

World Mall 31

Chapter 31 Elasmotherium

Yawn!

Jay came out of the tent while stretching his hand. "It's morning already? I feel like I have slept more than I should have."

"Good morning." Kanaria greeted him, still staring at the canned food she was heating. "Wash your face over there and get ready. This will be a very long day."

"Where is Clovis, by the way?" Jay asked.

"Clovis is already scouting the area."

"For real? Does he not know that he should get some more rest?" Jay shook his head.

"You tell him. He is always the last one to stop training and the first one to do everything. I'm concerned about his well-being." Kanaria sighed.

As if knowing when to eat, Clovis suddenly returned while saying, "Don't worry. I know when to rest. If I'm sick, I will end up wasting too much time on recovering instead of training after all."

Kanaria shook her head. "Is there only training in your mind? Come here and eat."

"Thanks." Clovis grabbed the can before reporting. "By the way, I have found several nests. There should be at least fifty of them. Looking at the situation, it seems that most groups are still occupied with the weaker beasts."

"In that case, we have to be fast and sweep this entire area."

"Yeah."

The group hurriedly ate before packing up their luggage.

In just thirty minutes, they had completed their preparation and headed out.

Unfortunately, there was no hill in this area, so Kanaria had to climb on top of a slightly higher tree. Meanwhile, Jay and Clovis approached the beasts carefully.

Due to the nature of the elasmotherium, the territory was filled with grassland. Hence, Kanaria couldn't be picky about the tree she climbed. At the same time, there was nothing that would block her vision from up there.

The elasmotherium was gigantic. They came from the rhinoceros family. Their height reached up to four meters with a big hump on their back. There was a horn on its head, reaching up to two meters long. If one took the full brunt of this animal, it would feel like getting hit by a truck.

However, it didn't really matter for Jay and Clovis. They were confident in their attack power. Even if they looked tiny compared to this animal, they were more flexible than it.

The nest Clovis found was actually a small puddle of water in this grassland. There were a total of seventeen elasmotheriums around the water, drinking.

"How is it, Kanaria?" Clovis asked.

"I could see them from here. But I feel like this tree would be crushed by one of them." Kanaria observed their movement with the binoculars.

"We'll kill them before reaching here. And in case they are coming, run away."

"Are you going to use your pistol?" Kanaria thought that since they had the ammunition, they would definitely have an easier time if Clovis used the pistol.

"Nah. The bullets are too precious. We'll use it against the thylacines."

"Got it. In that case, I will kill several of them on the side. You two can focus on the center."

Clovis and Jay nodded. The grassland wasn't tall, so it would be impossible to sneak on them, so Clovis and Jay simply ran as fast as possible.

Gooo!

One of them spotted them and let out a cry to alert the others. Some of them stopped drinking, some stood up, and some turned their bodies around, trying to find the incoming threats.

"I will handle the left." Clovis smiled.

"I'm right then." Jay felt excited, wondering how far they could go against these gigantic rhinos.

"Jay..." Clovis started curving to the left while saying, "Good luck to you."

"You too."

Jay and Clovis split up. The beasts hurriedly charged at them, but Kanaria startled them with a shot from afar.

Bam!

The bullet hit the head, piercing from one side to another.

"!!!" One of them fell to the ground, not knowing what had just hit him.

During their confusion, Clovis and Jay closed in and swung their blades.

Gooo!

The one in front of Clovis swept its head from the right, trying to hit Clovis with its huge horn, but Clovis moved faster and struck the head from above, slicing its neck.

The head ended up falling before the horn could reach Clovis.

Jay, on the other hand, ducked, avoiding the horn, before striking the head from below, killing his target.

Clovis suddenly got flanked from two sides. However, before they could do anything, one of them had its body shot by Kanaria, allowing Clovis to focus on the other one.

Goo!

It seemed that they realized that the real danger was not Clovis and Jay, but Kanaria. Some of them changed their directions, heading straight to Kanaria.

Clovis and Jay noticed their movements and tried to help her, but some of the elasotheriums ended up turning around to stop them.

Clovis tossed the short sword, not to the beast in front of him, but to the one that blocked Jay. It impaled the beast's neck.

The beasts around it noticed the attack and were stunned, not knowing whether their friend had died or was still alive.

"Nice!" Jay, on the other hand, smiled, leaped to this injured beast, and sliced its neck while running past it.

"Help Kanaria. I'll take care of these beasts here." Clovis shouted.

"Got it." Jay ran as fast as possible, catching up to these monsters. Kanaria also began to shoot them, eliminating one after another.

Meanwhile, Clovis was surrounded by eight rhinos. Because of their sizes, Clovis looked like a small puppy being surrounded by several adults.

