ruin vibe, there seemed to be no separate exit.

The portal would open if you knocked on the wall twice, though.

“I thought the dungeon would automatically start once everyone was here, but it seems that’s not the case.”

If Ottavio, the first in the dungeon who had been waiting, said this, it meant there weren’t any special physical mechanisms involved.

Upon this, Yeongwoo stared quietly at the numbers on the torch and then shifted his gaze to the flames that were burning incessantly.

“Hey, is it hot for everyone?”

“Yes?”

“...?”

Observing the reactions of the two, Yeongwoo walked straight up to the torch without hesitation.

Then, before anyone could stop him, he reached into the flames.

Whoosh.

“Ouch!”

“What... what are you doing?!”

Even Ricardo from the rugged Brazil was astonished by this bold move, but Yeongwoo’s expression remained calm.

“The fire isn’t hot. Come on, try putting your hand in here.”

It sounded so absurd that they might have thought he’d lost his mind, but both the South American and the European approached the torch as the Asian instructed.

I don’t know why, but I thought it might be right to go against common sense, at least in this dungeon.

After all, it was a space where time from all over the world merged, so could anything illogical exist?

Swish.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Finally, the other two also put their hands into the flames.

In fact, this was possible because each of them represented large regions.

Before the reset of Tocantins population, there were about 1.5 million people, and Sicily had a population of nearly 5 million.

Sizzle!

With all three participants placing their hands in the flames, an alarm sounded, and the dungeon format appeared where the number of participants had been displayed.

[Pain of Iria]

|Dungeon Grade: Normal

|Difficulty: D

|Required Personnel: 3

“Pain of Iria...”

“I was worried about this even before entering. What could it mean?”

“Whatever it is, it probably means a painful time awaits us.”

Ricardo offered a pessimistic outlook.

Then, a new message appeared on the torch.

「The required personnel have been gathered.」

「The dungeon will start shortly.」

Upon hearing this sentence, familiar to anyone who survived after the reset, the attention of the three individuals was drawn.

「Get ready.」

“...!”

“Oh?”

“...Fuck”

Ricardo's curse seemed to signal something, as the entire floor of the room began to shake.

Clunk!

"Huh."

"What, what's going on?"

However, the real problem occurred next.

Screeeeeeech!

Somewhere, the sound of gears turning could be heard, and then the floor sank downwards.

Aaaaah!

It felt as if they were riding a giant elevator.

The only difference was that the walls were moving rapidly upwards, and the speed was dangerously fast.

"Madness!"

"Aaaaah!"

"This damn...!"

In reality, the descent speed was almost comparable to freefall, giving the three individuals a sensation akin to riding a perpetual drop tower.

Squaaaaaaa...!

In addition to this, the flames of the torch left long trails as if being sucked up into the air, allowing them to see the vertical passage they had just traversed.

It was a long, distant passage, so high it seemed the ceiling was already out of sight.

'How, how far down are we going?'

It was clear they were not on Earth anymore.

They must have descended at least a kilometer, judging by their perception.

Squaaaaaaa...!

Despite this, the insane floor of the room didn't know when to appear, and when it seemed they had descended about twice the depth they had already descended, Ricardo, who had been biting his lips, finally spoke as if he was sick of it.

"Where the hell are they taking us?"

As he said this, he helplessly looked up.

He was thinking of the Earthbound portal they had placed above.

"At this rate, we'll..."

Just as Sicilia's Ottavio, who had been the embodiment of optimism, was about to express his concerns, a mechanical sound, rougher than before, of the gear teeth resounded, and the descent speed of the floor, which seemed endless, gradually slowed down.

"Oh."

"Wow."

"This fucking..."

Had they finally reached their destination?

As the three individuals caught their breaths and blinked, the passageway that had surrounded the room disappeared in an instant.

Whoosh!

Or rather, it was more appropriate to say that the passage segment had ended.

Now the three of them were suspended hundreds of meters below ground.

Except for the stone floor beneath their feet, there were no structures around.

Just endless blackness and vast emptiness.

"...Unbelievable."

"Where in the world..."

"Look up."

At Ricardo's gesture pointing upwards, everyone shifted their gaze there, soon seeing it.

It was a gigantic stone structure with intricate patterns carved on its surface.

Part of a massive rectangular prism, this structure had several tiny square holes punctured into it, one of which seemed to be the passage they had just traversed.

“How... how big is this...?”

Ottavio asked, but no one could provide an answer.

The edge of the structure wasn't even visible in their immediate field of view.

Only a fraction of this structure was visible to the eye.

Kwaaaaa...

Gradually, the stone floor beneath them slowed down even more.

And by this time, the mysterious space that had been nothing but darkness began to reveal itself, albeit partially.

This was solely thanks to the torch in the center of the stone floor.

Its light began to illuminate the “ground.”

“There's a floor! We're almost there.”

Ottavio exclaimed as he drew his sword.

He, who hadn't made a single threatening gesture since entering the dungeon, was now preparing for battle on his own.

It was a sign that he felt threatened in this space.

Swish!

Then Ricardo drew his sword from his belt, and Yeongwoo pulled his black sword closer to his body.

And just as the stone floor met the bottom of this vast space.

Kuwoong!

“Phew.”

“Ugh, ugh.”

“Shh...”

The three of them tried to calm their nerves while regulating their breathing in their own ways.

However, since the torch didn't illuminate far, the area around the stone floor remained dark, and they couldn't relax completely.

“It's too dark. We wouldn't even know if someone else came here.”

Where is this life heading?

Yeongwoo recalled the shock he felt on the first day of the reset when he stabbed someone with a knife.

At that time, he thought his life was undergoing an unstoppable change.

But compared to now, that time seems...

Beep!

Suddenly, a sharp warning sound emanated from the torch, causing everyone, including Yeongwoo, to pause their thoughts and turn their gaze.

「Shortly, ‘The Pain of Iria’ will begin.」

「To pass this dungeon, you will need one handler and two marksmen.」

“A handler and marksmen... What does that mean?”

As Ottavio asked this question, two iron chains shot out from one side of the stone floor.

Shooooloot!

Then, faint lights began to illuminate one by one on the ground in the direction where the chains were shot.

Tap, tap, tap.

Toward the darkness beyond.

So, this was some sort of guide light.

“Surely not.”

Sensing something, Yeongwoo's expression twisted, and soon the dungeon system's explanation followed.

「From now on, the handler will pull the chains to move the boat, and the two marksmen must protect the torch and the handler from intruders.」

“Ah...”

“What?”

Having faced numerous combat situations, the three individuals could imagine a lot from just that explanation.

But that wasn't the end of it.

「Rule one, only the handler can touch the chains.」

「Rule two, only the handler can be outside the boat.」

『Iron rule one, anyone who violates the above rules will be disqualified.』

『Iron rule two, at the moment of disqualification, one survivor will be eliminated.』

“What does this mean?”

The three individuals didn't even have time to be astonished, let alone time to familiarize themselves with the rules.

By the time Yeongwoo finished reading the second rule, a holographic text appeared above the torch.

「The one wishing to be the handler, please grab the chains.」

「Time limit, 10 seconds.」

And just as everyone horrifically anticipated, the numbers began to decrease immediately.

...9.

...8.

...7.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 115

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 115: Night Dungeon (3)

「The one wishing to be the handler, please grab the chains.」

...6

...5

The remaining time is 5 seconds.

At this, Ricardo almost shouted as he revealed it into the air.

“Fuck you! Does this make sense?”

Ottavio, on the other hand, remained relatively calm, holding the chain and ship...

So, he took turns looking at the stone floor they had been riding on.

“It seems like the ‘handler’ is some kind of tank. From the fact that the marksmen have to protect him, it seems like his chain is so heavy that he can’t use weapons.....”

“There’s no time for that.”

As Ottavio reiterated the rule, Yeongwoo, seeing the remaining time drop below 2 seconds, immediately picked up the chain.

Clank.

“...I’m a handler. It’s already decided.”

“.....!”

“Ugh.”

The given time was too short, so it was not a matter of discussion.

It was a problem that depended on luck, a sort of party member lottery, where those with the will to pull off the handler and confidence in themselves had to pick them up on their own.

And luckily, the Guardian Sword of Sicily and the Leopard of Tocantins were in the same boat as Jeong Yeongwoo, the Strongest sword of Gyeongbuk.

“My skill might be a bit lower than yours. But still, there won’t be a big difference now.”

Yeongwoo lightly tapped the ‘Golden Oath’ wrapped around his upper body as he said this.

Thunk.

『Golden Oath』 - Legendary Armor

[Enemy Attack Power Reduced by 50%.]

“Fortunately, even though my stats are a bit low, I can endure a lot of beating. I don’t know how much of a beating the handler’s role is, but.....”

“.....?”

There was no other way for Yeongwoo to explain.

It’s not like he can recite his specs here.

At least for now, they seemed like colleagues, but who knows what will happen in the future.

