World Mall 411

Chapter 41	1 New	Mission
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"So here is the big mission." Kanaria projected the screen, showing information about their current mission. "Not far from Willowing City is a stretch of wasteland filled with a lot of beasts.
"Our mission is to kill a total of ten Tier 4 beasts residing in this wasteland. Because the beasts have been quite active, there was a high chance that they would attack the city.
"That was why Willowing City issued this mission. However, Willowing City is only a Tier 5 city, one tier lower than our city. They only have three Tier 5 explorers in their city, and the Tier 4 humans are considered precious.
"Hence, this is a perfect chance for us to kill a lot of Tier 4 beasts. In addition, it's said that this wasteland has more than twenty Tier 4 beasts.
"The money given for the reward is quite big." Kanaria ended her explanation.
"I got it that Willowing City is an important route for the supply, but doesn't that mean we can't carelessly go here?" Erwin asked while driving the minibus.
"Not a problem. Currently, Willowing City is fighting on two fronts. The first one is this wasteland. They have set up a raid camp near the wasteland, which we'll take advantage of. As for the second one, it's located south of the city. There is a fallen city that is regarded as being in the Tier 6 zone.

"They're focusing on everything they have in there, trying to make sure about the existence of the Tier 6 beast. That's why they don't have a lot of personnel for the other one."
"I see. Because they need volunteers, we're able to join just fine." Erwin nodded in understanding.
"Yes. We're supposed to hunt for two weeks in this place, so the target will be ten Tier 4. Of course, if we can kill more, it'll be good."
Clovis thought for a moment. "After this hunt, we'll have the last bit of preparation as the beast wave will be coming pretty soon. We don't know how long, but we can't really go outside of the city since we'll be helping them kill those beasts."
Erwin nodded. Even though he wasn't a part of the city, his city would be in danger as well if there was a large scale beast wave that swept in from the north.
"Understood. It's sad that we don't have a Tier 5 beast as our target this time. I guess I can't show off my power." Erwin clicked his tongue. After that super injection, he reached Tier 4, so he was eager to test his power. A normal Tier 4 beast wouldn't be a challenge for him.
That was why Clovis abruptly added a condition. "In this exploration, I would like to add one challenge."
"A challenge?" Jay squinted his eyes.

"Yes." Clovis nodded with a serious expression. They had to do this at one point, so he wanted them to experience it before the beast wave.
"What challenge?" Melody's eyebrows twitched. "It sounds troublesome."
Clovis smiled wryly. "In this hunt, I'm planning to divide our groups into three."
"What?" Ragna widened his eyes. "Three? Does it mean we will pair up with someone for this hunt?"
"Yes. We'll not use the minibus this time. Since we'll be challenging the wasteland that is supposed to stretch for more than twenty kilometers, this will be quite hard."
"I don't understand. Why a challenge?" Kanaria frowned.
"Before answering that question, I'll tell you about the three groups. Kanaria, you will go with Ragna this time. Jay will go with Erwin. Meanwhile, I go with Melody."
"What? We're not together?" Kanaria looked even more shocked.
"I have to pair up with this guy?" Erwin and Jay looked annoyed while pointing at each other.

However, Melody noticed something was off. She muttered, "Solving our weakness?"
"Exactly so."
"!!!" Jay and Erwin shut up, while Kanaria fell into deep thought.
"I'm sorry, but Kanaria I don't want you to be too dependent on me. The same applies to Ragna. Both of you are the only ones who rarely suggest plans. Hence, you two will group up and work with each other," Clovis explained.
With both of their personalities, they would definitely not know how to proceed.
"Jay and Erwin I don't think I need to tell you the reason, right?" Clovis just glanced at them before sighing.
"Hmph. It's time for you to step down. I'm going to defeat you during this hunt." Erwin grinned, provoking Jay.
"You don't know when to give up. I'll show you why you will never go beyond number three." Jay snorted.

