

## World Mall 296

### Chapter 296 Clovis vs Erwin (4)

Yes, Erwin actually released a small throwing knife. Due to its size, he could easily carry the throwing knife without showing any signs of it. That was why the sneak attack succeeded.

Clovis had expected this to a certain extent, but Erwin's brilliance was beyond his imagination. He actually pushed him to the very limit so that he wouldn't think about it. That was when he launched a sneak attack.

It could be said that Erwin read him accurately.

'Poison? Nevertheless, I can't go like this. I have to defeat him before he could do something unthinkable.' Clovis decided to move toward Erwin, ignoring the knife planted on his back.

Erwin was ready to receive him as though he wanted to find another opportunity to launch a sneak attack.

But this time, Clovis decided to stop holding back.

'I'll show you the full strength that you've expected!' Clovis thought and unleashed all his swings.

'This is it. It's coming!' Erwin grinned excitedly as he extended his wires, ready to block all 22 strikes.

Their clashes were brief but intense. Each swing was enough to cut the pillar, but Erwin skillfully blocked every single slash.

"What?! 22 Slashes?!" Shion stood up. "Don't tell me. Captain Clovis has yet to actually release his full power. With this, we can't help but accept that his strength is equal to that of all Tier 4 participants in this competition. However, even the youngest among them is still 22 years old, while Mr.

Clovis is 16 years old. I have never seen this kind of talent."

The others were also standing up, expressing their shocks. Even Aileen and Rafael felt threatened by Clovis's strength.

'His skills are better than I expected. You're strong, Clovis. But I can still follow your movement.' Erwin grinned, blocking all those 22 slashes.

However, there was one thing that Erwin didn't know about Clovis. It was the Demon Dog's technique.

Clovis' eyes turned sharp as he swung his swords according to the technique, increasing his speed even further.

The conclusion was reached in an instant.

All of a sudden, three wounds appeared on Erwin's body. The first one was a graze on his cheek that looked quite deep, as it was bleeding profusely. The second one was planted from his right elbow all the way to his shoulder. The last one was on his right thigh.

Everyone dropped their jaws to the ground.

"Kh." Erwin jumped back, avoiding a direct confrontation, after realizing that he had miscalculated Clovis's limit.

Clovis chased after him, but Erwin flicked a few wires and destroyed three pillars. He used those shattered rocks like bullets, shooting them at Clovis.

Clovis had to stop and parry all those rocks.

On the other hand, Erwin retreated, using these precious few seconds to adjust his plan and calculations.

Meanwhile, Shion slammed the table. "This is impossible. How can he surpass his limit again and again? Why does he look like he has no limits? 20 strikes are not enough, so he unleashes 22 strikes, shocking everyone in this stadium.

"However, that is not his true limit. He actually unleashed 25 strikes just now. Captain Erwin might have expected 22 strikes, but those three strikes are simply beyond his wildest imagination. As a result, those three strikes injured him.

"What is this? How could a Tier 2 human be so monstrous? Is he hiding his true tier? However, the tournament has strict measurements. Both his age and tier are supposed to be correct.

"You just can't be that good! From this day onward, he might end up setting the record as the most talented person! What if he were actually one or two years older before participating in this competition? What if he were a Tier 3 explorer? He might dominate the entire competition!"

Shion was shaking from both fear and excitement. She wasn't alone. All Tier 4 participants couldn't help but realize the same thing. When Clovis revealed those 20 strikes, they thought Clovis's hand had already grabbed their back.

It changed to him walking next to them after those 22 strikes. But with this new milestone, they realized one thing. Clovis might actually be walking in front of them.

Even the referees were shocked.

'We have expected Flow Control, but this is too much. Too much talent can also become poison... There are going to be greedy people who want him after this tournament... or there might even be people who will do their best to eliminate him.' The referees couldn't help but look beyond the competition.

However, Clovis wasn't the only one who was holding back this whole time. Erwin actually smiled. He knew that Clovis had no choice but to use his full ability because of that knife. He should know that it would be troublesome if that knife was laced with poison.

That was why Clovis wanted to defeat him as quickly as possible.