“I won’t die easily, so please focus on protecting the bonfire. It doesn’t even know how to scream when in danger.”

As Yeongwoo finished speaking and started wrapping the chains around his body, Ricardo looked at him blankly for a moment before bursting into laughter.

“He’s completely crazy.”

But still, as if acknowledging his greatness, he raised his thumb.

Meanwhile, Ottavio seemed genuinely concerned about Yeongwoo.

“...Are you really okay?”

“If you’re not okay, it’ll just be Russian roulette. But seriously, what kind of reward is there to make the difficulty this high?”

Now Yeongwoo's gaze was on the 'navigation course' where faint lights were lined up.

Probably, the end of that light array is the final destination.

Until then, they had to navigate through the darkness with the two of them on that stone floor.

'I guess I'll have to spend all my money now.'

As Yeongwoo put the commemorative coin he had put in his pocket into his mouth, dotted lines appeared along his body contours.

Pahat!

『Character: Jeong Yeongwoo07』

[Strength] 2,900 (19+2,881)

[Endurance] 1,950 (21+1,929)

[Endurance] 1,950 (21+1,929)

[Durability] 2,450 (13+2,437)

[Sensitivity] 800 (24+776)

* Available Karma: 996,000

What are the important stats for a handler?

'For now, let's exclude strength since we can increase it by 25% with Masochism.'

That leaves endurance and durability.

According to the rule we just saw, the marksmen's role is to protect the handler and the bonfire within the boundary of not leaving the stone floor.

In other words, it means those intruders will actively attack the handler too.

'I'm not sure how deadly their attacks will be. If it's at the level of cutting some flesh, I can cover it with regeneration.'

Of course, the resulting pain would have been entirely Yeongwoo's responsibility.

This is because the pain that the Berserker Talisman nullifies is limited to critical hits that cause the body to shatter.

「Berserker」 – Mutation Amulet

【Ignore a certain level of pain.】

‘Now, since my endurance is quite low at the moment, I think I should give a bit more power to this side.....’

Judging from the atmosphere, the ‘voyage’ is about to begin.

In the end, Yeongwoo evenly invested in endurance and durability.

In case his strength is lacking, he was considering drinking a doping potion.

Pahat!

『Character: Jeong Yeongwoo07』

[Strength] 2,900 (19+2,881)

[Endurance] 2,448 (21+2,427)

[Durability] 2,948 (13+2,935)

[Sensitivity] 800 (24+776)

* Available Karma: 0

Perhaps because this could be the last time, he left not a single penny.

Then Ottavio, who realized what Yeongwoo was doing, looked at his sword with a determined face and said.

“We won’t fail. We’ll protect you no matter what.”

And at that moment.

Beep!

The unpleasant warning sound from earlier echoed again.

「In 5 seconds, the dungeon will begin.」

「All marksmen, please come up to the deck.」

At this, Ottavio and Ricardo took their positions on the stone floor near the bonfire.

“What’s this... I’m shaking like crazy.”

As Ricardo stroked his bruised face and muttered, Ottavio added with a sniffle.

“Wasn’t this supposed to be level D difficulty? Are you coming again if you survive?”

“Are you insane?”

As Ricardo spat out his lines, the flames of the bonfire flickered once.

Whoosh!

「Dungeon commencement.」

Finally, it began.

The insane voyage.

“Let’s go!”

Clack!

As Yeongwoo stepped forward, the chains connecting him to the ground tightened.

And then.

Thunk.

Suddenly.

The stone floor carrying the two marksmen truly began to move.

But this was purely due to Yeongwoo’s strength.

There were no wheels under this stone floor.

“Fuck fuckk...”

Ricardo spat out curses, filled with remorse for the handler and fear of the dreadful situation.

And just as the stone floor was starting to pick up speed, an alarming sound came from beyond the darkness surrounding them.

-Over there.

-What's that?

Although the voices sounded as harsh as metal scraping against metal, they were undoubtedly human voices.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“Huh...?”

“Why are there people in a place like this?”

But no matter how much one thought about it, these sounds were undoubtedly from the ‘intruders’ described in the rule earlier.

The ones aiming for the handler and the bonfire.

“Shouldn’t the bonfire stay lit?”

Ricardo, who had become confused by the fading rules, asked anxiously while glancing around at the darkness.

To this, Yeongwoo, who was practically a slave pulling the boat, replied.

“Yes. We have to protect both the handler and the bonfire.”

And with this conversation, the assailants appeared.

-Kill them!

-Hiyaaah!

Tatatat!

From the darkness all around, figures rushed into the illuminated area near the bonfire.

They looked like people, and there were easily over a hundred of them, visible in the light.

It felt like the first day of a reset, recreating the brawl at the currency exchange.

“...!”

These monstrous figures, covered in ash-like powder, climbed onto the boat one by one, each wielding a weapon in hand, and then attacked the two marksmen guarding the bonfire.

-Die!

-Kyaaaah!

Although these monsters varied in gender and race, their purpose seemed singular: to ensure the failure of the three who had come here.

“These fucking bastards!”

Ricardo, who was standing near the bonfire, gritted his teeth and swung his sword, but they mercilessly charged at him without fear.

“Urgh...!”

Not only Yeongwoo but also the other two were traumatized to the point of mental oppression, as their memories from the currency exchange were close to traumatic.

“Get off!”

“Uwaaaah!”

Of course, as the strongest in the large area, each time they swung their swords, several of the monsters were cut down.

But the real problem began from this point.

Thunk thunk.

“Oh, it’s incredibly heavy!”

As the bodies piled up, the boat became unbearably heavy to the point where Yeongwoo couldn’t pull it anymore.

It was clear that the weight of the monsters was not at the level of an ordinary person.

“Oh my god. We need to clear away the bodies.”

Realizing the situation, Ottavio began kicking the bodies strewn across the stone floor with sweat pouring down his face.

And in the meantime, an even larger number of monsters had gathered around.

Although it was still not bright enough to confirm with the eyes, the chaotic commotion felt from beyond the darkness was evident.

A dreadful premonition, as if thousands were wriggling nearby, despite being unable to see.

“Fuck.”

Eventually, curses escaped from Yeongwoo’s lips too.

He decided he needed to reduce the number of monsters, even if it meant sacrificing some speed.

With this in mind, Yeongwoo lowered his gaze to draw the sword from his belt.

Then...

“...!”

He saw the Dragon’s Legacy glowing red.

It could have been because of Ricardo behind him, but a more ominous intuition brushed against Yeongwoo’s back.

So Yeongwoo...

Shwack!

Drew the Dragon’s Legacy from his belt.

“Huah!”

In the darkness, he forcefully threw the sword towards the darkened distance.

He did it to see if the Dragon’s Legacy was burning inside there too.

Whoosh!

Gradually, the red blade cut through the darkness diagonally, illuminating glimpses of the ashen monsters that filled the darkness around the grade detector.

“This...!”

As expected, the monsters filled every inch of space along this route.

But what made Yeongwoo more scared was...

‘This seems real after all.’

The Dragon’s Legacy, which had flown tens of meters, was still burning red near the blade.

This meant that the monsters surrounding the sword also had internal ranks.

And as far as Yeongwoo knew, the only ones with internal ranks were those with human status.

Since mutants are essentially judged to be human, they become the subject of local swordsmanship guidance and the Dragon’s Legacy responds to them.

‘These bastards might really be humans.’

Around this time, another group of monsters rushed forward from the front, their eyes glinting.

-Target the chains! Get the one unhooking the chains first!

-Let’s cut their legs!

-Cut them off!

It seemed these ones were specifically targeting the handler.

Seeing the monsters near the bonfire being swiftly dealt with, they immediately rushed towards Yeongwoo.

Upon this, Yeongwoo remotely retrieved the Dragon’s Legacy he had thrown far away and also drew the Black Sword still tucked into his belt.

He intended to wield the Black Sword to its fullest extent, thinking it might be able to clear a path, at least for the boat.

“Come at me, you bastards!”

As Yeongwoo roared with determination, one of the monsters who had emerged from the darkness spat out an unbelievable line.

-Oh, Yeongwoo!

“What...?”

Yeongwoo could only turn his head towards the origin of the voice, seemingly entranced.

And his already dilated pupils widened even further.

-This time, please grant my request. Can you do that?

What is the identity of the thing draped between the darkness and the light of the bonfire, looking at Yeongwoo?

-Today, please die here.

It was none other than Yeongwoo's former roommate, Im Bonghee.

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Chapter 116

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 116: Night Dungeon (4)

“Im Bonghee...?”

As Yeongwoo muttered in a daze, a sensation of golden flashes filled his vision.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the original 800 to 924.」

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the original 924 to 1,089.」

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the original 1,089 to 1,235.」

Eventually, reaching the highest sensory ability triggered the activation of ‘Agility.’

「Agility」 – Mutation Ring

【When Senses is the highest ability, 10% damage reduction is obtained.】

The monsters that appeared with Im Bonghee began to rush in earnest.

– Catch them...!

