

World Mall 421

Chapter 421 Decision

"Clovis. Are you seriously accepting that request? Don't tell me, you're going to do it with only the two of us? I know that we're strong, but this is too reckless." Melody bit her lips.

Clovis shook his head. "No. It won't be just the two of us."

Melody's expression brightened because this only meant one thing. The whole group would take on this mission. Even though it would be hard, there was a high chance that they would accomplish the objective.

However, Clovis actually broke her expectation by saying, "I'll be going alone."

Clovis had one biggest assurance, which was Another World Mall. If it became too dangerous, he could escape to Another World Mall and tend to his injuries there. He could even wait until he recovered before going back.

In addition, he could do much more things if he were alone, such as eating stuff from Another World Mall and freely using all the items at his disposal.

There was no need for a tent as well since he would be sleeping inside Another World Mall.

As expected, Melody slammed the table and protested, "No can do! How insane are you to go alone on this dangerous mission? Do you know the threat that those Tier 4 beasts possess? And we haven't taken the rest of the beasts into account.

"Take the abandoned mall as an example, you would have died if not for me accompanying you!" Melody didn't know about Another World Mall.

At the same time, Clovis couldn't deny the fact that he might not be able to escape from there.

Although he could escape to Another World Mall, there was no guarantee that he could actually escape from there. After all, when he returned, he would be teleported to his original location, which was inside that labyrinth.

The only way to do it was to stay inside the mall for as long as possible and reach the next tier. But that would simply take too much time.

Clovis had made this decision with the assumption that he would be going alone.

However, persuading Melody would definitely be hard.

"I have made a decision as a captain of the group. This is just a deal between me and her, not the group."

"NO! I would listen to you if it's anything else, but this madness needs to stop." Melody bit her lips. "I'm making a decision since you are not the captain right now! I am!"

"That doesn't apply since it's just a small competition within our group." Clovis frowned.

"No. That matters. It's your fault for suggesting this competition. Nevertheless, I'm not going to let you leave alone! If you are going there, at least take me with you." Melody slammed her hand on the table, glaring at Clovis with eyes as if she were about to cry.

Clovis had given her a new meaning of life as well as the possibility of her brother's recovery. She didn't want him to die before her brother recovered, and she was able to repay Clovis' kindness.

Clovis opened his mouth, wanting to say something. Sadly, the words didn't come out of his mouth.

This was also the result of his choice. If he remained alone, he could easily go. But he chose to form a group, which made it hard to ignore their opinions.

Melody was simply worried about him. People might think that she was annoying and didn't trust him. But that was simply because she didn't know about Another World Mall.

There was no proof that she could trust him. And she wouldn't be different than a robot if she had a blind trust in him.

At the same time, if Melody was with him, it would still be impossible to challenge those beasts, but they still had the strength to run away if something went awry. Melody's ability would be useful as well.

Clovis closed his eyes for a moment before saying, "Alright. I'll take you with me. Although this might not be appropriate for the competition, I'll be leading this operation. It also means that all the beasts we kill during this time won't be counted in the competition."

Melody nodded furiously. "Fine."

"And also, you have to keep this a secret from others, especially Kanaria. At least until we can confirm the information."

"Understood." Melody felt relieved. At the very least, if they were to die, she would be the first one.

"In that case, prepare everything for the next six days. We might end up staying there for a while since we have to carefully thin out their numbers."

"Alright." Melody stood up. But before she packed up their luggage, she couldn't help but ask, "I understand a bit why you accepted it, but I think you would reject her. What made you decide to accept that request?"

Clovis pointed at the picture. "First of all, the locket isn't covered in dust. It doesn't seem to be broken either."

"You're suspecting that the locket is new and somehow placed there?"

"Yeah."

"Did that woman offer this deal just to trap you?"

"No. It was probably not her."

"Her master?" Melody looked surprised.

"I'm not sure. However, it might be the organization behind her as well. The fact that she asked us to deliver this coin to someone just to meet her meant she had joined an organization. And if you take another look at it, why would you place a locket in that tree?"

