

## World Mall 371

### Chapter 371 Identity

"That's what I'm planning to find out."

Their eyes were locked on each other.

Clovis' fingers were twitching, as if he wanted to hold his swords tighter before swinging them at the woman in front of him. However, both of his swords had been knocked off his hands, so he couldn't do anything. In addition, this woman was much more powerful than him.

Although he didn't know much about this person's identity, he knew whatever he was trying to do would be impossible.

And he was also a bit curious about the glitch that occurred.

When Mara was staring into his eyes, Clovis felt a strange sensation. On the one hand, it was like she was searching for something. On the other hand, her gaze felt hollow, as if she had no personality.

"Please... allow me to check my friend's condition first." Clovis opened his mouth, breaking the silence.

To his surprise, she casually let him go as if it wasn't a big deal.

More importantly, she didn't threaten him or something. No, she didn't even say a single word after looking into his eyes.

Clovis hesitated for a moment before going to Erwin, who seemed to have passed out. Fortunately, Erwin seemed to be fine. The blood that came out of his eyes was more like the body releasing excess blood due to intense pressure. However, he couldn't see a single injury. He could probably use an item from the grocery store to help him recover from the internal injury.

Of course, after grabbing Erwin, Clovis thought about escaping, but that thought disappeared almost in an instant. He didn't want to make this strong woman hostile to him for the time being.

Hence, Clovis carried him and allowed him to lie down more comfortably on the ground.

"Sorry for making you wait." Clovis took a deep breath. "I'll cooperate with what you want, but please leave my friend alone."

"In that case, follow me." Mara nodded.

Clovis took out his Skyphone and sent a message to Erwin, telling him that he didn't need to worry about him. "I understand. Where should we go?"

Mara didn't reply to that question. She simply walked at a normal pace as if she didn't bother to use her extraordinary speed to leave this place.

Clovis followed right behind her. But never in his wildest dreams would he imagine that the place she brought him was a fast food restaurant not far from their current location.

"Eh?" Clovis blinked a few times as he couldn't believe it. The mysterious woman was actually lining up with the rest of the citizens and buying three burgers and three drinks like any normal person here.

"What's wrong? Is it not enough?" She asked.

"No..." Clovis scratched the back of his head. "It's just... I have never expected you to lead me here." Still, the most ridiculous thing was that she didn't bother to use her strength or identity to get served first. After all, it was normal for people to use their identities to get a special privilege.

"Do you prefer a high-end restaurant?" she asked.

"..." Clovis hesitated.

"I don't really care about the place. No matter where I go, the food and drink are tasteless." Mara closed her eyes.

Clovis raised his eyebrows, not expecting that she would share personal information this way. In fact, Mara was an oddity. She wasn't the exact opposite of what he had in mind for someone strong, of course, except for her ridiculous strength.

Nevertheless, there was something more important than her information. Clovis chose to open the conversation by asking, "I apologize if I'm being rude, but may I know what you're trying to find out? I don't think I can help you."

"I came here just because it's slightly more interesting. It's not like I have anywhere to go, so I just come here because I don't have anything to do. So, I merely followed the system to this place, you."

"Me? The system?" Clovis pointed at himself, confused.

"You're not the system, but the chosen one like me."

"First of all, I don't understand this whole situation. What do you mean by the system? If you don't like to explain, then you can ask me any questions and I'll just answer them. I hope that you can let me go after this." Clovis explained his intention.

However, Mara simply said, "I never kidnapped you or anything. This whole time, you were under the impression that you had to follow me."

Clovis frowned. "Are you saying that if I leave right now, you won't do anything to me or my friend?"

"Yes." Mara confirmed it with a nod. "I'm here just to find out more about the system. If you don't want to talk about it, you can just refuse."

Clovis looked at her in disbelief. "Are you sure about that?"

"If you threaten someone from a position of power, you'll look like a fool." Mara shook her head. "If you don't have another question, why don't we continue talking about the system?"

Clovis contemplated for a moment. If what she said was true, he could leave right away. But it also meant he wouldn't know more about the system glitches he experienced.

"In that case, can you tell me more about the system itself? If I know something more, I might be able to explain my experience better."

