

The Strongest Assassin Reincarnates in Another World

- Chapter 13 - 13: Rewards

Chapter 13 - 13: Rewards

Aiden and Ava instantly got teleported into another room, which was also all white. It looked the same as the waiting room in which Aiden had appeared at the start of the trial.

'Is this the place where they give us our rewards?' Aiden thought.

Suddenly, the system was frantic. Messages appeared one after another.

[You have killed the boss monster.]

[You have received 500 XP.]

[+50 points]

[You have obtained the core of the boss monster.]

[The boss monster has dropped a skill book.]

[Final Rankings]

[1st: Aiden]

[2nd: Ava]

[Failed: James]

[Failed: Gus]

[You have cleared the first trial.]

[You have finished first in the rankings.]

[You have obtained 1000 XP.]

[You have obtained an item.]

Two boxes that looked like gifts appeared out of nowhere in front of Aiden. They seemed to be the skill book and the item he had. One of them was gray, and the other was green, but Aiden didn't know what that meant. Ava, on the other hand, only received one gray gift.

'What are those boxes?' Aiden thought as he looked in front of him and at the messages from the system. He was shocked when he saw that killing the boss monster would give him 500 XP, half of what he had gotten from doing the trial.

Looking at all the rewards he had gotten, he was curious about what Ava had obtained by killing the boss monster with him and finishing second in the rankings of the trial.

"Ava, what did you get?" He asked.

"Oh, I got some experience, and I got an item from the boss monster. I also got a gray box and some other things," She replied, clearly not wanting to tell him everything that she had received.

Aiden nodded without revealing his rewards, as he didn't need to. However, he wanted to know a little more about those boxes which had appeared in front of him.

"Ava, what's that gray box that you have?" He asked, not wanting to reveal that he had gotten two of them, with one of them being a different color.

"They are item boxes. Basically, they give you a random item of the grade of the color of the box."

"Then, what are the best rewards one can have during this trial?" Aiden asked, as he didn't want to reveal to her that he had a skill book or anything for that matter.

"Well, that's easy. It's a skill book."

'Jackpot!' Aiden thought with excitement.

"Why is it the best possible reward?"

"Well, it's simple. A skill book is the best reward you can get when doing the first trial because it can only be obtained by killing the boss monster. Those who have obtained skill books on their first trial are called the Celestials because they have the best potential out of everyone. But why are you asking that?"

"Oh, no reason. Don't worry," he replied, acting like everything was normal.

He was certain that the teammates he got matched with for his first trial were probably not that great because they didn't seem prepared for the trial. Well, for the most part.

People from strong families like the one he came from would probably be coming into the first trial better prepared and they would be more skillful than the ones with Aiden.

"Well, I guess it's time to say goodbye, right?"

"Yeah, I guess so... I hope you'll forget what we did at the start of the trial and won't be mad at me," Ava said, looking forward to what he would say.

"It's all in the past. Though, if I ever find you again... you'll have to listen to everything that I say," Aiden said with a smirk.

"Then, may we never see each other again," Ava said, disappearing as she didn't want to be his slave.

'I hope I won't see him at the Inter Family Tournament,' she thought, knowing that she would probably be a participant.

[Teleporting you back to Nova...]

It seemed it was time for him to go back to Nova, the world in which he had been reincarnated.

He appeared in the same room as earlier when he left, the room was still completely empty with only a bed and a mirror. However, when he looked at himself in the mirror, he could see that he had changed a bit physically. His muscles were still not visible by a lot, but they were starting to appear little by little.

Poof!

Poof!

The two boxes from earlier also appeared in front of him. However, before opening them, he decided to look at what level he was currently at with the experience he had received from the trial.

'Status'

[Aiden Nightshade]

[Level 10]

[Health: 150]

[Mana: 10]

[Race: Human]

[Class: None]

[Strength: 4]

[Agility: 4]

[Dexterity: 2]

[Defense: 1]

[Stamina: 1]

[Charm: 2]

[Unallocated Stat Points: 3]

[Skills]

[Shadow Steps Lvl.MAX(Passive)]

[Dagger mastery Lvl.3 (Passive)]

[Mind of an Assassin Lvl.1(Active skill), Cost: 0 MP]

Looking at his status, he was surprised to see that he had already attained level 10. He also noticed that he had three stat points to apply to whatever stat he wanted, so he decided to add one stat point to Defense, Stamina, and Charm. He chose those stats because he didn't want any of his stats to fall behind since he wanted to be great at everything and not only one.

Also, he noticed that his health had increased by 50 and that his mana had increased by five, which was probably because he had reached level 10 since he hadn't seen them change in the previous levels.

After upgrading his stats and looking at the changes in health and mana, Aiden, excited, decided to open the gray box he had gotten from the trial because it didn't look as great as the one in green, it was just a feeling, but he felt that the green one would probably be much better.

As he picked it up, a message from the system appeared.

[Basic Item Box]

[Description: The user opening this box will obtain a Basic Tier Item.]

Reading the description of the gray box, he decided to open it.

