

Another World Mall

#Chapter 1 Prologue - Read Another World Mall Chapter 1 Prologue

"NO!"

"How can this be?"

The screams of unwillingness echoed inside the grand hall, pulling in the attention of the people within.

The hall was spacious, hosting more than a hundred people. However, there was one person who was unaffected by the screams.

His focus remained on the receptionist before him. Placing an ID card on the table, he said, "Clovis. I am ready for the awakening."

The receptionist scanned the ID card before taking out a small plastic bag from the box next to her. It was a fresh bag that was still sealed.

Clovis could clearly see an injection needle with a small vial of yellowish-green liquid. The receptionist showed the entire kit to make sure it was still sealed before taking out the vial and placing the needle on top of it.

Clovis extended his right arm as the receptionist injected the liquid into his palm.

As soon as all the liquid had been injected, a white-colored screen appeared in his vision.

Name: Clovis Hacfield

Tier: 0

Evolution Rate: 15%

Brain: 0%

Heart: 0%

Blood: 0%

Muscle: 0%

Bones: 0%

When Clovis saw the number on the evolution rate, he couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. His expression darkened like he was disappointed in himself.

Yet, his reaction wasn't as big as the reaction of the people next to him as though he had accepted his fate.

"Please place your hands here." The receptionist asked while pointing at the blue screen on her left.

The device scanned Clovis' biological data. Even the screen he saw in his vision appeared on the receptionist's computer.

As soon as the receptionist saw the number on his evolution rate, she simply said, "I believe that you are not suitable to be a Subterranean Explorer (SE) with your evolution rate."

Clovis could hear the sneer coming from his back.

"What? Another one who is not qualified?"

"Just leave right away. We want to test ourselves too."

When Clovis was about to turn around, he heard a commotion from the counter next to him.

"What?! An evolution rate of 76%? C-congratulations, sir. You've—" The receptionist couldn't even complete her sentences before another person came to him. He wore a formal suit and immediately handed him a name card. "I am from the Aether—Mmf!?"

He was stopped by another person, who seemed to be trying to recruit him.

Clovis couldn't help but shake his head helplessly.

Fifty years ago, the world had undergone a huge change. An ethereal voice rang in everyone's ears that day, telling them that the world they knew was nothing but a simulation.

Not long after, the Hollow Earth Theory was proven as numerous holes leading to the subterranean world appeared.

Countless beasts appeared from the holes, but more importantly, those beasts were not random beasts. In one place, there was an ancient extinct animal like *Andrewsarchus* or even beasts older than dinosaurs. In another place, there was a being like a mystical dragon.

All the animals that were supposed to be extinct or only existed in the legend actually appeared from holes, rampaging on the countries all around the world.

Each country had its own method to deal with the beasts. Some only had guns, only to get routed in the end. Some superpower countries resorted to nukes and repelled the beast but made the city unsuitable for living.

More importantly, it seemed that these beasts could also evolve through nuclear waste and radiation, resulting in even more ferocious beasts. Some of the surviving countries ended up banning the nuclear weapon while others continued to fight back.

The scientists didn't simply sit back and do nothing. They analyzed the beasts and started experimenting with both humans and beasts.

Once the world united to fight the common enemy, they created this amazing system. It turned out they could actually process the meat and extract its essence to strengthen humans.

After a lot of experiments, the scientists implant nanotechnology in the human's body to measure their affinity with the beasts.

Those five units were meant to evolve human's abilities. However, to avoid wasting their resources, they only sought people with a high evolution rate.

The evolution rate itself indicated how much essence could assimilate with their bodies. If Clovis took one ml of essence, he might only be able to absorb 15% of it. That was why the higher one's evolution rate, the more precious they became, causing a huge gap in society's status.

This was the reason why the man next to her was immediately approached by a lot of people.

A 35–40% evolution rate was considered normal for an SE. They had the most population in the current system. 40–60% were known as above average. They could easily become an elite or even an amazing figure in their group.

60–80% were hailed as geniuses. They could become very powerful, so a lot of people wanted them. 80–95% were in the realm of peerless talent. They either had to die to avoid future problems or become strong enough to reach the pinnacle. Above them was the only one meant for the chosen ones.

Meanwhile, his 15% evolution rate was meant for trash. He needed to do more than five times more than the young man next to him just for the sake of catching up to him.

That was why the receptionist suggested taking another job aside from being a Subterranean Explorer.

However, the fire in Clovis's heart hadn't died even after seeing his evolution rate.

He simply left the building with his result. Little did he know, there were two middle-aged men observing him the whole time instead of the young man, who had a 76% evolution rate.

The first man had a muscular body that his suit couldn't cover completely. The other man looked smaller, but his gaze was as intense as that of the man next to him.

"So, he is that old madman's grandson?" The muscular man asked.

"Or so I heard... But 15% is quite low."

"Even then, he is that man's grandson. Even though that madman is missing right now, he is still his grandson. His eyes are not dead yet, so I believe that he will return once again and become an SE, official or not."

"Are you going?"

"Yeah. His grandfather is missing, and his parents have died at another base. In this place, he is just an unknown young man. Right now, I'm just repaying the favor I owe his grandfather."

"But I think letting him be is the best. Without anyone knowing him, the enemies of his grandfather and parents won't come to attack him for no reason."

"You should know that powerful families can retain their power because two geniuses marry each other and produce another genius. This is the same."

"So, you think that he is a genius despite having a 15% evolution rate?"

