

Level 4 Human in a Ruined World #Chapter 151 - Read

Level 4 Human in a Ruined World Chapter 151

Chapter 151

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 151: Hot Stock (4)

Hundred Thousand Swords Mountain

When Yeongwoo heard that Dogo was the owner of the Hundred Thousand Sword Mountain, he was captivated, recalling the first day of the reset.

It was because the name evoked memories of the “Mountain of Swords,” which supplied weapons all over the country.

‘Could it be that the weapons back then were also provided by Dogo?’

As Dogo was a war weapon manufacturer, it was entirely possible.

Supplying weapons to a planet scheduled to open its gates due to the reset would undoubtedly be helpful from a marketing perspective.

Rumble...!

Eventually, thunder roared from the sky, indicating that something was about to happen. With a beam of light, Lemu, who had lost in the contract competition, soared into the sky.

Piaaaat!

As Dogo’s shareholders jeered at Lemu, who was quickly moving away, he ascended into the sky with a cubic shape.

–Boo! Lemu!

–Booo...!

–Lemuuuu!

–Get lost

'It seems since they are a weapons company, they are extremely belligerent.'

Yeongwoo shook his head nervously.

Of course, the shareholders were quite upset.

They almost lost in the bidding competition.

But with the chairman's dramatic intervention, they managed to turn the tables, causing the shareholders' morale to soar.

'It seems like even those giants change in front of the chairman.'

As Yeongwoo shifted his gaze back to the chairman, he noticed Dogo, the founder, looking up at the sky.

Then...

Quack!

The same sound he heard on the first day of the reset echoed again.

The sound of the sky tearing apart, with tens of thousands of feathers falling.

Quaaaaa...!

All sorts of weapons began to pile up on the ground, making the same sound as a train passing on a railway.

The sight was reminiscent of the "Mountain of Swords."

The only difference was that the equipment piling up here started from at least the Unique grade.

"Ch... Chairman... This..."

As Yeongwoo looked at the Hundred Thousand Sword Mountain with wide eyes, Dogo slowly flew up to the mountain and said:

—What you saw was a product made to mimic the Hundred Thousand Sword Mountain.

Upon hearing this, Dogo's shareholders elaborated.

—It's also a product that we generally provide to our customers.

—Calling the Hundred Thousand Sword Mountain in the Tier 4 contract is an honor.

—Praise be to Dogo...!

“Oh...”

The intergalactic war weapon brand Dogo.

In fact, Earth was just one of the many customers for them.

‘So when I used the Morning Star, Dogo was the first to detect it.’

Seeing that Earth was a Tier 4 contract site, the contract between Dogo and Earth was also Tier 4.

In other words, until the appearance of the individual known as Jeong Yeongwoo 07, Earth was not significant to Dogo.

‘So Earth... or rather, are those council members the ones who have contracted with Dogo?’

As Yeongwoo pondered this, Dogo, who had reached the top of the Hundred Thousand Sword Mountain, reached out his hand into the air.

Swish.

Then, from inside the mountain, a shimmering light emerged, and a single sword rose among the myriad of equipment.

‘Oh, that...’

That was the mythical-grade equipment promised by the Dogo chairman.

—Take it. With this, the first promise has been fulfilled.

(Special clause) [Owner of the Myth]

– Upon the signing of this contract, the headquarters must provide you with one mythical-grade equipment.

Special clause fulfilled.

As Dogo snapped his fingers, the unknown sword that had risen above the Hundred Thousand Sword Mountain flew towards Yeongwoo like an arrow.

Shaaaaat!

“....!”

Naturally, Yeongwoo thought the sword would hit the ground and stepped back.

Shaaaat!

But to his surprise, the problematic sword, instead of falling to the ground, remained suspended in the air.

“Huh?”

Like the Golden Trail with an automatic combat function.

Shweeaaat...

Wrapped in crimson magic, the sword had a unique appearance, resembling a thorny vine.

‘Wow, it feels very evil.’

The expectation of something dignified like the “Dragon’s Legacy” shattered completely upon seeing it.

Moreover, it was impossible to read the tooltip just by looking at it.

‘Do you have to touch it to read the tooltip?’

If not, perhaps only the owner could know its functions.

After all, it was a mythical-grade equipment.

Swoosh.

As Yeongwoo cautiously reached out his hand, the crimson energy enveloping the sword began to flow towards his fingertips, as if it were alive.

‘Huh...?’

Yeongwoo was somewhat surprised to see the magic winding around his fingers, but he remained silent as the chairman spoke.

—The sword has simply detected its new owner.

“Ah... I see.”

Were mythical-grade equipment originally like this?

Receiving mythical-grade equipment for the first time in his life, Yeongwoo watched with a tense expression as the crimson magic permeated his body.

Finally.

「You have become the owner of the myth.」

「You will be able to maintain dignity in the presence of transcendents.」

「Existence will no longer break.」

Some unknown procedures were carried out through the system notifications that Yeongwoo couldn't understand.

“What's this?”

As Yeongwoo looked at the bizarre notifications, Dogo, looking towards the sky, said:

—This means that from now on, you can showcase “Dogo” anywhere.

Though it was a cryptic statement, the chairman seemed to think he had done what he needed to do.

—If you have any desired encyclopaedias, feel free to request them. You will receive them within two days.

With Dogo's words, the anchor that had descended onto Earth floated back into the air.

As countless weapons that had formed a giant mountain soared back into the sky, Yeongwoo forgot even to bid farewell to the chairman, gaping in awe at the surreal sight, as if rewinding a scene of rain falling.

And the same went for the Yangju Strongest Sword Choi Jongseon.

Perhaps it was because she had seen too much in such a short time.

She felt not only amazed but also fearful.

‘Is this the world I have to live in from now on...?’

Moreover, it was also the world the child in her arms would have to navigate.

Ooooooh...!

As the giant “tombstone” that Dogo's chairman had ridden on gradually floated up, Yeongwoo finally came to his senses.

“Chairman!”

Yeongwoo called out the title of Dogo, who had already entered the tomb, somewhat belatedly.

Then Dogo, as if glancing back slightly, closed the tomb’s door.

“...He really left.”

As Yeongwoo looked disappointedly at the tomb that had already risen far away, Dogo’s shareholders bid him farewell.

—Jeong Yeongwoo07!

—May glory be upon you!

—Owner of the myth...!

Then, amidst a moment of brilliance.

Paaaaaah!

With a loud roar, they disappeared into the sky as if being sucked in.

And as all beings disappeared from sight, Yangju’s Strongest Sword Choi Jongseon cursed into the sky.

“You lunatics!”

But little did they know that countless beings in the universe were listening to this sound.

“...Madam, I’m terribly sorry.”

Yeongwoo bowed to Yangju’s Strongest Sword, who was completely taken aback, again belatedly.

Upon this, Yangju’s Strongest Sword, with a look of disbelief, surveyed the completely devastated cityscape, then pointed to the sword still floating in front of Yeongwoo.

“That thing looks too ominous. Take it away quickly or do something.”

“Oh.”

As Yeongwoo grabbed the handle of the eerie-looking sword at her words, tooltips for the mythical-grade weapon, which had not been visible until now, appeared.

Pah!

「Bastard」 - Mythical One-handed Sword

【Authority Obstruction】

【Contempt for the weak】

【challenger】

[Translator – Night]

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“Wow...”

Each of them were unique effects that felt rather ominous.

And following that, detailed tooltips for each effect appeared.

【Authority Obstruction】

|Weakens the authority of transcendents.

【Contempt for the weak】

|This sword’s attack can only be blocked with mythic or higher equipment.

【challenger】

|Combat abilities increase dramatically when fighting beings of higher rank.

‘Crazy. Mythical-grade equipment transcends the concept of ordinary equipment.’

Although “Contempt for the Weak,” which prohibited even confronting the sword, was an insane effect, what caught the eye more was “Authority Obstruction.”

‘Do you need mythical-grade equipment to maintain dignity in front of transcendent beings...? But isn’t this sword a weapon to fight against those transcendents?’

Yeongwoo became lost in thought.

Because Dogo deliberately chose this weapon from the Hundred Thousand Sword Mountain.

Even if mythical-grade equipment was precious, would the chairman have only this sword?

‘He had other mythical-grade equipment, but he deliberately handed this one over for a reason.’

Then what was the reason?

‘I’ll have to ask next time I see him.’

Yeongwoo thought to himself, as one agreement had not yet been fulfilled, giving him a reason to summon Dogo again.

(Special Agreement) [Expensive Beads of Sweat]

- 「Dogo」 will obtain an encyclopedia.

- If you choose a type, Dogo will acquire one within two days.

- In case of failure to meet the deadline, the headquarters will pay a penalty of 100 million Karma.

Although he could immediately issue an encyclopaedia search warrant, Yeongwoo’s thoughts were different.

‘I’ll be going to the dungeon again tonight anyway. So, it won’t be too late to request it after checking what encyclopaedia comes out from there.’

Therefore, the remaining tasks for today were.

‘Meeting the merchants in Seoul and Paju to gather more equipment and find out about my father.’

At least until entering the nighttime dungeon, that was the main agenda.

Swoosh-

The tracking mark still in sight was still pointing south, towards Uijeongbu.

‘If Uijeongbu is such an ominous neighborhood... then it’s better to start looking for my father. He might end up dead before I even get to see him.’

As Yeongwoo pondered alone while looking south, Choi Jongseon approached cautiously.

“Now you’re really leaving... I mean, going?”

Jongseon had initially thought she would finally see Yeongwoo off, but she changed her mind.

Because of the kinds of things that the orphan Strongest Sword had brought, Yangju City was no longer at a level where it could be considered a city.

“The story about Gangnam earlier. Is it true? That you’ll give me a home and a job if I go there?”

“Yes. Of course.”

To reassure Jongseon, Yeongwoo temporarily changed his title to ‘Gangnam’s Strongest Sword.’

“Seoul is quite different from what you think. It’s quite systematic and political…”

But thanks to that, when he was around the level of Gangnam Strongest Sword, finding a place for a friend in Gangnam wasn’t a problem.

“You can live in Gangnam and commute to work in Gwangjin-gu at the time of mutant emergence. I’ll take care of the mutants in Gangnam and move on, so it won’t be too dangerous.”

The ‘danger’ that Yeongwoo mentioned referred to when reinforced mutants appeared in Gwangjin-gu.

As long as he survived while organizing Gangnam, he could handle any mutants that appeared in Gwangjin-gu.

“Are you sure?”

It was a story that Jongseon could not easily believe, but there was no other option in her current situation.

Isn’t it impossible to raise a child in this ruin?

And even though the orphan in front of him was a lunatic, knowing that he had some faith also helped her calm down.

“...Okay. Let’s do it that way for now.”

“Yes. You won’t regret it.”

“Then are we moving to Gangnam now?”

As Jongseon looked to the south, hoping for a comfortable future, Yeongwoo shook his head.

“I’ve said it from the beginning. I’m someone who’s on my way to Uijeongbu to find my father.”

“What do you mean? No, no way.”

“It’s the same way anyway. I’m just going to briefly meet my father on the way.”

“But that’s Uijeongbu...?”

Entering the worst lawless city with a child.

Seeing Jongseon’s horrified expression, Yeongwoo showed her “Bastard” and reassured her.

“I promise. I won’t let a drop of blood spill on the baby.”

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Chapter 152: Father (1)

Uijeongbu.

A northern city in Gyeonggi-do with a population of 460,000 before the reset.

To the north, it faces the boundary with Yangju City, and to the south, it is connected straight to Seoul Dobong and Nowon Districts.

In other words, Uijeongbu serves as a bridge connecting northern Gyeonggi and Seoul.

‘But the Seoul Federation was unaware of the Uijeongbu incident.....?’

Of course, it wasn’t unreasonable.

Dobong and Nowon, bordering areas with Uijeongbu, had never participated in the Strongest Sword Conference.

'Well, at least Dobong and Nowon probably knew what state Uijeongbu was in. But they didn't necessarily inform the conference.'

After the reset, most districts became autonomous regions.

So, participation in the conference or providing information was purely optional.

'Come to think of it, there are still many areas in Gangseo that we don't know about.'

As Yeongwoo examined the unfamiliar areas one by one, Choi Jongseon raised her hand and pointed ahead.

Swish.

"That's Uijeongbu from there."

Joseon's Strongest Sword, Jeong Yeongwoo.

Yangju's Strongest Sword, Choi Jongseon.

The two of them were currently on their way to Uijeongbu to find Yeongwoo's father, while being accompanied by Negwig.

However, due to Jongseon carrying a baby, they needed a bit more space, so eventually...

-Kiket!

The golden goblin, who had been riding in Yeongwoo's back seat all along, had no choice but to follow by leaping with its two feet.

"...Is it okay? Even if it keeps running like that."

Seems like the sound of the goblin's footsteps bothered Jongseon, as she kept looking back.

Upon hearing this, Yeongwoo also glanced back.

"It's fine... Probably? It's naturally quite fast in its movements."

"Ah..."

However, Jongseon couldn't relax even after hearing Yeongwoo's words.

-Kiket! Kiket!

Surely, even for that clumsy goblin, there must be parents or children somewhere.

She started to worry about where they left them and how they ended up coming all the way here.

“How did you meet that person?”

“I bought it with money.”

“...?”

“From a merchant.”

“Ah.”

Relic-grade slave, golden goblin.

「Golden Goblin」 – Slave

【Stores items in the subspace.】

【Collects things that turn into money.】

When they met the wandering merchant Voltak in Mungyeong, the ‘Serpent of Greed’ pointed at this golden goblin, which they purchased together at the time.

And it was also accompanied by ‘Morning Star,’ who called for advertisers.

In a way, it wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that the Serpent of Greed had greatly changed Yeongwoo’s life.

“Do you keep worrying? If it’s uncomfortable for you to keep following behind, you can ride on my back.”

“Oh, it’s not like that, but... Still, I wonder how it ended up coming all the way here when it probably has family somewhere.”

Typical maternal compassion.

