

Level 4 Human in a Ruined World

#Chapter 91 - Read Level 4 Human in a Ruined World Chapter 91

Chapter 91

[Translator – Night]

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Chapter 91: Yongsan Park (1)

“Something feels off today.”

A middle-aged man with a receding hairline rushed over, tilted his head politely, and muttered.

This man’s name is Park Sangdo¹⁶².

A former Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, he currently holds the position of Prime Minister of the ‘New Seoul Government.’

He is the most powerful figure in the government formed after the reset.

“What seems strange?”

A young man, upon receiving Park Sangdo’s report, responds with a puzzled expression.

What is the identity of this man sitting on the bench, smoking a cigarette?

『Yongsan’s Strongest Sword』

Yongsan Strongest Sword Kim Doha⁰³.

He is the strongest residing in Yongsan and the only combat weapon of the New Seoul Government.

Due to the quasi-independence and privatization of all armed agencies, including police departments nationwide, the current government is practically reduced to an administrative body.

Thus, the government, which needed ‘physical force’ externally, reached out to Kim Doha, asking him to become their patron.

Given that the former president's office was located in Yongsan, there was no other option.

So, it came to pass that Park Sangdo, a former high-ranking bureaucrat, found himself bowing to Kim Doha, who once ran a convenience store in Yongsan.

In essence, the government, mere semblance though it was, had nothing else to offer to the real power in this world, the Strongest Sword, except for its formal recognition.

Soon enough, Park Sangdo raised his head and finished his report.

"That's... We received someone from Guro and Gangdong. They intend to participate in today's meeting."

Guro District, Gangdong District.

Both areas had not participated in the last meeting, and they had rudely treated the envoys sent by the Seoul Alliance.

Especially Guro District, not only did they rudely dismiss the envoys, but they also made them disappear.

The same was true for the neighboring district of Yeongdeungpo.

So, they were planning to discuss investigations into Guro and Yeongdeungpo at the meeting, but it was surprising that Guro, one of the high-risk areas, expressed willingness to participate first.

"Oh, really? It's unexpected that they're coming from Guro."

However, Kim Doha, upon hearing the news, wasn't particularly surprised.

They knew well that their main objective wasn't the meeting but the 'outsider who rides a horse,' as announced by Gangnam's Strongest Sword through a message.

In other words, they were here for some interesting spectacle.

'It seems they're getting bolder. They've come all this way just for a show. They must think they can get away with anything now. It's becoming a habit.'

Anyway, it wasn't a pleasant development for Kim Doha either.

The more Swords gathered, the higher the chances of troublemakers among them, and inevitably, there would be incidents.

And the location of such incidents, unbeknownst to them, would likely be right in the middle of Yongsan District.

‘Of course, that might be today.’

The unidentified outsider pursued by Gangnam’s Strongest Sword, and the delayed attendance of Guro and Gangdong at the meeting.

It’s all ominous.

“Tsk.”

After dropping the cigarette butt, which had burned down to the filter, to the ground, Kim Doha crushes it with his foot and says,

“We still don’t know the identity of Guro’s Strongest Sword, right? They could be a crazed Korean-Chinese. It might be wise not to station anyone to the west.”

“Yes. Understood. Any other instructions?”

Park Sangdo repeatedly nods his head almost submissively.

Anyway, once the meeting is over, there’s no need to confront the Strongest Sword until 3 p.m. tomorrow.

A few hours of shutting his eyes tightly would allow him to live out the rest of the day as a “real prime minister.”

“ ... ”

As Park Sangdo, who hadn’t received the dispersal order, continued to stand in place waiting, Kim Doha seemed to remember something belatedly and asked,

“Oh, is there something you need, sir?”

“Yes? Well... I’m not aware of anything specific.”

“Is something wrong? Should we send someone to Gangnam?”

When Park Sangdo, now concerned, asked, Kim Doha waved his hand dismissively.

“No need. They’ll be here soon anyway, so we’ll find out shortly.”

And Kim Doha’s words turned out to be true.

Before long, a policeman in uniform rushed over to where the two were.

“Urgent!”

With swift movements, it was evident that he was one of the elite police stationed on the border of Yongsan for the Strongest Sword meeting.

“Urgent...?”

Kim Doha, sensing that the uneasiness he felt earlier was materializing, suddenly rose from his seat.

Most policemen on patrol wouldn’t leave their posts and come to Yongsan Park.

“What’s going on? What’s urgent?”

Park Sangdo, following up, asked the policeman.

The policeman gasped for breath and pointed south.

“I... I think there’s a mutant appearing on Dongjak Bridge.”

* * *

The Han River.

A massive body of water dividing the capital city of Seoul into north and south.

With an average width of 1.2 kilometers, even the superhumans emerging after the reset could only cross it via bridges.

This meant that those committing crimes in the reset world didn’t use bridges at all.

There was no way to evade inspections on the bridges, and if they were surrounded, there was no escape.

So, thanks to the vast width of the Han River, the riverside naturally became a safe zone.

Of course, strictly speaking, the safest place would be the residence of each Strongest Sword.

For this reason, everyone, past and present, wanted to live by the riverside, and the actual population there was the largest, leading to maximum police deployment for security.

Just like what Yeongwoo was witnessing now.

‘How many of them are there...?’

Yeongwoo frowned as he looked at the mass of policemen gathered at the far end of the bridge.

It wasn’t because he was feeling bad; he just wanted to take a closer look at them.

‘Those over there are probably Yongsan police.’

When Yeongwoo turned around, he could see another group of police gathered at the starting point of the bridge.

‘Those must be from Dongjak.’

Dongjak Bridge, spanning 1.3 kilometers, connecting Dongjak-gu, Seocho-gu, and Yongsan-gu.

Yeongwoo had just crossed about half of Dongjak Bridge.

Suddenly, the police, who were nowhere to be seen earlier, appeared out of nowhere and blocked the bridge front and back.

There hadn’t been any obstruction when he climbed up to this side from Dongjak-gu earlier, but perhaps the police had been hidden somewhere, keeping an eye on this side.

‘Well, it doesn’t matter.’

Yeongwoo shrugged and focused back on the road ahead.

Clunk.

Clunk, clunk.

Moving slowly for now.

There was still some time before the meeting started, and there was no need to rush, nor did Yeongwoo feel like threatening the police by speeding up.

After all, isn’t it us who have the right to life and death?

Even though surrounded by dozens of police officers, Yeongwoo’s mind was as peaceful as ever.

Clunk, clunk.

With each sound of Negwig's steel hooves hitting the ground, Dongjak Bridge, visible in Yeongwoo's sight, gradually shortened.

'Come to think of it, have there been any monsters or mutants appearing on the bridge? There's not a single trace of destruction.'

Misfortune may be a blessing in disguise.

Apart from the fossilized subway tracks laid on the 11-meter-wide railway in the center of Dongjak Bridge, it didn't look much different from before the reset.

[Translator – Night]

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Clunk.

As Negwig, carrying Yeongwoo, almost reached the Yongsan side of Dongjak Bridge, the Yongsan police guarding that side began to hesitate.

"Is... is the Strongest Sword not here yet?"

"Should we buy some time somehow?"

"I heard mutants can actually talk."

They couldn't bring themselves to think that the rider on that strange iron horse was human; they simply assumed that mutants from other areas had come up to Yongsan.

"Stop, stop moving! If you come any closer, we'll consider it an intention to attack and retaliate!"

Finally, the Yongsan police sent a sharp warning towards Yeongwoo.

But if the opponent was indeed a mutant, it was a careless response to issue a threat before concluding the dialogue.

After all, had they actually met mutants before?

"Hmm."

Yeongwoo first halted Negwig and then glanced at the police blocking the way out of Dongjak Bridge.

Unlike their sloppy handling earlier, their gaze was quite stern now.

Although they might seem like chicks to Yeongwoo, who had fought against the Strongest Swords and mutants, if all Seoul citizens were lined up, they belonged to the top ranks as well.

Moreover, some of the policemen here were eager to have a chance to fight mutants.

It was due to their misconception that they had become strong enough after hunting monsters for the past three days.

They didn't understand that the combat power of monsters and mutants was incomparable.

Those who had realized this had already perished.

So, some people regarded mutants merely as 'slightly stronger monsters.'

However, because there was a bounty of 3 million won on their heads monopolized by the Strongest Swords, it's said that they're exclusively controlled by the Strongest Swords.

But this 'mutant' doesn't seem to have an owner, does it?

"Oh, please don't get excited. I'm not a mutant..."

As Yeongwoo said this and raised his arms to show, swish!

"I told you to stop moving...!"

Contrary to Yeongwoo's advice, some of the officers who were very excited rushed to subdue the 'mutant'.

Thunk!

"What? Stop it!"

"Hey!"

Of course, the majority didn't move an inch.

It wasn't just the instinctive fear of mutants, but rather, the thought that the opponent might be a person that came to them belatedly.

Because despite the strange appearance of that iron horse, anyone could see that the person on top of it was clearly human, showing a bewildered expression.

"Oh my. Aren't you all too hasty?"

Yeongwoo, who hadn't expected the police to react so rashly, had no choice but to tap his left chest, invoking the 'prestige of the Strongest Swords' while internally worrying about potentially exacerbating misunderstandings.

Thunk!

It was to bring out the legitimate title of Strongest Sword he deliberately concealed before crossing the bridge.

'I might only make things worse by doing this.'

The reason why Yeongwoo, a legitimately recognized Strongest Sword, had such concerns was nothing other than...

「Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword」 – Epic title

【Prestige of the Strongest Swords】

【Voting Rights 】

【Rohm's Bottom】

It was because of the new martial arts that replaced the major components of the Gyeongbuk Sword Law, called 'Rohm's Bottom.'

Rohm's Bottom.

Perhaps due to the legendary swordsmanship being incorporated into the tooltip of the Strongest Sword of Gyeongbuk, his title's form had strangely changed.

Ssshhh...

The Epic title 'Strongest Sword of Gyeongbuk,' summoned by the call, finally began to manifest above Yeongwoo's head.

And at that same moment, everyone in the vicinity stared in astonishment, their eyes and mouths wide open.

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Chapter 92

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Chapter 92: Yongsan Park (2)

Where does fear really come from?

“What, what is that?”

“Run away!”

The elite police officers of Yongsan let out newly born screams.

While doing so, they asked themselves.

Why am I afraid?

That... is nothing more than a title.

But it couldn't be ignored.

The fear signals that his brain desperately sprayed.

Shi-ah-aat...!

The title that appeared above Yeongwoo's head seemed like a living creature.

Because the characters wriggled as if they were really alive.

Moreover, unlike other titles, something was overlaid on the background, which was clearly part of another dimension.

No one explained it, but anyone could intuitively feel it when they saw the title.

Definitely not from the normal world...

No, what should I call it?

“Something wicked.”

One of the police officers murmured, nodding his head, thinking of the appropriate word.

He couldn't keep looking at the opponent's title anymore.

Although he had already run away dozens of times in his mind, for some reason, his body didn't move.

He had never dared to challenge the Strongest Sword, so he didn't even know what the prestige of the Strongest Sword was.

"Ugh!"

As twenty or so police officers stood rooted to the spot wearing dragon helmets, Yeongwoo looked up at the title in his eyes with a malicious feeling.

『Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword』

Shi-ah-aah...!

Once a title that shone brightly was now shrouded in a purplish fog-like substance, and within it, a profound evil emanated.

'What's with changing even the form of the title?'

Whether to call it a distortion or contamination.

Anyway, the only fortunate thing was that he could recognize the characters written on the title.

"Um... first of all, please calm down, everyone."

Yeongwoo cautiously spoke to the Yongsan police officers under the prestige of the Strongest Sword.

"Can you see the contents of the title? I am not a mutant. And certainly not here to harm any of you."

Of course, it was a complicated situation in many ways, as he had killed the son of Gangnam's Strongest Sword on his way up to Seoul.

He didn't necessarily want to harm the police officers, but he came here with the intention of being willing to even take the life of Gangnam's Strongest Sword if necessary.

Swoosh-

As Yeongwoo pointed directly at the title with his finger, the gazes of the officers finally landed on the letters 'Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword'.

"Gye... Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword?"

“The Strongest Sword...?”

“Uh...!”

Instantly, the atmosphere changed dramatically.

From fear of the unknown to a clear dread.

As the prestige of the Strongest Sword was gradually diminishing, starting with the officer closest to Yeongwoo, one by one they began to kneel down on the ground.

Hwaet!

“We... We have committed a grave offense!”

“We didn’t know!”

“Please forgive us!”

It was an unbelievable turnaround from just moments ago when they were ready to draw their swords.

To them, the Strongest Sword was a more terrifying presence than a mutant.

‘What’s this?’

Yeongwoo couldn’t help but be bewildered.

And at the same time, he learned a little about the position of Strongest Sword in Seoul.

“Um... I forgive you, so please, stop kneeling now.”

