

## World Mall 321

### Chapter 321 Clovis' Tactic

"This..." Aileen's expression started to get distorted. The more she realized it, the more terrified she became. "You... never tried to win this group match. Conserving strength for the individual matches!"

Ragna simply shrugged. He already knew Clovis' plan for this match and how he planned to end it.

Clovis had told them that no matter what she planned to do, she would end up playing in Clovis' palm. She finally understood what it meant.

However, the most amazing thing was the fact that Ragna could actually deliver.

'He positioned himself right in front of the flag to the point where his spear was only a few centimeters away from the flag. He used that shield to cover the flash grenade. If I were not blinded by it, I would throw myself away to avoid getting that flag.

'To win, one needed to get the flag. Even though I didn't hold the flag, the flag was still in my embrace. The rule stated that the flag must remain in the base, but the base area was bigger than just a single flag.

'That was why Ragna threw that flag to me, ending this match with this score. And this score means...'

Aileen bit her lips, realizing Clovis' actual plan.

Since the match had ended, Shion broadcast her voice to the entire stadium. "This is a rather unique situation. Did Libation Fiesta just throw the match? I don't think so.

"The score is 5-0. If they manage to win all three individual matches, they would be able to get 6 points, which would result in their victory.

"On the other hand, by ending the battle this early, Libation Fiesta manages to conserve their strength. When the Bloody Rose could get one or two more points, Ragna actually stopped them by ending the match early, leaving the possibility of winning open.

"As all of you already know, Libation Fiesta has never lost in individual matches. Most likely, this is their plan to win. Considering they have lost one person in the group match, they don't want to make the situation worse by using this tactic. It's a rather intriguing tactic."

As Shion said, Aileen had fallen into Clovis' trap. No, she should have realized this if she thought about the request Clovis made more.

"I'd like to request one thing. During the individual match, I hope that you can fight me in the first match. As for the rest, you can do it as you like."

That was Clovis' request. It wasn't that big of a deal for her, so she accepted. She wanted this favor to be paid by allowing her to join the party, which wasn't that hard of a choice for Clovis as well.

The more she thought about it, the more she realized she had been dancing in Clovis' palm.

The people were also stunned after listening to Shion's explanation. They thought Clovis really threw the match, but it turned out to be his well-thought-out plan.

"So this is how Clovis plans to win against Bloody Rose!"

"Well, if you think about it, losing Jay in the semifinal is a huge blow to Libation Fiesta. This plan is actually very rational."

"Indeed. If they let in one more point, they can only reach a draw. At that time, the Bloody Rose will have more people than them."

"Yeah. Libation Fiesta should be able to dominate the individual matches."

"But... can Clovis actually win against Aileen? After all, she is the strongest Tier 4 in this competition."

"He might be able to win. Clovis is the captain of the team and is supposed to be stronger than Jay. Jay has defeated Rafael, so Clovis should be able to defeat someone stronger than Rafael, which is Aileen."

"Uooohh!"

"Win, Clovis!"

"Defeat the Bloody Rose!"

"Go all the way!"

The people started cheering after understanding the situation. Ragna simply nodded to Aileen before going back inside, not wanting to be here any longer.

Kanaria and Melody exchanged a wry smile, knowing about the plan.

Clovis simply sheathed his blade while saying this to Lana. "Well, you better not say more than that. I'm just afraid that Kanaria will end up sniping you out of spite."

Clovis simply walked away, leaving all these speechless people.

The group match had ended in such a unique way that the stadium was filled with whispers, discussing the tactic itself.

Meanwhile, the reactions of the two groups were vastly different.

Kanaria asked, "Are you sure about this? It might not look that good, you know."

"Don't worry. I'm already prepared for it. I have to take care of the group after all." Clovis shrugged.

"I don't really care about the result personally, so why not? Besides, you guys are still too young. I'm afraid that the neighboring cities are not the only ones paying attention to you. Even the capital city might catch wind of this in one way or another. So getting too much attention will definitely make it harder if you plan to visit Hana later on," Melody explained.

