

## World Mall 206

### Chapter 206 Victory

"!!!" Reyes was startled. Their original aim was to kill this turtle before the last Tier 3 appeared. If this continued, they would still need a few minutes before they were able to kill the turtle.

Even though Jay said he would be assisting him, it seemed that Reyes had to make a decision.

After seeing how much Jay supported him, Reyes didn't have any hesitation to say, "Cut it down, Jay!"

Jay raised his eyebrows, surprised. Reyes suddenly spun his sword so that the back of the sword faced the tip of the turtle's head.

This way, it wouldn't cut the head anymore. Even if the turtle tried to return inside, it would be stopped by his sword. He had even used the upper part of the turtle shell to act as a fulcrum.

"You're not going anywhere." Reyes smirked. The other beasts were approaching him. If Jay hesitated, Reyes had to take some damage from these beasts.

However, this was Jay he was talking about. Without missing a beat, Jay stepped forward and slashed the turtle's head multiple times.

The head tried to open its mouth to widen the target, but it didn't matter to Jay. He used his full strength to cut this head into multiple pieces.

It only took one second before Reyes didn't feel any more resistance from the turtle's head.

Before the beasts reached his position, Reyes jumped off the shell while saying, "Nice!"

"We are still not done here though." Jay looked around. Enraged, the beasts were trying to surround them.

Still, both of them smiled. They didn't bother to exchange another word as they simply charged ahead and cut down all the beasts in front of them before ultimately regrouping with the rest.

"Ha..." Jay panted a few times. Destroying the shell took a lot of stamina, so he might not be able to assist another person.

"What are you going to do now? Since there are no more Tier 3 beasts here, you can assist the young lady. I will need to manage the area."

Jay stopped for a moment. It seemed that Melody had told Clovis that the turtle had died. So Clovis told him his new order.

"I will be staying here with you and killing all the beasts as quickly as possible. It should be possible since you still have a lot of stamina left. And from there, we will spread to the left and right, gradually rolling our position to the other side. This way, we can surround the last Tier 3 beast... That was what my captain said."

"!!!" Reyes was quite amused by this plan. It would work since the plan had taken into account their remaining stamina. The Tier 3 beast Hana was facing would die in a few minutes.

If the plan worked, they should be able to wrap up the entire event and make their retreat safely while accomplishing their original objective.

"Let's do it that way." Hana's voice suddenly echoed from his device.

"Miss?" Reyes was surprised that Hana heard all that.

If Melody were here, she would be raising her hand with a peace sign while giving a cheeky grin. Obviously, she used their personal method of communicating with her, directly giving that plan to Hana.

Since Hana didn't find anything wrong, she approved it. Besides, it didn't change the fact that Clovis's group contributed the most to this raid. They had killed three Tier 3 beasts on the first day and two more on the second day. If they added the fact that he raised people's morale, no one could fight for the first place.

Hence, Hana would just give them the glory. They had become her business partners anyway.

"Alright." Reyes nodded with a serious expression, agreeing to the decision.

The battle had shifted in their favor. Reyes used all his strength to cut down all the beasts on their side. After that, he and Jay split up and led the people in the opposite direction.

Jay was planning to help Clovis while Reyes obviously went to his superior.

There was one thing they didn't know about this plan. After seeing Ivan's reaction, Clovis realized that he shouldn't corner them too much.

With the fact that Vina was leaving the group and Elina excessively stopped Ivan, Ivan had a high chance of getting kicked out. He might get replaced by someone hard to control.

Hence, he suggested this plan so that it would take a while for them to reach the other side.

There was plenty of time for Ivan to kill the Tier 3 beast.

However, as an individual or even as a group, Ivan still couldn't defeat a Tier 3 beast because the one he faced was twice as strong as the one he had fought in the past.

Richard ended up helping him with an annoyed face. As greedy as Ivan, he definitely took the chance to deliver the killing blow so that he could boast about the kill.

He didn't realize that it was all within Clovis's plan. This way, Ivan would be known as one of the people who killed a Tier 3 beast in this expedition. The Drake Group couldn't kick out a guy like that.

After a battle that lasted for almost two hours, the beasts were completely wiped out.

