## World Mall 156

Chapter 156 Coming Back
Kanaria and Melody gasped in shock. They exchanged looks before Melody said, "Is this a real image?"
"I don't think my mother would send a Photoshopped picture." Kanaria shook her head.
What Vania sent was actually a picture of Ivan. His face was full of stitches. It looked like there were at least seven sword wounds on his face, deforming it with all those stitches.
While Ivan couldn't be said to be the most handsome, he was still above average. So, all these stitches definitely ruined his face.
They simply couldn't believe that such a thing would ever happen, especially under the Drake Group's watch.
"This Is this Clovis's influence?" Melody sucked a cold breath. "Wait a minute. Why did he suffer something like this?"
Kanaria hurriedly replied to her mother.
Kanaria: What happened, Mom? You didn't send people to ruin his face, right?

Mom: No. I'm not sure about the validity of the rumor as well, but it appears that Nek and him are connected. You can guess the rest.
"!!!" Kanaria's body shook as she couldn't help but say, "Nek The one who died after pushing Clovis off the truck?"
"The people that had been targeting Clovis decided to kill him. And the fact that he was connected to Ivan meant the one asking him to kill Clovis was Ivan."
Kanaria nodded. "Yes. If we take a look at their method, you will realize that those hidden people are trying to kill Clovis indirectly. On the other hand, Nek and Ivan did it directly."
"So, that's how it is No wonder Clovis asked us to hide the news about him because he wanted to see the reaction of those people in the shadows."
"Yes. This confirms their intention. The hidden danger will only come for the kill when there are enough beasts. This is not a problem for us because Jay and Clovis are strong enough to kill Tier 3 beasts and it's not like we're going anywhere near Tier 4 unless it's a raid or something."
Melody pondered. "But Ivan and the Drake Group will be dangerous. The repercussions only came after doing the deeds, so it meant that if we pushed them to a corner, they would just kill us and get destroyed after that."
"Yes. I'll discuss this matter with Clovis after he returns." Kanaria nodded.

Melody asked, "So, what are we going to do with the money?"
"Hmm" Kanaria fell into deep thought. Since Clovis was fine and they had gotten the money, the most reasonable thing would be to restock all their supplies.
However, Clovis hadn't returned and they hadn't decided how much they wanted to sell the essence.
So, they still hadn't gotten the full money yet.
Usually, Clovis would be the one selling the essence and giving the money to her afterward.
Looking at this situation, it wouldn't be wrong if Clovis planned to do the same.
After some thought, Kanaria said, "Let's go with the usual."
"We will wait for Clovis?"
"Yep. You shouldn't have any problem with money anymore, right?"

"Yeah. Since we're waiting for Clovis, I guess we will have some days off."
"That's true. What will you do?" Kanaria asked.
"Jay is in the same hospital as my brother, so I guess I'll take care of him for the time being. But it's better if we have him take the treatment so that his broken bone can be fixed within seven days."
"In that case, do you mind handling the administration for the treatment? It shouldn't cost too much, right?"
"Yeah. The treatment for a Tier 1 human should cost around forty to sixty thousand."
"In that case, we'll go with that plan. If Clovis hasn't gone back by the time the administration is done, we can probably sell the Tier 3 essence first to get the money for the treatment."
Melody nodded. "I'll take care of it then. How about you?"
"I'll wait for Clovis."
"In his house? Well, I guess you can since you two have been living together." Melody shrugged.

Kanaria only offered a wry smile as both of them started going to their respective destinations.
Melody immediately went back to the hospital, while Kanaria decided to take care of the house until Clovis returned.
In the meantime, Clovis was slashing one beast after another.
"Ha Ha This is quite hard." Clovis panted a few times while looking at his surroundings. "To think that I would be this tired from killing only seventy beasts."
Although there were a lot of Tier 1 beasts, it wasn't at the level at which they could threaten Clovis. Then again, he was always helped by the radar and Melody's instructions, so having to watch out for his surroundings took a toll on his mind.
This experience just reinforced the reason why he desired a group that could grow together.
Because no one would judge him like this, he had the chance to test the limits of himself as well as the mall. He had been utilizing all kinds of items to recover his stamina or injury, but it started getting rough after seven hours.
So, Clovis decided to call it a day. His first destination was actually the car they left behind.

