

World Mall 211

Chapter 211 Shopping

"Oh!" Clovis looked at the number on the group's account. His eyes were shining.

Name: Libation Fiesta

Amount: \$1,122,249.95

He had sold everything that could be sold. In addition to the reward, he got about nine hundred and ninety thousand. With the addition of the previous trip to the hot spring, he got almost a million and a hundred thousand.

Clovis was thrilled.

'Money, money, money. With this, I should be able to upgrade the membership once,' Clovis thought.

Kanaria chuckled while saying playfully, "You know. You are kind of weird sometimes. You are very generous in terms of donating your share to the group. At the same time, you look like you are very greedy about money."

"Is that so? Am I that weird?" Clovis's heart skipped a beat. The reason he was greedy was because he wanted to convert all that money into otherworldly coins. After that, he didn't care much about the money.

"Just saying." Kanaria shrugged. "Let's go home right away. I'm afraid that the news has been spreading."

Clovis smirked. "Oh. You're considering my house your home already?"

Kanaria froze. She had lived in Clovis's house for so long that it naturally came out of her mouth. And she just boldly claimed that she respected their identities and boundaries.

"I'm just kidding." Clovis laughed.

Kanaria was taken aback but soon pouted. She pinched his arm a little bit, which obviously didn't affect him at all.

After reaching home, Clovis immediately went back to his room and entered Another World Mall.

[Welcome back, Master.]

The robot was already waiting for him in front of him.

"Oh, Blue!" Clovis paused for a moment and checked the number of otherworldly coins he currently possessed.

[Name: Clovis Hacfield.]

[Membership: Level 10 (Small Elite)]

[Money: 1,405,980 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Item Limit: 8/Visit]

[Visit: 0(2)/Day]

"Oh, wow. So many coins?" The amount still surprised him even though he just added more than a million into the account. He muttered, "Still, I don't think I have enough coins to upgrade the membership twice. Even if it's enough, I still need some coins to purchase daily items."

Clovis pondered for a moment. "Blue. Upgrade the membership."

[Processing.]

[Completed.]

Membership: Level 11 (Small Elite)

Upgrade Membership: 750,000 Otherworld Coins/Month.

Benefit: Expansion of a few stores.

"Oh?" Clovis's eyes lit up as the mall brightened. Several stores shone for a moment before opening for business.

"What are the new stores, Blue? Give me their list."

[There is a new branch for the following stores: Boutique and Accessory shop.]

"What about their items? Give me the list of their items."

Blue immediately divided the list according to their shop.

Name: Lizard Skin Coat (Tier 1)

Description: A special coat made of lizardman's scale that is periodically shed.

Effect: Defense +15

Price: 60,000 Otherworldly Coins

Name: Arachnid's Silk Shirt (Tier 1)

Description: A shirt made of magically produced silk of a subspecies of an Arachne, Arachneid.

Effect: Reduce Impact +10%

Price: 70,000 Otherworldly Coins.

There were a total of twenty new items shown by Blue. However, only these two piqued his interest.

"How about the accessory shop?" Clovis muttered while shifting his gaze to the side.

Name: Flow Like the Wind (Tier 1)

Description: A ring made of a Harpy's magical core.

Effect: Wind Resistance -20

Price: 75,000 Otherworldly Coins.

Name: Eye Fusion (Tier 1)

Description: A necklace made of the cyclops' eye.

Effect: Eye Sensitivity +20%

Price: 50,000 Otherworldly Coins.

Just like the boutique, he also got about twenty items. Half of them were Tier 0 items, so he just skimmed their description before moving on. As expected, his interest would be placed on the Tier 1 items.

Clovis pondered for a moment. "Do you have a suggestion, Blue?"

[After taking into account your information, I can recommend you buy the Arachnid's Silk Shirt. Your companion, Jay, will be very good with the Lizard Skin Coat. You can buy the Eye Fusion for either Kanaria or Melody. For fairness, you can get the Flow Like the Wind for Kanaria if you decide to give the necklace to Melody.]

Clovis thought for a moment. "What if I buy the Lizard Skin Coat and Flow Like the Wind for myself?"

[You are able to purchase them for yourself. It will put a strain on your wallet. In addition, you will have to use the jacket and coat at the same time.]