Out of a total of 158 people from the participants and the support teams from the OpenSky company, 87 of them had light injuries and 7 had heavy injuries, but there was no death.

When the people saw no more living beasts in front of their eyes, they couldn't help but look around as if they couldn't believe it. They actually survived.

They killed more than six hundred beasts, including four Tier 3 beasts.

"Did we..."

"Yes..."

"To think this is possible."

Their expressions brightened. For a moment, they forgot their injuries and just hugged the person closest to them.

"Uooohhh!"

They were crying out loud, sharing their excitement.

Hana took the liberty to stand on top of the Tier 3 corpse and announced out loud, "Everyone! While there are some who sustain heavy injuries, they are still able to recover and return as an explorer. More importantly, no one is dead during this battle."

She paused for a moment to create a suspense before raising her fist. "So I declare... this battle is our... Victory!"

"Uoohh!"

"So, what are your assessments?" Hana asked Richard and Reyes.

The first one to step forward was Reyes. He said, "To be honest, I'm quite shocked. First of all, they were able to kill a Tier 3 ape so quickly. While I could say their method was rather dangerous, it was pretty effective.

"By sacrificing themselves, they managed to put those beasts in a position where their fate was sealed. It seemed that they had gotten used to such a tactic... probably they were quite confident in their skill or defense.

"Then, it was more amazing that they managed to get a careful plan and execute it perfectly. Their field of vision was quite large, which allowed them to see the conditions of the people in the area.

"In conclusion, their performance leaves nothing to be desired. Their fighting skills alone are rare, even among major cities. They are still Tier 1 right now, so I'm sure that once they have a higher tier, they won't be able to fight a beast two tiers above them, but there's a possibility of skipping a rank.

"More importantly, there are two of them capable of achieving such a feat. If they continue at this pace, it won't be weird if they become famous after this."

Hana nodded, satisfied with the assessment. "How about you, Richard?"

"I have the same opinion as Reyes. However, if I have to say something, I'd like to tell you about how they manage to unite the people."

"Hoh?"

Richard was the man standing beside Clovis when the raid had just begun. So he had gotten some grasp on Clovis's train of thought.

"I didn't see the method, but they managed to unite those people from the very start. Without that, it would be impossible to unite them after the earthquake."

Hana closed her eyes for a moment before asking, "Then, what about the other group? The one who took your kill?"

Richard shook his head helplessly. "I apologize for shaming the name of the OpenSky, young lady."

"It's nothing to apologize for. Instead, I'd like to hear your opinions about them."

"Understood." Richard paused for a moment. "To put it simply, they are the worst. The leader is disgusting, and one of the women seems to be manipulative. While the shield bearer has made a decision, it's already a mistake to join that group. Leaving the group at that time might be a good decision, but the timing can't be any worse. Such a thing can break the unity of the overall group."

"I see. What about his strength?"

"I do admit that with his strength, he is able to kill a Tier 2 beast, but he is still a little bit lacking compared to the two guys from the Libation Fiesta. He is also unable to give appropriate commands to the group and even work together with his teammates."

Hana fell into deep thought before raising her finger. "One last thing. What do you think about other groups?"

"As a group, they are performing better than that shitty group. While they are not as strong, I can see some good seedlings."



They have now understood the gap and if they manage to bear the pressures, they should be good enough as an explorer affiliated with us," answered Reyes, remembering how some people commanded their teammates and even dropped their pride quickly for the survival of the entire expedition team.

"I have the same opinion." Richard nodded a few times.

"Alright. You two can get some rest for now. Thank you for your hard work."

Reyes politely bowed to her while Richard remained still.

"Richard?" Reyes looked surprised.

"What's wrong?" Hana furrowed her eyebrows.

"I apologize for my rudeness, but may I ask you something?"

"What is it?"

"That Libation Fiesta... are you going to recruit them? If I'm not mistaken, you are the one inserting their name into the expedition team. And after entering this town, there was a period where you disappeared."

"Richard!" Reyes frowned. He wanted to stop him because that kind of question touched on a very sensitive topic.

On the other hand, Hana simply said, "They've rejected me."

"!!!" Both Reyes and Richard were taken aback. They didn't know what kind of offer Hana gave that them, but it was rare for Hana to be rejected.