[Speed Boots]

[Rank: Basic]

[Restrictions: Only Assassins can equip.]

[Description: Boots that were crafted skillfully will provide the user with a 5% speed increase when he is moving at full speed. Those boots are useful when running away or engaging with opponents.]

Aiden was sad that one of the rewards he had gotten from his trial was the weakest grade item someone could get.

But what Aiden didn't know was that just having one Basic tier reward after coming out of the first trial was already good, and the fact he had gotten two rewards was exceptional. The fact that one of the rewards he got was a skill book was even more exceptional.

However, Aiden noticed that there was a restriction on the boots, which said that only assassins could equip them. Seeing this, Aiden got frustrated because he didn't have a class, which meant he couldn't even equip that item.

But that didn't deter him from trying the boots, so he decided to try them on. Maybe the restriction wouldn't apply to him since he didn't have a class, and from what Gus had told him, he was probably the only one in the world who didn't have one.

[Equipping Speed Boots]

[Error 404!]

[Error 404!]

[Error 404: User has no class.]

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 14 - 14: Error

'An error? Is the system having a problem?' Aiden thought, unsure of what was happening right now.

The messages of an error continued appearing, and it kept going, telling him that he couldn't equip the item because he had no class. Shouldn't it just say to him that he couldn't put them on right away without making all this fuss?

He found it quite weird since it was the first time it happened to him since he had arrived.

But those error messages made Aiden realize that maybe he didn't know a lot about the world that he transmigrated him. Since he had arrived in this body, not much was normal, powers, the Awakened, it was a lot to take in. It seemed that absorbing all this information took some energy out of Aiden for him to keep up with everything that was happening.

While thinking about this, the system was still beeping over and over in his head, which started to annoy him a little bit, but he still wanted to know what was happening to the system. Would it remove its Awakened Powers, thinking he is an anomaly?

Nobody could find the answer to that question. Even people who had lived their entire lives in this world didn't know much about the powers they were given and where they had come from. It seemed that having powers for them was normal, and they didn't find it weird.

However, that wasn't the case for Aiden, who had just found out about everything that was surrounding him: the Status, the System, the Otherworld. It was a lot for him to take in a couple of hours. The fact he didn't come from this world caused him to think about questions that people who had lived their entire life here wouldn't think of.

Interrupting his thoughts, the system stopped beeping inside of his mind, and a new message appeared in front of Aiden. It seemed to have found a solution to the problem at hand.

[The restrictions on equipment are no longer being applied to you.]

This was huge news. It meant he could use whatever equipment he wanted and he could change weapons depending on the situation at hand, it was such a big advantage over others.

'Is this going to apply to the skills as well?' Aiden said to himself.

If it did work with the skills, Aiden could possibly become a master of all classes since he would be able to learn all the skills. Maybe he could use the techniques that were developed by some powerful families.

Realizing the importance of the message in front of him, he decided to test if it was true by equipping those boots.

He put on the boots that didn't have much detail. It seemed the person who had created them didn't put much thought into the design and only wanted it to be used for its skill and not its beauty.

The boots were grey, just like the box they had come out from, with small white lines adding some relief to the boots, which gave a little style to them. They were simple, but they fit into his feet perfectly, as if they were created for him.

The fact that they were not beautiful didn't cause a problem for Aiden because as long as they would help him become stronger, he had no problem with how they looked.

As he put them on, he seemed to feel some type of energy entering his body, it was the same feeling he felt when upgrading his stats, it seemed that the effect from the boots was working.

They were perfect. Now, Aiden didn't need to worry about the equipment he would choose. Now, he would take the ones that would benefit him the most.

[Your speed has been increased by 5%.]

It was now official. Even the system was telling him that the effect had been activated.

It was now time for Aiden to look at his other reward, the green box, which contained a skill book, his most important reward.

Excited, he looked at the green box as if he would completely devour it, wanting to see what he would obtain because if he couldn't use it, he would probably have to sell it.

But Aiden had absolutely no idea where he could find a place to sell his rewards. The memories of the old Aiden didn't seem to appear in his mind anymore. It looked like he was alone now, trying to discover this world by himself.

However, one thing that he could still feel from his old body was the hatred he felt when he thought about the Nightshade family.

Just having those thoughts caused Aiden to feel rage from deep within him. Aiden couldn't see it, but if he looked in the mirror, he would've seen his fists clenched and his eyes filled with fury. He was starting to lose control of his body without even realizing it.

'What have they done to him for him to feel such rage by simply thinking about that family.'

He knew they had abandoned him, but he had no idea about what he had gone through.

Seeing his body reacting this way, he quickly thought about the green box he was going to open.

When he opened the green box in front of him, the heart of Aiden seemed to calm down instantly.

It really was a weird sensation, losing control of your own body.

Not wanting to have that feeling again anytime soon, he started opening the box.

[Green Skill Box]

[Description: Will obtain a Green Ranked Skill Book by opening it.]

