

World Mall 531

Chapter 531 Arrival

"Haaaa!" Jay kept clashing with the Tier 5 beast, no one gaining the upper hand.

However, the balance soon changed the moment Jay heard Kanaria's voice on the radio. "Do you need some help, Jay?"

Instead of answering with his mouth, which would lead to the proconsul realizing his intention, Jay showed it by striking the proconsul with all his might, knocking its arm back.

"!!!" The proconsul realized that this might not be a gap for Jay to exploit because Jay had to recover after using all his strength, but this was a gap for someone else.

And his instinct picked up a danger coming from the wall. It immediately tried to avoid it by moving away from its position, but the bullet suddenly pierced through his arm with so much force that it took its entire arm.

The thunderous gunshot followed, startling the area.

The Tier 5 proconsul simply couldn't believe it. How could a human's bullet destroy his arm? He had tough skin, and his movement was supposed to be on point.

Little did he know, Kanaria was just aiming for him to move away because it was pretty much predictable.

Then, by taking advantage of the Tier 4 bullet and her weapon, she tore the entire arm apart.

Without its right arm, Jay was able to exploit the exposed right side and closed in.

The proconsul turned around and punched Jay, but Jay simply stepped away as if he were giving Kanaria another opportunity to shoot.

The proconsul had no choice but to stop and jump away.

However, Jay maintained that distance, which distracted the proconsul.

Kanaria also didn't hit the enemy for a while, causing the proconsul to wonder when the bullet would be coming.

Jay took advantage of that distraction and closed in one more time.

The proconsul had no choice but to get away once more. The difference this time was that Jay didn't plan to let go of him.

Without hesitation, Jay closed in and struck the proconsul with all his strength, forcing the proconsul to also meet his blade with all his strength.

The proconsul gritted its teeth, unable to best Jay.

The moment both of them stopped, Jay leaped away, once again clearing up the path for Kanaria's assist.

Bang!

The proconsul widened its eyes. Kanaria didn't shoot his arm. Instead, it was his chest.

The right side of his chest was blasted away, the flesh and blood splashed to the ground.

The proconsul was spitting a mouthful of blood. It didn't think that Kanaria would choose this spot.

After all, he could still run if she chose to destroy his remaining arm. But with this kind of injury, there was no getting away.

As a result, the proconsul chose to utilize all his strength to strike Jay. Even if Jay would cut him down, he would at least deal enough damage to drag Jay together with him.

Unfortunately, Jay had seen through its intention and immediately leaped back.

The proconsul panicked, thinking that there would be another bullet coming its way. It charged at Jay frantically, while Jay continued moving away.

When he looked weakened, Jay immediately avoided the punch and struck the beast's exposed right side.

The proconsul gritted its teeth, twisting its body to the maximum, but it was futile.

The last movement just caused him to trip as Jay leaped into the air.

Without hesitation, Kanaria shot the proconsul on the body, dealing major damage. Then, Jay cut down the remaining arm from behind before beheading the proconsul.

With this, there should be no more problems for this base. All they had to do was kill the scattered beasts. But they weren't strong, so it would be an easy task.

"I thought you were going to fight the proconsul by yourself." Kanaria smirked, teasing Jay.

"Idiot." Jay clicked his tongue. "Even though I wanted to do that, the current situation didn't allow me to do it. Not only do we have to clean up the base, but we also have to search for Clovis. It's better to send one person, either Melody or Luci, to find him.

"In addition, the beast wave might not be over yet. If we don't move fast, I'm afraid we'll be in a much more troublesome position."

"You're not selfishly fighting anymore? You're growing up..." Kanaria sounded like she was about to tear up.

"Be serious. I'm going to hit you." Jay sighed. This was the task Clovis entrusted, so he couldn't mess it up just because he wanted a duel.

Kanaria chuckled. "Well, Melody and Luci are perfect candidates. What do you think?"

"Sure. I will go." Melody and Luci answered at the same time.

Luci frowned and said, "I'll go. I'm a doctor, so I can treat him. He must have fought a lot, so someone who can help him will definitely be a good idea."

"This is my role. Since I can assist you even without me being here, it's perfect for me to go. And with Clovis being sneaky, it's better to have me, who is able to fly, to find him." Melody crossed her arms.

Melody felt responsible for Clovis because she had to leave him behind earlier. Meanwhile, Luci wanted to go for an obvious reason. There was no other time where she could have time with only Clovis and Reolf.

"Don't argue." Jay sighed. Since he was in charge of this group, he immediately gave his order. "You will go..."

Before he could speak the name, they heard another series of roars coming from a distance.

"Huh?" All of them couldn't help but turn around, staring at the distance. Thousands of beasts were coming once again.

Their number was higher than the previous wave.

"What? Three thousand beasts? What is going on? Did they defeat Clovis? Or was the original number supposed to be much higher?" Melody couldn't comprehend the situation.

The rest raised their weapons, wondering how to fend off this one.

Jay bit his lips. There was only one way to solve this problem. They had to retreat.

But before he could issue that order, there was suddenly an explosion in the middle of their rank.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

There were loud sounds coming from the side. As Melody looked at them from the sky, she realized the battle was over.

Tens of tanks along with over a hundred trucks were coming toward them. The reinforcements had arrived.

Chapter 532 Solving the Crisis

Bam!

Bam!

Bam!

The tanks were firing from a distance, blasting the beasts.

"!!!" Jay and the others were surprised. It seemed that they had fought long enough that the ground units had finally reached them. It wouldn't take too long for them to reach the base.

The ground units continued marching and started destroying the beasts with missiles, reducing their number.

To their surprise, they would end up finding people in the old base.

"Huh? Colonel. We have spotted people taking shelter in the old base."

"What?" The middle-aged colonel looked shocked. The old base couldn't be used anymore, so it was weird for them to use it.

"Go to them and ask for their reason. We'll get rid of the beasts."

"Understood."

Kanaria and Melody could see the people of the ground units coming toward them.

One of the officers came to them. Kanaria immediately received him by saying, "I'm Kanaria from Libation Fiesta. Under the order of our captain, Clovis, we are using the old base for our last stand and able to rescue 74 people who are stranded on the highway not far from here after the earthquake."