– From their legs!

Judging by the obtained sensory values, the average ability of the monsters ranged between 200 and 300.

Therefore, they weren't a significant threat in terms of combat alone, but the issue lay in their numbers.

Just sticking to them consumed a lot of stamina.

Moreover, every time they swung the daggers they held in their hands, it caused a chilling sensation on the skin, which became increasingly unbearable over time.

Despite Yeongwoo's durability reaching thousands, repeated attacks on the same spot inevitably deepened the wounds.

"Ugh!"

Of course, Yeongwoo had a trick to shake off the clinging enemies.

That was none other than...

Boom!

「Self-destruct」 – Mutation Bracelet

【Causes a strong explosion.】

【Durability increased by 300.】

A kind of self-destruct device called 'Self-destruct.'

However, as terrifying as it was to blast away nearby monsters with it, more monsters rushed in like ants, and since there was a reload time for the explosion, it was impossible to use it infinitely.

'Damn it.'

Eventually, within ten minutes, blood started to flow from Yeongwoo's body, prompting Ricardo to intervene.

"Korean! Hold on a little longer...!"

Although he said so, in reality, he was already surrounded by a dozen or so monsters.

It was practically impossible to guard both the bonfire and the handler at the same time.

'Damn, can this mission even succeed?'

Yeongwoo poured blood from his whole body, still gazing at the distant lights of the pathway with no end in sight.

Something... Something more was needed.

However, the whistle hadn't charged yet, and using the Dragon's Legacy like a boomerang wasn't enough to wipe out the constantly incoming monsters in time.

Of course, due to 'Masochism' his strength had increased dramatically, and his speed was faster than before, but he couldn't help but feel increasingly sure that he couldn't finish this.

「Slime Core」 – Mutation Bracelet

【Regenerative power increases dramatically.】

His regeneration couldn't offset the minor damages caused by the monsters.

Their numbers were just too many.

'Wait, where did Im Bonghee go?'

As Yeongwoo swung his black sword extended up to 6 meters, he tried to find a familiar face among the ashen corpses.

And then...

– Agh!

Hearing a sharp voice from the side, outside his field of vision, he turned his head.

From the side, Yeongwoo heard a sharp voice coming from outside his field of vision and turned his head.

Then...

Swish!

A large gray axe blade flew towards him.

– Die!

It was none other than Im Bonghee aiming for Yeongwoo's neck and swinging her weapon.

"This...!"

However, unlike Bonghee, who functioned as a mere "troublemaker" within this abyss, Yeongwoo was the "Strongest Sword," who had grown through numerous hardships.

Therefore, such a trivial attack like this...

'I don't even need the help of swordsmanship. It's too obvious.'

Yeongwoo easily deflected Bonghee's attack, which seemed to move in slow motion, with his forehead.

Clang!

Bonghee's attack, which failed to penetrate Yeongwoo's head, bounced back without force, and immediately, Yeongwoo's black sword swept towards her side.

Whoosh!

And then, something amazing happened.

Shaaah!

On the arc drawn by Yeongwoo's black sword, the logo of Dogo was printed as if embroidered.

And on top of that, Bonghee's head, which was spinning like a couple of wheels, flew by simply.

Thud.

It was like a scene from a movie.

"Huh...?"

Yeongwoo instinctively held his breath for a moment.

The endless waves of lightweight ashen monsters, the pain radiating from the wounds covering his entire body, and even the tense breathing of his party members from behind.

Given the circumstances, he had forgotten.

That he was the advertising model for the intergalactic weapon brand, Dogo.

Surely the shareholders of Dogo were watching this insane situation as well.

– Aaah!

– Kill him!

Even amidst this chaos, more ashen monsters were swarming in from the front, forming another huge crowd.

The number of them was so great that the lights illuminating the pathway were completely obscured.

“Ugh...”

Ricardo, who had just dragged out a monster leaping towards the bonfire, noticed the darkness surging towards the direction of the handler and looked at it with fearful eyes.

He realized that a far greater number of monsters were coming now than before.

Moreover, there were still hundreds of monsters near the ship.

“H... Hey, Korean! Are you okay?”

Seeing that even the pathway lights were completely obscured, Ricardo asked the handler.

Then he noticed that something was wrong with the handler and shouted in alarm.

“What the fuck are you doing, Korean!”

Seeing this, Ottavio, who was frantically swinging his sword while showing his back to Ricardo, turned around hastily.

Then...

“Huh?”

He suddenly saw the back of an Asian hunter kneeling on the ground.

It was as if he was praying to the sky.

No, it was obvious that he was praying to the sky, with both hands bound in chains, looking up at the distant sky.

“Jeong Yeongwoo!”

Ottavio, realizing that the ship had completely stopped, showed a furious expression for the first time since entering the dungeon.

Could there really be a god in this fucked up world?

If this mission failed, one out of the three would inevitably have to play Russian roulette and face death.

However, Ottavio had no intention of leaving his fate to chance.

“This insane...!”

At the moment Ottavio was about to curse the pitiful Asian hunter, Yeongwoo, bound in chains, raised his blood-soaked arms to the sky and shouted.

“This battle...! Is sponsored by the intergalactic weapon brand Dogo!”

* * *

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

How did Moses feel standing in front of the locked Red Sea?

Yeongwoo was an atheist, but at this moment, he was closer to a fanatic.

He proceeded with the task with a unilateral certainty that Dogo, or rather the sky, was watching over him.

Now, he was about to start the Dogo brand advertisement.

“I am Jeong Yeongwoo, the strongest from Gyeongbuk and Gangnam on Earth! From now on, it’s ad time!”

Yeongwoo’s arms, raised high into the air, were trembling slightly.

If Dogo didn’t answer this call... no, this provocation, there would be little left of the remaining pathway.

He didn’t show it, but his strength had been rapidly draining since a while ago.

It was probably due to losing too much blood.

But at least, wasn’t Yeongwoo the world’s top-tier “tanker”?

If he couldn’t handle it, no matter who took the helm, the outcome would likely be the same.

It was such a diabolical difficulty level that one might think it was a trap to kill one of the three participants from the beginning.

“Dogo...!”

With Yeongwoo’s final shout, thousands of monsters that were approaching under the cover of darkness revealed themselves under the light.

– Aaah!

– Kill the handler first!

– Attack!

In a flash, the monsters overwhelmed Yeongwoo, piling up on top of him like a small mountain.

The chain connecting him to the “ship” couldn’t even be seen anymore.

And when the pile grew too big to climb, the rest surged towards the bonfire.

“Ha, fuck.”

Ricardo, anticipating the worst outcome, looked at Ottavio with a pale face.

It was meant to be their last farewell.

But Ottavio, in the midst of this tense situation, was staring into the void.

“What’s happening...”

Observing Ottavio’s reaction, Ricardo, too, shifted his gaze upwards.

“Crack!”

Soon, his eyes turned white.

Because a laser beam was shooting down from the sky.

Zzzzzzzz!

The area, previously shrouded in darkness, suddenly brightened up as if it were midday.

– Eek!

– Aaah!

Not only the two marksmen but also the ashen monsters filling the chamber felt an instinctive fear and began to scatter in all directions.

As if cockroaches were seeking shelter in the dark.

Thud!

And in the moment when the monsters piled up like a mountain on top of Yeongwoo, a sharp blade suddenly soared up from among them, drawing a spectacular spiral pattern as it swung diagonally.

“Hyaaah!”

This was none other than Gyeongbuk’s strongest sword, Yeongwoo07.

He had just received a response from Dogo, the one who had been given a chance to survive.

It was all thanks to his strategy of starting an advertisement on his own.

[Dogo] “Almost Sold Out”

[Mission] Survive using the equipment provided.

[Reward] Survival guaranteed

[Special] Real-time feedback on equipment usage is required for this mission.

[Note] The provided equipment will be collected.

In Yeongwoo’s view, a new Dogo quest was now available, and there was a palm-sized dodecahedron lying on his palm.

A dodecahedron with twelve pentagonal faces.

Swoosh.

As Yeongwoo picked it up, the laser that had been descending vertically suddenly disappeared as if it were a lie.

Whack!

Then the ashen monsters, who had been fleeing from the light, began to show signs of aggression again.

– Disappear!

– Now’s the time!

– Quick, kill him!

– Hurry up...!

Tap, tap, tap, thud!

The ashen horde began to surge back from the darkness.

Yeongwoo unknowingly exerted force on the dodecahedron he was holding.

Squeak.

Then, each face where Yeongwoo's fingers touched slightly indented inward, like buttons.

Click.

“Huh.”

Then holographic numbers appeared on the dodecahedron.

【3】

“Huh?”

【2】

“...Oh.”

【1】

Yeongwoo had a gut feeling that this was a bomb and threw the dodecahedron into the darkness.

Whoosh!

【X】

...!

If Yeongwoo hadn't seen it wrong, the dodecahedron displayed 'X' as its last message, and then...

Boom!