As Yeongwoo looked at the goblin, he felt a similar sentiment because he had once had a similar thought.

“Do mothers usually think like that? They’re quite generous.”

“Well, since they have children, it’s natural to have such thoughts. Even if they don’t know others, mothers tend to cherish their own children.”

In that context, this side is indirectly making someone's precious child run aimlessly on the streets.

"Hmm."

Finally, after Jongseon made a determined sound, she asked Yeongwoo.

"That person doesn't bite people or anything, right?"

"Yes. Probably not."

"...Then I should carry it."

"With the baby?"

"Yes."

And around this time, the regional status in the corner of their vision changed.

Clap!

[The current area is 'Uijeongbu.'

[The Strongest Sword of this area is 'Gwak Seongwon04.' Rank 2, defense 93 times.

"Ah."

From now on, it's Uijeongbu.

You will be stepping into an area where your biological father may be staying.

'Surely the Strongest Sword here isn't my father, right?'

Yeongwoo looked around with a strange feeling.

Anyone they meet here might have a slight chance of being his father.

From now on, he will have to check the tracking mark at least once before swinging his sword.

"Let's go."

When Yeongwoo commanded Negwig to move again, Jongseon, who had been holding the golden goblin in her arms, asked a question.

"By the way, do you know your father's name?"

“I don’t.”

“Then his face...?”

“I don’t know that either.”

“What...? Then how do you plan to find him? Are you sure your father lives here?”

Jongseon’s face darkened again.

She wondered if this orphan was doing something absurd again.

At this, Yeongwoo took out the pen ‘Wanted Poster’ and showed it.

“This will show us the location of the target. If there’s no error, then my father should be in Uijeongbu.”

In addition to this being Yeongwoo also had an achievement, ‘Complete Orphan,’ but he didn’t bother to mention it.

“If the item is indicating it, then... it’s certain that your father is here.”

Jongseon’s tone became gloomy.

The fact that Jeong Yeongwoo’s father was still in Uijeongbu meant that he was most likely a villain.

Since the incident at the Uijeongbu Prison on the first day of the reset, most ordinary citizens were believed to have died in the city or barely escaped Uijeongbu.

‘Well, looking at this person’s condition, my father probably isn’t an ordinary person either.’

At this point, Jongseon’s eyes naturally turned to the name of Uijeongbu Strongest Sword.

If he was indeed the father of the Strongest Sword of Joseon, it wouldn’t be strange for him to be at least as powerful as the Strongest Sword of Uijeongbu.

As they passed through the somewhat desolate outskirts of Uijeongbu, tall apartment buildings began to appear on the right side of the road.

“The buildings are very neat.”

“Why is that?”

“It means that any monsters or mutants appearing have been dealt with immediately.”

“Oh.”

Having only seen Yangju after the reset, Jongseon nodded after hearing Yeongwoo's words.

“But if, as you mentioned before, the real power in Uijeongbu has been handed over to criminals, it means that those people have been dealing with monsters at such a fast pace.”

In other words, all survivors in this area were on a similar level to monster hunters in other areas.

No, perhaps their actual combat abilities were much better.

The prisoners weren't living their lives well like others, only to have their lives ruined by the reset, but rather, through the reset, they gained a kind of freedom.

So wouldn't their attitude towards this world be much more proactive than that of ordinary people?

“Yeah. So basically, everyone we meet here is an enemy...”

Before Jongseon could finish her sentence, she glanced ahead.

And Yeongwoo was already looking at a group of people waiting on the other side.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

There were about ten of them.

The ones sticking out above the crowd were spears, and the glinting blades reflecting the sunlight were mostly early birds.

‘...There are so many early birds.’

That meant they were either combatants or plunderers.

Unless the early bird owners gathered together on purpose, there could not have been so many swords that were only given out as first-come, first-served rewards at the exchange shop.

‘It's not an easy neighborhood.’

Of course, Yeongwoo was a problematic figure who made even intergalactic weapon brands troubled, and the mother in the back seat was none other than the Yangju's Strongest Sword with 233 defenses.

So Yeongwoo didn't ask for Jongseon's opinion and just let Negwig continue walking forward.

Clank, clunk.

As they approached the roadside, the faces of the Uijeongbu residents who had come out to see the stranger gradually stiffened.

"What...?"

"What, what is it?"

"Fuck, what's that?"

A black iron horse that was difficult to even estimate as a living being, a two-meter golden greatsword flying in the sky, and two Strongest Swords and a baby.

Lastly.

"Is that... a goblin?"

"..."

Even the Strongest Sword in the front seat had the title of 'Strongest Sword of Joseon.'

Since there was no such thing as a 'knockoff' title in this world, it was certain that the person they were seeing was the Strongest Sword of Joseon.

"If it's the Strongest Sword of Joseon... what is it?"

"Where is Joseon talking about?"

While they were repeatedly exclaiming 'What is that?', the iron horse carrying the two Strongest Swords approached closely.

At this, the people of Uijeongbu retreated little by little, holding their weapons firmly, and cleared the way for the stranger to pass.

They couldn't muster the courage to attack first against an opponent they couldn't handle.

Then Yeongwoo looked at them first.

“...”

Could his father be among them?

However, the tracking mark displayed in his sight was tilted to the east.

Although the target was nearby, it wasn't here.

So Yeongwoo pointed to the largest person among the people in front of him and asked with his gaze.

“What's over there?”

With these words, Yeongwoo lifted up the 'Bastard' and pointed to the east, so everyone in the audience was scared and backed away from him.

There was a sinister energy emanating from the sword, making it difficult to even look at.

“Well, um... The first thing that comes to mind is...”

Being pointed out by Yeongwoo, the person stumbled, searching for the next line.

“A prison?”

“...Ah.”

The subsequent sigh was Jongseon's.

She had a bad feeling about seeing the warm reunion of the father-son pair here today.

On the other hand, Yeongwoo wasn't perturbed at all, as he had some expectations to begin with.

“I see. Is the Uijeongbu Strongest Sword also in the prison now?”

The current leading candidate for being his father, the Strongest Sword of Uijeongbu, Gwak Seongwon⁰⁴.

When Yeongwoo asked about the whereabouts of the Strongest Sword, the guy scratched his forehead.

“Um, sir. I'm sorry for constantly saying 'I don't know,' but... We also don't know much about the situation in the prison. It's practically a battlefield there, so we try not to get too close.”

“A battlefield? Are you saying they’re fighting someone?”

“They’re fighting the Gangbuk Alliance.”

“....?”

The Seoul Federation’s practical backbone is here, so what does the Gangbuk Alliance mean?

But at the same time, it was vaguely understood.

The three areas above Gangbuk, namely Nowon, Dobong, and Gangbuk-gu, have no connection with the Strongest Sword gathering.

Therefore, if those three areas were forming their own alliance and fighting Uijeongbu...

‘That would make sense. That’s why the Seoul Federation had no idea about Uijeongbu.’

Because the frontline established by the Gangbuk Alliance hadn’t been pushed back yet, the Strongest Sword Federation in the center of Seoul couldn’t feel the presence of Uijeongbu.

“If you’re going to meet the Strongest Sword of Uijeongbu, you should hurry a bit.”

“...Why?”

When Yeongwoo asked, the guy briefly shifted his gaze to the local situation.

“Because it’s the perfect time for a fight. They’ve cleaned up the mutants, and the merchants have left.”

Then he added.

“Even if the Strongest Sword of Uijeongbu is powerful, wouldn’t it be difficult for him if three Seoul commanders come looking for him at once?”

“That’s true.”

After hearing the guy’s words, Yeongwoo also glanced at the local situation.

[The current location is ‘Uijeongbu’.

[The Strongest Sword of this area is ‘Gwak Seongwon04’. Rank 2, 96 defenses.

‘Oh.’

Then he noticed that the defense count, which had been 93 earlier, had changed to 96.

Whether it's a real war or not, the fact that the Strongest Sword of Uijeongbu is in combat is true.

"Shouldn't we go quickly? If that person is him..."

Jongseon voiced her concern, and Yeongwoo nodded in response.

But the subsequent dialogue was completely different from Jongseon's intention.

"Anyway, if someone is going to die, it's better if I kill him."

"Why...?"

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Chapter 153: Father (2)

"Why, of course...."

Yeongwoo naturally recalled the orphan achievement, but soon closed his mouth.

[Complete Orphan]

[Find and eliminate parents. (1/2)]

He realized it wasn't appropriate to speak in front of the mother and baby he had just met today.

However.

'Finding and eliminating parents as an achievement means I have to kill them myself to complete it, right...?'

Yeongwoo believed that he had to personally perform the task of removing the parents for the achievement to be fulfilled.

Otherwise, the achievement system wouldn't have used the phrase 'find and eliminate.'

'Of course, if Mother is already counted, I could be wrong.'

Yeongwoo hadn't even decided whether this achievement should be completed.

However, if his father was destined to die, he thought it would be better to kill him himself to fulfill the achievement.

'Is this thought too insane?'

[TL/N: No shit sherlock.]

[PR/N: ofc not kafka, it's totally normal to want to kill your father with your own hands, for he is your hero and your villain.]

In fact, to Yeongwoo, 'father' was more of a hypothetical figure, so he didn't feel guilty about the idea of killing him.

He had never met him once in his life, nor had he ever felt his presence indirectly.

At this point, the only realities that resonate with Yeongwoo are things like the mythic class weapon Bastard and the universal weapon brand Dogo.

'But soon, the existence of a father will become a reality.'

So wouldn't it be better to meet a living father rather than a dead one?

"I really need to hurry. I want to see Father alive and moving, if possible."

"You're just..."

As Yeongwoo directed Negwig toward the prison, Choi Jongseon tightly embraced the baby.

This was because she had become more determined not to make her child an orphan.

-Whizz!

Finally, Negwig began to run toward the prison in the east, following Yeongwoo's command.

Whoosh!

The scenery of Uijeongbu city passed by quickly.

Occasionally, people appeared on the streets, but none could stop the giant running like lightning.

And Choi Jongseon could finally catch a glimpse of the orphan Strongest Sword, right before her eyes, and how he had been doing so far.

‘He must have been invincible. I don’t know when it started, but...’

A golden greatsword floating in the sky, a steel horse from another world, and the ridiculous title of the Strongest sword in Joseon.

With one person possessing all of this, who could argue with him?

For Choi Jongseon, who had faced numerous challenges in Yangju, Yeongwoo’s existence itself was surreal.

Such a life, with such a powerful human existence... And now.

‘The moment when such a person goes to find his father, I get to witness it. Truly, human affairs are unpredictable.’

Whoosh, whoosh!

Finally, Negwig, which had been running straight to the southeast, slowly changed direction.

Yeongwoo sensed that they were approaching Uijeongbu prison.

‘...Two more people have joined.’

In the meantime, Uijeongbu’s Strongest Sword Gwak Seongwon’s defense count had increased by two.

[The current area is ‘Uijeongbu.’

[The Strongest Sword of this area is ‘Gwak Seongwon04.’ Rank 2, defense 98 times.

This meant that in a short period, two more people had challenged Gwak Seongwon.

Evidence that the battles in the prison were being fiercely waged.

“Baby, hold on tight.”

“.....!”

With Yeongwoo's warning, Negwig's front legs sliced through the air fiercely, and for a moment, the scenery blurred and shifted backward.

"Wow! J-Just a little slower!"

While Jongseon was astonished by Negwig's sudden acceleration, a large outdoor parking lot appeared to the left as the road narrowed.

'It seems to be up there.'

Yeongwoo sensed that they were nearing the prison because there were sporadic corpses lying among the abandoned cars, some with clean cuts like they were sliced with a sword.

Also, the scattered corpses on the ground became more numerous as the road gradually turned into a mountain path.

"Oh... my goodness."

Some of them hadn't even dried their blood yet, so Jongseon hurriedly covered the baby's eyes.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo...

"Here we are!"

He pointed forward as if he had just succeeded in finding treasure.

The tracking markers\ from the wanted posters were prominently visible on the right.

Whoosh!

A small checkpoint appeared to the right as they continued uphill.

'So, this is the entrance to the prison.'

Yeongwoo confirmed that he had arrived properly when he saw that the barrier beside the checkpoint was split in half.

'They must have gone in noisily. Or maybe it got destroyed when they came out.'

Whatever the case, the important thing was that Father was now in the middle of a battle inside.

Indeed, from afar, the sound of clashes and the loud voices of many people could be heard mingling.

“It seems they’re already in the midst of a fierce fight.”

Jongseon said, to which Yeongwoo replied, looking back at her.

“If you’re worried, would you stay here? It seems like there are quite a few people inside.”

Upon hearing this, Jongseon shook her head.

“No. I can fight to some extent too...”

Moreover, where could be safer than right behind the Strongest sword of Joseon?

Surely, there would likely be members of the Uijeongbu Strongest Sword and the Gangbuk Alliance inside, but no matter how much she thought about it, they didn’t seem stronger than the orphan before them.

This is because Jongseon herself, who was tired of fighting, never wanted to fight with Jeong Yeongwoo.

‘Even if there were ten of me, would I be able to make even a small wound...? I can’t imagine winning this.’

As Jongseon checked her waist to make sure the sword was in place, Negwig crossed the barrier and entered the prison grounds.

Then, they saw the white outer wall of the Uijeongbu prison, towering like a fortress over the wide asphalt area.

Especially the prison gate, wrapped in a large black stone structure, looked surreal up close.

“Wow, it’s so different from what I saw in movies.”

Yeongwoo said, unable to take his eyes off the magnificent structure, to which Jongseon pointed below and said.

“But the gate is already broken.”

As Jongseon said, the blue iron gate with the correctional facility logo was heavily damaged by a powerful force.

Someone forcibly pushed and entered through the locked gate.

“It seems like someone from outside exerted force inward. Perhaps people from Seoul.”

As Yeongwoo directed Negwig beyond the bent gate, Jongseon muttered as she looked at the thickness of the gate.

“Are people from Seoul all monsters...?”

Of course, Yeongwoo was included in this.

