

## **World Mall 101**

### Chapter 101 Fighting the Terrorists

"No. Please don't kill us!" A man was pleading for the people behind him, who seemed to be his wife and son.

"Shut up!" The terrorist punched him while dragging him out. "Hurry up and join the others!"

"Mama..." The boy was crying while the wife was too scared to speak. She just hugged the young boy so that he didn't see much.

In the end, the entire family was dragged outside until they reached the group of people the terrorists had gathered.

However, everything changed the moment they joined together with the rest of the hostages.

Suddenly, a man's voice echoed from the second floor. "Stop! Do you know that what you are doing is wrong, terrorists?"

"!!!" The Tier 4 captain raised his head, looking at Ran on the second floor's bridge.

All the other terrorists had also raised their weapons, aiming at him. All of them were ready to shoot.

However, the terrorist captain felt that this wannabe hero was another Tier 4 human like him. In other words, this battle would definitely become tricky.

Still, one thing made the terrorists think they could win this. Even though Ran was a Tier 4 human, it didn't appear he was a smart one.

After all, he should have known that ambushing the enemies would be much better than just showing up like this. At least he could eliminate a few people first.

"To think there is a Tier 4 human in this place..." The terrorist captain smirked while pointing his finger at him. "Don't be afraid. As long as we have enough people, we can kill him."

All the terrorists had a resolute expression and started moving forward.

"Then, you shall fight me here." Ran harrumphed.

"This is why I hate the justice bastard. You all are idiots." The terrorist captain laughed while sending his people forth.

\*Bang!\*

\*Bang!\*

The terrorists began to shoot Ran from the first floor, but to their surprise, Ran simply raised his coat to block all the bullets.

The glasses shattered, the metal was punctured, yet the coat remained intact as if it were made of something more durable than steel.

"What?" The terrorists were shocked, but the captain simply said, "It doesn't matter. Surround him. That coat won't be able to protect him from all directions."

The terrorists then formed a position as they made their way toward the dead escalators. They continued shooting Ran to provide cover fire so that Ran wouldn't be able to attack them.

Once they reached a certain store, someone suddenly broke out the window.

"!!!" The terrorists widened their eyes in shock, but it was already too late. The only thing they could see was a man sending their heads flying with a long sword.

There were at least four of them dying from a single slash.

"Shoot—" The terrorists tried to change their focus, but Jacksie cut down two more people before a Tier 2 terrorist took out a knife and charged at him.

"You bastard!" The Tier 2 terrorist tried to stab Jacksie, but the latter lowered his weapon and blocked the dagger with the body of the sword. He even raised a similar coat that protected Ran from the bullets the terrorists shot.

The Tier 2 terrorist immediately got away so that he didn't get hit.

Meanwhile, the terrorists from the other side were coming toward him. Even the captain was fuming in anger. He was glaring at Ran, who actually bluffed his way out of this.

"Oops. It's not me. It's us." Ran smirked while jumping off the second floor to stop these terrorists from helping their comrades.

"You motherfucker!" The captain jumped toward Ran and swung his giant sword before Ran could land on the ground. In fact, his swing was so powerful that Ran was launched back to the second floor.

Ran skillfully grabbed the railing and stabilized himself, but the captain had jumped once again.

Ran's choice of weapon was actually a spear. He managed to stop the first attack, but the captain now had all his momentum and waved that big sword at him.

"Haaa!" The captain roared and smashed Ran with everything he had.

To Ran's surprise, the big sword actually bent the spear.

"A Tier 3 spear can't stop it?" Ran muttered before he tried to kick the captain from the right.

However, the terrorist captain immediately changed his stance and completed his swing, smashing his sword to the ground.

Ran abruptly stopped his kick or that sword would have cut his foot. More importantly, the swing was so strong that it actually left a small crater on the floor. If this continued, the bridge might collapse after a few swings.

Ran skillfully grabbed the bent spear and made a couple of thrusts.

The terrorist's captain easily blocked them, but Ran never intended to fight the captain head on.

With a single blink of an eye, Ran's vision suddenly changed. It felt like the world had become a simulation, and he could see the world from an omniscient point of view.

