

Level 4 Human in a Ruined World #Chapter 161 - Read

Level 4 Human in a Ruined World Chapter 161

Chapter 161

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 161: Hot Night (5)

‘What? Uncomfortable now...?’

Then, what have they been tearing apart all this time?

As I tried to turn my head to see what was happening behind my back, a warning message promptly appeared.

「Please refrain from moving. Spinal injury may occur.」

These lunatics.

As Yeongwoo reluctantly returned his head to its original position, a heat sensation spread throughout his back.

“...Ugh.”

Then, a sharp sound from somewhere behind, followed by a blur in front of his eyes and an indescribable pain.

“Argh!”

For a moment, it felt like his teeth were being pulled out forcefully, blood oozing from his gums.

Then, the “Berserker” kicked in, holding Yeongwoo’s mind from slipping away as his body tried to escape the pain.

“...Ugh.”

But apart from the “pain,” there was a clear sense that the universal surgery system was tampering dangerously with his spine.

There was significant discomfort in his cervical spine.

‘Are they... are they replacing my spine from the top down? Is that even possible?’

Since moving hastily would result in spinal damage, Yeongwoo didn’t turn back but strained his eyes to glance at his back.

“Father!”

Upon hearing Yeongwoo’s call, Jeonggu, who seemed to be wearing a ghostly expression, responded in a trembling voice.

“What... what’s wrong?”

“Can you see, father? What these guys are doing behind my back?”

“W-well... Eek!”

Perhaps another shocking scene unfolded, as Jeonggu covered his mouth and almost staggered backward.

“What’s going on? Bring me a mirror.”

As Yeongwoo demanded to see the surgery scene himself, Jeonggu hesitated.

“No... it’s probably better not to see. There’s such a thing as death from shock, you know.”

Jeonggu genuinely worried about Yeongwoo’s shock.

Regardless of whether this crazy brat was his son or not, if this kid, who seemed to be crucial to Gangnam... no, to the heart of Seoul, were to die, it would undoubtedly lead to many problems.

But Yeongwoo...

“Stop talking nonsense and bring the mirror quickly. If I’m shocked by a little back surgery, then it means I wasn’t destined to live long anyway.”

Seeing the fire in Yeongwoo’s eyes, Jeonggu reluctantly searched the room and brought a large full-length mirror.

“You’re hopeless.”

“This is all thanks to mother and you. You know my mother passed away, right? Or do you not?”

“What?”

Jeonggu paused with the mirror halfway to Yeongwoo's view.

"You said your mother died? No, do you even know who your mother is...?"

Jeonggu still subtly drew a line with Yeongwoo, but his tone was unexpectedly softer.

If the "mother" this damn orphan mentioned was someone he knew, that would be the irrefutable evidence of the relationship between Joongwoo and Kim Jeonggu.

But...

"I don't know who my mother is either. Instead, I know from achievement. You're the only one of my 'parents' still alive."

"What a shame."

Damn achievements.

Jeonggu sighed heavily.

And then, he realized that he had been speaking informally to Yeongwoo for some time now.

After witnessing a series of reckless, or rather, childish acts, he finally began to see his opponent as his son.

"Look at yourself now. Is it appropriate to lie down and talk about your mother's death?"

Finally, Jeonggu stepped into Yeongwoo's view with the mirror in hand.

Gasp.

Then Yeongwoo could finally see it.

His dorsal skin spread out like a flying squirrel's, wide open.

"No way..."

As Yeongwoo's mouth fell open, a holographic forceps generated in the air was seen pulling out a piece of bone from his back.

None other than one of the 12 thoracic vertebrae.

That is, a part of the spine was being carried up right now.

Shirring!

The piece of Yeongwoo's thoracic spine lifted by the holographic forceps disappeared into thin air along with the forceps.

"Uh! My spine!"

Then, dozens of parts of the "Body Modification," the unique-grade spine enhancement, which had been dismantled and waiting in the air, gradually descended and entered the gap where the thoracic vertebra had just come out.

"....."

It was literally a spinal replacement.

"How does it feel to see it firsthand?"

Now, not only did he lack parents, but he also lacked a spine, but Jeonggu restrained himself from saying so.

The opponent is Joseon's Greatest Sword.

And he's not a stable character by any means.

Jeonggu wanted to live as long as possible.

But Yeongwoo's subsequent reaction was unusual as well.

"How does it feel? It feels like I'm being squeezed terribly."

Yeongwoo was already watching the last vertebra exit his body.

Shirring!

Just like before, Yeongwoo's original spine disappeared somewhere, and next, pieces of pale vertebrae descended to take their place.

Click.

A locking sound emanated from Yeongwoo's back.

Then lasers appearing out of thin air began manipulating his new spine.

"Argh, fuck...!"

This time, again, ambiguous pain not meeting the criteria for the activation of the 'Berserker.'

But it was enough pain for a human to lose their mind.

“These bastards!”

As Yeongwoo cursed while the system seemed intentionally causing this, the lasers finished post-processing his spine.

Next.

Thud, thud.

Holographic forceps that had been wide open on Yeongwoo’s dorsal skin started folding neatly.

And then followed by laser suturing.

Ziiing!

“.....”

This time, as the pain was much less than before, Yeongwoo gritted his teeth but didn’t let out a groan.

“...Tough guy.”

While saying so, Jeonggu couldn’t help but admire Yeongwoo inwardly.

It was evident that he was no ordinary guy, for better or for worse.

‘But to think this bastard is Joseon’s Greatest Sword... the future of South Korea won’t be smooth sailing.’

Paah!

As the laser show ended, the surgical interfaces that had been displayed in the air were swiftly erased.

Sasat.

And as usual.

Pah!

The surgery table supporting Yeongwoo disappeared without a trace.

“.....!”

Suddenly affected by gravity, Yeongwoo reached out his arm just before his head hit the floor.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Thunk!

And soon, the familiar system message appeared in Yeongwoo's view, directed towards the ground.

「The lodging service service has begun.」

「From now on, all buildings classified as 'residences' will be in an inviolable state under the lodging system.」

9:00 PM.

Finally, the lodging time had come.

Thud, thud.

Outside the room, Taewon Group employees were knocking on the door.

「Anyone can occupy the residence for a certain period by paying karma.」

「During the lodging period, access to the space can be controlled, and dormitory fees can be charged.」

“Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo, we're here to process the rental of the room.”

The voices of the employees outside the door.

Upon this, Yeongwoo hastily picked up his equipment from the floor, put it on, and opened the room's entrance.

Duck!

Then, three employees were seen waiting with a shelf of coins in their hands.

“If we disturbed your rest, we apologize. There was an instruction from the secretary's office to process the rental on time.”

“Yes, I heard from Suna.”

As Yeongwoo nodded, making way for them, the employees pushed the shelf of coins into the room and activated the rental interface.

Ping!

「Would you like to use the rental service?」

[Parnas Hotel Room 3233]

| Space: Very spacious

| Facilities: Bathroom, Television

| Rental fee: 62,000 karma

| Period: Until tomorrow morning at 10:00 AM

“All set. You can set the number of occupants and use it now.”

As the setting window appeared in front of the entrance of room 3233, the employees left with the empty shelf.

And Yeongwoo waved goodbye to them and turned his gaze to the rental interface.

「How many people are planning to stay? Please enter the number of occupants.」

‘Number of occupants.’

Today, it’s the day when Mr. Kim Taejoon’s family, Jongsu, and Taeyoung come to watch television.

‘So, if we count Mr. Kim Taejoon’s family as three, add Jongsoo and Taeyoung, and finally me and my father...’

Seven.

After calculating, Yeongwoo set the room occupancy to 7.

「7」

Then, the entrance to room 3233, wrapped in a blue shield, flashed to indicate that the occupancy setting had been reflected.

“So... seven people are going to be in this room today...?”

“Yes. They’re here to watch television. You can’t watch it without renting.”

As Yeongwoo opened the room to show the television himself, the last system message of 9:00 PM appeared.

「For your information, tonight's weather is an ember storm.」

「Please be aware of spontaneous combustion.」

Today's weather forecast.

「In 2 hours, an [abnormal climate] ember storm will occur.」

「01:59:59」

‘Ember storm? So, is it wind-based? It could also have a fire attribute.’

Upon seeing the abnormal climate timer start, Yeongwoo glanced at the Golden Goblin.

“Didn't I buy a cloak today? Something called ‘Firewall’.”

As Yeongwoo scratched his temple and tried to remember the cloak's name, the goblin automatically rummaged through the pocket dimension.

-Rustle!

Eventually, what the Golden Goblin brought out was the unique cloak ‘Firewall.’

「Firewall」 – Unique Cape

【Ignores all abnormal weather conditions with flame attributes.】

It disregards any abnormal climate related to fire.

So, even in an ember storm that would ignite the body, one could remain unharmed with this.

‘So, does that mean I have two pieces of equipment that can target today's weather? If it's a storm, it's likely wind-based.’

Yeongwoo invoked the tooltip of the narrative necklace already registered in his jewelry compendium.

Pop!

「Eye of the Typhoon」 – Epic Necklace

【Ignores extreme weather of the wind type.】

An equipment obtained after completing the achievement ‘Nocturnal.’

Since there hasn’t been an abnormal climate of wind type so far, there’s a high chance it can be used today.

‘So, I’ll use the Eye of the Typhoon myself, and with the Firewalll, I can take one more person with me tonight.’

With a golden orb also tucked away, tonight’s dungeon entry was confirmed.

‘Am I going crazy? Why is my heart racing?’

As Yeongwoo’s face swelled with anticipation, Jeonggu, who noticed it all at once, looked at him with a terrifying gaze.

“Wha... what’s with the expression? What are you thinking again?”

To this, Yeongwoo briefly looked out the window, which had turned ominously dark, before saying,

“Wanna go sightseeing?”

At that, Jeonggu’s face showed learned terror.

“Huh? Where... to?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 161: Hot Night (5)

‘What? Uncomfortable now...?’

Then, what have they been tearing apart all this time?

As I tried to turn my head to see what was happening behind my back, a warning message promptly appeared.

「Please refrain from moving. Spinal injury may occur.」

These lunatics.

As Yeongwoo reluctantly returned his head to its original position, a heat sensation spread throughout his back.

“...Ugh.”

Then, a sharp sound from somewhere behind, followed by a blur in front of his eyes and an indescribable pain.

“Argh!”

For a moment, it felt like his teeth were being pulled out forcefully, blood oozing from his gums.

Then, the “Berserker” kicked in, holding Yeongwoo’s mind from slipping away as his body tried to escape the pain.

“...Ugh.”

But apart from the “pain,” there was a clear sense that the universal surgery system was tampering dangerously with his spine.

There was significant discomfort in his cervical spine.

‘Are they... are they replacing my spine from the top down? Is that even possible?’

Since moving hastily would result in spinal damage, Yeongwoo didn’t turn back but strained his eyes to glance at his back.

“Father!”

Upon hearing Yeongwoo’s call, Jeonggu, who seemed to be wearing a ghostly expression, responded in a trembling voice.

“What... what’s wrong?”

“Can you see, father? What these guys are doing behind my back?”

“W-well... Eek!”

Perhaps another shocking scene unfolded, as Jeonggu covered his mouth and almost staggered backward.

“What’s going on? Bring me a mirror.”

As Yeongwoo demanded to see the surgery scene himself, Jeonggu hesitated.

“No... it’s probably better not to see. There’s such a thing as death from shock, you know.”

Jeonggu genuinely worried about Yeongwoo’s shock.

Regardless of whether this crazy brat was his son or not, if this kid, who seemed to be crucial to Gangnam... no, to the heart of Seoul, were to die, it would undoubtedly lead to many problems.

But Yeongwoo...

“Stop talking nonsense and bring the mirror quickly. If I’m shocked by a little back surgery, then it means I wasn’t destined to live long anyway.”

Seeing the fire in Yeongwoo’s eyes, Jeonggu reluctantly searched the room and brought a large full-length mirror.

“You’re hopeless.”

“This is all thanks to mother and you. You know my mother passed away, right? Or do you not?”

“What?”

Jeonggu paused with the mirror halfway to Yeongwoo’s view.

“You said your mother died? No, do you even know who your mother is...?”

Jeonggu still subtly drew a line with Yeongwoo, but his tone was unexpectedly softer.

If the “mother” this damn orphan mentioned was someone he knew, that would be the irrefutable evidence of the relationship between Joongwoo and Kim Jeonggu.

But...

“I don’t know who my mother is either. Instead, I know from achievement. You’re the only one of my ‘parents’ still alive.”

“What a shame.”

Damn achievements.

Jeonggu sighed heavily.

And then, he realized that he had been speaking informally to Yeongwoo for some time now.

After witnessing a series of reckless, or rather, childish acts, he finally began to see his opponent as his son.

“Look at yourself now. Is it appropriate to lie down and talk about your mother’s death?”

Finally, Jeonggu stepped into Yeongwoo’s view with the mirror in hand.

Gasp.

Then Yeongwoo could finally see it.

His dorsal skin spread out like a flying squirrel’s, wide open.

“No way...”

As Yeongwoo’s mouth fell open, a holographic forceps generated in the air was seen pulling out a piece of bone from his back.

None other than one of the 12 thoracic vertebrae.

That is, a part of the spine was being carried up right now.

Shirring!

The piece of Yeongwoo’s thoracic spine lifted by the holographic forceps disappeared into thin air along with the forceps.

“Uh! My spine!”

Then, dozens of parts of the “Body Modification,” the unique-grade spine enhancement, which had been dismantled and waiting in the air, gradually descended and entered the gap where the thoracic vertebra had just come out.

“.....”

It was literally a spinal replacement.

“How does it feel to see it firsthand?”

Now, not only did he lack parents, but he also lacked a spine, but Jeonggu restrained himself from saying so.

The opponent is Joseon’s Greatest Sword.

And he's not a stable character by any means.

Jeonggu wanted to live as long as possible.

But Yeongwoo's subsequent reaction was unusual as well.

"How does it feel? It feels like I'm being squeezed terribly."

Yeongwoo was already watching the last vertebra exit his body.

Shirring!

Just like before, Yeongwoo's original spine disappeared somewhere, and next, pieces of pale vertebrae descended to take their place.

Click.

A locking sound emanated from Yeongwoo's back.

Then lasers appearing out of thin air began manipulating his new spine.

"Argh, fuck...!"

This time, again, ambiguous pain not meeting the criteria for the activation of the 'Berserker.'

But it was enough pain for a human to lose their mind.

"These bastards!"

As Yeongwoo cursed while the system seemed intentionally causing this, the lasers finished post-processing his spine.

Next.

Thud, thud.

Holographic forceps that had been wide open on Yeongwoo's dorsal skin started folding neatly.

And then followed by laser suturing.

Ziing!

"....."

This time, as the pain was much less than before, Yeongwoo gritted his teeth but didn't let out a groan.

"...Tough guy."

While saying so, Jeonggu couldn't help but admire Yeongwoo inwardly.

It was evident that he was no ordinary guy, for better or for worse.

