

## **Level 4 Human in a Ruined World**

### **#Chapter 41 - Read Level 4 Human in a Ruined World**

#### **Chapter 41**

##### **Chapter 41**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 41: Unfamiliar World (5)

“Where are you going? Where are you going now?”

Struggling.

Myeongae, with a distorted face, wildly scratched the remaining son’s arms and shoulders.

Yoonho is behind us, where are we going among ourselves?

“Our Yoonho! We need to bring Yoonho...!”

Myeongae’s eyes flickered.

She seemed to genuinely believe that the eldest son was abandoning the second son.

But is it really so?

Didn’t Myeongae see Yoonho’s throat being cut?

“Stop it, Mom... I’m having a hard time too.”

Myeongho, tears streaming down, held the steering wheel.

Yeongwoo held Myeongae’s arms as she pounded on the steering wheel.

Thump!

Otherwise, we would have crashed into the guardrail and all died together.

“Mom, I’m really sorry. But now is the time...”

Held by Yeongwoo, Myeongae poured out resentful words before he could finish speaking.

“You...! What did you do? My child was right in front of me! What the hell...!”

Yeongwoo, feeling Myeongae’s arms throbbing in his grip, remained silent, feeling her struggling.

He thought he was somewhat responsible for Yoonho’s death.

If he hadn’t let him go ahead and attacked the orcs first...

If that had happened, Jeong Yoonho might have survived.

‘But even if that’s the case, he would have died someday. If it weren’t for me in the first place, these people would have all died.’

Yeongwoo looked out the window with a perplexed face.

Then, on the other side of the road, a bundle of arrows shot up.

‘There it is.’

He finally identified the position of the orc reinforcement that had been shelling them continuously.

“Myeongho.”

“Yes?”

“Did you see that just now? I’ll deal with them and leave. So, decide on your own whether to go or wait during that time. If you plan to part ways here, put my things on the ground and go.”

When Yeongwoo finished speaking and checked the scabbard on his waist, Myeongho’s expression stiffened.

Now that they had lost Yoonho, who was practically the strength of the Jeong family, there was no other choice.

“Uh... Where should I wait? I’ll wait until you come.”

Having heard Myeongho’s powerless words, Yeongwoo tapped the back of the driver’s seat.

“Now.”

Gee-eeek!

As soon as Yeongwoo's words were spoken, the vehicle abruptly stopped.

“Since we don't know when another arrow will come, it's better to move slowly.”

After saying this, Yeongwoo opened the rear door and stepped onto the road.

Thud.

Then, in the distance, black silhouettes were wriggling.

It was the orc reinforcement which was now a thorn in the eye.

The distance between them and here was about 300 meters.

Thud!

Soon, when Yeongwoo stomped on the ground and bounced forward, the distance with them quickly decreased.

Swish!

Yeongwoo moved with a sound as if the arrow was piercing through the air, and the Orcs, who sensed an unusual presence, also responded.

Hwae-at!

The spear was thrown straight at an unidentified object.

However, this time, unlike artillery fire, it was a targeted attack.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the original 100 to 134.」

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from 134 to 168.」

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from 168 to 202.」

It resulted in a disaster that raised the sensory levels of the target of the attack, Yeongwoo.

“...!”

Thanks to that, Yeongwoo could clearly see the trajectory and anticipated path of the spear flying straight towards him.

He was clever enough to deflect it before the spear pierced his body.

Clang!

When Yeongwoo drew his sword and deflected the first spear, the orcs were so close that he could see their expressions.

Ching!

When he bounced off the second spear, their bewildered voices echoed vividly.

-What, what is it?

-Human...?

-Kill him quickly!

There were a total of six in the orc reinforcement.

They stood among the pile of spears on the ground, each holding a long spear in both hands.

In other words, they didn't have shields to block the attacks.

"Hup!"

As soon as Yeongwoo confirmed their armed status, he drew the black sword to its maximum length and swung it.

Hwae-a-a-at!

A dark and massive trail swept across the orcs' waists, and the sensation of cutting through flesh of the orcs was vividly transmitted to Yeongwoo's grip.

Pudd-deduk!

Rather than saying Yeongwoo slashed the orcs, it might be more fitting to say that he shattered them.

The orcs with their waists split fell to the ground in a staggered rhythm.

And then.

Pop, pop, pop!

With the light, their bodies vanished, and crimson coins poured out in their place.

Chwarruk!

‘Oh no.’

Yeongwoo realized for the first time that he hadn’t picked up the coins that the orcs dropped when they fell earlier.

‘Does this make sense? Do I have to pick up money like this every time a fight ends...?’

He bent over and rummaged through the ground, as if he were picking up ears of corn.

All the various emotions that had been squeezing his chest until a moment ago disappeared.

And by this time.

Bud-dudd-dudd...

The SUV of the Jeong family approached Yeongwoo with a low engine sound.

“Are you okay?”

Myeongho cautiously asked from the inside of the driver’s seat.

In response, Yeongwoo poured a handful of coins into his backpack and looked at Myeongho.

“How about your mother?”

“...She fainted.”

“Thank goodness. When we go back, we have to pick up some money again.”

“Yes...?”

\* \* \*

Clang.

At the scene of Yoonho’s death, Yeongwoo collected a total of 160,000 karma.

Adding what he obtained from the support unit, the total karma became 280,000.

‘Now, my total assets... 304,000.’

If converted into attribute points, it would be 304 points.

If he invested in appearance changes, he could achieve about 14% of the optimal body conditions recommended by the combat preset.

However, Yeongwoo had one more choice.

That was...

‘Mungyeong is still in the state where the 2nd-day mutant hasn’t been caught.’

And that means...

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“If I kill him, a merchant will appear here too.”

He could have another trade with the extraterrestrial merchant.

Thanks to a special agreement with the intermediary Kubu, Yeongwoo could preview and choose from all the items up for bid in the trade.

‘I don’t know what will be available this time, so I should save money if possible.’

Swoosh.

[The current location is ‘Mungyeong.’

[The highest-ranked in this area is ‘Jang Chunyong16.’ Rank 1, defense 96 times.

Yeongwoo glanced briefly at the information about Mungyeong’s Strongest Sword ‘Jang Chunyong16’ that was still surviving somewhere.

‘What is this... Could it be that he left Mungyeong long ago?’

The red light pillar had gotten quite close by now, so it would take about ten minutes whether he rode a car or ran to reach the mutant.

“Are you okay?”

When Yeongwoo turned his head towards the waiting SUV nearby, Myeongho, who had been in a daze, twitched.

“Yes? Oh, um...?”

“Are you really okay going with me? I’m going to kill the mutant now. But I don’t know what kind of creature it is, so I can’t guarantee the safety of Mr. Myeongho and your mother.”

Of course, killing the creature would lead to even more astonishing events...

So, he omitted the story about ‘real’ extraterrestrials coming for business.

“Ah....”

Myeongho made a blank expression again.

What else could he do besides staring blankly?

Since the Reset incident, everything had been so surreal, and he couldn’t think about anything since hearing Yeongwoo’s conversation with the orcs.

“We have to go... We have no other choice.”

Myeongho glanced at his mother lying limp in the back seat.

He had lost all functions and abilities as the eldest son and the head of the family.

So, the best he could do now was to tragically express gratitude that he could at least work as the driver for Jeong Yeongwoo, a person whose identity was not even certain.

If the guy is strong enough to kill even the mutants, their lives would continue as long as he lived.

“...”

It was practically a life delegation.

If everyone’s fate had been reset, is this the result they ended up with?

Recalling his own fate, which had no significant flaws, Myeongho made a bitter expression.

If a new fate record was being written, how would this scene be recorded?

And what would be the end...?

Crack!

Myeongho’s contemplation was cut off by the sound of a cracking window from the passenger seat.

Startled, he raised his head, and Yeongwoo was seen pulling out a spear stuck in the passenger seat from the outside.

“Now that I think about it, this is ours, isn’t it?”

“What?”

“This spear was not brought by the orcs, it was a weapon given to people. From the Sword’s Mountain.”

Yeongwoo threw the spear to the ground as he spoke.

If that spear had been brought by the orcs, it should have disappeared along with their bodies when they vanished.

‘Can they use our resources against us?’

It felt strangely unpleasant.

Yeongwoo pulled out two more spears stuck in the vehicle and sat in the passenger seat this time.

At this point, Myeongho showed a puzzled expression.

“....?”

“Now your mother probably won’t like this. Lock the back door.”

In response to Yeongwoo’s words, Myeongho silently locked the back door.

“So where do we go now? Should we follow that thing?”

Pointing to the red light pillar visible on the other side, Myeongho looked at Yeongwoo.

\* \* \*

Vroom...

Inside the speeding vehicle, Myeongho finally asked the question that had been lingering in his mind.

“Hey.”

“Yes.”

“You’re the Strongest Sword, right? From somewhere.”



Yeongwoo, who had been staring outside the front passenger window, turned his head towards Myeongho.

“That’s right.”

A very indifferent tone.

“Oh, I see... I see.”

“ ... ”

During the moment when silence was about to return, Myeongho barely managed to throw the next question.

“Then, have you faced other mutants before?”

It was a question that Myeongho couldn’t help but ask.

It was no exaggeration to say that the lives of Myeongho himself and his mother depended on Yeongwoo’s combat experience.

So, Yeongwoo decided to give an answer that would somewhat reassure his opponent.

However.

“Yes. I killed two, and the other one...”

He couldn’t complete the rest, the part where it was about the mutant waiting to make the sound of a flute while trapped in another world.

Because.

Kwagwagwack!

Somewhere, a loud noise as if a building collapsed resonated.

“Huh?”

The timing was perfect as the vehicle entered a roundabout into the city, allowing both Myeongho and Yeongwoo to see.

-Don’t be scared...!

-Keep going!

-Dodge it!

Dozens of orcs were rushing in one direction.

Already, there was a battle going on, with dust in the air, and buildings collapsing or breaking in various places.

“What is this?”

Screech!

Due to Myeongho instinctively slamming the brakes, a loud noise was heard, but not a single orc looked back.

That’s natural.

「Huaaah!」

The orc horde was already facing a formidable threat.

In the midst of facing dozens of orcs, another orc with a vibrant red color was screaming while swinging its weapon.

「You’re dead!」

Facing dozens of orcs, this orc, whose size was unusually large enough to make others look like dwarfs, seemed to be...

‘Could it be a mutant...? Why is the mutant fighting with the monsters?’

Squinting his eyes and surveying the situation, Yeongwoo soon found out the reason.

It wasn’t just the mutants from Mungyeong fighting against the orcs.

“This, what is this?”

Squeak!

Near the blue muscle mass, there was another presence moving very agilely.

Sweet!

A slim figure, darkly tanned skin, and contrasting white hair.

‘It can’t be.’

Yeongwoo’s eyebrows twitched at the unbelievable sight.

Jang Chunyong<sup>16</sup>, the Strongest Sword in Mungyeong, was fighting alongside the mutant against the orcs.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

fr(e)webnov(e)l.com

## **Chapter 42**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

### Chapter 42: Unfamiliar World (6)

“Uh... what’s going on?”

Even as Myungho asked this, he was already putting the gear in reverse.

For him, who was just a prey in this world, all mysterious phenomena were something he had to avoid.

Therefore, he didn’t really want to know why the mutant and the Mungyeong’s Strongest Sword had formed an alliance.

Whether it was valuable information or not, it wasn’t clear, but for immediate survival, it wasn’t certain if it would be of any help...

No, it might even be a threat.

‘Putting your life on the line out of curiosity? That’s insane.’

Just as Myungho was about to step on the accelerator in reverse, Yeongwoo in the passenger seat spoke up.

“Wait. I need to get off.”

“What?”

Myungho questioned with a puzzled expression, but instead of answering, Yeongwoo opened the passenger door.

Suddenly, the intense sounds from the other side of the scene penetrated into the vehicle.

– Gaaaah!

– Kreaaak!

Most of those sounds were the orcs screaming and falling, and the actual situation was tilting towards the mysterious duo.

After all, one of the duo was a mutant on the second day, and the other was the Mungyeong's Strongest Sword with a defense count of 96.

On the other hand, Yeongwoo...

「The current Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword is 'Jeong Yeongwoo07'. Rank 1, 0 defenses.」

Since becoming Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword, he had not killed anyone, so his defense count was only 0.

Even if you combined all the defense counts from his time as Gumi's Strongest Sword, it still didn't match 96.

But what caught Yeongwoo's attention right now was the reason why the duo had formed.

‘If you’ve fought in 96 defense battles, it’s not a case where you’ve become Strongest Sword by chance... But why are you cooperating with the mutant?’

Yeongwoo observed the two ‘figures’ rapidly reducing the orcs with great speed.

The mutant on the second day seemed to have a height of 5 meters, and each swing of his arm made orcs scatter like pieces of paper, indicating tremendous strength.

And near him, the movements of Mungyeong's Strongest Sword, who moved like a lightning bolt, were also exceptional.

Swish!

Just by looking at the lightning-fast sword strokes and optimized movements, he felt familiar with hologram guides.

In other words, it wasn't a situation where one side was weaker and surrendered.

‘Did they agree to team up just to defeat the orcs? No, that doesn't make sense. Even without being Strongest Sword, there's no benefit for the mutant.’

Of course, mutants were fundamentally humans, so there was always room for unconventional choices.

Even if they chose to become mutants, upon returning, their anger might have disappeared, or they might have been eccentric from the beginning.

‘...Or maybe they were just acquaintances.’

If it was the latter, it was highly likely that he would have to deal with both at the same time.

‘If I make a mistake, I might end up fighting 1v2 again.’

Swiftly, when Yeongwoo touched the necklace hanging around his neck, a tooltip appeared in his field of view.

「Pumpkin-colored necklace」 – Legendary Necklace

【Summon a friend.】

| Yeongtae.

Then, soon after, a notification followed stating that the friend summoning limit for the day had been exhausted.