Even then, Clovis wasn't scared. He took back the short sword before tossing it to another rhino, marking the start of their battle.

A few rhinos attacked Clovis, but their size also became their biggest weakness. They tried to attack him with their horns, but they ended up hitting other horns on the way.

Clovis took advantage of this situation and struck them one by one.

On the other hand, Jay successfully caught up to them and slashed one of them from behind. He aimed at their feet, so they couldn't move anymore. There was no way two feet were enough to support their weight.

Kanaria also shot the enemies on the side, reducing their number.

Still, there were simply too many beasts coming. Even with both of their efforts, two elasmotheriums still reached the tree.

Unfortunately for them, Kanaria remained calm. Before those giant horns hit the tree, Kanaria jumped off the tree.

The beasts were confused, but when they raised their heads, the only thing they could see was the barrel of her sniper rifle.

Bam!

One of them died after being shot at point blank range. The other tried to change its direction, but Jay had caught up and slashed it from behind.

Kanaria pulled the bolt, taking out the used shell and filling the barrel with a new one. She shot the second beast, ultimately eliminating both of them herself.

"Oh! Somehow, you're scarier than the person you used to be." Jay smirked. He still remembered the time that Kanaria was chased by beasts. Back then, she needed help, but this time, even though she still needed his assistance, she still effectively eliminated the threats.

Kanaria smiled. "Of course, I can't lose to him, can't I?"

"We can't lose to him." Jay turned around, looking at the injured beasts. He had to eliminate them and help Clovis.

However, once again, Clovis surpassed their expectations. By the time they killed all the beasts on their side, there was only one beast remaining on Clovis's side. And he actually killed them without the help of his gun.

"What? How could he..." Kanaria gasped. She didn't expect that Clovis was this strong.

They thought they had witnessed everything Clovis could offer previously, but it turned out that he was much stronger than they thought.

What they didn't know was that Clovis simply became stronger at a rate they could never imagine. Last night, he actually bought another six items from the mall, allowing him to increase 24% of his evolution traits.

Before they could even help him, Clovis killed the last one with a single swift strike to the head.

"Oh! You guys are done?" Clovis didn't know what they were thinking. All he knew was that the enemies had been eliminated.

"..." Jay made a wry smile. He had to know Clovis's limit first before attempting to surpass him. At the same time, he was actually happy that Clovis was this strong. This meant their rivalry would be legendary.

On the other hand, Kanaria couldn't help but wonder if this was actually something related to Hacfield. While her family had produced a lot of high ranking explorers, including her father and grandfather, they still couldn't be compared to Clovis's grandfather.

'It seems that I have to work even harder if I don't want to be left behind.' Kanaria sighed.

They continued to hunt the elasmotheriums until their hunts were abruptly stopped by a scream.

"HELP!"

Chapter 32 A Deal

"HELP!"

"!!!" Clovis raised his head while Kanaria asked, "Is that someone who needs help? Or is it a trap?"

Kanaria's concern was not without a reason. There were people desperate enough to trick other groups. Once they were saved, they tricked them and poisoned them. On another occasion, there was a group that chased after a woman while lying in ambush. Once a group came to help her, they were ambushed.

There was even a story about how they used a child to invoke people's pity. This dark side of humans was what actually made people have a hard time trusting other humans. In fact, because of them, a lot of victims who truly needed help didn't get what they needed and died.

Even so, Clovis still said, "Kanaria. Find a position to support me. Jay will hide not far from me."

"Are we going to save her?" Kanaria asked.

"Yeah. I told you earlier that I want to help people, right?"

"I know that, but..."

"I'm not a saint. There is another reason I want to help her, and from the noises, it doesn't seem that she is alone."

"Understood." Kanaria and Jay nodded, hearing some clicking sounds.

While waiting for them to get into position, Clovis approached the voice to get a look at the people they needed to help.

It turned out to be a group of four being chased down by a lot of elasmotheriums. They had been venturing into this territory for more than seven hours, so it wouldn't be weird to see some brave people come to this territory.

But it was surprising that they got into trouble like this.

Two of them were holding a big shield, trying to stop or deflect the beasts' horns. One was using a spear to stab them from behind.

The last one must be the woman who asked for help. She was using a dagger, and her speed was rather quick. It appeared that she was looping around to kill the beasts by using her speed, but the enemies were simply too big, so she had a hard time moving around, especially with that number.

If this continued, the two vanguards would have their arms broken from taking their attacks, and the group would be overwhelmed sooner or later.

Hence, Clovis said in the transmission, "Jay. Don't show yourself for a moment, and get ready to help if they attack me. Don't forget to look at our surroundings to see if there are any groups that are trying to kill us. Kanaria will find a spot and support me. We'll attack them from behind."