The light coming out of it completely blinded Aiden for a moment, which caused him to not see what was inside the box, but as the light started to dismiss, a book could be seen inside of it.

The book was red and black with a title but Aiden was too far away to see what was written on it, he would probably have to take it out to see the title. The contrast between the red and black made the book stand out and captivating to the eye. An aura could also be seen to be coming out of the book, the aura wasn't that great but it probably represented the power contained inside the skill book.

'Is that what a skill book looks like?' He thought, observing the book and the power that seemed to come out of it.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 15 - 15: Skill Book

As Aiden was looking at the red and black skill book, a system panel opened in front of him.

[You have obtained a skill book.]

[Skill Book]

[Regeneration]

[Rank: Green]

[Restrictions: None]

[Cost two Mana to activate.]

[Description: This skill will make it possible for the user to heal at a higher rate than before, injuries while fighting will heal faster. However, since the user isn't a Cyclops, the effects of the skill have been reduced by a big margin.]

'Wow, this looks great!' Aiden thought, looking at the description of the skill in front of him.

The description of the skill was quite good and the fact that it had no restrictions was even better but that meant Aiden wasn't going to be able to test the reaction of the system to him learning skills that are class-restricted. It was also written that the skill effects would be reduced because he wasn't a Cyclops, did that mean he would be able at some point to change his race?

Aiden didn't waste time and decided to learn it since it seemed to be a great skill to start off.

[Do you want to learn the skill Regeneration?]

Aiden seeing the message tapped the on the screen [Yes], and the book that was in his hands started to disappear, it was the same effect as when he had killed monsters.

This time he didn't feel anything different in his body which caused him to wonder if it worked. To make sure, he decided to test it by hurting himself by taking his mace and hitting his arm until it started to bleed.

Bang!

His arm was now completely submerged in blood. Aiden made a face that indicated he was in pain but he did not want to miss the effects of the skill, so he started to analyze the changes to his wound.

Fifteen seconds later, the wound had healed up, and no more blood was coming out of it. The skill was, in fact, not as good as when the Cyclops had used it, but it would surely help Aiden in the future in his second trial.

[You have learned the skill Regeneration.]

[You have only 4 skill slots left.]

[It is level one, to level up your skills you will need to use them over and over again. However, a Green Rated Skill would never be able to compete with a Blue Rated Skill even if it's max level.]

'What, there are skill slots?'

Aiden was shocked, he didn't know why didn't the system tell him that before he learned it, it was crucial information.

'Did the system do it on purpose?' He thought.

But he quickly dismissed the idea, thinking that such things were not possible for a machine. However, it now meant that Aiden could only choose four other skills for his future and the skills chosen needed to fit perfectly with his fighting style.

Luckily, Aiden was happy with the skill he had gotten, but the one thing that was disturbing him was the rank of the skill, it didn't seem to be high. Still, he didn't know the meaning of those ranks. What did Blue Rated mean?

Aiden didn't know if the system would be able to answer him but he still asked, if it could maybe the system could help him understand some aspects of the world that surrounds him.

Surprisingly, a beeping sound sounded in the head of Aiden.

'System, what do those ranks mean?' Aiden asked, inside of his mind.

[Skills are separated into different ranks. The lowest one is gray. Gray skills are most of the time not useful and are not powerful. Green is the rank after Gray, Green skills are somewhat useful but are pretty situational. Afterward, you have in order, Blue, Purple, and Orange skills. Skills will be more powerful depending on the rank they possess.]

Aiden had actually put a green skill, in his slots. Wasn't this bad? If he waited he probably could have gotten a better skill. This caused Aiden to ask a question to the system, once again.

'Can we change the five skills chosen or are they forever going to be there?'

Another beeping sounded in his head.

Beep!

[Skills learned cannot be removed, but you change them for their upgraded version. For example, if you have the Gray book of the skill Swift Strike, you will be able to change it to green, blue, purple, or even orange. However, most skills don't have higher ranks and you will not be able to upgrade them.]

Oh, forgot to mention it, but skills have a really small chance to evolve, if they are in the right conditions to do so.]

The system confirmed what Aiden was thinking which was that he could never change the skills chosen, but the last bit of information given by the system was quite interesting, the skills would be able to evolve by themselves.

'What are the conditions for the skill to evolve?'

But this time, no beeping sound could be heard. Aiden tried once asking the same question but he had no answer for the second time in a row. Was the system keeping some information secret from Aiden?

Noticing that the system didn't answer anymore, Aiden decided that it was time for him to finally leave his room and explore the world he had been transmigrated to.

He headed to the door towards the door, to see just in what neighbourhood he lived.

As he was starting to open the door, knocks could be heard on the other side of the door.

'Just who would come here? Didn't I live alone?' He thought, thinking about who it could be.

The door was not in good condition and had small cracks in it that allowed Aiden to see bits of the person on the other side of the door.

He could see clothing that seemed to look like some type of dress. It seemed that a girl had come to see him in the slums.

'Why would a girl visit me? Just who is she?' Aiden thought, trying to access the memories of the old owner but it had been a while since he wasn't able to access them anymore.