'But to think this bastard is Joseon's Greatest Sword... the future of South Korea won't be smooth sailing.'

Paah!

As the laser show ended, the surgical interfaces that had been displayed in the air were swiftly erased.

Sasat.

And as usual.

Pah!

The surgery table supporting Yeongwoo disappeared without a trace.

".....!"

Suddenly affected by gravity, Yeongwoo reached out his arm just before his head hit the floor.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Thunk!

And soon, the familiar system message appeared in Yeongwoo's view, directed towards the ground.

「The lodging service service has begun.」

「From now on, all buildings classified as 'residences' will be in an inviolable state under the lodging system.」

9:00 PM.

Finally, the lodging time had come.

Thud, thud.

Outside the room, Taewon Group employees were knocking on the door.

「Anyone can occupy the residence for a certain period by paying karma.」

「During the lodging period, access to the space can be controlled, and dormitory fees can be charged.」

“Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo, we’re here to process the rental of the room.”

The voices of the employees outside the door.

Upon this, Yeongwoo hastily picked up his equipment from the floor, put it on, and opened the room’s entrance.

Duck!

Then, three employees were seen waiting with a shelf of coins in their hands.

“If we disturbed your rest, we apologize. There was an instruction from the secretary’s office to process the rental on time.”

“Yes, I heard from Suna.”

As Yeongwoo nodded, making way for them, the employees pushed the shelf of coins into the room and activated the rental interface.

Ping!

「Would you like to use the rental service?」

[Parnas Hotel Room 3233]

| Space: Very spacious

| Facilities: Bathroom, Television

| Rental fee: 62,000 karma

| Period: Until tomorrow morning at 10:00 AM

“All set. You can set the number of occupants and use it now.”

As the setting window appeared in front of the entrance of room 3233, the employees left with the empty shelf.

And Yeongwoo waved goodbye to them and turned his gaze to the rental interface.

「How many people are planning to stay? Please enter the number of occupants.」

‘Number of occupants.’

Today, it’s the day when Mr. Kim Taejoon’s family, Jongsu, and Taeyoung come to watch television.

‘So, if we count Mr. Kim Taejoon’s family as three, add Jongsoo and Taeyoung, and finally me and my father...’

Seven.

After calculating, Yeongwoo set the room occupancy to 7.

「7」

Then, the entrance to room 3233, wrapped in a blue shield, flashed to indicate that the occupancy setting had been reflected.

“So... seven people are going to be in this room today...?”

“Yes. They’re here to watch television. You can’t watch it without renting.”

As Yeongwoo opened the room to show the television himself, the last system message of 9:00 PM appeared.

「For your information, tonight’s weather is an ember storm.」

「Please be aware of spontaneous combustion.」

Today’s weather forecast.

「In 2 hours, an [abnormal climate] ember storm will occur.」

「01:59:59」

‘Ember storm? So, is it wind-based? It could also have a fire attribute.’

Upon seeing the abnormal climate timer start, Yeongwoo glanced at the Golden Goblin.

“Didn’t I buy a cloak today? Something called ‘Firewall’.”

As Yeongwoo scratched his temple and tried to remember the cloak’s name, the goblin automatically rummaged through the pocket dimension.

-Rustle!

Eventually, what the Golden Goblin brought out was the unique cloak ‘Firewall.’

「Firewall」 – Unique Cape

【Ignores all abnormal weather conditions with flame attributes.】

It disregards any abnormal climate related to fire.

So, even in an ember storm that would ignite the body, one could remain unharmed with this.

‘So, does that mean I have two pieces of equipment that can target today’s weather? If it’s a storm, it’s likely wind-based.’

Yeongwoo invoked the tooltip of the narrative necklace already registered in his jewelry compendium.

Pop!

「Eye of the Typhoon」 – Epic Necklace

【Ignores extreme weather of the wind type.】

An equipment obtained after completing the achievement ‘Nocturnal.’

Since there hasn’t been an abnormal climate of wind type so far, there’s a high chance it can be used today.

‘So, I’ll use the Eye of the Typhoon myself, and with the Firewall, I can take one more person with me tonight.’

With a golden orb also tucked away, tonight’s dungeon entry was confirmed.

‘Am I going crazy? Why is my heart racing?’

As Yeongwoo’s face swelled with anticipation, Jeonggu, who noticed it all at once, looked at him with a terrifying gaze.

“Wha... what’s with the expression? What are you thinking again?”

To this, Yeongwoo briefly looked out the window, which had turned ominously dark, before saying,

“Wanna go sightseeing?”

At that, Jeonggu’s face showed learned terror.

“Huh? Where... to?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 162

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 162: Hot Night (6)

Sightseeing.

Visiting other regions or countries to see their scenery, customs, and cultural heritage.

Therefore, Yeongwoo’s proposal made sense in terms of sightseeing.

“Where are we going? A dungeon. I’ll take you there.”

“A dungeon...?”

Upon hearing the name of the tourist spot, Jeonggu first tilted his head for a moment, then widened his eyes.

That place where you have to go out at night and activate the orb left by a mutant to enter.

A space called a dungeon where people from all over the world gather to fight for their lives.

“I’m not stupid, why should I go there?”

“It’s worth a visit before you die. When else would you go to such a place?”

“No, that’s not the point...”

Jeonggu, unable to speak, just opened his mouth silently.

Then Yeongwoo continued.

“In the dungeon, it’s very important not to betray your comrades and to adhere to the rules.”

“So, why do you want to go there with me? I’d be free the moment you die, so why should I refrain from betraying you?”

“Betrayal. You haven’t done it even though you had a chance.”

“What?”

Jeonggu looked puzzled by Yeongwoo’s words.

Then, inadvertently, he clapped his hands with a sudden realization.

“Oh, damn. Right.”

If he really wanted to be free, he should have taken advantage of the moment when Jeong Yeongwoo⁰⁷ was lying on the operating table, replacing his spine.

“But there’s no need to regret it. Your son, Don Jeong, could have beaten you even lying down.”

Yeongwoo’s words were literally true.

– Weeing...

Because he had an automatic combat greatsword equipped with prisoner sword technique.

How could an ordinary Dobong Strongest Sword fight against a legendary-grade weapon equipped with legendary martial arts?

“...This bastard is real.”

“And it’s better to entrust the rear to one of our own than to trust foreigners.”

And if it’s a blood relative, it’s even better, Yeongwoo added.

At this, Jeonggu glanced at the sword at his waist and spoke up.

“Don’t I have the right to refuse? Aren’t there other Strongest Swords in Seoul? You could choose one from among them. They’ll all probably come running if you ask.”

“Well, most of them I think are people who could stab me in the back whenever they want when I’m in crisis. It’s just natural because they are strangers.”

Yeongwoo didn’t think it was bad to betray others in a crisis situation.

In this world, it was wise to bet on what was advantageous for oneself.

That’s why Yeongwoo highly appreciated Jongsu, who discovered him struggling in Chungju but didn’t swing his sword.

Because he was a truly rare character in the world after the reset.

‘And another person who could do that has emerged.’

None other than his father.

Or rather, Kim Jeonggu, the candidate for father.

Of course, he couldn’t trust him entirely, but as mentioned earlier, he was more trustworthy than the other Strongest Swords in the meeting.

But paradoxically.

“You have the right to refuse... That’s right. Because the dungeon is a place where the will of the gods matters, forcibly dragging you along won’t do any good.”

“Oh, really?”

As Jeonggu hesitated to respond, Yeongwoo added a warning.

“You should know, father, that there is probably no one on the Korean Peninsula who can defeat me.”

“...That’s probably true.”

“That means, if I die in the dungeon, the power of this country will greatly diminish.”

“...Isn’t that a bit of an overstatement?”

“The rewards in the dungeon are substantial. Just staying alive until the end guarantees unique equipment.”

“...It makes me realize once again that life is precious.”

“And more than anything else, do you want to see your son die betrayed by foreigners? Last time, I was lucky with comrades, but who knows what will happen this time.”

“ ... ”

Yeongwoo's words this time left Jeonggu speechless.

Apart from whether he agreed with the term 'son,' the fact that the nation's leading Strongest Sword could die at the hands of foreigners was unpleasant.

So when Jeonggu was about to find a suitable response,

– Weeing.

The doorbell rang near the entrance to the room.

As promised, Suna brought the people.

“The kids are here, father. Please relax your expression.”

With these words, Yeongwoo took out the weapons strapped to his waist and handed them to the Golden Goblin.

Then he gestured for 'Golden Trail' to hide behind the sofa.

Then.

– Weeing.

The sword really lay quietly behind the sofa in the living room as Yeongwoo instructed.

“Should I draw my sword too?”

“Of course.”

“You should have told me that in advance.”

Jeonggu hurriedly hid his sword behind the sofa in the living room.

“You're not hiding a dagger in your chest again, are you?”

Yeongwoo confirmed that Jeonggu had returned hurriedly, then opened the door to the room.

Click.

Then, outside the door, Kim Taejoon's wife, Kim Seok, and their children, were standing side by side in the long corridor.

“Oh, CEO, please come in.”

After a moment's hesitation, Yeongwoo chose to address Seok as a CEO.

In fact, she was the head of the Moi Cultural Foundation.

On the other hand, Jeonggu...

“Oh, nice to meet you. I'm Kim Jeonggu.”

He bowed his head and reflexively extended his hand for a handshake.

Swoosh.

Seok also lightly shook hands with Jeonggu and introduced herself.

“Yes, nice to meet you. I'm Kim Seok. These are my children.”

As she introduced her son and Lee Hyun one by one, Lim Suna, who had been quietly standing in the corner of the corridor, told Yeongwoo.

“Your colleagues will be here soon.”

And indeed, there was the sound of the elevator opening on the other side of the corridor.

Swoosh.

Then, two long shadows appeared in the corridor.

It was none other than Jongsu and Taeyoung's silhouettes.

“Hyung!”

Finally recognizing Yeongwoo, Jongsu dashed down the long corridor towards him.

“Nothing happened while I was away, right? I asked you to come because I thought there was something you might find interesting.”

“Oh, thanks to you, I've been doing well...”

As Jongsu chuckled as usual, he suddenly widened his eyes at the sight of Yeongwoo's changed title.

“Joseon...? What did you do again within half a day?”

Then, Kwon Taeyoung, with his head bowed, approached, showing more interest in Jeonggu, who seemed like a police officer, as he was meeting him for the first time.

“Who is this...?”

“Kim Jeonggu. He’s my father.”

“Yeongwoo’s father...?”

“Yes.”

As Yeongwoo introduced the two strangers to each other, Lim Suna, who had been watching them closely, quietly stepped back.

“It’s been a while since the room was bustling. I’ll go in first! If you need anything, call me on the walkie-talkie.”

“Yes. Thank you for your hard work.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Although Lim Suna had temporarily left, the corridor was still chaotic.

It was natural with seven people remaining.

“Now, please come in. It’s time to watch TV until 11 p.m.”

* * *

Television.

To be precise, it should be called the television of the reset world.

So far, Yeongwoo had only seen it in expensive residences like Room 3233 of the Parnas Hotel.

And as such, on the reset version of television, unusual things were always broadcasted.

‘Last time, it showed videos of experts from various countries sleeping and scenes of me promoting Dogo... If you think about it, maybe different channels come out depending on the guests.’

In particular, the fact that the television showed the rooms of returnees was crucial.

Because Yeongwoo was the only one in Korea who considered mutants as 'friends.'

"Everyone please go to the bedroom."

Once again, Yeongwoo confirmed that there was a television in the bedroom and called everyone together.

And when Detective Kwon Taeyoung approached the bedroom area, Yeongwoo cautiously pulled him aside and said.

"Detective."

"Yes, Mr. Yeongwoo."

"Do you still have it? The bracelet Commander commander used."

"Oh."

At Yeongwoo's words, Taeyoung showed his right wrist.

Swoosh.

Sure enough, there was an artifact, a mutant-grade weapon, on his wrist.

「Cross Knot」 - Mutant Bracelet

【20% resistance to abilities】

【-Empty Slot-】

An absurd equipment with 20% resistance to abilities on a single bracelet, with a gem slot attached.

Until a few days ago, Yeongwoo didn't recognize the true value of this equipment, but now it was different.

"I'm sorry for the impertinence... Can I use that bracelet? I'll give you a weapon that you can use right away in return."

When Yeongwoo instructed the Golden Goblin to open the dimensional pocket, artifacts and mutant-grade weapons slid out of the pocket as if on cue.

Then, after seeing the weapons, Taeyoung, who was momentarily taken aback, looked back at Yeongwoo.

"It seems like you really need this bracelet."

“Yes. I do.”

Yeongwoo answered brazenly.

Because 20% resistance to abilities had its value.

And frankly speaking, for Taeyoung, who was finding it difficult to rise to the ranks of the strong, ability resistance didn't hold much significance.

Because if he encountered a being that inflicted abilities, whether human or alien, he would probably die nine times out of ten.

“When you gave it to me in the first place, it was out of kindness. If you need it, of course, I should give it to you. And I feel like Yeongwoo will use it much more meaningfully.”

Taeyoung said as he willingly took off the bracelet and handed it over.

Yeongwoo nodded slightly with a somewhat uneasy expression.

Then, he took out a weapon from the Goblin's dimensional pocket and handed it to Taeyoung.

“Please take this, even if just for my peace of mind.”

While it was true that it was easy to hand over mutant equipment without much hesitation, the sentiment was genuine nonetheless.

“If that's the case, thank you, I'll gladly accept it,” Taeyoung replied.

Finally, Taeyoung accepted the authorized weapon from Yeongwoo, and at the same time, Jongsu called out to him.

“Hyung.”

“Yes?”

“Something strange is showing on the television.”

“What? You've already turned it on? Who did?”

Why would they turn on the television when the children were present?

Was it his reckless father?

Startled, Yeongwoo quickly entered the bedroom, where he saw Kim Taejoon's family standing in a row by the bed, staring blankly at the television.

In front of them, Jeonggu stood holding the remote.

'Ah.'

Indeed, it was undoubtedly this audacious gentleman who pretended to know something while turning on the television.

However, the problem was...

—These reactionary bastards must all be killed.

It was a strange voice that was currently echoing in the room.

"Crazy."

As soon as he heard the voice, Yeongwoo felt chills down his spine.

He seemed to know the owner of that voice, and he confirmed it through the reflection in the children's pupils from the television screen.

—Kill them all! Don't let anyone get away with it.

The strange voice echoing in the room.

What was being broadcast on the television after the reset was none other than.

[Dictator – Kim Jong-un].

It was North Korea's Kim Jong-un, locked in a secret space, muttering to himself.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 163

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 163: Hot Night (7)

"No, that..."

“...Uh?”

“That’s impossible.”

The figure appeared on television.

However, no one in the audience dared to confirm it with their own eyes.

Firstly, because it was so unrealistic that they couldn’t believe their eyes, and secondly, they suddenly felt afraid.

What if they mentioned his name, and he heard it?

So, they all ended up deferring to each other to be the first eyewitness.

Finally, Jeonggu called out his name.

“Hey, isn’t that bastard... Kim Jong-un?”

