World Mall 331

Chapter 331 Drake Group
The Skynet was in a complete frenzy after the news about Clovis and the Libation Fiesta spread.
"Damn. Did you see that? Libation Fiesta, who had three youngest participants, managed to get second place."
"Were they that strong? Or were their opponents that weak?"
"Weak? That was the last thing you could say. I looked at the video, and those Tier 4 people were definitely not weak."
"But I saw news regarding Clovis forfeiting in the final because Jay was hospitalized in the previous match."
"You sure? I somehow thought about the Drake Group."
"Did they get involved again? But the competition was in a different city. There was no way they were involved in that decision, right?"

"Who knows? But that Ivan also participated in the first competition."

There were mixed opinions. Some people believed that the Drake Group wouldn't do anything in another city. Some people still thought that their past feud could possibly lead to such a decision.
Of course, the one who actually steered the people's opinions toward the relationship between Clovis and the Drake Group was none other than Vania.
"Hehehe." Vania had been holing inside her room, looking at the screen with a sly grin.
One might not be enough, but she had a lot of accounts. If one post was only enough to get a hundred people, she would make ten posts with ten different accounts, roping more people to their side.
Before long, their opinions would influence the people around them. More and more people ended up joining their side and starting to pressure the Drake Group.
Vania muttered, "You're going down no matter what. The more you resist, the more people will not believe you. And with this, you have no choice but to sacrifice Ivan and make it clear that Ivan's deeds aren't related to you.
"Still, that kid is truly his grandson Their way of solving problems is similar." Vania couldn't help but sigh.

She called Clovis before doing this. The answer was quite daring and terrifying, even for her.
"In this era, you need justification to do things. If I have an enemy I want to eliminate, I will corner him and force him to make his move. By eliminating his backing, no one will bother to defend him anymore. That's where I can eliminate him. While I don't have any problem with people knowing me for my infamy, I still have my group to protect.
"I keep my enemies alive so that they will remain my enemies. After all, knowing their pattern makes it easier for me to deal with them. However, if it's time to eliminate the enemy, I will make it swift."
When Vania heard those two answers, she couldn't help but shudder. By manipulating the public's opinion, Ivan would definitely lose his support. And it would be time for Clovis to eliminate him.
If Erwin were here, he would know that the few days that Clovis mentioned were to solve this problem.
Vania said, "Well, this should be enough for the time being. If I overdo it, it'll be clear that I'm the one manipulating it. Sadly, I can't see his annoyed face."
As Vania expected, the president of the Drake Group was fuming in anger.
"Are you serious?" Thomas gritted his teeth. "That group managed to win the Shining Star Competition? And they even lost in that manner."

His assistant had a pale face. "Sir, what should we do? The people are directing their anger toward us. Our stock price has gone down, and the investors are currently angry right now."
Thomas bit his lips. The problem was the fact that, to solve this matter, he might have to throw Ivan away, even though he had invested so much in him. Even then, the damage was already done. It would take a long time for the Drake Group to recover.
On the other hand, if he killed Clovis right now, the first person to be suspected would be him.
He couldn't help but consider the offer that those assassins were giving him.
If he joined them to eliminate Clovis, he could finally take revenge against him. If he didn't join them, he didn't need to invest more capital for revenge. The problem was whether Clovis planned to leave them alone or not.
There was a high chance that Clovis would come back and crush the Drake Group because of their past feud.
That was why he might not have other choices but to kill Clovis.
"Tsk. Buy our stock for the time being and maintain our current price. I'll talk to the investors."

"Understood." His assistant immediately left, scared that the president would direct his anger at him.
Thomas simply covered his face. He never thought that the ant he could crush easily at first had forced him to make such an important decision.
He thought that Ivan could handle it in one way or another. He left it in his hand so that the Drake Group's reputation would soar. But fate wasn't on his side.
All he could do was blame Ivan. If he were not fixated on Kanaria, all of this would never happen.
If he took a look at the situation, he didn't think that Kanaria wasn't that important anymore in Ivan's heart. All he could think about was probably how he could take revenge on Clovis.
"What puppy love? Freaking idiot." Thomas gritted his teeth. "I need to set up another press conference to cut off my loss."
Still, he wasn't the only one who was frustrated by the result. The two Tier 5 assassins panicked after seeing the news.
The person they thought they could kill at any moment now had the ability to defeat a Tier 4 human. In addition, this person was an assassin with peerless talent. Launching a sneak attack on Clovis was probably going to be useless. If they didn't hurry, Clovis might end up growing too strong for them.

