

World Mall 56

Chapter 56 Gifts

Kanaria and Jay were looking at him curiously as if they had something to say.

"What's wrong? Have you guys eaten yet?" Clovis asked with a smile.

"Not yet..." Jay answered but soon stopped as if he were surprised by the sudden change in Clovis.

Even Kanaria had to blink her eyes a few times to confirm whether what she felt from Clovis was right or not.

She was the first to be unable to contain her curiosity and asked, "Clovis. You don't have to answer this, but... Are you a Tier 1 right now?"

"Oh. That's what you're talking about. Do you notice something?"

"Well, it certainly feels different. I can't describe it, but you just know." Kanaria scratched the back of her head. She didn't know how to react right now.

On the one hand, it was surprising that Clovis managed to become a Tier 1 human like them. On the other hand, how did Clovis do it? His evolution rate was much lower than theirs. Even though he got one more super injection compared to them, it didn't change the fact that their gap should be extremely big.

Yet Clovis managed to overcome that difference and become a Tier 1 human.

This changed everything for them. If Clovis could shorten the gaps between them, it meant that his progression speed was much faster than theirs, despite his evolution rate. In addition, now that their progress had reached the same level, with Clovis's faster progression, they would be left behind sooner or later.

This gave them a sense of urgency as well as mystery. How in the world did Clovis do it?

Clovis could understand their concern and simply said, "I'm using my grandfather's secret to boost my progress. There should be no side effect, so you don't have to worry about me."

Kanaria gave a wry smile. At first, she wanted to lessen Clovis's burden by donating her funds to the group so that Clovis would have enough essence to progress a little bit. But she was wrong.

Clovis actually used this secret technique to boost his progress. The fact that he sold almost all his essence and donated the money was because he had confidence he could catch up to them.

When Jay and Kanaria realized this, it seemed that they shouldn't underestimate Clovis anymore. If they didn't use all their resources, Clovis might shoot past them before they realized it.

"Actually, I have something I want to give you guys... It's special clothing that has been enhanced through my family's technique." Clovis took out the two pieces of clothing he hid behind him. "I hope you don't mind the design."

"This is..." Jay didn't know whether to accept this or not. He had received a lot from his father, and now Clovis gave him another thing.

Clovis shoved the sweatpants into his hands, so Jay could only stare at them.

"These sweatpants should be perfect for you, Jay. I can assure you that you will be energized during your training." Clovis smiled.

"For real?" Jay couldn't believe what he heard. This was simply too absurd at this point. However, when he thought about the Hacfield family and the fact that his grandfather was a Tier 9 Explorer, it seemed possible for them to be able to do something like this.

"I am not sure whether you like this design or not, but the shorts will definitely make you faster. My shirt is so elastic that I can utilize its springiness in my swing."

Kanaria, still stunned, could only look as Clovis put the shorts on her hands.

He hurriedly escaped while saying, "Let's eat. You guys should be hungry, so let's eat."

To avoid the topic, he simply moved to the kitchen and took out three plates. He gave himself the smallest portion possible since he was quite full after eating all the canned food from Another World Mall.

Kanaria and Jay could only look at each other, not knowing what to do. They had truly received a lot of things today. They felt like if they didn't improve tremendously after this, they would be wasting away all these gifts.

...

An hour later.

"Woah! This is amazing!" Jay jumped a few times, testing the sweatpants. He certainly felt like he was moving much faster.

As Clovis said, he didn't know why, but putting this together made him feel energetic. It surely felt like a drug even though it wasn't.

"Are you sure that I can have this, Clovis?" Jay asked with an excited smile.

"Of course." Clovis nodded with a smile.

Both of them knew that they shouldn't talk more than this. Clovis must be trying to hide something as well, so it was better to just receive this and keep everything a secret.

It didn't take too long for Kanaria to come out of the room as she tried on the shorts.

Clovis and Jay were a bit stunned. It seemed that the clothes were more tight than Clovis originally thought.

Kanaria usually wore jeans or long pants because she got used to hiding herself in the distance, so her clothes were a bit plain to match the surroundings.

But when she changed into this, both of them realized her new allure.

"You're beautiful, Kanaria... said Clovis, not me." Jay nodded in approval while Clovis smacked his head.