"!!!" The officer looked surprised. There were a lot of corpses lying around, and there must be a lot more inside the base.

He simply couldn't believe that several people were able to kill all these beasts, and it didn't take them that long either.

"I am Quadz from the 4th battalion. Are you sure that you have fought all these beasts?"

"Yeah." Kanaria nodded. "If you don't believe me, you can go inside the base to check the people's condition."

"Understood. Please allow me to check their condition." Quads nodded with a serious expression.

They immediately headed to the building, finding all those people. Their injuries had been treated, so it was a relief.

He couldn't believe that these people were able to do it, but he couldn't spot any human corpses among them, so it was clear that they had completed their job perfectly.

Quads thought for a moment and said, "We'll take over from here. Do you mind?"

"No." She shook her head. Their main priority was not these people, but Clovis. They had to find him as quickly as possible.

"Understood. Thank you very much." Quads nodded.

...

A moment later, the Colonel received a report.

"Sir. We have received from Scout Party C that they have found a survivor. This is a bit strange."

"What's wrong?" The Colonel frowned.

"According to their testament, not far from here, there are over three thousand corpses in that place, but there is only a single human found in sight."

"Huh? A survivor?" The colonel understood what the survivor meant in his words.

However, the guy simply scratched the back of his head. "But the guy said he was the one taking down all those beasts."

"By himself?"

"Yes. From the looks of it, there are a lot of Tier 3 and Tier 4 beasts. There is even a Tier 5 corpse."

"Hoh? To think that there is a great person in the area, assisting us."

"That's..." The guy looked down with a wry smile.

"What's wrong?"

"The guy is only Tier 2, sir."

"What? Tier 2? Are you saying that a Tier 2 is able to kill all those beasts? No, do you think there is a Tier 2 who can kill a Tier 5 beast..." The captain fell silent for a moment, as if he recalled something. "Wait a minute. There is one."

Don't tell me, he is Clovis from Libation Fiesta? I've heard about the rumor of a Tier 2 human having the strength equal to a Tier 5..."

"Yes." The guy nodded. He obviously had seen the video about the new beast soul, so he knew what Clovis looked like.

The colonel dropped his jaw. It seemed that they had underestimated Clovis.

"What should we do, sir?"

"Does he have a demand?" The colonel asked. Considering it was Hana and Clovis who were responsible for the new beast soul to be introduced to the military, they had to treat him cautiously.

"He only asks us to leave him alone, including the rights for their corpses."

The colonel thought for a moment. He had heard earlier that there were people in the old base.

If they were Libation Fiesta, it would make sense.

The colonel took a deep breath before saying, "Leave him be. He has contributed greatly if he is able to kill those beasts. If he isn't the one, that means he has stolen them from a great person. He will be the one in trouble, so we don't have to get involved. For now, we will focus on helping Base 059."

"Understood, sir."

The entire trip was truly a surprise.

However, they had their main mission. Once the beasts entered their firing range, they started firing missiles.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The beasts, whether they were on ground or in the sky, got hit. In fact, the ground units focused on dealing with the beasts in the air. They didn't take off far in the sky, so they were able to clear them up a little bit.

As a result, they were able to continue to send in the air support once again.

The continuous bombardment allowed them to gain an upper hand.

And finally, the Tier 8 general entered the battle, leading the troops toward the Tier 7 beast while the rest focused on the majority of beasts.

With a Tier 8 entering the fight, the Tier 7 beast forced all the beasts to fight him, but nothing could stop him.

With just a swing of his weapon, he killed tens of beasts. He marched forward at lightning speed, reaching the Tier 7 beast in just a moment.

The Tier 7 beast tried to fight him, but the general only used three slashes to defeat the Tier 7 beasts. The first strike cut down the two paws, the second strike knocked down the beast, and the third strike was the final blow.

Now that they lost their figurehead, the beasts were in panic, allowing them to rout their force and showing their superiority.

Chapter 533 Return

Melody had finally reached Clovis' location after the reinforcement passed them and took over the defense of the old base.

She knew the condition on the main base was stable once they stormed, so she could finally take her time to find Clovis.

However, it wasn't that hard to actually find Clovis.

After all, there were thousands of corpses lying around the area. There were even some mountains made of corpses, which became a landmark for Clovis.

Melody simply didn't expect that there would be so many beasts he killed. It was true that he was able to maneuver freely, but she was talking about thousands of beasts.

"Oh! You're here?" Clovis smiled and waved his hand.

"I don't know whether I should be impressed or I should reprimand you for being reckless." Melody massaged her forehead.

"Hahaha. It doesn't matter. How is the situation going over there?"

"The military has taken over."

"That's good then. Tell them to gather the essence and help me with these beasts after that. I don't think it's good to return to the military base, so let's just go home once we're done gathering all the essence. I'm pretty tired."

"Alright." Melody immediately informed them about their next task before revealing Clovis' position. While waiting, Melody noticed something. "Now that I think about it, where is Reolf?"

"I sent him over there." Clovis pointed to the north. We will go that way first and get Reolf before returning to the capital."

"Or should we just take a rest at a nearby city?"

"That's what I want, but we have Luci. It's better to return to the capital and let her settle down."

"Fair enough." Melody nodded.

It took an hour for the rest of the group to reach Clovis' position. Like Melody, they were also shocked at how Clovis was able to kill all these beasts. He hadn't even reached Tier 3 yet.

Melody simply told them about the maneuver Clovis made during their time on wasteland, since the way he fought these thousands of beasts must be similar. With Reolf, Clovis' strategy would be much more effective.

Finally, after getting all the essence, they immediately returned to the bus. Clovis had reached an agreement with the military that they could get everything except the essence and beast soul for restoration.

Jay drove the bus to find Reolf. The latter had been waiting for them with a big smile on his face, but it was clear that both Reolf and Clovis were extremely tired.

Once they retrieved Reolf, Clovis immediately dozed off as Reolf followed suit.

Kanaria was smiling wryly when Luci was staring at Clovis and Reolf with heavy breath.

After telling her that she couldn't touch them, Kanaria just let Luci put Clovis' head on her lap.

That was also when Luci raised an important question.

"Does the group have a manager?" Luci asked.

"A manager?" Kanaria frowned.