All the parties were ready to make their move as the storm was approaching. And Clovis knew about it.
Chapter 332 Captain and Vice Captain
"Yo. Are you good, Jay?" Clovis waved his hand, storming inside Jay's room in the hospital. He noticed that there was a new weapon next to his bed.
"Yeah. Besides, when are you going to handle the documents for my discharge? I'm already sick of staying here. The nurses are annoying They keep stopping me from swinging my blade." Jay harrumphed.
"Hahaha. They're just doing their job." Clovis chuckled. "How is the new weapon though?"
"It's good. The quality is impressive, and more importantly, the durability and the weight are perfect for me." Jay nodded in agreement. "It's a shame, but my sword is only Tier 3. It's time for me to replace it."
"That's good then." Clovis smirked. "I'm expecting a lot from you after this. How is the beast soul?"
"I have absorbed it. I just need to practice it. Well, the research also inspires me to be flexible. I am trying to do it in my own way so that it will become even better when we visit that place to get the new beast soul."
"Fair enough. I'll be looking forward to it." Clovis nodded. "Anyway, I have just handled the paperwork. We can go back now and make sure to pack up your luggage. We'll be returning tomorrow." Clovis sighed. "A certain person is already complaining that we should get back right away."

Jay laughed it off, knowing who he was talking about. "How about Ragna?"
"He should have finished dealing with all the matters in this city." Clovis shrugged. "Have you seen the news?"
"Yeah. A lot of them are about Ragna. Well, he comes from this city, so it can't be helped. I'm sure a lot of people are regretting it. In fact, a lot of people must be inviting him back this time."
"Indeed. In fact, I already have about thirty offers." Clovis sighed. "Luckily, Mayor Revan is the one handling it. Erwin and Aileen are also working on it so that we don't get swarmed by those people." Clovis sighed. The interviews were not the only problem. A lot of people appeared out of nowhere to invite him and the rest of the team.
If the hospital hadn't stopped them, Jay would have experienced the same thing.
"In that case, it's better to escape from here as soon as possible." Jay nodded.
"But we'll also be busy once we're back. Mayor Revan is planning a parade to celebrate our victory. In addition, you also need some time to spend with your family. There is also some trouble that we need to solve. After the situation has become stable, we'll head to another city to grab Erwin."
"So the sixth member has been decided" Jay nodded. "His eyes are indeed one of a kind, so it's understandable to do it that way. Besides, his wires are useful to make traps. With this, Ragna can also be put in the front while he takes care of Kanaria and Melody."

"There are tons of benefits to getting Erwin into our group." Clovis agreed.
"By the way, I think I haven't asked this before. How many people do you want to recruit? You created Libation Fiesta to turn it into an elite group, right?"
"Yeah. I don't want a lot of people. Probably about 10 to 12 people in total. This way, we can split it into two teams, which will make us even more flexible." Clovis nodded.
"However, some of them are already fixed, right?"
"Indeed. I want a doctor and a chef in our group."
"That's fair. But having a doctor and a chef who can fight is rare You should know about it."
"Of course." Clovis knew it more than anyone else, since his mother was a doctor who could fight as well. Still, it was easier to get them at a lower level. It was fine, even if they had a low evolution rate. He could boost their strength with items from Another World Mall so that they could keep up.
Besides, he knew that Aileen might be a future member of his Libation Fiesta. In that case, there were only three spots left.

