

World Mall 161

Chapter 161 Ideas

"Alright. It's done. We'll transfer the patient to the recovery tube this afternoon." The staff smiled and politely bowed to Clovis and Kanaria.

"Okay." Clovis nodded with a serious expression. Now that he had settled with Jay's recovery, they could spend the rest of the money for their equipment.

Obviously, Clovis simply handed the card to Kanaria. "Take the money and buy everything we need."

"Are you going to come with me this time?" Kanaria asked.

Unfortunately, Clovis shook his head and said, "There is something that I'm planning to do this time."

Knowing that the enemies were going to become much fiercer in targeting their group, Clovis was aware that his current strength wasn't enough to protect his team.

So, Clovis thought about focusing on his training for a moment.

"Alright." Kanaria understood his concern since he must have wanted to do a lot of things after realizing that he was that close to death.

Clovis, on the other hand, wondered what kind of place they would visit next, especially their current goal.

While Kanaria went back to Jay's room, Clovis couldn't help but walk out of the hospital to get some fresh hair.

During his short walk, Clovis couldn't help but mutter, "Is there a place that I can use to actually strengthen the group? There are currently no raids or expeditions and I don't know if there will be one shortly.

"In the worst case scenario, I have to prepare for the big exploration myself." Clovis looked up, imagining his grandfather. He was always an inspiration to Clovis, so Clovis couldn't help but wonder what he would do in this situation.

In the past, Clovis once said, "Grandfather. How did you explore all those areas?"

"I just went there." Michael tilted his head in confusion.

"Oh. I worded it wrongly. I meant how did you find all those interesting areas?"

"If that's your question, then I can say there are three ways. You can get it from other people. It can be in the form of a raid or exploration... or it can be a rumor or a folktale. Because the subterranean world is still an unknown place to us, we might stumble upon such interesting places in one way or another.

"If you don't have anyone to inform you about it, then I think your best shot will be from your target. For example, if you want to find a beast or a local herb, you have to explore all kinds of areas where you might find them.

"Or the last way is to ignore the warning and just venture into unknown territory. Because I'm the first generation of explorers, I have to go with the third way most of the time. The unknown scares me but also makes me excited. But with you, there will be a lot of tales already...

"This is just advice from me. Before all this happens, exploration is to satisfy your curiosity and have fun. Sometimes, don't think about anything and just go wherever you want."

When Clovis remembered it, he couldn't help but think, 'That's so selfish...'

There was no way he could do that, especially with his current life being targeted. If he died, the group would crumble as well. So, he had to choose his destination carefully.

All of a sudden, a flash of understanding seemed to appear in his mind.

"No. Wait. What if we made it less selfish? Instead of going wherever we want, we will still visit those interesting places, but they have to be suitable for our current strength."

Clovis gasped, realizing that this might be a good chance for them. Instead of randomly killing Tier 3 beasts, why didn't they choose a destination and just kill the beasts residing there? And they could probably finish some missions along the way.

And with such a random place to visit, those people who wanted to kill him would be confused as to why he chose such a place.

Money for him might indeed be important, but he had made enough money for a while. And it wasn't like they were planning to visit a lower tier area, so even if they didn't get the usual amount, it wouldn't be that much different.

Upon this realization, Clovis rushed back inside.

"You guys!" Clovis looked at his group with a serious expression. "Let's have a vacation!"

"Huh?" They were confused by the sudden randomness. Clovis was usually a man of focus, who prioritized his target before his wish.

So, it was kind of surprising to have him suggest such an out-of-character idea.

'Did the last experience where he almost died give him a trauma, so he wanted to heal from that trauma with this vacation?' Kanaria frowned.

'A vacation, huh? It might be a good idea. This group has been pushing themselves to the limit again and again. If you don't step on a brake, you will feel burned out sooner or later. The moment you lose the desire to be an explorer, it's going to be hard to re-ignite it again.'

"Hoh? A celebration for my recovery? That sounds good. I'm in." Jay smirked, making the joke to support Clovis.

Hearing Jay's words, Kanaria couldn't help but say, "I don't really get the idea. If you want a vacation..."

"No. I'm not talking about that kind of vacation. I'm talking about a trip to a place that normal people can't visit!" Clovis smirked. "Climbing a mountain, taking a bath in a natural hot spring in the subterranean world, something like that! However, we will have to make sure that the beasts residing in that area are suitable for our current strength."

