

## World Mall 541

### Chapter 541 System Breaker

"This..."

"What should we do, sir?"

The masked figures were staring at the distance. Their leader, who came to stop both Michael and Mara earlier, couldn't help but feel pressured.

He looked at both of them but was unable to hear anything since they had to maintain a distance of at least a kilometer. Even with their skill, it was simply impossible to listen to what they were saying.

In that location, Mara was sipping her tea while Michael was slurping the cola. They were tasting each other's preferences as if they were trying to understand each other.

Michael finally broke the silence by asking, "So, what happened when you met my grandson?"

Mara fell silent for a moment before saying, "I'm surprised."

"Surprised? You? Your expression stated otherwise." Michael frowned.

"I'm surprised that he seems to have the same nature as me." Mara shook her head.

"..." Michael's eyebrows twitched. Obviously, he had noticed it too, but she never thought Mara would point it out. "Hmmm? So you think he has that barbaric nature?"

"No. He might be able to control it subconsciously right now. Well, you probably have noticed it too and trained him in that way.

"However, if he continues on this path, he will soon lose his sanity."

Michael gritted his teeth. "You sure know how to speak."

"No matter how angry you are, it won't change that fact. If he can't control his nature, he will be overwhelmed sooner or later. But it appears his unique ability is different from mine.

"But it's still provoked by his instinct. If I were you, I would warn him. If he doesn't control his true nature, it will be too late when it goes berserk. If he wants to control his true nature..." Mara looked down, falling into a deep thought. "He should go to the Asura Palace."

"Asura... Isn't that..." Michael smashed the table, glaring at her. "Are you asking my grandson to go to the place you escaped?"

"It didn't operate anymore after I destroyed it." She shook her head. "But the lingering atmosphere over there would allow him to temper his mind. Maybe, he might find me there."

"Are you going to teach him?" Michael frowned.

"I don't know, but he has certainly piqued my interest, not as a disciple, but..." Mara sighed. "That madman is going to visit him soon."

"Madman? Aside from you and me, there is only one person that can be called a madman. The prophet?" Michael widened his eyes, realizing what it meant. His expression turned grim as he couldn't help but sigh in defeat. "As expected, he was born with it."

"That was why he piqued my interest. No one knows what it is, but I feel like he has the ability to decipher it." Mara only looked at Michael before, all of a sudden, her eyes showed a red-colored glitch as if the simulation were breaking apart.

Michael gritted his teeth. "System Breaker... Those who have that quality are targeted by the prophet. If not for your Tier 9 strength, you would have died."

"So, people name it System Breaker." Mara tilted her head. "It doesn't really matter. As long as he knows that the prophet might come sooner or later—"

Before she finished, Michael interjected him. "He won't! I won't let him do it!"

"But you will probably have your hand full with only those three."

"Even you, who is known as the wandering disaster, know about my problem, eh?" Michael sighed. "But that's fine. I still have something I can do to stop them. It will be different if you join as well though."

She shook her head. "I have a more important matter. I just want to know who makes this simulation world. Who is insane enough to put me in that place? If not for them, I would probably have a much more normal life."

"A normal life? You? Do you think it's possible, especially with that eye of yours?" Michael was looking at the hair she always covered with her bang.

"Even I have a limit on how much I can ignore people's comments." Mara squinted her eyes. There was a red glow coming out behind her bang. Mara's hand twitched.

The moment she grabbed her glaive, Michael immediately punched her, regaining his distance. In the end, both of them had to fight normally like the previous battle.

And that was just what she saw with her eyes. She let out a long sigh. "I'm going to ignore your comment in respect of your grandson. But if you are going to do it again, then don't blame me for joining the fight."

Michael sighed. "I apologize. That was a mistake on my part."

"Before I take my leave, I think I should tell you about one more thing. It seems he has something even more unique, one that transcends the system breaker.

"From the way I see it, that power is able to allow his people to be much stronger and progress faster. Once people realize this and start digging up this information, he will be in a lot of trouble soon.

"He seems to have used the family name to cover for everything, but it will soon be useless.

"Even I have been chased by a lot of greedy people. I understand the struggle. That's why if he doesn't do it moderately, it will become a problem for him pretty soon."

Michael smirked. "Or he can just outgrow everyone's expectations."

Mara shrugged. "Whether he can do it or not, that will depend on himself."

"Don't worry about that part. I have prepared a small gift for him."

"In that case, I should take my leave."

"Before that, I'm curious about something. Why would you sound like you're concerned about him?"  
Michael frowned.

"I don't know. It's just... When I met him, the glitch appeared. It was as if our meeting shouldn't have happened."

"Hmm..." Michael raised both hands. "Alright. Let's part ways here. Thank you for entertaining this old man."

Mara nodded. "I hope that we don't have to meet as an enemy."

"I hope the same."

Chapter 542 Invitation

A blond-haired girl entered the room, finding her father sitting with a rather grim expression.

"Father?" She squinted her eyes, noticing the worry on his face.

"Oh. You're here." The middle-aged man nodded.

"Is there something wrong?"

"You should have heard about your grandfather's recent action, right?"

"Yes. Is grandfather injured?" She nodded.

"Yes. After that fight, both of them are injured. Currently, both sides are hiding this information. You surely know why, right?"

"If two Tier 9 fought, they would usually cause massive destruction. There is a high chance the map has to be adjusted because of them.

"If they are injured, it will cause a fatal problem for those around them. Knowing they are unable to fight, they will just attack us or our affiliates, fully aware that the Tier 9 backer won't come out.

"And because of this very reason, their news is usually hidden."

"Indeed." The man nodded in agreement. "Currently, your grandfather is recuperating from his injury."

"Is he going to be fine? How bad is his condition?" She asked.

"He is fine. But he will need a few months to recuperate from his injury. As you probably already know, the body of a superhuman is different. No current medicine can fix them because their cells have evolved to such a degree.

"But before your grandfather left, he gave me one piece of information. While we are waiting for him to return, he wants us to attend this banquet." The man tossed a letter of invitation.

When she picked it up, she couldn't help but frown. "The Sovereign Banquet?"

"Have you heard about the recent commotion regarding the new beast form of a beast soul?"

"Yes." She nodded with a serious expression.

"From the looks of it, she will be attending this banquet as well."

