

World Mall 241

Chapter 241 Outplayed

The two assassins were standing behind the hill while smiling.

"With this, you won't be able to escape anymore. Do you think we will only send a single Tier 4 beast and let you escape?" The assassin smiled.

The other assassin chuckled. "Of course not. We are lucky that you are aiming for this place. It's such a hassle to lure those beasts without alerting the others. In addition, they have to appear at the same time."

The two assassins had a high-five, feeling proud. There was one more catch in their plan.

The only escape path was actually the water. There was no beast inside the water. However, they wouldn't be able to swim fast enough. There was the Tier 3 paraceratherium that was so tall that it could easily cross the lake or the dragonfly that could easily capture them from the sky when they emerged from the water.

If they wanted to escape, their only choice was to go on land.

However, they had been surrounded. Even if they were fast, they wouldn't be able to push or slip past hundreds of beasts in an instant.

In addition, there was one more problem. They came from the east, south, and west respectively. In other words, there was a gap in the southeast and southwest for Clovis to push through.

However, this was a trap they had devised.

The beasts would definitely not allow them to escape. If Clovis chose to pass through that narrow gap, he would be pincerred from two directions. Even Clovis's group wouldn't be strong enough to stop them.

That was why this was the perfect plan they had devised in order to kill Clovis. The biggest reason they could trap Clovis was due to the existence of the lake. Without it, they needed at least one or two more Tier 3 beasts, along with hundreds of beasts. Even they wouldn't be able to achieve it with only two of them.

Hence, Clovis had fallen into their traps the moment he engaged the Tier 3 beast near the lake.

"Hehehe. It's time to fall, Clovis Hacfield. That cursed bloodline will vanish from this world."

...

As they predicted, Clovis's group panicked. All of them realized that the situation was much harsher than the one in their imagination.

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

"!!!" Clovis couldn't help but stop and gain some distance from the beasts, looking at their surroundings.

"This is..." Ragna held his shield tightly. He was already worried about Tier 4, but this situation was much worse than the one in his mind.

Seeing Clovis think so hard, Jay hurriedly struck the beast with all his strength, taking its attention to only him.

Clovis was grateful for his assistance. After looking at the situation, Clovis said, "I see. So that's what their plan is."

"Clovis. We have to move fast. If we go through these gaps, we will be able to escape." Melody hurriedly formulated the paths, which were the gaps between the enemy's ranks.

However, Clovis simply stated, "No. Those are traps. If we go there, we'll die."

"Then, what are we supposed to do?" Melody asked.

Kanaria said, "Do we need to break through in one direction? But the other beasts wouldn't allow us to do so easily. The Tier 3 beasts will definitely chase after us and we also have to worry about the Tier 4 snake."

If they wanted to escape from this situation, they would need speed while locking those high tier beasts.

But how? Could they even achieve it?

Clovis bit his lips. "It seems that I've miscalculated our plan."

"We can do that later. For now, we have to escape." Kanaria gritted her teeth.

Clovis had prepared for the worst-case scenario, but it seemed that the situation was much worse than he originally predicted. In addition, the Tier 3 paraceratherium had yet to die.

Originally, he had prepared to fight against Tier 4 and hundreds of beasts. Clovis wanted to test his might against a Tier 4 while escaping. However, he miscalculated the existence of Tier 3 beasts and the fact that they would appear at the same time.

It could be said that the assassins had outplayed him in this one.

Still, as a captain, he should focus on the group's survival.

'Grandfather should have experienced something like this as well. These beasts are intelligent, but they're not smart enough to talk about tactics. In that case, what will he do if he's the one in this situation?'

Clovis's expression turned grim. Ragna panicked, while Kanaria and Melody became more worried as the beasts were closing in.

There was one thing that happened in his mind, but it was so reckless that a single mistake would be fatal.

"Melody, throw your grenades in those three directions. Kanaira, you go hit them and probe their weak points. Ragna, you will be supporting Melody and escorting her back."

Kanaria and the others raised their heads. What shook them was not his order, but rather his voice.

Having been checkmated by the enemies, they thought it would be impossible to escape from this place. Even if they could, it would come with a cost.

Kanaria and Melody had absolute trust in Clovis, but Ragna was an outsider. If someone had to be sacrificed, it would be him.