"!!!" Kanaria looked surprised as she couldn't help but say, "So, visiting those areas for unique experiences while hunting down the beasts in that place?"

"Yep!" Clovis nodded.

"That sounds interesting. Although I can't bring my brother there, I can take a picture and tell him the story." Melody agreed with him.

Kanaria scratched the back of her head. It seemed that she might have to agree with the idea. She didn't know whether this idea was just Clovis trying to cope with his trauma or an actual plan he had come up carefully, it didn't sound that bad.

"Alright. Let's do it." Kanaria nodded. up with

Clovis smirked. "In that case, I have three requirements to choose this place. First, it has to be suitable for us, so the area should be Tier 3 territory. It doesn't matter if it's on the surface or in the subterranean world.

"Second, the place must have something special. Third, we can finish some missions along the way."

Melody gave a thumbs up. "Sounds good to me."

"Since I have to focus on recovering my strength, I can't find such a place... not that I'm used to searching for that kind of place." Jay shrugged.

"Mhmm. Should I ask my mother for some recommendations?" Kanaria asked, thinking that her mother would definitely find the idea delightful.

However, Clovis shook his head. "No. Let's find the places by ourselves first. We'll only ask your mother if we're stuck."

"Alright."

"We have a week to prepare, so take your time to find the destination and buy things we need for the journey. Once Jay recovers, we'll go."

They had reached an agreement. Clovis and the others accompanied Jay until he was brought to the special room for the recovery capsule treatment.

After that, Melody returned to her brother while Clovis and Kanaria headed back to their house.

Still, Clovis focused on his training once they were back. During the previous battle, he had experienced the same feeling that boosted his strength tremendously. He tried to figure out the secret to activate that hidden power.

At the same time, he was following Blue's recommendations and brought things they needed. This trip would be quite special since it was fulfilling their wish instead of their needs.

Of course, Clovis did his best to find this unique place so that they would have a good time.

It took them a full three days to actually find a place that fit their requirement. And Kanaria immediately ordered the items for such a journey, since this would be much different than anything they had done so far.

Finally, after a whole week, the group gathered in the explorer association. Yes, their destination was actually located in the Subterranean World and only through the association could they go back to that world.

What they didn't know was that the moment they headed to the subterranean world, the city was actually getting a visitor from afar.

Above the city was a giant ark floating in the sky due to the engines hanging on the ship's back. They gradually lowered their altitude and actually landed on a giant field inside the city.

It seemed that the officials had been waiting for them, including several important people.

While the ship was opening its hangar, there were two people already standing behind it along with several guards.

"Is this really the place where Michael Hacfield got his information, which caused him to go berserk?"

"There is no doubt it's this place."

"To think that he leaves behind his bloodline in this faraway place. I wonder what he is planning to do in such a remote place."

"Isn't that what you're trying to find out even though your father has stopped you?"

"Hahaha. If we can get the Hacfield family's cooperation, don't you think it will be amazing for our company?"

"..."

"Anyway, let's go!"

Clovis didn't know at the time that the impact of Clovis's fake death was much greater than he could imagine.

Chapter 162 Hana Skylark

A few days ago.

"What? Miss Hana from OpenSky Company is planning to visit this base?"

"Are you talking about the heir of the Skylark Conglomerate?"

"This is..."

The people inside the room fell silent as they didn't know what to say. The news was simply too shocking. Why would such a person actually come to this place?

"What is the purpose of that trip? Is she planning to invest in this city?"

"No. Why would she even leave her Tier 8 city to go all the way to our city?"

They all looked at a single person, who happened to be the city's mayor. He had been the one taking care of this city, but even he couldn't expect this. However, there were two people who seemed to have understood this kind of move.

They were the two people who observed Clovis when he first awakened. Yes, the first was Gregory. The second was the other person, who was indebted but didn't want to get involved.

Both of them had the same thought. There could only be one reason why such an important person would go all the way to this city. It was definitely related to Hacfield.

They didn't know how the matter had been spread, but it seemed that because of the previous incident, Clovis's identity had been leaked out. No, it would be fair to say that his whereabouts had been determined.

This was why they didn't really want to get involved with the Hacfield family or Clovis. Something like this was bound to happen.