"If you don't have any more questions, you may leave."

They politely bowed their heads before walking out of the room.

Hana stood up and looked at the scenery through the window. After their victory, they immediately packed up their luggage and returned to the battleship.

They were on the way back to the city. While staring at the outside, Hana muttered inwardly, 'While I don't accomplish my original objective, I still get a lot of things, especially the research about beast soul utilization.

'I have also witnessed the true ability of Clovis Hacfield and his friends. A few more months for them to leave the city, huh? It seems that I have to prepare a lot of things.

'Just you wait, Clovis Hacfield. I'll give you an offer you can't refuse next time we meet.'

Hana let out a long sigh. She still had a lot of things to do. It was at that time, Hana received a call.

When she saw who it was, her heart skipped a beat.

Grandma.

Her hands instantly got covered in cold sweat. She was holding her device with a shaking hand as she accepted the call. "Hello... Grandma..."

A soft, gentle voice echoed. The words were also polite. But those were the exact reasons why Hana was so scared.

"I've heard that your raid is done."

"Y-yes."

"After that, you're going to return home, right? I'll cook your favorite food."

Hana gulped down, becoming even more scarred.

"It seems that you are already aware of the implications that your decision."

"Yes." Hana lowered her head.

"So, I will just say this... doing your best and being reckless are two different things. Know that your decision doesn't affect only you, no matter how you explain it. It will affect your family, your subordinates, your employees, and your company. You might be able to get all the money in the world, but know that you will lose your freedom because of it."

Hana fully understood the message. After becoming famous, she lost the freedom to act freely to avoid the public saying anything bad about her. However, she wished that her grandma would reprimand her.

Her grandmother always put on a gentle smile, took care of her safety, and never got angry. That was why her words always felt far more painful than those of anyone in her family.

Hana just fell to her knees and said, "I'm sorry, Grandma."

Chapter 207 Assessment

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Chapter 208 If

The atmosphere in the cabin was the exact opposite. They were celebrating their victory and how they managed to perform much better than they originally expected.

Once they saw Clovis entering the cabin to get some rest, they immediately pointed at him.

"Woah! He is here!"

"Uoh! Congratulations, Libation Fiesta."

"I'm sorry for doubting you yesterday!"

The people gathered around Clovis's group.

Clovis gave a wry smile while saying, "It's nothing much. Instead of me, you should praise yourself. I believe that all of you have the ability to do it. If you can perform at your best, I'm sure that we can win. I'm simply reminding you to do that instead of getting fixated on the enemy's strength. You have built your strength from the beginning, so you should trust yourself more."

"Gah. What is this? Are you a saint?"

"I'm not sure, but he looks so handsome just now."

"Shut up. Don't you see the woman next to him? How can you compare yourself to her, gorilla?"

"What did you say?"

The people were commenting on each other in high spirits. No one cried since there were no deaths or injuries leading to retirement.

"My man, you are too humble for your own good. If you keep doing this, people will just tell you that it's an insult." One of them at the very front shook his head helplessly.

"Hahaha. I'll take your word to heart." Clovis chuckled before his body swayed to the right.

"Oop?" Kanaria caught him with a dumbfounded expression. "Are you okay?"

One of them suddenly remembered that Clovis was also injured pretty heavily. He hurriedly said, "Oi. Let him go and get some rest. He is also one of the heavily injured people."

"Make way, make way."

The people started moving to the side, allowing Clovis's group to pass through. Clovis only raised one of his hands as if trying to apologize to them for bringing the excitement down.

Kanaria and Jay led him out of the cabin and headed to the medical bay.

"Do you feel uncomfortable? You should know that after this raid, your name will resound across the city," Kanaria asked while furrowing her eyebrows. Clovis had never cared about his reputation before and didn't seem to be someone who would like to be famous, especially with the assassins lingering around them.

Clovis shook his head. "It seems that you misunderstood me. While I'm not actively promoting myself to the public, I don't have any plans to conceal my achievements. My identity is sensitive and people will know about it sooner or later.

"So those people are going to come no matter what, not caring whether I have some achievements or not. That's why I don't really mind my reputation. I don't want to die, but I don't plan to be a coward as well."