"I don't know much about the future plan, but I have also proved myself enough in this tournament. So I'll follow the captain's decision." Ragna nodded.

Kanaria couldn't say anything after these two expressed their feelings. Clovis nodded. "Thank you for letting me be selfish for a bit."

"But you gotta win, you know," Kanaria added.

"I'll do my best."

Meanwhile, Aileen was discussing the plan in a heavy atmosphere.

"Clovis must come first. After that, it will be Ragna. As for the third one, Kanaria might participate. Since Captain Aileen is going to take care of Clovis, we should be able to win."

"But in the worst case scenario, we should send Lana in the last match. We have some information about Ragna's individual prowess, but we don't know much about Kanaria."

"Are you saying that Captain Aileen will lose?"

"Worst-case scenario!"

"If Captain Aileen can defeat Clovis, the match will be set."

"Can? She will defeat him!"

"Instead of that, we should ask her what she thinks. Captain Aileen. You can defeat Clovis, right?"

They suddenly stopped talking and stared at Aileen. The latter crossed her arms, contemplating seriously.

But Erwin had said that Clovis hadn't gone all out yet, so she replied, "I don't know."

"!!!" The answer was surprising for all of them, including Lana. It was rare for Aileen to have such low confidence.

Aileen said, "You guys can take care of the details for the second and third matches. I'll head out first."

Chapter 322 Clovis vs Aileen (1)

Clovis and Aileen were standing in the arena. They ignored the deafening cheers around them.

Instead, they focused on the opponent in front of them.

"Is this situation going according to your plan? To think that you had no hesitation to allow yourself to lose in the group match."

"I thought you had already read it." Clovis closed his eyes.

"You thought?" Aileen squinted her eyes. She harrumphed, "Shouldn't you say, 'You knew I wouldn't read it until the match is over?' or something?"

"No way. I'm not a prophet." Clovis chuckled.

"I'm wondering... do you predict yourself winning this battle?" Aileen asked.

"What do you think?" Clovis smiled.

Aileen squinted her eyes. Even though Clovis didn't answer her question, his confident smile was enough for her. She said, "In that case, we will see whether you have the ability or not. I'm not going to hold back."

Clovis nodded.

After saying their pieces, both of them took a few steps back before nodding to the referee, showing that they were ready.

The referee signaled Shion to start the battle.

Shion excitedly announced, "The two participants are ready! I'm sure that all of you can't wait anymore. Without further ado, let's start the battle and witness the greatest battle in this competition. The dark horse, Clovis, vs the cold beauty, Aileen. Countdown!"

Clovis looked at Aileen with a solemn look. He was aware of what Aileen was capable of. He had seen her fight, but even he hadn't seen her true ability.

Her weapons were also quite unique. She was also wielding two weapons. On her right hand was a short sword, the length was similar to Clovis' short sword. On her left hand was a dagger. Considering the dagger was quite short, the sword must be there as a necessary weapon to reach a beast's organ or something.



In addition, Aileen had Blood Affinity, which was the same as his. This battle would definitely become a battle of speed, but with a different fighting style.

That was why he couldn't let his guard down.

"3."

"2."

"1."

"Match Start!"

In that moment, Aileen rushed forward as if she were planning to close the distance between them.

"!!!" However, Clovis abruptly widened his eyes when Aileen's figure suddenly disappeared. Aileen simply used the pillar to hide her entire body before disappearing into thin air.

Normally, Clovis would be convinced that Aileen was behind that pillar. However, he didn't have any radar or good senses like Kanaria or Melody.

"Huu..." Clovis took a deep breath, trying to find Aileen. He didn't even bother to move, considering the assassin would definitely come first.

After ten seconds, Clovis suddenly sucked a cold breath, sensing killing intent coming from behind.