“Well... I’m meeting people from the Gangbuk Alliance for the first time too.”

Creak.

As they crossed the gate and entered the inside of the prison walls, the voices of people began to be heard clearly.

“Aiyah!”

“Got him...!”

“Don’t retreat!”

Although no one could be seen on the mountain, it was clear that many were engaged in fierce combat through the sounds coming from somewhere on the right.

“Do you hear that too? Let’s go over there.”

Yeongwoo instructed Negwig in the direction of the sound, summoning his ‘Fearful cat.’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Swoosh.

As expected, the cat had its eyes closed.

After all, could there be anyone here who posed a threat to the owner of a mythical-grade weapon?

‘Then let’s hurry and stop the fight.’

According to the area’s status, the neck of the Uijeongbu Strongest Sword was still intact, and there was a sense of noisy popularity in sync with the last-minute battle.

From far away, a large hole was pierced in the inner wall of the prison.

Chae-chaeng, Chae-ae-ang!

Now the sound of swords could even be heard clearly as the distance shortened.

-Whizz!

This time, the path to take was clear, so Negwig moved without Yeongwoo's command.

Crash!

The creature suddenly made a high jump.

Huah!

As Negwig swiftly jumped twenty meters, the shadow of Yeongwoo's group was cast faintly over the inner wall of the prison.

And then...

“.....!”

The scene of dozens of swordsmen scattered around the prison yard engaged in battle came into view.

Click, click, click!

Moreover, the battle was almost coming to an end.

From the air, it was clear that the Uijeongbu side was being pushed into a corner.

‘All three of the Gangbuk Strongest Swords are still alive.’

As Yeongwoo found the words Nowon, Dobong, and Gangbuk inside the stadium, Dobong Strongest Sword, who was wiping the blood off his sword, noticed the strange shadow on the ground and looked up.

Swoosh.

Then...

“....?”

His eyes widened as if he couldn't believe it.

-Whizz!

Because something unidentifiable was falling, screaming.

“What the... damn it...”

Together with the bewildered exclamation of Dobong Strongest Sword.

Boom!

Negwig, carrying Yeongwoo’s group, landed in the middle of the playground, stirring up dust.

-Whizz!

Strange cries, heavy footsteps, and waves of dust.

Everything was exactly like the scene of the appearance of a mutant, so all the swordsmen in the stadium reflexively turned their swords towards the intruder.

And then.

Swoosh...

Amidst the dust cloud that filled the air, a metallic sound rang out first.

Clank!

It was the sound of Yeongwoo’s footsteps, wearing the Unique Grade Boots. Illusion, but no one present could discern it.

After all, metallic boots were not common equipment.

-Wheeeiiiing...

Following that, the characteristic vibrating sound of the “Golden Trail” softly reverberated.

“What, what is it... a mutant?”

“At this hour?”

“Where on earth did it suddenly appear from?”

The three typical Strongest Swords from Nowon, Dobong, and Gangbuk checked if there was no pillar of red light rising above the dust.

However, naturally, there was no sign of a mutant, but instead...

“Hmm.”

As the dust settled a bit, something faintly glowing, resembling a name tag, was visible at a height of over 2 meters.

The letters were not yet clear, but under the circumstances, it was undoubtedly...

"It's, it's a real mutant."

"Fuck! What's going on all of a sudden?"

Everyone present, including the Gangbuk Alliance, was convinced.

Despite the absence of the pillar of light, all other characteristics pointed to a mutant.

"Ah... no matter how much we're in the midst of war, mutants are the bigger enemy."

"Let's deal with the mutants first."

At the sudden appearance of the mutant, there was a momentary moment of cooperation between Uijeongbu and the Gangbuk Alliance.

"Waaaah!"

A human baby's cry burst out loudly from the dust.

"...?"

"What...?"

At this, everyone in the vicinity fell into a momentary panic.

Clank.

After the initial metallic sound was heard again, someone asked,

"Father...? Are you here?"

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 154

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 154: Father (3)

“Father?”

“Yes...?”

“Who are you looking for?”

Father, the magical word.

With this single word, the murderous spirit emanating from those holding swords dissipated without vigor.

The majority present here had either lost their families as a result of the reset or were those who, unlike others, took up arms to avoid losing their families.

And because of that.

“Wait a moment.”

The tension was palpable.

Because their own deaths were the same as the death of the family they left behind in the residential area.

“Everyone, snap out of it! It could be a distraction tactic from the mutants!”

Someone instinctively grabbed the sword that had been slipping out of their hands and shouted, and right on cue, there was another clang from within the dust cloud.

Clang.

It was the sound of Yeongwoo taking steps to step out of the dust cloud.

“Relax, everyone! Let me speak for a moment....”

As Yeongwoo waved the dust away with his arms and took another step forward, one of the Strongest Swords from Gangbuk reflexively extended his sword, interpreting this movement as an attack.

Swish!

“Oh!”

“Ah!”

Then the other Strongest Swords of Gangbuk couldn't help but intervene.

Such clumsy attacks not only did not affect the mutants but also risked their lives by inviting counterattacks.

Therefore, it was an ironic situation where the three Strongest Swords of Gangbuk, Nowon, and Dobong launched a joint attack in order to save the person who initiated the first attack.

Swish!

'Fuck, what's going on? I don't know what kind of guy he is, but thanks to him, my life will be saved.'

Taking advantage of the intruder's presence, Gwak Seongwon of Uijeongbu's Strongest Sword gained some time and started looking around for an escape route.

He intended to escape from the Gangbuk Alliance while they were engaged in battle with the monster in the dust cloud.

But before he could even take a step, something absurd happened first.

Swoosh!

The blades of the Gangbuk Alliance, which had been cutting through the dust, were all blocked.

And then.

"Misters, I'll retaliate from the second attack onwards."

The voice of a man that had been continuously echoing from within the hazy dust finally emerged without a single break in breath.

And then.

Thunk!

As the Alliance's blades were deflected onto the road, the person in question revealed himself.

Clang!

"Father! Stop all actions!"

As Yeongwoo called out to the fathers indiscriminately and walked out of the dust, everyone on that side who had been aiming their swords at him widened their eyes.

“What...?”

“...!”

“...Huh.”

Everything about the opponent surpassed their imagination.

A height of two meters.

The title of Joseon’s Strongest Sword.

Golden armor adorned all over the body.

A golden greatsword floating in the air like a guardian deity.

And even a sinister aura emanating from a cursed sword.

“Is, is he really human?”

“He’s not a mutant...?”

Then someone finally uttered the problematic line.

“So, whose son is he...?”

* * *

Father.

Or rather, he was looking for his biological father.

For Yeongwoo, there was only the one who created him, but there was no one who nurtured him.

So what Yeongwoo was looking for now was nothing more than his biological father.

More precisely, a being who passed on some of his genetic components to Yeongwoo, and depending on the perspective, could be considered as the original.

「This individual is a randomly combined composition of Level 4 settings.」

「Influenced by the settings of the parents, they possess the following immutable elements from birth. #Level4 #Orphan」

「As a Level 4 composite being, they receive retroactive adjustments to settings of Level 2 or higher during their lifetime.」

[Father]: Level 6 Extra

[Mother]: Level 1 Supporting Role

The combination of a Level 6 Extra and a Level 1 Supporting Role.

This rather discordant combination gave rise to the problematic existence known as Jeong Yeongwoo07.

A 'stubborn' acknowledged by the system and a 'rising star' that the beings of the universe began to take notice of at this moment.

However, Yeongwoo was also a pitiful existence who, if not for the reset, would have died a miserable death from being beaten by a drunken passerby during his return to home.

So he didn't have high expectations for his father.

It's not like he was a remarkable or excellent person.

Before the reset, in other words, in the original world, the child Yeongwoo's father had made was not the Strongest Sword but someone who had died in the streets.

|Name: Jeong Yeongwoo

|Role: Level 4 Extra

|Function: Background, Supportive Role

Of course, that didn't mean he wasn't curious about his father's existence.

No, in fact, he was even more curious because he didn't have high expectations for his father.

Because he was curious about how bad it was if it was bad.

“Anyone here could be my father. So for now, let's put down our swords.”

A mysterious man with overflowing power.

As Yeongwoo scanned the audience and spoke, everyone hesitated, exchanging glances, and one by one began to lower their swords.

Isn't he a monster who easily deflected the attacks of the three Strongest Swords?

They had no choice but to listen.

Moreover, the three Strongest Swords of Gangbuk Alliance knew very well that the man had successfully defended against their attacks without even using weapons.

'Where did this bastard suddenly come from?'

'If it's not an illusion, he blocked our combined attack with his bare hands...'

'Even though we launched our attacks without securing the area properly...'

As Gangbuk, Nowon, and Dobong Strongest Swords reminisced about the recent events, Yeongwoo scrutinized the people in front of him one by one.

'This is tricky.'

The reason Yeongwoo referred to them as 'fathers' was because a considerable number of the members were indeed father figures.

Also,

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As Yeongwoo had been abandoned due to unintentional modifications, the age range of his father was likely much lower than expected.

'He could have had me when he was young, so he'd be in his early fifties.'

Yeongwoo is currently thirty-four years old.

Therefore, excluding all women and men between the ages of 20 and 40, there was a high probability that his father was among the remaining candidates.

So, when counting the number of candidates, there were as many as nine.

"Hey, wait a minute. Are you saying your father is here...? Are you sure?"

Soon, doubts arose among the candidates.

The one who spoke was none other than Gangbuk's Strongest Sword, Lee Jingeun.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

At the age of sixty-six, he had a son of similar age to Yeongwoo living in Gangbuk.

“If your father is really here, there’s no reason to hesitate like this.”

Their meaning was why aren’t you going to find your father when everyone has stopped fighting as you demanded?

It’s something you could tell just by looking at their faces.

For those who had never experienced life as an orphan, it was a natural thought.

So Yeongwoo looked up at the tracking marker at the top of his field of vision.

Since coming here, the marker had been changed to a square.

It meant that there was a wanted person nearby.

“I’ve never met my father in my life. I was abandoned as soon as I was born.”

“.....!”

“But somehow I got an item that helps find people.”

As Yeongwoo took out the ‘wanted poster’, people poured out words of admiration as if they had made an agreement.

“Oh my, is it true?”

“...Oh my god.”

“It seems like he came to find his father with that.”

“He was an orphan....”

Then people’s eyes began to focus on men who were the age of the monster’s father.

Who could have committed the wicked act of abandoning a newborn baby?

“Ugh, whoever did it, it’s really messed up.”

“Who is it? Confess quickly.”

“Is it even possible for there to be orphans in this day and age? Who is it?”

Then, the candidates began to step back, raising their arms.

“I... I’m not. I have all my children.”

“Neither am I.”

“I don’t even have a lover, let alone a son.”

The scene at the Uijeongbu prison, which had turned into the worst father discovery scene in a matter of seconds from a war scene.

Those who had participated in this battle had begun to express their annoyance due to their own stories.

For example, like Kim Jeonggu of Dobong.

“What the hell is all this nonsense? Did we come here to fight, or to play jokes?”

Kim Jeonggu, 58 years old.

He was here to avenge his brother who lost his life to the Uijeongbu’s Strongest Sword.

“How can you expect to find your father when you don’t even know what he looks like?”

With these words, Kim Jeonggu aggressively gripped his sword.

“Anyway, since the number of candidates is going to decrease, you’d better look carefully among the remaining people.”

They were going to sneak out of the war for now.

“.....!”

At this, Uijeongbu’s Strongest Sword Gwak Seongwon, who had been looking for an opportunity to escape, leaped towards the high outer wall of the prison.

“Dammit!”

Ta-aat!

The strongest man among the Uijeongbu prison inmates, Gwak Seongwon, moved like lightning.

“That bastard!”

“Get him!”

Seeing this, all the Strongest Swords of the Gangbuk Alliance, including Kim Jeonggu of Dobong, naturally lit up and jumped up.

And Yeongwoo was no different.

“Gwak Seongwon...!”

Calling out the name of the man who might be his biological father, he sent the ‘Dragon’s Legacy’ towards his left leg.

Sshaeaeaeat!

It was the duel sword of the Joseon’s Strongest Sword.

Thanks to that, Gwak Seongwon was hit in the leg with the sword and slammed into the ground, unable to even cross half the distance to the outer wall.

“Krek!”

Then the enraged people of Gangbuk Alliance rushed towards him, brandishing their swords fiercely.

Of course, they were soon bound by the golden waves that swept through the field.

Hwaaat!

“Ah...!”

“Ugh!”

“What is this...?”

Some of the people immediately recognized the nature of this energy and widened their eyes.

This oppressive feeling, like squeezing one’s heart, could only be felt when facing the prestige of the Strongest Sword.

『Joseon’s Strongest Sword』

Eventually, Yeongwoo, the source of this prestige, calmly walked among dozens of swordsmen, emitting golden rays from his eyes.

Then.

“...Ugh.”

Standing in front of Gwak Seongwon, who still hadn't removed the Dragon's Legacy from his leg, Yeongwoo looked down at him.

“...”

The tracking marker was still square.

After a moment of thought, Yeongwoo opened his mouth.

“How old are you now? You must be in your early fifties at most.”

Upon hearing this, Gwak Seongwon, sweating profusely, managed to answer.

“W-Well. I just turned sixty this year...! But what about this sword? Even if I were your father, what good would it do to break my leg?”

To this, Yeongwoo glanced briefly at the Dragon's Legacy stuck in the man's leg and then spoke again in a harsh tone.

“I am currently thirty-four.”

“...What?”

“If you're sixty, it means you had me when you were seventeen.”

“W-What are you talking about?”

“I'm saying you're not my father.”

“.....!”

With Yeongwoo's last words, a long shadow was cast over Gwak Seongwon's head.

“What? This crazy bastard!”

Gwak Seongwon exclaimed with a scream.

Then.

Gwak Seongwon's body was split in half by a mythic-ranked sword, 'Bastard'.

“Kyaaah!”

“You little...!”

