

World Mall 481

Chapter 481 Reactions

Bak!

Sullivan's body fell to the ground. The sound somehow became the only one that echoed in the arena as all the people couldn't help but drop their jaws.

Did they see it right? Did they see one of the club presidents actually lose against someone who had just entered the school? How did he lose when he actually got all the advantage?

There were a lot of questions in their minds, but the proof was there. A lot of wounds suddenly appeared on Sullivan's body, which became the reason for his defeat.

The majority of people didn't see what was actually going on.

Only those who had reached Tier 4 understood what happened.

The student council president held the railing so hard that he almost broke it. He simply couldn't believe what he had just seen.

'What was that attack? He actually has such a trump card?'

The vice president whistled in amazement, thinking, 'That speed earlier was actually reaching Tier 5. While Sullivan was able to fight against a Tier 5 or even defeat them, he was still Tier 4.

'Still, he was hiding that strength from Sullivan, lowering his guard. And when he saw that chance, he went for it, unleashing a speed that Sullivan didn't expect.

'He sacrificed that shoulder so that he could cut Sullivan down. No one who knew about his true strength would actually be able to block that. After all, someone who has the strength two tiers above them is already extremely rare, let alone someone who can do one tier beyond that limit.

'It seems that there is a reason why he is being chosen as the representative. At the same time, what is his exact identity? How does Hana Skylark make a connection with him?

'The most scary part is that his subordinates are also insane. Jay Havenson is able to defeat a Tier 4 while the rest are able to fight people one tier above them.'

There was no need for them to suppress Libation Fiesta. It was already impossible to do it.

If Clovis wanted it, he could actually become a club president himself. It was unprecedented to have someone that young wielding that position, but if it was him, no one would probably complain.

On the one hand, it was good that the academy had this kind of student. On the other hand, Clovis would leave after the event.

It was clear that it would give the academy a bad reputation.

The vice president scratched the back of his head while saying, "Why do I feel like Hana Skylark is playing 4D chess with us? If I'm not wrong, she is trying to sell a new product, right? I haven't seen it, but with this kind of person and the new product, her company's evaluation will go up rapidly."

As he said those words, people started to snap and cheer.

"Uoohhh!"

"What is this? Amazing!"

"How did he win?"

"Is this the power of the new product that the OpenSky company is planning to sell? If yes, I'm going to buy one immediately."

"No way. If there is such a thing, I will buy ten."

"I believe there will be an auction for it."

Clovis glanced at the teacher overseeing the battle. He declared, "Clovis won."

The cheers erupted once again while the teacher simply waved his hand to the staff members that had been standing by outside the arena. "Hurry up and bring him to the infirmary."

While they were bringing Sullivan away, the teacher also said to Clovis, "You should get treated in the infirmary too."

Clovis nodded. He simply left without sparing a single glance at the audience. This match would definitely become big. Even if there were no media around here, the school would definitely cover the story.

At the same time, they would also try to hide this due to the fact that Clovis was planning to leave the academy.

Kanaria and Jay smiled wryly.

"Isn't this too big?" Kanaria asked.

"Yeah. This will also hype up the event. If we don't step up our game, they will be disappointed and cause a setback."

"Then again, Clovis is simply too strong." Kanaria shook her head helplessly. "I'm just afraid that this will cause another problem outside the academy."

"I think we should focus inside the academy first." Jay glanced around, noticing that several people were observing them. "I'm afraid that the people here will be trying to do whatever they can to retain us inside the academy. It will be a good promotion for the academy if we graduate here. It is also a way to stop bad reputations from attacking them."

"Is that so? Well, we just have to wait for Clovis' decision as usual. There must be a reason why he accepted the duel in the first place." Kanaria shrugged. "We better go back."

"True."

As Kanaria and Jay discussed, the impact of this match was simply too big.

Hana was sweating when she heard about the news. She muttered, "Clovis. You are truly not holding back. I know you're annoyed by going to the school, but if you do this, it's going to be complicated, you know."

"It seems that the principal won't let you go after this. If I don't intervene, they will be locked inside the academy. Besides, it won't be good for my company as well." Hana crossed her arms before standing up. It seemed that she had to leave the company early today.

As predicted, the principal had seen the battle as well. His expression turned grim once Clovis defeated Sullivan.

He said, "I thought that two tiers were his limit, but I was wrong. And what was that last one? I couldn't see it, but was it really the new product?"

"If it wasn't, that meant he could increase his speed to such a degree... No, his speed wasn't the only thing that increased.

"If I let go of this person, the academy would be a laughing stock." The principal stood up. "I need to fully investigate his background."

