

World Mall 396

Chapter 396 Reward

As Clovis said, now that there was no beast that could challenge Albert and Friday, both of them ended up leading the fight and suppressing the beasts. Both Albert and Friday split up, as Albert's role was to exterminate all beasts inside the city while Friday was taking care of the tunnel from examining it to burying it.

It could be said that this incident was a blessing in disguise. On the one hand, a lot of people might have died, and the city had been half-destroyed. On the other hand, the threat of a Tier 7 beast had completely disappeared. The mountain where the spider originally resided would be considered a Tier 5 zone since there weren't any high-tier beasts on it anymore.

Although the repair would take a while, there were a lot of resources they could use, especially the corpses scattered all around the cities.

The soldiers evacuated the citizens, while Albert remained in the city. Repairing one elevator out of the four wouldn't take too long, so as long as it was able to operate again, the city could pour in a lot of reinforcement and supply to rebuild the town.

And by revealing the information about the Tier 7 spider and their strength to subdue it, they should be able to raise morale.

Without long, the city would definitely return to its glory.

Clovis and the others decided to return since it was already beyond their capabilities.

With Albert and Friday's testimonies, the commander realized that this time they succeeded because of Clovis' help. They didn't know why Mara came for him, but if not for him, she wouldn't have destroyed the boulders and killed the beasts.

...

Genzert Residence.

"This is peaceful. I guess you will be coming with us, Erwin." Ragna extended his hand. "We haven't done this before. I'm Ragna. I'll be looking forward to adventuring with you."

"Yep. It's going to be exciting." Erwin shook his hand before pointing at Clovis in the garden. "By the way, what is he doing?"

Ragna glanced at the garden, finding Clovis standing still. He was holding his sword with both hands and continued meditating for two hours. "I don't know."

"He probably understood something after seeing that fight," said Jay, while maintaining his blade.

"Understand something, huh?" Erwin crossed his arms.

Suddenly, the bell of his house echoed.

"Mhmm?" Erwin frowned and headed to the door. Once he opened the door, he couldn't help but get taken aback by the person who came over. "Commander?"

"Hello." The commander smiled. "Sorry, I was a bit too busy recently to make you wait for two days. I'm here to talk about the reward."

"Please come in." Erwin nodded. "Let me call Clovis for you."

The commander and Erwin walked to the living room and saw Clovis in the garden. When Erwin was about to call him, Clovis suddenly waved his sword.

Instead of cutting through the air, it actually generated a small gale that ended up dispersing after half a meter.

"Clo—" Erwin raised his voice but abruptly stopped when the commander said, "That's interesting."

"Huh?" Erwin raised his eyebrows.

"He is trying to send a ranged attack, huh?"

"Ranged attack?" Jay was the one who reacted this time.

"Yep. Something like this." The commander flicked his fingers.

"Ouch!" All of a sudden, Erwin got knocked down to the floor as he clutched his forehead. "What the...? Did you just flick me without touching me?"

"I'm not really that good at it, but this is what it means to send a ranged attack. I simply gathered enough strength in my middle finger and released it in one go, generating enough pressure to create a small torrent of air to the forehead.

"Just seeing what he was trying to accomplish, I could understand what Mara Leverstrike used to kill the beasts. She is famous because her attack has the longest range in the world. Once, she cut down a flying beast and ended up reaching the ceiling of the underworld and causing it to collapse.

The ceiling might not be too far, but sending an attack that powerful for three to four hundred meters is insane, you know."

"Ranged attack..." Both Erwin and Jay sucked a cold breath.

"You don't need it, Erwin. Your wires' strength lies in your grip as well as your fingers. Learning this one will simply waste your time. On the other hand, the swordsman over there might be pretty interested in it."

Ragna clenched his hands into fists. He realized that he would have to handle something like that sooner or later.

"Are you teaching us to lower the reward, Commander?" Clovis' voice soon echoed.

The commander smiled. "Was it that obvious? You truly sucked me dry, and I had no other choice. You should have told me that you know Mara Leverstrike."

Clovis smiled. "I met her after that meeting."

The commander shook his head helplessly. "I'm wondering how I should reward you. After hearing a few suggestions, I've decided something."

"And that is?"

