

World Mall 111

Chapter 111 Reason

"Thank you very much." A father lowered his head to Clovis while holding his daughter on his arm. The father gently tugged at his daughter. "Come on, Hilda."

"Thank you, Big Brother." The daughter was still small, so she clumsily thanked him.

"You're welcome. I'm glad that both of you are alright." Clovis gave a gentle smile. They were among the people he saved earlier.

After the terrorists were repelled, the rest of the people began to enter the mall and rescue the rest of the people.

Kanaria and Melody were staying with him while Vina was about to be brought to the hospital.

In the end, Vina went to the hospital together with her master, while Clovis still had to get a checkup in the hospital after some basic treatment.

Nevertheless, it was a hectic day.

As expected, the commander came to them.

"Hello. We met again." The commander smiled. "I think I haven't introduced myself earlier. I am Lohan from the anti-terrorism squad. I'd like to thank you for saving my subordinates. If not for you standing up against a Tier 3 terrorist, it would have been a disaster."

"It's fine. In fact, it felt like I was the one responsible for that danger. Had I not suggested you defeat the Tier 4 terrorist captain, all this wouldn't have happened."

"It wasn't your fault. It was our fault for trusting our equipment a little too much." The commander paused for a moment. "And the most important reason for me being here was because I wanted to pass on his message."

"It was from the guy that kept interrupting you earlier. He wanted to apologize for his behavior and thank you for saving his life."

Clovis shook his head. "It's fine. There is a huge gap between Tier 1 and Tier 3. Besides, I am also a civilian, so I can understand."

"Thanks. In that case, let me bring you to the hospital. You surely wouldn't like to get surrounded by all those reporters and content creators, so I will bring you out of here. However, I can't do anything if the police want to record your statement. What do you think?"

Clovis glanced at both Kanaria and Melody, who agreed with the arrangement. "In that case, we won't be polite."

"Sure. Come this way."

Lohan was driving to the hospital, which happened to be the hospital that Melody wanted to visit.

Now that he thought about it, Melody had been accompanying him this whole time as if she were never as lazy as she claimed to be.

Because Clovis didn't ask her immediately, the car became extremely quiet and awkward. Lohan couldn't help but ask, "Clovis, was it? I've said it before, but if you are tired of exploring the subterranean world, you are free to contact me and join my group. It's rare to have someone as strong as you."

"Is that so? The reason why you don't scout me immediately is because you want me to keep advancing without wasting the government's resources?" Clovis teased him with a cheeky smile.

"Hahaha. You sure have a wild imagination. Not at all. While exploring is dangerous, it's also fun. After you reach my age, exploring is not as fun anymore. It's more like a job.

You need it to maintain your lifestyle. That's why I quit." Lohan chuckled.

"Oh!" Clovis nodded in understanding. He had heard about this from his grandfather.

His grandfather said, "At first, exploring was indeed fun and you made a lot of money by doing it.

"However, once your sense of money got distorted and you spent more and more each month, you would end up thinking about the burden of money. At that time, exploration would become a job."

Clovis didn't think much about it at that time, but after getting a lot of money, he could understand it a little bit.

They talked a little bit about the adventurers that Lohan once had. But it had been cut short since they reached the hospital.

"Alright. We've arrived. Have a good time. I bet the police will send some officers to ask some questions." Lohan waved his hand.

"Yes. Thank you, Mr. Lohan." Clovis nodded with a smile.

Once inside, Clovis was dragged by the nurse as he said, "You guys don't have to wait for me."

Melody hesitated for a moment before replying, "Come to room 474 later."

"Alright." Clovis nodded as he entered the emergency unit.

"474?" Kanaria glanced at Melody.

"Do you want to come?" Melody's expression looked a bit sad. It seemed that she wanted to reveal something important.

After some thought, Kanaria nodded her head. "Alright."

Melody and Kanaria immediately headed to the elevator. Melody moved like she knew this hospital like her own house.

And finally, they reached the hospital room.

There was only a single bed inside. Kanaria could see a man lying on the bed. The man was extremely thin and frail, but she noticed the slight resemblance between him and Melody. His face looked older, making her think this person was Melody's sweetheart or something.