"Well, I'll just take my time to find them. The famous ones usually have joined an influence, so we might be lucky again and find someone like Ragna." Clovis shrugged.
"That's true. I guess we might get a chance to find someone in another country. While we're at this topic, are you not going to invite Hana? She is pretty strong, right? And she should fit your description of having ambition."
"While that is true, Hana won't join us. Her ambition is different. If she has to prioritize her company or our group, she will definitely choose the latter. But I don't think it'll be a problem if she becomes a close ally. Having someone with a lot of money watching our backs is pretty much what my grandfather told me to do."
"Hahaha. Like that idiom, huh? If violence isn't solving your problems, that's because you're not using enough of it. If money can't solve your problems, that's because you don't have enough of it." Jay laughed.
"Well, strength and money do indeed open up your choices." Clovis nodded. "Now that I think about it, what is she doing right now? She should have seen our match, right?"
"Who knows?" Jay shrugged.
Clovis smiled wryly and put the bag down. "Here's your change of clothes. I'll be waiting outside."
Jay nodded. He understood it perfectly since he could see those people from the window.

After closing the door, he simply waited by the door while looking at the ceiling, wondering what Hana was thinking about them. This competition should have made it clear to her that Libation Fiesta wasn't ordinary.
As he expected, Hana was watching the video in her office. She couldn't help but smack her lips. "Someone can't defeat a person one tier above them Even after saying that, he proceeds to show me that he can defeat someone not only one tier above him, but two whole tiers. It seems that he might come sooner than predicted. I also need to prepare several things so that I can keep him here for a while."
Chapter 333 Return
"Grandfather." Hana walked down the hallway, finding an old man sitting in the garden near the window, so she couldn't help but greet him.
"Oh, Hana?" Her grandfather turned his head around.
"How are you doing, Grandfather? Have you seen the video?" Hana asked with a big smile.
"Indeed. The video is interesting."
"To think that he would end up defeating a Tier 4 explorer after I told him that it would be hard to even fight someone one tier above him in the future" Hana sighed. "He made me swallow my words."

"Hahaha. It can't be helped. After all, he has the quality to become a Tier 9. And now, I'm fully convinced

of what the old master said regarding him."



"Grandfather" Hana looked sad. However, she soon recovered and said, "Even then, I don't care if I have the quality or not. My ambition is in business. Even if I don't become a Tier 9, my goal is to have enough money to rival a Tier 9's fighting prowess."
"Is that so?" Her grandfather smiled, satisfied with her answer.
"Then again, what can I say? The path to my goal is actually funded by a future Tier 9. It's kind of ironic." Hana sighed.
"Hahaha. In that case, all you can do is surpass everyone's imagination to win. Show the world that you are able to reach a height that nobody can imagine, even with the help of a Tier 9. By that time, I'm sure that your name will be recognized by the whole world."
Hana smiled as she clenched her hands into fists. "Yes, definitely."
"Now that I think about it, where is he right now? The tournament has ended, right?"
"Indeed. And of course, with such a result, there is only one thing he must be doing right now." Hana raised her head, looking at the clear blue sky.