The commander raised three fingers. "First of all, Clovis, Jay, and Kanaria will receive a super injection each. The second reward is three beast souls. One of the Tier 4 spiders actually produces a beast soul, which we have determined to allow one person to climb on any surface. I think it's good for the sniper on your team.

"For the operator, Dimetrodon Beast Soul should be good for her as it allows her to be sensitive to temperature change. The third beast soul is Gigantopithecus blacki, an ape known for its robust limbs. This one is for Ragna.

"Last but not least, I originally wanted to give you fifteen million, but because of the sudden rush of orders to get all the materials to rebuild the underground city, I'm a little low on cash. Hence, I'm thinking of giving only five million, but I'll give each of you personal advice. I'm not the best, but my advice should be worth that much, right?"

Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought. It wasn't a bad offer. In addition, he would also get some money by selling the essence he had acquired.

After some consideration, Clovis added one finger. "If you can agree to one condition, I will agree."

"Depends on your condition."

"We'll stay here for another two or three days. In the meantime, please allow Kanaria to observe the restoration teams." He wanted to help Kanaria realize her dream, so this experience should be priceless for her.

"Oh. That sweetheart of yours? I heard that she managed to see through the city's condition from those supply trucks alone." The commander thought for a moment. "Alright. You've got a deal. It doesn't seem she is here right now, so just tell her to Ember Tower and mention my name."

"Yes. Thank you very much."

Chapter 397 Lesson

"I don't know if you're already aware of it, but this world is not a cartoon. If you have seen someone releasing a long-range attack, that's definitely a CGI, so ignore that part.

"Instead, what we have for that type of attack is actually generating a force or pressure and shooting it in a certain direction.

"Like what I showed you earlier, the flick generated that pressure to create torrential air. High-pressure air could cut things. The problem is how much you are able to generate that force."

The commander drew two sketches on the screen. The first sketch was about a stickman launching a crescent-shaped attack, while the second sketch was about a stickman launching a small torrent of air with a thrusting motion.

"There are three things that you need to know first. They are power, shape, and distance. Since you're using a blade, I'll use thrust and slash as my examples.

"In terms of slash, you will definitely know the difference between a swift slash and a heavy slash.

"The swift slash will create pressure that is thinner, which won't produce a lot of power. However, instead of power, it gets speed.

"On the other hand, the heavy slash will generate enough power, but it won't go far."

Noel looked down, falling into deep thought.

Meanwhile, Jay asked, "If that's the case, does that mean my attack and Clovis' attack will be different?"

"Of course. Even right now, your fighting styles are different, right?"

Jay nodded.

"In Clovis' case, he is generating pressure from his swinging speed, which will travel much farther than you. On the other hand, you can create an attack powerful enough to crush his attack."

"If that's the case, what if I also add speed to mine, for example, a beast soul?" Jay had a beast soul that increased his speed and used it to release momentum.

"Of course, you're able to do that. In fact, once you become stronger, you will be able to combine all of them at once. However, even a beast soul can't change the fact that Clovis will be faster than you or that you will always be stronger than Clovis. After all, your affinity is different."

"That's true." Jay nodded.

But the same couldn't be said to Clovis. His perfect state allowed him to bypass the gap, so Clovis would be able to get all of them once he got stronger. When he thought about it, he realized why Clovis had this so-called 'quality' to be a Tier 9.

"For the time being, you have to focus on your fundamental strength. Once you get used to it and begin mastering it, that's when you can finally experiment with the combination.

"Even if I warn you not to do it, you might try it in one way or another out of curiosity, so I'll just say this. If you want to experiment with it, there's a high chance you will fail and end up wasting your time. Know this warning and proceed if you wish."

Jay closed his eyes for a moment. It seemed that he had become a bit too greedy. He perfectly knew that power wouldn't come in an instant. If he wanted something, he would have to do it step by step.

"It seems that you have managed to produce a ranged attack." The commander turned to Clovis.

"Sadly, it was too short. I couldn't even call it a ranged attack."

"Everyone starts at some point. The fact that you are able to use it when you are only a Tier 2 human is amazing. Most people who are able to do this are around Tier 5 or Tier 6. After all, the basic requirement for this is physical strength."

"In that case, how about me? Ranged attack doesn't suit me, but does that mean I'll be weaker than others of the same tier?" Erwin raised his hand.