Kanaria looked surprised before a smile appeared on her face. "Is that so? In that case, I'll think that way from now on. We don't need to actively promote our deeds, but we are not going to ignore our achievements."

Clovis had a sad expression on his face as he added, "Though... my greatest fear is that I will drag the people in my group down along with me."

When they walked a bit further, they noticed a silhouette in the distance as if she had been waiting for them. It was Hana.

"Mhm?" Clovis furrowed his eyebrows.

Hana's expression was serious, but her gaze was filled with doubts.

Clovis stopped and asked, "Is there any problem?"

Hana looked at Clovis while biting her lips. She couldn't help but remember what her grandmother told her earlier.

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A few minutes ago.

After giving the advice, her grandmother asked, "So, how is he?"

"Who are you talking about?"

"You know who I'm talking about. The one with the Hacfield family's bloodline."

"..." Hana looked hesitant for a moment and said, "I'm not sure. He is an enigma, even for myself. His strength is extraordinary, his judgment is excellent, and his character is pretty calculative, but in a good way. It's just... I was a bit confused when Uncle Ran told me he wasn't serious yet. It was as if he was hiding it intentionally."

"Mhmm?" Her grandma looked confused. It took her a moment to reply to that statement. "Does that mean Clovis Hacfield will become the second Tier 9 explorer in the Hacfield family?"

"Huh? What do you mean?"

"I've told you back then that Tier 9 explorers have something special in them, right? It's not about hard work or numbers. It's as if they are granted an ability directly from the 'Gods' who run this 'simulation.' I can't help but wonder if the old mad man told him not to use it or something. I don't have any proof though."

"..." Hana fell silent. She didn't think of this. Now that she thought about it, Clovis was extremely strong. If he wanted to protect his identity, he should have gone by himself instead of creating a group.

However, Clovis decided to do the latter and his teammates were extremely powerful. She admitted that Jay and Kanaria were extremely talented and backed by their own 'big' families. But they weren't supposed to be at the level they were currently at.

Why would Clovis create a group?

'Is his 'unique ability' related to his group? Something like enhancing the whole group?' Hana misunderstood all the reasons, but somehow still suspected the 'Another World Mall.'

"Well, this is just my suspicion. It's better to observe him a bit more. Besides, we shouldn't be too proactive with people from the Hacfield family. If you are done over there, come back home quickly, okay?"

"Yes."

...

Because of that conversation, Hana immediately tried to seek Clovis and heard his voice in the hallway. She stopped, waiting for Clovis while overhearing their conversation.

When they met, Clovis asked, "What's wrong?"

Hana looked down for a moment before clenching her hands into fists. Her face looked embarrassed or ashamed. She opened her mouth. "What will you do if I decide to join your group?"

Chapter 209 Reward



"What will you do if I decide to join your group?"

Clovis widened his eyes in shock. He never thought that Hana would come all the way to ask this question.

"Is that supposed to be a joke?" Clovis asked with a serious expression.

Hana didn't answer him immediately. In fact, she acted on impulse this time. If Clovis indeed had a special ability related to his group, joining his group would be the easiest way to prove it.

She realized that she had made it difficult for both of them.

"Ah..." Hana let out a long sigh. "I apologize. It seems that I have done something without thinking thoroughly. Please forget about it."

"..." Clovis didn't say anything, and his expression remained unchanged. However, his heart actually skipped a beat. He couldn't help but mutter inwardly, 'What the hell? Why does she suddenly ask this out-of-character question?'

'Is she suspicious of me? Is it because not only me but my entire group is strong that it looks weird as if I have something extremely special?'

Clovis had two things he wanted to keep a secret. The first was obviously his Another World Mall. This was the greatest boost for his team. The second thing was the mysterious sensation that boosted his strength out of nowhere.

The latter was more personal, so he thought Hana was actually suspicious of his mall this time.

Clovis never thought that she would be able to do that just by looking at his performance. If this was true, then there was a chance that people would deduct it sooner or later.

The problem would be that his teammates would be the targets to lure him.

Clovis let out a long sigh before saying, "Alright. I'll just think of it as you being drunk."

