

World Mall 416

Chapter 416 High Ground

"!!!"

Clovis slashed through the scorpion, taking a peek at what was waiting for him after passing this section.

Between this section and the stairs, there was a short gap with an open space. It meant they were waiting on that open area, which was easy to see.

That was when he saw multiple flashes in his vision. Multiple figures were lining up in front of the stairs as if they were waiting for them to come out. At the same time, every single one of them was actually bigger than this narrow path. It could be said that they were waiting in that open area because they couldn't fight in here.

The worst part was that they were at least Tier 3. He felt like there would be a Tier 4 since it was the only existence that could order all these scorpions.

"Give me a break." Clovis gritted his teeth. Because of that warning, Clovis ended up stopping in his position. While cutting down the scorpions, he had to think fast before they were trapped inside here.

"Clovis!" Melody called his name out loud as if telling him that they had no choice but to fight those beasts. "Take this!"

Clovis was startled and caught a magazine. It was a pistol magazine, but when he saw the cartridge at the top, he understood what she wanted.

This bullet was a Tier 3 bullet. Coupled with a pistol, they should be enough to kill a Tier 3 beast, even if they were quite tough.

Melody also took out the Tier 3 bullets for her shotgun, increasing her firepower tremendously.

It had been a while, but Clovis had three weapons. Due to all the increasing skills for his swordsmanship, he had been neglecting his pistol. However, his pistols were always there to either distract the opponent or save him from danger.

And this time, it was the perfect chance to use it again.

He stuck his short sword on his arm while taking out his pistol. He skillfully changed the magazine, but before going, Clovis bit the pistol while extending his hand to Melody. "Greae(Grenade)!"

Melody immediately tossed it to him.

As soon as he pulled the pin, he slashed the scorpion in front of him. He then tossed the grenade over the scorpion.

It landed on the open area, which was still surrounded by low-tier scorpions.

Boom!

The explosion blew away all the scorpions near the exit.

"How many grenades are left?"

"Two!"

"Use one to help me and save the other one. And follow closely! We only have one shot, and let's kill these guys!" Clovis shouted while pushing forward.

He cut down the last scorpion in his way before exiting the kiosk area. As Melody said, there was a line of scorpions. Most of them had similar figures, but two of them were bigger than the rest.

'Why is our luck so bad? We have to handle two Tier 4 scorpions in this exhausted state?' Clovis' arms were already numb. It wouldn't be long before he couldn't muster any strength in his swing.

Still, he continued onward.

The scorpions also didn't plan to back down. All of them ran at the same time. Like how Clovis' group outnumbered a Tier 5 beast, they were also planning to outnumber Clovis.

Without hesitation, Clovis shot at the Tier 3 scorpion on the left.

The scorpions tried to block the bullet with its claws, but the bullets actually penetrated it.

Clovis and Melody used the same type of pistol. It was made of high-tier materials and used a high-caliber bullet.

"Scree!" The Tier 3 scorpion was moving back, but Clovis continued to shoot it. He didn't know whether it had died or not, but he soon changed his target as the scorpions were about to reach him.

There were seven Tier 3 scorpions and two Tier 4 scorpions. Looking at this composition, the first thing Clovis did was to move to the left side, making the scorpion think he wanted to use that narrow gap to escape.

However, the moment they shifted their direction, a grenade fell on top of one of the Tier 3 scorpions.

Bam!

The explosion instantly killed the Tier 3 scorpion and injured two others. In addition, the Tier 4 scorpion not far from them looked startled.

At the same time, Melody also emerged from the narrow path. As Clovis said, they only had one chance. Both of them immediately moved toward the corpse and jumped over it.

As soon as she landed on the ground, Melody turned around and shot at the injured Tier 3 scorpion.

The shotgun didn't completely blast the scorpion's head, but it was definitely enough to heavily injure it.

Meanwhile, Clovis struck the other injured scorpion with all his momentum. The pressure didn't crack the scorpion's shell as much, but Clovis still managed to cut down one of its claws as well as a bit of its body.

After that, he shot its head to kill it.

The other Tier 3s immediately moved toward Clovis while the Tier 4 beasts tried to stand in their way.

Clovis used his fastest speed to reach the Tier 4 scorpion.

Both of them moved at the same time as the sword ended up clashing with the claw.