"!!!" Melody came to a realization. "A test?"

"Yes. It might be a test. If that's the case, keeping in contact with Vina would be the correct thing. At the very least, if she got a higher position, we could gain access to a lot of information."

"Information is power..." Melody rubbed her chin. "So you are thinking that we might need her in the future?"

"Maybe... maybe not. But a lot of problems can be solved if we have information, right?"

"Fair enough. I understand the reason now. I'll pack up my luggage. When do we leave?"

"Tonight."

Chapter 422 Shocked

"We're finally back. To think that it would be this hard." Kanaria let out a long sigh. While it was true that their firepower relied on her, it didn't change the fact that with Ragna as a guardian, Kanaria had the chance to kill more beasts than any others.

However, after submitting the essence, the number was actually much lower than she predicted.

"349,500 union dollars, huh? It's not small, but we should be able to get much more than that. Don't you think?" Kanaria asked.

"Sorry." Ragna lowered his head. "It was because of me messing up."

"No. We both were. I failed to give a correct instruction, especially regarding the timing."

"I'll definitely do better tomorrow!"

Kanaria fell silent for a moment before saying, "How about you are the one giving an order tomorrow?"

"Me? But..." Ragna wanted to find a reason to reject that idea.

However, Kanaria stopped him with a wave of her hand. "No. Just think about it. Even bodyguards or secret service have their own security leader, whose job is to do all the detailed work to secure their protectee. I'm wondering... this whole time, you have never said anything you want from us even in a dangerous situation."

"That's because Clovis' instruction is on point and Melody has given the detailed instruction."

"That's it." Kanaria pointed at him. "That's what you need to do. As the guardian of the team, you need to voice your opinion as well. Which position will make it easier for you to protect us? While it's true that you're able to fight on the front as well, there will be times like this."

"But..." Ragna looked down.

Kanaria smiled. "Ragna. I know that you joined this group because of Clovis. However, I can say for sure that what Clovis needs is Guardian Ragna, not Robot Ragna, who can only follow orders."

"It's fine to argue, it's good to give your opinion, especially if it's for the sake of the team's safety."

Ragna looked down as if recalling his past.

Since he was beaten a lot, he knew that saying something would make those people get angry. It might be due to it that he was more quiet than the others.

However, this group was different. He wouldn't be beaten if he voiced his concern. It was fine to argue with each other, but there should be no hard feeling between them. After all, their goal remained the same.

Ragna took a deep breath. "I understand. I'll try to voice my thoughts."

"Good." Kanaria nodded, satisfied. She then took out her phone to post the result, only to be surprised that the other two groups had posted their result for the day.

"This is... We're last." Kanaria smiled wryly.

Ragna also checked the result.

To their surprise, Erwin and Jay were almost double their number with 784,000 union dollars.

"Jay and Erwin are this crazy?" Kanaria sucked a cold breath. "Weren't they supposed to be fighting each other all the time?"

"Even then, they are nothing compared to Clovis and Melody." Ragna's expression turned solemn.

When she raised her vision, she couldn't help but suck a cold breath. "1,149,000 union dollars? How many beasts have they killed?"

"As expected of Clovis and Melody. Jay and Erwin should be the most powerful, but Clovis and Melody are the most versatile pair." Ragna felt this defeat was justified.

"What do you mean? We are the most balanced pair." Kanaria shook her head. "However, I don't think we can expect a sudden transformation. We can only take one step at a time, increasing the money."

"Yeah. That's the only way."

Kanaria and Ragna weren't the only ones who saw the result posted by Clovis. Jay and Erwin were also curious about their placement. However, they actually noticed something else.

"They managed to get all this before lunch? What?" Erwin dropped his jaw.

"How are they able to achieve it? Clovis might be the strongest, but he has to work alone. I mean, it's not that I underestimate Melody, but I don't think Melody is stronger than any of us, right?" Jay frowned.

"Yeah. But there's no way Clovis can achieve it by himself. And in such a short amount of time."

Jay and Erwin fell silent, wondering how they were able to do it. There was one possibility that they didn't want to think of.