"Is that so?" Kanaria smiled. "I don't know how to describe this, but..."

Kanaria took a step to the right, to the left, and spun her body, noticing the subtle difference in her successive actions.

"I feel faster."

"Actually, it is imbued to perform that way. It's just that I think I haven't thought about it properly, considering I chose shorts instead of anything else. You are using your pants to help your camouflage and to avoid any scratches on your legs, right?" Clovis made an apologetic smile.

"No. It doesn't really matter to be honest." Kanaria pointed at the shorts. "If there is such magical clothing, I can simply change the other parts to suit them. Stockings might not be an option, but I can probably wear high boots or something. Besides, this is actually going to allow me to be a better sniper."

"Huh? Isn't a sniper usually hiding in one place and taking down their enemy?" Jay asked.

Kanaria shook her head. "That's the basic thing, but the current battlefield is different. Because of the amplified physical strength coming from evolution, snipers can afford to change their locations after a single shot. This way, the people won't know about our locations. We can then take out another enemy from a different position."

"Oh!" Jay nodded in understanding.

"That's going to be pretty useful." Clovis agreed with her. If that could be done, Kanaria would definitely become even more terrifying on the battlefield.

On the other hand, Kanaria felt a bit scared of Clovis. She never thought that Clovis could do something like this.

If this kind of clothing were ever to spread on the market, it would definitely be expensive, even if it were only useful for Tier 1 humans. The effect didn't seem to be limited to speed, so it meant that there might be things that could boost their strength.

And everything came from the Hacfield family.

Her mother was a Tier 5 Explorer. And she had been regarded highly in this city. Only her grandfather, who was a Tier 6 explorer, could be regarded as one of the most powerful explorers in the city, along with other Tier 6 explorers.

However, the Hacfield family was different. Clovis's grandfather was one of a few Tier 9 Explorers in the world. Even his father was much more powerful compared to her grandfather. If she included the Star Method as well as this clothing, it was no wonder that the Hacfield family was extremely powerful and mysterious.

With this strength, they could arm a lot of powerful people and gain their support.

Kanaria might be the one who understood the implications of this power the most. And if the others knew about this, they would be in trouble.

'The Drake Group and the Rusth Family. These two shouldn't know about this thing. Knowing that old man from the Rusth family, he is probably trying to either get Clovis by his side or kill him. Meanwhile, the Drake Group should be biding their time to eliminate Clovis. If they know about this thing, they will spare no efforts in killing Clovis.' Kanaria wondered if she should talk about this or not.

In the end, Clovis was the one who had all this.

After some consideration, Kanaria said, "Clovis. While I am thankful for all this, I think I should warn you not to disclose this secret easily. There will be a lot of people that will target you."

Clovis smiled. "Of course, I know. In fact, I don't have any intention of showing it to others. Only the members of Libation Fiesta will receive something like this. And it's not like I have the strength to produce a lot of them, so you don't have to worry about it. While I'm clueless about my family's real strength, I am not so ignorant that I don't know my life is in danger."

"If that's the case, I can feel assured." Kanaria nodded, feeling a bit relieved. "I believe that you can recruit people who will be loyal to the group and won't cause any trouble with this kind of thing."

"I will do my best. So, I hope that you don't reveal anything to a new member until I deem it safe to disclose that information."

"Don't worry. My lips are sealed." Kanaria glanced at Jay. "You too, Jay. Don't tell anyone."

"I'm just going to train. Nothing else." Jay shrugged.

"But before that..." Kanaria thought there was something they should do to thank Clovis. "This house hasn't been properly cleaned for a while. Let me help you clean this place up."

Chapter 57 Training Imaginery

Kanaria was standing in the living room with her eyes completely shut. She remembered the lesson about the Star Method, especially everything related to the Brain attribute.

"The Brain attribute's strength lies in the hyper senses one can have. Once you reach Tier 3, you will definitely be able to sense everything around you as if you're watching things from the third person's point of view.

"This is called Sensory Imaginary. Basically, you're looking at things with all your other senses instead of your eyes.

"In order to do that, you will have to familiarize yourself with every single item you can find.

"Try to grab an item and close your eyes. Use your senses to perceive this thing. How does the touch feel for you? What is the shape? What is its toughness?"