He never thought that the car they had abandoned would be useful for him. Since they had hidden it well unlike the rest of the group, the car was still intact.

Then again, he didn't have any experience driving. So, he used the next five hours to actually learn how to drive.

All the lessons were in the Skynet anyway and there wasn't anything around him. So, he just moved slowly but surely, getting accustomed to driving. If he failed to bring this car back, he could simply use the retreat as an excuse. If he managed to bring it back in one piece, he could save some money to buy a few things.

Due to his Blood Affinity, he managed to react much faster. While the sudden brake or gas was uncomfortable, he managed to reach the gate without hitting a single thing.

With a big smile on his face, he could finally return. "Alright. It's time to go home!"

Or that was what he thought until he returned to the base, only to find himself stopped by the city's police at the gate.

"You don't have a driving license? Even though you are an explorer and driving outside the city, you can't break the laws, you know. Who is your guardian? I'll have to give you a ticket."

"..."

Chapter 157 Report

"Hahahaha!" Kanaria laughed out loud while listening to Clovis's story. Originally, she was panicking when Clovis called her, thinking that he wouldn't be back soon.
However, the next thing he said, she realized that Clovis was being stopped at the gate for a dumb reason.
She simply couldn't comprehend how he even got into that situation. All the tears were simply swept away by this funny news.
Clovis rolled his eyes as he ended up having the car towed. Then again, this was much better than crying.
"I'm sorry for making you worry." Clovis sighed. "I had to hide myself in a tight space and not make any sound. I needed to even smear my body with their blood."
Kanaria smiled wryly. She thought she had lost him forever. "As long as you're back, it's all good."
"I guess everything can wait for tomorrow. I'm going to take a bath and a good night's sleep first before doing anything." Clovis thought that even if he did it today, it wasn't like he could visit the mall. The visit hadn't reset after all.
"Yup."

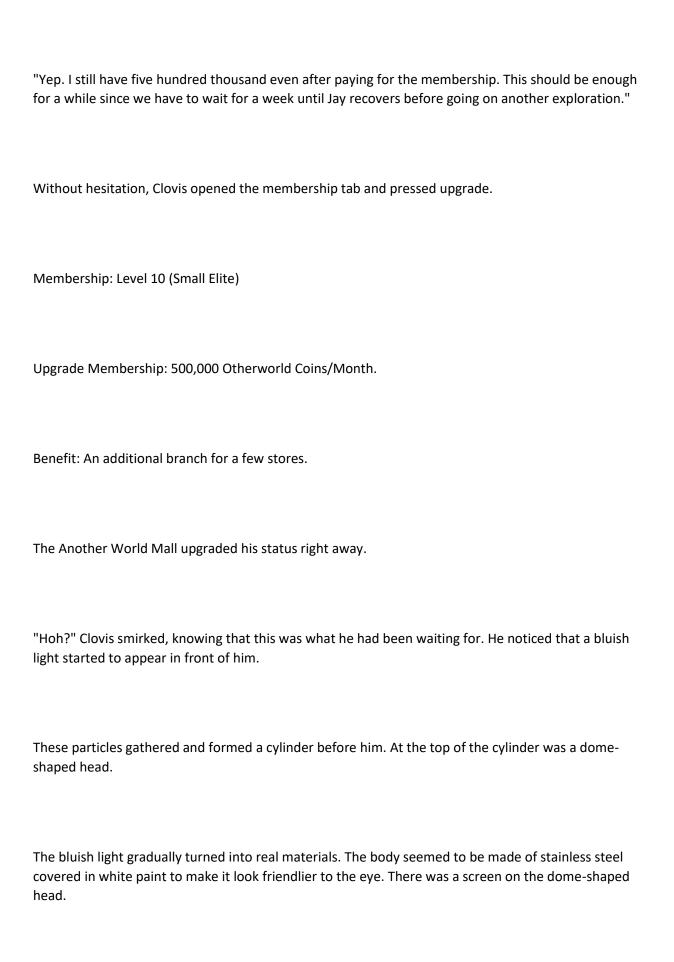
Since he returned with their car, all the luggage inside the car could be brought back, so they wouldn't need to pay more to restock their equipment.
During the dinner, Kanaria reported everything regarding the group. Clovis had no qualms about Jay's treatment, and this much money could be used for a lot of things.
Still, he was a bit surprised by what happened to Nek and Ivan. Nek's fate might have been sealed the moment he tried to harm him directly. But it seemed that he had underestimated his grandfather's influence.
If Ivan, who was the mastermind behind it, faced this type of consequence, it meant that the condition placed on him by his grandfather was much more severe.
Clovis couldn't help but say, "If this is the situation, I think my grandfather has forced them to do it. There might even be some accidents Can you find it?"
"Mhmm?" Kanaria tilted her head in confusion, but she still searched for all kinds of big news.
And there was actually one that looked a bit terrifying.
"Take a look at this." Kanaria showed the news.
'A sinkhole appeared after a small earthquake. Experts said it's not artificial.'