"As for us do you want to know the reason?" Clovis smiled at Melody.
"No need. I understand." Melody shook her head. Both of them were the ones commanding this group. Normally, Melody would be supporting Clovis. This time, Clovis wanted a different thing. She wanted her to lead the group, not after knowing the general direction Clovis wanted, but from nothing.
"It's finally time I paid you back. I'm going to work you to the bone."
Clovis smiled. "You are going to fight a lot though. Also, help me monitor them."
Melody nodded.
Clovis raised two fingers. "The challenge will be simple. The pair that gets the most money from the essence is the winner. And secondly, each person in the pair has to contribute equally. I don't care how you do it, and it's not like I can check it myself. Hence, I'll just trust you guys.
Make sure to contribute evenly. As for the plans for exploring the wasteland, you can discuss them with each other privately."
"I hate to work with him, but if this is a competition, does that mean there's a prize?" Jay asked.
Clovis thought for a moment. "Well, I haven't thought about it. How about the first place winner receiving the prize while the third place winner gets a punishment? The second place is safe."

They looked at each other. It didn't seem to be a bad idea.
The challenge this time was to conquer their weakness, so it wouldn't be a bad idea that the third place received a punishment since there was a high chance they didn't work properly.
"Alright. That's all. We'll arrive in the evening, so take a proper rest today and head to the wasteland the day after."
Chapter 412 Wasteland
Willowing City Wasteland Camp.
The camp was located only fifteen minutes away from the city. The camp was a rough assembly of tents and makeshift shelters. A few fires burned low in pits, warming the camp's inhabitants.
Surprisingly, the camp itself was pretty clean. There were only fifty soldiers that protected this huge camp, consisting of a few hundred people. However, there were a lot of normal workers the city sent.
The camp didn't consist of only parties from Willowing City. In fact, half of them came from multiple cities not far from the area.
A lot of people were drinking and telling their tales to others. Some conflicts arose but immediately disappeared after the soldiers intervened.

East of the camp was a wasteland. There were scattered ruins all over the area, but most of them had been ransacked and ended up becoming a beast's nest.
Clovis and the others reached a big tent surrounded by a lot of trucks.
When they entered, they saw a few big counters with several people behind them.
"Welcome to Willowing City Wasteland Camp." The woman in her early thirties greeted them. "I'm Elia. It's the first time I've seen your faces around here. Do you perhaps have just arrived here?"
"Yes. I heard from the soldiers that we should visit this place first before going to the wasteland."
"Indeed. This place is the information center. We handle all your necessities. If you need magazines and other things, you can come to me. If there are some in stock, we will sell them at the market price. If not, we will make a request, and the city will bring some.
We stock up on everything during the night, so please take note of it."
"You sure that you can get anything here?" Jay asked. "For example, how about a bike?"

"Definitely." She turned the screen around, showing several pictures of bikes. "These are the bikes that I can recommend you take if you want to explore the wasteland. It can travel across uneven terrain and has quite good durability."
"" Jay fell silent, staring at the bikes seriously.
"Should we get one as well?" Clovis asked Melody.
"Do you have any experience riding it?"
"Nope."
"How about an UTV? Your driving skills are not good, but this one should do the task. We probably need to buy it since there's a high chance you're going to destroy it. Just make sure you don't drive too crazy I don't want to die in such a foolish way," Melody suggested.
"That's a good idea." Clovis nodded in agreement.
Meanwhile, Ragna and Kanaria exchanged looks. It seemed that they were thinking of the same thing. "Quad bike?"
"ATV," Kanaria replied. "We haven't spent much of our money, so I guess we can splurge a little bit."

Clovis nodded. "Yeah. Is it possible to get them in a single night?"
"Yes, sir. We have partnered up with the stores in the city. We can help you fill up the necessary paperwork in just a minute." The woman nodded. "But before that, I'd like to register you and your team in our database."
Clovis nodded, which resulted in Kanaria bringing their Explorer Card.
The woman looked surprised at the moment when she saw one Tier 4 in the group.
As the woman said, everything was settled quickly. It didn't take more than ten minutes from registering them to completing the paperwork for the vehicles.
"If you encounter a Tier 4 beast, you can retreat and inform us about it. We will try to assemble a subjugation squad to handle it. You can also message me directly at this number, and I'll try to take care of your request." The woman ended it with a smile.
"Alright. Thank you."
As promised, everything was delivered to them during the night when most people were asleep.

