

Level 4 Human in a Ruined World

#Chapter 71 - Read Level 4 Human in a Ruined World Chapter 71

Chapter 71

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 71: Life and Death in Front of the Motel (3)

Full-on attack.

It was a simple command without further elaboration, yet everyone rushed towards a single target as if it had been planned.

Shiiiiit!

Directly towards Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword (Advanced)..

"This...!"

The man with thorns clenched in his hands grimaced as he saw female alliance members disregarding even the mutant and rushing towards him.

"You crazy bitches."

But this wasn't anger towards the alliance; it was fear of the situation.

He had collected titles from the Gyeongbuk region and been through all sorts of battles, but facing dozens of furious female swordsmen, a mutant falling from the sky, and fighting against the current Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword simultaneously was beyond anything he had ever imagined.

"Damn it."

Finally, the man threw himself out of the lobby to escape to the open ground.

Thud!

Instantly, the mutant Yeongtae cast a huge shadow and chased after him.

「Wait!」

'Friend' was a presence that had to set up a ball and return within a limited time to receive a reward.

So Yeongtae's "wait" wasn't a threat; it was genuine.

「Waaaaaiitttt!」

Of course, this time it was a threat infused with emotions.

In an instant, Yeongtae's eyes seemed to glow red, and he leaped at tremendous speed.

Shiiiiing!

A sound like an airplane passing overhead.

"Wow."

As the man looked up, he saw the bulky mutant landing on the other side, blocking his escape route.

"Crazy."

But there was no time even for astonishment.

Whaaack!

This time, a heavy sound came from the direction of the motel room.

It was Yeongwoo, who had been chasing from behind, thrusting his elongated black sword up to five meters.

"This bastard."

The man gritted his teeth and decided to block the black sword first with his thorns.

Due to the dozens of female alliance members rushing towards him, it was difficult to recognize the hologram in front of him, so it was entirely his own judgement.

Kaang!

The two Strongest Swords clashed after a while.

"...?"

For the first time, the man faced Yeongwoo in a proper duel, his eyes flashing with surprise.

‘What’s this guy? He’s nothing.’

The opponent’s strength transmitted through the thorns was pathetic.

But as dozens of combined attacks poured down despite this pathetic strength, the situation changed.

“Yaaah!”

“He’s dead!”

“Don’t hesitate!”

Swoosh!

The flashing blades flew like arrows, and the man was overwhelmed trying to dodge Yeongwoo’s attacks mixed among the dozens of blades.

Even so.

‘Well, something’s odd.’

The man didn’t know it, but during Yeongwoo’s attacks, 30% of them didn’t affect the hologram.

「Illusion」 – Unique Shoes

【30% chance of detection evasion.】

This effect called “illusion” included the hologram of regional swordsmanship, just as Yeongwoo had hoped.

So, in the end.

“Isn’t that too cowardly? Let’s have a one-on-one duel!”

Unlike inside the motel, where he had become increasingly defensive, the man now proposed a 1:1 duel.

Of course, Yeongwoo had no reason to accept such a proposal, and the mutant rapidly approaching from the other side wouldn’t allow it either.

「Merit...!」

Thud, thud, thud!

Yeongtae fiercely charged towards the man, showing his back to Yeongwoo.

There was nothing in his mind now except the thought of killing that guy before his return time, so he could receive recognition and put something more in his “room.”

「If I go back empty-handed, I'll really go crazy.」

Commonly known as the returnee's room.

It was a small, white room that filled Yeongtae's daily life, with no entrance or windows, just waiting until Yeongwoo blew the horn to call him back.

Of course, he had received his first reward for his previous stay.

It was nothing more than a forearm-sized hourglass.

It didn't have any special functions; it just allowed him to watch the sand falling, which was better than staring at the white walls endlessly.

Yet, it didn't make the waiting time enjoyable in any way.

On the contrary, waiting became even more agonizing.

Once he confirmed that the environment improved when contribution was made, the urgency for the call became even stronger.

One might call it a form of psychological torture.

「Hiyah!」

Finally, Yeongtae arrived behind the man and swung his large hand.

Whoom!

Then, a tearing sound echoed, and the man's field of vision was filled with shattered holograms.

‘Fuck! When did...?’

The man, foreseeing a dog-like future, gritted his teeth.

It was because he could already see blurry fingertips in the corner of his vision.

“Isn't this cheating?!”

Thud!

As the man shouted in frustration and swung his thorns, Yeongtae's fingertips broke miserably.

Crack!

「What...?」

“Oops?”

The man's strength was much stronger than Yeongtae's endurance.

And just as the man realized this, at the moment he was about to smile with satisfaction.

“Die!”

“Get in!”

Dozens of female alliance members relentlessly attacked without giving him a chance to rest.

‘I need to figure out how to deal with these guys first.’

Once again, seeing the holograms entangled, the man realized he needed to reduce the number of opponents first.

Although the holographic guide of regional swordsmanship showed unreasonable performance in one-on-one duels, it became more of a hindrance when there were multiple enemies, giving too many warnings.

“Back off!”

After adjusting his strategy, the man began swinging his thorns towards the female alliance members, prompting Yeongwoo to instruct immediately.

“Find a way to restrain him! He is trying to reduce our numbers.....!”

There was urgency in Yeongwoo's voice because a miracle was indeed necessary.

He knew from past experience that the summoning time of ‘Friend’ wasn't long.

And if Yeongtae fell now...

‘Then we have no chance. We'll all die here.’

As Yeongwoo rushed towards the man with clenched teeth, Yeongtae also attempted a tackle, deliberately aiming to force evasive maneuvers rather than clawing with his thorns now that the opponent knew he could break through them.

However, the opponent's response exceeded Yeongtae's imagination.

"You idiot. Did you think I'd dodge you if you came straight at me?"

Instead of dodging, the man firmly planted his feet and thrust deeply towards Yeongtae's chest.

He chose a direct breakthrough.

It meant he was confident in the power of his thrust.

And indeed.

Squish!

With a dreadful sound, Yeongtae's body was torn apart.

「Grrggh!」

Thunk!

Yeongtae let out a desperate scream and collapsed to the ground.

Meanwhile, the man was advancing towards Yeongwoo with momentum.

Thud!

The opponent's movement was so fast that only an afterimage remained visible.

Yeongwoo thought the guy was going to stab him again, and sure enough, the hologram of the Gyeongbuk's Sword Law warned him of a stab ahead.

"...!"

A needle thrust rapidly toward Yeongwoo's neck.

Swoosh!

At that moment, Yeongwoo made the biggest gamble since the reset.

Swish-

Instead of clumsily dodging or retaliating, he boldly stepped forward, leaning his head forward.

“Huh...?”

It was only for a moment, but the man realized that Yeongwoo was acting out of the ordinary.

So he could have switched to a defensive stance if he wanted.

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But...

“You fool.”

He was convinced that his thrust would pierce through Yeongwoo’s head, along with the shabby helmet surrounding the Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword.

Swish!

The needle continued its trajectory without changing course.

Sensing this, Yeongwoo thought there might be a miracle.

Because the helmet Yeongwoo has just begun to have thorns prickling its surface....

Crack!

「Vanguard」 – Relic Helmet

【This helmet does not get damaged.】

Tee-it!

Finally, the thorn that failed to pierce through the “Vanguard” slid sideways along the gentle surface of the helmet.

Then...

“He’s down!”

Yeongwoo slammed his forehead straight into the man’s face.

So, this was...

"A... a headbutt?"

The female alliance members were astonished by the brute attack, and the man, who was hit in the face with a bronze helmet, groaned and staggered backward.

"This fucking...!"

However, despite the impressive attack, the damage the man suffered was minimal.

His endurance was too high to have his face shattered by a headbutt, and Yeongwoo's strength was low.

However, it was enough of an attack to trigger the pain infliction effect of "Golden Punishment."

As the man tried to laugh but suddenly grimaced in pain, Yeongwoo, sensing this, swung his sword.

Swoosh!

It was a terrifyingly fast attack, but the man, even now, managed to see through it and raised his thorns to block.

Clang!

But that was as far as it went.

As the crossed blades met, the man begged for mercy as the sword hovered around his neck.

"W-wait...! Let's stop here!"

It was a sign that he couldn't guarantee the next bout.

"..."

Without even bothering to respond, Yeongwoo swung his sword immediately.

Swoosh!

Oddly enough, even at the moment the attack pierced through, the man's thorns didn't move along the smooth trajectory of the helmet.

Shing!

Finally, the man's head soared into the air along with the sharp blade, leaving behind a trail of iridescent light following the spiral trajectory of the sword.

[2nd Grade Space Utilization]

– The company's logo will be printed on the weapon's trajectory.

Absurd as it was, it was just as stated in the contract.

They really utilized Yeongwoo's weapon trajectory for advertisement.

;Wait, who would... really see this?'

As Yeongwoo looked around after beheading his opponent, he seemed like a madman to anyone who saw him, even from a distance.

"H-Hey?"

Even Seong Yerin couldn't get close and stood at a distance.

Only after Jongsu appeared late and notified that Yeongtae's return was imminent did Yeongwoo regain his senses.

"Hyung! It seems like our friend..."

"...?"

As Yeongwoo was initially puzzled, he immediately realized that Yeongtae's body, which had been helping in the battle nearby, was fading.

It meant that the creature's summoning time had come to an end, just like last time.

"Yeongtae!"

Yeongwoo's eyes widened as he noticed that Yeongtae's body was completely torn apart.

This was a clear indication that he had contributed to this battle.

In response, Yeongtae barely raised his hand, waved at his partner partner, and opened his long snout and laughed.

「Call me again. please.」

Seeming joyous enough to forget even the pain, Yeongtae dissolved into thin air with a bright smile.

And in the place where he had disappeared...

“ ... ”

Only the decapitated body of a young man remained.

* * *

「You have merged with Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword!」

「The effect of the Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword title becomes stronger.」

As the title interface appeared in Yeongwoo's vision, the title attached to the headless body disappeared.

The titles the man had been holding were now passed on to Yeongwoo.

...Have reached one title from Gyeonggi Province.

...Own one title from Chungbuk Province.

...Possess seven titles from Gyeongbuk Province.

「The current Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword is 'Jeong Yeongwoo 07.' Rank 1, 3 Defences.」

Despite the lengthy statements that seemed to celebrate an achievement, Yeongwoo could not bring himself to relax his stern expression.

...Have reached one title from Gyeonggi Province.

‘...Icheon.’

This time, the loot included the life of Kim Byungcheol 139, the Strongest Sword of Icheon.

He was a rare virtuous person in the reset world, but he died without even setting foot in Seoul.

If it weren't for Yeongwoo, Byungcheol would never have encountered Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword.

So, Yeongwoo felt a considerable responsibility for Byungcheol's death.

“What about the other inspector?”

When Yeongwoo asked about Taeyoung's whereabouts, Jongsu turned his head towards the motel direction.

"Fortunately, he's alive. I confirmed it on the way here."

But Jongsu's expression was not bright.

Yeongwoo could easily guess the reason.

But before comforting his colleague who lost someone, there was something else he had to do first.

That was...

Swoosh.

Searching the corpse.

As Yeongwoo sat down with one leg bent in front of the corpse of the young man who had once been his challenger, a golden goblin that had been hiding far away suddenly rushed over.

-Keet!

And at the same time, the female alliance members scattered around surreptitiously gathered.

They were all curious about what would happen after the battle between the Strongest Swords.

But would there be much difference just because they were Strongest Swords?

The only slightly better thing was that Yeongwoo had a Relic-level slave, so he didn't have to search the body himself.

-Keek!

The goblin, for some reason sounding excited, rummaged through the corpse, and soon laid out the loot in front of Yeongwoo.

Shrurur.

The first was twelve crimson coins.

So, it was 12,000 karma.

‘He wasn’t the type to carry a lot of cash with him.’

As Yeongwoo nodded his head, the goblin threw the coins into the pocket of the non-dimensional bag.

-Keet!

The second item was...

Clang!

It was the problematic weapon that pierced through Icheon’s Strongest Sword and numerous female alliance members.

「Ashen Thorn」 – Mutation Spear

【Significantly increases stabbing power.】

‘It’s really thorny.’

[PR/N: No shit bruh.]

It was practically a weapon dedicated to stabbing.

As Yeongwoo, who committed his first murder with a stab, couldn’t help but feel a strange sensation.

‘My weapons are increasing.’

The mutation one-handed sword, Underdog, obtained as loot in Chungju, and Dullahan’s sword, also a mutation one-handed sword... commonly known as the Black Sword.

And now, the Ashen Thorn had been added to them.

Even excluding the Early Bird, he now had three main weapons to use.