It was the appearance of a Tier 4 beast.

"Don't tell me..." Erwin glanced at Jay.

"That's the only possibility."

Erwin took a deep breath before saying, "I win today. In other words, you're going to follow my order for tomorrow. We'll be searching for a Tier 4 beast."

"Surprisingly, I'm not against it right now." Jay harrumphed. Although he didn't want to admit it, they really needed to kill Tier 4 beasts if they wanted to win.

Clovis' result managed to light the fire in their hearts. Little did they know, Clovis' result wouldn't change for the next few days.

As for the two people who caused a stir in the group, they were driving under the moonlight.

It took them almost three hours to reach their destination. It turned out the place that Vina mentioned was a massive valley.

The valley was pinched by two tall cliffs. They were so tall and steep that it would be impossible to cross them without climbing equipment.

In the middle of the valley was a small river, meandering to the horizon. There were multiple ruins in sight, which was the sign of the previous civilization.

Those buildings seemed to be surrounding a tall tree. The tree was more than forty meters tall, and its head was quite wide, with vines hanging on its branches.

Although it was a bit hard to see, there was a dark silhouette between the branches. Looking at that enclosed space, both Clovis and Melody had the same thought.

The space was much smaller than they originally thought, which meant a hit and run technique would be extremely hard to execute.

"It seems that we have to be extra careful." Clovis' expression turned grim.

"I'll scout in the morning. It's probably better to close in through the cliffs."

Chapter 423 Dangerous Plan

Melody frowned. "This is not good."

She was staring at the valley from above the cliff. It took her more than three hours just to climb it, but getting a close look at the terrain was extremely valuable.

She turned left and right to check the rest of the areas before returning to Clovis.

While projecting the picture of the valley from above, Melody said, "The situation might not be in our favor. If you take a look at the distance between the tree and the buildings, we can safely assume that the flying beasts will notice us the moment we are fighting inside the building.

"And because of the open area, the beasts will have a wide range of vision. Approaching this area alone can garner some attention. Depending on the beasts' behaviors, there's a chance that all those beasts will come at us.

"According to the radar, there are close to one thousand beasts residing in this valley. It's more than what she told us.

"As for the locket, I have bad news and good news. The good news is that the locket is there. Bad news: it's hung not far from the Tier 4 flying beast. As for the second Tier 4 flying beast, I've been trying to search for it but can't find any nest that indicates such a beast. What do you think? We should regroup with the rest and solve it as a group."

Clovis fell into deep thought. He kept glancing at the map from time to time as if considering his plans.

Usually, Clovis would explain his plan after a few minutes, but to her surprise, even after thirty minutes, Clovis hadn't said a single thing.

As she expected, this was an impossible mission. No matter how hard they thought about it, there was no plan that allowed them to complete this job with only the two of them.

However, after a total of one hour, Clovis suddenly opened his mouth. "It's possible."

"!!!" Melody didn't look happy when he said it, thinking that it was just a desperate plan. She tried to complain. "Clovis..."

"I'm still calm." Clovis shook his head. He pointed at the north side of the map. "The northern area is higher, which is something we can take advantage of."

"But the high ground this time is not the same as the one in the mall's underground floor."

"Yeah, but we have something much more important than the high ground." Clovis raised his head. His gaze was glued to the cliff.

"The cliff? Wait. Are you insane?" Melody's face turned pale.

"No. This is a feasible plan. By using it, we might be able to crush one or two Tier 4 beasts. The problem is whether you are willing to do it or not."

"What? You're going to be in danger."

"My vision slows down, so I can react to them. Once I give a signal, I'm also planning to move away as far as possible. And by using this plan, we can crush a lot of beasts at once. After that, I can move to the building.

"Even if the flying beasts are coming at me, they will have to think twice since they might have to destroy the building just to get me. Using it to my advantage, I'll crush the remaining Tier 4 beasts.

"Once we regroup, we'll take down the two flying beasts. This is going to be more exhausting than the underground mall, but this time, we'll have the initiative." Noel explained his plan.