Mara took another bite of the hamburger first before saying, "I don't know much either. I have been seeing it for four years. I guess it started when I evolved into a Tier 8 human. Now that I have become a Tier 9 human, I can sense it a bit more."

"Tier...What?" Clovis dropped his jaw. "You are... Tier 9?"

Clovis shuddered. He couldn't believe that the woman before him was actually a Tier 9 human.

'No. Think about it carefully, there are only ten Tier 9 humans in the world. There's no way someone will be bold enough to impersonate them. But she is so young... How old is she right now? She looks like someone in her prime, maybe in her early thirties...

'Wait. Young? If I'm not wrong, there is a Tier 9 human who is said to have become the youngest Tier 9 human in the world. Because she has been wandering alone, no one can really predict her position. There isn't a lot of information about her as well.

'Don't tell me, she is that person? The one people called Bloody Queen, Mara Leverstrike?'

Chapter 372 System

Clovis sucked a cold breath. He had never thought that such a person would be sitting in front of him. And it didn't seem like she came here because of his grandfather.

Meanwhile, the other party seemed to notice his shock but ignored it as she continued with her explanation.

"The first time I saw it was when I killed the mastermind who had created me."

"Created you?" Clovis frowned.

"I wouldn't go into details, but the first thing I saw was the system telling me I had a mission and had completed it.

"!!!" Clovis shivered. This was what happened to him as well.

"Judging from your reaction, it seems that you understand what I'm talking about."

She was the real deal, Clovis thought. Hence, he confirmed, "I've seen a similar thing as my first time. Is this a special power or something?"

"I don't know."

"Then, do a lot of people have this system?"

"I'm not sure. I have only seen four people who have this power. You, me, and two others. One of them is Tier 9, while the other one is a Tier 6 human."

"Another Tier 9?" Clovis frowned. When presented with this fact, Clovis first questioned his own lineage. Obviously, the first Tier 9 that appeared in his mind was his grandfather. "Who are they?"

"Their names...I don't think I've asked for their names." Mara shook her head. "How many times have you seen the system?"

"Two times. I'm not really sure about my first time, but if it's as you describe, the trigger must be... either a certain terrorist organization or the person I hate." Clovis crossed his arms. He personally believed that Ivan might be the trigger for it. "Are you searching for the people who have this system?"

"I wonder." Mara looked out the window as if she were staring at something that didn't exist. "If this world is a simulation, does that mean our path is predestined? Or is our path a result of calculation?"

"I... don't know." Clovis looked down. He also wanted to know the truth about this world. "Are you trying to seek the truth about this world?"

"No. I have no interest in searching for the truth. I'm just walking in the direction the wind carries me. I don't care about anything else. I'll just walk until my death comes to me."

What a dangerous idea she had, Clovis thought. Then again, it matched the information the world had about her.

"Have we actually met before?" Mara asked.

"No?" Clovis tilted his head in confusion. At the same time, he couldn't give a definite answer since his grandfather might have brought him to meet her. However, for as long as he could remember, there was no memory of her in his mind.

"You are not sure? Is it because of your family?"

"You know my family?"



"No. But only a few people can afford to get Tier 9 weapons. In addition, even though you are only a Tier 2 human, your strength has far exceeded it."

"I'm sorry." Clovis closed his eyes as if he didn't want to talk about it. "Still, what do you ask if we have met before or not?"

"I see. It seems that you can't feel it yet. A weird sense of familiarity. My eyes are tingling as if I can see the system, but I cannot. I don't understand myself, but my instinct is telling me to remain in this town for another day. Maybe once you become stronger, you can feel it as well."

"Unfortunately, I couldn't give you any more information. My second experience was what happened when we fought earlier."

"I have experienced it a few times, but I have never seen something more vivid than the 'error' system from earlier. Is it because you are still a Tier 2 that you have more potential to unlock in the future? I don't understand."

"I also don't understand." Clovis shook his head.

"It doesn't matter." Mara simply stood up while saying, "You shouldn't focus too much on the speed but rather on the change of pace. It will give you the power to rival people with Muscle Affinity."

"Change of pace? Why are you giving me advice? I'm thankful, but..." Clovis didn't want to feel indebted. Besides, it didn't seem they had met in the past.