"She? Do you mean Hana Skylark?"

"Your grandfather only told us two things. Come to this banquet and don't waste our chance."

"Don't waste our chance? This is weird. It's not like Grandfather to say it that way. Normally, it's only right for people to fawn over us, considering Grandfather's strength. And even though the Skylark family is big, they are not as big as a Tier 9 human."

"The fact that he is telling us not to miss the chance means we either have to get the new beast soul no matter what or there is something else hidden in that banquet. And more importantly, this banquet is held in our neighboring country, Sabalom."



"I'm not sure about anything else." She frowned, feeling something was weird.

He nodded. "Indeed. It's true that this new beast soul might allow us to fight differently from now, but it is not enough for your grandfather to act. The fact that he wants us to come to this banquet is not because of the new beast soul.

"I'm not very sure about it, but I have received the invitation list. From the looks of it, there is nothing noticeable, but that's when I can't help but think.

"What if there is someone hiding his identity?"

"What do you mean?" She frowned.

"I've been investigating every single participant in the last couple of weeks. And there is actually someone special among them. Can you kill a few thousand beasts, including one Tier 5 beast by yourself?"

"I'm already 21 years old, Father. I haven't disappointed the family. Of course, I can do that."

"When you are a Tier 2?"

"Tier... 2?" She dropped her jaw. "What? You are joking, right?"

"It's an official record from their military. I manage to access it, but it also leaves me speechless." He sighed. "Not only that, but he is also a captain of his own abnormal group. Every single individual has the ability to fight someone above their rank."

"While this is not necessarily uncommon, the swordsman in that group could also fight a Tier 4 when he was only Tier 2. Their guardian actually has the same constitution as your grandfather."

"What?! Are you serious?"

"Do you think I'll be joking about this?" The guy sighed. "From the looks of it, only two people will come accompanying this Hana Skylark."

"But why would he want to meet them? I can understand if they have a background, but they're supported by the Skylark Family, right?"

"No. They hail from a different country. And the biggest reason is these people might be geniuses, but they have become monsters after meeting this guy." He showed Clovis' picture.

"Clovis?" She tilted her head in confusion. "Is there something special about his identity?"

"That's the problem. I can't find anything."

"You can't? But..." She suddenly fell silent, realizing what he was talking about. They were a Tier 9 family, so with that authority, they could easily gain unrestricted access to a lot of information.

So the fact that they couldn't make it much more suspicious.

"Turning geniuses into monsters, no information about his family... I think you get where I am going..."

"Normally, if he is an orphan or has a normal family, we will be able to figure out. But the fact that the information about his family is like a blank slate. That means he has a Tier 9 family like us, but I have never heard of a person like him before."

"Indeed. But there might be one family that can fit the criteria, don't you think?"

"Among all Tier 9..." She suddenly dropped her jaw. "Hacfield?!"

"Yes. Because of the recent problem, Michael Hacfield has been in hiding this whole time. The Hacfield family has also ceased their operation.

"If this guy is truly related to them, he must be Michael Hacfield's grandson. And the fact he can create such a monstrous team without the help of his family..."

"Are you saying he has a unique ability like me?"

"That's the only explanation. I'm pretty sure your grandfather wants us to go here because Michael Hacfield has met him. I don't know what kind of change he would like you to bring, but it seems we don't have any other choice."

Her father's words were clear. What her grandfather wanted was that ability to turn the genius into a monster. If they had this ability, what would happen to a person who was already monstrous like her?

She took a deep breath. "I understand, Father. I, Christina Elseingarde, won't disappoint you and Grandfather."

Chapter 543 Impact

\*Boom!\*

A series of explosions occurred, destroying a tall building to the ground.

On another side of the city, there was a man who suddenly got stabbed in the chest, causing him to die without realizing what happened. The culprit casually walked away, as the CCTV had been destroyed long before it happened.

The police were receiving a lot of reports, which caused great unrest in the city.

"Sir. The Necrox Tower has been destroyed."

"Two people from the alliance have been killed."

"Sir..."

The reports continued pouring in, frustrating the police chief.

"These bastards. They know this is the best time to make a move. Once Sir Ezekiel is hiding for recuperation, they are coming to attack. Are they not afraid of what will happen to them after this?"

Not only in this country, but Ezekiel's enemy, Lucas, also suffered a heavy injury. The situation could be said to be as chaotic as this country.

This disturbance caused the economies of the two countries to drop.

Obviously, this resulted in world-wide news.

After completing the task in the mine, Clovis had been hunting in various locations, trying to increase his strength as quickly as possible.

He took advantage of the peaceful time where the academy stopped anyone from trying to harm him to get stronger.

Of course, he also took advantage of the privilege from the academy. Although he hadn't made any big moves, the dean couldn't care less. After all, he knew Clovis' strength was increasing by leaps and bounds. When Clovis decided to show his strength one more time, people would be shocked.

Two months had passed. Before the banquet, Hana asked Clovis and Kanaria to meet them.

"How were the last two months?" Hana asked.

"It was very productive."

"Good. The world was not very productive though." Hana projected some news, showcasing the impact the battle between two Tier 9s would produce.

"Hmm. This is..." Clovis couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows.

"Yep. The world is avoiding these two countries. Despite the full effort from the government, those two countries are undergoing a 'Mafia Syndrome.'

"It's basically where everyone thinks they can do something while the Tier 9 human is recuperating from his injuries."

Clovis frowned. "Won't that make the situation worse for them? What will happen once Tier 9 returns?"

"That's exactly why it's called 'Mafia Syndrome' right now. It's basically a cat-and-mouse game. Once they have profited from this situation, they will leave as far as possible. Even the Tier 9 won't be able to catch them all.

"If he chases them too much, there's a chance he will be tricked and fall into a trap, which would deteriorate his condition again. This time, another Tier 9 will come, fully aware he could take them down.

"That's why they are not necessarily enough to suppress these people. And in most cases, the Tier 9 will just let this slide as long as the situation calms down."

Clovis carefully examined the condition. "I see. That's definitely concerning. And why would you mention this problem? I mean, it's true that my grandfather is one of those Tier 9 humans, but I don't think there's a need for this kind of thing, right?"

"Not necessarily." Hana took out the list of the guests this time. "In the banquet, there will be a lot of important people coming.