'Ah. This is so good. Just like me, you are also a monster. With this, the potential of me defeating you has decreased to 40%. Shit, just when good things come, why do I sound so negative with that probability... I don't want this fight to end,' Erwin muttered inwardly.

After regaining his breath, Erwin waved his right hand upward. His wires were planted on the ground, but instead of picking up the rock like earlier, the wires actually slashed through the ground.

"!!!" Clovis swung his blade this time, trying to cut these wires. But just like joining sticks together made it stronger, the wires did the same.

The wires tilted a bit due to the powerful swing, but they didn't get cut because Clovis ended up hitting all the wires together.

Clovis had to tilt his body to the side to avoid these wires.

But they were just a distraction.

Right after Clovis avoided them, Erwin smashed another three pillars. However, the shattered rocks were not the only ones that would become his bullets, there were at least ten small throwing knives that had been spread in all directions.

"Time to beat you, Clovis!" Erwin smiled and snapped his finger, shooting all those rocks and knives at the same time.

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Clovis took a deep breath. The most dangerous ones would be the knives, but he wasn't Ragna. He couldn't receive all those rocks with his body.

Most people would go back and handle all those attacks coming from behind since there were fewer rocks and knives Ragna could send over there.

However, Clovis surprised everyone once again when he actually moved forward.

In front of him, there was also a gap known as Erwin. Erwin couldn't really shoot himself after all, so that gap was quite big for Clovis.

He rushed toward Erwin at full speed while swinging his blades at full speed. He struck everything that came near him.

Sadly, the number of incoming objects was simply too much for Clovis to handle. One of the throwing knives ended up stabbing his left shoulder, two rocks hit his body, and one rock hit the side of his head.

Even so, Clovis continued to move on.

'In that case...' Erwin was amused by his courage and choice, but he didn't plan to lose. He sent forth his wires both to Clovis and the falling throwing knives. He even released more throwing knives from his pockets.

Clovis repelled all of them except for one that hit his thigh. Clovis endured the pain and continued, finally reaching the web area Erwin was currently in.

He struck down all the strings he could see while making his way toward Erwin while under a barrage of attacks.

Clovis' advance was like a bullet. In just an instant, he actually reached Erwin's position.

Erwin raised both hands, blocking Clovis' swings with his strings while moving back skillfully as though he knew the locations of his wires without looking. In addition, since Clovis wasted a few swings to cut down the wires between them, it meant Erwin could send a few wires to pick up the throwing knives on the ground to attack Erwin.

Still, Clovis chose to give up several knives so that his sword could reach Erwin.

One of Clovis' swings reached Erwin's forehead, grazing from the middle to the side of his head.

"Kh!" Erwin endured the pain while grinning. Because of Clovis' choice, he only managed to parry a few knives, letting one stab him on the base of his left arm.

Clovis ignored the wound while continuing his pursuit. He slashed Erwin on the leg and on his waist while receiving two knives on his back.

Both of them were trying to see who could last longer. That was how much of an impact the first throwing knife had.

Still, Erwin didn't let the pain mess up his control. He used a portion of the wires to block Clovis' attacks while grabbing all the knives on the ground as his weapon once again.

It could be said that Erwin's control of wires grabbed some attention back from Clovis.

Rafael frowned while thinking, 'How could you master such a weapon to that extent? The wires' movements are much harder to control than whips. Each finger controlled one wire, and they actually had their own tasks. Some were used to block Clovis' attacks, some grabbed those falling weapons, and some became attacks.'

Aileen shuddered as she couldn't help but mutter, "What is that? The way you control those wires is much more terrifying than the last time... If I were inside that web, could I actually advance?"

Aileen was trembling by the thought that Erwin's web could actually defeat a Tier 4 human like her. He combined it with his analytical skill, which ended up causing the enemy to move according to his will like a marionette.

However, Clovis was so monstrous that Erwin had to go all out without a certain chance that he could defeat him.



Clovis and Erwin ended up trading one blow after another.

The knives had created a lot of holes on Clovis' body, but the latter managed to block all those knives that aimed for his vital. He just let the rest hit him so that he had another swing to spare.

Those spare swings reached Erwin, causing him to be covered in injuries. The bleeding continued as it gradually dyed his clothes red.