Melody took out a brochure about a certain game instead of the game itself since she didn't manage to buy it earlier.

"Dante... I've come again. Look at what I've brought... This is the newest game console that is about to be released soon. We can play together soon." Melody was doing her best to smile, even though her heart was always wrenched in pain whenever she visited him. "Also, today, your sister brings friends here.

"Let me introduce you to her." Melody smiled. Her temperament was very different from what she had shown this whole time. "She is Kanaria. There is one more person with her. He is called Clovis. How about we go and play together with them?"

We can beat them in the game."

After that, she turned to Melody and finally introduced the sleeping man. "This is my little brother, Dante. He might look older, but he is only a year older than you."

"!!!" Kanaria widened her eyes in disbelief.

Chapter 112 Request

10 years ago.

"Wait, Sister! Why are you going so fast?" Dante panted a few times, doing his best to chase after his sister.

"I'm not fast. This is normal. You are just too slow." Melody harrumphed. "You should blame your father for naming you Dante. He likes music, so he named me Melody and you Dante from Adante, which is usually used to describe slow tempo."

Dante smiled wryly. "Hahaha. But I like this name. We should go slow when living in this world and take our time to enjoy the scenery around us."

Melody shook her head helplessly. "This positive kid."

"Hehehe."

...

9 years ago.

"Sister. You don't have to worry about me. Now that our parents are gone, we have to rely on each other. I might not be able to help you much, but I will definitely not become your burden."

"You..." Melody didn't expect these words to come from an 8-year-old kid. She felt grateful.

Because of their current situation, she has been working hard at all kinds of jobs. There weren't a lot of jobs that would take underage girls like her, so whenever she got one, it would be dangerous or a low paying job.

She was already stressed enough, so these words made her feel relieved.

...

8 years ago.

"Look, Dante. I have gotten my ID card and this is my explorer identification! I am going to be an explorer. I'll bring back a lot of money!"

"Thank you, Sister!" Dante smiled. Knowing how dangerous it was, Dante didn't want her to worry about him. Whenever she came back home, he would have prepared a warm meal, set up the game they loved to play, and cleaned the apartment. This was the only thing he could do.

In the meantime, he started taking lessons from Skynet.

...

7 years ago.

"You're amazing, Sister. To think you can become a Tier 1 explorer within a year."

"What do you mean within a year? Your sister is a genius. I reached this stage within six months. I just want to surprise you on your birthday." Melody gave a smug smile.

"That's right. My sister is the best."

...

6 years ago.

"Sister is truly amazing. You reach Tier 2 Explorer within two years. This is an amazing achievement. I bet your name is going to become famous soon." Dante smiled.

"Hehehe." Melody was happy at that time. Her talent was evaluated highly by a lot of people and she was wanted by a lot of groups.

However, she didn't know at that time the looming danger that kept building up in the shadows.

And finally, that fateful day happened.

5 years ago, both of them were home. Melody was lazing around on the couch while Dante was playing a game.

Suddenly, the bell rang.

"Mhmm?" Dante raised his hand and started moving toward the door.

"Dante?" Melody also rose from the couch even though her eyes were a bit sleepy since she had worked hard during the day.

"You can get some sleep, Sister. I'll take care of this." Dante smiled while waving his hand, assuring Melody.

However, the moment he opened the door, he saw a big man with a knife in his pocket. As soon as he revealed that knife, Dante's face turned pale. He turned around and rushed back while calling his sister. "Big Sister!"

Melody could hear his panicked voice, which alarmed her. Melody hurriedly went to the corridor where he saw the big man stab her brother in the chest.

As if realizing that it would end up as a brawl, the big man slapped Dante's head and caused it to hit the wall hard.

With Dante out of the way, the man took out the second knife.

Melody was fast enough to slap the man's wrist and bend his arm so that he would stab himself.

When he weakened his grip, Melody grabbed the knife and killed this guy.

After that, Melody hurriedly checked on Dante. "Oi, Dante! Are you alright? I'll call the ambulance!"

Dante didn't want to make her worry. Even with the sharp pain all over his body, he still endured it and gave his best smile. He lightly said, "Ah, sorry... Big Sister. I don't want to be yours, but I guess... I'm still too slow."