With a deafening roar, the dodecahedron exploded, or more precisely, opened up in mid-air.

Then...

Swoooooosh!

All the monsters within the dodecahedron's cavity were sucked in.

At least a thousand of them.

"Huh?"

"W-what...?"

In disbelief, Ottavio and Ricardo, who were still standing on the deck, opened their mouths wide.

At first, they thought the Asian had gone crazy, muttering nonsense towards the sky, but then something actually came down.

A divine weapon that could tidy up the entire chamber with just one throw.

"It... It can't be."

Could there really be a god in this world...?

As the two foreigners looked at Yeongwoo in awe, the Asian hunter walked over to the ship and picked up the dodecahedron from the ground.

Then, looking up at the sky, he exclaimed loudly.

"Ah... Wow! Amazing, it's a... spatial bomb! With its polygonal structure, it seems to fit well in any hand!"

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 117

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 117: Night Dungeon (5)

What on earth is happening?

Ottavio from Sicily, Italy, and Ricardo from Tocantins, Brazil, were feeling a strange mix of joy and fear, half and half.

For starters.

Quaddddook!

The fact that the ship was moving quite fast was very encouraging.

With this speed, they didn't need to resort to the "Russian roulette," where one of them had to die as the price of mission failure.

However.

Pweeeeeng!

The fact that the Asian man on this ship's helm was sucking in the monsters with the "A-Space Bomb" provided by the heavens made the two of them fearful.

"Wow, it's really light!"

Is he muttering to himself into the air?

It seemed as if he were reporting to someone...

Even though it was a world with dragons and quests, that was... something that transcended even post-reset common sense.

Of course, it was thousands of times better to die unnoticed in this abyss.

Because that would be such a worthless death.

Pweeeeeng!

Finally, another explosion occurred, and Yeongwoo quickly moved the ship as if he had been waiting.

Dududuk, Dududuk!

Then he picked up the twelve-faced dice lying on the floor where the explosion had occurred.

Blame.

Next time.

Click.

After pressing the switch to activate the timer, he threw it back into the darkness ahead where there was a noisy commotion.

Hwaeat!

Then, as always, the twelve-faced dice split in twelve directions, sucking in all the monsters near the throwing point.

Kweaaaaaaah!

– H, help!

– Save me!

– Aaaaaa!

Each time, the monsters screamed in agony, but it didn't last long.

Their bodies were eerily muted as they reached the common space contained within the twelve-faced dice.

Shuaaak!

Once the “space” finished sucking in, the twelve-faced dice returned to its original form and fell to the ground with a thud.

And Yeongwoo, who saw this, moved forward again.

Dududuk, Dududuk!

This was the entirety of how the trio from the three countries was navigating through the dungeon.

Of course, from the rear and sides where the bomb's range didn't reach, monsters were still pouring in, but compared to the previous difficulty, it was incomparable.

‘If we keep going like this...!’

‘I can survive!’

Just like the two marksmen whose hope was growing brighter, Yeongwoo also became convinced that he could survive here.

The only problem is...

“...I have nothing more to say.”

An efficient hardware structure that could be utilized even if an alien came, a mysterious operating system that caused explosions but didn't produce flashes, astonishing suction power that didn't even leave corpses behind, and so on.

Now, everything that can be said about this “product” has been said.

Click.

As Yeongwoo activated the A-Space Bomb again, the marksmen behind subtly glanced towards him.

This time, they were secretly anticipating what nonsense he would utter next.

“Uh...”

Meanwhile, oblivious to his colleagues' glances, Yeongwoo threw the bomb forward as he did before.

Hwa!

Then, the monsters rushing towards the fire like moths...

Pweeeeeng!

...were sucked into the air along with the explosion above their heads.

Kweaaaaaah!

An unidentified hole that selectively sucked in hostile targets without requiring specific conditions from the user, swallowing even the enemies' heads, leaving no trace of them.

Yeongwoo gazed at the problematic hole, which seemed even darker than the darkness enveloping the surroundings, as if mesmerized.

“If this is clearly hell, then what is that place inside, which seems even darker than this hell? Is it emptiness itself?”

Now almost resembling a poet, the Eastern handler muttered with a wistful gaze, before stepping forward again.

Dududuk!

And so, the three continued their journey through the darkness.

* * *

Hell.

When Im Bonghee, who had been eliminated and perished, saw this place, it was fair to say that this was indeed hell.

‘All those who have been eliminated gathered here. They became monsters worse than mutants.’

At the time, ‘Voting’ was a one-sided attack method, but it was also the only way to block the flesh that might come at you.

In other words, in order to harm others, one had to risk one’s own life as collateral.

And flipping that around.

‘Getting voted means someone has harbored tremendous resentment against you. Resentment enough for someone to risk their life to denounce you.’

For example, someone like Im Bonghee, who was actually a rapist.

Sweep.

Yeongwoo, who had picked up the twelve-faced dice as usual, suddenly felt discomfort and glanced beyond the darkness.

“...”

Then silence returned like an echo.

The presence of monsters, which had been as natural as breathing until now, was no longer detectable.

“Huh...?”

With that, Yeongwoo, for the first time without throwing the twelve-faced dice, steered the ship away.

Dududuk, Dududuk.

And the two marksmen, who realized that there had been no more surprise attacks from the sides or rear for some time, widened their eyes like people who had discovered a lake in the desert.

“I-Is it... over?”

“...Really?”

Ricardo reflexively checked the fire.

“Oh...”

As he wished, the flame in the center of the stone floor was still burning brightly.

Then, all that remained was...

Dududuk!

To continue pulling the ship until the Eastern handler reached his destination, wherever that may be.

Dududuk!

As Yeongwoo silently dragged the boat with the two aboard for another hundred meters, Ricardo suddenly spoke with a shy tone.

“T-Thank you, Korean. I won’t forget your efforts until I die.”

Then, Ottavio sitting beside him poked his side and added a word.

“Jeong Yeongwoo. By now, you should remember our names.”

“...It’s not easy to remember Eastern names.”

They had become quite close over time.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Considering the sheer number of monsters they had fought off together, numbering in the thousands, it was only natural that their inner bond had strengthened as they crossed swords and backed each other up.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo, who had been quietly leading the group forward like the group’s father, finally spoke up.

“That’s it!”

It wasn't until the moment when the sound of the ground rubbing against the boat changed that he opened his mouth.

"The ground material has changed."

Then he bent his body forward and exerted more force to pull the boat.

However.

Kwak!

This time, the boat didn't budge an inch.

It was as if it had hit something.

"...Ah."

Finally, a sense of relief washed over him.

Yeongwoo silently released the chains that had bound him all over his body.

Chyurk, Chyurryuk.

It was an intuition that only the handler who had been pulling the boat alone for so long could possess.

The end of this arduous journey had come.

Chyrat!

Yeongwoo, who had released all the chains wrapped around his waist, walked forward like a prisoner released after a long sentence.

Then.

Cheolk, Cheolk!

A strange sound, different from before, emanated from the illusion.

At this, Yeongwoo momentarily removed his gloves and touched the ground.

Blame.

"It's stone."

The same material as the “boat” he had been pulling all this time was now spread out in front of him.

Although it was still pitch black, he couldn’t exactly discern what lay ahead.

“It seems to be over. I’ll go in further to check....”

As Yeongwoo spoke, taking another step into the darkness.

Chat!

A faint light descended from high above, illuminating Yeongwoo’s position.

And towering right in front of him was a pile of rocks.

“...?”

Resembling the remains of a collapsed giant ruin, this pile of rocks completely blocked Yeongwoo’s path.

“What’s that?”

“The path is completely blocked.”

Unconsciously, the two marksmen were about to follow Yeongwoo out of the boat, but they managed to stop themselves just in time.

They remembered that the dungeon hadn’t ended yet.

「Rule one: Only the handler can touch the chains.」

「Rule two: Only the handler can be outside the boat.」

Due to the absurd nature of this damn dungeon, they didn’t even know if this was a trap designed to induce a rule violation.

“Let’s just wait for now.”

“...Agreed.”

Eventually, when the two marksmen decided not to leave the vicinity of the fire, the next development unfolded.

Paat!

A holographic message appeared above the pile of rocks blocking the path.

「You have reached the end of the dungeon.」

“What?”

“This damn...”

As they suspected, it was indeed a device for “fishing.”

Still, Yeongwoo didn’t entirely trust this dungeon until the end.

“But don’t leave yet. There’s no other way out.”

The path was still blocked, and there were no additional instructions on the pile of rocks.

Instead.

Duduk!

The stone floor, which Yeongwoo had been pulling all this time with the boat, containing the fire and the marksmen, suddenly moved backward on its own.

Even though no one was holding the chains.

“Huh, what’s this?”

Ottavio, sensing something, looked at Yeongwoo.

And when Yeongwoo saw the stone floor moving, he quickly ran over and pushed his body against it.

Cheolk!

As Yeongwoo stepped onto the stone floor, the problematic boat, which had been slowly moving backward, suddenly floated into the air.