This time, the sword didn't manage to break the claw, causing Clovis to stop.

He raised his pistol to shoot the scorpion, but the Tier 3 scorpion that had arrived stung his arm.

Clovis managed to react, albeit at the last second. He just wanted to avoid poison coming into his body, so he shifted his arm a little bit.

As a result, the round part of the stinger ended up hitting him. The impact felt like he was hit by a bull. If not for his equipment, his arm would probably snap in a weird direction.

At the same time, the Tier 4 scorpion that stopped him took advantage of it and smacked Clovis' head.

Clovis tilted back a little bit, causing the claw to graze his forehead instead of blowing his head away.

At the same time, it also created an opening for Clovis. He sneaked past its defense and cut the joint of its arm before going past the Tier 4 beast before the other Tier 3 beasts attacked him from behind.

"Scree!" The Tier 4 beast was wailing in pain, but Clovis didn't care. He simply went past it, only to find another Tier 4 scorpion waiting for him.

Fortunately, Melody had passed him and positioned herself a bit further. Once the scorpion's attention was distracted by Clovis, she closed in and shot.

Bam!

It actually cracked the tough shell. As a result, the Tier 4 scorpion actually tilted to the side, creating an opening for Clovis.

Instead of attacking, he ran as fast as possible.

It was barely, but he managed to pass the two Tier 4 scorpions. In fact, they used these two giant scorpions to block the path for the Tier 3 scorpions.

As a result, both Clovis and Melody were able to escape from this trap and reach the stairs.

However, instead of going to the upper floor, Clovis suddenly halted his step. Melody did the same since Clovis said earlier that they were going to kill them here.

Of course, the scorpions continued to chase them.

As soon as they reached the bottom of the stairs, Clovis laughed as if he had gone crazy. With blood flowing down his forehead, Clovis said out loud, "Hahaha! Come again. I have the high ground now."

Chapter 417 Killing Scorpions

The scorpions didn't hesitate to chase after Clovis and Melody. The Tier 3 scorpions were the first ones to come. Clovis thought that there would be low-tier scorpions turning into bait, but it seemed that they didn't want to turn the corpses into a wall.

Clovis couldn't help but smile since this was the opportunity he had been waiting for. This was the only way to defeat all the scorpions in his current condition.

The grand stairs were big enough for a Tier 4 and a Tier 3 scorpions to pass simultaneously.

As a result, Clovis stood in front of the Tier 4 scorpion while Melody blasted the Tier 3 scorpion with her shotgun.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

The Tier 3 scorpion was wailing in pain as its claws were being ripped apart by the shotgun's shell as Melody gradually stopped the beast.

Meanwhile, Clovis' opponent was a Tier 4 scorpion that was lightly injured by Melody earlier.

The Tier 4 scorpion and Clovis waved their respective weapons. A series of clicking sounds echoed as none of them got an advantage in this clash.

With Clovis' current condition, the high ground only allowed him to close the gap between him and the Tier 4 scorpion.

But that was enough for him.

He kept clashing with the scorpion for a while, which caused a huge traffic jam behind it.

With nowhere to go, the scorpion had no choice but to advance.

Clovis started converting his momentum to power. Their clashes became slower, but each blow was much more powerful. Clovis started overwhelming the scorpion with his powerful blow.

However, that was until Clovis struck the claw and somehow his sword slid on top of the claw's surface. The swing ended up causing his blade to strike the ground, allowing the Tier 4 scorpion to move past his defense and strike him from the side.

"Kh!" Clovis slammed his entire body to that claw, barely stopping its force. The scorpion planned to take advantage of this situation to kill Clovis.

"Melody! Grenade!"

Melody was startled that Clovis was the one losing. She immediately tossed it to Clovis. Seeing the grenade that caused injuries to its people, the scorpion panicked and slammed Clovis with the other claw so that he would fall to the bottom. At the same time, he also sent forth his stinger to stop the grenade from reaching Clovis.

'As expected, you don't know what a feint is...' Clovis muttered. That panicked movement created a small gap in the scorpion's movement. He instantly took that narrow gap and cut the joint of its claw, cutting it down.

At the same time, his short sword struck the stinger, stopping it. As soon as the grenade passed him, he dropped his short sword and grabbed the grenade. With a gentle flick, the pin fell to the ground.