"All I know is that Hacfield is a family of monsters. I refuse to believe that he is not one, unless he is adopted. Hmph."

"But be careful. Once you pull strings, the enemies of his parents and grandparents will come."

"If he can't overcome them, he is not worthy of the Hacfield name."

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Whether it was the proof of what these two men were talking about, the first thing Clovis did after he returned home was pick up the two blades on the table.

Even though his parents and grandfather were no longer on his side, they were still quite powerful people. Their wealth was enormous. Even though he had to flee to this unknown city, his parents still had a house here.

It was perfect for a small family and it was even equipped with a training area.

However, with him being young, he couldn't find work anywhere. In the end, he used all the money that they left him. The water and electricity had been cut off as well.

He once thought about moving to a smaller house and selling this one, but this house was perfect for him to train as an SE. So, he barely managed to keep himself by selling some furniture.

There were three weapons on the tables. The first one was a long 1.2-meter sword. Its color was black as though it were made of different materials. The humans managed to make weapons from the beast's scales or even materials underneath the ground in the subterranean world.

The second one was a short sword, slightly longer than a dagger, but the blade length was less than his lower arm. On the tip of the handle was attached a chain that formed a bracelet. If thrown, it could reach as far as ten meters.

The last one was a pistol. That was right. Even though humanity didn't really use nuclear weapons to avoid strengthening their enemies further, they still used the most convenient weapon, guns.

While the beast's hide was hard to penetrate with a normal bullet, they used the same materials as his blade as a bullet. That was why guns were mostly for the rich, who could afford special materials for their bullets.

Clovis grabbed the two swords and came out to the backyard. The rain started pouring as if it were reflecting the sadness and disappointment in his heart.

However, Clovis didn't care. He just wanted to swing his blades until he was too tired to even think about his evolution rate.

His swings were sharp and precise, showing the amount of effort he had put in. While his technique was above average, it didn't mean much if his evolution rate was low. After all, those people could put in a lot more time to practice their technique while Clovis was still hunting the beasts.

'Untalented people like me can still progress to the very top. We just have to work much harder than those geniuses who have a high evolution rate.' Clovis thought as his blade slashed a water droplet. He looked determined to get stronger even if he had to become a monster by massacring thousands if not millions of beasts.

The memory from the past couldn't help but resurface. Back then, he was sitting with his grandfather, looking at the bright sky.

"Clovis. Most people become SEs for survival, wealth, or fame. However, they are forgetting something. The reason we're called 'Explorer' is because we're trying to find the unknown. Why would those beasts appear out of nowhere? Were the world leaders aware of this fact before anyone else?

Is this world truly just a simulation? What are we? I become an explorer to find the truth about everything."

"Really? So cool!" Clovis's eyes glistened as his expression was filled with admiration. "I want to be one too and help Grandfather!"

Unfortunately, this seemingly happy memory didn't last long. It even affected his current mental state as the reality had just struck him deeply.

Even if he was prepared to kill countless beasts to get stronger, he still couldn't get over the fact that he didn't have the talent to do it.

"Why?!" Clovis gritted his teeth. "Why? Why? Why?!"

The more he asked the same question, the faster his swords became. But eventually, he tripped to the ground and became too tired to stand back up. He wanted to cry but was fully aware that it wouldn't help him.

"If only..." Clovis closed his eyes for a moment, imagining the scene where he saw his status at the same time. Instead of 15%, he would get at least an 80% evolution rate. But in the end, it was just his wishful thinking.

However, everything changed the moment he opened his eyes. Even if it was raining earlier, it shouldn't be this dark.

"Huh?!" Clovis couldn't help but rise from the ground. "What happens? Where am I?"

On his left, he could see a shadow of a small room filled with items he didn't know. The darkness allowed him to only see the contour of the items, not what they truly were.

He turned to the front and saw an expanding space, filled with a lot of rooms like the one he saw on the left.

Clovis's right eye was disturbed by the brightness that hit the corner of his pupil. When he turned around, he could see a spacious area filled with shelves. Seeing the entrance and the cashier area reminded him of a grocery store. "Where the heck am I?"

Another World Mall #Chapter 2 Another World Mall - Read Another World Mall Chapter 2 Another World Mall

"Where the heck am I?" Clovis squinted his eyes, looking at the only room that was lit up. The arrangement of the shelves, the food items within the shelves, and the cashier area reminded him of a grocery store.

Another screen appeared before him. Instead of a white screen, the one before him was blue, indicating that it was different from the nano-implant in his brain.

[Welcome to Another World Mall.]

[Generating Status...]

[Name: Clovis Hacfield.]

[Membership: None]

[Money: 17 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Item Limit: 1/Visit]

[Visit: 0(1)/Day]

"Another World Mall?" Clovis furrowed his eyebrows. He looked at the entire area that had been darkened. With just the shadow of those stores, it did resemble a mall.

Still, he didn't know where he was currently or how he arrived at this place, so he grabbed his sword, which didn't seem to be brought together with him. Even the chain attached to his left arm had disappeared.

Since he didn't have a weapon with him, the first thing Clovis did was step to the side, trying to check the other areas.

However, his hand suddenly touched an invisible wall, startling Clovis. Even after applying a bit more strength, he didn't feel it was going to budge.

"It seems that I can only go to this one place." Clovis muttered as he approached the store carefully.

While walking, Clovis saw the screen again and noticed a peculiar thing.

