

## World Mall 236

### Chapter 236 Ragna

As soon as the morning came, Clovis's group packed up and hurried into the woods. After all, they had to cross the woods before climbing over a small hill to reach their destination.

As expected, the beasts were much stronger than what they had faced so far. It took them three times longer to cross just a hundred meters compared to the previous location.

Clovis and Jay had no trouble dealing with them. Kanaria also had some experience, but it was a bit hard for Melody and Ragna.

Melody might have experienced much stronger beasts when they went around the hot spring, but she didn't get to fight the beasts during the expedition Hana formed. She could only see the data from the cameras attached to Clovis and the others.

Hence, it took her some time to get used to it.

Still, the biggest problem was actually Ragna.

He barely managed to block a Tier 1 beast and got pushed back by a Tier 2 beast. Even without a shield, Jay wouldn't lose against such a beast.

At the same time, it was understandable since Ragna didn't learn the Star Method or wear the special items from Clovis.

Hence, they slowed down their pace even more to create another pattern that wouldn't be much of a burden to Ragna. If Ragna couldn't perform perfectly, Jay and Clovis would be worried after all.

After several hours, the group decided to rest for a while before climbing the hill not far from them.

"Hu..." Clovis let out a long sigh, adjusting the plan in his mind.

"Here you go." Ragna suddenly came to him with a wry smile. His hand was holding a water bottle.

"Thanks." Clovis grabbed the bottle with a nod before seeing Ragna walk away to give the rest of the group some water.

That was when Clovis actually found another fact from Ragna.

'Hmm... Even though he is staying in the back, the intensity shouldn't be that much different. The fact that he can still do all this means he's got some stamina there.' Clovis fell silent. 'Now that I think about it, whenever we stop, Ragna always comes to me, either offering me something or asking me if he could do something.'

Clovis realized that Ragna was doing his best to help the group.

'What an evil guy...' Clovis scratched the back of his head. 'When he wanted to join us, he told us that he would do everything like chores, maintenance, or even planning. If we get too comfortable about this, we will be in trouble if Ragna decides to leave us in the future.'

'Yeah. What if we get too lazy and think of the chores being too much and giving us more stress? What if the maintenance work ends up becoming burdensome when it's something we're supposed to do? I will always do the planning though, so I'll just listen to their inputs. The last thing is not gonna happen, but yeah... The group who picks him up will get used to the comfort of being 'served' all the time.'

When that service is gone...' Clovis pinched the bridge of his nose. It seemed that he had underestimated Ragna a little bit.

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Subterranean World.

A group of explorers were running away from beasts. They were the same group that expelled Ragna previously.

"Run away!" The captain shouted.

"Why are there monsters in this area? Isn't this place supposed to be clean?" Another member shouted.

The guardian they hired to replace Ragna couldn't help but say, "What? This area is always filled with monsters. Why are you assuming this place is clean?"

"But Ragna told us we wouldn't encounter any beasts if we crossed this place back then!"

"Back then? When? Are you talking about after the monster outbreak?" The guardian gritted his teeth.

\*Roar!\*

Before he could reply, a black bear appeared in front of them, trying to stop the entire group.

The captain sped up and swung his broad sword. The black bear smacked the sword to push it away.

However, after one strike, he heard something from his sword.

\*Crack!\*

"What?" The captain looked at his sword, seeing the blade crack. In addition, his weapon felt like it wasn't as sharp as usual. "What is happening to my weapon?"

The guardian's eyebrows twitched. "What the hell are you doing? Did you maintain your weapon at all?"

"But Ragna..." The captain suddenly fell silent, noticing something.

"What are we going to do now, Captain?!" Another member shouted while looking around.

"We..." The captain couldn't answer that question. Ragna was the one who always pointed in the direction they needed to go, telling them the safe place whenever they had to run away.

"What the hell are you doing? Do you come all the way here without a single plan?" The guardian roared in disbelief. He didn't expect that these veteran explorers couldn't do a single thing.

The captain was completely speechless. He had realized something. His group used to do all the things by themselves, but when Ragna appeared, they stopped doing them.

After all, they could simply give all the boring tasks to Ragna. The result was also amazing.

