

World Mall 256

Chapter 256 Confidence

"Why are you here?" Ivan glared at Clovis as if he were his nemesis.

Clovis remained calm, glancing at the people in Ivan's group. Elina had already taken a cautious stance while Lovelia was hostile but still remained careful. The other three people were confused. They had heard some rumors about the hostile relationship of their group with the Libation Fiesta, but they never knew the true extent.

In addition, Libation Fiesta's name wasn't registered on the roster. So why would they be here?

"Why am I here? I should be the one asking you. Why can't I be here?" Clovis coldly replied with a condescending tone. It wasn't that he looked down on Ivan, but this was the best time to trigger him.

Because of the encounter with the assassins, he realized that Ivan would become irrelevant soon. So it would be best to crush him completely.

"You aren't included in the teams!" Ivan shouted.

"Yeah. And?" Clovis sneered at him. "Does that mean I can't participate in the competition?"

"You?" Ivan gritted his teeth.

"!!!" Elina noticed the meaning behind his words. She thought, 'Participating in the competition? Don't tell me... is he going to participate as an independent team? If that's the case, it doesn't really matter if he's on the list or not.'

'No, this is actually not good for us. The people will judge our Drake Group even more. They can claim that we've pushed them away, but they still participate independently because they won't be crushed by our pressure or something. It's false, but people will just believe what makes sense.'

'We have to somehow stop him. But how? Should we kill him right here? This is a different city, so it will be hard to trace it. But because of the competition, the security has been tightened... What are we supposed to do?'

Elina gritted her teeth, trying her best to find a way.

However, Ivan stepped forward and shouted, "Do you think you can do whatever you want? It's going to be impossible for you to register for the competition. Or are you going to abandon your team members? Who was it again? Melody, was it? That woman is just a burden to your team."

Clovis's expression remained calm as if he didn't get baited by the taunt. Instead, he simply said, "Yeah, yeah. You can make your own happiness. I don't care about you anymore. Besides, do you think I want to compete with you? Not at all."

"We are already in two different places."

"!!!" Elina widened her eyes in shock. Different places? "Don't tell me... you are participating in the second competition?!"

Clovis snorted and turned around. That was enough for an answer. And it would definitely trigger Ivan even more.

"You! Stop here!" Ivan rushed forth and tried to grab Clovis before punching him.

Clovis simply turned around and saw everything in slow motion. Ivan's movement had become too slow for him.

Clovis grabbed Ivan's shoulder while his foot hit the back of Ivan's knee, causing it to bend. In that instant, he pushed Ivan's shoulder down, causing him to fall on one knee.

"!!!" Ivan looked surprised because it happened in an instant. Ivan didn't understand why he would be kneeling like this. His teammates couldn't help but suck a cold breath, wondering the same thing. In fact, could they even compete with this person? He was simply on a whole different level.

"Don't bother me. I'm already running late." Clovis harrumphed and walked away. However, he somehow stopped for a second when he noticed a gaze from across the street.

It came from a blond-haired man, who seemed to be amused by what he saw. Unfortunately, Clovis didn't bother with him since he had spent too much time taunting Ivan.

He really needed to go.

The blond-haired man only watched Clovis from afar while saying, "Hmmm? He looks young. Is he going to participate in the first competition? I might have to attend and watch that competition. There's an amusing guy..."

After Clovis was gone, his gaze turned to the pitiful man who had fallen to his knees. It looked like his heart had shattered into pieces after realizing the difference in strength.

At the same time, he could see the hatred in his eyes. He had been humiliated by the fact that his enemy had become stronger and was living well.

The blond-haired man chose not to dwell on this pathetic man and just walked away.

Meanwhile, Clovis had gone to the restaurant to meet the mayor. He also noticed the middle-aged man next to the mayor and Vania.

"Hello, sir." Clovis politely greeted him. "I apologize for making you wait."

"It's fine, it's fine. Have you become Tier 2?"

"Yes, sir." Clovis nodded with a smile. "Kanaria has briefed me about the discussion."

"Mhmm. I'd like to hear your opinion. There will be a lot of strong opponents in this competition. Do you think you can defeat them?"

"I don't know." Clovis shook his head.