Clovis turned around and put his sword in the front, trying to block the trajectory where he sensed she would hit.

However, at the last moment, he felt something else.

"!!!" Clovis twisted his body to the side. Even when Aileen was in front of him, he barely felt her presence. No, he even had a hard time looking at her. It was as if he was in an illusion.

"This is..." Before he realized it, he felt a sharp pain on his right side. Just for a moment, he could sense Aileen's presence a bit more. In fact, he could see her passing him.

This was the first time he fought someone like this.

In that first exchange, Erwin couldn't help but smile. "Interesting, isn't it? Even when she is in front of you, you can't even see her.

"There is a reason why Aileen is the face of a new generation. Despite being so famous, the moment she erases her presence, you won't be able to even see her shadow."

Clovis certainly felt pressured after the first exchange. 'This is crazy. This is the first time I have fought someone like this. Can a beast actually hide themselves as well as her? The last time I saw her, she was behind a pillar in front of me. The next thing I realized, she was already behind me.'

The normal approach would only lead to his defeat. That was why he needed a new approach.

Clovis took a deep breath. Like earlier, he noticed her faint presence. However, she was coming from the side this time.

Clovis immediately turned around like earlier, putting his short sword in front of him. This looked like the same strategy, but when he sensed another threat coming, he hurriedly swung his long sword in that direction.

Clink!

He heard a clicking sound on the side. His eyes followed the sound, finding Aileen in the sword's trajectory.

Aileen was overwhelmed easily due to the nature of her fighting style. Still, she managed to protect herself and launch herself toward the pillar before disappearing again.

'As expected, I can overpower her. Even though she can hide her presence, it's not a magical ability like I expected from the book in Another World Mall. In that case, I can still deal with it.'

Clovis turned around and headed to the nearest pillar.

"Kh!" Clovis stomped the ground, swinging as hard as he could at this pillar.

It turned out that in he was smashing the pillar. Whenever Aileen was trying to disappear, she used the pillar so that Clovis' eyes didn't see her anymore.

However, another strike suddenly hit him on the back.

"Tsk." Clovis clicked his tongue. He managed to tilt his upper body at the last second, but he still sensed her too late.

Clovis hurriedly moved to the second pillar.

'You're not the only one thinking about this strategy.' Aileen thought while approaching Clovis from the side.

When Clovis was about to strike the pillar, she approached him. Clovis would be too busy swinging at the pillar when she attacked him.

However, there was something different in this strike.

"Haaa!" Clovis shouted, releasing everything he had in this slash.

He crushed the pillar easily, but his sword didn't stop yet. The swing continued on its trajectory.

It was Aileen's turn to be shocked this time. The sword would definitely hit her, but it didn't change the fact that most of the power behind that swing had been absorbed by the pillar.

Hence, she struck the sword multiple times. In the end, she was quite confident with her speed as well, so she tried to knock the sword back.

But that was actually a trick Clovis had in store.

The moment she was focused on the sword, Clovis spun even faster so that his short sword could reach her.

Clink!

Aileen was the one knocked back by all that power. This was what Clovis had been waiting for.

Now that he had located her, Clovis immediately rushed forth and swung his blade as fast as possible. He still believed that the number of his strikes was higher than hers. This way, he could overwhelm her even if he couldn't see her clearly.

As he expected, a few clicking sounds echoed in the arena as Aileen was doing her best to parry all those strikes.

But those sounds abruptly stopped as they were followed by two strikes on his right arm and one strike on his chest.

"!!!" Clovis bit his lips, enduring the pain. Still, he was smiling. There was actually blood on both of his swords, meaning that he also managed to cut her.

When he turned around, he saw blood stains on the ground, leading to a pillar. On the one hand, he wanted to chase after her right away. On the other hand, an assassin like her would definitely be able to cover her tracks right after and not just foolishly stay behind that pillar.

In fact, she might be waiting for him to lower his guard by aiming for that pillar.