Just as Yeongwoo made an awkward expression and was about to jump down from the sculpture, a booming voice erupted from behind the police officers.

“Is everyone kneeling?”

At this, everyone, including Yeongwoo, turned their heads in that direction and soon saw it.

It was the sight of a middle-aged man in police uniform and another man who looked to be in his early thirties at most.

“...Chief.”

Eventually, one of the officers rose briskly from his position, saluted the middle-aged man, and then bowed to the man next to him.

Then the rest also rose and behaved in the same way as the person in front of them.

While it was true that they had made a big mistake against the Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword who came to Seoul, at least for the Yongsan police officers, the sudden appearance of those two was due to their higher authority.

Because the middle-aged man in uniform was the Chief of the Yongsan Police Station, Lee Kwangwon, and the man in his thirties next to him was none other than...

『Yongsan's Strongest Sword』

It was Yongsan Strongest Sword, Kim Doha 03.

Of course, in terms of the Strongest Sword's rank, the Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword who unified a large region was a more fearsome presence, but...

‘That’s a story that might hold true in any province, but this is Seoul.’

Like the thoughts of one of the officers, this was Seoul.

And not just any Seoul, it was right in front of Yongsan Park where the Strongest Sword assembly was held every day.

Even if Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword was strong, could he really take on the Strongest Swords of Seoul alone?

From the police perspective, it was only natural to fear the disapproval of their direct superiors who were under the protection of the Seoul Federation.

In fact, even if it wasn't the case, it was more comfortable to bow to fellow Seoulites than outsiders.

“...”

With a series of reasons, as soon as the traffic was cleared, Chief Lee Kwangwon felt a great weight on his shoulders.

“Now, let's have a discussion.”

As if indicating that it was now permissible to handle the matter, Lee Kwangwon gestured with open arms, as if opening the way.

But the Yongsan's Strongest Sword was not responding as expected.

‘What... What is this, you bastard?’

He was in a state of shock upon seeing the true identity of the “outsider on horseback” that had been widely rumored.

He had never dreamed that the “horse” was made of black steel, nor did he expect...

‘How much equipment is he wearing...?’

Because even the specifications of the body atop the horse looked formidable.

‘This guy is from a different dimension.’

Yongsan’s Strongest Sword Kim Doha was not a physically powerful person.

Mentally speaking.

During Strongest Sword assemblies, if opinions on certain matters couldn’t be reconciled, they would resort to duels for resolution.

This was the case when the meeting place was designated as Yongsan Park, and when he faced Jeong Hyunsik, the Strongest Sword of the time, he acknowledged defeat immediately after receiving the first attack.

He was scared.

His spirit was broken in just one bout.

Despite being fearful as a Strongest Sword, he had one distinctive skill.

‘That guy... He’s strong.’

He could recognize opponents stronger than himself like a ghost.

He felt a similar feeling to when he stood in front of Jeong Hyunsik, the Gangnam Strongest Sword, in a duel.

No, strictly speaking, it was even more intense.

While he still felt a sense of familiarity with Jeong Hyunsik, which allowed him to endure at least one bout, he didn’t want to face the attack of that monster riding the iron horse at all.

So, Kim Doha made a decision based on his own logic.

“Welcome... Please come in.”

Swoosh!

[Translator – Night]

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Bowing deeply, showing utmost respect.

He hoped the monster wouldn't feel discomfort.

"It seems that our people have committed an offense. Let me apologize on their behalf."

When Kim Doha, the strongest in Yongsan, went this far, even the police chief who had been making a fuss just a moment ago had no choice but to bow his head.

"...I'm sorry."

Following that, the officers, like lightning, rose from the ground and pressed their foreheads to the road.

Hwaet!

"I apologize!"

"Please forgive us!"

"..."

The most awkward one in this situation was Yeongwoo.

Because they might soon find themselves in a situation where they couldn't kill each other.

After all, he was the culprit who had killed the son of the Gangnam's Strongest Sword, who was the axis of the assembly.

He didn't come here expecting a warm reception.

"Um... By any chance, is the Gangnam's Strongest Sword present at the assembly now?"

When Yeongwoo asked, Kim Doha's stiff expression softened slightly.

"Ah, so you know to some extent. Excuse me, but may I ask what relationship you have with Jeong Hyunsik?"

“That... well...”

It seemed that the other party didn't quite grasp the situation.

Yeongwoo initially hesitated to speak, but then changed his mind.

Was there really a need to awkwardly hide something that everyone would soon find out anyway?

“It's a matter of enmity. I killed his son.”

“What...?”

“The son of Gangnam's Strongest Sword.”

He didn't even remember the guy's name.

Even though he knew the man's father was the Gangnam Strongest Sword, he didn't regret killing him.

“...”

Despite making a terrifying confession, he had an unusually nonchalant expression.

It was actually Kim Doha who wore a puzzled expression.

“No, I mean, sir...”

Kim Doha, who was trying to recall what he had heard, suddenly fell silent.

He was at a loss for words at such an unbelievable story.

But he didn't doubt its truthfulness.

《If you encounter an outsider riding a horse, please bring them to the assembly, alive. I request it.》

The strange message spread by the Gangnam Strongest Sword was evidence of this, and given the bizarre appearance of this outsider, it wouldn't be surprising if they were involved in whatever it was, whether it was chopping up the son of Gangnam's Strongest Sword or not.

“So, let's clarify... You killed Jeong Hyunsik's eldest son, and now you have come here with the intention of killing Jeong Hyunsik as well?”

The summary seemed slightly twisted.

Upon this, Yeongwoo corrected a few things.

“I killed the son of that Jeong Hyunsik person, and now, it’s more accurate to say that Jeong Hyunsik has come here to kill me. I don’t particularly want to spill any more blood.”

“...I see. But if you don’t have any feelings for Jeong Hyunsik, couldn’t you have just left the scene after killing his son?”

Intrigued by the conversation between the two Strongest Swords, everyone in the audience was silent and focused.

And soon, an absurd line popped out of the problematic outsider Yeongwoo’s mouth.

“It’s my job, after all. I have to wrap things up somehow, don’t I?”

“...”

Thinking of it as his job, he came here to duel the Gangnam’s Strongest Sword.

It was a motive that was difficult for the cowardly Strongest Sword Kim Doha and the Yongsan police officers, who were just here to make a living, to understand easily.

Swoosh!

The current time was 2:34 PM.

Kim Doha, checking his wristwatch, let out a deep sigh.

“Hoo...”

There were about 26 minutes left until the start of the Strongest Sword assembly.

If this monster’s words were true, it wouldn’t be long before Jeong Hyunsik made his way to Yongsan with vengeance in mind.

‘Today, with new attendees coming in, it will be quite a spectacle.’

After some contemplation, Kim Doha finally made up his mind.

Whoosh!

With arms outstretched towards the outsider, he spoke.

“Once again, welcome! Today might become a very important day. I’ll inform the other Strongest Swords as well that there might be a duel for the position of Gangnam’s Strongest Sword today.”

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Chapter 93

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Chapter 93: Yongsan Park (3)

When Yongsan Strongest Sword officially recognized Yeongwoo as a ‘guest’ through enthusiastic hospitality, many things changed.

First and foremost.

Chot-chot!

Until just a moment ago, Yongsan police officers, who were ready to confront Yeongwoo with swords, cleared the way by lining up on both sides.

The procession had begun.

“Let’s go, please.”

Then, Kim Doha, Strongest Sword of Yongsan gestured towards a black sedan parked on the other side, indicating they should go together.

Even near the sedan, mobile security agents on motorcycles were waiting.

It was a direct imitation of state ceremonies from childhood.

“...”

As Yeongwoo stared blankly at the clearly formal procession, Yongsan Police Chief Lee Kwangwon spoke up.

“Not only is Yongsan home to key departments of the New Seoul Government, but Yongsan Park, designated as a meeting place, is also here. It’s practically the capital of Seoul.”

That’s why, he explained, such a procession was a great morale boost for the residents of Yongsan.

“...I see.”

Yeongwoo didn’t fully understand, but he nodded anyway.

Starting with the term “capital of Seoul” seemed awkward.

Of course, judging by the name “New Seoul Government,” it seemed they no longer viewed Seoul as just another city.

‘They seem to be too preoccupied with their own agendas to call this a government.’

It was almost comical to see the one who killed the son of a member of the Seoul Federation receiving a procession.

Yeongwoo slowly approached Negwig, looking down at Kim Doha and Yongsan Police Chief Lee Kwangwon.

“You two ride as usual. As you can see, I have a horse.”

“Ah... I see.”

Kim Doha glanced at the horse of the outsider that had been bothering him since earlier.

The vehicle of unknown grade that Yeongwoo, his advertiser for Dogo, had given as a token of gratitude.

Kim Doha, unaware of Negwig’s background, could only wonder where he had bought such a rare item and how much he had paid for it.

* * *

Yongsan Park.

A large green space in the heart of Yongsan-gu, Seoul.

Once a space occupied by U.S. military bases, it covers an area of 3 million square meters and is now used as the meeting place for the Yongsan Federation, supervised by the Seoul Federation.

In other words, it is said to be a place where superhumans, who can even demolish buildings barehanded, might engage in combat if circumstances permit.

“I wonder if there have actually been fights among the Strongest Swords.”

As Yeongwoo muttered to himself, a police officer following on a motorcycle blinked.

He had just heard Yeongwoo's words.

“...”

Yeongwoo glanced around.

Their current location was above Dongjak-daero, heading towards Yongsan Park.

In front of him, there was a black imported car carrying Yongsan's Strongest Sword and Yongsan's Police Chief, rolling along.

Yeongwoo was following them from behind at a suitable distance, accompanied by four police motorcycles, not regular security.

“Why, do you happen to know something? Please tell me.”

As Yeongwoo asked, the police officer, who had been cautiously observing the surroundings, opened his mouth.

“We couldn't get inside, so we don't know much, but... we heard there was a duel at the first meeting.”

“Oh... really?”

As Yeongwoo showed interest, the officers standing right next to him started to move away.

It was because they suddenly stopped the bikes.

...?

Yeongwoo, with a puzzled expression, turned his head back towards the front and then understood the reason.

In the meantime, they had arrived at Yongsan Park.

Vroom...

The vehicle carrying the Strongest Sword was already gliding into the park, receiving a 90-degree salute from men in formal attire.

“And welcome. From here, it’s Yongsan Park.”

As Yeongwoo passed by on Negwig, the men bowed their heads again.

“They’re not following separately. Can’t even the security enter the park?”

There were no additional guards on the Strongest Sword vehicle racing from the other side either.

In other words, from now on, they would have to handle everything solely with their own strength.

Although there were rules for the meeting, it was essentially an informal agreement among the Strongest Sword.

With no public eye here, one could argue that this was a true lawless zone.

‘Even if someone dies here, it wouldn’t make much of a difference.’

Meanwhile, the vehicle ahead kept moving forward without stopping, continuing into the park.

‘How vast is this place...?’

Yeongwoo, following the vehicle in front of him, began to understand why the Strongest Swords had chosen this place as their meeting spot.

This amount of space was needed for the minds of the Strongest Sword-level individuals to feel at ease when fighting.

Vroom...!

Gradually, the engine noise of the vehicle subtly changed, slowing down, and in time, something began to appear in the distance.

First, there were people who seemed busy moving something, and then, what caught the eye was...

‘A chair...?’

The object they were moving was indeed a chair.

“Is that the meeting place over there?”

This time, there was no one to answer Yeongwoo's muttering.

And Yeongwoo didn't need an answer this time either.

Anyone could tell that was the meeting place where Seoul's elites gathered.

“ ... ”

A vast open space covered with evenly laid grass.

On it, there were about a dozen chairs spaced at regular intervals.

That was all there was.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

There wasn't even a table for refreshments, let alone a canopy to shade from the sunlight.

Just chairs placed on the ground.

Even those chairs were mismatched, some resembling lavish leather seats that could be reminiscent of sofas, while others were simple plastic folding chairs one might find at a convenience store.

'This is ridiculous. They made such a fuss on the way here, and this is what the meeting place looks like?'

It was a composition that couldn't have resulted without a clear intention.

Moreover, some chairs already had people sitting on them.

It meant that some of the Strongest swords had arrived early.

Click!

Finally, the black sedan ahead stopped, and Kim Doha and Lee Kwangwon got out one after another.

Yeongwoo also jumped off Negwig and approached Kim Doha holding the reins.

“Is this the meeting place?”

To this, Kim Doha smiled as if he knew what Yeongwoo was thinking and replied.

“It’s surprising, isn’t it? Just conducting the meeting on the ground.”

Then, he glanced at the scene where the chairs were being arranged.

“Even placing these chairs here costs money. We can’t just bring in furniture carelessly because if a fight were to break out, everything around could be destroyed.”

In other words, they hadn’t wasted effort preparing assuming a duel or fight would occur.

And flipped around, it also meant it was difficult to control each individual Strongest Sword.