"17 Otherworldly Coins? Isn't it..." Clovis tried to grab the wallet in his pocket, but just like his swords, the wallet disappeared. "It's the same amount of money that is within my wallet."

There were a lot of questions in Clovis's head, but he surely had one big question in his mind. Could he actually return to where he was?

While thinking about it, Clovis walked inside the grocery store. Now that he was stuck in it, he had to explore this area. He still maintained his awareness around him, making sure that he didn't fall into an ambush.

Once inside, he was greeted by a basket that contained three types of vegetables.

The moment his eyes were locked onto them, each vegetable showed its description.

Name: Elven Carrot (Tier 0)

Description: Cultivated by the Wooden Elf Race.

Effect: Brain +0.5%

Price: 5 Otherworldly Coins

Name: Elven Radish (Tier 0)

Description: Cultivated by the Wooden Elf Race.

Effect: Bone +0.5%

Price: 5 Otherworldly Coins

Name: Elven Onion (Tier 0)

Description: Cultivated by the Wooden Elf Race.

Effect: Muscle +0.5%

Price: 5 Otherworldly Coins

Clovis couldn't help but drop his jaw to the ground when he saw their description.

"What? These vegetables actually increase my status? But Wooden Elf Race? Who are they? I don't think I have heard anything about the Wooden Elf Race. In fact, there is no humanoid beast in the subterranean world, so is it not from this world?

I mean, this place is called Another World Mall, right?"

Clovis had never heard of a vegetable that could improve his ability. But when he linked them with another world, he somehow managed to accept it.

"If this is true, doesn't this mean I can use all these ingredients to increase my strength? In other words, I will have two ways of increasing my power."

An idea appeared in his mind. He could hunt the monsters to absorb their essence and eat these vegetables during the night.

"This is incredible, but..." Clovis checked the screen panel again in detail. "Otherworldly Coins, Item Limit, and Number of Visits, huh? It seems that the coins are converted from the money I had with me before coming here.

It might not use my real money, since if the money ends up here, it might cause inflation, especially if I buy more expensive items." Clovis looked to the side as numerous shelves stood before his eyes.

He realized that the money he spent here would be accumulated. It might look like he was getting ahead of himself by thinking he would spend enough money that could affect inflation, but he was just thinking it through.

Clovis tried to move to the shelf behind this basket and noticed a few food items. Unfortunately for him, he ended up hitting the same invisible wall.

"Guh!" His hand was rubbing his forehead while Clovis took another look at the food items. "How do I get there?"

The only thing he could think of was the membership.

"Should I spend money here and improve my membership? But how do I improve my membership?" Clovis frowned and tried to touch the screen, wondering if he could get any information.

Unexpectedly, the screen appeared to be responding to his voice as the display changed to answer his question.

Membership: None

Upgrade Membership: 100 Otherworld Coins/Month.

Benefit: +1 Item Limit, +1 Shelf

"Interesting." On the one hand, it looked like he needed more money if he wanted to open and might require a ridiculous amount to keep progressing. On the other hand, the first step only cost him 100 coins a month, which was a big sum for the current him but not too big for a household.

"Should I sell more furniture? But I don't have much furniture left to sell. And if I use that money for the membership, I might not have enough to bribe the staff to bring me to the subterranean world. If I can't hunt beasts to make money, it'll be over."

Clovis rubbed his forehead as though he were calculating his current plan. "I think it's better to find a way to earn money first. But if these vegetables, or maybe all the items in here, are so magical, I don't think I can show them to the world. They might do anything to get a hold of these items.

"What if I plant it myself? But will it work with Earth's soil? How about getting a sponsor? But if I rely on them too much, they might take advantage of me to get these items or even betray me.

"I have so many questions about this place, but it might be my biggest opportunity. If I can take advantage of this place..." Clovis imagined himself becoming stronger and stronger to the very peak as he bought more and more items from this place. "Let's do it."

Since he could buy one thing from this place, he decided to grab the Onion.

"Brain Evolution is related to the five senses and mental acuteness. Heart Evolution is about life force, natural regeneration, and vitality in my body. On the other hand, Blood is tied to my general health and stamina. Muscle and Bones are closely related to physical abilities, but Muscle Evolution is for strength while Bones Evolution is related to durability.

My current situation requires me to improve my strength, so it's going to be the onion."

Clovis brought this to the cashier area, only to wonder how he should do it.

"Is this a self-checkout?" Clovis asked while looking at the onion, not finding anything to scan. He grabbed the scanner while pointing it at the onion. "Where do I scan it?"

Surprisingly, a beeping sound echoed in his ear as the computer screen showed that he bought an onion for 5 coins.

After that, the screen appeared again.

[Buy the registered items?]

[Yes/No]

Clovis carefully tapped the 'Yes,' and the computer let out another *beep* sound, startling him. The computer screen was reset, and the onion disappeared.

The screen was updated with a display of onions. There were a few empty slots, which might be for other items in the future.

And at the bottom of the screen, he saw a 'Return' button. Once he tapped on it, the scenery before his eyes began to disappear. The darkness filled his vision for a second before the rain poured on him once again.

"Woah?!" Clovis's heart skipped a beat. "Was that another dimension? I have to visit that place every day and take advantage of all the items there to get stronger. But I might be so busy in the Subterranean World that I couldn't go there. No, what if someone saw me disappear?"

"This mall is a double-edged sword. I have to be careful using it, and it's clear that I can't group up with people. Well, that's not a problem. I do still want to have a group, but no one wants to party with a useless person who only has a 15% evolution rate. I should question them if they have hidden intentions if they invite me."