"Isn't this the time when you should assure me?"

"I don't like to make an empty promise. However, we have two Tier 3 people in our group. Although I shouldn't boast like this, I don't think I will lose against them."

"Come on, Captain. You shouldn't make us look bad." Melody pouted.

"Sorry." Clovis scratched the back of his head. "But you are strong, you know. Your strength is abnormal even among other Tier 3 humans."

Melody harrumphed. "I guess that's fine." She knew that she was stronger than normal Tier 3 humans because of the items Clovis provided her and the Star Method.

Clovis turned to the mayor. "I don't know about Tier 4. However, if it's a Tier 3 group, I believe I have a 70% chance of winning. Realistically speaking, I just hope we don't have to face seeded opponents so

that I can bring some results. Once we're up there, I hope that the mayor doesn't mind if I get a bit selfish and challenge those strong opponents."

"Alright. That sounds good enough to me. As we agreed before, produce the result, I wouldn't be stingy. After meeting you, I can rest assured." The mayor stood up as if he were about to leave. "I wish you luck."

Chapter 257 Register

"And now, it's time to register." Clovis smirked, looking at the registration office.

With such a reward, the competition was surely packed to the brim. There were a lot of people who would like to participate in this competition.

However, if they just allowed anyone to enter, the arena would be too full and it would take a long time to advance to the main matches.

So they had to be tested first.

Jay glanced to the sides. He saw a few machines that were used to test the participants.

"No! One more time please!"

"I definitely can do better!"

"You have failed. No retake. Your entire group can't participate in the competition," the examiner stated firmly, not caring about their plea.

Melody said, "Apparently, the test is quite hard. We can't drop our guard down."

"Mhmm... It should be fine." Jay nodded with a serious expression. "I believe this team can do it."

"Yes." Ragna agreed. Even he, the weakest link, believed that they could do it.

The bystanders didn't bother to look at them, thinking they were just kids who wanted to test their strength. They might not even pass the test.

However, there were two people who actually took particular interest in them. One of them was the blond-haired guy that Clovis saw in the street last night, and the other person was his friend.

"Why do you want us to be here? I thought we had already passed the test."

"Then I shall teach you something. Although it's just a coincidence, there is an interesting guy out there."

"An interesting guy? For someone who is so full of himself to praise this guy... is he that special?"

"I could barely see his movement. If that was not special, I wonder what could be considered special."
The blond-haired guy smirked.

"You? You might not have the Brain Affinity that boosts your senses, but you are by no means weak. I see. To think that there would be a hidden Tier 4 human that would participate in this competition. I would have to check his background and strength."

"No. You couldn't be more wrong. The guy is not even Tier 3... No, should I say that he feels like he has just become a Tier 2 human?"

"!!!" The guy opened his eyes wide as he couldn't believe what he heard just now. "What? Are you serious? Is he here? Even though you are full of yourself, you don't like to lose. So you should have investigated the list and found him not on it."

The reason for you coming here must be for that guy, right?"

The blond-haired guy didn't reply to him, but his eyes were already fixated on a certain guy in the hall.

His friend suddenly noticed something and turned around, finding a very young guy standing in front of the registration counter.

"Hello." Clovis walked to the staff and said, "We'd like to register our group in the competition."

The receptionist looked at them for a bit. Seeing how young they were, he thought that this group would be participating in the first competition.

Still, he had to be professional and ask, "Name?"

"Clovis."

The receptionist looked at the e-form and found his and his teammates' names.

He suddenly opened his eyes wide when he saw Clovis's strength as well as his age.

"!!!" The receptionist raised his head with a shocked face. The young guy before him actually reached Tier 2 in just a few months.

This was the first time he heard about him. There were also two more people who managed to reach Tier 2 before turning 17 years old.

However, another problem arose. The competition they signed up for was actually the second competition. The reason was clear. One of their teammates was very old compared to the average age of this team.

"Are you sure you wrote it correctly? May I confirm that you wish to participate in the second competition instead of the first competition?"

"That is correct." Clovis nodded.

"This..." The staff looked troubled. They were so young and talented, so they shouldn't be too reckless and join the first competition. However, the young man was staring at him with a resolute face as if telling him that his answer would remain the same no matter what he said.