"For example, Christina Elseingarde and Lues Elseingarde. They are the son and the granddaughter of Tier 9 Ezekiel Elseingarde. The man who is said to be the sturdiest man in the world."

"Elseingarde?" Clovis frowned.

"Yes. He is one of the Tier 9s involved in that battle. He's probably coming to find a new connection or maybe getting the new beast soul from me. I'm thinking about taking advantage of this situation to get you what you want."

"What I want?"

"Yep. You guys want to go to the beach, right? Elseingarde's headquarters is located near the shore. I think it's fine to go there if you really want it." Hana nodded. "And I will have enough reason to go with you guys."

"Oh!" Clovis nodded in understanding.

"Aside from them, there are four people who are backed by Tier 8 or being Tier 8 themselves. However, I want you to focus on this person." Hana pointed at a single name.

"Alandecker?"

"Yes. This guy has a clue about your father."



"!!!" Clovis widened his eyes in shock before nodding his head. "I see. It seems this banquet will be much more interesting than I originally thought."

"No. It is beyond that. The banquet itself is separated into three stages. The first will be the banquet, where people eat and drink, know each other, or maybe dance. The second session will be the bloody battle.

"It will probably be battles between younger generations. This usually happens for the influences trying to show off their heirs or heiresses. This will also be a slap for others who lose to them. I dislike it, but well, I don't really care at this point. If you want to participate, just tell me about it.

"The last will be held the next day. It is a charity auction. I haven't gotten the item list, so I don't know what to buy. However, the people who are attending this banquet are required to put an item for the auction.

"I put five batches of ten quotas for the new beast soul. This time, each beast soul will be at least Tier 6 or Tier 7. My grandfather is providing me with the beast soul. Maybe you can take out your painting and sell it there... I'm sure it can reach at least one billion."

It was definitely tempting, considering he could use it for Another World Mall. Unfortunately, Clovis shook his head.

"That's what I'd like to do, but there will simply be endless trouble. Not only Tier 8, but Tier 9 people will come for such a painting. For now, it's better to strengthen the allies. Maybe once I manage to meet my parents, the situation will change. And I can be bolder."

"That's understandable. If you don't want to do anything, it's fine. I can handle the rest."

"Hmm..." Clovis looked down, wondering if he could bring out anything.

#### Chapter 544 Attending

The banquet was hosted in a rather secluded place.

On this mountain, the cool temperature would create a rather conducive atmosphere. The venue was huge, easily hosting more than a thousand people at once. Next to this venue was a grand hotel where they would be residing for the banquet.

The red carpet had been stretched in front of the entrance. Despite wearing their butler outfit, each individual was at least Tier 3 humans.

There were two women wearing a red dress. There was the hotel's badge that signified they were staff, but these women were both Tier 5 humans.

The lady with a ponytail said, "Remember. We'll be meeting a lot of important people today. Even if they look ordinary, don't underestimate them."

"I understand." The other lady nodded. "I'm still a Tier 5 explorer, Lila."

"I just want to make sure, Sue. Here they come, the first visitor of the day."

A limousine had stopped three people from coming out.

The first one was a vigorous young man. His muscular body was barely covered by his suit. However, the one taking the spotlight was the woman behind him. The woman looked much older than him, but despite that, she didn't have any wrinkles yet, which made her look much younger than her true age.

She was wearing a bold one-piece blue dress, with the skirt slit on the right side.

The last person was an old man. He was wearing a plain white shirt as if this was just another evening for him. He didn't give off an aura like the young man. Instead, he weakly grabbed his black suit as though it didn't really matter if he put it on or not.

"Come on, Father. Wear your suit." The woman asked softly.

"Haha. It's fine, it's fine. I bet we're the first ones here. I don't like wearing this kind of outfit." The old man smiled and just hung his suit on his shoulder. "Anyway, let's enter."

The woman smiled wryly.

The three came to the entrance as the two staff bowed.

"Welcome, Young Master Ezane, Madam Elaine, and Master Randan."

"Are we the first one to arrive?" The old man asked.

"Yes, sir. Please enter. There will be another staff that will be guiding you to your seat."

The old man nodded before entering the venue.

As the other two followed him inside, the two staff couldn't help but look at each other.

"That piercing gaze... He is the Tier 8 Master, Randan Coloraz, isn't he?"

"Indeed. He doesn't show an intimidating presence, but he is one of the strongest people in our country."

It didn't take too long for the next guests to arrive. This time, it was just a pair of women. The younger one, who seemed to be the daughter, had a rather imposing aura. Meanwhile, the older one gave off an indescribable aura that didn't come from her age.

However, the two staff recognized them.

"Welcome, Miss Levae and Madam Vanya. We are honored that you grace us with your presence."

"Haha. There's no need to think much of an old lady who is selling medicine."

Despite acting so humble, she was one of the most important figures in the country. Her strength might only be Tier 7, but she handled a third of the medicine circulating in the country. If not for her, a lot of explorers and soldiers would have died.

A lot more people were coming, one more important than the other. From the one governing logistics to the main figure of a political party.

Still, the most important guests that arrived today came not from this country but from their neighbor.

It was a pair of father and daughter.

The father was wearing a white suit that enhanced his blond hair and a pair of blue eyes. His expression was gentle, as if he was meant to protect and assure the people around him.

Meanwhile, the daughter was wearing a short gown that captivated people not from her elegance but from her energetic and youthful vigor.

She grabbed her father's arm as both of them came to the venue.

"We sincerely welcome the Legendary Guardian, Sir Lues Elseingarde, and the young lady Christina Elseingarde. We are thankful for gracing your presence at our humble party."

"En." Lues nodded with a smile. "I'm just a simple foreigner. I hope my presence doesn't bother the people here."

They were just one of the few foreigners invited to this party due to their alliance with other countries.

It was the reason this banquet was considered the most important event this year.

Every single person who attended had a certain influence in their respective countries.

However, it was also the time for one of the most important guests invited by the host to arrive.

They came with a white limousine. However, instead of going out like other people, there seemed to be an argument inside.

"I don't like wearing suits. Can I not?"

"Appearance is important. Hurry up and put on your suit. We're going out."

"If I wear my suit, I don't need to do that, right?"

"Of course you have to do it. It's just for a show."