"Yes. The one who handles everything for you. I'm sure that you have heard about it."

"I know..." Kanaria scratched the back of her head. She had never considered it because a manager handled everything. When they were buying their supplies and selling their essence, Clovis would accompany Kanaria.

That little time was what she treasured the most, so there was no need for a manager. Besides, Clovis was also a bit eccentric, telling her that all the money was supposed to go through his account every single time.

"A manager handles everything." Luci raised a finger. "They will sell your essence, they will book your accommodation, they will arrange your connection, and so on.

"If you have a manager, you will have an easier time. That's why I think it's important to have a manager. In fact, you probably need an accountant and make sure you pay tax.

"You should remember this phrase. No matter what kind of bad thing you do, they won't capture you because they can't find any proof. Most bad people are sent to jail because of not paying taxes instead of murder or anything else."

Kanaria smiled wryly while Melody patted Luci's shoulder. Melody said, "Don't worry. We don't need a manager right now. Everything is working perfectly fine. But if there's a need for one in the future, I think there will be one. So you don't have to worry about it."

"Is that so?" Luci just thought about what was best for the group, but she didn't take into account what was important to Kanaria. The people in the group definitely knew how much she treasured that time.

"In that case, there is one more thing I need to say. Since I'm allowed to set up a lab, I'll be doing just that. I don't think I will cause too much noise or anything, so you don't have to worry."

"No one is really bothered with you setting up your lab. Just don't let it affect your activity with the group."

Luci nodded. "I underst—"

Before she finished her words, Clovis' Skyphone rang, which startled them.

Luci grabbed it and saw who it was. "Hana Skylark?"

"Give it to me." Kanaria stretched her hand. After Luci handed the Skyphone, she immediately accepted the call while saying, "We are on our way back right now."

"Oh. It seems that you guys survive."

"Yeah. Clovis is sleeping right now, so do you need anything?"

"Nothing. I just want to make sure that you guys are alright. The military must have arrived, so I guess it's fine. Do you need anything else? If you encounter a problem, my PR team can help."

"There should be no problems." Kanaria thought for a moment. Saving people and Clovis' deeds found by the military would definitely increase their reputation, so it didn't really matter.

And Clovis would most likely evolve to Tier 3 once they returned.

They would even get a lot of money from selling all this essence.

"Alright. In that case, I should tell you about something else. Better to stay in your mansion for several days before doing anything. The capital's condition isn't quite good right now. While we are far from the epicenter, people are thinking this is a bad omen just because we haven't experienced any earthquakes for decades."

"Got it."

"Also, if you want a mission, I have one later for you guys. I bet you will accept it."

Chapter 534 Reaching Tier 3

"They saved me. I thought our lives would be over back then, but they fought hundreds of beasts without complaining."

"It was a shame that the military took over so easily. I couldn't even give my thanks to them. Libation Fiesta, I will definitely cheer for them from this point onward."

"Thank you, Libation Fiesta."

[Libation Fiesta has killed hundreds of beasts to protect the civilians.]

[The army is stealing civilians' efforts?]

[Libation Fiesta has taken down a Tier 5 beast along with its army.]

[Libation Fiesta is using the new beast soul to defeat the army?]

There was a lot of news scattered on the Skynet, especially coming from the tens of people Clovis' group saved.

It was amazing. After all, they had gone all their way to risk their lives so that they could protect them.

Their action had also stopped the beasts from advancing any further and causing more damage to other cities.

Obviously, this was yet another free marketing for Hana to exploit. She immediately spread the word, making the new beast soul even more famous.

The doubt about the new beast soul had begun to disappear. In addition, more and more people successfully activated their new beast soul.

The one who promoted it the most was none other than the vice president of the student council from the first academy.

Although it was just Clovis' way to annoy them, it didn't change the fact that he got this chance thanks to Clovis.

That was why the least he could do was promote it. In addition, he had the best way to promote the new beast soul.

Right after he got used to the new beast soul, he immediately challenged the student council's president, who was said to be the strongest among students.

And he won. It wasn't even close. He won with only minor injuries, while the student council president suffered a lot of deep wounds.

As a result, the sales continued increasing to the point where it gained the international market's attention.

Clovis didn't have any intention to stop it.

After all, if he wanted to continue progressing rapidly, he needed a lot of money. The best way to make money was through Hana.

No matter how good he was as an explorer, his wealth would be nothing compared to the true businessman.

That was why Hana's role was quite vital in his plan. In fact, this was the main reason why he wanted to work together with Hana. He wanted her to be successful so that he could use that money to advance.

Still, because of this high traction, Hana asked Clovis' group to remain in their mansion for a while.

Not that it really mattered, considering they had to get used to their Tier 3 strength. And Clovis was still in the middle of his evolution.

He was sitting on his bed, feeling the change undergoing in his body.

It felt rather weird because his senses felt like it transformed into something else. The way his nerve was being utilized was much more flexible and smooth.

In fact, he felt the blood could easily be controlled after this evolution. It was no wonder why the requirement for the unique trait was Tier 3.

However, with the Star Method, he thought about continuing on to the next step.

He was able to increase his speed by accelerating his metabolism, but there was the next step that people could only achieve after reaching Tier 6.

That unique trait was Blood Overflow.

By utilizing the Blood Overflow, one could actually break through the limit of a human and turn into a true superhuman.

This was probably why his father told him that they would meet once he reached Tier 5.

His father believed him to be able to use the Blood Overflow when he reached Tier 5. When that happened, even if he couldn't defeat his opponent, he still had some assurance that he could escape. The enemies of the Hacfield family were strong after all.

"Huuu..." Clovis exhaled deeply, cooling down his body. When he opened his eyes, it felt like the world slowed down even further.

"I see. To think the chance will be this much. Since I get this in Tier 3 and the Blood Overflow in Tier 6, I assume there will be one more thing in Tier 9.

"I'm curious, what kind of world do they see? I should have asked Mara about it back then." Clovis' expression turned serious. "Still, I have become a Tier 3, but I haven't encountered any more system's errors.

"Does that mean whoever controls this simulation world has patched up the error? Or is it because I haven't done anything big?"

"Well..." Clovis shook his head. "There is an important thing I have to do after becoming a Tier 3 human."