Clovis' speculation was actually true. If he struck that pillar, he would have a few more injuries as Aileen was actually waiting for him in the pillar next to his target.

'She is different. She is not like the assassin from Eight Swords. I can finally understand why Erwin holds her in high regard. She might haven't gone all out in the group match. No, should I say she underestimated Ragna? If she didn't, she might be able to defeat Ragna in one go.'

'In terms of assassin, I feel like she is more talented than those two Tier 5 people that are trying to kill me.'

On the other hand, Aileen's body trembled as she was a bit frustrated.

'Why didn't you chase after me? Did he realize it?' Aileen bit her lips. There were now a few wounds on her body as well. The more wounds she had, the more ineffective her technique became. 'As expected, he is not an ordinary man. However, what trump card does he still have in his sleeve?'

She was afraid that the trump card would take her down if she was not careful. So there was only one choice. She had to force Clovis reveal that trump card.

Both of them formulated a new battle plan in their minds after knowing a bit more about their enemy. The battle had just begun.

Chapter 323 Clovis vs Aileen (2)

"What is this? I'm having a hard time keeping track of Aileen from up here." Shion gasped. "When did she hit Clovis?"

Shion checked the recording. As expected, the recording could actually follow her movement since her presence didn't really matter to the camera.

However, her movement wasn't as quick as she imagined it to be. Nonetheless, whatever she was doing was actually effective against Clovis.

"How can someone erase their presence to this degree? Is this Aileen's true power? Clovis is having a hard time against her, but it can't be helped. There is a trick to hide one's presence, and I have encountered someone good at it. You will have a hard time seeing that person even if that person is in front of you. I believe that Clovis is experiencing something even worse."

As Shion explained, Clovis had finally turned aggressive. "Oh?! I saw injuries on Aileen as well. It seems that he is able to sense her."

...

"Ha... Ha..." Clovis panted while raising both swords. While he had a lot of injuries on his body, but he started getting used to sensing her presence.

This time, Aileen came from the front. He squinted his eyes, seeing Aileen a bit more clearly. He struck her multiple times, trying his best to follow all of her strikes this time.

Aileen blocked him a few times, but she soon tossed her dagger into the air.

"!!!" Clovis' body became stiff for a split second as he got distracted. "Tsk."



His focus returned to Aileen, but it was too late. Aileen had passed him, cutting his arm from the lower arm to the upper arm. This might be the worst injury he got from this match.

'She diminished her already low presence by misdirecting my focus to the dagger? The fact she did it meant she had some assurance left. Another trump card? No, another level of distraction?' Clovis glanced to the side where she threw her dagger earlier.

As expected, the dagger was already gone. Aileen must have retrieved it, Clovis thought.

Just when he got used to her presence, she pulled something like this. She really planned to reveal one trick at a time so that he wouldn't get used to her presence.

"I can finally understand why Erwin wants me to fight you." Clovis smiled, feeling even more excited.

Aileen, who was hiding behind a pillar, couldn't help but furrow her eyebrows. He didn't talk much during the previous battles. "If you think you can locate me by distracting me with your words, you're wrong."

Clovis glanced to the side. As Aileen said those words, she was moving to a different spot to make him lose track of her again.

However, Clovis simply said, "No. I just want to say that... you are kind of boring."

'Boring?' Aileen frowned when Clovis mentioned that word.

"It's obvious for you to win. Your talent will simply be greater than others. You will overwhelm them. You've gotten used to that feeling so much that it becomes too natural. Without realizing it, you have lost your own ambition. That's why I say you're boring." Clovis shook his head.

He finally understood why he was more interested in inviting Erwin compared to Aileen, despite the latter being much more talented and stronger.

Aileen seemed to understand the meaning behind his words as well.

From a very young age, she had heard a lot of praise coming from her surroundings.

"You can do it."

"As expected of Aileen."

"You're very talented."

