

World Mall 491

Chapter 491 Anger

Gerald looked at his wife, Aisha, staring at the screen.

"What are you watching?"

"The broadcasting of the event."

"Event? Which event?" Gerald tilted his head in confusion.

"Of course, the event Clovis was part of." Aisha sighed.

"Oh, that one? I have heard that Father has talked to her and given her permission." Gerald frowned.
"Are you worried that he won't be okay?"

"I know that he will be okay. In fact, other battles he has faced so far are more dangerous, but it doesn't change the fact that I'm worried. His opponents might not be Tier 5, but their strength is equal to it. His group... while they are good, they're still not enough to completely dominate the event."

Gerald shrugged. "Well, you know, three of them are still so young. The other three are quite strong, but they are not in a position to fight against them. No, it's probably more accurate to say they have the strength to fight them, but not defeat them."

Aisha fell silent for a moment. "Do you think Clovis will be using that?"

"I have seen the match against that Sullivan or something. It seems that he has much better control right now."

"..." Aisha bit her lips. "If we... have never tried to live by ourselves... would that happen?"

Gerald's expression darkened. "You mean..."

Both Aisha and Gerald knew what she was talking about. It was the incident that happened more than 10 years ago.

Aisha and Gerald came back home and found the young Clovis in the garden. His body and face were covered in scratches as if he had just fought against someone.

The opponent was obviously the one in his hand. It was a chicken. It was just a normal chicken.

However, Clovis grabbed the chicken by its neck with his left hand holding a knife.

Aisha and Gerald were utterly shocked when they saw it. The chicken alone was already a problem because they had never raised a chicken. But the coldness in his eyes and the lack of empathy somehow broke their hearts.

Clovis killed a chicken when he was only 5 years old, and he didn't even spare a glance or cry despite doing such a thing.

His eyes were red as if they were dyed in blood. There was even a trace of killing intent leaking out from those eyes. It wasn't something a kid was supposed to have.

That sight of him was like the birth of a monster.

Still, there was one thing that stood out the most. It was the anger—an uncontrollable anger. They didn't know what caused it or where it was directed. It could be at them, it could be at the chicken, or it could be at the world.

It was as if their child had just broken. Due to that sight, Aisha and Gerald had agreed to never have more children, fully aware that their hands would be full with Clovis.

Nevertheless, Clovis was still their child. They loved him. They tried to teach him but to no avail.

That was when they had no choice but to call Michael.

At that time, Michael only gave five words. "Anger that strikes the world."

They didn't know how to educate Clovis, so Michael was the one taking over the education.

It was thanks to him that Clovis gradually turned to normal. Everything that Michael taught him was to suppress that anger.

At the same time, this was also the beginning of their family's collapse. The original reason why they wanted a fresh start was because if Michael got involved, the people that targeted him would also come.

But because they had no choice, their family could only be separated. Fortunately, Michael had left Clovis with all his teachings.

However, Michael, Gerald, and Aisha still monitored Clovis' condition even though he wasn't present. The reason why Michael destroyed the city that tried to turn Clovis into the subject of an experiment was not because of his secret but for something else.

Aisha bit her lips. "If he continues doing this, what is going to happen?"

"I don't know. Father said that he is most stable right now. Instead of the complete collapse of the mind, it is better for Clovis to get used to it bit by bit. So letting him use that unique ability might be a good idea. At the very least, there won't be a second incident like in the past..."

Aisha's expression darkened. "What if everything is going down?"

"..." Gerald shook his head helplessly. "I can't imagine. At the very least, this competition is not dangerous. And that's also the reason why Father wants him to have multiple wives."

"If one dies, he won't fall to such a grief that he will go berserk... Although it sounds cold, it's probably the most effective method." Aisha let out a long sigh.

"Yes. That unique ability harms his mind. If it collapses once again, I'm afraid that we'll witness... a birth of madness." Gerald closed his eyes with a pained expression. "Looking at the situation, it seems that father doesn't mind if he makes Hana his wife in the future."

"Are you going to intervene?"