“Still, we offer one service... You can choose the chair you’ll sit on during the meeting yourself. Of course, sitting on the ground is also possible.”

With these words, Kim Doha sent a look as if asking if Yeongwoo wanted to choose a chair.

“Ah... I’m fine. As you said, sitting on the ground is fine.”

Yeongwoo’s gaze naturally turned south, towards his back.

He hoped Gwanak Strongest Sword, Jo Sangik, would arrive soon.

It seemed uncomfortable to be stuck here without knowing anyone.

However, the actual development was completely different from his expectations.

One by one, the Strongest Sword who had been present at the meeting started to rise from their seats.

They were all looking towards Negwig as if waiting for something.

“Let’s go and say hello.”

Kim Doha scratched his chin and took a step in the direction where the Strongest Sword were.

On the other hand, Yongsan Police Chief Lee Kwangwon didn’t move from near the vehicle.

It wasn’t clear whether he had no authority to go further or simply didn’t want to be near the Strongest Sword.

Anyway, since they had come this far, there seemed to be no other choice.

“Ahem.”

Yeongwoo cleared his throat once and then moved forward holding Negwig’s reins.

Clack, clack.

Thanks to the illusion wrapped around his feet, every step Yeongwoo took produced the sound of metal.

This caused a murmuring among the Strongest Sword who stood in their places.

It was a reaction similar to when Yeongwoo first met Jo Sangik, Strongest Sword of Gwanak.

Insisting on going barefoot was a tradition among the Strongest Sword, known as ‘bizzare,’ but the sound of metal with each step was more akin to being a ‘monster.’

Furthermore, the creature Yeongwoo was leading with the reins, resembling a horse, also lacked a metal outer shell.

Clack, clack, creak.

As the distance between Yeongwoo and the meeting place narrowed to about 20 meters, the first reaction finally erupted.

“What’s that?”

With one hand halfway resting on the hilt of his sword at his waist, the man who spoke was Yang Wootaek07, a 42-year-old male.

Above his head shone the title of ‘Mapo Strongest Sword.’

On the other hand, above Yeongwoo’s head was the title of ‘Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword,’ writhing in a purple haze.

『Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword』

Another person mumbled, feeling out Yeongwoo’s peculiar title.

Seongbuk Strongest Sword, Lee Yoobin16, a 22-year-old female.

She had sensed unease upon seeing Yeongwoo earlier.

Considering the form of the title and the fact that Gyeongbuk was a major region, it indicated a different class of opponent.

“Excuse me... What’s wrong with the title? Is that how the title of a great region is supposed to be?”

Of course, she wasn’t so scared to hesitate to ask.

After all, this was Seoul, and even at this gathering, there were far more members of the Federation.

“Oh, that’s...”

Just as Yeongwoo was about to answer, suddenly...

Clang!

A person who had been sitting quietly on a chair all this time suddenly stood up with a loud motion.

“Oh my, we’ve heard a lot about you.”

Jang Jeongho01, 29 years old male, Dongdaemun’s Strongest Sword.

As he rose with a heavy presence, Lee Yoobin’s expression hardened.

Jang Jeongho was a troublesome figure even at the meetings.

As far as the Strongest Swords knew, he was a completely different person from the previous world with no criminal record then, but now he was a murderous maniac.

For example, the punishment method he enforced in Dongdaemun-gu was solely beheading.

“Hmm.”

Mapo’s Strongest Sword Yang Wootaek also sat down comfortably on his chair upon seeing Jang Jeongho rise.

Thud, thud.

If Yeongwoo was a monster, Jang Jeongho was a strange man.

Even now, he confidently walked barefoot, displaying his identity.

For the Strongest Swords, wearing shoes was a kind of courtesy and respect.

This is a roundabout way of expressing that you are not here to fight and that you want to stay politely before leaving.

It meant they wouldn't exert themselves to the point of breaking their shoes.

However, Jang Jeongho belonged to a category that didn't care about such things.

In fact, wasn't the world before the reset the same?

Not everyone adhered to public morality.

"Since we've met like this, shall we shake hands?"

Jang Jeongho, who had suddenly approached Yeongwoo, extended his hand with a glint in his eyes.

Swish!

It felt like he was already gripping with strength in his hand.

"That's enough. He's a guest on business with our leader."

Kim Doha, sensing the obvious joke, or rather, provocation, intervened to stop Jang Jeongho.

In reality, whether they quarreled or not didn't matter much, but not now.

'I want to see Jeong Hyunsik get beaten up.'

If it was true that this outsider had killed Jeong Hyunsik's son, then one of the two Strongest Swords would surely die today.

And Kim Doha's wish was for Jeong Hyunsik to die, if possible.

Ever since the duel over the choice of the meeting place, he had harbored resentment against Jeong Hyunsik

So it was essential to ensure that the outsider facing them didn't exert unnecessary force.

For example.

Thud!

"Huh...?"

Engaging in a handshake turned into a power struggle initiated by Jang Jeongho.

"Wait a minute!"

Just as Kim Doha realized the handshake had begun, Jang Jeongho's eyes began to glow with a golden light.

This lunatic was trying to assert the authority of the Strongest Sword.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 94

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 94: Yongsan Park (4)

“Jang Jeongho...!”

As Kim Doha called out the name of Dongdaemun Strongest Sword, a golden wave erupted around Jang Jeongho's body.

Paaah!

It could have ended as a simple power struggle, but using the ‘Strongest Sword's momentum’ was a different story.

It was a very rude provocation, testing the opponent's resolve.

“Urgh...!”

As Jang Jeongho's momentum enveloped Kim Doha, he had to grit his teeth.

It was because of the throbbing pain as if his heart was being squeezed.

He couldn't stop Jang Jeongho's momentum.

‘Damn it.’

However, he couldn't afford to show any signs of weakness here.

Not only Jang Jeongho and the outsider, but also the Strongest Sword from Mapo and the Chief of Yongsan Police Station were present.

'If I show weakness here, it's over.'

So, amidst the sweating and enduring pain, an unexpected savior appeared.

It was none other than...

"Kraaaaagh!"

Jang Jeongho.

"Huh...?"

Why was he screaming when he was the one who released the momentum?

An absurd situation that momentarily made even the piercing pain in the heart forgettable.

And even in this situation, Jang Jeongho twisted his body, screaming fiercely.

Thanks to that, the fact that Kim Doha was overwhelmed by Jang Jeongho's momentum was quietly buried.

"What's this? Did Gyeongbuk win?"

"No matter what, rolling around like that...?"

Mapo and the Strongest Sword from Seongbuk only thought that the outsider's momentum had overwhelmed Jang Jeongho.

There was nothing else significant between them.

Even if we call it physical contact, it was just a handshake, they didn't exchange proper blows.

But the three people involved, Jang Jeongho, Jeong Yeongwoo, and Kim Doha, knew well.

It was Jang Jeongho alone who had used the Strongest Sword's momentum just now.

'What's going on? It's definitely not the momentum. Did he use some other technique?'

Of course, Kim Doha, who had watched everything nearby, didn't know exactly what had happened.

Anyway, what was important to him right now was...

‘Thankfully, he didn’t get caught.’

Because Jang Jeongho’s flare-up succeeded in saving face.

“Who... What’s your identity?”

Eventually, as Jang Jeongho staggered halfway to the ground, trembling lips, he glared at Yeongwoo.

In response, Yeongwoo slightly clenched his right hand and smiled wryly.

“I just shook hands because you asked.”

That was also true.

All Yeongwoo did was shake hands with the opponent.

But as soon as the handshake started, Jang Jeongho exerted force as if to crush Yeongwoo’s hand, and Yeongwoo, in turn, raised his output against him, resulting in the explosion.

‘Golden Punishment’ considered the opponent as an enemy and triggered pain infliction.

‘Considering that he doesn’t have many overlapping equipment, he seems to have invested heavily in his stats, surprisingly capable.’

From Yeongwoo’s perspective, experiencing the third day’s Strongest Sword’s momentum indirectly had its merits.

‘Even if I fight alone, I think I can win easily.’

While staring at Jang Jeongho, Yeongwoo thought to himself, the guy suddenly flinched and stepped back.

‘This guy...’

Nevertheless, he didn’t rush back at Yeongwoo.

If they were to engage again, it wouldn’t be just a ‘joke’ anymore; it would be a decisive battle, especially since he had no confidence in defeating that outsider.

Even when faced with the Strongest Sword’s momentum at close range, he didn’t bat an eye. He was definitely not an ordinary opponent.

“ ... ”

As an awkward silence ensued, the inexperienced Seongbuk's Strongest Sword, Lee Yoobin, spoke up.

"If there's nothing else to do, let's call it quits. People should be coming soon."

There was a hint of laughter in her words.

"This bitch...!"

Jang Jeongho glared, but Lee Yoobin wasn't someone to be trifled with either.

"Well, what can I do? He's the one acting out alone."

Nevertheless, she didn't add the word 'retard'.

She didn't attach it probably because one of the 'people' she mentioned was already visible in the distance.

"Sister!"

Lee Yoobin waved her hand behind Yeongwoo.

Then, Kim Doha, the Yongsan's Strongest Sword, approached Yeongwoo and whispered softly.

"Songpa's Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee."

"Huh...?"

Yeongwoo was perplexed by the sudden guidance, but he followed Kim Doha's gaze for the time being.

Swish-

Then, a tall woman with a sturdy figure came walking from the other side.

"Unbelievable."

Yeongwoo thought he knew why Kim Doha deliberately mentioned Songpa's Strongest Sword.

It was because Oh Yeonhee was someone he recognized, a kind of celebrity.

Oh Yeonhee04.

A former professional basketball player and current Songpa's Strongest Sword.

Not only was she selected as the MVP of the domestic pro league for four consecutive years, but she was also well-known as a medalist in the Asian Games.

Of course, Yeongwoo only knew her face thanks to entertainment programs.

Due to her background as a famous athlete and her tall stature and excellent eloquence, she once enjoyed tremendous popularity.

‘But why is she...?’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

While staring at Oh Yeonhee’s shadow stretching out on the grass, Yeongwoo doubted his own eyes.

As it was evident now, despite being a celebrity, Oh Yeonhee hadn’t been nominated for elimination.

That was because she was not usually the subject of gossip and wasn’t someone who could easily make enemies.

But why would someone like her become a Strongest Sword?

A Strongest Sword was essentially a murderer.

They killed people to become a Strongest Sword, and if necessary, they would continue to kill.

“...”

As Yeongwoo blankly stared at the newly appeared Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee also looked at the outsider with an expressionless face.

Then, she glanced at the fallen Jang Jeongho and slightly lowered her head towards Kim Doha before speaking.

“It seems there was some commotion here.”

Oh Yeonhee’s height was a whopping 186 cm.

Her weapon was also a long, curved sword, which added to her imposing presence.

“Ah... Yes. But it’s been resolved well.”

Kim Doha said with a confident smile, and Oh Yeonhee nodded silently.

It was a completely different atmosphere from what she had seen on television.

Perhaps many things that happened along with the reset had made her more reticent.

“Sister!”

As Lee Yoobin waved her hand again, Oh Yeonhee brightened up and greeted them with her long arms, warning them like a continuation of a martial arts move.

“Master-nim is also coming this way. It might be better to seat the guests separately.”

It was a message to Kim Doha, the owner of the meeting room.

From the nuances, it seemed Oh Yeonhee also knew what had happened to the son of Gangnam’s Strongest Sword.

“...He’ll be here soon. Understood.”

As Kim Doha’s expression stiffened, Oh Yeonhee approached Lee Yoobin.

Now, there were only three left on the scene.

“What did you do?”

Jang Jeongho asked, feeling that something was off in the conversation, and Yeongwoo answered without hesitation.

“I killed Jeong Hyunsik’s son.”

“What... Why on earth?”

“He suddenly came and started a quarrel.”

“...”

Jang Jeongho, who had been like a cat that got the cream, suddenly fell silent.

But the atmosphere didn’t become awkward again.

Since someone else had arrived during that time, all the Strongest Swords in the meeting room who had been watching this way stood up at once.

“...”

Since the reaction wasn't even this much when Oh Yeonhee appeared, Yeongwoo could instinctively tell.

'He's here.'

As Yeongwoo slowly turned around, he saw the silver-grey carriage sliding smoothly into the meeting room at just the right moment.

Respect.

Mourning.

"Ah."

Yeongwoo's heart pounded.

It finally hit him that he had killed someone's son.

Behind the carriage, another black sedan followed, and Yeongwoo thought that Jeong Hyunsik would be in that one, so he kept his eyes on it.

However, where Jeong Hyunsik was actually riding.

Ba-aang...

As the carriage stopped abruptly, the driver's door opened.

Thunk.

Then, the driver in a black suit stepped out onto the grass.

Thud.

With the title 'Gangnam's Strongest Sword' affixed above his head.

'Gangnam Strongest Sword, Jeong Hyunsik.'