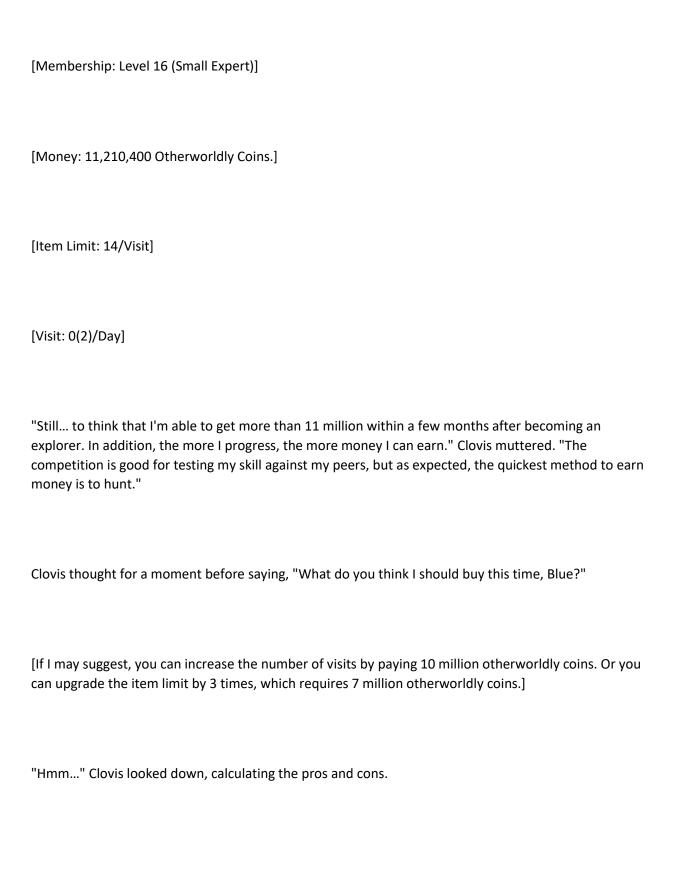
As Hana expected, Clovis returned to their city with the mayor. Of course, they changed their vehicles.
The citizens were standing on the side of the roads, cheering. Clovis and the others were on top of the car while waving their hands, while the mayor and Vania remained inside.
There was only one thing to do, and it was none other than a victory parade.
"Good job, Libation Fiesta."
"Congratulations for winning the Shining Star Competition."
"Clovis!"
"Jay!"
The people shouted at the top of their lungs. Still, Clovis and Jay's names were called the most due to the fact that they were able to defeat a Tier 4.
Of course, they also gave Ragna the warmest welcome. As for Melody and Kanaria, they were already treated like idols.

They also acknowledged the fact that the mayor had done a fantastic job of recognizing talent. It would be troublesome if they were suppressed by a major exploration group like the Drake Group and went to another city.
The parade continued toward the mayor's office so that they could handle some paperwork. After that, Vania took this time to drive them to their own destination.
Clovis and Kanaria had to settle Ragna down first. He needed a place to live after all. Clovis thought it was fine to live in his house, considering he still had some spare rooms. Then again, Kanaria would definitely not like it.
Hence, they rented a house for Ragna. It was only temporary, so it wasn't that big. It was close to Clovis' place as well, so if Ragna needed something, he could easily come over. However, Clovis was a bit worried about the security, especially since Ivan would become desperate soon.
That was why Clovis had told Jay to watch over Melody while he took care of Kanaria and Ragna.
Still, he was wondering if Ivan was coming to kill them, would the assassins stop him? This was a threat directly to his life, so if he somehow died, they would receive the repercussions from his grandfather.
He asked Vania to keep the Drake Group in check and monitor their movements. And with Ivan gone, the Rusth family might be trying to do whatever is needed to remove Clovis so that Kanaria's family can't

The situation had become extremely complicated, as they were simply not his grandfather's enemies anymore. The Rusth family and the Drake Group were genuinely Clovis' enemies.

take advantage of it to suppress them.

While he indeed had a lot of thoughts in mind, there was one thing that he needed to do first. The competition gave him two million, while the mayor handed him five million. Although seven million wasn't enough to upgrade his Another World Mall to open up a new store, he could still buy a lot of things. That was why, after settling Ragna down, he hurried back to his bedroom to buy some items again. Clovis didn't realize yet that his prediction was actually wrong. Ivan's desperation was actually much more sinister than he originally thought. And that the assassins didn't plan to stop him—not because they weren't afraid of the consequences but because they wouldn't be blamed for what was about to happen. Chapter 334 Choices Clovis finally arrived at Another World Mall, with Blue greeting him. [Welcome back, Master.] "Oh! I'm back. It's been a while since I had time to go around the mall." Clovis nodded and opened his system. [Name: Clovis Hacfield.]