"Roger." They acknowledged the order, not knowing what Clovis actually wanted to gain from helping them. Kanaria had heard about Clovis's plan to defeat Ivan's group, but she still couldn't see the connection between the two.

Nevertheless, Clovis ran toward the beasts silently. The distressed group didn't realize his arrival due to the size of the beast.

However, it didn't matter.

Bam!

They heard a gunshot coming from the side, killing one of the beasts. At the same time, Clovis moved in and struck another beast.

Several beasts near them ended up realizing Clovis's presence. And the people noticed the gunshot earlier.

"Did I hear a gunshot?"

"Someone is helping us from the back!"

"Then, we will also push them back from here."

"I know that you are hurting, but keep going until we kill all of them!"

The group roared, letting out every ounce of their energy to kill the rest of the beasts.

The table turned around pretty quickly. Clovis killed the beasts one after another. His movement and reaction speed were much faster than usual.

Even Jay was stunned. "Is this really Clovis?"

He rarely had the time to watch Clovis from the sidelines, so the only thing he remembered was Clovis's movement from the training a few days ago. But compared to this one, he could say that Clovis had transformed.

Kanaria, who had been monitoring both Clovis and Jay, didn't think much about Clovis's improvement. It was because she had been watching them closely that they could see their gradual growth, which made her not as surprised.

Clovis killed at least ten beasts and Kanaria shot four beasts while ensuring that there were no other people around.

The others killed the rest, allowing them to defeat a pack of elasmotheriums.

Clovis, still smeared by the rhino's blood, looked at them menacingly. Their group consisted of three males and one female.

They looked like they were three years older than him, approaching their twenties.

One of them stepped forward and introduced himself. "I am Jack, the leader of the group. May I know the person who rescued us?"

Clovis refused to sheathe his sword until he deemed it safe around these people. "I am Clovis."

They were pretty shocked when they saw Clovis. He was still pretty much a teen compared to them. They never expected that a teen like him was so powerful that he killed half of the pack by himself. There was also the mysterious sniper watching from the side.

"I am very grateful for your help." Jack lowered his head politely, showing his gratitude.

"I've received your intent, but let's talk about the real problem here." Clovis pointed at the beasts and said, "I will take all the essences from the beasts my group killed, that's fine, right?"

Jack was quite surprised. Two of them seemed reluctant, but Jack hurriedly replied, "Yes, that's fine. In fact, you can take them all since some of us would have died without your help."

That was right. They would look ungrateful if they rejected Clovis's proposal.

However, Clovis surpassed their imagination by saying, "It doesn't need to be that way."

"What do you mean?"

Clovis pointed at the corpses, saying, "I will allow you to take one ml of essence from them first before I drain their essence."

"!!!" The one ml he was talking about was obviously the essence that the military planned to use to measure their number of kills. So, it was quite shocking that Clovis allowed them to get their essence.

"Are you sure about this? If we take it, doesn't that mean you won't be able to use it?" Jack asked.

Clovis shook his head. "Of course, we can still use it to increase our kill counts."

"Huh?" Jack and the others were confused. "Didn't they say that they had a technology that could analyze the gene and find the same gene?"

"They indeed said that, but it seems that you have forgotten one thing." Clovis smirked. "They only told us that we couldn't use our syringe to cheat since that item only scanned one syringe at a time. They didn't tell us that the beast couldn't be used two times by two different groups."

"!!!" Jack widened his eyes in shock. When he thought about it, he couldn't really refute Clovis's words.

"Hence, you guys can take one ml first from all these beasts before I drain them. And I have a question for you guys."

"What is it?"

"Are you planning to leave after this?"

"No. We're thankful for your help, but we're thinking about taking a rest somewhere around here before continuing our hunt."

"In that case, how about making a deal with me?"

"A deal?" Jack was surprised.

Clovis approached them carefully and explained everything about the deal. Jack was completely shocked, but he didn't think it was impossible.

If they followed Clovis's deal, they might still get a shot in this tournament.

After explaining all the details, Clovis asked, "So, how is it? This plan should allow us to rise together."

"There is something that I can't understand." Jack raised a finger. "I have seen the cruelty of another group. They don't hesitate to kill people to satisfy their group. However, why would you propose a deal that actually benefits another party?"

"While it's beneficial to other parties, I still intend to win." Clovis smiled. "Besides, if you take a look around you, what do you see? Enemies? Allies? No. They are your kin."

Jack felt like he understood Clovis a bit. He was trying to imply that they had a common enemy. Before they were a part of their own group, before they were explorers, they were humans. Yes, as humans, they considered the beast their common enemy. So, why would they fight with each other when there was an enemy right before their eyes?