"I don't really mind either."

"But your grandfather is there. He is going to be lonely!"

"Hahaha. Don't mind me. I'm just enjoying the youthful atmosphere here!"

There were four different voices. The first one was a young man followed by two feminine voices. The last one was a hoarse, aged voice.

The first one coming out was the young man, who turned out to be Clovis.

He extended his hand, escorting the second person, who was none other than Kanaria. Instead of going, he extended his hand to Hana.

It was only after all those three came out would Hana's grandfather, Jeremy Skylark, exit the car. This was the man who was considered not only the richest in the country but also one of the strongest. After all, he had a Tier 8 strength on top of his business empire.

Instead of dividing themselves into two pairs, Clovis ended up becoming the sacrificial lamb. With Kanaria on the right side and Hana on the right side, the group advanced into the venue as a way for Jeremy to show off.

Chapter 545 Begin

They certainly garnered people's attention. The moment they entered the venue, a lot of eyes turned to Clovis.

After all, he was the only bastard that was able to have a woman on both sides. However, those who recognized Hana couldn't help but widen their eyes.

This was a kind of approval from Jeremy himself.

"Who is that guy?"

"Isn't that Clovis? The rising star?"

"Really?"



The people were whispering to each other, wondering what was going on. This was why Clovis didn't really want to do it.

However, Clovis also understood why Hana wanted to do it. By taking advantage of this confusion, they had no other choice but to acknowledge Clovis, which would push away a lot of people.

In addition, there was a hidden message in this action. If they still tried to come for Clovis, not only Hana but even Jeremy might take action.

If the wealthiest man as well as one of the strongest men in this country took action, there were not many people that could endure it.

On the other hand, Jeremy didn't really care about this. As long as there was someone who could take care of Hana's greed. Besides, it wasn't like Clovis had no background.

But this action couldn't help but make two people furrow their eyebrows. It was the father and daughter of the Elseingarde family.

"Well, well. Old friend. To think that you would come this way." A guy walked toward him. "You really bring us a surprise."

"It doesn't matter how they're going to interpret it." Jeremy chuckled. "We arrive on time, so I think it's better to take a seat first. The banquet is about to start."

"That's true. This way." He gently pulled him by the shoulder, guiding him to their seat.

Clovis, Kanaria, and Hana followed right behind while feeling the gazes from all around them.

For Kanaria, those gazes were observing and judging her. Clovis, on the other hand, felt condemning gazes and one filled with jealousy. Still, Hana was pitied by others, thinking that she had done herself bad by picking Clovis.

Once they settled down, Clovis couldn't help but say, "This is enough, right?"

"Yep. I bet your father's friend has seen it as well. He will probably make his move after the host greets their guests."

"Hmm." Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought.

"By the way, Hana." Kanaria noticed something else. "There are two people who seem to be scorning both of us."

"You can feel it?" Hana smiled.

"Yes. It's coming from that direction." Kanaria pointed at the side.

Hana took a glance to see who it was. To her surprise, it turned out to be the pair from the Elseingarde family.

"I see. So that's how it is." After some thoughts, Hana whispered to Clovis, "It seems they have figured out your identity. I don't know how they do it, but I'm afraid it's not something you can control. Let's see... your grandfather?"

"Huh? My grandfather? Why would he..." Clovis squinted his eyes.

"I don't know, but let me take care of the negotiation later."

"Alright." Clovis nodded.

A few minutes later, the venue's light was turned off. Only the ones illuminating the stages were still one.

A middle-aged man came up to the stage.

"Who is he?" Clovis frowned.

"This country's finance minister. Even though he is only a minister, his influence is actually the third in the country after the president and the defense minister."

"Hoh?" Clovis crossed his arms.

The minister spread his arms and said, "Welcome to the Sovereign Banquet. I'm honored to host this banquet. I can see a lot of familiar faces, which put a smile on my face.

"I think it will be too boring for an old man like me to continue rumbling about the useless thing that you probably have heard a thousand times.

"Hence, I'll just say two things. First, don't forget that this banquet is to strengthen our relationship. I hope that you can talk to others without caring about who they are at this banquet.

"And if you would like to settle things, there will be a battle session after this. So you can do that after this. This banquet will be closed after the auction held tomorrow.

"I hope that everyone can maintain a good atmosphere during the banquet. Without further ado, I announce the start of this banquet."

As expected, the first thing they did was to showcase several dances and other forms of art, which would accompany them as they ate.

Before it ended, Jeremy came to Clovis while saying, "Boy. I'm going to tell you something."

"Yes?" Clovis frowned.

"I know that with your identity, you can probably bypass all kinds of trouble. However, you need to remember that sometimes it's not going to work. In the end, not knowing your identity can push your enemy to do reckless things.

"I'm planning to use this banquet to make sure that kind of thing won't happen. At least, not on my watch."

Clovis tilted his head in confusion. "Hana aside, but I'm quite surprised that you're willing to do such a thing for me, sir."

"I'm not doing it for you. I'm doing it for my granddaughter. Your grandfather is scary and I'm also afraid of him, but that doesn't mean I will just do whatever I don't mean to do because of him. In this era, strength might reign supreme, but that doesn't mean you can solve everything with strength. The same applies to money.

"That's why I choose to become wealthy and strong. If you're going to have my daughter backing you financially, you need to have the strength beyond me. I know it's going to happen sooner or later, but having a rivalry is good."

Clovis nodded. "I understand. And I don't plan to slack off with just some achievement. My goal is beyond it after all."

"Is that so? That's good then. In that case, I'll take care of these people right now. There are currently four influences trying to get you. I can probably shut three of them, but the last one will probably need your effort to do that. After all, they are from a martial family, not the wealthy one.

They are all muscle-brained people, which is annoying."

"Alright. Thank you."

Jeremy patted Clovis' shoulder before taking his leave.

Chapter 546 Meeting

"Jeremy!" An old man shook his hand before patting his shoulder. "How are you, my friend?"

"Hahaha. I'm feeling the best right now."

"Well, really?" The old man couldn't help but glance at Clovis.

However, Jeremy soon said, "I've heard that your third daughter has just given birth to her second son. Congratulations, my friend."

"You flatter me. I hope that they have good talent like yours. If they even have Hana's talent, even if it's only 50% of it, I would have been a proud grandfather."