Everyone in the audience, except for Kim Jeonggu, was startled and stepped back.

Of course, at this time, even Kim Jeonggu, who came to avenge his brother, did not have murderous intent in his eyes.

The reason was that the gaze of the Joseon's Strongest Sword, who had just killed one of the candidates for his father, overwhelmed him.

"...He was the enemy of my brother. I'm just sorry I didn't kill him myself. I have no feelings for him."

As Kim Jeonggu said this, Yeongwoo reached out his left hand and retrieved the Dragon's Legacy stuck in the dead man's leg.

Thunk!

"I knew he wasn't my father. The sword didn't ignite."

Then Yeongwoo pointed the Dragon's Legacy at Kim Jeonggu.

Whip.

"By the way, was this guy the enemy of your older brother?"

"Big... What?"

While Kim Jeonggu made a puzzled expression, Yeongwoo looked at the tracking marker in front of him with a very clear mind.

The reason was that just a moment ago, when everyone except Kim Jeonggu stepped back, the marker changed to a circle.

In other words.

"It seems like you might be my father."

"W-What are you talking about? That can't be...."

As Kim Jeonggu made an unjust expression and shook his head sideways.

On the other hand, Yeongwoo threw the question with a confident face.

"How old are you this year?"

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 155

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 155: Father (4)

The giant monster is asking about the age.

That's right.

“.....”

Kim Jeonggu glanced at the lifeless body of Uijeongbu's Strongest Sword, split in half.

“So, you say I can't be your father...? You must have made a serious mistake.”

As seen before, revealing one's age often leads to death.

But not revealing it didn't seem likely to save him either.

‘What should I do? It seems like he really thinks of me as his father.’

The opponent was a skilled fighter, unstoppable by force, as seen earlier, fleeing from him was impossible.

‘How did I end up meeting such a lunatic?’

Cold sweat trickled down.

Yet Jeonggu desperately calculated the age difference between himself and the giant.

‘Ah... How old did he say he was earlier? Thirty-four?’

And Kim Jeonggu is 58 years old this year.

So if we subtract the giant's age from Jeonggu's age...

‘...Twenty-four.’

What happened then?

It was so long ago that I really couldn't remember.

'No, is he claiming I had a son at such a young age?'

As Jeonggu stood there with a face that could burst into tears at any moment, Joseon's Strongest Sword impatiently prompted him while gripping the evil sword menacingly.

"Age, please tell me."

"W-Why does that matter at all? You're going to kill me anyway once you hear my age!"

"....."

At this, Yeongwoo looked at the sword 'Bastard', which had already been covered in blood once.

"That's still under consideration."

"What...?"

Kim Jeonggu, who was starting to feel terrified by the opponent.

In contrast, Yeongwoo was serious.

"He was killed because he was the Uijeongbu's Strongest Sword. His notorious reputation has spread from Cheorwon to this area."

Then Yeongwoo scratched his chin with Dragon's Legacy, thoughtfully.

It was an unconscious action due to holding swords in both hands, but to those who saw it, it was a threat of murder in itself.

"Of course, even if he claimed to be my father, I would have killed him. Considering he was kept in prison until the reset day, he must have been a level 6 human... It would've been right to erase him as a son."

Yeongwoo muttered his inner thoughts.

Of course, most of the people present didn't properly hear his words, but Kim Jeonggu, the Dobong Strongest Sword, was different.

"Level 6...?"

Kim Jeonggu's mouth fell open involuntarily.

Then Yeongwoo said as if he had expected it.

"Father, you're a level 6 human, right? Am I right?"

“Uh... Yeah?”

Dobong’s Strongest Sword was visibly flustered.

What are the chances of guessing the internal grade of a person you’ve never seen before?

It was clear that the giant knew in advance his self-proclaimed father’s level.

And coincidentally, the internal grade of the ‘father’ Kim Jeonggu pointed out by the giant was.

‘Me, me... It’s true that I’m a level 6.’

Shivers ran down his spine, and a vague sense of terror arose.

Could it be that everything the giant had been saying so far was true?

‘Did my own child grow up without my knowledge?’

Chuk.

As Kim Jeonggu retreated in confusion, a woman’s voice could be heard from somewhere behind.

“She could have given birth alone. Anyway, what he said might not be entirely wrong.”

The owner of this voice was Choi Jongseon, the Yangju Strongest Sword, who was riding on an iron horse with a baby in her arms.

“W-Who are you...?”

Kim Jeonggu looked at Jongseon and was surprised.

Could she be his daughter-in-law?

『Yangju’s Strongest Sword』

‘Fuck, what am I thinking right now?’

He shuddered and turned his head back towards the giant, only to see the madman approaching from behind.

“...Ugh!”

“It’s probably hard to admit it right away. Since it doesn’t feel real.”

Yeongwoo shrugged his big shoulders as he looked down at 'father'.

"But I feel the same way. This person as my father...? I don't really know because I've never had a father in the first place, but it feels a lot different than I expected."

Kim Jeonggu, 58 years old.

Other than the title 'Dobong's Strongest Sword' attached to his head, he didn't seem particularly special.

At 165 cm, he wasn't tall, and his innate skeleton wasn't good either.

If we only consider physical specs, it would be easy to agree that he was a 'level 6'.

But.

'But still, he became the Strongest Sword. How on earth? How could a level 6 human become the Strongest Sword, surpassing tens of thousands?'

The reason Yeongwoo couldn't dare to stab this man with his sword was because of this.

Although there wasn't a movie-like incident where he instantly felt like he was looking at his father as soon as he saw this man, there was still some kind of connection visible.

Despite being born as a 4th level, Jeong Yeongwoo rose to become the Strongest Sword of the Gumi region.

And despite being born as a 6th level, Kim Jeonggu became the strongest in Dobong, one of the 25 regions of Seoul.

Can we use the term "illegitimate child" here?

Anyway, this man was as extraordinary as Yeongwoo.

More precisely, his achievements after the reset were what mattered.

'Originally, I thought what my father had created was not me as I am now, but someone who died on the street. But I was wrong.'

Finally, Yeongwoo's gaze shifted from Kim Jeonggu's relatively small title to his.

『Dobong's Strongest Sword』

'It's true that this man has partially made me who I am now. Something that produces results higher than the original grade came from this man.'

Then what did he receive from his mother, whom he still didn't know at this point?

“.....”

Yeongwoo closed his eyes tightly, and to his surprise, an achievement window appeared in his pitch-black field of vision.

Pop!

Whether it was a system malfunction or whether Yeongwoo unconsciously summoned the achievement window, it was unclear.

What mattered now was...

“...Ah.”

The fact that the ‘Complete Orphan,’ who had been guarding the achievement list the longest since the opening of the achievement system, appeared, as if waiting.

[Complete Orphan]

| Find and eliminate parents. (1/2)

An achievement that would complete Yeongwoo's core element ‘Orphan’ engraved in his internal settings.

This was also one of the initial achievements recommended by the system, defining Yeongwoo as a ‘stubborn’ person.

In other words, although he didn't know what it meant, it implied that the reward for this achievement would likely enhance Yeongwoo's unique traits.

‘But to do that, I have to kill my father.’

Swish.

As Yeongwoo stared silently at Kim Jeonggu, Choi Jongseon, who had been observing the scene from the other side, suddenly widened her eyes and shouted.

“You madman! No way, right? You're not an orphan anymore...!”

Then Kim Jeonggu, swallowing dry saliva, spoke to Yeongwoo.

“Y-You must be very angry. But am I really your father? Even if... by some chance I am, how could I, who has lived my whole life without knowing of my son's existence, become a father who abandoned his son...!”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Kim Jeonggu's defense was full of injustice.

Nevertheless, when Jeong Yeongwoo didn't even bat an eyelash, Kim Jeonggu suddenly slammed the sword he was holding into the ground.

Clang!

Then he knelt on one knee and looked up at Yeongwoo.

"Fifty-eight."

".....?"

"I'm Fifty-eight. That's my age. So if I really were your father, it would have been around when I was twenty-four."

Then this time, Yeongwoo said something.

"Involuntary intention."

"Huh?"

"It's called an involuntary intention adjustment. It's in the destiny record."

"....."

Could Kim Jeonggu possibly counter that line?

He continued to kneel with a bewildered expression.

"Anyway, if you want, you can kill me anytime."

A son who had become a general... no, something excessively terrifying had come to find him.

By this point, Kim Jeonggu could no longer deny it unconditionally.

As mentioned earlier, if what the giant claimed was true...?

"If, by some chance, I'm wrong, then I must have committed a great sin against you. In the terms of this world, it would be 'karma.'"

A 6th level human, Dobong Strongest Sword Kim Jeonggu, gazed with a complex expression.

Although he still considered it unbelievable, he couldn't rule out the very low probability that he might be wrong.

Above all, it felt extremely eerie that the opponent had guessed his grade so accurately.

"Just as we voted to eliminate people and mutants came looking for us, perhaps you might be a mutant for me."

As if urging him to strike with the sword, Kim Jeonggu extended his neck and uttered a profound line.

If this was a penalty for his achievement, he would accept it.

'...Why did he suddenly become so detached?'

Yeongwoo, rather perplexed by the sudden change in the opponent's attitude, then thought to himself.

'Is this guy a con artist? He seems to be acting somehow to escape.'

A 'stubborn' person certified by the system.

Yeongwoo raised the mythical one-handed sword 'Bastard' into the air as soon as doubt arose in his heart.

Swish.

"If you think that way, I'm very grateful. In fact, I have an achievement to find my parents and kill them."

"...What?"

At Yeongwoo's unexpected confession, Kim Jeonggu, who had been stretching his neck, widened his eyes.

"W-What did you say?"

"Soon, if I strike at your father's neck, you'll know. If we really are father and son, the achievement will be completed."

"Wait a minute!"

“Even if you say no, since there might be some achievement, please accept the penalty, Father!”

Hwaaaaah!

“Bastard,” had begun to swing towards Kim Jeonggu’s neck.

Everyone, including Choi Jongseon, closed their eyes tightly.

“Ugh evil!”

“Is he really crazy?”

“Aaaah!”

No one wanted to witness another scene where a human body was torn apart in real time.

However...

Swish!

What people expected didn’t happen at all.

Initially, Yeongwoo had no intention of striking Kim Jeonggu’s neck.

Therefore, the blade of the “Bastard” stopped before touching Kim Jeonggu’s neck.

But Kim Jeonggu...

“Ah...”

He was performing a big motion that everyone in the audience stand couldn’t miss, rolling sideways.

Swoosh!

He even managed to pull out a dagger hidden in his bosom while rolling.

His speech about accepting fate just now was purely a ruse.

“This bastard?”

As Yeongwoo’s eyes blazed with astonishment at the unexpectedly clever move, suddenly his vision flashed, and a system prompt appeared.

Ping!

[Dogo] “Paternal Confirmation”

[Mission] Spend 3 days with ‘Kim Jeonggu11.’

[Reward] 20 million karma.

[Special] Kim Jeonggu11 must remain alive during the mission.

This was none other than a Dogo quest.

‘Ah.’

This was the first request he received after meeting with the chairman.

‘Spend three days with that bastard?’

The advertiser didn’t want to go so far as to demand his death.

After all, Dogo had criticized the production company Lemu for being vulgar.

Considering that Dogo was a group with strong ideals, it couldn’t just stand by while its own advertising model killed his father.

‘What about the achievement then? The conditions seem to imply that I can kill him after three days.’

[Complete Orphan]

[Find and eliminate parents. (1/2)]

Actually, Yeongwoo originally didn’t have the intention to kill the man in front of him, but after seeing that amazing roll just now, his killing intent surged.

But how could he refuse the 20 million karma that would come rolling in with time?

“.....”

After calming his mind for a moment, Yeongwoo spoke to Kim Jeonggu, who had hidden the dagger again.

“I’ve changed my mind. I won’t kill you, Father. Instead, there’s a condition.”

“A c-condition...?”

“Convince me within three days. If you’re really not my father, you’ll have to prove it somehow.”

Then Kim Jeonggu, unsure of himself, asked a negative question first.

“...What happens if I fail?”

“Then I’ll truly become a Complete Orphan.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 156

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 156: Father (5)

A complete orphan.

“.....”

Upon hearing these words, Choi Jongseon couldn’t help but think that Yeongwoo was generous, but Kim Jeonggu’s perspective was entirely different.

‘...Is he completely insane?’

Regardless of whether he was his real father or not, saying he’d kill his father if he made a mistake was not a normal thought.

‘Did I commit a grave sin in my past life? How did I end up with a son like this?’

But he was also a top survivor who became the Strongest Sword in Dobong, surpassing tens of thousands of competitors with his Level 6 physique.

That’s why.

“...Is there no other choice? Besides dying right now.”

At this point, he quickly understood his situation.

“Yes. You said it yourself. And earlier, weren’t you trying to stab me? So, if I kill my father now, it’s self-defense.”

“Ah, I see.”

Kim Jeonggu let out an awkward laugh.

Then, with a casual tone, he said as he slapped his thighs with both arms.

“Well, then. Can’t be helped. Three days? Let’s try it once.”

Three days of challenges to avoid becoming a father.

As Jeonggu gladly accepted and got up from his seat, Jongseon let out a deep sigh of relief.

Although she was relieved not to see the crazy tyrant immediately, the thought of going to Seoul with those two stubborn men still bothered her.

‘...Is this the right choice?’

Jongseon instinctively looked down at her child.

Still, compared to life in the city where she always had to be vigilant as she never knew when a challenger would appear, Seoul seemed better.

At least for a while, there wouldn’t be a challenger to defeat Yeongwoo, so safety should be guaranteed, right?

-Keet!

As the situation seemed to settle, the golden goblin that was with Jongseon darted out to the scene.

Taht!

It was none other than to retrieve the loot from the deceased former Strongest Sword, Gwak Seongwon, who was cut in half.

“Oh, I killed someone today.”

Upon this, Yeongwoo took out the ‘Serpent of Greed’ to check if there were any hidden items.

And seeing this, Kim Jeonggu...