‘I wish there was a way to combine or sell equipment.’

As Yeongwoo looked at the Goblin while holding the “Ashen Thorn,” the creature showed the next loot with one hand.

-Keet.

The identity of the small item that even a goblin with not a large build could hold in one hand was...

‘Huh...? Is this also equipment?’

It was a very ordinary-looking fountain pen.

[Translator – Night]

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Chapter 72

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Chapter 72: Karma (1)

“.....”

As Yeongwoo picked up the fountain pen and stared blankly, Jongsu and dozens of Women alliance members crowded around him.

The world had changed a lot in just a few days.

Now it wasn't strange to see bizarrely shaped swords coming out as loot, but finding writing instruments was a surprising occurrence.

“Brother, is that also equipment...?”

When Jongsu asked this, Yeongwoo's head slowly nodded up and down.

“Yes. That's right.”

In Yeongwoo's view now, there was a tooltip similar to any other equipment.

The only unusual thing was that this fountain pen wasn't a weapon.

「Wanted Poster」 – Unique

【Searching for what you desire.】

|Father

‘Searching for what you desire? Is it similar to my compass?’

Yeongwoo glanced at the blue-green snake wrapped around his wrist, then shifted his gaze forward again.

‘Wait, what’s this? Father...?’

|Father

To Yeongwoo, it was an abstract word.

But wasn’t that word attached to the tooltip of the fountain pen, which searches for what you desire?

“.....”

Lost in thought for a moment, Yeongwoo soon felt a tingling sensation in his ears.

Given the circumstances, this was a trace left by Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword (Advance), the previous owner of the fountain pen.

He had been searching for his father from somewhere in Gyeongbuk, while inflicting harm on numerous people.

‘Crazy.’

Of course, in this world, many killings were unavoidable to survive.

But the previous owner of the fountain pen that Yeongwoo had faced directly was someone with more than just a survival instinct; he possessed evil beyond that.

So he wasn’t pitied.

Rather, the deceased parents were the ones to be pitied.

‘Anyway, seeing that father is registered in this equipment, it seems that at least one of the parents was alive somewhere.’

Yeongwoo picked up the fountain pen, dripping dry comments like an orphan.

Tap.

Then an arrow pointing northwest appeared in his view.

‘Huh...?’

This was probably the direction where the target registered in this equipment, the deceased Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword Advance’s father, was.

And then.

Sizzle.

Suddenly, the arrow twisted, and a system message appeared.

「Data change detected. Would you like to update the results?」

“.....!”

Thump.

Feeling a tingling sensation inside his chest, Yeongwoo barely managed to exhale.

The appearance of this message now meant that it was asking if he wanted to try finding his father this time.

‘What if... if my father doesn’t exist? What happens then? Will the result not update and be nullified?’

As someone with no positive experiences regarding parents, Yeongwoo couldn’t help but entertain negative thoughts.

But wouldn’t that be a loss?

‘At worst, I might just lose the arrow I’m seeing now.’

Since he had no intention of searching for someone else’s father, there was only one conclusion.

‘Fine. Update the result.’

As Yeongwoo permitted the update, the fountain pen, the “Wanted Poster,” in his hand shone brightly.

Ah!

Then the arrow in Yeongwoo’s distorted vision returned to its original shape.

Swoosh.

This time, it pointed to the north.

“Huh?”

As Yeongwoo exclaimed in surprise at the unexpected result, everyone around him, who had been watching him without understanding a word, also took a step back.

“What’s going on, brother?”

Among them, Jongsu was the only one who stepped forward.

Yeongwoo looked at him and said quietly.

“Looks like my father is alive somewhere.”

Then he added, “My mother is dead.”

Mother is dead.

The basis for Yeongwoo’s conclusion was his achievements.

Among the achievements he possessed, there were some related to the life and death of his parents.

[Complete Orphan]

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

An achievement with a crazy content of finding and eliminating the remaining parent.

When he first saw this, all Yeongwoo could know was that one of the parents was still alive.

And now, after a few days, he confirmed that the ‘one’ still alive was his father.

“Father.”

Yeongwoo silently whispered the three-syllable word.

Just a presence he knew in concept.

But as the thought that his father really existed and that he might even meet him someday crossed his mind, indescribable emotions overwhelmed him.

Anticipation?

Fear?

Regret...?

It could be all three.

‘Then... When did my mother die? Was she already out of this world before the reset?’

Yeongwoo recalled his original destiny record from the first day of the reset.

[Father]: Grade 6 Extra

[Mother]: Grade 1 Supporting Role

According to the destiny record, his father’s grade was 6, while his mother’s was an impressive 1.

However, contrary to the grades, it was his father who was still alive.

What could have happened?

And why?

‘Why did you abandon me?’

As Yeongwoo raised his empty gaze, he noticed Jongsu, who was wearing a worried expression.

“Are you... feeling better now?”

“Ah.”

Upon hearing Jongsu’s words and looking around, Yeongwoo felt that the situation was gradually being sorted out.

The Women alliance members who had surrounded him until a moment ago were now returning to the motel on the other side to take care of the bodies.

Of course, the culprit behind all of this, Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword (Advance), was left as he was, with his throat slit.

“They’re amazing, those people.”

As Yeongwoo watched the people bustling around, Jongsu shrugged his shoulders.

“People dying in the world these days isn’t anything special. And above all...”

Jongsu paused for a moment before continuing.

“They don’t have the power to make any other choice. So isn’t it best to focus on damage control?”

“.....?”

Yeongwoo cocked his head in confusion before understanding.

What Jongsu meant was that they had actively intervened to cover up the argument.

In fact, strictly speaking, the casualties on the Women alliance’s side were all caused by Yeongwoo.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

If he hadn’t stayed in this motel, there wouldn’t have been a reason for the Strongest Sword to come here.

However, as seen in this fight, Strongest Sword’s power was beyond imagination.

That’s why the Women alliance didn’t even demand an apology from Yeongwoo, despite losing many comrades because of him.

If the relationship with him, who was also Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword, soured any further, they might even lose the few remaining comrades.

‘Ha.’

After organizing his thoughts up to this point, Yeongwoo let out a bitter smile.

He had never been the subject of fear to anyone before, so he didn’t know how to act in situations like this.

Then, Jongsu, who had belonged to the strong side in the previous world, offered his own alternative.

“What’s done is done. We can’t help it now. How about taking care of the remaining authority figures here?”

With a swift movement, he pointed to where the authority figure, Kwon Taeyoung, was sitting.

In front of him was probably the body of Kim Byeongcheol, the Strongest Sword in this era.

Upon this suggestion, Yeongwoo stood up and headed towards the motel.

Then, the Women alliance members who were attending to the bodies started to look at Yeongwoo one by one.

“.....”

The first emotion conveyed was fear, followed by a subtle hint of anger.

“Are you leaving now?”

Soon after, Seong Yerin, who had spotted him, came forward to intercept her colleagues' stares.

However, it was also meant as a farewell.

“Living as a Strongest Sword isn't easy, is it? Where are you planning to go?”

Seeing how she was trying to deflect the situation, it seemed she was hoping for him to leave soon.

“I'm heading to Seoul.”

“Seoul? Going to a more dangerous place. But I can't cheer you on for that, you know?”

Seong Yerin said with a joking tone, but her sincerity was evident.

Yeongwoo knew that behind her was the motel turned into a sea of blood.

He bowed deeply as he acknowledged it.

“It might seem meaningless now, but... I sincerely apologize.”

Upon this, Seong Yerin raised her eyebrows slightly and stepped back.

“It's okay. It's not like apologizing will bring back the dead.”

This was something Yeongwoo agreed with.

So, he was thinking about one more thing.

And that was...

Click.

The weapon stained with the most blood from the Cheoin-gu Women alliance members, the “Ashen Thorn.”

「Ashen Thorn」 – Mutation Spear

【Significantly increases stabbing power.】

“This isn’t an apology. As you can see, if I had fought alone, I wouldn’t have won. So, this is for all of you.”

“Oh, this is...”

This time, Seong Yerin’s reaction was a bit different.

Unlike the volatile apology earlier, this was a tangible reward that could help with their future survival.

Snap!

Seong Yerin hastily grabbed the thorn Yeongwoo was offering.

“I’m really grateful for this. Honestly, you didn’t need to do this much from your perspective.”

It meant that even if he was a Strongest Sword, he could have killed everyone here and still survived.

Of course, Yeongwoo didn’t blindly accept losses.

As he mentioned before, the Women alliance’s participation had shifted the tide of the battle, and he had enough weapons in his possession.

Already having two variant weapons, he had no more space left on his belt.

“I don’t particularly enjoy being indebted. But this time, I truly owe you.”

Yeongwoo bowed again to Seong Yerin and her colleagues.

Suddenly, something unexpected happened.

Bzzt!

An achievement was accomplished.

[Achievement Accomplished: Idealist]

|Achievement Grade: Epic

|Rank Achieved: First

「Within one week of reset, give equipment of relic grade or higher to others for free.」

‘What...?’

It was an achievement of Epic grade.

It turned out that achieving the achievement had been accomplished just now when Yeongwoo handed the thorn to Seong Yerin.

‘In this world, you have to do things that you’d never imagine to accomplish achievements.’

Since this wasn’t listed in the recommended achievement list, it was quite a significant gain.

「There is 1 unclaimed achievement reward.」

「Would you like to claim the reward?」

Following this notification, Yeongwoo immediately claimed the reward.

“Claim.”

Bzzt!

As Yeongwoo approved the claim, the text in front of him disappeared frighteningly, and a clear sound echoed in the air.

Ting!

Then, a ring suddenly materialized and dropped.

“Huh.”

Seeing this, Seong Yerin was surprised, her mouth gaping open.

In the meantime, Yeongwoo swiftly grabbed the ring.

Thud.

「Idealist」 – Epic Ring

【All stats increase by 100 per achieved achievement】

“Ah...!”

After seeing the tooltip of the ring, Yeongwoo almost let out a sound instinctively but managed to hold back.

This was an equipment perfectly optimized for him, given his 12 achievements, and the system recognized him as a ‘stubborn’ person, as evidenced by his achievements:

[Your achievement tendency is “Stubborn.”]

||Completed achievements: 5

‘Five... With one ring, I gained 2,000 in stats.’

It was unbelievable.

And indeed, a string of absurd stat increase notifications appeared.

「Strength has increased from the original 700 to 1,200.」

「Endurance has increased from the original 350 to 850.」

「Durability has increased from the original 550 to 1,050.」

「Sensory has increased from the original 100 to 600.」

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 73

[Translator – Night]

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Chapter 73: Karma (2)

As all ability stats soared close to doubling, the first thing to notice was a change in the overall feel of the body.

Should one say that confidence in one's own body had increased?

It might be a temporary phenomenon, but it felt as if he had become invincible.

Actually, it was only natural, as not only strength but also the durability of the body had strengthened.

'Unbelievable.'

Yeongwoo clenched and unclenched his fist repeatedly, exclaiming in admiration.

He seemed to have some understanding of why Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword (Advance), whom he had just knocked down, was so confident.

His current ability stats were almost twice as high as theirs.

So, how much awe was he feeling for his own abilities?

Just two days ago, he was just an ordinary person too.

It felt like he had become a god.

'Wow... I feel like I could even break buildings with my hands.'

Strength 1,200, durability 1,050.

Since his initial ability stats were strength 19 and durability 13, he hadn't known if he could really break buildings with his hands.

And maybe...

'If my ability stats increase further, could I even block bullets?'

Yeongwoo's gaze naturally fell on the opposite side to Kwon Taeyoung, who was sitting there.

He had definitely heard the sound of gunfire in the morning, but he hadn't seen any traces of bullets hitting the dead man.

* * *

"...Are you okay?"

With a deep voice accompanying a long shadow falling over him, Taeyoung lifted his head towards the source of the sound.

“Ah, Jong....”

Because he was so inexperienced, Taeyoung couldn't immediately recall the other person's name.

So, as the other person crouched down, he lowered his body and said his own name.

“I'm Kim Jongsu. Actually, I'm not that important.”

“Sorry, I...I'm sorry.”

“...Ah. It's not like I felt bad.”

Actually, Jongsu was equally inexperienced, so he couldn't find anything more to say and just closed his mouth.

Jongsu had only lived for 29 years.

He was still too young to comfort someone's sorrow skillfully.

Also, due to his days in the previous world not being generous at all, he was too preoccupied with his own safety to care about others' emotions.

“Umm.”

Seeing Jongsu looking uncomfortable and scratching the back of his head, Taeyoung, still gazing at the corpse of Byungcheol, spoke.

