

Another World Mall #Chapter 21 Return - Read Another World Mall Chapter 21 Return

"So, who are you exactly?"

Kanaria's expression was solemn and her gaze was filled with determination. It seemed that she definitely wanted to get the answer in one way or another.

Clovis shook his head helplessly. "I should be asking you first. Are you seriously going to stay in this group? I have to remind you that this kind of experience is nothing compared to what I have in mind. In the future, the group will engage in a far more dangerous exploration, to the point that we might lose our lives."

"Are you going to change the subject?" Kanaria bit her lips.

"Not at all. I'm simply telling you that I don't want a huge group that can do a lot of raids. Instead, I want a super-elite group that can do the impossible. That's why I'm going to warn you that it's better to give up early and leave the group. After all, I don't have any reason to share my personal information about someone outside the group.

If you can answer that question, not simply because you want to know my identity, then I will consider giving you my name."

"..." Kanaria was not a fool. His name? That was the most important clue in his words. It seemed that his identity was so sensitive that knowing it might bring her harm.

That was why Clovis warned her that it took a lot of determination if she wanted to be a part of the group.

It didn't seem like Clovis was joking.

After recalling his weapons and the way he fought, Clovis might really be someone important. She didn't know about his circumstances, but she might have to consider this matter carefully.

If she knew too much, she might not be able to leave the group.

Because of Clovis's reply, Kanaria became doubtful whether she wanted to stay in the group or not. But this was the first time that someone was trying to be mysterious around her. Normally, boys around her age would be boasting about their identities in order to impress her.

On the other hand, Clovis felt like he wanted to push her away. It wasn't that he thought she was useless. He simply sought out a comrade that he could rely on.

Kanaria turned around, not being able to answer that question. She had to consider this carefully.

Clovis shrugged and continued collecting the essence. Since there were no more enemies, they took their time to recover while collecting the essence.

After fifteen minutes, they finally finished collecting the essence. Clovis couldn't help but mutter, 'We got quite a big haul today, even though it's not as big as yesterday. We got 1,849 ml of Tier 0 short-faced bear, 255 ml of Tier 1 megistotherium, 163 ml of Tier 1 Entelodon, and a whopping 651 ml of Tier 1 short-faced bear. The Tier 1 beasts from Tier 1 territory are too amazing.'

He remembered how they didn't get a lot of essence from Tier 1 Dire Wolf. So, when he saw this much essence collected from a single body, he realized that there was a reason why these beasts resided in Tier 1 territory instead of ruling the Tier 0 beasts. As for the short-faced bear, it was just an anomaly.

Clovis knew that they could buy a lot of things after this. Then again, he didn't know when the next exploration would commence, considering they had to stop after this.

Even after a while, the sensation of his arm still hadn't returned. They really couldn't continue with their expedition.

As planned, after collecting the essence, the group moved east. They had to get as far as possible from the base.

However, there were still some beasts lingering around the area beyond the short-faced bear. Clovis could fight them, but Jay and Kanaria were the main combatants this time because they were not as injured as him.

Because of their action, they never met up with the rescue team, who assumed that the group had gone to the base to get protection, which also made the commander of the base panic.

They waited for a few hours in the woods while gradually making their way back to the base. Kanaria was in front, so Jay took this chance to come to Clovis.

"You're not revealing your identity to her?" Jay asked.

"Is there a problem?" Clovis knew that Jay would definitely overhear their conversation, but he didn't think that his decision was wrong.

"No. If that's your decision, I can respect that. Instead, I want to ask you another question."

"What's wrong?"

"I am quite curious how you can get so strong even though your progress is only that small. I mean, evolution's progress."

"I trained?" Clovis tilted his head in confusion, thinking there was no other way to get stronger.

"No. That's not what I mean. I don't understand why you could actually cut those beasts that easily. I'm fully aware that your weapons are of high quality, but it's not enough."

"Oh!" Clovis nodded in understanding before handing him his sword.

"Hmm?" Jay was confused, but he still grabbed the weapon, which he almost dropped. "!!!"

Jay was dumbstruck and thought, 'What? How heavy is this? If I have to compare it to my sword, it's at least... four times heavier than my sword. And he has been swinging this sword at the same speed and mastery as mine?'

He finally understood why Clovis was so strong. This weight was the reason. By increasing the weight, the force of a swing could be amplified. But a heavy sword was also hard to swing and control.

It seemed that he had severely underestimated Clovis. His gaze was glued to Clovis's arms. Although it was hard to see because it was covered by his sleeves, he noticed that his muscles were actually bigger than his.

While the evolution rate could strengthen one's abilities, it wasn't that much different for Tier 0.

'I have always thought that I have worked hard enough, but it seems that I'm overestimating myself.' Jay couldn't help but chuckle, remembering what he usually did in his house.

Jay would usually train early in the morning until the evening. He spent the remaining time learning about other things like the beast's information or other common senses.

While he spent his time wisely, the intensity of his training couldn't be compared to Clovis.

But after understanding the secret of Clovis's strength, he realized one thing: the method to catch up with Clovis. Instead of focusing on his evolution progress, he should focus on his body.

