World Mall 186

Chapter 186 In	itluence
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"Good morning, good afternoon, or good evening, Mr. Michael. I'm from the International Explorer Association (IAE). I'd like to inform you that someone seems to be investigating your grandson's information. May I ask you to confirm whether your grandson, Clovis Hacfield, has a 15% evolution rate?"
"Those pathetic fools Give me a minute." Michael clicked his tongue and logged into his account. As he said, it only took him a minute before he asked, "Can you repeat your question?"
"I apologize, I may have misspoke. May I ask you to confirm your grandson, Clovis Hacfield, has a 40% evolution rate?"
"Yes," Michael answered nonchalantly.
"Thank you for your confirmation. We'll proceed according to our rule. May I ask if you have any further requests, Mr. Michael?"
"No. I don't want to be bothered with this insignificant problem. Only fools will think that everything depends on evolution rates."
"I understand. Thank you for accepting my call, Mr. Michael. Have a good day."

Michael hung up while snorting.
Meanwhile, Clovis had already placed his thumb on the scanner and the device began to show his information.
Name: Clovis
Gender: Male
Age: 16
Evolution Rate: 40%
Clovis widened his eyes in shock as if he couldn't believe the information before him. Even the police dropped their jaws. They had seen the data and it showed them 15% evolution rate.
Yet, when Clovis tried to prove it, the number had changed. As if it were trying to slap them in the face, the evolution rate was actually set into the minimum amount to register in the association.

Kanaria and Melody couldn't believe it as well. They thought they were hallucinating, considering the
data was stored at the international organization. All the explorer associations around the world were
just their branches to regulate the explorers.

Ivan dropped his jaw to the ground. With this number, they couldn't arrest Clovis. But President Thomas should have done it carefully, meaning that he had enough confidence that this trick would work.

Yet, the reality was different.

Hana's eyes turned cold. "It seems that the city doesn't like me. To think that they would actually hinder me, who is doing my best to help increase the standard of living in this city. I'll have to file a complaint with the mayor after this expedition. I might even have to cancel my investment and find another place."

"This... this..." The police panicked, not knowing what to do. They thought they only needed to arrest Clovis and bring him back to the station for formality. But it turned out they were wrong and even offended Hana. Their faces turned pale.

Hana turned around, put her hand into her pocket, and whispered, "Now you understand the power behind a Tier 9 human, right? Your grandfather, especially, have enough influence to change the information from all organizations under the United Nations. I have heard him removing someone's name and manipulating his information with his phone and a single call.

"That's why I said everything under Tier 9 is trash. Anyway, they won't be able to do anything to you through your information as long as your grandfather is still alive. Do you want me to find out the mastermind? Cough if yes, stay silent if you want to do it yourself."

Clovis remained silent, which she took as an answer.
Hana took out her hand from the pocket and started walking back angrily.
Clovis was still stunned because he was actually staring at the information that was stored directly in his body.
Name: Clovis Hacfield
Tier: 1
Evolution Rate: 15%
Brain: 49.1%
Heart: 60.9%
Blood: 45.5%