He only had himself to depend on.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 16 - 16: Aiden's Maid

Opening the door, Aiden was stunned, seeing a beauty like that knocking on his door.

The person in front of him was wearing a black dress that complimented her perfect figure. Her face was simply stunning, with her brown hair and blue eyes. Her body didn't have too many curves, but she had trained her body for a long time because her muscles were more visible than the ones on Aiden's body. However, looking closely at her face, she didn't seem to be happy to be there.

"Hey, Aiden, anything out of the usual?" The girl in front of him asked with a tone that seemed to contain disdain.

This completely confused Aiden, was he supposed to know her, was she anyone important to him? But he quickly dismissed it because anger seemed to bubble up inside of him once again, looking at this person.

"Hm, no...everything is perfect? But, uh...who are you?" He asked, trying to know more about the girl in front of him.

"You don't remember who I am? Did you lose your memories or what, haha?" The girl said, laughing at Aiden.

"I apologize, but I've been having memory issues lately. Could you remind me who you are?" Aiden replied, making it known he didn't remember much.

"Wow, you truly are useless. You can't even remember the maid who took care of you since you were little." The maid said, looking at Aiden with clear disgust on her face.

"You? You're a maid, how?" Aiden exclaimed, shocked, not understanding why someone who seemed to have trained her entire life would be a simple maid.

"Well, obviously, I'm not a simple maid. I'm a maid of the Nightshade's family, haha!" Emily, the maid, explained with a sense of superiority contained in the tone of her voice.

"So, you're supposed to take care of me, huh? Then why are you laughing at me?" Aiden answered, unhappy with her current attitude toward him.

"It's simple, really; your existence has been a nuisance to me. You were supposed to be talented and gifted, but years after you were born, you were still the same trash as when you were born. Because of that, the family kicked you out and decided to send me here once a week to check up on you." the maid answered back, clearly unhappy with her situation and disgusted with Aiden.

"So, did anything change lately?" Emily, the maid, asked nonchalantly.

Aiden, hearing that she noted the things that changed about him, decided to not tell her about his awakening and decided to keep her in the dark about his current situation.

"No, nothing much. Everything's as usual."

"Then, I guess this is goodbye. I'll come back here in a week," Emily said, as she left the small room which Aiden called home with an evil smile on her face.

"Bye," Aiden said as he frowned, unsure what her deal was.

It seemed that Aiden would have to deal with quite an annoying person once a week from now on. And if she discovered, he awakened and told his family. Aiden wasn't sure what the reaction from his family would be, but he knew he didn't want to go back there ever again.

'That maid isn't even respecting me, and I'm supposed to be her master. Imagine the rest of that family,' He thought, convinced that he would never go back there at any cost.

After she left, Aiden opened his system and saw the same notification as when he had first transmigrated in this body.

[You will be summoned to the Otherworld in three days.]

Realizing he only had three days left before being summoned again, he decided to go outside his room and find a place to buy new equipment because he only had three days to do so. If he wanted to get better results in his second trial, he would need to prepare for it and not be oblivious like in the first one.

However, there was a big problem, Aiden didn't have any money. He only had this small core of the boss monster, and he had no idea of its actual value. Aiden thought that the mace would not get him much money because it didn't look great and would probably be common for most people.

But he didn't change his mind and exited his small room. As he closed the door behind him, he got a look at the new world of which he was now part. It seemed his house was located in the slums because trash could be found everywhere around him.

He could also see some people who looked exactly like him before awakening on the ground. They looked feeble and didn't seem to have any energy to do anything, but when Aiden started to look at them. They all turned their head toward him, and without even speaking he could see that those people suffered even more than him.

Not knowing where to go to buy equipment, he asked one of those guys where he needed to go sell his items.

The man who answered had difficulty speaking, but Aiden was still able to make some sense of his words. It seemed that there was a shop close by that bought items from the Otherworld. But Aiden didn't know if that shop was safe or if he would get attacked. After all, he was currently in the slums.

Nonetheless, he knew that he could simply beat up anyone coming for his life.

After walking for a couple of minutes in the direction the homeless man had given him, he seemed to have arrived at the shop the man had talked to him about.

Aiden wasn't completely sure if it was the right place because the building looked like it had been abandoned a long time ago. The emblem of the shop on which was written Otherworld Shop was starting to detach itself, almost falling down.

But he still walked in, thinking that maybe the interior of the shop would be way better.

Unsurprisingly, it wasn't anything better. The only thing inside the shop was a single wooden door. No one seemed to be working or living in this place. It was truly abandoned.

Still, having come all this way here, Aiden decided to check what would happen when he opened the door.

The system, which had been silent for a while now, suddenly activated with a message that Aiden had never expected to see.

[You are being teleported to the Underground Otherworld Shop.]

"This old wooden door is a teleportation tool. What the hell?"

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 17 - 17: Underground Otherworld Shop

[You are being teleported to the Underground Otherworld Shop.]