And there was no way they could reveal Clovis's identity. In other words, they could only let these people speculate.

The mayor looked at the documents and said, "In the official document, it appears that she is trying to test the flight ability of the new battleship."

No one believed that they only came for the test. It was pretty clear that they were here for something.

However, they weren't in a position where they could reject this kind of person.

"It seems that we have no choice but to accept them." The mayor let out a long sigh.

"Yes, sir." The others also agreed with him. They had to take care of this person as well as possible. If this person was happy and decided to invest in their city, they might get a good investment.

"What about the landing spot?" One of the members asked.

The mayor thought for a moment before the president of the Drake Group raised his hand. "If you want one, I have it. There is currently an open field not far from the city center. Since we haven't started the construction, we can lend you this open space for the battleship."

"This..." The mayor obviously didn't want to let the private company take advantage, but because the city couldn't be expanded easily due to the wall, there wasn't a lot of space left. It wasn't like they could tell them to park the battleship outside. "Alright. We'll allow the Drake Group to take care of it if no one has problems."

The others were unwilling, but they didn't have an open space that big. So, they reluctantly agreed.

Finally, a few days had passed. The battleship had arrived.

It was a massive ship that spanned more than a hundred meters in length and fifty meters in width. There were a lot of metal doors where their weapons were located.

According to the news, this battleship was the newest and safest way to travel or hunt. There was a lot of talk when they announced that the battleship was going to be commercialized soon.

When this battleship landed, there were already a lot of officials and even high tier humans standing by. They all had one thing in common.

The Drake Group took advantage of this much more than the others since this was their land. Obviously, he brought a few young people with him so that they could show their talents a little bit and get picked up by them. And Ivan was one of them.

"Welcome to the city, representatives of OpenSky, Miss Hana. I am the mayor of this city, Revan." A middle-aged man politely bowed to the lady before him.

She smiled and took a step back before politely lifting her skirt. "I'm thankful for granting my request to land in this city, Mayor Revan. I'd like to apologize for announcing it so suddenly."

Mayor Revan looked surprised. The young woman before him had long blond hair, braided around her head with her hair down. She had warm and gentle light blue eyes. It was complemented by her white dress reaching to her knees.

Even though this city couldn't be compared to her company, it didn't seem that she was arrogant.

The person behind her was wearing a butler suit, but all the high tier people that attended this place realized the indescribable strength stemming from his body. If they fought him, they didn't think they would be able to win at all. He was at least Tier 6 if not Tier 7 human. So, no one dared act carelessly before him.

"Your words honor me." The mayor smiled and extended his hand. "You must be tired after a long trip. We have prepared your lodging."

"Thank you. In that case, I won't be polite." Hana nodded her head.

They had prepared the car, and the ones entering this car were Hana and her butler, the mayor, and Ivan, along with the president of the Drake group.

Hana took a look at the city while saying, "I've never thought that the city is actually this good even though it's located far south."

"I'm glad that this humble city can impress you." The mayor smiled.

"Young Miss." The butler leaned toward her and whispered a few things directly into her ears.

There were two people who slightly raised their heads because they noticed that even when they were in the same car and had the Brain Affinity that sharpened their senses, they were still unable to listen to what the butler said.

After the information the butler provided, Hana asked, "Mayor. I know that this is too sudden to ask. What do you think about organizing a raid with my fleet? I think this will provide a good opportunity for the people in this city."

"This..." The mayor looked shocked, but he hurriedly replied, "Of course. This will be a good idea. However, we're just a low level city."

"You don't have to worry. You can actually choose the destination and target. I'm sure this is going to be useful for your city as well."

"That is indeed good." The mayor nodded furiously.

"However, I do have a request."

"A request?"

"Yes. Since we're planning to benefit both parties, how about we only allow people under the age of 20? And we'll be ensuring their lives, so I think it'll be fine if we pick a slightly harder target. What do you think?"

The mayor thought for a moment. The proposal wasn't a bad idea. And training the young people would definitely have a big impact in the future, especially when their safety was guaranteed.

"I don't have any problems. It's just... when are you planning to do this expedition?"

"Let's see. We'll begin in four days. As for the duration, it'll depend on the target and difficulty."