Because of Ragna's weakness, they would feel superior and not think much about giving him tasks.

They had developed a bad habit before realizing it. It became normal to them to think, 'Ragna is there. Ragna will do it. They can just leave it to Ragna.'

However, they had become too comfortable to think, 'What if Ragna isn't there?'

The captain felt the maintenance and even the planning become too much of a chore. He didn't know how much time he had to develop the habit again.

He never thought that his group would receive this much damage just by expelling Ragna.

The fact that he never thought about it baffled him.

"We... We need to go to the safe area first. For now, just keep moving forward." The captain gave an order, but his voice was filled with hesitation. He didn't know whether it was a safe place or not.

This setback just made him even angrier at Ragna.

"Kh..." He was gnashing his teeth while wondering what he needed to do.

Chapter 237 Looming Danger

Drake Group.

"Kh." President Thomas gritted his teeth, looking at the participants' names for the competition in Stellar City.

Clovis's name wasn't on it. However, he couldn't underestimate him, considering there was a chance that his name would magically appear once again.

More importantly, he was concerned because the situation had been grim for his company. The Drake Group had taken a big hit after the previous scandal that he was no part of and lost a lot of money.

In addition, there were some investors who had backed away because they didn't want to get dragged into this troublesome fight between Clovis and the Drake Group.

Still, the mayor had no choice but to recommend Ivan for this competition. No matter how bad his current reputation was, it didn't change the fact that Ivan could be considered the stronger Tier 1 group aside from Clovis's Libation Fiesta.

He glanced at Ivan with a serious expression. "I have talked to the mayor. He has promised that he won't put Clovis's name like last time. In other words, you have the chance to show your strength.

"However, if you're going to mess up again after this, consider it over for you." Thomas glared at Ivan with killing intent. This was the last warning Ivan would receive.

Ivan gritted his teeth. His hatred for Clovis was also rising. His life had become a mess after Clovis appeared.

"Yes," Ivan answered with a weak voice. The competition itself didn't hold much importance for him.

In fact, he wanted Clovis to be at the tournament so that he could kill him personally no matter what price he had to pay.

Sadly, it didn't seem that he could fulfill his wish.

Ivan walked away while clenching his fists. Either way, the competition would be good for him, especially if he wanted to keep doing this and eventually kill Clovis. He had to be patient for now.

Meanwhile, Thomas was staring at the screen intensely, recalling the report about Clovis from his assistant.

"He's gone again? But this time, no matter how hard we try, we're unable to locate him. As expected, the mayor is helping him. If I want to kill him, I can't be direct because of that freaking family."

Thomas fell silent for a moment. "Don't tell me, the mayor is planning to put him inside the competition? There's no way the mayor didn't invite them for the competition. There are only two possibilities: they either rejected it or still thought about it.

"If they chose to participate..." Thomas's expression turned ugly. There was no way Ivan's group could win against them.



It was clear when Clovis managed to kill multiple Tier 3 beasts. In addition, Vina had left the group and he had been unable to track her.

"Just you wait. If you're going to push me into the corner, I don't mind dying while dragging you with me." Thomas slammed the table, feeling stressed.

However, Thomas misunderstood something. The mayor assured him that he wouldn't change the names on the list, but he didn't say anything about sponsoring the Libation Fiesta.

They were still going to enter the competition. In fact, people might misunderstand even more when they see the mayor sponsoring them without registering them under the city's name.

People would only think that Thomas had done something again and stopped the mayor from registering them. So the Libation Fiesta had no choice but to register for the competition by themselves. This way, the mayor would be portrayed as a good man who did his best to nurture talented individuals, while the Drake Group was known for being manipulative.

The people didn't care whether it was true or not. It just looked that way.

While Thomas was racking his brain to find his chance, the mayor was relaxing in his office.

"Ah. This is a good day. Thomas... you unfortunately have to provoke someone who you shouldn't have." The mayor shook his head helplessly. "Hacfield, huh? They also have the Renvolts and Havensons... It seems that I have to make preparations as well."