"Y-yes." Hana rubbed her cheek, feeling ashamed. She was obsessed with Tier 9, whether she herself was able to achieve it or someone she could get. She ended up doing what her grandma told her not to do.

She hurriedly added with an awkward tone. "Well, as the biggest contributor to this raid, you are eligible for the shares of essence that the OpenSky company gets in this raid.

"In addition, you are rewarded with two hundred thousand union dollars."

"Mhmm? Isn't the reward only a hundred thousand?" Clovis asked.

"Indeed. But because of that earthquake, I have to increase it. You are worth more than that, so please don't reject it.

"Well, the first rank is also given one Tier 1 beast soul and one Tier 2 beast soul as a reward. Due to our cooperation, I don't think you need them, right?"

Clovis thought for a moment. "Yes. Please take them with you. If we want the beast soul, we'll go to your city directly... a few months from now that is."

"Haha." She chuckled. "In any case, you can get some rest for now. I'm sorry for holding you here."

Clovis nodded and started walking, leaving Hana alone.

Hana took a deep breath while pinching the bridge of her nose. She thought, 'This is not good. I have acted on impulse twice in a row. No one wants to tell a stranger that level of a secret... What are you even hoping for?'

Hana slapped her own cheeks to snap back before leaving, even more determined. There were still a lot of things to do between them. As her grandma said, she had to take it slow and observe him first.

Meanwhile, Clovis was actually panicking. He thought he had given enough consideration to the Another World Mall, but Hana had just proven him wrong. While the current city might not be able to recognize

it, what about people from major cities? Once he became a bit more famous, people might accidentally find him.

"It seems that you have a lot of things to consider, so I'll leave this place." Jay waved his hand. As expected, even Jay noticed the meaning behind Hana's question.

Clovis lied down on the couch while Kanaria just grabbed some drinks.

Judging from her reaction, she should have realized it as well. What Hana was talking about were the items that Clovis had given them from this 'secret method' of the Hacfield family.

"You're not going to say anything?" Clovis asked.

"What do you mean? All I know is that these items are related to the secret of your Hacfield family." Kanaria shrugged.

A small smile formed on his face. He couldn't help but say, "Sorry, could you wait for me?"

"In fact, if you are telling me right now or even before this, I would be disappointed. I would have considered you someone with a loose mouth, a person who you can't trust with a secret." Kanaria shook her head. "I am currently your teammate and closer than a friend. But I'm not your girlfriend or even your family."

Clovis closed his eyes for a moment. "Don't you think you're too sensitive to that type of stuff?"

"I'm just respecting identities and boundaries. But if you are going to tell me in the future, I'll surely lend you my ears."

"You're truly..." Clovis was speechless. He was lucky to have someone so considerate by his side.

Kanaria smiled. "I what? You have to complete your words, Clovis. I don't know what you're going to say. Am I scary? Am I ugly?"

Or maybe I'm truly a chatterbox."

Clovis coughed a few times, getting pressed by Kanaria. "You're smart enough to understand the meaning in Hana's words, so you should be able to figure out what I want to say as well."

He just covered his eyes with his arm as though he were going to take a nap.

"Ah. He escapes." Kanaria chuckled, amused by his reaction. Clovis must have been so focused on exploration in the past that he was a bit awkward in this area. It made him look cute in her eyes.

'Don't worry. I know how dangerous that secret is. Still, I wish you knew that I wouldn't leave your side no matter what,' Kanaria thought while moving to the window with a smile on her face.

## Chapter 210 Return

"They're back!"

The people had been waiting for the raid group's arrival right outside the landing area.

Even Kanaria's mother was there to watch the show.

"Welcome back, Miss Hana." The mayor politely greeted her.

"The raid is a success, Mayor. Although an incident occurred and we had to return faster than the original schedule, I can proudly say that there's no death and all seven targets have been eliminated." Hana smiled.

The mayor smiled, not knowing the difference in strength between normal beasts and the beasts in that forest. He thought the people just did their jobs as expected.

"Is that so? I'm just glad that you managed to come back, and everyone is safe."

Hana nodded. "I will take my time today to review the result... maybe picking a few people to experience the world."

"!!!" The mayor's eyes lit up. It seemed that there were some people who managed to pique her interest.