"Scree!" The scorpion made a desperate attempt by plunging its mouth toward Clovis. At the very least, it could take Clovis' arm away.

That was what Clovis had been waiting for. He smoothly tossed the grenade into the scorpion's mouth before skillfully picking up his gun and shooting the scorpion's mouth.

The scorpion was screaming while trying to go back, protecting its face with its claws. Yet that was the time the grenade exploded.

Boom!

The explosion might not be big, but it occurred inside the beast's mouth.

The beast was in pain as most of its head was destroyed from the inside. The blood was pouring down the floor, causing it to be more slippery.

"Ouch." Clovis gritted his teeth as he fell on his back due to the shock wave produced by the explosion. However, he hurriedly got up and kicked the beast with all his strength.

After losing its balance, the scorpion was sliding down the stairs, bulldozing all the scorpions behind it.

The other Tier 4 managed to stop the falling corpse, but Clovis immediately changed position with Melody.

He struck the Tier 3 scorpion who was too focused on Melody, killing it. With just an eye contact, Melody immediately moved toward the other Tier 4. She tossed the flashbang and used the Tier 3 scorpion's corpse to avoid the blast.

The Tier 4 scorpion was in disarray because of that flashbang. Melody shot the Tier 4 scorpion's mouth through that gap, deforming its mouth. Then Clovis swept in and struck the remaining claw, exposing the front part of the scorpion.

The other scorpions tried to stop him, but with Melody stopping them and the scorpion having no claws left, there was nothing that stopped him from slashing the scorpion's face at full force.

While he had to occasionally dodge the stinger, the scorpion's face was completely ruined and the blood loss was insane. It only took twenty seconds before the second Tier 4 scorpion died.

Clovis panted a few times. He started losing the feeling of his hands. From the looks of it, there were still more than forty scorpions left, but there were only two Tier 3 scorpions left among them.

"Melody!"

"I know. We push! It's time to hit them back!" Melody grabbed her pistol and handed it to him. "Use this instead."

"!!!" Clovis was surprised that Melody offered him to use two pistols instead of his swords. It seemed that she noticed that his hands were already shaking and his grips had been weakened.

Clovis grabbed it with a smile. "Thanks."

"Let's do it!"

"Yeah!"

The two of them turned into demons. They started killing one scorpion after another with bullets. If their claws were strong enough to block the pistols, Melody would blast them with her shotgun. Clovis would then exploit that gap to kill them.

At the same time, Clovis would also distract the enemy if it would take too much shot for Melody to kill a scorpion.

Although Clovis took over the command earlier, both of them actually managed to turn around the situation and defeat more than one hundred and fifty scorpions after falling into their traps.

Chapter 418 Existential Crisis

"You alright?" Melody asked while walking to Clovis, who was lying down on his stomach. His fingers were spasming.

"Yeah. You good?" Clovis replied with a coarse voice.

"I have no injuries thanks to you."

"Then do you mind collecting their essence? I don't think I'm in the condition to do that." Clovis let out a long sigh.

"Sure, but for now..." Melody lifted Clovis up and placed his hand on her shoulder. She started helping Clovis climb the stairs.

She brought him to the surface and started bandaging him. They grabbed the water bottle from the bag on the UTV, which Clovis bought from Another World Mall. The water was refreshing and helped with their stamina recovery.

While tying up the bandage, Melody couldn't help but say, "Seriously... I wonder how you, Jay, and Ragna always get injured."

"We are simply protecting the people on the back." Clovis shrugged.

"No. I know that. What I mean is... how are you guys able to get used to the injury? The last time I was in the hospital, it was so painful that I didn't want to do this anymore. I'm fine with small injuries, but big injuries are too much for me."

"Welll..." Clovis chuckled. "Just imagine that your brother is behind you. In front of you are numerous enemies. What will you do?"

"That's..." Melody shook her head helplessly. "I understand. Though, I wonder what you will do if the one with you right now is Kanaria, not me."

"I will do the same thing," answered Clovis without hesitation.

"Huh?" Melody was taken aback by the response. Was she at the same level as Kanaria? Was this a hint that Clovis was attracted to her romantically? But she had sworn in her heart that she wouldn't think about anything romantic for the rest of her life. "Are you holding me in the same regard as Kanaria?"

"Mhmmm..." Clovis scratched the back of his head. The answer wasn't something he could reveal easily.