After his name was called out, the man on the screen finally became ‘Kim Jong-un’.

This prompted people in front of the television to start mentioning the name in question.

“Is that really him?”

“Why is Kim Jong-un there?”

“Is it really him?”

In response, Yeongwoo snatched the remote from Jeonggu and hammered an idea into everyone’s mind.

“Yes, it’s Kim Jong-un.”

“Really?”

“Huh...?”

Kim Jong-un.

The General Secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea and Chairman of the State Affairs Commission.

But now, he was an exiled figure, having received mass votes from North Korean residents and banished from this world.

Or rather, a future enemy waiting to return as a mutant.

“I went to North Korea myself to hear it directly. Kim Jong-un is also a mutant. He’s planning to return after becoming a Geumgang Yaksha.”

“Oh my goodness.”

“What’s a Geumgang Yaksha?”

“Well...”

Yeongwoo hesitated as he attempted to describe Kim Jong-un on the screen.

His current appearance was just like the human form Yeongwoo knew from before.

‘Ah, mutants still maintain their human appearance in the waiting room.’

Was it a principle similar to the returnee’s room where friends resided?

“...”

Yeongwoo reluctantly spread his arms wide, making a gesture that seemed to scare people.

“He’s a monster with six arms, wielding six weapons. And he has three heads.”

“Three heads?”

Jeonggu reacted to Yeongwoo’s description of Kim Jong-un’s transformation.

“Then, does he come out with your grandpa and great-grandpa’s heads too?”

“My goodness.”

“Hey, what are you talking about in front of the kids?”

Seok, feeling somewhat uncomfortable, protested.

However, Yeongwoo was surprised by the unexpected perspective.

“Huh...? That could be possible, right? Why did they choose ‘Kim Jong-un’ out of all those monsters?”

If that were true, Kim Jong-un’s return would be the worst event for the North Korean residents.

They would witness all three generations of the Kim family who had oppressed them at once.

—The significance of the current existence of Pyongyang's Strongest Sword is the assassination of the General Secretary. Most people are waiting for that.

According to Jo Seonghu, now a deceased Shinuiju Strongest Sword, killing Kim Jong-un is what most North Korean residents wish for.

'It would definitely be a huge event.'

Even the Strongest Sword asked Yeongwoo to take care of things before leaving.

—But what if I end up killing the Strongest Sword of Pyeongyang before the duel?

—Unfortunately, if that were to happen... at least you should support our wish, shouldn't you?

Yeongwoo thought that this was a moment that well demonstrated how much the survivors of North Korea feared and hated Kim Jong-un.

'What else would Kim Jong-un do after he finishes organizing North Korea? He'll probably come south.'

Moreover, ironically, even without the Strongest Sword's testament, Yeongwoo was destined to confront Kim Jong-un anyway.

Coincidentally, the title of 'Joseon's Strongest Sword', originally meant for the confrontation with Kim Jong-un, was now with Yeongwoo.

"Yeongwoo!"

Finally, Seok sharply called out Yeongwoo's name, snapping him back to reality.

"What about the kids' dad? Didn't you say you'll let them see my husband?"

Kim Jong-un continued his chilling soliloquy on the screen.

That was why she urgently asked to change the channel.

"Oh, right. I'm sorry."

Yeongwoo glanced at Kim Jong-un on the screen.

Seeing him plotting revenge in that grim space, Yeongwoo thought he understood why the returnees from other worlds were so angry.

Click!

As Yeongwoo changed the channel with the remote, a black screen appeared again.

“Huh.”

“W-What’s this now...?”

People in the audience made terrified expressions.

After witnessing the spectacle of Kim Jong-un, everyone in this place had become aware of what they were seeing was by no means a regular television.

Therefore.

“Uh, Yeongwoo?”

“What’s this?”

Everyone in this place turned their gaze to Yeongwoo, who had the most extraordinary experience from another world.

In response, Yeongwoo said.

“Um, well...”

He watched as a slowly appearing square logo emerged on the previously pitch-black screen.

Then, he suddenly realized, this channel was associated with the intergalactic adult content production company “Lemu.”

“This is the Lemu logo.”

As Yeongwoo muttered almost as if possessed, Seok asked,

“Lemu...? What’s that?”

Yeongwoo couldn’t help but look at Seok’s children.

How could he possibly say that we were watching intergalactic adult content in front of them?

In a proper manner.

Then, after the Lemu logo disappeared, an instruction message in a language understandable to Earthlings appeared.

「It's a paid channel. To make a payment, please pick up the phone and dial 992 0909#。」

‘As expected.’

As expected, this seemed to be the adult channel broadcasting Lemu's content, and it required payment to access it.

“...”

Yeongwoo's gaze naturally drifted towards the phone by the bedside.

Until now, he had only used it for wake-up calls, but it seemed that you could also make payments with it.

“Should we switch to the next channel for now? It seems like Kim Taejoon isn't here.”

When Yeongwoo suggested this, Jeonggu jumped up as if to say, “What nonsense are you talking about?”

“Hey, you're rich, aren't you? Aren't you curious about this?”

“...Please be quiet. We don't have time, so let's just move on for now.”

After gesturing for Jeonggu to be quiet, Yeongwoo manipulated the remote again.

Click!

Finally, the channel Yeongwoo wanted appeared.

In an instant, the screen turned completely white.

“Huh.”

“Whoa, what's this?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

As everyone, except Yeongwoo, shielded their eyes from the suddenly bright screen, voices from people came through the television speaker.

—To be fooled by such a young brat at my age.

—I guess it's natural to have such thoughts at this point. It's hard to know how much time has passed.

It was none other than the voices of General Kim Younghyeom and Hong Yeongtae.

“Oh... General.”

Yeongwoo took a step closer to the television with joy.

General Kim Younghyeom, like other ‘friends,’ was also in human form inside the returnee's room.

—When is he going to call us?

—Nobody knows for sure. We just have to wait. Would you like me to turn the hourglass?

Hong Yeongtae handed over a large hourglass rolling around his heel.

And when Kim Younghyeom, who received the hourglass, held it, he was entirely white, reminiscent of his appearance as a mutant.

He was wearing white pajamas, and even his hair and eyebrows were dyed white.

—Damn it!

When Kim Younghyeom, who had been holding the hourglass, couldn't bear it any longer and threw the clock to the ground, Kim Taejoon, who was walking from afar, picked it up and placed it upright again.

—Are you really angry? I was like that at first too.

Kim Taejoon's voice was transmitted through the television, frightening his family members who were looking at the screen.

“Honey?”

“Oh, Dad!”

“Dad...!”

Moreover, weren't they complete humans on the screen, not mutants?

For Kim Taejoon's family, it couldn't have been a more joyful moment.

The only regret was.

‘It’s one-way communication. Still, it would be better if they got a television from that side.’

Yeongwoo looked at Seok and her two children, feeling a bit disappointed.

Of course, there was no guarantee that televisions purchasable in the returnee’s room would broadcast this side of the world.

‘But the probability is quite high. At least one of the several channels should show this side.’

As Yeongwoo was thinking this, Kim Taejoon on the screen started talking about television.

—By the way, when can we buy our television?

It was a timing of lines as if the family unconsciously felt they were being watched.

At this, Yeongtae took out what looked like a white menu while laying on his buttocks.

—Well... The points we get each time we participate vary so much that it’s hard to predict.

—No, we can still calculate the average.

This furious voice was from General Kim Younghyeom.

—Since the amount of points we receive depends on our achievements, if we fight Kim Jong-un as you wish, General, we can solve it all in one shot, right?

—Oh, that’s right. We haven’t fought that bastard yet.

The magic word, the three letters of Kim Jong-un, softened General Kim Younghyeom’s anger a bit.

—If we average it out, it should be about two more times in the future? A television is quite expensive.

Yeongtae calmed down the two middle-aged men as a veteran.

—But didn’t we wait quite a bit already? He should be calling soon, right?

Hong Yeongtae boasted an incredible sense of feeling.

In fact, if they entered the night dungeon soon, they would be called.

'At this point, I should call them even if I don't need to.'

As Yeongwoo was fiddling with the whistle, Jeonggu approached cautiously and asked,

"Hey."

"Yes?"

"What on earth is all this? Who's inside there?"

"Oh."

Apparently, Jeonggu wasn't completely aware of 'friends' and the whistle.

"Those people are mutants."

"What?"

"Strictly speaking, they used to be mutants. Now, they're my colleagues."

Yeongwoo explained that if he blew the whistle, three former mutants would appear.

"Aii, this bastard really thinks I'm a fool."

At this, Jeonggu naturally didn't believe it.

It was such a radical claim that even as a current Strongest Sword, it was hard to accept.

"Do you think you can just call mutants like it's nothing? Does that make sense?"

"I have a sword that flies on its own. Can't I summon mutants?"

"Hey, that's a completely different story."

As he said this, Jeonggu rolled his eyes.

He was imagining the scene where mutants would jump out when the whistle was blown.

Since he was Jeong Yeongwoo's biological father, he couldn't help it, so his curiosity was enormous.

“Instead of that, have you considered going to the dungeon? You were about to say something earlier before you drank it.”

As Yeongwoo tried to wrap up the dungeon talk since the topic came up, Jeonggu awkwardly took a step back.

“Why are you so persistent in bothering me like this?”

“Why did you even give birth to me? You should have listened to Father and started a business so you could receive blessings.”

“No, I keep saying this, but I...”

As Jeonggu tried to deny his son’s existence again, Yeongwoo interrupted his dialogue.

“Level 1 supporting role.”

“What?”

“Father is a Level 6 extra. But according to the destiny book, Mother was a Level 1 supporting role.”

“...!”

At Yeongwoo’s words, not only Jeonggu but everyone in the bedroom concealed their presence and listened intently.

“Level 6 humans generally don’t live a good life. So the relationship with a Level 1 supporting role must be a very special event. It’s a story that you wouldn’t easily forget.”

“What are you talking about now, and such words should...”

Flustered, Jeonggu looked around, his face dripping with cold sweat.

In this place, there was Seok, her two children, and even Jongsu and the current police officer Lwon Taeyoung, whom he had just met today.

However, this insane orphan who had experienced everything from pre-birth to interstellar warfare didn’t know when to back down.

“Tell me, Father! Have you ever met a woman who’s difficult to find in a horoscope? Not even once...!”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 164

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 164: Hot Night (8)

“Man, this guy is really insane.”

Jeonggu, who had his life publicly auctioned off, was so shocked that he couldn't even speak.

Level 6 human.

That's right.

That was the truth.

Jeonggu himself had confirmed his internal Level and even his miserable fate through the destiny record he received on the first day of the reset.

But.

‘Level 1 supporting role...? What nonsense is this? I've never had such a thing....’

Jeonggu, with an expression that said it was absurd, momentarily felt something catching and jerked his body.

At that moment, Yeongwoo noticed it and questioned his father,

“See, there's something, right? Who is my mother?”

“W... Wait. You're out of your mind.”

Jeonggu looked at Yeongwoo as if he were annoying, but at the same time, he began to scrutinize the face of this Level 4 orphan.

“.....”

Considering the age difference between the two, when Jeong Yeongwoo was created, Kim Jeonggu's age was between twenty-three and twenty-four.

Therefore, the woman Jeonggu met and had a relationship with at that time became Yeongwoo's likely birth mother.

And Jeonggu thought,

‘...It couldn’t be. It doesn’t make sense.’

In his naive mid-twenties, he had experienced an unusual event.

That was precisely....

“Have you seen anything else in the destiny record? Like your grandfather’s name?”

“Grandfather?”

Yeongwoo’s eyebrows twitched at the unexpected keyword, and Jeonggu’s gaze shifted to the empty space.

“Back in the old days, I used to go to clubs.”

“Clubs?”

Yeongwoo’s mouth hung open.

He probably knew what would come next.

“I don’t think you’re going to tell me that you just met my mother and had a one-night stand through a night reservation. Right?”

“.....”

“Oh, damn it.”

Unable to say anything, Jeonggu was grabbed by the collar by Yeongwoo in anger.

Crack!

The collar grabber of the Joseon’s Strongest Sword.

With a strength that a mere Strongest Sword couldn’t match, Jeonggu barely managed to catch his breath.

“This guy is really...!”

“Is that really the best you can think of, Dad? Is that really the biggest event of your life?”

Yeongwoo, who stood over two meters tall, shouted at his father’s face, and Jeonggu shook his head vigorously in response.

“I-I mean, it wasn’t just a one-night stand.”

“Really?”

“She was a conglomerate.”

“...?”

“The other party was Jinhyeon Group’s youngest daughter.”

Jinhyeon Group.

A conglomerate that owned various subsidiaries in tourism, hotels, shipping, including Jinju Airlines, one of the top three airlines in the country.

Ranked second in the domestic business world before the reset, it was one level above Taewon, which currently dominates Gangnam.

In other words, Jeonggu was referring to a conglomerate family recognizable by name.

“What? Jinhyeon? That’s insane. No matter how much of a knight you were, does it make sense for someone from there to be involved with someone like you?”

Then, for the first time, Jeonggu showed signs of anger and opened his eyes wide.

“You think I knew? Thanks to her, I was dragged out while sleeping and almost beaten to death.”

He explained that he had been attacked by Jinhyeon’s employees after sleeping together in an inn without knowing that she was the youngest daughter of Jinhyeon.

It was the early 1990s, so the situation wasn’t entirely implausible.

“...Damn it, but it still doesn’t make sense.”

Yeongwoo found it hard to believe.

To this, Jeonggu retorted with a look of disbelief.

“See, don’t you believe me? That’s how I’ve been feeling all this time.”

And then, still not calming down, he continued,

“And I still can’t think of you as my son. No, I can’t. You know why?”

Snap.

Jeonggu clenched his fist.

“There is no way the woman who calmly got into the car after seeing me being beaten up outside gave birth to my child.”

“ ”

It was a valid point.

From the perspective of a father, or rather Jeonggu, it couldn't be thought otherwise.

And even in Yeongwoo's eyes, it seemed to be the case.

“But... you are my father.”

“This crazy bastard till the end!”

Crack!

This time Jeonggu grabbed Yeongwoo by the collar, causing Seok, who had been watching them, to shout in surprise.

“Both of you, shut up!”

Seok, the representative of the Moi Cultural Foundation, which loves artists, scolded them with a dignified tone.

At her command, the two Strongest Sword involuntarily stopped their quarrel and widened their eyes.

“ ! ”

Then, Seok, who had regained her composure, continued speaking with a calm breath.

“No, is this really happening? We came here to see my husband, not to watch you two fight. Of course, Yeongwoo, I appreciate your concern, but you should control yourself.”

Then she looked at Kim Taejoon, the representative on the screen, with a pitiful gaze.

“And strictly speaking, isn't Yeongwoo using us as a cover to work my husband for free?”

“Madam, that, that's....”

When Yeongwoo, at a loss for words, began to sweat, Seok shot him a sharp glare.

"I'm not asking for anything grand, just show some basic manners. Don't argue in front of the kids."

"...I apologize, Madam."