"In that case, I'll do my best to fulfill your request." The mayor nodded before turning to Ivan and his guardian. "I believe that Mr. Thomas will allow Ivan to participate?"

"Oh?" Hana raised her head as though she were surprised before turning to Ivan.

"You might not know, but he is the most talented person in this city. He has a 99% evolution rate and a very good talent for learning all kinds of techniques. He and his group are able to take down a Tier 3 beast while all of them are only Tier 1 explorers."

"That's amazing." Hana nodded.

"We're nothing compared to Miss Hana," President Thomas humbly replied before glancing at Ivan. "Come. Introduce yourself."

"I am Ivan Anderson. Please give me any task and I will definitely not fail you."

"Nice to meet you." Hana was still able to smile because Ivan covered the upper part of his head with a mask, not allowing her to see his disfigured face.

Once they reached an agreement, there weren't a lot of things to talk about anymore. Hana immediately retired to her room the moment they reached the hotel.

She stood before the window while looking at the city. She remembered what her butler said earlier.

"There are a few people watching us right now. With this kind of technique, I believe they're related to assassination organizations. And there is someone rather special since he managed to escape from my senses earlier."

"Hoh?" Hana's expression remained unchanged. She simply said, "I guess this is the right city. Are those assassins belonging to the Red Dagger?"

"I don't think they are that skilled. It should be their branch called Dark Emerald. They're the ones around this area."

"What about the other one?"

"I couldn't find anything about him unfortunately."

Hana thought for a moment and said, "Either way, our plan is to locate the Hacfield family's bloodline. I have thrown the bait, so we'll see if he is going to participate or not. And who is that again? The most talented person in this city?"

"From what I can see, that young man has a disfigured face. Considering the cruelty and patterns, I think it's related to those assassins."

"In that case, he must have met our target." Hana smiled. "Investigate this person and find our target. Look at every remarkable rumor and story... There's no way someone related to Hacfield won't be talented."

"Understood." The butler received the order with a nod before disappearing from the room.

Hana sighed. "Now I wonder if he is a person that can be bought with money or not. I have prepared a few things, but if we can get him, we will be able to gain the cooperation of the entire Hacfield family. At that time, who will be able to stop us?"

Chapter 163 Information

"This doesn't look good for us." The two assassins narrowed their eyes.

"Yeah. That old man must have sensed us. He is sending killing intent directly to us so that we don't do anything to their group."

"The only reason why their group actually comes here..."

"Yeah. It's probably trying to find that guy. I was surprised that he was still alive after all that, but it was clear that we might not have the chance to do anything in the next few weeks. If we mess with them, that old butler is going to kill us."

"How is his strength?"

"I'm not sure. As far as I know, he should be at least Tier 7."

"We can't do anything then. This sucks. What if that guy uses this chance to repel us?"

"It seems that we have to inform the headquarters about it."

As soon as they reached an agreement, both of them disappeared into thin air.

The ones who observed Hana were not only them. Even the mole couldn't help but watch the situation.

However, he was the first one to leave when he was about to get found out.

"Well, this is going to be interesting." He smirked as if he had an interesting idea.

...

While they were focused on Hana and her OpenSky group, Clovis was already in the subterranean world.

They had split up. Jay and Melody had gone to buy a few other things and set up their devices for the exploration. On the other hand, Clovis and Kanaria were going to a bar.

As soon as they entered the bar, they looked around and noticed a middle-aged man sitting on the corner, waving toward them.

Before their departure, they had chosen their destination and gathered all the information. However, there was one thing missing from it. While there were some basic details regarding this place, they still needed the details.

They had to reach out to the person who posted the news so that they could learn more about it.

Clovis and Kanaria sat down before him. The middle-aged man looked like a veteran. There were some scars all over his body, but his face looked completely tired as though he had distanced himself from exploration.

"You are the one inquiring about Mount Kelbia, I presume?" The middle-aged man asked for confirmation.

"Indeed." Clovis nodded with a serious expression. He noticed that the middle-aged man was actually a Tier 2, probably close to Tier 3.

"Why don't you order a drink first?"

"No need. We'll be brief here." Clovis shook his head.

"Heh..." The middle-aged man looked amused before raising a finger. "As per our agreement, two thousand union dollars for the information."