“Actually, I...didn't shoot the gun right away. No, it's more like I didn't shoot at all.”

“...?”

When Jongsu tilted his head wondering what he meant, Taeyoung fidgeted with the gun in his hand.

“He said he wouldn't touch me if I didn't shoot.”

“...Ah.”

Only then did Jongsu understand Taeyoung's words and nodded.

“But in the end, you did shoot, didn't you? It's not that you, as a police officer, were bad or weak. The situation itself was just unreasonable.”

Upon hearing this, Taeyoung murmured in a defeated tone.

“Yes. Maybe that’s true, but....”

What followed was so unbelievable that it was shocking.

“Even the shot didn’t go through him.”

“What...?”

With a puzzled expression, Jongsu asked again, and another shadow of comfort fell over the two.

“You mean, even though the opponent was hit by a bullet, it didn’t penetrate?”

It was none other than Yeongwoo.

He had just finished greeting the Women’s Alliance and had come to see Taeyoung one last time.

“Yes. Probably... something like that.”

Taeyoung looked up at Yeongwoo with a slightly frightened expression.

To him, both that crazy guy who survived even after being shot and Yeongwoo seemed like similar monsters.

Both were the Strongest Swords...

No, strictly speaking, wasn’t Yeongwoo a step higher in monstrosity?

“If the durability reaches about 2,000, then it seems bullets can be blocked too. Of course, if it’s a larger caliber, it might be a different story.”

Yeongwoo spoke unrealistically, but in a very casual tone.

However, for him, it was a reality that was right in front of him.

With him being a superhuman possessing considerable ability stats, and with those he would face in the future likely to be monsters who bullets couldn’t penetrate, it was inevitable.

“Bullets don’t penetrate... Even if you say so, does that make sense?”

Jongsu still had an expression of disbelief.

On the other hand, Yeongwoo looked towards a silhouette waiting elliptically near the entrance of the motel.

“At this point, there’s nothing that doesn’t make sense no matter what happens. Who knows if suddenly people will start flying next week.”

He had been feeling vibrations coming from the direction where the Negwig was since earlier.

So, with a sense of suspicion, he gestured towards it.

Shoo!

The “parking mode” Negwig quickly unfolded its body and took on the form of a horse.

-Kweeeeeee!

Thanks to this, the people who had been lingering near the motel retreated in surprise, and thus, Negwig ran out along the open road.

“...”

Still the troublemaker Strongest Sword.

But it couldn’t be helped.

In this world, isn’t using newspaper ahead of others a matter of survival?

-Kwiiik.

Finally, Negwig reached Yeongwoo’s vicinity and stopped walking.

The current time was 10:42 a.m.

It was time to start heading back.

‘This above us is Seongnam. And next is finally Seoul.’

He would probably be able to enter Seoul before the end of the day, even before the mutant drops.

“Do you still plan to go to Seoul, officer?”

As Yeongwoo grabbed Negwig’s reins and asked, Taeyoung hesitated for a moment, then nodded firmly.

“Yes. I have to.”

Then.

Swoosh!

He took out the gun from Byungcheol's waist and the thin bracelet wrapped around his left wrist.

The deceased had left behind one more souvenir besides the gun.

"Oh, now that I think about it."

Yeongwoo realized belatedly as he looked at the bracelet Taeyoung had taken off from Byungcheol.

Byungcheol was also a Strongest Sword who had killed a mutant.

And when a mutant dies, it leaves behind one equipment of mutant grade.

There had been no exceptions so far, so it must have been a basic rule.

"Can I take this... if you're okay with it?"

Taeyoung dared not to wear the bracelet immediately and asked Yeongwoo.

In response, before answering, Yeongwoo briefly examined the tooltip of the bracelet.

「Cross Knot」 – Mutation Bracelet

【Ability resistance 20%】

【–Empty slot–】

Ability resistance.

It was a concept he had first encountered on a kekaidite gemstone used for slots.

'What exactly is ability resistance?'

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

He didn't know for sure, but it was likely something that didn't include basic resistances like fire, cold, lightning, etc.

So, Yeongwoo became even more interested.

There must be a reason why equipment with ability resistance was appearing frequently.

For example, it might have to contend with something much more alien than monsters at some point.

“ ... ”

What naturally came to Yeongwoo's mind were the shareholders of the weapon brand Dogo.

Even they were not just simply described as 'monsters'.

But it wasn't the time yet.

The ability resistance wasn't urgent enough for him to forsake his humanity and become greedy.

“Yes. Of course, you can take it. It's your colleague's souvenir.”

Yeongwoo gestured meaningfully as he looked away from the bracelet.

Then Taeyoung nodded and gently put the bracelet on his wrist.

“Um... then, officer, how will you be traveling? Is the car still there...?”

As Jongsu looked towards the motel parking lot and asked, Taeyoung pulled out the car keys from his pocket.

“Yes. I checked this morning, and the car was still there.”

This meant that the anomaly climate didn't vandalize vehicles that had already been paid for.

“That's good to know.”

Yeongwoo learned yet another thing about this world as he climbed onto Negwig's back.

* * *

Leaving Yongin for Seongnam.

In just one day, the group had shrunk from four to three.

So this time, Jongsu decided to ride in the patrol car with Taeyoung.

Partly because the position atop Negwig, leading the way, was dangerous in various ways, and also because for Jongsu, riding a creature from another world was a precarious matter.

“Oh, I prefer things made by humans. It’s more familiar.”

As Jongsu tapped the window frame of the passenger seat with his palm, Taeyoung, who held the steering wheel, chuckled faintly.

It felt like he was trying to lighten the mood a little.

“Mr. Jongsu, you’re such a nice person.”

“Oh, it’s just basic human decency. Especially in a world like this, it’s even more important.”

Jongsu wrinkled his nose.

Since the reset, humanity and being human had become much more valuable.

In the past, even if there were disputes among people, at most it ended in a fistfight, and even that was mediated by law enforcement before the worst scenarios occurred.

But now, there were no police to intervene even if crimes occurred.

No, it was worse than that.

On the third day of the reset, strong individuals who bullets couldn’t even penetrate began to appear.

“Since there’s nowhere to run anyway, I just followed along to Seoul blindly, but I’m actually scared.”

Taeyoung said quietly, looking at Yeongwoo atop Negwig, beyond the steering wheel.

Jongsu seemed to understand what the other was getting at, but deliberately asked again.

“Yes? What exactly are you afraid of?”

“All of this. The fact that strong people like Mr. Yeongwoo are starting to appear, and that anyone can become stronger if they have karma.”

“Well, that’s... Mr. Yeongwoo is probably the same. So am I.”

Of course, the scale of that fear was much larger for Taeyoung, who had been a police officer in the previous world and still wanted to be a police officer now.

“If so many Strongest Swords are that strong, there might not be any rule of law in this country, or even the future of humanity as we know it. At least, justice as we knew it may no longer exist.”

“.....”

There was nothing Jongsu could do to reply to Taeyoung’s words.

In reality, they were already heading in that direction.

However, not all Strongest Swords were necessarily evil.

There were cases like Yeongwoo who had enough power but restrained its use, and there were Strongest Swords like Byungcheol who were unrealistically just.

In other words, while ‘law’ had practically disappeared, some of the ideals it pursued still remained.

“I’m not optimistic about the situation either... But we’ll have to wait a bit longer to see, won’t we? Just because everyone has power doesn’t mean they’ll suddenly turn evil.”

“That’s true. But it seems easier for them to turn evil.”

“...It’s hard to argue against that.”

As the two conversed, the patrol car they were in finally left Yongin jurisdiction.

And that meant...

“Oh.”

“Ah, now it’s Seongnam.”

Before Jongsu’s words could finish, the regional status was updated abruptly.

Ping!

Surprisingly, there was a Strongest Sword in this area, and their status wasn’t ordinary either.

[The current area of residence is ‘Seongnam.’

[The Strongest Sword in this area is ‘Lee Namhee 101.’ Rank 31st, 1 defense.

“What the...”

“31st generation?”

A 31st generation Strongest Sword.

This meant that in the past two days alone, Seongnam had dealt with thirty Strongest Swords.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 74

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 74: Karma (Part 3)

‘This doesn’t seem like an ordinary situation here.’

Seongnam, where the 31st Strongest Sword reigns.

Yeongwoo couldn’t help but think of Gimcheon.

It was a city where there was no proper Strongest Sword, and the mutants were being abused.

Yeongwoo furrowed his brow, recalling the time when the Strongest Sword title was automatically passed on to anyone near mutants in Gimcheon.

It was a good example of what could happen if no one proclaimed themselves strong in this reset world.

‘But it’s unlikely the same thing happened in Seongnam.’

Yeongwoo’s gaze shifted back to the regional situation in Seongnam.

[The current location is ‘Seongnam’.

[The Strongest Sword of this area is ‘Lee Nam-hee 101’. Rank 31st, 1 defense.

Seongnam is a city right below Seoul, even under the bustling district of Gangnam.

Therefore, even though the Strongest Sword in Seongnam might be weak, it was nearly impossible for mutants to survive there for long.

Because...

'They're already stretching from Seoul to the outskirts of Gyeonggi Province. With this situation, why would they leave Seongnam, which is the closest?'

Therefore, the succession of Strongest Sword in Seongnam had a high probability of being unrelated to mutants.

For instance,

'If a challenger of a high level continues to appear.'

It was hard for Yeongwoo to imagine, but wasn't this right under Seoul where mutants appeared in numbers of 25 every day?

Nothing would be surprising.

'At least, if I go to the downtown area, I can find out what's going on.'

Current time, 11:15 AM.

Yeongwoo was traveling along the highway as he did yesterday.

However, even though it was the same highway, the atmosphere was quite different from when he crossed Chungbuk and the outskirts of Gyeonggi Province.

Apartment complexes were already lining both sides of the road, and people could be seen near the complexes.

'Definitely a lot of people near Seoul.'

Of course, it was the time when the population was most active.

It had been an hour since the end of the curfew.

Regardless of weak or strong, people would be roaming the streets, collecting necessities, or solving daily quests.

'Oh, now that I think about it.'

Finally, Yeongwoo's gaze shifted to the quest list on the left side of his vision.

Then, the daily quest list adjusted to match the current location, Seongnam.

[Daily] “Scout”

[Mission] Approach the monsters until you are 10 meters away.

[Reward] 3,000 karma

The first quest was the same as always.

An assignment to lead people into battle against the monsters.

The mission is to encourage people to fight monsters.

‘This is fixed no matter which area you go to.’

From now on, everyone had to consider whether or not to perform the Scout quest as soon as they woke up in the morning.

Of course, it applied to the majority of people who were still closer to civilians than skilled individuals with considerable combat abilities.

While skilled individuals would naturally search for places where monsters appeared, civilians were in a position where they had to avoid monsters.

However, even if they just breathed without eating in this world, they still needed about 4,000 karma a day.

The smallest room rental fee at a motel was 3,000, and the basic tax was 1,000 karma.

So, if they didn’t perform the Scout quest, they had to make 3,000 karma by begging from others or providing some kind of service to earn wages.

In addition,

‘For civilians, the second quest is practically mandatory. Taxes are a problem, but you can’t live without eating at all.’

Yeongwoo checked the second daily quest, which differed by region and date from the Scout quest.

Then he widened his eyes.

“...!”

It was because there was a quest floating there that he didn't want to believe, a dreadful quest.

[Daily] "Helping the Needy"

[[Mission] Find the disabled and give them karma.

[Reward] 2,000 karma

'What kind of nonsense is this...?'

Yeongwoo realized once again that the reset world was not being governed by human morals and conscience.

At first glance, this quest seemed like a win-win situation where you help the disabled and receive rewards, but it lacked context.

Where this quest would progress.

This was a ruthless world where individual morality and conscience were no longer monitored.

Therefore, if someone was a decent human being, they wouldn't lead the unspecified majority of this world to wander around looking for disabled people.

And they wouldn't dare to name the quest "Helping the Needy."

"..."

Yeongwoo felt chills running down his arms and neck.

Who on earth created such quests?

Whether they had a profound malice towards humanity or an immense misunderstanding, only beings with extreme negativity or immense ignorance could create such quests.

'At least neither of them seems optimistic.'

As Yeongwoo examined the dreadful daily quest, the row of apartments that had been stretching along the right side of the road suddenly broke, and his field of vision opened up.

"....?"

As Yeongwoo turned his head in that direction, he saw two relatively shabby buildings passing by in succession.

‘Ah...’

Although it was momentary, Yeongwoo, who read the writing on the top of the buildings, became speechless.

「Evergreen Middle School」

「Evergreen Elementary School」

He realized it was a school.