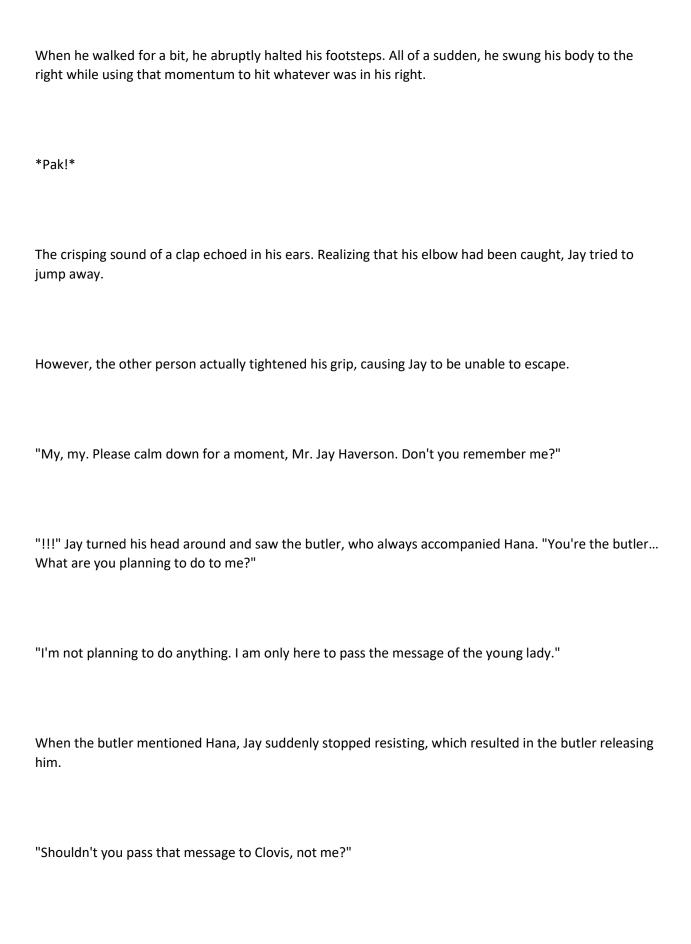
"Yes. Now they should sue the police for defamation and disclosing personal information."
"Serve them right. Those policemen must be the bad ones."
"Yeah. The police should have done their job earnestly and not involved themselves in the politics."
"Still, don't you think it's insane for him to reach Tier 1 within a month with that evolution rate?"
"It's amazing. He is much better than Ivan. I feel like I should work even harder."
"Agreed. Looking at his achievement, I feel like I haven't worked hard enough."
"We need to beat Ivan ourselves."
They all looked even more excited. Instead of Clovis, Ivan had become their target. A single mistake from Ivan would be a disaster for him.
Ivan wanted to say something, but Elina was holding his hand, preventing him from doing something that would make the situation worse. She also never imagined that the president's scheme would end this way. This looked like a dumb move from Thomas.

Clovis simply shrugged his shoulders when he returned to his group as though nothing had happened.
Melody was impressed. This was a way of showing her that his family indeed had the ability to help her brother.
Jay didn't really care about the problem, believing Clovis would be able to solve it.
As for Kanaria, Clovis had to rub her forehead to snap her back to reality.
"Ah!" Kanaria looked at Clovis, demanding an explanation.
"Anyway, let's go first, shall we?" Clovis pointed at the battleship.
"Yeah, sorry." Kanaria nodded helplessly.
"Have fun, guys!" Melody regained her composure and hurriedly waved her hands.
"We're off!" The three of them nodded and walked toward the ship like the others as the battleship took off into the sky. Chapter 187 Jay

"This is beautiful." Kanaria muttered while looking at the scenery. Since the battleship wasn't going at very high speed, they were permitted to actually come out to the ship's deck.
While enjoying the breeze of the wind, Clovis also stepped to the edge and put his hand on the railing. "Indeed."
This was something they had never experienced before. Even if one flew in an airplane, they could only see the outside through a small window. Looking at it directly was not possible before.
There was a different feeling when looking from this battleship and the skyscraper.
"We'll just have to continue taking one step at a time and keep upgrading our lives. This kind of thing might not be impossible to have in the future." Clovis smiled.
"Mhmm" Kanaria nodded while smiling.
Jay didn't have any interest in looking at the scenery. He was actually sitting on the lower deck while reviewing the information about the mission.
Because Melody wasn't here, he thought he should do a bit more.
Expedition.

However, he noticed something about these people. They seemed to be whispering to each other while glancing at him as though they were talking about him.
Jay didn't believe he had done something that would garner their attention. However, their group might have done that.
"Hmmm?" Jay's expression turned serious. He didn't say anything, but he seemed to be bothered. It didn't really matter if they wanted to talk badly about him, but not his group. That was why he tried to listen to their conversation.
It was hard since he didn't have an affinity for that, but he still managed to pick someone's voice not far from his spot.
"Hey. You know Libation Fiesta 21st group."
He could only hear a few words, but Jay could understand what he was talking about.
They had been invited by Hana for this expedition. They had no reason to refuse her, especially now that they had decided to work as business partners.
However, for the people here, they had done their best to get a spot in this raid to show their strength and probably got picked by Hana to advance their career even further.

