

World Mall 486

Chapter 486 Hana's Hidden Card

They were going out with only a simple car as if they didn't plan to do anything dangerous.

However, the place that Hana picked was actually a fallen city. It was a famous fallen city near the capital. The number of the beasts had been thinned out regularly by a lot of groups, so this place wasn't as dangerous as one would think.

Besides, it was known to be a Tier 4 fallen city, meaning no Tier 5 or above would appear in this city.

It only took them two hours to reach this city.

To Clovis' surprise, the spot that Hana chose was actually the wall of this city.

While looking at the ruined city, Hana asked, "Say, are you planning to leave this country anytime soon?"

"I don't quite understand your question. What do you mean?" Clovis squinted his eyes.

"We both know that it's impossible for you to be locked down in one place. I'm wondering if you plan to leave this country and live somewhere else."

"Live, huh?" Clovis thought for a moment before shaking his head. "I'm not sure right now."

On the one hand, he definitely wanted to explore other countries and witness everything they had to offer. On the other hand, he didn't think he would live in those countries. He didn't know anyone in that place.

However, he couldn't deny that there was a possibility of him living in another country and even settling down in that country. After all, he had to meet his father and mother. They said they would be able to meet once he reached Tier 5.

Considering he was about to reach Tier 3, he should only need one or two years before reaching Tier 5.

That led to another question, which was whether he would stay with his parents or just live in a different country. While it was true he was independent, a powerful family usually stayed together so that they could provide protection.

Clovis shook his head. "I can only answer with I don't know."

"I see." Hana closed her eyes for a moment. "If that's the case, what if I give you the reason to settle down in this country?"

"Huh?" Clovis crossed his arms. "You are not thinking..."

"Hahaha." Hana chuckled. "Well, that's that. Who would refuse a future Tier 9? However, we both know that it's not possible with our current views toward the world. As someone who is pursuing money, I actually have a proposal for you."

Clovis frowned. Both of them were greedy for different reasons.

Hana raised one finger. "Have you ever thought about what will happen to Kanaria once you grow stronger? A Tier 5 human already has senses sharp enough to notice incoming bullets, a Tier 6 can even block it with their weapons as if they can see it. The higher her tier is, the harder it is for her to kill her opponent. This is the problem that everyone never really talks about.

"It's true that a sniper will be extremely powerful for low tiers, but they will lose their advantages to the point where they are even worse than normal weapons once they reach higher tiers. When that happens, will they be able to progress forward?

"You should know that once you reach a high tier, you basically already have a foundation of your fighting style. Can you abandon it completely and fight with a new style?"

Clovis' expression turned dark as if he disliked the topic.

Hana ignored it for a second and said, "What if I tell you that I can solve that problem?"

"Solve that problem?"

"Yeah. What kind of problem do you think a gun has? It's simple. They are not big enough. Imagine you getting hit by an artillery shell. You probably can dodge it, but the explosion might hurt you or something.

If it somehow hits, you might not be able to stop it, right?"

Hana made a point. Clovis asked, "But..."

"I know. It's impossible to actually bring out such a thing. That's why I have invested in something different.

"In fact, I have been investing my money into this project before your proposal. But because I believe that your proposal can allow me to gain all the resources I need, I agree to it.

"The reason I bring you here is because you're the one making the decision. I'm planning to pour eighty percent of the profits made from the beast souls into this project." Hana raised her left hand, which carried a silver briefcase.

If one took a closer look, there was actually a button on the handle.

Hana pressed this button, and clicking sounds started to echo as if there was a hidden mechanism inside that briefcase.

To Clovis' surprise, the briefcase gradually changed its form into a long sniper rifle. It was even bigger than the one Kanaria used.

More importantly, this sniper was actually attached to Hana's arm or even her back with a single metal rod.

It was as if this weapon was actually an extension of an exoskeleton.

Hana easily lifted it up with one hand, showing that the exoskeleton provided the necessary strength to hold this giant rifle.