A smile appeared on Clovis' face. "It's time to go shopping!"

Yes. Now that he had reached a higher tier, the items in his Another World Mall would definitely be upgraded. That was why he had to go shopping.

He wanted to buy new items for Kanaria and the others. In addition, he had Luci as well. He should buy her a better item so that she could perform brilliantly within the group.

There was a risk that Luci would become even crazy, but he had to take that risk. Still, the most important thing he needed to buy was none other than Reolf's food.

That was right. Since it had been upgraded, Reolf would have an easier time to reach Tier 3. He must feel lonely to be the only Tier 2 in the group, Clovis thought.

Hence, he splurged a lot of money to the point where he used the Super Discount.

It took him a whole two hours just to finish buying everything he wanted. He also noticed what he should do next when he got a lot of money.

Nevertheless, now that he had gotten all the items he needed, Clovis finally stepped out of his room as he distributed the items to his teammates.

Chapter 535 Crazy

Clank!

Clank!

Several items fell to the ground, producing a lot of noise. Next to them was Clovis lying on his back while grinding his teeth, looking at the half-naked woman on top of him.

"Luci. Get off—!" Clovis tried to push her away, but the other party actually grabbed his collar and said excitedly, "I don't want to."

Clovis was grinding his teeth. He had expected it, but her reaction was much more than he originally thought. In fact, he even wondered why he came here by himself. He should have asked someone to pass it to her.

...

A moment ago.

"Anyway, I'm done. I hope that you guys like the items. We'll be resting for several days, so I can replenish my energy." Clovis acted as if he had just used a lot of blood to create the new 'artifacts' for them.

His group didn't say much because they knew it was no use in persuading Clovis or anything.

Last but not least, the items for Luci. Since she was new to the group, he needed to explain to her about the functions of these items.

Clovis had a troubled expression. On the one hand, he knew Luci would become excited once she realized the function of the items. On the other hand, it was only appropriate for him to be the one giving the explanation.

That was why he came to Luci's new lab that she was currently setting up.

"Clovis?" Luci raised her eyebrows and put the box on the table. "What's wrong? It's unlike you to visit me here."

"Have you gotten used to living here yet?"

"Pretty much. We have fought together for a week, so I don't feel awkward living together with other people in the group. Besides, I was formerly a soldier."

"Fair enough." Clovis nodded. "How about the new beast soul?"

"I have thought about a beast soul that I want. I have sent the request to Hana. The appointment is tomorrow."

"That's good then." Clovis nodded. "In that case, take this."

"Hmm?" Luci tilted her head in confusion as she examined the items Clovis wanted to give her.
"Accessories and clothes?"

"Yes. But unlike normal clothes and accessories, they've been enchanted by my blood." Clovis nodded.
"As for their uniqueness, I think it's better for you to wear it first."

Luci still didn't understand, so she just grabbed a bracelet. In that instant, she could feel the surge of strength mysteriously entering her body.

It shocked her so much that she froze for a few seconds. After that, she took off the bracelet to confirm that the strength was gone. Then she put it on, took it off, and repeated them a few times.

After confirming what the bracelet did, Luci dropped her jaw and looked at Clovis with a dumbfounded expression.

"This bracelet should boost your strength. I'm sure that it's going to feel different, so you will have to get used to it."

"Now that I think about it, your group somehow wears accessories as if they are trying to show off." Luci frowned and examined the other items.

"This pair of earrings can increase your speed. These clothes..." Clovis explained everything in order so that she knew what to expect from them and what would happen if she took them off.

And to his surprise, Luci casually replaced her earrings. She looked calm, which made Clovis relieved, so he casually handed the clothes.

The clothes consisted of a simple t-shirt, shorts, and a coat. There was nothing weird since everyone was wearing similar clothing.

Even Luci grabbed it right away, but what Clovis didn't expect was that Luci actually started unbuttoning her shirt in front of him.

"What are you doing?" Clovis' eyebrows twitched.

"I want to test the item." Luci casually pointed at the clothes.

"In that case, I'll put them here and leave." Clovis nodded, ignoring what she was doing.

But when he was about to turn around, Luci grabbed his arm and shoulder. "What are you doing?"

"You are giving me these items, right?"

"Yes." Clovis nodded.

"They are special items, right?"

"Indeed."

"I should try them first and get used to them, right?"

"Exactly."

"Then, watch it!"

"I don't fucking know how you arrive at that conclusion!" Clovis subconsciously blurted out profanity. While he wasn't a person who was free from curse words, he wasn't the type of person who used them in every single sentence.

However, it was clear that Luci had provoked that subconsciousness.

"Aren't you a man? Look at me! I'm just changing my clothes to the ones you provide to test them!"

"And that's exactly why I'm not doing it."

"Then give me your blood!"

"Didn't you get the sample when you were treating my injuries?!"

"I did, but that wasn't enough. I have been suppressing it this whole time, but you just have to bring out all these items! Do you think I can contain myself? Even Kanaria has given me her permission!"

"What permission are you talking about? Because I haven't!"

"Just a hundred ml is fine!" Luci pulled him, but Clovis simply moved away. All of a sudden, Luci stopped exerting force to pull him, causing Clovis' strength to drag him toward his body.

As a result, she ended up pushing him down, their bodies hitting several items before falling to the ground.

Luci was sitting on top of Clovis, as the latter said, "Get off me."

"I don't want to! This is an accident. This is completely an accident!" Luci smirked as he grabbed his collar.

Clovis' veins bulged as he couldn't help but snap. He grabbed Luci's head with all his strength.

"!!!" Luci couldn't react to his speed, but it didn't matter. She had Muscle Affinity while Clovis had Blood Affinity.

However, when she tried to remove his hand from her head, Clovis didn't even twitch. The grip on his strength was so powerful that it felt like her skull was about to crack.

"What is this?" Luci was shocked, as she didn't know about Clovis' perfect state. But no one would have expected that Clovis would actually use his perfect state just to handle her.

"Wait, Clovis. We can talk about this." Luci's face turned pale.

"I think it's best for you to get some sleep first." Clovis was grinding his teeth.

"I'm sorry. Let's talk about this calmly, okay?" Luci tapped Clovis' hand a few times as if asking him to let her go.