Yeongwoo recited the driver's identity in his mind.

As if hearing it, Jeong Hyunsik turned his head towards Yeongwoo.

Shooooo...

For a moment, Yeongwoo felt like he was standing in front of a calm wave in the winter sea.

From Jeong Hyunsik's face, which was silently watching this way, he felt the cold and lonely sea.

Perhaps even if there hadn't been a title above his head, Yeongwoo would have known.

That he was the father of the deceased.

Thud!

Kim Doha and Jang Jeongho were already moving as far away from Yeongwoo as possible, and meanwhile, the passenger door of the carriage opened.

Thunk!

And out stepped someone Yeongwoo knew well.

Lee Jangho⁷³.

He was the only man who survived at the scene where Jeong Hyunsik's son was killed.

Lee Jangho glanced alternately between Yeongwoo's face and his horse, then moved his lips in a mocking manner towards Jeong Hyunsik.

That's the man who did it, or something similar.

Then, Jeong Hyunsik said something to Lee Jangho and placed a chrysanthemum on top of the carriage, which had been pinned to his chest.

And then.

Swish!

In the blink of an eye, a dagger pierced through Lee Jangho's forehead.

"Gasp!"

"Huh?"

The other Strongest Swords, who had been holding their breath, were in an uproar.

Although Lee Jangho hadn't been able to protect his son, didn't this help narrow down the killer?

'Is he planning to kill anyone related to his son's death?'

Yeongwoo pondered.

In that case, it would be difficult for Jo Sangik, Gwanak's Strongest Sword, to survive.
Thud.

As Lee Jangho's head with a hole in it fell to the ground, the people in black suits from the previously quiet sedan rushed out.

Yeongwoo didn't know them well, but they were Dongjak's Strongest Sword Lee Hanwook and employees of Taewon Group.

However, they didn't surround Yeongwoo or anything of that sort.

They simply pulled out Lee Jangho's body and loaded it into the trunk of their vehicle.

And finally, Jeong Hyunsik began to move.

Silently, he walked towards the outsider who had killed his son.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 95

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 95: Yongsan Park (5)

Jeong Hyunsik, 52-year-old male.

He is not only the sole survivor of the third largest conglomerate Taewon Group in Korea but also the current head of Gangnam's Strongest Sword's office.

In the world of Strongest Swords who each consider themselves the protagonist, Jeong Hyunsik was a special figure.

This was because he had a novel-like story, even in a society of Strongest Swords where "prestige" was important, waiting for the brothers who had become dragons to return.

In the world where "prestige" was important among Strongest Swords, such a background was a tremendous halo.

Moreover, wasn't he part of the ruling class even in the world before the reset?

In other words, while other Strongest Swords from ordinary backgrounds were mere commoners, Jeong Hyunsik was a true noble.

With such a foothold, the reset did not feel like a disaster to him.

At least until yesterday.

But now, having lost his child overnight...

"..."

Eventually, Jeong Hyunsik stood in front of a stranger.

Thud!

It was the first disaster that finally came to him.

After carefully scanning through Yeongwoo's peculiar title, the iron horse, and the golden goblin, Jeong Hyunsik signalled to the Taewon Group employees waiting behind the meeting room.

Then he said to Yeongwoo.

"Have a seat for a moment."

"Yes...?"

Unknowingly tense, Yeongwoo let out an awkward sound.

The distance between the two was only 5 or 6 meters at most.

Since it was a short distance where either one could stab the other's throat in the blink of an eye, Yeongwoo thought only of an ambush.

Thud!

Suddenly, men in black suits approached with something in their hands.

It was nothing but...

Thump!

Folding chairs.

Folding chairs with synthetic leather cushions attached.

One chair unfolded near Jeong Hyunsik and Yeongwoo each, and Jeong Hyunsik took the seat first.

“Sit down.”

Ordered again to sit by Hyunsik, Yeongwoo awkwardly leaned on the chair.

Then, Jeong Hyunsik, who was staring intently at him, chuckled and said,

“You’re such a kid. Did you really kill my son...?”

Upon this, Yeongwoo could only say one thing.

“Well, your son wasn’t exactly ordinary either. Why would I, knowing who his father is, kill him?”

As soon as Yeongwoo finished speaking, there was a cracking sound from Jeong Hyunsik’s side.

“This brat. Watch your mouth.”

“Weren’t you here to kill me in the first place? I don’t really understand what conversation you want to have.”

When Yeongwoo said this, Jeong Hyunsik waved his finger in the air as if tearing something apart.

Boom!

It was the carriage he had brought.

“My son is in there right now. Just as he was found for the first time, unable to breathe. Can you imagine what condition he might be in?”

At the time of the incident, Yeongwoo slit Jeong Gyusang’s throat.

So, according to Jeong Hyunsik, his son would now be in a state where his head and body were separated and placed in a coffin.

“I regret the loss of your son. But I think it was unavoidable.”

“...What?”

“Your son swung the sword first. Of course, I could have reasonably restrained him and let him live, being a high-profile case...”

In terms of syntax, the conclusion comes next.

From Jeong Hyunsik’s perspective, it was the moment when the motive of the person who killed his son was revealed, so he held back.

He held back the desire to tear apart the “brat” in front of him and kill him.

And finally, Yeongwoo finished speaking.

“That’s only an acceptable explanation when there’s a level of madness involved. Isn’t it right to cut off someone who’s about to kill you before they commit more murder?”

“...So, you killed my son for just that reason?”

“Just that?”

Jeong Hyunsik’s words made Yeongwoo gradually angry.

“You mourn for your son’s death and yet you say ‘just that’...?”

“I don’t think you understand. I’ve saved hundreds, if not thousands, more people than I’ve killed. If it weren’t for me, this meeting wouldn’t have happened, and rotations and such would have been impossible.”

Of course, this was a reasonable argument.

“So, don’t I have the qualifications? It’s just one troublesome son I’ve kept alive.”

But this was sophistry.

“What are you talking about? Then doctors should be given murder licenses since they save people every day. Who decides on those qualifications anyway?”

As Yeongwoo spoke with a furrowed brow, Jeong Hyunsik responded as if it were obvious.

“Who? Naturally, people like us decide.”

People like us. Referring to the strong ones in the Strongest Sword’s Assembly.

“Oh.”

Yeongwoo lost his words at this point.

After all, wasn't it a place where if both sides couldn't reconcile their opinions, they settled it through a duel?

And in reality, their words and thoughts were indeed the law.

"...In my opinion, the only qualification you as a father have is to avenge your son's death."

Yeongwoo sighed heavily.

"But since I'm the perpetrator in this case, I understand that I have no right to say more. So, let's settle this according to the laws of this place."

As Yeongwoo finished speaking, the other side of the meeting room trembled ominously.

Everyone pretended not to show it, but they were all quietly listening to the conversation between the two.

"We both knew that words wouldn't solve anything."

"Just because you apologize doesn't mean you'll be forgiven."

"Sigh, what a pathetic guy."

In the end, the conversation broke down.

At the same time, Jeong Hyunsik's pupils turned golden.

Ha-ah!

He was emitting the prestige of the Strongest Sword.

"Let's see if you can say the same thing after losing an arm and a leg...!"

This was a chilling line for Yeongwoo, who had a high regenerative ability.

Theoretically, he was in a state where he could undergo torture indefinitely.

However, unlike Jeong Hyunsik's menacing words, Yeongwoo remained unaffected by his prestige.

On the other hand, Yeongwoo's prestige...

Shi-ah!

Was not golden but purple in color.

“Ugh...!”

It gripped Jeong Hyunsik’s heart, despite him being the Strongest Sword of Gangnam.

“What... What is this?”

Even Yeongwoo was surprised by the palpably evil aura, but Jeong Hyunsik quickly unleashed his prestige and initiated combat.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the previous 700 to 2,476.」

A tremendous amount of sensory perception was stolen.

‘2,476? How much sensory perception did he steal exactly?’

Without time to be astonished, a violet hologram appeared before Yeongwoo.

“Huh...?”

It was a color and atmosphere he had never seen before. It was the interface provided by the legendary martial arts, “Rohm’s Bottom.”

Shi-ah!

As the hologram rushed toward Jeong Hyunsik, Yeongwoo swiftly moved his body.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Thud!

Jeong Hyunsik, who had just drawn his sword from his belt, widened his eyes.

“...!”

Not only was the opponent’s movement much faster than expected, but they were also getting too close.

Usually, in combat, the distance between both parties would be at least the length of the sword.

You need to secure enough distance to swing your sword and block the opponent’s sword.

But now, the distance between the two Strongest Swords...

‘Why are we getting this close?’

Even the attacker, Yeongwoo, was surprised by the distance, which was only 30 centimeters.

Then, Yeongwoo’s upper body swiftly descended as if sliding on the ground, wrapping Jeong Hyunsik’s waist with both arms and lifting him up.

“Huh?”

So, this was, in Earth terms, a wrestling-style tackle.

Ha-et!

In an instant, Jeong Hyunsik’s legs were left hanging in the air, losing his balance, and Yeongwoo pushed Jeong Hyunsik’s pelvis with his head and shoulders.

“This...!”

As both of Jeong Hyunsik’s hands were on his belt to draw his sword, he had no choice but to be caught off guard.

And so, eventually...

Kwoong!

In the blink of an eye, he was slammed to the ground.

“Huh?”

“Wow...!”

Even for the other Strongest Swords watching from a distance of about ten meters, it was a shocking scene.

Because they had never seen such a... what should I call it?

A savage duel opening.

Of course, the one who was most shocked by this “savage” first move was none other than the person involved, Jeong Hyunsik.

“This bastard!”

He was still pinned to the ground without even having drawn his sword.

[TL/N: pinned down huh. Well...since it's valentine's...]

[PR/N:]

He thought that this was a very unfavorable position indeed.

And in his state of mind, soon...

Shiiit!

The scene of the guy who killed his son swinging his elbow like a knife came into his view.

"Kkup!"

Due to the extreme tension, he let out a gasp.

However, even in this situation, Hyunsik followed the hologram's guide, turning his head to the right and shrinking his left shoulder.

Then, Yeongwoo's elbow attack, with a strength value of a whopping 2,800, struck Hyunsik's head and shoulder simultaneously.

Ba-aack!

Such a powerful blow that the sound of impact reached the meeting room on the other side.

However, the damage was dispersed enough for Hyunsik to bear, and in the meantime, a route for escape from the melee was found by Gangnam's Strongest Sword's Technique, pulling the owner out of the melee.

「Self-destruct」 – Mutation Bracelet

【Causes a powerful explosion.】

【Durability increased by 300.】

It was telling him to use the self-destruct device he had.

Already, in front of Hyunsik's eyes, the hologram reproducing the explosion was flickering, and realizing there was no other way, he decided before his neck was broken by the next attack.

“Motherfuc*er.”

“...?”

Kwaaaaang!

An explosion accompanied by flames occurred between Hyunsik and Yeongwoo, allowing Hyunsik to be bounced off the ground for about five meters.

He had escaped from the mad Strongest Sword’s grasp.

“Wow, ugh.”

However, that didn’t mean the situation was optimistic.

He had just suffered severe burns from the explosion and was in considerable pain, and the condition of his left shoulder, which had blocked the opponent’s elbow earlier, was not good either.

But.

‘That bastard must be almost dead by now. And now I can use my sword.’

Hyunsik sharpened his gaze.

It was because he keenly felt that his opponent was not to be underestimated.

Moreover, if he lost in this fight, he wouldn’t even be able to properly hold his son’s funeral, let alone seek revenge.

‘I must... I must win.’

As Hyunsik clenched his resolve, pulling his sword from his waist, he noticed a figure rising in the distance on the opposite side.

“What...?”

As if entranced, Hyunsik shifted his gaze beyond the embers.

Soon, he saw Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword walking through the charred grass, their figure silhouetted against the darkness.

Sssah...

It was as if the burnt skin was rapidly regenerating due to the burns.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 96

[Translator – Night]

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Chapter 96: Yongsan Park (6)

“What, what is this...?”

Jeong Hyunsik blinked his eyes several times.

He doubted if he had seen correctly.

Hadn't the foreigner's skin just failed to regenerate?

The cheeks, which had seemed almost half-cooked, were now clean as if nothing had happened.

Of course, Yeongwoo was equally surprised by the other party.

‘Has the infliction of pain not been triggered? Why does he look fine?’

He had definitely struck Jeong Hyunsik with his elbow earlier.

He had swung with the intention to kill, so there was no way the golden punishment didn't work.

In other words, that guy.

‘He must be enduring the pain so well that it doesn't show, or else....’

For some reason, pain infliction wasn't working on Jeong Hyunsik.

‘No matter how great the sadness of losing a son is... can pain infliction be ignored so easily?’

Yeongwoo didn't think so.

He had seen countless Strongest Swords and mutants struggling with the effects of pain infliction.