Melody was biting her lips. Although she didn't say it, she realized that it was indeed feasible if they followed Clovis' plan. But it would endanger him.

"I know that you're worried about me, but don't forget who my grandfather is." Clovis smiled to assure her.

Melody's body shook. That was right. Clovis' grandfather was the man the world claimed to be a madman. Even if Clovis was logical, he was still that person's grandson.

"You better be fine!" Melody gritted her teeth.

"Thank you for your trust."

Clovis then explained his plan in detail. The execution itself wouldn't take too long. However, the preparation would take more than four days.

Clovis chopped down the trees not far from the cliff. He then brought them to the top of the cliff with Melody's help.

Moving up and down the cliff took the majority of their time, but after four days, they managed to make a simple contraption.

Once they were done, Clovis immediately entered the valley. There was one reason why he was so confident. It was the food from Another World Mall.

Name: Vampiric Ramen.

Effect: Blood Flow +30% for 30 minutes.

Name: Crispy Crocoduck.

Effect: Strength +30% for 30 minutes.

Name: Werewolf Stew.

Effect: Animal instinct for 30 minutes.

This time, Clovis didn't just use the bite-size food but also the real food from the restaurant. He couldn't do this with his friends, but he could improve his strength tremendously by using all this food. Of course, he also prepared bite-size food, but he would use it later since their effect was lower and the duration was shorter.

Even though he didn't rely on the perfect state, he ended up relying on Another World Mall.

Clovis casually ate everything at the valley's entrance, where Melody couldn't see him.

As soon as he felt all the effect, Clovis stood up and started heading toward the tree.

The valley was filled with tall green grass as well as trees on the bottom of the cliff. Clovis positioned himself next to the cliff due to their plan.

As Melody reported, most beasts were actually near the tree, so Clovis had an easy time approaching it.

"I'm already 80 meters away from the vicinity."

"Sneak inside into the buildings and locate at least two Tier 4 beasts. I'll guide you."

"Thank you." Clovis took a deep breath. Even though he had some confidence, he felt a bit nervous since one mistake might cost him his life. "Clovis, going in."

Chapter 424 Dinosaur

Clovis carefully made his way toward the buildings.

There were beasts roaming around the area, especially near the rivers, to drink. Clovis carefully avoided it with Melody's help.

The first thing he needed to do was reach the building closest to him. However, he had to hide behind a tree as some beasts lingered around it.

Clovis had two choices. He either had to wait until they left or kill them without making a sound.

The three beasts were only Tier 0, so he had a big chance to succeed.

After some consideration, Clovis chose to approach them as quickly as possible.

"!!!" Their instincts kicked in, telling them about the incoming danger. However, when they were about to react, Clovis' blade had reached them, slashing their necks.

As soon as they died, Clovis sneaked into the building through the shattered window. After that, he climbed the stairs carefully while scanning the outside to find the Tier 4 beasts.

There were several beasts staying on the second floor, so he had to kill them as well.

He rushed to the top floor to get a clear picture of the area.

Fortunately, the building only had four floors and ten beasts residing in it.

"Hmm..." Clovis took a peek from the window. "Melody."

"Wait a minute." Melody was zooming the camera.

Clovis was also searching for any strong beast. "See that? The pink building?"

"No. It's only a Tier 3 from what I can see." Melody paused for a moment before pointing at a different beast.

Clovis took a glimpse of this beast. It was taking a nap next to the river. The body wasn't that big, but Clovis could feel the sharp aura coming out of its body. Because the beast was sleeping, it was a bit hard to notice it.

"One spotted."

Melody and Clovis scanned again, but they couldn't find the second Tier 4 beast. "I can't find anything."

"Same. We might need a new angle."

"I don't know if I can do that. If I go up, there's a chance that the flying beast will find me." Clovis chose to take a peek at the flying beasts.

As Melody said, there was only one flying beast making its nest on the tree. "Where is the second flying beast? I can't see it."

"Flying away?"

"Most likely. If there are four Tier 4 beasts, we might be able to do it a bit recklessly."

"No. It's better to stay safe. Go to the roof and jump to the building on the right. The gap is only five meters. It shouldn't be a problem for you."