A teleportation device seemed to have been put inside the wooden door he had just opened and transported him to this place that looked nothing like the slums or the building he had taken to come here.

It was bustling with different types of people of other races; with a quick look, Aiden saw a group of dwarfs, an elf, and a vampire; he even saw what seemed to be a human with some parts of a dragon attached to him.

'Is this place in the Otherworld, or are we still in Nova?' Aiden thought, trying to make sense of the situation unfolding before him.

Wanting to get some information about where he was, Aiden started looking around him and saw what seemed to be an information center with an elf seemingly wanting someone to come and ask her some questions.

The elf didn't look that old, but one could never know with the elves. She was quite good-looking and seemed friendly. She had white hair with ears that were pointy, she really looked like an elf one could see in movies.

"Hello, young awakener, what can I do for you today?" the elf asked with a smile.

"Well, to tell you the truth, I kind of got here by accident, and I was wondering if there was any way of telling me what this place is?"

"Oh, you're one of those. Well, it's simple you are in the Underground Otherworld Shop that was created long ago by the four founding families, the Nightshade, the Emberbane, the Ravenwood, and the Moonshadow. They have created this space to help young awakeners like yourself to sell the items they gain in the Otherworld."

"Oh ok, is this place in the Otherworld or are we still in the real world?" Aiden asked to make sure.

"If by the real world you mean Nova, our planet. Then yes, we are still in the real world; you didn't get teleported to the Otherworld where your trials take place. Don't worry."

"If we're not in the Otherworld, then how were we teleported here?"

"Who knows? It's a secret closely guarded by the four families to impede others from creating spaces like this everywhere."

"Oh ok, then that's all I had to ask. Bye," Aiden said as he turned around, not interested in hearing more about the founding families.

But as he was leaving, he suddenly turned around, looking as if he had forgotten something.

"Actually, where could I sell this?" He asked, as he wasn't sure what he could do with them. He didn't know this place, after all.

"Wow, you got a core from a boss monster. Well, the experts in that field aren't that far away from here, go in a straight line on your left and you will find the shop. It's called Core Expert. As for your mace, it seems to be only of Basic Tier, which probably won't amount to much, but there are people who buy scrap items around here. Just go in any type of shop and they will give a price for it."

She seemed surprised that the boy in front of her had a core monster. But she thought it was given to him by his family as support. She didn't believe the feeble boy in front of

her could have killed a boss monster in a trial since it's so hard to do, even for people who train their whole lives.

"And also, do you know of a place where I could buy a dagger? You see, I'm trying to equip myself as best as possible before doing my second trial."

"Oh, it's no problem. Ask as many questions as you want. Usually, I'm bored out of my mind since most people know this place from the inside out." The elf said, looking desperate for some clients

"Then, to answer your question, the most renowned shop that sells weapons around here is a shop that is managed by one of the four founding families, the Ravenwood. The Ravenwood family is known for their blacksmiths and the quality of their equipment. You should be able to find what you want there. They have all types of weapons for any price. Did you want to know anything else?"

"No, actually I think I'm good, I should probably go. Thank you once again for your help!"

When Aiden turned around, the elf at the counter made a subtle move, seemingly calling someone to take her place.

It seemed she wasn't as ordinary as Aiden thought. Aiden managed to get some of her curiosity about wanting to learn more about the young man she had met for the first time.

The reason for her curiosity about Aiden was because of the items Aiden had shown her, if he was powerful enough to kill a boss monster on the first trial then it was worth it to look into him. Also, having a good relationship with a young awakened was always good.

She started running behind at a speed that was way too fast for the naked eye to see.

"Since you look kind of lost even with the information I gave, do you want me to accompany you? I could tell you if some of the merchants are trying to rip you off. My name is Maelis by the way. Nice to meet you!" The elf said as she extended her hand to Aiden.

"Uh... the name's Aiden." Aiden shook her hand back. "But, are you sure you want to accompany me? Wouldn't that be a waste of your time?"

"Oh that's fine, I actually don't do much besides working here. And with me being with you, nobody will try to steal from you, and don't you worry... even if I don't look like the strongest, I can defend myself quite well." Maelis said with a big smile.

"Then I guess you can accompany me if you want."

"Perfect! Where do you want to go first?"

"Well, I don't really have money, so I'm hoping to exchange this core for some money, and then I'll go buy my dagger with the money I got."

After deciding what he wanted to do, Aiden headed straight left toward the shop known as Core Expert, where he would exchange his core for money.

Five minutes later, they arrived in front of the shop and it was magnificent, it didn't look anything like the shop he had found in the slums. It was crazy. All types of people were entering and leaving the building very fast.

Some of them were emitting a dangerous aura which meant that they were strong, he couldn't wait to see the strength of the ones who managed this shop.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 18 - 18: Maelis

Aiden could feel the aura of multiple strong awakeners as he was looking at the shop. It seemed this shop wasn't one of the best in the market for no reason.

Many strong awakeners were guarding it.