The next morning, Clovis and the others simply picked them up from the information center.
"This is amazing. I guess there's a reason they're creating this camp." Clovis was amazed by their speed in handling all requests.
"Wooo!" The roaring engine of the dirt bike rang in his ears as Jay was riding it at full speed, heading toward the wasteland.
"Oi! Don't take a head start!" Erwin chased after him using the same bike.
"You're too slow!" Jay snorted.
This was the reason Clovis paired them with each other. Their rivalry was petty and intense at the same time. They would definitely clash with each other a few times during the challenge, but Clovis thought that these two would be the ones who had the highest chance of winning this challenge.
Their excitement affected Kanaria and Ragna. He had promised Kanaria that he would listen to her request if she ended up winning, so she was fired up.
The ATV was big enough to carry both her rifle and her sniper rifle. They rode their respective ATVs as they carried their own supplies.

Meanwhile, Clovis and Melody were left behind, each of them showing no sign of rushing.
"I guess that's the reason you suggested a UTV." Clovis pointed at the weapon in the small storage behind the seat. It was not a pistol that Melody normally used.
"Yeah. 20-gauge REE-32 shotgun. It's pretty light compared to other shotguns. While I still need both hands to use it, I should be more useful in close combat with this one. I have my pistols and some grenades with me."
"That's a lot of stuff you are bringing." Clovis chuckled.
"Indeed. That's why I choose a UTV instead of a bike or ATV. They can carry more."
"Yep. We will use ruined buildings if we want to rest for the night. There are also enough supplies, from water to bullets, so I guess it's time for us to go as well." Clovis walked toward the driver's seat.
"You better not crash it." Melody shook her head helplessly while taking her seat.
"It should be fine. We'll just take our time on the first day." Clovis shrugged and started the engine. "Just make sure that the others don't become too reckless, especially those two."
"Pfft. We'll definitely see them punch each other. I'm going to record it."

"Oi. Where are you going? We should go there!" Erwin pointed to the left.
"No. We'll go to the right!" Jay pointed at the small settlements on their right. It was only a few small buildings, but Jay needed to check it out.
"Haven't you seen that there are a lot of people clearing this wasteland? If we want to kill more beasts, we should go a bit deeper."
"We should check the safe place first and create checkpoints that we can use to secure our road."
"We can worry about that later. If we get a lot of essence today, we can pressure the other two groups!" Erwin started gritting his teeth, annoyed because Jay didn't listen to him.
"And what? You are just making them work harder." Jay let out a long sigh, trying to calm down.
When they were about to continue, they suddenly heard roars coming from the distance.
"!!!" Jay and Erwin turned their heads at the same time. Both of them had the same thought.
"There are 15 beasts coming." Jay squinted his eyes.

Chapter 413 Problems

"We should use this to determine whose words we shall follow for the rest of the day." Erwin suggested.
"Fine by me." Jay harrumphed.
Their rivalry wasn't similar to what Jay and Clovis had in the past. After all, from the start, Clovis had been determined as the captain.
Even if there was a rivalry, Jay would still listen to Clovis. However, Erwin was different. Erwin was aiming for the second seat in their group, while Jay tried to show why he was the vice captain. That was why they were clashing with each other.
Both of them immediately turned their bikes around and drove forward.
Surprisingly, they stopped at the same time and leaped off their bikes when they reached a certain distance from the beasts.
Jay waved his saber with all his strength.
The beasts tried to stop him, but the blade completely overpowered them and cleaved them horizontally. Three of them ended up dying in an instant.

Meanwhile, Erwin slipped past the beasts. His right hand shot out a small device between the two beasts. After that, a wire was shot out to left and right, puncturing their bodies. The same applied to his left hand, capturing yet another two beasts.
Then, Erwin pulled the two wires toward each other, causing the beasts to move toward him. He enveloped all of them with his sharp wires and sliced them with a single wave of his hand.
He smirked as if showing Jay that he could kill four at the same time while he was only three.
However, that was when Jay used his beast soul, increasing his speed. He suddenly arrived in front of two beasts and sliced them, resulting in him killing a total of five. This was an indirect reply to Erwin.
Erwin extended his wires toward more beasts, killing them. At the same time, Jay was using everything he had to ensure his victory in this match.
Both of them became even more monstrous than the beasts themselves.
The beasts instinctively realized that they were nothing but prey in front of these guys.
However, the result came ten seconds after that.



