

World Mall 511

Chapter 511 Observation

"That's the beast. The fox." Melody marked the enemy on the skyglasses.

The beast was surrounded by more than thirty other beasts, so it would definitely be hard to approach it.

Clovis simply stated, "Erwin and Ragna will stop the Tier 5 beast for a second. Wait until we are done with the rest of the beasts. Kanaria will support them. As for the rest, kill them as quickly as possible. We will finish this within ten minutes."

"Got it."

Luci was probably the most excited one among them.

Thirty minutes ago.

"It is said that licking the wound is the best way to recover. Where? Where are your injuries?"

Clovis massaged his forehead, knowing that he couldn't completely handle her. Clovis added, "Whatever. The interview is done."

"Am I getting accepted?" Luci looked at him, her eyes filled with expectations. She was confident that she would be accepted.

Clovis simply sighed, "There is one more test. Even though the interview is done, you don't forget that we are a party that aims to the top, right?"

"Ah!" Luci looked disappointed for a moment as she couldn't help but touch her knives while saying, "Damned beasts. How dare you stop me from joining the group? Whoever it is, you're going to have a painful death."

Coupled with the killing intent her eyes were emitting, Clovis was pretty sure she wasn't joking.

Clovis raised one finger. "First of all, can I know more about your combat strength? Our original mission is to kill three Tier 5 beasts."

"I should be able to fight a Tier 5 beast, considering I'm already close to Tier 5. I don't know if you believe me or not, but I have a 100% evolution rate. This is the reason why I am close to Tier 5, but still have enough time to finish my medical studies."

"!!!" Clovis widened his eyes in shock. This was the first time he saw someone with a perfect evolution rate. "Do you have beast souls?"

"I do have three beast souls. To put it simply, I can kick hard, throw fast, and recover fast. Those are the three beast souls I have right now."

"What do you think about the new beast soul then?"

"The new beast soul? What are you talking about? Do you mean the newest beast soul I get?" She tilted her head in confusion.

"Have you watched the academy's annual event?"

She shook her head in confusion.

He turned around and saw Melody assisting them from far away, so he called her name out loud.
"Melody!"

Melody saw Clovis waving his hand, so she came. "What?"

"Can you show the new beast soul to her?"

Melody nodded. "I don't really mind."

All of a sudden, a pair of butterfly wings appeared on her back, stunning her.

"What is that?" She gasped as she couldn't help but move to her back. She was observing the part where the wings were connected.

"This is the new beast soul. Instead of the usual ability, the beast soul will allow you to control an external part of a beast. A stinger, wings, eyes, anything..."

"Hoo..." She couldn't help but touch the wings. "Do you feel anything when I touch it? What if it gets injured?"

Melody nodded. "Yeah. I do feel something when you touch it because it's linked to the nerves. However, it remains as an external part, so the sensation isn't that much. If it gets hurt, it won't be as painful."

"Interesting." Luci crossed her arms. "What if the wing is cut? Will it regrow?"

"Yes, but the recovery rate is still unknown. The range is so absurd that they can't generalize it," Clovis explained.

"This is very interesting. It seems to be genetically modified, but it doesn't seem to be affecting your genes. If you think about it, what will happen to someone with a metamorphosis beast soul? Will their body change?"

"No. I should ask a different question. Since we're talking about external parts, what if humans get an animal's reproductive organ? Will they give birth to animals?" She blinked a few times.

"To do that, it has to be genetically modified. Meanwhile, the new beast soul simply lives in a small 'bowl' inside your body, so only that part will come out. And if you make it that way, you have to find a way to produce the animal's sperm, right?"

"That's true. That will just defeat the purpose and return to the original research that has been failing so far. This should be a different way of utilizing. I haven't fully grasped the concept, but I have a general idea about this." She crossed her arms. "Maybe there is a way to have the recovery pod to help heal the beast soul as well. Wait.

Am I getting one?"

"If you wish so."

"What is your beast soul?"

Clovis shook his head. "I don't have a beast soul, whether the new one or the traditional one. My grandfather has asked me not to have one."

"Mhmm..." She looked down, falling into deep thought.

Just from how she managed to grasp all of it in a single glance was enough to show how knowledgeable she was, especially regarding the connection between humans and beasts.

Hence, Clovis said, "Anyway, we'll continue on our mission. If you manage to perform well in the battles, I don't mind accepting you."

She nodded furiously.

When she recalled the mission, her killing intent soared.

A beast suddenly got stabbed in the eye by her. She skillfully moved to the other side and pulled that knife, causing the knife to cut both eyes.

The beast screamed in pain, but instead of killing the beast immediately, she actually stabbed the beast's body and cut his body without any mercy. She screamed, "You dare to stop me from pursuing my dream. You're not going to have a peaceful death."

The others were pointing at her, signaling Clovis to do something about her.

Clovis smiled wryly. It seemed he really had no other choice. "Oi. Stop it! What I mean by performance is how you cooperate with the team and kill as many as you can, not how good you are at torturing them."

"Ah!"

"Don't 'Ah!' me!"

Chapter 512 Killing a Tier 5 Beast

The Tier 5 beast struck Ragna, but fortunately, Erwin also helped him block the attack. With Erwin's Tier 4 strength, they didn't get pushed back like what happened in the past.

At the same time, Erwin wrapped the fox's paw with threads, attaching every single one of them to different trees.

Like how multiple strands of grass could actually withstand something heavier, the fox ended up not being able to move his claw.

"!!!" The fox looked shocked.

Even though Clovis told him to stop the fox, Erwin preferred to go on the offensive than the defensive.

The moment the fox was unable to move, Ragna immediately charged forward.

The fox used its other paw to slap Ragna away, but Erwin skillfully matched Ragna's movement and stopped the paw.

"!!!" The fox hurriedly moved away with so much force that the trees started to shake violently. There were even some cracking sounds as if they were about to snap.

Ragna and Erwin immediately moved to the fox's left side, taking advantage of the strapped paw to attack.

The fox moved in a circle, trying to avoid both of them, but that was when Kanaria fired her sniper rifle.

Bam!

The bullet pierced the fox's giant body, splattering its flesh on the side.