Sensing all those auras made Aiden alert. He was ready to fight at any moment if one of them would come after him, he wasn't scared of battling out with anybody.

Noticing Aiden's reaction, Maelis questioned herself if he was actually able to feel the strength of some of the people looking at them. If that was actually the case, it meant he had excellent intuition that could only be formed by experience.

But the thing that bugged her was... where did this experience of his come from?

She knew he had only completed the first trial because he had just told her that. Thinking about where he could have grown, she started analyzing what he was wearing, which didn't seem luxurious or anything; it was some plain clothing that didn't indicate anything, and even if it were to point out something... it was that he was a poor young man.

"Humm... Aiden, sorry it's too personal, but... where do you live? I have never seen you before, and I know most of the names of all up-and-coming young awakeners. It's really

weird. I never heard your name, not even once." Maelis said, truly finding it weird that she had never once heard her name before.

Aiden, receiving this sudden question out of nowhere, didn't know how to answer. But quickly calming his mind, he decided to actually tell her where he lives right now since that would probably clear up her confusion while at the same time creating even more confusion.

"I'm actually living in the slums," Aiden said as he patted his back because of the embarrassment he was feeling.

"Y-You're living in the slum, with this talent of yours, and no one has once taken notice of you?" responded Maelis, shocked by this information.

'Does this mean no one knows about his potential? Maybe this could be my chance to take him into my family. He should probably accept, after all, that he lives in the slums,' she thought, wondering about the possibility of recruiting Aiden.

"I mean... it's been almost one day since I have awakened, it's normal no one will notice me that fast. And I'm probably not that special compared to the best of the young awakeners that you speak of," Aiden said nonchalantly.

"Don't be so sure about that; if you killed the boss monster on the first trial, you should be getting praise and admiration. Hell, I wouldn't be surprised if you were to be a Celestial. But that's probably going to be difficult since you live in the slums. By the way, if you don't mind me asking, did you always live there?"

'Should I tell her the truth? Probably not, I don't know much about her, and for all I know she could have connections with my family.' He thought, realizing he didn't know much about Maelis.

"I will answer on one condition: after that question of yours, we will ask each other questions in turn because I don't know much about you except that you are helping me for no reason at all," Aiden replied as he started to doubt Maelis and why she was actually following him.

However contrary to the expectations of Aiden, Maelis didn't even think about whether or not to accept this proposition of his as she quickly accepted.

It was now time for Aiden to answer her question, and he decided to lie because he couldn't tell where he really came from since it would make everything much more complicated.

"I was born in the slums and lived there all my life. I guess you could say I was lucky for awakening recently because, with the money I will make from the trials and the equipment I will sell from the Otherworld, I'll probably be able to leave this hellish place,"

Aiden said, as he said things he didn't really care about like leaving the slums to find another home.

He only said that to convince Maelis that he was actually telling the truth. He didn't care that much about the room he would be living in because he was always used to the bare minimum in his past life, having a bed and some clothes. He only got a television the last month before his death.

"My turn now." He said with a grin, "What is the reason you are following me around? Are you actually here to help me?"

Maelis contemplated telling him the truth, which was that she wanted to recruit him into his family. But she decided against it, saying only a bit of the truth.

"I'm actually only trying to help you. I can swear that I have no bad intentions toward you," Maelis answered, keeping it short, not wanting to reveal something she didn't mean to.

"Don't take it wrong, it's just I have a problem in trusting people. I guess it's your turn now. What do you want to know about me?"

"How the hell are you able to walk silently all the time? Are you an assassin or something? It's weird not hearing your footsteps. I can never tell when you're right beside me. It's creeping me out."

"Oh, sorry, I'm not doing it on purpose, and it's a habit of mine. You see... living in the slums, I did not want people to hear me walk around," Aiden said, as lies seemed to be the only thing coming out of his mouth, but he didn't have a choice. "My turn. What trial are you currently at? Are you strong?"

'Oh, it seems he can't see through my strength.'

"Well, I'm currently a trial seven, and I'm not really powerful. Most of the time, I get carried by the others in the trials," Maelis said; it was now her time to lie to him, not wanting to reveal to him that she was actually strong.

"Alright, let's say this is the last question we ask. We need to enter the shop after all. So, we shouldn't waste too much time. Did you have the most impact when killing the boss monster on the first trial? Is that why you have its core, or were you given it?"

"Yeah, I was the one with the most impact. Actually, we were only two from our original team of four.

Two of the teammates decided to leave the trial without killing the boss monster, not wanting to fail their first trial because that would be bad for their reputation," Aiden

answered, not knowing that killing a monster with only one other person was truly a big accomplishment and that not many could do it.

'He killed a boss monster with only one other person. Just what special class does he have?' She thought, wondering if he was one of the special class holders.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 19 - 19: Maelis's Influence

As Maelis was questioning herself if she was a special class holder. She decided not to waste time and go inside the store and sell the core Aiden had obtained from the boss monster.

Aiden also didn't have any other questions to ask Maelis, so he decided to end the questioning there. He would probably learn more about her as they continued spending time together.