Jay and Erwin somehow settled their problems on their own, even though this wouldn't be the last time they would argue with each other.
Meanwhile, Ragna and Kanaria were actually having a hard time.
"Ragna. There are a lot of beasts coming from our right!" Kanaria shouted.
"I got it." Ragna nodded and moved to the right. However, the beasts that he was supposed to stop ended up breaking their defense. Two of them followed Ragna, attacking him from behind.
"Wait. You can still wait for twenty seconds" Kanaria bit her lips and started shooting all her bullets at the beasts.
The beasts continued advancing at high speed. Two of them went down after numerous bullets hitting their heads, but the rest still closed in.
Kanaria was using her rifle this time since they didn't have any trees or buildings where she could get a height advantage to see the whole battlefield.
But as a result, three beasts ended up coming toward her.

"!!!" Ragna panicked and turned around. However, the two beasts behind him pounced on him.
"Tsk!" Ragna clicked his tongue. His shield blocked one of them while his spear thrust another.
Still, his momentum was completely stopped. As a result, even if he managed to defeat these two beasts, he couldn't go back to Kanaria since the beasts from the right would arrive.
This was the first time Ragna let the beasts behind him. Normally, Melody would be there to give the micro-adjustment on his task. At the same time, Kanaria was unable to give the perfect order to let Ragna function perfectly.
Kanaria kept shooting, killing another beast. However, the last two beasts were already so close. The one on the left pounced on her while the one on the right swept its paw from the side.
Kanaria lowered her stance and let the beast jump over her. But before it passed her, Kanaria pushed the beast to the side so that the other beast would hit him instead.
Her plan worked. She immediately shot the body. Unfortunately, the bullet didn't pierce through the beast's body, so the other one chose this time to move away.
Kanaria stopped firing for a second and kicked the beast's body down to clear her view. After that, he shot the last beast several times, ultimately killing it.



"Seriously?" Clovis made a wry smile. "Are you sure we're going to use explosives here? We will be buried, you know."
"I'll just change the placement a little bit. The fact that it's underground allows us to seal the entrance easily."
"I can't deny that." Clovis nodded.
"It should be fine. Let's park there." Melody pointed to the small place near the entrance. It was a small security post with a boulder next to it, hiding the UTV from plain sight.
When they entered the mall, Clovis was a bit surprised by the open space concept of the mall. The natural light lit up the two floors, allowing him to make a quick scan. "There doesn't seem to be anything here."
Melody looked at the radar before showing it to Clovis. "You sure?"
"Holy" Clovis sucked a cold breath. "How many are there?"
"I don't know. My estimate is above a hundred. I believe they are hiding underground." Melody looked up.

"Considering this number, I don't think anyone has explored this place yet."
"Yeah." Melody nodded.
Even though Melody determined the beasts hiding in the underground, they still checked the two floors above the surface to make sure of it.
As expected, there was no beast on the surface, so they immediately walked to the stairs. Once they reached the underground floor, the light became scarce. Clovis could barely see anything beyond ten meters from the stairs and had to use the night vision Melody had prepared.
"There's nothing here." Clovis couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. The radar was showing that there should be a lot of beasts around here. Even if most of them were hiding on the bottom floor, some should reside on this floor.
"True." Melody couldn't find anything either. "Surprisingly, I couldn't hear any sounds either."
Their voice echoed on this floor, so it was strange when she didn't hear any footsteps.
"Let's go that way first. We should take a peek at the lowest floor. There might be a beast that controls the remaining beast to stay at the lowest floor."