"This is the thing that I want to show you." Hana put down the rifle on the edge of the wall as she aimed down, finding a suitable target.

She pointed at the target while saying, "Watch this, a Tier 3 beast."

Clovis looked down, finding a huge street with a clear view. Even from such a place, he could see the beast clearly.

Bam!

The suppressor couldn't contain all the sound as it broke the peace in the city.

The Tier 3 beast didn't realize what happened as the bullet actually blew its upper body apart.

"!!!" Clovis widened his eyes. Even Kanaria's sniper rifle wasn't this powerful.

Hana smiled while pointing at this rifle. "This is the invention that I have been planning to introduce, the power armor. I'm planning to create something that will etch my name into the canal of history. And this power armor will be it."

Chapter 487 Monopoly

"I want to etch my name into history, and this power armor will be it."

Clovis furrowed his eyebrows. It would definitely be amazing, but he still couldn't help but ask, "And why are you discussing this with me?"

"Do you know that humanity once produced a robot, but it ended up turning useless? People asked why? When you fought against a high tier beast, they could move so fast that even the fastest robot couldn't even complete.

"As a result, the robot couldn't even do anything to them. And if someone is weak fighting against that kind of beast, they won't have the reaction speed needed to shoot or cut the beast down.

"That's why I'm coming up with a solution. What if instead of a robot, I create power armor? This armor will have high endurance, but they're there just to support you. You will be the one doing the fighting, so it's only to boost one's power, not completely relying on it.

"The power armor will handle all the weight and other things, so you don't have to worry about it.

"Last but not least, this power armor is made of cutting edge technology. Such a big thing can be converted into a single briefcase. If we're talking about a pistol or a sword, it can be converted to a mere ring or bracelet.

"If you fight with this, I wonder how strong you will become."

"!!!" Clovis finally understood what she was aiming for. However, there was one big problem. His armor was from Another World Mall. They had even an effect that wouldn't lose to this kind of power armor.

In addition, he didn't know whether all those metals could handle his speed. They might even hinder his movement.

Clovis squinted his eyes. "I don't think it's suitable for me."

"At this stage, yes." Hana grabbed Clovis' hand and put it on her stomach.

"What are you doing?!" Clovis gritted his teeth, preparing to withdraw his hand.

However, Hana asked, "Don't you feel the difference?"

"Huh?"

"I'm talking about the materials." Hana smirked.

Clovis paused for a moment, noticing that her clothes were pretty rough. It wouldn't be that comfortable wearing it.

"I'm talking that power armor doesn't necessarily mean an exoskeleton. It can be simple clothes like this. The effect might not be as significant, but I'm planning to enhance it even further.

"Of course, the exoskeleton will be useful for those who don't move too much. Haven't you realized it already the moment I brought up Kanaria and showed the sniper rifle?

"What if Kanaria, through this power armor, became capable of shooting a bullet as powerful as an artillery shell? Of course, that would be impossible, but a smaller size would be possible.

"I predict that it can even bring down a Tier 7 beast if used properly." Hana's expression turned solemn.
"I want to give you a reason to stay here, but I might have to word it properly."

She held Clovis' hand with both hands while saying, "I want to monopolize you."

Clovis was taken aback by her words. Monopolize him? If he didn't know about Hana's greed, he would have thought a different thing.

Still, Hana was saying that she wanted him for herself. In other words, no matter what kind of offers other people brought, he should choose her instead of them.

It was no wonder why she actually discussed it here. Even her grandfather wouldn't find out about today's conversation.

If he realized her granddaughter was doing another reckless thing and somehow annoyed Clovis, Michael would come again.

Clovis said, "You are truly greedy."

"I'll take it as a compliment."

"Monopolize me? I think you're trying to bite more than you can chew."

"I can afford you."

"No. I'm saying that what makes you think the power armor or any money you have will be enough to buy me?" Clovis asked.