Yeongwoo raised his head, addressing Seok with a more respectful title, realizing that this wasn't a good scene for children's education.

"And..."

Seok hesitated for a moment, unlike before, seeming to be trying to say something different.

Then she cautiously spoke up.

"She might have just given birth. It couldn't be helped."

"...What?"

"W-What do you mean?"

When both men asked in confusion, Seok repeated herself.

"That woman might have given birth involuntarily. She might not have had the courage to kill the child."

"Ah."

Since it was the opinion of a current mother, neither Yeongwoo nor Jeonggu could say anything.

So in the end,

"Father, let's talk about this separately later."

"..."

At this point, Jeonggu couldn't argue further.

"...Alright. Let's settle this in a quieter place later."

Eventually, the conversation ended with Jeonggu feeling his privacy violated, and soon a notice appeared indicating that the night was progressing.

—Tax will be collected from 10:00 PM onwards.

—The basic tax amount is 1,000 karma, and tax defaulters will be instantly extinguished at the time of collection.

“Ah.”

“Is it already this late....”

It was time for tax payment.

“Are the children’s taxes all prepared?”

Yeongwoo asked Seok just in case, and she nodded.

“Yes. A while ago, someone named Lim Suna handed me some coins.”

“I see.”

Indeed, she was acting like a true secretary of a conglomerate.

Then what remained was,

“Is there anyone here who doesn’t have enough cash to pay the taxes on the spot?”

Yeongwoo looked around the room and everyone nodded.

Jeonggu, as the Dobong Strongest Sword, had enough cash, and Jongsu and Taeyoung had financial flexibility as they were part of Taewon Group’s job placement, which played a significant role in the monster business.

“Good.”

Yeongwoo checked his wristwatch.

It was almost 10:00 PM.

And shortly after.

Beep.

An alarm rang from Yeongwoo’s wristwatch, indicating that it was 10:00 PM, and a system message appeared.

—Tax will now be collected.

Then the hands of those holding coins began to move simultaneously.

Clank, clank!

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

And for Yeongwoo,

Swish...!

A feeling as if a wind passed through his whole body accompanied the appearance of a tax notice.

|Basic tax amount: 1,000

|Deduction item: Single household

|Final tax amount: 500

‘It’s the same as last time.’

Yeongwoo blinked as he looked at the notice.

But this was his misconception.

Thud!

Immediately, another message appeared in his view.

「Your business classification has been changed to ‘individual business-advertising agency.’」

‘Huh...?’

「As a result, your tax status has been changed from ‘simple taxation’ to ‘general taxation,’ and there will be changes to the basic tax amount starting from tomorrow, June 14, 2025.」

‘What does this mean? Taxes are going up starting tomorrow?’

In fact, it meant that they would charge more taxes by considering Yeongwoo as a businessman who started earning a lot of money through the contract with Dogo.

‘How much... how much will the taxes increase?’

It was a fact that he had earned a considerable amount in a decidedly unconventional manner on Earth, so there was no dispute about having to pay the corresponding taxes.

It felt a bit unfair, but that was the reality.

‘But still, shouldn’t they at least tell us the estimated tax amount? So that we can prepare for it.’

However, there were no follow-up messages.

It ended with just telling them that they would have to pay more taxes in the future.

‘I can’t believe these guys.’

There was no point in grumbling to thin air, but Yeongwoo quickly changed his mind.

‘Anyway, since I have to call the chairman after finishing the dungeon tonight, I’ll just ask him directly. Usually, for a personal business of this scale, they should give an estimate of how much the taxes would be.’

And maybe Dogo would introduce him to a tax consultant for advertising models.

Anyway, what mattered now was...

‘Tonight, I’ll take Father to the dungeon and survive.’

* * *

10:52 PM.

About 8 minutes left until he would bring Father into the heart of the storm.

Yeongwoo was now in the living room, talking with Jeonggu.

“Anyway, there’s no doubt that I was right. The fact that it finds the target we want has already been verified once.”

「Wanted Poster」 – Epic

【Find what you want.】

|Father

Previously, Yeongwoo had used this fountain pen to find Kim Taejoon’s family.

So logically, Jeonggu, whom he found in the same way, had to be Yeongwoo’s father.

“Right. Let’s assume for the sake of argument that I’m your father. What happens next? Are you going to kill me? What crime have I committed?”

“While the world is falling apart, and your son has come to you in difficult times, you’re worried about your own life? What kind of father are you? I’ve seen fathers in movies, they weren’t like that.”

“That’s because it’s a movie...!”

Whispering and shouting, Jeonggu glanced toward the bedroom.

“Of course, you may really be my son. But aren’t you trying to kill your father?”

“You’ve never had a son who looked at me at first sight, so it’s understandable, isn’t it?”

When Yeongwoo said this, Jeonggu pointed to the “Wanted Poster.”

“That.”

“...?”

“How can you be sure it didn’t make a mistake? It could have malfunctioned temporarily.”

“Hah.”

Yeongwoo chuckled, displaying extreme tolerance.

He hadn’t double-checked the tracking mark, as Jeonggu suggested.

“Fine. Then let’s change the target and try to find Father again.”

“O-Okay.”

Jeonggu hesitated at Yeongwoo’s words.

“Uncle passed away, right? To the Strongest Sword of Uijeongbu.”

“What else are you trying to do?”

“I’m going to input ‘Uncle’ here. So, at least the search target will change or reset.”

And if the “Wanted Poster” displayed an arrow when “Uncle” was entered, it would mean that the wanted poster was also making a mistake.

After all, there was no way to find someone who was already dead.

Quickly.

As Yeongwoo lifted the Epic fountain pen to re-enter the search target, Jeonggu tensed up.

Tap!

|Uncle

Soon, a new search target appeared on the wanted poster, and shortly after...

Tswat!

A new tracking mark appeared in Yeongwoo's field of vision.

"Huh?"

"What's... what's going on? Why is that?"

It was none other than...

「X」

"I see an X. It's a new mark I've never seen before. It seems to appear when searching for someone who's dead."

Of course, there could be other possibilities.

"Maybe it just shows up uniformly when searching for non-existent targets."

So Yeongwoo changed the search target once more.

Tap!

|Elder Brother

A target that might not have even been born in this world to begin with.

Then, the mark in his field of vision disappeared completely, and an alert message appeared.

「Non-existent target.」

'Ah.'

Now it was clear.

The wanted poster distinguished between targets that never existed and those that did exist but were no longer alive.

‘Then if I search for Mother, I’ll get the same X mark.’

Because of the achievement of being a “Complete Orphan,” which implied his mother’s death, Yeongwoo had never inputted her into the wanted poster before.

‘So, should I give it a try?’

He immediately entered Mother as a new search target.

Pop!

|Mother

Then, once again, a tracking mark appeared in his field of vision, but its shape was...

“...Huh?”

「△」

“A triangle?”

As Yeongwoo voiced his confusion, his wristwatch sounded an alarm.

Beep!

11:00 PM.

Then, a system message appeared in everyone’s field of vision.

「An [Abnormal Weather] Ember Typhoon is forming as of now.」

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 165

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 165: Hot Night (9)

Kwaaaaah...!

Simultaneously with the abnormal weather alert, the scenery outside the living room window turned reddish.

It was indeed the beginning of a wildfire typhoon.

“My, my goodness.”

As Jeonggu opened his mouth wide and looked out the window, the flying embers hitting the glass made sharp noises.

Titi-titic!

“Is this really okay?”

As it was the first time Jeonggu looked at abnormal weather through such a large glass window, he turned to his son, no, Yeongwoo, with a fearful expression.

To which Yeongwoo, still fixated on the traces in front of him, said,

“Mom’s name, what is it?”

“What?”

“What’s the name of the youngest daughter of Jinhyeon Group who left after hitting Dad?”

“Uh... Song Jiseon.”

“Ah.”

Song Jiseon.

Even Yeongwoo, who had little interest in politics, had heard of the name.

The so-called ‘Iron-blooded Empress’ Song Jiseon.

Once, there were articles all over the internet about how she defeated her two older brothers in the battle for control of the conglomerate.

‘That group was Jinhyeon.’

And that means.

‘Wait. Two older brothers...?’

If Song Jiseon, the last owner of Jinhyeon Group, was really Yeongwoo's biological mother, then naturally, he would have two uncles as well.

Uncles who were likely to be mutants, being from a conglomerate background.

'What kind of bullshit is this?'

What started as a small snowball rolling by Kim Jeonggu, a Level 6 human, 30 years ago, had led to this situation.

The by-product of the Night Booking in the 90s and the hidden child of the second largest conglomerate in Korea, Jinhyeon Group, was none other than Jeong Yeongwoo, known as "Joseon's Greatest Sword."

"Then Mom must be a mutant too. Or she might have been hit and disappeared."

As Yeongwoo imagined his mother transformed into a dragon, Jeonggu scratched his chin.

"Well, I'm not sure."

"Not sure?"

"As you know, it was really busy at the beginning of the reset. So, I didn't pay much attention to all the mutant notices."

At that time, Jeonggu never dreamed that Song Jiseon had given birth to his child, and even if she had, surviving was a struggle.

So Yeongwoo couldn't blame Jeonggu for that.

"Well, after the exchange area, there was no chance to keep track of all the mutant notices."

And if she had been hit and disappeared, he didn't know if she was in some dungeon, serving time in a miserable state.

'Well, whatever happens, we'll have to wait a bit longer to find out.'

After reaching his own conclusion, Yeongwoo put his lips to the ring, "Wave."

《If you have equipment to respond to abnormal weather today, please come to the Parnas entrance immediately. Departing in 10 minutes.》

It was a broadcast notice without much expectation.

So far, the Strongest Swords of Seoul had been so focused on raising their stats that they hadn't properly utilized the merchants.

"Who would come?"

As expected, when Jeonggu asked this, Yeongwoo shook his head.

"There are a few who want to go to the dungeons, but they probably haven't found the equipment yet."

Songpa's Strongest Sword Oh Yeonhee, and Seocho's Strongest Sword Choi Namhee, and Jo Sangik of Gwanak were among those who could enter the dungeons on their own, to some extent, they were people with faith.

So Yeongwoo was hoping they would show up within 10 minutes.

'But it's unlikely. Unless they've deliberately met all the merchants in Seoul.'

Shoom.

"Cloak."

As Yeongwoo clapped his hands toward the Golden Goblin, the creature opened a pocket dimension and pulled out a dusky cloak.

-Kikit!

It was none other than equipment for Jeonggu.

「Firewall」 – Unique Cape

【Ignores all abnormal weather conditions with flame attributes.】

"Put this on. We'll have to go out soon."

When Yeongwoo pointed out the window where red embers were flying, Jeonggu made a terrible expression.

"...Are you serious?"

"Stop talking too much and get dressed quickly."

In response to Yeongwoo's torch, Jeonggu mumbled alone and put on a red cloak.

"You'll have to wait downstairs for 10 minutes before we depart."

“So if someone manages to break through that typhoon... will all three of us go?”

“Yes. Anyone who comes.”

After saying this, Yeongwoo went to the bedroom with a television and spoke to Seok and Jongsu, and Taeyoung.

“As I mentioned before, it would be better to limit the TV for the kids up to here. There’s another bed in the room across, so let them sleep there.”

Then, not knowing the exact reason, Kwon Taeyoung cautiously asked,

“Mr. Yeongwoo, excuse me, but may I ask why?”

To this, Yeongwoo lifted the whistle hanging around his neck and showed it.

“Soon, we’ll need to summon the whistle in the dungeon, and we won’t know what will appear on TV at that time.”

“Ah...”

Taeyoung agreed soon after hearing this.

Seok nodded as if understanding. “Got it. Since it’s getting late, we should let the kids sleep early.”

“So... Are you going out now, Yeongwoo?”

At Taeyoung’s question, Yeongwoo glanced briefly at Jeonggu in the living room and told Jongsu and Taeyoung,

“Yes. And since we don’t know what will happen in the dungeon, if I’m unlucky, I might die.”

“...!”

“If that happens, go find Jo Sangik, Gwanak’s Strongest Sword. He won’t be there to worry about it as much as before, but he won’t just leave you alone.”

After leaving this nonchalant advice, Yeongwoo looked at the television screen still illuminating the room of the returnees.

Now, three men dependent on Yeongwoo were sitting closely together, staring intently at an hourglass.

* * *

11:16 PM.

“...They’re not coming. Or rather, they can’t come.”

“Whatever it is, in the end, it’s just the two of us.”

Even after the announced 10 minutes had passed, no one appeared in the lobby of the Parnas Hotel.

Either no one had equipment to withstand the ember typhoon, or they had the equipment but lacked the courage.

Of course, since the hotel lobby was no longer a residence, it was filled with heat to the extent that space seemed to ripple.

“We can’t help it. Let’s go now.”

With determination, Yeongwoo opened the hotel entrance without hesitation, causing Jeonggu to hesitate.

“I... This is my first time.”

“It’s my second time too.”

With these words, Yeongwoo stepped outside toward the hotel.

Click.

Red embers struck Yeongwoo’s body indiscriminately, leaving red marks all over.

However...

「Eye of the Typhoon」 – Epic Necklace

【Ignores extreme weather of the wind type.】

For Yeongwoo, who received the effect of the “Eye of the Typhoon,” there was no harm at all.

As expected, the ember typhoon was a wind-type abnormal weather.

“Come out. You won’t go that far.”

When Yeongwoo gestured for him to hurry up, Jeonggu slowly pushed his body out of the lobby, stumbling.

“...Is it really okay?”

Jeonggu, still unable to dispel his fear, asked once again, and Yeongwoo pointed to his father's toe.

“You're already fine.”

“...!”

Toot-toot!

In fact, Jeonggu's toes, which had just been brought out of the lobby, had been exposed to the embers for a while now.

In fact, he had been protected by the “fire shield” all the way from the corridor outside the room.

“Oh...!”

Jeonggu, opening his eyes wide in surprise, but not feeling any heat, stretched his arm out further, which had been kept inside the hotel.

Toot!

Similarly, even though his bare hands were fully exposed to the ember typhoon without gloves, nothing happened this time either.

“Whew.”

Jeonggu finally let out a relieved breath.

Then, with a determined face, he pushed his whole body into the ember typhoon.

“Whoa!”

The terrifying energy of the flames enveloped his whole body.

“Oh... my goodness.”

It felt like driving a car with the windows wide open at high speed, and the sound of large trees swaying in the wind continued to echo in his ears.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Shoo-oo-oo-oo...!

This was the sound of countless embers filling the air, hitting the walls of the building or colliding with each other.

“Amazing, right?”

Beyond the noise of the embers, the voice of Jeong Yeongwoo could be heard.

He was already sitting on the back of the iron horse, waiting for his father.

“Get on.”

When Yeongwoo extended his hand wrapped in golden armor from the iron horse, Jeonggu grabbed it as if possessed.

Then, with a push, Joseon’s Greatest Sword, Jeong Yeongwoo, lifted him up and put him in the back seat with ease.

“Father.”

“...?”

“You know I can’t swim yet?”

“Well...”