Clovis agreed with her. The layout of the underground floor was rather unique. The mall should be 40 meters wide. That was why the open space concept on the surface gave the majestic feeling.
On the other hand, the underground floor was divided into five by the kiosks. It would be hard to notice any movement in this kind of path.
Melody felt slightly disturbed. Because of the kiosks, the sound ended up bouncing back to her ears, making it hard to detect the noises around her.
Still, both of them continued forward until they found the stairs. Melody placed an explosive along the way, carefully making sure that it wouldn't end up burying them.
The lowest floor had a similar layout. However, once they reached the fourth floor, they noticed one weird thing. Out of the five small paths, the one on the further right was closed by a wall.
Melody frowned. "This is weird."
"What's wrong?"
"The radar is telling me that there are a lot of beasts on our right."
"But it's closed." Clovis pointed at the wall.

"I know. It's probably a room maybe their maintenance room or something." Melody nodded. "For now, we should go around to check the area. If possible, let's check that room."
Clovis agreed. When they passed the area, a small rubble suddenly fell off that wall.
"Mhmm?" Melody halted her step, hearing that sound.
"What's wrong?"
Melody didn't hear anything else, so she thought it was just a rat or something. "Nothing."
Clovis could only nod since his senses weren't as sharp as hers. They moved from one place to another. Despite seeing some movements on the radar, they actually found no beasts around them.
"This is weird." Clovis frowned.
"Yeah." Melody agreed. "Is it possible that there is another entrance leading to an area or a cave underneath the mall?"
"Animals that create underground caves, huh?" Clovis couldn't deny that possibility.

"If that's the case, won't it be even more dangerous?"
"True. Their cave system is hard to map, and we'll easily get swarmed by them. I think we should go back and not explore any further." As Clovis said that, they halted their steps. "Look, another wall."
"We have been finding walls in this floor. Is the mall's structure bad or something?"
"Don't ask me. Anyway, let's go back. You know the path we're going, right? This place is like a labyrinth."
"I mapped it." Melody assured him.
The only thing they needed to do was go back. That was what they thought until, all of a sudden, the path they crossed earlier got blocked by a wall.
"Huh?" Clovis frowned. "Did we go here earlier?"
"It should be. I don't think I've made a mistake." Melody felt something amiss, but there was simply no suspicious sound.

Clovis extended his hand. "Give me a grenade."
Melody handed him what he wanted. Surprisingly, Clovis also pulled out his weapon and gestured for Melody to pull the pin.
As soon as she pulled the pin, Clovis tossed the grenade to the wall.
Bam!
The explosion suddenly broke apart the wall as numerous scorpions fell to the ground. They all immediately crawled toward Clovis and Melody.
"!!!" Melody instantly noticed footsteps from all around them, as if all the walls on this floor had crumbled. It wasn't a wall, it was giant scorpions stacking on top of each other. Because of the lack of light, they couldn't determine it. In addition, these scorpions were able to do it quietly, to the point where Melody couldn't even hear them.
In an instant, they were surrounded by more than a hundred scorpions, each of them spanning two meters in length. Melody's AI immediately identified them and put their information forward.
Name: Pulmonoscorpius Kirktonensis

Description: One of the largest scorpions, living in the early Carboniferous period. It has a tough and flat exoskeleton, using their body to camouflage to avoid their predators.
"What the—!" Chapter 415 Escaping
Chapter 125 2564pmg
Both Clovis and Melody were taken aback. They never thought that the walls were the beasts camouflaging. Because of their flat bodies, they could stack up on top of each other. Taking advantage of the darkness, they were completely unidentificable.
Still, there was one thing they needed to do.
"Melody. We'll break through here!" Clovis shouted while charging forward.
Melody snapped back and immediately followed Clovis. They still had some time before the remaining scorpions came toward them.
Clovis waved his sword at the first scorpion. He used all his strength due to the dire situation.
Yet when he struck it, he noticed the incredible toughness of the scorpion's shell. He believed the one he hit earlier was only a Tier 1 scorpion, but its body managed to absorb fifty percent of his power. If this was a Tier 2 scorpion or even higher, there was a high chance that he couldn't cut through them.