"That's..." If anyone other than Clovis said those words, she might think they were bluffing. But this was Clovis. She didn't know about Clovis' unique ability, but it was clear that ability affected his teammates.

As she originally suspected, if Clovis reached the peak, it wouldn't be just him. His entire group might receive the same result.

Could she afford it?

Clovis said, "The fact that you are even proposing such a thing means you don't know anything about me yet."

Clovis indirectly implied that he had a secret much more valuable than what Hana could offer.

Hana misunderstood it as the power to tame the beast, but she thought this power was limited because it was related to his blood. On another perspective, what if Clovis married other people and passed that bloodline to them? Could his children do the same thing? Would all the generations below him receive the same thing?

Hana looked down, falling into deep thought. She didn't realize that the most valuable thing in this world was Another World Mall.

Not only his teammates, he could even turn multiple people to Tier 9 in the future. With an army of Tier 9, he could practically become the king of the world.

That was why if Hana wanted to monopolize him, it would be impossible. Of course, this would only happen in the future.

If he just made one big mistake, there was a chance he would die right away. And he acknowledged that Hana's cooperation was actually necessary.

That was why Clovis said, "However, I know how capable you are. Instead of a monopoly, do you want to be my business partner?"

"Business partner?"

"Yes. I need a channel that can bring me money. However, I don't have time to handle all of that."

"It feels like you want me to become your agent."

"No. What I want is for us to be on an equal footing."

"What do you want me to do?"

"You are not even thinking about the risk it possesses?" Clovis smiled.

"If I'm too scared, I won't be able to grow this big. It's only by seizing all the opportunities I can find that I manage to become this successful." Hana asked for the second time, "What do you want me to do?"

Chapter 488 Stances

"Is it that important?" Kanaria asked with a serious expression.

Clovis had just gone back, but it seemed she couldn't contain her curiosity. Then again, Clovis knew that she just wanted to know whether something had happened or not.

Clovis thought for a moment and said, "It might be something you will use in the future. I don't know about everyone, but you will definitely use it."

"!!!" Kanaria looked shocked, never thinking that the discussion was actually about her. She didn't know what Hana was preparing, but it was clear that Clovis had agreed to it because of her.

The discussion between Clovis and Hana wasn't the only one that took place that night.

A lot of people seemed to have read the news about that battle.

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Tusshia Academy.

They had gathered all their members, from investors to teachers.

The dean squinted his eyes while saying, "I'm sure that you have heard about the battle between Tier 2 and Tier 4 that happened just today. That's why I will just cut to the chase. What are we supposed to do as the 2nd ranked academy in the country?"

"I've heard that this person is only in that academy for seven days just so that they can participate in their annual event. Can't we just make a move after that?" A teacher asked. "Considering he is there because of Hana Skylark, not the academy, I don't think he will stay."

"This is why you are a teacher!" A director raised his voice. "If we let them be, they will definitely try to make him stay in the academy. If someone like that graduates from the academy, there is simply no way for us to rise to the top! Ever!"

"But there is no guarantee that this person has enough talent to reach a Tier 8, right?"

"Have you ever heard anyone who can fight two tiers above them doesn't reach Tier 8 for no concrete reasons? With that kind of talent, unless they are ruined or completely lose their desire, they can reach Tier 8 sooner or later."

"But is it only Tier 8? While it's true that his opponent was just a Tier 4, his strength is similar to a Tier 5."

"Are you saying that he has that kind of ability?"

"Yes. I'm implying that he will become a Tier 9 in the future!"

"Tier 8 and Tier 9 are different. Even if you are talented, you can't become Tier 9 because there is one fundamental difference—"

Before he finished his words, the other guy had cut him off. "That's exactly my point. Have you ever seen someone defeat a person three tiers above him without that unique ability? He is also only 16 years old."

"But why does his information tell us he only has a 40% evolution rate?"