Clovis wanted to say something, but he soon heard a clicking sound coming from behind.

Kanaria opened the door while saying, "Clovis. I've received a request from Hana, which can be our next mission. And what's going on with the ruckus earli—"

Kanaria was speechless when she saw both of them as well as the condition they were in.

"Should I ask what happened here?"

"Don't." Clovis pinched the bridge of his nose. "Please don't..."

Chapter 536 New Mission

All of them gathered in the living room as the Skyphone projected Hana.

"Thank you for gathering here. I believe that I have something you would definitely try doing." Hana smirked. "First of all, what do you think about the current weapon situation right now?"

They looked at each other, but no one really had an opinion.

"It's normal?" Clovis tilted his head in confusion.

"Not at all. First of all, you should have seen the effectiveness of the military-grade weapon, right? The tanks and fighter jets are still working against the beasts. Even a Tier 7 beast will be in trouble if they take it head-on.

"How about Tier 8? We still have bigger missiles. With such overwhelming power, why do you think the swords, spears, and other primitive weapons resurface?

"What they told you about it was that they had used nukes to fight against the Tier 9 beasts, right?

"And because of the nature destroyed by our own weapons, we have to abandon our own weapons. The world was close to experiencing a nuclear winter due to those beasts.

"However, that was what they told you. It was not entirely correct. The main reason they switched to primitive weapons is not because our weapons are completely useless. Instead, it's because we have used them so much that we can't replenish everything.

"As you already know, logistics are crippled because of those beasts, making us unable to get necessary supplies to manufacture ammunition or missiles.

"In fact, we have used up to 60% of our resources. If this continues, the supplies will end up running out. This is the real reason why we're using primitive weapons.

"And that's also the reason why explorers are born. Instead of weapons, the world requires us to 'sacrifice' ourselves to fight those beasts."

Clovis and the others looked down, falling into deep thought.

Clovis couldn't help but ask, "Does that mean the mission you want to talk about is related to materials?"

"Yes." Hana nodded. "I have just recently acquired a mine. I'm planning to send a team to clean up the mine that was previously occupied by beasts."

Hana snapped her fingers, showing a map.

"Due to the recent expansion of the country, this area is cleared up, allowing us to take over." Hana pointed to a certain area. "And companies like mine are able to purchase some new lands for expansions."

"Because of the new beast soul, I have received an agreement with the government regarding this mine."

"However, even if I want to utilize it, it's currently impossible to access due to this mine being infested by beasts."

"According to the record, it used to be a Tier 5 danger zone. I'm thinking about sending you here. You can clean up those beasts as you like, and I can keep the mine. Of course, if possible, I want the mine to remain intact. I don't think it's a bad idea, right?"

Clovis' expression turned serious. They could use this chance to test their current might.

Besides, there must be a reason why Hana chose them.

"What are you planning to do?" Clovis asked.

Hana smiled wryly. "As expected of you... it seems I can't really hide anything. Actually, I have to shift my attention to something else. As a result, if you can handle this mine yourself, it will work in my favor.

"If you want compensation, I'm prepared to do so. Also, do you know that there will be an elite party about a month from now?

"A lot of important people, whether they were wealthy or influential, would come to that party.

"There are a series of things you might enjoy, so I'm thinking about bringing you guys there after this.

"Basically, this string of events is connected. That's why I hope that you can take care of the mine."

Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought. He glanced to the side, asking, "What do you think?"

"I don't see a problem. I'm curious about my current strength." Jay nodded.

"True. But a mine, huh? We are still waiting for the bus to get its private recovery pod, so we might as well use that time to go to a place where we can't take our bus." Kanaria nodded.

"Doesn't that mean we won't bring Reolf? He can go to the mine, but this party or something doesn't really accept a beast like him. Besides, I don't think I want to go there. I won't stop you if you plan to go though."

"I think it's worth the shot. First of all, we're curious about these new items. More importantly, I think it will be good to increase our pace from this point onward. I'm not bragging, but we're getting famous much faster than a few months ago. I'm just afraid we won't have any strength to protect ourselves." Ragna explained.

"I think that's a good idea. We should ride this momentum and increase our overall's strength as quickly as possible."

Clovis listened to their opinions. As someone who had the Another World Mall, he could boost their progress easily. In fact, now that he had reached Tier 3, Ragna and Melody's progress would increase rapidly.

Besides, the reason why he wanted to donate his blood a little bit to Luci was to create a 'misunderstanding' that his group believed in to hide the Another World Mall for a bit longer.

And this would also be good exercise for Reolf. He hoped he could become Tier 3 as quickly as possible.

With that thought in mind, Clovis made his decision. "Alright. We'll be heading to the mine five days from now. By the way, Hana, are you free anytime soon?"

"Hmm? If it's nothing big, I can always make some time."

"Then, visit us before we're leaving for the mine. There's something I need to discuss."

"Alright. Since you've accepted the request, I'll bring you all the information about the mine while I'm at it." Hana nodded and hung up the call.

There was nothing to discuss. Clovis just wanted to show her a certain painting.

Of course, he planned to put up some paintings after that so as to give people more understanding about their strength. Inviting Hana was to create that reason.

Chapter 537 Art Room

"Here I come. Actually, I have also brought all the documents regarding the mine." Hana showed the file to him while saying, "The mine itself is not old. There aren't a lot of things you need to know. However, I think there is something that might excite you."

"Hmm? You didn't say it during the call?"

"Of course. I don't want everyone to unnecessarily worry about it. It's not a big deal." Hana shrugged.
"Actually, the overlord inside the mine is actually a mutated beast."

"A mutated beast?"

"Yes. You should have heard about them, no?"

"I do. Mutated beasts are rare because they're formed by the intense radiation."

"Exactly. There is a source that claims uranium has been found in this place, but there isn't a lot of data, so we're not sure about it."

"So you want us to check it? But don't we need protection?"

"The radiation reading itself is extremely low from the data. However, it's better to bring a tool to measure radiation. The mutated beast will be different, so you have to be careful."

"Are you suggesting this because you want to see whether Reolf is going to transform or not?" Clovis' expression turned cold.