「The daily friend summoning limit is 0.」

The basic usage limit for the necklace was 2 times, but Yeongwoo had already used up all the attempts.

Once when he first got the whistle and once during his fight with Sangju’s Strongest Sword.

Moreover, the reason why the whistle was used in Sangju was to deal with the Strongest Sword and the mutant at the same time.

But then, in the next city, he encountered a similar... no, even more bizarre situation.

‘Back then it was an individual battle, but this time there is a high possibility that I will have to fight them both at the same time.’

Therefore, if there was going to be a fight anyway, now was the perfect time for a surprise attack for Yeongwoo.

-Aim for the back!

=Kraaah!

The orcs were currently diverting the attention of the two powerhouses.

At this moment, it could have been an opportune time for Yeongwoo to stab one of them, inflict the pain effect of 'Golden Punishment,' and use that advantage to handle the battle more favorably.

But Yeongwoo...

“.....”

Even though the orcs had dwindled to single digits by now, he didn't join the fight.

He knew that the moment he launched a surprise attack, any other potential choices would be permanently blocked.

For example, options like dialogue.

'Is this why the system diagnosed me as a stubborn guy?'

Thud, thud.

Yeongwoo walked at a moderate pace without drawing his sword.

-Sa-save me!

-Wait!

Thanks to this, the mutant and the Strongest Sword duo were able to deal with the retreating orcs without any interference, and the presence of the intruder was only noticed afterwards.

「Huh.」

“What?”

The blue orc who spotted Yeongwoo and the white-haired eyes of the elderly man widened simultaneously.

At that very moment, the meeting of the two sides became even more dramatic as the corpses of orcs scattered everywhere disappeared, emitting karma.

Shrrr!

Crimson coins scattered in all directions.

Some even rolled up to Yeongwoo's feet, and, to no surprise, the white eyebrows of Mungyeong's Strongest Sword Jang Chunyong trembled upon seeing this.

“.....”

It meant not to touch the loot.

『Mungyeong's Strongest Sword.』

A title that shone as brightly as the sharp gaze of the old man.

Upon seeing the opponent's title, Yeongwoo slowly spread his arms.

Primarily, it was a gesture indicating no intention to fight, but there was also an intention to prevent Jang Chunyong from immediately retrieving the coins.

In the end, if he ended up fighting those two, he planned to take the loot after the battle was over.

“Do you have any story to tell? This is the first time for such a situation.”

As Yeongwoo asked this, he glanced at the mutant behind Jang Chunyong.

Then, a very familiar name entered his field of view.

[Actor – Jang Daemyung]

‘Ah... Jang Daemyung is from Munyeong.’

Jang Daemyung, 49-year-old male.

He had built a solid reputation as a villain actor for 15 years, gaining recognition, but two years ago, he was expelled from the film industry due to a hit-and-run incident.

Furthermore, it was revealed that Jang Daemyung was intoxicated at the time of the incident, and if he had taken emergency measures right after the accident, the victim might have survived, adding more controversy.

Of course, Jang Daemyung received a prison sentence in the trial, but public anger did not easily subside.

It continued to circulate on the internet and other media, and that's why Yeongwoo vividly remembered the name Jang Daemyung.

‘In the end, the target of public outrage... Well, it's only natural.’

Although famous individuals are often more vilified in the first-stage screening compared to heinous criminals, Jang Daemyung's case was somewhat different.

At the time, he may not have been driving with the level of malice of a murderer, but he hit someone anyway, and because he avoided responsibility for this, he ended up committing murder.

Furthermore, while drunk driving is unintentional manslaughter, a hit-and-run is just plain murder in Yeongwoo's view.

Hence, when he learned that the mutant in Mungyeong City was Jang Daemyung, any curiosity or leniency he had in attempting dialogue disappeared.

In this case, he thought it would be better to die than let him go.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

'I should have just attacked him earlier.'

Regrettably, he now regretted letting go of the perfect opportunity.

And Yeongwoo's thoughts were vividly displayed through his gaze, or more precisely, Mungyeong's Strongest Sword Jang Chunyong<sup>16</sup> sensed it with his tremendous experience.

"Seems like you recognize my child. I'll tell you in advance, I am Daemyung's father. That should answer your question about what happened."

"...As expected."

Seeing that they shared the same family name was enough for Yeongwoo to make a good guess.

Yeongwoo nodded, tightly sealing his lips.

In just two lines of dialogue, he read a lot from the opponent's pronunciation.

Jang Chunyong<sup>16</sup> looked like an eighty-year-old, even though he might not be that old.

Until receiving his identification number and title, he would have been just an ordinary old man.

Then, suddenly, as the reset started, he would have witnessed the public re-judging his son, who was already imprisoned, in real-time.



Whether he knew his son would return here or if it was just for revenge on the world...

In any case, the old man with Jang Daemyung as his son ultimately became Mungyeong's Strongest Sword.

The defense record of 96 times would now seem entirely different.

"Did you come here to see my child?"

Soon, Jang Chunyong<sup>16</sup> asked threateningly while raising the sword he had on the ground.

'Ah.'

His sword was an early bird too.

Imagining the opponent who had skillfully overcome the dispute at the exchange counter, Yeongwoo cautiously moved his hand to his waist.

"I didn't know that your child was here. I just..."

Yeongwoo's gaze turned to Jang Daemyung, who stood like a mountain behind him.

However, unlike when he crushed the orcs earlier, Jang Daemyung now looked back and forth between the outsider and his father with a face full of fear.

At least, Jang Daemyung didn't want to fight with people.

'What's this...? They know very well that they have a significant advantage if they start a fight.'

As Yeongwoo was wondering with a puzzled expression, Jang Daemyung moved his blue chin and opened his mouth.

"If you didn't come to kill us, please go on your way. We don't want to fight with people."

"...!"

Yeongwoo, who had encountered many mutants, was even more surprised.

"Then... why did you come back?"

As Yeongwoo stammered in surprise, Jang Daemyung pointed with his large finger at Jang Chunyong<sup>16</sup>.

"I came to see my father. I was curious about what happened to the world. It's not like I came here to kill anyone."

Jang Daemyung, saying this, didn't seem filled with anger, nor did he seem like he had lost his mind.

'Did he really come back purely because he was worried about his father...?'

Is filial piety supposed to be like this?

Yeongwoo, who had never had a father, could only conceptually understand it.

"If you're hesitant, just go. Don't waste your precious life."

Jang Chunyong<sup>16</sup>, reading Yeongwoo's hesitation from his eyes, issued another warning.

The fact that he appeared here in the first place implied that he had come searching for the mutant marker.

Therefore, Jang Chunyong was aware that the outsider in front of him was no ordinary person.

And indeed, Yeongwoo was not just any Strongest Sword; he was the Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword.

Having the pumpkin-colored whistle meant he needed to collect mutants, and to maintain the position of Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword, he had to continue accumulating the title.

Furthermore...

'Leaving Jang Daemyung like this would make the Golden Flood achievement too distant.'

[Golden Flood]

[Summon the Golden Rain in five or more regions. (3/5)]

Since Yeongwoo didn't choose to monopolize Karma, his abilities were significantly lower than other Strongest Swords.

Achieving the Golden Flood was crucial for him.

"If I just pass by here, someone else will come to target your son anyway."

As Yeongwoo spoke, Jang Chunyong<sup>16</sup> chuckled.

“Hah! Isn’t that just an excuse? Anyway, even if you didn’t come to harm my son, it sounds like you did.”

“I won’t deny it. I came searching for mutants. However, I don’t want to harm your son.”

“Then what do you want to do? This place is becoming uncomfortable.”

Jang Chunyong<sup>16</sup>’s words seemed to be true.

Moreover, there had been an enormous aura rising from him since a while ago.

At this point, Yeongwoo quickly extended his hand toward Jang Daemyung.

“Mr. Daemyung! Haven’t you heard about the return function before coming here?”

「……?」

Hearing Yeongwoo’s words, Jang Daemyung momentarily had a blank expression, then looked down at his own palm.

Immediately, Jang Chunyong<sup>16</sup>, who was emitting a formidable aura, took a few steps back, glancing worriedly at his son, who stood at a height of five meters.

“What’s that nonsense about a return?”

「Ah. No way!」

After a while, Jang Daemyung seemed to recall something.

He partially opened his palm, radiating a blue aura.

Paat!

In his hand, a teleportation mark in the form of a door was being created.

‘As expected...!’

Yeongwoo’s eyes widened.

As anticipated, Jang Daemyung had learned about the local reconciliation method, the return function, before being sent here.

However...

Paat...!

In no time, Jang Daemyung folded his palm, erasing the mark.

Then, he stared directly at Yeongwoo and opened his mouth with a slightly different atmosphere than before.

“But why should I go back?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

This chapter is updated by f(r)eewebn(o)vel.com

### **Chapter 43**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

#### Chapter 43: Unfamiliar World (7)

“To be precise, it’s not returning. That’s...”

Yeongwoo tried to explain the parallel world where mutants using the return function would stay, but he stopped talking.

In fact, that place was nothing more than another prison, and it was because he realized that Jang Daemyung, who had originally returned to take care of his father, wouldn’t accept such a proposal.

“Isn’t it you who brought me back from the prison...? I’ll stay quiet if you don’t mess with me first, so why should I leave?”

His voice was as firm as he clenched his fist tightly.

The emotions he had been suppressing for a long time were starting to burst out.

‘I pressed the switch...’

Of course, it would have happened sooner or later, even if not this time.

Even if the two of them genuinely wanted to live quietly in this place, it was impossible with the numerous Strongest Swords across the country.

He was a mutant with a reward of 3 million karma.

And Jang Chunyong, being the current Strongest Sword and the one who handled the first-day mutant in Mungyeong City, was undoubtedly aware of that fact.

“So, do you plan to kill everyone who comes looking for you in the future?”

“I really don’t want to, but if that’s the only way, I have no choice. This is the world we live in now.”

Jang Chunyong answered in place of his son, and it was a reality that couldn’t be avoided.

From the first screening, when Jang Daemyung chose mutation instead of disappearance and disassembly, his fate was already sealed.

Of course, seeing the future was not guaranteed just because he was Jang Daemyung, but there was no way to blame him for coming back to look after his father.

“ ... ”

Anyway, Yeongwoo had to make a choice now.

Whether he would leave this place while the two men were still showing mercy, or whether he would risk their lives and have a showdown.

“It’s really not an easy problem.”

“Is it really? Seeing you still standing there, it seems like you’ve made up your mind.”

“ ... ”

When Yeongwoo didn’t say anything, Golden Flash finally activated.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the original 100 to 417.」

Finally, Jang Chunyong took the initiative.

“I’m sorry.”

His voice still retained a sense of humanity.

However, the sound of the slashing air that flew off at the end was incredibly sharp.

Swoosh!

Without a moment's hesitation, he thrust the sword.

"Ugh...!"

Yeongwoo responded to the opponent's thrust, seeing the hologram guide of Gyeongbuk Sword Law appearing, and quickly assumed a defensive posture.

A step back with the left foot.

Thud!

At the same time, the right hand drew the sword forward.

Squelch!

The black sword, like lightning, deflected the approaching blade diagonally away from Yeongwoo's heart.

Thunk!

"He...!"

In response to Yeongwoo's unbelievable reaction speed, Jang Chunyong let out a sound close to a sigh.

He knew that such a reaction was impossible without the assistance of the Sword Technique's support.

"Who are you...?"

Jang Chunyong looked at Yeongwoo with suspicious eyes.

Meanwhile, Jang Daemyung, who was behind him, rushed out with loud footsteps.

"Father!"

Thump, thump!

Jang Daemyung's movements, filled with momentum, exuded tremendous pressure.

In response, Yeongwoo, fearing that the battlefield would widen, shouted loudly.

"Jeong Myeongho! Run away! Don't come back until my judg..."

"What...?"

「...!」

It was only after hearing Yeongwoo's shout that the two men noticed there was an SUV parked in the middle of the distant road.

"He wasn't alone. Is that family?"

Jang Daemyung shifted his gaze to the car in one go, indicating that he might be looking for the people inside.

So Yeongwoo said.

"If you're curious, go check it out. By then, your father's head will probably be rolling."

He delivered a line like a villain.

「This guy.」

However, Yeongwoo's words were a lie.

Didn't he struggle to hold his ground well in the previous confrontation with the Strongest Sword of Sangju?

Due to the significant difference in their stats, the majority of Strongest Swords had superior individual combat abilities compared to Yeongwoo.

So, if he wanted to go for Jang Chunyong's neck, Jang Daemyung had to join the fight.

That way, he could absorb sensory values faster, creating more variables.

"Look closely at who I am."

Finally, Yeongwoo tapped his left chest to induce a combined attack from the two father and son.

Then,

Swish!

A golden glow flashed above his head, revealing the 'Strongest Sword' title in units.

『Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword』

"Gyeongbuk...?"

Jang Chunyong was aware that a new Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword had emerged a few hours ago, as an overall notification had been displayed.

Also, since Mungyeong was in Gyeongsangbuk-do, he had considered the possibility of encountering Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword at some point.

However,

“I met you much earlier than expected.”

He hadn’t anticipated becoming the first opponent in the defense battle against Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword.

「This...!」

The shock Jang Daemyung felt about Yeongwoo’s identity was similar.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the original 417 to 867.」

Soon, Yeongwoo’s sensory value soared to an impressive 867.

Finally, both father and son focused on attacking Yeongwoo.

“Die!”

Jang Daemyung’s momentum was tremendous.

It was because he confirmed that the opponent was truly capable of killing his father.

However, it seemed that their joint efforts had put his father in jeopardy.

“...”

Feeling a strange emotion, Yeongwoo easily dodged Jang Daemyung’s attack with a heavy movement.

Crack!

As the large axe struck the empty ground, crimson coins scattered into the air.

Simultaneously, more than ten red coins appeared chaotically in Yeongwoo’s field of vision.

— Break

— Break



— Break

‘What is this...?’

Each symbol was attached to the coins that had just bounced up.