The staff could only process their registration before saying, "I still need to take your blood and scan your arm to check your age and tier. After that, your team will be tested. If one of you fails the test, the entire group will be eliminated.

"Unless you change your team, you won't be able to retake the test." The staff was indirectly implying that if they failed, they should just ditch Melody and retake the test for the first competition instead of being stubborn.

"Thank you." Clovis smiled, not caring about his words. They could just prove it with a result.

The staff then pointed at the machine next to him. "Please put your hand inside the machine."

Clovis inserted his hand and felt a sting on the tip of his finger.

The machine determined that he was indeed 16 years old and had reached Tier 2. "No falsehood. The rest of your team, please."

After the staff confirmed that there was no falsehood in their age and tier, he then proceeded to bring the document to the tester, which was located on the corner of the hall.

Clovis followed the staff. It seemed that the staff was so concerned about them that he was willing to say a few things about them.

While waiting for the staff to finish, Kanaria and Melody couldn't help but turn their heads around as they found two unfamiliar people approaching them.

"Can I help you?" Melody frowned, stopping the two of them.

"..." Clovis couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows, recognizing the blond man.

"It's nothing. I'm just here to wish you good luck. To think that we would be participating in the same competition..." The blond man smiled, his eyes staring to Clovis.

"Do you know him?" Kanaria couldn't help but feel curious.

Before Clovis could answer, the examiner had actually called them.

"Clovis. Move forward."

Chapter 258 Test

Clovis glanced at this blond man for a second as the latter simply placed his hand on his chest while lowering his head slightly like a gentleman. He indirectly told him that he shouldn't pay him any mind.

Clovis furrowed his eyebrows. This was a miscalculation on his part. The advantage of participating independently was that they wouldn't be known by their enemies, giving them an element of surprise.

Yet, one person had recognized him. He didn't think the man knew about his true identity, so it was fine for now. But the competition had just become a bit harder since someone was there to investigate his strength.

Clovis could only sigh inwardly as he headed to the examiner.

There was a training dummy in front of him. The examiner simply said, "You can choose one thing you excel at the most. If you manage to pass a certain threshold that has been set, you pass. Your teammates will do the same, and if one of you fails, the group will fail. Understood?"

"Yes."

"In that case, choose your test."

Clovis looked at the list of tests and simply said, "In that case, speed, please."

"Alright." The examiner nodded with a serious expression, remembering what the staff told him. "The limit is set to be 7 strikes in two seconds. As long as you hit the dummy more than seven times, you pass. There's no need to hit it too hard and end up losing your speed."

Clovis nodded. The examiner even gave him some advice, probably because of the registration staff.

When he was a Tier 1, his limit was 13 strikes in two seconds. He couldn't help but wonder how strong he had become after becoming a Tier 2 human.

Still, even for Tier 2 humans, getting 7 strikes wouldn't be easy. Only top-notch Tier 2 explorers were able to do that.

That was why most of the participants in this competition would be Tier 3 humans.

Clovis took a deep breath and said, "I'm ready."

"You may go at anytime."

Clovis's eyes flashed for a split second as he struck the training dummy multiple times.

As soon as two seconds had passed, the examiner shouted, "Stop!"

Clovis stopped as the screen that was linked to the training dummy showed a number.

17.

Clovis had actually hit more than double the limit that had been set.

"This..." The examiner looked shocked. He thought he should give advice so that if he failed, he could still tell him to join the first competition. However, he was wrong.

'This number... it can only be produced by a Tier 3 human. Isn't he only a Tier 2 human?' The examiner blinked his eyes a few times.

"It's no wonder you are interested in him. 17, huh? He can be considered a Tier 3 human with that speed." The guy glanced at the blond man, who was actually frowning. "What's wrong?"

"He is slower than last night." The blond man frowned.

"What?"

The blond man simply couldn't fathom him. It seemed that Clovis was holding back because he didn't want to reveal all his strength. He thought, 'He should be able to surpass the 20-hit mark. He is not a mere Tier 3. He is a 'super' Tier 3. Even I might have to get serious if I want to defeat him.'

However, the shock didn't stop there.

Bang!

Jay struck the dummy, producing a number that could also be considered high even among Tier 3 humans.