"Hahaha." Jeremy laughed. "Sometimes, the higher the talent, the harder they are to teach."

"Is that so? It doesn't sound convincing from someone whose granddaughter is so talented that she will surpass her grandfather in a decade or so."

"I hope that's true."

Jeremy seemed to be walking around, greeting his friends before moving to take care of the annoying people that wanted to bother Clovis.

At the same time, Clovis and the others were approached by someone.

"Hello, Mr. Alan." Hana smiled, being the first one to greet him.

The person who said to have the information about his father was none other than one of the two people that stopped Clovis' pursuer when he entered the country.

"I have long heard the beauty and the talent of Hana Skylark. As time passes, I'm more convinced that you will surpass your grandfather." He nodded.

"Thank you." Hana politely introduced the two. "These two are..."

"Don't worry. I know them already. Kanaria Renvolt and Clovis H." He only mentioned the first letter to show he knew Clovis' identity.

Clovis was startled but soon calmed down since the other party didn't say his full name.

"It seems you have enjoyed your stay in this country. I'm glad that I stopped that bastard from bringing you back to Axolonia. Hahaha." Alan laughed.

Clovis looked at this middle-aged man. If he was right, that meant he was the Tier 8 that fought to protect him back then.

"I'm grateful for your help. And yes, I have been enjoying my time here. I hope to continue progressing at this pace."

"Great. That's a good ambition. I didn't know what to do when your father first called me to protect you back then. It turned out Axolonia was trying to bring you back. Well, there was another person beside me. She doesn't come here though."

"Is that so? I need to express my gratitude to her as well."



"Haha. We didn't do much." Alan chuckled. "After seeing all your news on the Skynet, I understand why you will do just fine even without support."

"Thank you." Clovis nodded.

"Well, I guess I shouldn't disturb your time." Alan playfully glanced at Kanaria and Hana as if implying he didn't want to mess with the 'youth' time. "There are a lot of things I can say about your father, but his current location is rather vague. The only thing I know is the country."

"The country? Is he not in this country?"

Alan shook his head.

Clovis couldn't help but look down, falling into deep thought. The country seemed to want to retain him. Hana was also here. Hence, he might not be able to settle down in another country unless it was extremely necessary.

Besides, he could progress even without his parents. They could still help him from another country.

Still, it didn't change the fact that he wanted to meet them even for a week or two. And he could fulfill his promise to Melody this time.

"That is fine as well." Clovis nodded.

"Is that so? Then, I'll just tell it right away since it's not a big deal. When I received your parents' call, it came from the country north of this one."

"Venesse?" Hana frowned.

"Yep. If you wish to know more about your parents other than their location, you are free to visit my place. This lass should know about the location." Alan pointed at Hana.

"Haha. I surely know. Mr. Alan. Thank you so much. If you wish to have a new beast soul, I'm willing to give you a quota or two." Hana winked playfully.

"Is that so? I will remember your words." Alan wanted to say his goodbye, but he soon noticed the incoming presence. This was not an ordinary presence. Hence, he couldn't help but turn around, finding the two from the Elseingarde family come toward them.

Alan couldn't help but ask, "Do you need my help?"

Clovis shook his head. "I'm thankful for your offer, but there's no need. We can handle this."

"Alright then." Alan nodded and took his leave. However, he was still observing them from afar in case something went wrong.

Hana was the first one to step forward and greet them. "It is an honor to meet Sir Lues Elseingarde and the young lady of the family who is rumored to have the unique ability to reach Tier 9 in the future, Christina Elseingarde. Your names are like thunder reverberating in our ears."

"It's an honor for the famous Hana Skylark to know us." Lues politely nodded and put his hand on his chest while Christina lifted up the hem of her skirt a bit. However, he soon turned solemn as he said, "However, I can't help but admire the humbleness of the young master beside you."

Clovis and Hana had speculated they knew his identity. His grandfather might even be the one tipping them off.

Clovis smiled. "I'm nothing but a normal person. You flatter me."

"Normal person, huh? A normal person would have reacted differently." Lues squinted his eyes.

"Is that so? Maybe I just don't know the etiquette."

Lues finally understood how Clovis planned to play it. He said, "Is that so? I guess I will introduce myself. I am Lues Elseingarde. Nice to meet you, young man."

"I'm Clovis. I'm honored to meet you, Sir Lues."

"And this is..." Lues took a step to the side as Christina greeted him. "Christina Elseingarde."

When Clovis wanted to answer their introduction, he was stopped by a glitch that seemed to only appear in his eyes.

There was a red screen appearing right in front of him, as though the meeting between them shouldn't have occurred at this point in time.

"!!!"

Chapter 547 Challenge

"!!!" Clovis' body trembled when he heard her name. It was because of the panel that appeared before him. Unlike all the previous panels, this one was the clearest one he had ever seen.

[Error.]

[Recalculating the probability of—]

It was only a few words but it contained a lot of meaning.

'What is this? Probability of what? Why do you need recalculation? Is it because the probability is so low that you have to recalculate it? Is the simulation different from what you expect?

'And what kind of data have you inputted into the simulation that it's not possible for me to meet her? What is exactly going on?'

There were a lot of questions in his mind, but he knew it would be rude if he took this time to think about all kinds of possibilities.

"Is there something wrong?" Lues asked while furrowing his eyebrows, feeling suspicious. After the show earlier, it made people think Clovis was a lustful person. His daughter might end up getting caught by him.

At the same time, he still had to hold back because of the other party's identity.

Even Christina was raising her guard against Clovis.

He didn't particularly care about it, so he immediately shook his head, "Nothing. I feel like I have heard that name before."

It was a rather obvious statement. Christina was famous for being born as the granddaughter of Ezekiel Elseingarde. She was even confirmed to have the unique ability required to become a Tier 9 in the future.

That was why it wouldn't be weird for them to hear about her name.

However, it was Hana and Kanaria's turn to be shocked. Both of them knew Clovis didn't have any knowledge about the outside world, especially other Tier 9, even though his grandfather was one of them. So it was weird for Clovis to claim he heard her name.

Was there something they didn't know about the relationship between the two families? Or was there a reason Clovis used these words as a lie instead of using other common responses?