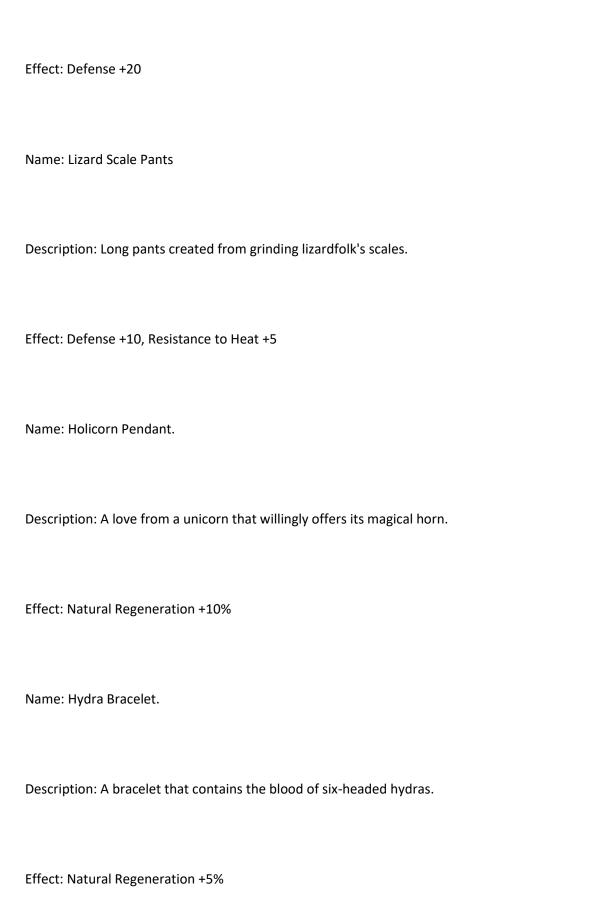
'If I look at the pattern, the number of evolution points I receive from the food in the grocery store will gradually go down as I become stronger. For example, I can get 3% for one item as a Tier 1, but I will probably only get 2 or 2.5% for one item as a Tier 2.
'Upgrading the number of visits will easily allow me to purchase a lot more in a single day. At the same time, I have more teammates with me. Since I'm going to share it with them so that they can progress quickly as well, I can't really upgrade the visit limit right now.
'After all, I will only have one million left to spend for the next several days. Then again, should I upgrade the item limit or should I buy another technique book?'
Clovis faced a dilemma. On the one hand, he already had three books to learn. If he needed to stretch it, he also needed to learn the swinging technique that Jay had or the leadership skill Melody studied.
After all, he was a leader, and his mysterious state allowed him to harness the power of five affinities at the same time.
He finally understood why becoming a jack of all trades wasn't beneficial. He would progress slower than his peers.
'Still, I might have to consider that mysterious state. No, should I call it a Berserk or something about Limit just to make it easier to call? Limit Break too cringe. Berserk too edgy. In that case, I'll call it Perfect State for the time being since harnessing all five affinities can be said to be the perfect evolution path for a human.

'From the few times I enter the perfect state, I notice that the time limit is about 30 minutes. I don't know about the trigger, but most of the time, it'll be when I'm angry or my life is in danger.
'For now, I should assume these two to be the triggers until I can fully control this power. Or I can probably ask my father once I reach Tier 5 and meet him.
'If I want to harness the full potential of the perfect state, I have to learn the techniques for each affinity. Then, I also need to study the Star Method. The beast soul I will choose in the future also requires serious consideration.
And I have to pick my choice while knowing that my progress is quite fast and those techniques might not be relevant anymore in one or two years from now, which might be futile to learn.'
Clovis frowned. On the one hand, he could focus on raising his tier. On the other hand, if his techniques couldn't keep up, he would become weaker than his peers.
Of course, the items from Another World Mall would boost his power, but it wouldn't be weird if Jay ended up surpassing him in the future.
'If I think about it, Bones Affinity increases the sturdiness of my body, while Heart Affinity boosts my regenerative ability. While the Star Method suggests that they are going to be useful in battle if I learn their special trait I should focus on Blood, Brain, and Muscle first. I can supplement the Bones Affinity and Heart Affinity with the items from the mall.'

Once he made his decision, Clovis said, "Blue. I want you to give me a list of items that can boost my

Heart and Bones affinity or something related to their special trait."