However, his voice was still filled with hope. It was at that time that Ragna understood that Clovis had no intention of losing a single person.

Jay couldn't help but smile as if saying, 'That's my captain over there.'

Clovis still remembered that there was one piece of advice that his grandfather had once given him. It was ridiculous in the past, but he actually saw a ray of hope from that advice.

"If you are in a pinch, just remember that I'm called a madman and our family is known for our craziness. So don't think too much about other things... There is nothing that our family does not dare to do."

Clovis couldn't help but smile after recalling that advice. The fire of hope had yet to be extinguished. If it were to protect his teammates, he wouldn't mind being called the next generation of madmen.

Chapter 242 Plan

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

A series of explosions occurred as Melody threw the grenades as fast as possible, managing to reach the beasts before exploding.

Several beasts were blasted by the explosions and died. The ones that were safe stepped forth and led the higher tier beasts behind them.

However, there was one thing that caught Clovis's attention. It was what happened to the beasts after the explosion. Although it was only for a moment, he knew that if he wanted to escape, it would be through the west.

Clovis took a deep breath and said, "Kanaria, Melody, go near the water, make sure you're the furthest from the beasts. Ragna, I want you to protect them because their position would be vulnerable. Jay, on my signal, I want you to break through to the west. I will be covering our rear."

Kanaria and Melody didn't understand what Clovis was planning to do, but it seemed that he had a plan. It wasn't like they had time to discuss their plan as the beasts were approaching.

Ragna hurriedly positioned himself in front of Kanaria and Melody, ready to receive the attacks from all directions.

Jay didn't understand what Clovis wanted, but it was clear that he and Clovis had the most dangerous roles. He steeled his resolve so that he could properly lead the group to safety.

"Melody. Do you bring a flashbang?"

"Yeah." Melody hurriedly took out the flashbang and threw it at him. "Here you go."

After catching the flashbang, Clovis took a deep breath and checked his surroundings.

50 meters...

40 meters...

30 meters...

The beasts kept coming closer and closer. Clovis's expression turned darker as time passed.

The Tier 4 snake became even more menacing as it advanced behind the other beasts. The Tier 3 dragonfly stopped not far away from them, not attacking first as though it were observing what these humans were planning to do. Meanwhile, the Tier 3 bear looked at them with murderous intent.

The moment it reached fifteen meters, Clovis spun his body and rushed to the Tier 3 paraceratherium. He struck the wounds on the beast's neck.

Rooooo! The paraceratherium let out a loud groan, alerting all the other beasts.

The higher tier beasts noticed that Clovis was planning to do something and ready to head out themselves.

That was when Clovis shouted, "Jay!"

"!!!" Jay, who was taken aback by Clovis's sudden interference, immediately turned around and headed to the Tier 3 beast. "Follow me!"

The four high tier beasts tried to respond to this sudden action. The Tier 3 beast spread its arms while the beasts around the bear charged forward.

"MOVE!" Jay shouted at the top of his lungs as he used every ounce of his strength and sent the beasts flying.

Roar!

Roar!

The beasts were confused, but more and more beasts came toward him.

Kanaria had changed to an automatic rifle,ammunition and Melody held a gun on one hand and a grenade on the other.

Both of them unleashed all their ammunitions, suppressing the beasts on Jay's sides.

There were some beasts that tried to attack Kanaria and Melody instead of Jay, but Ragna hurriedly stood in their way and banged their heads with his shield. He only wanted to repel these beasts instead of defeating them.

Meanwhile, the Tier 3 dragonfly flew into the sky, approaching them. However, there was one thing that the dragonfly noticed from the sky. Clovis was still occupied by the Tier 3 paraceratherium.

"Your enemy is me." Clovis shouted while striking the beasts with everything he had.

The paraceratherium responded by hitting him with its head.

Seeing Clovis was left behind, the dragonfly actually chose to target Clovis first. After all, the bear should be able to stall for some time due to their difference in strength.

Thinking the same thing, the snake also crawled toward Clovis.

This way, Clovis would be surrounded by two Tier 3 beasts and one Tier 4 beast.

In the face of imminent death, a smile actually appeared on his face.

He was pretty lucky that his teammates trusted him so much that they didn't turn their heads around and call for his name with a worried expression. It would just weaken his resolve.