Clovis only glanced at Kanaria. He was aware that the information might be a lie, but this was their only lead. So, they had no choice but to get as much information as they could.

Kanaria took out her device and transferred the money to him.

"Done!" Kanaria exclaimed.

"So, what do you want to know about Mount Kelbia?"

"We want to know about the terrain and the level of the beasts." Clovis asked this because Mount Kelbia was actually close to the unknown territory. Hence, there wasn't a lot of information even in the Gold Class Map. So, he had no other choice but to gather the information this way.

"Mhmm..." The middle-aged man contemplated for a moment. "In that case, I can only say that you don't know anything about Mount Kelbia. Mount Kelbia has a very steep climb, so it's going to be hard to climb it, let alone fight the beasts on it.

"You would find a lot of beasts that were capable of withstanding such terrain. The majority of them would be flying beasts.

"In addition, those beasts are much stronger than those you will find in the plain. I don't know whether it's because of the treacherous terrain or something else, but they are hard to kill as though they are used to pain. Leaving them gravely injured is the worst mistake you can make, so you best kill them.

"During my days, I was like you guys, overwhelming with confidence and trying to challenge all kinds of things. However, I suggested that you shouldn't go to Mount Kelbia."

Clovis's expression turned grim. He had heard that this mountain was dangerous, but hearing it personally sounded scarier. Still, this was what he called a challenge.

"What is your reason for going there? Dipping yourself into that natural hot spring? Exploring the ruin? Or just climbing to the very top of the mountain?"

"The hot spring?" Kanaria looked surprised.

"Oh? You don't know about it? If you want to know more about the hot spring, you need to pay me an additional three thousand. But I heard that the hot spring is rich in minerals and can actually strengthen your body or even make your skin smooth." The middle-aged man smirked.

Kanaria looked like she was about to say something, but Clovis raised his hand, stopping her.

"Enough. Tell me more about the ruin," Clovis changed the topic back to their original destination.

"So, you guys want to visit the ruin. Well, it's not that hard to find the ruin. Mount Kelbia was a former volcano and that ruin was actually a former vent. The ruin faced north and was about halfway to the top. Unfortunately, I didn't enter that place, but I expected there were a lot of beasts that used it as their nest."

Clovis took a deep breath before standing up. "That's enough. Thank you for the information. Let's go."

Kanaria panicked and hurriedly chased after Clovis.

"What a boring boyfriend you have there, Miss! He should have paid for the hot spring for your beauty," said the man with a mocking tone.

Clovis simply acted as if he didn't hear it and left the bar. Kanaria's head was hanging low as if it were a sad thing that they didn't know about the hot spring.

But when they came out of the building, a smile appeared on their faces. They had a high-five with both their hands and feet before giving a thumbs up to each other.

"Nice acting there!" Clovis smirked.

"He wasn't aware that we already knew about the hot spring and didn't realize there was a ruin on that mountain. By acting that way, we didn't have to pay for the information." Kanaria winked playfully. While they didn't mind paying another three thousand for the information, that didn't mean they should.

To think that the man would actually ask them to pay a total of five thousand just for that information. He tried to rip them off.

"Let's go then. Jay and Melody should be waiting for us."

Chapter 164 Mount Kelbian

"Let's go. We have got the information." Kanaria waved her hand to Melody and Jay, who were waiting for them next to the south gate.

"Yup."

What they didn't know was that three hours after Kanaria and Clovis left, there was another person actually inquiring about the same mountain.

Meanwhile, the group had headed directly to the mountain. Kanaria briefed them about the mountain and the information they had just received.

"So, the beasts are going to be stronger, huh? And there are flying beasts right now, which is much harder to deal with. That sounds interesting. I guess Kanaria will be the main offensive against those flying beasts." Melody gave her assessment.

"There is the ruin too. I'm getting excited right now." Jay smirked, definitely feeling fired up to know that there was a beast nest where he could fight to the fullest.

"Still, we're talking about a ruin. I mean, I have heard about ruins appearing in the subterranean world, symbolizing the human ancestors. But there isn't much information about the ruins since they aren't that advanced when passing their knowledge. Besides, all of them have been wiped out.

So, we can't expect anything from this ruin," said Kanaria, indirectly implying that Jay would definitely have his fill on this trip.