The fox wailed in pain, pulling the trees even with more force. Eventually, two trees snapped, allowing the fox to snap the rest of the trees.

"Get out!" Ragna shouted, putting his shield to the side. The fox pulled those trees toward him, which ultimately hit Ragna and Erwin.

"Kh!" Ragna used his shield to protect the left side while blocking the attack with his arm from the other side.

Erwin hurriedly wrapped those trees and crushed them, opening the path forward.

At the same time, the fox cut down the threads with his claws. It then charged toward Ragna, but it abruptly came to a stop halfway because Jay came from the side, almost cutting his neck.

The fox slapped Jay, launching him to the side.

Melody flew into the sky, checking the situation. "Clovis. There are incoming groups. I think they are the enemy's reinforcements."

"How many groups out there?"

"Only two. I can't calculate their number yet," replied Melody while looking at the dust kicked up by those beasts.

"Bombard one of them. I will take care of the other one. The rest of you will take down the Tier 5 beast."

"Roger that!" Melody and the others replied, leaving only Luci, who didn't know anything. "Ehm, guys. What am I supposed to do?"

"Just kill it!" Clovis shouted. "Melody will take care of your Skyglasses after this."

"Alright!" She nodded her head, seeing Reolf beside her, charging at the fox.

"!!!" She had just realized that Reolf was actually fighting beside her. Seeing how Reolf bit the fox's back and started dragging the fox down to the ground so that they could roll around together made Luci get even more excited.

The others didn't hesitate to come forward, not letting the chance that Reolf made.

The moment the fox kicked Reolf away, Luci had arrived and inserted her biggest knife into the fox's butt.

"!!!" The fox widened its eyes before screaming in pain.

"How dare you hurt him!" She started going crazy again, especially now that Clovis wasn't there to put a stop on her.

The rest of the team wanted to care, but they ended up ignoring her, thinking that Clovis would handle her later.

Ragna took the lead and slammed the fox's head with his shield. It didn't do much, but it was enough to cover the fox's sight, allowing Jay to approach the fox's body without getting spotted.

Then, Jay used his new beast soul and the traditional beast soul to make the most powerful swing he had ever released.

"!!!" The fox widened his eyes as the blade split open its belly.

At the same time, Erwin called out his eight spider legs and grabbed the body, using the wound to actually separate the skin from the flesh as if he were trying to skin the beast alive.

The fox was screaming in pain as it was struggling uncontrollably, trying to shake them off.

That was when Luci pointed out. "Cut that part vertically!"

She was pointing at the part near the fox's chest.

Without hesitation, Jay struck the part she pointed at with all his strength, cutting the flesh.

Despite the fox's struggle, Luci bravely moved near the fox's chest, even if those paws or giant body had the chance to hit her.

She cut the skin a little bit and shouted, "Pull it off!"

Since she had just joined, Erwin followed her instructions to see what kind of plan she got. To his surprise, the skin was actually much easier to peel, exposing his flesh.

"Attack it!" Luci shouted.

Jay and Ragna moved closer, but the fox surprisingly hit them, blowing them away. Even though they were doing the same thing as Luci, they didn't actually manage to come even close. It was clear that Luci understood how the fox would react.

That was why once they cleared out the area, Kanaria shot the fox. It wasn't perfect, but it actually scraped a lot of flesh from its body.

Then Luci came close to the fox again and cut a bit more flesh with her knife, exposing the heart.

Without being ordered, Reolf pounced on the wolf and struck the ribs. Without his tough skin, his flesh and bones were nothing but an easy target.

Reolf's palm crushed the ribs and eventually smashed the heart, ultimately killing the Tier 5 fox.

All of them couldn't help but widen their eyes.

It was true that they had gotten stronger after getting the new beast soul. However, it didn't change the fact that Luci's instruction allowed them to kill the beast much faster than they originally thought.

Clovis and Melody weren't even here to help them.

Luci knew which part to attack because of her extensive knowledge about the beasts. Kanaria squinted her eyes and muttered, "So that's her power, huh? Despite her questionable character, she is strong."

Chapter 513 Final Decision

For the next few hours, Clovis led his group to kill as many beasts as possible and created all kinds of situations to see how Luci fit in with the group.

It was clear that Luci was knowledgeable and strong. If there was a powerful beast, she could use her extensive knowledge to kill the beast much faster.

However, he realized that the more members he got, the harder it was to find someone that would fit in. After all, he had to consider more habits and personalities so that it wouldn't create a chaotic situation among themselves.

He learned this after meeting Luci, especially that eccentric side of her.

Once the sun was set, Clovis gathered the group, discussing whether Luci would be accepted into the group or not.

Clovis clasped his hands and asked with a solemn expression. "And now we'll be holding a final meeting. I want to listen to your opinions about Luci and whether she should join us or not."

Luci looked at them, leaning on Reolf. It seemed she was using Reolf as a cushion while putting some food in her mouth. She was simply too nervous, scared that she would get rejected since the one she was longing for was right before her.

Reolf didn't seem to care much about her. As long as Clovis was there, he wouldn't have to worry about his life.

Jay was the first one to answer.

"From the looks of it, her skills and knowledge are indeed the real deal. As a combatant, I don't have any qualms about her strength. She could be a good addition to the group. And with this number, we can literally split our group into two with four members each.

"I know that you are planning to make two elite groups, which should be 12 people in total. If you look at the current state, the vanguards are you, me, Erwin, Ragna, and Reolf. With her, we will be able to split the vanguards evenly.

"Her strength lies in her knowledge and skills. If she is paired with me or you, we can definitely kill the beasts much faster, allowing us to get even more freedom in splitting our forces.

"If you think that her personality is fine, then I don't have any objections to her joining the group. However, if she is a threat to our group, I will be the first to unsheathe my weapon," Jay explained from his perspective.

On the other hand, Kanaria judged her personality, especially since she would be trying whatever she could to acquire the sample.

Kanaria said, "I personally can't handle her. It's not about I hate her or something. It's just... I'm afraid of her obsession hindering our group."

Luci raised her hand. "As a professional, I know when I can express myself and when I can't. If you think that I've made a mistake in how I conduct myself, you can confront me immediately. I'll gladly receive my punishment."