Clovis fell silent for a moment. "That's true. It's going to be annoying to move with thick clothes. Meanwhile, the shirt is good since it has an impact reduction. It should be like shock absorption, right?"

[Yes. The springiness of the silk will lessen the impact.]

Clovis contemplated for a moment. It seemed that following Blue's suggestion would be the best option. However, he couldn't help but wonder if the other three would accept these gifts since he had just given them one not long ago.

"Do you have any suggestions if I choose to focus on myself this time?"

[Yes. Buying for yourself is deemed to be the best option for personal growth.]

"What?" Clovis was slightly taken aback by the response this time. Blue was actually giving him advice to abandon his friends. "You're wrong, Blue. First of all, if I go alone, I won't get as much money as this."

[It's possible to hire explorers.]

"But there won't be any trust built. I have to be constantly wary of them."

[There's no need to build trust. Once Master reaches a very high level, you can build a new group consisting of high-level people. It's suggested to build trust at that time.]

"That's indeed a good suggestion, but the trust will be different. The one built from the very beginning will have a bigger and deeper bond than the one built at that level."

[A new information has been registered. Adjusting the answers with the new information.]

[Master. Please upgrade the item limit to ten instead of buying the Lizard Skin Coat for Jay. Please give him Arachnid's Silk Shirt instead.]

"If I give him that shirt, what will I get?"

[Flow Like the Wind.]

Clovis thought for a moment. He considered upgrading the item limits seriously and finally understood the reason behind that suggestion.

"I see. That's indeed a better plan. Please buy them."

Chapter 212 Interview

While Clovis was busy with the Another World Mall, the entire city was filled with news about the people invited by the OpenSky corporation.

There were a total of five names picked on the list. Ivan's name wasn't there.

As soon as the mayor received the list, he was shocked, but he immediately went to each of them to bring this joyous news.

It only took an instant for the media to find out their identities as well.

The people were watching the interview with one of the five people on the list.

"Congratulations, Mr. Rayhan. How do you feel about the invitation?"

"I'm just honored. I never thought I would be picked by them... especially when there were a lot of people more amazing than me during the raid."

"Indeed. From the list, Mr. Ivan from the Drake Group isn't chosen."

"That guy?" Rayhan shook his head helplessly. "I do admit that my strength is nothing compared to his, but there is an even more amazing person than him. His group killed five Tier 3 beasts and became the biggest contributor to the raid. Not only that, but he also went all the way to encourage all of us and unite us. If not for him, I might perform much worse than this."

No, I might not even get picked up by them. When I received the invitation, I couldn't help but wonder why they were not picked this time."

"Hoho? This is a rather interesting topic. Why do you think, Mr. Rayhan?"

"Well, I don't want to give any false information. I will just tell you about two things that I've witnessed directly. First, before we departed from the city, their group was stopped by the police for seemingly false information. And the second time is the start of a weird rumor about them using a back door to enter the raid."

"A back door? Do you mean they're using their name to enter the raid without passing the selection?"

"Yes. However, they are so competent that if they have gone to the screening test, they could easily get their name there. So why do they have to do that?"

"Are you implying there is some shady dealing behind the scenes?"

"Well, it's not my position to talk about that. I've told you that I don't want to spread misinformation." Rayhan raised one finger. "In any case, they're far more competent than me. I don't feel like bragging about myself even though I'm being picked at this point."

"May I know their name?"

"Their group is called Libation Fiesta. Their leader is Clovis, his leadership ability is impeccable. There are the strong swordsman known as Jay Havenson and the beautiful sniper called Kanaria Renvolt."

"That's a rather interesting topic to explore." The host nodded with a smile, but she shifted to the second topic. "I can see why you think Mr. Ivan can't be compared to them, but he is still very talented, right? From our source, we have found out that he has killed one Tier 3 beast."

"Mhmm... I'm no expert in this field..." Rayhan thought for a moment. "On that battlefield, I felt he was always rash. He was indeed stronger than me, but his action actually endangered our lives. Even that kill was helped significantly by Mr. Richard from the OpenSky corporation."

"What? Is that true?"

"Well, if I talk too much about this, it will be considered defamation. But if I throw a stone at a Tier 5 or Tier 6 human and run away, can I actually say, 'I have fought that person and survived?' Or maybe I ask for a Tier 6 human to hold down a Tier 3 or Tier 4 beast so that I can kill it. Can I claim that kill?"