"Alright." Clovis nodded and moved to the rooftop. However, when he reached the rooftop, he realized that the door was locked. He could destroy it, but it would cause too much noise.

"Clovis. You need to climb it."

"I know." Clovis went back to the lower floor and threw his short sword from the broken window before climbing to the rooftop from the outside. He hid behind compressors while taking a look at all the beasts that stayed on the rooftop. To his surprise, he could only see less than five beasts and none of them were Tier 4 beasts.

Hence, Clovis checked the Tier 4 flying beast first before making his jump.

As soon as he reached the next building, he hid again in the lower floor before checking the area again. Yet none of them was spotted. He had to repeat the same process again and again.

When he reached the sixth building, he actually saw a sleeping beast on the top floor.

"!!!" He hesitated to enter because this beast was what he was looking for. The second Tier 4 beast was found.

This time, he was wondering whether he should find the last Tier 4 ground beast as well as the flying beast or kill this beast. Even if they noticed, he should be able to defeat this beast before the reinforcement came, especially with all the buff he got from the food.

After some considerations, Clovis chose to enter the floor. He stepped on broken glasses on the floor, causing the Tier 4 beast to wake up from its slumber.

"!!!" The Tier 4 beast opened its fuzzy eyes, finding a sword coming right at its head.

Roar! The beast opened its mouth while raising its arm.

It looked like the beast would succeed in blocking the attack, but Clovis abruptly changed his trajectory and chose to slash the beast's paw.

Still, that roar was enough to wake up all the beasts within the vicinity.

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

They were responding to the call, which instantly shattered the tranquil atmosphere this place had. Beasts emerged from their hiding spots and started rushing toward this building.

Meanwhile, Clovis was slashing the Tier 4 beast at a much faster speed than his original limit.

"Haaaa!" Clovis left multiple wounds on the beast's body. The beast chose to slam its entire body against Clovis.

'Too heavy!' Clovis gritted his teeth. Even with the boost of his food, it wasn't enough. He redirected the beast, which couldn't stop its momentum. As a result, the beast crushed the wall and fell from the fifth floor.

"!!!" There was no way he would let the beast escape.

Without hesitation, Clovis jumped after the beast. After cutting it several times, he decided that the beast's chest was soft enough to be used as a landing pad. Even so, it was still quite a burden for his feet to withstand his entire weight from that height.

While enduring the pain, he waved his sword multiple times. The beast was also shaking its body violently to throw Clovis off its body.

He could see some beasts were already close, so he had to take this beast down right away. Hence, Clovis took out two grenades he borrowed from Melody. He inserted one of them inside the wound and jumped away.

Boom!

"Aooo!" The beast was wailing in pain, its body was convulsing, but its chest had blown up. With such injuries, there was no way the beast could fight anymore.

He looked at the beasts movements through the windows of the building, finding a huge dinosaur coming out of the tree. "Oh shit. Is that the third Tier 4 beast?"

Chapter 425 Running Away

What emerged from inside the tree was a dinosaur. It was almost five meters in height. It had two slender legs and two small front legs. The AI instantly recognized the dinosaur and put the information out.

Name: Ornithomimus.

Description: Living in the late Cretaceous period. It's known for its running speed, making it one of the fastest dinosaurs. While not as large as colossal dinosaurs, it was relatively big.

"There seems to be a hole on the other side of the tree. I couldn't see it due to the leaves." Melody responded. "Clovis. Get away. Dinosaurs are one of the strongest out there."

Clovis wanted to say something, but he was simply too shocked. After all, the ornithomimus started running at the speed of a horse. And with that giant body, the reach of each step was much larger, which gave a sense that it was moving much faster.

But what shocked him the most was the fact that this dinosaur was dashing straight at the building.

"Is it going to bulldoze the entire building? Not good!" Clovis threw the grenade to the left. The explosion halted the beasts for a few seconds. At the same time, he cut down the beasts from the right before running away.

"Scree!" The flying beast took off from its nest.