"Who knows." Gerald shrugged. "As a parent, all I want is to maintain his stable heart, and let him enjoy the life he deserves."

Aisha bit her lips. "But is Tier 5 not too long? Shouldn't you say like Tier 4 or Tier 3..."

"What I mean by Tier 5 is with that low evolution rate of him... I'm sure he can reach it, but he will probably need a decade or something. But I don't even know how he is able to reach this level in such a short amount of time."

"I don't think it is his unique ability, so there might be something else." Gerald sighed.

"Someone intervening?"

"Most likely. However, I don't know who they are. Father must have been aware of this. That's why he is going around the world right now, both in the underworld and on the surface."

Aisha could only sigh and continue watching. No matter how much she missed him, she couldn't meet the kid right now.

Chapter 492 Annual Event

The city was in a festive mood. The annual event of the first academy always brought a lot of sponsors, viewers, and attention from all high ranking people.

After all, this was a showcase from the first academy to them. It was as if they were saying, "These are our talented students. They are going to be elites in several years. Watch and see."

There were numerous stalls on the entrance of the first academy as the academy was opened to the public.

A lot of people were taking pictures, hoping that they could get into this place in the future.

However, there were three hot topics that circulated in this year's annual event.

The first would be the sponsorship of Hana Skylark as well as a few other big investors that increased the reward by five times.

The second was Clovis, whom people wanted to know and see. In fact, a lot of people wanted to meet him and somehow form a relationship with him.

The last one was still Hana Skylark, specifically the new product that she planned to introduce.

On the back of the school, two airships produced by the OpenSky company were parked.

The students were waiting outside the airships, waiting for the next instruction.

Clovis and the others formed a group as usual, albeit it was a shame that Reolf couldn't be here. It wouldn't be good for him to be broadcast as well, so this time, only six of them would compete.

"Are you guys ready? I'm just telling you, but I won't do much in this competition." Clovis smiled. "After all, today's stars are you guys."

"It's a shame, but I guess we can beat up some of those guys... Maybe win the annual event while we are at it." Kanaria nodded.

"I just want to fight multiple club presidents. Never mind. I want to compete with the strongest fighter in school." Jay shrugged.

"I just want this to get over with." Melody sighed.

"Hahaha. I'm going to suppress you with my result today." Erwin grinned, provoking Jay.

"Fine by me. As always, I'll defeat you!" Jay glared back.

Ragna smiled wryly, never seeing them in a good term. He asked, "By the way, Clovis. Where is Hana Skylark? She is supposed to be the sponsor of this event, right?"

"Hana is probably somewhere inside, watching us." Clovis pointed at the building.

As Clovis said, Hana, the principal, and the vice principal were sitting behind a long table, watching numerous screens in front of them. They were not active yet, but they would soon after the event began.

With a loud trumpet sound, a woman wearing a flashy magical suit as if she were cosplaying appeared. There was a camera right behind her.

"Welcome back, everyone! We are back with me again, your dear streamer, Utaha! I love music, games, and mystery! It's fortunate that today we have the biggest mystery that has been plaguing us for the last seven days to solve. And who will solve this other than..." Utaha playfully came closer to Hana and presented her to the camera. "...the beloved CEO of the Skylark Company, Hana Skylark."

Hana played along by waving her hand to the camera with the biggest smile she could offer. The principal and the vice principal were twitching their eyebrows because her face looked like an angel compared to what she showed whenever she negotiated things with them.

"How is it, Miss Hana? Do you think we'll be able to know what new product you are introducing? With the hype going around for the last seven days, I'm sure it's nothing small, right?"

"Of course." Hana nodded. "However, you have to watch it yourself because it will appear on this battlefield."

"Aw. We can't know it? Maybe just a bit? Pretty please?"

Hana chuckled. "Alright, alright. Maybe I'll give you a hint. This new product is related to beast souls. And all I can say is that the new product will change the way we have been fighting this whole time. It'll create a new era."

"Hmm. If you are talking about a beast soul and a new era, does that mean in the future, there's no need for people to use a beast soul other than the ones from your company?"