514 kg.

But it was unclear whether Jay had used all his strength or not. The only thing the people knew was that this team didn't stop surprising them.

Kanaria took a reaction speed test, which gave yet another unbelievable result.

82 hits.

The test was to use their senses to avoid all the incoming hologram projectiles. It showed how hard it would be for her opponent to hit her.

Still, as one would expect from a Tier 3 human with Brain Affinity. When Melody took the test, she easily surpassed Kanaria's number.

149 hits.

She even almost doubled her number.

However, the only person who didn't shock the others was actually Ragna. He was known to be weak, so if he suddenly showed an amazing result, he couldn't become their trump card anymore.

Hence, Ragna only showed enough blocking strength to pass the test, which actually gave him a mysterious feeling for those who didn't know him.

After all, four of them had produced a shocking result. There was no way the fifth member would be normal.

Clovis had told them to restrain themselves a bit, considering they were wearing the items from Another World Mall.

They should produce quite a big result, but not too big since what truly mattered was the competition.

When they finished their test, the blond-haired man actually stood in their way while extending his hand.

"Erwin. I'm looking forward to competing with you."

"..." Clovis frowned. He didn't know who this guy was and was pretty annoyed by him being a busybody. However, it didn't seem that he was a bad guy, especially with how shocked his friend was. His friend simply couldn't believe that the man who only thought for himself would actually lower his pride just to know this person.

Clovis said, "Do you like what you saw?"

"I love it. I sincerely wish to compete with you and have no hard feelings after that."

Clovis paused for a moment before shaking his hand. "Clovis."

Erwin smiled and walked away. As if trying to repay him for the annoyance he caused, he gave one message. "There are four Tier 4 humans participating in this competition. Make sure you prepare yourself."

"!!!" Clovis frowned. Four? According to Melody, there were only three Tier 4 humans. He couldn't help but think, 'He is not including himself, right?'

"By the way, Clovis. I have just given the message to the mayor about our participation and results. And in exchange, the fund has just entered our group's account." Kanaria showed her Skyphone to show him the message from the mayor regarding the amount.

"Mhmm?" Clovis glanced at the amount dumbfoundedly. 'Wait a moment. This amount... can't I upgrade my membership and open a new shop with this?'

Chapter 259 New Store

When they went back, Clovis's mind was filled with the potential of opening the new store. He had calculated that if he got another five hundred thousand, he would be able to upgrade his membership.

However, the mayor actually surpassed his imagination. Whether it was due to the result or because of his name, the mayor actually sent twice the amount.

Yes, the mayor sent a million just for a Tier 2 group. It was an unimaginable amount. Even a Tier 3 group would have a hard time getting this amount of money.

So Clovis was shocked when the mayor was willing to spend so much for his group. Then again, his group managed to easily get that amount, considering they were capable of killing dozens of Tier 3 groups in the last few weeks.

Clovis looked at the membership.

Membership: Level 14 (Big Elite)

Upgrade Membership: 2,500,000 Otherworld Coins/Month.

Clovis pinched the bridge of his nose. He knew that money was fleeting, but he had no other choice but to do this.

Clovis looked at his status first with a grunted expression.

[Name: Clovis Hacfield.]

[Membership: Level 14 (Big Elite)]

[Money: 3,910,450 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Item Limit: 14/Visit]

[Visit: 0(2)/Day]

"This is definitely going to cost me a lot." Clovis bit his lips as he pressed the upgrade button. "Goodbye, my dear money."

[Upgrade Complete.]

Membership: Level 15 (Super Elite)

Upgrade Membership: 5,000,000 Otherworld Coins/Month.

"Guh!" Clovis placed his hand on his chest, looking at the amount of coins that got doubled in just one level. He didn't know how many months he needed to level up another three levels.

Still, Clovis had finally gotten what he wanted.

The new store was opened and Blue approached him.

[Master. The new shop is open now. Would you like to visit?]

Clovis looked at Blue for a second before asking, "By the way, what is the new store?"

[It's a bookstore.]

"Bookstore?" Clovis's expression turned serious. He never thought that a bookstore would be included in this mall. Curious, Clovis asked another question, "The books it sells... what kind of books are they?"