“But now I walk through the flames and ride through the darkness between the obsidian rain. That’s the world we live in now. There’s no need to fear the strange anymore. Such things will become commonplace from now on.”

“...”

Jeonggu still couldn’t fully grasp Yeongwoo’s words.

But at least one thing seemed certain.

That Jeong Yeongwoo was a person perfectly suited to this insane world.

It could be seen as embracing a new world. And such a person...

‘Perhaps, this is my son...,’ he thought.

Now the only bloodline left in this world.

Also, even if this body rotted away, his legacy would remain in this world for some time.

Yet Jeonggu still couldn't feel the sense of 'son' from the monster in front of him.

Perhaps, just like Jeong Yeongwoo, who had never experienced having a son in his life, he didn't exactly know what 'son' meant and was wandering in search of the concept of 'father'.

"Where are we going now?"

Jeonggu asked, looking at Yeongwoo's large back.

Then another strange word came out of the mouth of the monster who claimed to be his son.

"Since Gwangjin-gu has practically become a vast open space, we'll go there and open the dungeon."

Clack, clack!

At Yeongwoo's command, Negwig began to run through the ember storm.

"Of course, there's one variable."

"...Variable?"

"Yes. Just because we enter through the same entrance doesn't guarantee we'll be moved to the same dungeon."

"What?"

"Of course, before the dungeon starts, you can always leave, so don't worry too much."

"Well, that's a relief, but..."

"Anyway, if we enter the dungeon and you don't see me, you have to come out before all the slots are filled. As I mentioned before, there's no guarantee that the dungeon can be cleared."

As the two conversed, Negwig began to cross the Cheongdam Bridge, connecting Gangnam and Gwangjin-gu.

Clack, clack!

As they were about to cross the bridge, Jeonggu panicked when he saw a large hole in the middle of the bridge.

"What the hell is that again?"

To him, it seemed like the bridge had collapsed due to abnormal weather.

But in reality...

"...I did that."

"Huh?"

"I shot some arrows there."

"You did that just by shooting arrows...?"

Technically, it was the spot where a Wyvern returned and an intuitive arrow was placed in the head of Seoul Metropolitan Councilor Kim Seokshin.

However, Yeongwoo didn't feel confident enough to explain this in detail, so he just brushed it off.

"Think of it as evidence of a fight with a mutant."

He then pointed ahead and instructed the Golden Goblin.

"Put the sphere over there. We're going to open the dungeon from there."

-Kik!

Upon hearing this, the Goblin took out a golden sphere from the spatial pocket and jumped off Negwig.

Thud!

The sphere, which had been emitting golden light when taken out, quickly lost its light and turned black, even in Jeonggu's eyes.

"...!"

It was an ominous sight that couldn't help but be seen as an onslaught.

"Th-the sphere is black?"

"That's how it's supposed to be."

On the other hand, Yeongwoo, who already had experience entering dungeons, casually jumped off the horse.

"Get down. You can't bring horses or slaves into the dungeon anyway."

“It’s one thing after another.”

Jeonggu made a disgusted expression.

But what could they do at this point?

The goblin had already placed the black sphere on the outskirts of Gwangjin-gu, and now all Yeongwoo had to do was touch it to open the dungeon.

“Come closer. Since we don’t know how the dungeon will open.”

“W-what do you mean?”

Jeonggu approached Yeongwoo with a puzzled look on his face, and when they were close enough, Yeongwoo put his hand on the black sphere.

Tap!

“Last time, a pyramid emerged, so if a different dungeon appears every time, then naturally...”

Just as Yeongwoo was about to continue explaining how the dungeons appeared differently, suddenly both of them were lifted into the air.

No, it was more accurate to say that the ground they were standing on shot up into the sky.

Which meant...

‘It’s a tower.’

In other words, they were now standing on top of a tower that had risen from below the ground.

“W-what is this? How high does it go?”

Jeonggu’s bewildered voice was accompanied by a message that appeared in the air between them.

「No slaves can accompany you in this dungeon.」

Then, the golden goblin standing on Yeongwoo’s foot was ejected from the top of the tower. -Kekeke...!

It screamed as it fell to the ground, its tail stretched out long.

Yeongwoo watched the goblin, now a small dot, fall before turning to Jeonggu.

“Unfortunately, it seems this dungeon doesn’t allow for an immediate return.”

“Huh...?”

Jeonggu asked, as if asking what Yeongwoo meant.

Yeongwoo raised his index finger and pointed to the empty space.

Unconsciously, Jeonggu raised his head and saw a huge ring of light, several kilometers in diameter, shining brightly in the pitch-black sky.

“What the hell is that?”

“It’s a portal. The entrance to the dungeon.”

“What?”

Meanwhile, the tower that carried both of them continued to rise towards the portal, with the open mouth of the portal facing inward.

In other words, once the portal connected, they would enter it whether they liked it or not.

If they had any intention of giving up, they should have jumped off when the tower began to rise.

“W-what happens now?”

Jeonggu urgently asked as they were about to touch the portal.

Yeongwoo checked his equipment and replied quietly.

“Good luck, Father.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 166

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 166: Sharing the Bed with Enemies (1)

Dungeon.

Every night, emerging through the extraordinary climate and using the golden orb was the only way to enter the otherworldly space.

As a reward, it guaranteed at least one unique equipment, but it was never easy for those who had ventured into the dungeon once to challenge it again.

That's because the dungeon's difficulty was high and it was structured unpredictably.

Knowing how ruthless the dungeon was, it was inevitable that the revisit rate would plummet.

Even at this moment.

'If it's like this, nobody would want to come back to the dungeon.'

Yeongwoo looked at the now considerably closer dungeon portal with a dumbfounded expression.

The portal was so massive that its edge wasn't even in sight at the moment.

Kwaaah!

As the tower carrying the two entered inside the ring of light outlining the portal, the information about this dungeon was finally revealed.

Pahat!

[Sanctuary of Valor]

|Dungeon Grade: Normal

|Difficulty: C

|Recommended Participants: 6

"Recommended participants 6...?"

As Yeongwoo made a slightly surprised expression, Jeonggu asked with a fearful face.

"Why... Why? What's going on?"

"The number of participants is twice as many as last night."

[Pain of Illya]

[Dungeon Grade: Normal]

[Difficulty: D]

[Required Participants: 3]

The dungeon Yeongwoo acted as a guide for yesterday had a difficulty grade of D with three required participants.

However, this time, it was 'recommended' for six participants with a difficulty of C.

It meant it was more difficult than "Pain of Illya" and required more people.

"But still, since it's recommended... it means it's possible even if all six don't gather, right?"

"That's the problem. It means we might start the dungeon with insufficient personnel."

"..."

Jeonggu, who hadn't visited the dungeon yet, only felt vague anxiety, but Yeongwoo was different.

'Why is it recommended? Is there no specific essential role this time?'

As Yeongwoo sweated nervously, the tower carrying the men entered inside the portal.

Kwaaah!

As the surroundings turned blue, the surroundings were engulfed in pitch darkness in no time after passing through the portal.

Suaht!

No, to be precise, it should be said that they had transitioned to a completely different space while passing through the portal.

From the temperature and the air felt on the skin, it was markedly unfamiliar.

"What, what's this?"

Jeonggu looked around tightly gripping his sword, and at this moment, faint light entered the top of the tower, still carrying the two.

Thunk!

Then finally, the two realized the space they were in.

Whoosh!

Although the distance was considerable, there was a massive wind sound with a sense of huge volume.

Yeongwoo and Jeonggu were inside an incredibly large cave.

“Damn it.”

Jeonggu, who inadvertently looked down, trembled at the abyss of immeasurable depth.

“Where is this...? Is this how it’s supposed to be?”

“Yes. It’s probably somewhere in outer space.”

Shuck.

As Yeongwoo looked up, he saw something tiny and yellow in his field of vision.

And as soon as he saw that ‘spot’, he had a premonition of what was going to happen next.

“That’s the waiting room entrance over there.”

“Huh?”

“It looks like a spot from here, but it’s still far away from the other side. In reality, it’s probably a hole that exactly matches the size of the floor we’re standing on. The reason it looks yellow is probably because of the lighting inside.”

“How do you know that?”

“It’s my second time.”

Although it was his first time visiting this dungeon, he had similar experiences anyway.

‘The development is completely opposite to last time. Back then, we went down from the top, but this time, we’re shooting up from below.’

If one wasn’t nervous, it would be a lie.

Everyone tends to get scared in dungeons, but especially for Yeongwoo, it was not a trivial challenge as he had to endure relatively greater losses.

‘There are no dwarves or goblins here. So using weapons of choice is impossible. We have to deal with what we have.’

Of course, he had quite a lot compared to others.

Currently, he had five weapons with him: the myth-grade one-handed sword ‘Bastard’, the epic one-handed sword ‘Dragon’s Legacy’, the mutated one-handed sword ‘Dullahan’s Sword’.

And.

– Wheeing.

The legendary two-handed sword ‘Golden Trail’, which was still functioning within the dungeon.

And adding the epic-grade bow ‘White Fire’ worn on his upper body, he had a total of five weapons.

Still, the absence of the goblin felt significant.

“Why... why do you keep checking your weapons? Are you unsure too? That would be troublesome.”

Now Jeonggu’s face was pale, and Yeongwoo chuckled as he looked at him.

“It is true that I am a little weaker here than when I was outside, but don’t worry too much.”

“This guy, all you do is actions that make me worry.”

While Yeongwoo and Jeonggu were bickering like this, the thing that previously looked like a yellow dot started to appear quite close.

Ssueut.....

The yellow dot was indeed a diamond-shaped hole pierced in the cave ceiling, just as Yeongwoo had said.

And from that hole, yellow light was pouring out.

“Oh... it’s real. It’s a hole.”

“By the way, I don’t know how many people might be there.”

“People...? Ah.”

Jeonggu, who belatedly remembered that this was where all the world’s strong gathered, opened his mouth in surprise.

And by this time.

Kuguguguguk!

The tower, which was gently rising, suddenly shook roughly, pushing the two towards the hole.

Dudududduk, click!

The shape of the tower’s top and the yellow hole were perfectly designed to fit together without a single inch of error.

“Wow, damn.”

Jeonggu, confirming that there was indeed another space above the cave ceiling, looked around with an expression of disbelief.

Somewhere, faint yellow light was descending, and this place was a circular stone arena reminiscent of a colosseum.

The diameter of the arena was approximately 500 meters.

And the height...

“Oh, what’s that?”

Jeonggu, now pointing to somewhere above his head as if tired, looked.

As Yeongwoo looked up, he saw a vaguely humanoid figure hanging upside down in the middle of the ceiling, which seemed to be at least a hundred meters high.

It was like a bat hanging upside down in sleep.

“It looks ominous even to me.”

This was a dungeon. There was no reason for such a placement without a purpose.

“That could be our opponent for the fight.”

Saying this, Yeongwoo quickly scanned the colosseum.

Then, he noticed huge doors attached to one side of the colosseum wall, and people gathered in front of them.

“Those people over there are probably the ones who arrived first. Let’s head over there for now.”

* * *

Clank, clank.

Thud, thud.

The reason for the difference in the footsteps of the two father and son was undoubtedly one.

Yeongwoo was the only one wearing shoes.

「Illusion」 – Unique Shoes

【30% chance of detection evasion.】

Meanwhile, Jeonggu was barefoot like any wild wanderer.

“...Why don’t you have anything?”

“My father’s a bit lacking. Merchants must have sold at least one pair of shoes by now.”

After giving Jeonggu this snide remark, Yeongwoo glanced at Jeonggu’s feet.

“Why don’t you at least get some sneakers and wear them? If you asked the staff, they would have given it to you.”

“Even if you got some sneakers and wore them, wouldn’t they tear apart soon? I want to wear something with a grade like the ones you’re wearing.”

“Well, then work hard and earn money to get yourself a pair.”

“ ... ”

Their conversation ended there.

Soon, the people gathered on the other side noticed the new participants and began to turn their heads one by one.

But then.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“The atmosphere doesn’t seem right.”

Yeongwoo wrinkled his nose.

It felt like the smell of blood was rising from somewhere.

And indeed.

Clank, clank.

As they went a bit further, bloodstains scattered on the floor came into view.

There had already been a conflict even before the dungeon started.

‘Ah... today’s going to be a bit painful.’

Yeongwoo was about to scratch his head with his hand but refrained from doing so, fearing it might seem like a provocation.

Because.

『Sandong’s Twin Evil』

『Gowung’s Sword Dragon』

『Miyagi’s Sword Master』

All the swordsmen gathered here today were from East Asian countries.

‘If it’s Sandong, it must be China, and Miyagi is probably Japan. The last one, Gouwong... is it Taiwan?’

And there were two additional Korean Strongest Swords present.

It was obvious to anyone that this was intentionally gathering neighboring countries.

“Uh...?”

“Are they Koreans?”

The three East Asian masters who had arrived early at the dungeon were each startled when they saw Yeongwoo's title and his father's.

Until now, there had been one person from each country, which seemed fair, but the balance was disrupted due to the addition of Koreans.

"...Why are there two of them?"

When a middle-aged man with the title "Sandong's Twin Evil" asked this, Yeongwoo was about to answer obediently, but he felt a strange irritation and retorted.

"Why are you using informal speech?"

"....?"

"Doesn't China have honorifics? I'm meeting you for the first time."

As Yeongwoo, with his unique shoes "Illusion," took another step forward, the legendary greatsword "Golden Trail" also moved through the air along with him.

— Wing!

Suddenly, all eyes in the audience were drawn to the golden greatsword.

Not only was the sword just floating in mid-air, but it also seemed to move on its own, revealing itself as a formidable weapon.

"Uh... Swordsmanship?"

The eyes of Sandong's Twin Evil, which had grown slightly larger, lit up with surprise.

And not only his.

Gowung's Sword Dragon from Taiwan and Miyagi's Sword Master from Japan also took a step back, holding their breaths.

At this, Jeonggu turned slightly, muttering to himself.

"Damn, I must look like a total loser."

Then he quickly turned back and patted Yeongwoo's shoulder.

Thump!

"Stop it, son."

“...?”

This time it was Yeongwoo who widened his eyes in surprise.

“What did you say?”

“Let’s not fight since we have to proceed with the dungeon.”

Jeonggu wanted to show that he had a higher status than someone who wielded swordsmanship in front of these Asian masters.

“What the hell....”

Yeongwoo was about to frown and say something, but...

Crack!

Miyagi’s Sword Master, a woman with that title, slammed her sword into the ground, preventing him from doing so.

“Before we start another fight, let me introduce myself first. I’m Tomiko Hayama from Japan.”

『Miyagi’s Sword Master』

Tomiko Hayama.

26 years old, female.

She had an unbelievably innocent face, considering she was someone who had subdued Miyagi Prefecture, with a population of nearly 2.2 million.

Rather, that’s what made her aura even more unusual.

“Yes... I’m Jeong Yeongwoo from Korea.”

As Yeongwoo nodded politely, Jeonggu also greeted Tomiko.

“I’m Kim Jeonggu. And let’s not fight.”