"It's fine. Please tell me about it. I don't think it'll change my attitude toward you and everyone else." Melody noticed from his expression that he didn't think of her that way, which she accepted pretty easily.

"I'm just protecting you guys as I'll do for my family. With the absence of my parents and grandfather, you guys are the closest people to me."

"Oh." Melody was surprised at first but soon smiled.

Clovis was a bit hesitant, but he eventually chose to continue, "If anything bad happens to you guys, I'll be angry and sad. But if it's Kanaria... I will go insane."

"I see. That sounds like you." She could understand it since she would probably do the same for her brother. "It seems that Kanaria is a lucky girl."

Clovis only smiled, unable to reply to that remark.

Her comment made her remember what Kanaria said back when there were only four of them. "Now that I think about it, why do you want to have another woman? While we have lost most of our population compared to what we had before the apocalypse and it is now legal if one wants to have multiple partners, I still don't know why people want it... at the individual level."

"Well, that's..." Clovis suddenly fell silent, not because he was hesitant but because he was actually confused. That question actually poked the hole in his heart.

'Huh? Now that I think about it, why?' Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought. 'I can't deny my desire, but at the same time, for what reason? Is it only because it has become normal that people, including me, have been brainwashed that it's better to have multiple partners?'

Zsksk!

All of a sudden, a static sound rang in his ears, then vanished right away. His eyes were also twitching for a split second.

'A glitch?' Clovis raised his head, showing a shocked expression. He looked left and right but couldn't find any mission notification.

"Clovis? Clovis? Are you alright?" Melody shook his body.

"Ah..." Clovis snapped back. "That was... That was..."

Clovis suddenly noticed something amiss. He muttered inwardly, 'Why do I want multiple partners? And that glitch from earlier... If the entire world is a simulation, it also means that I'm nothing but a part of that simulation.'

'Then, does the glitch mean that my will has been manipulated as well? I can't find a reason why I want multiple wives. If that's the case, is my will actually my will? Or is it something that a certain computer programs?'

Clovis' body trembled upon that realization. He had never thought about it, and he had to face this problem so suddenly.

"Why do I want to have multiple wives?" Clovis asked.

"Why? No, don't ask me. I don't know why." Melody was baffled by the question.

"That's... you know how to program something, right? If you program something to be a certain someone, is that possible?"

"Yeah." Melody nodded.

Clovis sucked a cold breath. If that was really the case, was his goal to become the greatest explorer by finding out the truth about the meaning of simulation also programmed?

"Is there something wrong?" Melody tilted her head in confusion.

"Well..." He couldn't say he was facing an existential crisis. At the same time, he couldn't deny that this question might also be answered when he found out the truth about this world.

Clovis took a deep breath to calm down before saying, "No. I should thank you for asking that question. I couldn't really answer it, but it opens my mind a little bit."

It was a bit disappointing, but it wasn't like every secret was meant to be revealed. "I might not be the right person, but if you ever need me to listen to something, you can come to me."

"Yeah. Thank you." Clovis nodded, feeling bad.

"Anyway, I should collect the essence now." Melody stood up. After checking Clovis' body and ensuring that all wounds had been treated, she grabbed the tools and went back to the mall.

Chapter 419 Unexpected Reunion

"I want to turn in all these essences." Clovis placed the box containing all the tubes filled with essence down the table.

"Understood. Please allow me to check the item first." The staff immediately verified the essence with the machine and saw a bunch of names on her screen.

The more she scrolled down, the more stunned she was. Eventually, she reached the bottom of the list.

"This..." She kept glancing back and forth between her screen and Clovis. "Sir..."

"Their location is in this mall. If you go there and head to the bottom floor, you should be able to find them along with the rest of the scorpions." Clovis placed a finger on his lips, gesturing her to be quiet since he didn't want to attract attention.

"I understand." She furiously nodded. If what Clovis said was true, the city would be grateful to Clovis' help. If they could somehow kill most of the Tier 4 beasts in the wasteland, the city could focus on the other front.

This was what Vania wanted from Libation Fiesta. Of course, killing a large number of monsters was their specialty.

"Are you sure you want to turn in all these essences to us?"

"Yeah. It's fine." Clovis nodded nonchalantly.

"We are only agents, so we will take 0.5% of the monetary value."