But those praises were actually poison that continued to destroy her heart. Without her noticing it, her path had disappeared.

She won against her opponent simply because she was stronger. People were envious because she was more talented. She had everything to the point where it was natural for her to be the best.

Ambition? She obviously could fulfill it because it was her, not because she wanted it. She stopped trying new things, thinking that she would end up becoming stronger and that the gap between her and the others would just become even wider.

"I guess I'll make Erwin owe me a bit." Clovis smirked. "Your head is already too high. I'll bring it back down in a bit."

Yes. Since she had lost her heart because she had become too strong, Clovis simply had to drag her back down by defeating her.

But the problem would be whether he was capable of doing it or not.

It seemed that Clovis' arrogance had triggered something in Aileen's heart.

After all, he suddenly had a cut on his calf.

"Kh!" Clovis barely avoided it. He looked stunned because the battle had just returned to the previous state, where Clovis could barely sense her again.

Even the Tier 6 referees couldn't help but furrow their eyebrows. The two referees actually lost her for a split second. Probably the only one who could see her clearly right now was the referee with Brain Affinity.

It was clear that Aileen had just become even stronger. Or she might have just chosen to use her full power.

After the shock ended, Clovis couldn't help but smile.

"This is it..." Clovis became even more excited. He lowered both of his sword.

Aileen noticed something wrong with Clovis' stance. It was different, but more importantly, she could feel the sharpness of a beast's eye. In fact, it looked like Clovis was using his instinct like that of a beast.

To test her theory, Aileen approached him from behind with the same technique.

When she was three meters away from Clovis, the latter suddenly turned around and opened his legs. By shifting his center of gravity back, he would look like he was getting away, increasing the distance between him and her.

This would allow Clovis more time to react. However, Aileen felt Clovis' gaze had changed. It was as if she were being preyed upon by a wolf.

Clink!

Clink!

Clink!

A series of clicking sounds echoed, but the winner of that clash was clear.

Blood spurted from Aileen's body as a sword wound appeared from her shoulder all the way to her lower arm.

Aileen's eyes couldn't go any wider when she passed Clovis. Not only did she fail to hit Clovis, but Clovis actually managed to injure her this much.

Chapter 324 Clovis vs Aileen (3)

Aileen hid behind another pillar, thinking, 'What is that? His stance smells like a beast. It's as if he is a wolf. And the way he created distance earlier... did he change his footwork?'

Aileen shuddered. She couldn't help but wonder if this was Clovis' trump card. In the battle against Erwin, Clovis had shown the technique that increased the speed of his swing, so having a new footwork wasn't that weird.

'To think that he would hide it this much.' Aileen took a deep breath. There were already many injuries on her body. Having a few more wounds would definitely give away her presence.

'Am I really allowed to use my full power? Are you sure you're not going to fall right away?' Aileen clenched her weapons tightly. In her empty heart, there was another ray of hope. While it was small, it was there. She could feel it.

Aileen took a deep breath and emerged once again.

Clovis was staring at her, but it looked like he hadn't noticed her yet. This time, only when she was only one meter away from him did he begin to move. It wasn't that he did it out of his plan. He simply couldn't feel her at all.

Clink!

Clink!

Clink!

Their blades clashed a few times, but none of them managed to leave behind an injury. Clovis looked shocked because Aileen was like an air. He could only feel that gust when it touched him directly.

If not for his werewolf footwork, he wouldn't be able to sense her at all, let alone stop her attacks.

Clovis wasn't the only one surprised. Aileen also didn't expect that Clovis would still be able to react even when she used all her power. It seemed that it wasn't an empty claim. Clovis might be able to pose a challenge to her.

More importantly, this person was still a Tier 2 human. If he became even stronger, he would definitely be able to do more.

After more than a decade, she could finally see a wall in front of her. It was a different kind of wall that she could only see from a video, it was a wall that directly stood in front of her.

This is exciting!

The thought couldn't help but flash in her mind.

