

World Mall 141

Chapter 141 Perspective

Melody couldn't believe what she had just heard. "This information... if it's leaked to the world, it's going to shock them. But at the same time, it's also going to make us targeted by a lot of organizations..."

"Yeah." Kanaria fell silent for a moment. "Clovis's grandfather told him not to take on any beast souls probably because he wants Clovis to remain a pure human. As a Tier 9 explorer, there should be another reason why he wants it that way, so this information might not be as simple as we think."

"That's kind of true. We don't know the depth of the Hacfield family. But all the Tier 9 humans known so far have understanding and strength beyond what we can imagine." Melody nodded in agreement. "But don't you think the other path is not that bad as well?"

"Indeed. While humans will lose their versatility, they will still gain the strength of the beasts. If that happens, we might be able to get stronger from radiation like how these beasts mutate... But I don't dare draw any conclusions about it. All I can say is that this path also holds a lot of potential." Kanaria looked down, falling into deep thought.

"Still, the most shocking part is definitely the second part. The research of genetic mutations" Melody frowned.

"Indeed. We currently have two beast souls with us. Thylacine's beast soul is similar to the one that Professor Waod showed earlier, while Yurlunggur's beast soul could produce poison.

The former could become a hidden sword, while the latter will allow us to produce toxins from other parts of our body instead of the mouth, like how the original beast soul intended." Kanaria explained based on the understanding she had.

"Indeed. In fact, people like us can take advantage of the Thylacine's beast soul as protection. If you had that kind of claw or short sword coming out of your hands, wouldn't the battle against the beast earlier become easier?"

"Definitely. And in fact, I could even use the latter for myself. I could coat my bullet with poison. While I do need to modify my rifle a bit to withstand the corrosive power of the poison, it's still going to be extremely powerful. I might be able to kill even a Tier 3 beast myself."

"Still, the biggest problem lies in the fact that we have to find someone who can do the injection." Melody frowned. If they had to share this with another person, there was a risk of it being leaked. They would definitely be targeted soon.

But if they spread this information, they couldn't reap the benefits. So, Melody didn't know what they should do.

"Well, it's not that urgent for now. And from his words earlier, the research seemed to be related to the Hacfield family. Although I feel bad about this, I might not even tell my mother, who had given me the access card."

"The password was still related to Clovis after all. For now, let's go back. We only have half a minute left before the time limit." Melody pointed at the door.

"Sure." Kanaria nodded in agreement.

While walking, Melody was thinking about the last message. She couldn't help but tease Kanaria, "Even the professor said there would be multiple women around Clovis..."

Kanaria smiled wryly. "Are you curious whether I'm jealous or not?"

"..." Melody didn't answer that question, but her action gave away the answer.

"Of course, I will be jealous. What? Are you expecting me to believe that Clovis won't play favorites? That is impossible. No matter how you're going to do it, you will subconsciously do it."

"But aren't you going to monopolize him for yourself?"

"I am not very sure about that." Kanaria sighed. "Even if I want to do that, what about him? Or what about other people? The professor is correct about the birth rate. It's declining. And that's one of the reasons why the government has legalized polygamy.

Not only will it raise the birth rate, but it will also allow powerful men to spread their 'talented' genes. Instead, I should ask this... What do you think is the benefit of polygamy?"

"Didn't you say it a moment ago?"

"No. The essence of polygamy in the past was different. It wasn't about lust. It was about families' connections. For example, what if a person marries a medical expert, a businesswoman, and a logistic expert?"

"Are you implying that the medical expert could help the health problem or probably the business if it's related to the medical field? And the logistic expert can help with the business and the supply for the medical expert. And the businesswoman can make more money thanks to her husband, who marries the other two women?"

"That's right. I will be lying if I'm not jealous about him having multiple wives in the future, but I'm not going to stop him. Instead of being a selfish little prick, I might as well allow it. I might even become a bit closer to my goal that way." Kanaria sighed.

"Aren't you just finding excuses for yourself?"

"Yes and no. I'm just telling you that I don't want it to be similar to Ivan. At the very least, I want people that have the same bottom line... where if something goes awry, everyone doesn't hesitate to use all their resources to help the big family instead of running away."