‘What the hell is this, you bastard?’

He clicked his tongue at the scene that seemed to have some procedure for looting.

How many people did he have to kill to have a goblin picking up loot for him?

-Keet!

Soon, Yeongwoo's relic-level slave brought him the loot and reported.

-Keet!

The first loot removed from the dead was:

「Slime Fingerprint」 – Mutant Gloves

【Can be attached to the wall or ceiling.】

‘Hmm...?’

Mutant Gloves, Slime Fingerprint.

It was a special mobility-related equipment like the ‘Climbing Gear’ or ‘Jump Boots’ he obtained before.

「Climber」 – Mutant Pants

【Leap distance tripled.】

「Jump Boots」 – Unique Shoes

【Movement speed doubles when no enemies are nearby.】

‘It’s not common, but items like this do show up from time to time. I wonder why?’

Increasing jump distance or being able to stick to walls or ceilings wasn’t particularly helpful in regular combat situations.

However, in this world, there were no items made without reason.

It was like the ability resistance he couldn’t understand at first.

‘Where would I even need to climb?’

As Yeongwoo had visited dungeons of other dimensions before, his imagination far exceeded that of an ordinary person.

When he thought of ‘climbing’, it wasn’t a mountain but something like a gigantic dimensional structure.

‘Anyway... it’s good to have many things. They might come in handy someday.’

As Yeongwoo shifted his gaze to the next loot, this time he saw the golden goblin extending a knife directly.

「Unfair Trade」 – Unique One-Handed Sword

【Inflicting wounds on enemies, increasing wearer’s recovery rate.】

-Keekit!

As if they found remarkable loot, the voice exclaimed.

Of course, Yeongwoo agreed.

“It’s a perfectly tailored gear.”

Among Yeongwoo’s survival mechanisms during battles, ‘regeneration’ was undoubtedly one of the most representative.

「Slime Core」 – Mutation Bracelet

【Regenerative power increases dramatically.】

With an amazing regeneration ability that allowed him to recover as long as his head wasn’t smashed, even if his body was torn apart.

On top of that, what currently supported Yeongwoo’s ‘fortitude’ were various damage reduction effects and resistances.

Since he often had to resort to self-harm to reach the bleeding state, this loot was more than welcome for him.

Already a regeneration monster, if recovery rate is added to it, how much tougher would he become?

‘If it’s recovery rate... is it a superior concept to regeneration? Anyway, he had something remarkable. The synergy would be tremendous.’

The only downside was that this equipment was a sword, not an accessory.

‘Of course, I could ask the chairman to acquire a weapon encyclopaedia.’

However, which encyclopaedia to request would depend on the nightly dungeon that would appear today.

‘Then next.’

As Yeongwoo shifted his gaze to the last loot, a dusky leather belt came into view.

「Fireproof Leather」 – Mutation Belt

【Fire resistance 10%】

【–Empty Slot–】

‘A resistance and a slot. Not bad.’

Yeongwoo nodded approvingly as he watched the goblin toss the loot into his spatial pocket, then he tilted his head.

“Wait, is that all?”

Yeongwoo’s gaze returned to the Serpent of Greed once again.

Apparently, the snake didn’t sense any other loot nearby, as it remained quietly wrapped around Yeongwoo’s wrist.

“There was only one unique item... But still, being the Strongest Sword, only three items?”

While it was possible that one piece of equipment was devoured, there should still be at least one more mutation gear, shouldn’t there?

If he had dominated all mutants while reigning as the top in Uijeongbu, wouldn’t he have taken all of their mutations?

“.....”

Without further thought, Yeongwoo walked briskly toward the corpse of the former Strongest Sword in Uijeongbu.

Then.

Shhwack!

He swung his sword twice, tearing apart the dead man’s clothes to retrieve the loot.

“Oh my.”

“Ah.....”

The spectators in the audience grimaced at the corpse's dishonor, but at the same time, they were amazed.

Because there was a tattoo of a muscular large dog shape engraved on the deceased Strongest Sword's thigh.

「Ferocious Dog」 – Mutant Tattoo

【Strength increased by 700.】

Once again, it was a tattoo item.

‘Strength increased by 700... Certainly, even if they are of the same grade, tattoo items have higher values.’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

And tattoos couldn't be taken or passed on.

Neither the golden goblin nor the Serpent of Greed treated that tattoo as loot, which was evidence of that.

‘It's a bit disappointing to leave behind Strength 700. But still, I've learned one more thing.’

Without lingering regrets, Yeongwoo turned his gaze away from the corpse.

Then.

“We're done here. Let's start heading out.”

He said to Jongseon, gesturing for her to come this way.

Swoosh.

At his signal, the Negwig trotted over, nudging Yeongwoo with its iron hoof.

“Where are we going now? Are we heading to Seoul?”

With her head full of surreal, tyrannical, and horrifying events, Jongseon looked to the south with hopeful eyes.

To this, Yeongwoo said the words she had been waiting for.

“Yes. We’re going to Seoul now. If we go to Gangnam, people there will arrange accommodations for you and the baby. And we can also find someone to take care of the baby while fighting mutants.”

The “people there” that Yeongwoo mentioned referred to the Taewon Group.

“...Is it really happening? Is the crazy development finally over?”

“That’s right.”

Yeongwoo smiled faintly and reassured Jongseon.

Then he climbed onto the front of the Negwig and took the reins.

“I have some more things to take care of here, so I’ll take you to Seoul first.”

“O... Okay.”

Finally, the end of hardship, the beginning of happiness... No, maybe stability?

With hopeful eyes, Jongseon looked at Yeongwoo, and then Kim Jeonggu, who had been watching them both, cautiously spoke up.

“So... do I need to go to Gangnam too?”

To this, Yeongwoo looked down at Kim Jeonggu from atop the Negwig and nodded.

“Of course. You have to accompany me for the next three days.”

“Um... but don’t you have no room for another person to ride?”

Indeed, there was no space for another adult male on the back of the Negwig right now.

Certainly, if they squeezed tightly, they could barely fit one more person... But it seemed unlikely that the other party would agree, thought Kim Jeonggu as he threw out the question.

And indeed.

“Yes. Since Father has no room...”

Scratching his nose, Yeongwoo glanced up and down at Kim Jeonggu.

“It looks like you’ll have to run a bit.”

* * *

‘...Crazy.’

‘That bastard.’

Both Jongseon and Jeonggu naturally thought it was a joke.

Although they had only met today, what kind of situation was it to ask Father to run after them?

But Yeongwoo was serious, and so in the end.

Swooosh, swooosh!

Kim Jeonggu had to run after the Negwig, which was running at a considerable speed.

“Can you keep up? With this speed, it won’t take long to get to Gangnam.”

Yeongwoo said, turning back to look at Jeonggu, who nodded vigorously, sweating profusely.

Dobong-gu being directly under Uijeongbu, which was Jeonggu’s jurisdiction, he wanted to leave this area as quickly as possible.

“What’s... what’s going on?”

“...Isn’t that our Strongest Sword?”

As fate would have it, as Yeongwoo’s group began passing through the bustling streets of Dobong-gu, the residents outside murmured to themselves upon seeing Jeonggu, who was practically being dragged along, with only a rope around his neck.

‘Ugh, thanks to that kid, we’re all being sold out.’

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo was observing that the wanted poster’s tracking symbol was still in its original form.

If this epic-grade fountain pen wasn’t lying, the middle-aged man who was now running behind him was indeed his father.

“Is it true that my uncle passed away?”

As Yeongwoo asked this, Jeonggu furrowed his brow at the term ‘Uncle,’ seeming to not understand the question at first, then realizing it late.

“Why would I lie about that, no matter what?”

The tone was different from usual, indicating that this was likely true.

“What about other relatives?”

“...I only had one brother. But even though he got married and had children... As far as I know, they're all dead.”

Jeonggu's steps, which had been running vigorously, noticeably slowed down.

Then.

Thunk.

He came to a complete stop where he stood.

The fact that he was now left alone in this world with his brother's death hit him anew.

“.....”

Of course, according to the claims of that monster that fell from the sky, Jeonggu still had some blood ties left.

“Um, Father? Are you okay?”

Although his brother had died, hadn't he acquired a son?

This is the son who casually tells his father that he will ride a horse and that he should run himself.

Clank!

Suddenly, Jeonggu's illegitimate son jumped off the Negwig and looked apologetic.

“I'm sorry. I misspoke. I didn't know that my uncle really existed.”

“.....”

Uncle.

It was still an awkward term for Jeonggu, who had not yet recognized Yeongwoo as his son.

Why should my brother become this lunatic's uncle?

“My brother was a much better person than me, so from now on...”

He couldn't even finish the long afterword, saying, 'I hope you don't use the word 'uncle' so casually.'

Because.

Swoosh!

Suddenly, a beam of light shot down from the sky, and a black metal card appeared out of nowhere.

"What... what's this?"

As Jeonggu retreated in surprise, Yeongwoo grabbed the card from the air and began undressing abruptly.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 157

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 157: Hot Night (1)

Clang!

As Yeongwoo removed the golden breastplate that wrapped around his torso after taking off his cloak, Jeonggu's expression turned to surprise.

"Huh...?"

It was because there was a spiral-shaped flame tattoo on the chest of Jeong Yeongwoo, the dreadful son candidate.

That wasn't all.

"Why... Why is your shoulder like that...?"

Right now, Yeongwoo's right upper arm was flickering as if covered in gray noise, like a graphic error.

Seeing this, Yeongwoo glanced at his shoulder briefly and then touched the black metal card in his hand.

“It looks like the screen is adjusting because the advertisement is about to be attached soon. I just received the advertising fee.”

#Basic advertising fee: 10 million karma per week.

#Basic contract period: 4 weeks.

With the basic advertising fee of 10 million karma that the chairman had promised along with two special clauses, it was now in Yeongwoo’s hands.

*Available karma: 14,214,000

Thanks to this, Yeongwoo’s total karma amount had increased to a whopping 14 million.

‘The timing is incredible. I was planning to visit the merchants one by one after arriving in Gangnam.’

At this rate, it was almost certain that he would enter the night dungeon tonight.

“ ... ”

As Yeongwoo, who had finished changing his clothes, raised his head to the sky, a system message appeared in his field of vision.

「As of now, the combined advertisement for the ‘Dogo’ weapon brand will be broadcasted on your advertising tattoo ‘White Space’。」

「The content of the broadcast advertisement will be periodically changed, and the contract period is 4 weeks.」

‘Finally, it’s starting.’

As Yeongwoo read all the messages, a large Dogo emblem appeared before his eyes.

Swoosh!

Then immediately.

Bzzz...

A vibration-like sound emanated from the ‘White Space’ covering Yeongwoo’s right upper arm, and the screen adjustment stopped, turning black.

Swish.

It was like the moment before a movie started at the theater.

“Oh.”

As Yeongwoo searched for something resembling a mirror, he stood in front of the large two-handed sword, ‘Golden Trail’, which was floating nearby.

Then, the advertisement surface covering his shoulders and elbows was reflected on the wide blade.

“Is... Is that an advertisement from outer space?”

Both Choi Jongseon and Kim Jeonggu, his probable father, couldn't help but be interested in the advertisement being broadcasted on the body of Joseon's Strongest Sword, Yeongwoo.

Gulp.

As Jeonggu swallowed heavily and subtly shifted his gaze towards Yeongwoo's shoulder, the advertisement started right on time.

—∠V<<

It was the first tattoo advertisement for Yeongwoo, starting with the appearance of extraterrestrial characters meaning ‘Dogo’.

This caused the pupils of all three people, including Yeongwoo, to widen.

“Huh?”

“Can you just read that?”

Although the characters they saw with their eyes were strangely shaped, they could understand their meaning in their minds.

Within the ‘White Space,’ the red atmosphere of a desolate planet was visible.

Then.

Whoosh!

The camera angle descended towards the ground, revealing a desert scattered with large rocks.

It was a scene of extraterrestrial beings, small in stature with reddish-brown skin, diligently striking the rocks with their tiny fists.

Then cracks started to appear in the rocks, and thick blue liquid began to pour out from the cracks.

—°∇∩∧∠°。

(Monocular boy Gepi from the planet Jargal had to pound the rocks every day until blood came out of his hands in order to obtain the sap.)

The camera zoomed in on one extraterrestrial in front of a rock.

Probably Gepi, the boy from the planet Jargal.

Gepi looked at the rock with a sad expression, then slowly raised his hand, which was covered in scabs, and extended his fingers.

Swish.

Suddenly, between his cute fingers, a scene appeared where a large anchor descended from afar and struck the ground.

‘Oh, it’s the chairman’s ship.’

It seemed to be a staging of the encounter between the impoverished Gepi of the frontier planet and ‘Dogo’.

—∩∩×。

(But not anymore.)

The screen faded to black with extraterrestrial text.

Then suddenly the screen brightened, showing Gepi standing on a planet with a completely different feel from before.

He was standing upright, wearing a lot of unusual equipment on his small body.

—<<∩°∇∠∃∴∴€。

(With the support of Dogo, Gepi became a space pirate ruling over 6 planets.)

“Huh...?”

“...What?”

While Yeongwoo and the two Strongest Swords wore blank expressions, in the advertisement, Gepi was kicking the inhabitants of other planets into his spaceship that he had brought along.

—∠·∧°¬

(And now, Gepi has 70,000 slaves pounding rocks for him.)

Gepi, now back on his home planet, had a happy expression on his face.

And by his feet, there was a slave holding a jar filled with sap, lying on the ground.

Thunk!

Gepi snatched the jar away and gulped down the sap in one breath.

—<<∩∃∠≤。

(Dogo supports your dreams.)

However, the camera was now zooming in on a slave lying on the ground.

When Dogo said ‘your,’ it meant both Gepi and his slaves.

Crunch.

Eventually, the slave clenched the sand on the ground with his hand, leaving a spike pattern on the ground with his fingers, and the advertisement concluded.

“...”

“What... is this...?”