For the first time in his life, Dante might have regretted having that name. If he was a bit faster, this would have never happened.

But for Melody, everything happened because of her. "Dante... Dante..."

Melody could only look helplessly at her brother, who gradually fell unconscious. "Dante. Stay with me. Dante!"

This was the time Melody gave up as an explorer.

...

"That's what happened." Melody looked at Kanaria, saying, "It's not that I don't want to join you. I have someone to take care of. If I join another group, the past might repeat itself."

Kanaria remained silent for a moment. "Do you not want revenge?"

"I don't care about revenge. As long as Dante can recover, I don't need anything else." Melody had been burdened by her own mistake this whole time. And it had become the chain that stopped her from continuing her path.

In fact, in the past five years, she has never taken a single essence. All the money she earned went straight for her brother's treatment.

"According to the doctor, if we can go to a Tier 8 city and receive treatment there, he can recover. However, I soon learn that it's not the Tier 8 city that can help him. It's the Tier 8 doctor. Even if I save up my money, it doesn't guarantee that I will be able to get the treatment from a Tier 8 doctor.

"If you think I'm useless, I'll reintroduce myself. I went by the name of Peach during my exploration time. A Tier 2 mobile operator with a 94% evolution rate." Melody looked at Kanaria, or more like the wall behind Kanaria as if there was another person there. "If you can help Dante recover, then I, Melody, will dedicate my life for you, Clovis. "

Yes, Clovis had already reached the room. The treatment wasn't that long to begin with, considering he had gotten the basic treatment from the medic stationed outside the mall.

So, he had been listening to the story the whole time.

Chapter 113 4th Member

After hearing it, Clovis remained silent. In fact, this request put him in a dilemma. On the one hand, the fact that Melody would do anything as long as her brother was saved was a great offer. On the other hand, what would she do next after that?

Melody might work hard at first, but the moment her brother recovered, she would be making the hardest choice of her life. To avoid her brother getting injured like this again, she might end up quitting the group and retiring. Or she would truly dedicate her life to the group.

After listening to Melody's story, Clovis believed that she would choose the former. After all, she had been accompanying her brother for years no matter how hard it was.

If he rejected her like this, he wondered if he could find another talented mobile operator like her in this city. Eventually, he had to go out of this city and broaden his horizons. But it would still take a long time.

And the reason why Melody asked him like this was because of his mother. She rarely showed herself, but his mother was a Tier 7 doctor. If she couldn't cure Melody's brother, his father or even grandfather still had enough influence to bring a doctor who could do it.

Meanwhile, Kanaria got the shock of her life.

'What?' Kanaria took a step back, recalling all the information about Melody's other name. 'Peach? Isn't that the genius mobile operator whose name once shocked the entire city? It was said that she was smart and powerful. At the same time, her processing speed was much faster than even a Tier 3 mobile operator.'

'Her talent was wanted by many. However, her name soon disappeared as if she had never existed. If the story was correct, Peach was not killed but retired. So, the lazy operator that we had all this time was the legendary mobile operator?'

Kanaria sucked a cold breath. She finally understood why her mother recommended her. It wasn't because of her ability or her cheap rate. It was due to her former identity.

However, Kanaria couldn't accept or reject her request. The one who had the ability to recruit her was Clovis.

Clovis fell into deep thought. He had to be careful because Melody might quit halfway.

'I don't need a lot of people in my group. At most, I will only have a total of twelve people, which can be divided into two groups. And a mobile operator...'

He had a mixed opinion between his sympathy and rationality. The longer Clovis took to answer her, the more awkward the atmosphere became.

Melody could only look down, thinking that Clovis truly couldn't help her. She looked at the ring on her finger, thinking this was the time for them to part ways.

When she was about to pull out the ring, Clovis's voice echoed inside the room.

"You should have found out why I ended up in this city. I don't have the means to help you right now."
Clovis had entered the room and closed the door.

Melody bit her lips and said, "Even then, I believe that you have the highest potential to do it."