Clovis furrowed his eyebrows. "Interesting. I'm not sure if it's related, but I can't rule out the possibility. Still, if my grandfather really makes a move, then I believe people are going to know about me sooner or later."
"Now that I think about it, your identity is rather secretive. People know that he has a grandson, but there aren't really many photos of you. You should remember that I didn't recognize you when we first met, despite my admiration for Hacfield."
"Well, I didn't go out a lot and it wasn't like they took a picture of me that often." Clovis nodded. "Either way, it would be gradually traced back here. It won't be right away, but it's going to be soon."
"I guess we only have one choice."
"Yes. Reach Tier 2 before that happens. If possible, Tier 3. I want at least to have the battle power of a Tier 4 human." Clovis thought for a moment. After seeing the strength that the commander and the Tier 4 beasts showed, he realized the gap was much wider than he originally thought. So, even when he reached Tier 2, he might not be able to fight against a Tier 4 beast.
Kanaria raised a finger. "We also have one problem."
"What is it?" Clovis didn't think there was a problem he didn't recognize, but that was because of his character.

"We currently don't have a goal. I mean the short-term goal. For example, last month, we were aiming for a raid. What about now? We do still need to get stronger, but we don't have a target. While it's true that we should aim for the best, it's better to have a goal so that the training will be much more effective."
"Ah!" Clovis agreed with her. Even his grandfather told him to have short-term goals from time to time, and his progress has been smooth because of them. The goal had to be realistic, but not too easy either "Do you have an idea?"
"Nope." Kanaria shook her head helplessly. She thought about asking her mother, but she didn't want to be overly reliant on her. So, it was better for the group to find their new goal.
Clovis thought for a moment and asked, "Is there a raid or something? It doesn't need to be a raid. Things like competition can be used as a goal too."
"Let me search." Kanaria hurriedly searched it on the Skynet, only to find nothing. "Nope. There isn't anything right now. No raid, no tournament, whatsoever."
"I see. This is concerning." Clovis sighed. "Anyway, it will still take a while before Jay's injury recovers, so maybe there will be one in a few days."
"Alright." Kanaria nodded. "One more thing. Because of this incident, Ivan's approach might be more direct as he won't care about anything other than your death."
"I'm not worried about that. What I'm worried about is actually you, Jay, and Melody. What if they aim for the three of you instead of me?"