Kanaria grabbed a cup, which she rubbed from one place to another until she could get a clear picture of the cup's shape.

"After that, try to feel the air around you. Once your senses are sharpened, you will be able to feel pain or even the slightest touch on your skin. A Tier 1 human should be able to sense it as long as they are focused enough."

Kanaria followed the instruction and was completely immersed in the sensation.

Although the air was pretty much still in this place, she noticed that there was some sort of movement in the air. It was the same when she was moving her hands. It felt like she was playing with water.

"Once you have reached this step, you can finally use the movement of that wind to feel the shape of an object."

Kanaria furrowed her eyebrows. She noticed that because the air movement was disrupted by the object, she could actually picture the kind of object that disrupted the air flow. However, the image wasn't vivid yet since this was her first time.

However, she finally understood the essence of Sensory Imaginary. They were using the air to sense the objects around them. Once the senses sharpened even further, they would get a better image in their minds. But the moment she got the hang of it, this kind of power would definitely change everything for her.

What if she could actually see the entire building and all the living beings hiding in it with just her senses? No one could actually escape her. If she changed her weapons or bullets, she might be able to shoot through the walls and kill the enemies before they could do anything to her.

Kanaria muttered in a low voice, "Imagine the movement of the air to determine the shape of the object. Use the smell carried by the air to figure out their materials... And use the sounds to check their movements.

"Once I get a good grasp of the movement around me, a new world will be opened." Kanaria gradually opened her eyes. She looked at the cup in front of her. There were a total of five items that she had picked for this training.

After cleaning up Clovis's house, Clovis told her it would be fine to use any rooms she wanted to test his father's Star Method.

And the practice method was a bit abstract like tossing the ball to get used to the movement, sound, and air flow. Hitting a few objects or even carrying them around.

It seemed that the Star Method was focusing on getting the user to grow accustomed to this power. While it would be hard since their senses couldn't be compared to a Tier 3 or even a Tier 4, it would definitely improve their senses gradually. Once it became stronger, their omniscient view would just become even bigger.

Kanaria crossed her arms. "This method might not look like much, but there are a lot of times to get used to it. And the practice method is a bit too random so I'm not sure if it'll be effective. Then again, what is Clovis's father's Tier again? Tier 7 or is it Tier 8? Such a person shouldn't lie about this method.

If I can't do it, I'm probably the one who is not talented enough."

Kanaria decided to close her eyes again and completely immerse herself in this new training method.

...

In the backyard, Jay was swinging his blade a few times. He, too, was focused on the Star Method.

"Muscle is basically the simplest of all attributes. At the same time, if you don't master it as soon as possible, you will definitely be the one to suffer.

"Once you reach a Tier 1 human, you will be exposed to a certain energy. No, it could be said that Tier 1 is the threshold for humans to adapt to this energy.

"How could the beast become so strong? How could a dragon release a flame breath? The answer is pretty simple. It's because they have developed this energy. All Tier 1 humans should have absorbed the energy from the essence and assimilated it.

"Of course. This energy is just a metaphor. It's easier to understand if we use this energy example.

"The essence carries something that transforms a human, making their body even more accessible.

"Strengthening the muscle or even hardening it will definitely increase your power. You will know this as Augmentation.

"By reinforcing your muscle to the highest degree and releasing all that 'energy' in your muscle. You will be able to release an unprecedented amount of power into your surroundings.

"If I wanted, I could actually destroy a building just by grabbing it. Of course, if you can't control your strength, the only thing you will destroy is the pillar you hold, not the entire building.

"That's why, to become strong, you need to control your strength."

Jay could understand why Gerald used 'energy' as the metaphor. It definitely made him understand it a bit easier.

Jay had heard about all kinds of news on Skynet. The reason he was so fixated on his saber was because of certain news.

He was only a kid at that time, but there was a piece of news stating, 'In this world, there is nothing I can cut.'

It was news regarding a Tier 8 explorer who cut down a building from a distance.

According to the news, the guy swung his blade so powerfully that it affected the air, which turned into a ranged sword strike that cut the building in two.

Jay couldn't help but admire that person and started picking up his saber. The saber was much more specialized in slashing than the sword, so he thought that he would reach the peak of a slash with this weapon.

It was his dream to cut not only the building, but an entire mountain in half.