“Oh... We’re going back!”

Ricardo exclaimed with joy, sounding like a child.

Ottavio couldn’t hide his excitement as he looked up at the sky.

As the boat flew faster and faster towards the spot where everything had started, even the mighty ones among them couldn’t help but be startled.

Shoaaaaaat!

The stone floor, cutting through the vast emptiness diagonally, reached the hole beneath the stone structure where the three had first descended.

Then, after some adjustments.

Shiiiiiiik!

“Ugh.”

“Urk!”

Inside the high-speed elevator that even made the strong ones flinch, Ottavio managed to speak to Yeongwoo.

“Thank you very much, really.”

“...No, everyone worked hard to get us out alive.”

Ottavio chuckled softly and cautiously continued.

“We may not have much time left here, but I wanted to ask.”

“Yes, what is it?”

“Will we be able to see each other again?”

“Oh.”

Shaaaaaaaaat!

A fierce roaring sound cut through their conversation like a blade.

Then, Ricardo, who had been quietly listening, scratched his cheek and said.

“Do you seriously plan on coming back here? We’ve had enough at this point, haven’t we...?”

He seemed genuinely amazed by the difficulty of the dungeon.

However, Ottavio’s eyes were still filled with hope and determination.

“You’re called Yeongwoo, right? It’s the characteristic of having the surname first in Korea.”

“Yes, that’s correct. Yeongwoo is my name.”

However, it wasn't certain whether "Jeong" was originally a surname.

Being an orphan from the start, even the name "Yeongwoo" given to him by the orphanage director had no real origin.

Of course, such unnecessary information wasn't explicitly mentioned.

"If we meet again next time, please call me Yeongwoo. In Korea, close friends call each other by their names."

"Oh, it's the same here."

Then Ottavio extended his right hand to Yeongwoo.

It was the first handshake with this European.

Thump!

When Yeongwoo readily shook hands with him, Ricardo also unexpectedly extended his hand.

"My full name is Ricardo da Silva Tavares Junior. Ricardo, I have the same name as my father."

"Yes. Nice to meet you, Ricardo."

After shaking hands with the South American for the second time, Yeongwoo looked at the fire and felt that the speed of the stone floor's ascent was gradually decreasing.

At that moment, a new system message began to appear on the fire.

[Pain of Iria]

|Dungeon Grade: Normal

|Difficulty: D

|Required Personnel: 3

「The dungeon has been completed.」

「Survivors: 3」

Finally, the dungeon completion judgment was made.

"Is it finally over?"

As Yeongwoo took a deep breath and looked up, another message appeared in front of the fire.

「For the sake of rewards, individual scores will be calculated.」

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 118

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 118: Transition (1)

“Wait, you’re saying there will be differentiated rewards?”

Ricardo uttered the words bluntly, almost involuntarily.

Then, as if realizing his abruptness, he glanced at Yeongwoo, who had taken on the role of the leader.

Although all three had risked their lives in the struggle, they wouldn’t have made it to this moment without Yeongwoo’s peculiar performance.

“Well, there certainly were differences in contributions. I don’t think there’s anything to be upset about.”

As Ottavio expressed his thoughts on the ‘individual score calculation,’ Ricardo nodded in agreement.

“Y-yes, that’s true. I don’t have any complaints about the differentiation...”

Ricardo couldn’t continue his thought.

Yeongwoo had already learned from past experiences that Ricardo tended to speak before thinking, so he wasn’t too bothered by it.

In fact, he felt grateful that the system seemed to be taking care of something extra.

‘They were keeping track of individual scores too... It’s much more meticulous than it appears.’

However, Yeongwoo couldn’t help but wonder what the ‘reward’ would be.

‘If it weren’t for Dogo’s support, we probably wouldn’t have made it out of the dungeon. It’s undoubtedly a place designed for at least one person to die inside. But we managed to break through... What kind of reward will they give us?’

From the moment he received the first golden coin, his suspicion about this world, which had already been deep, had now turned into a valley.

Drurrur!

Eventually, as they ascended the corridor, a familiar sight appeared before their eyes.

“Oh!”

“Finally.”

The walls and ceiling of the ruins themed area.

They had finally returned to the starting point of this dungeon.

It seemed like the stone floor had no intention of moving anymore, as they heard something locking below.

Clank, clang!

Almost simultaneously, the torches announced the individual scores of the three.

「The individual score calculation is complete.」

[1st place] Yeongwoo – Total 172/100

- Excellent dodging skills.
- Very high equipment score.
- Deceiver.

[2nd place] Ottavio – Total 84/100

- Excellent supporter.
- High equipment score.
- Divine presence.

[3rd place] Ricardo – Total 62/100

– Excellent combatant.

– Great courage.

– Slightly obtuse.

“What? 62 points? These bastards!”

Sure enough, as soon as the scores were revealed, Ricardo cursed.

Meanwhile, Ottavio noticed something strange in Yeongwoo’s score.

“Yeongwoo, isn’t your score exceeding the maximum?”

“Yes, it is.”

Yeongwoo nodded.

He had been paying attention since it was his own score.

He had scored a whopping 172 out of a possible 100 points.

But even Ottavio, who had shown exemplary behavior throughout the dungeon, only managed to score 84 points.

Which meant...

‘Normally, the maximum score is 100. That’s how the system is designed.’

So why did Yeongwoo get 172 points?

‘Well, it’s probably because of Dogo. He performed at a level that was originally impossible.’

As Yeongwoo looked at the Dice of Fate still in his hand, the Dogo quest hanging in the corner of his vision was marked as completed right on time.

[Dogo] “Almost Sold Out”

[Reward Granted]

|Survival Assurance

Nothing was actually given, but from Yeongwoo’s perspective, it was definitely a strange situation where he received a reward.

‘Well, thanks to that, I definitely survived.’

Next, as Yeongwoo glanced at the weapon he had named the “Dimension Bomb,” it disappeared into thin air as if melting away.

Shirling.

“Huh.”

As Yeongwoo chuckled, this time the dungeon system brought a ‘real reward.’

「Rewards are paid differentially according to the confirmed ranking.」

[1st place] Yeongwoo – Accessory Encyclopaedia

[2nd place] Ottavio – Random Epic Equipment

[3rd place] Ricardo – Random Unique Equipment

“Oh...!”

“Damn, Unique?”

Ottavio and Ricardo’s reactions were mixed.

But soon, both of their gazes shifted to Yeongwoo’s reward.

Because only the 1st place received a completely different type of reward.

“What’s an Accessory Encyclopaedia? I’ve never seen anything like it.”

At Ottavio’s question, Yeongwoo shrugged, indicating that he didn’t know either.

“Well, I’ve encountered various pieces of equipment, but... I’ve never seen anything like a encyclopaedia before.”

“Then you’ll have to receive it and see for yourself.”

Before Ottavio could finish his sentence, a flash appeared in front of each of the three.

Grab!

Instantly, Ottavio received a silver-white box, while Ricardo received an orange box.

So, this is...

“...Random boxes.”

As Yeongwoo muttered to himself, Ottavio asked him.

“What about the encyclopaedia? Did you get it?”

In response, Yeongwoo realized that although there was a flash in front of him, no physical item was given.

Because...

「Accessory Encyclopaedia' has been added to user Jeong Yeongwoo's data.」

Immediately after the flash, Yeongwoo realized that it was not a box but a notification message.

“Accessory Encyclopaedia' has been added to my data?”

Understanding that the ‘Accessory Encyclopaedia,’ which was the 1st place prize of this dungeon, was some kind of system, Yeongwoo immediately attempted to view the encyclopaedia.

“Encyclopaedia open?”

Though he said it as a rhetorical question, when Yeongwoo wished to see the encyclopaedia, something really happened.

Whoosh!

A large rectangular window suddenly appeared in front of him, with numbers engraved inside.

[13]

“13...?”

After a moment of thought, Yeongwoo realized that this was the number of registered items in the encyclopaedia.

And shortly after, the following guidance confirmed Yeongwoo's guess.

「Welcome to the encyclopedia, Jeong Yeongwoo07!」

「The encyclopaedia is a support system for adventurers who explore this world.」

「The Accessory Encyclopaedia can store all types of accessories, and once registered, you can use the functions without wearing them directly.」

In other words, even if you didn't wear equipment all over your body, you could still receive item effects.

Yeongwoo was already reaching the point where he would soon run out of fingers to wear rings, and there was no more space for bracelets either.

In addition, the number of items like compasses or talismans that needed to be carried on the body was increasing.

Ignoring storage issues, the biggest risk was the probability of losing items during intense combat.

‘Well, now I can endlessly purchase items. Even if I have 100 rings, I can wear them all.’

This was probably the true value of the ‘Encyclopaedia’ system.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

So, it was likely provided only to the contributor ranked 1st in the extremely harsh dungeon.

‘This means that encyclopaedias for weapons and armor would be the most useful. Even if you want to carry many weapons, you can't have more than four.’