Chapter 482 Investigation

"What did you say?" The principal widened his eyes in shock.

"We are unable to find the information about Clovis, sir."

"What do you mean? He is just a normal person who happens to be talented. Are you sure you're doing your job alright? Are you slacking?"

"No, sir. We have done everything we can, but it's impossible to find information about Clovis. All the information about him has been posted online, but before turning sixteen, there is simply nothing about him. We all know that he had been forced to evacuate because his city was attacked, and he had to live in a new city for several years until he became an adult."

"Who are his parents?"

"We couldn't find it. The record has been erased."

"What? Erased? You must have meant classified. Use my name to get the classified information."

"No, sir. They have been erased."

"Huh?" The principal frowned and looked down, falling into deep thought. If it was classified, his identity should allow him to get a lot of classified information.

Yet they claimed it had been erased. This was a mystery to him.

What the principal didn't know was that the previous incident where Clovis had to escape from the Tier 8 person chasing after him caused his information to be erased.

If they couldn't get him, it was better for them to be oblivious to his identity. It didn't seem that Clovis planned to reveal that information for the time being, considering the president was only aware of his presence not long ago.

That was why erasing Clovis' information would force them to guess Clovis' identity. Without Clovis confirming it, he could always lie.

They just had to wait for a bit until the situation calmed down before bringing Clovis back to Axionia.

The principal bit his lips. "His teacher... Erased... Don't tell me..."

What the president of Axionia didn't realize was that Clovis was already aware that he would attempt such a thing.

That was why he gave that small clue to the principal. He wanted him to guess, but as long as he didn't confirm it, the principal had to be cautious with him.

'What if his teacher has the strength to actually remove that information? I can do that, but I won't be able to hide that person's identity if they're as special as Clovis. Does that mean that person is much more powerful than me?

'Now that I think about it, didn't Hana Skylark visit Axionia a few months ago? Had she realized his true identity?

'Does that mean Clovis has the backing of a Tier 9 powerhouse? He is actually connected to one of the ten Tier 9 experts in the world... Do I have to beat them to be his teacher? They'll just crush me.'

The principal's face turned pale as if he realized his boasting was nothing but an empty claim.

He was better than his teacher? A single slap from a Tier 9 would send him out of his world. His connection, resources, and privilege were better? No one could compare the access of a Tier 9 human.

"Principal? What happened?"

"I fucked up. Don't mind me." The principal turned white as if his soul left his body.

"Principal? Principal?!"

The principal didn't know what to do. On one hand, he wanted Clovis even more. The connection to Tier 9 was something they needed. In addition, the other country must have realized it too late or not realized it at all. They actually missed out on a golden goose, which was their biggest mistake.

On the other hand, if he forced Clovis, he would be attacked by this Tier 9 behind him. He wasn't the only one going to be screwed, this country would also face the wrath of a Tier 9.

He didn't know who among the ten Tier 9 humans was behind him, but he knew one thing, they would rather sacrifice him than face the wrath of a Tier 9 human.

The principal said, "Stop investigating him."

"Huh?"

"Just stop investigating him unless you want to die. I don't want to die, so don't drag me into it." The principal's eyes turned lifeless as if he had resigned to his fate. He couldn't recruit Clovis. He never thought that Hana Skylark would be much faster in befriending Clovis.

The principal waved his hand and said, "Don't tell anyone about him. Let them do whatever they want, but report to me if they are doing something excessive. I'll stop them from behind the shadows."

"I-I understand." The guy was still confused, but he had no choice but to follow the principal's decision. "In that case, I'll take my leave."

As soon as the guy left, the principal sighed. "Can I really retain this person in the academy? The fact that he is getting tutored by a Tier 9 means he has potential. In fact, exerting a strength three tiers above him is enough for us to see that he will be at least a Tier 8 in the future.

"I don't know if he has that special quality yet... That last attack might be related, but there's a chance it's something else. But the Tier 9 must have seen that special ability...

"If the academy can get the future Tier 9, it'll be a tremendous boost for the academy as well as this country. No other academy will be able to compete with us anymore."

The principal gulped down. It seemed that he had no choice but to resort to a few things to keep Clovis in this academy.

"I might be crazy for doing this, but it's for the sake of this academy... Eh, the academy is the second. I'm first. The country is the third."

The principal's expression turned serious. "There are a few ways to make him stay without forcing him to do so."

The principal stood up as if he was ready to set up a few things to recruit Clovis. However, when he opened his door, he saw a silhouette coming into his office.

"Hana Skylark?!"