The people felt goosebumps. Just like in the first match, both of them used everything they had in order to take their opponent down. Even if they were injured, they continued moving.

Erwin's strength decreased due to the blood loss. Clovis' condition wasn't that good either. From 25 hits, he could only unleash 19 hits in his current condition.

Still, that was enough, the bleeding Erwin suffered was much more severe than him. He should go down after another four slashes.

When he had seen his path to victory, Clovis pushed his body to the very limit, using both the Knight's basic swordsmanship and the Demon Dog's swing to slash Erwin on the shoulder and cheek.

'Two more...' Clovis muttered inwardly as he allowed three knives to stab him in multiple spots so that he could take another step forward, reaching Erwin.

He struck Erwin on the left chest, causing Erwin's body to convulse once.

'One more time. I will win.' Clovis leaped.

As if acting out of desperation, Erwin sent forth another wave of wires.

Clovis tried to avoid it by taking a step to the right, but Erwin's wires suddenly curved down as though they were alive. The wires actually wrapped Clovis' short sword, capturing it.

'You've become a bit too greedy, Clovis. This is my target. Without this sword, you won't be able to fully unleash all your potential.' Erwin smirked. He believed that, with his strength, he could steal this sword from him. He had been waiting for the opportunity when Clovis paid less attention to his sword due to the injury.

Unfortunately for him, Clovis had expected this as well. Clovis actually smiled as if the door to victory had been opened.

Clovis would surprise Erwin for one last time during this match with a move that could only be used by him due to his special identity.

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'I got him. This is my win.' Erwin smiled. As soon as he stole this short sword from Clovis' hand, the match would be decided.

However, this was just the start of Erwin's nightmare. As if he had been expecting this kind of attack, Clovis actually lifted up his sword. That action was kind of giving up his weapon.

Yet, right before Erwin could pull that sword off his hand, Clovis used his other long sword to hit the wires.

'It's useless.' Erwin knew that with the wire's durability, Clovis' swing would just push the wire until it reached the second wire and ended up becoming more durable. That process would repeat a few times until all those wires stack on top of each other, making impossible for Clovis to cut them down.

This was when Clovis surprised him. This swing was different from anything he had seen in this match.

The swing was smooth but swift. It actually cut down the first swing without any restriction, despite its durability. The swing continued cutting down one wire after another, freeing his short sword.

'What?' Erwin couldn't believe what he saw. During the whole match, Clovis always failed to block this type of wire. How could this one be different?

Unfortunately, he couldn't get that answer because Clovis swung his short sword to cut the two wires between them while raising the long sword.

Now that there was nothing left between them, Clovis could finally deliver the last strike.

He slashed him from the right shoulder to his left chest, creating a huge wound that caused the blood to spurt.

"Kh." Erwin's body was shivering as his face turned pale. The wounds on his body had become too much for him to handle.

"I won," said Clovis as he abruptly ceased all his action, watching Erwin's body start falling down.

Erwin couldn't help but smile. While closing his eyes, he said, "It seems so..."

Erwin fell to the ground, fully exhausted.

"Stop!" The referees immediately came toward them. They each got one referee to check their condition, while the third referee announced the result of the match.

"End of the match! Winner, Clovis!"

There was silence for a few seconds. The match had become so intense that it took everyone's breath away. Even Shion was speechless. The last few exchanges were extremely deadly, as both participants pushed themselves over the limit.

However, the match had reached its conclusion.

Clovis took a deep breath while looking at Erwin lying on the ground. He clenched his sword tightly before raising it high as if declaring his victory.

"Uooohh!" The people snapped back to reality as they screamed at the top of their lungs.

"Look at this cheer! The entire stadium is shaking. After such an intense match that pushes both participants to their limits, Libation Fiesta has come on top and advanced to the semifinal."

Everyone sucked a cold breath. Libation Fiesta had devoured Imemine.

Other participants couldn't help but turn grim, realizing that they might become his opponents in this competition.

Ivan's face became ugly. This match alone was enough to completely shatter all his hopes. He couldn't catch up to him anymore, and there would be no mercy after the conflict between them.

Mayor Revan actually cried instead of rejoicing. His fingers were wiping his tears from the corners of his eyes.