'I guess I will talk about it if I meet my grandfather or Mara.' Clovis sighed inwardly before focusing on the people in front of him.

"I'm honored to meet both of you." Clovis' expression turned solemn. "However, both of us know that this meeting holds a meaning."

Clovis was probably the only one who could say these words without the other party being offended.

"Indeed." Lues nodded. "We're here just to introduce ourselves. I hope that Miss Hana is willing to spare a bit of her time later."

"I'm flattered. Of course, I will have time for you, Mr. Lues." Hana nodded.

There were still a lot of people around here, some were strong enough and even had Brain Affinity. So it would be bad if they overheard their conversation.

The hotel was specifically equipped by it, so no one could hear whatever they talked in those rooms.

That was what they planned to do. Obviously, they still saw the fact they were meeting each other, which meant they should keep an eye on them.

At the same time, Hana's reputation had spread wide, especially because of the recent product. It wouldn't be weird if the Elseingarde family was having an interest in it.

Through the Elseingarde family, she could gradually expand to the overseas market. Then again, it could only happen because the Elseingarde family was interested in Clovis.

Hana acknowledged that part, which became another reason for the previous show. Without that credibility, the Elseingarde might not approach her like this.

"In that case, we'll take our leave." Lues and Christina walked away, greeting other guests.

As expected, several more people came to Hana and Clovis. Instead of getting angry because she was jealous, Kanaria simply looked around.

She had another mission in this banquet.

Unfortunately, they couldn't get their peaceful meeting with all these people as a spirited voice echoed from the crowd.

"I challenge you, Clovis!"

The people couldn't help but furrow their eyebrows, feeling annoyed. At the same time, there were a lot of people getting interested in this challenge.

After all, this was the first challenge in this banquet.

They shifted their gaze to this muscular man.

He looked 23 or 24 years old. His body was muscular to the point where his suits looked so tight.

He gave off a beast-like atmosphere from his body. It was as if telling them to fight, fight, and fight if they ever met him.

With such a confident smile, he came toward Clovis, challenging him.

"Rivain Magnus. His grandfather is a Tier 8. It seems he is the person that Mr. Alan talked about earlier. He is currently 24 years old and a Tier 5 human. It can be said that he is the previous rising star."



As Hana said those words, Rivain had reached them. "You look useful since you're the current rising star. I'm Rivain Magnus. I've taken a liking on you. Come under me, Clovis. You will get anything you want. However, I'm not going to take in anyone useless. I'll be testing you personally. If you can withstand my attack for five minutes, I will consider you passed."

Rivain made it in a way that he didn't abuse his Tier 5 strength.

On the other hand, people knew this was just a one-sided threat.

Through Clovis, he planned to deal a blow to the Skylark family.

"Heh? Interesting." Lues smirked. "Do you think he will accept the challenge?"

Christina squinted her eyes. "I believe he will."

"Then, what will be the outcome of the fight?"

"I have seen people like him in battle. He is not just planning to endure the attack for five minutes. He's planning to showcase his power. However, this is a foolish move. His opponent is a Tier 5 human. While he is not as strong as me, it's still a Tier 5 human. He is also considered a genius in this country, so his strength should be beyond it. Even if he can fight a Tier 4 human while he's only a Tier 2, the gap between each Tier increases the higher the Tiers are..." Christina explained.

As she expected, Clovis planned to beat this guy from the start to solve all the problems both for him and Hana.

Clovis stated coldly, "I'm not going to listen to someone who is defeated by me."

"You bastard." Rivain grinned, planning to beat the crap out of Clovis.

#### Chapter 548 Fight

The banquet was filled with a lot of exciting battles as the scions from other families, organizations, or companies ended up challenging one another.

Still, the one most anticipated was the battle between Rivain and Clovis. After all, Clovis had just piqued the interest of the Elseigarde family.

It seemed that Rivain wanted to stop him from growing even further and suppress him.

Meanwhile, they couldn't really support Clovis, especially with that boast of his.

If he could really win against Rivain, everyone's opinion would definitely change.

That was why this battle would be important for the stability he sought in this country. It would also be the foundation of cooperation between him and the Elseigarde family.

He couldn't care less about another Tier 9 family, but Hana would definitely need it. That was why he had to do it.

Because everyone knew about the second session, they didn't forget to bring their battle gear, thinking they would be challenged by others.

Clovis had changed to his usual outfit, which was practical but by no means armor made of precious metal or rare monster's carcass.

Meanwhile, Rivain was covering his head, body, arms, and legs with armor. His weapons seemed to be gloves, which made Clovis wonder if they were strong enough to handle him or not.

Still, Rivain expressed his fighting and killing intent as he glared at him.

The arena was just a simple rectangular-shaped platform one meter above the ground.

The people could see them fighting from underneath the platform.

They never thought that the first battle would be between a Tier 5 human and someone who just became a Tier 3 human not long ago.

"Hmm..." Christina furrowed her eyebrows. "Something is wrong."

Lues glanced at his daughter. "Did you find anything?"

"Yes. I just don't know why Clovis doesn't wear armor. I know that it's rather restrictive, but he will be injured a lot if he doesn't wear one. According to the information, he has Blood Affinity, not Bones."

Lues thought for a moment. "What if he has a unique ability like you?"

"Him?" Christina was surprised at first but soon noticed what was going on.

Her grandfather wouldn't have told them to visit this country if Clovis was just a mere grandson of a Tier 9 human. It would be a different case if he also had a unique ability.

In other words, just like her, he would also become a Tier 9.

"Does Grandfather intend to..." Christina frowned. If both families cooperated with each other, they would have four Tier 9s in the future.

"No one dotes on you the most than your grandpa, so I don't think it's the case. Well, I think we can find out the answer in this battle."

Christina nodded.

The host of the party stood in the arena while saying, "The night is still young, so we're pleased to see heated matches. However, please don't forget that this is a banquet. No matter what you do, don't release any lethal blows. There will be a Tier 8 referee whose role is to stop you in case the battle becomes dangerous."

"If there is anyone who isn't in battle but chooses to come to the arena, then I shall take it as a threat and deal with it accordingly."

This was a threat for the older people. They had strength and experience, so it would be bad if they struck the participants.

Clovis pulled out his swords while listening to Rivain say, "Heh? You're not going to use your pistol? Well, that pistol will be useless anyway. After all, I can dodge those bullets completely."