Moreover, since Yeongwoo could remotely retrieve weapons, even weapons worn at the waist could be effective equipment.

The same applied to armor; it wasn't significantly different.

Currently, even if you obtained excellent equipment, if it was a helmet, top, or pants, you had to discard one.

However, with such an encyclopaedia, you could easily collect equipment of the same type without any worries, just by comparing their performance.

‘In essence, there's no limit to combat power.’

As someone who had hosted gaming broadcasts, Yeongwoo quickly grasped the potential of the new system.

‘Then maybe there are collection rewards in the encyclopaedia?’

As Yeongwoo inwardly asked this question, the next guidance followed.

「Each encyclopaedia has its unique collection effects. If the encyclopaedia completeness exceeds a certain threshold, you can obtain astonishing blessings or techniques.」

‘Oh, I see.’

Finally, satisfaction appeared on Yeongwoo’s face.

This was exactly what he had hoped for.

‘Perhaps blessings are like permanent buffs.’

The inclusion of terms like ‘astonishing’ in the system’s description was also intriguing.

[Collection Effect: 10]

|Usage count of all accessories +1

Finally, as indicated earlier, the collection effect of the encyclopaedia was displayed.

‘So, effects are added in units of 10? Hmm, wait a moment.’

Yeongwoo took out an item from his pouch.

Whoosh.

It was the doping drug ‘Blue Blood.’

「Blue Blood」 – Mutation Drug

【Strength increased by 30% for 10 minutes.】

【Number of uses: 2】

‘It’s still the same. Drugs aren’t considered accessories, huh. Well...’

On the other hand, the flask he had been wearing around his neck seemed to be affected by the encyclopaedia.

「Pumpkin-Colored Whistle」 – Legendary Necklace

【Summon friends.】

|Youngtae, Taejoon.

Because there was a book-shaped icon on the right side of the tooltip that appeared when he held the item.

‘Previously, it could be used twice a day... Now, can it be used three times?’

As Yeongwoo pondered over the whistle, Ottavio and Ricardo, who had been watching him blankly, couldn’t hold back any longer and spoke up.

“Can you please enlighten us a bit?”

It was only then that Yeongwoo realized.

Those two couldn’t see the encyclopaedia they had laid out.

“It’s similar to the encyclopaedia system in games. So, this means...”

Yeongwoo tried to give a brief explanation, but the dungeon system didn’t allow it.

「In 10 seconds, the dungeon will be closed.」

「Please use the portal to exit.」

“Huh?”

“What...?”

They hadn’t even properly said goodbye, yet they were being torn apart like this.

「9」

Meanwhile, a countdown was underway above the fireplace.

「8」

As Ottavio opened the portal by tapping on the wall, he asked Yeongwoo.

“If you could come back to the dungeon tonight, would you participate again?”

Yeongwoo interpreted it as a question implying that if he were to participate, Ottavio would also bet his life again tonight.

「7」

In fact, until a moment ago, Yeongwoo had been considering participating in the second dungeon, but after confirming the power of the encyclopaedia, he had made up his mind somewhat.

「6」

“Yes. I don’t know if it will be tonight, but if the opportunity arises again, I will return to the dungeon.”

「5」

In response to Yeongwoo’s answer, Ottavio nodded.

“Understood. If fate allows, let’s meet again.”

「4」

Then, instead of exiting through the portal, Ottavio hastily turned back.

“Yeongwoo! South Korea right? Just to make sure.”

「3」

“Yes, I’m from South Korea. I’m currently in Seoul.”

“I see.”

Ottavio finally made a face indicating that everything was settled, and with his last words, he stepped into the portal.

“Even meeting outside the dungeon might not be impossible. If we could cross Eurasia very quickly!”

「1」

And as the final second approached, just as Yeongwoo was about to step into the portal, Ricardo’s rough voice reached his ears.

“See you alive again! Yeongwoo!”

Shhhhaah!

Ignoring the South American’s farewell, Yeongwoo passed through the portal and immediately felt his vision darken.

Then.

Crunch!

Along with loud thunder, he could see black obsidian rain pounding the ground.

He had returned to Paju, where the dungeon had first opened.

“Ah, I’m back.”

As Yeongwoo blinked, he was greeted by a golden goblin and Negwig waiting for him at the dungeon entrance.

– Kwiiiiik!

– Kikkit!

Yeongwoo checked the time while covering the goblin with his cloak on top of the Negwig.

‘It’s 7:52 AM.’

It should have been the time when the sun rose, but the sky was still dark due to the abnormal weather.

‘The dungeon has disappeared without a trace. It feels like a dream.’

However, when he summoned the encyclopaedia, the interface for the accessory encyclopaedia he had seen before appeared unchanged.

Everything that happened in the dungeon was definitely not a dream.

Then, Ottavio and Ricardo, who had gone through the opposite portal, must have returned to their respective homelands.

“...”

Thinking about the two spending the end of the night in Italy and Brazil, Yeongwoo shifted his gaze to the north.

At this point, the closest foreign country, North Korea, was worth a visit.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 119

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 119: Transition (2)

Paju.

A city located at the northwest edge of South Korea, facing the border with North Korea's Kaesong Special City.

The pre-reset population was approximately 490,000.

One notable feature of this city is the presence of many military bases due to its proximity to North Korea and the presence of a Joint Security Area.

Commonly known as Panmunjom.

Even if one briefly considers crossing over to North Korea, it's hard to resist visiting Panmunjom.

So, Yeongwoo was already at Dorasan Station, also known as the "last station in South Korea."

Clank, clunk!

Riding on Negwig, a horse from another world.

Kwaaaah.....!

Since obsidian rain continued to pour from the sky, not a single living creature could be seen near Dorasan Station.

However, even before the reset, it wasn't a place with much human traffic, so even if it wasn't abnormal weather, it would have been desolate.

'Then what about the soldiers? What happened to the soldiers stationed in Paju?'

In a world where not only weapons but even bullets had turned to stone, one couldn't expect soldiers to be 'sheltered' as depicted in typical apocalypse movies or novels.

'But that doesn't mean contact with currency exchange was impossible, right...? In terms of reset adaptation, they might have been better off than urban areas.'

Infantry units typically live in platoon-sized groups ranging from a minimum of nine to a maximum of ten soldiers.

In other words, the situation was very different from the first currency exchange in urban areas, where people live without any sense of camaraderie or belonging common among soldiers.

‘Of course, each soldier would have received their share without question, and there wouldn’t be any preparations for a future threat...’

Yeongwoo was exempt from military service due to being an orphan, but he volunteered for enlistment and served until the end of his term as a sergeant, a rare case.

It was due to a sense of entitlement that had been with him since childhood, before his youthful vigor.

‘At that time, it was humiliating to be told that I didn’t have to go to the military because I was an orphan.’

Of course, he didn’t regret that choice even now.

Was it the right thing to do?

He wasn’t sure.

Ultimately, even that choice seemed to have followed what was written in the book of fate.

‘It doesn’t make sense even when I think about it again. That the fate of so many people was predetermined...?’

As Yeongwoo turned his head on Negwig’s back, a sign appeared on the previously deserted battlefield, indicating that they were finally adjacent to the DMZ.

And next to it, there were long rows of iron fences set up across the forest.

Due to Yeongwoo’s decision to head straight north from Dorasan Station without crossing the Unification Bridge, they ended up entering from the side of the military base near Panmunjom.

But naturally, there wasn’t a single soldier on guard duty in the vicinity.

‘Even if there were corpses, this rain would have washed them away into tiny pieces.’

Yeongwoo shuddered at the thought as he continued to enter further inside the military base, crossing over the iron fences.

Soon, he spotted the mess hall where soldiers would have once chatted and the barracks across the training grounds.

'In fact, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that there are no borders now. During the day, one could freely come and go...?'

Perhaps the vacancy in Paju's Strongest Sword and the unresolved issue of the mutant were related.

Until recently, it was thought that Goyang's Strongest Sword had absorb the title of Paju, but now...

'It could have been taken by North Korea.'

For instance, it could have been taken by the Strongest Sword from Kaesong, which they would soon see.

Clank, clunk!

As Yeongwoo continued to ascend northward, a building he had seen in pictures finally came into view.

'We're almost there.'

It was none other than the House of Peace, the South Korean building at Panmunjom where Kim Jong-un had visited for inter-Korean summits.

And about a hundred meters away stood the Freedom House, facing North Korea's Panmungak across the Military Demarcation Line.

'Oh, hold on.'

As Yeongwoo shifted his gaze between the Freedom House and Panmungak, he reflexively pulled the reins, slowing Negwig's pace.

-Neigh...!

It was because of the astonishing sight before him.

'...Unbelievable.'

The entire territory of the North, including Panmungak, was shrouded in a bluish mist.

'It seems each country has its own strange climate phenomenon.'

Of course, this was within the expected range.

But what shocked Yeongwoo was...

Kwaaaah.....!