[Processing.]
Blue soon gave him the list of all items according to his request, starting from the grocery store to the bookstore.
Of course, Clovis didn't plan to learn the technique for the time being. So he focused on the accessories and clothes.
He needed clothes that were flexible but still extremely durable. The defense stat also needed to be high for the replacement of his Bones Affinity.
On the other hand, he was searching for accessories that were blessed by another race that was known for their regenerative ability.
After some careful consideration, he finally chose four items.
Name: Basilisk's Shirt
Description: This shirt is made from the remnant of the basilisk's skin. It gets a part of the toughness of the real skin but still maintains its flexibility.



These were the four items he chose from Another World Mall. With these items, he could focus on the other three affinities.
Before leaving, Clovis gave another order. "Blue. With the money I have left, how many times can I upgrade the item limit? Or should I focus on increasing the visit limit?"
[With the amount of money, Master can upgrade the item limit twice. After seeing your choice, I suggest that Master slow down your evolution progress a little bit, allowing you to have a bit more time to unleash your full potential.]
Clovis nodded. "Alright. Let's do that."
[Processing.]
Chapter 335 Target
"Mhmmm" Clovis opened his eyes while letting out some groans. He finally got some rest after everything related to the competition.
Still, he couldn't really let his guard down, knowing that Ivan was biding his time to eliminate him.
That was why his next job was none other than to predict Ivan's movement.

While getting up, Clovis muttered while looking at the inventory that the mall provided. "HuuI spent a lot of money yesterday. There are only two million left. While it's enough for now, I might need to hunt a lot of Tier 4 beasts after this."
He was contemplating while walking down the hallway, heading to the kitchen to prepare for breakfast.
"Good morning." Kanaria was already there, preparing a sandwich.
"Oh, good morning." Clovis nodded.
"My mother told me that the Drake Group has made an official statement that they have no part in holding us back in all kinds of competitions or explorations. They have taken action by disciplining him and forbidding him to take part in any activities for one month. But that one month is already in consideration for his achievement in the competition. Is that good enough?" Kanaria asked.
Although she understood a bit of Clovis' plan, she thought that he needed to be punished more severely.
Clovis nodded. "That's enough for the time being. Even if Ivan is only being punished that way, he will definitely make his move. After all, there's no way that Ivan doesn't know anything about the plan to dismiss him. The Drake Group must have considered that kind of option. And if we look at his hatred against us, it's pretty clear that he will become reckless."

"Is that so? Does that mean he will hire people to attack us in this house? If that's the case, shouldn't we lure him outside? I mean, I don't really like that this house is going to be torn down." Kanaria glanced at the condition of the house.
While it was true that this house had become a bit better after she ordered some fresh furniture, the building itself wasn't well maintained because Clovis lived in it without money to maintain it.
If the enemy attacked this place, it would definitely destroy a part of the house.
Clovis thought for a moment. "I'm not sure about that. I don't think they will attack us directly at least not in this place. There are a lot of reporters that will find out about it. Even if he is reckless and foolish, I don't think he will do that."
"But we still need to go outside, right? At the very least, this would lure him out."
"Not necessarily." Clovis shook his head. "There's a high chance that he will attack us first, but the purpose is to lure us out."
"Lure us out?" Kanaria frowned. She couldn't help but think about one possibility. "Is that the reason why you put Ragna in that place?"
"Yeah. I've told Ragna about it, and he's agreed."

"I see." Kanaria closed her eyes. Ragna might not be stronger than Jay or Clovis, but his current strength allowed him to withstand an onslaught the longest.
In addition, Clovis positioned him not far from this house, so they could support each other.
Ivan might attack Ragna to lure Clovis out, but it turned out Clovis allowed it that way to lure Ivan out. If Ivan attacked first, there was enough justification to kill him.
Although he didn't want to admit it, Ivan was still pretty famous after all. Compared to others, he was among the top.
This was a modern battle after all. Even if he had the strength, it would be quite annoying to deal with a bad reputation.
"In that case, we will remain here until Ragna calls us." Kanaria nodded in understanding.
"Something like that. It will also serve some purpose if we leave this house in a hurry."
"Oh. So you're using the media to come up with their own story and connect it to Ivan. Then, we can use it to strike the Drake Group, ultimately preventing them from attacking us for a while. Something like that?"
"Yeah." Clovis nodded with a serious expression.