Aileen came from a different direction, trying to take Clovis down earnestly. But once again, Clovis avoided her attacks and even almost injured her.

It didn't stop there. Aileen and Clovis went one step further.

This time, Clovis chased after her with his instinct, locating her from the breeze that brushed his skin.

On the other hand, Aileen moved from one place to another before striking Clovis.

The situation reached a stalemate. None of them could actually hit each other for five minutes.

The two referees who didn't have Brain Affinity were tense. If Aileen were their opponent, their trained instincts should be able to sense her. However, since they had to follow her from the side, they completely missed her from time to time.

They never thought that a Tier 4 assassin would be able to reach this level. It was as if she had blended with nature completely. If they were not aware that an assassin of her caliber was coming for them, they might not realize it until it was too late.

Their bodies tensed up. One mistake would be fatal here. They would become a joke if they actually failed to stop Aileen if she decided to deliver a fatal blow. After all, it was the referees' responsibility to stop any fatal attack and end the match.

Still, what was more amazing was the fact that a Tier 2 kid could actually fight her on equal ground.

The people watching their battles were impressed on both sides.

"Is Aileen this strong?"



"So her overwhelming victory against Rika was not a mistake? No, doesn't this mean Rika failed to make her use all her power?"

"No, no. Instead of her, why don't you take a look at Clovis? He is too monstrous as a Tier 2 human."

In the eyes of people who wanted to scout Clovis, his worth had just increased tremendously. They might have to reconsider what kind of offer they were planning to make.

Shion started explaining, "I don't have any words to describe this battle. It might be hard to understand how high the level of this match is. Right now, I can't see Aileen at all without using the camera. On the other hand, Clovis has managed to block all her attacks this whole time.

"Aileen has practically become a ghost. And Clovis seems to be able to track her, albeit barely. Understanding the intensity of this battle can only be experienced by the people in this stadium. I'm honored to witness a battle of this level with my own eyes."

Mayor Revan, on the other hand, couldn't help but think, 'Genius? Ivan is a genius? Compared to him, he is trash. How could I be blinded by the Drake Group? It seems that I also need a new program so that I can allow hidden geniuses to participate instead of being buried by other influences.'

While the audience had their own thoughts regarding this match, Clovis and Aileen were the ones who enjoyed this match the most.

Both of them continued exchanging one blow after another.

This was actually a precious chance for Clovis to refine his footwork even further. However, he might have underestimated Aileen.

Even though she was six years older than him, she was hailed as the greatest genius, not only in this town but in the whole province.

Just like how Clovis grew during the match, Aileen also matched his growth. No, she might actually be a bit faster. All the potential she had hidden this whole time so that she could feel a challenge from others burst in this moment.

And the stalemate was finally broken. Aileen once again gained the upper hand when she managed to slit Clovis' shoulder.

"!!!" Clovis looked surprised because he was actually moving one step too late.

Chapter 325 Clovis vs Aileen (4)

That slash shocked not only Clovis but all the people who witnessed it. After all, it was a sign that the stalemate had been broken.

"Aileen has come out on top?"

"But she is two tiers above him. It's normal, right?"

"Indeed. In fact, Clovis has already done enough this whole time. If he is one or two years older, he might easily defeat her."

The people whispered to each other. Although it was disappointing, it was understandable.

Still, when people thought Clovis had lost, the person himself hadn't let his guard down even for a moment.

Aileen was doing the same. She knew that Clovis wouldn't go down easily. In fact, there was a possibility that the strike earlier was just lucky.

That was why Aileen approached him again with the same pattern.

Clovis reacted like earlier, so this exchange should reach the same conclusion.

'In that case, I will disable your left arm.'

To her surprise, when she was about to reach him, he leaned forward, causing her blade to hit his shoulder instead of his arm.

"!!!" Aileen was surprised, but he actually rammed his own body against her, causing Aileen to be unable to move for a split second.