Melody couldn't help but look at Kanaria with a dumbfounded face.

"What?"

Melody rubbed her cheek while saying, "Nothing. I just realized you're stronger than I expected."

"Strong? I'm simply acknowledging that I'm too weak to monopolize him. If I can do everything, there won't be talk like this. Then again, why does our talk escalate from your teasing?" Kanaria shook her head helplessly, not knowing why she responded to her teasing this seriously.

"That's true. Clovis and Jay should be waiting for us. Since we've got what we're coming for, we should help them and return to our position."

"Yeah. Let's go."

Chapter 142 Plan Ahead

When they came out of the building, they couldn't hear any destruction coming from Clovis and Jay's directions. The only thing they could hear was the battle between the commander and the Tier 4 beast.

"Are they..." Melody turned to Kanaria, her face was filled with worries.

Both of them hurriedly ran toward the junction and tried to find Clovis.

Their hearts skipped a beat when they were greeted by the corpses of low tier beasts that they didn't remember they had killed.

In other words, the ones who killed these beasts were Clovis and Jay. But that made them worry since there were already two Tier 3 beasts. If they added these beasts, Jay and Clovis might not be able to handle them.

However, they soon found the two giant beasts in the background. They seemed to have died, so Kanaria and Melody rushed toward these corpses, finding Clovis and Jay.

Clovis's condition was bad. He had a lot of wounds on his body, his weapons other than the sword on his hand were scattered on the ground, and his clothes were dyed red.

Still, Jay was in an even worse state than him. His left shoulder was actually dislocated, and he seemed to have lost his consciousness.

"Clovis, Jay!" Kanaria gasped, not believing what had happened to them.

Clovis pointed at Jay with a tired smile on his face. "You should take care of him. No, Melody, you go to the Silver Star team and request reinforcement from them. If I use the radio, our condition might be exposed and it will become a good time to kill us.

"Kanaria can stay here and tell me about what happens. Also, we have to get their essence so that no one dares to steal it from us." Clovis let out a sigh of relief now that the two had returned.

"Alright." Melody hurriedly ran toward their previous location to get some help from the Silver Star.

Meanwhile, Kanaria gave Clovis a water bottle before going to Jay to check his condition. She also started talking about everything she had found inside that room.

To Clovis's surprise, Kanaria actually told him about the third part.

After listening to her story, Clovis fell into deep thought. "I see. Two paths of evolution, huh? It's definitely an intriguing topic. Still, the beast soul is more advantageous than remaining a pure human.

"Even though I say this, I still don't have any intention to ingest a beast soul..." Clovis looked at Kanaria. "How about you use the Yurlunggur's soul and let Melody get the Thylacine's beast soul? Your bullet will become more powerful and we won't have to worry about Melody if she ever gets too close to the battlefield."

"I don't really mind. I don't think I'm talented enough to pursue the same path as you. Absorbing beast souls will definitely help me a lot in achieving my goal. Besides, I don't think we can use it right now, since you should be aware of how risky it is to tell other people about the research."

"Indeed." Clovis raised a finger. "I actually have an idea of how we're going to proceed with the research."

"Really? Won't it be too risky?"

"Indeed. But we can actually find a big company that is capable of withstanding pressure of that caliber. The company can actually buy a huge number of beast souls before releasing this information.

"The information will increase the price of the beast soul, and because they have stocked a lot, they can set the price to be even higher, which will generate an unimaginable profit.

"On the other hand, the company will take the full brunt from the greedy people that want this research. As for us, we can get the money and ask the company to inject the beast soul for us. We might even get more beast souls from this transaction alone.

"And if I play my card right and reveal my identity as Clovis Hacfield, I'm pretty sure that we can work together with this company for a long time. Having an ally of that level will definitely benefit our group and that amount of money might make your dream come true, don't you think?" Clovis explained his plan, which obviously stunned Kanaria.

The last part was the one that hit her the most. She didn't expect that Clovis was still thinking about her and her dream.

She couldn't help but tease him, "Maybe that businessman will marry his daughter to you? Don't you always want a sugar mommy?"