"Since we have a common enemy, why would we fight one another? Even I don't want to kill other people unless it's necessary. If, in the past, our grandparents' generations didn't unite, would they be

able to protect the countries? No, the beasts would have destroyed humanity. That's why I hope that you can agree to the deal."

Jack smiled. "To be honest, I admire you. Your deal doesn't seem like something that will make me and my group suffer."

"Of course. You are free to aim for the second spot since I'm going for the first place."

"Hahaha. I will accept your deal." Jack extended his hand.

"In that case, we'll meet again later at the promised place."

"Yes. It's my pleasure to work with you."

Chapter 33 Attack

Kanaria couldn't help but cross her arms after listening to their conversation.

'Is he serious about this? But when I think about it...' Kanaria's expression turned serious. It seemed that this plan was worth it. As long as she could destroy Ivan's group, especially the rival of her family, it was worth it.

It seemed that Clovis truly wanted to help her get what she wanted.

"Seriously, what a reliable captain." Kanaria smiled, feeling grateful.

After reaching an agreement, Clovis started moving in a random direction before curving back to Jay and Kanaria once he couldn't see those people anymore.

"Do you understand what I'm trying to do?" Clovis smirked. Jay and Kanaria nodded with a solemn face.
"Alright. On to the next one."

Clovis led the group to rescue the people and propose the same deal. After feeling pressured by the beasts, the group realized that they actually had no shot at the ranking.

That was why Clovis's proposal looked like a gold mine. While they might not be able to reach the highest rank, they would still win the battle or at least reach the top ten groups.

Although there were some arguments, most of the people they encountered actually looked at the idea positively.

They thought that it might be a competition, but in the end, the real purpose of this competition was to thin out the number of beasts in the area. So they didn't break any rules by working together.

Clovis had set up one net after another, creating a connection between a lot of people.

However, not all of them were fond of their ideas, especially the people who attacked other people to get their loot.

Clovis and Jay had just killed more than ten elasmotheriums. After moving for so long, they were pretty exhausted.

Clovis simply gave the recovery water so that they could keep going.

"By the way, Clovis. While we don't break the rules, do you think that the military will accept this method? What will you do if they actually back up other groups by punishing us?" Jay asked.

"That is also a possibility." Clovis nodded in understanding. If they somehow lost, they would definitely suffer greatly. "How many Tier 1 beasts have we encountered so far?"

"Three Tier 1 beasts. It's kind of hard to find a Tier 1 beast in this territory, especially since thylacine territory is much closer to the border of Tier 1 territory."

Clovis thought for a moment before saying, "In that case, do you want a radical solution?"

"A radical solution?"

"Yeah. We just have to cut them up." Clovis smiled evilly.

Thud! Jay's heart sank. What Clovis said wasn't false. If they eliminated Ivan and the others, they would be able to win. Even if they couldn't win against them in close quarter combat yet, they had Kanaria. She could hit him from afar.

However, it also depended on the terrain. A good group like them would choose difficult terrain for a sniper to strike. If they came too close, the radar would pick up their presence, alerting the entire group.

So, unless they had a good spot to kill them, it would be hard to eliminate Ivan's group.

Then again, Clovis had his pistol, which would be extremely useful in close-quarter combat.

Of course, Ivan's group also had their own weapons, so they might also die in the process. The assassination was a complex matter, especially if their target was an elite group.

Hence, Jay shook his head. "Let's not do it. If we kill them and have their deaths investigated, we'll be chased by the entire Drake Group and the girls' backers. If we defeat them this way, they will only take a closer look at us, not doing anything yet."

This was also another reason why Jay didn't want much bloodshed.

However, they soon heard Kanaria's voice over the radio. "Hey, guys. I've spotted several people running toward you guys. I'm trying to find out if there is any sniper or ambush nearby, so get ready. I don't think they have good intentions."

Kanaria was watching the entire group from on top of the tree. They were pretty much easy to spot in this grassland, but it also meant that they could find Kanaria as well.

After spotting them, Kanaria immediately shifted her position a bit to use the trunk to cover her body. Meanwhile, she was monitoring the situation with her binoculars, ready to shoot them when necessary.

"!!!" Jay and Clovis raised their eyebrows and looked at the radar, noticing five dots coming toward them.

"Their weapons?" Clovis asked.

"One shield, two swords, one spear, and one dagger. All unsheathed." Kanaria reported while looking at the nearby areas, wondering if there was any movement around. "There's a possibility of the sixth member. Stay low or hidden while I'm looking for the sixth guy."