Kanaria looked at her before backing down.

"As the operator of the group, I don't have any problems as well with her. She is able to follow the instructions I have set. In fact, her knowledge might allow me to mark a different spot to show the beasts' weaknesses, allowing us to swiftly decide the battle.

"If you think about it, pairing me and her will be a good idea in the case we have to split into two groups. In fact, I'll be glad if I can get more data about the beasts," Melody shared her experience.

"I don't mind sharing the data. It's not important to me. All the data I've collected so far is for the sake of my goal. If I can gain more data, I don't really care about sharing it with the group. In the end, I'm a part of the group," Luci explained.

Melody nodded, while Ragna and Erwin looked at each other, wondering who would be next.

Erwin decided to go first. "I don't have any objection. That's all. The rest of the problem will be handled by the group leader."

"..." Everyone was speechless by his answer.

Ragna smiled wryly as he added, "To be honest, the most important thing will be her medical expertise. Everyone loves to get injured here, including me. But unlike me, who has a special body type, you guys are making me worried. Hence, having a skilled doctor is something I'd welcome."

"Oi. I'm not!" Kanaria frowned.

Last but not least, Reolf simply raised his paw as he barked once while showing a smile.

It seemed the decision had been made.

Clovis nodded in understanding before turning to Luci. "So do you have something to say, Lucifania?"

"Once again, allow me to introduce myself. I am Lucifania. You can call me Luci. I know what I'm lacking the most and understand that you are worried about me doing something reckless.

"If you think I have made a mistake, please don't hesitate to tell me about it. I know that my words alone won't be enough to ease your worries, so I will do my best to prove it one at a time.

"I'd really love to join the group, and I won't lie, it's because this group has what I desire. However, I can promise you that I won't do any harm to the group. I will get the consent first. So please allow me to join the Libation Fiesta."

Luci lowered her head.

They exchanged looks, and eventually their gazes shifted to Clovis as he made the final decision.

"I understand. After reviewing what everyone has to say, I have made my decision. Welcome on board, Luci."

Luci's expression brightened as she raised her head with a shocked expression. She could finally join and learn a lot more about the relationship between humans and beasts. Of course, there were only Clovis and Reolf that piqued her interest.

As if he were teasing her, Clovis added one more thing. "Oh, by the way, the secret that you want... I think I can simplify it by introducing myself. My name is Clovis Hacfield, nice to meet you."

Luci's face immediately changed. "What the f—!"

Chapter 514 Busted

"So we have finally gained the eighth member, huh? To think that we would gather all these members so quickly. Just four more spots." Melody stretched her hands while yawning.

"Yeah. It's too fast. Then again, Clovis is about to reach Tier 3. If we keep up with this pace, we should be able to reach Tier 4 next year." Kanaria nodded.

"By the way, where is Clovis?" Melody asked, noticing Luci and Clovis were gone.

Kanaria pointed to the side, implying that Luci had brought him away to discuss something important.

And it was very important because, unlike other members who discovered it accidentally or only suspected it, Lucifania was the first one that found it easily.

Luci brought Clovis away from the group because she noticed that the others didn't seem to know what it was.

She stared into his eyes and said with a solemn expression. "What kind of meat have you made your teammates eat?"

Clovis' heart skipped a beat. He tilted his head while maintaining his poker face. "What kind of meat? I don't know what you're talking about."

"I know that this is a secret after seeing your teammates' reaction, but..." Luci looked down. "The meat you brought tasted like something else... It wasn't a beast. And I couldn't find any animals that would have such ridiculous... I don't know what to say. It's not protein or essence. It's something else..." Luci crossed her arms, having a hard time to describe it.

Clovis' heart sank. How did she notice it? The food he brought out was the one from Another World Mall. Only Tier 2 humans would be affected, but it didn't change the fact that it came from another world.

He simply never expected Luci would find out about it just by eating them. It seemed he had underestimated Luci's knowledge so much.

At the same time, the truth was something he would reveal eventually. Even Jay had seen the bandage, and Kanaria had been suspicious about the items. Since Another World Mall would allow him to bring other people in the future, he really didn't want to hide it.

That was why Clovis asked, "Can you explain how you found out?"

"I have eaten a lot of beasts, whether they are cooked or raw. I can differentiate their nutrients as well as their essence. When I ate your food, I could sense something rising in me, but it was useless. I'm assuming that it's something I don't use or need right now."

Clovis thought for a moment before shaking his head. "I don't have any intention to reveal what it is. All I can say is that I mean no harm. It's to increase everyone's strength."

"Is that the reason why your group is able to become strong so quickly?"

Clovis raised one finger. "I have told you before that my blood is special."

"That's not a joke?" Luci blinked her eyes a few times.

"Yes. Let's just say that I'm able to do something like that. And I can even grant you even more strength. It's just... I'm tied to my own tier, so I can't really do anything."

Luci fell into deep thought. She understood why Clovis wanted to hide his identity. If this were true, his blood would be the most sought-after thing in this world.

Of course, Luci didn't escape from that greed. "Can I check your blood?"

She managed to maintain her calm this time. It seemed she knew she could get the sample eventually as long as she was within the group, so she took this matter more calmly.

Clovis shook his head. "You are not thinking that you are able to get everything you want just by joining my group, right?"

"I know." Luci nodded. "However, if we can figure out your blood, it might also help the group."

"I can't give you yet. However..." Clovis hesitated for a moment before saying, "I can give you the meat."

Luci's body trembled. "If I have the meat, I can check what it is."

Luci immediately figured out what Clovis wanted. "I see. What do I have to do in order to get your blood? Or maybe Reolf's blood?"

"Equivalent exchange. If you can do something or if I need you something, I can probably give you my blood as a reward. By doing so, I can also see whether I should trust you or not."

"That's understandable." Luci clenched her hands into fists. If this was true, getting the sample seemed to be easier than she originally thought.

There were a lot of shady organizations that always demanded things without keeping their parts of the deal. The fact that he was willing to give the meat as a gift to show his sincerity had proven he wasn't someone who would back down from the deal.