After seeing such a match, he couldn't help but imagine how hard it was for a 16-year-old boy to struggle between life and death continuously while being suppressed by a lot of influences.

He just couldn't imagine Clovis' suffering. Despite all that, Clovis persisted and became the pride of their city.

Just from looking at this, he knew that Clovis would become the face of their city. He swore that he would help Clovis even if it meant cutting down the Drake Group.

Even the Tier 4 trainer next to him wondered what would happen if he fought against Clovis.

On the arena, Clovis fell to his knees.

"Mhmm? Are you alright? Stretcher!" The referee signaled the medical team to hurry.

"I'm fine. I just want to do something..." Clovis waved his hand to the referee. He approached Erwin.

"What is this? Are you going to mock me for losing against you?" Erwin chuckled.

"Not at all. I'm just simply fulfilling my promise." Clovis grabbed Erwin's palm.

"I don't remember you promising me this way... I'm straight, by the way."

"..." Clovis sighed and just wrote down a few numbers on his palm. Of course, the palm was pointed down so that no one could see it.

"Oh?!" Erwin understood what he was talking about. He promised him his contact information after all.

"You should remember that, right?"

"Of course. Who do you think you're talking to?" Erwin smiled. "I'll probably sleep in the recovery pod for a while, but I'll contact you after I recover a bit."

"I'm looking forward to it." Clovis smiled back, feeling satisfied with this match.

"By the way, can you humor me with this one question? I'm still unable to understand that last swing... the one that cut down my wires."

"That's..." Clovis paused for a moment. "Others might not be able to do it, but unfortunately, your opponent was me. You were not the only wire user I had encountered... I learned that trick from my mother."

Yes, Clovis' mother, Aisha, was a doctor. Of course, she was also a surgeon. Her weapons were actually wires and needles.

Erwin would have won if his opponent was anyone else. Unfortunately, Clovis was already familiar with such a unique weapon.

"Your mother..." Erwin fell into deep thought before smiling. "So that's why... This match is my loss. No, it's your complete victory. Congratulations, Clovis. And make sure you become the champions!"

"Yeah." Clovis nodded and stood up, watching Erwin get carried on the stretcher.

"Immediately go to the medical room. Don't remove those weapons carelessly as you might die because of the blood loss." The referee warned him.

"Yes. Thank you very much." Clovis nodded his head as he dragged his body back.

Chapter 299 Arrangement

"Yeah. That's what happened. Yes, President. Yes. I understand." Elina let out a long sigh while hanging up the call. She couldn't help but look at the empty space as if staring at that person's back.

In the end, Clovis and his group had become something much bigger than anything they could imagine.

The mayor had also begun to move, so President Thomas could only cut his losses.



On the other hand, Mayor Revan visited Clovis and his team in the medical room.

"How are you?" Mayor Revan asked with a worried expression.

"Mhmm... The wounds have been closed, and my blood has been replenished. There is still some pain, but this is just the slow recovery part of the recovery pod." Clovis nodded as the doctor checked his condition.

"Is that so?" The mayor fell silent for a moment.

Seeing his expression, Clovis simply said, "I'd like to thank you for helping us, Mayor Revan."

"I didn't do anything." The mayor shook his head. Even though he gave them some money, there were a lot of things that couldn't be bought with money, like a special trainer or connection.

For Clovis, money was everything. He could buy a lot of items from Another World Mall after all.

"In any case, thank you." Clovis nodded.

The mayor liked Clovis more and more. Despite having such prowess, he remained humble. Even though some doubted him, he didn't take it to heart and just showed them the proof.

Mayor Revan said, "I'll cheer for you again tomorrow. For now, please get some rest. If you need anything, I'll do my best to support you."

"Understood. Thank you very much."

Mayor Revan wanted to talk more with them, but they had just won against Imemine. It was better to let them celebrate and prepare for tomorrow.

Since Mayor Revan was gone, the doctor said, "There should be no more abnormalities in your body. Still, you need to get some rest so that your muscles can recover. This is a painkiller if you need it. Just make sure you don't eat one six hours before the match."

"Thank you." Clovis nodded.