"Of course not. People will still utilize the normal beast souls. In fact, you can use both at the same time, creating a unique fighting style. Well, you'll be able to understand it once it's out!"

"It's sad that we can't find everything, but we'll know about it soon. Anyway, do you have any words for the students competing in this annual event, Miss Hana?" Utaha asked.

"I wish that everyone can compete fairly without holding a grudge. In the end, we are from the same species and beasts are our common enemy. I wish you all the best."

"Thank you so much." Utaha nodded and moved to the principal. "In that case, let's move to the man overseeing the entire event, Principal Vhalor. Principal Vhalor, what do you think about the new product?"

"Hoho. I don't know anything, but I believe in the ability of all my students."

"I see. In that case, would you like to say a word or two for the students?"

"In that case, I'll just make it simple since everyone will blame me if I give a long and boring speech. Students. If you want to climb the ladder, you need to do it one step at a time."

"What a profound message... I'm afraid that I can't fully understand it with my two brain cells." Utaha chuckled and moved to the vice principal. "Vice Principal Anastasia. Who do you think will be the winner for this event?"

"What is this? I feel like I have the hardest question."

"Hahaha."

The vice principal said, "I won't pick a favorite. Besides, I'm different from the principal. The biggest reward for me is not to reach the finish goal or whatever end line we have. The biggest reward is the memories we make along the way, the friends we gain, the scenery we witness... People tend to forget that life is not just about reaching their goal."

"Indeed. I feel like I want to cry after hearing your words." Utaha turned back to the camera. "And that's it everyone, the messages from all three hosts of this event. I'll now explain the rules of the annual event."

Chapter 493 Rules

"Principal. May we know the rules for this annual event?" Utaha asked.

"Yes. The concept of this year's annual event is a group battle royale. The group has a maximum of six members, and everyone can join anyone."

"Hoho." Utaha nodded in understanding. "If that's the case, won't it be unfair for the people in the senior class and the junior class? What if their opponent is a group that consists of six people from the elite class?"

"Of course, that is unfair. However, this is where it starts to get interesting as well as why we set up a group battle royale. In this competition, no one can tell what will happen. You can form a group with the elite class, you can even choose to work with people of the same club, you go with your friends... Anything is possible.

"But that is not limited to the teammates... For example, if you don't have the strength to go against the elite class, you can join hands with other groups to take them down.

"This is a battle royale that tests almost everything, from your quality, quantity, the connection, your strategy, or even your own reputation."

Utaha paused for a moment. "That sounds complicated. So, basically, there is no rule?"

"Other than harming your fellow students or even killing them, there is no rule. We want the students to know what they are supposed to do by themselves."

"If you have a bad reputation, doesn't that mean you're going to be targeted? Even if you are not, you still can be targeted... for example, the group that Miss Hana sent for this competition." Utaha glanced at her.

Hana smiled. "What do you think is the most important point of this battle royale?"

"To win?" Utaha tilted her head in confusion.

"No. It's to make the most impact. If you are getting outnumbered, you can still make an impact. Essentially, for me and my fellow businessmen, we're probably searching for people who have unique qualities. What will they do in a certain situation? Will they be reliable?"

You can just sit out for the duration of the match and defeat the last group standing and still win the match.

"However, what will it give you? Is it going to be a cheer or a booing? People may think of them as smart, but if they don't do anything, no one will consider them to have value. If they are recruited by big companies or organizations, they expect you to do something, not just watch the companies fall, right?"

"Hoho. That is indeed true." Utaha nodded and turned back to the principal. "In that case, how can you win in this battle royale, Principal Vhalor?"

"With this!" Vhalor took out a flag. "This is just a simple flag with a chip inside. If you scan the flag of others, you will get a point. However, this flag can't be scanned for the second time even by a different group.

"Each flag you scan will give you a certain amount of points. For every single student from the elite class, you get 100 points. For every student from the senior class, you get 50 points. And for every single student from the junior class, you get 10 points."