Chapter 483 Offer

The principal stood in front of Theo with a solemn expression. "I'll cut to the chase. How much do you want to stay in this academy? It's only going to be three years."

"I don't want to stay in this academy. All I want is to hunt beasts and get stronger instead of getting involved in a useless political strife," answered Clovis with a calm expression.

The principal explained, "You don't have to take the class or exam. As long as you remain registered to our academy, it'll be fine."

"It only benefits you."

"No. Think from another perspective. By defeating Sullivan, you have made a name for yourself. Soon, other academies will find out about you. Even if you leave this academy, they will approach you or even attack you.

"On the other hand, if you are still affiliated with this academy, we can protect you. You don't have any obligation to do anything for the academy. In fact, you can use the academy's facilities to become stronger.

"Besides, even if other students challenge you, you have the right to reject them. And since you're planning to be away from the academy most of the time, they won't really do anything to you.

"Last but not least, why don't you take a look at the academy? I'm sure that there are some unique students that will catch your eye. Your group is a fast-growing group, so I believe that they are talented enough to follow you in your journey."

Clovis squinted his eyes before shaking his head. "I can always find people from the outside. There are always hidden experts out there. Even if they don't, I can simply make them one."

"!!!" The principal was startled but soon understood what he meant. When he investigated Clovis, he also got information about his teammates. Ragna was supposed to be weak and pathetic. He changed after meeting him.

Kanaria and Jay were brilliant before they met him, but they were overshadowed by a man who later became a terrorist, Ivan. Yet when they joined his group, their talents bloomed.

Erwin was the same. His strength was already beyond average. With time, he could become one of the club presidents. But after meeting Clovis, he could do it right away.

That was why he realized that Clovis had that power to make someone even more amazing.

Of course, Clovis didn't deny the fact that it was useful to take a look at the academy. He didn't know if he could find a good student that might be suitable for his group.

The principal said, "Wait a minute. No need to be in a hurry to reject me. I'm sure that you know if you want to grow a group, you need a lot of specialists. What kind of specialists are you looking for? I have a broad connection.

"Do you want a doctor? A chef? Or just give me a profession that you want. I can find a talented person you might like." The principal explained.

Clovis shook his head. "What are you planning to do? Monitor me? Trying to figure out my secret?"

The principal gulped down. He had never thought it would be this frustrating to talk to a student. He was even more tiring to deal with compared to Hana.

The principal gritted his teeth and said, "If you are leaving like this, you will end up getting forced to reveal your affiliation with the Tier 9 behind you. I don't know who among the ten Tier 9 powerhouses in this world supports you, but with the academy's help, you don't have to do that.

"You can always claim that we are the ones responsible for covering you. Besides, there is something that you can get from the academy that you can't get from Hana Skylark.

"It's true that she has money and connections. I don't know what kind of new product she is planning to launch, but I'm sure that it'll bring a lot of money.

"However, the academy actually has a right to a fallen city... a fallen city with a tunnel to the underground world. We have created a new pathway that allows you to go up and down as you like.

"If you remain affiliated with us, we'll show you the city as well as give you a free pass to enter the city and utilize it. That is also where we're holding the annual competition.

"On top of that, I'm ready to give you the treatment of a professor in this academy. You are allowed to use any technology of the academy without charge or time limit.

"You will be given ten million Union Dollars monthly. You are also given the right to a mansion with top security. Then, last but not least, you will receive the academy golden pass.

"This golden pass has three functions. First, you are able to purchase from several shops, from materials to supplies, and receive a thirty percent discount. Second, you will be given VIP treatment in buildings affiliated with the government, whether they are elevators to the underground world or even Essence Bank.

"Last but not least, you'll be able to access the best suite from all Pacific Hotel and Resorts all around the country."

Clovis' expression turned solemn after hearing all the benefits. It was indeed tempting. If he agreed to this, he could get all the benefits, which allowed him to focus on receiving money from Hana instead of any other favors.

However, if he accepted, he would be affiliated with the academy for three years.

Clovis squinted his eyes for a moment before saying, "I have one condition."

"What is it?"

"The contract only lasts a year. If it ends, I have the option to graduate early."

"What?!" The principal frowned, never expecting that Clovis would be this degree.

But Clovis simply stood up and said, "I have said my piece. Besides, I think it's best to consider it carefully. In one month, I'm planning to reach Tier 3. And since you have investigated my background, you should check my evolution rate."

Clovis closed the door after giving that one condition. He believed that his worth one year later would be much higher than the current offer.