"Not necessarily, your weapon is quite unique, so I can't really say a lot of things. From the way I see it, you are able to harness strength that is much different from theirs. For example, although they are rare because we have gunners, there are archers.

"They are using the strength of their strings to release an arrow that is more powerful than a gun that is using compressed air.

"Your wires are very similar to the bowstrings. Or you can even launch yourself like an arrow. Unfortunately, this is the extent of what I can say regarding your weapon. You have to find the method yourself."

Erwin was disappointed. Still, he couldn't deny the fact that his weapon was extremely rare. With the addition of Clovis' items, he would have more leeway to try things he hadn't dared before.

"As for you..." The commander paused for a moment. "Do you have Heart Affinity?"

"No. I have Bones Affinity."

"Bones?" The commander frowned. He had heard about his extreme regenerative power. Nevertheless, since Ragna confirmed to have Bones Affinity, he simply had to explain his power. "Alright. With this affinity, you are actually similar to the Wishe family.

"I don't know about their secret, but they are strengthening their bodies to the extreme. Their patriarch is said to be invincible among Tier 7 not because he is able to defeat all his enemies, but because all his enemies couldn't defeat him.

"Swords, spears, anything can't penetrate his body. I believe that you'll be able to achieve this state in the future. And I don't know about your regenerative power, but if it's something you have, you can become immortal. Not only will you be hard to injure, but your wound will also be healed almost immediately.

"As for the ranged attack, I have seen someone who is able to stop a ranged attack and somehow send it back. I don't know if it's a smooth movement or something, but it's actually a possibility.

"Last but not least, the Brain Affinity. The girls in your group are not here right now, but you can pass this message to them. The Brain Affinity is simple but effective. If you train your senses, you can basically become omniscient. Instead of trying to spread your senses as far as possible, it's better to create an area where you're able to sense everything within a certain radius."

Chapter 398 Return

Clovis and the others asked a lot of detailed questions about the power that came next. The basic evolution trait that all affinities had was indeed a requirement.

Thanks to the Star Method, Clovis' group could actually learn this early on, and the commander couldn't help but think that they were able to achieve something not possible before.

It was unfortunate that the commander didn't have a lot of time because he was too busy restoring the underground city.

However, they had learned a lot, especially about the path they needed to take.

Clovis was wondering if there would be a ranged attack from his bookstore later. In addition, he was curious about the type of store he would get next.

In the meantime, Melody was spending a lot of money to buy the city's specialties. She wanted to show it to her brother.

On the other hand, Kanaria was busy learning more important things. She had been with the logistics team for two days.

Even though she had been handling logistics for her former and present groups, she never had the chance to handle the entire city. And this was just a restoration.

Once they reached the point of rebuilding the entire city, it would definitely reach another scale.

That was why this chance was actually much more precious than anything she had so far. She was shocked when Clovis told her about this chance.

After two days, although it was a shame, the group decided to return.

Surprisingly, Aileen was the only one seeing them off.

"Thank you for helping the city." Aileen politely lowered her head. "In the end, I owe you more before I can even settle the previous debt."

"It's fine. There might be a time where I need your power." Clovis shook his head.

"I understand. Don't hesitate to call me." Aileen nodded. "And after a week, I'm planning to visit the capital to get the best education over there. I'll become much stronger than any of you."

"Hahaha. I'll be looking forward to it." Noel smiled. "Well, a certain someone will be sad. There are going to be a lot of people chasing after you, and they'll have a bigger background than him."

"What did you say?" Erwin's expression was distorted. "This bro's charm is through the roof. You know that?"

"Erwin's efforts will always be remembered, even if only the people in this group know it." Jay looked down as if offering his prayer.

"What did you say?" Erwin stood in front of Jay. "I don't hit my captain, but I don't mind punching you."

"Oh. I feel the same. My fist is quite itching to punch a certain someone." Jay grinned.

"Get lost. I'm the vice captain now. You can be the henchman."

"A newbie who is not even stronger than me dares to say that?"

"I'm the number two now!"

"What did you say?! It's time to put you in your place."

The two continued their quarrels, causing all of them to chuckle.