"This will make the competition even more complicated." Utaha nodded. "In other words, if you have six people from the elite class in your group, scanning their flag will give you 600 points in one go. But if you have to fight against six people from the junior class, you get 60 points.

"If you look at this, it won't be worth aiming for the team Miss Hana sent in this competition. You only get a low amount of points compared to the effort you have to make to defeat them."

"Exactly." He nodded.

"Where are they going to fight?"

"The location for today's battle is this fallen city." The principal projected an image of a fallen city. "It is a fallen city ten kilometers away from this base. I'm sure that everyone knows it.

"Instead of getting rebuilt, this fallen city is often used as a practice field. We'll drop the students in this city and let them fight. There are around two hundred teachers and five hundred medical staff that will help them with their injuries.

"Since all of them are fellow students, I hope that they don't do something that will make them disqualified. Even if the school rules are not broken, the school has to reconsider their value because of their character."

Utaha fell silent for a moment. "The city is quite spacious for the students, so I believe they will be able to fight to the best of their ability. If they're getting dropped off at random positions, it'll make it hard to form an alliance unless it's on the spot."

"Indeed. The students are currently flying to this fallen city, and I'm expecting a lot from them."

"In that case, one last question. How are we going to be able to see their progress?"

The principal turned to Hana.

"We have prepared more than 3,000 CCTVs and 1,000 drones and scattered them all over the city. This way, we can cover for most students.

"Of course, it'll be hard to keep track of every single student, but if you go to the Academy Battle Royale app, you'll be able to see your favorite's student. The application has been equipped with a face recognition AI, and you can simply search for the student's name in that app to follow that person.

As for us here, we have a team to pick several cameras that are doing the best at that time, which we'll discuss."

Utaha nodded. "I understand. If that's the case, let's check the condition of the students right now."

As they were explaining the rules, the students had been dropped off at their destination as the staff blindfolded them and led them to their own spot.

Clovis and the others were standing close together, waiting for the signal.

"Guys. We are together, right?" Ragna asked as he couldn't see anything with the blindfold.

"Yep," Clovis responded.

"Of course." Kanaria smiled.

"Indeed." Erwin nodded.

"I guess." Melody sighed.

But after a moment, Jay's voice didn't echo in their ears. Ragna frowned. "Ehm... Jay? Are you there?"

Chapter 494 Start

"Ehm, Jay? Are you there?"

"..." The others couldn't help but furrow their eyebrows, thinking Jay was kidnapped. However, he soon responded, "Yeah, I'm here."

"You're giving me a heart attack. I thought you were not with the group and somehow lost... or even kidnapped!" Ragna raised his voice.

"I'm just trying to focus."

Ragna wanted to say something, but Kanaria immediately cut him off. "By the way, what is the plan, Clovis? Should we show them right away and dominate the battle?"

"We should wait for a bit, taking down several people and using that ability as a trump card. It'll bring more hype that way," Erwin explained while crossing his arms.

Clovis maintained his silence for a bit longer before saying, "As I said previously, I won't be going all out today. It's not about me after all. However, we don't have to turn this ability into our trump card for this match.

"Don't forget that they are still mysteries. Even outside this battle royale, we'll need them. That's why we'll defeat a couple of groups before taking it out to kill a few more groups. After that, we'll bail out."

Erwin frowned. "Won't that cause the people to not feel the hype?"

"No. I'm not planning to introduce it as a way to turn it around, but an overwhelming strength."

"Ah!" Erwin contemplated. "If we show too much, it also means that we're exposing our trump card. And people will have an easier time dealing with us."

"By creating the illusion that we can still do more, they'll be more careful against us. Besides, there's a possibility that we still have other beast souls." Melody agreed with Clovis' decision.

Clovis smiled. "It seems that everyone has understood what I'm planning to do. For today, you'll take the lead, Jay. No need to think hard."

"That sounds like it! We'll just use brute force to defeat them." Jay smirked.

...

"It's 10:00 AM right now. Everyone is already in their position!" Utaha turned to the other three. "How about we count together?"