The doctor humbly smiled while watching Clovis and his friends leave the room. He was watching the match through the screen, so he understood what kind of powerful fighter the humble boy was. At one point, he started cheering for the Libation Fiesta.

"So, what are we going to do now?" Kanaria asked. "Return to the hotel? I'm afraid that we will be stopped by those reporters."

"Can you handle them, Kanaria?" Clovis asked.

Kanaria thought for a moment. "I can answer them if you plan to escape by using injuries as the reason. But people won't like it too much if we ignore those reporters... Maybe we can shift their focus to Ragna."

"Me?" Ragna was infamous in this city. The fact that he had changed after joining Libation Fiesta would definitely make people curious.

"Yeah. You're going to handle the reporters with me. Just don't talk about our secret." Kanaria nodded. "I won't be too far from you, so I will stop you if it's a sensitive topic. You need to get used to this since this won't be the only time we'll be interviewed."

"I understand." Ragna agreed.

"In that case..." Clovis jumped on Jay's back and clung to him as if asking Jay to carry him. "Thank you, Jay."

"Walk by yourself." Jay's eyebrows twitched.

"Come on. I'm an injured person. Besides, this will convince them not to bother us." Clovis turned to Kanaria as if Jay had no choice but to carry him. "By the way, tonight, we'll discuss our next plan. However, we will have a guest tonight, so please buy some stuff before going back to the hotel."

"A guest?" Kanaria tilted her head, not knowing who Clovis had invited. Nevertheless, she agreed to his request.

"Ragna. Make sure you protect her, okay?"

"What? Am I a child that can't protect myself?" Kanaria sighed. "Are you going to use the same excuse to joke around today?"

"Hahaha!" Clovis chuckled. "See you later."

Jay just carried him a bit faster to shut Clovis up. Of course, Melody followed them since she didn't want to be bothered by the interview as well.

While Jay and the others used the back exit, Kanaria and Ragna headed to the main entrance, where the reporters gathered.

Surprisingly, they were stopped by Kanaria's mother, Vania.

"Mom?" Kanaria frowned.

Vania looked at them. "So only the two of you..."

"Yeah. Is there something wrong? Usually, you would be waiting in the hotel or just texting me." Kanaria felt something was wrong. Now that she thought about it, Clovis request for Ragna to protect her might have some meanings.

Vania nodded. "Well, it's not like this is an immediate problem. However, your performance was so amazing that it would bring some problems since the people in our city would be watching as well."

"Problems? Such as?"

Vania raised three problems. "I intercepted one of the calls. The Drake Group planned to cut off Ivan and clear up their name. Thomas isn't someone who would just swallow this humiliation, so he might do something.

"And Ivan himself might do something. I don't know if he can do anything to you or not, but don't underestimate the person who has been cornered.

"The second problem would be our family's enemy, the Rusth family. They should understand that they have lost by choosing Ivan. You are already with Clovis, meaning that there's no place for the Rusth family. And if they leave us alone, we'll become too powerful due to that connection. They might create an even bigger problem just to stop us from rising or at least eliminate you.

"Last but not least, there would be a lot of people wanting to get your group, especially Clovis. They might do something against you. I think this is a reason why Clovis made some connection with Erwin. He is probably planning to use that connection to stop those people from getting too greedy."

Chapter 300 Problems

When she heard the three problems, Kanaria couldn't help but furrow her eyebrows. "I will ignore the first one for the time being. As long as we're in this city, he can't do anything.

"As for the second problem, you're probably going to handle it, right, Mom?"

"That's true." Vania scratched the back of her head. "That's why I might be busy for the next two days to keep those people in check."

"As for the third problem, when did Clovis become friends with Erwin? I know that they have mutual respect for each other, but that's about it." Kanaria shook her head.

"You should tell Clovis to be a bit careful. While it's true that he has done a lot to prevent anyone from deciphering his message, he shouldn't give his number in front of everyone. Well, I'm probably the only one who can understand it since I know him, but just don't forget to warn him about it later."

"Is that so?" Kanaria fell silent for a moment. "Is he going to recruit him or is he just merely using him as a shield..."

Vania shrugged. "You can discuss it with him later. I just want to tell you those things."

"I understand. Thank you very much, Mom."