After giving back the sword, Jay thought, 'Do you believe in fate, Clovis? I didn't until today. Maybe fate has allowed us to meet and form a group. But this fate also shows me the path to getting stronger. You are my friend as well as my rival.'

While they were talking, Kanaria couldn't help but try to listen to their conversation.

This was the first time that she was curious about a boy. His words earlier piqued her interest more than she imagined.

Did he know her and her status? Did he understand the importance of having her in the group and locking her in the group for a long period of time?

Clovis didn't look foolish enough to make her think that he was not capable of realizing that thought. So, it seemed that his identity was pretty important.

'Can I imagine myself still with the group ten years from now? The family might be angry at me because I leave the group, but I don't think they will pursue this matter. However, if they know that I join a random party... While it's true that Jay is here, they will definitely focus their gaze on Clovis.'

'Then again, it doesn't seem that he is lying about his ambition. The only problem would be his evolution rate.'

Kanaria couldn't stop thinking about Clovis's identity. Without her realizing it, half an hour had passed and the group finally exited the woods.

"Finally!" Clovis smiled as he looked in the distance. "It doesn't look like the siege is still going on. Have they defeated all those beasts?"

"Let me check." Kanaria used her binoculars to check on the situation. She saw multiple people dissecting the corpses, so it seemed that the beast wave had ended. "I think we can return now."

"That's good. Let's go back!" Clovis smiled. Although he didn't meet his target this time, he got to experience fighting a lot of Tier 1 beasts. Compared to them, Tier 0 beasts were lacking.

Once they registered their return, the rescue team would be recalled back to the base.

Unbeknownst to them, there were two people standing on top of the wall. After seeing their group return to the base, they couldn't help but frown.

"They survived..."

"Even multiple Tier 1 beasts weren't enough to kill them."

They exchanged looks, both having a confused expression.

"Are those two the ones helping him?"

"I don't think so. I have seen their track record, but I don't think they are competent enough to defeat multiple Tier 1 beasts."

"So, it's really him."

"Most likely."

"Then, should we just assassinate him with our own hands?"

"Boss's order. We can't do that. We have to use other methods so that it doesn't look like our work."

"Annoying."

"We don't have a choice. Unless that madman is confirmed to have died, killing his grandson directly will make him berserk. You should know what it means to let the top ten explorers go berserk, right?"

"Not only our organization, but also the entire city will be leveled, huh? Well, what should we do now?"

"I have an idea."

[Another World Mall #Chapter 22 Officially Joining - Read Another World Mall Chapter 22 Officially Joining](#)

"I am fine taking only 700 ml of Tier 0 short-faced bear essence for this exploration. I feel like I haven't done anything noteworthy, especially after those four Tier 1 beasts," said Jay with a long sigh.

"True. I will also take only 700 ml of essence. Ehm, Tier 0 Amphicyon." Kanaria agreed with Jay. She was useful on the first day, but she didn't do much on the second day.

"What? I have told you that we will divide it into four." Clovis gritted his teeth as if he didn't want to take it despite the fact that getting this share would definitely benefit him. He didn't want to take advantage of his comrades after all.

"You should have just accepted this arrangement!" Jay became annoyed because Clovis wanted to force him to take a portion that he didn't work for.

"What did you say? I am a man of integrity!" Clovis slammed the table while glaring at Jay.

Jay grabbed his collar and asked, "So, I am not a man of integrity in your eyes?"

"That's not what I'm trying to say."

"Then, do you think that my life is not worth that much? You were clearly the ones saving us! So, just accept it."

"No! We have to follow the agreement!"

"What did you say?!"

Both of them glared at each other, annoyed that both of them didn't take their portion. Even Kanaria was completely speechless at this sight. Clovis and Jay were pretty friendly most of the time, but they really argued over petty things.

Kanaria sighed and opened her mouth to stop both of them. "Come on, both of you. Clovis, if you don't like the arrangement, you can just take your portion and sell the rest for our group's fund. Isn't that fine?"

"Well..." Clovis couldn't deny it even though he was annoyed that they didn't accept it.

"Shouldn't he absorb it?" Jay was still adamant about it. It wasn't about fairness. Jay simply knew that Clovis had a low evolution rate. If he didn't have enough essence, he would be left too far behind. There was no way he could accept the man he acknowledged getting rid of by the harsh evolution rate.

"What did you say?" Clovis obviously didn't like Jay's opinion.

"You should just absorb it. I don't want to win because you lose, I want to win because I defeat you fair and square."

Kanaria facepalmed. "If you don't like the arrangement, you can buy the essence with your money, Clovis. That should be fine, right?"

"..." Clovis clicked his tongue. "Fine. I shall accept it."

"That's good." Kanaria nodded, satisfied.

"Alright. Let's split up first and meet up tomorrow to think about our next destination." Jay had a plan for his training, so he was quite eager to end the conversation and try his new training method.

"I don't mind." Clovis glanced at Kanaria, who shrugged her shoulders.

"Bye!" Jay hurriedly stood up and waved his hand, not wasting any second to get back to his accommodation.