"There might be someone behind him that can alter that information. But because he has left Axionia, there is no need to hide that fact anymore... That's probably the reason."

"I believe we should recruit him before they're making their move. You should know what is going to happen if we manage to produce such a genius, right? The quality of our facilities and teachers is similar to theirs, so if we get a better reputation, we'll be able to beat them."

The people were arguing about their stance. Some of them wanted to recruit Clovis right away, some chose to remain conservative by waiting for Clovis to leave the academy.

The principal's expression turned solemn. "Enough!"

They suddenly stopped and turned their heads to the principal.

The principal said, "Instead of arguing which one we should take, let's do it in a different way. What kind of benefits should we give? Those who are planning to recruit him right away..."

One of the investors said, "I can donate a hundred million Union Dollars to the academy to purchase all kinds of resources for him. I believe we can also give him special treatment due to his special talent."

"I will add another fifty million Union Dollars. It's quite big for a mere Tier 2, but he should be worth it."

"Why don't you take him as your disciple, principal? If you promise him that he will be able to reach Tier 7 before turning thirty, I'm sure he will be delighted."

"No. Why don't you raise him up a bit more like surpassing Mara Leverstrike's record as the youngest Tier 9 human in history?"

"That's right. He is still young, so he should be proud of himself. That makes him a bit gullible."

The principal turned to the second party. "How about you guys who want to recruit him after the annual event?"

"I'll give fifty million Union Dollars in the form of mansions and other items such as weapons and armor. More importantly, we'll be able to find out the true power of his team."

"Yes. If at least Jay Havenson and Kanaria Renvolt are half as good as him. I don't think it'll be too much to give him two hundred million Union Dollars in the form of assets and other items."

"You're going to be too late. Hana Skylark is planning to announce a new product soon. What if it's going to be successful? You should know what kind of person Hana Skylark is. If she succeeds, it's going to be big. A few hundred million Union Dollars will be nothing.

She might be able to give him that much every single year!"

"There is no proof yet. We don't know how close they are to doing something like that."

The principal's expression turned grim as the argument started again. He slammed the table and said, "What we are measuring is his worth through the information we have. Someone as young as him should have a trump card hidden. It's just a small duel, so I believe he hasn't shown anything.

"That's why I have made my decision. We will..."

Their academy wasn't the only one holding the meeting. Other academies were the same, albeit their arguments might be a bit more heated.

Chapter 489 Advice

3rd Ranked Academy.

"We need to give him more. We shouldn't invite just him, but his entire group. I'm doubting that he will leave without his group."

"No way. He might ask an exorbitant price for it!"

"This is too much."

"Call the investors."

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4th Ranked Academy.

"We should just kill him at this point. A dead genius is no genius. If we can eliminate him, it is sure a bad blow, but no one will have him at that point."

"But we don't know about the stance of Hana Skylark and the academy."

"I think it's better to wait and see. Other people are going to approach him as well, so it's going to be chaotic. At the very least, we still have one or two days to think this through."

"It's because you are so indecisive that we are ranked 4th now."

"We need to be decisive. Are we going to let them produce even more geniuses, especially this time? We are dealing with a genius who might be able to surpass Tier 8."

...

The top academies in the country were discussing their stance on Clovis' potential.

Unlike them, the 1st ranked academy seemed to have made a decision.

"Is there anyone objecting to my decision?" The principal asked.

"I can understand that the benefits are extremely good, even for us. However, the term is only one year... Are you sure about this?"

The principal simply stated, "He will be reaching Tier 3 in one month. I don't have any proof to back up that claim, but if he is lying, we can always retract our offers next year."

"I see. If he is not lying... No, if his talent blooms even more, we might have to pay even more."

"Do you know how far he can reach within the next ten years, Principal?"

"I don't know." The principal shook his head. The teacher mentioned 'ten years' because the academy was actually a place for students at the age of 16 to 25 years old.