While it was possible to endure pain solely with mental strength and still fight, it was hard to accept that someone wouldn't even scream, like Jeong Hyunsik right now.

'If he's Gangnam's Strongest Sword, his items must be above average. There's definitely something. I have to fight thinking that pain infliction won't work.'

Yeongwoo assumed that the opponent had some kind of immunity item.

And then.

Swoosh!

He also drew his dark sword to match the opponent.

'From now on, it's a real showdown.'

At that, on the other side, Jeong Hyunsik also slowly extended his foot while tightly holding the sword.

He was greatly tense from the recent skirmish.

Swish!

Gangnam's Strongest Sword Jeong Hyunsik's weapon was a broad-bladed silver-white straight sword.

From the pommel to the handle and guard, the sword was one piece, and if you looked closely, it was shaped like a dragon with its wings spread.

Whatever it was, it was a weapon with a dragon-themed motif.

'What, it definitely doesn't look like an ordinary weapon.'

Yeongwoo narrowed the gap while looking at the opponent's gleaming sword.

And then, finally, when the distance between them had shrunk to about 5 meters.

Swish!

Jeong Hyunsik's silver-white weapon suddenly glowed dimly into a reddish hue.

"...!"

At this, Jeong Hyunsik made a meaningful expression, and the Strongest Swords watching from afar each let out a gasp or an exclamation.

The fact that the sword turned red meant that the challenger, the Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword, was a human of level 2 or lower.

「Dragon's Legacy」 – Epic One-Handed Sword

【Classist.】

|Increased effectiveness against targets of level 2 or lower.

*Special reward of 'Royal Blood'.

Epic grade weapon, Legacy of the Dragon.

This was Jeong Hyunsik's signature equipment, and if you were a Strongest Sword of the Seoul Federation, you knew the characteristics of this weapon.

Most of the Strongest Sword in the left section had fought against Jeong Hyunsik and his sword during the first meeting.

And those whose innate ranks were not high had to surrender to Jeong Hyunsik without exception.

“Oh, so that guy was also a low-level human.”

“Here it ends...”

“When he pinned him to the ground earlier, it was the first and last chance.”

Most of the Strongest Swords here were criminals of level 2 or lower.

So, everyone was secretly rooting for the foreigner in question.

Although it was true that the man who suddenly appeared and caused a commotion was frightening, there was also a large amount of resentment towards Jeong Hyunsik, a noble by birth.

Of course, this was emotionally speaking, and if they had to bet on one of them, the vast majority would stand with Jeong Hyunsik.

Regardless of their backgrounds, aren't the Strongest Swords the privileged class of this world?

In the current situation where Seoul's system was just taking shape, the death of Jeong Hyunsik, who was practically the lord of Seoul, would be inconvenient even for the other Strongest Swords.

"Hey."

Finally regaining his composure unlike before, Jeong Hyunsik spoke to Yeongwoo.

As both were in each other's range, this was also a tremendous arrogance.

"...?"

Instead of answering, Yeongwoo just looked at his opponent, so Jeong Hyunsik said with a contemptuous look.

"What level are you? Level 3? No, don't tell me it's level 4?"

"What nonsense are you talking about again?"

Even as Yeongwoo said this, he seemed to understand why Jeong Hyunsik's momentum suddenly soared.

'He must have some function to detect levels.'

Yeongwoo's gaze briefly touched on the purple hologram that glowed on the 'Legacy of the Dragon'.

As he had several responsive items like that, it wasn't difficult to deduce the function of that sword.

'But if it simply detects levels, he wouldn't be so excited. Most likely, it's equipment that becomes stronger against opponents of lower levels.'

Like 'Underdog,' which increases effectiveness against larger opponents.

'I need to be careful.'

As Yeongwoo tightened his grip on the sword, a purple hologram appeared again in his field of vision, and a sensation theft alarm was triggered.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the previous 700 to 2,476.」

Jeong Hyunsik initiated the second round.

"Looks like the sky is still on my side...!"

At that moment, Jeong Hyunsik was already swinging his sword, leaving a dim trail, and Rohm was instructing him to block the incoming attack.

However, while holding the black sword with both hands.

‘With both hands?’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Without further time to think, Yeongwoo immediately grasped the dark sword with both hands and assumed a defensive posture.

Then, the crimson blade struck Yeongwoo’s sword like lightning.

Boom!

A shockwave spread sharply from the point of impact.

“Ugh!”

Yeongwoo unintentionally groaned as he felt his hands holding the sword becoming numb.

This was the strike of Gangnam Strongest Sword Jeong Hyunsik, which had forced countless Strongest Sword to submit.

‘Insane. He’s completely a monster.’

Even Yeongwoo, who had experienced many battles, felt fearful of the power of that attack.

However...

Swish!

Rohm continued to propose the next round.

There was still something more he could do.

‘Oh my god.’

The next move the Legendary Swordsmanship desired was for Yeongwoo to strike first, so Yeongwoo swung the dark sword again with trembling hands.

Hwaaat!

But as the strength in his hands had already drained, it was clear to Jeong Hyunsik that this attack was coming.

“You’re using the dragon. That’s it.”

With a smile of satisfaction, Jeong Hyunsik countered Yeongwoo’s attack.

Taaang!

At this moment, an astonishing event unfolded even to the Strongest Sword observing the battle.

The dark sword, which had been overwhelmed in the power struggle with the opponent, was knocked out of Yeongwoo’s hand.

It was the moment when it was revealed why so many Strongest Swords had accepted Jeong Hyunsik’s first challenge and surrendered.

“Ah.”

As Yeongwoo let go of the sword from his hand, Jeong Hyunsik’s momentum increased even more upon hearing the sigh.

But Yeongwoo’s sigh was not born of despair.

He was still fighting as if he were a “prisoner.”

Thunk!

As Yeongwoo bent his upper body once again, Jeong Hyunsik, feeling a terrible sense of urgency, gritted his teeth.

“This crazy bastard.”

Like discovering a huge insect, Jeong Hyunsik hastily retreated.

But ironically, the foreigner who should have been tackled was not in front of him.

Much to his amusement,

Thud!

Behind Jeong Hyunsik, that is, in the direction of the cart he was driving.

Where Hyunsik's son lay.

"This fucking bastard!"

From Jeong Hyunsik's perspective, he couldn't help but think that the madman was trying to target his son's corpse.

And even the Strongest Sword of the Seoul Federation, who had been mere spectators until now.

"No, that's..."

"Isn't he going too far?"

They considered intervening as they watched the foreigner running towards the cart.

Indeed, Songpa's Strongest Sword Oh Yeonhee had already launched herself towards the cart.

"Easy there. Winning is important, but there's a limit."

While Oh Yeonhee cast a long shadow and brandished her Crescent Moon Sword, Yeongwoo, who was running towards the cart, pulled something out of his pocket.

Pop.

It was none other than:

「Blue Blood」 – Mutant Drug

【Increases strength by 30% for 10 minutes.】

【Usage count: 3】

It was Yeongwoo's doping agent, Blue Blood.

"W-what's happening now...?"

As anyone could see, when Yeongwoo put the 'Blue Blood' from the glass bottle into his mouth, Oh Yeonhee, who was watching him, made a horrified expression.

"Hey!"

Crack!

With Oh Yeonhee's scream, Yeongwoo vigorously chewed on the bottle in his mouth.

Then, Yeongwoo's strength, which had been 2,800, skyrocketed to 4,550 after increasing twice due to the 30% increase in strength from Blue Blood and the 25% increase in strength from Masochism's bleeding effect.

「Masochism」 – Epic gem

【Slot: Strength increases by 25% when bleeding.】

“Huuurgh...!”

Due to the torn mouth, immense pain surged in his mouth, but Yeongwoo diligently carried out the order given by Rohm.

‘Damn, do I really have to go this far?’

Hwaaat!

He sent another sword, ‘Underdog,’ towards the direction of the cart.

“No-o-o!”

At the sight, Jeong Hyunsik's eyes rolled back.

Thwack!

Simultaneously with this, Yeongwoo twisted his body and delivered a left hook directly to the back of Jeong Hyunsik.

Boom!

A fist that literally tore through the air.

Surprised by the output of 4,550 strength, Jeong Hyunsik hastily raised his sword to guard.

“Too late!”

Crash!

At that moment, Yeongwoo's wrist, which swung the sword, broke at a grotesque angle.

Snap!

His current durability couldn't withstand the maximum output of 4,550 strength.

“Ugh...!”

Nevertheless, Yeongwoo held onto Jeong Hyunsik with all his might, not letting go.

He still had his right hand intact.

“W-what... what are you trying to do, you crazy bastard?”

As Jeong Hyunsik, feeling dizzy, glared at Yeongwoo with cold sweat streaming down his face,

Swish!

A black sheath that had been closing in from a distance stabbed Jeong Hyunsik’s lower back.

“Ah!”

“...Ugh!”

It was none other than Yeongwoo’s dark sword.

The weapon he had dropped on the ground during the second round.

“This...!”

As Jeong Hyunsik sensed that he had been pierced, he opened his eyes wide, and then Yeongwoo’s right elbow swung like a knife.

Swish!

And what followed was...

“Ahh...”

“Oh my god.”

“...Insane.”

Thunk, thud.

Decapitation.

Jeong Hyunsik’s severed head rolled on the ground twice after detaching from his body.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 97

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 97: Long Live the King (1)

『Gangnam's Strongest Sword has fallen!』

In an unbelievable event, everyone in Yongsan Park fell silent.

“ ... ”

But in their minds, more tumultuous thoughts were brewing than ever before.

- Is it really true that Jeong Hyunsik is dead now?
- Then, does that mean the next Gangnam's Strongest Sword will be that outsider?
- No, before that, can we even consider what just happened as an official duel? It wasn't sanctioned by the League members.
- What if it wasn't an official duel? What happens next?
- If we were to attack that outsider right here?
- Then, what about all those treasures...?

As everyone fiercely calculated in their minds, Songpa's Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee, still nursed her sore wrist.

With the head of Gangnam's Strongest Sword gone, she was now the most influential swordsman in this assembly hall and temporarily the strongest.

Of course, her own thoughts were different.

‘What was that...? That attack just now.’

Just seconds ago, as she blocked the path in front of the carriage, she reflexively deflected a sword thrown by the outsider.

However, the sword in question had almost twice the power she had anticipated, and as a result...

“ ... ”

She suffered a wrist injury so severe that it was difficult to properly swing a sword for the time being.

It wasn't even a direct hit with a blade, just blocking a roughly thrown sword from the other side.

It was impossible unless the opponent possessed strength far beyond ordinary.

Moreover, the strange thing was not just that.

'From the start, the direction of the sword wasn't aimed at the carriage.'

Someone with such strength would undoubtedly have staggering other abilities.

So, it was unlikely that they accidentally missed the carriage.

Meaning, the outsider used a fake to induce a specific action from the deceased Jeong Hyunsik.

“...Ugh.”

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo felt the gradual pain of his broken wrist subsiding as he sat beside Jeong Hyunsik's body.

「The title of Gangnam's Strongest Sword was acquired and merged!」

...Achieved one title in the Seoul region.

The title acquisition message was frantically flashing in front of him, but Yeongwoo's attention was focused beyond the message.

Because he could feel the gathering tension among the assembly of Strongest Swords without a sound.

'Yeah, it's better to fight quickly if we're going to fight. Since the potion effects are still lingering.'

Although he was currently alone, his strength stat was still at 4,550.

Therefore, he couldn't take on all the Strongest Swords here, but he could certainly make some of them his comrades in the journey to the afterlife.

“Ugh.”

Yeongwoo, despite wincing once again at the throbbing pain in his wrist, mentally prepared himself to summon his weapons at any moment.

Then.

Thwack!

Finally, one of the Strongest Swords in the assembly hall stood up.

It was none other than Jang Jeongho Dongdaemun's Strongest Sword.

"Is this really happening? Our leader has passed away...!"

As he subtly revealed his intention and began to move towards the scene, the remaining Strongest Swords all looked towards Songpa's Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee.

They were gauging Yeonhee's intentions, as she was now closest to being the "head" after Jeong Hyunsik, both physically and metaphorically.

However.

"Yes... As everyone saw, our leader has passed away. Defeated in the duel."

Resolute refusal.

Yeonhee, shifting her katana to her left hand, took a step back, clearly indicating her unwillingness to escalate the situation further.

She didn't want to escalate things here.

"Damn it."

Thus, Jeong Jeongho, now left to confront alone, glared at Yeongwoo as if to kill him.

"How can you let that asshole debut like this.....?"

But even Jeong Jeongho, speaking like this, dared not attack Yeongwoo.

If Yeonhee didn't move, other Strongest Swords would also remain bystanders, and then wouldn't he be the only one to face death?

And along with that.

"Isn't the duel over? Why isn't it being settled?"

A figure emerged from the edge of Yongsan Park, throwing a wrench into the current situation.

Clack, clack.

A man dressed in a navy suit with black leather shoes.