"It's nothing much. I just hope that you can continue to survive. I get the feeling that we'll meet again in the future..." Mara turned around while adding, "Besides, Flow Control doesn't necessarily mean speed. It can be pace, shape, or other things. The blood in one's body is no different than the water in the river."

"Blood in the body is not different than water in the river?" Clovis widened his eyes in shock. He didn't know why, but those words resonated with his heart.

While Clovis was shocked, Mara had already returned the tray. No, during the whole conversation, she had been finishing her food while waiting for Clovis to get over his reaction.

Now that she had finished the food, she simply left as if there was nothing else to discuss among them.

And just like that, Clovis didn't realize that she had gone.

"Ah!" Clovis snapped back and hurriedly chased her outside. Sadly, her figure was already gone by the time he exited the building. "This..."

Clovis scratched the back of his head, not knowing how to react. When he returned, he saw the bag for the last set of burger and soda as if she had bought it for Erwin.

"There are really a lot of unique people out there." Clovis could only smile wryly.

...

Several minutes later.

Erwin let out a groan as he gradually opened his eyes. "Kh..."

Erwin's mind was still fuzzy, but his body was instinctively shivering as he remembered what he saw before passing out.

"You're awake?" Clovis' voice echoed in his ears.

"!!!" Erwin turned his head to the right and hurriedly grabbed Clovis. Even though his hands were trembling and his voice was shaking, he still warned him. "Clovis! Hurry up and escape! That person is— Mmff!"

Clovis shoved the burger into his mouth in order to shut him up. "Eat this first and calm down."

Chapter 373 Calming Down

"Eat this first and calm down."

"Bleh!" Erwin spat it down. Fortunately, it was still wrapped nicely, so it didn't get dirty after touching the ground. He said with a panicked tone, "Why are you so calm? We have to get away immediately. That person is a Tier 9 human!"

Clovis smiled gently. "Take a look at your surroundings again."

"..." Erwin raised his head. Now that he thought about it, that person hadn't done anything when Erwin was panicking like this.

After taking another look at his surroundings, he realized that the woman was nowhere to be seen. "Huh? That person... Was I hallucinating?"

"Calm down for a bit and eat this. She bought this for you." Clovis shook his head while waving his hand down a few times, gesturing that he would explain everything once he calmed down.

"That person bought them for me?" Erwin looked at the burger carefully. On the one hand, he wasn't in the mood to eat. On the other hand, rejecting her gift would be rude.

Ultimately, Erwin opened the wrapper and started eating the burger.

Clovis noticed his shaking hands. It seemed that Erwin had seen something so terrifying that his body was trembling the whole time. He wondered what kind of thing he saw in her.

Nevertheless, he should calm him down by explaining the situation. "That person came for me."

"!!!" Erwin was startled at first but soon regained his composure. Considering Clovis' background, it wasn't that weird to have a Tier 9 human visit Clovis. "I see. I guess I should have expected that from you."

"No, no. You misunderstand the situation. While she came for me, the reason wasn't my family. In fact, she didn't appear to know me."

"Not your family? Then why would she come here? It wasn't normal for a Tier 9 to come to a town in the countryside."

"I'm sorry, but I don't think I can answer that question." Clovis let out a long sigh, disappointed in himself. In the end, the system and the glitch weren't something he could talk about easily, even with his teammates.

"Is that so? It doesn't really matter for me." Erwin shook his head.

"Still, what did you see for you to be this scared?" Clovis tried to change the topic.

"I saw..." Erwin paused for a moment, hesitating. "Madness? No, an apex predator. I could do nothing but simply let her rip my body apart."

Clovis recalled what Mara said about Erwin. "Now that I think about it, she said that you have rather unique eyes."

"Really?" Erwin frowned, falling into deep thought. He mumbled, "But these eyes are normal. And I have Muscle Affinity, which is not related to senses or eyes..."

"I don't know much about it myself." Clovis shook his head. "Still, an apex predator, huh?"

"Yes. An absolute existence where you felt powerless against."

"According to her, you needed a stronger heart."

"Stronger heart? Ah, you mean stronger mentality. I guess..." Erwin let out a long sigh. He looked at his hands, which were still shaking. Even after talking for a while, it didn't show any sign of stopping.

Clovis took a look at the time and asked, "Can you keep this entire meeting a secret?"