The students had to graduate by reaching Tier 5 or drop out if they failed to do so by the time they reached 26 years old.

That was why one year was quite an exorbitant price for a ten-year education.

Still, the principal said, "I'm assuming that he is planning to reach Tier 5 within five years. No, he might even reach that level before he turns 20 years old. When that happens..." The people gulped down.

Normally, people in the range of 19 to 22 years old would be moved to the senior class because they were expected to reach Tier 3 or even Tier 4.

If Clovis would rush his progress but still maintain the same quality, this one year term might not be too excessive.

One of the investors suddenly said, "If he is truly able to reach Tier 3 in one month while maintaining his skills, I'll sponsor 50% of next year's offer!"

"If anyone is still objecting, I don't mind personally opening my savings." The principal sighed. "Don't forget that behind him is Hana Skylark. She is also capable of fully sponsoring him. The fact that he is open to our offer means that he doesn't want to be reliant solely on Hana Skylark."

It was probably the reason why one of the investors even dared to sponsor half of the resources they were going to offer one year later.

Clovis would become terrifying and independent enough to not be controlled by anything. He chose to help Clovis break free from his reliance on Hana Skylark, not realizing that their relationship was much deeper than that.

The principal looked at all the members, who didn't say anything for the last couple of minutes.

He said, "If there is no more objection, then we'll conclude today's meeting. Tomorrow morning, I'll talk to him."

They all nodded their heads in agreement.

...

While the academies were reaching their conclusions one by one, Hana was actually having a conversation with her grandfather.

"So for what reason did you come to me? It's rare for you to not be able to handle your own problem." He asked with a serious expression. If Hana had to resort to asking for his help, it meant the situation had become extremely serious.

Hana took a deep breath and said, "I'm planning to take a gamble, one that might even destroy our companies if I put the bet on the wrong side."

He raised his eyebrows before understanding what kind of gamble she was talking about. "I see. Is he worth it? I'm not talking about his potential as a Tier 9, but his character."

Hana sighed. "I don't know either. At a time, he is like a kid who doesn't know much. At another time, he is so calm as if everything has gone according to his plan. At some point, I don't even know what kind of person he is. However, I can say one thing for sure... He is reliable.

The proof is his teammates."

Her grandfather smiled. "In that case, why haven't you made a decision yet?"

"That's..." Hana hesitated as she looked into her grandfather.

"If you are worried about me and the companies I have built up, you don't have to. Do you know what I have learned during my time as a business? The risk is there to be taken. Some choose to ignore it or completely avoid it, which results in them not being able to rise. If you want it, grab it. For me, it's better to be known as a failure than a coward."

"On other perspectives, it can be said that losing everything means to be a loser, and avoiding such a thing can be said to be a wise decision." Hana shook her head.

"In that case, leave him. Cut off contact with him and go on your way."

Hana dropped her jaws to the ground, definitely not being able to do it.

Her grandfather simply said, "Now you know your answer. Then again, why don't you become... ehm, what is the terminology again? It wasn't popular during my time... Sugar... Sugar something. Ah! Yes, why don't you just become his sugar mommy?!"

"What?!"

Chapter 490 Joining the Academy

"We have reached an agreement that we'll follow your condition. We'll offer all those resources to you for only a one year contract. However, I hope that you are able to prioritize our academy once the term is over."

Clovis thought for a moment and said, "I understand. Let's do it that way. But you surely are going to do the same for my group, right?"

The principal was celebrating in his heart. The hardest part was convincing him, so the principal simply said, "Indeed. Judging from the strength they have shown so far, they'll most likely reach a very high rank.

"That's why we'll offer a similar contract to them. I just hope that you will be able to help us persuade them to sign the contract."

"Alright." Clovis paused for a moment. "Do I need to shut them up?"

The principal was confused about who he was talking about, but there were some people that needed to be pushed away.

Without hesitation, the principal assured him, "Don't worry. We will handle that matter and give them a proper warning."