Even though his vision was blocked by the floor, he could actually see Jacksie being suppressed by all those bullets from the terrorists. If this continued, the bullets might pierce through that coat.

Ran suddenly grabbed a grenade from his back as though he wanted to blast the terrorist captain with this one. Even if a Tier 4 human could survive the blast, it would still hurt him.

Seeing this grenade, the captain took a step back but soon realized that he had fallen into his trick.

Ran tossed the grenade to the first floor, specifically in the middle of the terrorists.

"!!!" Jacksie definitely saw that grenade and immediately jumped back. Meanwhile, the terrorists were still confused as to what happened.

"Get down!" The Tier 2 humans had higher reaction speed, so they shouted while throwing themselves away.

\*Boom!\*

The grenade hit seven people, of whom two died on the spot while the other five sustained quite a lot of injuries.

Seeing this opening made Jacksie feel delighted. This was the sign of their counterattack.

Chapter 102 Decision

While they were fighting, they didn't realize that Kanaria was observing them, especially Ran.

'What? How is he able to throw that grenade? Is he using prediction and speculation? But the placement of that grenade is so perfect...' Kanaria gasped, not understanding what had happened.

However, she couldn't help but remember what her mother once said.

"Your mother can see or you could say simulate everything around me in my brain. In fact, I can see all our servants in this mansion right now thanks to my senses."

"Is that true? Then, is there a maid in that room?" Kanaria just chose a random room.

"There is one." Vania nodded, confirming it.

Not believing her mother, she couldn't help but open the door quietly and take a peek at the room, finding a butler inside.

Kanaria opened her mouth in surprise. "You are right. There is a person inside... How do you know? No, wait. You are wrong. It's not a maid, but a butler!"

Vania gave her a wry smile. "Even though I can see them, it doesn't mean I know all the details, like the contour of their bodies. But I definitely know they are there. If I had that kind of ability, I would have gone to someone's house and... never mind. What the hell am I teaching you?"

"Don't tell me, you're going to that person you always talk about?" Kanaria looked impressed by her dedication.

"Well, this is the power of a high level explorer. I don't know what power you have, but it's said that someone with my power can actually sense everything within a one kilometer radius."

"Wow..."

Kanaria was impressed at that time, but when she saw how accurately Ran threw his grenade, she realized that he was able to see those terrorists.

It was clear that, by sharpening her senses even further, she would be able to do something like this. And Jacksie could easily be singled out among those people, so it wasn't that hard to actually find which one was him.

'According to Clovis's father, the Star Method will allow me to access that power much faster... I see, so that's how it is. My perception is much higher as a Tier 1 human, so if I keep training in that method, I should be able to do the same. It might not be that far, but I should be able to sense everything within 10 meters around me.'

Kanaria thought all of this in her mind since she knew that Ran might be able to hear her. In fact, if Ran were the bad guy, she would have been located by him.

While observing the fight, Vina seemed to spot her.



"Kanaria?" Vina looked surprised that Kanaria was still inside the mall.

"!!!" Kanaria raised her eyebrows. Although they were opponents in the past, Vina was pretty much neutral. So, she couldn't help but ask, "Why are you here?"

Vina decided to briefly explain the situation to her.

"So... we are supposed to fight them?" Kanaria's expression turned dark. "I don't think we have the ability to do it."

"No. We are just buying some time until the reinforcement from the government arrives. They are for some reason gathering the hostages, so we are going to cooperate with the people from the government to rescue them."

Kanaria looked down, contemplating.

"There are also people that need rescue." Kanaria frowned. "Let me ask Clovis first."

Vina agreed.

"Clovis. We have a situation here." Kanaria briefly explained the situation.

Clovis didn't expect that they were engaging the enemies. Clovis thought for a moment before asking, "Melody. How about the search and rescue operation?"

"We have received word that all the firefighters in the area have been dispatched. They are also forming a volunteer group right now."

"How about the hostage rescue?"

"Four Tier 3 humans and two Tier 4 humans are the rescue group due to the fact that the enemy has Tier 4 humans as well."

It looked like they would have no problem rescuing the hostage, but if they helped rescue the hostage, those people could immediately help defeat the Tier 4 terrorist.