And since they were focused on the front, they wouldn't create unnecessary openings because of those feelings.

These three high tier beasts were closing in. The other beasts also surrounded him so that he couldn't escape while the higher tier beasts fought him.

However, that wasn't necessary.

When the snake was about to arrive, Clovis knew that the snake had two options. First, the snake could loop around, but it would push the lower tier beasts away due to its size. The second possibility was to go under this paraceratherium. This colossal monster had a huge gap beneath its body, so the Tier 4 snake should be able to reach Clovis in an instant by passing that gap.

The dragonfly approached him from the outside, waiting for Clovis to actually move away from these two.

However, Clovis betrayed the dragonfly's expectations. Instead of moving away, Clovis actually positioned himself right at the bottom of the paraceratherium's foot.

'If you can't make a decision, I'll give you the decision. Come!' Clovis thought with a smile.

The paraceratherium obviously got triggered, considering Clovis was right underneath him. With a single stop, he would die.

The snake was the same. If it swiftly moved underneath the paraceratherium, it could deal a killing blow to Clovis. When crossing the Tier 3 paraceratherium, the snake would let out a sound so that the paraceratherium wouldn't hurt him.

However, when it was about to open its mouth, Clovis pulled the pin and tossed the flashbang into the air.

"!!!" The paraceratherium, who was trying to crush him, got hit by this flashbang at point blank range. The flash blinded the beast for a bit, making the beast's posture unstable.

In addition, the ringing sound struck the dragonfly, causing it to fly back.

The Tier 4 snake that was about to say something abruptly lowered its mouth due to the same ringing sound, meaning the paraceratherium didn't know the snake was crossing underneath it.

To stabilize its posture, the paraceratherium had no choice but to lower the foot that was supposed to crush Clovis. And that foot landed on the snake's head.

Bam!

Chapter 243 No Choice

Bam!

Shaaa! The snake almost got crushed. The scale on its head cracked, and blood even came out. Even a Tier 4 beast would have a hard time blocking that kind of weight.

The paraceratherium was startled by the sudden feeling of stepping on something. The snake was big, so it wasn't the same as stomping a small beast or even Clovis. T

The paraceratherium wanted to move, but it was unable to do anything due to the blindness.

On the other hand, the Tier 4 snake was angry because the paraceratherium wasn't supposed to hit him. It was the norm for a lower tier beast to obey a higher tier one.

The snake ended up attacking the paraceratherium while trying to shove him away. But because of its weight and size, it was hard to actually move this colossal beast. The snake had to wrap its body around the paraceratherium and pull him to the side.

Bam!

The paraceratherium panicked because it fell down and struggled while trying to recover its eyesight. The paraceratherium thought he had been betrayed and shook its entire body violently, crushing the snake underneath it.

Shaa! The snake was trying to get away, its tail was wagging around to adjust its body position, resulting in it sweeping a lot of beasts.

The clash between the snake and the paraceratherium caused a huge opening for Clovis. The Tier 3 dragonfly was also in the middle of recovering its eyesight.

Now that these beasts had been taken care of, Clovis turned around and started moving to the west.

There was a reason why Clovis asked Melody to throw a grenade at all sides and determined that the west was where they should escape.

The beasts that wanted to chase after Jay and the others had to turn around. But it all changed because of the ruckus. They were trying to see what was going on, wondering if they should help.

However, the first thing they found was not a beast but a human.

Clovis was running behind them. The beasts tried to turn around, but they were a tad too late as Clovis began swinging his swords, cutting one beast after another and making his way toward Jay and the others.

Yes, the reason he chose this direction was because he noticed that the reaction time from the beasts in the west was slower than in the other directions.

In other words, he could swiftly cut them down before they could do anything.

"!!!" The bear was stunned. Jay was approaching his position, but before the fight happened, Clovis had already escaped from the three high tier beasts. Two of them even fought each other for some reasons.

Roar! The bear tried to warn the distracted beasts to switch their positions. The beasts that Jay had passed turned around and chose to fight Clovis instead. In other words, there were only a few beasts between him and the bear.

Jay didn't know what was going on, but he believed Clovis must have done something. It would be best for him to take advantage of this situation to pick up the pace.

"MOVE!" Jay shouted and sent a few more beasts flying.