‘...Ah!’

Following this, Yeongwoo’s action was faster than the Gyeongbuk Sword Law’s hologram.

He immediately understood what to do.

Swoosh!

Yeongwoo’s sword cut through the air.

However, the target was not Jang Daemyung or Jang Chunyong but the coins.

Ping, ping!

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

The coins, rebounding off the elastic blade, shot towards the two father and son like bullets.

“Be careful...!”

Jang Chunyong, who had noticed what Yeongwoo was attempting, quickly took a defensive stance.

However, blocking small and fast coins visually while in a state of sensory deprivation was by no means easy.

So, how would it have been for Jang Daemyung, who was several times larger than his father?

Spurt, splatter!

His massive body mostly absorbed the flying coins that Yeongwoo had sent.

“Argh!”

Jang Daemyung, opening his eyes to the pain he was feeling for the first time, screamed in agony.

‘This is it.’

In contrast, Yeongwoo found a way out and swept the floor with his sword.

Shrrrk!

This time, far more coins floated into the air than before.

“Ah...”

Fear crept into Jang Chunyong’s face as he witnessed this.

“Daemyung...!”

Thud, thud, thud, thud!

Although it was nothing more than the clinking sound of coins, everyone in the audience couldn’t help but shudder upon hearing it.

The outcome was clearly visible.

Pew, pew, pew!

The coins sent by Yeongwoo horrifyingly embedded themselves all over Jang Daemyung’s body, one even piercing his right eyeball.

“Kraaaaah!”

The pain was immense.

Jang Daemyung, dropping his large axe to the ground, clutched his face.

“Aaaaaa...!”

Hearing Jang Daemyung’s agonized cries, Yeongwoo felt a strange emotion.

However, he couldn’t immediately end the man’s suffering.

‘If I kill him now, the sensory values will drop drastically. Then it will be difficult to deal with Jang Chunyong.’

It was a devilish thought, but there was no other choice.

However, 'Father's' reaction exceeded Yeongwoo's imagination.

"S-Strongest Sword...!"

Clang!

As soon as his son suffered a fatal injury, Jang Chunyong threw away his sword and knelt in front of Yeongwoo.

"Please, spare my son! I didn't know it would come to this...!"

At this moment, Yeongwoo thought Jang Chunyong might be pretending to beg for mercy, but soon he realized that even the sensory values he took from Jang Chunyong were fading away.

Jang Chunyong had genuinely decided to sacrifice his life in that brief moment.

"O-Old man."

Was this what a father was supposed to be?

Yeongwoo felt uncomfortable and confused in this situation.

If he intended to beg for his life, he should have done so before the battle began.

Now, even if he proposed a ceasefire, there was no way Jang Daemyung would comply willingly.

So, now there was no choice but to kill him.

And for that...

'...I have to kill Jang Chunyong too.'

While Yeongwoo wore a melancholic expression, Jang Chunyong desperately searched for an escape route, revealing his back to the enemy.

"Return...! Didn't you mention a way to return earlier?"

He crawled towards his son, stuttering and spoke with a trembling voice.

"Daemyung! Daemyung! Can you hear me? Come back now! Your father is fine...!"

Jang Chunyong, who was holding onto his son and pleading, suddenly faltered.

He realized that green blood was seeping out of his own hands.

And around that time...

"...Father."

A long shadow cast by Yeongwoo appeared from behind.

Then...

Swish!

With a sharp sound, Yeongwoo's sword pierced through Jang Chunyong's neck.

In the end, Yeongwoo decided to kill the father first among the two.

Following that, Jang Chunyong's emaciated body collapsed weakly to the side.

Thud.

At that moment, Jang Daemyung, who had been crouching while covering his face, barely opened his left eye, feeling an intense sense of nausea.

"...?"

In an instant, Jang Daemyung's pupils expanded.

"What... what's happening...?"

Due to his towering height of 5 meters, the body of his father, who lay lifeless on the ground, looked incredibly small.

And soon, an incomprehensible line was heard from somewhere.

"I think it would have been better for your father to witness his son's death than this."

"What... What are you saying..."

Overwhelmed by unbearable panic, Jang Daemyung, whose right eye was impaled by coins, twitched as a strange dialogue unfolded.

Quack!

Once again, Yeongwoo made a decisive decision.

Kill the opponent before they fully grasp the situation and counterattack.

Kwoong!

Gradually, Jang Daemyung's massive body collapsed, casting a large shadow on the ground.

Then.

Pahat!

With a flash of white light, a golden sphere was left at the spot where the corpse lay.

「As the second mutant in Mungyeong has been eliminated, basic welfare will be applied to this area.」

| Remaining time until the daily quest application: 20 minutes.

| Remaining time until the appearance of a merchant: 5 minutes.

Followed by the appearance of the system notification.

Now, in a little while, somewhere in Mungyeong City, an extraterrestrial merchant would appear.

Once he collected the scattered coins in the area, there would be enough funds for trading...

“...”

Everything went well according to the plan, but Yeongwoo couldn't help but wear a bitter expression.

‘This world has become much more messed up than I thought.’

However, he didn't ponder whether surviving like this was right or wrong.

After all, for the ability to feel guilt, survival was necessary.

Yeongwoo blinked his eyes once and searched for the body of Jang Chunyong, who, unlike his son, had left his body in this world.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

The source of this content is free(w)ebnovel

## Chapter 44

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

## Chapter 44: Open Door (1)

「As the second mutant in Mungyeong has been eliminated, basic welfare will be applied to this area.」

| Remaining time until the daily quest application: 20 minutes.

| Remaining time until the appearance of a merchant: 5 minutes.

Contrary to the grandiose system messages, what Yeongwoo was doing was not at all dignified.

He was crouched on the floor, rummaging through the corpse in every way possible.

However, it was inevitable since he didn't know what form the mutant gear that Jang Chunyong had would take.

‘He’s not even wearing a ring... Could it be something he carries in his pocket?’

Swoosh.

He searched through both pockets, but all that came out were a few crimson coins.

‘There’s no way he didn’t catch the mutant on the first day.’

If that were the case, what he saw earlier doesn’t make sense.

“...”

Just as Yeongwoo wondered what this was all about, he raised his head, and in his field of vision, his own wrist came into view.

No, to be precise, it was the green snake coiled around his wrist that caught his eye.

Because the creature’s head was bent at a strange angle.

「Serpent of Greed」 – Epic Compass

【Always seeks rarity.】

‘Always yearning for the rarest things....’

Yeongwoo's gaze followed the snake's head.

Then, he naturally saw Jang Chunyong's face.

'His face...? Is it something worn on the head?'

But no matter how closely he examined it, there was no equipment on Jang Chunyong's head.

'What's going on?'

It couldn't be an error.

Yeongwoo thought for a moment, and this time, the snake-encircled wrist approached the face of the deceased.

Swoosh.

Once again, the snake began to turn the head in a certain direction after a few adjustments.

'Is it... the eye?'

Regardless of what this mutant gear was, the conclusion was that it was somewhere in Jang Chunyong's left eye.

"...."

Yeongwoo carefully lifted the left eyelid of the deceased with a surprised face.

And then he saw it.

Something faint was covering the lifeless pupil of Jang Chunyong.

That is to say.

'It's a lens.'

A lens.

The moment Yeongwoo saw it, he felt the hairs on his body stand on end.

It was more of an instinctive disgust than fear.

Is someone telling me to put a lens, whose origin and grade as a 'mutation' lens cannot be known, over my eye?

Moreover, isn't it something taken off a corpse?

'Surely not... There can't really be something like a mutant lens, right?'

Yeongwoo shook his head and, spreading his index and thumb, brought them close to Jang Chunyong's left eyeball.

Then.

Tsuip.

He pinched and pulled out something that was lying on the eyeball.

'Ugh.'

Then, a horrific situation that Yeongwoo had foreseen unfolded all at once.

Snap!

「One Eyed Sentinel」 – Mutant Cornea

【It watches over you while you sleep.】

The lens in question was indeed a mutant device.

'Ah, for real.'

Moreover, officially it was not a lens but a cornea.

Although it was extremely nauseating, Yeongwoo had no time or reason to hesitate.

There was a mountain of things to do besides this.

He needed to check the mutant gear left by the mutant Jang Daemyung and also bring down the Golden Rain in Mungyeong City.

'Wearing this won't make me go blind. Jang Chunyong was perfectly fine.'

After taking a small breath, Yeongwoo lifted the left eyelid of his own eye.

Then.

"...Hoo."

Exhaling, he placed the mutant cornea on his eyeball.



And then.

Squelch!

“Ugh...!”

As if it were alive, the ‘One Eyed Sentinel’ stuck to Yeongwoo’s pupil on its own.

‘This, what... the hell is this?’

Startled, Yeongwoo, unable to close his eyes, screamed, but the ‘One Eyed Sentinel’ showed no reaction.

After that short movement, its presence itself seemed to disappear.

Perhaps it had completed its attachment.

Unknown to him, until Yeongwoo fell asleep, there would be no visible movement.

‘This...’

Yeongwoo, stood still for a while, with his face turned towards the ground, eyes wide open, finally gave in.

Squish.

He closed and opened his eyelid once.

However, the presence of the One Eyed Sentinel that had attached to his eyeball just a while ago was not felt at all.

‘Is this correct...? A mutant cornea?’

After blinking a few more times, Yeongwoo could finally accept the fact that he would carry a substance in his eyeball until his death.

‘If it says it watches over me when I sleep... maybe it examines the surroundings on my behalf when I’m in a sleep state.’

This would be impossible to know until he falls asleep.

Anyway, now the remaining procedure is.

“...”

It was still about making contact with the golden sphere spinning in mid-air.

Reward for defeating the mutant Jang Daemyung, a mutant on the second day in Mungyeong City.

Thud.

As Yeongwoo placed his hand on the sphere, the golden sphere rotated faster, displaying a message.

「We have defeated the mutant.」

「Please choose your reward for the completion of the process.」

?Confirmed Reward?

「Blue Blood」 – Mutant Drug

【30% increase in strength for 10 minutes.】

【Number of uses: 4】

?Selected Reward?

[3 million karma]

Or

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

After the cornea, now it was a substance that needed to be ingested into the body.

“ ... ”

With a somewhat resigned face, Yeongwoo chose the selected reward.

Snap!

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

Then, the golden sphere rapidly spun and soared into the sky, followed by exploding in the upper atmosphere, showering down a golden rain.

Saaaaah...!

《Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword 'Jeong Yeongwoo 07' gave up his monopoly on 3 million karma and gifted 30,000 karma to all Mungyeong residents.》

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

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Just yesterday, even deciding on the selected reward was difficult, but now there was no hesitation at all.

After all, having already attached a mutant cornea to his eyeball and soon to drink orc's blood, selecting a reward was not a big deal.

Tap!

Among the golden rain, Yeongwoo skillfully grabbed commemorative coins and opened the achievement window.

[Golden Flood]

|Summon golden rain in more than 5 areas. (4/5)

‘Just one more now.’

In addition, with four titles of the Strongest Swords in Gyeongbuk, his position had become more solid in various ways.

Shirrit!

After a while, something like a bluish wave appeared in the air and began to take the shape of a palm-sized bottle.

It was the mutant drug ‘Blue Blood.’

‘I didn’t expect there would be doping.’

Yeongwoo put the bottle in his pocket and sighed as he looked at the commemorative coins scattered all around.

‘Isn’t there something like automatic picking up? If you can make doping potions, implementing a pick-up function should be possible, right?’

But instead of automatic picking up, something else appeared.

Quaaaaang!

It was a thunderous sound as if tearing through the sky.

Swoosh!

Then, a conspicuous pillar of light, nothing other than the merchant's emblem, emerged, splitting the clouds.

'Is it northeast? This time, it's not that far away.'

As Yeongwoo estimated the location of the black pillar, loud honking sounds echoed from the back road.

Vroom!

A gray SUV was rushing straight towards him.

It was the vehicle of the Jeong family.

They had successfully returned without encountering orcs during their escape as instructed by Yeongwoo.

"Yeongwoo!"

Keeping a safe distance, Myeongho parked the car and leaned out of the window, calling Yeongwoo.

He was asking if everything was resolved.

In response, Yeongwoo stuck the knife into the scabbard and gestured towards Myeongho.

"Hurry up and pick up the money. We need to move again."

\* \* \*

Karma: 560,000.

After collecting all the coins in the area with Myeongho, the total amount reached a whopping 560,000.

When converted into stats, it was a substantial 560 points, meaning it was money that could turn anyone into a skilled monster hunter in an instant.

'...Unbelievable.'

Myeongho couldn't easily take his eyes off the pile of coins on the ground.

And rightly so, with this much money, it seemed entirely possible to protect his mother on his own.

However.

“Did you pick up the commemorative coins from earlier?”

“Huh? Oh, yes... of course.”

“Then let’s use that for the travel expenses.”

Ironically, Yeongwoo had no intention of investing money in the worn-out Jeong family.

Swish.

As Yeongwoo swept the pile of coins on the ground into his backpack, Myeongho, who had been watching, cautiously asked.

“Uh... Yeongwoo, sir?”

“Yes?”

“Are you heading to Chungju now?”

Chungju, the city where Myeongho’s father, the last member of the Jeong family, lived.

However, given the current situation, whether he could tow the vehicle to Chungju was entirely up to Yeongwoo.

There were no combatants left to guard the vehicle from monsters and others.

“Oh, well. We have to go to Chungju, but...”

“...?”

With a strange remark from Yeongwoo, Myeongho made an uneasy expression.

Then, with eyes that seemed to ask, “Could it be?” he looked at the black pillar of light visible in the distance.

Yeongwoo’s gaze had shifted in that direction.

“Something will appear there soon.”

“...Yes.”

“So let’s just meet that and then move.”

“Meet... it?”

Since Myeongho was also looking at the merchant appearance timer, he naturally knew that the opponent Yeongwoo wanted to meet was a ‘merchant.’