"Well, everyone will be panicking if they know a Tier 9 human is inside this city, especially Mara Leverstrike. She is famous for an incident that killed a thousand people. Although they were from terrorist organizations, she leveled the entire operation base, and each of the fallen terrorists got their bodies chopped into pieces, their blood smearing all the walls of their headquarters."

"People call her Bloody Queen because when people saw her and recognized her to be a Tier 9 human, her hair, her clothes, and half of her exposed skin were dyed red by blood.

"What do you think will happen if I tell them such a person comes to their city uninvited?"

Clovis smiled wryly. "I can see a bloody manhunt. We can't have that when the city is facing such a problem."

"There you have it." Erwin pinched the bridge of his nose.

"Still, that person looked harmless. From her behavior to her action, it was fine as long as we didn't provoke her."

"Is that so? That's good news. At least the city wouldn't face a disaster for now." Erwin let out a breath of relief.

"Anyway, do you know a beast known as Dunkleosteus?" Clovis asked.

"Mhmm? Why do you ask?" Erwin tilted his head in confusion. "I can search in the Skynet, no, you can do it yourself."

"I'm talking about Tier 9 Dunkleosteus." Clovis shook his head. If it was the regular one, he wouldn't ask about it. But a Tier 9 beast would definitely cause a commotion. And if it was hunted down by his grandfather, Erwin might have heard about it since the person he admired was his mother.

"Tier 9..." Erwin fell silent for a moment. "I think I have heard about it somewhere... something about a Tier 9 human hunting down a Tier 9 fish."

"I see." Clovis was able to confirm Mara's words about his sword. It seemed that his sword was more amazing than he originally thought.

A Tier 9 fish that was known for having one of the toughest scales was enough for people to covet it. Mara only realized the identity of his swords simply because they didn't break when she struck them.

And it didn't seem that the swords were exuding a special aura or triggering people's instincts. So he might not need to worry about people finding out about the swords and trying to steal them from him.

Clovis stood up. "Anyway, after you're done, let's go to our original destination. It'll be good for you to calm down there as well."

"Yeah." Erwin agreed. He just stuffed everything inside his mouth and started walking. His legs were still weak, so Clovis ended up helping him walk.

Fortunately, they managed to reach the bus before anyone else. Clovis just gave him all the equipment he promised and told him to sit down to avoid showing his current condition.



He should be fine after one or two more hours.

#### Chapter 374 Last Preparation

A minibus entered Serrest City.

On the gate, a soldier stopped the car to check it.

"Hello. How many people?" The soldier asked while checking the inside of the minibus. "May I see your identification?"

"Six. Our group's name is Libation Fiesta. This is our register." Jay showed them a tab.

"Mhmm..." The soldier checked their profile and matched their faces with the photos.

"Is there something wrong? I feel like entering a city is not supposed to be this complex." Jay asked in a lighthearted tone.

"It's nothing. We are just experiencing a bulk of visitors, so we have to increase our security slightly." The soldier shrugged. After checking everything, he gave the tab back. "You're good to go."

"Thank you." Jay nodded and started driving.

The soldier—no, even the other soldiers—didn't realize that there were actually eight people inside the minibus.

Aside from Clovis and the others, there were a pair of an elder and a woman sitting quietly in the back of the bus. Even though they were in plain sight, no one actually realized they were there.

Now that they had entered the city, Clovis couldn't help but ask, "So what are we going to do now, Sir Albert? Are we going to check the city first?"

"No. Let's go to the underground city right away. As planned, you guys should check in to the hotel in the underground city so that it doesn't look weird for you guys to stay for a while. Aileen and I will go ahead first."

"In that case, please wear these." Melody handed them skyglasses. "I have tuned them. While I might not be able to fully assist you, you can easily send a message to us. Besides, the skyglasses allow us to track your movement as well."

"Oh! Such a reliable operator." Albert took the glasses with a smile. "Can you mark the map as well?"

"Yes. We do have a gold class map, and I'll put some marks according to your instructions."

"That's good then." Albert nodded before turning to Erwin. "Yo, boy. Look at this operator. She is more useful than you."

"What did you say? Even though you are my elder, it doesn't mean that I'm just going to take a beating. My expertise is not in this area." Erwin pointed his finger arrogantly at Albert.