Of course, Clovis was simply delaying this matter. He would first offer Reolf's blood since his blood wasn't anything special. By the time he would have to give his blood, he might already have the permission to bring someone into the mall.

And at that time, Luci might have gained his absolute trust. Hence, he believed this was the best path for both of them.

"For now, I think it's better for you to stay in the same mansion as us so that we can work together very often."

Luci asked, "Can I get my personal laboratory?"

"I'll ask Hana about it."

"Hana? Which Hana?"

"Hana Skylark."

"!!!" She was surprised that the Libation Fiesta had a wealthy investor. This also meant the laboratory she would get had high quality. "As long as I can get a good lab, I can do that. In fact, I can promise you that I will only do my research there so that no data will be stolen. This will keep your secret from the rest of the world until you choose to reveal it."

"That sounds good." Clovis nodded and stretched his hand. "Once again, I'm looking forward to working with you."

Luci shook his hand and abruptly stopped for a second.

"What's wrong?"

"From the looks of it, Kanaria is the first. Who is the second? Hana Skylark? Or am I worthy of the second position?"

"Huh?" Clovis was speechless as he couldn't help but pinch the bridge of his nose.

"It's the easiest way to earn your trust."

"It seems you can't stop it, huh?"

"Ehm..." Luci looked down. "Sorry."

Chapter 515 Earthquake

For the next several days, Clovis led his team to hunt down all the targets for this trip while familiarizing themselves with Luci's presence.

Luci simply allowed them to kill Tier 5 beasts in matters of minutes. While it was true that everyone had gotten stronger, it didn't change the fact that her knowledge allowed them to find their weak spots easily.

As a result, they managed to finish their hunts two days earlier than they originally planned. Clovis chose to use those two days to hunt other beasts.

Thanks to the hunt, Jay and Kanaria finally had enough essence to reach Tier 3. They just planned to go back and evolve to Tier 3 before making another small trip for Clovis.

With their current strength, it wouldn't be weird if Clovis decided to split up his team into two and just defeated two Tier 5 beasts at the same time.

In fact, as long as Reolf could reach Tier 3 as well, their group would be perfect.

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Finally, they had returned to the base, asking for permission to leave the army.

"Have you truly decided to leave the military, Lucifania?" The commander asked with a serious expression.

Luci was accompanied by Clovis, as this was probably the last time she would ever go back to this base.

She nodded her head. "Yes, sir. I'm grateful for you to accept me as a part of this base, but as I expect, I still want to fulfill my dream."

"So joining the Libation Fiesta will allow you to fulfill your dream..." The commander squinted his eyes.

"Yes, sir."

The commander turned to Clovis by saying, "She is a handful person, but she is knowledgeable, and her medical expertise is top notch. I know that she will trouble you, so I hope that you can take care of her."

"Yes." Clovis nodded calmly, knowing what kind of trouble he had invited.

The commander nodded before returning to Luci. "Have you told your teacher about this?"

"I'm about to tell him."

"Alright then." The commander had confirmed everything. He stood up, straightened his back, and saluted. "Thank you for your service."

She had joined for a few years and saved a lot of people, so the commander thanked her. It was a shame that such a skilled doctor would leave, but he couldn't deny her personality was problematic.

Luci was startled for a split second but immediately saluted back.

After coming outside, Clovis was surprised by how the soldiers looked at them.

Just like last time, they were staring at Clovis intensely as if Clovis were a hero of the military.

"What did you do in this base? It doesn't seem like you are liked in this place," Clovis couldn't help but ask.

Luci tilted her head in confusion. "I have done everything I can to save their lives. I haven't done anything wrong. They are just weaklings who are scared with a little blood and gruesome beast corpses."

"..." Clovis' eyebrows twitched, recalling what happened to the beasts they defeated. Luci actually skinned them and dismantled them depending on her mood, which was confusing but also disturbing.

It was no wonder why Luci was hated.

To his surprise, a soldier suddenly came to Clovis, stopping him for a second.

"What?" Clovis frowned, not wanting to have any trouble in this base.

But the soldier decided to drop the bomb by spreading his arms. "Can I... hug you, bro?"

"Ehm, what? I don't mind, but why?"

The soldier just hugged Clovis for no reason. He somehow teared up to the point where he couldn't control his emotion and started blurting out loud, "The mad witch is finally gone!"

"Uooohh!"

Some people cheered, while some couldn't show a happy expression for the time being as they had to make sure Clovis and Luci left the base.

Clovis looked even more confused as he glanced at Luci. "Are you serious you are not doing something worse than the one you've told me?"

Luci fell silent for a moment before grabbing Clovis' hand and just dragging him out of there. "There is nothing. Really!"

"Uooohh!"

"Thank you."

The soldiers waved their hands. In fact, there were more soldiers than he saw one week ago as if they had heard about her leaving the base today. No, it would be more accurate that the soldiers were actually waiting for them to pass.

Luci returned to her laboratory for a moment to gather up her personal belongings while Clovis waited outside.

He didn't bother to take a peek at Luci's laboratory since he knew it would be full of beast corpses. However, there was one thing that bothered him.

'The commander and the soldiers aside, there should be a lot of people trying to recruit her, right? The fact that she hasn't gone to any of them means two possibilities. The first one is that Luci is not interested in them. The second one is that they don't provide a good enough laboratory compared to the military.

Or does the military procure her all the resources she needs, considering this is a base near one of the most dangerous zones in this country?'

Clovis squinted his eyes. The first one would mean they would be a target of jealousy of those people, which might lead to a bigger conflict. The second one would simply give him some relief.

"I'm done here!" Before he could finish his thought, Luci had come out, bringing a box that contained all her personal belongings.

"Need help?"

"No. It's not heavy, and I have Muscle Affinity, unlike you." She shook her head.

"Alright. Let's get out." Clovis nodded as they once again heard the cheers from the soldiers.

"Goodbye!"

"Have a safe journey."

"We wish you luck!"

The soldiers' reactions were somewhat funny for Clovis, but their celebrations had to end when, all of a sudden, the ground was shaking violently.

"!!!" All of them suddenly held the wall next to them. Even Luci almost dropped her box.