Even Clovis was quite speechless about his action.

Kanaria asked, "So, how is your shoulder?"

"The doctor said it's not a bad injury. He has prescribed me medicine, and I should be able to feel my shoulder tonight," Clovis assured that it wasn't a big deal.

"Then, can you tell me where you're staying?"

"Huh? Why?" Clovis tilted his head, not knowing why she suddenly wanted to know his place.

"Have you forgotten about the question you asked in the forest? I have been thinking about this and want to give you a reply tonight."

Clovis thought for a moment and ended up giving her the motel's name and his room number.

After receiving that number, Kanaria bid her farewell to him. Now that he was alone, the first thing to do was to sell the things he got from the exploration.

The reason he couldn't agree with Jay earlier was because 700 ml of essence wasn't that much. In fact, both he and Kanaria only took less than ten percent of what they got.

He felt it was unfair since they were in the same group.

Ultimately, he reserved one liter of essence for himself to absorb and sell the rest. As expected of Tier 1 beasts, four of them alone actually gave him more than eight thousand dollars. With the addition of the first day's loot and the Tier 0 short-faced bear, Clovis earned a total of seventeen thousand dollars.

He felt so rich that he almost forgot that he only had a couple of dollars a few days ago.

"I'm rich. I wonder what I should buy," Clovis muttered while remembering the membership price.

"Level 3 membership will cost me one thousand dollars, but I should still have sixteen thousand... Should I go directly to the next level? What is the price? I also don't know if we're going to do another exploration soon. I might not be able to earn anything for one or two days, so I should put this in my calculation.

"And the price of the next shelf should be even higher. I might need 100 otherworldly coins for one item. And the fact that I can get two more items per day means I need two thousand coins.

"With a rough calculation, it seems that I won't have much problem if the next membership costs less than five thousand. At least, I should be able to survive."

Clovis nodded his head, satisfied with the calculation. Little did he know that the 'Another World Mall' actually had a big surprise for him—one that he would have a hard time enduring.

But before he was able to enter the mall, he had to face one more problem.

Knock!

Knock!

"Clovis. It's me, Kanaria."

Clovis hurriedly opened the door and found Kanaria with a solemn expression. It appeared that she had thought carefully about the invitation and her future.

"Please come in."

Clovis offered his bed as her seat while he grabbed a wooden chair from the corner. "So, have you made your decision?"

"Before that, I'd like you to answer three of my questions."

"Sure. If that can make you decide." Clovis nodded without hesitation.

"First of all, from the way you say it, it seems that joining your group will make me stay for a long period of time. Instead of knowing about the rules or anything, I think the most important thing is to know the group's goal. You said back then that you wanted a group of elites to do the impossible... Could you elaborate on it?"

"There is nothing to elaborate on. What do you think the explorers haven't done?"

Kanaria tilted her head in confusion. "I don't know. Unknown region? Retaking our lands?"

"It's to know the secret about the voice fifty years ago! What kind of simulation are we currently in? I want to know the truth! The truth of this world!" Clovis answered without a single doubt in his eyes.

The reply overwhelmed Kanaria. It wasn't just a few years, this commitment might last for her entire life. However, there was one problem. "Are you sure you want to find it with your evolution rate? Do you think it's possible?"

"Nay. You shouldn't think that way. Instead, it's because I only have this evolution rate that I want to know the truth. If someone with a high evolution rate is able to find the truth, then it's possible because he is the hero of humanity. But because I only have this

evolution rate, I will be able to surpass that and become the greatest explorer in the world."

His reply sent chills down her spine. Somehow, his words resonated with her heart. Excitement and worries were mixed in her heart.

"T-then, my second question..." Kanaria took a deep breath to calm her heart down. She had to be rational about her future. "Suppose I were to join your group, would I be replaceable?"

"Even I am replaceable. If you have the ability, you can challenge me to get the leader position. However, I'm not planning to give you the seat without a fight. And I still believe that I can protect my seat for the rest of my life. To answer your question, as long as you are not tired of exploring the unknown, I won't replace you with anyone."

Kanaria nodded. She had heard that Jay was fighting for the captain's position with him, so she kind of expected this answer.

"Last question." Kanaria's expression turned grim. "If I join your group, there's a chance that my family might attack you to retrieve me. What will you do?"

"That depends on your will. If you don't want to stay in this group anymore, then I won't do anything. However, if you still want to stay with us, let alone your family, I will fight the entire world."

"That sounds like a man trying to woo me, you know. Talk big without the ability to back it up." Kanaria chuckled. It wasn't that she looked down on Clovis, but he simply didn't have the ability to back up his claim.

"Right? But I'm serious about it. If I am afraid of your family or even the world, then I don't have the chance to become the greatest explorer in the world. No, in fact, I can't even surpass my own grandfather."

"Your grandfather?"

"Aye. You want to know my name, right? Then, I'll formally introduce myself. My name is Clovis Hacfield." Clovis made a gentle smile, showing both his sincere feelings and his determination.

Kanaria dropped her jaw, not expecting to hear that name. It was no wonder that Clovis talked big. It turned out he was related to Michael Hacfield, whose name resounded across the world.