The mayor weighed the benefits the Drake Group could bring and compared it with what Jay and Kanaria could potentially have in the future. He didn't know whether Clovis would remember him or not later, but Jay and Kanaria's families still remained in this city. As long as he still had them here, it was a good investment for the city.

On the other hand, the two assassins had started working again. They had been waiting for Clovis as if they had a plan that would definitely kill him.

"The preparation is ready," one of them said.

The other smiled. "In that case, come, Clovis Hacfield. The moment you climb that mountain, it will be your death. This time, we won't fail anymore."

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Clovis stood up after getting enough rest. His group's condition was ideal for a long and hard fight.

He also felt that this was the perfect opportunity to get rid of him. That was why Clovis said, "Kill the beasts, but make sure you don't overdo it. I want you to conserve your stamina as much as possible."

Ragna was confused, but Jay and the others nodded their heads as if they had already known what was waiting for them.

Clovis didn't plan to say anything to Ragna for the time being. It was unfair to him, but the information was rather sensitive.

"Let's go!" Clovis waved his hand, leading his team to the top of the hill.

The climb wasn't as hard as the previous climb because the path was big enough to fight comfortably.

As soon as they reached the top of the hill, they found a big monster standing next to the lake.

It looked like a giraffe, but it was much more robust. The skin was gray like that of an elephant. Its height reached as high as 8 meters and its weight might be more than they could see from the top of the hill. After all, Kanaria and Melody could actually see the footprint that this beast left behind.

When Clovis saw this beast, he said, "Let's go. We'll kill this Tier 3 Paraceratherium."

Chapter 238 Approaching

Looking at the towering beast at the foot of the hill, Clovis waved his hand to his group. "Let's kill this beast."

The group had to move extremely fast so that this beast wouldn't gather other beasts in the area.

However, Clovis seemed to have underestimated this beast. With that height, the beast's head was over the tree.

Like how Clovis could easily find the beast from afar, it could also see things from a much higher position. The beast could easily see something going on the slope of the hill from the bottom.

"!!!" Clovis widened his eyes in shock, looking at the Tier 3 paraceratherium that was opening its mouth.

\*Oooooohhh!\*

The loud cry shook the area. Its voice was very deep like a heavy bell that was hit by a blunt stick.

"Tsk." Clovis clicked his tongue. They had just covered half of the distance, but it seemed that they had to brute force their way to this monster.

"I will be opening the path from here on." Jay moved to the front while slashing the two beasts in their way.

"Jay?" Clovis furrowed his eyebrows. They had previously agreed that they would share the burden so that both of them had enough energy to take this beast down.

"That what? The elephant giraffe beast is covered in thick skin. It will be hard for us to penetrate its armor. However, it doesn't seem to be fast. You will have to work harder when we reach that beast, Clovis. So just take it easy for the time being," Jay explained with a nonchalant expression.

Clovis couldn't deny it. It seemed that he had to adjust his plan a little bit, especially with the fact that they had been discovered.

To show his agreement, Clovis slowed down and started giving a new order. "Kanaria. Change your position a little bit. It's better to stick close because the beasts are going to surround us the moment we reach that monster."

"Got it." Kanaria nodded with a serious expression.

The group continued going down the hill while Jay took down all the beasts standing in their way. Kanaria also shot the beasts coming from the side.

Jay was making sure that Clovis didn't have to swing his sword even once until they reached this colossal monster.

As they were approaching the colossal monster, more and more beasts stood in their way. Even Jay had trouble dealing with them since not only were they stronger than normal, they came a few at a time.

Clovis wanted to say something, but looking at Jay back made him realize what kind of man Jay really was. Hence, he chose to remain silent and let Jay lead them to the Tier 3 beast.

There are two Tier 2 beasts coming! One is in the front, the other one is coming from the right." Melody shouted while updating the information in the Skyglasses.

The Tier 2 beast pounced on Jay, planning to stop him no matter the cost.

Jay struck the beast's paw with all his strength. He managed to push the beast back, but it wasn't so easy to cut it down.

When Jay was about to launch the second swing, Clovis actually passed him as though he was unable to stop himself.

"Clo—" Jay wanted to stop him, but it was too late.

The beast was taken aback by Clovis. After Jay's attack, it had a hard time to stabilize its position, so it was unable to repel any of Clovis's strikes.