The black obsidian rain, peculiar to South Korea's strange climate, was precisely falling only up to the Military Demarcation Line.

And the bluish mist, peculiar to North Korea's strange climate, was lingering only across the border.

In other words, it meant that some sort of system that shaped this world was still acknowledging the concepts of 'territory, borders' arbitrarily distinguished by humans before the reset.

'What's the criterion for this distinction? Perhaps it's the reset point.'

By now, Yeongwoo was curious about whether Dokdo was considered part of South Korea or Japan.

How did the universe perceive the territorial disputes concerning Dokdo?

Clank, clunk.

Negwig finally came to a halt right in front of the Military Demarcation Line at Panmunjom.

-Neigh!

As the creature raised its head, it made a somewhat sharp sound, as if it wanted to convey that they shouldn't go any further.

'I know too. We don't have the equipment to fend off such mist yet.'

After quickly surveying the surroundings, Yeongwoo used the Epic Compass 'Fearful Cat' to confirm once again that there were no threatening presences nearby.

Then, he thought to himself.

'Anyway, won't the strange climate in North Korea clear up before the lodging service ends? Let's wait until then.'

With this in mind, he opened the Accessory Encyclopaedia.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Snap!

Except for the equipment that needed to be checked frequently, like the 'Fearful Cat,' everything else that didn't require direct wearing was stored in the encyclopaedia.

'I can remove all the rings and bracelets. This makes things much easier.'

The method of storing equipment in the encyclopaedia was very simple.

Just focus on the equipment as if you were viewing a tooltip, or touch it with your hand, and a book-shaped encyclopaedia icon would appear along with the equipment tooltip.

Then, just look at the encyclopaedia icon, and that's it.

Whisk.

The equipment was sucked into the encyclopaedia icon, automatically stored, and its abilities remained active.

'I'll keep just the compass types, Serpent of Greed, and the Whistle.'

Yeongwoo decided to keep the Legendary Bracelet 'Golden Punishment' as it still had its effects intact, and it also served as a sort of defensive gear on its own, which held some significance for him.

'Now, is everything sorted out?'

As Yeongwoo glanced at his much cleaner hands, he couldn't help but think that he wanted more encyclopaedias.

Even now, he couldn't utilize equipment like the 'Frost Crown' because he couldn't wear two helmets simultaneously.

「Frost Crown」 – Mutant Helmet

【20% cold resistance】

But if I obtain a gear encyclopaedia, I could carry the Frost Crown's 20% cold resistance effect while wielding the Vanguard.

「Merciless」 – Mutant one-handed axe

【Increase power against opponents with a total lower stat sum than the wearer.】

Similarly, with other encyclopaedias, I could obtain different effects.

‘But to obtain more encyclopaedias, I have to challenge the dungeon every night and achieve the top rank in contributions each time. It’s definitely not an easy task.’

‘And even before challenging the dungeon, obtaining equipment that can withstand various strange climates is also a challenge. No matter how diligently I meet with traders, there must be limits, right?’

‘Since I can’t predict what kind of climate will occur every night, even if I have several pieces of strange climate equipment, ultimately, it will depend on luck.’

Moreover, there was no guarantee that he would encounter Ottavio and Ricardo in the next dungeon.

“ ... ”

As Yeongwoo pondered the troublesome issues, his wristwatch began to beep.

Beep, beep.

It was the 8 o’clock morning alarm.

‘I still have a long way to go until 10 o’clock. Should I take a look around other areas?’

As Yeongwoo glanced at the sky while listening to the alarm, the black obsidian rain, which had been filling the sky until just now, disappeared in an instant.

Pop!

“...Huh?”

And the same was true on the northern side of the Military Demarcation Line, just a few steps ahead.

The bluish mist that had filled the area there was also cleanly swept away.

‘Oh... So 8 a.m. is the end time for the strange climate.’

Yeongwoo learned another rule of this world.

Soon after, a series of system notifications appeared in his vision.

「You have permanently increased your strength by 100 due to the Furious Goblin.」

「The usage count of the Pumpkin Whistle has been replenished.」

It turned out that the officially designated starting point of a 'day' by the system was also 8 a.m.

'Hold on. In that case...'

As Yeongwoo's thoughts naturally shifted towards achievements, the long-awaited achievement 'Nocturnal' was completed.

Bang!

[Achievement Accomplished: Nocturnal]

|Achievement Grade: Epic

|Achievement Rank: #5

「Spend a night outside your residence.」

“Wow...!”

Although Yeongwoo was among the top ranks of the elites in the reset world, completing an achievement was always a welcome occurrence.

And as another achievement was completed, the Perfectionist was triggered.

「Idealist」 – Epic Ring

【All abilities increase by 100 per achievement】

Once again, there was a notification of increased stats filling his vision.

However, Yeongwoo's attention wasn't entirely focused on the rapidly increasing stats at the moment.

“But why rank 5? Shouldn't it be at least 3?”

First place was probably Otavio.

He had been entering the dungeon since last night.

That meant only Yeongwoo himself and Ricardo from Brazil remained.

But the achieved rank turned out to be fifth.

In other words, at this point in time, at least 'five' individuals had completed the Nocturnal achievement.

‘Does this mean there were more people out at night besides our party?’

Of course, Nocturnal could be completed without entering the dungeon, so this rank didn’t necessarily imply the existence of another ‘dungeon party.’

‘But it’s not impossible. People who braved the strange climate all night wouldn’t have just sat still, right?’

Most likely, they would have explored areas they hadn’t been to before and probably encountered mutants resting during the night.

‘It’s challenging. If I can enter the dungeon tonight, I might meet more people than I thought.’

Whether it would be a good thing or a bad thing remained to be seen.

Anyway, Yeongwoo never imagined he would experience the term ‘global village’ in this way, so he was somewhat taken aback.

At the same time, he also thought that if possible tonight, he must visit the dungeon.

‘Of course, if I’m lucky enough to find more strange climate equipment again.’

As Yeongwoo scratched his chin, contemplating crossing the military demarcation line between North and South, the last system notification appeared in his vision.

‘Oh, I almost forgot.’

It was none other than...

「There are unreceived achievement rewards available.」

The completion reward for the Epic achievement ‘Nocturnal.’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 120

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 120: Transition (3)

‘Receiving compensation.’

As Yeongwoo decided to receive the reward for his achievement ‘Nocturnal,’ a bright light began to emanate from around his neck.

Swish!

“Huh.”

Then, a necklace with a round gemstone attached to the end of a metallic cord was hung around his neck.

「Eye of the Typhoon」 - Epic Necklace

【Ignore abnormal weather of wind type.】

*Special reward for ‘Nocturnal’.

‘Ah, as expected.’

Yeongwoo’s expression brightened as he read the tooltip of the necklace.

Although conditional, he had obtained another piece of equipment for immunity to abnormal climates.

And above all.

‘If it’s a wind type...’

On the second day, there was red fog, and on the third day, obsidian rain.

So, considering the situation, the probability of a different type of abnormal climate appearing on the fourth day, today, was high.

‘I hope it’s a wind type. It seems that the same type of climate doesn’t occur twice in a row.’

Of course, since there wasn’t much data accumulated yet, it was just a guess.

‘Anyway, it’s a good thing.’

So far, the identified types of abnormal climates were fog and rain.

In addition to those, he learned about the existence of the wind type through the necklace he obtained this time.

Swish.

As Yeongwoo lifted the gem parts to put the necklace into the encyclopaedia, he saw a cute typhoon swirling inside the small gem.

‘What a fascinating world.’

At Yeongwoo’s mutter, Golden Goblin pointed north and shouted.

– Kitkii...!

It seemed to be a suggestion to quickly go to the new area.

“You seem to have become a bit comfortable with me. You’re even expressing intentions.”

Although it was a surprising thing, the Golden Goblin must have been a resident of some world, right?

But how did he end up coming all the way here and end up dead?

I was curious.

It would be difficult to hear the full story because I couldn’t have a proper conversation with him.

‘Well then, shall we move?’

By 1 p.m. today, the mutants of the fourth day were supposed to land throughout Seoul, so he had to return to Seoul before noon.

Dealing with mutants appearing in Gangnam was an issue, but he also had to meet Kim Taejoon’s family, whom Jongsu and Taeyoung had found.

And one more thing.

‘If possible, I should also look for the man who is my father.’

There was still a tracking mark of ‘Wanted Poster’ in Yeongwoo’s field of view.

A holographic arrow pointing to the biological father’s location.

‘But how did I end up having to find someone else’s family first?’

So now, it was time to look for his own flesh and blood. While there was still a chance.

“Let’s go for now. Northward.”

As Yeongwoo stroked Negwig’s neck, the horse from another world began to step forward without hesitation.

Clack!

That’s how Yeongwoo crossed the military demarcation line of the Korean Peninsula after the reset.

That’s none other than the history of Kaesong’s Strongest Sword.

Gaah!

[The current area of stay is ‘Kaesong.’