However, was that a merchant as commonly understood?

Just looking at that ominous black pillar of light...

“W-Well, okay. I understand.”

In the end, Myeongho bowed his head hesitantly, contrary to his true intentions.

There was no other choice.

Feeling this, Yeongwoo, despite knowing that comforting Myeongho would be of no help, made an effort to reassure him.

“It won’t be dangerous this time. We’re not going to fight.”

“Oh... Have you met it before?”

“Yes, but also no.”

“I have, but not really.”

“...?”

Despite Myeongho’s bewildered response to the vague answer, Yeongwoo had actually stated the truth.

Now that he had chosen a middleman, he would likely meet Kubu again, just as in the previous transaction.

However, what kind of being would appear as a ‘merchant’?

Even looking at the ominous black pillar, one could only vaguely guess...

Chaglack.

After sweeping the last coin into his backpack, Yeongwoo checked his current balance in the stats window.

『Character: Jeong Yeongwoo07』

[Strength] 600 (19+581)

[Stamina] 350 (21+329)

[Endurance] 550 (13+537)

[Sensory Perception] 100 (24+76)

\* 1,000 Karma is consumed per ability point.

\* Available Karma: 894,000

Current total assets are 894,000 Karma.

Although investing all of this in stats could lead to significant growth, for Yeongwoo, who is considered a major adversary for Strongest Swords in other regions, raising the stats by about 890 points would not yield any significant results.

Why?

‘Strongest Swords that swallowed even the second-day mutants will appear soon.’

And if those Strongest Swords have chosen to monopolize 3 million Karma for both quantum choices, the expected minimum total stats would be 6,000.

So, for Yeongwoo, whose current total stats do not even reach 2,000, adding 890 to the stats is meaningless.

At best, it might make it easier to deal with monsters in battle.

However, if he loses in a confrontation with another Strongest Sword, what good would it be?

‘I need something that can create a significant variable, like the Sensory Perception-stealing incident.’

And Yeongwoo planned to create that variable through the Golden Rain achievement and a transaction with an extraterrestrial upper class.

Kwarrung!

Meanwhile, the time remaining until the appearance of the merchant was approaching 1 minute, and cracking sounds started emanating from the black pillar, as if preparing to reveal the presence of another dimension.

It seemed like the beings from another world were getting ready.

In response, Yeongwoo slung the backpack onto his back and pointed towards the SUV.

“Let’s go, meet the extraterrestrial.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Read latest chapters at [freewe\(b\)novel.c\(o\)m](http://freewe(b)novel.c(o)m) Only

## **Chapter 45**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

### **Chapter 45: Open Door (2)**

“Ex... Extraterrestrial? Are you saying he’s an alien? Is that what a merchant is, an alien?”

In the moving car, Myeongho asked this.

Soon after, he realized he had asked a foolish question.

It was only natural for a being descending from a column of light beyond the sky to be an extraterrestrial.

“Yes. Strictly speaking, he is an extraterrestrial, but...”

Yeongwoo, who received Myeongho’s question, mumbled unclear words.

While the merchants are indeed extraterrestrial, they feel different from what people commonly refer to as ‘aliens.’

If you had to find a different term, ‘otherworldly beings’ would be more fitting in terms of expression than aliens.

Moreover, through conversations with orcs, who were thought to be mere monsters until now, it was revealed that they, too, were beings from a different world with their own homeland and a sense of purpose.

Then, aren’t all monsters, including orcs, also aliens?



'What's the difference between those who come as merchants and those who are monsters? Why is someone a merchant and someone else a monster?'

It was also puzzling that so far, only extraterrestrials playing the role of monsters were familiar to humans in appearance.

Why are only monsters like goblins and orcs extraterrestrial beings?

"..."

His mind became murky.

But he knew that pondering about it now would be futile.

'I'll probably find out something if I keep on living.'

Soon, the merchant appearance timer that had been in view disappeared, and the black column of light on the other side flashed with thunder.

Kururung!

Finally, a merchant arrived in Mungyeong City.

At the sound, Myeongae, who had been unconscious all this time, opened her eyes wide.

"Yoo, Yoonho!"

Calling out the name of her deceased second son, she woke up with a look as if she had been having a nightmarish dream even in her sleep.

But the reality was just as harsh.

"Aah...!"

Realizing that she was still in a nightmare, Myeongae burst into a pitiful cry.

Kururung!

Another timely flash of black light, beating against the body.

Yeongwoo grabbed the front passenger door handle upon seeing it.

"Stop the car."

"What?"

“I’ll go first. Bring your mother along and follow me.”

“I-Is it... okay?”

The subject of Myeongho’s mentioned ‘okay’ was naturally himself and her mother.

“Yes. The distance is not far, and there are no monsters around. If anything happens, honk your horn.”

With these words, Yeongwoo opened the front passenger door and rushed out.

Since trading with the merchant is on a first-come-first-served basis, he made a decision.

As a city where the Strongest Sword and the mutant collaborated to organize the monsters, there wouldn’t be many survivors.

Of course, among them, how many would dare to come to him through the familiar column of light?

‘Still, it’s unknown. There can be as many variables as possible.’

Yeongwoo crossed the city at high speed, heading straight towards the direction of the column of light.

Then, not long after, people running frantically from the opposite side came into view.

Survivors in the area were on the move, avoiding the merchant symbol.

‘Ah, people are quite...’

Perhaps because recently he had conversations with orcs and engaged in unrealistic dialogue, Yeongwoo felt a warm feeling swelling up when he saw people.

However, the people on the opposite side.

“Huh?”

“What’s going on here again...”

Just like when the Jeong family first saw Yeongwoo, he felt discomfort from them.

This time, he wasn’t carrying a bundle on his back, but anyway, the fact that he was stepping on the ground barefoot and wearing strange equipment looked very strange.

The unnaturalness of his movements also contributed to it being unbelievably non-human.

Even people who had built up enough stats to confront monsters couldn't imitate such movements.

However, it took a few more seconds for everyone to realize after he had passed.

"Huh... wait a moment."

The man who had just passed like a fleeting arrow had a face exactly like the one engraved on the coin that had fallen from the sky earlier.

Sswoaeet!

Ignoring the gazes that regarded him like a monster, Yeongwoo entered the spot where the merchant had landed.

Unlike the crowded main street where people were running in a line, there were few people near the column of light.

But there were definitely people.

"Oh, what's that?"

"Hey, who's that coming?"

"Damn... startled me."

A fairly hostile reaction from the three individuals.

They were a small group of humans and the only ones lingering around the merchant.

It seemed they were debating whether to approach the merchant or not.

In response, Yeongwoo positioned himself stealthily between the black column of light and the trio, and casually asked.

"It hasn't started yet, right?"

"...Started?"

The one who gave a reflexive and blunt response was the man in the lead among the trio, wearing accessories.

Whether by position or the early bird in his left hand, this man was the leader of the trio.

“ ... ”

As Yeongwoo stared at him, the end of the early bird, which had been aimed at him at a threatening angle, subtly lowered.

Feeling uncomfortable due to the sudden intrusion of an unwelcome guest, he didn't realize he had involuntarily recoiled because Yeongwoo's movements a moment ago were so unusual.

“If it hasn't started, let me use it first.”

Without stepping back or picking a fight, Yeongwoo headed toward the black column of light, leaving the three individuals behind, who couldn't do anything.

“Hey! Look at this!”

The man, who belatedly twisted his expression, tried to chase after Yeongwoo, but the other two urgently restrained him.

“Are you crazy?”

“Quick, look at this.”

Swish.

What the two colleagues thrust in front of the man's eyes was...

“...Oh.”

A golden coin.

\* \* \*

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo, having previously experienced trading with extraterrestrial merchants, was not particularly afraid of the column of light or merchants from outer space.

No, he was rather impatient.

“Where did Kubu go? I thought I would see him again in the next trade!”

Kubu, the chief mediator of Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword Yeongwoo07.

According to his promise, Yeongwoo could pay only half the commission from the second trade onwards and see all the top bidders in the trade.

So, taking the risk, he dealt with the mutants in Mungyeong City in the first place...

'What if the merchant has already arrived? What will happen?'

In the meantime, the distance between Yeongwoo and the black column of light had shortened to around 10 meters, and by this time, the silhouette of the merchant inside the column of light began to be faintly visible.

'I don't know what it is, but it's incredibly huge.'

Just as Yeongwoo was about to narrow the distance with the merchant, he suddenly heard a tearing sound between him and the black column of light, and the mediator in question, Kubu, appeared.

—Greetings again, Earth's human, the strongest in Gyeongbuk, Lord Jung Yeongwoo07!

Black eye sockets, white pupils.

Blinking eyelids to manipulate the air.

It was definitely him.

—I am Kubu, the owner of Tenta, who is mediating this trade and the guardian of Darrow.

Kubu introduced himself with great pride, just as he did during the first trade.

Then, next.

—The mediation fee for this trade is 10%, included in the product price. A total of four top bidders have bid on this trade.

—Would you like to see the list of top bidders and proposal details?

He presented the special treatment promised during the last trade.

"Yes, please show me."

As Yeongwoo nodded his head in response, Kubu blinked his eyes widely and added some kind of warning.

—Except for the Mir Union that has already arrived here, you will directly communicate with the remaining three top bidders, so it might be a bit inconvenient for you.

"Inconvenient...?"

As Yeongwoo questioned this, the color of the black column of light suddenly changed to red, emitting an incredible noise.

-Keiiiiiiiiin!

“This is insane...!”

Not only Yeongwoo but also the trio who were at a distance covered their ears and screamed at the sound, reminiscent of scratching a blackboard.

“Aaah!”

“What on earth are you doing now?”

“Turn that off quickly!”

However, could the request of an ordinary human be heard?

The cacophony continued, and Yeongwoo, even at a distance, had to cover his ears until it became unbearable.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Within these mentally grating sounds, there was some meaning hidden.

It felt like reading an advertisement board inside a fast-moving subway, but there were definitely several meanings being conveyed at regular intervals.

「Life... concealment... peace.」

Despite the threatening sound, the actual meaning contained within was quite friendly.

‘Life, concealment, peace...? What exactly does this mean?’

While Yeongwoo was pondering this, he looked at Kubu, but this time, there was no particular reaction.

Perhaps it meant that he could only provide assistance up to this point.

If he had intended to provide assistance, he wouldn’t have allowed direct communication with extraterrestrial top bidders in the first place.

Life, concealment, peace.

After confirming that there were no hidden meanings, Yeongwoo spoke to Kubu.

“Okay, that’s enough. Please connect with the next top bidder.”

Upon hearing this, Kubu blinked his eyes without saying anything, and this time, the color of the column of light turned purple, pushing the surrounding air away.

Hwaaaat!

“Ugh...!”

Although Yeongwoo recoiled at the discomfort, it was not as agonizing as before, but rather sent shivers down his spine.

‘What is this? This time, it seems like there’s no meaning at all.’

Hwaaaat!

The air was pushed away once again.

And this time, too, no discernible meaning could be detected.

‘What is this trying to achieve...?’

Ultimately, as Yeongwoo was about to move on to the next top bidder while rubbing his temples.

Hwaaaat!

At the same timing as before, the air was pushed out with the same intensity.

“ ... ”

Thanks to this, for the first time, Yeongwoo felt something familiar from the extraterrestrial top bidder.

The reason was none other than...

‘This is breathing.’

Hwaaaat!

Yeongwoo finally realized.

The opponent was appealing that they, too, were beings that breathed like humans.

Hwaaaat!

The anonymous opponent continued to push out air as if only the sound of breathing was being transmitted.

It could be considered a very delicate marketing strategy, couldn't it?

"Can we also check the remaining merchants and decide?"

When Yeongwoo asked this, Kubu moved his white pupils to look at him.

—If you wish, it is possible.

"Yes. Then please proceed to the next one for now."

—Understood.

Upon Yeongwoo's request, Kubu blinked his eyes widely once again.

Hwaaar!

Yeongwoo's order was received by Kubu, who blinked his eyes again.

Hwarrrk!

The third merchant seemed suspicious from the start.

The column of light burned instantly, emitting tremendous heat.

'These crazy bastards... did they really come for a trade?'

Yeongwoo closed his eyes, gasping for breath.

The heat was so intense that it felt like his eyeballs would melt.

Hwaaaat!

However, just like the intense heat, the meaning within was also clearly discernible.

What the unknown opponent sent was more of a sense of pride than a message.

Ferocious nature, desire for power.

Although it was unknown which race they belonged to, it was evident that they were highly combative individuals.



Therefore, most of what they offered for sale was likely related to combat.

“Ugh! N-next!”

After barely understanding the basics, Yeongwoo hurriedly called the next merchant.

Hwarat!

At that moment, the heat sweeping through the area vanished, and the column of light changed back to black.

“Ah...”

It was because the last merchant present was none other than the Mir Union.

-Geugeuk.

Finally, a faint sound, like rolling stones, emanated from the black column of light.

And then this.

-The last trader is from the Mir Union. They waited for quite a long time but do not find it unpleasant.

Kubu provided direct interpretation.

It was probably a special privilege for the initial winner.

If it hadn't been Yeongwoo in this position, wouldn't the Mir Union have been the only top bidder for this trade?

“Ah... I apologize sincerely.”

Yeongwoo sent a genuinely apologetic look inside the column of light.

Then the gigantic silhouette of the Mir Union's merchant, or perhaps not just a silhouette but an actual shadow, writhed.

-Geugeuk, geugeuk.

Maybe it wasn't just visible as a silhouette, but rather, its appearance was a shadow, Yeongwoo thought for a moment.

-The Mir Union has been engaged in interdimensional trade for a tradition spanning 800 million years from Earth's time, they are distinct from petty traders dealing with loot

obtained by chance and miscellaneous items for sale. They offer low prices and high quality.

Kubu began an elaborate interpretation.

‘No, what I actually heard was two words like rolling stones, and it’s interpreted like this...?’

However, the Mir Union’s message did not end there.