Perhaps it was a building that was no longer in use?

In this world, where most surviving people were likely murderers, what were they teaching the children?

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

And it was uncertain whether children would continue to exist even before that.

‘Perhaps humanity will not continue in this generation.’

As Yeongwoo quickly looked back at the two schools that were getting further away, he noticed a patrol car slowing down in the rear.

It was evident that both Jongsu and Taeyoung had also been distracted by the schools.

‘11:23 AM.’

Glancing at his wristwatch, Yeongwoo pulled on the reins of Negwig to slow down.

He had some time to wait for his colleagues to finish observing.

According to the pattern so far, mutants and monsters would appear around 1 PM.

‘I’ll either wait here and catch the mutants or head straight up to Seoul.’

It was a turning point.

The advantage of waiting in Seongnam was undoubtedly the monopolization of mutants.

There wouldn't be as many competitors as in Seoul, so it would be possible to monopolize mutants more stably.

On the other hand, Seoul had many strong competitors, but it also had many mutants.

And above all,

'If I enter Seoul an hour earlier, I can immediately see how things are going there.'

Now, 1 PM was the hottest time in this world.

It was the time when the most money circulated in the market.

Strongest Swords would be looking for mutants, and other skilled individuals would be busy trying to catch monsters.

However, what made Seoul special was that this phenomenon would occur simultaneously in the 25 adjacent districts.

'Going to Seoul would be the right choice, wouldn't it? It seems like my father is also in Seoul.'

Yeongwoo noticed that the arrow on the "Wanted Poster" was still pointing north.

Of course, he only knew that it was north from Seongnam, so he didn't know if his father was staying in Seoul, Uijeongbu, or Dongducheon.

In any case, he would find out once he entered Seoul.

From his father's location to the situation in Seoul, the country's largest population-dense area.

And also, who the strongest Strongest Sword in this country was.

"..."

As Yeongwoo's thoughts reached this point, he felt an unusual tension.

Just then, there was a noise from the road ahead.

Vroom...!

'Engine noise?'

While questioning himself, Yeongwoo was already sure.

It wasn't a sound that could be easily mistaken for something else; it was something commonly heard.

Clunk.

As Yeongwoo pulled the reins again to completely stop Negwig, the patrol car following him also stopped.

"Hyung-nim, what's going on?"

Eventually, Jongsu opened the passenger door and asked, but he closed his mouth as he spotted the objects starting to appear on the other side of the road.

Vroom...!

It was because a line of cars was approaching along the highway.

No, more precisely, they were heading towards where Yeongwoo and his group were.

Of course, since the adjacent lane was empty, it didn't obstruct traffic.

"Uh... wait, what's this?"

Taeyoung, noticing that the speed of the vehicles on the other side was quite fast, made a worried sound mixed with apprehension.

He thought they might be surprised when they saw Yeongwoo and hit the brakes abruptly.

And sure enough...

Screech!

As the distance between them decreased to about 40 meters, the leading vehicle started to brake abruptly.

However, the problem was...

Crunch!

The driver was so surprised to see the horse that they ended up turning the steering wheel too sharply.

As a result, a disaster unfolded.

Crash!

As the leading vehicle lost control and spun around, the cars behind crashed into each other, causing a chain reaction collision.

Bang, crash!

Six cars in front of Yeongwoo's group collided with the front vehicle and the guardrail, coming to a halt.

"Whoa..."

Jongsu and Taeyoung only let out startled breaths at the sudden turn of events, but Yeongwoo's reaction was a bit different.

Thunk!

He jumped off Negwig's back simultaneously.

It was because he drew his black sword.

Current time, 11:28 AM.

Six vehicles crossing from north to south across Seongnam, starting from the north toward Seoul at this odd hour.

In Yeongwoo's mind, there was no way they were ordinary civilians.

Just the fact that they owned cars meant they had a significant amount of cash, and the probability of them being a cartel with some purpose was high.

They could be like the so-called "hunters" who had visited Icheon, feared by people chasing cows in Yeosu and claimed to be "people from Seoul."

"Hyung-nim?"

Click, clunk.

Ignoring Jongsu's slightly puzzled voice, Yeongwoo approached the leading car that had crashed into the guardrail with its driver clutching his forehead.

Then he saw a man sitting in the driver's seat, holding his forehead.

"What the... fuck."

Though he seemed surprised by the unexpected accident, as Yeongwoo had expected, he didn't seem to be injured.

He must have been a driver at the superhuman level, where a car accident wouldn't hurt him much.

"Are you okay? I'm sorry. It seems like the accident happened because of me."

As Yeongwoo spoke with a tone that showed no remorse at all, the man who had been clutching his forehead turned to him with angry eyes, but quickly calmed down.

He quickly remembered what had surprised him.

The unusual equipment status of the opponent.

And above all,

"What... what is that?"

The man, confirming Negwig again, was startled.

What he saw earlier wasn't a mistake.

However, the other drivers in the back, unaware of the situation, jumped out of their cars, banging on the crumpled doors and getting out of the cars.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 75

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 75: Karma (4)

"What kind of nonsense is this? Can't you even drive properly?"

"Well, this is..."

A total of ten people jumped out of the car.

They looked at the leading vehicle with aggressive eyes, but soon wore perplexed expressions.

“Oh.”

It was because they noticed Yeongwoo standing in front of the leading vehicle, as well as the Iron Horse and patrol car in the adjacent lane.

“...”

Suddenly, silence fell.

However, the eyes of the eleven people, including those at the forefront, were moving restlessly.

They were assessing the combat power of these unexpected outsiders.

Since the reset, even legitimate complaints had to be handled carefully in this world.

One could easily provoke the powerful and end up losing their life.

Moreover, how would they deal with this somewhat forced problem this time?

“Um... sir.”

Finally, a man who seemed to be the leader of the eleven cautiously spoke up.

It seemed he wanted to show respect, as it appeared the other party was not an ordinary person.

“Although it may not have been intentional, you have obstructed our passage. We need some compensation. Our cars are all wrecked...”

Upon hearing this, Yeongwoo smirked while looking at the badly damaged cars.

“...Me?”

Of course, he understood what the other party was saying.

However, they had been stationary, leaving one lane completely empty.

If the driver of the leading vehicle hadn't been startled by Negwig, such an accident wouldn't have happened.

So, based on common sense, this was a matter to be settled among the eleven.

Swiftly, as Yeongwoo silently shifted his gaze to the leading vehicle, the driver, who was still holding the steering wheel, tensed up.

"It's regrettable that an accident occurred, but... I don't think I should be held responsible. Either continue on your way as is, or..."

Yeongwoo didn't elaborate further, but everyone in the vicinity understood.

If there was dissatisfaction, they would fight it out according to the ways of this world.

'That guy definitely has something up his sleeve.'

The expressions of the eleven turned cold.

It was partly due to Yeongwoo's provocation, but mostly because they were already heavily tense.

How strong would one have to be to show such audacity?

"..."

After a brief silence following Yeongwoo's provocation, Taeyoung, who was not accustomed to such events, stepped down from the patrol car and bowed his head to the group of eleven.

"I believe there is some degree of responsibility for the accident, so I will apologize on behalf of our party."

An apology on a diplomatic level.

He also didn't want to witness eleven murders happening right in front of him.

Even though the law had become somewhat ineffective in this world, he was still a police officer after all.

However, the eleven didn't easily back down.

"No... verbal apologies are meaningless, right? And technically, isn't this a non-contact accident? We should at least have some compensation to consider any concessions."

As the leader of the eleven said this, he continuously observed Yeongwoo's expression.

In a situation where the power balance between both sides was unclear, they were testing how far they could push things.

Of course, if Yeongwoo were a bandit, his line would not be drawn so far away.

"If we don't negotiate?"

“Huh?”

“Are you saying if we don’t negotiate, you’ll fight to the death? If you were truly confident, you wouldn’t be wasting time like this.”

“...!”

The eleven were startled by the unexpectedly firm response.

Given that this world was filled with blusterers, it was too dangerous to take lightly.

In other words, such a response was only possible if one was truly powerful.

“I think... let’s just quietly wrap this up this time.”

Once again, the opinion of the eleven began to lean towards yielding.

Everyone present here was not aiming for monsters or mutants in Seoul, but rather skilled individuals in the Gyeonggi Province aiming for them, ranging from the second to third-tier.

Therefore, they were well aware of how high the ceiling of the concept of ‘strong’ was.

Moreover.

‘Damn... who is this guy to have such a strong vibe.’

The temporary leader of the eleven, Lee Jangho 73, gritted his teeth.

He could feel the unique aura of the Strongest Sword from the man in front of him.

Even though there were no titles above his head.

‘No way... but no, that can’t be.’

He had never heard of the Strongest Sword hiding his title.

Even if that were possible, there was no reason for Jangho to do so in his common sense.

In other words, the man in front of him was just an ordinary person.

‘If he’s not the Strongest Sword, there’s no reason he can’t be killed.’

While Jangho thought this, he was also preparing to bow his head according to the public opinion.

He didn't have an absolute certainty of victory.

"It seems unavoidable. Well then, this time, we..."

Just as Jangho was about to step back with a smile.

Vroom...!

Another engine sound came from the road behind them, that is, from the direction of Seoul.

"What now, again?"

As Yeongwoo turned his head in the direction of the sound, all eleven, who had been listening to the engine sound in the same spot, simultaneously widened their eyes.

"Oh, this..."

"Ah."

The momentum of the eleven, which had been somewhat subdued, strangely shifted.

Something mixed with anticipation and concern.

And not long after, from a distance, a group of vehicles revealed themselves.

Vroom...!

Even though the engine sound was particularly fierce, there was a significant difference in the way they used the road compared to the eleven they had encountered earlier.

While the eleven were using only one lane and driving in a single file, the approaching group was using the entire four-lane road.

Moreover, there weren't many vehicles, just four.

"These guys are doing whatever they want."

Looking at the four vehicles, which had now gotten closer, Yeongwoo asked Jangho.

"What about them?"

To which Jangho, gesturing awkwardly, replied.

"It seems like troublemakers are coming."

“Troublemakers...?”

Yeongwoo’s question was abruptly cut off as the problematic vehicles arrived at the scene.

Screech!

Threateningly parked with long skid marks on the ground, all four vehicles were loud, flashy foreign cars.

“...!”

Yeongwoo couldn’t help but think of the bandit gang he encountered in Yeosu.

Didn’t their cars feel somewhat similar to these?

Suddenly, the four vehicles opened their doors one after another, and their drivers stepped out onto the road.

Thunk!

As the people got out of the cars, the number was the same as the vehicles, four in total.

Unlike the previous eleven, who were mostly in their late thirties, these individuals looked barely in their early twenties.

“Hey... mister, what’s the time now? Why are you guys still here?”

As soon as the four young men got out of the car, they pulled out their swords.

Shing!

All armed with early birds.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

One of them even had two swords.

Seeing this, Yeongwoo couldn’t help but smirk.

“Those guys are definitely the type to talk with their swords.”

As soon as the group of four young men appeared, some of the eleven also discreetly reached for their sword sheaths.

With the number of heads from Seoul increasing to fifteen, it was only natural.

But that didn't necessarily increase their chances of winning.

"Are these guys the problem?"

After quickly scanning Yeongwoo's group, the quartet stopped at Negwig, who was standing in the corner of the road.

"What's that?"

A unanimous reaction.

Apparently, even in Seoul, there weren't such ferocious horses.

Then, one of the quartet, holding a pair of swords, suddenly approached Negwig.

"It seems like it's saying something, right? Is it really alive?"

The guy didn't even consider seeking permission to speak to the owner of the horse.

It was as if anyone present here could be pressed with force.

Of course, perhaps...

'It seems like he's deliberately picking a fight.'

Yeongwoo didn't know if the act itself was intended to provoke a conflict, as Jongsu had been observing the situation.

Anyway, from Yeongwoo's perspective, he couldn't let the guy mess with Negwig.

Swiftly, as the opponent was about to take the second step, Yeongwoo grabbed his shoulder.

Thunk!

"What do you think you're doing? Don't people from Seoul have any manners?"

Then, the young man who had grabbed Yeongwoo's shoulder swung his sword as if he had been waiting for it.

"How dare this bastard..."

Or rather, he tried to swing it.

Thunk!

“What...?”

Currently, Yeongwoo’s strength stat was an impressive 1,200.

Of course, it wasn’t comparable to the Strongest Sword of Seoul, but it was enough to easily crush the bones of a novice swordsman.

However, the problem was...

“What...? Agh!”

As Yeongwoo made contact with the enemy, the effect of the golden punishment, inflicting unbearable pain, was triggered.