The alarm rang from the outside as the soldiers shouted, "Earthquake! It's Earthquake! Hurry up and evacuate!"

They all sprung into action, helping the civilians, including Clovis.

Chapter 516 Chaotic

"Evacuate! Go to the rendezvous point!" The soldier waved his hand, asking Clovis to move forward.

Clovis and Luci were able to maintain their calm, but the situation was looking bad.

While rushing out of the building, Clovis asked, "Has something like this happened before?"

"No." Luci shook her head. "This place is not prone to earthquakes, so I'm not sure what it is. The only thing I'm sure of is that the earthquake should be quite big!"

As Luci said those words, the ceiling suddenly fell down. Clovis immediately grabbed her and came to a halt, stopping her.

Right after they dropped, Clovis continued moving forward, this time taking the lead. His reaction speed was much faster, so it would be better to have him in the front.

Even though they were running straight, their bodies kept going left and right. They even had to support their bodies by placing their hands on the wall.

Clovis suddenly stopped as the ceiling collapsed. It wasn't just a single cell that collapsed, but the entire ceiling. The only thing remaining above them was just the roof with a hole in it.

"We're blocked." Clovis clicked his tongue and turned to the side. Without hesitation, he opened one of the doors but didn't see a window.

"We're stuck!" Clovis turned to Luci.

"There is no other way. We have to go back. There is another pathway to that side, so we won't find the window." Luci shook her head.

"Then, let's go!" Clovis didn't expect that the earthquake would be this powerful and last for this long.

As they came back, he kept waving to the soldiers while shouting, "Not good. This path is blocked!"

With Luci's help, the soldiers believed them and immediately informed the others.

They could see some walls collapsed and hit three people.

Looking at Luci's expression, Clovis immediately came to them and started grabbing away the rubble, knowing that the roof on top of him might fall at any moment.

Luci also dropped her box and started helping them.

Fortunately, several soldiers also lent a hand, allowing them to rescue all three of them. The soldiers retreated together with Clovis and Luci as they finally reached the corner where the commander's office was located.

They noticed that the path had been blocked by a lot of rubble. Not planning to risk it, Clovis slammed open the door of the commander's office and saw the window leading to the outside.

Without hesitation, he shattered the window with a kick and used his sword to scrape away the window.

After that, he came out and started helping the people out.

As soon as all of them came out, the soldiers immediately led them to the evacuation point where they wouldn't have to deal with the collapsing building.

It was there he actually found what was happening. The building was in shambles. He could see some parts collapsing all over the place. The people were panicking, so Clovis immediately said, "Luci."

"I know. I will start treating them." Luci gritted her teeth.

"How long does this earthquake last?" Clovis clicked his tongue.

While looking around, he saw the commander panicking. As someone at his level, the earthquake shouldn't be enough to make him in disarray, so it must be something else.

After 3 minutes and 48 seconds, the earthquake finally stopped.

Nathan immediately called Kanaria. "What is the condition on your side?"

"We hang on, but the Reolf is becoming uncontrollable. The earthquake is so big that he is having a hard time remaining calm. Where are you?"

"We are at the evacuation point. Tell Jay to lead the team to safety over there and try to find out what is happening."

"Melody is already on it. There is an earthquake. The scale is..." Kanaria paused for a moment, as if she were asking Melody about it. "The magnitude is 8.2. There is news all around the Skynet. We are unsure about what is going on as well because this does not normally happen.

The last earthquake recorded, according to Skynet, was 40 years ago."

Clovis bit his lips. "Take care of that side for now. We'll regroup once the situation calms down."

"Alright." Kanaria hung up.

Clovis' expression turned pale. "With such a magnitude, won't there be an aftershock?"

Luci was still too focused on the patients, so Clovis had to figure out the situation. The commander should know about this, but he shouldn't bother him in this situation. Hence, he came a bit closer so that he could listen to what he was saying to his subordinates.

"Gather up the troops. We need the reinforcement from the rest of the military base. No matter what, we have to stop the beasts!"

"!!!" Clovis widened his eyes in shock. The earthquake was so big that even Reolf was rampaging, so it wouldn't be weird if the rest of the beasts would also come toward them.

"The 1st battalion will form the defense line. The 2nd battalion will help with the evacuation of the civilians. Ask the explorers if necessary. Tell them that right now, the base is the most dangerous place as well as their safest place. Tell the 3rd battalion to set up the perimeter."

The commander kept giving orders after orders as he needed. Eventually, he asked, "What about the headquarters? Have they sent reinforcement?"

"They are splitting their army. This place is not the only one affected."

"For fuck sake. Do they know this base is the most important front line right now? If we collapse, those areas will be impacted as well." The commander gnashed his teeth in frustration. "Tell them to come here quickly. If they don't, we won't be able to stop them. There is a chance that the Tier 7 beast will also be coming."

"Yes, sir!"

The people were running back and forth. Even though he had given all kinds of orders, there was one thing that he hadn't said. "Sir... What about the people on the way here?"

"We don't have enough manpower to do that." The commander gritted his teeth. "We have to focus our troops here if we want to even hold out the enemies."

Clovis' expression turned grim after hearing that answer.

Chapter 517 Decision

"Not good!"

"Not good!"

"The epicenter is in the sea bed, located 120 km southwest of the coast of Rinjuana. The magnitude is 8.2 Richter scale. There is a high chance of a tsunami."

"Sir. There is potential that a Tier 7 beast will be coming out of the Great Beast Forest. Base 059 is requesting reinforcement."

"Locasta City is also asking for reinforcement."

There were more and more reinforcement requests coming from all over the place.

The commander at the headquarters gnashed his teeth, looking at the map. The earthquake had been projected on the screen, allowing him to assess the situation better.

"The 3rd and 7th battalions will immediately set off to Base 059. The 1st, 4th, and 5th battalions will go to Base 059 at your pace. The 2nd Battalion will go to..." The commander gave the order based on the severity of the damage.

As expected, he sent thirty percent of them to Base 059. He knew what would happen if Base 059 were to fall.

And currently, Base 059 didn't have enough manpower to handle such a huge beast wave.

"We might need to send a Tier 8 human to control the situation over there."