It also made his words feel a bit more realistic. No one sane would challenge the world with only a 15% evolution rate.

Clovis extended his hand. Her expression gave him an indication that he had managed to convince her to join his group. Hence, as the leader, he had to extend his welcome. "Once again, would you like to join my Libation Fiesta, Kanaria?"

"I..." Kanaria grabbed his hand. Clovis smiled because, after this, Kanaria would accept his invitation and officially join his group. But what he didn't expect were the words that her mouth uttered next.

"I want to be your wife instead."

"..."

"..."

"Huh?!"

Another World Mall #Chapter 23 Story - Read Another World Mall Chapter 23 Story

"Haa... Ha..." Jay was panting, his body was covered in sweat. He was still holding his blade, but on his wrist were threads connected to a dumbbell. At the same time, there was a weight circling his blade.

After experiencing how heavy Clovis's blade was, he thought about this training to increase both his raw strength and his swing speed.

Amidst the training, Jay couldn't help but remember. "Now that I think about it, my knowledge about Hacfield comes from Kanaria's family. I wonder how she will react when she knows Clovis is from that family. Well, I should ask about it tomorrow."

...

Clovis's Room.

"Huh?!" Clovis's mind went blank. He couldn't comprehend what Kanaria had just said. In fact, he didn't even know what was on her mind when she uttered those words. "What did you say?"

Kanaria pinched the bridge of her nose, awkward and embarrassed. She opened her mouth, but the words stuck in her throat.

Looking at her troubled expression, Clovis faced a dilemma. If he rejected this, would that mean Kanaria would leave the party? If he accepted this, didn't it mean a life commitment?

"Sorry, please forget about it." Kanaria shook her head furiously before grabbing Clovis's pillow and just burying her face.

Clovis looked unconvinced, but it seemed that it was better to drop this matter. But the silence made the room extremely awkward.

It took Kanaria a few minutes before she regained a bit of her composure. She explained, "I think it's better to solve the misunderstanding to make the group less awkward."

"If you don't mind." Clovis nodded in agreement.

"But before that, I have to apologize first. I was rude. Sorry."

"No. I don't mind, but I wish to know what's in your mind before reaching that conclusion."

"Well..." Kanaria rubbed her cheek before asking, "How much do you know about your grandfather?"

"My grandfather? I know that he is very strong and influential, but personally, I see him as a carefree grandfather who does things as he pleases. Even the family can't really restrict his desire to explore the unknown."

Kanaria felt a bit more ashamed after hearing it. She said, "Do you know that your grandfather once saved a city on the surface?"

"I seem to have heard about it from my grandfather. He said it was a big city that was almost destroyed after being attacked by a large swarm of beasts. He ended up saving the city since he wasn't far away. But the most amusing thing he encountered there was not the cause of the swarm or the fight against the beasts, it was a strange woman.

According to him, he saved that woman from numerous beasts, but when they were fighting, the woman proposed to him."

Clovis recalled everything about the story his grandfather told him. In fact, his story was the reason why Clovis really wanted to become an explorer. "But my grandfather was already quite old, and my father was already a few years old at that time, so he rejected the proposal."

Clovis abruptly stopped after seeing her embarrassed expression. "Don't tell me, that woman was you... no, wait. It was a story from a long time ago.

"It was my mother." Kanaria shook her head helplessly.

"Your mother?!" Clovis's heart skipped a beat, never thinking that the person in her grandfather's story would be related to Kanaria.

"Yeah. She often told me the story about your grandfather, and I had read all the stories about your grandfather in the Skynet. You could say that I idolize him. Even among the top ten explorers in the world, he is the most free. After knowing that the Hacfield Family is gone, my mother is heartbroken. No, have you heard anything about me?"

"Nope. I haven't heard anything about you." Clovis shook his head with a calm expression.

"That's weird. Unable to realize her dream, she ended up sending letters to your family about an engagement."

"For real? But I haven't heard anything about it." Clovis squinted his eyes.

"Maybe you're not the same Hacfield I'm talking about?"

"That's certainly me." Clovis shook his head and opened his device, showing her a photo. It was a photo of a kid with a big smile, which was the young Clovis. Next to him was an old man. His body was muscular, but not too big. He was having the same big smile as the young Clovis while patting his head.

"It's... really Lord Michael." Kanaria stared at the photo in disbelief. The person in front of her was truly the grandson of Michael Hacfield.

"Well, the family is already in ruin, so you don't have to think much about it." Clovis shrugged. "Besides, I have never heard about the engagement."

Kanaria's eyebrows twitched. Because of the current world's situation, it is normal to see a political marriage, mostly between two people with a high evolution rate. They believed that genes determined the level of the children's evolution rate.

That was why he didn't think much about it when he heard Jay's sister and Kanaria's brother were married.

Amidst this absurdity, Clovis couldn't help but realize another possibility. He thought, 'Don't tell me. Did my parents tell me to go to this city when escaping because they knew about this? Did they hide the fact about engagement? No, when I think about it, my family was quite influential, so I should have expected something like this.'