"Got it." Clovis pointed at Jay and gestured for him to take the left.

Thankfully, the elamotherium was practically a giant beast. They could take advantage of their bodies as a wall.

"Kanaria. You got a camera on you?"

"A body cam, yes. It would be hard to recognize you, but I think it can capture their figures."

"We'll use it as evidence if this is a trap." Clovis's expression turned solemn. Fortunately, they were on a grassy plain. It was hard to launch an ambush in terrain like this because of the lack of hiding spots like trees or tall grasses.

The five guys were closing in fast. One of them raised his hands, pointing in the direction according to the radar they had.

All of them nodded, understanding their general directions. As soon as they reached the area, they began to use the elasmotheriums as their hiding spot as well. However, their location had been spotted due to the rustling sound they made when stepping on grass.

All of them were closing in their directions until finally Kanaria said, "Go!"

As soon as they heard the signal, Clovis tossed the short sword into the air.

"!!!" All of them raised their heads, startled. It was basically Clovis exposing his position.

So, without hesitation, they came toward Clovis, ready to hit him.

Two of them were already standing behind the same corpse as Clovis, so the moment they were right on the corner, they made a swift turn and thrust their swords, only to find Clovis was not there.

"!!!" The guy with the radar hurriedly checked on their position and hurriedly raised his head, seeing Clovis standing on top of the corpse. He actually used the chain to climb up to the top of the corpse. However, it was only for a brief period because Clovis had to remain low because of the potential sniper.

In fact, Clovis was already so bold to expose his location, so it was extremely reckless of him to show himself in the open like that.

However, what made it different was that Clovis put his bag in the front. The bag contained a lot of items inside. While it might not stop the bullet, it was still better than nothing.

Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, there was no gunshot resounding across the area. They didn't know if the sniper was not there or wasn't fast enough to shoot Clovis. Nevertheless, it gave Clovis an advantage.

He hurriedly swung his blade toward the guy with the radar. The latter tried to block it with his dagger, but Clovis overwhelmed him with his strength and the weight of his blade before slashing the guy's body.

The blade hit his heart, so Clovis hurriedly turned around and took out his pistol. The one with the shield was in plain sight.

"He's here!" The guy with the shield hurriedly turned around, trying to cover his entire body with the shield.

Bang!

Clank!

The bullet hit the shield. When he thought that the shield was able to repel it, he was completely stunned when he noticed a hole in it.

"Eh?!" The guy looked down, noticing blood on his body. "Aaahhhh!"

His voice alerted the others, but Jay quickly came out from his hiding spot and ambushed one of the sword users with a single swing.

The guy didn't even realize that he had died as it was a swift and clean hit.

Clovis also didn't hesitate to go straight to the shield user to end him, but when he was about to strike him, another sword appeared from the side, blocking his swing.

"!!!" Clovis hurriedly moved back when another guy stepped in, ready to use his pistol again to eliminate them. However, the other guy also had a pistol on his other hand. Without hesitation, both of them aimed at each other while moving away to take some cover.

Bang!

Bang!

A few shots were launched as they both reached a safe place.

"Kh." Clovis clicked his tongue while looking at the bullet hole in his left arm. He still managed to endure the excruciating pain, but he had to defeat his opponent in this condition.

The opponent wasn't in good condition either. The shield user was bleeding profusely from his wound. It appeared that Clovis managed to hit one of his vital areas. Meanwhile, the other guy had a few wounds on his body.

While they were focused on engaging the enemies, all of them didn't realize that Jay had actually disappeared once again before ambushing the spear user.

He kicked the spear user's stomach, knocking him out of the corner of the corpses, causing him to be a bit more exposed.

But to his surprise, there was a gunshot coming from afar, hitting this guy's body. It didn't seem that it killed this person, but the shot still splattered a huge amount of blood on the grass.

In that instant, Kanaria came out of her hiding and followed the direction of the sound, finding her target.

Bang!

Another gunshot resounded across the field as a report came in.

"The sixth guy is down. Go all out. I will watch your rear," said Kanaria while jumping off the tree.

Chapter 34 Snake

"Go all out. I'll watch your rear."

Clovis and Jay smiled. Jay stabbed the dying guy to ensure his death before moving toward the other two.

Clovis also moved accordingly, causing the enemies to be flanked from two directions.

It started with a few shots from Clovis.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

The bullets pierced through the beast's body, almost hitting them. Both of them couldn't help but panic, realizing that the bullets in that pistol were not normal.

When they were occupied by Clovis, Jay made a swift turn and launched a sneak attack.

"!!!" The one with the pistol noticed Jay and pointed his gun at him. Knowing that it was the most dangerous weapon to them, Jay waved his blade, cutting his hand. The enemy waved his sword while the shield user looped around to help.