Jay knew that facing this beast head-on would be dangerous. However, there was no other way out of his current position. If he slowed down just a bit, these beasts would surround and stop them.

Clovis gritted his teeth. The snake and the paraceratherium were still wrestling with each other, but the Tier 3 dragonfly had recovered its eyesight and started flying toward them.

The dragonfly flew straight at Clovis, using the few beasts that surrounded him to make a distraction.

"Tsk." While clicking his tongue, Clovis turned around. His short sword blocked the attack from one side while the long sword tried to strike the dragonfly.

But to his surprise, when the dragonfly was only two meters away from him, it suddenly lifted up its body into the air once more, avoiding Clovis's sword.

"!!!" Clovis was taken aback by this action, not because of the dragonfly's ability but because of its intelligence. The dragonfly was actually faking its attack on Clovis and chose to attack Jay and the others.

Because Clovis turned around to strike the dragonfly earlier, his momentum stopped for once, meaning he couldn't do anything to catch up.

On the other hand, his teammates would suffer a surprise attack.

"Jay. Behind!" Clovis had no other choice but to shout, warning them of the incoming dragonfly.

"!!!" Jay turned his head around, seeing the dragonfly. Unlike Clovis, Jay shifted his center of gravity and used that as a bouncing force. Yes, he jumped into the air, clashing with a flying beast in their own territory.

However, this was the only way to reach the dragonfly before the latter hit Kanaria and the others. He jumped over Kanaria and Melody and waved his sword.

The dragonfly swung its tail down, taking advantage of the flying ability and the altitude's advantage to slam Jay to the ground.

Fortunately, Jay was able to push the dragonfly up so that it couldn't attack his teammates soon.

Still, he shouldn't feel relieved yet. Because of that distraction, the bear charged forward, approaching the others.

Jay rushed back to his position, but he was one step too late.

'Tsk. I'm not going to make it.' Jay gritted his teeth. He barely reached the front, but he didn't have enough time to stabilize his posture.

Without that surge of strength, Jay couldn't stop the bear's swipe and was launched away.

"!!!" Kanaria widened her eyes as Jay actually crashed into her. "Gah!"

The Tier 3 dragonfly flew back, so Melody tossed the grenade into the air, trying to distract the dragonfly.

But it also meant that the bear could hit her.

Ragna moved in front of Melody out of reflex, but he was gritting his teeth, wondering if he could actually stop this attack. In the worst case scenario, the bear would blow him away and Melody.

Seeing that his teammate was in trouble, Clovis just threw away all the future risks and chose the option where his teammate wouldn't die.

Clovis took out the ring and necklace he bought from Another World Mall.

"Ragna, catch!"

"!!!" Ragna glanced at the two items. Even though he didn't understand why Clovis threw these items, he dropped his spear and caught the two items.

At the same time, the bear's paw hit his shield with full force.

Bam!

Chapter 244 The Power of Magical Items

Seeing the incoming bear's paw, Jay shouted, "No! It's too strong!"

He knew Ragna's limit and believed that he wouldn't be capable of stopping it. In the worst case scenario, both of them were blown away.

Melody only furrowed her eyebrows as if already accepting her situation. The only thing she could think of was what would happen after that. She had to get up first after being blown away.

However, that was the time they heard Clovis's voice. "Ragna, catch!"

Ragna was surprised, but he dropped his spear and caught the ring and necklace as his other hand blocked the bear's swipe.

Bang!

The bear pushed him back for two meters, but he actually stopped right before Melody. He positioned himself a bit further so that he might be able to change his trajectory or Melody could avoid the crash.

But to his surprise, he managed to block the bear's attack. It was a Tier 3 bear and its strength was much stronger than the normal beasts he had encountered so far.

'I blocked it? How?' Ragna's body reacted spontaneously, but his mind kept revolving crazily. The only answer that came to his mind was the ring and the necklace Clovis tossed earlier.

Now that he thought about it, he felt a surge of strength spreading all over his body the moment he caught these two items.

Ragna opened his palm and looked at these miraculous items. No one could see it, but these were the best items Clovis could give to Ragna.

Name: Ring of Strength

Description: A ring that is blessed by the mother of all golems.

Effect: Durability +10

Name: Minotaur Heart

Description: A necklace that has been embedded with the precious core of the minotaur.