The commander gnashed his teeth. "Tell General Grey to head to base 059."

"Yes, sir!"

The commander's expression turned grim, thinking about the potential of an aftershock. It could be said that this one beast wave might not be the only one they had to stop.

Of course, the commander wasn't the only one panicking right now. Even Hana was clutching her head. "How can there be an earthquake at this timing? How unlucky Clovis' group is for them to experience something like this..."

Hana bit her lips. She wanted to contact her grandfather, but the latter had actually called her first.

"Grandfather!"

"It doesn't seem that I have to tell you what you need to do."

"Yes. I'm planning to send reinforcements over there. No, we can cooperate with the army and lend them one battleship. This should be enough for the reinforcement."

"That should be fine. Are you okay over there?"

"Yes. It's shaking a bit, but I'm far from the epicenter, so it doesn't feel much."

"Alright then."

Hana hung up and immediately arranged for her own reinforcement. She had to help Clovis for the sake of the future.

Meanwhile, Clovis was actually planning to do an even more reckless thing.

Clovis turned to Luci. "We'll head out right now to help the people on the road. If they are getting attacked, there's a high chance they will die. They have nothing but themselves to fend off the beasts."

Luci looked shocked but soon nodded her head. "It will be dangerous though. The military must not have enough manpower to send reinforcement."

"Yes." Clovis was aware of this matter. However, he had three reasons for this decision. The first was definitely Reolf.

Even if they fought here, Reolf wouldn't be able to do anything. In fact, staying here for too long would just increase the chance of him being exposed.

The second reason was the lives of those people. It was true that he wasn't that good of a guy, but he was still a decent human being. If there was indeed someone needing his help, he should help.

The third reason was the distance. While it was true the situation was dangerous, he could always pull back because he wouldn't cover the entire road, only the ones near the base. In other words, the situation wouldn't be as dangerous as it seemed.

Of course, the first reason was the most important. That was the only place where Reolf could also actively take part in the battle after all.

After Luci finished the basic treatment, she immediately got up and headed to the bus with Clovis.

"Are we going to save them as well?"

"Yes. We'll split the group into two. You, Kanaria, Ragna, and Jay will be the first group. Your main objective is to save people and head to the base. As the commander said, this place is the most dangerous but the safest at the same time.

"As long as the soldiers are still fighting, they will be safe." Clovis nodded.

"I understand Ragna, but Jay? Isn't Melody more suitable to help us?" Luci tilted her head in confusion.

"This is uncharted territory for me as well. I don't know if there would be beasts suddenly coming in your direction. Hence, I will ask Jay to stay with you guys.

"Meanwhile, Melody will be helpful on the front. I'm planning to move a bit far from the rescue squad to avoid them finding Reolf. More importantly, she can fly, so she is more flexible than Jay."

"I see." Luci nodded in understanding.

Before he could continue, he got a call from Hana.

The moment he picked up the call, Hana's scream immediately rang. "I have sent a battleship!"

Clovis was taken aback but immediately said, "Calm down for a second."

Hana took a deep breath. "Alright. How is the situation over there?"

"It's chaotic. How about over there?"

"It's safe. From what I have heard, they are sending a few battalions to your place. In fact, a few fighter jets should be arriving pretty soon. It should be enough to take some burden off your shoulders. The problem will be whether that is enough or not. After all, while the fighter jets have enough firepower, it doesn't change the fact that the beasts are more agile.

The flying beasts might end up destroying several of them if they are not careful."

Clovis agreed with her. "For now, we will be moving separately from them."

"Are you insane?!" Hana screamed at him.

Clovis smiled wryly. "I know, I know. It can't be helped. Besides, this will be beneficial for my group's reputation. And we can also gain some extra essence. We should be able to get away if we are forced to."

"Do you know—"

Hana wanted to reprimand him, but Clovis had hung up. "Bye."

Clovis could imagine Hana cursing him, but they simply had no time to waste.

Chapter 518 Help

"Ugh!" A guy let out a groan as he gradually pushed his body back. He had a hard time opening his right eye, and it seemed something was flowing down that eye.

That liquid gradually reached the edge of his lips, giving a familiar taste.

"Blood?" The guy suddenly snapped back, realizing what had just happened. He immediately raised his head and saw himself hitting the car in front of him.

Once he regained a bit of his composure and the ringing in his ears had subsided, he could finally hear screams, asking for help from all around him.

"Earthquake..." He remembered everything. That was right. The earthquake was so powerful that it completely messed with the cars around him. It was too late to slow down, so they ended up hitting each other.

It was especially bad because this place had never experienced an earthquake. In fact, the bridge that was supposed to be behind him actually collapsed.

The bridge was there only for an underpass, but it should have killed several people.

"Wait..." The guy immediately turned around and saw his family on the back. "Guys. Wake up!"

They all seemed to have passed out. His wife was holding their two kids and still refused to let them go, so he hurriedly took off the seatbelt and immediately moved to the back.

"Help!"

He shouted as well, trying to get some help. But no matter how hard he tried, no help would come. After all, the military base near them couldn't send out their men to rescue them.

More importantly, they started hearing roars coming from a distance.

He raised his head, finding the beasts coming from far north. The beasts that were usually staying quietly inside the forest suddenly went berserk.

It all started from one beast, but that one beast let out a roar that informed other beasts. The process repeated until tens of beasts suddenly followed them to the road.

"This is not good. We have to go. Help! Please. My wife and children need help!" The guy kept shouting while trying to carry all three of them. However, it was simply impossible.

Everyone was running and screaming, fearing for their lives. However, where could they go?

The closer the beasts were, the more panicked they had become.

The guy didn't even have a weapon in his hand. He just stood in front of his family and spread his arms, trying to stop the beasts.

The beasts started attacking the people, but that was when several people appeared.

"Kill them!"

"Kill those beasts!"

The explorers roared. They were also wounded because of what happened, but some of them managed to get out of their cars. Just like any other people, they were also trying to go to the military base, so it was probably a blessing to have some of them among the injured people.

Unfortunately, the beasts in this place were much stronger. Even though there were several Tier 3 or even Tier 4, it wouldn't be enough to fight against these many beasts, especially with four Tier 4 beasts in front of them.