Clovis passed the beast while swinging his sword at least ten times, cutting down the beast.

\*Roar!\* The beast wailed in pain, but it couldn't move anymore after that wound. Even the bleeding would cause him to die in the next few seconds.

Jay wanted to send Clovis to the best position, but Clovis deemed that it would be better to kill the Tier 2 beast himself.

He pointed at the Tier 2 beast before moving his finger to the Tier 3 monster as if telling this colossal beast that its fate would be the same as the Tier 2 beast's.

Even if the beast wasn't intelligent enough to talk, it was smart enough to understand the message that Clovis tried to convey.

In an instant, the beast was enraged. How could the beast accept the fact that Clovis wanted to chop him down like what he did to the Tier 2 beast?

In that instant, the Tier 3 beast stepped forward. Each step caused a small tremor in the area.

"What? How heavy is this guy? To be able to cause the ground to shake with just a single step." Kanaria looked concerned, while Ragna wondered if he could block this beast.

On the other hand, Jay focused on the fact that Clovis came forward because he wanted to taunt this beast.

Now that there wasn't much distance between them, Clovis sped up. There were several beasts standing before him, but it didn't matter anymore.

Clovis jumped into the crowd and swung his swords multiple times, skillfully cutting down all the beasts.

Without any more beasts standing between them, Clovis took out his pistol and aimed at the Tier 3 beast's head, specifically its eyes.

\*Bang!\*

\*Bang!\*

\*Bang!\*

The beast closed its eyes and lowered its head, protecting itself from the bullets.

Clovis took advantage of this opportunity to close in, but the beast was smart enough to stomp the ground.

It produced a large tremor that actually caused the soil to bounce Clovis up a little. Due to Clovis's speed, even the slightest change could cause him to slip.

Fortunately, Clovis chose to slide on the ground, avoiding the fall. He noticed that in front of him, the soil that the monster stomped on earlier actually deepened for a few centimeters.



It would be over the moment he got crushed under all that weight. So Clovis approached it from the side.

The beast turned its body around, but because of that body, its speed was extremely slow.

Clovis hurriedly jumped into the air and slashed the side of his body.

"Take this."

Chapter 239 Reinforcement

\*Clink!\*

Clovis heard a clicking sound while he felt the hardness of the skin of this beast. This beast was supposed to be at a higher tier in his opinion.

The beast had strength and weight. Its size was colossal and the skin was tough. Other than speed, the beast didn't lack anything.

Clovis glanced to the side. Jay was making his way toward him while Kanaria led the group to a tall tree in the area. She climbed the tree while Melody and Ragna were stationed below it to protect her.

When Clovis was about to say something, he noticed that the sun was actually covered by something. He raised his head out of reflex and saw the giant beast turning around.

Without hesitation, Clovis moved back to regain some distance, but to his surprise, the beast actually lowered its head and circled around him. With such a size, Clovis would be swallowed alive.

He spun his body and struck the beast's head. The latter didn't feel hurt at all. However, Clovis's aim was not to hurt the beast but to propel himself up, avoiding the beast's mouth.

Clovis landed on top of the Tier 3 beast's head and tried to strike its eyes, but the beast swiftly closed its eyes and started swaying its head left and right to shake him off.

Clovis wrapped the neck with the chain of his short sword as he stuck to this beast.

Annoyed, the beast lifted up its head as though it were about to slam its own head to the ground as long as Clovis could get crushed along with it. It wasn't like its hard head would be injured or something.

However, the beast focused on Clovis a little bit too much as it didn't see Jay approaching.

Clovis pointed to the right, so Jay immediately looped around the beast from the right. Instead of the body, Jay jumped higher than Clovis and struck its neck instead.

\*Oooohhh!\*

The beast growled as Jay actually managed to pierce through its skin. Even so, it was only the surface. Other than the skin, the flesh was also tough. Even Jay's sword could only penetrate one centimeter deep. It was nothing compared to the beast's size.

"Jay! Remember the snake? You are Ivan now!" Clovis shouted, realizing something.