From that perspective, they were like a group that used the back door to enter this raid.
It was understandable but also annoying. They could say they were jealous, but he couldn't confidently say that they would get this opportunity if Clovis didn't come from the Hacfield family. The conversation only happened because of his identity.
Hence, Jay was actually looking around, not to stop them from talking about them but to find the culprit.
The group list shouldn't have been published. So, there were only a few people who knew about it.
The moment he thought about it, he noticed a suspicious person. It was Elina. She was supposed to be with Ivan on the deck, but to his surprise, she was actually talking with other people in the cabin as if she were genuinely interested in them.
'It seems that the culprit is the Drake Group. They're the ones instigating both the rumor and the explorer identification," Jay muttered inwardly. 'Should I interrupt her? But confronting her will indirectly confirm the rumor. It's not like Clovis wants his information to be spread either. It seems that I should tell Clovis about it.'
After considering his options, Jay stood up and started heading to the upper deck.
Once he exited this cabin, he was alone in the hallway. There was no staff, guard, or even the raid team in this hallway.



"That's the original plan, but he is busy right now. So, I'd like you to pass that message along. From what I can see, you are smart enough to understand the situation. It seems that there are some pests trying to ruin my young lady's reputation."
Jay paused for a moment and looked around as if wanting to confirm no one was here.
"Don't worry. No one is here. I've asked everyone to vacate this hallway, but we don't have a lot of time." The butler raised three fingers. "First, they might use this chance to actually isolate you from the rest of the group.
"Second, while we couldn't care less about their opinions, it would be better not to crush their morale before the expedition. We'd destroy their pride in the raid itself.
"Third, please take this." The butler took out a small metal ball. "I'm not sure if you know about this, but it's a jamming device."
"Do you want me to mess with their communication?"
"No. This is not a communication jamming device. Instead, it's a device that can interfere with the radar signal, allowing you to hide yourself from the radar."
"!!!" Jay remembered that Melody had scanned the area after climbing the mountain. Yet she actually missed Hana, who seemed to have been waiting for them the whole time.

"It might become handy for your group. The miss wants to give this to your group."
"I will pass it to Clovis, but I can't guarantee he'll accept it."
"Of course." The butler smiled. "I've passed all the messages from the young lady. In that case, let me give you a little advice. Treat it as a payment for passing this message in my stead.
"Your current footwork emphasizes the surge of strength coming from the lower body. It gives you good explosive strength, but it takes too long to charge that energy. Instead of focusing on your legs to stomp the ground, why don't you try moving your entire body down for one or two centimeters? You have an extremely sturdy lower body, so you should be able to do it."
After the explanation, the butler politely bowed his head and said, "I bid you a pleasant time," before disappearing into thin air.
"" Jay raised his eyebrows because he couldn't sense the butler anymore.
Still, his focus returned to the previous matter regarding the rumor. While walking, he was staring at the sphere and decided to put it in his pocket.
At the same time, he was curious about the advice from that butler. It was clear that the butler was extremely strong, so that advice might be based on his experience.

While walking, instead of stomping the ground, he actually shifted the center of his gravity down as though his upper body was following the momentum and applied pressure to the lower body.
In an instant, he felt a surge of strength moving toward his ankles before bouncing back to the upper body.
The process was actually at least five times shorter than his usual stomp even though the energy had to bounce.
'This' Jay couldn't believe what he had found. Clovis's fighting style relied a lot on speed and dexterity, while his focused on overwhelming strength. But with this trick, he might be able to close the gap between his speed and Clovis's.
'Still, to shift my center of gravity down, it will cause a problem for my martial arts. But if I can refine this method a bit further, I might be able to become stronger than Clovis.'
Jay clenched his hands into fists, feeling a bit fired up. He remembered that the Star Method for Muscle Affinity focused on the muscle's utilization. However, he seemed to have misunderstood it. What Clovis's father meant by muscle was actually every single muscle in their body, not just the ones in their arms and legs.
With a smile on his face, Jay rushed to the upper deck so that he could pass the message and try this new trick, only to be shocked by what he saw.