'Then, was it Grandfather who pushed everything away? He always told me to live freely after all.' Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought.

"Is there something wrong?" Kanaria asked, concerned about his serious face.

"Ah! It's nothing." Clovis waved his hand. Since he had understood where Kanaria was coming from, it was better to drop the topic. "In any case, I will consider that I didn't hear what you said earlier. So, you're still going to join the group, right?"

"O-of course!" Kanaria nodded. She had never thought that her idol's grandson would be inviting her to his group. At the same time, she couldn't comprehend why Clovis had a very low evolution rate.

She remembered that Michael Hacfield's evolution rate might not be the highest, but it was still pretty high. Clovis's father and mother were also in the 90's and 80's. So, why would Clovis's evolution rate be only 15%?

'Adop—' She almost completed her thought, but that wasn't possible. Clovis's recklessness and insanity really resembled that of a Hacfield. 'Does this mean he only inherits their bloodline and characters but not their evolution rate?'

This might be the reason why the engagement never reached his ears. With such a low evolution rate, the Hacfield Family definitely wanted to hide it. When they accepted the proposal, it was the same as revealing Clovis's low evolution rate.

Nonetheless, what she was planning to do hadn't changed. She asked, "I can't... reveal your identity, even to my mother, right?"

"Yeah. I hope that you can hide my identity for as long as you want. When I'm ready, I will reveal my identity myself." Clovis nodded. In fact, he thought it would become even more troublesome if her mother knew about him after listening to Kanaria talk about her persistence.

Kanaria agreed without hesitation. The awkwardness started to disappear but the confession from earlier was still stuck in her mind. She just did it out of reflex, never thinking that she would end up hearing something amazing from Clovis.

"By the way, do you have anything to do the day after tomorrow?" Kanaria asked.

"No. I'm still thinking about what the group should do after a proper rest."

Kanaria took out a paper from her pocket. It turned out to be a poster. "I heard something interesting on the way here."

"What is this?" Clovis read the poster while furrowing his eyebrows. "A joint exploration? Why a competition?"

"To raise the level of the explorers in this city, the military is planning to hold a special competition, calling every Tier 0 and Tier 1 explorer. They will divide the competition, but basically, the military holds a competition to kill beasts. I bet, after the recent beast

wave, they're trying to gather the explorers to thin out the number of beasts around the city."

"That's understandable." Clovis knew how scary a beast wave was. While the base might be able to destroy them, it would be dangerous for normal explorers just like what happened to them earlier. "What's the prize?"

"For Tier 0 Explorers, the first place will get 2 beast souls, 6 super injections, and 25,000 cash prizes."

"Super injections? As in that super injection?" Clovis widened his eyes in surprise.

"Yes. The government program: Super Injection. The government will provide essence that would allow an explorer to raise all five attributes by 20%, no matter their evolution rate. This is one of the government programs to raise the strength of people with a lower evolution rate."

"That's interesting."

"According to them, we can also keep the essence we procured during the competition. For every Tier 0 beast, the group will be rewarded by ten points and the Tier 1 beast will be rewarded by a hundred points."

Clovis thought for a moment. "How many people per group?"

"Six. But there's no minimum. Do you want to search for three other people?"

"Is that even a question?"

Kanaria smiled, expecting this reply. If they couldn't even take the first spot in this competition with only these members, they would definitely have a hard time in the future. So, this was a challenge for themselves.

"I have one condition. No matter what happens, I'm not going to take the portion like earlier again. If we get the first place, I want all three of us to receive two super injections."

"But..." Kanaria frowned. Clovis was the focus of the super injection, so it would be a waste to not use this opportunity to boost Clovis.

However, Clovis shook his head. "This is my condition. If you can't accept, I'd rather not participate at all. I'm sure that Jay will agree with me. I'm here not to be pitied by others after all."

Clovis's expression and determination made her respect him a bit more. He was truly a Hacfield.

"I understand. We'll talk about it tomorrow with Jay."

"Alright."

"Then, good night, Clovis." Kanaria waved her hand."

"Good night, Kanaria."

[Another World Mall #Chapter 24 Novice Membership - Read Another World Mall Chapter 24 Novice Membership](#)

"It's midnight. I can finally go to the mall." Clovis smiled and hurriedly teleported to the mysterious mall.

At the same time, he couldn't help but say, "Still, to think that my grandfather is related to Kanaria's family. He even got a maiden heart when he was saving the city. I heard from my father that my grandfather was a natural charmer. His rizz was so powerful that a lot of women cried when he married my grandmother.

It was quite surprising since he chose to stay with my grandmother when no one would say anything if he had some mistresses."

Clovis chuckled when recalling his memory. He opened the system to check his money.

[Name: Clovis Hacfield.]

[Membership: Level 2 (Better Newbie)]

[Money: 17,457 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Item Limit: 4/Visit]

[Visit: 0(1)/Day]

"Oh, wow. This is the first time I see so many coins." Clovis felt a bit excited because he might be able to upgrade two times. "Purchase the membership!"

Membership: Level 3 (Better Newbie)

Upgrade Membership: 5,000 Otherworld Coins/Month.