"You should respect your elder." Albert shrugged. "Besides, if you want to marry this girl, you need to try harder. She is going to visit the capital city and meet a lot of talented and handsome guys out there."

"Hmph! I'm stronger now. If we fight again, I can definitely beat Aileen." Erwin snorted.

"..." Aileen remained silent the whole time, but her heart was beating rapidly. She was embarrassed to listen to these two discussing her.

"Is that so? Well, good luck. I personally don't care about the person she chooses. But you should know that an influential family's life is harsh. If you are not capable, you will be belittled a lot by people. Even if you two don't care about it, what about the close relatives, such as your parents or even your children later?" Albert smiled.

"You don't have to worry about it. Libation Fiesta will soon become a household name. I... No, we will make it so big that your family feels lucky that Erwin chooses to marry Aileen." Clovis was the one to reply this time.

This sounded like Clovis boasting about his potential. However, those who knew about Clovis' true identity considered it a declaration. Even without the Libation Fiesta, Erwin's connection to the grandson of a Tier 9 explorer alone was enviable.

Albert looked at Clovis' face before closing his eyes. "I see. I'll be looking forward to seeing it then."

"That's right. When I reach that place, don't worry, I will beat you and Aileen first!" Erwin harrumphed.

"Me aside, beating your own future spouse is considered domestic violence, no?"

"..." Erwin's eyebrows twitched. "I'm just saying that I will be strong enough to defeat both of you."

The conversation got so heated that they didn't realize they had reached the Explorer Association. Their minibus was already going to the elevator that would take them to the underground city.

"Anyway, we have arrived at the hotel, guys." Jay called them while pointing at the front window.

"Got it." Clovis nodded and hurriedly exited the car. The others followed, but no one noticed Albert and Aileen had come out of the car and gone to the city gate.

Meanwhile, Kanaria was the one handling the check-in, leaving the others near their vehicle.

Clovis asked, "Still, Sir Albert aside... Is Aileen going to be okay? Isn't it a bit too dangerous for her to go alone? I mean, I know that she is Tier 4, but still..."

"I don't think you need to worry about it. Even if she can't kill the beasts, she will be able to escape. It's true that erasing her presence isn't that effective against beasts because their animal instincts are stronger compared to those of humans. But she isn't that weak. You should know that."

"Well..." Clovis nodded in understanding. However, his focus soon changed when he noticed someone messaged him. There was only one person who would message him.

[Hana: I've transferred the money. Don't question where that money came from. It was quite hard to send that amount of money without anyone noticing.]

Clovis smiled wryly. He patted Erwin's shoulder while saying, "I'm going to call someone first."

"Alright?" Erwin was a bit confused. He noticed the message but didn't bother to take a peek. He just watched Clovis as he entered the hotel, thinking that it was Kanaria who told him to come.

However, instead of going to the receptionist, Clovis walked to the toilet. He locked the door and made sure that no one was inside the toilet before he entered Another World Mall.

...

Estesia City.

Mara somehow returned to the same fast food restaurant again. While peacefully eating the burger, a screen panel appeared before her eyes.

[Mission]

Chapter 375 Super Discount

As soon as Clovis entered Another World Mall, he immediately opened the status, wondering if the money had been calculated.

[Name: Clovis Hacfield.]

[Membership: Level 16 (Small Expert)]

[Money: 17,325,500 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Item Limit: 17/Visit]

[Visit: 1(2)/Day]

After looking at the amount of his coins, Clovis immediately said to Blue, who had always been waiting for him at the teleportation point, "Blue. Upgrade the membership!"

[Processing.]

[Upgrade Complete.]

[Membership: Level 17 (Medium Expert)]

[Upgrade Requirement: 7,500,000 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Reward: Item Upgrade, One Restaurant.]

"Mhmm..." Clovis frowned. "Upgrading to this level requires 6 million coins. And another level will require 7.5 million. I don't think I have enough to reach level 19, which usually means opening a new store. However, it's fine. I have a lot of free money right now.

It's not like I need a lot of coins for things other than upgrading.

"Increasing the visit limit is a tempting offer, but I think I will upgrade it only after opening a new store." Clovis had already made his plan before coming here, so he immediately continued, "Blue. Upgrade!"