The other Tier 4 beast also woke up and charged together with the beasts around it.

Clovis dashed at full speed before he heard a loud bam from the building he was in earlier.

"!!!" Clovis turned his head around and saw the ornithomimus create a hole in the building. It was so big that the entire building ended up crumbling.

"Reee!" The ornithomimus let out a high-pitched scream before chasing Clovis. It moved so fast that it could catch up to Clovis before he could even reach the designated spot.

"Are you freaking kidding me?" This was the first time he saw a Tier 4 with such a speed. In addition, its skin seemed to be tough enough to withstand that building. "Why the hell the third ground beast is actually a dinosaur?"

"I don't know. You have to get away fast. Dinosaurs are one of the most dangerous species out there. They are known for their extraordinary physical strength, which is much stronger than most beasts." Melody was also panicking.

In addition, the flying beast was closing in from the sky. Even if he managed to get away from it, the flying beast would have reached him before he reached the designated spot.

Clovis took out his pistol, shooting the ornithomimus with the Tier 3 bullet.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

To his surprise, the bullets didn't even work. Even the Tier 4 spider or the Tier 4 scorpions were still impacted by it.

"Is his skin as strong as the scorpion's claw?" Clovis gritted his teeth as the ornithomimus continued without decreasing his speed. No, those shots actually angered the ornithomimus more as it became berserk.

It let out a high-pitched roar before ultimately catching up to Clovis.

It jumped straight at him while opening its mouth, trying to swallow him.

Clovis threw himself to the side and rolled a few times on the ground, barely avoiding it. He didn't stand up immediately. Instead, he spun his body and shot the ornithomimus' eye.

The dinosaur closed its eye at the last moment. At the same time, the Tier 4 flying beast dove in, trying to grab Clovis with its talons.

Clovis also had an animal instinct due to the food earlier. It kicked in, alerting him of the danger.

He followed that instinct and waved his sword to the left.

Clink!

The clicking sound rang in his ears, but that was just enough to avoid him getting hit by its sharp claws. Clovis still got hit by the talon.

He rolled a few times on the ground and started running away again. The ornithomimus noticed it and tried to chase after him.

Noticing that the flying beast was about to rise to the sky, Clovis shot it, distracting the beast so that it didn't fly higher than the cliff.

"Do it right now!" Clovis shouted.

"But you..." Melody stopped. She was worried about Clovis because he hadn't reached the spot, but if she hesitated, Clovis might get taken down by these two Tier 4 beasts. She bit her lips and kicked the supporting beam of the contraption before throwing a grenade inside it.

The contraption crumbled as huge logs and boulders started rolling down the cliff.

"!!!" The flying beast was the first one to notice it, but it was too late. As soon as it rose above the cliff, everything reached the edge of the cliff and was about to fall.

When distracted, Clovis also took out a cheesecake and shoved it into his mouth.

Name: Bite-sized Cheesecake

Effect: Speed +15% for five minutes.

He sped up, reaching the same speed as the ornithomimus. The ornithomimus became even angrier, but it wasn't enough to catch up to Clovis.

At the same time, boulders started to fall down first.

Clovis' animal instinct kicked in, his blood flow had increased, and his vision slowed down. He was staring at the boulders and calculating their trajectory.

Bam!

Bam!

Bam!

The boulders hit the ground, missing Clovis. At the same time, because of the premature release, the boulders didn't hit anyone as they shattered on the ground. There was only the ornithomimus behind Clovis, but fortunately, there were still the logs.

The logs were originally used to let the boulder roll since not all of them had perfect round shapes.

However, Clovis had also cut the tip of the logs, sharpening it like a pencil.

Because of the air friction as well as the weight of the log, the pointy tip ended up facing down.

The first one to fall actually stabbed through the ornithomimus' left leg, severing it completely.

"Reee!" The ornithomimus fell down. Even if it had a hard skin, it was still unable to withstand such a heavy and sharp log.

Three of the logs impaled the ground for more than four meters deep, albeit missing their targets. However, the last log managed to hit one of the beasts at the front. Its body was destroyed as the log pierced through the ground.