"You talk too much." Clovis shook his head helplessly.

"I'm going to beat you so hard today." Rivain gnashed his teeth.

Alan looked worried, but Jeremy simply smiled. Clovis wasn't someone who would accept a losing fight.

Other people were observing, wondering what the current rising star had to offer. Could he really win against Rivain?

The referee looked at both sides. "Since you are ready, the match will begin once this coin drops into the floor!"

He tossed a coin into the air and leaped backward, giving them the space to fight.

Both sides leaped toward each other.

Rivain punched Clovis with all his strength while the latter raised both swords, trying to receive this punch to measure Rivain's strength.

To his surprise, the punch overwhelmed Clovis right away, blowing him back for more than five meters.

Rivain continued onward, not letting Clovis have the chance to catch a breath.

When Rivain was about to reach him, Clovis took a deep breath, using his fastest speed to stop his punch. He struck the fist multiple times, which was blocked by the thin plate within the gloves.

As a result, Clovis had to stop and block this attack, resulting in him getting pushed back again.

"It's useless. You might have the ability to fight a Tier 4 when you are a Tier 2, but that's because the gap between those two tiers is not as immense as the gap between Tier 3 and Tier 5." Rivain shouted.

"You can't be so sure about that." Clovis shook his head. He still remained calm as he had an experience against a Tier 5 human.

Still, Rivain was stronger than the assassin he faced back then, so this would definitely not be an easy fight. He didn't have Reolf or any advantage either.

There were two things that had changed from that battle. First, Clovis had become a Tier 3. The second change was that he had the paintings.

That was why, after understanding Rivain's strength, Clovis took a deep breath, slowing down the world he saw even further.

"In that case, I will break your right hand with this punch!" Rivain punched him again.

Instead of defending against this punch, Clovis moved toward Rivain as closely as possible before tilting his body. His punch would still come from the right side, which was supposed to be his right hand.

Yet Clovis actually didn't bother to protect his right side, taking advantage of the defense from his clothes to absorb the damage.

It still grazed him pretty badly, but as a result, Clovis managed to pass Rivain's defense and used his full speed to strike him.

#### Chapter 549 One Strike

"!!!" Rivain seemed to be able to follow his strike and used his armor to block most of his attacks.

Still, several strikes managed to reach him. Although they were just shallow strikes, it was proof that Clovis' strikes were able to reach him.

The people were stunned. They thought this would be a one-sided battle, but they were wrong.

"Wow? So Clovis has indeed that kind of fighting strength?"

"Maybe he is just lucky? Or is Rivain underestimating him?"

"No. No. Even if he is like that, both of them still have yet to use their beast souls. That's why they're fighting on equal terms right now."

The people could see that Rivain was blocking only those lethal blows, abandoning all the shallow ones Clovis left behind to trick him.



Nevertheless, the result made him angry.

"This is..." Rivain clenched his fists even tighter. This was like a slap in his face. Without hesitation, he leaped toward Clovis in anger. "You bastard!"

The angrier he was, the calmer Clovis became. Rivain hammered him with a barrage of punches, trying to overwhelm him.

Clovis blocked every single one of them perfectly fine, even though Rivain had a Muscle Affinity, allowing him to have superior strength against Clovis.

Clovis didn't just receive all his attacks. He took several of them so that he could leave behind a lot of wounds on Rivain's body. If he continued doing this, Rivain would definitely become weaker as time passed.

The spectators squinted their eyes. Even though Rivain looked like he had the upper hand, it was Clovis who controlled the flow of the battle.

When Rivain used his beast souls, Clovis countered them with either the techniques he got from Another World Mall, causing a stalemate.

"I see. It seems I have no need to worry." Alan smiled wryly.

Lues frowned. "It's no wonder he is so confident. I guess he truly carries that bloodline..."

Christina's fingers were twitching as she couldn't help but simulate the battle in her mind. What if she was the one on the stage instead of Rivain? How should she proceed? She instinctively calculated everything in her mind.

The others were also observing this match closely.

"Clovis, huh? Has he been snatched completely by the Skylarks?"

"I should make some time to meet him after this."

"The Libation Fiesta is said to have a similar strength."

They weren't even focusing on Rivain. In the end, he became the stepping stone for Clovis.

Rivain didn't care about it anymore. He just had to crush Clovis completely to turn around the situation.

Unfortunately for him, that was what Clovis wanted him to do.

"You!" Rivain's eyes turned bloodshot as he punched forward using his beast soul.

The punch was so powerful that it caused a ripple. Clovis blocked it with both swords but to no avail. He was pushed back by several meters, finally stopping his momentum.

In that instant, Rivain closed the gap between them and punched him one more time.

Seeing the incoming Rivain, Clovis inhaled deeply. He activated his Perfect State.

"!!!" Several people, including Lues and Christina, noticed that the atmosphere around Clovis suddenly changed.

Clovis couldn't help but remember the painting of the lightning. It gave him a tremendous understanding that allowed him to take down a few thousand beasts.

And it was because of one thing.

He gathered all his momentum in his arm and poured everything into a single swing.

The swing moved so swiftly like lightning and struck Rivain's fist.

Several of them felt goosebumps, understanding what kind of swing it was.

Rivain's fist managed to keep going, trying to break this swing. However, this strike wasn't as simple as a swift swing.

Instead, it would continue flying and cutting everything in front. Although it was only for a brief moment, the strike became similar to the strike from Mara Leverstrike.

As if realizing the danger, the referee immediately reached both of them and grabbed their arms. He spun his body and tossed both of them out of the arena.

Rivain was caught by a middle-aged man while Clovis fell right in front of Christina.

"What are you doing?!" Rivain shouted in anger, glaring at the referee.

The referee ignored him and announced the result. "Winner: Clovis."

"What? I didn't lose!" Rivain hurriedly returned to the stage, trying to complain.

However, the referee remained calm and said, "Mr. Rivain. I believe I have given the most accurate judgment. I deem this battle has become too dangerous. So as to not leave a wound that will hinder your future, I put a stop to this match."

"Me? Injured?! He won't be able to do such a thing to me!"

The referee sighed. "Please don't embarrass yourself even further, Mr. Rivain. Anyway, the match has been concluded. And I believe a lot of people agree with my decision. Please leave the arena."