Jeonggu waved his hands as if to calm everyone down.

At this, a young man from Taiwan, who had been silent until now, spoke up.

“I’m Ryu Manho from Gouwong City, Taiwan.”

When Yeongwoo was about to show his teeth again in a rather cynical greeting, Tomiko quickly intervened with a smile.

“Both of them seem to be in a bad mood today. There’s a slight difference in stance on international affairs, so you had a little argument.”

The ‘both of them’ she mentioned referred to Ryu Manho from Taiwan and the middle-aged man called Sandong’s Twin Evil, whose name had not yet been revealed.

Taiwan and China.

Since they were in a difficult situation to get along, they immediately started quarreling as soon as they met and had a conversation in this dungeon.

“No wonder I kept smelling blood.”

Yeongwoo noticed that there were small puddles of blood where Ryu Manho and Sandong’s Twin Evil had been standing.

Although it wasn’t obvious on the surface, they had fought fiercely enough to create small injuries inside their armor.

‘That woman, describing that as a ‘little fight,’ must be unusual too.’

Anyway, now that Yeongwoo had grasped the situation to some extent, he pointed to the giant statue hanging far up on the ceiling.

“Does anyone know exactly what that is?”

Upon this question, Tomiko shook her head regretfully.

“Well... I think we’ll all find out soon enough when we have to fight it.”

“I see.”

This person was an experienced dungeon explorer.

Yeongwoo raised his guard against Tomiko and surveyed the vast space of the arena, which was nothing more than an empty field for now.

“We’re still missing one person to meet the recommended number.”

It would have been nice if Ottavio, the Sicilian, showed up now.

As Yeongwoo hoped for the appearance of the sixth participant with a wistful look, Tomiko pointed somewhere.

“Most likely, the five of us will have to start very soon.”

“Why?”

Yeongwoo glanced curiously at Tomiko, who was grinning, and looked in the direction she pointed.

There, he saw a stone table placed in front of the three door panels lined up on the wall.

On top of it lay a thick book spread open.

‘That must be the rulebook.’

Yeongwoo had a hunch that it contained some sort of rules.

It probably played the same role as the bonfire did in the previous dungeon.

Clack, clack.

As Yeongwoo stepped forward with a metallic sound and stood in front of the table, the familiar numerical format appeared before his eyes.

[5/6]

Out of the recommended six participants, five were present.

Below that was a countdown timer.

[00:00:08]

“Huh?”

Now, a timer was ticking down with only 8 seconds remaining until the time expired.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 167

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 167: Sharing the Bed with Enemies (2)

“...Shit.”

As Yeongwoo quickly grasped the situation after checking the timer, Jeonggu, who had come chasing after him belatedly, asked.

“Why? What’s going on?”

“It’s nothing much. Since it’s the recommended number of people as my father said, it shouldn’t be impossible to proceed even if one person is missing.”

As Yeongwoo said this and pointed to the book on the table, the timer, which had just reached 3 seconds, came into view.

[00:00:03]

Then.

[00:00:01]

“Huh?”

In an instant, along with Jeonggu’s exclamation, all the numbers changed to ‘0’.

[00:00:00]

Boom!

Time expired.

Then the timer disappeared into thin air, and a sharp signal echoed somewhere in the colosseum.

Beep-beep!

This meant that the participants were confirmed.

Next, dungeon information was displayed prominently in the space above the table.

[Sanctuary of Valor]

|Dungeon Grade: Normal

|Difficulty: C

|Recommended Participants: 6

「Now that the minimum number of participants has been met, we will begin explaining the rules.」

“Oh...”

“So, there is a minimum number of participants.”

As it seemed like the dungeon was about to start in earnest, the three from China, Taiwan, and Japan, who had been distant from each other, approached the rulebook.

「In a moment, the ‘Sanctuary of Valor’ will begin.」

「To pass through this dungeon, it is recommended to have at least three Igniters.」

Three or more Igniters.

At this, the five experts looked at each other’s faces in turn.

Then suddenly, a red laser shot up from the rulebook, pointing towards the giant statue in the center of the ceiling.

「The ultimate goal of this dungeon is to defeat the Giant Gameta.」

“The Giant... Gameta?”

All eyes turned to the statue in question.

Indeed, it seemed they would have to fight it, just as they had feared.

「When you close the book on the altar, Gameta will immediately awaken and attack you.」

「But before that, by igniting the furnaces of this dungeon, you can weaken Gameta.」

“Ahh...”

Upon understanding the progress of this dungeon, Yeongwoo looked at the three giant doors that had caught his eye since earlier.

Perhaps those doors were entrances to each furnace.

‘So, the recommended number was six because there need to be three groups of two-person teams.’

Sure enough, soon, a red laser shot from the rulebook, pointing at three large iron doors lined up on the stadium wall.

「There are a total of three furnaces, and you can access them through the entrances you see now.」

Then, numbers from 1 to 3 were assigned to each entrance, with the number of people displayed below each.

[0/2]

“What’s that?”

As Jeonggu tilted his head, Yeongwoo explained,

“They didn’t make it easy to get to the furnaces. Probably, two people can enter each door.”

Upon Yeongwoo’s explanation, the experts from other countries nodded in agreement, and soon, a statement confirming this appeared.

「From now on, you need to organize Ignition Teams to attempt ignition on each furnace.”

「Ignition Teams can consist of up to two people, and each team cannot access the furnace assigned to other teams.”

“In other words, each furnace has only one team. If one fails, they cannot ignite that furnace.”

Upon hearing Yeongwoo’s words, Tomiko acknowledged them.

“At the moment, we’re short on personnel... So, we have to decide whether to fight the boss with just two furnaces lit, or to push ourselves a bit and fight with all the furnaces lit.”

Therefore, how much weakening one furnace could inflict on the Giant Gameta was crucial, but naturally, there was no further elaboration on this.

Yeongwoo continued,

“Most likely, you’ll have to ignite all furnaces to stand a chance.”

Whoosh.

As Yeongwoo pointed to Gameta stuck to the ceiling with his mythical-grade one-handed sword 'Bastard,' Tomiko cautiously spoke up.

"If that's the case... does it mean that someone has to come alone to light one of the three furnaces...?"

At this point, the final instructions appeared.

「From now on, we will begin organizing Ignition Teams. Please stand in front of the entrance you desire.」

「Gameta will awaken in 30 minutes.」

Tick!

[00:29:59]

The 30-minute timer began to countdown without delay.

"We need to hurry. We only have 30 minutes, including the time it takes to pass through those doors and ignite the furnaces."

As Tomiko urgently spoke, Ryu Manho from Taiwan, who had been leaning against the wall, finally stepped forward.

"Okay, I'll take over."

Swish.

This time, Ryu Manho took out his sword.

However, what he pointed at wasn't Gameta but the anonymous Chinese, Sandong's Twin Evil.

"I can't go with that bastard."

Sandong's Twin Evil smirked wickedly and flashed his dagger.

"Don't you have the confidence to fight me again?"

If he were to be paired with Taiwan, he also planned to kill his opponent on the way to the furnace.

In the end, Yeongwoo revealed his teeth.

"These idiots."

“...!”

“What?”

“Anyway, if we can’t properly ignite the furnace, we’ll all die at that monster’s hands. Is this your first time in a dungeon?”

Of course, Yeongwoo’s anger wasn’t simply because the two foreigners were fighting.

If there were any problems with ignition due to their fight, the damage would fall squarely on Yeongwoo himself, his father, and Miyagi’s Sword Master, who were doing their best.

“I’ll take responsibility for Door 2 alone.”

Yeongwoo stood in front of the door marked ‘2’ without a hint of fear, and the status below the ignition team changed to ‘1/2’.

This surprised Gowung’s Sword Dragon and Sandong’s Twin Evil.

Of course, internally, they thought that one of the two Koreans in this position would have to sacrifice themselves, but they didn’t say it out loud.

“Then I’ll go to Door 3. Will you come with me?”

Tomiko smiled brightly and extended her hand to Sandong’s Twin Evil.

With no other choice, the middle-aged man from China obediently followed suit.

The only other option was the father of the Korean swordsman and the Taiwanese.

“...Okay. Can’t be helped.”

In the end, Sandong’s Twin Evil followed Tomiko to Door 3, and Yeongwoo felt somewhat relieved.

I didn’t like both Taiwan and China very much, but if I had to send my father with either of them, Taiwan would be better.

The Chinese side had titles like ‘Twin Evil’.

‘Shaanxi is said to be the Five Heroes, but why is Sandong the Twin Evil?’

Five Heroes and Twin Evil differed greatly in terms of numbers.

Of course, whether this reflected regional characteristics or was simply a distinction based on the final selected numbers was unknown.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“Well, then I’ll automatically take Door 1.”

Eventually, Jeonggu stood in front of Door 1.

Then, Gowung’s Sword Dragon Ryu Manho grumbled to himself and took his place behind Jeonggu.

Creak.

Now all five people stood in front of the doors, and then...

Beep!

Another signal sounded, and the system message appeared.

「Ignition teams have been confirmed.」

Then the three firmly closed iron doors began to slowly open.

Thud!

[00:27:42]

Now there were about 27 minutes left.

However, no one here was checking the remaining time.

Because...

– Kraaaaa!

– Hahah! I smell something delicious...!

– It’s coming! Wow! I can feel it!

Left, center, right.

From inside the three long corridors extending in different directions, eerie voices filled with monstrous instruments poured out endlessly.

Moreover, the corridors were so dark that one couldn't see an inch ahead.

'There are those damn bastards here too.'

Yeongwoo remembered last night when he was on the boat, swallowing heavily.

Yesterday, there were two people watching his back, but this time, he was alone.

Of course, the feelings of the foreigner and his father, who had to navigate through that darkness, wouldn't be ordinary either.

"..."

As Yeongwoo glanced back at his father, he happened to see him turning his head this way.

Jeonggu was also worried about Yeongwoo having to break through there alone.

"Shit, shit."

"Fuck... How many are there inside?"

As the five people expressed their anxiety in their own ways and felt the chilling atmosphere inside the corridors, the middle-aged man who had been silent until now spoke softly.

"Jang Jaham."

"...?"

"Among Sandong's Twin Evil, one of the Twin Evils is Jang Jaham."

Perhaps feeling that he might die in there, he finally revealed his name.

Then Tomiko smiled warmly and greeted Jang Jaham.

"Nice to meet you, Jang Jaham. Let's do well inside. It won't be easy, but let's try our best."

While everyone hesitated under the pretext of a new greeting, the remaining time was in the mid-25s.

[00:25:13]

Confirming this, Yeongwoo changed his tone and recited a tragic line.

“If we hesitate any longer, that thing will awaken before we can ignite the furnace. Let’s go now.”

With that, Yeongwoo stepped straight into the second corridor.

Clank!

Then, as if they had made a pact, everyone turned their heads toward Door 2.

Clank!

However, Yeongwoo, who had already ventured deep into the door, was nowhere to be seen.

“We should go too.”

“...We have no other choice.”

The remaining four people also began to step forward, each eyeing their respective corridors.

* * *

Swoosh!

As Yeongwoo started running unabatedly into Door 2, he had to pass through a very dark corridor for a while.

However, contrary to what was expected from outside, there were no attacks from the monsters.

There was just a vast, empty space for a while.

‘It’s literally just a corridor. Perhaps this is to prevent ‘cheating’ from outside?’

Since there was no timer in this space, Yeongwoo just kept running forward blindly.

And then...

“...!”

He began to see the front of the corridor gradually brightening.

Of course, it was still pitch black to the point where it was difficult to see, but there was a slight glow.

The problem was that...

– Kraaaa!

– It's coming! They're all here!

– Run!

The voices of the monsters heard from outside began to echo again.

‘Crazy.’

As Yeongwoo continued forward, listening to the terrifying sounds, he soon felt the corridor narrowing in one direction.

And in the distance, the exit of this corridor... no, the proper entrance to the furnace appeared.

It was a rectangular opening the size of a medium-sized building, filled with those gray monsters they had seen on the dungeon floor last night.

Moreover, not a single one was missing; they were all staring greedily in Yeongwoo's direction.

Perhaps that huge entrance served as some kind of boundary.

And this meant that the moment they crossed it, hundreds of monsters would rush at them all at once.

However, there was something that caught Yeongwoo's eye.

‘What is that?’

Beyond the rectangular entrance, the large space filled with monsters resembled a cosmic void.

There was no ground, just empty space with large chunks of stone debris floating around.

One of the stone debris pieces on which the waiting monsters stood was right in front of the rectangular entrance.

So, here was a place where participants had to navigate through obstacles, a kind of obstacle course.

Moreover, the furnace Yeongwoo had to reach was located high above.

'It means finding a way to get up there while pushing away the monsters that are running at you.'

Yeongwoo finally understood why the difficulty level of this dungeon was higher than last night.

And they didn't have much time left.

'How much time has passed? About 10 minutes?'

As Yeongwoo glanced at his wristwatch to estimate the time, he was surprised to see that the time display was completely scrambled.

Participants couldn't check the time at will inside.

'But I should still be able to use equipment.'

Standing in front of the rectangular entrance, Yeongwoo activated his "Clairvoyance" skill and looked at the furnace in the distance.

「Clairvoyance」 – Mutant Earring

【Visibility is amplified up to 5 times.】

Zoom!

Then...

"These bastards, what have they done now?"

He saw a structure resembling a furnace placed on a large rock floating in midair, and on the opposite side of this furnace.

「1」 – 「3」

Another structure with buttons labelled 1 and 3 respectively came into view.

Their purpose was unclear, but they seemed to be separate devices unrelated to the furnace.

And Yeongwoo's thought on this was...

'Surely it's not group 1 or group 3? If that's the case, there's no way it's a button that gives blessings to that person.'

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 168

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 168: Sharing the Bed with Enemies (3)

A furnace placed high above.

And on the opposite side of that furnace, two unidentified buttons.

In any case, in order to know exactly what they were, one had to reach the furnace.

‘Whatever it is, I have to light the furnace for now.’

Yeongwoo pulled out his bow experimentally and shot an arrow towards the monsters beyond the rectangular entrance.

Whoosh!

Instantly, as usual, the arrow emitted a fierce energy and exploded right in front of the entrance.

Boom!

‘They’ve really made it tough to just waltz in.’

Just as you couldn’t come over here from the other side, you couldn’t attack the area where the furnace was located within this passage.

That means...

‘I have to go in and wipe them out myself.’

Clank.

As Yeongwoo moved towards the entrance muttering ‘bastards’, the monsters gathered there blinked and yelled.

-Oh...

-What, all alone?

-Wow, bold.

-You came here alone?

Amidst this, some of them spat out lines as if they had encountered other challengers before.

Upon this, Yeongwoo did something that other challengers probably wouldn't.

"Has anyone else besides me been here?"

He spoke to the monsters.

Then, one of them tapped a transparent barrier blocking the entrance with his finger.

Tap, tap.

-We had a very interesting rehearsal. You can't pass here.

-We've already blocked the two first swords.

-You came here alone...? Impossible.