Clovis sighed while grabbing the two swords on the ground. He took out his phone and ordered takeout. "Well, we're talking about onions. Since I can't afford cooking oil, I should just eat it raw with a noodle dish."

His demeanor seemed to have calmed down.

While waiting for the takeout, Clovis was changing his clothes while testing a few things about this mysterious power.

"How do I take out the onion? System? Hello? Bonjour?!" Clovis tilted his head in confusion. "How do I enter that mall—!"

When he mentioned the word 'mall,' the screen flashed before his eyes.

[Another World Mall.]

[Inventory: Onion x1]

[Enter]

"Oh? That word is the trigger." Clovis was quite curious about it, so he touched the 'Enter' button, but nothing happened. "It seems that I can't enter the mall. Ah, I almost forgot!"

Clovis hurriedly checked out his wallet and noticed that his money was still there.

"Hmm, the money remains. If I return with this amount of money... I don't think it's going to show 17 coins again. So, the same money might not be able to be used again. What

about credit cards? Debit? I can only test it one at a time," Clovis sighed, trying to list a lot of things to explore in the mall.

Of course, he also cut up the onion and put it on the noodle.

As soon as he ate everything, Clovis hurriedly opened the system, which ended up putting a smile on his face.

Name: Clovis Hacfield

Tier: 0

Evolution Rate: 15%

Brain: 0%

Heart: 0%

Blood: 0%

Muscle: 0.5%

Bones: 0%

"The effect is more amazing because it bypasses the evolution rate. In other words, the effect that I read in the description would reflect the actual change instead of being converted by the evolution rate."

Clovis pumped his fist. "In that case, let's get some money and visit the Subterranean World within three days."

[Another World Mall #Chapter 3 Becoming an Explorer - Read Another World Mall Chapter 3 Becoming an Explorer](#)

Subterranean Explorer Union.

This was the place Clovis visited yesterday to awaken his natural talent. This organization was built under the arrangement of the World Union after the attack from the subterranean creatures.

It managed everything from the awakening to the record of the explorers. It was also the one who built the elevator that would lead them to the subterranean world.

Clovis had changed into a shirt and covered it with a jacket. On his back was a long case containing all his weapons.

The receptionist was a man in his early thirties. His reputation had been spread from mouth to mouth.

"I want to register as an explorer," said Clovis with a calm tone.

The man didn't think much about it since it was his official job. He simply asked Clovis to hand over his ID card, which had information about his evolution rate. But that made him furrow his eyebrows.

The minimum evolution rate that was permitted legally was 30%, so the fact that Clovis wanted to register with his 15% meant that he wanted to use another method.

When his gaze returned to Clovis, he saw Clovis' hand putting a 100-dollar bill on the table, sneakily pushing it toward the guy.

The guy understood what Clovis wanted and sneakily slid down the money before processing the explorer's identification on the chip of his ID card.

This was the requirement if Clovis wanted to use the elevator.

Though, he had done another experiment with this one hundred dollar bill.

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A few hours ago.

After ransacking his own house and finding things that he could sell. Clovis instantly went to the market to sell the furniture.

He hurried back to his house after getting the money. He sat on his bed while saying, "Mall!"

As soon as the screen appeared, he pressed 'enter' to go back to the other world mall.

"Mall!" Clovis called it again, showing his status.

[Name: Clovis Hacfield.]

[Membership: None]

[Money: 112 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Item Limit: 1/Visit]

[Visit: 0(1)/Day]

"As expected, the amount of money I possess has increased. Since I have a limited entry every day, I don't want to do a weird test like using a card for now. And thanks to the one hundred dollars that I got from selling a table and a pair of chairs, I can finally pay for my membership." Clovis had thought a lot about this mall after the first visit.

There were a few things he understood from the data he got. First of all, the money he used here wouldn't affect his real money. However, that money would be registered.

He didn't know how this 'Another World Mall' registered it, but he used two dollars to buy the noodles yesterday with a five-dollar bill. However, the three-dollar change didn't seem to be registered in this mall.

In other words, the money that had been registered here couldn't be used again in any form. So, he had to legitimately earn money through a different source.

At the same time, he didn't bring another five-dollar bill among the previous money he had. This way, he understood that everything that had been registered here would be permanently recorded. He was unsure whether the money was registered once it reached his hand or not. After all, he might have to use the money he earned first before entering this mall in the future.

With this concept, Clovis had decided not to buy the membership for a moment.

Unfortunately, he couldn't sell more furniture since it had been attached to the floor, wall, and ceiling and required time and effort to find a buyer for those items.

If he spent this money right away, he realized that he wouldn't have enough money to buy the items. Hence, it was better to earn a bit more money first before purchasing the membership.

Clovis grabbed another onion with that in mind and returned to reality.

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After that experiment, Clovis headed straight to the union to process his explorer identification.

"It's done. You can use it now." The man handed back the ID card.

"Give him access to the Gold Class Map." Suddenly, a heavy voice echoed in their ears. Both the receptionist and Clovis trembled as they both turned their heads, finding a muscular man standing next to them.

'When did he...' Clovis sucked a cold breath. When their gazes met, Clovis felt an immeasurable pressure that made it feel like he was standing in front of a lion and just waiting for the lion to devour him.

"Sir... Tavish..." The receptionist was shaking in fear.

"Give him access to the Gold Class Map for two months. I believe that is enough for that one hundred dollars you received from him." The man called Tavish glared at the receptionist, not receiving 'no' for an answer.