As Aiden was going to enter the shop, Maelis finally realized that he wasn't right beside her. Her mind was so distracted by that last answer of his that she stopped keeping track of him.

She got distracted because if Aiden was a special class holder, anyone would try to recruit him no matter what it took. Special classes have a big advantage over all other awakeners, they each have a special stat that they can upgrade which is not the case for normal class holders.

Those special stats were not the ones you would find normally in normal video games. For example, Luck could be one of the stats from a special class. Any type of stat can be given to special class holders, but the ones given to them are always based on their personality.

However, Maelis needed to push those thoughts aside as they were going to enter Core Expert. She wanted to make a good impression on Aiden by helping him have the best price on his core and later on when buying the rest of his equipment.

Maybe Aiden would feel indebted to her because of the effort she put into helping him.

As they entered the shop, Aiden was shocked by the beauty of the shop. It was equipped with technology he had never seen before. Every single client had someone

who advised them on what they were looking for. It truly deserved to be one of the best stores in the Underground Otherworld Shop based on a quick look around.

"Hello, young sir! What can I do for you today?" A dwarf asked, welcoming him inside the shop.

The dwarf noticed Aiden wasn't actually alone and started to introduce himself to the other person who was with the young man, but he stopped himself when he saw who she was.

'Why is she here? Is he someone worth paying attention to? Is he strong?' the dwarf thought, looking at Aiden to see what he had missed when he had first seen him.

But after looking at Aiden for a few seconds, he didn't notice anything unusual. In his eyes, Aiden even looked weak, so why would someone of her caliber be coming with him into this shop?

He acted as if he didn't notice who she was and continued doing this job normally because the eyes she gave him clearly weren't friendly and gave him the chills. He didn't want to take his chances. Who knew what she could do to him if she wished it?

"Hmm... I'm here to sell this," Aiden said as he showed the core of the boss monster, confused as to why the dwarf was looking at him with such attention.

"Oh a core from a Cyclops, that's not so rare, where did you get it young man?"

"I got it from the first trial."

"Then, you should be pretty talented to kill a boss monster on your first trial, good job," the dwarf said, not believing even a second what Aiden had just said, he thought Maelis had given it to him as some sort of gift.

No one would be stupid enough to believe that Aiden was the one who had killed the boss monster, after all.

"How much is it?" Aiden asked right away. He only wanted the money for this core, and that was it.

"I can give at most 200 Credits for it."

"Sure, that sounds good. Right?" Aiden asked as he turned around to look at Maelis, asking for her opinion.

"That seems a bit low of a price, don't you think, mister?" Maelis said her friendly attitude from earlier had disappeared.

He didn't understand why she was acting so different from earlier. It was almost as if she would kill the seller if he didn't give her what she wanted. However, Aiden seemed to notice that even when she was emitting her pressure, he couldn't even feel it. It looked like she had enough control over it to direct it onto someone.

'Is she really someone on the seventh trial? Are they all this strong? I really am nothing compared to others,' he thought.

The lies told by Maelis completely demolished the rankings and strength Aiden had given awakeners based on the trial they were at. He now thought of himself as trash when comparing himself to Maelis, thinking everyone would be as strong as her when reaching that trial.

The dwarf being under pressure from Maelis, couldn't even breathe. He surrendered immediately and gave the price of 1000 Credits instantly without even bargaining.

After the dwarf agreed to give more Credit to Aiden, Maelis released her pressure, and he could finally breathe again.

Aiden was still thinking, not noticing the scene in front of him.

'Who is she? For her to be able to even influence sellers from one of the best shops in the Underground Otherworld Shop(UOS),' Aiden thought, now starting to doubt the identity she had given him and the answers she told him earlier.

'Is she trustworthy, or would she betray like all the others when she learns I have no class?' thought Aiden, thinking about the reaction of his teammates in the first trial when they learned he didn't have a class.

"There, 1000 Credits," the dwarf said as he handed them to Aiden.

Cough! Cough!

The dwarf coughed to get the attention of Aiden, who was completely lost in his thoughts. Not caring about anything that was surrounding him.

"1000?! wasn't it 200 Credits? Why are you giving me so much?" Aiden asked, confused by the amount he was being given. He thought that if Maelis put some pressure on the seller, he would up the price to a maximum of 300 Credits, but he was actually giving him 5 times the original price.

"Not much reason behind it. If you want to know why I gave you so much, ask her; now, scram, I won't give you more," the dwarf said, gritting his teeth while pointing toward the door, indicating them to leave.

Something was weird, and he knew it was related to the identity of Maelis, but he didn't know who she was exactly. Thinking about it, he didn't care who she was. That is...until she kept giving those benefits everywhere they went. Maybe he would be able to get a good dagger with her help.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 20 - 20: Ravenwood's Shop

Leaving the shop, Aiden continued pondering the dwarf's unusual reaction when dealing with Maelis.

It seemed strange to him, but as long as it didn't negatively affect him, he chose not to dwell on it too much.