=The Mir Union mainly handles goods useful for offsetting consumables and special situations. Prices are low, and the quality is good.

“Can’t you just show me a list of items? Since you’re here.”

Yeongwoo asked, but Kubu promptly refused.

-This trade has already begun with a re-bid. Therefore, directly disclosing the trade contents is prohibited by law.

Whatever it was, it was not allowed.

Yeongwoo, with a puzzled expression, gazed at the silhouette inside the black column of light, but eventually averted his eyes.

“Then, too bad, but that person will have to go back empty-handed. Please call the merchant who only let us hear their breathing earlier.”

-Are you sure?

“Yes.”

As Yeongwoo nodded again, Kubu blinked his eyes.

-As per the request of Jung Yeongwoo 07, the Mir Union will return, and we will call the wandering merchant of Voltak.

As Kubu finished speaking, a loud noise suddenly erupted from inside the black column of light.

-Geugeuk! Geuk.....!

Even without listening to the interpretation, it was easy to guess the meaning from the tone.

Perhaps that's why Kubu didn't bother conveying it and proceeded with the merchant change.

Paeaeaeang!

With a refreshing departure sound, the Mir Union's merchant was sucked up above the column of light, and then...

Gaaaah...!

With a very imposing sound, the column of light was dyed violet.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

f(r)eewebn(o)vel.com

## **Chapter 46**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 46: Open Door (3)

The wandering merchant of Voltak.

After hearing the official name of 'Breath Sound' through Kubu, Yeongwoo realized something.

The "peddler" that the Mir Union had targeted earlier might be the trading partner this time.

『The Mir Alliance is a traditional merchant that has been engaging in inter-dimensional trade for as long as 800 million years in Earth time, and is of a different class from a miscellaneous merchant who sells loot obtained accidentally.』

'Given the name 'wandering merchant,' there's a high probability of selling acquired loot. It could also be a group of thieves.'

The reason Yeongwoo thought of a group of thieves was due to the completely different "entrance sound" from the delicate image when they only exhaled.

Gaaaah!

Already for the second time, the sound was unmistakably reminiscent of a war trumpet.

‘I feel uneasy.’

Gaaaah!

With the third sound, a pillar of light filled with a vivid violet descended from the edge of the sky.

Sweaaa...

Kwaang!

In the blink of an eye, the ‘wandering merchant of Voltak’ set foot on Earth, a total of three of them.

And as Yeongwoo slowly looked at the three beings who had risen, his eyes widened.

‘Huh...?’

Indeed, the breath sound they emitted earlier was not false at all.

At least in appearance, they were surprisingly similar to humans.

With two arms and two legs in positions similar to humans, their lengths were also similar, and, most importantly, they had eyes, nose, and mouth on their faces.

The only difference might be that their skin was close to translucent, revealing veins and nerve bundles inside.

But paradoxically, because of this, they felt even more human.

“...”

As Yeongwoo stared at them in a daze, one of the merchants who felt his gaze grinned at him.

“Oh my. They’re just humans.”

Wearing scale-like armor all over, they seemed to be a more degenerate version of humanity.

“Can I have a conversation with those people?”

Yeongwoo, driven by curiosity, asked Kubu, but as expected, a negative answer came back.

— Contact beyond the trade procedure is not allowed.

Then, as if urging them to proceed with the trade, the dealer hurried the transaction with the scheduled procedures.

— The mediation fee for this transaction is 10%, included in the product price. The trading partner is the wandering merchant of Voltak.

— Will you proceed with the transaction?

Oh, my.

Having found merchants resembling humans and soon to browse the items they sell...

Yeongwoo thought that if he were a scientist studying the universe, he might have had a heart attack.

“...Yes. Let's trade.”

As Yeongwoo gave the final approval, Kubu rolled his white eyes.

— The product list is complete.

Paaat!

What happened next was a somewhat familiar phenomenon.

A blue blot appeared in front of Yeongwoo, quickly taking on some form.

It was the form of human characters.

Ssswee, ssswee.

‘Oh...’

As warned by the Mir Union, the products of those who sell any loot were somewhat lacking, but instead, they were very interesting.

1 — 「Morning Star」 – Ancient Scroll

【Activated in the Open Door state.】

◇ 80,000 Karma

2 — 「Kekidite」 - Hero's Gem

【Slot: 10% Magic Resistance】

◇ 93,000 Karma

3 — 「Golden Goblin」 – Relic Slave

【Stores items in a pocket dimension.】

【Picks up things that turn into money.】

◇ 350,000 Karma

4 — 「Gray Rock」 – Unique Shield

【Reduces blocked damage by 40%】

◇ 510,000 Karma

5 — 「Antinomy」 – Epic Necklace

【50% Fire Resistance】

【50% Ice Resistance】

◇ 1 Legendary Achievement

Like the previous trade, a total of five items.

Among them, what caught Yeongwoo's attention were the "Golden Goblin" and the last item, "Antinomy."

'Is this insane? A necklace with 50% fire and ice resistance...'

Yeongwoo immediately thought of dragons.

Of course, even if he wasn't the one who experienced the reset, anyone who went through it would probably have had the same thought.

The first type of mutation that occurred in this world was the dragon.

— A new monster type, "Dragon," has been added to this world.

— [Chaebol Chairman – Kang Hongtae] has now become a fire dragon threatening everyone.

Moreover, when Kang Hongtae returns someday, he will most likely breathe fire.

‘If there’s a fire dragon, there might be a water dragon or an ice dragon.’

Therefore, “Antinomy” was considered equipment to deal with higher-level monsters that could emit fire or ice.

The only problem was.

‘Now I don’t have any more legendary achievements to sell.’

Currently, he had a total of 3 legendary achievements.

However, all of them were consecutive achievements related to the Golden Ratio, making it impossible for him to touch them.

‘It’s a shame, but there’s nothing I can do.’

Yeongwoo stared at the “Antinomy,” which had become like a picture of a rice cake.

One consolation was that from now on, ridiculous options might appear in Epic grades.

‘If I had known, I should have saved at least one achievement.’

Yeongwoo glanced at “Serpent of Greed,” the Epic compass he had purchased with a legendary achievement in the previous trade, with a bitter look.

「Serpent of Greed」 – Epic Compass

【Always seeks rarity.】

The only income he had obtained from this little trinket so far was finding a lens hidden under the eyelids of Mungyeong’s Strongest Sword, Jang Chunyong.

In reality, it seemed more like a waste of money than an investment.

‘There’s no way to get a refund...’

As Yeongwoo watched the Serpent of Greed flick its tiny tongue, he suddenly felt a sense of unease.

Because.

Sshwit.

This little trinket was looking in a completely different direction from when it started the first trade.

‘What’s going on? Why did it suddenly change direction?’

As Yeongwoo was thinking this, it didn’t take long for him to realize.

‘Ah... the products.’

Since the extraterrestrial product list appeared in front of Yeongwoo, the snake had changed its head direction.

In other words,

‘Right now, it’s looking at the rarest item among these.’

But there was a problem.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“Sshwit...”

What the snake was looking at was not the highest-grade Epic necklace “Antinomy” but the two grades lower “Golden Goblin.”

‘Why? Isn’t it simply based on absolute value?’

Yeongwoo tilted his head but instinctively thought the snake’s judgment would be correct.

The basis for this was none other than the origin of this trinket.

‘Anyway, this thing is also Epic-grade equipment.’

So, wouldn’t the efficacy of this equipment be similar to other Epic-grade items?

Since the option “Always seeks rare things” had the effect comparable to 50% resistance to fire and ice, it would probably be equivalent to other Epic-grade items.

“Anyway, there must be a reason why it’s looking at artifacts instead of Epic-grade equipment... like it’s a perfect fit for me or has ridiculously good cost-effectiveness.’

Moreover, “Antinomy” wasn’t affordable right now.



‘My current total assets... 894,000.’

Even after buying the Golden Goblin and the unique shield “Gray Rock,” there was still a bit of money left.

‘Let’s buy the Golden Goblin first.’

As Yeongwoo pointed at the tooltip of the goblin on the product list, Kubu blinked his eyes.

—Purchase processing complete. Payment will be deducted.

Phew!

In an instant, Yeongwoo’s body shone, and his Karma decreased to 544,000.

And simultaneously.

“Sshwit.”

The Serpent of Greed turned its head again.

“...!”

Upon this, Yeongwoo quickly turned his gaze in the direction it was looking.

“Huh?”

Once again, he was surprised.

What the snake judged as the second most valuable item among this trade was neither a Epic-grade necklace nor the unique shield, but the lowest-grade item.

1 — 「Morning Star」 - Ancient Scroll

【Activated in the Open door state.】

◇ 80,000 Karma

The lowest-grade item.

It was an ancient scroll called “Morning Star.”

‘What is this scroll that has the serpent acting like that?’

Yeongwoo was slightly interested in the ancient scroll, a type of item he had never seen before.

However, since the price was not negligible, and buying this would mean he couldn't afford the unique shield, he didn't have any intention to purchase it.

'It's a Epic-grade item, so it's excluded for now... Is it really better than the unique shield, Gold Goblin? Are you sure?'

Although Yeongwoo asked this, of course, the snake didn't provide an answer.

'Damn it.'

It was once again time to make a choice.

Since those who completed the trade couldn't come back later for repurchase, if there was anything needed, it had to be resolved now.

Therefore, following the snake's opinion, buying the ancient scroll means missing the opportunity to purchase the unique shield.

Conversely, buying the shield means losing the chance to buy the mysterious scroll.

'Buying a shield isn't a bad choice... but who knows when another shield will come up.'

While Yeongwoo mumbled to himself, he had already firmly decided to follow the snake's opinion.

Rather than trusting the snake itself, it was more about trusting the power of its grade.

Like his instinctive bet of 3 million Karma on Golden Ratio in the first binary choice, it was a bet based on intuition.

'Even if this bet fails, it won't be a significant loss. I can use the remaining money to improve my abilities or physique.'

Yeongwoo confirmed the purchase of the ancient scroll "Morning Star," and as before, Kubu blinked, deducting an additional 80,000 Karma.

Phew! Now Yeongwoo had 464,000 Karma left, and the next item the snake looked at was:

2 — 「Kekidaite」 – Heroic Gem

【Slot: 10% Resistance to Abilities】

◇ 93,000 Karma

It was a heroic-grade gem for slots.

With this, it became clear:

‘It’s not just looking for rare things; it also considers my situation.’

The Serpent of Greed seemed to act like a personal shopper.

‘If I buy Kekidaite now, will it point to Antinomy?’

Following, Yeongwoo confirmed the purchase of Kekidaite, and once again, a product disappeared from the list...

“Sshwit.”

As Yeongwoo purchased Kekidaite, the snake turned its head again.

However, this time,

“...!”

The snake didn’t look at Antinomy.

‘Is it looking north again? Does that mean there’s nothing more to buy here?’

Yeongwoo could only understand it that way.

At this point, it meant he wasn’t going to buy equipment that could break the Golden Ratio achievement.

‘That seems to be the end of the trade.’

Expressing his intention to end the trade, Kubu closed his eyes deeply and sent a farewell.

—Thank you! All trade procedures have been completed. Please step back.

Suaat!

Kubu, the mediator, disappeared quickly, melting into the air.

However, since not all items were sold yet, the wandering traders of Voltak remained inside the glowing pillar.

Of course, the products they were selling now were only the unique shield priced at 510,000 Karma and the Epic necklace requiring a legendary achievement.

In essence, except for those who had saved up Karma like the Strongest Swords from other regions, they couldn't afford to use it.

"Well... is that all?"

As Yeongwoo turned away after completing the trade, a trio that had not left the scene called out from a distance.

These individuals, who had adapted well to this world enough to confront Day 2 creatures, still found the sight unfamiliar and frightening.

"Do we... have to fight with aliens or something?"

Nevertheless, considering that they were ordinary people commuting to and from work just two days ago, their perspective was quite progressive.

In response, Yeongwoo saw the traders inside the glowing pillar kicking out a large stone box, which was probably their own product package.

"Who knows. In my opinion..."

Gruggeuk, gruggeuk.

The stone box began to move slowly in Yeongwoo's direction, making strange noises.

"I think the Door is still open now."

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

f(r)eewebn(o)vel.com

## **Chapter 47**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 47: Open Door( 4)

Open Door.

This word has two literal definitions.

First, opening one's domestic market to allow other countries to freely engage in trade or economic activities.

Second, leaving the door open for anyone to come and go without restrictions on entry.

And looking at the current situation, the meaning of open door applied in this world was both of these.

Even now, strange monsters are invading under the pretext of being pioneers, and those beings from outer space are appearing out of nowhere and conducting business.

Moreover, none of this was approved by humanity.

The only thing that the majority of humanity unanimously agreed on was that something was wrong with the world and something had to be done.

'But how did it come to this?'

Yeongwoo scratched the ground noisily, staring blankly at the approaching stone box.

Thud, thud.

The box that eventually arrived at Yeongwoo's feet showed little movement for a while.

Boom!

Suddenly, with a loud noise, it opened its lid.

Clang!

Surprised, Yeongwoo drew his black sword like lightning, and the trio watching him from a distance also flinched, each taking a combat stance.

But what appeared from the box was...

-Crunch.

A small goblin carrying only its body size. Moreover, its skin was golden.

"Uh, this is...."

As Yeongwoo unintentionally pointed at the goblin with his finger, the goblin looked up at him.

-Kek?

Then, a tooltip appeared in Yeongwoo's field of vision.

Thunk!

「Golden Goblin」 – Relic Slave

【Stores items in a pocket dimension.】

【Picks up things that turn into money.】

With just that eye contact, the golden goblin became Yeongwoo's possession.

An Relic-grade slave.

'Is this really an item? It just looks like a living being....'

Meanwhile, the golden goblin was rummaging through the shattered stone box with its small hand.

And then.

Whoosh.

It seemed to have found something.

It was none other than...