"Can Vina use guns?" Clovis asked.

Kanaria looked at Vina, who later shook her head and said, "I can't. If I have to fight, the only thing I can do is hold the shield and become the bait. There are plenty of shields in this place that can block their bullets."

"Got it." Clovis thought for a moment. "In that case, you two can grab the weapons to engage with the terrorists and stand by near the hostages. Once the rescue squad is about to arrive, we will go to your position and get ready."

"So, we'll cooperate with their squad?"

"Yes. For now, observe them as much as possible. But don't get too close."

"Got it." Kanaria nodded with a serious expression. Their course of action had been decided.

Although rescuing the people was their priority, dealing with these terrorists would save more people.

Kanaria and Vina immediately worked together. Vina finally realized why Kanaria's group was able to defeat theirs. Clovis made a much more rational decision than Ivan. If this were Ivan, his priority would be to engage the enemies without waiting for the rescue squad to arrive.

Clovis knew that terrorists were much more dangerous than beasts because of guns. This was pretty much true for low level explorers like them. Once they reached the level of Ran or the terrorist captain, bullets were pretty much useless unless there were special type guns.

And Vina had no reason to object to Clovis's decision.

Meanwhile, Clovis turned to Melody while saying, "We are going to rescue as many people here as possible. Once we get the word, we will immediately head back to help with the hostages."

"Got it. I have told them about it, and I can act as the operator on site."

"Good. For now, we have to focus on this job." Clovis nodded with a serious face. They had rescued the mother and daughter pair along with two more people, so Clovis wanted to get at least ten more people before leaving.

#### Chapter 103 Temptation

"By the way, do you want to join my group?" Clovis asked while carrying an unconscious person.

"You are asking it at a time like this?" Melody looked at Clovis in disbelief. She had never thought Clovis would still have the audacity to ask her in this situation.

However, there was a reason why Clovis chose this timing. Melody had worked extremely hard today and because the electricity turned off after the explosion, it was pretty hot inside.

So Melody's t-shirt was drenched in sweat.

And this was why Clovis took out the ring he had prepared. He had grabbed this ring from the mall's inventory before all this happened and hid it in his pocket.

The moment she saw the ring, Melody's expression became disgusted. "Are you kidding me? In this situation?"

There was only one instance where a man usually gave a ring to a woman. And Melody was disgusted by the thought alone. It seemed that she had judged Clovis wrongly.

"It seems that you misunderstand me. If you join me, I'm planning to give you this ring. This ring is special as it can only be created by my family. You will understand the effect once you wear it." Clovis sighed. "If you still want to misunderstand me after that, feel free."

Melody wanted to say a lot of things, but they were in no position to quarrel. So, Melody thought she would do it if this was just a trick from Clovis.

When she grabbed it, she didn't notice any change. However, the ring had to be put on a finger, so she just chose her right index finger as a test.

In that instant, her opinions about Clovis changed.

"This is..." Melody gasped. She could feel the chilling breeze that shrouded her entire body instead of blowing like a wind. It was as if she were in a room with the AC turned on.

And if she could feel this cool just by wearing a ring, it was a small price to pay. The ring would hinder her aim, but it could be solved by simply putting the ring on a different finger.

Because it was a ring, it was quite hard to fall off as well. If she could get this, it would definitely become easier for her to actually become a mobile operator.

The reason she was too lazy to become one was because the sweat would drench her shirt. While she could choose a different material for her clothes so that when it was wet, it wouldn't really expose her curves, it was still uncomfortable.

The ring might not completely erase that problem, but it would cover most of them.

More importantly, she had never heard anything about this kind of ring ever existing. If there was indeed a magical ring like this, they would become famous.

After all, there might be a different thing that had a special effect, which would be extremely advantageous for an explorer.

And this item was the reason for Melody to come to a conclusion about Clovis's identity.

"I don't think there is anything like this in the world. And if there are special items, I have to first look at the top powers in this world. In other words, the Tier 9 Explorers.

"And it actually suits the fact that your family name has been removed from the official record. Only Tier 9 explorers have the ability to force the highest ranking of government officials to do that.