“Deputy... Deputy Minister.”

Jeong Jeongho, who had been so lively just a moment ago, now looked unbelievably submissive.

It was because Jo Sangik, former Deputy Minister of Planning and Finance and current Gwanak’s Strongest Sword, had appeared.

Of course, if Jeong Hyunsik were alive, Sangik might have been immediately targeted as an accomplice of the outsider and executed upon his arrival at the assembly.

However.

“...”

As Sangik looked on, it was clear that Jeong Hyunsik’s head was no longer attached to his neck.

That meant that there was no one in this place who could wield authority over Sangik.

Not even Songpa’s Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee, could defeat Sangik in terms of influence within the assembly.

“You’ve arrived, Deputy Minister.”

Yeonhee looked at Sangik, and behind him, the people from Seoul National University, with a strange glint in her eyes.

This was a clear violation of the rules.

No Strongest Sword could bring soldiers into Yongsan Park.

Except for a few attendants for minimal security.

“If someone unfamiliar sees this, they might think a coup is being staged.”

Yeonhee remarked, causing Sangik to smirk.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“It seems like there was quite a commotion earlier. Just in case, I brought some personnel to help settle the disturbance.”

Sangik continued after this point, pausing briefly and scanning his surroundings.

He looked at the carriage containing the headless body of Jeong Hyunsik, likely with his son, and the staff from Taewon Corporation who had gathered more than allowed.

Then, with a less bitter tone than before, he chuckled softly and continued.

“But it seems like it was a false alarm. There was no need to employ anyone.”

With that said, as Sangik took a big step forward, Jang Jeong-ho flinched and stepped back.

It was an intuitive reaction.

Jo Sangik had already made a deal with the outsider.

“Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo, are you alright?”

Sangik inquired about the outsider’s well-being and openly expressed his support.

It was just revealed that the outsider’s name was ‘Jeong Yeongwoo.’

This revelation prompted another Strongest Sword, who had been watching the situation blankly, to stand up abruptly.

Bam!

He was none other than Kim Doha from Yongsan Strongest Sword.

Thud!

Standing somewhat awkwardly before Yeongwoo and Sangik, he hesitated for a moment before bowing his head and saying.

“Congratulations on becoming Gangnam’s Strongest Sword! Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo...!”

Realizing that the momentum had completely shifted towards the outsider, he quickly chose his stance.

Observing this silently, Oh Yeonhee interjected with a very dry tone.

“You should handle the logistics with Taewon Group well.”

In other words, she acknowledged the outsider’s entry into Gangnam.

With the situation unfolding this way, the other Strongest Swords had no choice but to accept it.

“Congratulations.”

“I didn’t expect to see a new Gangnam’s Strongest Sword.”

“Congratulations.”

While the Strongest Swords exchanged greetings with mixed feelings, Sangik turned to Yeongwoo again and asked.

“How long do you think it will take for your wounds to heal completely?”

“...Huh? Do you have another opponent to fight?”

Yeongwoo innocently replied, eliciting a wry smile from Sangik.

“It may not necessarily be the case... But you should participate in the assembly. Not all the Strongest Swords have arrived yet.”

“Oh.”

Only after hearing this did Yeongwoo remember one fact he had forgotten all this time.

The duel with Gangnam’s Strongest Sword was merely an opening event for this assembly.

“...”

Yeongwoo glanced at his watch belatedly.

The current time was 2:54 PM.

There were about six minutes left until the start of the assembly.

“With it almost being 3 o’clock, and everyone is not here yet?”

Yeongwoo asked, prompting Sangik to chuckle awkwardly.

“There are some unruly folks.”

Sangik replied, indicating that although Jang Jeongho Dongdaemun's Strongest Sword arrived on time, there were still more troublesome individuals.

“ ... ”

This meant that there could be another dispute later today.

Of course, Oh Yeonhee acknowledged this, and more importantly, with Sangik's support, there wouldn't be any hasty decisions like during Jeong Hyunsik's time.

‘What should I do first?’

As Yeongwoo pondered, he snapped out of his thoughts when he saw the Negwig and Golden Goblin standing on the other side.

‘Ah, the loot.’

He had forgotten the most important thing because of his lack of experience.

But...

‘Do I have to search Jeong Hyunsik's corpse in front of all the Strongest Swords?’

But realistically, there was no other way.

Dragging the corpse to some secluded place to search would seem even more suspicious.

And soon, those who hadn't seen the decision battle of Gangnam's Strongest Sword would attend the assembly.

If he waited until then to collect the loot, it would cause even more chaos.

So now was the best time.

“Deputy Minister.”

“Yes, what is it?”

“We haven't collected the loot yet.”

“ ... ? ”

Sangik, who had been tilting his head in confusion for a moment, suddenly widened his eyes.

He realized what the other was talking about a moment late.

“Oh.”

Then, Sangik's gaze fell on Jeong Hyunsik's head on the other side.

“First, let's quickly take out the equipment and move the body somewhere. If other Strongest Swords are expected to come here.”

At Yeongwoo's words, Sangik nodded vigorously.

“Well, that's true. We can't proceed with the assembly like this.”

Without hesitation, Yeongwoo reached for the Silver-White Straight Sword, which had given him the most trouble.

Click.

As Yeongwoo touched it, instead of glowing red as it used to, a tooltip appeared, indicating that he was currently without an owner.

「Dragon's Legacy」 – Epic One-Handed Sword

【Rank exclusive】

|Increases power against targets of Rank 2 or lower.

*Special reward for 'Blood of the Royal Family.'

A weapon meant to subdue lesser beings, ironically ended up in the hands of a lesser being.

'Blood of the Royal Family...'

As Yeongwoo shifted his gaze to the bottom of the tooltip, additional information appeared.

[Blood of the Royal Family]

|Achievement Grade: Legend

「Obtain the title of Strongest Sword while two or more of your relatives have become mutant.」

'Oh my god.'

This achievement was something that could hardly be discovered by anyone other than someone on the level of Jeong Hyunsik.

‘It must be fate. To have such an achievement prepared...’

Of course, it was a tragic fate in a sense.

Considering this kind of fate, it seemed that even the existing fate had been erased along with the reset.

Click.

As Yeongwoo finally wielded the ‘Dragon’s Legacy,’ the Strongest Swords at the assembly, who had just noticed it, began to buzz with excitement once again.

“Huh?”

“Wait, is that...?”

However, contrary to Yeongwoo and Sangik’s expectations, the interest shown by these Strongest Swords in handling Yeongwoo’s loot was not due to some romantic concern for the deceased’s dignity being offended.

Their curiosity was purely about...

“Is that the sword...?”

“What about that bracelet? Can I have a look at it?”

It was the equipment list of Jeong Hyunsik, which no one had dared to uncover until now.

Finally, the unboxing of Gangnam’s Strongest Sword had begun.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 98

[Translator – Night]

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Chapter 98: Long Live the King (2)

“.....”

Yeongwoo was surrounded by Strongest Swords as he searched the body, engulfed in complex emotions.

After all, wasn't Jeong Hyunsik just a pivotal figure in the Seoul Alliance until a moment ago?

But now, having lost his life, he had become nothing more than a spectacle.

‘What on earth?’

A sense of discomfort arose.

Did everyone here lack empathy because they were all murderers?

Perhaps, being born into the ruling class, they all secretly wished for Jeong Hyunsik's downfall.

As the “reset” began, everyone participated in the vote for annihilation as if they had been waiting for it.

And amidst this, the Strongest Sword meticulously searched the headless corpse, commenting as they went.

“I think that's the ‘Wave.’”

“Is there anything in the pouch? It looks bulging.”

Continuous admonitions.

Ignoring them, Yeongwoo began to collect the equipment in the order they caught his eye.

The first was the ring that had been on Jeong Hyunsik's finger.

Swoosh.

As Yeongwoo reached for the ring, an item tooltip appeared above it.

Pop!

「Wave」 – Unique Ring

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

| Area: Seoul

“Oh.”

“...Huh.”

As the tooltip for “Wave” appeared, the bustling interior fell silent for a moment.

It was only then that everyone truly realized.

That all the possessions of Gangnam’s Strongest Sword were passing into the hands of an outsider.

Among them, the “Wave” in particular was equipment closely related to Jeong Hyunsik’s position within the assembly, making its significance even more palpable.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo’s attention was more drawn to the equipment grade than the function of the ring.

‘Oh, it’s unique.’

It was two grades higher than heroic.

Therefore, he could complete one of the achievements he had been holding onto for a long time.

[Jeweller’s Touch]

| Wear two rings of heroic grade or higher on the index and ring fingers. (3/4)

‘Finally completing it.’

Completing one achievement would reveal a new one in its place.

So, Yeongwoo was more excited about the content of the newly emerging achievement than completing the current one.

Due to his achievement tendency being “stubborn,” he could occasionally indirectly obtain very rare information.

Like the “social worker” that revealed the return function of mutants.

‘There really is something in the pouch.’

Yeongwoo, holding the Wave, searched Jeong Hyunsik's suit pocket as per one of the admonitions he had heard earlier.

Click.

Then, along with a few crimson coins, an oval-shaped stone came out.

'What's this...?'

As Yeongwoo grabbed the stone, just like before, a tooltip appeared.

Pop!

「Berserker」 – Mutant Charm

[Ignore a certain level of pain.]

"Wow."

"What...?"

"What kind of item is this again?"

This time, the equipment was a complete mystery to the other Strongest Swords.

However, they immediately recognized how beneficial the effect written on the tooltip was.

Weren't these the people who fought mutants and skirmished every day, even without challengers?

"What level does it mean by 'certain level'?"

"Anyway, just looking at the options, it's an amazing item..."

Amidst the Strongest Sword's speculations, Yeongwoo looked at the "Berserker" with a meaningful expression.

'So, it was thanks to this stone that Jeong Hyunsik could fight so well.'

Of course, Yeongwoo couldn't precisely determine what the "certain level" mentioned in the tooltip meant.

But at least, it seemed that the pain inflicted by the golden punishment exceeded that "certain level" for sure.

“This item matches Yeongwoo’s compatibility very well.”

Jo Sangik added a comment.

It referred to Yeongwoo’s miraculous regeneration ability.

Isn’t it Yeongwoo who, even if his body is completely distorted, can recover perfectly given enough time?

Given such a person, giving him equipment that can conditionally ignore pain would create tremendous synergy.

“Yes. The compatibility must be great, but...”

Yeongwoo omitted the rest of the sentence.

Surely, even the legendary martial art “Rohm’s Bottom” was aware of this absurd new equipment.

In other words, it is no longer possible to guess what the Rohm’s Bottom, who previously ordered self-harm tactics, will now order.

Yeongwoo shuddered at the dreadful thought and shifted his gaze to the last visible piece of equipment.

The red bracelet hanging on Jeong Hyunsik’s left arm.

Tug.

As he removed the bracelet from the deceased, Yeongwoo himself experienced a tooltip he knew well.

「Self-Destruct」 – Mutation Bracelet

[Causes a powerful explosion.]

[Durability increased by 300.]

“Oh, it even raises durability. This is amazing.”

This item also suited Yeongwoo, who had a high regeneration rate.

Although the equipment named ‘Self-Destruct’ might not be easily usable by ordinary people, it was a risk-free move for Yeongwoo.

‘Is it over now? It’s much simpler than I thought.’

While thinking like this, Yeongwoo looked at ‘Serpent of Greed’ to see if there might be any other equipment.

「Serpent of Greed」 – Epic Compass

[Always seeks out rarity.]

Sssh!

Unlike usual, the serpent opened its eyes wide and flicked its tongue, seeming to sense something from Jeong Hyunsik’s body.

“What is it?”

Yeongwoo asked the snake in a low voice, and once again, the other Strongest Sword who were surrounding him murmured.

Carrying a live snake around one’s left arm was already unusual, but now he was even talking to the snake.

There had never been such behavior in their expeditions.

Sssh!

Eventually, the snake turned its head in one direction, and as Yeongwoo began to probe that direction, tension naturally spread among the assembly.

If by some chance the outsider found something else, then the snake might also be some kind of equipment, meaning he found something.

But if it turned out to be a bluff, he was just a crazy person keeping a pet snake.

Whatever it was, it was an interesting situation.

Swish, swish.

As Yeongwoo searched Jeong Hyunsik’s body here and there for a while, he suddenly made an expression that seemed to be wondering.

“What...?”

What could be surprising enough for this expert to react like that?

“What is it?”

Even Songpa's Strongest Sword Oh Yeonhee, who had been silent until now, urged Yeongwoo for an answer.

Upon this, Yeongwoo untied Jeong Hyunsik's shirt before responding.

"...?"

Another round of murmurs from the Strongest Sword assembly.

In the meantime, Yeongwoo noticed that the Serpent of Greed was still pointing at the upper abdomen of the corpse, so he covered his mouth with his hand.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

"It feels like there's something inside this person's stomach."