“Gah!”

The face of the man turned pale with unimaginable pain, and the other three young men shouted angrily.

“This crazy guy...!”

“Are you just going to stand there and watch?”

The target they requested assistance from was none other than the group of eleven.

And in the midst of this, the man spoke while grinding his teeth.

“You’re finished now. Do you know who I am?”

“...Who are you?”

As Yeongwoo retorted, his attention was already focused on the fourteen Seoul guys, excluding the pair of swords.

「The sensory stats have temporarily increased from the original 600 to 685.」

「The sensory stat has temporarily increased from 685 to 790.」

「The sensory stat has temporarily increased from 790 to 916.」

Finally, everyone unanimously decided to attack the outsider, as the sensory stat was skyrocketing crazily.

‘Seoul is definitely Seoul.’

Based on the sensory stats stolen from the opponent, the fourteen present here were skilled individuals with total stats ranging from hundreds to even a thousand.

It was enough to pick a fight with a newcomer.

But unfortunately, the outsider they encountered this time was the Strongest Sword who unified the large region of Gyeongbuk.

“You bastard, I’m...”

As the enraged pair of swords muttered his lines between his clenched teeth, Yeongwoo saw over a dozen death marks floating in his sight.

“Yahhh!”

“Die!”

The fourteen Seoul swordsmen, who had sharpened their swords, entered Yeongwoo’s striking range.

Clang!

Yeongwoo extended his right foot firmly to the ground and...

“Kyaah!”

...swung his black sword fiercely towards the rushing enemies.

Boom!

In an instant, the blade extended up to five meters, drawing a sinister trajectory.

The man, who had been about to proclaim his identity, clenched his mouth shut.

“Eop...?”

Because there were hardly any survivors among the spectators after that blow.

Thud thud thud!

Out of the fourteen, only the hesitating Lee Jangho⁷³ remained standing still, without being drawn into the black trajectory, while the remaining thirteen were rolling on the ground, turned into piles of flesh.

“What... is this...?”

As the bewildered man mumbled, Jongsu, who was preparing for a handover, and Taeyoung, who had already drawn his gun, put down their weapons on the road.

And finally, Yeongwoo asked the question he hadn't finished earlier.

“So, who are you?”

Instead of the pair of swords, who fell into contemplation, Lee Jangho, who had been silent, spoke.

“Wha- What did you just do? That guy's father is Jeong Hyunsik.”

“Jeong Hyunsik?”

Yeongwoo asked with a puzzled expression, and Lee Jangho explained hesitantly.

“You really don't know? Jeong Hyunsik... He's the Gangnam Strongest Sword.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 76

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Chapter 76: Karma (5)

Gangnam's Strongest Sword, Jeong Hyunsik 04.

That name wasn't just known in Gangnam, but anyone living in Seoul would have heard it at least once.

He was not only the representative of Gangnam's Strongest Sword, but also because he had unified most of Seoul's Strongest Swords before that.

Therefore, even if you didn't know Jeong Hyunsik's face, it was normal to have some reaction if you heard that name.

Especially if you were the one who messed with Jeong Hyunsik's son.

“Do you really not know Jeong Hyunsik?”

As Jangho asked again, he sensed that the other person was a country bumpkin who knew nothing about the situation in Seoul.

If he didn't know, he must have come from the countryside and had come to Seoul after gaining some strength.

In fact, it was quite common for all sorts of people to flock to Seoul.

The only problem was that this time the country bumpkin's skills were at a level that could be reckoned with even in Seoul.

“.....”

Jangho's gaze fell on the scattered pieces of corpses around him.

‘Damn it. What the hell happens now?’

Confusion set in.

This outsider was definitely different this time.

Perhaps he was thinking he might be able to match most of Seoul's Strongest Swords.

But can he really compare to Gangnam Strongest Sword?

‘It's ridiculous.’

Jangho quickly regained his composure.

Then, according to etiquette, he stood beside Jeong Gyusang, the eldest son of Gangnam Strongest Sword.

Clap!

“Let's... let's stop here. If you keep going, you'll make enemies of all of Seoul. We'll quietly step back.....”

As Jangho spoke like this and glanced at Jeong Gyusang, the latter also nodded his head.

He knew well that he couldn't do anything to the outsider right now.

But the position of Yeongwoo, who held the sword, was completely different from that of the two Seoulites.

"I don't care whose son he is. Anyway, he tried to kill me. If I were weak, I would actually be dead."

As Yeongwoo's eyes flashed with his words, Jeong Gysang, who had been silent until now, gritted his teeth and bowed his head.

"Damn it... I'm sorry about that. But there's no need to escalate things further, right? As you heard, my father is Gangnam's Strongest Sword. If you kill me, you won't get away unharmed either."

"...."

At this, Yeongwoo dryly looked around and said.

"How can you know who the culprit is when there are only two witnesses?"

"...!"

The expression of Kwon Taeyoung, a current police officer who was listening to Yeongwoo's words, became very subtle.

Nevertheless, the proceedings continued regardless.

"And even if your father finds out, there's nothing we can do. Scumbags like you deserve to die. I'll take care of the aftermath, so don't worry."

As if it were the final verdict, Jangho was the first to leap at Yeongwoo's words.

Behind Jeong Gysang, which means in the direction away from the outsider.

It was a calculation to use Gysang, who was the prime target of the opponent, as a shield to buy time to escape.

Thud!

"Hey, you bastard!"

Seeing his only ally fleeing, Jeong Gysang shouted in terror, but Jangho's figure continued to move away.

On the other hand.

"He wouldn't have helped you anyway."

Now, Yeongwoo, who seemed like a lunatic serial killer to Gysang's eyes, was one step closer.

“What do you want, anyway? There’s nothing you gain by killing me.”

As Gysang, sensing his imminent demise, asked imploringly, Yeongwoo retorted.

“What about you?”

“What?”

“Why did you swing the Sword recklessly? I didn’t do anything to deserve death from you.”

“W-well.....”

Seeing Gysang momentarily speechless, Yeongwoo poured out his words as if pouring cement on his head.

“You must have tried to kill several people like me before. There were probably many before, and there will be many more in the future.”

Having said this much, Yeongwoo shifted his gaze to the south, which was Gysang’s original destination.

“So, if I kill you now, it’s not much different from saving countless lives, isn’t it?”

“.....!”

“Of course, I’m not killing you with such noble intentions. I just don’t think scum like you should live any longer. Consider it your destiny.”

Listening to this, Gysang felt like the world was turning dark before his eyes.

This guy was truly a ruthless lunatic.

Or maybe he had no idea how powerful Strongest Sword truly was.

“You son of a bitch! If you kill me, you’ll definitely...!”

As Gysang’s reasoning gave way to curses once again, Yeongwoo’s shoulder seemed to twitch, and then a sharp trajectory cut through the air.

Swish!

In the blink of an eye, he struck Gysang’s neck.

“Huh?”

Gyusang could only let out a feeble sound before falling silent.

Then.

Thud.

The body with only the head left slammed onto the ground one after another.

“Oh my God.”

Taeyoung blocked his mouth briefly to summarize the whole situation tersely.

He looked around the gruesome scene with eyes filled with disbelief.

Fourteen murders that happened in an instant.

And one of the victims was none other than the son of Gangnam’s Strongest Sword, who could be considered a pillar of Seoul.

Even if Jeong Yeongwoo does indeed kill all the witnesses as he said, will this incident not affect future developments?

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“If they find out that the son went out of Seoul and didn’t return... Gangnam’s Strongest Sword wouldn’t just sit idly by. Since they can’t identify the suspect, they might just kill all the outsiders recklessly. Parents who lose their children tend to turn cold.”

Taeyoung was genuinely worried.

He had expected to face great difficulties in Seoul, but this was too big of an accident.

No matter how strong Yeongwoo was, he wouldn’t be able to fight against Gangnam Strongest Sword, recognized even in Seoul.

Moreover, even people unrelated to this incident might suffer.

“You’re right. Just because he doesn’t know who the murderer is doesn’t mean he will just sit still.”

Yeongwoo nodded at Taeyoung’s concerns.

Then he shifted his gaze back to the direction of Seoul.

“In that case... he has no choice but to find out who killed his son. Then, at least, he won't take it out on the wrong people.”

“Yes...?”

This time, both Jongsu and Taeyoung were speechless at the unexpected and unreasonable option.

Wasn't that practically suicide?

Jongsu's unspoken words about suicide were omitted.

Of course, Yeongwoo knew well that it would be difficult for him to win against Gangnam Strongest Sword in a direct confrontation.

Even Jin, the Strongest Sword of Gyeongbuk, whom he met this morning, couldn't overwhelm him.

[TL/N: I don't know why this is here, maybe the strongest sword he killed in the morning was named jin? It wasn't revealed before tbh.]

So.

“I won't necessarily go find him myself. But I'll make sure he can't wander around freely.”

“What do you mean...?”

Taeyoung, pondering over Yeongwoo's words, suddenly realized.

“Oh.”

It meant that the man who fled after abandoning the son of Strongest Sword was still alive.

As the only survivor of this incident, that man knew Yeongwoo's face and had some idea of his level of skill.

And since he would naturally assume that Yeongwoo was chasing him, he would surely go straight to Gangnam Strongest Sword.

In other words, if Yeongwoo's existence were revealed, the wrath of Strongest Sword, who lost his child, would at least be contained to some extent.

“In any case, we'll eventually end up fighting against Gangnam Strongest Sword.”

Taeyoung admitted this with a darkened face, acknowledging that there was no alternative.

If Yeongwoo didn't reveal himself, there was a very high probability that a huge bloodbath would occur.

"If luck is on our side, we might meet the first mutant in Seoul. And if that happens..."

Yeongwoo's gaze shifted to the quest board on one side.

[Dogo] "Strong Tiger's Early Appearance"

[Mission] Engage in 0/2 duels with targets with a total ability score of 3,000 or higher.

[Reward] 5 million karma

[Special] You must disclose the fact of Dogo's support in this duel.

"If that happens, we might have a slight chance."

Yeongwoo intended to complete the mission in Seoul as soon as possible.

Since he had already fought once against a target with a total power of over 3,000 points in the morning, he only needed to fight one more time.

And the target would be...

'It doesn't necessarily have to be a human. In my opinion, this quest can be completed even against a mutant.'

The basis for this inference was the quest description itself.

[Mission] Duel with a target with a total power of over 3,000 points, 1/2 times.

It didn't say "a human" but "a target."

"Target" is a very inclusive term.'

Ironically, even the mutants also had "power."

Their ability to sense the Golden Flash during fights was evidence of that.

"Brother, then shouldn't we avoid directly entering Gangnam from here?"

Listening to Yeongwoo's words, Jongsu looked at the road leading north and spoke.

If it's Gangnam's Strongest Sword, they would naturally welcome the mutants in their jurisdiction of Gangnam-gu, so they should avoid that area.

Taeyoung agreed.

"Even if we change direction now, we should be able to reach Seocho or Gwanak."

The current time was 11:41 AM.

If the pattern continued, the mutant would appear at 1:00 PM.

In other words, they had about an hour of spare time for movement.

Yeongwoo also pondered while looking at his watch.

"Since mutants fall in each district of Seoul, the Strongest Sword will be waiting in whichever area I go."

And there was a very high probability that he would end up in conflict with that Strongest Sword.

To maintain his position, that Strongest Sword would need to continue accumulating karma.

"Gangnam is the priority to avoid... So, the places we can go to right away are Seocho or Gwanak, as suggested by the officer."

Although he didn't want to make judgments about the areas as an outsider, Gwanak-gu seemed more feasible than Seocho.

Before the world recognized it, wasn't Seocho adjacent to the district of Gangnam's Strongest Sword, which is currently known to be the strongest in Seoul?

So, if there was a Strongest Sword in Seocho, there was a high probability that they wouldn't be greatly inferior in a fight against Gangnam Strongest Sword.

On the other hand, Gwanak-gu was not as favored compared to other areas in Gangnam even in the previous world, and it was quite far from the jurisdiction of Gangnam's Strongest Sword.

The only noteworthy feature that came to mind about Gwanak-gu was that it had Seoul National University.

But what good would that do in this reset world?

Yeongwoo soon made his decision.

“Let’s go to Gwanak. We’ll catch the mutant there and decide our next move.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 77

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 77: Let Them See Gwanak (1)

Once the destination to Gwanak was set, the Golden Goblin was busier than anyone else.

-Keet!

Following Yeongwoo’s orders, he had to frantically run through the 14 bodies.

-Kekeet!

The goblin brought anything that could be valuable in the area.