Clovis ignored them for a second and said, "Anyway, if you have anything to ask, feel free to call me or Erwin."

"Yep. By the way, I've heard that your city is not safe right now."

"Both of our cities are." Clovis shook his head. Considering the beasts' movements, it was clear that they would face some problems sooner or later. Even this city would be attacked since they wanted to trap him.

"I see." Aileen nodded solemnly.

"Well, take care." Clovis waved his hand while turning around. "Alright, you two, stop fighting for a minute."

Jay and the others waved their hands, while Erwin simply gave her a goodbye kiss.

"No matter who my opponent is, I'll win. The name of Libation Fiesta will become much more influential than any of its competitors. So don't become a stupid girl who is scared that our group ends up getting into trouble just because of you, and accept someone as your fiancé. Whoever it is, we're not afraid. Clovis has also made it clear to me."

Surprisingly, Aileen only smiled. "I know. I trust you."

Seeing her sincere smile made Erwin feel embarrassed.

However, his body soon trembled when he heard a chilling warning ringing in his ears.

"But you shouldn't get another girl. I'm not as generous as Kanaria. If you're going to have someone, I might assassinate her and her entire family and live the rest of my life as a hermit."

"Y-Yes, Ma'am." Erwin gulped down.

Aileen gradually moved back while waving her hand. "It might be a while for us to meet again."

"I know. Our rivalry will remain. I'm still waiting for you to accept your loss and admit that you can't live without me." Erwin smirked.

"No. You will be the one admitting it."

Erwin waved his hand while walking toward the minibus.

Although they were only here for a few days, it was truly a great experience.

But there was still a long road ahead of them.

On the way, Erwin couldn't help but ask, "What is our plan right now?"

He had just joined the group, so he knew almost nothing about the group's plan.

However, Clovis simply said, "Nothing. There's nothing big happening right now. We should use this peaceful time to get as strong as possible. However, we do indeed need to visit Vasige City to get our super injections, one for each of us. But for now, we need to return to the city and prepare for our plan and itinerary to balance the trip and exploration."

"Is that so? I should be able to reach Tier 4 with the help of a super injection." Erwin nodded. "With this, even without Aileen, we should be able to challenge a Tier 5 beast."

Clovis turned to Kanaria. "By the way, can you tell your mother to pressure the Drake group? Check the movement of the Rusth family as well. If they're suspicious, start harassing them in a month. Because of Hana's situation, we end up moving our schedule for a bit."

"That's..." Melody was the one who reacted, considering she thought she had to leave her brother.

"Don't worry. She has promised to admit your brother to the best hospital there. And her family will guarantee his security."

"I see." Melody let out a sigh of relief.

"Hana? Who is this person?" Erwin tilted his head in confusion.

"You should have heard her name, Hana Skylark."

"That rich girl? She is the sugar mommy... Ahem, I mean the sponsor of this group?"

Chapter 399 Another Problem

"Clovis. It seems that my mother wants to meet you," said Melody while bringing some food from the kitchen.

"When?"

"She is planning to visit us today, sometime in the afternoon."

"Sure. It seems that the situation is worse than I originally thought." Clovis furrowed his eyebrows.

"Worse? Is that the reason why my mother wants to meet you?"

"No. The fact that your mother wants to see me is how I know the current situation." Clovis shook his head. "By the way, how about Erwin?"

"He is living with Ragna right now. Considering we're about to move in months, he thinks it's better to live with Ragna, not only to avoid rumors about him charming other girls but also to know more about this group."

"Alright."

Kanaria took out her device and projected a map. "By the way, this is the plan we currently have. Vasige City is located at the foot of Ribelius Mountain. Hence, we're thinking about going through this river, which should be pretty safe, before heading to the fallen city of Foll to kill some beasts.

"The hunt should last for only one week. Once we reach the city, we'll get the super injection and head on for another hunt before returning here."

"Mhmmmm..." Clovis thought for a moment. The biggest problem for him would definitely be the membership upgrade. On the one hand, he needed some money to renew the membership. On the other hand, he wanted to upgrade the membership.

The essence they sold was enough to cover the rest of the money to upgrade the membership, but Clovis decided to save it for the time being. He needed to renew the membership first before getting more money, not only for the upgrade but also for purchasing numerous things with that discount.