On the deck, everyone seemed to be looking at Clovis and Kanaria as if they were holding a grudge.
Chapter 188 Doubt
While looking at the scenery, Clovis and Kanaria suddenly noticed something.
"Hey. Are they really the ones?"
"Yeah. I heard that they were actually added at the last second. Unlike us, who had to undergo a screening, he used a back door and put his name on the list."
"What? But isn't he a genius?"
"What genius? He only has a 40% evolution rate."
"That's true. While he can still continue progressing quickly, his speed will drop significantly when he reaches a higher tier."
"This is rather unfair."
"Yeah. He can get the resources from the wealthy families behind his subordinates."

"Then he must be using that connection to force his way here."
"If he follows the screening, he won't be able to join this raid."
The people began whispering about a 'scandal' after they had gotten their fill on the scenery.
The first one to notice this was Kanaria with her sharp senses. She couldn't help but turn around.
The people stopped talking for a second, but it was clear that a lot of people were talking about them.
They all gazed at them as though they were cheating. However, they didn't dare to say another word because they were afraid of the families backing Kanaria and Jay.
Kanaria noticed that it would be bad if she suppressed this kind of rumor with force, so she turned around and said, "Clovis People are talking badly about us."
"I guess it's because of the rumor." Clovis muttered in a low voice while looking at the scenery with a calm expression. It was as if he didn't have any thoughts about it.
"Rumor?" Kanaria frowned.

"Yeah. Do you remember when I told you that our existence in this raid group is rather controversial?"
"!!!" Kanaria widened her eyes and said, "The Drake Group."
Clovis didn't reply, but they were the only group that would actually spread such information. In fact, not many people would've received the list of participants. And among the people who got it, only the Drake Group had a grudge against them. Hence, the culprit was rather obvious.
"Anyway, the best way to shut them up is by proving that we're much stronger than them. Just swallow it for a moment and release that anger toward those beasts."
Kanaria's expression turned grim, but she had no choice but to agree with the solution. "Alright. Should we go back then?"
"Sure. We're about to reach our destination anyway, so it's best to prepare ourselves." Clovis nodded and turned around.
But when he and Kanaria were about to leave, someone actually screamed within the crowd.
"This is not fair. We've gotten through the screening, but there is someone else who is using their connection to enter."

Everyone couldn't help but raise their heads. They had been holding all the complaints in their heart, but when someone finally unleashed that anger, they couldn't help but want to let out their frustration.
The people started glaring at them with bloodlust as though they wanted to beat Clovis and Kanaria.
Some guards, who were protecting the upper deck, noticed the commotion and wanted to stop them. Yet Clovis decided to solve that problem first.
"It is indeed frustrating to let someone use their connection to do things. Even if I claim that I haven't used that connection to enter the raid team, no one here will believe it." Clovis's voice was serene yet strict.
The people suddenly fell silent as though they wanted to hear his explanation.
"That's why I won't stop you from blaming me by thinking that I've used my connection to join this raid. However, there is one thing that I need you to know. The meaning of this raid is much deeper than you originally believed.
"There is a reason why they held a screening to choose the people for this raid. You will understand it after fighting against the beasts. And I believe that you will think using connection is the same as sending yourself to death.
"If you still think that I'm in the wrong at that point, I'll take full responsibility for your unproven claim. That's all. I hope that all of you are able to survive so that you can change your opinion." Clovis smiled.