The city's strongest power was only a Tier 6 human, so obviously, Clovis was the best choice since his grandfather had proven himself as a Tier 9 while his father managed to reach Tier 8. Clovis would reach Tier 7 at the minimum, and it might not take that long.

"You are overestimating me." Clovis shook his head helplessly. He took out his device and showed her his status.

Name: Clovis Hacfield

Tier: 1

Evolution Rate: 15%

Brain: 10.1%

Heart: 6.9%

Blood: 7.3%

Muscle: 16.4%

Bones: 6.2%

"I am not as talented as you think I am. In fact, I'm even worse than any of you here." Clovis smiled wryly.

When Melody saw his evolution rate, she couldn't help but drop her jaw to the ground. There was no way she could believe that Clovis only had this much. She had seen Clovis's birthday, so it had only been a month since he awakened.

"The reason for me to be able to reach Tier 1 is because I'm lucky enough to receive the help of the super injection. Without them, I am not capable of doing anything."

Melody didn't expect this revelation. He thought Clovis would have a high evolution rate. Even if he weren't as high as his father or grandfather, he would still at least get 70%.

Kanaria understood what Clovis was trying to let her know. She added, "After the second generation of explorers is born, the world finally knows that your parents' evolution rate corresponds to their children's evolution rate.

"Of course, I'm sure that there are several exceptions like you, Melody. And Clovis happens to be one of the exceptions as well."

Kanaria sighed. This was probably the biggest reason why most high-tier humans had multiple partners. Her father might only have had one wife, but her uncle had three wives. There was even talk about her brother's potential second wife.

Although there were some exceptions, people still chose the easier path. And Clovis wanted to let her know that he wouldn't be able to help her.

His family? It had been cut off. His potential? What could someone of his caliber do?

Clovis used reverse psychology to show that she had misplaced her trust.

But to his surprise, Melody held Clovis's hands and even rubbed his palms as if she were trying to feel the rough hand and the callouses the training had left behind.

"So... despite having only a 15% evolution rate, you still work this hard? I know for sure how much despair someone with a low evolution rate has. If you still haven't given up, then I also won't give up. That's why... Please, allow me to join your group."

Clovis took a deep breath. It seemed that he got his answer.

"Alright. Please keep the ring, but you have to remember, this time you are joining us as a mobile operator."

"Yes. I'm prepared to work to the bone. If you think I'm still too lazy, you can just slap or whip me. Besides, the real reason for my laziness has been solved by you." Melody raised her hand, showing him the ring he gave her. "Pleasure to work with you, Captain."

Chapter 114 Warning

"Pleasure to work with you, Captain."

Clovis smiled. He was truly defeated by her. "That's how it is, Kanaria. It seems that we have a new addition. You should tell her about the usual arrangement and the split."

"Sure." Kanaria nodded. After knowing Melody was Peach and that she planned to become a mobile operator, Kanaria didn't have any more objections.

Suddenly, someone knocked on the door, startling everyone.

"Mhmm?" Melody didn't think there would be another person visiting them. And even if there was one, they would be contacting her.

As if understanding the severity of the situation, the other side introduced himself behind the door. "I am with the police. Gregory is the name."

"This voice..." Clovis raised his head, remembering the name and the voice. Without hesitation, he opened the door, finding the muscular man who once helped him. "As expected... it's you, Mr. Gregory."

"Hahaha. To think we would meet again. I initially didn't want us to meet again, but when I heard you were helping us this time, I volunteered myself to be the one asking you a few questions about the incident." Gregory extended his hand.

"Mr. Gregory?!" Kanaria and Melody widened their eyes in shock, but for a different reason.

"Oh? Isn't this the young lady of the Renvolt family? I guess you are in his group." Gregory smiled before recognizing Melody. "Aren't you the one I tried to recruit a few years ago... Peach, was it?"

Kanaria felt a bit overwhelmed. She never thought that the head of the police department, Gregory, would be coming in person. And it seemed that Clovis knew him.

Melody, on the other hand, was embarrassed because she had rejected him in the past.

"I see." Gregory took another look and finally understood why they gathered here. "Anyway, since you are here, it's perfect to ask a few questions. First of all, the government wants you to keep quiet about the incident."