"We've got several missions as well, so let's take down those beasts. Most of them are Tier 2 beasts, but we have one mission to kill a Tier 3 beast. So, make sure that we complete our priority first before searching for the ruin and the hot spring."

"It's not going to be a very tall one, right? I mean, the ceiling above us is only about three hundred meters. It's going to be a quick climb." Jay shrugged. Three hundred meters might look tall for a normal person, but it was certainly very small for a mountain. "I wonder why they don't call it a hill since it is only 280 meters above the ground."

"Nevertheless, we shouldn't underestimate all the terrain here." Clovis saw that they were about to enter the forest filled with beasts, so he gave his order. "We'll focus on our destination, so there's no need to find a perfect place to assist us. Only when we reach our destination can you find places to snipe."

"Got it."

"Melody will assist us while protecting Kanaria as usual."

"Roger that." Melody nodded playfully.

"So, it means that we'll brute force our way there." Jay smirked.

"Yeah." Clovis smirked.

Both Clovis and Jay sped up as several beasts were spotted not far from them. They simply cut down all the beasts on their way and made their way toward their first destination.

It was a Tier 2 territory where their first subjugation target was located.

Clovis and Jay were already too strong to fight against a Tier 2 beast, so their advance was like a bullet. They killed all the beasts one after another while Melody and Kanaria searched for their target.

Once they found the subjugation target, they rushed toward the target and killed it easily. The entire mission didn't even take more than three hours. They even killed plenty of beasts and got a lot of essence from this mission alone.

After the first target, they moved on to the second target. Its territory was along the way, so they didn't have to make a detour and head directly to this new territory.

The mission once again went pretty smoothly. They repeated the process two more times with the last target located not far from the mountain.

However, the thoughts in their minds changed abruptly the moment they reached the foot of the mountain.

"So, this is Mount Kelbia," Clovis exclaimed while sucking a cold breath. He had expected this from the information, but he seemed to have underestimated the steepness of the mountain.

The mountain before him was enormous even though it wasn't that tall. Despite its size, the climb was extremely steep.

There were many narrow paths, but it would be hard to cross all of them, especially when they were being attacked by beasts.

Still, some small flat plains were visible from the foot of the mountain. There were also some smokes rising into the air, so it was pretty clear that those areas were where the hot springs were. He just had to find the most comfortable ones according to the information they had.

The problem would be climbing this rocky mountain. If they fell, they would definitely be heavily injured or even die. So, this was going to be a challenge.

Some flying beasts were spotted flying around the mountain as if searching for their prey. In fact, due to the angle of the climb, they could see pretty clearly some of the beasts from this place.

"The best plan will be to alert those beasts and force them to go down. Only after we kill those threats can we start climbing." Melody looked concerned since this kind of challenge was much more dangerous when there was a brawl maniac that just wanted to kill these beasts.

"Does that mean we're going to camp here first?" Jay asked.

"Is that even a question? Do you know how dangerous it is to fight on that steep climb or even rest there?" Melody's eyebrows twitched.

"I mean, shouldn't we find the ruin and use it as our camp?" Jay corrected his words.

Melody suddenly fell silent, realizing that what he said made some sense.

Clovis looked at the mountain carefully, calculating the danger they would face here. Even he didn't expect that the mountain was this steep. It was no wonder why that middle-aged man suggested they not visit the mountain just for experience.

Clovis took a deep breath before saying, "Alright. Here is the plan. We still have three hours before dark, so we will—"

"Guys!" Kanaria's voice suddenly echoed in their ears, interjecting Clovis.

All of them turned around, wondering why she called. Kanaria seemed to be pointing at something behind a tree with a worried face. "I think you need to see this."

Chapter 165 Suspicion

"I think you need to see this."

"What's wrong?" Clovis furrowed his eyebrows. When he took a peek at the thing behind the tree, he was quite surprised to see a beast's corpse lying on the ground. "Huh?!"

Jay remained silent, but he also felt something was wrong. Melody hurriedly kneeled down and inspected the wound. "This doesn't seem to be from the beasts."

"Yeah. It's definitely not a beast hunting another beast for food. Looking at the blood, it shouldn't be that long." Kanaria's expression turned serious. If this was indeed a wound that a human inflicted, it meant that there were people around this area.

"This is quite troubling," Clovis muttered.