"That was a joke obviously." Clovis shook his head helplessly.

Kanaria chuckled. "I'm just teasing you. But how do we find a company of that scale?"

"We probably have to leave the city. Don't you remember that your mother told us that we only have a year? A month is about to pass. But looking at our progress, we should be able to reach Tier 2 within two months. And reaching Tier 3 shouldn't be impossible before the time limit is up.

"After settling all the business here, I'm planning to travel to another place to find a different opportunity and talent."

Kanaria thought for a moment. "That sounds good. A year, huh? It's going to be a long time for us... Then again, will the beast soul still be relevant for us after one year? Well, even if it's not, it still gives us a good amount of money, so it's fine I guess."

"Yeah."

"I will try to find a way to use it in less than a year. I don't know if it's possible or not though." Kanaria shrugged. "In the worst case scenario, we can get a doctor or scientist to do it for us before killing him to keep him silent."

Clovis smiled wryly. Sometimes, he was a bit surprised by Kanaria's ruthlessness. "We'll just save things up for the time being. Besides, we have my items right now, so we don't have to force it."

Clovis also planned to open a new store too, so he wasn't that worried about the beast soul.

"Yep." Kanaria nodded with a gentle smile as if her ruthless plan earlier never came out of her mouth.

Chapter 143 Request

A moment ago.

Clovis and Jay were fighting against the Tier 3 beasts.

"Oi, oi! You've hidden something incredible!" Clovis commented after Jay showed his hidden technique.

"What I pursue is absolute strength. If I don't have enough strength, I will just get more of it." Jay smirked. "You, too, are a dishonest guy, you know that?"

Clovis smiled. "I guess I can't really hide it from you."

The rhino was charging toward him as Clovis took a deep breath. The Star Method had been increasing the flow of his blood.

In fact, Clovis had taken advantage of the Star Method and the fact that he had 60% potential in the Brain and Heart.

The Heart pumped more blood, which allowed more energy and more oxygen to circulate inside his body.

When the beast closed in, Clovis took a step to the right, barely avoiding the rhino's charge. At the same time, he waved his two swords, spun his body, and maintained the same distance to the rhino.

As the rhino passed him, Clovis had cut the beast more than twenty times. In sports or martial arts, the supply of oxygen would be the most important. That was why they developed a breathing technique or pattern.

However, due to the Star Method, Clovis was actually able to circulate the blood more effectively, allowing him to produce more energy and last longer with the same single breath.

That was why Clovis was able to unleash all his strength for a second, unleashing twenty strikes in rapid succession. However, that wasn't all.

While he was still holding his breath, Clovis looped around the rhino's body, striking it for more than a hundred times in just five seconds.

Even Jay wouldn't be able to compete in speed with Clovis no matter how his muscle developed to increase his agility.

However, there was one main difference between Jay and Clovis. Due to Jay's Muscle Affinity, his strength was more than enough to break through the tough skin of the beast.

Meanwhile, even if Clovis managed to unleash 100% of his strength, it was still not enough to pierce the rhino's tough skin.

Still, the rhino's skin was softer than the andrewsarchus' skin. If one strike wasn't enough, then he just needed to do it twice.

Clovis inhaled the air once again before looping around the rhino and striking it in the same pattern.

With how slowly he saw the movement, he was able to trace the little mark he left behind and successfully traced two-thirds of the total slashes.

Roar! The rhino was wailing in pain as sword wounds appeared all over his body. The beast didn't expect Clovis to be at this level when he was only a Tier 1 human.

"That's insane." Jay felt chills down his spine when he witnessed all those slashes. He couldn't help but wonder how many slashes he could actually block.

Nevertheless, both of them couldn't help but smile. Whether it was Jay who kept improving in order to defeat Clovis or Clovis who did all he could to retain his status as the captain, it was all for the sake of their group. This rivalry would just make them even stronger.

Unfortunately for them, their competition had to be stopped when they heard roars coming from the side.

"!!!" Both of them raised their heads, finding more than fifty beasts coming toward them.