[The Strongest Sword of this area is ‘Kim Seongu 02.’ Rank 1, Defense 311.

‘Ah, so North Korea also uses the title of Strongest Sword. But defense 311 times...?’

It’s an unprecedented number of defenses.

At least, it has never been seen in South Korea.

So, this indicates that after the reset, it perfectly reflects the atmosphere of North Korea.

‘Indeed, the situation seems quite different from our side. Down below, the number of defenses is at most a few tens.’

It’s one of two things.

Either there were too many challengers, or Kaesong’s Strongest Sword was a crazy serial killer.

Anyway, it’s true that North Korea is a much harsher environment than South Korea.

“Hmm.”

As Yeongwoo gradually picked up speed on Negwig, he scanned the desolate outskirts of Kaesong with his eyes.

The surroundings were filled with rice fields and mountains, and in the far southwest, there was a place that seemed to be the downtown area of Kaesong.

‘At least I might see people over there.’

There were no signs of mutants or monsters, and most of the buildings were intact.

This meant that when mutants and monsters fell into Kaesong, someone cleaned them up.

‘Since I can’t see mutants falling here anyway... I’ll just check the atmosphere.’

Yeongwoo had two main purposes for visiting North Korea.

First, to see if he could progress with the achievement ‘Golden Journey.’

[Golden Journey]

|Summon a golden rain in the next area.

|Domestic (2/3) |Foreign (0/2)

However, since Kaesong, the closest North Korean city, was doing well at keeping mutants out, the first goal became difficult to achieve immediately.

And second, to see what the current atmosphere of North Korea was like.

According to the antagonistic relationship before the reset, North Korea was the enemy of South Korea, and this was likely to remain largely unchanged even after the reset.

In terms of the likelihood of war, it was much more dangerous now than before the reset.

Just one person.

Even if only one Strongest Sword in South Korea harbored enmity toward North Korea, wouldn’t that lead to war?

‘If that’s the case, what I’m doing now might be seen as a provocative act towards North Korea.’

As soon as Yeongwoo’s thoughts reached this point, he tapped his left chest to hide his title and covered his golden equipment with his cloak as much as possible.

Since he was riding a horse in the first place, it was almost impossible not to attract attention, but at least he had to hide his origin.

‘It’s a risky move, but I need to examine the situation in North Korea while I have the chance. Seoul is already establishing its system, but who knows if North Korea is any different.’

Especially considering that North Korea was under a dictatorship led by Kim Jong-un.

Therefore, the collapse of society due to the reset would likely have a very different aspect here.

‘Of course, there’s a high probability that Kim Jong-un has been put on the list of potential casualties, or even if not, he probably died after receiving hundreds of thousands of hits.’

If he were still alive, that would be the worst-case scenario.

‘And even if Kim Jong-un is dead, the existing senior military officials could have easily attempted a coup... Whatever happened, those guys are hard to predict.’

If Kim Jong-un were alive, he would probably be the Strongest Sword of Pyongyang at least, and if he were dead, it was highly likely that an immensely powerful mutant would return to this land.

“

Mutant, Kim Jong-un.

The Strongest Sword of Pyongyang, Kim Jong-un.

Which of the two is closer to disaster?

It was truly an absurd imagination, but surprisingly, this was reality.

And from the perspective of South Korea, which is adjacent to North Korea.

‘... A time bomb.’

As Yeongwoo made a horrifying imagination, the area gradually changed into fields, and buildings began to appear one by one.

Most of them were outdated buildings between 1 and 3 floors, but as he moved forward, the buildings became more sophisticated in shape and taller in height.

There were even apartment complexes forming a large-scale city on the other side.

It was then that Yeongwoo remembered.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Kaesong was a city that had received special privileges as part of the inter-Korean joint economic project known as the 'Kaesong Industrial Complex.'

'Thanks to that, Kaesong was once considered one of the well-off cities in North Korea.'

However, due to the ongoing tensions with North Korea and, crucially, the revelation that the funds injected into the Kaesong Industrial Complex by the North were used for nuclear development costs, the Kaesong Industrial Complex was shut down at the end of 2016.

So, it was natural for the city of Kaesong, once called 'Buchon,' to collapse rapidly.

After that, the last news Yeongwoo heard about Kaesong was an article from 2023, which reported that deaths from starvation were rampant in Kaesong.

'It was said that the people of Kaesong were in such a miserable state that they had even provided free food distribution. Just looking at this, it must have been difficult for Kim Jong-un to survive the purge...'

Clack, clack!

Eventually, Negwig brought Yeongwoo into the inner part of Kaesong.

However, there was strangely no sign of life in the well-constructed city, even when compared to South Korea.

It was truly a ghost town.

'Even though it hasn't been long since the abnormal climate subsided, could this happen?'

If there were no people in the city, shouldn't there be mutants or monsters?

"....."

But the sky over Kaesong remained clear without a single pillar of light.

"What's this?"

Just as Yeongwoo blinked, as if in a dream, he heard a momentary sound in his ear.

"Wait...!"

As Yeongwoo pulled the reins to stop Negwig, his intuition turned into certainty.

Clack!

Although very faint, it was clear that there was a sign of life between the buildings to the right.

Something was fleeing from Yeongwoo.

“Wait!”

Yeongwoo turned his head in the direction of the sound and shouted, and Negwig started the pursuit on its own.

-Whee-ee-ee!

With a long howl.

“Shh...!”

Yeongwoo was startled.

If the opponent was a person, wouldn't they run away even more desperately after hearing this horse's cry?

And during that time, the figure of the opponent, who had been fleeing with all their might, came into Yeongwoo's view.

Clack!

Since there were no more buildings to hide around, the identity of the opponent, who finally revealed themselves on the main road, was none other than...

“Yi... Eik!”

It was a barefoot boy wearing clothes that were half tattered.

“P-please save me!”

He must have been around middle school age at best.

Then, the boy who had lured Yeongwoo here widened his eyes and asked quite innocently.

“What's that?”

Upon seeing the boy closing its eyes, Yeongwoo wrinkled his nose.

At this, Yeongwoo wrinkled his nose as he watched the boy closing its eyes.

“You guys have a cat that tells you bullshit.”

“.....”

It seemed like it was the first time someone had given them this kind of feedback, as the teenage scavengers couldn't find anything to say and exchanged glances among themselves.

So, inevitably, Yeongwoo, who was closer to double their age, took the lead in the conversation.

“Where are your parents?”

“They're dead.”

“When?”

“Eight days ago.”

The parents of the boy who brought Yeongwoo here were already deceased before the reset occurred.

Then, the other boys chimed in one after another.

“Last year.”

“Yesterday.”

“A hundred and forty-three days ago.”

“The day before yesterday.”

A kind of unfortunate battle, where they boasted of their misfortune.

A sense of profound pessimism emanated from them.

However, even so, this phenomenon of only orphans remaining in Kaesong was not explained.

Surely, there were adults here before.

“So, where did the other adults go?”

Yeongwoo asked, hoping they wouldn't say they had killed them.

In response, the barefoot boy pointed north.

“They all went to Pyongyang.”

“To Pyongyang? Why?”

“Because the Supreme Leader left his seat, so now they’re going to become outstanding generals.”

“What’s that supposed to...?”

Yeongwoo, who was about to retort, closed his mouth.

He understood the rebuttal belatedly.

‘Ah, so that bastard received a hit after all. That’s why everyone went up to Pyongyang because there’s no leader in Pyongyang now. Since there wasn’t anything to eat or live on in Kaesong anyway.’

And the situation where brainwashed children who still call Kim Jong-un ‘Supreme Leader’ are left to guard their positions, even though the world has come to this point.

‘If they managed to get some food by doing odd jobs, they could have held out for a few days.’

But even so, they couldn’t handle mutants and monsters.

“Let me ask two more questions.”

“What is it? Go ahead.”

As Yeongwoo kept asking questions, the North Korean scavenging youths started giggling.

“Where is Kaesong’s Strongest Sword right now?”

Then, as the crowd fell silent for a moment, the barefoot boy answered on behalf of everyone.

“He’s probably waking up.”

“I see.”

It was a predictable response.

Kaesong’s Sword was probably the kingpin among these guys.

The reason for setting a trap here was probably because the Strongest Sword's residence was nearby.

"Then, one more question."

"Why are you so curious? Besides, sir, you came from South Korea. You can't live even if you leave anyway."

Swish.

The barefoot boy drew a dagger from his waist.

It seemed like their hunting game was over.

And other boys who had been surrounding the area also raised their weapons threateningly.

However, before Yeongwoo could slaughter everyone here, he wanted to hear one thing.

"Kim Jong-un."

".....?"

"Did Kim Jong-un also become a mutant? If he became one, what did he turn into? I'll tell you what, even if you're leaving, I'll make sure you leave with your belly full."

As Yeongwoo finished speaking, he took out chocolate from the goblin's dimensional pocket, causing the eyes of the teenage scavengers to widen unexpectedly.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]