The principal nodded as he was the one leading it by raising his hand, showing three fingers. "3!"

"2!" Hana raised her voice.

"1!" Utaha cheered.

"0!" As everyone counted, the principal pressed the button.

An alarm suddenly rang across the city. In the rule, it was the signal to start.

As soon as the alarm went off, all students took off their blindfolds, looking at their teammates.

Some of them were staring inside buildings, some were starting in a plain field, and some were within small alleys.

However, one thing was clear. They had to move fast and get as many points as possible. After all, in the first few minutes, people still hadn't allied themselves with others.

They had been discussing their plan for several minutes by now, so all of them immediately moved according to their plan.

Some were hiding inside the building to wait for a better opportunity, some were scouting around, and some, including the Libation Fiesta, immediately went to search for their prey.

Jay was the one taking the lead this time, heading straight to the west.

"It's a bit annoying that radar is not allowed this time." Melody clicked her tongue.

"I guess they want to focus on our abilities."

"But I'm an operator, so the radar is included in my ability." Melody sighed. "Anyway, go to the left. There should be some people coming toward us."

"!!!" Jay didn't say anything, but he followed Melody's instructions right away and found six people.

"What? They are the new students!" The enemies panicked.

Jay could see that four of them were in the elite class, while the other two were still in the junior class. It wasn't a hard opponent for the Libation Fiesta.

Without hesitation, Jay sped up together with Clovis and Ragna.

"Stop them!" They shouted.

Two of them were gunners, but the first one got hit on the head by Kanaria's rifle. The bullet had been changed, so it splashed out paint and knocked them out of the tournament.

The other one shot at them, but Ragna skillfully came to the front and put his shield on the way, blocking it for his teammates until Kanaria took down the second one.

Clovis and Jay looped around Ragna and sped up, facing one opponent each.

Jay swung his blade toward his opponent, who also did the same. However, Jay's swing overpowered him and pushed him down.

When the guy dropped to his butt, Jay kicked him away as if showing that he could kill him and he should move out of the way.

Clovis, on the other hand, cut the enemy several times with his speed, leaving numerous injuries that could be fatal to them.

After that, Clovis hit him in the chest with the back of his handle, causing the guy to spit some acid from his stomach before falling to his knees.

The other two wanted to help, but Ragna stopped one of them with his shield while the other one was only from the junior class.

Erwin simply captured him with his threat from afar, which meant only Ragna's opponent remained alive. Of course, Clovis and Jay immediately placed their swords at the guy's neck as if showing that it was over.

"..." The guy wanted to cry, but he could only say, "The flag is in his right pocket."

Clovis nodded, secured the fact, and tossed it to Melody, who later scanned it.

A teacher immediately appeared next to them and said, "Your group has been eliminated. You will follow me outside."

"Yes." They had no choice. They blamed their bad luck for encountering the Libation Fiesta right away.

"I think I've found a new target!" Kanaria was staring at a distance. "There are about twelve people. It seems they are working together."

"In that case, let's go. We'll hurry up and take down some groups." Jay wasn't going to waste any time. He just wanted to accomplish their task and go back.

However, their opponent this time was a bit clever. Before the Libation Fiesta could engage the enemies, their opponents suddenly yelled, "The exchange students are here. The exchange students are here," as if they were trying to incite the mass to join hands.

Chapter 495 Easy Victory

"What is this? Isn't this a big problem for them? The students are trying to rally the masses to defeat these six people." Utaha sucked a cold breath and turned to Hana. No matter how powerful they were, getting outnumbered like this wouldn't be beneficial for them.

Hana simply said, "They will do just fine. Clovis is a smart man, so he knows when he will reveal the new product. They might surprise you guys."

"Wow. What confidence from Miss Hana. There are three groups currently coming to them. Several more are still on the way. It seems that Miss Hana is confident that your group, eh..." Utaha looked at the name again. "...Libation Fiesta will be able to crush these few groups.

Let's see!"

As Utaha said those words, Clovis and the others were indeed being surrounded by three groups.