"This is not looking good..." Clovis's expression turned grim. In the first place, fighting a Tier 3 beast was all they could do. That was why Melody moved ahead and eliminated all the beasts on their way.

This time, no one was here to protect them from the other beasts. If they truly came to mess with them, the situation would be bad for Clovis and Jay.

In addition, the Tier 3 beasts positioned themselves on both sides, surrounding them. The buildings also stopped them from escaping, so they had no choice but to wait until those beasts reached them.

That would be the end of them. Even Clovis and Jay didn't think they would survive with their current skills.

Clovis and Jay gritted their teeth, looking at how the two Tier 3 beasts stopped attacking them as if they were just trying to buy time. They instinctively knew what would happen when those beasts reached their position.

With their backs facing each other, Clovis was thinking, 'What should I do? Shoot them? The rhino will definitely block my trajectory. Call for help? They are still in the middle of a fight and will definitely be too late. Ask Kanaria and Melody to return?

But they are exploring the laboratory...'

Jay, on the other hand, let out a sigh. "Clovis... No, Captain."

"!!!" Clovis's body shivered when Jay called him 'captain' instead of his name. It showed how serious he was about whatever he was going to say.

"Please leave these two Tier 3 beasts to me. You go kill those beasts."

"Are you insane?" Clovis couldn't believe what he had just heard. Even Clovis didn't have the confidence to hold off the two Tier 3 beasts. But this was still the responsibility of the captain. "If someone is going to hold them back—"

Before he finished his words, Jay continued, "Your skill is much more efficient in killing those beasts. If there is anyone who can deal with them faster, it will be you. So, go kill them as quickly as possible and help me here, will you?"

Clovis gritted his teeth. He couldn't deny that was the more effective plan, but what would happen to Jay?

Yet, when he heard this rarely determined voice of his, Clovis couldn't really dismiss his plan.

Although he didn't really want to do it, Clovis ran toward the rhino while saying, "I'll leave them to you."

"!!!" The moment they saw Clovis moving, the two beasts charged forward to stop him.

Suddenly, Clovis decreased his pace for a bit, allowing Jay to appear from behind and grab the rhino's horn.

"Haaaaaa!" He shouted at the top of his lungs while releasing every ounce of his strength to just change the trajectory of the charge.

When Clovis saw that opening, he passed the rhino in an instant and headed straight to the beasts that were currently approaching. Both his hands were clenching the swords tightly as he only had one thought in his mind, 'I will end this instantly.'

Chapter 144 Duty

"Haaa!" Jay actually managed to stop the gigantic rhino for a second, allowing Clovis to slip away.

However, the andrewsarchus definitely wanted to kill Jay with this opportunity. It approached Jay and swung its paw from the opposite direction.

The rhino, on the other hand, stomped the ground and started pushing Jay so that he couldn't get away.

Jay gnashed his teeth as he raised his arm, blocking the sweep with his entire body.

"Kh." While his strength was the same as the andrewsarchus, he had to take this attack without a proper stance because he stopped the rhino. As a result, both of his arms became numb in an instant.

As soon as the rhino was freed from Jay's grip, it tried to turn around as if it was planning to catch up to Clovis.

But Jay suddenly waved his blade, striking the rhino's head.

"!!!" The rhino was surprised because that slash ran from the jaw to the head, almost hitting its eye. If not for the numb hand, he would have slashed that eye.

The andrewsarchus hurriedly struck Jay with its claws.

"Gah!" Jay endured the pain as the claws actually grazed his back. Jay turned around and struck the second paw, but the rhino was pissed off and struck him from the back.

Jay tried to stop it, but the rhino's horn was far too hard, dislocating his shoulder.

Despite the injuries, Jay still fought back. He blocked a few attacks, but also received some attacks, heavily injuring him. Even then, he never wavered. His eyes were brimming with hope.

As long as he stopped them here, Clovis would definitely come back and turn the tide. All he had to do was to endure them. This was his duty.

On the other hand, Clovis's situation wasn't that much better either. Clovis was definitely able to defeat these beasts by himself without a single injury, but the purpose of this battle was different. He had to do it as quickly as possible.