-This is your grave.

"...I see."

Yeongwoo listened to the series of dialogues and realized.

This dungeon was designed with various difficulty tests in mind.

'They deliberately rehearsed to increase the difficulty?'

Even if he didn't know, the 'two first swords' they mentioned were probably replicas made based on the average power of expected challengers.

In a world where even great swords capable of injecting martial arts existed, that wasn't anything special.

Therefore.

'Maybe this side isn't the problem, but the other groups might be in danger.'

Yeongwoo finally thought that the buttons numbered 1 and 3, placed far away, might actually help other groups.

Didn't those monsters just say that?

They've already blocked the best two swords.

This meant that this dungeon was designed to be impossible to clear with a typical member composition.

So, it might be a dungeon structured so that one excellent group with combat power or cooperation drags other groups up.

'I need to hurry. No matter how I think about it, it doesn't seem like the other groups will come together to break through there.'

The remaining two groups are Taiwan and Korea, and Japan and China.

Taiwan and Korea are fine, but historically, Japan and China have been archenemies, so it's uncertain what might happen between them.

'I'm feeling uneasy.'

As soon as Yeongwoo sorted out his thoughts, he immediately rushed towards the monsters.

Swish!

To their surprise, the bold entry was even more daring than they had thought.

-Whoa?

-This kid!

-Hey, look at this?

"Defend as you practiced. Let's see how you defend."

As Yeongwoo leaped into the spacious entrance and drew his black sword from his waist, the thick black blade, which had expanded to five meters in an instant, left a massive trail.

Swish!

Then, dozens of monster bodies clashed together, creating space for Yeongwoo to advance.

Thud!

“Take this!”

With his pupils tinged with golden light, Yeongwoo began to push forward without hesitation, and the monsters began to look perplexed.

They realized that their opponent, whom they met on their first real battlefield, was by no means ordinary, the Strongest Sword.

-What... who is this kid?

-Wait, hold on.

Amidst the crowd of mixed races, a few Koreans belatedly recognized their opponent's title.

-Isn't this the Strongest Sword of Joseon?

-Joseon...?

-Where's Joseon?

Of course, even the monsters who recognized Yeongwoo's title didn't know that it symbolized the pacification of the northern region of the Korean Peninsula.

However.

-So, Joseon means... Anyway, it means a monster.

-So, it's like the Strongest Sword of Britain or something.

-What...?

The monsters' disorganized conversation didn't last long.

Soon they were swept away by their impending doom.

Whoosh!

With just two slashes, Yeongwoo neatly cleared a radius of five meters and leaped straight towards the distant stone structure fragments.

Thunk!

Then, the monsters who jumped up together to pull him down soon began to plummet into the deep abyss.

This was because the challenger in question jumped a much farther distance than the monsters expected.

「Climber」 – Mutant Pants

【Leap distance tripled.】

Shwaaat!

Essentially at a flying level.

Having leaped in a perfect arc from the entrance, which he would have had to step on one by one, Yeongwoo skipped six stone structures he was supposed to touch and headed straight for the seventh, visible in the distance.

Then the monsters guarding his destination, the seventh stone structure, went wild.

-What, what's with this bastard?

-He's coming straight this way...?

-Block him! Prevent him from stepping foot here in the first place!

No matter how capable one is of high-altitude jumps, they couldn't fly in the sky.

The monsters made their way to the edge of the stone structure, planning to push their opponent forcefully into the abyss the moment he landed.

However.

Thud, thud!

When the opponent about to land started pulling his bowstring in mid-air, all the monsters sensed that something was wrong.

And indeed.

Whoosh!

As the bowstring, which had been pulled forcefully, returned to its original position, a violet explosion erupted fiercely from the seventh stone structure.

Boom!

Dogo's special explosive arrow.

The explosion, capable of inflicting severe damage, sent all the monsters gathered at Yeongwoo's landing point flying in all directions.

-Aaaah!

-Argh!

Seeing dozens of monsters being flung into the abyss with a single arrow, the remaining monsters guarding the other six stone structures couldn't help but flinch.

Didn't they just see it?

A scene where dozens of monsters were thrown into the abyss by a single arrow.

"Stop annoying me."

Whoosh!

As Yeongwoo turned his bow behind him and said this, hundreds of monsters chasing after him were startled.

-Whoa, whoa.

-C-Calm down.

However, Yeongwoo wasn't in their sight anymore.

Swoosh!

He had already made another high-altitude leap.

-Huh?

-When did he get all the way there?

The monsters looked up at the challenger soaring high into the air.

Then, the "Golden Trail" that had not followed him, suddenly revealed itself, slashing mercilessly at the necks of the monsters exposed perfectly.

Squaark!

And this ruthless execution scene was clearly observed by the monsters above, where Yeongwoo had not yet reached.

-...?

-What's coming?

-A m-monster.

Finally.

-Run away!

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

One of the monsters said this and began to descend the rubble bridge made of stone fragments.

Thunk!

From top to bottom.

They had left their posts.

-Aargh!

-P-Please spare me!

At first, there was just one person running away, but it soon spread to dozens or even hundreds of people running away.

Eventually, when Yeongwoo reached the thirteenth stone structure after completing his leaps, there was no one to stop him.

‘What... Is it possible to solve it like this?’

Now only seven stone structure fragments remained in front of Yeongwoo.

Yet, as he peered down, the Golden Trail was seen swaying its body upwards from below as if dancing.

Even though the monsters had already lost their senses and were fleeing, they were still being mercilessly cut down by the legendary sword technique, “Rohm’s Bottom”, probably programmed inside.

‘That crazy guy.’

Upon this realization, Yeongwoo thought about summoning the Golden Trail but changed his mind.

‘Wait. Most of the convicts serving as monsters here have been hit and destroyed, right?’

For example, Im Bonghee, who used to share the same room at the dormitory.

“.....”

Having reached this point in his thoughts, Yeongwoo left the Golden Trail to rampage alone and raised his bow again.

Swish.

Then he shot arrows towards the ash-gray monsters on the other side who were wearing frightened expressions.

* * *

Whoosh!

Yeongwoo didn’t need to deal with every single monster.

Thanks to the legendary-grade dual sword fighting like prisoners, Yeongwoo neatly dealt with the ones he hadn’t taken care of.

As a result, Yeongwoo just needed to leap happily between the stone structures and occasionally shoot arrows imbued with special abilities.

‘Although I made surprisingly smooth progress, it’s because I far exceeded the average level of dungeon challengers expected by the system...’

Now, looking at the furnace that had come much closer, Yeongwoo thought of Kim Jeonggu, who was probably surrounded by hundreds of monsters by now.

In this place, based on the second furnace, challengers had to pass through twenty stone structures.

Moreover, some of the structures had quite a wide gap between them, and some were placed at heights where even a top-grade Strongest Sword would barely reach with a full jump.

In other words, even if there were no monsters to hinder them, there could be cases where they couldn’t pass due to insufficient physical ability.

‘So that’s why it’s recommended for two people to enter each passage. Because in the leap sections, the other person can assist as a foothold or go ahead and catch them.’

But one shouldn't forget that the monsters' interference was also quite threatening.

This dungeon was essentially designed to eliminate all but the average level Strongest Sword.

'So is that why those buttons are there?'

Quack!

Finally, as Yeongwoo's foot touched the stone structure where the furnace was installed, the ground briefly shimmered, highlighting the outline of the furnace and button mechanism across from it in turn.

It seemed to be an intention to indicate that there were two devices here.

'It's surprisingly kind once everyone has arrived.'

Yeongwoo approached the furnace first, as his purpose for coming here was mainly the furnace.

As seen before, the furnace was in a dormant state, but there was a pedestal underneath with a crimson flame burning.

'Is this the end if I light a fire with this?'

Yeongwoo immediately picked up the pedestal and inserted it into the furnace.

Then.

Whoaaaaack!

The furnace immediately blazed blue, and a blue laser shot out, pointing at the button mechanism on the opposite side.

The other mechanism could only be used after activating the furnace.

'Now that's my job done.'

As the Golden Trail returned, soaked in blood, Yeongwoo moved straight to the button mechanism.

Clack, clack.

A peculiar device with two buttons labeled 1 and 3 on the front of the stone slab, reminiscent of a tombstone.

This device was in an activated state with a hologram interface after receiving the laser from the furnace.

And the content of that interface was.

「By choosing one of the following three options, a portal to return to the arena will open.」

“Huh? Weren’t there only two options?”

It was a somewhat unexpected development.

As Yeongwoo read all the instructions, three options appeared in succession.

「Immediate return.」

It would be the cleanest and most desirable choice.

‘But showing such a normal option first...’

The remaining two were probably options to cause chaos.

And sure enough, an astounding option appeared one after another.

‘These guys... I guess that’s how it is.’

「1」 : Transfer all enemies of furnace 1 to furnace 3.

「3」 : Transfer all enemies of furnace 3 to furnace 1.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 169

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 169: Sharing the Bed with Enemies (4)

「1」 : Transfer all enemies from furnace 1 to furnace 3.

「3」 : Transfer all enemies from furnace 3 to furnace 1.

Forcing enemies into one furnace.

Simply put, it was a device that allowed the first person to complete the mission to sacrifice one of the remaining two furnaces so that the other side could ignite the fire.

‘Choose the lesser evil if not the worst.’

Of course, if all ignition rods safely reached the front of the furnace, there would be no need to use this function.

Everyone could simply press the return button and return to the stadium.

However.

Crack, pop!

The situation did not resolve so easily.

Soon, screens showing the situations of furnace 1 and furnace 3 appeared above the two buttons, because both sides were in dire straits as per the worst-case scenario.

‘What? They haven’t even gone halfway yet...?’

In furnace 1, where Jeonggu and the Taiwanese entered together, and furnace 3, formed by China and Japan, both were stuck in the middle of the passageway, unable to proceed any further.

They eventually got surrounded because their monster handling speed was not as fast as Yeongwoo’s.

“Father! Hey, Kim Jeonggu...!”

Yeongwoo, feeling frustrated, called out loudly to his father on the screen, then suddenly something came to his mind, and he looked at his own hand.

Then, a ring worn on his finger popped up in his view with a tooltip.

「Wave」 – Unique Ring

【Voice transmission to all Strongest Swords in the acquisition area.】

| Area: Seoul

Wave.

A ring that transmits voice to all Strongest Swords in Seoul.

And, Kim Jeonggu, who was being beaten by the monsters.

‘...If he’s Dobong Strongest Sword, he should be able to hear the voice transmitted by the wave.’

Of course, if the ring operated normally even within this dungeon created in the extraterrestrial area.

Anyway, there was no time to think anymore.

Yeongwoo immediately put the ring to his mouth and hurriedly spoke.

《Father, can you hear me?》

Then, Kim Jeonggu on the screen suddenly lifted his head.

He had heard Yeongwoo’s voice.

‘It’s... alright, for now.’

Although it was inevitable that all other Strongest Swords in Seoul would also hear this sound, there was nothing to be done about it.

Yeongwoo publicly revealed to all Strongest Swords in Seoul that something unusual was happening in today’s night dungeon.

《From now on, I’m going to send all the monsters in that place to furnace 3.》

Yeongwoo said this, then looked apologetically at Tomiko and Jang Jaham of furnace 3, who were still moving diagonally.

《Then, it’s only a matter of time before Japan and China, who are in charge of furnace 3, die, right? Instead, Father should be able to go to the furnace without any hindrance.》

At this, Jeonggu once again looked at the empty space with a fearful expression.

He didn’t know what it was, but it seemed like his son was planning something strange again.

And that was the truth.

《So now it’s up to Father. When all the monsters suddenly disappear, run to the front of the furnace with all your might.》

《Then, ignite the furnace, and then run to the opposite stone plate and send all the monsters from furnace 3 to furnace 2.》

Furnace 2.

It meant where Yeongwoo was.

In other words, it meant doing another round of monster forcing before Tomiko and Jang Jaham died.

《You'll know what all this means as soon as you arrive.》

Yeongwoo said this, then pressed the forcing button in front of him with force.

Bang!

Then, all the monsters in furnace 1 where Jeonggu was really disappeared without a trace.

Then soon.

'...Insane.'

The screen projecting furnace 3 was filled entirely with ash-colored light.

The number of monsters guarding there had doubled.

'I'm sorry. China, Japan...!'

Even here, it was enough to send chills down one's spine, but what were the two people inside really feeling?

Yeongwoo closed his eyes tightly and then scolded Jeonggu, who was bewildered by the sudden desolate landscape.

《Father, what are you doing? Run!》

* * *

At the same time, Jeonggu of furnace 1 was madly traversing this space according to Yeongwoo's unilateral instructions.

Thud!

He was leaping over the scattered fragments of stone sculptures in the air each time.

Swish!

If he had put a little less force on his front legs just now, he would have slipped down into that abyss.

“ ... ”

Jeonggu glanced briefly at what might be below, which he dared not even imagine, then flew his body towards the stone sculpture visible in front of him with all his might.

Thud!

Then, Ryu Manho, who had been following him without knowing what was going on, spat out an annoyed remark.

“Hey, old man! What’s all this sudden running about? All the monsters are gone, why are you still running?”

Then, without even turning back, Jeonggu, who had barely hung on to the next stone sculpture, replied.

“That bastard... No, my son seems to have a plan.”

“Your son? Are you talking about that guy who went to furnace 2? I thought he would have died by now.”

Upon this, Jeonggu smirked.

“If people die, it will be people like us who will die. There’s no way he could die in a place like this.”

Of course, when he was surrounded by at least hundreds of monsters earlier, he honestly had doubts.

Could this really be overcome by someone like Jeong Yeongwoo?

He would probably be lying on the ground by now, breathless.

But that guy...

—You’ll know what all this means as soon as you arrive.

He survived as if to show off and boast as usual.

He said that once he arrived in front of the furnace, everything would make sense.

'If that's the case, doesn't it mean he already lit the fire in his furnace? Crazy bastard....'

Thud!

Jeonggu flew towards the next stone sculpture.

Then, Ryu Manho, who was following him, complained again.

"Hey, old man! Let's slow down a bit. Even though you're still lively, I'm bleeding from the wound that the Chinese guy inflicted on me earlier."

"I don't have time to rest. Do you know where all the monsters that were here went?"

"Huh? Where did they go?"

As Ryu Manho tilted his head, Jeonggu raised his right hand and vaguely pointed somewhere on the wall.

"Furnace 3."

"...!"

"They haven't even lit the fire there yet. So my son sent all the monsters here to furnace 3."

"No, then...."

While Ryu Manho had a complicated look, Jeonggu was measuring the distance to jump to the next stone sculpture.

"If we're late, the two people who went to furnace 3 will most likely die."

Thud!

With these words, Jeonggu's body cut through the air.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Thanks to Yeongwoo's orders to keep running, there were only two stone sculptures left to the furnace.

"If it's too difficult for you, take a break and come. It seems that moving the monsters can be done by one person."

“ ... ”

Upon hearing the words of the ‘elder’ who came from Korea, Ryu Manho, who finally grasped the situation, momentarily became angry.