He even thought about increasing the visit limit first before upgrading. This way, he could get more items.

'Two sessions should be enough to cover the money for the upgrade as well as the purchase of the items, but I still need to find another ten million to increase the time limit.' Clovis wondered where he could get that kind of money.

Now that the upgrade had reached millions, it was getting hard to find a way to earn that much.

'The easiest to make money will always be the royalty from the beast souls, but the operation hasn't started, so I don't think I can ask Hana for more money. Hmm. I need to upgrade my visit and membership as quickly as possible.' Clovis pinched the bridge of his nose.

"Alright. Let's follow your plan." Clovis nodded.

"Alright. I'll begin resupplying it accordingly. By the way, do you have any plans to visit the underworld again?"

Now that he thought about it, aside from the rescue mission, he hadn't gone to the underworld for a while.

"If there is a big raid or something, I think it's fine to join. But if not, we can focus on exploring the fallen cities."

"Got it." Kanaria started making the detailed plans.

Without her realizing it, three hours had passed, and her mother had finally come.

Considering her personality, Clovis thought that Vania would come with a lot of dirty jokes. To his surprise, she actually remained solemn the whole time.

While Kanaria brought something to drink, Clovis asked, "Is it the Drake group?"

"You know about it?"

"Not really, but I can guess." Clovis shrugged.

"I see. First of all, this matter seems to be more complicated than I originally thought. Do you know the power balances of our city?" Vania asked.

"I'm not entirely sure."

Vania took out a pen and projected a board. She then started writing while explaining, "There are six great influences in this city. In this one, the military is not one of them, even though they are the strongest force.

"Those six great influences are the Drake Group, the Silver Snowflake Group, the Rusth family, the Renvolt family, the Havenson family, and the Panorama Organization.

"The Renvolt and Havenson families are allies, while the Rusth family and the Panorama Organization are similar."

Clovis frowned. "Now that I think about it, the one who stopped the Havenson family before..."

"Yes. It's the Panorama Organization. You can consider this organization an explorer group, but they are focusing on other things such as logistics, real estate, and others in the underworld.

"Anyway, you can ignore the Silver Snowflake Group. They're based in the underground city, so they rarely join the politics in this city."

Clovis asked, "If that's the case, two against three, huh? No. Should we count the mayor?"

"You can count him as well, but there's a limited thing he can do." Vania shook her head helplessly.

"So is the problem related to the fact that we're outnumbered?"

"Yes and no. Indeed, we're having a lot of problems because we're outnumbered, but the Panorama Group's support has been declining because of your group's rise as well as the failure of the previous attempt. They are considering whether they will continue to ally with the Rusth family or break free before it's too late.

"And no, the serious matter I want to tell you is that there is another person who joins the conflict."

"Another person?" Clovis crossed his arms.

Vania let out a long sigh. "Do you remember the matter about the illegal goods?"

"The mule?"

"Yes. The mule is currently messing with the current balance."

"Is he siding with them? Isn't the mule merely a smuggler?"

"That's the problem. We have underestimated him. The person is actually affiliated with a mercenary group that handles information."

"!!!" Clovis squinted his eyes, finally understanding the core of the problem.

"And the problem is..." Vania pinched the bridge of her nose. "...that person is selling information to both sides."

"Both sides?" Clovis widened his eyes in shock. There were two possibilities in this action. "Is he trying to maintain his neutrality or..."

Vania confirmed his worst fear. "As you have guessed, it's the latter. Because he is trading information to both sides, he is actually turning this growing tension into chaos."

Chapter 400 Situation

"Chaos, huh?" Clovis was gnashing his teeth.

"That's not the only problem. Thanks to him, we also know the potential attack." Vania opened the map for the province. There were a lot of blue colored blocks that signified a city, while the red ones were the fallen cities.

As Vania warned beforehand, most of the cities on the west and north had been destroyed. It seemed that they were also progressing to the east.

"Are they going to attack the south?" Clovis asked.

"No." Vania shook her head. "If you take a look at this map, from where do you think they will attack us?"

"Hmmm. The most obvious answers will be the west and the north. There are a lot of things happening on the east, so it's chaotic there. On the other hand, the south feels like a trap."