"I know. Just process it and give me the receipt."

"I understand." She hurriedly counted everything and cooperated with the staff from Essence Bank before giving the receipt to Clovis. "Please wait for two hours. The money will be transferred to you."

"Alright." Clovis paused for a moment before asking, "By the way, can I ask you why this place is suddenly filled with beasts? I haven't heard much about it."

"Of course." She took out a small map. "The wasteland has been inhabited by a lot of beasts even in the past. Due to its location that is not leading to any road, the beasts grow in number.

"However, we still do periodically thinning them out for either the essence or training purposes.

"It all changed about two weeks ago. We are still not sure about the cause, but there's a sudden influx of beasts coming from the south."

"An influx of beasts? How come? Isn't the north safe?"

"We are not very sure either. We don't have personnel to check it out. I overheard a rumor that the city in the south is trying to create a 'wall' to repel the beasts. We're assuming that the beasts are pushed out of their homes, which ends up inhabiting the wasteland."

Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought. He still didn't understand how it would impact him, but it seemed that he needed some information about the south.

"I see. Is there anything else? Because of the influx of beasts, this wasteland becomes increasingly dangerous, right?"

"Yes. We usually kept their number low. Even for Tier 4 beasts, their number couldn't exceed 3. However, from what we could currently gather, there are more than 25 Tier 4 beasts roaming around the area. But we believe that the number is much higher than that."

"That's quite dangerous. Do you know their locations?"

"We are not very sure about the moment. We can only give you the last spot they are sighted at, which is from a week ago."

"That's fine too."

The staff didn't have any qualms about giving that information to Clovis. After seeing the two Tier 4 essences, Clovis might be able to kill some more. This would be a precious contribution for the city. Of course, she would also be rewarded for it.

"May I have your Skyphone, sir?"

"Here you go."

The staff simply placed it on top of a small phone holder before handing it back to Clovis. "I've sent the map directly to your phone. They only have the number for Tier 4 beasts, so you should be careful since there would definitely be a lot of Tier 2 and Tier 3 beasts as well."

"Okay. Thank you." Clovis calmly nodded his head.

"What are we going to do for the rest of the day?" Melody asked. "It's not even time for lunch yet. Should we take a nap and find some more beasts?"

"It's the first time that you are so eager to hunt beasts." Clovis had a smug smile on his face.

"That's..." Melody wanted to refute that remark, but she realized that the group had truly messed her up.

"But yeah, it's better to get some rest. We almost died because of that trap. Maybe we could get out again after lunch or something. Just for some light hunt."

"Sure."

They gradually made their way toward their minibus, only to find someone sitting on their UTV as if she was waiting for them.

"!!!" Both Clovis and Melody recognized her.

As soon as she noticed them, she couldn't help but show a sly smile while waving her hand. "Yo, it's been a while."

"Vina..." Clovis furrowed his eyebrows.

"What are you doing here?" Melody asked, feeling suspicious. She immediately scanned the area to see whether they were surrounded or not.

"I'm not doing anything." Vina shook her head.

"Do you think we'll believe that?" Melody frowned.

"I thought we parted ways in a pretty good way." Vina tilted her head in confusion. Her personality had changed more than they imagined. No, did she trick them into thinking that her personality was calm and rational?

"From all the places that we're visiting, you choose to go to this place to meet us. Who will believe that it's just a coincidence? In addition, you're sitting there as if you know it's ours." Melody stepped forth, her finger tugging Clovis secretly to signal something.

"Fine, fine." Vina raised her hands as if she were giving up. "I'm trying to do something here. It's just... I don't have the necessary power to do so."

"So you're coming to us?"

"Yep, you got that right." Vina smirked. "Help me. I'll properly reward you."

"Do you think we'll help you? This reeks of scheme." Melody stopped her.

However, Vina simply said, "Even if that reward is information regarding 80,000 beasts that are endangering your city?"

"!!!"

Chapter 420 A Deal

"Even if that reward is information regarding 80,000 beasts that are endangering your city?"

"!!!" Clovis, who remained silent this whole time, raised his eyebrows and opened his mouth. "What did you say?"

"Have you ever thought where all those beasts are hiding?"

Melody looked down, falling into deep thought. Meanwhile, Clovis asked, "Are you our allies or enemies?"