Hana smiled wryly. "Does it look that way? Still, you're mistaken. My aim this time is for you to get some inspiration from the mutated beast, considering they're a bit unique. And do you know the highest level of danger zone in this country?"

"No."

"It's the Tier 9 danger zone. There is a former nuclear reactor that once exploded over there. And the beasts are mutating because of that radiation. That's why if you are trying to live here, you should actually experience fighting a mutated beast, especially a high ranking one. Even this Tier 5 beast... I don't think you'll be able to defeat it so easily."

"Hmm. I'll try." Clovis nodded.

"Alright. Since you already know this matter, let's move on. Why do you want me to come here?"

"There are two reasons." Clovis casually raised two fingers. "The first one is regarding my father."

"Your father?" Hana thought for a moment. "Do you have contact with him?"

"That's actually what I want to ask you."

"Ah!" Hana nodded in understanding. "I see. You want me to find your father."

"Yes. My father once told me that I would find out his location by the time I reach Tier 5, but looking at our current schedule, I don't think it's possible. I plan to focus on reaching Tier 4 after this... even if it means going on expeditions again and again.

"Even Melody won't really complain about this because after Tier 4, it will be Tier 5. And that's where I can find my father and mother.

"And Melody's brother will be treated. That's why I'm thinking of not focusing on anything else, including searching for the next party member for the next several months."

Hana looked down, falling into deep thought. "I can understand your plan. Hmm. I will try to see if I can find your parents or not."

"And this..." Clovis gave the name Vina belonged. The mercenary group traded information, so they might be of some help.

"This is an information guild?" Hana seemed to recognize the name.

"Yes."

Hana didn't expect Clovis would have such a thing, considering he had been increasing his strength quickly.

"Alright. I'll try to find your parents, but I can't really guarantee anything. After all, your parents are trying to hide from you." Hana nodded. "In that case, the best way to do it is to follow my schedule."

"Your schedule?" Clovis frowned.

"Yep. After you're back from the mine this time, I will probably need two months to consolidate the rest of my force. And after that, there will be a party filled with elites. We'll be accompanying my grandfather.

"Since a few of your people don't want to participate, it'll be fine if two or three people from your group come with us. By making you known at that party, I can use it as a base to find your parents. Besides, this party is not just for elites in this country. There will be several people from outside the country.

"Maybe we can go to the beach after you reach Tier 4. There is a beach where it's better if you come once you reach Tier 4. What do you think?"

Clovis considered it carefully. "I don't have any problem with the schedule."

"Alright. That's good. What about the second thing you want to discuss?"

"It's..." Clovis extended his hand, guiding her to the hallway. "I got this from my grandfather this morning for my birthday."

"Now that I think about it, your birthday is two weeks from now, huh?"

"Yeah. An early present since he is going to be busy." Clovis opened the room, showing multiple paintings that had been hung on the wall. "And this is what I get."

Hana walked into the room carefully, feeling something strange. When she glanced upon a painting on the right side, her body suddenly froze.

It was the same painting that gave Reolf his unique ability. She looked left and right as if she had been teleported to the scenery.

In this world, it felt like she could just run forever, letting the wind carry her.

Her steps became so light as if she were in a dream.

"!!!" It didn't take too long for Hana to snap back to reality as she fell to her knees. "Ha... Ha... What is that?"

Clovis smiled wryly. "I don't understand it as well, but it helps you understand something. For example, Reolf stared at this painting for a while and comprehended a unique ability. Well, in our words, it was a beast soul."

"What?" Hana dropped her jaw to the ground. "Are you kidding me?"

"Nope. Well, I'm asking you to find my parents, so I think it's fine to show you this. Maybe you will gain an understanding of something. It's not open to the public though."

"And you're the first one I show this art room to." Clovis smiled.

Hana's face turned aghast as she couldn't help but look around, finding all kinds of paintings. She couldn't help but think, 'All of them actually have this miraculous ability?'

Chapter 538 Hana

Hana was gasping for air as she couldn't believe what she had just seen earlier. She looked at the entire room, finding fifteen paintings.

She couldn't help but think, 'What is that? From the moment I see this one, I'm entranced. It's as if the painting is alive. No. I don't think alive is an accurate description. That's right.

It's like trapped within the world inside the painting. Illusion?

'Nevertheless, Clovis claims the painting is able to let Reolf understand a unique ability, which would become a beast soul if a human kills him?

'Is this for real?' Hana turned back to Clovis, having a hard time to calm down.

Clovis extended his hand. "Can you stand up?"

"Y-Yes." She nodded furiously and took his hand. To her surprise, the moment Clovis pulled her up, it was as if her body was floating. There was nothing that stopped her from going up.

'No. That's not my body. That's my feet... No, my footwork?' Hana lowered her head. Her footwork was a bit special. This was one of the reasons she was able to climb the mountain where she first met Clovis.

Her footwork made her body extremely light as her legs acted like a spring.

And more importantly, she actually activated it without realizing it. It was as if she could use it with her subconsciousness.

'Subconsciously? My footwork is complicated, so I have to use it consciously. But using it subconsciously is like I have practiced it so much that this footwork has been ingrained in my body. And that's what I haven't been able to do this whole time.

'Are you saying that the painting has this miraculous ability? All of them? The fact they are different paintings must mean they have different kinds of 'understanding' within them.'

And because of this thought, Hana realized the most important thing. 'His grandfather gave it to him? Now that I think about it, what kind of miraculous thing has he achieved so far? First of all, I can understand the research. But what about Reolf? Is it just because of his blood?

'If his blood is special, Reolf won't be the only beast. He can say that it's because his blood can only keep up with one beast, but what about this painting? If I assume he's telling the truth, that means his grandfather is also special, right?

'Well, I don't think I have to doubt it, considering he is a Tier 9. But I have never heard anything about Tier 9 having special blood. According to my grandfather, there's only special ability, not special blood.

'Even if I assume the Hacfield family's bloodline is special, what about his father?'

It was at this moment she realized two possibilities. If she found his father not having special blood, it meant Clovis' story was fake. If Gerald truly had a special blood, it would upset the balance in this world.

When she realized this fact, she became more determined to find Clovis' father.

It was just there was a higher chance of Clovis lying. After all, every contact from his grandfather usually came through her, so it was weird for him to give it directly to Clovis. It might be because this was a birthday gift, but was that all?