However, Clovis appeared from behind them and cut down the shield user. Jay stomped the ground to gain more strength from his lower body to pin the sword user down. The sword user had no other option.

On one side, there was a giant corpse that acted as a wall. On the other side was the dying shield user who was trying to help him earlier. In addition, Jay stopped him in the front, leaving only one escape path.

And that escape path was where Clovis was. Without wasting a single second, Clovis slashed the last person, killing him.

"Ha... Ha..." Clovis panted a few times. While there weren't a lot of movements, this ambush took a toll on his body. Although he had known this, this incident just reinforced the idea that humans were sometimes more dangerous than beasts.

"Are you alright, Clovis?" Jay asked, looking at the wound.

"Yeah. I was lucky that it was only my arm." Clovis sighed before asking through the radio. "Kanaria. How is the situation on your side?"

"I am retreating right now. Hurry up and extract the essence from those beasts. While you're at it, find anything useful from those corpses. After that, head straight to the west. The terrain over there is safer for snipers, and I'm currently moving toward it to secure the area."

Clovis and Jay looked at each other in amusement. Both of them were thinking the same thing. What a reliable teammate she was. Not only did she manage to take down the hidden danger, but she was also moving toward the next step without waiting for Clovis's command.

"Got it. Inform us if something happens." Clovis and Jay nodded, knowing that they had to be fast.

However, Clovis suddenly dropped to the ground, his body was shaking.

"Clovis?" Jay was startled, wondering if there was a hidden wound.

"I am fine. Let me catch some breath." Clovis looked at his shaking hands. "Although I have prepared myself for this, I guess what I have in mind and what actually happens are vastly different."

Clovis had maintained his composure the whole time, but killing humans was different from killing beasts. After all, they were his kin.

At the same time, Clovis knew that if he continued this way, he would be taken advantage of by humans, which would eventually lead to his death. So, he just asked for a moment to regain his composure.

Jay and Kanaria didn't seem to have a different expression as if they had gotten used to this.

"Looking at you like this somehow makes you more humane..." Jay made a wry smile. "Because I'm from a big family, my father used his connection to buy a death row criminal, whom he forced me to kill. My reaction was even worse than yours, but eventually, this indeed allowed me to survive. Kanaria probably experienced the same thing in the past."

Clovis made a wry smile. "Sorry for troubling you."

"Don't worry. Leave this to me." Jay smiled and began to move around, searching for everything in the corpses.

Clovis was watching him closely, swearing that he wouldn't show this weakness again in the future.

"By the way, Clovis..." Jay suddenly walked back to him, in his arms was a huge white egg.

"What's that?" Clovis widened his eyes in shock. "Egg?"

"Yeah. But..." Jay turned it around, showing that there was a hole in the egg and that there was a translucent yellow liquid that flowed out of it.

Clovis let out a long sigh before rising from the ground, trying to take a look at the egg. He could see a small embryo inside the egg.

"What egg is this? It looks like a...tadpole? No, it's different." Clovis frowned. "Either way, it doesn't seem that it's alive. So, why don't we just drop it here? There is no point in keeping this egg, right?"

"Yeah. That's true. But to think that they would steal an egg." Jay shook his head helplessly.

"Does the egg crack because of us?"

"I'm afraid so. After dying, the body fell down, and the egg must have cracked from the impact. I found it in one of their bags."

Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought. "This is weird."

"What do you mean?" Jay tilted his head in confusion.

"I mean. Even if they are trying to kill us, they won't bring this egg. No, should I say that they will definitely let their sniper take care of it? Just imagining the intensity of the movement during the fight is enough to ensure the egg will get destroyed in one way or another."

"That's true." Jay couldn't deny that possibility.

"Is there a reason why these guys bring such a fragile battle into the battle?" Clovis couldn't find any reasons.

"Are they going to bring back the egg so that they could hatch it themselves? Training the beast from its infancy will definitely allow you to tame it."

"Even so, they're going with the intention of destroying it. It's just weird." Clovis shook his head.

Kanaria once again shocked them with a report. "You two. Get out of there right now."

"What's wrong, Kanaria?" Clovis frowned, thinking there was another ambush.

"There is a giant snake coming to your location."

"Huh?" Clovis and Jay widened their eyes in shock. Clovis took another look at the egg and remembered what was inside. "It wasn't a tadpole. It was a snake."

"Don't tell me..."

"Where is the snake? How big is it? Is it a Tier 1 snake?" Clovis asked Kanaria for confirmation. While he was indeed injured, it wouldn't lower his performance. So, they should be able to kill this snake.