Jay took a deep breath, recalling the lesson.

"To control your strength, you need a precise feel of your muscle. Stretch your arm and clutch your hands."

Jay followed that instruction carefully.

"Then, try to hold something but with the same grip strength."

Jay grabbed his sword, which wasn't hard to do. However, the difficulty spiked after this point.

"Use all your strength to crush the object you're holding."

Jay still did it, fully knowing that it was impossible to destroy it. But after that, Gerald said, "Use the same strength to crush an egg. Apply the same amount of force without breaking the egg. You have to spread the force evenly and distribute it to the surrounding area instead of the egg so that it won't be destroyed.

"A lot of people can't master this technique because they can't control their muscles perfectly, causing them to lose more than half of their strength potential.

"Once you are able to not crush the egg, you can use other objects from soft to hard before moving to the entire body."

Jay let out a long sigh. It was hard to demonstrate because even if Gerald held an egg with the same amount of strength in the video, it wouldn't look that way.

That was why Jay was a bit stuck on this matter.

"First of all, imagine yourself applying the same force but not destroying the object in your hand. There is a reason why this power is called Imaginary. Everything begins with your imagination. If you can't picture yourself doing it, then you won't be able to."

Jay finally understood why Clovis's grandfather asked Clovis to imagine everything, including the fight. It was to train his imagination so that when he reached Tier 1, he could bring out his talent to the fullest.

"I will cut everything in this world. I don't want to be like my father who stops after reaching Tier 6. I will be going straight to Tier 7, Tier 8, or even Tier 9 until there is nothing I can't cut!"

Jay raised his blade and held it with both hands, trying to crush the handle. There were a few objects around him like leaves and eggs he bought from the nearest convenience store.

If his father only reached Tier 6 because he mastered this kind of power too late, then he would start now and become much stronger than him when he became a Tier 6 human.

He had to thank Clovis and his father for providing this opportunity. And he would show the world that even if no one dared to stand with Clovis in the future, he would definitely be there as his best friend. And he would cut everything, including Clovis's enemies.

"Just you wait, Clovis. While I am thankful for this opportunity, I will still get stronger than you." Jay smirked as he applied more force to his grip.

Chapter 58 Kanaria

Just like the other two, he was training with the Star Method. Although the sixth attribute piqued his interest, he knew that he wouldn't be able to find it no matter how hard he thought. So, he just let nature take its course.

In the meantime, he was going to focus on the Blood attribute.

"According to my father, the Blood attribute allows me to utilize my power better. However, what kind of power is he talking about?"

Clovis muttered while recalling the lesson.

"Blood is the most versatile. What do you think the blood carries? If you think it's only oxygen and nutrients, think again.

"What the blood carries is actually the essence. While your body assimilates with the essence, it never turns into something else.

"If you inject the essence into your body, the essence will enter your blood vessel. That is not wrong, but not entirely correct.

"The blood carries oxygen to your brain and other parts, allowing you to use your body. What if you speed up the blood flow? The world that you see will slow down. This is just a simple example. As to what effect you feel when you are able to reach that point, you will feel something indescribable.

"This is what people know as Blood Limit. Of course, staying in this state for a prolonged time will definitely destroy your body. That's why you have to understand how it works and how to control it.

"First, try to feel the flow of blood in your body. Press the vein on your wrist and try to feel it. It feels easier if you have an affinity with the Brain, but the ability to control blood is only unique to those with Blood affinity. Even if the Brain can somehow use it, the effect won't be able to reach the same level."

Clovis took a deep breath. Before he started his training, he couldn't help but look at the star diagram he had just drawn.

The Brain was at the top tip, while on the left and right sides were Blood and Muscle. Underneath Blood was Heart while the last one was Bones.

"According to my father, we can utilize a hundred percent of the latent ability of our affinity. And while we can practice other attributes, it will lose about 40%.

"For example, I can only harness 60% of Brain and 60% of Heart potential. But if I move once again to Muscle and Bones which are on the opposite side, I can only harness 20% of their potential.

"Kanaria is the same. She is able to control 100% of her Brain but only 60% of her Blood and Muscle attributes. The rest are only 20%.

"The Star Method is used to train the attributes according to this percentage."

Clovis muttered before falling into deep thought.