"That's true." Kanaria fell into deep thought.
"Anyway, we can worry about it later. I'm sure that you're tired too, so let's continue the discussion tomorrow." Clovis looked at Kanaria's face. Although her complexion had gotten better, she still looked tired since she didn't have a good sleep yesterday and had to do all the work today.
Of course, he was also excited for the new store in Another World Mall, which he could unlock tomorrow after getting all the money. He would have to find a chance to actually enter Another World Mall.
However, he couldn't deny the fact that tomorrow would be an exciting day. He wondered what kind of store would open this time, considering the reward was slightly different this time.  Chapter 158 Assistant
The next morning, the first thing they did was go to the bank to get their money before heading to Essence Bank to sell some of the essence. They had shown the list to Jay and Melody, so they knew which ones they could sell.
In total, the group got a little over seven hundred thousand, which made Clovis smile brightly. It was a good amount since he could definitely splurge it in Another World Mall.
After getting all the money, Clovis and Kanaria headed to the hospital to visit Jay and finish the payment for the treatment.

But before that, they visited Jay's room first. Of course, this was Clovis's request.
And after talking for a bit, Clovis finally excused himself. "Sorry, guys. I'm going to the toilet for a bit."
Yes, he ran away with all the money. After locking the door and ensuring that no one was here, Clovis hurriedly entered Another World Mall.
Clovis opened the system.
[Name: Clovis Hacfield.]
[Membership: Level 9 (Better Novice)]
[Money: 793,040 Otherworldly Coins.]
[Item Limit: 8/Visit]
[Visit: 1(2)/Day]



There was a pixel face that was made of blue light.
"Mhmm?" Clovis couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows, wondering if this was his assistant.
After it fully materialized, he saw the words on the screen, saying, "Please touch the screen."
A bit hesitant, Clovis placed his hand on the dome-shaped head. It seemed to be scanning his palm, especially his fingerprints.
Then, a monotone robotic voice soon echoed from it.
[Confirmation Complete.]
[The data of the new host has been registered.]
[Welcome to Another World Mall, Master.]
"Woah?" Clovis was a bit overwhelmed with this new assistant. "Are you the mall assistant?"



[Yes. The data since you arrived here has been transferred into my database. I believe that helping you in that area will improve a lot of convenience for you.]
"That's quite good. Anything else?"
[If you order me, I can make a purchase for you without the need to go here. For example, you just have to authorize me to use your funds to buy a few things. Of course, the visit and item limit will be used up accordingly.]
"This is rather tempting." Clovis had been buying everything personally, so if he could order him around like that, he might not need to visit the Another World Mall daily. What if the item limit or visit time increased even further? Wouldn't he have to visit the mall again and again? It would definitely become tedious in the future.
If he could authorize the assistant to do all that, he would have time for other things. "Is there more?"
[Yes. I can answer a few questions at your membership level. For example, I can describe the items for you like who made them or what they used. In addition, I could also give you suggestions on what to buy if you allowed me to.]
Normally, people tend to focus on the suggestion since it would look like an ad. However, Clovis thought differently. "Suggestions? Could you actually see my Evolution Progress and suggest which items to buy? Maybe, like computing which items will be good to consume next?"

[I can't see your Evolution Progress. But I can store all the information you've told me. As long as you provide me with enough information about how you'd like to progress, which traits you want to focus on, and to what level do you want to get first before maxing them, I can give you the suggestion to optimize your purchase.]
"Interesting." Clovis smirked. "Does that include my teammates? What if I ask you to include my teammates?"
[It won't be a problem.]
Clovis thought this was a good feature. Still, it would be a bit hard to ask for their information since it might raise suspicion if they got too fixated on their evolution traits, considering he had been feeding them items from this mall.
"How about this?" Clovis pointed at the membership's reward. "It's said that the next reward will be an additional brand for a few stores. What does it mean?"
Clovis had understood the gist of it, but it was better to ask it for confirmation.
[It means that you will have a few new stores of the same type as what you currently have.]
Clovis smiled wryly, expecting this answer. He believed that the accessory shop and the boutique would get an additional store brand that sold something slightly different from them.