"Alright then." Clovis nodded.

The principal extended his hand. "Welcome on board, Student Clovis. I'm looking forward to your future success."

Clovis shook his hand while saying, "Likewise."

As the principal said, the matter regarding other academies was his to handle.

Obviously, there were a lot of people sneaking around, trying to get into contact with Clovis.

But before Clovis even left the academy to return to his house, the academy had made a clear statement that Clovis was a part of the first academy and no one should touch him.

Those who wanted to approach him couldn't help but clench their teeth as they realized that Clovis had decided to join the first academy.

They were blaming each other because they couldn't find such a talent anywhere, especially those who thought about giving the contract only after the annual event. They could still defend themselves because Clovis hadn't shown any result yet, but it wouldn't be too long for the annual event.

Of course, there was a lot of criticism from people, saying that the first academy forced Clovis to join the first academy permanently after seeing his true talent. If he didn't show it, the first academy wouldn't even bother to give that contract.

The principal knew it would happen, so he let it happen. Instead of fighting the rumor, the principal just received all of them head-on, fully knowing that the rumor would be shifted pretty soon.

Once Clovis received an excellent result in the annual competition or simply reached Tier 3.

That was why the principal dared to make such a gamble.

...

A few days later.

"Clovis. Is this really going to work? If we sign the contract, it means that we won't be able to leave for three years, right?" Kanaria asked.

The others were also curious about the reason for Clovis to suddenly accept this contract.

Clovis simply said, "One year. The contract is only for one year."

"But it's not like you're going to leave just because the contract ends, right? While you can do that, it makes your image somewhat bad. No one is going to partner again with us if we have that kind of image." Kanaria explained.

"Indeed. However, you are missing a point. The reason for the one-year term is to see their sincerity. If they don't even do anything for us after a year or two, there is no reason for us to be here any longer. Don't forget that the academy wants us for a certain reason. Besides, in one year, I believe that everyone can get much stronger."

Erwin frowned. "If that's the case, why do you suddenly want to join the first academy? Weren't you the one against it the most?"

"Yeah, and I still hate it, but I have to admit that the academy is a shelter."

"A shelter?" Erwin fell into deep thought, not understanding his meaning.

"Yes. If there are organizations planning to kill me, the academy will be the ones taking care of it. In fact, they might not even realize those organizations and just think that some academies are trying to eliminate me."

Erwin was taken aback. On the one hand, Clovis acted like a jerk by exploiting the academy. On the other hand, it was actually a brilliant plan. They could gain some peace for a period of time because the academy was covering them.

The more they showed how strong they were compared to others, the more protective the academy would become.

This way, they didn't have to worry about those organizations for at least a year.

"Waaf!" Reolf barked as if telling him that he would be there to protect him.

"Hahaha. Reolf... good boy!" Clovis chuckled as he rubbed him. "I'm sorry for making you stay here. We'll be leaving very soon, so endure it a bit longer, alright?"

"Waaf!" Reolf nodded.

"I can understand why you want to join the academy right now, but this will probably create a conflict with other academies as well as other students, no?"

"It's easier to handle an enemy that we already know than the unknown enemies who are lurking in the dark."

Kanaria sighed. "Alright. I'll trust your decision."

"Anyway, even though we won't be living any time soon, it's not like we can't do it under the guise of 'vacation.'" Clovis shrugged while glancing at Melody, as if implying that they could still leave this country for a bit to find his mother so that they could help her younger brother.

Melody sighed, knowing her weakness. It seemed that Clovis had put a proper thought before making the decision.

"Anyway, unlike in Axionia, there is no limitation for us to travel. We can go to a corner of the country without worrying that this city will fall." Clovis smiled.

"!!!" They almost forgot about this fact.

Before they could even say anything, Maya slammed open the door as she shouted from the entrance.
"Guys. Where are you? Are you home now? I have brought the details regarding the annual event!"