Still, Clovis used his fastest speed to cut down one scorpion to another. But due to their large bodies, their corpses ended up in the way. In addition to this close space, they had a hard time breaking through.
Melody tossed two grenades to the back as the scorpions appeared from three directions.
Boom!
Boom!
The grenades killed four scorpions and injured two others, but that wasn't enough. They would be catching up soon.
In addition, there were also scorpions coming from the three directions in their front.
"Don't waste too much grenade right now. We still have a long way to go." Clovis had to jump from one corpse to another to cross the giant corpses.
Melody followed him, but due to the nature of her fighting style, she wasn't as fast as Clovis. In addition, she had to turn around and shoot.
Bam!

The deafening gunshot sound echoed as the scorpion had its head blasted into pieces. While she managed to kill one, more of them were coming. They were climbing up the corpses.
Melody waited exactly for them to reach the top before killing them. As a result, they gradually turned into a wall, but this time a wall of corpses.
On the other hand, Clovis couldn't do the same thing since if they created a wall, they would only be trapped.
He had to take care of all the scorpions coming from three directions as he made his way through them.
As soon as the wall was completed, Melody chased after Clovis.
"Tsk!" Clovis clicked his tongue as one of the scorpions almost got a hold of his arm. He slashed the claws before crushing its head and body. The scorpions from the other two directions took this time to reach him.
Clovis hurriedly turned around and slammed his swords at them. However, this scorpion was actually a Tier 2 scorpion. It absorbed most of his strength, even though Clovis had used his techniques. As a result, his attack wasn't powerful enough to kill the last scorpion.
The injured scorpion slammed its body on Clovis while its claws were trying to rip apart his arm.

However, before it could do that, Melody had arrived, pointing the shotgun at this scorpion and bursting its head. She couldn't really attack from far away since the bursting shot might hit Clovis, but it also caused Clovis to get hit by the enemy.
"Are you alright?" Melody asked.
"Never mind me. We need to go!" Clovis didn't care about his injury. He simply continued.
As soon as they passed another block, Melody turned around and started shooting them to make a wall.
Meanwhile, Clovis was actually measuring the distance and his speed this whole time.
'It's doable, but it seems that I won't be able to use my hands for the next several hours because of this.' Clovis muttered inwardly.
There was one thing that he could try in this situation. It was a ranged attack.
Two scorpions came from the front, which was perfect to test his plan.

He gathered all his momentum on his swing and unleashed it in one go. His blade moved so fast that it produced a sharp gale that moved in front of the sword.
It was only half a meter, but unlike the one he used for the first time, this attack was much more condensed.
The pressure cracked the scorpion before the blade touched its body, allowing Clovis to have an easier time to cut it. As a result, the residual strength from that swing could kill the scorpion next to his target.
'Finally, I can kill two scorpions at once,' Clovis thought. Using this attack once or twice wouldn't be a problem, but he might have to use it much more as they were still far from the stairs.
Clovis chopped down the beasts one after another. His speed increased and his sword became sharper as he gradually got a hang of this technique.
Melody was taken aback as Clovis started moving a bit too fast for her.
Melody had no choice but to abandon the wall and chase after him. Instead of a wall, she used a simple barrier that could slow down the scorpions.
Both of them continued, gradually approaching the stairs.

As if realizing their intention, the closer Clovis and Melody were to the stairs, the more frenzied their attacks became.
"This is nuts." Clovis gritted his teeth. His hands started growing numb. The scorpion started to reach them faster.
As a result, for the first time since the battle started, Clovis had to block a scorpion with his blade.
"!!!" Melody was the one who was shocked by this block. Without hesitation, she tossed a grenade at a kiosk, causing it to bounce on the rolling shutter.
Bam!
Now that the scorpions from that direction were halted for a bit, Clovis had some time to kick the scorpion away before slashing its head without worrying more scorpions.
"Ten meters to go!" Clovis shouted. They started getting overwhelmed, but they still could push out their remaining strength to cover the remaining distance.
Melody nodded her head until she noticed the screeching noises that were coming from the front.
Clovis couldn't see it, but their path was actually blocked.

"Clovis! There are more enemies between us and the stairs! They're waiting for us!"
"!!!"