Choi Jongseon alternately looked at Yeongwoo and the ‘White Space’ with a dumbfounded face.

Now, on Yeongwoo’s shoulder, an alien with several tentacle-like arms was explaining the usage of ‘Dimensional Bombs.’

These were the bombs Yeongwoo had received as sponsorship from the dungeon last night.

“What’s this about? It’s one of my breadwinning methods.”

As Yeongwoo said this, he hesitated as he tried to put on his armor.

‘Wait, can I wear a top? That way, the advertisement will be completely covered.’

Once money is received, professionalism comes first.

If Yeongwoo were the advertiser, he wouldn’t allow the model to wear a top.

‘Of course, the contract didn’t explicitly say to keep the advertisement exposed...’

But logically, is it reasonable to hide the advertisement after receiving payment?

‘And this is also a matter of principle.’

However, there was another problem.

The effects of the armor he was currently wearing were too good to take off and wander around naked.

「Golden Oath」 - Legendary Breastplate

【Reduces enemy attack power by 50%.】

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

‘I guess I have to wait a bit until I get the Armor Encyclopedia.’

Yeongwoo glanced vaguely at Dogo, then quietly put on the armor he had thrown on the ground.

Clank.

Nothing happened.

“Is... Is it okay?”

Yeongwoo murmured as he looked at the sky, and Jongseon tilted her head.

“What’s wrong?”

“The clothes. I was wondering if I could cover the advertisement completely.”

“Oh.”

Understanding Yeongwoo’s meaning, Jongseon furrowed his brow.

So he was considering wandering around without a top the whole time.

“Shall we go back then? We need to finish our work quickly before it gets too dark.”

The current time was 7:10 PM.

Although it was summer and the days were long, the surroundings were already getting dark.

There wasn't much time left until the notice for the lodging will appear in 50 minutes, so time wasn't that abundant.

“What other tasks do we have left?”

Kim Jeonggu asked as he prepared to chase after the iron horse again.

Yeongwoo pointed south and said.

“First, we need to leave Jongseon and the baby in Gangnam, and then we'll go through the merchants.”

“Merchants...? At this hour, wouldn't everyone have taken away the goods?”

Jeonggu expressed a logical doubt.

However, it wasn't the case for Seoul, especially for Yeongwoo.

“The merchants left in Paju might be a little worrying, but no one would have touched the ones in Seoul. They know I'll come back.”

He spoke with great confidence.

As someone who didn't know Yeongwoo's status among the Strongest Sword in Seoul, Jeonggu could only tilt his head in confusion.

* * *

《We have invited Yangju Strongest Sword, Choi Jongseon, who will be in charge of Gwangjin-gu mutants starting tomorrow.》

Yeongwoo entered Gangnam through 'Pado' while informing the Strongest Swords in Seoul about the new Strongest Sword they had recruited.

Since it was almost time for the next lodging notice to appear, there weren't many people outside the city outskirts.

At 8 PM, the lodging notice appeared.

At 9 PM, the lodging service began.

Everyone was waiting in front of their favorite residences to occupy them as soon as possible.

“It seems like Gangnam... almost doesn’t show any signs of the reset.”

Kim Jeonggu opened his mouth in surprise as he looked at the neat buildings in Gangnam.

Even Dobong-gu had considerable damage on the first day of the reset, so most of the low-rise buildings had one defect after another.

“Yes. I heard the previous holder of Gangnam was a chaebol, so the order was established early on.”

“Gangnam chaebol...? By the previous holder, do you mean the Gangnam’s Strongest Sword?”

“Yes. Gangnam’s Strongest Sword.”

“....”

Upon Yeongwoo’s words, Kim Jeonggu glanced at Yeongwoo’s title, which read ‘Joseon Strongest Sword.’

After all, the title of Strongest Sword could be seized.

“What happened to the previous holder?”

“Of course, he died. And now I’m also the Gangnam Strongest Sword.”

He didn’t explicitly mention swinging his elbow to cut the throat of the previous Gangnam Strongest Sword.

Nor did he mention the presence of the son’s body of the former Gangnam Strongest Sword at the scene.

“The people who used to help the previous Gangnam Strongest Sword run Gangnam are now helping me. It’s a strange world, isn’t it?”

“The bottom of Seoul was really chaotic.”

Jeonggu finally realized that the monster on horseback he had heard about through the 'wave' announcement the other day was Jeong Yeongwoo in front of him.

At that time, he hadn't paid much attention to the situation in the southern part of Seoul, but now he realized that it was the time of upheaval in Seoul.

Squeak, squeak!

As they exchanged various conversations, the three of them entered the central part of Gangnam, and they could feel that the number of citizens along the roadside was gradually increasing.

It was because there were more and more people following them as they talked.

"Huh...?"

"Strongest Sword?"

"Did your title change again?"

The rumor that the Gangnam Strongest Sword was riding a horse had already spread throughout Gangnam, and even if it hadn't, thanks to the golden rain that had fallen today, all the residents of Gangnam knew Jeong Yeongwoo's face.

However, because they hadn't heard the story of him flying around with a greatsword, they didn't approach the Strongest Sword rashly but followed from a distance.

"It's fortunate. It used to be so congested that it was difficult to move."

Yeongwoo glanced back slightly and said, making Jeonggu look at him with a puzzled expression.

"Why do the people in this area like you so much...?"

It was understandable.

All Jeonggu had seen of Jeong Yeongwoo so far was when he had split the Uijeongbu Strongest Sword in half and stabbed him with a sword.

"I wonder. Maybe because I'm the representative of their region?"

Yeongwoo said this, looking at the Coex building and the Parnas Hotel on the other side.

It was because he could see that the protocol team of Taewon Group was already gathered there.

They must have been standing there for hours, not knowing when he would return.

“...What’s that?”

Dobong’s Strongest Sword Kim Jeonggu, who was once again in culture shock due to the protocol of a large company, opened his eyes wide, and a person from the Taewon side who recognized Yeongwoo ran towards them.

It was none other than Lim Suna from the secretary’s office.

“Yeongwoo!”

Lim Suna’s expression froze in real-time as she ran towards the Gangnam’s Strongest Sword.

It was because she had just realized that this troublemaker had brought two more Strongest Swords from other regions.

Moreover, what did he do?

Wasn’t his title changed to Joseon Strongest Sword?

At this point, it wasn’t surprising that the golden greatsword was flying around by itself.

“S... So many things must have happened.”

“Yes. Was there any trouble during that time?”

When Yeongwoo asked like this, Lim Suna cautiously opened her mouth after glancing behind him.

“The family of chairman Kim Taejoon requested a meeting while you were away.”

“Want to see me?”

“It seems like they want to meet Kim Taejoon again.”

“Ah, that makes sense.”

Yeongwoo smiled awkwardly.

But it was awkward.

Although there was one more chance with the whistle, it was intended to be used in the dungeon tonight at 11 o’clock.

“Uh... the chairman has to go to the dungeon tonight, so he can't go out. What should I do?”

Yeongwoo fiddled with the whistle and then his eyes lit up as if he had a good idea.

“Please tell his family. If it's okay with them, how about staying at my place tonight?”

“Huh...?”

Lim Suna, who didn't fully understand Yeongwoo's words, made a face asking for more explanation.

So Yeongwoo made a square with his index fingers and thumbs.

“Kim Taejoon will appear on TV tonight. This time, it'll be a human appearance, so it'll be more pleasant to watch.”

Yeongwoo said this and then made a request.

“Oh, but it's better not to let the children see it after 11 o'clock.”

“Why? Why is that...?”

“At that time, the chairman might be doing something dangerous.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 158

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 158: Hot Night (2)

“Over here is Choi Jongseon, who came from Yangju. And this is her son.”

As Yeongwoo introduced the Yangju Strongest Sword and her baby in order, Lim Suna greeted the two with a big smile.

It was typical of Jeong Yeongwoo to introduce even a newborn baby as ‘her son.’

“Oh, I see. I'm Lim Suna, the assistant manager of Taewon Group's secretariat. Nice to meet you.”

Then, Suna sent Yeongwoo a glance, questioning how this situation came about.

It was because every time Yeongwoo returned to Gangnam, he kept bringing in outsiders without permission, which made Suna feel a bit awkward.

“Oh... I had to bring them along because I accidentally blew up Yangju. Besides, we needed someone to handle Gwangjin District, so...”

“I see... you blew up Yangju...?”

Suna asked with wide eyes, thinking that what Jeong Yeongwoo said might be a metaphor, not a literal fact.

“It just happened that way.”

“...”

How could someone just accidentally blow up a city?

“...Then I'll arrange accommodations near the headquarters for Choi Jongseon as well.”

“Yes. And...”

Yeongwoo then gestured towards Kim Jeonggu.

Quickly.

“This is Mr. Kim Jeonggu. He's my father.”

At this, Suna failed to control her expression for the first time.

“Huh?”

She looked at Yeongwoo and Jeonggu with incredulous faces.

The fact that this crazy Strongest Sword had a father was surprising enough, but what was even more shocking was...

“Kim...”

That Jeong Yeongwoo and his father had different last names.

Finally, she glimpsed that Yeongwoo's background was not typical.

Moreover, wasn't Gangnam the area where Jeong Yeongwoo killed the previous master and his son and took over?

Bringing his own father there was quite an extraordinary thing to do.

“Father, it’s an honor to meet you. I’m Lim Suna.”

As Suna bowed politely, Kim Jeonggu also lowered his head with a solemn expression.

“Pleased to meet you. I’m Kim Jeonggu.”

Given the situation, Jeonggu didn’t insist on denying that he was Jeong Yeongwoo’s father.

“Shall we prepare accommodations for your father as well?”

When Suna asked this, contrary to everyone’s expectations, Yeongwoo shook his head.

“No need. It’s better to just have him stay in my place without bothering with additional arrangements.”

“...?”

Kim Jeonggu looked at Yeongwoo with a puzzled expression.

However, since Suna was Yeongwoo’s subordinate after all, she nodded even after seeing Jeonggu’s face.

“Yes. I’ll prepare as you said. Is there anything else you need?”

“Yes. Just in case, ask Mr. Jongsu and Chief Inspector Kwon Taeyoung too. Ask them if they’d like to watch TV in my room tonight.”

“Oh... I understand.”

Although it seemed like a ridiculous story to Suna, Yeongwoo’s intention was to provide welfare for the colleagues who had worked hard for him.

Especially, didn’t Jongsu say that the reason he lived in this world was to witness extraordinary events that were never seen in the previous world?

Like the sight of conglomerates turning into dragons and returning.

So, Jongsu would naturally be interested in watching TV that illuminated the rooms of returnees and the strong from various parts of the world.

“Alright, is everything done? I still have some work left, so I’ll leave it to you, Jongseon.”

When Yeongwoo signaled to Jongseon that she could go, Kim Jeonggu asked with a pale face.

“Shouldn’t I stay here too...?”

To this, Yeongwoo gestured towards Kim Jeonggu from across the window.

“What are you talking about? You should ride an iron horse from another world while you’re at it. We’re only going to spend three days together, so let’s make some memories.”

* * *

Riding the flying horse Negwig with his father for a drive through the streets of Gangnam.

Of course, there was no romance in it since it wasn’t a typical father-son relationship.

“What are we doing tonight?”

Asked Jeonggu, who was sitting in the back seat, and Yeongwoo pointed to the black light pillar visible on the other side.

“We have to meet the merchants in Gangnam, Gwangjin, and Paju. We need to collect abnormal climate equipment.”

“Abnormal climate equipment...?”

“Yes.”

Yeongwoo briefly explained abnormal climate immunity equipment and night dungeons to Jeonggu.

He said that if you activate the orb left by the mutants on the road at night, you can enter the interdimensional dungeons where people from all over the world gather.

“...That’s absurd.”

Of course, Jeonggu found it hard to believe.

“If I hadn’t seen it myself, I wouldn’t have believed it either.”

People from all over the world gathering in an interdimensional dungeon to carry out cooperative missions.

Even for Yeongwoo, who had experienced all sorts of extraordinary events, it was hard to imagine.

“...Then how do you communicate inside? If everyone is a foreigner.”

“I’m not sure if it’s only inside the dungeon or if it’s the same for all reset checkpoints, but communication just works.”

“Well... I guess there’s nothing impossible.”

Surprisingly, Kim Jeonggu readily agreed.

“However...”

Yeongwoo continued, adding to his previous statement.

“The dungeon difficulty is quite high, and if even one person doesn’t follow the rules, the entire party is at risk. At least that was the case in the last dungeon.”

“But in the end, you came back alive, didn’t you?”

“That’s right.”

Yeongwoo fell into a brief recollection.

It could only be expressed as luck.

The Sicily’s guardian sword of Sicily, Ottavio.

And the Tocantins Leopard, Ricardo.

Although there was some initial friction, they turned out to be excellent comrades in the end.

But what if in the next dungeon, they meet a Strongest Sword from a country like North Korea or Japan, where the national sentiments are not favorable towards each other?

‘There’s a chance we might be lucky enough to meet good people again, but... the probability of that not happening is quite high.’

So, Yeongwoo planned to organize a party with fellow Strongest Swords from his own country as much as possible.

That way, there would be less discord within the dungeon, and the rewards for completing the dungeon could also be directed towards their own country.

Therefore.

Yeongwoo's father in the back seat was also one of the candidates for the party.

After all, he was a figure who could become the strongest in Dobong, even as a 6th-grade native.

'He's still my father. Even if he doesn't admit it himself.'

Perhaps he wanted to feel something fatherly from this man before the day came when he would have to kill his father in three days.

It was probably a desire born out of long deprivation.

'Whether it's a dungeon or anything else, something might happen in extreme situations, right? In movies, there's always that kind of scene.'

Of course, Yeongwoo knew better than anyone else that movies and reality were quite different.

He realized this once again when his father, as if showing off, rolled over.

'I wish I never knew my father. What exactly does having a father mean?...'

As Yeongwoo was lost in thought with a troubled expression, merchants from Gangnam finally appeared ahead.

Goooooooooooo...!