"Y-yes!" The receptionist brought back the ID card to be upgraded.

On the other hand, Clovis was stunned by the mention of 'Gold Class Map.' What kind of thing was the Gold Class Map? It was a special map that was made by a private organization.

There were three classes for the subterranean map: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The Bronze Map was made by the community and government's good will to show the general map of the area as well as the possible beasts residing in it.

The Silver Map was created by the government for military purposes. It was classified, so not many people had this type of map. Meanwhile, the Gold Class Map was made and updated by a private organization.

This organization bought information from explorers at a high price and updated their map. This meant their map contained new information about the beasts, the change in the terrain, or even a sudden investigation.

Of course, the subscription to this map was extremely expensive. A hundred dollars for a Gold Class Map? Even a hundred times of that was still not enough for a one-month subscription.

That was why he felt this kindness should have a hidden intention.

"Who are you?" Clovis asked carefully.

"You idiot. Don't you know him? He is the president of the Lion Mercenary Group, Gregory MacTavish."

He didn't know about this person. And there was no need for such a high-level person to be kind to an unknown guy with a 15% evolution rate. So, Clovis was rather suspicious.

"Once it's done..." Gregory pointed at the hall behind the receptionist that led to the elevator. It seemed he wanted to say something.

Clovis didn't understand, but the receptionist processed it as quickly as possible. When he observed this Gregory guy, he noticed that not a single person was actually looking at him.

Despite his reckless action, it appeared that he hid his presence so that he could come out here without any attention.

He still couldn't think of a reason why such a person would want to talk to him.

"This is your card." The receptionist gave the card as well as the money Clovis gave earlier, afraid that Gregory would use that to take him down.

However, Clovis only grabbed the card as he said, "As he said, that money is used to buy the service."

That action looked foolish since he barely had the money for himself, but Clovis only wanted to maintain the little integrity he had left.

As soon as he was done, Clovis had the option to turn around and run away. But after considering the opposite party's identity, he believed it wasn't a good option.

Gregory made a small smile as though he knew how Clovis behaved. He said, "As expected of that person's grandson."

"Do you know my grandfather?" Clovis furrowed his eyebrows.

"He saved me twenty years ago. To think that your grandfather would go missing and your city would be attacked with no news about your parents. I'm sure you're suspicious of me, so I will just say it right away. Consider that gold map as repayment for saving my life. I couldn't repay your grandfather, but I could give it to you.

Unfortunately, I couldn't give you anything else due to the restriction of our identities."

"..." Clovis fell silent. He preferred money after knowing the ability of the mall. But the fact that he mentioned his own identity was related to his parents and grandfather's special identities. The transaction could easily be tracked. However, there was another option, which was cold, hard cash. Clovis said, "Thank you for the warning."

"I guess you are truly a Hacfield." Gregory grinned. "Remember these three things. First, don't show the Gold Map to everyone, even if you're trying to earn money. People will definitely steal it from you. Second, don't trust your neighbors and the Eagle Group. Last but not least, don't sell your house."

Clovis realized that his neighborhood must have several people watching him. They might not do anything to see if he was a threat or not. But he didn't understand the third warning since he thought he should hide himself and sell the house to fund the Another World Mall. It appeared that the house had something special that he wasn't aware of.

Gregory stepped back and said, "That's all I can do to repay your grandfather. I don't think I will be able to protect you from here on, but I believe that you are also a Hacfield."

Clovis politely nodded. "Thank you."

Gregory smiled before turning around. He walked away while waving his hand as if he hadn't done anything.

Clovis's expression turned grim. The gift was indeed helpful, but he didn't know whether it would be safe for him or not.

Of course, he thought about the potential of others stealing it from him, but more importantly, he was suspicious of Gregory personally.

He warned him about his neighborhood, but he didn't mention their names.

'Either way, none of them seem to be making their moves yet and are probably observing me. Should I show that I have no talent? But...' Clovis let out a long sigh. 'This is why I have some different opinions from Grandfather. Gregory was simply repaying my grandfather's kindness, but if Grandfather had a close group of allies, it would be better to protect the family.'

I will become an explorer, but I also want a comrade who can grow alongside me.'

Clovis took a deep breath before heading to the elevator. He knew that no matter how he suspected them, he couldn't find out the truth or oppose them. So, it was better to focus on getting stronger first.

The elevator itself was a large platform that had been built to cross the tunnel. It could only be used several times a day because of the large consumption of power and the time they needed to reach the bottom.

After the call from the staff, Clovis hurriedly entered the elevator and couldn't help but look around when the elevator began to move.

The cave wasn't straight down since it would be impossible for the beasts underground to climb. That was why the government built the path accordingly.

The tunnel itself was about fifteen meters in diameter. A four-story building would definitely be able to enter this tunnel.

Unfortunately, there was nothing he could see other than a dark tunnel with minimal light.

It took them almost thirty minutes to reach the other side, which mesmerized even Clovis.

He had heard about the subterranean world from his grandfather. The ceiling reached as high as three hundred meters. It was so high that the cloud was able to form.

Instead of sunlight, there were supposed to be multiple giant crystals that shone brightly and lit up a large area. According to the scientist, the crystal absorbed the sunlight above the ground as there were multiple crystals that actually emerged on the surface.

These crystals were the ones responsible for the day and night of this world.

'So, this is the subterranean world.' Clovis couldn't help but smile, thinking this would be the time for his adventure.