"Aaaggghhh!" They screamed. Even though they were scared, they were just screaming and running forward, facing the beasts.

"We are saved!"

"The explorers are here."

The people looked relieved, but they should have run. After all, they soon heard another series of roars coming from a distance. They couldn't see what was going on because of the terrain, but more beasts would surely come.

"NO!"

"We have to run!"

The people panicked once again.

However, the tide soon changed the moment they heard a loud howl that echoed across the area.

That howl was followed by a loud *bang* sound as though there was a high-caliber sniper rifle firing.

"!!!" One of the explorers widened his eyes as the bullet actually hit the beast in front of him.

He couldn't help but turn his head to the side, seeing a small group approaching them.

Another guy was about to be devoured by the Tier 4 beast in front of him, but all of a sudden, a guy came and struck the beast. The latter stretched its paw to block it, but the blade cut through the paw and eventually sliced the neck, killing the Tier 4 beast in a single swing.

"What?" The guy widened his eyes in shock. He never expected the helper could kill a Tier 4 beast so easily. It was clear their helper was a high-tier human, which would definitely make them feel relieved.

To his surprise, the one he saw once he turned his head was a Tier 2 kid. "What?"

It was Jay. The latter didn't care about his reaction. He simply shouted, "Ragna! Help Luci recover as many people as possible and send them toward the base. We are not with the military, so just briefly reveal the situation to them if they are uncontrollable. Get as many people as you can to help if possible!"

"Got it!" Ragna and Luci nodded.

"Kanaria. Cover us!"

"Okay." Kanaria already shifted to the next target.

Jay turned to that guy and said, "We will kill all the beasts around here. Make sure they don't kill any humans."

The guy obviously agreed with him. Even though Jay was Tier 2, it was apparent that his strength far surpassed it.

In fact, he felt like he recognized his face but couldn't recall who.

"But there will be more beasts coming toward us. We have to move fast. The next wave will probably be larger than this one."

"It doesn't matter." Jay shook his head.

Of course it was going to be fine. A second howl was the signal if Clovis and the others had reached their position.

Clovis, Erwin, Reolf, and Melody were standing side by side, looking at numerous beasts coming toward them.

"Reolf. Work together with Melody and repel as many beasts as possible. Erwin will take care of our right and create traps all around the area. If you are in doubt, just send them to the middle. I'll take care of it."

"You're working too hard, Captain." Erwin smirked.

"Indeed. Just leave it to us!" Melody nodded.

"Waaf!" Reolf also responded. All of them were ready to fight all these beasts by themselves.

Chapter 519 Wolf Rider

"The beasts are coming!"

The soldiers shouted as they were targeting the beasts that had just emerged from the forest. "Shoot them!"

The soldiers immediately fired all their bullets. The turrets on top of the wall were firing, obliterating the beasts.

There were also a lot of explorers that participated in this battle, considering they had no other way out. If the military failed in this place, the beasts would overrun them not long after. Hence, it was better to just join the fight.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The mines that had just been scattered around the area started to blow up, killing tens of beasts.

However, that wasn't enough.

The commander raised his head, looking at the trees that were bulldozed by the beasts as they came to this place.

"How many beasts are there? Tens of thousands?" The commander bit his lips. "Without the support from the headquarters, we won't be able to hold for so long. More importantly..."

The commander squinted his eyes as if he were waiting for a huge silhouette coming.

The battle had become more chaotic the moment it reached their wall. Without being able to enter, the beasts didn't have a choice but to go around the base.

The base's gates had been locked, so no beasts could enter easily. However, it also meant that there wouldn't be people coming to this place.

Once the beasts were about to reach the top, several soldiers surrounded it and attacked this beast from multiple sides, killing the beast. They kicked it off the wall, its corpse crashing to another beast.

Their coordination, strength, and even weapons couldn't be compared to the city they lived in just a month ago.

Several missiles flew into the sky and bombarded the enemies. However, more and more beasts simply came out, as though there were an unlimited number of beasts inhabiting this jungle.

The commander maintained his position with a calm expression, as if he had expected this progression.

While the situation looked quite good for the base, the same couldn't be said for Clovis and the others.

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

The beasts' roars filled up the air, alerting every one of them.

They had just killed tens of beasts that came after them, but it seemed they didn't have time to catch their breaths.

"This is not looking good." Clovis squinted his eyes.

Melody could see it clearer from the sky, so she said, "We have to retreat. There are more than a thousand beasts coming our way."

"How is the situation over there?"

"They are still rescuing the people. And it's not possible to return to the base right now. If we want, we have to find another location to keep those people safe."

Clovis paused for a moment, looking at everything around him. It would be impossible for them to kill more than a thousand beasts by themselves. They could only do it if they only had to fight tens of beasts at a time, not all one thousand at the same time.

That was why the best option was to retreat. However, if they retreated, the situation would be even more dangerous.

After all, those people they had decided to save would become the main prey for these beasts.

"Any idea about that place?" Clovis asked.

The one who gave the answer was not Melody. It was Luci.

"There is an old base not far from here. It's the former base 059 before they are moving to the new place, which is closer to the forest. That place is much safer. We can also close the wall and show no sign of living so that they will not attack us."

"How far is that place, Luci?"

"About one kilometer."

"Tell those people to run for their lives. We will be giving you fifteen minutes. Jay?"

"Understood." Jay's tone turned serious.

It was clear that Jay would be leading the group even if he had to use force.

Erwin clicked his tongue. "This is going to be annoying. How many beasts are there? Can they be any less?"

"What are you talking about? This is already so little. We are talking about a forest with a size of one hundred kilometers in all directions. You think they will only have a few tens of thousands of beasts? No way. They will probably have hundreds of thousands, if not millions.

We should feel lucky that only about a thousand are coming toward us." Melody shook her head helplessly.

"Nevertheless, this place is going to be dangerous. Even if we can save those people, we will have to expose Reolf. That's why I have a different plan." Clovis' expression turned serious.

"A different plan? Against those beasts?"