His opinions didn't pack so much power or persuasion. However, it instilled doubts in their hearts.
Was the raid really that deep? A normal expedition is a rather simple and straightforward activity. They believed they would be able to do a lot of things in this raid and gain the recognition of the OpenSky company.
It seemed that they had to see what Clovis meant by fighting against those beasts.
After planting that seed of doubt, Clovis stepped away from the upper deck and headed back to the cabin.
To his surprise, Jay was actually standing not far from the stairs as if he had been watching the whole thing.
"It seems that you've seen all of it." Clovis patted Jay's shoulder. "Our job is going to be much harder now."
Jay scratched the back of his head. He thought that he could warn Clovis about the rumor, but the other party had worked even faster. In fact, they might have been working since yesterday.
"Anyway, I have gotten a few messages for you."

Jay explained everything to Clovis starting with his observation, speculation, and the message from the butler.
As the butler said, they had been isolated. Clovis never intended to crush their morale since the seed of doubt was enough.
However, he was definitely shocked when Jay handed over the sphere that could jam the radar.
"This is" Clovis gasped.
"Is there something wrong? This is an amazing device, but is it that useful? I mean, our enemies are the beasts, right?" Kanaria asked.
Clovis shook his head. "This is a very useful item for our current situation. I see it seems that she is able to see through the situation. I guess there's a reason why she is able to become a respectable businesswoman. I'll show you how to turn around the situation with this device."
Chapter 189 Starting the Raid
Five minutes before they reached the destination, all the participants had been assembled in the cabin, including the explorers under the OpenSky Company.
There was a 19-year-old man giving them the briefing for this raid.

"As you already know, we'll be targeting the seven Tier 3 beasts in this place. Our teams will also be participating and we will do our best to keep you from getting into danger.
"Next is this" The man raised a flare gun. "Shoot the flare to the sky if you want to get rescued or notice something wrong. We'll immediately send our team there.
"While we do our best to help you, it'll be hard to keep track of all the people. Hence, I'll set up perimeters. Anyone who crosses this line can consider themselves eliminated. If there is any beast coming over to you, we won't be able to come to you right away." The man drew two straight lines parallel to each other.
"Last but not least, I want to tell you to be extra careful. Don't be too complacent about your current achievements. That might get you killed on this expedition. That's all."
The man paused for a moment. "If you still have any dissatisfaction, you can settle it after the expedition. Anyone who is trying to disrupt the raid will be treated harshly by us, understand?"
The people's hearts skipped a beat after that warning. They all knew what the man was talking about.
It was clear that Clovis's identity was special and indirectly implied that he entered through a connection.
However, it didn't really matter for Clovis as he had another plan to solve the problem.

"If there is no question, we shall head out." The man waved his hand. "Follow me."
The man led them to the door. He didn't know the reason why Hana came to this place.
However, Clovis's group was chosen personally by their president. There should be a reason for it. It would be wrong if he didn't feel jealous or anything, but he was in no position to question her superior's decision unless it was proven that they were useless.
He had seen all the people hiding their true abilities because it would put them in danger. They were the same as people who revealed their abilities so that big companies would pick them.
So he believed that was the reason for Hana to choose Clovis's group. For the time being, he had just to warn them and watch for the result. The ability to make a calm decision was also the reason why Hana hired him.
Their destination was a small forest in the middle of nowhere. This forest was considered a dangerous area because of the extraordinary beasts within it.
The people thought that even if they were powerful, their tier had said it all.
So, when the gate was opened, the man gathered them in front of the battleship and shouted, "Remember. Be careful. The forest is very dangerous for all of you. Once you enter the forest, kill as many beasts as you can while heading to the lake in the middle of the forest. That'll be our first rendezvous point. Then, without further ado, go!"