「Kekidite」 - Hero's Gem

【Slot: 10% Magic Resistance

It was a slot-specific gem that Yeongwoo had purchased along with the goblin.

A tiny black gem the size of a human thumbnail.

-Kit!

Confirming that Kekidaite had transferred to Yeongwoo's possession, the golden goblin, carrying it on its shoulder, spread the tip of the bag it had on its shoulder.

Then, the golden goblin gestured as if asking if it was okay to store this item in the bag.

'Ah, confirming with the owner before putting it in. So, is that like a pocket dimension bag?'

Yeongwoo nodded towards the goblin, curious to see how the pocket dimension worked.

The goblin tossed the kekidaite into the bag, and in that moment,

Whoosh!

The interior of the bag, glimpsed through the tip of the bag, transformed into a space resembling the universe.

“...!”

Yeongwoo, peeking at it, felt a momentary sense of disorientation so strong that he took a step back.

‘What was that just now?’

Yeongwoo blinked, looking at the bag again, but the goblin had already tightly closed the bag’s tip.

-Crack!

The goblin, locking the bag, looked up at Yeongwoo and made a sharp sound, seeming to be a sharp warning.

“...”

Although no one translated or explained, Yeongwoo instinctively sensed that it was some kind of warning not to look inside the bag when the pocket dimension was open.

-Kit!

Next, the goblin found and held up Yeongwoo’s last item, the ancient scroll.

After placing the bag on the ground, this item, despite its name “scroll,” was not paper but a grayish stone slab.

「Morning Star」 – Ancient Scroll

【Activated in the Open Door state.】

As it was the size of a large encyclopedia, Yeongwoo had to receive it with both hands.

Thud.

‘What is this...?’

Deeply engraved on the stone were hieroglyph-like symbols, but naturally, they were unreadable.

However, there was no guidance or information appearing in Yeongwoo's hands, the owner.

Externally, it looked like just a useless large rock.

But the merchants of Voltak had priced it at a whopping 80,000 karma, and the Serpent of Greed, an epic compass, also claimed it to be a rare item.

The tooltip only mentioned that it activated in a open door state, so Yeongwoo couldn't understand not only the usage of "Morning Star" but also what kind of item it was.

Crunch.

He tried biting the corner of the slab secretly, but it remained silent.

'Or does it activate automatically in specific situations?'

In the end, Yeongwoo couldn't find a solution until the SUV of the Jeong family appeared on the other side of the road.

Brrrr!

At first, it was an approaching SUV with a quite loud engine noise, but not far away, the sound suddenly quieted down.

It was because they belatedly discovered something inside the black pillar of light.

"Hey, Mr. Yeongwoo?"

As always, Myeongho parked the car from a distance and only extended his head, calling out to Yeongwoo.

"Are you okay?"

This was also a question about whether he and his mother will be safe.

Upon this, Yeongwoo glanced briefly at the trio still standing in place and then moved towards the Jeong family.

Then,

-Kitkit!



The golden goblin, who had been circling the box debris, surrounded Yeongwoo and ran after him.

And all of this seemed revolutionary in the eyes of the trio.

“Uh... Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo!”

So much so that they rushed towards him, pushing commemorative coins engraved with Yeongwoo’s face and name into his hands.

“...?”

Turning at the sound calling him, Yeongwoo saw that just ten minutes ago, those who used to show him hostility were now standing with polite demeanor.

“What are you doing?”

Yeongwoo asked with a raised eyebrow, and the man in the leader-like outfit among the trio bowed deeply.

“Please take us in!”

“...What?”

He had received requests for help or temporary shelter before, but the phrase “take us in” was a first.

“Whether colleagues or subordinates, I won’t accept such requests.”

As Yeongwoo replied, memories of parting with Yechan, which already felt like a long time ago, flashed through his mind.

According to Yechan’s judgment, it was difficult for Yeongwoo to form a party.

For ordinary people, fighting monsters would be nearly impossible without increasing their party size.

However, as the Strongest Sword, Yeongwoo was different.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

His main opponents were not just monsters but much stronger mutants and the Strongest Sword from other regions.

Therefore, unless they were strong enough to help in battles with them, party members would be a burden—no, a weakness.

“Don’t talk nonsense and think about surviving on your own. Your chances of surviving are higher that way than traveling with me.”

Although Yeongwoo stated it firmly, the man in the leader’s outfit seemed dissatisfied.

“No! We are weaker than you, of course, but we can follow you and learn at least...!”

“Whether you learn or not, you’ll die within today or tomorrow.”

In gaming terms, it was like a user who had just finished the tutorial following a high-level hunting ground user.

Swish.

After finishing his words, Yeongwoo was about to continue walking towards the Jeong family, but the man who had been continuously bowing behind him raised his head and pointed at the SUV.

“What about those people? Are you saying those people will die within tomorrow because of Mr. Yeongwoo too?”

“...”

It was an undeniable point.

Upon this, Yeongwoo slowly turned around.

Then, in a subdued voice, he spoke.

“Yes. One person has already died. So, they’re expected to fall apart soon.”

“...!”

The pupils of the three individuals widened significantly.

However, the man in the leader’s outfit was not usually persistent.

“Then please let us stay with you until we part ways.”

At this, dissent arose within the trio for the first time.

“Why go to such lengths?”

“Just being with them is dangerous enough. Let’s stop here.”

The other two were not only scared by Yeongwoo’s words but also had no desire to follow someone else by clinging desperately.

It made sense, as the three of them had been doing quite well on their own so far.

Yeongwoo had refused their joining for the same reason.

However, the man in the leader’s outfit was looking far into the distance.

“We might have a chance to see how someone like that operates and moves from a distance. We need to understand how the world works to find a proper way to survive.”

While saying this, the man pointed at the SUV of the Jeong family once again.

“It’s not like we gain nothing. If we join that vehicle, we gain mobility. It’s not a losing choice at all.”

“But how do we know those people want to be with us? That’s also unknown.”

Another member immediately countered, but the man gestured that there would be no problem.

“Are there people who don’t want to live, no right...? Already one person has died, and soon Mr. Yeongwoo won’t be there either. They won’t refuse our request to join them.”

Although continuously attaching ‘Mr.’ felt burdensome, Yeongwoo found the man’s last opinion strangely convincing.

If, according to the previous agreement, they were to part ways in Chungju and go their separate paths, the Jeong family without combatants would practically be as good as dead.

It was quite selfish, but it was an opportunity to unload the burden on his mind.

“Okay. If the condition is to join them when I part ways with you, I’ll allow you to travel together for a while.”

Yeongwoo, who had been firm until now, suddenly changed his stance, and the man in the leader’s outfit’s expression brightened.

On the other hand, the other two members looked more serious and expressed resentment.

“I’m not interested. Essentially, we’ll be following that guy.”

“We know he’s an outstanding person, but if he can’t take responsibility for our lives, there’s no reason to follow him.”

Sizzle.

The atmosphere inside the vehicle changed, and the composition seemed different.

With the two stepping back, it no longer looked like a trio.

Yet, the man in the leader’s outfit was obsessively fixated on Yeongwoo, to an unusual extent.

“I want to know how that person fights and what thoughts guide him. If you’re going to stay here, I’m going, even if I’m alone.”

“What?”

“Then, it’s just the two of us.”

By declaring their departure so simply, it seemed they weren’t family.

Now that it had come to this, Yeongwoo was also intrigued by the man.

However, since he couldn’t drag out the time, he intervened in the conversation of the trio.

“I’m leaving now. If you really plan to follow, decide now.”

Saying so, Yeongwoo continued walking towards the vehicle.

The man in the leader’s outfit adjusted the backpack on his shoulders and moved along.

The other two, once the man stepped back, made blunt remarks as a farewell.

“Crazy bastard.”

“Don’t regret it just before dying.”

At the same time, Yeongwoo, who had arrived at the SUV, opened the rear seat door with a surprised look at Myeongho.

“Spare a seat for one more person, will you? Let him sit in the front passenger seat.”

“Uh, yes... of course...”

However, Myeongho's gaze was not on the new member, the man in the leader's outfit, but on the golden goblin that had bounced onto the back seat with Yeongwoo.

"Yeongwoo, excuse me, but what is that?"

Looking around the back seat with the rearview mirror, Myeongho cautiously asked.

At the same time, Myeongae, who was startled, pressed herself against the opposite window.

"W-What kind of monster is that?"

In response, Yeongwoo handed the artifact 'Morning Star' to the goblin he was holding.

"It's my slave. You can store your belongings with this little guy now."

However.

-Kitkit!

For some reason, the goblin did not accept the certificate that Yeongwoo handed over.

"Why is that?"

Yeongwoo handed the item once again, but the goblin, like before, did not react.

The reason became clear when the man in the leader's outfit climbed into the front passenger seat.

"Shi-aat...!"

Suddenly, a gray slate, or rather a sooty slab, began to emit white smoke and break apart when the man stepped onto the seat.

"Oops...!"

Realizing something, Yeongwoo went out of the vehicle holding the crumbling slab in his hand.

At that moment, the slate that had maintained its outline so far scattered into the air.

"Uh?"

Myeongho, who extended his head only as far as the driver's seat window, the man in a stylish suit trying to see Yeongwoo from the passenger seat, and Myeongae who still looked dreadful, all focused their attention on Yeongwoo.

With all eyes on him, Yeongwoo saw a new message appear in his field of vision.

[Achievement Unlocked: Model]

| Achievement Grade: Artifact

| Achievement Rank: First

‘model...?’

Yeongwoo, receiving the gaze of those around him, looked at the dust-like particles of the shattered slate that had soared to the dark sky.

‘What did I advertise?’

Just as Yeongwoo had this unsettling question, a faint timer appeared at the top of his field of vision.

| Time until advertiser arrival: 04:30:00

Soon after.

‘Huh.’

| Time until advertiser arrival: 04:29:59

The timer started counting down.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

freewebnovel.com

## **Chapter 48**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 48: The Judge with the Longsword (1)

‘What’s this again.’

Just now, after achieving the achievement of being a ‘advertisement model,’ a timer appeared indicating that the advertiser is coming with follow-up measures.

So, what does this mean?

'Is it really about that advertisement? Then, the certificate I used earlier...'

Yeongwoo thought of the ancient certificate 'Morning Star,' which had disappeared without a trace.

It was a dreadful thought, but considering the situation, it seemed to refer to the star of the advertising world.

In other words, the earlier certificate was used to promote something somewhere.

There must be an extraordinary model here who attracts advertisers.

"..."

Yeongwoo was somewhat flustered by the unexpected development, but he already knew that, once the timer appeared, it couldn't be reversed.

Speaking from experience.

'Even meeting an alien merchant, there's no way I can't get an advertisement....'

Yeongwoo said courageously to himself, but his fingertips couldn't help but tremble slightly.

It was a different kind of unfamiliarity, a fear that felt unlike the numerous obstacles he had faced so far.

Advertising...

If something in the universe is willing to advertise, who on earth would advertise what and why?

And how would they want to advertise?

Through an ordinary human, no less.

"..."

Yeongwoo stopped his futile thoughts and checked the timer.

[Time until advertiser arrives: 04:28:19]

In about 4 hours and 28 minutes, the existence of the advertiser will arrive.

'This time, there's no mark. Could it be that the advertiser is coming to find me in person?'

Yeongwoo looked around the clear sky.

It was absurd that the advertiser would appear where the certificate was used after a whopping 4 hours. No, it couldn't be.

Considering the situation, he couldn't just sit here calmly.

"..."

In the end, Yeongwoo gestured towards Myeongho after a brief hesitation.

"Myeongho, start the engine. Let's head to Chungju for now."

\* \* \*

Vroom...!

Inside the vehicle that started moving toward Chungju.

Myeongho, as usual, kept his gaze fixed forward, pretending to concentrate on driving, while Myeongae looked outside the window with lifeless eyes.

And the new figure in the vehicle.

"... Mr. Yeongwoo."

Unable to endure the silence that had lasted for several minutes, the tall man opened his mouth with difficulty.

In response, Yeongwoo, who had been looking at the goblin, turned his gaze towards him.

"Just call me Yeongwoo."

"Oh, yes. Yeongwoo, sir."

"Come to think of it, we haven't even introduced ourselves yet."

"Ah... right?"

The man relaxed his expression as if relieved after hearing Yeongwoo's words.



“I’m sorry, I don’t have much experience. As you may know, my name is Jeong Yeongwoo....”

After saying this much, Yeongwoo glanced briefly at Myeongae, who was sitting closely on the opposite side of the back seat.

“...”

The cold wind was blowing again.

Given the situation, it was difficult to expect a cheerful self-introduction.

“On this side is Miss Jeong Myeongae... And the person driving now is her son, Myeongho.”

As Yeongwoo gestured alternately between Myeongae and Myeongho, Myeongho, who felt it, quickly introduced himself.

“I’m Jeong Myeongho. Nice to meet you.”

“Oh, yes. I’m Kim Jongsu. I’m from Andong, and I’m twenty-nine this year.”

Kim Jongsu.

Despite the imposing aura emanating from his tall stature, he was the youngest among them.

“How old are you two... Are you both brothers?”

Kim Jongsu asked cautiously, extending his neck downward.

The conversation, each person with a sword at their waist, was unbelievably casual in tone.

“I’m thirty-four.”

“Oh, you’re indeed the older brother.”

When Yeongwoo revealed his age, Jongsu wiped his chest as if relieved.

Then, for some reason, Myeongho, who had been constantly watching, belatedly disclosed his age.

“Ah... I’m a bit older. I’m thirty-seven.”

“Oh, you’re the big brother.”

Then Jongsu, trying to change the atmosphere, suggested that the youngest should handle the driving.

In reality, he was doing his best to become an official member, risking his life to join this party.

So, Yeongwoo couldn't help but ask.

"Jongsu, why did you follow us? The situation wasn't bad when we were with our colleagues."

Upon Yeongwoo's question, Jongsu's expression, which had been smiling, stiffened for a moment and then relaxed again.

"Oh, that."