But Kanaria kept shouting, "Hurry up and leave. Do you want to die? Just believe me and run for your lives!"

This was the first time that Kanaria spoke this way. Even Clovis and Jay couldn't deny it any longer and had to follow what Kanaria said. Although they didn't know what she was talking about, they should regroup with Kanaria first before questioning anything.

Jay and Clovis hurriedly grabbed their bags and simply ran toward Kanaria's direction.

At the same time, Clovis checked the radar he dropped earlier, wondering what Kanaria was talking about.

He couldn't help but blink a few times, not believing what he found on the radar. Instead of a normal dot, he actually found a giant line that took up a large portion of the screen.

"Oi, Jay. Look—!" Clovis tried to show Jay, but the latter was already shocked when looking at the real thing. Even Clovis had to raise his head, finding a giant snake head rising to the sky.

"What..." Jay and Clovis couldn't believe what they were seeing. With just a glance, it was clear that the snake had a length of at least fifteen meters. The size of its head was more than three meters. Even without stretching the head, it looked like the snake could swallow the elasmotheriums easily.

'Tier 0 Snake? No, I don't think it's that simple. Then Tier 1 Snake? What kind of Tier 1 snake has this size? Even the short-faced bear can't be compared to this. Then, Tier 2 snake?

But if that's the case, how is it even entering this place? Shouldn't the soldiers protect this area from outside beasts?'

Clovis tried to think of a few possibilities, but he simply couldn't imagine what kind of event could actually lead to having this snake here.

"Run!" Clovis and Jay sped up to the limit.

It seemed that the snake noticed them and started following them.

Clovis pointed his pistol at the snake and shot it in the face.

Bang!

Instead of blood, what Clovis got was a clicking sound of metal as his pistol failed to penetrate its skin.

Because of that shot, the snake sped up.

"Oi, Clovis. What the heck are you doing? It's completely angry at us now!"

"I know, but we have to try this." Clovis gritted his teeth. He had one more special bullet that he had conserved this whole time, but he wondered if this was the correct time to use it.

Kanaria was already aiming for the snake with her high-caliber sniper rifle. She aimed at the giant head. If Clovis failed, she might be able to do something with her sniper rifle.

Bang!

Chapter 35 A Plan

"What the hell is this?" A soldier gasped, looking at the impossible occurrence before him. There was actually a long trail leading to Tier 1 territory. It appeared that a beast coming from Tier 1 territory actually entered the competition area.

The trail was three meters wide. Everything that it crossed was actually flattened, indicating its weight. More importantly, the trail was actually continuous as if the beast didn't leave the ground.

He had been supervising the area, yet he never thought that there would be a beast this powerful coming in.

"This is not good." A soldier picked up the radio and reported, "This is Gerry from Delta-01, I've found a trail coming from Tier 1 Territory. The trail is quite unique as if it's a snake. I need a backup to investigate this trail."

"Got it. We'll send you someone."

It didn't take too long before another person arrived at the scene, dumbfounded by the trail.

"This is..." The man gasped as if knowing what this trail was.

"Is there something wrong?"

"You idiot. Just look at the trail. There aren't many animals that can produce this kind of trail. Most likely, the one coming to the competition area is a snake or something similar."

"A Tier 1 snake?" The guy understood it but he didn't think this was a big problem. In the end, the participants were expected to have the strength to go against Tier 1 monsters. After all, they were bound to find Tier 1 beasts in the competition area.

So, having one snake sneak in shouldn't be much of a problem.

However, his superior actually shouted, "Do you not understand what this means? Just take a look around you and ask yourself if there is snake territory around this place."

"A snake territory?" The guy fell silent for a moment. There was no Tier 1 snake territory around here, but if he actually explored a bit further, there was actually one. "Don't tell me..."

His superior immediately contacted the supervisor. "We are suspecting a Tier 2 snake, Yurlunggur, to invade the competition area. We need backup and a full investigation. We also need an elite squad to take down the snake while preparing for an evacuation."

No one couldn't believe it. However, this was the only possibility. There was actually a Tier 2 snake intruding on the competition area. No participant had enough power to actually defeat this monster. There was a possibility that several participants had fallen as the snake's prey.

...

Bang!

Once again, the bullet was deflected, leaving only a small scratch on the snake's skin.

"Seriously? Even a Tier 1 beast can't stop Kanaria's shot. Even though the bullet is not special, the caliber is still pretty high. Then, this snake is..." Clovis gritted his teeth. Although he didn't want to believe it, he had no other choice.

"Tier 2 snake?" Jay gasped. He had never seen a snake this big. And because of Kanaria's attack, the snake was thoroughly angered.