He would definitely find them and reward them appropriately. This way, they would have an attachment to this city and return once they got all the skills from the OpenSky company.

"Please take your time." The mayor extended his hand, asking Hana to come with him to the car.

After Hana, all the people began to come down the battleship, meeting their respective groups.

Clovis's group came out the latest. Without warning, Kanaria's mother leaped toward them as if she were glad everyone was fine.

Clovis just avoided her as his eyes saw Vina walking out of this place by herself. It seemed that she was leaving Ivan's group.

When he found Ivan's group, he noticed the change of expression that President Thomas had. It was rather satisfying.

...

"What did you say? You only managed to kill one Tier 3 beast?" President Thomas wasn't satisfied with their performance.

However, Elina hurriedly said, "That can't be helped. Even a normal beast is twice as strong. Most people have to team up to kill a beast of the same tier. It takes a whole group to kill a beast one tier above them."

"Is that so? Is that the real reason why she picked that place?" Thomas rubbed his chin while glancing at Hana. If that was the case, it seemed that they had done extremely well. "So, the ones who killed the most Tier 3 beasts were people from the OpenSky group?"

"That's..." Elina rubbed her cheek, looking troubled.

That was already enough for an answer to Thomas. The only name that Elina didn't want to say was none other than Clovis' group.

"Tell me what happened." His face turned pale.

Elina hesitated for a moment, but she decided to recount everything from the beginning. "It's better if you also hear the opinion from other groups... but it all starts from..."

The more he listened to Elina, the angrier he became. He never thought all those things would happen during the raid.

Meanwhile, Vania had secured the group and left the area. She was laughing the entire time.



"Hahahaha! This is going to be hilarious. I have to call all my connections in the media to spread the news. It will definitely do some damage to those people." Vania smirked, ready for a war. However, she soon stopped and turned to Clovis. "But I need your permission first."

While you're bound to be famous because of this, it will become much bigger if I intentionally spread it."

Clovis smiled helplessly. "It's fine. I've told them that while I'm planning to hide my identity, it's fine to reveal my achievement. Those who want my identity will figure it out sooner or later anyway."

"Alright. I will use it to strike the Drake Group." Vania thought for a moment. "Now that I think about it, should I punish those girls that expelled you from your previous group, Ria?"

Kanaria shook her head. "You should give them a reward... or maybe a celebratory feast. Without them, I won't be able to join the Libation Fiesta."

"That's true. I love that sarcasm." Vania gave a thumbs up with a playful look as if she were saying, 'That's my daughter.'

"If possible, can you delay it for one day?"

"I can, but why?" Vania tilted her head.

"I mean, I'm going to sell some essence and buy some stuff. I don't want journalists to stop me from doing all that. It's annoying."

"Oh! You can leave it to me." Vania thought his request was reasonable and agreed without hesitation. "In fact, you can hire a company to do all that. Kanaria has used their service, right?"

"Well, our team consists of only four people. If it's getting bigger, then I'll probably use it. But since we are still a small group right now, I can handle it personally." Kanaria glared at her mother.

Vania almost forgot that Clovis usually accompanied Kanaria shopping. It was a date for them. The fact that she, who was obsessed with it, would forget about this important matter meant she was a failure.

"Alright. I'll do just that," Vania replied with a dejected face.

Clovis only gave a wry smile, while thinking, 'I wonder how much I can get from this trip. Five Tier 3 beasts should give about three hundred to four hundred thousand. No one needs Tier 3 beast essence right now, so we can sell all of them. As for the remaining beasts, we can sell about 20% to 30% of them.

'Getting another hundred thousand shouldn't be a problem. In addition to the essence that OpenSky has as well as the reward, we can probably get a total of eight hundred... no, it might reach nine hundred thousand at this point.'

Clovis became slightly greedy. He couldn't help but imagine what kind of things he could buy with this much money. There was also some essence they hadn't sold from the trip to the hot spring.

Clovis pumped his fists. It seemed that Tier 2 was just around the corner.

As expected, once they returned, the news instantly spread. A lot of people recounted their experience during the raid and as the greatest contributor, Clovis's name was mentioned a lot of times.

Finally, big news appeared.