"Among the ten Tier 9 Explorers in the world, seven of them are pretty straightforward about their businesses. Only three are mysterious. They are Severson, Hacfield, and Li.

"The Severson hasn't done a lot of things in the past couple of years, the Li is too far from this place. On the other hand, the Hacfields has disappeared from the public eye. There are some rumors that they are destroyed, but..." Melody looked at Clovis with a serious expression. "Your full name is Clovis Hacfield, is that right?"

Clovis looked at Melody for a while before saying, "If I reply to that question, will you join my group?"

"..." Melody fell silent for a moment before tossing back the ring.

"Is this a rejection?" Clovis asked again, wanting to confirm her intention.

Melody let out a long sigh, saying, "I'm not sure myself. Maybe if you have some time tomorrow, I want to bring you to a certain place. That's probably where I can decide whether I will join your group or not.

Clovis's expression turned solemn. "In that case, you can use this ring first. We still have a lot of work right now. You can return it to me after we're done."

Melody felt a bit embarrassed by how she needed to take the ring back, but since Clovis extended his hand as if shoving that ring to her, she hurriedly took it.

"Thank you." Melody nodded. Now that she felt cool, it was time to get serious.

Both of them had been moving around to rescue all the survivors they could find. They found twenty people in the span of five minutes.

Melody had done some basic treatment, but they needed to be brought to the hospital soon.

The search and rescue operation most likely wouldn't start unless they eliminated the threat, so both of them were waiting for the call.

"Clovis." Melody raised her eyebrows, getting something from her transmitter. "We have to go."

Clovis took a deep breath before smiling at the survivors. "I'm sorry, but we have to go to defeat the bad guys right now. Please wait for a moment as the rescue squads will come soon. And don't go too far from this place or those bad guys will find you."

The survivors were grateful to Clovis, but they also didn't want him to leave. Unfortunately, Clovis could only ignore them and immediately climbed to the third floor and headed to the hostages.

They had to move fast since the anti-terrorism squad was about to arrive.

Chapter 104 Volunteer

"Alright. What's your report?" A middle-aged man asked. This middle-aged man had brought five other people, all very strong.



They followed Melody's instructions and entered the mall from the top floor so that they could meet up with the group of new explorers to handle the situation.

Melody took out the device and showed them the position they could find from this place. "There are approximately eleven people guarding the hostages. We don't know about their strength."

The middle-aged man thought for a moment. "Alright. We'll take over from here."

His voice was strict as if he didn't take a 'no' for an answer. Most importantly, Melody and the others were civilians, so they shouldn't participate in this risky mission.

However, Clovis raised his hand and said, "I believe that you have to split your force into two."

"Oi..." One of the men stepped forward, glaring at Clovis.

Clovis remained expressionless as if he had expected this rejection, but he still wished for his opinion to be heard.

It seemed that the government had placed the right person in the right position. He waved his hand, asking his subordinate to calm down. "What do you mean?"

"Currently, there are Tier 4 and Tier 3 explorers grabbing the enemy's attention. And you should be able to hear them from here..." Clovis pointed to the side, specifically the source of the gunshots.

"Continue."

"As you might already know, the enemy is Tier 4, so to capture or even prevent a lot of damage to the building, I believe that the Tier 4 people here should eliminate those threats and leave the hostages to the rest of the people here."

"Hoh?" The middle-aged man looked at Clovis in amusement. His words weren't necessarily wrong.

"Captain—" His team wanted to protest, but the middle-aged man stopped him again. "So, what do you propose?"

"I believe that we, weaklings, should be the bait."

"Your reasons?" The middle-aged man became even more interested in Clovis.

"Two reasons. We can pressure them a little bit to force them to show their trump card. And most likely, their members are hiding among those hostages. The moment they reveal their trump card, your team can sweep in. As for the second reason... it's just my speculation, but there is a chance that they have prepared another bomb."

"Hmm..." The middle-aged man fell silent. The bomb was indeed annoying. Since they had exploded once, there was a possibility that the second bomb would be hidden among them.

At the same time, he couldn't deny that there was a high chance that the terrorists would be hiding among the hostages to launch a sneak attack.