I do believe that his contribution is much higher than that, but I don't think it's as high as you probably think."

"Wow." The statement blew her mind. The host gave a wry smile and hurriedly replied, "I believe that we've gone too far from the original topic and accidentally touched a sensitive topic. Let's get back to the original topic, shall we?"

"Indeed."

The people who watched the interviews live immediately clipped the video and spread it all over Skynet.

Obviously, President Thomas watched everything. He slammed the table and shouted, "Call that station. I want the interview to be erased immediately! We have to bury the rest of the videos as well."

There was no way they would take this insult without fighting back.

At the same time, the Havenson and Renvolt families had united.

"Isn't this interesting?" Vania asked Jay's father.

"Indeed. I have heard the news from my son." He nodded with a calm expression. "Are you planning to do something?"

"Of course. But I have promised the kids to only do something tomorrow." Vania smirked. "As much as that bastard, Thomas, would like to erase them, that was how much I also wanted to spread this news."

"You should be aware that the Rusth family is also trying to meddle in this matter, right?"

"Even though they have gradually moved away from Ivan?"

"You already know how deep the conflict is between you and their family. Since Kanaria has become closer and closer to Clovis, there's no way they will let them be. If the Renvolt family gets stronger, they're the first one to be suppressed after all."

"I'll talk to my father, I guess." Vania sighed. "I'm just afraid that they become so desperate that they don't care about anything else, including us."

"Indeed. So you shouldn't push them to the corner as well."

"I know." Vania shrugged.

The news took the city by storm. People were suspecting scandals involving the Drake Group.

It wasn't hard to dig up the conflict between them previously, making people believe that the Drake Group didn't include Clovis's group because of pettiness.

Whether it was the police or the rumor, they were all pointed at the Drake Group.

Their stock would definitely plummet the moment they were open for trading tomorrow. And Thomas needed to focus on that matter first before dealing with Clovis.

As for the person who caused all the trouble, he was lying down on his bed with a satisfied face.

"Ah... I've spent a lot of money today. It's nice to have money."

Chapter 213 Invitation

"The scandal within the raid group?"

"The Drake Group's manipulative method."

"Ivan's performance is not as good as rumored?"

There was a lot of news coming out the next day. It shocked almost everyone in the city. It turned out there was a group that was much better than the one Ivan led.

The Drake Group was under fire. People were trying to expose their corruption.

President Thomas was doing all he could to ensure the stability of the group. However, their image had been tarnished by misinformation.

A shady deal to keep the Libation Fiesta out of the raid party? No, the Libation Fiesta never registered for the screening test.

But even if they claimed they had nothing to do with it, would the people believe them? No, they thought the Drake Group removed their trace as well.

They didn't find out who actually put Clovis into the expedition group. The influences behind Clovis's teammates didn't speak up. The mayor also had no involvement in this matter.

Hence, they were trying to figure out who actually put their name on the list at the last moment.

The reporters were on fire. They tried to seek out Clovis's home in order to get an exclusive interview with him. The Renvolt and Havenson families also got a lot of requests from them.

They utilized every connection they had in order to make it successful.

The one who had the most fun was actually Vania.

She was holing inside her dark room, looking at her computer.

She was logging in to her social media account.

BlueScreen01: The Drake Group is too much. I used to like them, but it turned out they were as corrupt as others.

Lintai: I already disliked them from the beginning. They have become too arrogant after getting that Ivan. He might be good, but his arrogance knows no bounds.

SwordServer: I witnessed the argument between Ivan and Clovis previously. The latter was calm and humble, but the former kept pushing their own ideals as though he were the protagonist. He was annoying.

Vania grinned and started typing, changing the narrative slightly.

MichaelNextLifeLover: It seems that the Drake Group is able to become a big explorer group because they've buried all the talents that are not with them.

The people immediately saw it and started coming up with names of talented people that disappeared for no apparent reason, linking it to the Drake Group. It was slander, but no one knew who the person behind that account was.

"With this, I'm done for now. The Drake Group will become passive for the time being. Maybe I should ask my daughter to use this opportunity to reach Tier 2," Vania muttered before signing out.