In order to do it, Clovis had to forget about defending and just focus on attacking.

That was why, in just a minute, Clovis was able to kill thirty beasts. But his body was injured.

While he slashed two beasts, three more came forward.

Clovis struck two of them down with his swords, but the other one managed to reach him and slapped his head.

"Kh." Clovis only gritted his teeth, enduring the pain. Then, he turned back and sliced this beast.

This was the only way to kill these three beasts faster, since normally he would take a step back and block their attack before killing one of them at a time. But if he had done it that way, Jay would have died before he could return.

He shouldn't have listened to Jay's request and just asked Kanaria and Melody to return to the group.

"Die!" Clovis roared while cleaving a few more beasts. He shot any beasts that were about to pass him before catching up to them.

Clovis realized that his physical strength had improved once again. This feeling reminded him of the sensation he got when he fought against the Tier 3 beast for the first time.

He had never found a way to enter this state again, but it really came when he needed it the most.

Clovis was like a god of war, slicing down his enemies one after another. He was bleeding all over, but there was no sign of his ferocity decreasing. In fact, the more he fought, the more his killing intent and fighting spirit rose.

In just three minutes, Clovis actually managed to kill all the incoming beasts.

He hurriedly rushed back to Jay, hoping it was not too late. However, when he caught a glimpse of Jay's condition, his heart sank.

Jay was heavily injured. One of his arms was already useless.

Looking at Jay's sorry state frustrated him.

'I need more power... more...' Clovis's breath quickened as he felt his body responding to his will by giving a surge of strength.

Jay seemed to have noticed Clovis, so he couldn't help but smile. The two beasts tried to kill him this time, but Jay turned around and struck the andrewsarchus while blocking its view so that it couldn't warn the rhino about Clovis.

The rhino thought that this would be it, but all of a sudden, he felt a sharp pain spreading all over his body.

"!!!" The rhino tried to see what was happening but found nothing.

Clovis actually struck the rhino from behind. In just one second, he actually struck the rhino thirty times instead of twenty times. The strength of each strike was also much stronger than before.

Then, he moved below the rhino and started tearing the abdomen apart before moving to the right side.

It caused the rhino to turn its head to the right to find out what was going on, but that was when Clovis returned to the bottom of the rhino. He planned to switch to the left to confuse the rhino as he moved closer to the head.

When the rhino turned its head around and shook its body, Clovis had reached his head.

"!!!" The rhino didn't expect Clovis to appear before him, even though he was surrounded by a lot of beasts just a moment ago. And that was the last thing he saw because Clovis stabbed its eye.

Roar! The rhino raised its head in pain, but Clovis had actually moved to the side and pointed his pistol at the other head.

Bang!

The rhino couldn't even react and lost its vision completely in just a moment.

Once it couldn't see anymore, Clovis began cutting its body apart, ultimately killing the rhino.

After that, Clovis moved toward the andrewsarchus while saying with a grim tone, "Leave the rest to me."

"Tsk. I always know how strong you are..." Jay clicked his tongue. He was proud that his captain was this strong but frustrated that he still couldn't catch up to him. Still, he had no choice but to agree because his body was already giving up. "He's all yours, Captain."

Chapter 145 Post Battle

"Ha... Ha... Ha..." Clovis was panting as his body was shaking. Before him was the dying andrewsarchus. It was glaring at Clovis even at its death door, but Clovis had finally cut it down.

Still, this wouldn't be possible without Jay's sacrifice.

"You've truly killed this beast..." Jay was standing beside him, staring at the andrewsarchus in admiration. However, he soon sat down while leaning on the andrewsarchus's boy. "This is very tiring."

"Are you alright, Jay?" Clovis looked at him with a worried expression.

"Other than this shoulder of mine, everything is fine. There are a lot of wounds, but none of them are fatal, so rest assured. I'm just a bit tired." Jay paused for a moment before saying, "You should worry about your own body."

Clovis coughed a few times, with blood coming out of the last one. He smiled wryly and walked back to the rhino to make sure it had died. After that, he leaned on the rhino before his feet eventually gave up.

But when he raised his head, he noticed that Jay had actually closed his eyes.