He got a good understanding of what the assistant could do. So, he gave his last question before going to the new store.
"Then What do you think about this Another World Mall? Why do they have products that don't belong in my world?"  Chapter 159 New Store
"Then What do you think about this Another World Mall? Why do they have products that don't belong in my world?"
[You're not qualified to know the answer.]
The robot replied instantly, giving him an idea of what was currently happening.
Clovis asked another question. "In that case, do elves, dwarves, and other creatures from another world exist?"
[You're not qualified to know the answer.]
It repeated the same answer, which confirmed his suspicion.
Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought. 'As expected, this might be the situation. Fifty years ago, the world experienced an apocalypse, where the doors to the subterranean world opened. However, there was a message that everyone heard at that time, and it has become public knowledge ever since.

'The same words rang in everyone's mind at that time. It said, "The world has matured. Commencing the simulation." This world that we know of is nothing but a simulation, and if this is the case, it means that there are more worlds that are currently being simulated.
'If we take a few examples in a rather common world, we have a fantasy world where demons and demihumans exist. There might be a world that has a zombie apocalypse.
'This Another World Mall might get their items from those simulated worlds. This is just speculation, but this Another World Mall is a variable that the owner gives me so that it can turn into an unknown variable that can affect this world.
'In the end, it's a simulated world. Unfortunately, I don't have any facts to prove it.
'Still, my grandfather has been chasing after the truth the whole time. So, he might have been aware of this. It seems that there are more things that I can't possibly imagine hidden in this world.
'And this Another World Mall might be the key to actually finding the truth of this simulation world as well as the connection between other simulated worlds.'
Clovis's expression turned grim. He seemed to understand the Another World Mall a bit, but he couldn't help but feel pissed.

Even if he wanted to chase after his dream to become the greatest explorer who managed to find the truth, it would still be an opportunity given to him through this mall.
'Even so, I still have to move forward. Since I have gotten this key, I should take advantage of it to the fullest and reach my goal.'
Clovis pumped his fists, steeling his resolve. Even though the mall couldn't show him all the clues he needed, he might be able to find something if he continued upgrading his membership.
Still, there was something he wanted to try before heading to this new store.
"Blue. You're a robot, right?"
[Yes.]
"Then, can you turn into a humanoid robot?"
[It's possible, but Master hasn't gotten the perks yet.]
"Really? I can modify you in the future?"

[It's possible.]
"Then, if I ask you to have an elf's appearance, do you think you can do it?"
[It's possible.]
Clovis looked delighted by that information. If Kanaria saw him like this, she would definitely stare at him in disgust, thinking he had such a preference.
However, Clovis's intention was elsewhere. Blue's information was provided by the main system that simulated this world, so it meant that if Blue changed his appearance, it would follow the appearance that had been registered in the database.
In other words, he would be able to see the difference between the elf that was known widely in the fairy tale of this world and the elf that was registered in the database. This alone could become a connection to the world beyond this simulation.
Clovis became excited and wanted to grow as quickly as possible. "Alright. Guide me to this new store."
"Please follow me."
Blue turned around and started moving toward the new store. It was still on the first floor, but its location was a bit further.

When he first came here, the mall didn't have anything but a single grocery store. But after some time, Clovis had to walk a bit further before being able to reach this store. It gradually became a true mall.
To his surprise, the next store turned out to be a restaurant.
"This is" Clovis looked surprised. Because he was their only customer, he couldn't smell the burning fire or the food's aroma.
However, it didn't seem that they were planning to hide the kitchen since there was a giant air window connecting the dining hall and the kitchen.
At the same time, Blue opened the right slot in his body, extending a robotic arm that looked like a snake with claws on the tip.
It was holding the menu.
[Master. Please take your time looking at the menu.]
Clovis opened the menu and hurriedly took a look at the food they offered, which actually surprised him.



Name: Juicy Pork Chops.
Effect: Increase Essence Absorption by 10% for ten minutes.
Price: 750 Otherworldly Coins.
"What? You have something that can increase the essence absorption? Doesn't this mean if I eat this, my Evolution Rate can become 25% for ten minutes?"
[No. It's 10% of your total evolution rate. So, your evolution rate will only become 16.5% instead of 25%. However, if you can upgrade your strength, the meat you can consume will become more potent. It won't be wrong to say that it can boost your evolution rate by at least 100%.]
Clovis looked hopeful. However, he couldn't help but imagine what would happen if Jay and the others ate it.
"Can the evolution rate increase above a hundred percent?"
[There is no prior data.]