"Are they planning to take credits?" Kanaria frowned.

"That is one of the reasons. The other reason is because of something else, which I can't disclose to you."

"Are you talking about the mule?" Clovis thought this was the only reason why the government wanted them to keep quiet. Everything started because of him, so there was no way he wasn't related.

Even Gregory looked a bit surprised that they knew about him. His face turned grim as he said coldly, "You should know that even if you know, you should remain quiet about it."

"There are already a lot of people wanting to kill me." Clovis wanted to see Gregory's reaction. The people who tried to kill him had never done it personally. Depending on Gregory's reaction, he would be able to confirm whether his guest was correct or not.

Gregory let out a long sigh. "Well, I don't want to argue with you. It's better if you keep quiet about it... It's not just for your safety, but also for others."

Gregory's eyes glanced at Melody's brother, making Clovis shrug.

"Fine. What can the government offer in exchange?" Clovis smirked, but the fact that he asked this the moment Gregory indirectly mentioned Dante meant Clovis was asking for protection. They would do a lot of risky things, so to ensure that Melody wouldn't worry about Dante, he had to find a way to protect him.

The Renvolts and Havensons might be able to help, but he didn't want to be overly reliant on Kanaria and Jay's connections.

"The government will give you fifty thousand for each person here. In addition, your name will be erased to ensure that you won't be involved in further conflicts. And... I can probably give you a name that will fulfill your request."

"You're not going to do it?" Clovis frowned.

"No. He is a person who is indebted to your grandfather like me, but he doesn't want to be related directly to your family. He hasn't shown up until now. Still, if it's only protecting someone who is indirectly connected to you, I think he won't have a problem."

Clovis thought for a moment. "Can't I just find him myself and get another reward from you?"

"If you can find him, then feel free to do it."

Clovis clicked his tongue. "Alright. I can agree to the conditions."

Melody never thought that Clovis would put her brother's safety as a priority even though she had just joined the group.

Melody clenched her hands into fists, swearing that she would work hard for the group.

Clovis, on the other hand, glanced at Kanaria and Melody to see if they had a problem with the condition or not.

After seeing them shake their heads, Clovis asked, "Alright. What's next?"

"It's nothing but formality. I'll just ask some basic questions and be done with it."

Gregory interviewed them one by one. It was just a brief interview as he didn't take more than five minutes for each person.

Now that he had finished his work, Gregory immediately headed to the door. To their surprise, Gregory stopped for a second before saying, "You guys are going to participate in the raid next month, right?"

"Yes. How did you know?"

"I have seen your name in the register. This is just a piece of advice from me. It seems that you are being targeted in this raid. Originally, this was only a Tier 3 fallen territory, but there are some rumors saying that this place has become a Tier 4 fallen city."

Clovis became serious. The enemies should have known about him defeating a Tier 3 proconsul by himself, so they might bring in the Tier 4 beasts to kill him this time.

Still, Clovis remembered that Vania had given them a key to a secret laboratory. Even though they shouldn't join, they might have to take this risk.

Besides, people like Ivan would be there as well.

"Thank you for the warning, but we will still go."

"Alright. If that's your decision after knowing the danger, who am I to stop you? I wish you luck and I hope that we don't have to meet again." Gregory waved his hand before exiting the room.

Chapter 115 An Unexpected Visitor

Now that Melody had officially joined their group, Clovis extended his hand. "Welcome to the group, Melody."

"Thank you." Melody smiled, feeling a bit relieved.

In the end, Melody talked a bit about Dante. Since he needed to rest, Clovis had no choice but to return.

But before going back, Clovis couldn't help but explain what they were planning to do next.

"I think you've heard it from Mr. Gregory, but we'll be joining the raid soon."

"Of course, I'm ready. A raid like this is very beneficial for a new group because there are a lot of benefits."

"So, before the raid, we're planning to go around to several fallen cities or the wilderness to hunt for beasts. Our objective is to get as strong as possible." Clovis thought reaching Tier 2, even with his Another World Mall, might not be possible. If it was him alone, he could get a shot at it.

Then again, he wanted to get stronger with his group. In addition, because he caught up to Jay and Kanaria, they didn't sell a lot of essence anymore. So, his income would be a bit small in the next few weeks.