Effect: Strength +10

Ragna didn't understand what was going on, but the bear was about to attack him again.

This time, Ragna lowered his center of gravity and planted the shield on the ground. When the bear struck him, instead of pushing him back, the paw actually stopped. Ragna stood still as though he had become a hard rock.

"Haaaa!" Ragna roared at the top of his lungs and tried to push the bear back.

"!!!" The bear looked shocked because Ragna always had a hard time handling the lower tier beasts. Yet he suddenly managed to push him back.

Ragna didn't stop there. He tilted his shield slightly and banged the bear's arm into the air, knocking the bear back.

The bear was barely hanging on so that he didn't fall down on his back.

However, these few seconds had given Jay enough time to recover from his crash and head back.

He didn't know what happened to Kanaria, but she was still speaking, so he assumed she was fine. Jay didn't know that Kanaria had an item that increased her luck. She wasn't injured in that crash at all.

Jay moved past Ragna, heading to this bear.

Because of the bear's position, he couldn't really move to the front. So Jay focused on dealing damage. His target was obvious.

"Haaa!" Before the bear could recover, Jay struck the bear's arm and cut it down.

He wanted to move forward and slash the body, but he heard a buzzing sound coming from the sky.

"Tsk." Jay gritted his teeth and shifted his blade.

When the dragonfly was about to reach him, a loud bang echoed as the bullet hit the dragonfly's eye. It was desperate to save the bear, so it didn't account for Kanaria, who had picked up her gun.

The dragonfly had to fly away to avoid her bullets. However, the dragonfly had bought a precious few seconds for the beasts around the bear to help.

Jay had to kill them first if he wanted to defeat the bear. At the same time, he remembered the task Clovis had given him previously. It was to lead the group out of this encirclement.

Even though he was a bit reluctant, Jay turned around and smashed the beasts on their path while shouting, "Forward!"

Kanaria and Ragna turned serious after seeing Jay prioritize their survival. They hurriedly followed Jay.

However, their reaction was different from Melody. If there was a person who could check the entire team, it would be Melody. And from the radar, she had noticed that Clovis hadn't moved from his position.

"Clovis!" Melody shouted, looking back. There weren't a lot of movements in Clovis's spot as if the beast were gnawing Clovis's corpse.

"!!!" Jay and the others were startled.

They almost forgot that Ragna wasn't the only one who dropped his weapon. To toss those items, Clovis had to drop his sword while being surrounded by these beasts.

However, Clovis didn't betray their expectations. When those three turned their heads around, several beasts were suddenly sent flying.

Roar!

The beasts looked panicked, but it was useless. Four more beasts were cut into pieces. Their bodies fell to the ground, revealing Clovis.

Clovis was covered in injuries, most likely because of the attacks he failed to block after tossing the items.

However, everyone noticed the different aura around him. It was as if Clovis had changed into a different person.

Still, his teammates thought about one thing. Whenever Clovis was in this state, he would release a god-like prowess and things were bound to be alright.

"What are you doing? Move!" Clovis shouted in anger.

"!!!" They hurriedly returned to their tasks and broke through the enemy's ranks.

Meanwhile, Kanaria grabbed a grenade and tossed it in Clovis's direction first.

As if realizing what was happening, Clovis moved past the grenade, letting it explode behind him.

A screeching sound echoed in his ears as the dragonfly was wailing in pain, getting hit by the grenade.

But the bear made his decision. Ragna, Jay, and Kanaria might have broken through, but he could still stop Melody and Clovis.

Hence, his next target was Melody.

The bear thought it had enough time to actually kill Melody before Clovis arrived.

But to its surprise, Clovis sped up and closed the distance between them in an instant.

Clovis was glaring at the bear as if saying, 'Your opponent is me.'

Chapter 245 Unexpected Encounter

Panicked, the bear switched his target to Clovis. The latter also swung both blades forward as if wanting to hit the bear's body.

The bear thought he would hit Clovis first before those swords reached his body. However, Clovis surprised him once more by tilting his body to the side, changing the trajectory of his strike.

Clovis struck the bear's arm with unprecedented strength, cutting the bear's tough skin.

The bear took a step back out of surprise that both of his arms were gone. But before he realized it, Clovis's two swords were already in front of its neck.

The bear widened its eyes in shock, unwilling to accept its death. Sadly, there was nothing it could do anymore.