[There are various types of books, from utilities to techniques.]

"Technique book? Now that I think about it, these books are coming from another world, right? If we are talking about a fantasy world where elves, dwarves or even vampires exist... Does that mean we will have a magic book?"

[No. The books that are sold here have to adhere to this world's rule. The available books are to be similar to what this world knows.]

"So no spewing some water or shooting fireball?"

[No.]

"..." Clovis scratched the back of his head. "I mean, it's not that much of a problem. But it's kind of cool to use magic when others can't."

Clovis paused for a moment. "If you can actually find a bookstore, then there will be a lot of other potential stores. For example, what if I opened a pet store? Can I turn the ancient beasts into my pets? I

might... But what if the people on the Skynet say just let the wild beasts be wild beasts, not pets, and try to cancel me? Never mind, I don't care.

"There is also a pharmacist in a mall, right? Or electronic stores... Damn, there will be a lot of things in the future." Clovis smirked, realizing that this was just the beginning.

Clovis walked toward the bookstore with Blue accompanying him on the side.

The bookstore was quite big, but instead of a stack of books, there was only one book at a time. This made the store unnecessarily spacious since the books could only be lined up, not stacked.

"What the hell..." Clovis shook his head helplessly. He walked into the room and saw the genres.

Farming.

Tabloid.

Gaming.

"..." Clovis looked baffled, wondering why they were even here. Then again, Melody might go to the Gaming category if she somehow came here.

"Tabloid, huh? Is it the usual tabloid?" Clovis muttered and checked the aisle, finding several tabloids. The first one had an elf wearing a bikini on the cover.

"Yeah. That's definitely it." Clovis sighed. When he raised his head, he saw a section that was different from the rest. It was isolated.

"What is that?" Clovis asked while walking toward the area. But to his surprise, when he was about to reach this section, he hit an invisible wall.

Bang!

"Wha—!" Clovis ended up falling on his butt while holding his forehead. "What the heck? Is it like the grocery store where I need to upgrade a bit more to open this section?"

[No.]

Surprisingly, Blue answered him while standing in front of him as if trying to stop him from going.

"Then what? Why can't I enter?"

[Because this section is for the R-18 section. And you are still 16 years old.]

"..." There was an awkward silence for a moment before Clovis grabbed one of the books that was displayed on the shelf next to him as though he wanted to throw it to this section. "Then, why the hell is it there?"

[So that you can wait until you're an adult and do adult stuff.]

"Then what about the tabloids? No, do you know that, from where I come from, 16 years old is already considered an adult? And..." Clovis didn't even finish his words as Blue rejected him entirely.

[Jailbreaking me is useless.]

"I'm going to throw you next." Clovis remarked before pinching the bridge of his nose. He had never thought that he would be this triggered by a simple book store. "This is ridiculous. Just bring me to the technique section. I want to see if the technique can be used or not."

Clovis could see some books that others could use.

On one side, there were books called 'Elf's Sniping Guide' and 'Dark Elf's Way of Shadow.' On the other side, there were books for Jay such as 'Minotaur's Muscle Swing.'

Apparently, he could see the book's introduction. It only consisted of one page, but it gave him an idea of what the book was all about, which should make him purchase the right thing.

Still, it would take too long if he read them one by one.

"Blue. Do you have some recommendations for me?" Hence, he relied on Blue, which made things simpler.

Chapter 260 Choices

"Blue. Do you have some recommendations for me?" Hence, he relied on Blue, which made things simpler.

Blue picked up several books and presented them to Clovis.

[These are the books that I believe are currently suitable for Master's current strength.]

"Mhmm?" Clovis looked at the title of the books: Werewolf's Basic Footwork, Centaur's Dual Wielding, Dark Elf's Throwing Technique, Demon Dog's Speed Star, and Knight's Basic Swordsmanship.

"These are rather unique titles. I have my current footwork, but I wonder if this one is good. The Werewolf is known for their speed, right?

"How about this Centaur's Dual Wielding? They are a rather strong race, but I'm also using two swords.

"This throwing technique must be implying my short sword. I throw it a lot. Normally, I just use it for mobility. But if I can use it for dealing damage to the beasts or even killing them, won't it be good?"