"What is your name?" He asked, not expecting that a young man like Clovis would be able to see the situation clearly. This was a quality that an explorer needed to be successful.

"Clovis."

"Alright, Clovis. I understand your concerns, but as much as I want to allow you to participate, civilians have to stay away from this."

"But..." Clovis didn't expect that he would be rejected like this, even though the concern was valid and the plan would give them a huge advantage.

"Like the captain said, piss off, kids. This is not a play. It's a matter of life and death." The guy, who had been stopped earlier, snorted.

But Clovis forgot about one thing. The middle-aged man said, "How unreliable of us if we have to rely on civilians to risk their lives for the sake of completing the mission."

"..." Clovis looked unwilling, but he didn't utter any more words, as if he knew this middle-aged man was the one in charge.

"Still, we can actually reverse our roles." The captain patted Clovis's shoulder.

"Huh?" The guy who snorted earlier widened his eyes in shock.

"We have a way to measure a human's tier. And we have confirmed that there is no one above Tier 1 among those hostages. So, if there is indeed an enemy hidden among them, we can deal with them. However, you can stand by on the second floor and immediately take them down the moment they reveal themselves. What do you think?"

"Captain!" The guy wanted to object, but Clovis thought this was also reasonable.

Clovis nodded. "I understand."

"Good." The captain smiled and said, "If you want to stop being an explorer, you can join my team."

"Wha—" The guy wanted to continue, but his friend covered his mouth and dragged him to the side.  
"We need to be quiet. Come on."

"I'm thankful for your invitation, but I am still too young to give up being an explorer."

"Sure." The middle-aged man smiled before turning to his team. "We will split our team into two. Me and Johan will be ambushing their best people. The rest of you will take care of the hostages."

"Yes, sir."

All of them immediately prepared, leaving Clovis and the others alone. Although they allowed them to participate, the captain obviously planned to eliminate the terrorists without their help.

Clovis immediately came to Kanaria to get his temporary equipment. Meanwhile, Melody was asking them for their device so that they could link them and update the status of the terrorists.

Vina held a shield almost as big as her entire body, ready to block all kinds of bullets.

Kanaria, on the other hand, noticed Clovis's eagerness and couldn't help but ask, "Is the reason why you want to defeat those terrorists..." However, she actually stopped.

The reason was obvious. Clovis thought that the mall was attacked because of him, so Clovis wanted to set this straight personally.

Hence, Kanaria said, "I think this one is not your fault, Clovis. The patterns of their attacks are different."

If the terrorists had come for him, they would have encountered a lot of terrorists. So, Kanaria thought that the terrorists were planning to find someone else.

"Hu..." Clovis took a deep breath. It seemed that he had made Kanaria worry. "Mhmm... Let's go, shall we?"

"Yep." Kanaria smiled.

## Chapter 105 Hidden Tier

"Oi! Move!" One of the terrorists kicked a kid who was dragged by the other terrorists.

"Mommy!" The kid was crying as he fell to the ground. The people wanted to say something, but they were too scared of the terrorists. They could only look at them with a pale face.

The terrorists didn't say much after the kid joined the other hostages. They didn't seem to be that bothered by the crying as if they had gotten used to it.

Meanwhile, all the Tier 3 personnel had reached their positions. Kanaria and Melody were next to each other, observing the enemies from the top floor. Vina was standing by on the ground floor, ready to head out once her help was needed. Clovis, on the other hand, remained on the first floor not too far from the hostages. With a single leap, he should be able to reach the terrorists.

Since Melody had tuned the equipment, she could finally speak through the transmitter.

"Get ready. We'll begin the operation in three... two... one..."

Each of the members of the anti-terrorism squad had their own skyglasses that marked their targets. Melody had assigned them four targets they had to defeat within a few seconds before the terrorists could harm them. At the same time, they couldn't do it that brutally or it would cause trauma for the civilians.

Hence, all of them were expected to unleash all their abilities in order to complete the tasks.

"Zero!" The moment they heard the last count, all four members leaped out.

"Huh?!" The terrorists widened their eyes.

"Enemies!"

"Kill them!"