...

Just like Vania, Clovis and Kanaria were hiding inside their home, but for a different reason. If they came out, they would be surrounded by reporters.

However, one visitor startled all of them, forcing the reporters to back down for a bit.

Ding!

Dong!

Clovis opened the door and found a rather familiar face. It was the face he always saw on the screen.

"Mayor?" Clovis raised his eyebrows. He had kind of expected it, but the mayor did his job very quickly.

"Hello." The mayor smiled. "I apologize for coming so suddenly."

Clovis glanced at the reporters around his house and asked with a poker face, "Would you like to come in first?"

"Thank you very much." The mayor happily accepted the invitation.

Clovis closed the door immediately, not letting his personal life be bothered by these reporters.

"Mhmm? Mayor." As expected, Kanaria immediately recognized him.

"You are..." The mayor raised his eyebrows. "Ah, you are the granddaughter of Mr. Haivan."

"Yes, my name is Kanaria. It's an honor to have the mayor remember me." Kanaria politely greeted him.

The mayor paused for a moment, realizing that these two actually lived together. If that were the case, the relationship between Clovis and the Renvolt family was already very close.

"Please come in." Kanaria skillfully led the mayor into the living room.

The mayor was a bit surprised that the house wasn't fully furnished. No, it was furnished, but there was a lot of missing furniture. To think that a talented man like Clovis or even a young lady from a big family like Kanaria would live in a house like this.

"Please forgive us for this humble home," Kanaria said, noticing his change of expression and his lingering gaze on the missing furniture. She had suggested it to Clovis previously, but because they rarely came home, he didn't think it was necessary.

So, she had been postponing it the whole time.

"I will make some tea." Kanaria waved her hand and quickly moved to the kitchen. Meanwhile, the mayor and Clovis sat down in front of each other.

"I'm quite surprised that the talented young man of our city lives in a place like this. If you'd like to—" The mayor opened the conversation with a generous offer, but he was immediately stopped by Clovis.

Clovis raised his hand and said with a flat tone, "I'm thankful for the offer, but I'll remain in this home. This is what my family has left me. Of course, that includes renovation."

The mayor looked surprised, thinking that Clovis was so filial that he didn't want to make any changes to the house his family gave him.

"Please." Kanaria returned pretty quickly and put down the tea for all of them before sitting next to Clovis. "May I know the reason for your visit this time, Mayor?"

"Ehm..." The mayor scratched the back of his head. This was the first time he heard about them. However, after digging up a few things, they had indeed performed brilliantly a few times, which made his visit look like he was forcing his kindness on them.

That was why he shouldn't start by offering them his support. Instead, he made an excited smile and asked, "What do you think about representing the city in the Stellar City's Explorer Combat Competition?"

Chapter 214 New Challenge

"What do you think about representing the city in the Stellar City's Explorer Combat Competition?"

"Stellar City's Explorer Combat Competition?" Clovis and Kanaria exchanged looks. None of them had heard about it.

"You know the Stellar City, right?"

Kanaria pondered for a moment. "If I'm not wrong, Stellar City is located in the south of this city. They are a Tier 6 city, which is one tier higher than this city."

"Yes. I'm not sure if you already know about this, but all the bases in the west and north have been destroyed. The bases on the east are being attacked right now. To combat this, Stellar City is trying to hold a competition for explorers to raise the people's morale.

"They want people to think that the explorers in the city have excellent explorers to resist those beasts. Of course, the participants are only the younger generations.

"The competition is divided into three categories based on age. All people under 20 years old will be joining the Young Stellar Competition. Above them is the Rising Star Competition, which has an upper limit of 25 years old. Lastly, the Shining Star Competition, which adds another five years to the upper limit."

"So, you want us to fight in the Young Stellar Competition?" Kanaria asked for confirmation.

"Yes. We'd like you to represent the city in this competition."

Kanaria glanced at Clovis, who actually shook his head.

Seeing that gesture, the mayor hurriedly added, "I apologize for not noticing your group sooner. If—"

Kanaria stopped him. "It's not about that problem, Mayor. We have another member, Melody. We don't want to leave her because of her age, so even if we enter this competition, we will be joining the Rising Star Competition."