"!!!" Jay raised his eyebrows, recalling that particular scene. The snake he was talking about was the Tier 2 Yurlunggur.

In the past, they were unable to pierce through the snake's skin. Hence, they ran away.

However, the moment they saw Ivan cutting the snake, they hurriedly switched their strategy and poisoned the snake.

Clovis wanted to recreate that strategy. Since his swing was so powerful that it could injure the beast, it would be his role to deal as much wound as possible. In the meantime, Clovis would be distracting this beast while trying to widen those wounds.

Unfortunately, they didn't have any more poison. Hence, the only thing they could do was do this the hard way.

Now that both of them saw the path to success, Jay sped up and looped around the beast while delivering some strikes on that big body.

Clovis kept clinging to the beast's neck while trying to shoot the beasts that were about to surround them.

"This is not looking good. They'll be too slow." Kanaria bit her lips while shooting the beasts down.

"What are you talking about?" Melody asked with a serious expression.

"They're planning to have Jay create some open wounds while Clovis will expand them later. However, there is a big problem with that strategy. It's too slow. More and more beasts are coming."

"!!!" Melody seemed to come to a realization. She took another look at the radar and said, "Things might look bad soon."

There was a horde of beasts coming from the west. Their number was close to fifty. As Melody said, more and more beasts were coming. If this continued, they would be surrounded first before they managed to kill the Tier 3 beast.

"Ragna. Protect Kanaria well. I'm going." Melody turned her head to the left as if seeing something much more terrible. Before going, she grabbed the backpack that Clovis dropped earlier, taking out a few small devices.

"What? Are you going to be fine?" Ragna looked surprised.

"Don't underestimate Melody. While she is our operator, she is still a Tier 2 mobile operator. In terms of close combat, she is actually better than me." Kanaria smiled while shooting yet another beast.

Melody didn't bother to answer him. She just went to the west while taking out her grenade.

She only traveled for a bit before finding the incoming beast wave. Before engaging them, Melody tossed one of the devices to the ground. This was a radar that had been connected to her. Not only in this place, but she also wanted to drop this device in a few other spots, widening their search area. This way, they could react before the beasts could come.

This was Melody's answer when Kanaria told her that the subjugation took too long.

Now that the radars were in place, Kanaria headed out to meet these beasts.

**\*Roar!\*** One of them noticed her and alerted the others, causing all of them to turn around.

Melody wasn't afraid of them and charged ahead as if she were planning to deal with them in close combat.

But when there were only ten meters left, Melody extended her hand and grabbed the trunk on her left to forcefully stop her momentum. In addition, she tossed the grenade with her right hand.

The beasts, full of momentum, were unable to stop or change direction.

\*Boom!\*

The grenade blasted several beasts away while Melody took cover from the tree. After their charge was disrupted, Melody started shooting them, fully grasping their attention.

The enraged beasts had no thought other than shredding Melody apart. They didn't respond to the Tier 3 beast's call anymore.

Seeing her plan succeed, Melody turned around and ran away. She was ready to throw a grenade or shoot them, but for the time being, she just wanted to go around to drop some radars while bringing these beasts away.

'I've got you several minutes...' Melody thought while glancing at Clovis and Jay.

Unbeknownst to her, this action actually led to a more shocking discovery.

Chapter 240 Surrounded

"This is pretty successful," Melody muttered while looking at her back, seeing all those beasts. As long as she could keep this up, the Tier 3 beast should be injured heavily by the time she returned.

'I have dropped five radars. According to Clovis's prediction, those assassins will be trying to attack us at this time. We don't know what they're planning to do, but I need to prepare our escape route.

'Still, it would be better if Clovis is able to take down that Tier 3 beast. While it's strong, we have faced stronger foes.' Melody furrowed her eyebrows. 'The only problem will be how long we have left.

'Our current position is not looking good. In the north, there is a vast freshwater lake. In the west and south, there are hills. If we want to escape, it will be through the east. We don't have to climb the hill, which will increase our pace tremendously.

'The problem is... the enemies might have considered that too. That's why I have to set up all this so that we will know them earlier and Clovis will have more time to think about our next move.'