The referee was fuming in anger. He looked fine, but he was clenching his right hand into his fist to avoid showing the cut on his palm.

He couldn't help but look at the trail left behind that sword. It was only several meters, but the power was much stronger than it.

He thought, 'To think I would be injured by a Tier 3 human. That strike alone... I don't think there's a lot of people from the younger generations who are able to stop it. Clovis, huh? It seems the Skylarks have struck gold.'

While Rivain was complaining, Lues was pinching his chin, looking at Clovis. 'That power is much stronger than it looks. Besides, what is that change of atmosphere? It's like he becomes an entirely different person for a brief moment.'

'No. I can still faintly feel it, but it seems to have been suppressed. I see. Is that his unique ability? I still don't know what it does, but he truly possesses such a power.'

Christina extended her hand to Clovis while asking, "Are you alright?"

It seemed she instinctively knew what Clovis had done and ended up acknowledging his strength.

"Yes. Thank you." Clovis took her hand while smiling.

Chapter 550 Beach Vacation Agreement

As expected, others immediately approached Clovis and the others after confirming his strength. It was beyond what they expected, especially because Rivain was a strong person even among Tier 5 humans.

That was why Clovis immediately ran away, using Hana and Kanaria as his shields. Hana was trying to use him to avoid any unnecessary problems while Clovis used Hana to take care of this problem.

Hana was more skilled than him in negotiation, so it would be better to just let her handle it.

There were a lot of challenges after that, but because Clovis wasn't interested in the spar, he returned to the hotel. Of course, Hana took this time to have a lengthy chat with the Elseingarde family.

"We'll give you ten quotas for the new beast souls."

"Alright." Lues nodded with a serious expression. "What do you want in return?"

"If I'm not wrong, the Elseigarde family lives near the beach, correct?" Hana asked.

"Indeed." Lues thought Hana wanted land or something. That was why her request was shocking to Lues and Christina.

"How about having a joint training between the Elseigarde and the OpenSky Company?"

"A joint training?"

"Indeed. For the Elseingarde family, this joint training will allow your people to get used to the new beast soul, learning from us directly. For us, it will allow for future growth. What do you think?"

Lues looked down, falling into deep thought.

The joint training was an excuse. Hana had promised Clovis that she would go on a beach trip, so she chose the joint training to relax her body.

"Hmm..." Lues asked, "To be honest, it's not that bad of a deal. In fact, it's more favorable to us. Still, are you alright with this?"

"Of course. I will be there personally to supervise my people." Hana nodded.

"Alright. We can definitely do it."

"Good. First, please send your people to the OpenSky Company. After that, we can probably head there together." Hana asked.

"Sounds good to me."

"Are you perhaps going to get one, Mr. Lues?"

"No. Christina will get one, but I won't. It's too late for me since I don't think there are beast parts strong enough for Tier 8 humans." He shook his head.

Hana nodded in understanding. She had already known about this fact from her grandfather, but she thought the Elseigarde had such a thing in their inventory, so she asked, hoping they would offer their own beast souls.

Lues glanced at Clovis and said, "Congratulations. The Hacfield family doesn't seem to be lacking a successor. Despite being so young, you have reached Tier 3 and have that level of combat prowess. In addition, you have your unique ability, which will guarantee you becoming a Tier 9 in the future.

"I guess Christina will have to progress much faster so that she doesn't get swallowed by you."



Clovis shook his head. "I'm nothing but a normal person. I have managed to go this far because of my insanity and stubbornness."

"No, no. How can that be? If you have gotten this far with only those, all people in this world simply haven't put any effort at all." Lues shook his head. "Trying to be humble at a time like this sounds like an insult, you know?"

"Ah! Does that mean Mr. Lues does not know?" Hana raised her eyes before stopping. She turned to Clovis first, asking, "Should I even say this?"

"Up to you. It doesn't matter anymore." Clovis shook his head.

Christina and Lues tilted their heads in confusion.

Hana explained, "Clovis' evolution rate is only 15%. It has been changed to 40% by his grandfather, but his first evaluation is only 15%."

"!!!" Christina widened her eyes while Lues stood up. "Impossible!"

Clovis smiled wryly.

Without Another World Mall, he wouldn't even stand here. No, he would stand here, but it would take him much longer.

'The grandson of Michael Hacfield only has a 15% evolution rate? Who are you kidding? But that expression... it doesn't seem to be a lie. Does he truly have a 15% evolution rate?

'If that's the case, it changes the situation completely. He is able to surmount the gap in evolution rate and reach Tier 3 before reaching 17 years old.

'This kind of progress can only happen for those who have at least 90% and a lot of resources.

'The Hacfield family has been hiding this whole time, so I don't think they're helping Clovis with resources or other things.

'If that's the case, it's more insane. Just like a normal person, he is advancing at the pace of a genius. And his combat prowess is so high that it can only be described as monstrous.

'Had Christina faced the same problem, what would happen?'

Lues couldn't help but glance at his daughter, who was also in shock.

"By the way, when are you going to advance to Tier 4?" Hana asked.

"I'm not sure. 2-4 months, maybe? I'm quite lucky that we can hunt without getting bothered with anything for the last two months, but I'm going to be pretty busy for the next few months, right?"

"True." Hana nodded.

Lues and Christina were twitching their eyebrows. Hana was lowkey flexing Clovis' talent, which couldn't be described by words.

In fact, this was what Hana wanted.

After all, Lues couldn't help but think, 'Don't tell me... Clovis has another trump card. The one that allows him to advance by leaps and bounds. The people in his group are also abnormal. There is another secret that he has. Is this the reason Father sent us here?

'This young man actually has something that can change the fate of the family? Tier 8 is rare, but what if there are a bunch of Tier 8 humans in his group while he, the leader, is a Tier 9 human?

Lues closed his eyes, understanding, or more like misunderstanding, everything. He said, "Alright. I shall welcome you to the Elseingarde family."

"Thank you." Hana nodded.

"In that case, an old man like me should return to his country to prepare everything. I should let the younger generation talk more and get to know each other." Lues patted Christina's back as if signaling her to cooperate with them and strengthen the relationship between them.

"Please take care of me." Christina understood and offered her best smile, while wondering if her father had just sold her away.