Chapter 484 Convincing the Principal

The principal widened his eyes in shock after looking at Clovis' file again. "Evolution rate is only 40%? Is he serious? Is his evolution rate getting changed as well? The data is nerfed so that he doesn't bring suspicion? No way, if that's the case, he should have stayed quiet."

"..." The principal tried to look at it a bit more and found something even more shocking. It was when the police officers tried to stop Clovis because he had broken the laws by becoming an explorer with only a 15% evolution rate.

"Is he actually not hiding his high evolution rate but the other way around? His evolution rate is so low that it will hinder him if it's known."

"A Tier 9 can do something like this, but how in the world is he able to reach Tier 2 even though he is only 16 years old, especially with that low evolution rate?" The principal's expression turned grim.

The more he looked into Clovis, the more mysterious he became. What would happen if the world knew that a peerless talent who managed to fight a person three tiers above him was actually a less talented person who wasn't supposed to become an explorer?

The entire world would be frenzied.

If he was insane, he could actually spread this news. Some wouldn't believe it, but some would look further.

However, Clovis had taken this into account by expressing his willingness to be affiliated with the academy for a price.

They gave resources and facilities to Clovis, while the latter boosted their reputation. There was a high chance that Clovis would do something for the academy in the future if he felt indebted to them.

That was why the principal realized what he should do.

"To think that Hana Skylark is not exaggerating even a little bit." The principal sighed.

...

A few hours ago.

When he was about to leave his room, he saw Hana coming toward his room.

"Well, well, well. Principal. I wonder where you're planning to go. I've heard that you have investigated his background." Hana smiled like a sly fox.

"Hana Skylark..." The principal frowned. "What do you want?"

"I just want to talk to you for a second. You need to know several things before going to Clovis."

"What are you planning? Someone like you will definitely try to—"

Before he finished, Hana raised her voice. "Yeah, yeah. Just smear my name or whatever if that makes you satisfied. Just hear me a bit... I don't want to die yet."

"..." The principal didn't expect Hana would choose the word 'die' to describe her situation.

After some consideration, he decided to talk with Hana.

"So?"

Hana raised four fingers. "All I want to tell you are four things. First of all, there will be a lot of parties bothering him, especially those who want to recruit or destroy him."

"You're planning to use my academy as the shield?"

"It's a win-win situation. If he ever graduates from this academy, he will probably stay long in this country."

The principal frowned. "Suppose I accept..."

Hana sighed. "Let's not play with our words for today. I have seen his talent, especially his backer. Mess with him, not only the academy, but the country will be in trouble."

The principal fell silent for a moment and calmed down his heart. He had a prejudice against Hana because of her sly personality, but it seemed that she wanted to discuss a serious matter.

"Alright. Continue." The principal nodded.

"I'm sure you have seen potential after that fight, right?"

"What potential are you talking about?"

"Don't play dumb. If we are talking about potential, there is only one kind of potential that separates us from the true geniuses of the world."

"!!!" The principal trembled. He wasn't sure about it, but it was true that everything could be explained by this single thing. If Clovis had a unique ability, no one in the country could rival their reputation. After all, they managed to produce a Tier 9. It was still in the future, but with Clovis' growth, he might be able to become the youngest Tier 9 in history, surpassing Mara Leverstrike.

The principal thought for a moment and crossed his arms. "How long have you known him?"

"Several months. You can guess the reason why I developed a relationship with him." Hana raised three fingers. "The third thing is that... He doesn't like to live inside a cage."

The principal closed his eyes, understanding Hana's words. The cage she was talking about was this academy. If he wanted to get Clovis, he had to pay attention to this freedom.

"Last but not least, I just want to let him have some fun. Even if I don't do anything, he is bound to rise to the top. Instead of a full scholarship or something, I believe that an equal standing will entice him more."

"!!!" The last information was actually the most important. If all this information was true, Hana had just given him the sure way to invite Clovis. It would be quite annoying, but if he wanted him, he had no choice but to give an offer that fit those conditions.

The principal asked, "What are you trying to do, Hana Skylark?"

"I don't plan to do anything. I'm just a businessman. If there is a profit, I come. If there is a problem, I solve it. Everything is for the sake of my business." Hana shrugged.

The principal sighed. "Fine. Let's just say that I trust you in this instance."

Hana nodded. "In that case, I hope that those academies know what is best for them. I don't plan to become another laughing stock like Axionia." She stood up and took her leave.

When he recalled the conversation, the principal let out a long sigh. "To think that there is such a monstrous young man in this world... No, I guess those who have the ability to reach Tier 9 are simply built differently. If that's the case, I don't have any other choice."