Sha! The snake let out a roar before purple colored liquid came out of its fangs. With a single shake of the head, the giant poison droplet flew toward Clovis and Jay.

"Dodge!" Clovis shouted.

Jay and Clovis jumped to the side, barely avoiding this attack. When the poison made contact with the ground, it actually started melting the soil.

"Are you serious? Its toxicity can even melt the ground." Jay sucked a cold breath.

If not for the fact that the snake had to make a zig-zag movement when moving, both of them wouldn't even have the time to talk. Due to that movement, their speed in crossing a straight line was pretty much the same, so the snake couldn't really catch up to them. And if they entered the woods, they should be able to hinder the snake's movement for a bit.

"How in the world can a Tier 2 enter this area? Has it been hiding in this place the whole time?" Clovis frowned, thinking it wasn't that simple.

In the first place, the people who ambushed them intentionally brought the egg as if they wanted to frame them. Now that the snake had been lured and recognized them as its enemies, it felt like they had fallen into someone's trap.

'Who in the world actually targets us?' Clovis furrowed his eyebrows. Now that he thought about it, it felt like the beast wave they encountered previously was rather unusual.

If there was a beast wave, why would it occur during their trip? If it was just a coincidence, how about the competition? The military suddenly wanted to make a competition to clear up the surrounding area and it even had a reward that would entice anyone who heard about it.

Still, if these two were still not enough, the appearance of this snake convinced him that someone had set up everything from the beginning.

In that case, who would actually target them? Were they their target? Or was it only one of them?

Kanaria was important, but someone like her should know which one was her enemy and which one was not. Since she didn't think that the enemy was coming for her, it shouldn't be because of her.

Then, was it Jay? Jay was quite eccentric and his personality felt like it would bring a lot of enemies. But the fact that his family left him alone even after running away meant that they had confidence that Jay could defeat all enemies he encountered.

In other words, the actual target might actually be him. That was right. He had heard about a few things from Gregory.

If his house had been under heavy surveillance, it meant that the enemies had noticed him. He personally didn't have enemies, but he couldn't say it was the same for his family.

What if the ones coming for him were his family's enemies? But if this were the case, couldn't they just kill them with their extraordinary strength instead of using these beasts?

Clovis's expression turned grim. On the one hand, he felt bad that this was happening because of him. On the other hand, he figured out the problem early on, allowing him to actually utilize this chance.

He should apologize later and solve this snake.

"Kanaria. Get ready to leave. It's going to be hard to maneuver around the wood, so you should go first," said Clovis while grabbing his pistol. Instead of the bullets he bought with Kanaria, he used the remaining special bullets he had. This was his last trump card and if this failed, he wouldn't have anything left to fight these snakes.

"Got it." Kanaria jumped off the tree and began moving in the same direction as them.

"Are we going to fight a Tier 2 beast?" Jay asked with a serious expression. He simply didn't know how to defeat this beast.

"We don't have a choice. If we keep running like this, sooner or later, the snake will catch up to us." Clovis sighed. They had been avoiding several toxin shots while running. Every time they dodged, the snake closed the gap. If this continued for a bit more, the snake would definitely catch up to them. So, their only chance was to fight back.

Jay couldn't deny it, but he couldn't picture how to even penetrate the snake's skin.

Even Clovis was not confident that they could defeat the Tier 2 snake. At the same time, they would be in trouble if they actually had to give up because of this and lose Kanaria.

"No, wait a minute." Clovis suddenly thought about something when the thought of losing this competition appeared in his mind. "Kanaria. Where do you think those four people are currently?"

"Huh? Since they're going for the dodo, I'm assuming that they're currently in the Glyptodon Territory by now." Kanaria didn't understand the question. Even though their lives were at risk, Clovis was actually concerned about these four.

However, he soon asked Jay. "Can we hold back the snake long enough to reach that territory? It should be only one kilometer from here, right?"

Jay instantly understood what Clovis actually wanted. "Are you serious?"

"Even if we're going to lose, we'll drag our competitor down." Clovis smirked. "At least, nobody wins."

"If that's the case, I'm going to give it all." Jay smirked, feeling excited. Although it was going to be close to impossible, they had no choice but to try.

"Kanaria. Move ahead and give us your location. If possible, find our competitors. We'll be giving this snake to them."

Kanaria certainly didn't expect this to be the plan. But it seemed that this was the best way to end the competition. Even if they were angry later, they could still use this snake to call off the competition. The worst case scenario was that there was no winner.

"Understood." Kanaria immediately put the sniper rifle on her back so that she could increase her speed. The only weapon she needed was her pistol. While scouting ahead, she had to ensure that the path was clear so that the beasts wouldn't hinder Clovis and Jay.