Then Jongsu began an odd story.

"Are we facing extinction?"

"....?"

Everyone inside, including Yeongwoo, raised their eyebrows at this abrupt remark.

However, Jongsu continued without paying attention.

"Actually, you could say we're almost in a state of extinction. On the first day, humanity lost almost half. Moreover, most things have turned into monsters."

The first day.

Referring to that first day when famous people were brought down through voting, and even the public engaged in remote killings, tearing each other apart.

At this point, Myeongho, who had been quiet until now, spoke.

"But half of us are still alive."

Myeongho's tone carried a nuance of hope.

On the other hand, Jongsu shook his head.

"There's probably less than half left now. Most people must have died from monsters or bandits."

"So what? Are you trying to say that the remaining half will eventually die?"

“In reality, until recently, I thought so... but.”

Jongsu said this much and then looked at Yeongwoo.

“After seeing Yeongwoo, my thoughts changed. It's not that the world is ending; it's just changing.”

“Changing?”

Myeongho asked, but Jongsu's gaze was still on Yeongwoo.

“Yes. Now, instead of going to work, we make money by hunting monsters.”

“...”

Myeongho could not easily continue speaking.

It was an idea he could never accept as he did not even have the fighting power to face monsters.

According to Jongsu's claim, Myeongho has no ability to make money, so isn't he a so-called incompetent person?

“Well, that's...!”

When Myeongho was about to retort, Jongsu smoothly continued speaking.

“This is reality. Starting tomorrow, when taxes start to be collected in earnest, those who don't have the ability will have to find a way to make money, no matter what, whether it's begging or becoming a slave.”

It was a grim outlook, but Yeongwoo couldn't help but agree with Jongsu's thoughts.

There was no need to look far; even today, people were commodifying their unique services and selling them.

“But I didn't think that way. I had confidence in dealing with most monsters. But after meeting Yeongwoo today, I realized one more thing.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“...What is it?”

This time, Yeongwoo asked, and Jongsu's gaze quickly swept over Yeongwoo's entire body.

"I have the ability to make money, but just like office workers have bosses, people who hunt monsters also have bosses."

Then Jongsu pointed at Yeongwoo with a cunning gesture.

"Not only monsters but also experts who destroy mutants, you can call the Strongest Sword, the final boss. In my view, sir, you have the potential to threaten even someone like me. You are a person with real power."

"..."

Threaten someone like me...

Yeongwoo thought at this point that Jongsu must have threatened or been threatened by someone else before.

Such thinking naturally led to such an idea.

'By the way, we met in Mungyeong, and Jongsu was from Andong.'

Andong is an area that can only be reached after passing through a couple of cities from Mungyeong.

In other words, Jongsu must have experienced various events during his journey from Andong to Mungyeong.

"Well, you know, as you may know, there's one Strongest Sword in each city. In other words..."

He was about to say, "I'm just one of dozens of Strongest Swords," but Yeongwoo couldn't continue his words because Jongsu's eyes flashed, and he couldn't continue the conversation.

"That's right! There are probably only dozens of Strongest Swords at best, right? Besides, sir, didn't you do business with aliens without blinking an eye? You're not an ordinary Strongest Sword."

"..."

It was true, but it felt strangely distorted.

Yeongwoo, feeling embarrassed, just grinned, and Jongsu spoke on his behalf.

“So, I’ve decided to follow you and learn for at least a day. I think you will become a great person.”

In a world where all of humanity is dying, what greater compliment could there be? However, Yeongwoo, who had already glimpsed malice in Jongsu’s eyes, didn’t feel good about it.

“For just one day, it’s... We part ways in Chungju.”

As Yeongwoo spoke, looking out the front window, Jongsu blinked for a moment and then took a deep breath.

“No, Chungju? Isn’t that the way we’re going now?”

Just then, a sign pointing to Chungju direction appeared on the road, and Myeongho, who was holding the steering wheel, also confirmed it.

“That’s right. My father is there... He said Yeongwoo will accompany us until Chungju.”

“This damn...!”

Jongsu managed to swallow the curse that was about to come out reflexively, then quickly asked Yeongwoo.

“Anyway, until you finish your business in Chungju, you have time, right? You need to find Mr. Myeongho’s father and do something else... So, there is time, right?”

Yeongwoo recalled what he had to do in Chungju.

‘First, I have to find and kill the mutant, and probably during that process, I’ll meet Chungju’s Strongest Sword. After that, I’ll wait for the merchant to appear and make contact....’

Although he currently has a limited amount of extra karma, depending on the situation in Chungju, he might be able to replenish karma by sweeping away monsters.

‘Mr. Myeongho’s father... He might still be alive. I can’t search every city with him. If I can’t reunite with him immediately, my role ends there.’

After organizing his thoughts to some extent, Yeongwoo opened the status window.

『Character: Jeong Yeongwoo07』

[Strength] 600 (19+581)

[Endurance] 350 (21+329)

[Durability] 550 (13+537)

[Sensory] 100 (24+76)

\* 1,000 karma is consumed per one stat point.

\* Available karma: 371,000

Contrary to Jongsu, who considered Yeongwoo the best among Strongest Sword, the reality was that his relatively weak stats were covered by various equipment and 'Gyeongbuk Sword Law.'

If he encounters a true powerhouse at any time, he could die.

'With only 370,000 left... Meeting a merchant won't yield much value since I can't buy anything.'

So, how about investing karma in abilities or physical appearance this time?

"....."

While Yeongwoo was deep in thought, Myeongho, in the driver's seat, nodded and reported.

"Uh... we're about to enter Chungju soon."

There was a slight sense of difficulty in the tone.

Then, Jongsu in the passenger seat also looked out the window and showed a puzzled reaction.

"Oh, what's this?"

By this time, Yeongwoo was also looking at the distant view of Chungju City through his car window, so he could understand why the reactions were strange.

Current time, 3:46 PM.

There was not a single pillar of light falling in Chungju.

'Even if there are monsters... have they all been eliminated, including mutants?'

If that's the case, Chungju must have adapted to the 'reset' world in some way.

As Yeongwoo felt an inexplicable excitement and watched out the window, a pillar of light that had not been visible from a distance began to come into view.

“Ah.”

It was pitch black.

It was a black pillar of light indicating the merchant's location.

Indeed, there were no mutants in Chungju.

Someone had already killed the mutant on the second day and even called the merchant.

And the mastermind was probably....

Pahat!

Soon, as the vehicle approached the entrance to Chungju, the area status notification changed.

[The current area is 'Chungju.'

[The strongest in this area is 'Shin Youngju 22.' Rank 3, 2 defenses.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Follow current novels on (f)reewebnovel

## **Chapter 49**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 49: The Judge with the Longsword (2)

'Rank three, two defenses...'

Yeongwoo carefully examined the record of Chungju's Strongest Sword engraved on the regional status board.

'He has committed murder twice since becoming the Strongest Sword. Given the low frequency, he might not be a reckless person.'

Since the defense count of the Strongest Sword is also the murder count, the probability of a wicked person having a high defense count is high.

On the contrary, someone who refrains from unnecessary murder would naturally have a lower defense count.

‘This time, the mutant is also dead... Hopefully, there won’t be a need to fight.’

Of course, it wasn’t that there were no variables at all.

For Yeongwoo, it was necessary to meet the merchant who had come to Chungju.

However, what if the Strongest Sword does not welcome contact with the merchant and outsiders?

What should he do then?

“...”

Yeongwoo shifted his gaze from the corner of his vision to the notification that had been flashing since earlier.

「You have one unclaimed achievement reward.」

「Do you want to claim the reward?」

It referred to the reward for achievements accomplished using ancient certificates.

‘Was it an Relic-grade achievement? Anyway, it can’t be used when trading with the merchant.’

Yeongwoo sighed with disappointment and approved the reward claim again.

Then he immediately realized his mistake.

Snap.

Suddenly, a familiar sound rang out from the empty space inside the vehicle.

‘Oh, no.’

Pop, pop!

In front of Yeongwoo, ten blue coins appeared in a row.

With ten blue coins, it amounted to a whopping 500,000 Karma. Yeongwoo’s eyes widened at the unexpected income, but another surprising event occurred.

-Kiit!



The golden goblin that had been crouching quietly between Yeongwoo's legs suddenly bounced up like a bullet.

"...!"

The goblin, right in front of Yeongwoo's eyes, swiftly swept away the ten coins that had materialized in the air and gracefully landed in place.

"Uh."

Even Myeongae, who had a gloomy expression, was taken aback at this moment.

Jongsu, who had barely sensed the movement, alternately looked between Yeongwoo and the goblin with a bewildered face.

"What... What was that just now? I didn't see it properly."

Of course, even if he had turned around in time, he wouldn't have fully seen the goblin's movements.

Even Yeongwoo, the Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword, hadn't properly followed the goblin's trajectory just now.

'It picks up money on its own. Well, that's only natural.'

「Golden Goblin」 – Relic Slave

【Stores items in a subspace.】

【Picks up things that turn into money.】

In gaming terms, it could be considered a pet with an automatic acquisition function.

Yeongwoo silently watched the now calm goblin and brought the belongings he had scattered around the back seat to the goblin's vicinity.

The goblin, then, looked at Yeongwoo and quietly opened its subspace pouch to sweep up his belongings.

'It doesn't pick up everything visible. It prioritizes my possessions as the top priority... and only collects things that have been instructed.'

So, if you instruct it, will it bring things that are certain to be someone else's?

With this thought in mind, Yeongwoo immediately asked Jongsu.

“Jongsu, do you have any coins? Anything will do.”

“Oh, of course. You should always carry cash...”

As Jongsu shrugged his shoulders and took out a crimson coin from his pocket, Yeongwoo gave a command to the golden goblin.

“Bring that.”

The goblin, just like before, shot up at an incredible speed.

-Kiit!

It shot out like lightning, snatched the coin caught between Jongsu’s fingers before he could react, and returned to Yeongwoo before he even realized.

“Huh?”

“What?”

Jongsu showed a delayed reaction, looking puzzled.

In response, Yeongwoo took a coin from the goblin and bounced it back to Jongsu.

“Sorry, just experimenting.”

“I-it’s okay. It startled me a bit, though...”

Jongsu’s face was quite red.

He had been momentarily and significantly flustered.

After all, how could someone not be surprised when an otherworldly creature suddenly appeared and took away money?

“The world... is changing in a very strange way.”

Myeongho, who had been observing the back seat through the rearview mirror, interjected with a subdued voice between the two.

Then he pointed to his chin and gestured somewhere in front.

“It seems like Chungju has become strange too.”

“Yes...?”

Having heard Myeongho's words, Jongsu turned his head to look outside the car window, and Yeongwoo also observed the situation between the front two seats.

Then, their eyes widened.

'People...?'

People were visible from the city entrance.

Of course, Yeongwoo had encountered an elderly gang of bandits in Sangju, but Chungju was different.

"Whoa, what's that?"

Jongsu exclaimed, his mouth wide open, because there were so many people.

Just by what could be seen immediately, there seemed to be at least a hundred.

They didn't look like a gang of bandits, just scattered around in different places.

"Yeongwoo, have you ever seen something like this before?"

Myeongho, referring to the scene of several people in the driver's seat as 'something like this,' meant that such a sight was not common in the post-reset world.

To this, Yeongwoo tilted his head and said.

"Well, I've been to a few cities, but I've only seen part of that region. Anyway, it's a peculiar sight. So many people gathered like that."

Perhaps it was related to the absence of mutants and monsters in this area.

In that case, were there also so many people inside the city?

"Slow down a bit. Let's try talking to the people on the roadside."

Responding to Yeongwoo's request, Myeongho gently applied the brakes, decelerating.

People spread across fields near the entrance to the city began to turn their heads one by one.

And it was only at this point that Yeongwoo realized.

These people were not welcoming outsiders.

Despite everyone looking at the SUV they were riding in with curiosity, it seemed they were constantly scanning the sky.

‘They’re waiting for monsters. They’re all people who came out to earn money.’

Only now did shivers run down his spine.

In this ‘waiting line’ in front of him, there were even several boys who looked like they could be middle school students at most.

“Uh... how should I put it? It’s incredibly bizarre.”

Myeongho also felt uneasy in the scene of people standing in fields, wielding weapons.

On the other hand, Jongsu remarked.

“Seems like they’re ready to catch monsters as soon as they appear?”

He reached a similar conclusion as Yeongwoo.

After all, Jongsu was an Early Bird holder.

As a person who had been aggressive from the beginning of the reset, his response was natural.

“All those people came out to catch monsters?”

Myeongho found it hard to believe, raising his eyebrows as he glanced at the people.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Jongsu casually supplemented.

“Well, we can only see it in hindsight. They survived because they actively fought, right?”

Jongsu’s right hand was already near the Early Bird at his waist, probably preparing for any unexpected attacks.

Since there were many people around, it might be a precaution against potential surprises.

“Mr. Myeongho, please slow down ahead.”

At Yeongwoo's request, Myeongho stopped the car.

Then, people who had been merely watching from a distance began to gather along the roadside.

Seeing this, Myeongae, who had been peering out of the car window, exclaimed and pulled away from the window.

"I-is this okay?"

Myeongae's eyes began to tremble, as if she had seen orcs.

"..."

At times like this, what could be said to reassure her?

After a moment of thought, Yeongwoo pointed towards Myeongae's side of the car and said.

"Check to see if your husband is there. Chungju seems to have handled this situation well."

Then, as Myeongae unconsciously looked back at the car window, Yeongwoo opened the opposite door and stepped outside.

Tap.

The entrance road to Chungju was made of smooth asphalt, and when Yeongwoo stepped on it barefoot, the color of his skin stood out prominently.

Perhaps it was because of this.

"Oh."

"Huh?"

Some of the Chungju citizens who had been surrounding the car and making noise suddenly showed surprised reactions upon seeing Yeongwoo's bare feet.

"This person is barefoot."

"Really, he's barefoot."

Some of them even asked, "Why is he barefoot?" However, the majority seemed to understand.