After exchanging the core obtained from the boss monster, Aiden now had 1000 Credits, which he intended to use to purchase a dagger and possibly some light armor for protection.

"Ready? Let's go to Ravenwood's shop," said Maelis, her attitude, once again, being positive and not aggressive at all.

She seemed to be the sweetest person that could exist, but Aiden knew that wasn't the case anymore.

He knows that he needs to be careful around her, not wanting to get on her bad side.

Although his concerns were useless, as Maelis merely wanted to recruit him into her family, he remained unaware of her true intentions.

"Sure, I'll follow you," Aiden responded as he started following her.

While going to the Ravenwood's shop, Maelis was telling Aiden what he should avoid when inside that shop.

"Aiden, when we arrive there, just keep in mind that I won't be able to do the same thing as I did with the dwarf. The Ravenwood family is too powerful for someone like me to challenge," said Maelis, dead serious.

Curious to learn more about her background, Aiden inquired, "Can I know what family you're part of? Honestly, at some point, I thought you were part of a founding family."

Maelis revealed her identity, saying, "I'm from a medium-level family. It's called the Everheart, and perhaps I shouldn't tell you this, but... I'm the matriarch of that family."

Aiden was taken aback. "A matriarch at the seventh trial? W-Wait, you're a matriarch of a family? How?"

Maelis smiled and explained, "Well, I'm actually older than I appear, so don't be deceived by my looks."

"Moreover, I'm significantly more powerful than someone on the seventh trial," she stated plainly.

"Currently, I'm on the 26th trial of the Otherworld, which is one of the highest trial levels attained by a medium-level family," she said calmly.

Feeling deceived, Aiden muttered, "So, you lied to me too...huh?" realizing that deception was not uncommon in this world.

"Yeah, I lied to you, but it's not for any bad reasons, don't worry," Maelis assured, her tone earnest and sincere. "The answer I gave about helping you is true and wasn't a lie."

"But I can't tell you much more about why I'm helping you," she continued, keeping some elements of mystery about her from Aiden.

"And the medium-level families, how do they compare to the founding families?" asked Aiden, wanting to know more about the difference in strength between the families.

"Well, it's kinda complicated. Just keep in mind that we are inferior to them and by a large margin. To them, because of all the special techniques, they have decided to keep to themselves."

Aiden further probed, "What type of techniques have they developed over the years?"

"Each family has its strengths and weaknesses, and all of them have different techniques which not many know anything about, even me.

I don't even know their techniques. They are kept secret at all costs," said Maelis, emphasizing the fact that no one knows about them except a select few.

"So, even someone with your power doesn't know much about the founding families," murmured Aiden, thinking out loud.

"Now that you know a little more about me," Maelis began, her tone serious, "I want to tell you to be careful and not show any hostility inside their shop.

Her expression was earnest as she continued, "Or we would probably have some difficulty getting out of there alive."

Aiden agreed, saying, "Alright, I won't take any chances. I'll let you do the talking. I'll just pick the dagger I want, and I'll let you deal with them. Is that good for you?"

"Sure, that works," said Maelis, happy that Aiden wasn't someone who would be stubborn about things like this.

The more she learned about Aiden, the more she was captivated by him. She was sure that he would be the perfect choice as a new recruit for her family.

As they continued through the bustling streets filled with various shops, Aiden could see many types of shops, some of them looked abandoned while others were at the cutting edge of technology with people entering and exiting.

The UOS (Underground Otherworld Shop) was truly a one-of-a-kind place being able to welcome that many awakeners at the same time without any problem whatsoever.

After observing the various shops while walking through the bustling streets, Aiden and Maelis eventually arrived at Ravenwood's shop.

It stood tall and imposing, unlike the other stores.

This towering structure seemed capable of accommodating thousands of people simultaneously, although the weird thing was that you could only spot the tower when you got close enough to the shop.

Once they stepped inside, Aiden and Maelis were in one big circular hallway with weapons behind clear glass on both sides.

All the people on this floor seemed to be completely silent, which was weird.

As Aiden scrutinized the weapons on display, he was taken aback by the prices. The first weapon he looked at was priced at a whopping 100,000 Credits, and the next was no less expensive at 75,000 Credits.

How the hell would he be able to buy anything here?

Seeing this, he decided to silently ask Maelis: how he would be able to buy anything here.

Didn't she say that they had all types of prices?

"Umm... I can't buy those weapons.

I told you I only have the 1000 Credits we just traded," Aiden whispered in her ear, not wanting to disrupt the people surrounding them.

Maelis reassured him, "Don't worry. We won't be buying those weapons. Follow me. We need to go up." She pointed upward and began making her way toward a set of circular stairs that spiraled into the heights of the shop.

Aiden, eyeing the seemingly endless staircase, couldn't help but ask, "How long do we have to climb?"

The number of stairs ahead of him just seemed overwhelming.

Maelis responded, attempting to soothe his concerns, "It won't take long, don't worry."

However, this statement was far from the truth, as the ascent was going to be a long and excruciating one.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.