"In the meantime, we would like you to get stronger as well. While I don't mind you leaving some money for your brother, I hope that you can still pursue a higher tier." Clovis raised a finger. "If not, you might be left behind."

"..." Melody closed her eyes. She had expected this before she joined the group.

Clovis didn't force her to do it to see her reaction. If she ended up getting left behind because of her brother, Clovis had no choice but to expel her from the group at that time.

And Melody knew that this position wasn't permanent. She couldn't take Clovis's kindness for granted.

"I'm prepared to do it. Since my brother's protection has been assured, I can focus on getting stronger again."

"Mhmm." Clovis nodded, satisfied. This was enough for the time being. "For now, you can ask Kanaria about the equipment you'd like to have in the group. We still have some money for equipment."

"Yeah. We still have a lot of places to visit by the way." Kanaria glanced at Clovis.

"Of course." Clovis smiled wryly, knowing that today would be a very exhausting day.

"Also, we won't know how long all the items we've ordered will arrive because of that incident. I think it's at least four to five days from the original two days. Don't forget to find a lot of missions."

"Yeah. We need a lot of missions for the sake of our group." Clovis nodded in agreement, even though his original intention was to have that money for Another World Mall. Then again, the better his Another World Mall became, the greater the benefits.

"See? Our group is planning for fast growth, so don't get left behind." Kanaria smiled, threatening her a little bit.

"Of course." Melody nodded furiously.

"That's good then." Kanaria also didn't want someone as talented as Melody to be left behind, so she had to remind her about their objective.

Unfortunately, time wasn't on their side. So, Clovis chose to end the conversation.

"Then, we'll get going. We can discuss the rest in the group chat." Clovis stood up. They had stayed for a bit too long. Kanaria was in agreement.

"You don't have to see us off." Kanaria waved his hand, stopping Melody, who was about to stand up.

Clovis and Kanaria waved their hands before closing the door.

"Was Peach famous?" Clovis couldn't help but ask.

"You didn't know?" Kanaria soon realized he originally didn't come from this city. "Ah. Peach was a very talented individual who was wanted by at least twenty groups or organizations in the past. She had the battle prowess to fight two or three beasts of the same tier while maintaining her job as an operator."

"Two or three beasts?" Clovis muttered. For Jay and Clovis, who could defeat multiple Tier 1s in rapid succession, it didn't look that impressive. But the fact that she could maintain her focus on her operator's tasks was definitely amazing. "I guess we will end up offending those people now that we manage to recruit her."

"Not really. Peach has retired, and people don't seem to know that Melody is Peach. In addition, it seems like Melody has been carefully hiding her identity, so those people wouldn't know her for a while. Besides, are you scared of them?"

"No way. If they are coming for us, then we'll fight back. Besides, I'm not planning to stay in this town alone." Clovis thought for a moment. "But well, I think it will be nice if we can get at least six people before leaving this city. I still want to have a full group before going on more explorations."

"That sounds like you. But we don't know if there are enough geniuses or not in this city. And most of them should have affiliated with a certain group, so it's going to be hard."

"That's true." Clovis nodded. "Well, we can worry about that later. If we can meet those geniuses, it means we're fated. If not, then who cares? There are still a lot of people in the world."

"Agreed."

"Hehe." Clovis gave a thumbs up.

"And there is one thing I want to ask..." Suddenly, Kanaria halted her step as she spoke with a hesitant tone.

"What's wrong?" Her worried expression made him think this was an important matter, so he planned to take her words seriously.

However, it seemed that he was wrong. "Why does she get a ring?"

The moment she opened her mouth, Clovis felt chills down his spine. Kanaria's expression was dark, making the atmosphere awkward.

She wondered how he should respond. Could he say that was because the necklace was much better than the ring? But the difference between a ring and a necklace was like the sky and the ground.

'Is she jealous?' Clovis gulped down.

...

A few minutes after they went back, a figure approached the hospital.

Melody, who had returned to the room, couldn't help but notice this person. "Isn't that... Ivan Levister, the one rumored to be the most talented guy in this base?"