"...?"

Yeongwoo's statement caused a stir among the audience.

Even Jo Sangik seemed to speak as if to warn him not to joke.

"What, what are you talking about? What could be inside him?"

"There's no way this guy is wrong. He's found similar things before."

Yeongwoo glanced at Serpent of Greed.

Thanks to this serpent, he had found the mutant cornea 'One Eyed Sentinel' that he would have missed before.

Therefore.

"Since there are no tattoos on his abdomen or chest... it's highly likely that something is inside."

Yeongwoo said as he pulled out a small dagger from his pocket, causing the Strongest Sword to protest and step back.

"What?"

"Let's see, let's see."

"What are you doing, exactly?"

However, Yeongwoo paid no attention to them.

His wrist was almost fully recovered by now, and more importantly, he needed to do this kind of mischief before more spectators gathered.

“I’m sorry. It might look a bit gruesome, so please step back.”

Even before Yeongwoo mentioned it, most of them had already backed away.

The only ones closely watching the situation were Oh Yeonhee and Jo Sangik.

“Are you sure about this? What if nothing comes out of it? This is ridiculous.”

Oh Yeonhee seemed genuinely angry.

But it wasn’t like they were going to cut open a living person’s stomach, and after all, wasn’t this part of the process of claiming the spoils after a duel?

Yeongwoo decided to push forward.

“Let’s think about that only after we’re sure that nothing comes out.”

Then, he immediately raised the dagger and slashed Jeong Hyunsik’s abdomen.

Squish!

“Argh, fuck it.”

“Oh, my goodness.”

While the audience grimaced, Yeongwoo began to extract the organs that started to flow out from between the yellow layers of fat one by one with the dagger.

To an outsider, it would have seemed extremely cruel, but to Yeongwoo, it was just a laborious farming process.

‘Ah, there it is.’

Finally, as he dug into the innards, Yeongwoo found what he had been confident about—a ‘piece of equipment.’

Squelch.

As Yeongwoo reached in and pulled something out from among the organs, Mapo’s Strongest Sword Yang Wootae vomited on the floor.

It seemed he had the weakest stomach among the audience.

And in the meantime, Yeongwoo slowly raised the problematic equipment that was still active even though its owner was dead.

「Self-Generation」 – Mutant

【You can live without eating.】

【Energy is self-generated】

【–Empty slot–】

“This... it’s certain?”

Without even realizing it, Jang Jeongho, who read the tooltip, quickly retreated.

It seemed he, too, was overwhelmed by nausea.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo regarded the ‘Self-Generation’ with curiosity, as it seemed to parasitize Jeong Hyunsik’s existing organs.

The equipment, with its wet hair tangled like crazy, appeared to be breathing lightly, almost as if it were alive.

“Mr. Jeong Hyunsik was truly remarkable. To think he would consider putting something like this inside his body.”

Yeongwoo himself had experience wearing mutant corneas, so he could imagine how significant of a decision it must have been for Jeong Hyunsik.

The idea of transplanting something unknown into one’s body was beyond terrifying.

‘But how did he attach this to his stomach? Did he swallow it?’

Of course, Yeongwoo wearing the mutant corneas was a thing of the past.

Since then, he had been through a lot, from being sliced up by Sungbuk’s Strongest Sword to sacrificing an Audi to the shareholders of Dogo, an alien arms company.

In other words, he had become an even more daring and eccentric individual than when he had worn the mutant corneas over his eyes.

Thud.

As Yeongwoo tore off the 'Self-Generation' covering Jeong Hyunsik's abdomen, Seongbuk's Strongest Sword Lee Yoobin screamed in horror, almost as if she were shrieking.

"Oh! Are you insane? Why would you do that?"

Then, when Yeongwoo brought the 'Self-Generation' near his mouth,

"...!"

No one could make a sound.

It was beyond their realm of common sense.

Would Jeong Hyunsik have been doing this on his own while he was alive...?

'If that's true, then he deserves to be recognized not as Gangnam's Strongest Sword but as Seoul's Strongest Sword.'

As someone in the audience thought this, the problematic 'Self-Generation' suddenly stuck to Yeongwoo's mouth, emitting a disgusting slurping sound.

Then,

Suck!

In the blink of an eye, it was sucked into Yeongwoo's throat.

[TL/N: OH NAH WTF???)

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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Chapter 99

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 99: Strongest Sword Assembly (1)

"Ah...!"

“Phew.”

As Yeongwoo finally swallowed his self-generation, all the Strongest Swords watching him were not only shocked by his expression but also twisted their bodies in amazement.

‘What... What’s with this guy?’

‘Isn’t he afraid...? How is this possible?’

Anything that crosses a certain line tends to instill fear in the observer.

Everyone present here felt fear towards Yeongwoo, who easily crossed the invisible boundary.

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

At least seven regions’ Strongest Sword members had directly witnessed reasons why Yeongwoo should not be considered an enemy.

“Ugh!”

Of course, even Yeongwoo wasn’t accustomed to inserting foreign objects into his body.

‘This is insane, it’s on a whole different level than inserting contact lenses.’

Because the volume of self-generation was much larger than the esophagus, Yeongwoo’s throat to his stomach seemed to be in turmoil.

Then, at some point, the tumultuous body quieted down.

Perhaps it was when the mutation stomach had finished its formation.

“...”

Finally regaining composure, Yeongwoo looked down at his abdomen, and the Strongest Swords, who had been scattered, gradually gathered around.

Then, each one of them stared intently at Yeongwoo’s abdomen.

Upon this, Yeongwoo gathered the lingering unpleasant taste in his mouth and spat it out with saliva before saying.

“Looks like it’s all over. I’m sorry for surprising you.”

Blame.

「Self-Generation」 – Mutant

【You can live without eating.】

【Energy is self-generated】

【–Empty slot–】

Now, only Yeongwoo could see the tooltip of self-generation whenever he placed his hand on his abdomen.

‘Damn it.’

As expected, he wasn’t feeling good.

While the mutation cornea concept was originally about wearing equipment on the body, this was closer to replacing the body with extraterrestrial material.

“Well then.”

Eventually, Jo Sangik tried to lighten the mood.

“We should tidy up... and prepare for the assembly.”

He had to, as the meeting time had already passed.

Current time, 3:02 PM.

By now, the latecomers would have entered Yongsan Park.

In this chaotic situation, if the rear guard arrives and sees the body of Jeong Hyeonsik, whose neck is cut and abdomen is split...

“...”

“...”

Unknowingly, Jo Sangik shook his head, then ordered the Seoul National University people to move Jeong Hyeonsik’s body with a transport cart.

Then, near the transport cart, he gave instructions to the Taewon Group employees, who were still unable to move.

“Return to headquarters. And inform CEO Baek Dohwan to prepare for the takeover. Let him know that the Strongest Sword of Gyeongbuk will be staying in Gangnam.”

Upon Jo Sangik's words, the Taewon Group employees hesitated for a moment, then promptly drove the transport cart out of the park.

This prompted Yeongwoo to ask.

"...Who is Baek Dohwan?"

"He's the leader of the Taewon Group."

"Ah...?"

"That doesn't mean he's related to Jeong Hyeonsik. From our perspective, he's just administrative personnel. You'll understand when you meet him."

Baek Dohwan, 47 years old.

Former CEO of Taewon Life and current CEO of the conglomerate 'Taewon.'

However, the reason Jo Sangik referred to Baek Dohwan as "just administrative personnel" was due to the abnormal structure of the current world.

Just like the government, without the protection of Strongest Sword, no business could thrive, especially Taewon.

Currently, Taewon had even absorbed Gangnam Police Station, becoming the only monster operator in Gangnam.

And the key to Taewon gaining such dominance was solely 'Jeong Hyeonsik.'

What more needed to be said when Jeong Hyeonsik, Gangnam's Strongest Sword, was the sole survivor of the Taewon family?

'But he's no longer alive.'

Jo Sangik watched the Taewon Group's transport cart disappearing from his sight for a while.

Other companies in Gangnam had been unable to operate due to the overwhelming dominance of Gangnam's Strongest Sword's direct company, Taewon.

Unable to deal with the monsters appearing in Gangnam, most of them left for the Gyeonggi Province to make money, and some with good skills worked as mercenaries in adjacent areas.

Amidst this, if news spread suddenly that Jeong Hyeonsik had died, what would happen?

There would be a coup in the private sector.

The fact that the new Strongest Sword killed Jeong Hyeonsik meant that he had no relation to Taewon, and that meant that when the new Strongest Sword arrived in Gangnam, surviving companies would take over Gangnam's business rights.

That's why Jo Sangik indirectly informed Taewon of the situation.

A move to raise the hands of the privileged class to prevent major disruptions.

"Now, let's go."

Jo Sangik guided Yeongwoo to the assembly hall and sent a signal to the Seoul National University side to disband now.

He feared that the remaining Strongest Swords, upon seeing them, would rebel.

'Today's meeting has undergone enough changes. It's enough.'

Jo Sangik's eyes shone sharply.

At least he was quickly adapting to the rapidly changing situation in Seoul.

* * *

"I... I'm Park Sangdo."

Park Sangdo¹⁶².

Former Minister of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, and the current Prime Minister of the 'New Seoul Government.'

In the absence of the president, he was the most powerful figure in the government.

"..."

He bowed 90 degrees to a person nearly thirty years younger than him.

That person was none other than the newly appointed Gangnam's Strongest Sword, Jeong Yeongwoo.

Of course, the intimidating title of 'Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword' wriggling above his head played a significant role.

"Ah, yes. I'm Jeong Yeongwoo. I think you've bowed enough now..."

When Yeongwoo extended his hands as a sign to stop bowing, Park Sangdo, who saw the iron gloves enveloping his hands, startled and stepped back.

“I-It’s okay! Thank you for your concern.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Park Sangdo had seen, albeit from a distance, Yeongwoo killing Jeong Hyeonsik and splitting his abdomen.

So, even though Yeongwoo seemed harmless and smiled innocently, it was more chilling than any other Strongest Sword with murderous intent.

‘Indeed, these Strongest Swords are all monsters....’

As Park Sangdo silently sweated coldly, the first latecomer finally appeared.

Shuffle, shuffle.

Current time, 3:06 PM.

Despite being six minutes late, the person approaching with a slow pace was none other than...

“Seocho’s Strongest Sword, Choi Namhee. Former detective.”

Jo Sangik sat next to Yeongwoo and explained that Choi Namhee was a former detective from the Seocho Police Station, who was still leading the crackdown on crime in Seocho.

The only difference now was that instead of just capturing criminals, she was now directly taking their lives.

“...I see. I’ve met former police officers before.”

As Yeongwoo said this, he glanced silently at Choi Namhee, who had approached quite close by now.

Choi Namhee, who appeared to be in her early forties, looked more like a gangster than a police officer.

However, perhaps due to the difficulty of acting rashly in Strongest Sword society, she quickly suppressed the wildness in her eyes upon seeing Yeongwoo, a newcomer.

“Who is this...?”

Choi Namhee’s gaze briefly touched the chair where Yeongwoo was sitting and then moved away.

It was because the leather chair where Yeongwoo was sitting was the seat of Gangnam’s Strongest Sword Jeong Hyeonsik.

However, since no one in this seat was telling the outsider to get up, there was only one conclusion.

“Could it be that Gangnam Strongest Sword has changed?”

Jo Sangik quietly nodded in response to Choi Namhee’s question.

At this, Choi Namhee glanced discreetly at the scorched grass that had been bothering her eyes since earlier.

Apparently, it seemed to be traces of a duel between Jeong Hyeonsik and this young man.

Seoul never had a quiet day.

Anyway, if someone had taken over the seat through a duel, the opponent was a legitimate Strongest Sword.

“I am Choi Namhee from Seocho.”

Swiftly, as Choi Namhee extended her hand first, Dongdaemun’s Strongest Sword Jang Jeongho cleared his throat for no reason.

“Yes. I’m Jeong Yeongwoo.”

Eventually, Yeongwoo’s right hand met the outstretched hand of Choi Namhee.

But unlike with Jang Jeongho, there was no show of strength between them.

Instead...

Ping!

An alarm rang in Yeongwoo’s ear.

[Dogo] “Headhunter”

[Mission] Behead 7 Strongest Swords.

[Reward] 7 million karma

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

The dormant Dogo quest had been reactivated.

'What...?'

The reward for this quest was a whopping 7 million karma.

But the condition was absurd.

'Behead 7 Strongest Swords... That means... killing everyone present here.'

Thanks to Choi Namhee's arrival, Jo Sangik, the closest ally at the moment, could be spared.

In other words, the quest content was clearly intentional.

Moreover, it was evident that someone was monitoring this scene in real-time.

'These crazy bastards.'

As Yeongwoo unknowingly glanced into the air, Choi Namhee, who was still shaking hands with him, cast a strange look in the same direction.

But there was nothing to see there.

"Are you okay?"