"What about this Knight's Basic Swordsmanship? Well, it's a fantasy world, so it must be a kind of sword and magic world. I guess a knight is a huge deal there."

"The thing that confuses me the most is this Demon Dog's Speed Star. What is this?"

Out of the five titles, he had to read the introduction to the Demon Dog's Speed Star to understand what this technique was all about.

Demon Dog's Speed Star.

A single hit is deadly. If the enemy is quick enough to block our attack, we just have to get even faster so that we can hit the enemy.

"Mhmmm?" Clovis tilted his head in confusion. "I still don't understand what it's talking about. From what I can see, this one emphasizes swinging speed. Is it using a powerful blade that can easily cut down the enemy's? If that's the case, it's going to be good for me."

"However, do I have enough money?" Clovis glanced at the book's price.

Name: Demon Dog's Speed Star.

Price: 100,000 Otherworldly Coins.

"It's so expensive... And I have to take into account my spending for Tier 2 items from the grocery store."
Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought.

"The competition will start in five days. And it will last for about three days." Clovis glanced at Blue.
"Suppose I don't earn anything in the next eight days and immediately get a huge sum of money. In that case, how many books can I buy while still maintaining my purchase of Tier 2 items from the grocery store?"

Blue seemed to process the question for a bit before giving him an answer.

[In that case, I recommend you buy no more than seven books.]

"Seven books, huh? Around seven hundred thousand. It means I still have over a million. Then again, the items from the grocery store have become pretty expensive. And if we have to take into account other items that I might end up buying, I guess this is reasonable."

Clovis thought for a moment. He wanted to purchase it for his teammates, but he wondered if they would get baffled with those names. They might even call him crazy for putting fantasy creatures in the titles.

"Whatever. Progress is progress. Still, seven books, huh? Even if I give one to each of them... I can still get three books for myself.

"It's going to be impossible for me to learn all that in such a short amount of time." Clovis thought for a moment. "In that case, I will buy Werewolf's Basic Footwork, Demon Dog's Speed Star and Knight Basic Swordsmanship for me.

"Mhmm... Elf's Sniping Guide should be pretty good for Kanaria. Minotaur's Muscle Swing will be for Jay. Dwarven's Shield Technique is perfect for Ragna. As for Melody..." Clovis paused for a moment, contemplating between two books. "Maybe I should buy Eagle Vision. Kanaria and Melody can share it like this.

But will they feel discontent about it?"

Clovis glanced at Blue, asking, "If I photocopied the books..."

[It will infringe the copyright. Another World Mall will receive the book back and punishment shall be delivered.]

"Seriously? Can I just let them share without copying it?"

[Yes.]

"How about other items? What if I sell them?"

[Nothing will happen as long as it's within the law.]

"What is the law?" Clovis asked.

[This is the guide.]

Blue projected a document with a lot of words on it.

"Ugh. Why does it look so annoying to read? Basically, it's similar to the law of my world, right?"

[Yes.]

"I think I get the gist of it." Clovis let out a long sigh. "It seems that I have no other choice but to buy another book."

Clovis decided to buy the Eagle Vision and the Ogre's Leadership books.

Melody would benefit a lot from the latter while she shared the Eagle Vision with Kanaria.

"It's hard to be a leader. You have to be careful so that the members don't feel left out or annoyed. My poor wallets." Clovis let out a long sigh. He would need to be careful not to have any surprise purchases after this.

Blue helped him take the books to the cashier. After paying for everything, Clovis couldn't help but ask, "Blue. Do you mind if I actually stay here and practice a bit? The mall is spacious, right?"

[Yes.]

"Will I get a punishment or something if I end up breaking things in this place?"

[If it's items that are for sale, it will be considered as buying them. If it's an item not for sale such as a glass window or wall, you will have to pay for it.]

"Pay, huh?"

[Yes. The coins will be deducted directly from your wallet.]

"..." Clovis let out a long sigh. "Alright. I will just practice in a proper space. There are still a few days to get ready, so I might gain some insight. The problem will be how I can persuade my teammates. Can I change the title?"

[You can but it will be unethical.]

"How about you give me some reasons to convince them, Blue?"

[In that case, how about...]