Clovis sent the bear's head flying and kicked the bear's body down.

"Let's go. Escape from this hell!" said Clovis while glancing at Melody with a face devoid of emotion.

Melody smiled as she followed him. "Yes."

The beasts that hadn't died in Jay's hands tried to stop Clovis, but in this state, Clovis simply struck them down in rapid succession, breaking through much easier than Jay.

Finally, all five of them managed to escape from the encirclement. However, none of them stopped. They hurriedly climbed the hill, getting as much distance from the beasts as possible.

The Tier 4 snake and the paraceratherium had stopped fighting, realizing that both of them had let go of these five humans. They hurriedly chased after them with the remaining beasts.

When there was enough distance, Kanaria stopped for a few seconds and unleashed all her bullets on them. Melody also threw all the grenades she currently had, hindering the beasts from catching up.

While running, Clovis could finally gather his thoughts.

He raised his hand and felt the change in his body.

According to what he had found so far, his strength increased tremendously. It reflected the muscle affinity he wasn't supposed to have. Because he had read a bit regarding muscle affinity training, he knew that he could control his muscles a little bit.

In addition, his senses became much sharper. When Melody threw the grenade at him earlier, he could hear the buzzing sound of the dragonfly. That was why he managed to see through her intention and create a perfect opportunity to injure that beast.

More importantly, he noticed that the small cut on his arm was actually closing at high speed.

Despite having such injury, he didn't feel much.

As his grandfather said, it seemed that this mysterious power actually allowed him to wield all five affinities.

Although it was still insignificant right now and he had to train a lot to be able to utilize all five affinities properly, he knew this power would help him in the long run. Unlike the Another World Mall that mysteriously appeared and might be able to disappear all of a sudden, this power wouldn't betray him.

That was why Clovis had to train this power properly.

Clovis had just gotten a new resolve in his heart.

Clovis slowed down a bit while asking, "Melody."

"The enemies are chasing after us. But if this continues, we should be able to outrun them. However, we have used most of our resources just escaping from here..."

"Think about the third destination later. Focus on those beasts first."

"Got it." Melody nodded with a serious expression. Looking back, she didn't expect that they could actually escape from that encirclement.

There were three Tier 3 beasts and even one Tier 4 beast among them. It was simply too insane.

'If I have to say, the reason we're able to escape is because the snake and the colossal beast end up fighting each other.' Melody looked at Clovis's back as a smile appeared on her face. 'The biggest contributor is Clovis, who is able to come up with such plan in a short time and has the boldness to execute it.'

She didn't know why, but whenever she looked at Clovis's back, she felt at ease. It was as if there would be nothing wrong as long as she followed him.

Then again, after seeing what happened earlier, she understood why the Hacfield family was known for their craziness.

Other people wouldn't be so bold. Only the Hacfields were bold enough to do anything for their survival. And the same applied to his grandfather. If those top people pushed Clovis's grandfather to the corner, they should prepare themselves to be devastated.

Clovis didn't know what was in Melody's mind. He focused on another thing. "Kanaria, Jay!"

"I'm fine. No injury." Kanaria assured him right away.

"I can still fight. There is no problem even for the next destination." Jay did the same.

"Ragna, I'm sure you're confused right now. But let's escape from this damned place first before talking about it, okay?"

"Understood." Ragna nodded.

Finally, they reached the top of the hill and hurriedly went down, wanting to use the woods to lose the beasts.

However, when they were low enough to see the bottom of the hill, the people who had Brain affinity, like Kanaria and Melody or the awakened Clovis, could actually see two shadows at the bottom of the hill.

"They are..." Kanaria frowned.

"There are two people!" Melody sucked a cold breath, looking at the radar. "Clovis, they are..."

"Huh? People?" Clovis looked surprised, focusing on the two men, who seemed to be taken aback by their arrival. If there was another group here, they would have come to help them. Or at the very least, they would run away after seeing their number.

The fact that they didn't run away could only mean one thing in this situation. They were the culprits who tried to kill them.

Jay's position was the closest to them, so without hesitation, Clovis shouted, "Jay! Kill them!"

Jay's eyes turned bloodshot as he held his saber with both hands. His target was standing behind a tree, but it didn't really matter.

"Haaa!" He would simply cut him down along with the tree.