Chapter 485 Going Out?

"What is going on?" The student council president slammed the table, looking at his vice president. "And now, what are you going to say about it?"

The vice president simply shrugged. "Nothing much. Someone like him is unsuitable for the academy. It doesn't matter if he stays in this academy or not, because soon enough, no one will be his match."

"Why are you saying all that as if whatever happens in the academy affects you?"

The vice president shook his head. "It doesn't affect me? In a sense, it also affects me. However, the impact on me is much smaller compared to all of you. Don't forget that I'm just a small guy from the countryside. I climb my rank here, unlike any of you who require your backers.

"That's why it doesn't matter to me if the academy's reputation will take a hit or not, because what I have is power and service. I don't have anyone backing me up.

"Instead of talking about this, you should consider what will happen to the academy after he's gone and try to think of a way to solve those problems."

"And do you think that other academies won't try to recruit him? We'll be the laughing stock of this country!"

"That's not going to happen." The vice president sighed. "How many times do I need to explain? You're thinking too much. You can't control what you can't control, so rather than trying and failing, it's better to not do it at all. Other academies will not be able to do it.

"In fact, they will most likely try to eliminate him so that he doesn't become a threat. Some academies might even resort to a threat.

"It will be fun to watch how he is going to fight those academies, especially since his backer is Hana Skylark.

"I'm kind of curious now. What is his true relationship with Hana Skylark? With such a talent, there is no way the Skylark Conglomerate will let him go, right?

"His talent is so high that giving him a number one position in the exploration group would mean nothing, especially with his group being so talented.

"Think about it... If you were the Skylark Conglomerate, what kind of relationship do you want with him?"

"!!!" The president trembled. The answer was obvious. A position above the number one of the exploration group. Hana's grandfather might already consider him as a potential spouse.

Of course, that wasn't what happened in reality, but it didn't matter. With such a talent, there was no way Hana's family would let him go.

And by giving this kind of explanation, the president would stop bothering him. After all, there was a difference between the number one agent and the son-in-law. The former would be protected to a certain level, but the latter would be the same as their family. And the Skylark Conglomerate would definitely use their entire force to take care of the problem.

If they annoyed him, it would be the same as fighting the biggest company in this country as well as a Tier 8 grandfather.

While the misunderstanding ensued in the student council, Clovis went all the way to the OpenSky company because Hana requested a meeting and she somehow wanted to meet him in her office to discuss something important.

"How do you feel after winning against Sullivan? He is quite good, right?" Hana smirked.

"Indeed. I guess when you reach a certain level, you will probably get a unique technique. I can understand the difference between the capital and the countryside. The only ones who can come close to him are Aileen."

"Yes. Their backers have a long history, perfecting their respective techniques. Fighting them will definitely be useful for you."

Clovis nodded. "It seems that you're doing something behind the scenes as well."

"Haha. It can't be helped. I don't want you to end up destroying the new product. In fact, I want to get angry right now. Are you sane?"

Clovis raised two fingers. "I have two reasons. The first is to send a message, and the second is to pique those people's interests. You should know that my life is getting targeted, right?"

"True. As long as they're observing you, the real problems will end up using them instead of doing it themselves."

"Exactly. It's easier to handle them." Clovis nodded.

"I see. As expected of you." Hana sighed in defeat.

"What do you want to discuss with me?" Clovis's expression turned serious.

"I wonder if you don't mind going out with me." Hana smiled.

"Huh? Going out?" Clovis raised his eyebrows. "I need to know what you mean by going out first. I feel like you're playing with words."

"As expected, I can't play around with my words." Hana chuckled and explained, "Actually, going out means going outside the city and testing a new weapon."

"A new weapon? With me?" Clovis thought for a moment. "You can just ask people from your group for it, right? Or is there something even more important that you have to go with me?"

"It's the latter."

"..." Clovis sighed. "It's not something you can show here or just explain to me."

"It's easier for you to see, but if you want a reason, you can just think of it as an investment for both of us. I think that Kanaria will be delighted about this new weapon if we succeed in finishing it."

The fact that she asked this from him instead of testing inside the lab meant the prototype was already finished. She just wanted to show it off and piqued his interest.

After carefully considering it, Clovis nodded. "Alright. I can do that. Where are we going? I need to talk with my group since they need some time to prepare."

"No, no. Only both of us will be going." Hana shook her head.

"Both of us?" Clovis made it difficult for him. After some time, he said, "I'll tell Kanaria about it. When will we go?"

"Tonight."

"Alright then. I'll make my preparations."

"See you later."