Hana's body was shaking.

"Are you alright?" Clovis asked, looking worried.

There were a lot of things to say, such as praising his grandfather, congratulating him, or even thanking him for allowing her to see the paintings. Sadly, her instinct actually won this time, and she uttered a completely different word with what she had in mind. "Is it available for purchase?"

Clovis' eyebrows twitched.

"Ah!" Hana hurriedly raised both hands, covering her face. "Ugh. Sorry. I mean, thank you."

"Why are you guys so obsessed with what you want?" Clovis let out a long sigh. Then again, Hana was usually like this. The fact that he didn't have the energy to react calmly to this made him realize how tired he was handling Luci.

He didn't realize that Hana was about to discover his secret. If only she knew about his special items, that would let her confirm everything.

Then again, if he ended up bringing a new item, there was no way he could use the same excuse again. Even Hana wouldn't be fooled at that time.

"Well, you can take a look at the paintings. I'm planning to show this to the rest of the group after this. I just want to thank you for working hard this whole time, especially the money previously... That helped a lot."

"Really?" Hana frowned. She couldn't imagine what kind of thing he bought with that amount of money. Because he just handed her the name of an information organization, she thought it would be information.

Clovis nodded.

Hana thought for a moment. "Do you think I can let anyone see the painting?"

"Hmm..." Clovis scratched the back of his head. "For the time being, I think I don't plan to let anyone see it."

"That's understandable." Hana nodded. She also felt moved that Clovis had warmed up to her.

With Clovis' permission, Hana continued to other paintings, experiencing different things in each painting.

Most of them were useless to her because they didn't match her ability, but there were two more paintings that helped her. One of them was a painting about a businessman posing a picture of himself filled with money. The second one was a painting of a futuristic city.

Hana didn't tell him what kind of thing she figured out from the paintings, but with how fresh Hana's face became after looking at them, he could tell it was something big.

"I'll go back right now. Call me if you need anything, and once again, thanks for showing me the painting. Since you'll be gone for one week or two, I can prepare a gift for your birthday. Do look forward to it." Hana playfully winked.

"Hahaha." Clovis chuckled. There was another reason why Clovis chose to show the paintings to Hana, even though he was fully aware how dangerous it could be. In the end, the Another World Mall would be found sooner or later, not like he bothered to hide it completely.

By introducing it bit by bit to Hana, she wouldn't think about anything weird just to get all those items. She was actually his biggest concern, considering he still needed her and her skill in making money...or was it truly the case?

Chapter 539 Hana's Intention

"Miss. There are several invitations from overseas companies wanting us to disclose the information about the new beast soul. There are fifteen companies that are among the top one hundred biggest companies in the world. They are asking if we're able to disclose the information or want to expand overseas."

Hana squinted her eyes, never expecting that they would be this annoying. "We are unable to do so yet, even though I want to. I've promised the government not to disclose the information or try overseas expansion."

"Shall I reject them then?"

"Not yet. The promise itself is not the problem. Thanks to that promise, I can also conduct business even more boldly. However, we don't know if the government is going to take back their promise or not." Hana shook her head. "For now, keep their offer and try to extend it as much as possible."

"But if there is no expansion..." Her assistant frowned.

"It doesn't matter. Most of the time, the expansion will go through the sea or land. The sea is prone to attacks from flying beasts, while the land is much more dangerous.

"That's why there are not a lot of people trying to expand overseas. The risk is simply too high. Even if we want to do it, we need a lot of resources, especially fighters and ammunition. If the ship is destroyed, the loss is immeasurable.

"But there will definitely be some people who are daring enough to cross the border." Hana smiled.

"!!!" Her assistant suddenly understood what she was talking about. "Are you talking about the banquet?"

"Yes. That place is not only for local people. A lot of foreigners will attend it. That's why they will definitely go to that place instead of going to this company directly. After all, even if they can meet me here, they can't meet the person who provides that research, Clovis.

"Hence, rather than persuading me, they will most likely persuade Clovis. That's why we'll hold their offer for the time being. The more desperate they are, the easier I can take advantage of them.

"Besides, I believe that Clovis and the others would like to go overseas. It's not just those neighboring countries, but farther away. Also, I think it's good to have a potential teammate from overseas."

"Potential teammates?"

"Yes. It's only for Clovis. He has been searching for people, so I guess I can help him with it. This opportunity comes from the research he brought, so of course, he should get as much benefit as possible. This will make him happy and bring out more. Hehehe."

The assistant didn't know what to say.

Hana added, "Besides, looking at his party composition, the position will be limited. Most likely, he will get a chef and another guardian since he wants to split his party on several occasions."

Her assistant nodded in understanding. Now that she thought about it, there was actually one company that might pique their interest. Then again, Hana might say it because she already knew what company she was thinking about. "Miss. You sound so happy whenever you're talking about him."

"Huh?" Hana frowned. "What did you say?"

"It's nothing. You just talk about it more enthusiastically, like when you're talking about a new business venture." She shook her head.

"You must be confused. He is rich. Not the kind of rich with money, but with unique resources. He is basically a walking gold mine." Hana waved her hand.

"Well, if you say so." She nodded. "In that case, I will stall them as much as possible. How long is the ban, miss?"

"One year. I'm unable to disclose any information within a year."

"Understood." Her assistant acknowledged the order and left the room, proceeding to handle the matter.

Hana closed her eyes for a moment, remembering what she saw in that art room. It was a painting about riches.

In that painting, she understood business but also what was more important than it. She sighed, "It seems I have become a bit too reliant on Clovis. It's not like I had any trouble before this. The business is fine. I should focus on making more money."

Hana didn't realize that when she was pinching the bridge of her nose, there was a glitch behind her chair.

Meanwhile, Clovis showed the art room to his group. It was quite surprising because they never thought that Clovis' grandfather would give such a gift.

Unlike Hana, they didn't ask much, fully trusting their captain. It wasn't like they were going to benefit from it.

Even the most obsessed person, Hana, didn't bother much. First of all, she knew there was a high chance this painting came from Clovis. In addition, there was a chance that his blood was a lie. There might be something greater than his blood.