"Yeah. And the ones that might come after that." Clovis nodded. "We will split our group even further. I will go with Reolf, bringing down as many beasts as possible. You two will regroup with Jay."

"Are you serious?" Erwin frowned.

"Yeah. I'm serious. If we don't do this, not only will Reolf be exposed, but we'll also be in mortal danger." Clovis sighed. "Jay is to take over the command of the group once we split up."

There were two reasons why he chose this approach. He revealed the first reason to Melody, "Tell Jay and Kanaria to use this precious time to get as much essence as possible. It will be even better if they can evolve to Tier 3. I and Reolf will buy as much time as possible for them."

"!!!" Melody and Erwin looked surprised, but this was probably the most logical decision. If Jay and Kanaria could reach Tier 3, the group's survival would definitely be much higher.

The second card was something he couldn't reveal, but going with Reolf was much safer than going alone. After all, with Reolf's size, he could easily ride on him like a knight. Combining his speed and Reolf becoming his mount, even if he couldn't defeat the enemies, he could always escape.

Since the beasts were about to reach them, Clovis immediately rushed forth, not waiting for them to reply. He slashed the beasts, killing them in rapid succession without using his perfect state.

There was one thing he didn't want to tell them. He was actually planning to use this incident to also reach Tier 3.

Chapter 520 Leaving the Battlefield

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

The beasts were coming toward Clovis, pouncing on him. However, Clovis simply sped up and cut down the beasts in rapid succession.

His strike was swift and precise, killing all the beasts that only needed a single strike. If there were any beasts stronger or bigger, he would ignore them and go to the other side.

More and more beasts either fell down to the ground or had their heads flying, but to their surprise, not a single of them actually managed to reach Clovis.

Even if they wanted to surround him, they ended up dying before they had enough numbers.

The beasts couldn't stop either because the beasts on their backs would collide with them.

Clovis completely played around with the beasts while killing as many as possible. Once they crashed into each other, it would then create a wall of bodies that once again became a barrier that stopped them.

Melody had seen this kind of fight during the mission on the wasteland. He skillfully directed the beasts so that they would destroy themselves.

Erwin clenched his hands into fists. Their fighting style was so different that he couldn't even replicate it.

Still, there was another way to stop the beasts. Instead of creating wires around, he actually pulled all the wires he created earlier with so much force that they snapped.

The trunks were falling down, but the area was cleared up.

The beasts leaped into the air and skillfully landed on top of these trunks as if they were not concerned about this type of terrain.

That was when Erwin struck them with his wires. The moment they stopped, the beasts behind them would have leaped into the air and ended up crashing into them.

The crash was even bigger than the one Clovis made because of the trunks. They rolled down and caused an ever-changing terrain. If the beasts missed their jumps, they would simply create another crash.

Meanwhile, Melody actually did all the work on the left side. She dropped all the grenades she brought strategically. The blasts injured the beasts and even forced some of the beasts to avoid it, which ended up becoming Reolf's prey.

Still, this fight wouldn't last long. Melody would soon run out of grenades, which meant the left side would collapse.

Even the right side gradually transformed into an even terrain, with all those bodies feeling the gap between the trunks.

Seeing the two sides collapse, Clovis shouted, "Gather back to the middle."

Melody and Erwin looked confused, but Reolf immediately turned around and ran toward him. Both of them had no choice but to follow Reolf.

"I will get the beasts from the middle and the left side. You two will handle those on the right side. Remember, buy as much time as possible and then regroup with Jay." Clovis gave an order.

"!!!" Both of them didn't know what Clovis was thinking, but he didn't plan to listen to their objection.

Clovis simply grabbed Reolf's fur and leaped on top of his body. "Alright. Reolf. Let's do something we have been talking about in the last few days. Follow my lead!"

"Waaf!" Reolf's eyes brightened. He immediately turned around and rushed back toward the beasts head-on.

Reolf sped up as the rest of the beasts were charging at him as if they wanted to kill him because he helped humans.

That was when Clovis' role came in. Because he was riding Reolf, it would be impossible to reach the enemies, especially with his swords.

However, the ranged attack solved this problem.

Now that he had solved the weakness of this combination, it was time for him to take advantage of its strength.

Reolf leaped to one of the beasts, which allowed Clovis to use his ranged attack to kill him with a single slash. After that, Reolf found another target and pounced on it. Clovis assisted him and killed another beast.

Yes, Reolf kept finding all the beasts while Clovis could focus on killing them. This way, he could conserve more stamina while fighting the beasts. It would be especially useful in this type of battle because Reolf could easily outrun them.

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

The beasts were panicking because they simply couldn't catch Reolf. After all, Reolf's running speed was faster than Clovis. Clovis could easily steer Reolf and kill all the beasts at the same rate.

Before the beasts were noticing, Reolf had slightly gone to the left, which actually pulled the beasts toward him, splitting the group into two.

With Melody and Erwin going to the right side, the beasts couldn't find them anymore and had to turn around and chase what they could see.

Over two-thirds of the beasts ended up following Clovis and Reolf, but this was when Clovis showed the mall's superiority.

"Eat this." Clovis took out several pieces of food and threw them into Reolf's mouth. Unlike his small mouth, Reolf devoured them in an instant.

[Effect: Speed +20% for 5 minutes.]

[Effect: Strength +30% for 3 minutes.]

Clovis also had the time to eat them without Melody and Erwin noticing it. With the additional physical strength, Clovis and Reolf went rampage.

"Rooa?"

"Roo!"

The beasts were flying left and right as Reolf finally broke through their formation.

Now that there was nothing in front of them, Reolf sped up and let them chase after him.

Melody and Erwin were stunned. They had never thought Clovis would be this powerful just by becoming a wolf rider.

Unfortunately, they still had their job. Once Clovis and Reolf were gone, they immediately slowed down the enemies with a barrage of bullets as well as wires.

They gradually made their way toward the base.

On the other hand, Clovis and Reolf went in a different direction, bringing over a thousand beasts with them.

Clovis lowered his body and whispered, "We'll be fighting together, Reolf. We'll separate them from the main group as far as possible and then kill them. There is also something I'd like to try, so bring us there." Clovis pointed to the northwest with a smile on his face.