[Another World Mall #Chapter 4 Saber-toothed Tiger - Read](#) [Another World Mall Chapter 4 Saber-toothed Tiger](#)

'So, this is the subterranean world,' said Clovis in amusement while looking around. This city had been built after humans invaded back as a base to protect the people on the surface.

When he looked back, he realized that there was a giant stone pillar leading to the sky. Its diameter seemed to be more than a hundred meters, far bigger than the tunnel. It was probably to make the beast or the human destroy this pillar.

In fact, the humans had dropped a hydrogen bomb to cut the connection, but destroying the tunnel was similar to destroying a meteorite. The materials were also so hard that they couldn't even mine them.

This base had been built with this pillar as the center. Clovis could see a tall steel wall on the horizon with a lot of weaponry at the top.

There were a lot of explorer groups establishing their headquarters here. The base was also filled with a lot of utility buildings and shops just like in a normal city.

Once stepping out of the elevator, their identities were checked to ensure the safety of the base. Only after everyone was checked were they allowed to leave. The people who wanted to return to the surface would be the ones to go next.

While walking down the street, Clovis thought, 'Now that I've arrived here, where should I go? Checking the map to find a good place to hunt should be the first thing, so...'

Clovis looked around and entered a public toilet. He took out a hand-sized device and inserted his ID card from the bottom. The device was activated and showed multiple tabs.

The purpose of having the ID card as the basis of everything was so that anyone who found a person's corpse outside the base could bring it back and report it to the military so that it was easier to change the status of the people. A lot of people never did it, whether it was due to annoyance or simply because they murdered them.

As expected of the Gold Class Map, as soon as he accessed it, the map immediately expanded. The humans in this base had explored about one hundred kilometers in all directions. While it looked small compared to the world, the exploration was hard since there were beasts looming around.

It also contained the information about those beasts that had been neatly compiled.

Unknown areas meant they wouldn't know if those beasts were strong or not.

'I think I can go to the west of this base. There are a lot of Tier 0 Beasts in this area.' Clovis muttered inwardly.

Without hesitation, he stored everything in the weapon's bag and started heading west. Once again, the military confirmed the explorer's identification before allowing Clovis to leave the city.

"The process is quite smooth," Clovis murmured while taking out the weapon from his case. He put on the gun holster for his pistol, wore the bracelet that was connected to his short sword, and held the long sword on his other hand.

With this, he was ready to go. He looked foolish at first glance, but the reason why Clovis went alone was because he didn't think he would find any group that would take in a 15% explorer like him. Even if they did, he would be looked down on, and his share wouldn't be good.

So, rather than wasting his time, he chose to go alone, even if it was more dangerous.

After walking for two kilometers, Clovis finally entered the dangerous zone. He raised both weapons, focusing on both his eyes and ears to pick up any movement.

Because he had just awakened, he didn't dare to go too far from the base. This area was covered with trees and wild grass. However, the trees had been thinned a bit, so people had an easier time spotting a beast.

Suddenly, Clovis heard the cracking sound of a branch. When his gaze followed the sound, he saw a beast resembling that of a tiger. It had distinctively long, curved canine teeth that extended to 7 cm in length.

Its robust build and sharp teeth made it look like a formidable carnivore.

He was pretty lucky that he managed to find this creature before it found him.

'If I'm not wrong, this tiger is a Saber-toothed Tiger. But if it wanders around here, it should only be a Tier 0 Saber-toothed Tiger. It should be quite young,' thought Clovis while moving toward it.

He imagined the tiger's movement when it noticed him, coming up with a counter.

When he was about five meters away from the tiger, Clovis abruptly stopped, not out of fear but because the Saber-toothed Tiger had entered his range.

The pistol might be an easy solution, but if he caused too much noise, the other beasts might pick it up and swarm him. And the special bullets to take down these beasts were quite expensive, so he chose to use his swords to kill this tiger.

Before the tiger noticed him, Clovis threw the short sword at the tiger's abdomen in a swift and precise manner, almost piercing through the tiger's body.

"!!!" The tiger let out a pained groan, trying to see the attacker. Clovis, however, had rushed to the tiger and swiftly hit the tiger's big fangs with all his momentum.

The sword cracked the teeth, and the momentum ended up knocking the tiger's head in the opposite direction. Then, he pulled the chain attached to his short sword with perfect strength, causing the short sword to land right on his left hand.

These were the weapons he had played with since childhood, so he had a good sense of how much strength he should put in.

As soon as he got his short sword back, Clovis impaled the tiger's neck from above. The pain made the tiger's feet weak.

Clovis took this chance to push down the tiger and swiftly cut the tiger's neck with a fast and ruthless strike.

But Clovis had still underestimated the robustness of the saber-toothed tiger. When it fell down, it shook its body so that Clovis, who was still holding his short sword, would sway to the side.

After Clovis missed his neck, the tiger's head turned around with its mouth wide open. It was ready to riptake Clovis's arm apart with those giant teeth.

Clovis had to let go of the short sword once again and took a step back. The chain kept expanding again until he pulled out the short sword after reaching a safe distance.

Before the tiger could stand back up, Clovis threw the short sword right at the tiger's head, only to have the tiger open its mouth. If the tiger managed to get the short sword, it could pull Clovis in with its strength. Hence, Clovis seized the opportunity to pull the short sword back.

The short sword was just a distraction. After the tiger's eyes focused on the short sword, Clovis approached the tiger and struck its neck.