"Indeed. Assuming that they're attacking from the west and north, from where exactly do you think they will initiate the beast wave?"

Clovis fell silent.

"This..." Kanaria pointed to the west while placing the cups down.

"Kanaria?" Clovis raised his eyebrows before realizing the reason. "Supply routes?"

"Yes. Assuming that the attack won't happen soon, the first thing they will do is disrupt the supply." Kanaria nodded. "If we take a look closely, there will be two cities that are extremely important. Willowong and Green Hill Cities."

"As expected of my daughter." Vania smiled. "According to the information, Willowong City is currently experiencing problems. I've talked with Jay's father about sending reinforcements to Green Hill City so that it won't get fully disrupted."

"And we have agreed to actually send you to Willowong City to relieve them of the problem."

"Willowong City? Won't it be dangerous?" Clovis frowned. This was a rather bold move.

"It might be. That's why it won't be right now. From what I've heard, you're planning to have another trip to get the super injection, right?"

"Yes."

"I want you to take another two weeks to do a casual hunt. After that, you are to change your direction to Willowong City."

"I see. You're visiting us right now, so they think you're cooking something. However, it might look like a false alarm since we're not doing anything special."

Vania nodded. "Indeed. We'll prepare the mission as well so that they won't be suspicious."

"But by cutting their plan like this, there's a high chance that they will move up their schedule."

"Indeed. At this point, it might happen sooner... maybe in about one and a half months from now. You wanted me to push their schedule ahead, right? Sadly, this is the impact."

"I see. In those one and a half months, we have to reach Tier 3."

"Yeah. The Renvolt and Havenson families will take care of their Tier 6s. However, if they come to attack you, we doubt it will be possible for us to send any reinforcement. Even if we manage to stop all their Tier 6s, you will be targeted by their Tier 5s."

"Multiple Tier 5s, huh?" Clovis frowned. On the one hand, he had no doubt that his group could somehow take down a single Tier 5 human, let alone when Erwin became a Tier 4 human and they became Tier 3.

However, after seeing the gap between Tier 4 and Tier 5, Clovis knew for sure that it would be hard to fight a few Tier 5 humans.

It seemed that he had to bet his chance on Another World Mall to find a way to solve this problem.

"I see." Clovis closed his eyes for a moment. "Not only multiple Tier 5s, but also the beasts, huh?"

"Indeed. Can you do it?"

"I will make sure we'll win." Clovis nodded.

Vania smiled. "Alright. If you are that confident, I will trust you. However, be careful out there. Considering they're going to be pretty busy gathering those beasts to trap you, those assassins you worry about won't come at you."

"By the way, what are they currently doing?"

"The Drake Group? Nothing. The Rusth family is also silent for the time being."

"Doesn't it feel suspicious?"

"Yeah. But the problem is that we can't find anything right now." Vania shook her head. "I'll continue digging up here and there, but I can't promise you anything."

Clovis nodded. "Alright."

"You are smart, so I don't think I need to give you an order. By giving you the freedom to make choices, you should be able to make a better decision." Vania raised two fingers. "However, I want you to remember two things.

"First, the Rusth family is going to do everything they have to stop you. After all, they know that their family will fall if they let you grow. The typical situation where our family can suppress them once the Libation Fiesta grows... That type of stuff.

"Secondly, don't go to the south since it might be a trap. For now, we would like to make them think that I'm warning you about this."

"I understand." Clovis nodded before lowering his head. "I apologize that everything happens because of me. If not for my identity, this province won't face so much chaos."

"You don't have to worry about that. Even if you are not here, they're always trying to mess with us." Vania shrugged. "If you're feeling guilty for the innocent people that have died because of the beast wave, you also don't need to think about that. The beasts are the common enemies. Nothing is going to change that. Get stronger as quickly as possible.

This is the only way to solve that problem."

Clovis smiled wryly. "I know."

"Since I've finished my business, I'm going to take my leave now."

Vania managed to maintain her seriousness until she exited the house.

"Take care, both of you. The next one and a half months will be chaotic."

"Yes." Clovis nodded.

"By the way, do you use protection? If not, I—"

"Bye Aunty." Clovis closed the door, ignoring her words. He turned around, saw Kanaria's wry smile, and changed the topic. "Alright. Time to make preparations for the next destination."