They became excited the moment he gave the signal. They all rushed into the forest, trying their best to show that they were talented people.
Yes, all of them except Clovis's group.
"Mhmm?" The man turned his head, noticing Clovis. The other explorers from the OpenSky company also widened their eyes. Was it because they had been picked by Hana that they thought this raid was not important? The man asked, "What are you doing? You're supposed to go now."
"Not yet." Clovis shook his head. "It's not like we will run out of beasts to hunt."
The man furrowed his eyebrows, thinking, 'Is he confident? No, wait Does he realize the difference between the beasts in this place and the ones around the cities?'
Considering Hana recruited them, the latter was most likely the case.
"If you are that confident, why don't you start now? It will be amazing if you can kill a lot of beasts in this place, especially Tier 2 beasts."
"Before that, would you kindly answer one question?" Clovis raised one finger.



"NO!"
"Whaaaatttt!"
A lot of people looked confused, so the guy looked at all the explorers from the company. "It's time for us to move out as well!"
They nodded their heads, knowing that this would happen to the country bumpkin who didn't understand the true terror of the beasts.
In the forest.
"Gaaaah!" A young man crashed into a tree. He looked at the beast in front of him while gritting his teeth. "What is going on? I am a Tier 1 human and the opponent is the same. I should have been able to fight against two or three Tier 1 beasts at the same time, but I'm actually being overpowered by one?"
"Help!" Another young man shouted while avoiding all the attacks from the beast, but he was soon out of breath and got slammed to the side.

Seeing the reinforcement, the captain grabbed the beast's horn and held it down for a few seconds. "GO!"
Jay sped up and sliced the beast's neck, killing it instantly. After that, he moved on to another beast.
In just thirty seconds, Clovis, Jay, and Kanaria were actually able to kill all the beasts.
The captain was simply stunned, never expecting that the people they scrutinized earlier would actually help them.
"You" The captain stepped forward, stopping Clovis, who seemed to want to move to another location "Why did you help us?"
Clovis looked at him coldly, making the captain shudder. The latter knew that he had done something wrong, and Clovis had the right to see him that way.
However, Clovis actually spoke with a rather serious but gentle tone. "Don't forget who we represent. Before our own group, we are the citizens of this city. And above all, they are a foreign company. Don't forget that. While the beasts are strong, as long as we are careful and work together, they are nothing."
Clovis waved his hand, signaling Jay and Kanaria to move to another location.

The captain and all his members couldn't help but listen to Clovis's simple yet profound message.
"The city Yes. We do represent our group, but we are also the representatives of the city. We can't really disappoint the city. No. We are also representing our country. We won't allow the foreigners to look down upon us." The captain bit his lips.
He had misunderstood Clovis's group. They were what the people didn't want, but what they actually needed.
He was there to make sure that their city didn't lose face in this expedition.
Yet, they actually disdained him just because of the rumor. Like Clovis said, they finally understood why this raid wasn't normal.
"Gather all their essence in one minute. After that, we'll head to another group and help them if they are in trouble."
"Yes."
The group moved as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, Clovis led his group through the forest and helped one group after another. Every time they appeared, the people would be shocked. Clovis was like a ghost and a guardian who came when they needed him and left after saving them.
That was what Clovis was trying to do. The seed of doubt he planted earlier began to bloom. The fertilizer was none other than the device that Hana gave.
By hiding from the radar, it was as if they appeared out of nowhere and acted like heroes while rousing their spirits.
It was easy to sway people's opinions, considering there was only a misunderstanding between them.
With one group helping another group, the two groups would be able to help another two.
In an instant, Clovis managed to actually unite the groups while solving the rumors.
"This" When the people from the OpenSky corporation came to help these people, there were nothing but beasts left behind. Even if they found the participants, they had actually worked together and defeated the beasts.
"What is actually happening? They're actually working together? Do they know it's impossible to defeat the beasts by themselves and start working together? No, there wasn't any unity between them earlier"

Suddenly, Hana's voice echoed from the receiver in his right ear. "There's no need for us to make a move yet."
"Miss?" He was surprised and raised his head, finding a drone hovering in the sky. It seemed that Hana had been monitoring them the whole time.
She was smiling behind the screen while her butler asked, "Is this what you had in mind when giving that device?"
"No. This is beyond my imagination." Hana smiled.