The tiger managed to move fast enough to put its teeth in the sword's path, but this time, the sword actually shattered the giant tooth and cut a portion of its mouth.

Clovis cut the tiger head with a fierce stab from below before the sword severed its neck.

The tiger's blood splashed to the side, dyeing the ground red.

"Hu..." Clovis let out a breath of relief. While swinging his blade to splash the blood on the blades, Clovis thought excitedly, 'I can defeat a Tier 0 beast. While it's hard at first, once I get more comfortable with life-and-death combat, I can swiftly kill a Tier 0 beast.'

The path that was blurry at first suddenly lit up, showing the possibility.

He took out a syringe from his bag, inserted a small tube, and stabbed the tiger's body. The syringe let out a beeping sound before it began extracting a reddish green liquid from the tiger's body.

"I don't know how much I can get from a single beast, but I should sell this first and get enough money to buy the mall's membership. Those items aren't affected by my evolution rate after all."

After a minute, the green light on the syringe turned red. It looked like he managed to get 10 ml of essence from this tiger alone. After wiping the needle with a small towel, he put everything back into his bag.

"Alright. Each tube can contain 50 ml of essence. My aim for today should be ten tubes. This should be enough to fund everything I need for the next two days." Clovis looked to the front, ready to hunt another beast.

Roar!

Roar!

The groans of a dying tiger continuously rang in the forest, giving Clovis more and more confidence. He pushed through the woods with his brute force alone.

...

In the opposite direction of the base, a brown-haired guy quietly waved his saber, killing one beast after another.

"Tsk. Those people are useless. They can't even handle these beasts and run away?!" The guy let out a long sigh. "I guess I should have just gone alone in the first place. It's not like there's anyone that can match me."

As someone who was born into a good family, he had been showered with all kinds of training and talent that normal people wouldn't have.

However, living with that kind of family was also suffocating. The people's gazes were filled with expectations, wanting him to be a great person in the future.

Once he saw a talented person, their greed was bound to come out and it felt like his life wasn't his anymore.

In the end, he ran away from home. Even if he was bound to become someone strong in the future, he wanted to do it in a way he enjoyed.

Unfortunately, after entering the hunting area, his party couldn't keep up. Even a Tier 0 beast was too much for them to handle. On the other hand, he could kill a beast in less than thirty seconds.

To avoid being taken advantage of by those people, he decided to speed up the hunts, causing those people to be exhausted and forcing them to retire. This way, he could haul everything he hunted for himself.

Unbeknownst to him, his action led to an encounter that could only be described as fate.

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"Huu... It seems that I have done enough for today." Clovis panted a few times, looking back. He had killed more than thirty tigers despite the fact that he had just awakened not long ago.

"I have gathered about 300 ml of essence. The beasts will definitely take over this area soon and devour the remains, so I have to retreat soon before this area is filled with them."

While it was true that he could still continue, he wasn't someone who would just disregard his safety.

Roar!

Roar!

He had been hearing a loud noise in the forest as well, so Clovis immediately ran back to the base.

He had two destinations in mind. The first place would be none other than a cheap hotel to get some rest. The second place was Essence Bank. It was the best place if he wanted to sell or buy essence. While he would get less than selling essence in the black market, he didn't need to worry about thieves or scammers.

He asked the town's guard for a place to stay for the night before making his way to the Essence Bank.

"So, this is the building.' Clovis muttered while raising his head. It was a ten-story building near the elevator. A lot of people were coming and leaving.

However, there was something that piqued his interest. One group, in particular, seemed to be in an argument.

"We were not trying to take advantage of you."

"That's right. We weren't scared earlier. We just planned a safe retreat before ambushing the beasts."

All of them seemed to be apologizing to a man the same age as Clovis. The man himself looked pissed as though he had made his point clear and wanted to leave, while the rest of the group tried to buy more time until he forgave them.

Then again, the subterranean world was brutal. If they weren't careful, one might lose their life in one way or another. The worst-case scenario would be a betrayal of the group, and this seemed to be the case for that group.

If not for the fact that he was strong, he might have died outside the base. So, it wasn't wrong for him to get angry. This was also the reason why Clovis had to be careful when choosing his future teammates. He wanted a strong group that grew together with him, not only to make the trip safer, but also to protect the people he loved when he wasn't around.

'I should just mind my own business.' Clovis shook his head and started walking toward the building.

At the same time, the young man seemed to notice Clovis's gaze earlier and couldn't help but glance at him. Just like what happened to him earlier, Clovis seemed to be someone who preferred going solo.

And more importantly, they seemed to be of the same age. The fact that Clovis went to the Essence Bank meant he wanted to sell or buy essence. If it were the former, Clovis should possess a considerable amount of skill.

While he wanted to follow him to confirm his theory, he had to ditch these people first.

"Welcome to the Essence Bank. Is there anything I can help you with?" A receptionist asked.

"I want to sell Tier 0 Saber-toothed Tiger's essence. What is the price here?" Clovis asked.

"For Saber-toothed Tiger, the price is 1 union dollar for one ml of essence. But if you have a mixed essence, we can only pay you 60 cents for the fee of separating them."

'A very cheap price after risking my life. Then again, it's only a Tier 0 beast. I can kill a lot of them and profit from everything by going solo. I guess I should be satisfied with this price.' Clovis muttered inwardly.

The only question on his mind was: how much essence should he sell? On the one hand, he had to think about the membership and the item from the 'Another World Mall.' On the other hand, he had to consider using the essence for himself. While his evolution rate was low, it wasn't like he could depend on the Another World Mall for everything.