Concluding that the new Strongest Sword's mind was quite distracted, Choi Namhee decided that it was best to ask.

Even in a reset world, it was unimaginable that someone would receive a murder order from aliens.

"Anyway, everyone is so late."

"Yeah, except for Seocho, everyone else was on time yesterday."

Meanwhile, other Strongest Swords were discussing the reasons for the delayed attendance of the remaining members.

It was one of the rules of the meeting to consider regions where Strongest Swords didn't attend the meeting by 3 p.m. as defeated in battle against mutants.

And in regions where Strongest Swords were presumed dead, the Strongest Sword meeting, or in other words, the Seoul Federation, could intervene.

The Strongest Swords gathered here could participate in hunting mutants in the absentee regions.

“I think it’s time to start moving.”

“Haven’t they all arrived yet?”

Mutants meant a considerable amount of karma.

Just as the Strongest Swords at the meeting began to stir according to their instincts, a silhouette started approaching rapidly from the other side of Yongsan Park, where there had been no activity for a while.

“Whoa!”

This was most likely the mobility of a top-notch Strongest Sword.

Was it a latecomer sprinting barefoot?

Some initially thought so, but soon changed their minds.

Because...

“No, damn it.”

Behind the silhouette in question, a crimson pillar of light was trailing.

That light pillar signified the mark of a mutant.

“At 3 p.m., a mutant mark...?”

As someone muttered this, all the Strongest Swords in attendance drew their swords.

Swish!

The bounty hunt had begun.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

The source of this content is ~~free~~(w)ebnovel

Chapter 100

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 100: Strongest Sword Assembly (2)

Thunk! Thunk, thunk!

As the heavy footsteps of the mutant echoed, most of the Strongest Swords wore expressions filled with anticipation.

“What on earth is this...?”

“So, how will the distribution work then?”

On the other hand, Yeongwoo’s worries took precedence.

‘No matter what, didn’t they start causing trouble from outside Yongsan District? Then the path we’ve taken so far...’

It was inevitable that numerous citizens had suffered, and the loss of the ‘residence,’ a resource as rare as human lives at this point, must have been significant.

Since the destroyed buildings were no longer designated for ‘temporary shelter services.’

In other words, the more land the mutants tread upon, the less space there is for people to live.

“.....”

Looking around, Yeongwoo noticed that only Jo Sangik, Oh Yeonhee, and Seocho’s Strongest Sword Choe Namhee were wearing grim expressions.

At least they realized what it meant for surviving mutants to be coming this way across the city at this hour.

“First... let’s deal with the mutants.”

Jo Sangik spoke, his tone firm.

Regardless of who brought those mutants here, it must be to seek help from the meeting.

Thwack!

Soon, the person causing the problem by bringing the mutants was within the meeting's visible range.

"Huh...?"

"Gangdong?"

And some members of Strongest Sword were taken aback.

The identity of the other party was none other than...

『Gangdong's Strongest Sword』

It was Gangdong's Strongest Sword, who had never attended a Strongest Sword meeting.

Then Yongsan's Strongest Sword, Kim Doha, added a brief explanation.

"We did send someone to ask them to attend the meeting today."

Of course, they didn't expect a visit like this.

Perhaps they had sent the envoy before the appearance of the mutants.

'Or maybe, after fighting with the mutants, they realized it wouldn't work out and hurriedly sent someone.'

Whatever the case, the deed had already been done.

"Let's discuss distribution after resolving the matter."

Everyone nodded at Kim Doha's words, and the mutants chasing Gangdong Strongest Sword were revealed on time.

「Krrraaaaa...!」

On the third day, the mutant that appeared in Gangdong was a giant wild boar.

The length of its tusks alone seemed to be about 2 meters, and its body length was at least 5 meters.

And the shadow extending widely from this physique was already encroaching upon Gangdong's Strongest Sword's feet.

“Ugh, ugh...!”

The face of Gangdong’s Strongest Sword, who had been running at full speed for dozens of minutes, was a mess drenched in sweat.

Especially, his gaze was so weak that it was hard to consider him a Strongest Sword.

It was understandable, even being defeated by mutants alone was a great disgrace as a Strongest Sword.

In addition, during the time it took to bring that monster here, Gangdong’s Strongest Sword must have caused all sorts of trouble, so his pride must have been shattered to pieces by now.

“P... Please help me!”

Finally, Gangdong Strongest Sword pleaded for help from the Strongest Swords at the meeting with a helpless voice.

At that moment, even the mutant in the form of a wild boar chasing him hesitated for a moment and stopped moving.

「What’s going on?」

From Dongdaemun to Seocho.

It was discovered that there were as many as nine Strongest Swords standing in the middle of the park.

Moreover,

「Huh?」

He even recognized one of the members of the meeting.

「Oh Yeonhee...?」

The opponent was none other than Songpa’s Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee.

It was someone who had been so exposed in the media that even the mutants recognized her.

Upon this, Oh Yeonhee laid down her sword and took a step forward.

“Seyeol, nice to see you again like this.”

As she smiled broadly, the heavy shadow of the mutant shook violently.

[Actor – Park Seyeol]

The third mutant in Gangdong, actor Park Seyeol.

He was a former male idol who gained popularity and successfully transitioned to a career as a drama actor, but later he plummeted after being accused of sexually assaulting a waiter at an entertainment bar.

Because the roles he used to play were righteous and upright characters, the fact that he frequented entertainment bars dealt a significant blow to his image.

Of course, although he was acquitted of sexual assault through trial later, the public's perception of him remained unfavorable.

As the reset began, the name Park Seyeol was immediately included as a candidate for oblivion.

「...Fuck!」

Park Seyeol's long tusks leaned threateningly at an angle.

What emotions was he feeling right now?

Shame?

Anger?

Whatever it was, his chosen solution seemed to be 'killing all witnesses.'

Thud thud thud...!

He immediately started rushing towards the Strongest Sword meeting hall, or more precisely, towards Oh Yeonhee at high speed.

"Ah, sir."

"Let's fight a little closer to the front."

It was an opponent that Gangdong's Strongest Sword could not handle and ran away, but the Strongest Swords of the Seoul Federation relaxed enough to carry their chairs and slip away sideways.

For one thing, there was a newcomer, Jeong Yeongwoo, the Strongest Sword of Gangnam, and there were also eight Strongest Swords, including the existing strong ones like Oh Yeonhee, present.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

It was a situation where they couldn't afford to lose in battle.

“Cough!”

Adding Gangdong, who collapsed almost vomiting, there were a total of ten Strongest Swords.

Kugugugu!

While the most courageous mutant in history was charging straight ahead, Yeongwoo finally stood up from his seat.

Swoosh.

He held ‘Underdog’ in his right hand.

「Underdog」 – Mutant One-Handed Sword

【Increases damage by 25% against targets larger than the user.】

Seeing this, the rest of the Strongest Swords rushed towards Park Seyeol.

Crack!

Slash!

They all aimed to thrust their swords into Park Seyeol at least once.

Because they needed some accomplishment to claim their share in the loot distribution that would happen soon.

「These bastards!」

Feeling like he had become just a prey, Park Seyeol was furious, but it was almost impossible to block attacks coming from eight directions with the body of a boar, his main weapon being frontal attacks.

Kwaah!

In an instant, several sword blades pierced Park Seyeol's flesh, and soon, red blood gushed from the wounds.

Fwaaaah!

「Aaargh!」

Finally, making a beast-like sound, Park Seyeol, with several Strongest Swords clinging to his body, suddenly thought it wouldn't work out like this, so he rolled on the ground.

Thud thud!

Although it was indeed a beastly move, it was quite effective.

“Ugh!”

“Grrrrgh!”

The Strongest Swords hanging on were all dropped at once.

After rolling on the ground for a few laps like that, Park Seyeol snorted angrily and quickly got up on all fours.

-Chwiik!

Then,

Thud!

He began to run forward vigorously by stomping the ground.

Considering it impossible to face all the Strongest Swords here, he decided to flee this time.

“Park Seyeol...!”

As Oh Yeonhee, who was the first to stand up from the left, grabbed her sword again, a distant silhouette passed by her side like an arrow.

“...?”

As she followed the silhouette with narrowed eyes, she saw the back of the newly appointed Gangnam's Strongest Sword riding a jet-black iron horse.

“...Ah!”

“No way!”

Other Strongest Swords also realized the situation belatedly and got up from their seats, gritting their teeth in anger.

If things continued like this, it was obvious that the outsider would monopolize the mutant.

* * *

Kugugugu...!

Park Seyeol, the third mutant in Gangdong, was now heading back in the direction he came from, that is, to the east.

It was because he knew that at least there, the Strongest Swords wouldn't be as active as they were in the park earlier.

He didn't want to risk facing another disaster by turning his head in the wrong direction.

‘He completely wrecked everything.’

Thanks to that, Yeongwoo would witness firsthand what this mutant had done while crossing the eastern part of Seoul.

People lying flat dead on the streets, buildings crumbling down miserably...

‘Oh my god.’

Who should take responsibility for this disaster?

Was it Gangdong's Strongest Sword for not defeating the mutants alone?

‘No. Mutants seemed unusually strong today. Just look at Kim Taejoon's case.’

If Yeongwoo hadn't arrived on time, it was evident that both Jo Sangik and the forces of Seoul National University would have been annihilated, not just Gwanak.

In other words, this situation wasn't because the Strongest Swords in a specific area were weak, but rather because abnormally strong mutants had started to appear.

So perhaps...

‘Maybe those who haven't attended the meeting yet aren't just late...’

Could it be that they had already become casualties and couldn't make it here?

“...”

Yeongwoo stopped his thoughts there for now and looked back at Park Seyeol, who had succeeded in overtaking the Negwig.

At that moment, Park Seyeol looked at Yeongwoo with a perplexed expression, his eyes filled with resistance.

「You... what are you?」

“Stop.”

「What?」

Yeongwoo's next response wasn't words but a sword that flew towards Park Seyeol.

Thwick!

It was a fairly fast attack, but as a mutant who had overwhelmed Gangdong's Strongest Sword, Park Seyeol dodged Yeongwoo's sword with a short jump.

And then.

Thwick!

Another sharp sound of a blade came from Yeongwoo's direction.

In fact, it was something he had been waiting for.

Park Seyeol's body momentarily reached a state of suspension.

「Huh...!」

Park Seyeol, sensing something, spat out an exclamation, and at the same time, the long blade of the Underdog pierced through his chest.

Squelch!

「Kkek!」

Struck by the sword in mid-air, Park Seyeol collapsed to the ground without making any evasive maneuvers.

Thunk!

Despite the asphalt being upheaved and dust flying everywhere, the silhouette of his bulky figure was clearly visible due to his large size.

Thunk!

At this, Yeongwoo approached Park Seyeol with Negwig and said softly to him, who was trembling in pain from the golden punishment of the blade.

“Those people will soon come and torture Seyeol.”

“...?”

To the unexpected demonic dialogue, Park Seyeol raised his eyelids heavily.

“But if you decide to become my prisoner, I will spare you from dying a miserable death.”

Then, Park Seyeol revealed a resentful expression with eyes resembling those of a human in the boar’s body.

「W... What nonsense are you talking about now?」

“If you want to use the return function, use it now.”

「How could you...」

Park Seyeol, understanding Yeongwoo’s intention, showed a surprised expression, then suddenly changed his gaze and twisted his large nostrils maliciously.

「Don’t bullshit me, no matter how much you... I... Kek!」

Instead of continuing his speech, he clenched his jaw tightly.

It was because Yeongwoo had pierced his throat with the “Dragon’s Legacy.”

「Dragon’s Legacy」 – Epic One-Handed Sword

【Classist.】

| Increases damage against targets of rank 2 or lower.

‘He was indeed a rank 1 human. The sword doesn’t change.’

After glancing at the completely unburned Dragon’s Legacy, Yeongwoo finally shifted his gaze to the Strongest Swords rushing from the other side.

As expected, Oh Yeonhee was at the forefront, but she soon realized that the situation had ended and wore a disappointed expression.

It was probably because she saw Park Seyeol's body melting into the air already.

However, since everything hadn't ended yet, other Strongest Swords arrived in haste after Oh Yeonhee.

Because...

Shirring!

A golden sphere appeared in the place where the mutant's body had disappeared, just like usual.

「The mutant has been defeated.」

「Select a reward to complete the process.」

It was a binary-choice quest that established mutants as the main stakes for Strongest Swords.

Soon, Kim Doha, the representative of the majority of the members present here, stepped forward.

“Hehe... Thank you for your hard work. But since we fought together, you'll divide the karma fairly, right?”

Here, he meant to smoothly yield the fixed reward, mutant equipment, as Yeongwoo was the strongest here.

Instead, he suggested dividing about 3 million karma per head.

Upon this, Yeongwoo readily accepted Kim Doha's proposal.

“Yes. We will divide it fairly.”

[PR/N: Lmao they gon get scammed.]

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]