From searching through the clothes of the deceased to find coins, to collecting weapons scattered far away, he left nothing behind.

Of course, among them, there weren’t many actually useful items.

The weapons provided as standard were nothing more than junk to Yeongwoo.

So, ultimately, the substantial income gained from this fight was...

‘Five early birds, and 72,000 karma.’

It was rather meager loot for killing fourteen.

Thanks to the substantial cash from the son of Gangnam’s Strongest Sword, aside from him, the property of the rest of the dead was in shambles.

‘They were much poorer than they seemed.’

Indeed, they were people who hadn't even participated in Seoul's transformation, let alone hunting monsters, and had come down to Gyeonggi Province.

While they might have been better off than the majority of citizens who relied solely on daily quests or gambling for income, they too were not in a comfortable position.

'Most likely, all the money they've earned so far has gone into their stats. They had to survive today's monster hunt to guarantee tomorrow.'

But at least one person's situation seemed a bit different.

"....."

Yeongwoo looked at the corpse lying with its head missing.

The eldest son of Gangnam's Strongest Sword.

Why on earth was he here?

Why did he come down to Gyeonggi Province instead of capturing monsters in Gangnam where his father was?

Was it just a personal whim?

'No. If he wanted to indulge, he would've done it in Gangnam. Why come all the way down to Gyeonggi Province?'

Moreover, he wasn't even in a state where he could wander around recklessly.

"Then....."

There's only one possibility left.

'Even if he's the son of Gangnam's Strongest Sword, it means he couldn't deal with Seoul's monsters.'

Even if they appeared in Gangnam, which is his father's constituency.

"....."

Yeongwoo's brow furrowed even deeper.

What could it be?

What could have pushed even Gangnam's Strongest Sword's son out of Seoul?

‘Uh.’

Yeongwoo stopped pondering at this point.

There’s no way to know anything for sure until he goes to Seoul in person.

Whoosh!

Turning his head back, Yeongwoo saw Taeyoung and Jongsu still standing there with tense expressions.

Upon this, Yeongwoo threw an early bird to Taeyoung.

Swish-

“...Huh? W-What’s this?”

Taeyoung opened his eyes wide at the sudden distribution.

Yeongwoo pointed at his belt.

“I heard you’re still using the basic sword.”

“Oh.”

Hearing Yeongwoo’s words, Taeyoung glanced at Jongsu sitting next to him.

Then he noticed an early bird gleaming in his scabbard.

“This valuable thing... Can I just accept it even though I didn’t do anything?”

“You don’t have to feel burdened, it’s not that precious to me anymore.”

Yeongwoo replied like this and glanced at the Golden Goblin.

In fact, there were four more early birds in his pocket.

Since he gave one of the newly acquired ones to Taeyoung, he now had a total of eight early birds.

It might still be a valuable weapon somewhere, but at least to Yeongwoo, it was now close to junk.

“And Jongsu, you take this.”

Finally, when Yeongwoo pointed at Jongsu's feet, the goblin ran over there and poured out a heap of coins.

Ching ching!

A total of 72,000 karma.

It was the money he had borrowed from Jongsu with a bit of interest when purchasing the vanguard and illusions.

"Hyung... I've mentioned this before, but you can give it to me slowly."

Though Jongsu clapped his hands in protest again, Yeongwoo wanted to clear his debt this time.

"We'll be entering Seoul soon. But if I happen to die there, I'll be in debt forever..."

"Hyung... Why do you have to say things like that."

Jongsu seemed taken aback by the unexpected reason but eventually picked up the coins as if resigned.

Seeing this, Yeongwoo finally relaxed.

"Well, the basics are more or less sorted out."

When Yeongwoo gestured to the air, the four-legged creature standing far away approached, tapping the ground with its steel hooves.

Clack, clack.

It would probably be a significant factor in Yeongwoo's Seoul life next to Gangnam's Strongest Sword.

Just as the son of Gangnam's Strongest Sword showed interest in the four-legged creature, other powers in Seoul would probably be the same.

"Moreover, Mr. Yeongwoo doesn't seem like the type to compromise easily...."

It already smells like bloodshed.

Taeyoung looked at Yeongwoo with worried eyes and got into the patrol car.

* * *

12:03 PM.

Having escaped from the scene of 14 murders, Lee Jangho stopped running as he reached the outskirts of Seongnam City.

“Huk, hah...!”

He had pushed himself to the limit with his sprint, but now he couldn't run any longer.

Not only was his breath heavy, but his legs were tingling, refusing to move any further.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

It must be the limit of his stats.

He regretted not investing more in stamina.

‘Phew, damn it.’

Lee Jangho breathed heavily as he looked back.

Just like the past 20 minutes, there was still no sign of the pursuer.

Had Jeong Hyunsik bought him more time than expected?

‘No, he might just be searching in the wrong place.’

In Lee Jangho's mind, the scene of an outsider cutting down about a dozen people at once came to mind.

“...!”

The outsider's prowess displayed at that moment was truly top-notch.

Therefore, if he could just figure out their location, closing the distance wouldn't be difficult at all.

‘I have to get to Seoul as quickly as possible.’

Once he entered Seoul, he believed he could get help somehow.

Seoul must be filled with monstrous individuals everywhere.

That goes without saying for Gangnam.

Moreover, if the outsider had any sense, they wouldn't insist on pursuing him even after seeing the regional situation change to Gangnam.

'Seoul... no, Gangnam is my only chance.'

As Lee Jangho gritted his teeth and attempted to move his heavy legs again, he heard a sound he had only dreamed of from the opposite road.

Vroom...

It was none other than the sound of a car engine.

'Wow, looks like my luck hasn't run out yet.'

Lee Jangho reached for his sword, considering the possibility of stealing the car.

Swish!

Of course, he needed to be cautious as it was a car coming from Seoul.

'...Please.'

If the car about to come into view was a high-performance vehicle with no regard for fuel efficiency, he would have to let it pass quietly.

Given the nature of this world where fuel was bought with karma, choosing to drive a vehicle with poor fuel efficiency meant a lot.

On the other hand, if a commonly seen compact car from his original world appeared...

Vroom!

The engine noise grew louder, and a figure appeared at the edge of the opposite road.

"...!"

Lee Jangho's brow narrowed.

Soon, a grey Avante came into his view.

Swish!

Without hesitation, Lee Jangho drew his sword and approached the roadside.

* * *

At the same time, Yeongwoo and his group were passing through the junction from Seongnam to Seocho-gu along the Gyeongbu Expressway.

The current plan was not to enter Seocho directly but to follow the Gangnam Circular Road from near Yangjae to Sadang and then cross over to Gwanak.

As always, Yeongwoo, riding the Negwig, was leading the way, but Jongsu and Taeyoung couldn't help but feel anxious.

After all, it was Seoul they were heading to, and they had to break through the Gangnam area consecutively.

"...I don't see a single rat."

When Taeyoung, gripping the steering wheel, said this with a stiff expression, Jongsu, who was also looking out the window, nodded.

"It's probably because it's the time when monsters appear."

In about 50 minutes, monsters would pour down from all over Seoul.

So, those who needed to hide would have already hidden, and monster hunters would have already taken their positions.

In other words, they were heading towards Seoul, already in a combat-ready state.

"...!"

Seeing Jongsu's anxious expression, Taeyoung cautiously spoke up.

"You're worried, aren't you? We're basically walking into the jaws of death."

In response, Jongsu nodded, gazing at Yeongwoo's back in front of him.

"I wouldn't be surprised if I died anytime, but it's different for you... It feels like a waste."

"A waste?"

When Taeyoung chuckled and asked, Jongsu looked at the road behind them.

"Commander, you may not be able to empathize... but in my opinion, among the Strongest Swords, Yeongwoo hyung is the closest to being normal."

"If he's normal, what exactly..."

“He’s selfish enough, but he’s not an evil person. If Yeongwoo hyung wanted to, he could kill anyone he sees and take their money. He could do worse. But he still maintains some level of decency.”

“Ah, if that’s what you mean.”

Taeyoung’s head moved up and down slowly.

Of course, Jongsu’s claim that Yeongwoo was normal was hard to agree with.

After all, didn’t the recent altercation with the ‘Seoulites’ end up in bloodshed in the end?

Therefore, in Taeyoung’s eyes, a former police officer, Yeongwoo was a murderer stained with blood.

However, he was just a spectator now, not having the authority or ability to arrest a murderer.

No, he was actually more than just a spectator.

He owed his life to Yeongwoo.

‘In fact, if I were to follow the law, I’m also an accomplice to murder.’

As Taeyoung tried to make a bewildered expression, the area where he was staying changed, and the regional information in the corner of his vision was updated.

Ping!

| The current location is ‘Seocho’.

| The Strongest Sword in this area is ‘Choi Namhee 11’. Rank 4, 3 defenses.

Finally, they had started to set foot on Seoul’s soil.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 78

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 78: Let Them See Gwanak (2)

“Huh?”

“Gasp....”

As Taeyoung and Jongsu both paused at the realization of stepping foot on Seoul’s soil, Yeongwoo, ahead of them, slowed down Negwig’s pace and directed his gaze into the air.

Yeongwoo also felt the immense presence of Gangnam’s Strongest Sword, because of course.

“...Choi Namhee.”

Seocho’s Strongest Sword, Choi Namhee¹¹.

As expected, this time, the identification number was also in the first order.

Among all Choi Namhee in the country, they were the 11th person to contact the currency exchange office.

[The best sword in this area is ‘Choi Nam-hee 11’. Rank 4, 3 defenses.

‘Was there a bit of a struggle for positions on the first day? Third generation as well.’

Even after becoming the 4th Strongest Sword, he fought in defense matches three times.

It meant there were plenty of competitors.

‘Of course, Seoul has the largest population.’

So who would ascend to the Strongest Sword in such a place?

Since they had entered Seoul, Yeongwoo knew they would eventually come across Choi Namhee.

He looked at the name with a mixture of anticipation and concern.

Of course, Yeongwoo’s problem wasn’t just about Seoul’s Strongest Sword.

Spat.

As he entered Seoul, the color of the arrows floating in his vision intensified.

This was the mark of the Legendary Pen, "Wanted Poster," obtained by defeating the anonymous Strongest Sword (Advanced) of Gyeongbuk.

A mark that pointed to what the owner desired.

And currently, the target Yeongwoo was seeking through the Wanted Poster was none other than... his father.

Although the previous owner had set the target, thanks to it, Yeongwoo learned that his father was still alive.

Until recently, he had no concept of parents, so if he hadn't obtained the Wanted Poster, he wouldn't have even attempted to find them.

But now he knew.

His father had been there all along.

Father, Grade 6 Extra.

The person who created a relationship with my 1st-grade supporting mother and me.

Then why abandon me?

Yeongwoo recalled the question he used to ask himself as a child.

Was life too difficult?

Or... did he never want me in the first place?

Of course, he still couldn't answer.

But now he could go directly to the person who held the answer.

'The intensifying arrows mean the distance has shortened.'

The Wanted Poster still pointed north.

Perhaps it meant his father was living in Seocho or somewhere in Gangbuk.

'I hope he's not living nearby. I can't just go looking for him right away.'

In a situation where Gangnam's Strongest Sword had set his sights on this area and would undoubtedly search around, rummaging through the neighbouring area of Seocho was too risky.

'But how did you manage to stay alive until now? Many people died from the reset.'

Yeongwoo vaguely imagined his father as nothing more than "some man" for now, then tightened Negwig's reins.

The previously empty roadsides were gradually filling up with buildings.

Soon, a road sign indicating the direction of Gwacheon and Yangjae appeared.

Now, they were truly in Seoul.

Was it just a misconception that the air felt different?

"Huff."

Yeongwoo took a deep breath.

And while doing so, Negwig continued to push the ground backward.

Clatter, clack!

Despite the noisy sound of Negwig's steel hooves, the surroundings remained eerily silent.

'How can there be so few people in a city with such a large population? Even if it's just before the emergence of monsters...'

It was definitely different from other areas where thieves and hawkers roamed the outskirts of the city.

Yeongwoo shook his head and continued to urge Negwig northward.

Clack!

After running for a while longer, landmarks finally began to appear.

It was the Seocho Sports Complex and the rest area "Seoul Meeting Plaza" attached to the Yangjae exit.

'There's not even a single ant here.'

While some cars in the parking lot were wrecked, the rest area building looked pristine, suggesting it was a residue of the chaos on the first day of the reset.

It seemed the monsters hadn't caused trouble here.

Which meant, at least, all the monsters in the southern part of Seoul had died in the city.

'Was Seoul particularly quick to respond?'

It was difficult for Yeongwoo to estimate what had happened in Seoul.