Benefit: Membership (Novice)

"Huh?" Clovis widened his eyes. "The benefit... is a new level? What can this novice membership give me? Wait a minute."

Clovis glanced around, thinking there might be a special place in the grocery store. However, he almost forgot that this was a mall, not a grocery store.

"Don't tell me..." Rushing outside, his eyes were glued to the store that had been covered with this thin layer of black screen. "The benefit is a new store?!"

On the one hand, his finger was itching to press the upgrade. On the other hand, everything was just his speculation. It might be a special place in the grocery store.

"What should I do? If it's a new shop, I don't think it will be very friendly to my wallet. I only have eleven thousand left after purchasing the new membership. The competition lasts for three days, so that means I need four to five days worth of money to buy the necessary items. I wish Kanaria were here. She should be good with this kind of thing."

Clovis let out a long sigh. He was facing a dilemma. In front of him was the unknown. He might gain a lot or lose everything. On the other side was the reliable grocery store, which provided him with a lot of progress.

This was just like what normal explorers felt when venturing into unknown territory. They might intrude on more dangerous territory filled with weird creatures or even unknown danger. But if they didn't continue, no one would know what was inside.

Clovis gulped down. He was sure that his grandfather had faced this problem multiple times, but he still chose to advance.

"That's right. If I am scared of the unknown, how could I surpass my grandfather?" Clovis smiled, steeling his resolve before pressing the upgrade.

[Ding!]

[Membership Upgrade: Rank Novice.]

[Name: Clovis Hacfield.]

[Membership: Level 4 (Novice)]

[Money: 11,457 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Item Limit: 6/Visit]

[Visit: 0(1)/Day]

"What is the benefit of the novice membership?" Clovis asked before hearing a rumbling sound coming from the side. The screen also showed another panel.

[Upgrade.]

[+1 Item Limit for 5,000 coins.]

[+1 Visit for 100,000 coins.]

"What? I can increase the number?" Clovis turned around and saw that the store on the opposite side was clearing, showing its true appearance. "So, this is the benefit of having a Novice Membership. A new store and the ability to increase my item limit and visit..."

The new store that opened for him contained a lot of clothes in it. The size was quite small, which made him identify this store better.

"This is not a department store. It's a boutique. The problem is that a mall usually has a lot of clothing stores. Is this a branded one? I can't afford too much." Clovis recalled how expensive clothing from a branded store was.

So, he carefully stepped on the store to see if there was something good inside.

As soon as he stepped inside the store, the screen flashed before his eyes.

[Welcome to Fairies Boutique]

"Fairies? Isn't that a race that looks like a butterfly? They are small and fly around while leaving a sparkling trail."

He didn't think much about the name since the most important thing would be the clothes. He wondered what kind of clothes they would sell in this place and if they would be useful for him.

"Hmm..." Clovis carefully looked at the store. While the clothing looked quite beautiful, they had the same pattern and only different colors. It seemed that his choice wasn't that big in this store.

"This place only contains clothes. I don't see any bags, shoes, or hats. In fact, half of these are women's clothes. No, shouldn't I feel grateful? In a normal mall, there are more women's clothing stores if I'm not mistaken."

"Let me check their effect."

Name: Harmony Shirt

Description: A magical shirt that creates a gentle air of mystery and enchantment around the wearer. This air might have a subtle calming effect on those nearby.

Effect: Calming effect on people within a 4-meter radius.

Price: 2,500 Otherworldly Coins.

"So expensive? But the effect..." The effect was a bit unexpected even for Clovis.

"Calming effect? This is quite a useful item. When someone is in danger or faces a big problem, their vision is bound to get narrower, and their mind will rush to find a solution. With this calming effect, they will remain cool and make good judgments.

But I don't think I have any use for this shirt right now. After all, Kanaria is often positioned far from me. Only Jay will be around, and Kanaria can guide him instead of me.

"Even in the last expedition, I couldn't see its usefulness. Maybe other clothes have something special."

Clovis hurried to other clothes. He was a bit curious about the woman's clothes. While he didn't plan to wear it, he wondered what they had in store.

Name: Elastic Silk Blouse

Description: This blouse is made from a special silk. When worn, the blouse grants high maneuverability and comfort.

Effect: Speed and Dexterity +5

Price: 3,800 Otherworldly Coins

"Are you serious?" Clovis dropped his jaw to the ground. He never thought that there would be such an amazing item. Although he didn't know how much this "+5" would affect the wearer, the item from the Another World Mall never disappointed him. It was to the point that he might put away his shame and wear this.

Fortunately, it seemed that his luck hadn't run out.

Name: Bouncy Spirit T-Shirt

Description: This t-shirt is made from a spring worm. When worn, the shirt grants the wearer an elasticity like rubber that can enhance one's momentum like that of a spring. The spring can even absorb a portion of the impact the wearer receives.

Effect: Momentum and Damage Reduction +3

Price: 4,099 Otherworldly Coins

"..." Clovis sucked a cold breath. "This is extremely useful. Even more useful than the blouse for me. But the price is very expensive. But... I still have eleven thousand. I haven't checked the Daily Item Section as well."