"See ya." Vania waved her hand and walked away.

Kanaria looked down, falling into deep thought. She remembered that Clovis mentioned a guest.

'Don't tell me, the guest is Erwin?' Kanaria had a wry smile, not knowing how to react.

"Kanaria."

"Huh?" Kanaria turned her head to Ragna.

"I want to confirm one thing. Are you using Clovis or something? From your interaction with Clovis, I thought you were his girlfriend. But from the interaction with your mother, I felt like it was the will of your family..." Ragna frowned. "It's not my place to ask this, but..."

Kanaria shook her head. "Well, your guess contains some truth. I'm not Clovis' girlfriend... yet, but we have been living together for a while. It's true that my family has something to do with it, but my feeling is genuine.

"Clovis is already aware of this matter, and I've told him that even if I'm going to be his wife in the future, I'm not going to put down my ambition.

"Clovis agrees to it and basically likes it that way. After all, when you lose your ambition, you lose your personality. However, we have a bottom line... which is not to sacrifice one thing for another. In other words, I don't sacrifice him and myself for my family and vice versa. That's all about it. You're free to interpret it in any way you like."

Kanaria's answer made Ragna contemplate. After a minute, he said, "I apologize for my rude question."

"It's nothing. I'm not sure you have felt it or not, but currently, the only one supporting the group is Clovis alone. If he is alone, we might not talk to each other. While we're on this topic, I'd like you to know that I personally... want to know more about you so that the group doesn't collapse." Kanaria looked at Ragna in his eyes.

"It seems so..." Ragna closed his eyes, reflecting on his mistakes. "My trauma might have caused me to close my heart. In the future, I'd do my best to open up to all of you so that the group can become more solid."

Kanaria smiled. "Yup! I'm counting on you, Ragna."

"Yes."

...

As Vania said, a lot of people had begun to move, thinking about how to recruit Clovis.

Most people coming from the city Erwin came from stopped after a warning from Erwin.



In the other medical room, Erwin had just emerged from the medical pod.

"Kuh..." Erwin gritted his teeth, feeling the pain all over his body.

"Yo!" Tarkan waved his hand while sitting on the bed closest to the medical pod. "You good, Erwin?"

The other teammates were waiting by their sides.

Looking at them, Erwin sighed. "I'm sorry. It seems that I've failed to lead this team to victory."

"What's this? You suddenly being humble creeps me out." Tarkan looked at him with a disgusted expression. The others surprisingly nodded their heads, showing their agreement.

Erwin couldn't help but chuckle. "Hahaha!"

"I'm sorry for interrupting your discussion..." The doctor came closer to Erwin.

"Ah. Is there something wrong with my body, Doctor?" Erwin scratched the back of his head.

"Most of the wounds have been closed, but there are still some deep wounds that the recovery pod can't heal like the one in your chest."

Erwin looked down, noticing that he had bandaged the wound. "Is this going to leave a scar, Doc?"

"What's wrong? An explorer is afraid to have a scar on your body."

"Not at all. I'm just afraid that I have suddenly become even more charming to the ladies."

"Huh?" The doctor looked confused, while the others seemed to have gotten used to it and were happy that Erwin had cheered up.

"Just imagine this... If a lady sees my perfect body with a lot of scars, I'll just have to make a mysterious expression so that she will wonder what kind of things I've experienced in life. They will become attracted to these scars and want to know more about me.

"It puts me into trouble. I am a gentleman, so I don't want to break a lady's heart. That's why, if possible, I don't want to have scars on my body so that they don't get too attracted to me."

The doctor's eyebrows were twitching. "Did your head hit the recovery pod so hard that it turned you this way?"

"Ahahaha!" Tarkan laughed. "Don't worry. He's a self-conceited bastard. He's like this usually."

"Oh!" The doctor nodded. "Well, those deeper wounds are mostly closed. They just need more time for natural recovery, so they won't leave any scars. The pain should be gone in three days. If you still feel some pain, it's better to go to the hospital for a thorough checkup."

"Alright." Erwin nodded before the door to the medical room was opened. The one standing behind the door was Aileen. "Well, well, well... Who do we have here? Sometimes, my popularity scares me."