When the body's output exceeds a certain level, it becomes difficult to wear shoes.

And this meant that:

'Chungju's Strongest Sword also walks barefoot.'

Inverting this again meant that many people survived even after seeing Strongest Sword barefoot.

Yeongwoo usually hid his titles, so his head was currently bare, but the citizens of Chungju seemed to already perceive him as a Strongest Sword.

"Welcome!"

Someone in the crowd suddenly threw out a welcoming phrase.

Then, others followed suit, each uttering awkward lines:

"Welcome...!"

"Welcome to Chungju!"

"Nice to meet you!"

Then, the bravest among them, who was closest to Yeongwoo, finally brought up the main topic.

"But... Why did you come to Chungju? May I ask?"

As this remark was thrown out, the commotion outside the vehicle, which had been filled with contextless welcoming phrases, suddenly fell silent.

In fact, everyone wanted to ask that question.

"..."

In response, instead of immediately answering, Yeongwoo looked around for a moment and then threw out a question.

"Most cities I've passed through so far were reduced to ruins in just one day, but this is different."

Depending on what you hear, he had a pretty scary line.

How can we know whether these barefoot foreigners directly reduced those cities to ruins?

Perhaps that is why the faces of Chungju citizens, who were smiling brightly on the outside, hardened.

“Yeah... “Everyone is doing their best.”

This answer was also given by a ‘brave person.’

“We think this will end one day. So, we are doing our best to normalize the city.”

City normalization...

It was the first future-oriented expression I had heard since the reset.

I don’t know what the secret is, but Chungju established reset measures faster than other cities and started putting them into practice.

‘It’s really unique. Are all big cities like this?’

Yeongwoo glanced at the black pillar of light that was still shining in the distance.

He had planned to go to Chungju only to meet the merchants, but he thought it would be a good idea to meet the Strongest Sword in person as well, if possible.

[The current area is ‘Chungju.’

[The strongest in this area is ‘Shin Youngju 22.’ Rank 3, 2 defenses.

Yeongwoo’s gaze was fixed on the black pillar of light, and the ‘brave one’ who noticed this looked uneasy as he withdrew.

It was time to reveal why he had come here.

Yeongwoo, looking at the cityscape of Chungju on the roadside where the car was heading, opened his mouth.

“I came to meet Chungju’s Strongest Sword.....”

“Oh.....!”

“Emergency!”

Before Yeongwoo’s sentence could be completed, everyone, including the ‘brave one’, was shocked and hurriedly ran towards Chungju.

As everyone feared, they assumed that an outsider had come to succeed Chungju Strongest Sword.

And the method of succeeding Strongest Sword was only through murder.

Thud!

The sight of a hundred Chungju citizens running across the field looked like a herd of gazelles fleeing from a lion.

“What, what is this?”

Myeongho, got out of the car with a bewildered expression due to the unexpected situation.

Meanwhile, Jongsu in the passenger seat also got out of the car, but unlike Myeongho, he had a very amused look on his face.

“Well... it’s already fully fortified here. Wouldn’t it have been like this in the old days too?”

“The old days...?”

Myeongho, who didn’t catch the context, tilted his head, but Yeongwoo remained silent, as he seemed to know what Jongsu was talking about.

With almost all objects turned into stones now, there was no way to communicate, not even a phone call.

So when an emergency occurred, how would they notify others?

By foot.

It had to be done by people running to spread the word.

Of course, it depended on Ba-bal surviving and reaching the destination to function properly... but since Yeongwoo didn’t come to fight, he didn’t want to harm people unnecessarily.

“...Anyway, Chungju’s Strongest Sword will come this way soon. Let’s go out to greet him too.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

This chapter is updated by fre(e)webnov(l).com

## Chapter 50



[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

## Chapter 50: The Judge with the Longsword (3)

If humans and cars were to compete in a race, who would win?

Yeongwoo could run as fast as a car, but the citizens of Chungju crossing the field didn't seem to be that fast.

Vroom...!

Yeongwoo's SUV, which had started late, quickly overtook them within a dozen seconds.

"Uh, ugh!"

The Chungju citizens, seeing the SUV passing them, screamed in fear.

Even people running on the road quickly moved aside when Myeongho's horn echoed loudly.

So, to anyone unfamiliar, this scene seemed like...

"It seems like we're really going to attack Chungju."

Myeongho, sitting in the passenger seat, looked out the window and smiled as if enjoying the situation.

He was enjoying the sight of people feeling threatened and fleeing.

On the other hand, Yeongwoo lightly tapped the headrest on the driver's seat and told Myeongho,

"Please slow down a bit. If by any chance we hit someone, it could be troublesome."

Unlike Myeongho, who was in high spirits, Yeongwoo had no intention of causing trouble in this city.

So, even if Chungju's Strongest Sword came out in a somewhat angry state, he planned to try resolving it through dialogue as much as possible.

'Of course, if they swing a sword at us out of the blue, there's nothing I can do...'

While Yeongwoo was casually playing with the black sword and early bird tucked into his belt, Myeongho in the driver's seat sighed.

"Oh, there's something ahead again. People..."

"People?"

Yeongwoo listened to Myeongho's words and leaned forward to look ahead through the windshield.

Then, indeed, people were visible, just as Myeongho had said.

Three people fully armed with swords and shields, wearing police uniforms.

These three were blocking the road in a line, and behind them, a tollgate painted in blue stood like a fortress.

'They're using the tollgate as a checkpoint.'

As the SUV approached slowly, the three people in police uniforms near the tollgate looked at each other in confusion.

The tollgate was originally a facility to collect vehicle tolls, but since the Reset Incident, they hadn't seen any actual cars passing through.

"Uh... How did you come to Chungju?"

Finally, one of the three approached with his arm resting on the handle of the sword still in its sheath, looking puzzled.

At this moment, Myeongho was about to answer with the window rolled down when...

"Emergency! Emergency!"

A desperate voice echoed from afar.

It was none other than the front of the citizens' group that had been racing at full speed since earlier.

"What...?"

The police, who belatedly realized that the SUV in front of them was the cause of the "emergency," shouted at Myeongho with a harsh tone.

"You, what's going on? Turn off the engine and get out of the car right now!"

Clang!

The police drew their swords one by one, but Myeongho didn't flinch in the driver's seat.

Because...

Suddenly, Yeongwoo in the back seat was getting out of the car instead of him.

"We didn't come to fight. Is Chungju's Strongest Sword Mr. Shin Youngju here? We just came to see him."

Yeongwoo spread his empty hands, showing he had nothing, and expressed that he had no intention of fighting.

However, the excitement of the police did not subside.

What the police were looking at right now was still the running car with the engine running, the outsider with the early bird, and the dozens of citizens shouting "emergency" instead of screaming.

Currently, on Yeongwoo's side, the police were still facing the running vehicle with the engine on, the outsider with the early bird, and dozens of citizens shouting "emergency" instead of screaming.

Unconsciously, they reacted,

"This guy! Turn off the engine and get out!"

"You... Lie down. This is your last warning!"

The police, harboring hostility towards Yeongwoo's group, resorted to excessive defense.

It was the result of a clash between instinctual fear and the obligation as checkpoint officers.

In the midst of this, one overly excited police officer even showed an intention to strike the front of the SUV with his sword.

Swish!

Subsequently, Yeongwoo had no choice but to move and pushed the problematic police officer away like lightning.

Thunk!

“Oof!”

Because the incident happened so quickly, the other two policemen only realized what had happened after their colleague fell to the ground.

“What’s going on?”

“Ouch!”

Then, almost simultaneously, their gazes turned towards Yeongwoo.

「The sensory values have temporarily increased from the original 100 to 122.」

「The sensory values have temporarily increased from the original 122 to 141.」

It was the counterattack from the Chungju police.

However, the combat capabilities of the two, confirmed through the theft effect, were pathetic.

At best, they had experience dealing with a few monsters.

As a result, the hologram of the Gyeongbuk Sword Law that appeared shortly after indicated that both of them could be killed within a single move, displaying a “kill” mark.

However, instead of following the guide, Yeongwoo acted solely based on his judgment.

Without using a sword, he emitted the ‘Strongest Sword’s Prestige.’

Whoosh!

When Yeongwoo unleashed a golden wave while glaring from his eyes, the two police officers trying to confront him froze in place momentarily.

“Huh?”

“Ouch...!”

It was due to the pain resembling their hearts being squeezed, caused by the impact of the Prestige. Soon, Yeongwoo’s low voice penetrated their ears.

“Where can I meet Chungju’s Strongest Sword?”

As Yeongwoo withdrew the Prestige with these words, one police officer hesitated and sat down in place, letting go of his weapon.

The other one...

“Ugh!”

Fell to the ground and vomited while if lying down.

He turned out to be someone with a very weak mental strength.

Yeongwoo, avoiding the puke that began to spread on the ground, took a step back and told the police officer he had pushed shoulder-to-shoulder earlier.

“As I mentioned earlier, we didn’t come to fight. Where can I find the Strongest Sword?”

“Um...”

With an embarrassed look, the opponent raised his hand and pointed northeast.

“Probably at the Konkuk Campus...”

“Konkuk? Are you referring to Konkuk University?”

Yeongwoo knew that Konkuk University was a school located in Seoul.

He looked puzzled as he gazed northeast, and the police officer nodded.

“There’s a branch here. If nothing unusual happened, he should still be on campus.”

“I see.”

In the phrase ‘he should still be on campus,’ Yeongwoo caught a glimpse that Chungju’s Strongest Sword had earned the trust of the citizens.

Yeongwoo sensed that Chungju Strongest Sword was trusted by the citizens from the phrase ‘he should still be on campus.’

“Would you mind coming with us?”

“What?”

“Since the navigation system isn’t working... we need someone to guide us to the school.”

The police around looked uneasy.

Seeing this, Yeongwoo shrugged his shoulders and casually added,

“If we can’t find the way easily, there might be more incidents like this on our way to the school. It’s better not to create unnecessary variables.”

Yeongwoo’s mention of ‘incidents like this’ referred to the series of events involving confronting another police officer or Chungju citizens by force and asking for directions.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

And in this process, if unintentionally a bloody incident occurred, it wouldn’t be a tragedy, but rather a threat.

The opponent seemed to understand Yeongwoo’s intention, and with a stiff expression, he reluctantly nodded.

—

Clank.

When Yeongwoo picked up one of the police officers who had blocked the car at the tollgate and got into the back seat, everyone in the left side of the car opened their eyes wide and asked,

“W-what’s going on?”

“Who is this person?”

“Well, sir...”

However, the most surprised person was the police officer himself who succumbed to Yeongwoo’s threat and volunteered to be the guide.

“Hey... what’s this?”

Pointing with his finger, the police officer couldn’t get on the back seat and indicated beneath the seat.

-Keet?

There, a golden goblin, a high-class slave with golden skin, was crouching.

“He’s my slave. We don’t have time, so get on quickly.”

As Yeongwoo, who had already gotten into the car, gestured somewhat forcefully, the helpless police officer had no choice.

Swoosh.

As he stepped on the back seat, the goblin, frowning, moved to the opposite side, and Myeongae also avoided the goblin and stuck to the car window, coughing slightly.

—

An uncomfortable and eerie situation in many ways.

Nevertheless, once everyone, humans, and monsters were seated, Yeongwoo gave the signal by tapping the headrest on the driver's seat.

"Uh... should I just follow the road straight ahead for now?"

Myeongho asked while checking the rearview mirror.

Then, the police officer, rubbing his neck, looked at Yeongwoo.

"It would be more convenient to go back a bit and enter through Munkang-ri. No checkpoints, and it'll be easier."

"What if I just go straight ahead?"

"Well..."

The police officer looked uneasy at Yeongwoo's question.

"Taking the highway might be more comfortable, but there's almost no time difference between going through Munkang-ri. In fact, going through Munkang-ri might be faster due to possible delays at checkpoints."

"Is there another tollgate? Why is there another checkpoint if we go up?"

As Yeongwoo asked this question, the true intentions of the police officer finally surfaced.

"There's a densely populated area. There's also a national university nearby, so there are a lot of people. Therefore, there is a significant police presence. So, it's better to avoid people as much as possible..."

"Police presence...?"

Where everything had turned to stone, it was unclear why there were so many people near the national university.

Even disregarding that, the fact that it was a densely populated area with a significant police presence was a cultural shock for Yeongwoo.

In the cities he had seen before, there was not even a basic system of law, let alone law enforcement.

“In the current situation, how can law and order be maintained? Most of the police should be much stronger than ordinary citizens, isn’t that nearly impossible?”

And even if that were possible, who would control the police, who are powerful enough to maintain security?

If any of the police were to deviate, the order would collapse in an instant.

“Uh, well...”

In response to Yeongwoo’s questioning gaze, the police officer wiped sweat off his forehead and avoided eye contact, looking towards the driver’s side window.

Then suddenly.

“Oh!”

The eyes and mouth of the police officer widened as he let out a surprised exclamation.

However, it seemed more like a reaction of joy than surprise.

Upon seeing the police officer’s reaction, Yeongwoo subtly realized who was approaching from a distance.

“No way.”

As Yeongwoo turned his upper body and shifted his gaze to the driver’s side window, he saw a silhouette rapidly approaching at a considerable speed.

Pabababat!

The distinct sound of friction echoed, indicating that the person was barefoot, pushing the asphalt consecutively with each step.

Just like the figure on the other side, Yeongwoo, who was also used to running barefoot on the road, could be sure of it.

“Chungju’s Strongest Sword came to find me in person. But how...?”



Even though no one should have been able to leave the area yet, how did someone inform her?

Papat!

In the midst of the confusion, the silhouette was already close enough for Yeongwoo to recognize the facial features.

At this moment, Yeongwoo was surprised once again.

“...!”

Contrary to expectations, Chungju’s Strongest Sword, Shin Youngju<sup>22</sup>, was a middle-aged woman.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Follow current novels on (f)reewebnovel