"I want to sell 200 ml. They are pure." Clovis took out four tubes of essence and handed them to the receptionist.

"Please allow me to check it first." The receptionist politely bowed before bringing the tubes into the machines. Because each beast only produced a little bit of essence, even a single drop was precious. That was why they had their specialized equipment to ensure that not a single drop remained.

Even the tubes Clovis had were from his grandfather, which he claimed to be made of special material that didn't absorb essence.

The machine actually showed 209 ml since Clovis wasn't precise when utilizing the device.

The machine separated the 9 ml of essence in front of Clovis and stored the 200 ml in another container.

"We have definitely received 200 ml of Tier 0 Saber-toothed Tiger. May I have your ID card to transfer the money?"

"Can you give me cash?" Clovis asked, thinking this was the best choice since he didn't know whether the money in his account would be registered or not.

"Definitely." He nodded and took out 200 union dollars along with the receipt. "This is 200 dollars for 200 ml of Tier 0 Saber-toothed Tiger."

"Thank you."

Now that he has finished his business, he should get a room and purchase the mall's membership tomorrow before hunting again.

Surprisingly, the guy, who had a problem earlier, had just entered the Essence Bank. Their gazes met.

Clovis didn't think much since he was just a random person, but the other party was quite curious about Clovis. Unfortunately, he couldn't tell what Clovis did since he had just entered.

In the end, their meeting was cut short since Clovis simply walked away.

The motel the guard recommended was actually a bit far from the elevator. The price was slightly higher compared to other motels, but it was quite safe. The town guard might recommend this because he saw Clovis going solo and pitied him.

"Welcome." A young girl instantly greeted him the moment the door was opened.

Clovis glanced at the interior. He thought it would be a shady place, but the interior was surprisingly quite good. He could see some explorers eating and drinking at the bar.

"Staying or dining?"

"Staying." Clovis had decided to stay in this place after seeing the interior. "How much does the room cost?"

"It costs 40 dollars per night."

If this was on the surface, a motel like this would only cost half of it. Then again, he had to consider safety and location. In the end, he nodded his head and took out the money earlier, saying, "One night please."

He wanted to stay for a bit longer, but he wanted to register the money first before spending it.

"Certainly." The girl led him to the receptionist, processed the necessity, and gave him a key. "Your room is on the third floor."

"Thanks." Clovis made a polite smile and immediately headed to his room. Unfortunately, he couldn't check his mall right away, and it wasn't like he could just stay without doing anything.

After getting some food, Clovis began training. The room was extremely small, so he had no way of moving his body.

However, his grandfather once taught him a training method.

He stood in the small, open space with both swords in hand. Then, he closed his eyes.

...

Seven years ago.

"What are you doing, Clovis? It's already late, so you should sleep."

"But Grandpa..." Clovis looked down, hesitant to say what was on his mind. "...moving like this is pretty nice. Besides, I want to get stronger too! Even if I can't awaken yet, I want to have as much fighting skill as possible."

His grandfather made a wry smile. While he didn't really mind, Clovis was still a kid, so sleeping actually provided better development for his body, especially since it was about midnight soon.

"In any case, you should sleep instead of moving your body around. Your muscles are crying in pain right now. If you want to train, then I can give you a method that allows you to train."

"Really? But Grandpa might be lying to me and just want me to sleep."

"How can you suspect me? There's no way Grandpa will lie to my precious grandson. It's simple, so you should learn it easily, but promise me you're going to bed after knowing it."

"Alright."

"Close your eyes."

Once Clovis closed his eyes, his grandfather began instructing him.

"Now imagine me standing in front of you, and you're going to defeat me. What do you think you will do?"

"Grandpa is always calm and definitely won't come after me, so I have to approach you first and swing my blade."

"In that case, once you swing your blade, what will I do?"

"Grandpa..." Clovis paused for a moment. In his imagination, his grandfather actually raised his sword and struck him from above.

"You are going to hit my head, so..." Clovis pictured himself raising his sword to block his attack. But then, his imagination went wild as his grandfather actually became a bit faster. His sword moved like a snake and avoided contact before hitting him on the waist. "...ugh!"

Instead of continuing, Clovis actually covered his waist with his hand.

"It seems that you can imagine it perfectly. This is the training method. I want you to continue imagining our battle. What I can do is only limited to your imagination, but I will also provide you with some basic moves tomorrow so that you can have more vivid images. Instead of fighting me, you can also think of me as a beast.

What they will do, how they're going to respond to your movement, and how you're going to kill them."

"Oh?!" Clovis nodded profusely, thinking he had just learned something. His grandfather had always been his idol after all, so Clovis believed everything that his grandfather told him.

"You can also use this to train your basics. Instead of imagining one amazing swing, you should do a hundred normal swings. Get used to that feeling. This is the basics of image training."

"Amazing!" Clovis's eyes brightened.

"Hehe. Now, you have to fulfill your promise. Let's go to bed."

"Un!" Clovis nodded furiously.

...

"Huu..." Clovis let out a long breath, feeling a bit tired. Making a vivid image took a toll on his mind, but this training allowed him to create a lot of possibilities on how to defeat the tiger if he hunted them again tomorrow.

Once it was midnight, he hurriedly called, "Mall!"

The screen panel appeared once again as he could finally purchase the membership.

He didn't know that he would get a good surprise from the 'Another World Mall.'