"Oh?! I guess it's not that omnipotent. No, should I say that this is more like a simulation? They don't know and want to test it... That's why they created this simulation." Clovis sighed. "I guess I have to try it myself. Then again, it's not like I can suggest this to them right away. "I have to wait a bit more while introducing more and more items from this mall to them. After they get used to it and our relationship reaches a point where I can openly share the items from Another World Mall, I might be able to test the effect." [Besides, this restaurant doesn't offer high quality ingredients. Instead, it offers a variety of food like the next menu.] "Huh?" Clovis was confused at first but when he lowered his eyes, he couldn't help but cough a few times out of shock. \*Cough!\* \*Cough!\* "What the actual hell?!" Name: Enhancer King Oysters. Effect: Boosting Libido and Stamina by 20% for three hours.



[It is possible if you desire it. However, you have to bring the container in.]
"Hmm? I can actually bring an item into this mall?"
[Affirmative. Like your clothes, you're able to bring items into this mall.]
"But Every time I'm here I couldn't bring my wallet No, wait!" Clovis suddenly fell silent as if noticing something. He reached out for his pocket and noticed that the wallet was actually inside his pocket. "Now that I think about it"
Clovis gasped. He almost forgot that the first time he entered this mall, he couldn't bring anything other than his clothes. Whether it was his wallet or his swords, he simply left them behind.
However, he couldn't remember when he actually forgot about this. He didn't care anymore about his wallet or swords. In fact, after the last entry to escape from those beasts, he actually entered this place with his swords.
"Don't tell me the membership" Clovis looked at Blue with his jaw wide open.
[As you expected, Master, the more you upgrade the membership, the more privileges you open. They are not included in the reward because it's not the main reward. However, opening the boutique shop allows you to bring your wallet in. The accessory shop brings in everything attached to your body like weapons or bags.]

[After opening the restaurant, you're eligible to bring in a small object.]
"So, I can actually bring empty containers or even other items such as watches or computers?" Clovis asked.
[Yes.]
Clovis noticed something important in this answer. "Doesn't that mean I can actually bring people to this place sometime in the future?"
[You're not qualified to know the answer.]
Clovis's expression turned serious. He noticed that there were three types of answers. If Blue could answer it, it would be a normal answer.
On the other hand, if there was no data to make speculations, Blue would reply to him honestly. And the last type would be related to his current membership's level.
He might be able to know about it once he reaches a certain level. To prove his theory, Clovis asked, "In that case, what is the reward for upgrading my membership to level 13?"

Three more levels should be the opening of a new type of store if everything went according to the patterns the mall had shown the whole time. But as he expected, Blue gave him the third answer.
[You're not qualified to know the answer.]
This made it easier for Clovis. Now that he knew what to expect from Blue, he could take advantage of this situation.
"In that case, I'm going to tell you about my current situation. This is my stats." Clovis opened the system implanted in his body.
Name: Clovis Hacfield
Tier: 1
Evolution Rate: 15%
Brain: 37.1%
Heart: 40.9%



He obviously had seen these gloves, but the description wasn't that detailed. In fact, he didn't notice the gloves were thin and durable.
It seemed that the greatest reward from this membership was not the restaurant but Blue.
Clovis hurriedly went to the store and bought the gloves. Their performance astonished even him. Blue's assessment was correct and he might be able to rely on him in the future.
Still, this assessment opened up a few possibilities.
If only he had the time, the first thing Clovis did after buying the gloves was to give some information about Jay, Kanaria, and Melody, even though he was just speculating their numbers. Then, he would ask Blue about the items that suited them.
After that, he would continue to look at every single item and want all the detailed explanations from Blue, believing that he might have missed a lot of details from the products they currently had.
Unfortunately, he had to leave the mall for the time being. He had spent more than twenty minutes, so they might be suspicious and started searching for him.
He would definitely continue his exploration tonight.