Clovis gritted his teeth. He really wanted this shirt. Not only was the effect amazing, but the shirt's color and pattern suited his preference.

"Ugh..." Clovis gritted his teeth while grabbing this shirt. He was still in a dilemma because he might use up all his money.

Eventually, the effect bought him. He ended up bringing the clothes to the cashier, which was still empty. "As expected, this is also a self-checkout."

Beep!

With that sound, Clovis had just lost over four thousand coins. He wanted to cry but had no tears. This was necessary. After putting the item in his inventory, he returned to the grocery store to check the daily section. He was quite curious about it after all.

While it was true that he had lost a lot of money today, this might be the luckiest day of his life.

The daily section also brought another surprise for him—things that had a lot of temptation for Clovis's current situation.

Name: Magic Bandage

Description: A bandage containing the holy power of angels.

Effect: Wound Recovery + 50%

Price: 200 Otherworldly Coins

Name: Druid Tent

Description: A simple tent made of the druid race's Relywood. Sleeping inside will help you recover from fatigue faster.

Effect: Fatigue Recovery +50%

Price: 500 Otherworldly Coins

"This..." Clovis dropped his jaw to the ground. The items were essential for camping and exploration. He also saw a few household items like brushes and mugs.

Name: Dwarven Mug

Description: This mug was made of cold iron. It could keep the liquid cool.

Effect: Cooling Effect and Purification Effect

Price: 70 Otherworldly Coins

Clovis was completely speechless. There were a lot of things he wanted to buy, but he felt that he would regret it if he spent too much money today buying all these things.

"Kh. I should remember all these items first and buy the usual items for today. After going out, I will write everything down, including their price, before calculating it. I still have one more day to buy these items, so..."

Clovis gulped down. Although his heart was heavy to part with all these amazing items, he had no other choices. His current progress would be much more important.

At the same time, he thought about something. "Now that I think about it, I can buy these products for my comrades as well, right? That blouse is useful for Kanaria. I still haven't found anything for Jay, but there will be one for sure.

"Then again, I can't reveal this mall yet. Maybe I should act weird and make them think there is a special technique passed down by my grandfather? I have to carefully plan for the future. I want to power up my people with items from Another World Mall, but without revealing too much unless I can completely trust them."

Clovis sighed, proceeding to the cashier.

[Another World Mall #Chapter 25 A Rival? - Read Another World Mall Chapter 25 A Rival?](#)

"So, what do you think?" Kanaria asked Jay.

"I don't see a problem. But would it be fine for you, Clovis? How is your shoulder?"

"Yeah. I've got the feeling back. It should be fine during the competition." Clovis assured him that he would be fine.

"In that case, let's register our group." Kanaria pumped her fists, getting excited.

"By the way, how much money do you need to prepare for the competition, Kanaria?"

"Well, I'm thinking about resupplying my special bullets. Do you want it as well, Clovis?" Kanaria asked. She thought that it would be impossible to buy Clovis's special bullets with their current fund, but her bullets were less expensive, so she thought about buying them for him as well since Clovis used them a lot previously.

"Will our budget be enough? I don't have a lot to buy, so I can contribute about fifteen thousand. Is it enough?"

"More than enough. But aren't you..." Kanaria frowned, feeling something weird. It looked like Clovis wanted a lot of money, but in the end, he actually gave most of his money to her for their supply. She thought Clovis wanted to get all the money and save it for something else, but it seemed that she had misunderstood him.

"That's good then." Clovis smiled and asked her to show her chip so that he could transfer the money. "We should go to register now and spend the rest of the day preparing ourselves."

"Sounds good." Jay didn't think much about Clovis's willingness to invest all his money back into the group.

But if he were like Kanaria, he would have noticed that Clovis simply had sold so much essence that there might not be enough essence for him to use.

Then again, Clovis looked confident that he could catch up to them. It was weird.

'Seriously, this guy... Where does his confidence come from?' Kanaria was purely concerned because Clovis had to increase his pace to catch up with their progress since both she and Jay's evolution progress was already quite high before meeting him.

The group went to the military camp where they held the competition. As expected, there were a lot of explorers who signed up for the competition.

"Hurry up!"

"Have you finished the registration?"

"Here is the badge."

The people were going back and forth around the area. When Clovis's group entered, the people's focus instantly shifted, not because of Kanaria or Jay, but because of the people behind them.

"Oi! Isn't that..." One of them noticed, alerting the others while pointing his finger.

"You're right! Are they also participating in this competition?"

"No way! Then, the first place is already taken."

Clovis and the others couldn't help but furrow their eyebrows, wondering who they were talking about.

They found a group of four people: one male and three females. The young man had short brown hair and an innocent but confident face. He had a bright atmosphere around him, and it was even brighter with the women around him.

The one on his right had long red hair tied into pigtails. She was wearing a big smile, but it didn't seem that genuine.

The one on his left was a little more mature, but her age didn't seem to be that much different. Compared to others, she felt more seductive and manipulative.

But the one that should be wary about was the girl behind him. She had a shield as big as her body on her back, but she seemed to carry it without any problem. Her expression was calm and collected as if she were observing everything around her.