"Oi. Jay?!" Clovis's expression turned grim. However, he soon stopped when he saw Jay's diaphragm's movement, which was quite stable. It seemed that he had just passed out. Still, he had to be treated as quickly as possible.

Clovis finally let out a long sigh, feeling a bit relieved. His body was heavy as if all the tension had left.

Clovis couldn't help but look up, muttering inwardly, 'Seriously, what was that feeling? Just for a moment, I felt like my body was surging with strength. Everything also looked much slower. The pain in my body... wait a second...'

He lifted his left arm to see the spot that had been bitten by a beast earlier. To his surprise, the wound had almost closed.

'Seriously, what is going on with my body? Does Grandfather know about this? No, even my parents might know something. From time to time, I could enter a state that boosted my ability significantly... pushing my body above its limit.

'And after it's done, I will feel weak like this.' Clovis fell into deep thought. No matter how he tried to think about it, he couldn't find any clues. 'Anyway, I shouldn't rely on this state because I don't know how to trigger it. In addition, I can ask my parents later. The first thing I should do is reach Tier 5 first.'

When he was in the middle of his thoughts, he heard footsteps followed by Kanaria's voice.

He knew that they were coming, so he just asked them to make sure Jay was treated.

And it was quite surprising to learn about these evolution paths from Kanaria. Still, the most unexpected thing was the fact that Professor Waod was actually his mother's student. When he thought about it, he couldn't imagine how such a thing happened, considering their age difference.

Then again, his mother was a Tier 7 doctor, so Professor Waod might acknowledge her because of her expertise and skill instead of her age.

It only took them two minutes for the Silver Star team to reach them. It seemed that they split their group into two, with half of their members protecting their original position.

The other half came to them, fully shocked.

Their captain was among them. The moment he saw all these corpses, he couldn't help but ask, "You actually killed them both?"

He simply couldn't believe that two Tier 3 beasts would be killed by two Tier 1 humans. If he took another look at the battlefield, he would have noticed the corpses of other beasts not far from this place. He misunderstood it as Kanaria and Melody taking care of these beasts while Jay and Clovis handled the Tier 3 beasts.

Still, Clovis welcomed that misunderstanding, not wanting them to know that he was doing something else here.

"I'm sorry, but can you tend to Jay? I'm not sure about his condition." Clovis pointed at Jay.

"Ah!" The captain turned around while saying, "Mason."

"Yes." A guy nodded and hurriedly checked Jay's condition. "He has passed out, but his breathing is pretty stable. I don't think his life is in danger. I will give him first aid and after getting taken care of by the reserve team, he should be fine."

"Thank you." Clovis felt relieved to know Jay was fine. He could finally ask Kanaria, "Can you gather their essence, especially these two Tier 3 beasts?"

"Sure." Kanaria nodded.

"Please." The captain of the Silver Star team also asked the other subordinate to help Kanaria. After that, he moved closer to Clovis as if he wanted to say something.

Noticing that the atmosphere had become a bit awkward, Clovis couldn't help but ask, "Is the situation stable on our side? Should we change our position?"

"Are you still planning to fight in that state?" The captain's eyebrows twitched.

"I can still move or lead my team even if I can't fight anymore." Clovis shrugged. "Besides, the situation is still dire even if we manage to take down these two beasts."

The captain thought for a moment. "You are correct. However, we don't have to report it right now. If we report that we have taken down the Tier 3 beasts, they will assign us a new spot. I'm not sure what's going on, but it's clear that they're trying to push you to your death. So, listen to my advice, don't say anything."

"..." Clovis obviously wanted to do that, but he was worried that if they didn't do anything, the people in the shadows would come out to make the situation even worse.

That was why he thought it was better to look like he was rushing to his death so that they didn't use any of the plans they had stored for him.

However, Clovis couldn't really ignore his words. After some consideration, Clovis decided, "Alright. We won't be saying anything."

"Good." The captain nodded, satisfied.

Unbeknownst to them, Clovis's worry would actually come true.

Outside the city, specifically in the woods next to the city, the Tier 4 beasts actually woke up from their slumber, finding a figure before them.