Melody fell silent while looking at the map. 'If those assassins are planning to attack, they will be leading the Tier 4 beast to this place. Even though our strength can defeat a Tier 3 beast, I don't think we're on the level where we can kill a Tier 4 beast. That's why the moment the Tier 4 beast appears, we'll retreat.'

Melody was convinced that the enemies would only bring Tier 4 beasts and a lot of beasts to surround them.

After making a tour for ten minutes, Melody finally finished onsetting up her equipment. With this, she could go back and check the progress. Fortunately, there was no problem in the other battlefields.

And due to the previous jamming experience, they were forced to say something on the radio to make sure that they were not jammed.

When Melody returned to the group, she was still chased by a lot of beasts. However, it didn't really matter anymore. Kanaria started peeling those enemies off of her. T

Melody could even start killing them one after another. After confirming the area was safe, Ragna also stepped forward and became an additional force to kill these beasts.

During the whole fight, Melody kept glancing at the Tier 3 beast, checking its condition.

It seemed that Clovis and Jay had made big progress. There were numerous wounds on the beast's body. Some were wide, some were small.

The bleeding was quite intense, but the beast's movement had yet to become sluggish. Still, it was just a matter of time.

If this continues, they should be able to kill this beast in another ten minutes.

The battle was longer than any Tier 3 beast so far, but this beast's quality was close to that of a Tier 4, except for that speed.

"Jay!" Clovis shouted.



Jay glanced to the side, finding the incoming head. He skillfully jumped over the neck and avoided the attack.

Yes, due to that slow speed, this beast was unable to attack them a single time.

It had been stomping on the ground to unleash its anger, but it was not possible to hit these two guys.

Normally, the beasts would be fighting together with other beasts. While humans focused on him, the other beasts would hinder them or even kill them.

However, this was the first time that all the beasts in the area had been killed and no one was rushing to help him. The Tier 3 beast couldn't do anything other than take damage.

The beast kept stomping on the ground and let out a growl, trying to alert all the beasts in the area.

However, those beasts would still need time to reach this place.

The only living beings around him were the fish. However, they were unable to come out of the water.

Then again, the fish weren't beasts. After all, no ordinary fish could live on the land and climb the tunnel from the subterranean world.

Hence, there was still some time left to kill this Tier 3 beast.

Clovis took a deep breath and traced all those cuts perfectly, widening them bit by bit. The more he slashed, the more blood flowed out.

Jay kept striking the beast's body, sometimes hitting the same spots but sometimes striking different spots.

After all, in terms of accuracy, Clovis was much better than him.

Unfortunately, it didn't seem that they had a lot of time left. As they expected, before the Tier 3 beast died, reinforcements were coming.

\*Roar!\*

\*Roar!\*

\*Roar!\*

A series of roars echoed, alerting the Tier 3 beast and Clovis's group.

Kanaria raised her head while Melody checked the map.

"They're coming." Kanaria muttered, seeing the beasts going down the hill. Melody confirmed it by stating, "Around forty beasts."

However, another series of roars startled them, this time coming from east.

Melody took a glance at both the map and the direction, finding something big in the distance.

"Isn't that..." Melody's expression turned grim. There was a big snake bulldozing all the trees before him. The snake was four meters tall and the length couldn't be determined yet. "The Tier 4 snake we're waiting for?"

"Don't panic. We have prepared a plan for this snake," Kanaria hurriedly said with a serious expression.

"Right?" Melody nodded before hearing yet another roar, but this time it came from the opposite direction.

"What? That's..." Kanaria sucked a cold breath. The beast wasn't as tall, but its ferocity surpassed any beasts around it. "Another Tier 3 beast?"

The surprise didn't end here.

\*Scree!\*

A loud shriek shook the battlefield as a giant dragonfly appeared on top of a hill.

"What the hell is that? A three meters tall insect? No, is it the insect from the Carboniferous period where the giant insect ruled?" Kanaria shuddered.

Melody looked at the map and saw more than four hundred beasts coming in their direction. And there were two Tier 3 beasts and one Tier 4 beast coming to this place.

She thought that only Tier 4 would be coming, but it seemed that she had underestimated what those assassins could do.

"We are... surrounded." Kanaria gulped down.