Within the faint light pillar, as usual, a strange silhouette loomed, and when Yeongwoo approached it with Negwig, the mediator Kubu appeared.

A grade 9 broker under the Universal Law that is made up of eyelids.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

—Nice to meet you again, the strongest in Gangnam, Gyeongbuk, and the northern part of the Korean Peninsula, Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo07!

Upon this, Yeongwoo waited for Kubu's self-introduction.

He wondered if there had been any changes in Kubu's title or something.

Ever since he found out that this diligent mediator's legal grade was much lower than expected, he had been curious about this extraterrestrial as well.

—I am Kubu, the owner of the Tenta tribe and the guardian of Daro, who is mediating this transaction.

'Same as before.'

It hadn't been long since their last meeting.

Yet when Yeongwoo showed a slightly disappointed expression, Kubu blinked his large eyes and looked at him.

—You're quite late.

"Yes. I was busy today, so it turned out like this. But fortunately, there are still merchants left. They should also be getting off work soon."

This was true.

When he visited Chungju, he heard directly from Shin Yeongju, the Strongest Sword there.

—Yes. As all the merchants waiting in line have returned, currently, only trades with the auctioneer from Totom are possible.

—Shall we proceed with the transaction?

He was probably designated as a merchant in Gangnam-gu as of today.

"Sure. Let's deal right away."

Yeongwoo's heart becomes anxious.

At this point, wouldn't it be highly likely that merchants in the other two regions would also be preparing to leave work?

Kubu must have noticed Yeongwoo's feelings, and he started trading right away.

—The intermediary fee for this transaction is 10% and is included in the product price.

—I'll show you the product list.

As Kubu rolled his eyes, blue spots appeared before Yeongwoo, then began to transform into human characters.

1 – 「Crow」 – Heroic Helmet

【Ignores Void Fog.】

◇ 110,000 karma

2 – 「Power Attack」 – Relic Hammer

【Power increases by 15% when using both hands.】

◇ 344,000 karma

‘Wow. Someone great was waiting for me.’

As soon as Yeongwoo glanced at the top of the product list, he couldn’t help but smile.

Usually, items 1 and 2 were like curses, but this time, there was nothing to discard.

“Crow” seemed to be abnormal climate equipment, and “Power Attack” would be perfect for the weapon encyclopaedia later.

Sometimes, when items are added to the weapon encyclopaedia, they come out at an unbelievably cost-effective level.

Power Attack itself might only be worth the price of a weapon when viewed separately, but if that effect is constantly applied through the encyclopaedia, wouldn’t the story change completely?

But even more than that, there were two items below that stood out.

3 – 「Body Modification」 – Epic Spine

【Martial art slot +1】

◇ 820,000 karma

4 – 「Body Deficiency」 – Epic Breastplate

【Power increases up to 80% depending on the degree of limb loss.】

◇ 4,100,000 karma

‘Crazy.’

Yeongwoo’s mouth hung open.

'If I add a martial art slot, does that mean I can use two sword techniques at the same time?'

After consulting with himself, that was the only conclusion.

Of course, there was a risk of having to change part of the body to an alien item... but wasn't this deal with Jeong Yeongwoo?

'If I could cut open someone else's stomach and eat their organs, there's nothing I couldn't change, right?'

Besides, didn't Yeongwoo have conditional anesthesia?

「Berserker」 – Mutant Charm

【Ignore a certain level of pain.】

Therefore, Yeongwoo didn't feel much psychological burden no matter what the process of 'wearing' that spine was like.

Even if the worst comes to worst, his body would regenerate quickly.

And in the same vein, the Epic Breastplate, "Body Deficiency," was also a must-buy item.

'If it's a limb deficiency... Does that mean... it refers to having limbs cut off?'

Perhaps it was a piece of equipment designed for special cases like a one-armed swordsman, but Yeongwoo could use it just as easily.

'Whether it's cut off by someone else or by me, it doesn't matter. As long as it's in a deficient state, the effect will trigger, right? Among people with intact limbs, I'm probably the one who can make the best use of it.'

The only downside was that he couldn't give up the armor he was currently wearing, so the armor encyclopaedia was essential.

And another problem was...

【Power increases up to 80% depending on the degree of limb loss.】

'How much limb deficiency is needed for maximum activation?'

Surely it wouldn't be referring to a state where all limbs were missing from a human perspective.

‘No, that’s from a human perspective, but the one who made it...’

Yeongwoo looked up at the merchant inside the pillar of light.

The Totom Auctioneer looked like a large tree with awkward branches.

“I suppose we can’t expect additional explanations about the equipment effects?”

When Yeongwoo asked this, Kubu blinked and replied.

–That’s correct.

“Hmm.”

As expected.

So Yeongwoo nodded immediately.

“Well, I’ll find out for myself if possible.”

Then, he scanned through the four items on the product list one by one.

“I’ll buy everything here, so Kubu, please hurry and stop the merchants from leaving Gwangjin-gu.”

Upon hearing this, Kubu blinked his large eyes again.

–The transaction is complete. Thank you as always.

Once the transaction was completed, Yeongwoo’s karma balance was updated.

* Available karma: 8,840,000

With a current balance of 8.84 million karma, it was unprecedented to have money left after buying Epic-grade equipment with cash.

–Well then, see you again.

As the transaction ended, Kubu bid farewell with a farewell message different from usual.

Did he accept Yeongwoo’s request to hurry and stop the other merchants from leaving?

Soon after, Kubu vanished into thin air, so Yeongwoo quickly directed Negwig towards Gwangjin-gu.

And then, he called out to the passenger in the back seat.

“Father.”

“Yes?”

“Don’t be surprised.”

“I’m not surprised at all. Even if it’s like this, you’re still the Strongest Sword...”

Before Jeonggu could finish his sentence, Yeongwoo’s ‘Bastard’ suddenly appeared in the air.

“You damn...!”

It was only after seeing that he had not been warned about dealing with merchants or mediators that Jeonggu realized what the warning was about.

Creak!

Just now, the crazy orphan had cut off his own arm.

-Ke-ak!

Of course, the arm was grabbed by the Golden Goblin with both hands, but Jeonggu flipped it over after the bloodshed.

“Oh no fuck... why are you doing this?”

To which Jeong Yeongwoo⁰⁷ replied bluntly.

“40%.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 159

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 159: Hot Night (3)

“What...?”

As Jeonggu uttered in bewilderment, the golden goblin attached its arm back to Yeongwoo.

Thunk!

Then, the flesh of the severed sides that were completely separate until a moment ago was seen sticking together.

“What, what is this?”

Discomfort surged.

It was a whole different dimension when it came to riding an alien horse and having one’s body function oddly, apart from the usual.

“What have you done to your body? It’s fine to become stronger, but you still ought to remain human.”

For the first time since meeting Yeongwoo, Jeonggu lectured as an adult.

At the age of 58 this year, he was inevitably part of the conservative middle-aged group.

Of course, part of his discomfort stemmed from the fact that his face was now covered in someone else’s blood, making him feel extremely uncomfortable.

But.

“You have to endure these hardships to be able to survive in this world without having inherited anything.”

Yeongwoo rebuked his father gently.

And in fact, considering those who transcended humanity, wouldn’t they all be included in this world’s top ranks?

How could those who could punch through building walls with their bare fists be considered ‘human’?

‘Anyway, the effects are remarkable. It’s worth the grade value, as expected.’

「Body Deficiency」 – Epic Breastplate

【Power increases up to 80% depending on the degree of limb loss.】

In Yeongwoo’s view now, the icon of the severed arm and the figure “40%” displayed below it were visible together.

It meant that he gained a 40% increase in power due to the recent left arm severance.

Then the figure started to decrease rapidly.

This was probably because the arm was starting to reattach.

‘It’s quite convenient, perhaps because it’s a high-grade item. It even displays the buff values.’

Just losing one pair of arms increased the power by a whopping 40%.

And if he were to lose another arm or a leg, he could attain the maximum buff of 80%.

‘I must obtain an Armor encyclopaedia. When encountering opponents strong enough to cut off my arms, it will create variables, and conversely, sacrificing an arm temporarily for extreme attack would also be possible.’

The appearance of the deficiency icon in Yeongwoo’s view was because he was wearing the equipment directly.

After completing the transaction with Totom, instead of the Golden Oath, ‘Body Deficiency’ was automatically worn.

‘In terms of versatility, the Golden Oath is still much more useful.’

Therefore, ‘Body Deficiency’ was a somewhat awkward piece of equipment to use immediately.

‘Encyclopaedia... The encyclopaedia is too OP. With just that, it becomes possible to configure truly absurd equipment.’

Meanwhile, his left arm was almost restored, and accordingly, the effectiveness increase effect of ‘Body Deficiency’ decreased to 0%.

‘Even if the arm is slightly less attached, once it’s somewhat restored, the buff disappears.’

After learning one more thing about this bizarre equipment, Yeongwoo shifted his gaze to the system message he had been postponing.

「Will you equip the unique grade ‘Body Modification’ spine?」

[Warning: There is an unusual equipping procedure. Please equip it while being in a state of undressed.

“.....”

If the system expressed it as 'unusual', then it truly was unusual.

So even Yeongwoo, who was bold enough, couldn't help but hesitate upon seeing this phrase.

'Is it really necessary to physically remove the spine and replace it...? Is that possible?'

Yeongwoo, whose thoughts had come this far, couldn't help but worry about Jeonggu behind him.

Isn't he the one who was horrified just by seeing the arm being reattached?

'If I say that the spine is being replaced, he would probably faint.'

It seemed that this was not a procedure that could be carried out on horseback, so for now, he decided to postpone it further.

Fortunately, a merchant from Gwangjin-gu was visible ahead.

"Kubu! Mediator...!"

As Yeongwoo called out the mediator's name from a distance, the space in front of the pillar of light split open, and he appeared.

—Nice to meet you again, Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo⁰⁷.

"Have you caught him? The merchant!"

Then Kubu, after rolling his eyes once, replied.

—An agreement has been reached with the upper part of Seoul's Gwangjin-gu, South Korea.

"Then what about Paju...?"

While asking this, Yeongwoo had a hunch that the merchant from Paju had already left Earth.

—Regarding the Paju you mentioned, the trade has already begun, and the stay has expired.

Someone had met and taken the merchant Yeongwoo called for.

Therefore, due to the restricted stay of the merchant, they were forced to leave as the sun set.

“Ah, what kind of a bastard?”

Yeongwoo rubbed his forehead.

Though he didn't know, it was most likely someone who had come down from North Korea.

‘But still, it's not such a bad outcome since I managed to get a merchant from Gwangjin-gu.’

After all, couldn't he just turn his remaining money into stats?

Besides, he was in a state where he had an abundance of equipment but lacked stats.

“Mr. Kubu! Let's proceed with the transaction!”

Eager to replace his spine quickly, Yeongwoo urged the mediator.

Then, after Kubu blinked his eyes widely, he introduced the next trading partner.

—The waiting traders are followers of Cerium.

—The mediation fee for this transaction is 10% and is included in the product price.

‘Cerium's followers... There are religious groups even in space.’

As Yeongwoo confirmed the merchant's name, Kubu soon announced the start of the transaction.

“I will show you the product list.”

Swish.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

1 – 「Firewall」 – Unique Cape

【Ignores all abnormal weather conditions with flame attributes.】

◇ 623,000 Karma

2 – 「Heresy」 – Unique Gauntlets

【15% of attack power is converted into mental damage.】

◇ 680,000 Karma

3 – 「Rebirth」 – Unique Gem

【When reaching the state of death, all abilities increase by 25%.】

◇ 732,000 Karma

4 - 「Judgement」 – Unique Gloves

【Increases power by 20% against enemies with #abilities.】

◇ 850,000 Karma

All four items were of the unique grade.

After looking at the entire product list, Yeongwoo furrowed his eyebrows.

‘They’re selling quite peculiar equipment.’

The equipment sold by Cerium’s followers mostly seemed to have effects aimed at preparing for something beyond the Earth’s internal conflicts.

Even the gloves, “Judgement,” increased power against enemies with #abilities.

“There are even items that convert attacks into mental damage. If I collect such items, it might be possible to convert 100% later on.”

So, even if it was a bit burdensome for an ordinary Strongest Sword, he decided to buy all the items.

“I’ll buy them all.”

On the contrary, it was an investment for Yeongwoo’s future.

After all, he had already reached a level where it was difficult to find opponents on Earth.

‘Of course, somewhere on that continent, there must be formidable opponents. But even that will end once I acquire more encyclopaedias.’

As Yeongwoo decided to purchase all the items with a meaningful expression, Kim Jeonggu widened his eyes.

“D-Do you have that much money?”

As a Strongest Sword, he knew roughly how much the products of these merchants would cost.

Moreover, this was already the second time he was buying everything at once.

Even if a Strongest Sword earned a considerable amount of money compared to ordinary people, he was still just a wage earner... No, he was more like a day laborer.

"I told you earlier, I also have income from advertising."

After saying this to Jeonggu, Yeongwoo concluded the transaction with the followers.

—The transaction is complete. Thank you as always.

After blinking his eyes, Kubu refreshed Yeongwoo's Karma balance.

Acquired!

* Available Karma: 5,955,000

'5.95 million? There's more left than I thought.'

If he poured all of this into his stats, it would increase nearly 6,000.

『Character: Jeong Yeongwoo07』

[Strength] 3,200 (19+3,181)

[Stamina] 2,648 (21+2,627)

[Endurance] 3,648 (13+3,635)

[Sense] 1,500 (24+1,476)

Currently, Yeongwoo's total stats were approximately 10,000.

'How much stronger can I get? No, how much stronger can I become? If I have money, can my stats skyrocket to tens of millions?'

As he began to feel powerless and fearful of his own growing strength, Yeongwoo also became curious about how much the likes of Destruction King Dogo would have in terms of stats.

As confirmed in their previous meeting, even the chairman uses 'equipment.'

One of them, a mythical one-handed sword, is now in my hands.