"To think that he would be here..."

"Yeah. There's no mistaking it. They are the Dragon Devourer Group. The leader is the genius of the Drake Group, the man who is said to have a talent surpassing the leader of the Drake Group. With his 99% evolution rate, he is instantly becoming a captain of the Drake Group."

"It's said that in just one month, he is already close to Tier 1."

"Then, is he coming here to evolve into a Tier 1 human?"

"It must be for those women!"

"He is bound to be the face of this city sooner or later. Damn, look at those women, each of them is of high quality. I wish I could be him."

The people were shocked by his appearance. Only Clovis's group remained silent. In fact, Clovis asked Kanaria, "Do you know them, Kanaria? Your face is scary."

Jay whispered, "Of course. You might not know this, but this guy is known to be the hero of the younger generation. He is the most talented person in this base right now. Not only is his evolution rate the highest, but it seems that he has aptitude in martial arts as well."

"Oh." Clovis nodded in understanding.

"Isn't this Miss Kanaria?" Suddenly, a gentle voice echoed in their ears.

Clovis couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows when he saw this so-called genius suddenly come to their side.

Kanaria's expression became cold.

"I can't believe that I can meet you again here. Are you going to participate in the competition? If that's the case, would you like to join my party?" He smiled gently and talked politely as though he were clueless about the glares on his back.

Clovis couldn't help but lean on Jay, asking, "Do they have a story together?"

"For someone as popular as him, many are trying to make connections."

"Like those women?"

"Yeah. They are sent in order for this so-called genius to make an 'accident' and rope him in. However, he is like a pushover most of the time. If not for the fact that he is a genius, he won't be able to survive in this world."

"What about his connection to Kanaria?"

"They got awakened together. During his awakening, Kanaria was there and also caused a ruckus, making him think that it was fate."

"So, her family is matching them together?"

"Nope. Has Kanaria told you about it after knowing about your name?"

"Oh... That's the problem." Clovis nodded his head in understanding.

"There you have it. Besides, Kanaria doesn't like pushovers. She is a weird girl who likes mysteries. If I'm not an oddball, we would never get this close with our current relationship."

"So, you're aware that you are weird?"

"If I'm weird, you're insane." Jay snorted.

Clovis noticed that they ended up ganging up on Kanaria, especially the one with the pigtails.

"It seems that you are the same as always, Kanaria. I heard that the group that your family created pushed you away. I pity you." She had a sad expression, but her words were as sharp as a knife.

Clovis glanced at Jay, wondering why she was that mean.

"Her name is Lovelia Rusth. Her family has been opposing Kanaria's family, so when Kanaria doesn't take the chance, her family sends her. It seems that she has fallen for him for real.

"The mature beauty is quite talented as well and from the same group as him. She is probably the one monitoring this guy and reporting back to their Drake Group. Her name is Elina Woo.

"The last one, Vina, is pretty strong. It's said that she can fully block a Tier 1 beast with her shield."

"Hmm..." Clovis observed them but didn't feel any spark from them. It wasn't because they had joined another group, but because they felt a bit empty.

In his group, each of them had their own desire. Jay might be an oddball, but his desire to improve his strength was unparalleled. Kanaria might not look like she had a big ambition, but there was no way someone who was adept in both combat and logistics only did it without any interest. She simply hadn't told them about her goal.

"I think we should stop them now." Jay was ready to step up to help Kanaria.

To his surprise, Clovis waved his hand, stopping him. Instead of walking to Kanaria, Clovis slipped away into the crowd as if he had another plan.

When Jay saw the place he was going, he almost laughed.

"If you only want to invite me, then please leave. I have come with my own group." Kanaria shook her head, politely refusing them.

"What?" The man was shocked and saw Kanaria turning her head to the side as if trying to show her teammates, only to find Jay standing alone.

Even Kanaria was surprised. Her gaze was questioning Jay about Clovis's whereabouts.

"Haha! It's only Jay?" Lovelia laughed as if she were mocking them.

Kanaria thought that Clovis was able to solve the issue pretty easily as their captain, but he was gone.

"If there is only him, then I don't mind letting both of you join my group." The guy smiled, insistent on recruiting Kanaria.

Kanaria asked Jay about Clovis with only the movement of her mouth. Jay simply shrugged while pointing his finger to the side.

"Huh?" Kanaria followed the direction and saw a metal tag flying toward her. The one who tossed it was none other than Clovis.

Vina couldn't help but hold her shield on the back as if she were about to draw it while turning around. She didn't realize that Clovis was already behind her.

Clovis glanced at her for a second before smiling at Kanaria. "Thanks to you guys grabbing these people's attention, we don't have to line up to register our group. Group

24th. We'll have to go to the west gate before 7 tomorrow. Let's go back and buy some stuff."

"Pfft." Jay couldn't contain his laughter anymore.

Kanaria swiftly took advantage of it while showing the metallic tag. "There you have it, I already have my group."

The guy was completely speechless as Kanaria was already walking away with Clovis. Even Jay had a nonchalant attitude as if everything was just an amusement for him.