Ragna was already standing in front, protecting the group. Meanwhile, Kanaria and Melody were looking for a safe spot where they could help the group without getting bothered by the enemies.

Among all 18 people, four of them were gunners, and there was one sniper. The rest were using their melee weapons.

Clovis couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows, noticing something from them. Even though they came together, the enemies didn't have any sign of working together. In other words, they could easily separate them and defeat them.

In addition, most of them were Tier 2 and Tier 3. There was one Tier 4, but that was it.

Jay said, "Clovis. You gonna take that Tier 4?"

"You're not going to fight him, Jay?"

"I need to conserve my stamina. This will be the best method since it'll allow me to defeat more enemies in the long run."

"Alright. I'll take care of him then." Clovis nodded with a smile. If it were the former Jay, he would have chosen the Tier 4 human as his opponent.

"Ragna and Melody will take care of the people on the left. Erwin is to go handle the group on the right. They are not going to work together, so Kanaria will be helping me and Erwin. We have to defeat them in five minutes."

The Tier 4 stepped forward while saying out loud, "It is such a shame that you have to be surrounded by all of us here. We know this is not fair, but this is the essence of a battle royale. If you haven't made too much noise inside the academy, you would probably not get attacked like this."

Clovis yawned as if he wasn't interested in chatter.

"You—" The Tier 4 guy wanted to say something, but Clovis suddenly sped up, covering the distance between them in two seconds.

The other students raised their weapons, but the first one that got sniped by Kanaria was the sniper. The latter tried to hide inside the building, which was probably why the Tier 4 didn't attack immediately. He wanted to wait until the sniper was ready.

Unfortunately for him, Kanaria saw everything and immediately eliminated one of them.

"!!!" The Tier 4 guy looked shocked, but he had to block Clovis' attack right away. "Kh."

Even though he was already a Tier 4 human, his strength was incomparable to Sullivan. In just the first exchange, Clovis managed to leave four wounds on his body.

"Attack him!"

The other students tried to help, surrounding Clovis.

However, Ragna immediately stood in their way while Erwin released a web that tried to capture the group on the right.

The gunners were planning to kill them, but the chaos caused them to be unable to find a good aim on the enemies.

Jay took advantage of that situation and approached the group in the middle. He rotated his blade and hit them with the back of his saber.

"!!!" The students were startled. Two of them got hit on the forehead and were knocked down to the ground. They had never thought that they would be eliminated like this. They simply couldn't follow Jay's movement.

"What is going on?" They were confused, but the teachers immediately brought them away so that they wouldn't hinder Libation Fiesta.

The others tried to block Jay, but the latter simply overpowered them with his strength. There was no way an ordinary Tier 3 could go against his strength, which was equal to Tier 4, even if they were genius. Someone who could fight a person one tier above them was rare even in the academy after all.

The same applied to the other groups. Erwin managed to capture three of the enemies with a single thread, eliminating them with another wrap on their neck. Of course, Erwin didn't tighten it, or else their necks would have sliced off.

Even the teacher had to stop Erwin by cutting his thread.

On the other hand, Ragna was simply impenetrable. He blocked all their attacks in rapid succession. In addition, while it was only for a few days, Ragna had learned a bit more unique spearsmanship, allowing him to actually change the trajectory of his spear slightly.

Such a move startled the enemies. Although he didn't kill as much, Melody was there to help him eliminate several people.

In just a minute, Clovis' group managed to defeat half of them. However, there was still a Tier 4 guy who could open up a path for them, but that didn't happen.

The Tier 4 student was so completely overwhelmed by Clovis' speed that he couldn't do anything other than blocking his swords. Ultimately, the Tier 4 student fell on his knees, which became the end mark for this battle. All they had to do was clean up the rest.

Or that was what they thought until Clovis and the others saw multiple people who had just arrived. There were another three groups coming into the fight, but unlike the previous groups, each of them was quite strong. Each group was led by a Tier 4.

If Clovis and the others weren't careful, they might lose to them because all those captains were actually club presidents.