Seoul was not easily comparable to other cities, as it was the capital of South Korea, where the main administrative offices and the Blue House were located.

Although the president's head flew off on the first day of the reset, the government was unlikely to collapse from that one incident.

The remaining bureaucrats would have tried to handle the situation somehow, right?

'Of course, it wasn't a situation that could be handled just by trying.'

As Yeongwoo pondered, his surroundings darkened again.

They had passed the rest area and entered the Yangjae Interchange.

Since Yeongwoo had to enter Sadang from here, he looked ahead to find the highway exit.

Then...

Honk, beep...!

As Yeongwoo shifted his gaze, the sound of a horn blared from the front.

"...?"

What came into view was a patrol car parked in the middle of the road, as if it were proudly asserting its presence.

'Huh.'

After briefly glancing at Taeyoung's patrol car following behind him, Yeongwoo turned his attention back to the other patrol car in front.

Now he noticed not only the problematic patrol car but also several people behind it.

They were blocking the highway exit leading to Gwacheon and Sadang.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

‘What’s going on? Is this some kind of tollgate?’

He had seen a similar scene in Chungju, where there was a certain system in place.

The only difference was that Seoul, with its 25 districts tightly packed together, had its unique characteristic.

‘Whoa.’

Signaling to slow down behind, Yeongwoo also gently pulled Negwig’s reins.

Kwiiik!

As Negwig began to decelerate with an eerie sound, the people on the Yangjae side seemed to sense something unusual.

Bam, bbaaah...

The blaring horn suddenly weakened.

The outsiders approaching the interchange, in other words, Yeongwoo’s demeanor, didn’t seem normal.

Clunk.

Gradually, the doors of the patrol cars blocking the road opened one by one.

Then, inside, police officers in uniform stepped out onto the ground with extreme caution.

Yeongwoo tensed up, fearing that the opponent might be armed.

But when the police officers finally revealed themselves, there were hardly any guns, not to mention rifles, among them.

“Please... stop for a moment.”

One of the police officers extended both hands without drawing a sword.

Yeongwoo also raised his hands slightly to show that he had no intention of fighting.

“Yes. What’s the matter?”

Yeongwoo adopted the most friendly attitude possible.

There was no reason not to respect these people who were performing police duties, even down to their uniforms.

However, the dialogue from the police side that followed was quite strange.

“Are you coming from another area?”

“Yes. That’s right.”

“Then, by any chance... are you a Strongest Sword or do you intend to challenge the Strongest Sword?”

“...?”

Receiving a question about whether he intended to challenge the Strongest Sword from a police officer, even though they were on official duty, was quite bizarre.

Yeongwoo looked at the person in front of him with a puzzled expression for a moment.

The opponents, as well as the plainclothes individuals blocking the highway exit in the distance, still hadn’t drawn their swords.

In fact, most of them seemed to be visibly apprehensive.

‘They have no intention of overpowering me by force. Rather, they seem...’

They even seemed to be hoping for Yeongwoo to pass through quickly.

Even now, the police officer facing Yeongwoo showed signs of anxiety, fidgeting his fingers.

“Would anything change according to my response? Frankly, I’m not sure why you’re blocking the passage.”

As Yeongwoo alternated between looking at the police officer in front of him and the road exit on the other side, the tense officer gestured with his hands.

“Ah...! No! We’re not daring to restrict passage. We’re here to provide guidance to those who are visiting Seoul.”

“Guidance...?”

While Yeongwoo raised an eyebrow, Taeyoung's patrol car arrived behind him.

The tense officer, who had been clapping his hands, seemed slightly surprised, but continued his explanation.

“Currently, Seoul has entered into an agreement between civil and government bodies to minimize casualties.”

“If it's between civil and government bodies... does that mean there's some kind of government presence here?”

Civil and government.

A word encompassing both private and public sectors.

In other words, an agreement between civil and government bodies meant...

“Yes. That's right. The government of South Korea is intact.”

—

The government of South Korea is intact.

The officer spoke quite confidently, but Yeongwoo found it hard to believe.

Wasn't it just a few hours ago that he had encountered some thugs from Seoul?

If the government were truly intact and law enforcement were functioning, there wouldn't have been Gangwon residents picking fights with “Seoul people.”

Moreover...

‘How could the government be intact? Power no longer resides in the country.’

It wasn't just about the judiciary.

The reason people followed the “rules” set by the state was fundamentally for survival.

To maintain their livelihoods and current way of life.

But hadn't the way of survival completely changed due to the reset?

Surviving against monsters and mutants.

And securing thousands of karma every day to resolve tax and residency issues.

In that case, could the government help with these problems?

Of course not.

In a world where even bullets turned to stones, how could the government control monsters, mutants, and citizens wielding swords?

“What exactly do you mean by a civil-government agreement? There can’t possibly be a military presence here. Just look at you guys...”

There was no need to add the qualifier “without any enforcement power.”

Before Yeongwoo finished speaking, the officer smiled and nodded.

“Yes. I understand what you mean. It’s indeed the case.”

But the real story came next.

“However... the substantive subject of the civil-government agreement isn’t the ‘government,’ but the ‘civilian.’ The most powerful citizens of this country, the Strongest Swords, are the ones empowering the government.”

“What... What are you talking about?”

As Yeongwoo widened his eyes in disbelief, the officer glanced at his wristwatch briefly before getting to the point.

“We’ll have to withdraw soon. But before that, there’s something important we must convey.”

Then the officer’s gaze swept over Yeongwoo’s head.

“If you’re a current Strongest Sword or possess equivalent authority, we recommend attending the Strongest Sword Assembly.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 79

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 79: Let Them See Gwanak (3)

Strongest Sword Assembly.

As soon as Yeongwoo encountered this word, he recalled the warning he heard when he attempted to kill the son of Gangnam Strongest Sword.

– This... should be enough. If you go further here, you'll be turning all of Seoul into an enemy.

All of Seoul as an enemy.

'I thought it was a bit exaggerated, but it might not be.'

What could it mean for the Strongest Swords to gather in Seoul, where the Civilian Agreement was made?

It's definitely not about making life or death decisions together.

"What exactly is the Strongest Sword Assembly?"

When Yeongwoo asked, the officer checked his watch again and replied.

"Every day at 3 p.m., Strongest swords from all over Seoul gather in Yongsan Park. Government officials also attend as observers."

"The government attends?"

When Yeongwoo asked again, the officer nodded.

"Because they need to reflect the decisions made at the assembly."

"My goodness."

Yeongwoo finally seemed to understand.

Although it was said that the Strongest Swords were empowering the government, in reality, the government held control over the Strongest Sword's movements.

'Now it makes sense.'

Yes.

In the reset world, a 'healthy government' meant this kind of arrangement.

“You told me earlier to attend the assembly. What kind of treatment can I expect if I, as an outsider, go there?”

“As long as you’re not here to harm civilians, you’ll be welcomed in any way possible. Even I, who doesn’t know much, can tell you’re not an ordinary person. Seoul is a great place for the strong to live.”

The officer cautiously scanned Yeongwoo up and down.

Then he added.

“If you want a Strongest Sword position, you can challenge anyone who attends the assembly, and if you want to engage in monster business, you can acquire business rights through duels with those who have preempted them.”

“Monster... what? Doing business with monsters?”

Yeongwoo’s eyes widened in disbelief at the story, and the officer nodded habitually.

“Yes. It’s one of the reasons why order is being maintained in Seoul.”

Monster business.

Also known as the Seoul Rotation.

According to the officer, this was a kind of economic recovery project proposed by Seoul National University at the first assembly.

It involved selecting a certain level of experts from each region and having them complete “Scout” quests with tens or hundreds of civilians each.

[Daily] “Scout”

[Mission] Approach the monster until you are 10 meters away.

[Reward] 3,000 Karma

And thus, a portion of the 3,000 Karma earned per person was taken as a commission by the business.

“...It’s a crazy idea.”

Yeongwoo said this, but he understood that it was the best option at a realistic level.

If it really was feasible, for those who found it difficult to go monster hunting, it was a deal with no losses from their perspective.

Of course, on the flip side.

‘Other strong people who couldn’t secure business rights would likely become discontent. In essence, this is no different from controlling hunting grounds.’

As Yeongwoo was having these thoughts, the officer’s lips twitched.

“But this isn’t the end.”

“...?”

“Did you know that the Scout quests are applied separately in each region?”

“No way.”

“Yes. Even if you completed the quest in Seocho, you can still perform the Scout quest when you move to another region.”

“So, it’s the ‘rotation’ of Seoul.”

This time, Yeongwoo nodded his head.

Indeed, the Seoul Rotation meant that the strong would mobilize customers and travel through various areas of Seoul to assist with Vanguard quests, making money in the process.

This meant earning over 4,000 Karma per person after deducting commissions, assuming they covered at least two regions.

“A tremendous amount of money will be circulating. There will be many people vying for business rights as well.”

“Yes. That’s why to prevent conflicts in the city, all procedures are recognized only during the assembly. The same goes for duels among experts.”

In other words, any fights or business disputes outside of Yongsan Park were illegal.

“It’s very systematic. How is this possible? The reset started just three days ago.”

When Yeongwoo expressed his natural skepticism, the officer extended two fingers, then folded one of them.

Snap!

“First, Seoul National University, which serves as the government’s brain, and...”

Then, the officer folded the second finger and uttered a chilling remark.

“Thanks to Gangnam’s Strongest Sword Jeong Hyunsik. He’s the one who created the Strongest Sword Assembly.”

“ ... ”

Gangnam Strongest Sword Jeong Hyunsik.

Although it had been only a few hours since he arrived in Seoul, this was already the second time he had heard this troublesome name.

“Is Gangnam’s Strongest Sword really that remarkable?”

Yeongwoo pretended not to know as he asked, and the officer checked his wristwatch with a more anxious expression than before.

“I should only say that he’s the only one who can summon the Strongest Swords. It’s really time to leave now.”

“...!”

Yeongwoo checked his watch too and indeed, time was running out.

‘It’s 12:29 p.m. now.’

In just 31 minutes, monsters and mutants would start pouring out all over Seoul.

“Immediate withdrawal!”

The police personnel controlling the Yangjae Interchange were already getting into their vehicles.

They all seemed to be trying to evacuate to safety before the monsters arrived.

‘I thought they were staying here to clean up the monsters, but apparently not.’

Perhaps soon, the so-called ‘monster entrepreneurs’ would lead numerous civilians and roam the vicinity.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

What kind of place is Seoul, exactly?

Yeongwoo felt even more confused now that he was actually in Seoul.

Vroom!

Finally, the patrol cars carrying all the personnel began to leave the road.

Thanks to that, the exit toward Ssangdam, where Yeongwoo's group needed to go, was now clear.

"...Let's go. We need to hurry."

Yeongwoo said this to Taeyoung and Jongsu behind him as he grabbed the reins of Negwig.

* * *

Leaving the Yangjae Interchange and entering the Gangnam Circle Road.

As they moved along the outskirts of Seoul, they could see the districts changing rapidly.

Pop!

[The current area you're in is 'Dongjak.'

[The Strongest Sword in this area is 'Lee Hanwook09'. 2nd generation, 8 defenses.

[TL/N: Idc i'm changing Rank to generation bc that makes so much more sense, idk why in prev chaps rank was used its so stupid istg.]

[PR/N: ur stupid. 0 consistency smh/]

"Dongjak's Strongest Sword... Lee Hanwook."

Could Lee Hanwook from Dongjak's Strongest Sword also be a participant in the Strongest Sword Assembly?

Yeongwoo's perspective on the local situation had changed.

'Come to think of it, I didn't ask how many regions are participating in the assembly.'

Considering the warning that harming the son of Gangnam's Strongest Sword could turn all of Seoul against him, it seemed evident that the number of regions participating in the assembly would not be small.

The nuance of the conversation he just had with the officer also indicated the significant power of the assembly.

However, Seoul is composed of as many as 25 regions.

Even if Gangnam Strongest Sword is remarkable, could all the Strongest Swords across Seoul have united in just a few days?

‘Surely, there are regions that haven’t participated in the assembly yet.’

In that case, what would happen to those regions?

Would they be considered enemies of the assembly or simply classified as unexplored territories?

‘The more I know, the more complex it gets.’

Yeongwoo shook his head in bewilderment and shifted his gaze to the urban area that was beginning to appear on his right.

Then he noticed a large white building in the distance, with numerous people streaming in.

‘What’s that?’

Furrowing his brow, he finally saw a red logo on the top of the building.

It was none other than Homeplus.

‘Could it be one of the shelters?’

Considering the timing, it seemed likely.