Obviously, it might be linked to his body, so she became even more interested in him. Fortunately, she had accepted this fact the whole time, so she didn't push Clovis down or drag him somewhere.

Nevertheless, it was still linked to his body, so blood might be a part of it. What was more important was to maintain Clovis' interest in her as a group member or beyond that.

Hence, the first thing she did after entering the room was search for the painting that suited her.

The rest of them did the same thing and gained understanding about their problems or their abilities.

Some of them had found two or three paintings that could boost their power. But the one that gained the most benefit was surprisingly Ragna. It wasn't Jay or Erwin. It was Ragna.

Hence, for the next several days, they completely refined that understanding and ingrained it into their bodies.

Once they were used to it, the group finally went to the mine.

They found the staired-crater, expanding for a few hundred meters. Several entries into the mines were visible, while some required them to go around first.

With this kind of size, it would be hard to find the location of their target. Then again, they had to clean up the beasts here.

Clovis smiled as if he were thinking something amusing. "So, this is the mine."

Chapter 540 Two Fights

While Clovis and the others were inside the mine, there were two huge battles ongoing in two parts of the world. These battles might look insignificant but would also change how the world progressed.

In one country, a soldier was rushing into the room while shouting, "Emergency. Not good. We have found a tremor coming from the Fallen City Ekseria."

"Ekseria? Isn't that place only a normal fallen city? It's a low tier danger zone."

"Yes, sir. But there are two people currently fighting."

"What? Two people able to create such a tremor? Who are they?"

"We haven't confirmed it yet. However, according to our information, Lord Ezekiel has disappeared from his city. At the same time, Grandmaster Lucas has also disappeared from his mansion."

"What?! How can that be? Since when the grandmaster leaves? Ezekiel is our neighboring country's rival. Not good. We have to go there right now and stop this fight!"

"We can't let two strongest people in the world fight each other!"

"Yes, sir!"

"Call the Ghost Squad. I'll lead them personally and stop this!"

As they were going to this city, the two people continued fighting.

Ezekiel was a man in his sixties. Despite his age, his blond hair hadn't turned white. Unlike anyone who had fought on the very front line, there wasn't a single scar on his body or face. He maintained a sharp gaze even with two giant shields on his hands.

"Do you think you are good, Lucas? How dare you make fun of my granddaughter?" He gnashed his teeth.

"Both you and your granddaughter are the same. You can't even do anything other than remain like a turtle!" Lucas smirked. He had long black hair tied into a ponytail. There was a scar running from one cheek to another, crossing his nose.

He was holding a bow. When he fired his arrow, Ezekiel simply put his shield in front of him.

Boom!

A single arrow exploded like a missile, blasting everything in front of it. Even the two towers next to Ezekiel fell down.

However, Ezekiel emerged from the dust cloud and headed straight to Lucas, who was standing on top of a building.

With his shield in front, Ezekiel's eyes turned bloodshot, and he pushed his shield forward. All of a sudden, the entire building was tilting as if something huge pushed it.

Ultimately, it collapsed without Ezekiel even touching it.

Lucas leaped into the air and fired his arrow mid-air.

It wouldn't really hurt Ezekiel, especially with his shield. However, the latter actually hit the arrow with his shield, but the force was so gentle that the arrow didn't produce a massive shock wave.

In fact, it bounced so smoothly, allowing Ezekiel to smack it back toward Lucas with the same amount of force.

Lucas clicked his tongue and grabbed the arrow with his bare hand, feeling the power of his own arrow. But he swiftly spun his body and shot the arrow, this time hitting the ground next to Ezekiel.

Boom!

The ground turned into a crater, which would make Ezekiel lose his balance. As a result, Lucas shot another arrow, which expanded the crater underneath Ezekiel.

"Kh." Ezekiel gnashed his teeth. "You're dead now!"

"You're the one dying, old man!"

These two weren't the only Tier 9 humans that fought at this time.

In the north, there was another pair of Tier 9 humans currently fighting with each other. They were people whom Clovis had met, his own grandfather and Mara Leverstrike.

"Hahaha. Come here, little girl!" Michael laughed and punched Mara.

Unfortunately, Mara swiftly slipped away and passed him.

The punch ended up hitting a cliff and actually destroying the whole cliff.

Michael grinned because right after that, he felt the impacts all over his body. Mara had actually left behind several strikes, but they were not strong enough to break through his body.

His eyes turned bloodshot as he grabbed the biggest piece of the cliff and threw it at Mara.

Mara looked at the colossal boulder and simply swung her glaive downward.

Despite looking like a single swing, the boulder was actually cut into eight pieces, each blow so powerful that it shattered the rocks into smaller pieces.

After that, she released another swing. Unlike the previous swing, this one actually pushed the shattered rocks forward without harming them so that the rocks would fall on Michael.

"Heh." Michael grinned and punched the air. The shock wave coming from his punch blasted the rocks in all directions.

Michael and Mara charged toward each other.

"So you have met my grandson?! What have you done to him?" Michael asked out loud while punching her.

"I have done nothing," Mara answered while striking his fist with her glaive.

The clash was so powerful that it caused a tremor that could be felt from miles away. The trees and boulders around them snapped and were blown away.

The result came soon as Mara was pushed back for several meters. Even though she didn't have any change in her expression, it was clear that her right arm was shaking.

Meanwhile, Michael had a wound in his fist. The wound was small, running from the gap between his index finger and middle finger to the back of his palm.

"Heh. Not bad, little girl." Michael smirked.

Before they could continue, several people, Tier 7 and Tier 8s, appeared on the battlefield.

"Please stop the fight, esteemed superhumans." The one leading them shouted.

"Huh?" Michael glared at him, dissatisfied that his fun was ruined. Mara remained expressionless.

"We can't afford for you to destroy the stuff in our country. If you keep doing this, we have no choice but to intervene."

Michael looked annoyed, but he soon snorted. "Fine."

He glanced at Mara and asked, "Let's have tea, then?"

Mara nodded. "Hamburger and cola."

"Hmm..." Michael paused for a moment and changed his mind. "Bring us two burgers and colas."

"No. One burger and one cola. I'll be having tea and a snack."

Michael looked surprised but soon grinned. "Bring them now. We won't stop fighting until they are here, so you gotta be fast!"