"Should we continue? It's not like that we'll have to fight if we meet another person, right?" Kanaria shrugged.

Clovis thought about it, but he couldn't dismiss the possibility that someone was targeting them.

"Alright. We will go around the mountain to locate the ruin first. Since the mountain is this steep, we should be able to find the entrance from the bottom. We'll also continue monitoring the radar and making sure that we're not getting ambushed." Clovis pointed up.

He was talking about the potential of a sniper. At the same time, there was a chance that people were hiding nearby. That was why Clovis wanted them to go around first.

"If we take a look at it, don't you think it's pretty easy to find the way they climb?" Kanaria pointed forward. There were at least three more corpses or blood traces, showing that whoever came here actually climbed the mountain.

"Is there something weird on the radar?" Clovis asked.

"I can't really find anything. There are some dots around the mountain, but that's all I can say." Melody crossed her arms, wondering if she could take a different approach to finding the enemies.

Kanaria was also observing the mountain, wondering if she could find any ambushers or not.

Because the terrain was horrible, the assassins might have brought the beasts to the top of the mountain and tried to send them down or do something to cause a landslide. Either way, it would be fatal for them.

After what happened previously, they had to be more careful.

While they were thinking about a solution, they heard a few roars coming from the left.

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

Jay stepped between them while assessing the situation. "There are only three beasts. They all seem to be Tier 1."

"We are in the middle of a discussion. Can you handle them, Jay?" Clovis asked.

"Take as much time as you need." Jay jumped forward. Instead of being useless, it was better if he could just kill these beasts and protect the rest. They were just Tier 1 beasts, so it should be pretty easy.

Jay waved his sword with all his might, planning to slash the beast in front of him. The beast pounced on him, using the momentum to push the sword down.

Jay only smiled, thinking that his sword would simply overpower the paws and turned this beast upside down before he killed it.

But to his surprise, the paws actually withstood his swing.

"Huh?!" Jay widened his eyes in shock. Although he didn't use his full power since the opponent was only a Tier 1 beast, he had released enough power to fight against a Tier 2 beast. Yet, the beast actually stopped his sword.

The other two beasts also surrounded him from both sides.

Because he was unable to retract his sword due to the beast holding it, his other hand reached out to the scabbard and blocked the beast on the left. By doing so, the third beast had the opportunity to strike him from the right, which he took on the upper arm.

"!!!" Jay gritted his teeth, seeing the claw mark on his sleeve. It even penetrated his defense and grazed his skin.

After that, the beast in front of him rammed its body into Jay, knocking him back.

The crisp sound of pebbles echoed in everyone's ears. They all turned their heads around, shocked to find Jay on the ground.

"Wha—!" Kanaria grabbed the pistol out of reflex, but before she could provide any help, Jay had punched the beast, knocking its paws away from his sword. After that, he stabbed the beast's head.

The other two came toward him, but they all got blocked by Jay's saber and scabbard. With a single spin, Jay cut down the second Tier 1 beast before overwhelming the third beast.

Still, they were pretty shocked to find Jay getting overwhelmed like that.

"I'm fine." Jay said, glaring at them as if indirectly implying that they shouldn't say anything.

Jay wasn't the person to underestimate his opponent even if he didn't go all out. So, this only confirms the informant's words regarding the beasts being stronger than the normal ones they had faced so far.

With this additional information, climbing the mountain had become even more dangerous.

"Change of plan." Clovis sighed. "We'll locate the entrance of the ruin and make sure it's the right one. After that, we'll try to camp inside the ruin if we find no beasts. If there are a lot of beasts, we'll immediately go down and set up the camp here. Let's do it before the sun sets."

Jay looked unwilling, thinking that he had just underestimated them a little bit. But Clovis didn't take no for an answer this time

The entire group hurriedly looped around. Kanaria and Melody had to focus on the mountain to locate the entrance. Meanwhile, Clovis experienced the rumored strength of the beasts here.

As said earlier, they were indeed stronger. It was a bit more troublesome to take them down one by one, especially if they were on that mountain.

This made Clovis even more careful with the exploration which possessed a different kind of challenge.

Fortunately, Kanaria and Melody seemed to be able to locate the entrance of the ruin. While it wasn't fully visible, it was pretty easy to spot the entrance.

Without wasting another second, Clovis chose to climb the mountain right away.