They panicked and aimed their guns at them, not realizing that they should have just used the hostages.

Clovis was observing these four carefully, wanting to know the secret of their strength.

Obviously, the one he watched closely was the man who looked down on him earlier.

Even though his words were harsh, he wasn't wrong. And it seemed that he also had the skill to back up his attitude.

The moment he jumped out, he unsheathed his saber. He used the blunt edge to strike the terrorist's head, knocking him down without bloodshed.

The other terrorists were trying to react, but he swiftly reached the second person and struck from below.

"Gah!" What the guy struck were the terrorist's balls. Even Clovis could feel the pain from the second floor, let alone the terrorist. He simply fell down, his mouth releasing foam.

The other terrorists had been occupied by his teammates, so the guy could focus on the remaining two targets.

Since they were about to shoot, the guy tossed his blade at one of them.

It distracted the other guy, allowing him to close in to defeat both of them in succession. However, when he was about one meter away, a hostage suddenly rose from the floor and ran toward this guy.

"!!!" He glanced to the side, noticing the incoming, hidden terrorist.



At the same time, he also noticed that Clovis had actually jumped off as if he had started moving before the hidden terrorist acted.

With this, Clovis should have no trouble intercepting this hidden attacker.

'I guess he is pretty skilled.' The guy thought of Clovis as he focused on the two terrorists before his eyes.

'I got him!' Clovis thought as he was about to hit this guy with the back of the sword handle and then stepped on his body to land safely as a way to apprehend him.

However, the hidden terrorist actually smiled. Right before Clovis could hit him, the hidden terrorist sped up at a speed that was much faster than what a Tier 0 could do. No, even a Tier 2 would be slower than him.

"What?!" Clovis shouted, showing his shock as well as alerting the guy from the anti-terrorism squad.

"!!!" The guy turned around while waving his sword to blow the hidden terrorist away. However, the latter actually took out a dagger and struck the blade from below, knocking it up. "Imposs—"

He didn't have any more time as the terrorist stabbed him with the dagger.

"Kyaaa!"

"Aaaahh!"

Amidst the reactions from the common people, Clovis remained silent, but his face was ghastly pale. He never thought that there would be someone defeating the Tier 3 agents from the government.

Fortunately, it seemed that the guy managed to twist his body in the last second, causing the dagger to miss the vital area. He jumped away to avoid dying.

But for Clovis, this was a huge blunder. He never thought that the terrorist could reach that level of speed.

"Rain!" Another agent shouted in panic and looped around to help him, but another hidden terrorist had appeared and slashed him.

"Gah!" The armor absorbed much of the impact, but the cut was still pretty deep. More importantly, this hidden terrorist was much faster than reported. "Are these guys really Tier 0?"

"Not good!" Another one wanted to help, but this time, the same trick didn't work. The moment the third hidden terrorist appeared, the agent had expected something like this and blocked the attack, albeit barely. "What? This strength... is equal to a Tier 3 human!"

Clovis was dumbstruck. He had just made a blunder. If these people were actually Tier 3, he shouldn't have sent the two Tier 4 humans to defeat their captain.

At the same time, he finally realized why Melody only mentioned Tier 0 to Tier 2 terrorists. Their captain was Tier 4, so they should have expected a few Tier 3.

His only miscalculation was the fact that the terrorists could hide their Tier.

"What in the world..." Clovis sucked a cold breath. The last remaining agent hurriedly approached their friend, who had been slashed earlier, and stopped this terrorist from killing his friend. Still, there was one more Tier 3, who was about to kill the rude agent.

Clovis might slightly feel annoyed by that rude guy, but if they lost a precious Tier 3 agent just because of a little grudge, humanity would have gone extinct.

That was why Clovis had no choice but to act. He had fought against a Tier 3 beast before, so he should be able to manage to fight this terrorist.

Without hesitation, Clovis leaped toward this Tier 3 terrorist and swung his new blade.

However, this fight seemed to be different. He didn't sense the surge of strength like back then and his speed was much slower, allowing the terrorist to avoid his swing before punching his cheek.

His body flew to the side before crashing into the wall.

The battle didn't seem to be promising.