Or perhaps it was being used as a waiting area for ‘customers’ until the locations of the monsters were determined.

‘They all seem impressive.’

As Yeongwoo muttered his brief impression inwardly, his surroundings suddenly darkened.

“Whoa!”

They had entered the Bongcheon Tunnel, which pierced the northern end of Mt. Gwanaksan.

‘Damn, all the lights are out.’

It was pitch black inside the tunnel as if all the lights on the ceiling and walls had been petrified.

“Yeongwoo, are you okay?”

Taeyoung, who had entered the tunnel belatedly, shone the car headlights on Yeongwoo, who waved his hand to indicate he was fine.

He realized that Negwig, the horse he was riding, had been running smoothly even after entering the tunnel.

Perhaps this iron horse had the ability to sense objects even without light.

‘I guess I received one proper gift.’

As Yeongwoo patted Negwig’s neck, indicating he trusted only him, the horse lifted its head slightly and made an indistinct sound.

– Nnay...!

Then, it started to carry Yeongwoo at an even faster pace than before.

Zoom, zoom!

“Hey, Yeongwoo!”

Taeyoung, sensing Negwig’s acceleration, expressed his concern, but his voice soon faded away from Yeongwoo’s ears.

The distance between them and the vehicle had widened considerably, to the extent that the headlights did not reach Yeongwoo anymore.

Soon, the regional status window refreshed.

Pop!

[The current area you’re in is ‘Gwanak.’

[The Strongest Sword in this area is ‘Jo Sangik01.’ 1st generation, 22 defenses.

They had already entered Gwanak after leaving Dongjak.

‘Jo Sangik... 01?’

The first person among all Jo Sangiks nationwide to make contact with the currency exchange.

Yeongwoo gazed blankly at the illuminated regional status amidst the pitch darkness.

By this time, the other end of the tunnel was gradually brightening.

It must be nearing the end of the tunnel.

Zoom!

Yeongwoo stared blankly at the brightly illuminated regional status amidst the pitch darkness.

As Negwig accelerated even further, Yeongwoo felt as if he were being pulled into the light.

Wha-at!

Then suddenly, everything outside became dazzlingly bright.

‘...Ugh.’

They had finally emerged from the tunnel.

The relative freshness of the air enveloped their faces like a blessing.

However, what greeted Yeongwoo outside the tunnel wasn’t just fresh air.

Pop!

As Yeongwoo’s temporarily paralyzed vision returned, he found himself staring at about a dozen young individuals.

“What... What’s going on?”

“Monsters...?”

“Could there be monsters at this hour?”

The faces of these individuals, as bewildered as Yeongwoo’s, were contrasted by the presence of skilled individuals, each carrying a weapon at their waist.

And above all...

“...Ah.”

Despite the hot weather in June, they were all wearing jackets.

If the unfamiliar patterns on each jacket didn't give it away, it might have been mistaken for a hallucination.

“...”

Yeongwoo stared at the young people gathered in front of the tunnel.

Then, he recalled where he might be and reached a conclusion.

“Are you guys from Seoul National University by any chance?”

“...!”

At that moment, everyone present seemed to gasp in unison.

Woo-oong!

A tremendous roar erupted from the sky as countless beams of light began to strike the ground.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 80

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 80: Let Them See Gwanak (4)

“Huh!”

“Oh...!”

The young men in jackets, as well as Yeongwoo himself, shifted their gaze to the sky as if mesmerized.

Swoosh!

The columns of light descending from the sky, tearing through the air, were none other than monster marks.

Spat!

Soon, a timer appeared in front of everyone who was looking up at the sky.

[00:06:11]

6 minutes and 11 seconds.

The time remaining until monsters and mutants appear on this land.

‘The timing of the timer’s appearance is different every day.’

Yeongwoo recalled the monster timer he had seen in the past.

On the first day, it was 25 minutes in Gumi, the second day, a mere 10 seconds in Sangju, and today, the third day... 6 minutes.

‘What’s the difference? Is it purely random?’

As Yeongwoo pondered while looking at the timer, the young men in jackets, who had been murmuring, began to focus their attention on the giant riding the iron horse, one by one.

“Um....”

Someone finally spoke up.

When Yeongwoo turned his head towards the sound, he saw a sturdy young man standing there, his facial muscles tense.

“Yes. Please, go on.”

As he encouraged the other person who had stopped speaking to finish the sentence, the whole area was in a state of commotion again.

“Huh?”

“He’s a real person.”

“Then what’s that...?”

In the crowd, someone referred to the iron horse rider as “that thing.”

Given the heavily equipped appearance of Yeongwoo, not to mention the Negwig he was riding, everyone had trouble gauging his identity, especially because of the Negwig, which looked like it didn't belong in this world.

"I am Kim Daewon from Seoul National University. I'm here to prevent monsters from appearing in the area. Excuse me, but may I ask why you're here, sir?"

The sturdy young man carefully chose his words as he looked up at Yeongwoo, who was elevated due to being on the Negwig.

But the situation was the same for the inaction.

The young men in the audience seemed to sense that as well.

"... .."

Despite outnumbering them by far and knowing that monsters would pour in from all directions in 6 minutes, no one drew a sword.

'As expected of Seoul National University.'

Yeongwoo nodded as he looked at the jackets worn by the young men in front of him.

As expected, everyone here was wearing "Seoul National University Club Jackets."

"So, does Seoul National University monopolize the monsters in Gwanak? I heard that Seoul has to both permit and catch monsters."

Based on the information he had heard from the previous encounter, when Yeongwoo asked, Kim Daewon's stiff expression relaxed slightly.

'He's not from Seoul... but at least he's heard about the guidance.'

Daewon's eyes quickly scanned the two knives tucked into the outsider's waist.

Luckily, there was no blood on them.

Unless he deliberately cleaned the knives, it meant he hadn't killed any guards on the way here.

"We only handle monsters near our school, and the monster business is entrusted to the Gwanak Police Station."

monster business.

It seemed to refer to the monster business mentioned by the guards.

“So, if I were to intervene with the monsters in Gwanak, it could cause trouble.”

The other party was so polite that Yeongwoo tried to speak as politely as possible, but Daewon and the Seoul National University students couldn't help but feel tense.

Isn't the opponent a stranger who just arrived from outside?

‘Knowing our rules and accepting them are two separate issues. Moreover, seeing him loaded with equipment like that....’

Daewon's gaze left the Negwig and landed on all the equipment Yeongwoo was wearing.

Starting from the rugged helmet worn backward on his head, to the hands protected by golden gloves, and even the live snake wrapped around his wrist, anyone who had some knowledge of this world could only think this way when they saw this giant.

‘He must have killed everything, monsters or mutants, that got in his way to get here. It seems like he encountered many merchants too.’

Therefore, it was natural that Yeongwoo's question about intervening with the monsters here sounded like a kind of threat.

“Um, well... for now, I can cooperate with the monsters in this area on my own terms.”

“...Ah.”

But Yeongwoo didn't actually intend to take away the young men's livelihoods.

“I didn't ask about fighting over monsters. Then, does Gwanak's Strongest Sword handle mutants alone?”

...!

Mutants, and Gwanak's Strongest Sword.

As the two words came out of Yeongwoo's mouth, the atmosphere suddenly became chilly.

“Is the reason you came here to deal with mutants?”

A much sharper tone than before.

Yeongwoo looked at the other person blankly.

“Yes, but... It looks like Gwanak’s Strongest Sword is affiliated with Seoul National University.”

He thought the blade might come flying at any moment.

That’s because most of the areas Yeongwoo has been through so far were like that.

However, Seoul National University students, including Kim Daewon, showed no intent to kill until the end.

Because the Golden Flash of sensory deprivation did not go off.

“Yes, that’s right.”

Daewon said this and bowed his head towards Yeongwoo.

“Although I don’t have the authority to represent the school, I still request that you leave. Please leave Gwanak.”

“ ... ”

Another change.

Yeongwoo lost his words as he looked at Daewon’s expression.

In fact, it was almost like saying “get lost from our area,” but this polite “get lost” was the first since the reset.

‘Seoul National University....’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

According to the guard who guided him, Seoul National University devised the Seoul rotation, and this school also played a role as the government’s brain.

So if this place turned into a battlefield with outsiders, it would be troublesome in many ways.

But.

[00:04:11]

There were only 4 minutes left.

It was somewhat late to go to another area, and Yeongwoo needed to deal with mutants today.

[Golden Flood]

Summon the Golden Rain in five or more areas. (4/5)

[Dogo] “Strong Tiger’s Early Appearance”

[Mission] Engage in 0/2 duels with targets with a total ability score of 3,000 or higher.

[Reward] 5 million karma

[Special] You must disclose the fact of Dogo’s support in this duel.

With the “Golden Flood” and “Strong Tiger’s Early Appearance” about to be cleared, postponing the mutant extermination in this situation where he didn’t know when he would encounter the Gangnam’s Strongest Sword driven by revenge would be suicidal.

“I’m sorry. If I give up on the mutants, I’ll be in trouble. But I have no intention of harming others, so let me talk directly with Gwanak’s Strongest Sword.”

When Yeongwoo ultimately declined the offer, the faces of the Seoul National University side turned pale.

“Fighting between Strongest Swords in the city center is strictly prohibited. If you violate this, you will be pursued by other Strongest Swords.”

“...?”

Pursued by other Strongest Swords.

Once again, Yeongwoo felt “Seoul” from Daewon’s words.

“It’s already happening.”

“What do you mean...?”

Ignoring Daewon’s dazed expression, Yeongwoo looked towards the tunnel direction.

Inside the dim tunnel, something gradually brightened.

It was Taeyoung and Jongsu finally emerging from the tunnel.

“Hyung!”

Jongsu leaned out of the patrol car that arrived at the scene with the sound of the engine.

Then, seeing the Seoul National University students lined up in front of Yeongwoo, he widened his eyes.

Of course, the Seoul National University side was equally surprised.

Taeyoung, driving the patrol car, looked unmistakably like a real police officer.

[00:03:21]

Meanwhile, the remaining time had decreased to 3 minutes.

“Are the police in Gwanak also public security personnel? I’m asking if my group might be attacked by people first.”

At this, Daewon shook his head with a troubled expression.

“At least in Gwanak, that won’t happen.”

A strange answer.

But for now, that was enough, so Yeongwoo tightened the reins again.

* * *

It wasn’t until after the confrontation with the Seoul National University students that they realized the end of Bongcheon Tunnel was adjacent to the main gate of Seoul National University.

As they left the scene and looked back, they could see the landmark of Seoul National University’s main gate in the distance.

And beyond that, there was a much larger crowd bustling busily than the students they had seen in club jackets earlier.

‘What the.. there must be hundreds of them.’

Perhaps that was the main force of Seoul National University.

However, there was no time to confirm it firsthand.

[00:02:42]

Time remaining until the appearance of mutants, 2 minutes and 42 seconds.

During this time, Yeongwoo bid farewell to Taeyoung and Jongsu, who had narrowed the distance considerably.

“I think I should head towards the mutants first. At this rate, I won’t arrive on time.”

Upon hearing this, Jongsu in the passenger seat pointed towards the distant red pillars of light and said.

“Don’t worry, just go ahead. We’ll follow slowly!”

“Yes. Please try to avoid any conflicts with the people here if possible.”

Although Jongsu had a somewhat challenging personality, with Taeyoung, a police officer to the core, everything should be fine.

Yeongwoo conveyed through his eyes to Taeyoung that he was counting on him, then immediately nudged the Negwig’s side.

-Vvweeeeek!

Responding to Yeongwoo’s signal, the Negwig lowered its head momentarily before accelerating.

Clang!

As the steel hooves struck the asphalt road forcefully, fragments flew in all directions, and the scenery Yeongwoo had been watching began to recede rapidly.

‘Incredible. How much faster can it go?’

Yeongwoo looked at the distant red pillars of light, still quite far away.

[00:02:20]

“Now we only have 2 minutes left. Can we get to that red spot as quickly as possible?”

In response to Yeongwoo’s words, the Negwig seemed to turn back for the first time.

-Vviek.

It was as if rather than asking if it was possible, but whether it was okay.

So instead of answering, Yeongwoo tightened the reins of the Negwig firmly.

And then.

Vweeeek!

Steam gushed out fiercely from the Negwig's body, just like when it first appeared.

"Uh, wait...!"

Feeling uneasy for some reason, Yeongwoo tried to pull the reins, but it was too late.

-Kwieeeek...!

The Negwig had already started to sprint at full speed.

Boom!

The noise was so loud that it felt like a bomb had exploded.

It would be some time before everyone in the area heard that sound.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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