「Bastard」 - Mythical One-handed Sword

【Authority Obstruction】

【Contempt for the weak】

【challenger】

A weapon for those who dare to challenge transcendent beings, meant for the ultimate confrontation.

“ ... ”

Yeongwoo glanced briefly at the peculiar appearance of the Bastard before grasping the reins of Negwig once again and spoke.

“Let’s go now.”

“...Where are we going this time?”

“To Gangnam. We’ve seen everything we need to see outside.”

“Ah, I see.”

Jeonggu’s voice sounded somewhat relieved now.

Simultaneously, Negwig began to gallop towards Gangnam, emitting long cries.

* * *

Clatter, clatter!

The distance from Gwangjin-gu to Gangnam was not far, so Yeongwoo had to move quickly.

First and foremost, he needed to equip the gem he had just obtained.

「Rebirth」 – Unique Gem

【When reaching the state of death, all abilities increase by 25%.】

The term “state of death” essentially meant a state close to death, which might not be very useful for ordinary humans, but for Yeongwoo, who possessed an incredible regenerative ability, there was no better insurance equipment.

'If all abilities increase by 25%, it should include strength and endurance, right? It will surely help in blocking the final blow.'

Luckily, there was a slot available for the "Furious Goblin" in the accessory encyclopaedia, so Yeongwoo immediately equipped the gem.

[Furious Goblin] – Mutant Ring

【Increases strength by 100 every day】

【When reaching the state of death, all abilities increase by 25%.】

Becoming a monster day by day.

But there were still a few tasks left, including investing nearly 6,000 in stats.

「The night is approaching.」

「Therefore, to ensure your right to rest, the lodging service will begin in one hour.」

Soon, a pre-announcement for the lodging service starting at 8 PM appeared.

At this, Jeonggu cautiously spoke while gazing at the Parnassus Hotel building in the distance.

"Is it really over now? Are we going in to rest?"

Given his age, mental fatigue accumulated rapidly, and he really wanted to rest.

Haven't they had enough terrible experiences today?

"Yes. Let's go to the lodging and rest for a while, and then see how the general and the chairman are doing when the lodging service starts..."

"The general...?"

"Ah, before that, I need to replace my spine. Before the kids arrive."

"...Spine?"

[TL/N: there's more to come sir]

[PR/N: I miss jongsu tho, also jeonggu boutta see crazier shit]

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 160

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 160: Hot Night (4)

8:00 PM, notice for the lodging room posted.

9:00 PM, lodging room service begins.

10:00 PM, tax collection.

Yeongwoo entered the lobby of the Parnas Hotel, drawing a timeline in his mind.

-Quiiiiii!

While riding Negwig, an iron horse that makes a groaning sound.

Kwaaah!

As Negwig, halfway through tearing the carpet in front of the lobby, came to a stop, the Taewon Group employees who were standing in front of the entrance door retreated, startled.

Then, recognizing Yeongwoo's face belatedly, they bowed their heads.

"Ah, Mr. Yeongwoo...!"

"Strongest Sword, nice to meet you for the first time!"

The reason they recognized Yeongwoo's face was because of the commemorative coins he had scattered.

"The lodging service is starting soon. Are you working?"

When Yeongwoo asked this as he got off Negwig, the employees habitually lowered their heads again.

"We were instructed to guard the lobby until you arrived, Mr. Yeongwoo."

"...Ah."

From Taewon's perspective, Jeong Yeongwoo had to be considered an ally without question.

So they were even paying attention to such minor etiquettes.

"Anyway, now that we've arrived, you can go off duty. Is Secretary Lim upstairs?"

As Yeongwoo asked for Lim Suna, the deputy secretary, the employees picked up their walkie-talkies.

"Yes. She's probably getting your room ready. I'll call her right away....."

"No need. Since I was going up anyway, I'll take care of it."

As Yeongwoo gestured that they could go now, Jeonggu looked at him strangely.

Outside... the Yeongwoo among the elite, including the Strongest Swords, and the Yeongwoo in front of civilians felt completely different.

'Why is this bastard acting like this all of a sudden?'

Was this the same monster who had been cutting his own arm just a while ago?

At least since coming to Gangnam, Yeongwoo had been behaving like an ordinary member of society.

Speaking in a socially acceptable manner, displaying unbelievable humility and modesty for Seoul's strongest Sword.

If it weren't for the titles above his head and all the equipment on his body.....

'He looks completely normal.'

Of course, the more the rice ripens, the more it bows its head.

However, isn't Jeong Yeongwoo a variety closer to a carnivorous plant than a rice plant?

'Well... it's much better than running wild inside and outside his territory.'

Anyway, Jeonggu realized once again through this incident that Jeong Yeongwoo was still fundamentally human.

"Go ahead. Until 9 o'clock, the electricity won't come on, so you'll have to take the stairs."

As Yeongwoo signaled to Jeonggu to get off, the Golden Goblin and the Golden Trail immediately stuck to their master.

“.....”

Finally, Jeonggu jumped off, and Negwig, which had turned into a parking mode, moved from the front of the hotel entrance.

“Eek? What’s this.....?”

Jeonggu panicked as he saw Negwig transformed like an egg.

Where on Earth could there be a creature that changes like this?

It was a characteristic that clearly showed its otherworldly origin.

“When it’s not going to move for a while, it naturally does this.”

“But won’t the strange weather come soon...?”

“It never fails. Maybe it’s because it’s not from Earth.”

「Negwig」 – Unknown Grade

【Adapts to any planet.】

Negwig.

A mount of unspecified grade gifted by Dogo.

No matter how much experience one has, there are always things in this world that are impossible to encounter.

And one of them is the iron horse Negwig.

“Don’t worry about it and leave it. If it breaks down, I can take it up with the chairman.”

Yeongwoo said this and then suddenly thought.

‘Wait a minute. Then where is the Audi I gave? Does the chairman have it?’

* * *

Parnas Hotel Room 3233.

Former Gangnam's Strongest Sword, Taewon Group's "Executive Director" Jeong Hyunsik's former residence, currently used as the accommodation for the successor, Jeong Yeongwoo 07, the Strongest Sword of Joseon.

Even though the electricity wasn't on, the grandeur of the room, which used to cost 15 million won per day before the reset, was still impressive.

"W-What kind of room is this...?"

As Jeonggu slowly looked around the dim room, Lim Suna illuminated the surroundings with an electronic lamp and followed along.

"It's the largest room among all available rooms in Gangnam-gu. It's also a space that Gangnam's Strongest Swords traditionally use as their office."

Lim Suna explained in a stable tone, as if she were a museum curator.

Although Yeongwoo found the expression 'traditionally' somewhat amusing, it was a nicely packaged phrase to hear that the successor was using the former occupant's office.

"Your son has been a great help to our Gangnam-gu. So, in a gesture of gratitude, Taewon Group is providing support, even if it's just the accommodation fee."

"Ah, my son... I see. Anyway, thank you."

Since Jeonggu was also showing a weak side in front of civilians, he couldn't bring himself to correct Suna's expression of 'son' and stammered.

"Then how much is the daily accommodation fee here?"

After a while, when Jeonggu asked, Suna responded as if she had been waiting.

"Yes, it's 62,000 karma, sir."

"... 62,000 for one night?"

Of course, for Jeong Yeongwoo, who spent millions in shopping overnight, 62,000 was just a small amount.

But for Jeonggu, who had been living in Dobong-gu, which had become a tough place in Seoul after the reset, 62,000 karma was by no means a small amount of money.

Especially if it was just for one night's sleep, it was even more so.

Kwung!

Then came the sound of Taewon's employees setting down a shelf full of coins outside the door.

A while later, they brought cash to be used as the rent for this room.

Seeing this, Jeonggu sincerely expressed his concern to Yeongwoo.

"Aren't you... tormenting these people too much? Even if it's just a small change for you, for ordinary people, it could be a few weeks' worth of living expenses."

Yeongwoo chuckled.

"Father is more generous than he seems."

Yeongwoo also had similar thoughts to Jeonggu on his first day in Gangnam.

But now, isn't he in a position to have been of enough help to Gangnam-gu, as Suna said?

He had distributed 30,000 karma to all residents through the Golden Ratio.

"I probably gave hundreds of millions to Gangnam-gu today alone. So it's okay to get a room here. And Taewon Group is not like ordinary people."

After Yeongwoo said this much, he asked Suna, "Did you inform Jongsu and Inspector Kwon Taeyoung? Do they want to watch TV?"

"Yes. Both of them have decided to visit during the lodging room time."

"And what about the chairman's family?"

"I will personally escort them in 20 minutes."

"Good."

Tonight, the "Yeongwoo party" would gather together in this room for the first time. Then Jeonggu interjected.

"Why on earth are you calling people together and making such a fuss about the TV...?"

"You'll see later. The reason this room is expensive is because of the TV."

Yeongwoo omitted explaining the concept of television in this world because he didn't have confidence in it.

Anyway, Jeonggu, being a Strongest Sword, would probably understand it well enough when he saw it.

Except for the channel that reflected the returnee's room.

"Suna."

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

"Yes, Yeongwoo."

"Could you please leave for a moment?"

Suna looked back and forth between the father and son Strongest Swords before stepping back.

"I've been taking up your time without realizing it. I'll leave the lights here and go. Please rest comfortably."

As Suna quietly closed the door and disappeared, Jeonggu looked at the monster with an anxious expression.

"Why are you kicking her out when you're supposed to stay around here until the lodging room?"

It was actually a fearful statement made because of being alone with the son.

And sure enough, the crazy orphan said something frightening again.

"I need to change my spine."

"...!"

"No one knows what might happen, but it's impossible to proceed with the children around. If things go wrong, it's like playing with fire."

"Then... how about in front of me? I'm your father, after all."

"Your official stance as a father is 'I have no children,' wasn't it?"

"Well... that's..."

Jeonggu was speechless.

He had just used the term 'father' himself, so how could he only pretend to be an orphan when it suited him?

'This shameless orphan.'

As Jeonggu wore an unwittingly angry expression, Yeongwoo's gaze shifted to the empty air.

「Do you wish to equip the unique grade spine 'Body Modification'?」

| Warning: There is an unconventional installation procedure. Please install while wearing minimal clothing.

Now was the time for Yeongwoo to respond to the system's warning.

With that, Yeongwoo removed the cloak and armor he had on his upper body and, while looking at the warning message, said,

"I will equip it."

Then, as soon as Yeongwoo finished his last syllable, something astonishing happened.

Zzzz!

A white laser shot out from the living room floor, beginning to form a large rectangular frame.

Zwoosh!

With a length of about 2.5 meters on one side, this rectangular prism was designed to be longer on the horizontal side than the vertical side.

"Now, wait a moment. What's this? Are you really replacing the spine?"

Jeonggu, seeing the white rectangular prism that looked like a surgical table, took a step back unconsciously.

And at that moment, Yeongwoo also broke out in a cold sweat.

Replacing corneas?

That was manageable as they were at the level of lenses.

Transplanting someone else's organs?

It was a bit unsettling, but it wasn't beyond Yeongwoo's capability.

Cutting off his own arm?

That was actually easier than the previous two options.

However...

'To replace the spine while lying on a temporary surgical table sent from space...? Even I find that terrifying.'

Perhaps it was because he was undressed, but Yeongwoo couldn't help but shiver involuntarily.

Seeing this, Jeonggu shook his head.

"That's right, look at you, now you're worried too, aren't you? This is really unacceptable. Even though I'm not your father, I want to strongly advise you not to lie down there."

Advice given as an adult and as a fellow human being.

However, instead, Yeongwoo thought he should definitely get on the operating table after hearing this.

Although it was already quite an expensive piece of equipment that he had bought, he had thought he would wear it regardless.

However, in the meantime, Jeonggu's grumbling about 'not being his father' annoyed him.

"You're not my father, so please don't meddle unnecessarily."

As Yeongwoo approached the operating table with a visibly irritated face, Jeonggu grabbed his forehead.

"You ugly bastard. So you're getting a spine replacement? Lie down there and just rot."

An enraged Jeonggu muttered "bastard" and collapsed on the living room floor.

And in the meantime, Yeongwoo had approached right in front of the operating table.

Grab!

Finally recognizing Yeongwoo, the operating table projected a hologram into the air and slowly drew a strangely shaped, silver-white metal object.

It was none other than.

「Body Modification」 – Unique Spine

【Martial Arts Slot +1】

Now, it was the unique-grade spine that Yeongwoo would soon be wearing.

‘...Fuck.’

Seeing the problematic spine, curses involuntarily escaped as a heavy sigh passed.

But if he wore that spine, he would be able to unleash two martial arts simultaneously in the future.

‘The path to becoming a master is truly treacherous.’

After taking a deep breath, Yeongwoo carefully climbed onto the operating table.

Swoosh.

Then, the operating table, which had only drawn laser frames until now and appeared to be hollow inside, smoothly supported Yeongwoo’s body.

「Please lie down with your back facing upwards.」

‘Are they really going to remove and replace the spine?’

This was a space-style procedure.

Therefore, it wouldn’t be strange even if they physically removed the spine.

‘But even so, would they replace the equipment in such a crazy way?’

After all, when he wore the mutation talisman, didn’t he have to cut Jeong Hyunsik’s abdomen and swallow the equipment attached to his disguise?

「The correct posture has been confirmed. The surgery will proceed shortly. Please do not move.」

“...!”

At the truly unusual guidance, Yeongwoo widened his eyes, and Jeonggu made a “asshole” gesture as he looked at him.

Then.

Pewwwww!

An enormous laser beam shot down from the ceiling of the room, tearing Yeongwoo's skin along the spine line.

Ziiiiiiing.....!

“Aaargh!”

Naturally, tremendous pain ensued, but the pain nullification effect of the mutation talisman 'Berserker' did not activate.

His pain had narrowly missed the activation criteria for the Berserker.

“You fucking bastards! Shouldn't you give me anesthesia...?!”

As Yeongwoo screamed in agony, the next guidance message appeared before his eyes.

「Now, you will start to feel a little uncomfortable. Please do not move.」

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]