"But..." The mayor looked pale. "In the Shining Star Competition, most of the participants are Tier 2 and Tier 3 explorers. I've heard that there are some who have reached Tier 4."

"Yes. We're thankful for your information, but that's our stance." Kanaria nodded with a serious expression. However, she added one more thing. "And we still have one more month to prepare."

"Hmm?" The mayor frowned. "What are you trying to imply?"

"I and Jay are approaching Tier 2. If we continue at this pace, we will be able to reach Tier 2. As for Clovis..." Kanaria glanced at him with a wry smile.

"You guys don't have to worry about me. I should be able to reach Tier 2 soon." Clovis shrugged.

He was thankful that he increased the item limit to ten. He had asked Blue to calculate it for him and confirmed that he could reach Tier 2 before the competition, albeit barely.

"Melody, our operator, should also reach Tier 3. She is not that far away from Tier 3 before joining us."

The mayor had heard that these young people managed to fight a powerful beast two tiers above them. If it were them, they might be able to stir up some commotion.

There were a few reasons why Clovis decided to accept this. First of all, he wanted to escape from the reporters. His name should have been spread, and a lot of people should be able to find out the reason for Hana's sudden visit.

As he said previously, he wouldn't explicitly show his identity, but he wouldn't hold back his achievement. By using this competition as an excuse, he could rack up his achievements while avoiding those people.

Besides, he also wanted to test his skills. He didn't want to be too complacent, so it was better to test the real strength of a big city to understand his current place.

And visiting a new city also increased their chance to find yet another talent. He might even get a new member in this city.

The most important reason was that the city was not that far from this place.

The mayor carefully considered their opinions. "This is rather difficult. Because of the current situation, we are lacking teams to participate in the Young Stellar Competition. However, we already have teams for the Rising Star Competition."

Clovis raised his finger. "How about this, Mayor? We can actually register as an independent team."

The mayor obviously didn't take that answer well. At the same time, he understood why Clovis could easily say those words. After all, they had been fighting without the support of the city.

Kanaria tugged Clovis's sleeve as if implying that she should take over the negotiation. She understood the mayor's concern after all.

"There is one thing I'd like to add, Mayor. Even though we'll be participating independently, how about you support us by giving us resources? You can claim that because of our current Tier, you are in a dilemma. Hence, you give us a test to reach Tier 2 within a month or something like that."

"!!!" The mayor's eyes lit up. "That's it. Still, to sponsor you right away will be hard."

"We know about that. How about splitting it into three parts, depending on our performance?"

"What do you mean?"

Kanaria raised three fingers. "First, you can sponsor us right now, which is also a part of the reason for your arrival here. Second, we'll meet in Stellar City one month later. If we reach Tier 2 and Melody is able to become a Tier 3 human, you will give us another resource. Then, once we fight in the competition, depending on our result, you can give us another reward. What do you think?"

"That sounds plausible." The mayor nodded. "But are you sure you want it that way?"

"Yes."

The mayor pondered for a minute before asking, "What do you need from me?"

Clovis whispered to Kanaria a few things. After some consideration, Kanaria replied, "We're used to buying everything ourselves. If possible, how about giving us some money for the first and second parts?"

The third part can be money as well, but if you want to add something else because you're satisfied with our result, then we won't reject it."

The mayor looked at Kanaria for a moment. "I've heard that Mr. Haivan's granddaughter is an expert in logistics. I guess that's not an empty claim."

Kanaria smiled, even though he misunderstood.

"Alright." The mayor stood up and extended his hand. "I'm looking forward to seeing your performance."

"We won't disappoint you." Clovis shook his head firmly.

Chapter 215 Persuading

Clovis and Kanaria saw the mayor off personally before retreating inside, preventing the reporters from surrounding them.

Both of them exchanged looks. A smile appeared on their faces as they gave a thumbs up to each other.

"Good work." Clovis felt relieved that they were able to get more money.

"Still, one month to become a Tier 2, huh? Right now, my evolution progress is already close to 80%, so it will only take another two weeks to become Tier 2."

"Don't worry. My progress is already two-thirds, so it should be fine... probably."

"Is that so?" Kanaria was once again shocked by Clovis's progress. She thought she had consumed a similar amount of essence as Clovis. Yet Clovis, whose evolution rate was only a fifth of hers, managed to keep up with her.