[Processing.]

[Upgrade Complete.]

[Membership: Level 18 (Peak Expert)]

[Upgrade Requirement: 10,000,000 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Reward: Item Upgrade, New Store, Super Discount.]

"Mhmm?" Clovis opened his eyes in shock. "I understand the item upgrade and new store, but what is this super discount?"

This was the first time he had encountered such a reward. He thought Another World Mall was a rather straightforward mystery, where he only had to continue upgrading his membership to unlock more stores.

But it seemed that he was wrong. When he lowered his vision, he couldn't help but drop his jaw.

[Super Discount has another name: Super Sale. In other words, a function that will make a store hold a super sale with a discount up to 60% according to your membership's level.]

"Up to 60%? A whole store? You're not joking, right? How does this super discount work? Is it similar to a sale in a normal mall?"



[As an AI, I haven't been trained to lie. As a precious customer of the mall, the mall will be giving you a mission that you can finish to gain a ticket. With this ticket, you will be able to open a spinning wheel to choose the store that will receive the discount and how high the discount is. And that discount will be applied to all items in that particular store.]

"Seriously?" Clovis frowned. On the one hand, he hated the idea of gambling. It was clear that he couldn't receive the discount at the store he wanted if he wasn't lucky enough. On the other hand, it didn't change the fact that having a discount would be extremely beneficial. Currently, the most expensive stores would be the accessory store and the bookstore.

If he somehow got a discount there, he could purchase a lot of items in bulk.

Still, there were a few questions on his mind. Clovis asked, "Why do I suddenly receive a super discount function? While I'm happy that I can get a discount, it's very random. Why did it not appear when I leveled up to 10 or something?"

[Data Error.]

"Huh?" Clovis frowned. As he expected, he couldn't get his answer. Nevertheless, he got a clue as to why this happened.

"Is it because of my meeting with Mara as well as the glitch in the simulation? Now that I'm aware of it, the 'Another World Mall' was trying to match that information."

Clovis remembered the first time the world glitched for him. It certainly stated that he had completed a certain mission.

"Does this mean Another World Mall has a connection with the world itself? Or is this place simply feeling jealous that it's trying to compete? I mean, it's offering a mission after knowing that this simulation world has a hidden mission..." Clovis couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows.

"I can't find the answer right now, unfortunately. But if I can discover more about this hidden system in this simulation world, I might be able to find the connection. For that, Mara is the best place to get an answer, but I can't really reveal the mall to her. I guess I have to find the answer later."

Clovis let out a long sigh. "Anyway, I also have another problem right now. I need to get enough money to upgrade my mission during this trip. I don't know if it's possible or not. But if I fail, the next trip will be a normal trip where I have to get enough money for my membership's renewal. Seriously, is there no annual option with 10% off or something?"

[The annual renewal option can be abused because the host can simply choose to pay a few thousand dollars during your first annual renewal and upgrade the membership. You might have a hundred million per renewal by the time you need to renew the membership.]

"I know that, Blue. I'm just thinking it out loud." Clovis pinched the bridge of his nose. "If I want to do that, I might as well ask Hana to be my sugar mommy or something. Investing a hundred billion dollars at once so that I can get big in an instant.

"Then again, my life won't be mine anymore since there will definitely be a lot of strings attached to that kind of money. And I still have my pride." Clovis paused for a moment. "Let's get to the main objective. I

came here for two purposes, upgrading the membership and purchasing some items. Blue, give me the list of items that I can finish in one bite from the two restaurants we have."

[Processing.]

[Name: Spring Rolls]

[Price: 980 coins]

[Effect: Strength +5% for 10 minutes.]

...

...

...

[Name: Sweet and Sour Tofu]

[Price: 1,220 coins]

[Effect: Speed +15% for 5 minutes.]

This was his original intention. Yes, he was actually inspired by Mara, who came for the fast food. He couldn't help but think, 'What if he just bought something he could swallow in one bite?' This way, he could gain the boost without anyone noticing.

"This trip is a little bit dangerous, so I guess I will choose these..."

Clovis began purchasing some food and just stored it inside the mall's inventory since it wouldn't rot.

With this, the preparation was completed.