From how they parted, it didn't look like Vina intended to become their enemy. Besides, Vina was only a Tier 1 now, so she wasn't their match.

On the other hand, Clovis seemed to have confirmed her identity. "You are related to the mule... No, is he your master?"

Clovis remembered that when the terrorists attacked the mall, they gave some information about the mule. The only Tier 4 person among them was fighting against their captain, whom she called 'Master.' It might be a slip-up, but it had been fully confirmed by her action this time.

Vina shook her head. "Neither. I'm not your ally or enemy. I'm simply selling information. I will sell any information, whether it's to you or your enemy, as long as the reward is worth it."

"Shouldn't we just bury this girl somewhere? It's better for us this way." Melody's eyes turned cold.

Meanwhile, Clovis understood what it meant to sell information. Vina coming to them was not only because she needed his help, but because she was showing that he could buy information from her. She was aware of the risk of Clovis choosing to kill her, but she knew he wouldn't do it.

He was wise enough that killing her wouldn't change anything, let alone capturing her.

"How do we know that your information is correct?"

"Trust is the first thing you need in business. We don't care whose information we sell, but we'll definitely deliver you the correct information." Vina smirked.

"Is it including the banned goods?" Clovis' expression turned cold because of how much they had suffered because of them.

"I don't deal with that. Well, I might be able to give you this information for free, consider it my goodwill." Vina raised one finger. "My master is smuggling the banned goods because of a request to bring something into the city. The rest of the banned goods is just fake."

Clovis was bewildered by this information. If it were true, they might be able to figure out what the enemies planned to do by finding out about this item.

"And that item is..."

"I'll tell you if you manage to accomplish what I want to ask from you."

Clovis closed his eyes for a moment. Meanwhile, Melody suggested, "I don't think we should take this deal. We don't know if this is a good trade or not. No, we don't know if the information is true or not."

Meanwhile, Clovis was thinking differently. If they continued to grow, even if Vina disappeared, he could still find her with a big information network. At that time, he could hold her accountable in case her information was incorrect.

However, if it was proven to be correct, it would help the city a lot.

After some consideration, Clovis said, "That depends on what you're planning to ask us for. If it's something detrimental to us, there's no way I'm going to do it."

"I know your character." Vina nodded calmly as if she had expected this reply. She raised a finger. "How about listening to me first?"

Clovis sighed before opening the minibus' door. "Come in."

As soon as they took seats, Vina started explaining. "There is something I want in this wasteland. It's an important item for me, and after tracking its location, I've realized that this place is surrounded by at least five Tier 4 beasts and more than eight hundred beasts.

"I want you to infiltrate this place and get that item from me. If you manage to do that, I'll tell you the secret information about all those beasts that are currently threatening the city. I'm sure you can do a lot of things with that information."

Clovis' expression turned cold. "And what will happen if I grab that thing for you?"

Vina waved her hand. "It's not like what you're thinking of right now. Recovering that item won't harm the city. In fact, with your strength, you can kill all those beasts, right? And I can guarantee that there's no hidden Tier 5 or above beast. What do you think?"

Melody thought it was reasonable to do it as a team. However, they were still in the middle of the competition. If it were only the two of them, this mission would be extremely dangerous.

Clovis had to be careful since this might be a trap as well. He didn't know if Vina was aware that their group was currently divided or not. This kind of trap would be extremely dangerous since two Tier 4 beasts alone almost killed him and Melody.

After a few minutes, Clovis asked, "Time limit?"

"One week... No, six days from now."

"Are you going to accept it, Clovis?" Melody tried to protest but to no avail.

"Yes." Clovis nodded before warning Vina. "But remember... if this is detrimental to me, my group, or the city, I'll definitely hold you accountable. Don't expect me to show you any mercy just because you are a woman or because I know you a bit."

"Cool." Vina smiled. She took out a picture. "This is the map as well as the item. The item is a locket. In this map, you will find an X where it's located. There is a tree inhabited by two Tier 4 flying beasts, and that locket is hung in there.

"If you have recovered the locket..." Vina took out a silver coin with a crescent moon symbol on it. "Take this to the muscular man wearing a pink shirt ten tents away from the information center. He'll guide you to me. Remember, he will only appear six days from now, so no need to bother searching for him."

Clovis let out a long sigh as he watched Vina exit the vehicle.