"Anyway, we should tell Jay and Melody about this... especially Melody."

"Melody?" Kanaria thought for a moment before her face became pale. "Don't tell me..."

Clovis nodded. "Yes. We're going to Stellar City right away!"

"Do you think Melody will agree to that idea? If we go there right now and go back one month later, she will be whining that she can't visit her younger brother, you know." Kanaria facepalmed.

"I'll leave it to you." Clovis patted Kanaria's shoulder and walked away, escaping from her.

Kanaria's eyebrows twitched as she suddenly grabbed Clovis's arm while staring at him with a darkened expression. "You won't escape, right?"

"..." Clovis gave a wry smile. "How about I give you something in exchange?"

Clovis had prepared an item for her from Another World Mall, so this would be a perfect chance to give it to her.

However, Kanaria shook her head. "Just promise me to do something later."

"That's..." Clovis scratched the back of his head. "Fine. As long as I can do it."

"Alright." Kanaria's expression brightened again.

Clovis didn't know why, but he felt that Kanaria had prepared a sly plan for him.

"Anyway, we'll be going there as quickly as possible and getting used to this new city." Clovis waved his hand. "I'm going to pack my luggage first."

"Alright." Kanaria nodded. "But we can only go tomorrow at the earliest."

"I know."

Clovis just returned to his room, while Kanaria called Jay and Melody personally to talk about their plan.

Jay never missed a challenge, so he agreed without any hesitation. On the other hand, Melody was angry at Clovis. She didn't mind participating in the competition, but they didn't need to actually go to that city to power up.

Kanaria could only say that Clovis had to go there so that they could challenge higher tier beasts.

After some consideration, Melody finally agreed to go with them. She had to make some plans for her brother for the time being since she would have to leave him.

Kanaria then proceeded to purchase all the equipment they needed to visit the city.

"How is it?" Clovis was already searching for information about Stellar City.

"They've agreed, but Melody is going to gnaw you alive tomorrow."

"Hahaha." Clovis let out a dry laugh. "Anyway, here is the information about Stellar City. It seems that they have their own unique system."

"Ah, wait. I'm going to handle one last problem first." She stopped him. While restocking their supplies, she encountered a problem, which was how to bring all those items out of the city, including them.

Although they wanted to be independent, they had no choice but to ask for Vania's help.

After Kanaria explained their intention and plan, Vania surprisingly said only one word. "Sure."

"Eh? Are you sure? You are always skeptical about me leaving for a long time."

"I mean, you're going to be away for a much longer time. It's time for the baby bird to spread their wings and soar into the sky. I believe that all of you are able to reach the highest sky, so I'm not going to chain you down. Just go for it! If you need any help, just ask me."

Kanaria felt embarrassed. It was rare for Vania to behave like a mature mother, but when she did, she always moved the heart of her daughter. "Thank you, Mom. If it's not too much trouble for you, can you help us leave this city without getting caught by the reporters? It includes our luggage and transportation."

"It's not a big problem. I'll just call a few friends. South Gate, is it?"

"Yes."

"Alright." Vania hung up.

Kanaria let out a breath of relief before turning to Clovis. "So, what's the unique system this city has?"

Clovis handed the document while explaining, "The city might have a similar explorer association system, but the association in this place is giving a mission differently. Normally, the requester is an individual, and we'll only receive a reward, right?"

"In this city, there is the option of exchanging items or points. It must be because it is a bigger city, but it has a lot of explorers and a long lineage of explorer families. Instead of spending money, they are able to give an item for a reward."

"But we are trying to get more money, right?" Kanaria frowned. "So, this system is kind of useless."

"Not necessarily so."

"What do you mean?"

"This city might not need them, but can you say the same for the people in this city?"

"Ah!" Kanaria's eyes lit up. "Are you saying we're going to gather a lot of those items and sell them here?"

"Yes. During the break, we can go back to this city. I mean, the trip only takes about two to three hours by car. And Melody can go back to visit her brother, maybe once a week."

Kanaria looked annoyed as she spoke with an angry tone. "I hope you told me earlier before persuading Melody."

"My bad." Clovis gave a wry smile before changing the topic. "Anyway, there is one more interesting thing. This one."

Clovis pointed at the specific point of the document, which made Kanaria frown.