She tried her best to stabilize her body, but Clovis' swords actually reached her before that.

He struck her shoulder and stabbed her right leg with his long sword.

Unfortunately, she managed to recover quickly and move away before Clovis could worsen the wound.

Aileen was taken aback. Not only did Clovis not dodge, but he also went all the way to approach her.

Taken aback, her weapons hit something that wasn't the original target. It could be said that Clovis had exchanged that wound with the two wounds he just delivered.

'So you're planning to go with the usual mutual destruction.' Aileen saw through his plan, considering that was what Libation Fiesta had been doing in the whole tournament.

Aileen changed her approach to be slightly more careful. This kind of challenge actually put a smile on her face, though she might not notice it.

The feeling that had long been extinguished finally appeared in her heart again.

This is fun. I don't want it to end. I can reach a new height. These kinds of thoughts appeared in Aileen's mind. Sadly, this was also poison for Aileen.

Unlike her, Clovis wasn't a genius. He didn't have a high evolution rate or master a technique in a single look.

That was why her excitement was over not long after. Aileen simply progressed much faster than Clovis originally thought.

She approached Clovis. Even though she hid her presence, the wound definitely had strained her body since Clovis could sense her a bit easier now.

Clovis turned around five meters before she arrived, which would give her enough time to react.

But when he was about to look at Aileen, the latter suddenly disappeared.

"!!!" Clovis widened his eyes as his focus was shaken.

Aileen erased her presence right in front of him. The thought 'he was supposed to meet her' had been planted in his mind. But when it was about to become a reality, Aileen actually shattered it by disappearing right before his eyes.

Due to the abrupt change, Clovis' reaction speed decreased significantly. He had to find Aileen again.

But during that time, Aileen sped up, using her fastest speed to cover the distance.

By the time Clovis felt her presence, Aileen had already stood next to him. He reacted a bit by throwing his body to the side, but Aileen used the dagger and short sword to hit Clovis' waist and right leg.

"Kh!" Clovis gritted his teeth. His body's momentum caused him to fall on one knee. But Aileen was not done.

Her presence got weaker again, making Clovis locate her. He even sensed her blades coming.

Without hesitation, Clovis twisted his body and raised his swords, blocking her weapons.

However, there was a reason why Clovis could sense her. It wasn't because he had been struck by her and she stopped next to him, it was because she had manipulated her own presence.

Bam!

Clovis suddenly felt his head being hit by something. The force was actually powerful enough to launch him away.

"Gah." Clovis spat a mouthful of blood as he crashed into a pillar. His back slid down the pillar as he fell on his butt.

Clovis gritted his teeth. When he looked at Aileen, he finally understood what was happening. It was a kick.

'Is she for real? This is not simply the realm of erasing your presence anymore. She is actually manipulating her presence. By giving me more presence on her blades, she erased her leg so that I would focus on the blades instead of the kick, making me think there wasn't a kick until it was too late.

'Is this how much she actually progressed? To think there would be someone that genius...' Clovis smiled weakly as though he had accepted his fate.

On the other hand, after that kick, Aileen's eyes were shaking, her mouth went agape, and her face turned aghast. Everyone who saw her face could feel the despair coming from the bottom of her heart.

Her expression soon turned dark as she gritted her teeth. Just like usual, she once again defeated her opponent. She thought Clovis might be able to defeat her. She thought it would be alright to let go of everything for once.

However, her talent grew even more. She could even manipulate her presence. But that growth had just proven her point this whole time. She might have to hold back because, at the end of the day, she would overwhelm everyone.

The dream that appeared in this fight was just fleeting.

All good things will come to an end.

Despite all the disappointment and frustration in her heart, she had to conclude this battle.

'Once again, I've claimed yet another victory.' Aileen leaped toward Clovis while waving her dagger, ending the competition. 'Thank you, Clovis. Even though it was just for a brief moment, I felt the fire that had long been extinguished. And farewell...'