Kanaria didn't think this much. Clovis' family was more reputable than hers, so it wasn't weird if Clovis had this way of thinking.
Kanaria looked down. She might probably be able to come up with such a strategy, but because she focused her study on logistics, she never bothered with politics. That was why she didn't consider public opinions and other things.
However, even Clovis wouldn't be able to predict what Ivan was planning to do this time. And this was also the reason why the assassins didn't even bother to stop him.
All of a sudden, Kanaria's phone started to ring.
"Mhmm?" Kanaria furrowed her eyebrows. "Mom?"
It was weird for her mother to call her all of a sudden. Normally, she wouldn't do something like this as if she were trying to not disturb both of them.
The fact that her mother called her directly instead of messaging her meant this matter was important.
She dropped everything in her hands and picked up the call. "Mom. What—!"

"Something is amiss. The Rusth family is visiting our family for a peace discussion."
"Rusth family? Peace discussion? Why?" Kanaria wanted to ask for a reason, but her mother had hung up.
Clovis, who understood the situation from the words that Kanaria uttered, couldn't help but fall into deep thought. "Rusth family?"
On the one hand, it looked like the Rusth family was initiating a peace discussion to stop Clovis from destroying their Rusth family once he became very strong. On the other hand, the Rusth family should be opting for eliminating him instead of having a peace discussion.
They weren't desperate enough to lower their heads for their survival. He didn't think that Lovelia was enough to convince such a big family to do something like that.
In that case, this peace discussion wasn't initiated by the Rusth family. Instead, it came from someone else.
There was one person that he could think of: Ivan.
Why would Ivan use the Rusth family to stop the Havenson family? There was no way Ivan would attack Kanaria here. However, something was indeed amiss.

The moment he questioned their movement, one more family came into his mind.
"Don't tell me" Clovis gasped and slammed his hand on the table. "Is he insane?"
"Clovis?" Kanaria was startled, not expecting such a big reaction.
"Call Jay right now. Where is he? No. Call his family first. You have their contact, right?"
"Y-yes!" Kanaria wanted to know the reason, but she should have called them first since it was more urgent. But no one picked up. "Huh? They're not busy, but no one is picking up."
"!!!" Clovis gritted his teeth, finally figuring out what happened. "Not good! Call Ragna right now. We're going to the hospital. Call Jay as well and ask for his location."
"Yes!" Kanaria hurriedly did what he instructed, as both of them were preparing to move. She still needed some explanations, but it seemed that Ivan was planning something that Clovis didn't expect.
And from the looks of it, he had sealed both the Renvolt and Havenson families.

Renvolt Family.
Vania and her husband were sitting together. After all, the former head and the current head of the Rusth family. Yes, Lovelia's grandfather and father came at the same time.
If Vania didn't sit down with her husband, it could be seen as an insult. She didn't know what those two would do when that happened.
That was why she didn't have a lot of time to explain the situation to Kanaria earlier.
'These guys What are they planning to do? Are they trying to stop us? They should know that if the situation has become too big for Kanaria and the others, we will step in. Does that mean they're planning to do something big? The only one who can handle it is the Havenson family.
'No, wait. Have they sealed their movement as well? While Clovis has received the support of the mayor, the mayor hasn't prepared anything to protect him. That's why it's impossible for him to make his move. By the time he has assembled his fighter, Clovis might already die.
'This is not good. I should find a way to escape.' Vania bit her lips. She had never thought that they would make such a bold move. 'What are they planning to do? Who are their targets?'
There were a lot of questions in her mind, but that was because she didn't know Clovis enough.

Clovis, on the other hand, already saw through Ivan's plan.
"What? Are you sure about it?"
"Yes. That's the only way to harm me without directly killing me. I've always told you about the possibility of you guys getting hurt because of me. The enemies haven't done anything to you guys yet because you're near me most of the time. But there is someone who is crazy enough to do it. All they need to do is separate us and stop anyone from interfering."
"Then, their target" Kanaria gritted her teeth.
"Yes. It's not Ragna. Their target is either Jay or Melody."