“Does that mean that old man is now going to save that Chinese guy?”

“Well, Why? Because you don’t want to save that Chinese person?”

The urgency of the mission was pressing, but what if that young man from Taiwan intervened to stop it?

‘Not only lighting the third furnace, but even guaranteeing my own life would be difficult.’

Of course, it was no longer a world where young people were stronger than old people.

Moreover, that Gowung’s Sword Dragon fellow even had the stab wound he obtained while fighting with the Chinese earlier.

Yet...

‘When I fought those monsters earlier, it was clear that he’s not just an ordinary fighter. But that doesn’t mean I’ll necessarily lose...’

However, Jeonggu’s conclusion is that this is not an opponent that can be defeated by just competing with a few moves.

So, even if it took some time, he decided to appease the young man from Taiwan.

“Are there only Chinese on the other side of the furnace? There are also Japanese. We’re not going to help them willingly. But for now, we need to survive here.”

As he said this, Jeonggu noticed that Ryu Manho’s right hand was near the hilt of his sword.

He was also pondering his options.

‘If this old man starts running towards the furnace again, should I ambush him or not?’

“But if you guys had heard that Japanese person say that Korea is Japan’s vassal state, you wouldn’t have wanted to save and send him.”

“...Ah, damn. That’s a valid point.”

Ridiculously, Jeonggu, who was convinced logically or emotionally in just one shot, scratched his chin.

“That Chinese guy... Did he really talk like that about Taiwan?”

“Yes.”

“Is that so...?”

After all, would masters from both countries have fought even before the dungeon started?

“Uh-huh.”

Now Jeonggu was looking at the furnace with a face as angry as Ryu Manho's.

What would this problem-solving Korean old man, Jeong Yeongwoo, have done?

“So, let's do this.”

Finally deciding after much deliberation.

“Let's make sure to light the fire in furnace 3 too. It'll give us an advantage when we fight against that arrogant bastard.”

“Then ultimately, you're going to save the Chinese guy.”

“No, that's not it.”

“....?”

“It's been quite a while since all the monsters went over there. Are those two really in good shape right now?”

“What do you mean?”

“When that Chinese guy lights the fire in the furnace and comes out, ambush him then. If that Chinese guy is really your enemy, you can endure that level of treachery, right?”

* * *

“ ... ”

How much time had passed?

Jeonggu, who had been talking with the Taiwanese for a while, finally seemed to be lighting the fire in the furnace.

‘Ah, it's much later than I thought... but still, at least we avoided the worst.’

Upon seeing the fire lit in furnace 1 through the screen, Yeongwoo immediately turned his head towards furnace 3.

Swish-

Then, he noticed Miyagi's Sword Master and Sandong's Twin Evil being trampled by the ash-colored monsters, exactly as described.

And then...

Crack!

In the blink of an eye, all the monsters on the screen disappeared.

It was because Jeonggu had ordered all the enemies from furnace 3 to be sent here, to furnace 2.

As a result, Yeongwoo's previously quiet space was now filled with bustling noises and the sound of monsters.

-Another... another movement?

-Kuaaaaah...!

-Over there!

-They're dead!

Thousands of ash-colored monsters began to rain down like a storm through the ceiling and walls.

Yeongwoo's field of vision was now filled with alert messages appearing one after another due to sensory overload.

It was only natural, as all the monsters inside the furnace were now focused on him.

"Phew, this time it's pretty intense."

Yeongwoo, while trembling as if tired of it all, aimed at the empty space and pulled the bowstring.

Sizzle.

「White Fire」 – Epic Bow

【Sensory values apply to arrow power.】

【Power increases according to the distance of the arrow.】

◇ Dogo: Stealth Arrows

◇ Dogo: Special Ability Damage

An epic bow equipped with Dogo's special options.

Therefore, promoting Dogo with a supernatural explosion would produce quite a convincing image.

Wasn't this a battle of thousands against one in another realm?

The only problem was...

"No matter what, free advertising is a bit awkward."

Yeongwoo, while just pulling the bowstring, looked up at the sky above his head.

Thanks to this, even though the ash-colored monsters filled the space around him, Yeongwoo didn't care much.

He could already leave anytime through the portal on the other side, and he was confident enough to win even without the help of explosive arrows.

"Is there no ad fee? Then I'll just use the sword and leave? Still, logo printing on the sword trajectory wouldn't be too bad."

When Yeongwoo went so far as to say this, something really happened.

Ping!

Dogo issued a quest as if to say it couldn't be helped.

[Dogo] "Dogo, Supreme Archery"

[Mission] Defeat monsters using a bow, 0/2,743 times.

[Reward] 2 million Karma

[Special 1] You must disclose the fact that Dogo supports you in this mission.

[Special 2] If you show the logo, an additional 1 million Karma will be paid.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 170

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 170: Sharing the Bed with Enemies (5)

‘Removing the armour? Are you saying to advertise tattoos at the same time?’

Already surrounded by grayish monsters, or rather, ghostly creatures, there was no time to hesitate.

Swoosh!

「Golden Oath」 - Legendary Breastplate

【Reduces enemy attack power by 50%.】

As Yeongwoo immediately removed the breastplate, it revealed a new advertisement for Dogo playing on the ‘white space’ on his right forearm.

This advertisement was a kind of making film where Dogo researchers in a laboratory-like place resembling two-legged animals were shooting arrows.

‘So, among Dogo products, there are real bows too.’

The quest name wasn’t just “Dogo, Supreme Archery” for nothing.

On the other hand, the monsters who unexpectedly faced the challenger who had just thrown off the breastplate.

-What... What is this bastard?

-What is he going to do now?

-Is this how it always is...?

They looked at the problematic challenger with fearful eyes.

They even forgot to rush towards their opponent.

The opponents they had encountered so far were just test combat dolls copied from challengers who would come someday.

So, they only knew that the challengers had superhuman strength like themselves, but they didn't know exactly who would come.

Then today, for the first time, they met a challenger, an outsider, and it happened to be Jeong Yeongwoo, the Strongest Sword of Joseon.

-What's happening outside...?

-This guy is the Strongest Sword of Joseon?

The monsters had been waiting for what felt like an eternity until someone came to the dungeon, so the adventures unfolding before their eyes were inevitably stimulating.

Even Yeongwoo, who had spent millions of karma to buy his body, was quite beautiful in an aesthetic sense.

Rather, it made it even more eerie.

“Um... Are you all feeling it too?”

As a moment of silence fell over the area, Yeongwoo awkwardly laughed and extended his shoulder to the audience.

Swish.

Then the monsters, looking uncomfortable, retorted.

-What are we supposed to feel, you crazy bastard?

-What the heck is this guy doing?

Upon this, Yeongwoo gradually raised his combativeness and said.

“Don't you feel that the answer in this universe's military industry is Dogo?”

-...?

-What?

-What nonsense...

“Well then, let's feel it from now on. The technology of 「Dogo」 !”

Trduduk!

As Yeongwoo suddenly rolled his eyes and vigorously pulled the bowstring, the monsters facing him realized that something was seriously wrong.

-This... this guy is not human!

-What's this guy up to now?

-Hurry up and kill him!

Instinctively sensing danger, thousands of monsters began to rush towards the golden challenger, forgetting about attacking collectively.

At the same time, Yeongwoo's sensory values also skyrocketed in a blink of an eye, surpassing tens of thousands, as if going crazy.

"Ughhh...!"

In front of the grayish wave filling his sight, Yeongwoo let out a roar that was truly inhuman as he let go of his bowstring.

Thud!

With a whoosh, a purple explosion of transcendent arrows occurred, ruthlessly crushing the monsters rushing towards him.

"This battle...! Is sponsored by the universal weapon brand, 「Dogo」 !"

Yeongwoo, who was introducing the sponsor with a fanatic expression, realized at this moment.

"Huh...?"

He realized that he had already pronounced 「Dogo」 twice in a transcendental language.

Just hearing or seeing it conveyed the meaning and emotions contained within, a communication method of higher beings.

So at first, he thought it was a misconception or another promotional method provided by Dogo, but it wasn't.

'This... This is what I pronounced myself. I don't know why, but I'm sure of it.'

Of course, the transcendent language he could use was only 「Dogo」 , but this gave Yeongwoo a significant shock.

‘What, what is this? Why all of a sudden...’

And meanwhile, on the back.

-We got him!

-The back is clear...!

-Kyaaaa!

While Yeongwoo was shooting arrows, hundreds of monsters who had come close were attempting a surprise attack.

At this, the automatic combat greatsword ‘Golden Trail’ tried to move, but...

“Wheeeng!”

“Wait! There are separate quest conditions.”

Due to Yeongwoo’s restraint, it couldn’t move.

[Mission] Defeat monsters using the bow, 59/2,743 times.

According to the quest content, he had to record 2,743 kills using the bow.

In other words, if the Golden Trail intervened and there weren’t enough remaining monsters, it could lead to quest failure.

“Don’t touch them. Instead, just protect my back. You know what I mean? Just stand firm like a shield.”

As Yeongwoo gave this command and shot arrows again towards the front, the Golden Trail stood in his way like a barrier.

Thunk!

“Luckily, you listen well.”

With the Golden Greatsword positioned like a shield behind him, Yeongwoo deeply cut his left leg like a self-harming child.

Shwaaat!

As blood flowed profusely from his thigh, Yeongwoo’s strength stat increased by 25%.

「Fearful Cat」 – Epic Compass

【Indicates a threatening target.】

【Strength increases by 25% when bleeding.】

The reason Yeongwoo increased his strength while self-harming was purely because this quest ordered him to fight using the “bow”.

“Grraaah!”

Occasionally, there were creatures crawling over the Golden Trail that blocked the rear, but in this case, it was more efficient to simply wield the bow like a sword rather than pull the bowstring.

Slash!

So, he deliberately increased his strength to amplify his close combat abilities.

“Ah...! Indeed, Dogo’s technology is the best in the universe...!”

After slashing nearby enemies with his bow, Yeongwoo shot arrows forward again.

Pshhhhh!

「White Fire」 – Epic Bow

【Sensory perception applies to arrow power.】

【Power increases with arrow distance.】

◇ Dogo: Covert Arrows

◇ Dogo: Special ability damage

Due to the characteristic of “White Fire,” where sensory values are applied to arrow power, Yeongwoo’s attack power against the thousands of monsters surrounding him was truly immense.

If the dungeon boss were present at this moment, he might have been able to obliterate them with just a few arrows.

“I am Jeong Yeongwoo07, a human of the earth, the strongest in Gyeongbuk and Gangnam, and the whole of the northern part of the Korean Peninsula! 「Dogoooooo」!”

As Yeongwoo shouted in a transcendent language, the monsters, who were forced to understand the meaning of 「Dogo」 turned pale.

-This bastard too...?

-He wasn't a human, was he?

-What... what's going on?

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Finally realizing that there was something huge behind this madman, the dungeon monsters began to retreat without even knowing it.

And then...

-I-I'm scared.

With someone's word as a trigger, everyone began to stick to the outer wall of the space and flee in all directions as if playing a game of tag.

“Huh? Wait up! It's not over yet...!”

This time, it was Yeongwoo who was bewildered.

[Mission] Defeat monsters using the bow, 1,321/2,743 times.

Since he still had to kill over a thousand monsters, Yeongwoo limped with his leg bleeding profusely, chasing after the monsters.

“Only a thousand and three hundred! Just a thousand and three hundred left...!”

Thunk!

As Yeongwoo urgently pulled the bowstring, a light from the bow spread his enormous shadow over the legion of monsters and the monsters now began to dodge his aim.

-H-hey!

-Run away!

-Avoid that way!

Like playing tag in a narrow space, the monsters started running around, trying to evade Yeongwoo's aim.

However, with too many heads to hide and facing someone like the Strongest Sword, dodging Youngwoo's arrows was nearly impossible, especially since they were just low-level minions deployed for this area.

"They're all going to die with the technology of 「Dogo」 !"

Yeongwoo pulled the bowstring once again.

Trduduk!

Then, beams of light extended from the furnace, casting his massive shadow over the horde of monsters.

-....P-please save us.

* * *

[Quest Completed – "Dogo, Supreme Archery"]

[Reward Given]

|3 million karma.

Massacre.

Having exterminated all 2,743 monsters, Yeongwoo received a card with 3 million karma in front of the portal.

Paahh!

The status of Dogo, a universal weapon brand that could shoot cards even in dungeons in other dimensions.

However, Yeongwoo's expression was not very good.

'It turned out to be unexpectedly shady.'

He received the promised basic fee of 2 million along with the additional bonus of 1 million for removing the upper garment, but the problem was the number 2,743 that Dogo had set as the completion condition for this quest.

This was because this number perfectly matched the number of monsters that had poured in through the fireplaces earlier.

In other words, if Yeongwoo had checked the quest content even a little late and swung his sword, or if the Golden Trail had gone rampant, it would have inevitably led to quest failure.

‘Of course, since it’s almost like coercion to accept the quest, there’s nothing to say... But was it right to beg for advertising fees in the first place?’

(Optional) [Grade 2 Exclusive Quest]

– Ad fees will be distributed only through exclusive quest achievements.

– The total advertising fee executed increases by about 40 times.

Basic advertising fee: Estimated 10 million karma per week.

According to the contract, Dogo had to pay about 400 million karma in salaries through quests every week.

Therefore, even if Dogo diligently issued quests to fulfill the promised amount, it would still be insufficient.

‘It’s business, isn’t it? Shouldn’t they handle this on their own?’

After briefly glancing at the empty space above where the card had been shot down, Yeongwoo slowly walked towards the portal in front of him.

Clack, clack.

Soon, the shimmering portal wrapped around Yeongwoo’s entire body and sent him back to the arena.

Shooooaaah!

‘I still can’t get used to this.’

Although it was brief, the peculiar sensation of spatial movement throbbed through his body, and when Yeongwoo opened his eyes, the surrounding scenery had changed to a vast arena.

Quaaak!

As Yeongwoo, just emerging from the portal, set foot on the arena floor, experts from the three East Asian countries, excluding Jeonggu, took a step back with fearful expressions.

“What... why are you acting like that?”

Sensing something strange, Yeongwoo asked, and Jeonggu scratched his head awkwardly before speaking.

“W... we all saw it too.”

“What...?”

“T... that... uh...”

“If you say ‘that,’ how am I supposed to know? What did you see?”

“Dogoooo...!”

“Oh.”

Suddenly feeling embarrassed, Yeongwoo scratched his chin following his father’s lead, then chuckled.

“Huh? But did you hear something? I couldn’t hear anything on the screen.”

Then, Tomiko cautiously spoke up.

“We couldn’t hear it. But when you shouted Dogo, we heard the sound.”

“Oh, only Dogo...?”

Yeongwoo sensed it.

What they heard wasn’t just a “sound,” but the meaning spread by the transcendent language itself.

The transcendent language could penetrate even through relay screens that didn’t output sound.

However, the narrow-minded experts from the three countries were now completely misunderstanding the situation.

“Excuse me, Yeongwoo-nim, but... are you perhaps... an alien?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]