He tried to feel his blood, wondering if he could sense it or not. Like Kanaria, who could probably sense the blood flow, he should be able to do it if he focused on it.

However, Tier 1 truly made it hard for him to sense it.

It took him a few hours to get a vague feeling about the flow. He might need more time to even understand the feeling.

...

Five hours later.

Clovis came out of his room, completely tired. His task wasn't that demanding, but it was truly taxing for his mind.

However, it seemed that Jay was still immersed in his training while Kanaria was setting up the table.

"Kanaria?" Clovis was quite surprised that she ended her training early to do all this for them. Not only did she clean the most, but she had even cooked some food.

"It's just a simple meal. I hope you can enjoy it." Kanaria smiled.

"You're not trying the Star Method?"

"I'm done for now. A lot of training doesn't mean it's optimal. Besides, I also have other jobs like ensuring both of you are well fed as well as finding a unique request."

"Unique request?" Clovis raised his eyebrows.

"Yeah. While doing all this, I was browsing the explorer association's website to find a mission. Well, I'm quite lucky since I found a unique mission that you might be interested in."

"You did all that?" Clovis was baffled.

"I am the one handling this group's logistics and all sorts of administration after all. Jay is focused on training, so I hope that you, as a captain, can also do your part like ensuring our safety and listening to the mission's details."

Clovis nodded furiously. "Of course. You can count on me for that."

Kanaria smiled before turning to Jay, shouting, "Jay. Come inside and eat!"

"You guys can eat first. I think I'm on the verge of realizing something. I will be done in probably an hour or two. I will reheat the food later."

Kanaria shook her head helplessly and prepared the food for only the two of them before giving Clovis the mission.

"By the way, if you're going to stay here today. You can use my room." Clovis pointed at the back. "My grandfather's room is off limit, so I think Jay and I will sleep in my parents' room."

"Are you sure about that? I mean, I was thinking about leaving."

"There's no way I'm going to let you go back this dark." Clovis shrugged. "Besides, we can discuss the mission tonight."

Kanaria thought for a moment. "Then I will go back tomorrow to prepare for the mission."

"Yep. What is the mission all about?" Clovis took a glance at the mission.

"The mission is to kill a Tier 2 beast. It seems that this beast has mutated. The request said that we are to kill this beast and get their essence to further learn about the essence. And if the beast drops a beast soul, we have to sell it to them. Of course, they will pay a high price."

"What is the beast's name?"

"Thylacoleo. It's also known as the 'marsupial lion.' It is a large predator with powerful jaws and large, retractable thumb claws. Their appearance and behavior have been adapting to suit both combat and camouflage."

"Interesting. So, how are we going to do it?" Clovis asked.

"I'm thinking about hiring an operator. It's just going to be a camping operator and I'm thinking about asking my mother for some recommendations since she is an operator as well."

"We will be hunting not only the Thylacoleo, but also other beasts we can find. The prize money should be able to give us a quite good operator."

"How about the other equipment? We should have..." Clovis fell silent, wondering how much they had again.

"Aside from the money for the operator, I think we can spend about fifty thousand on other equipment as well as resupplying all the bullets and other stuff. I will be the one taking care of it, so you don't have to worry about it."

"Thank you."

"Don't worry about it."

After eating, Kanaria excused herself to call her mother while Clovis was searching for his mother's clothes for Kanaria.

"My dear daughter. I believe you have good news for me, right? For example, you're not going back tonight and staying there for the night."

The moment Vania picked up the call, that was what Kanaria heard.

"..." Kanaria's eyebrows twitched as she remained silent.

"Wait. Don't tell me. I'm right?"

"Kh." Kanaria let out a long sigh. "Yeah. I'm going to stay for the night. I'm calling you to ask for permission."

"There is no need to ask for my permission. It's fine if you stay there from now on."

"Are you driving your daughter away?" Kanaria gritted her teeth. It was truly a bad idea to call her mother. "I'm going back tomorrow. I need to buy a few things as well, so I'll go back home tomorrow and head back for an exploration the day after."

"On a mission?"

"Yeah. Since I'm about to introduce the power of an operator to Clovis, I'm going to hire an operator... a camping operator because we don't have a budget."

"Oh. You want my recommendation?"

"Yes. Do you know an operator who can work on a Tier 1 group and doesn't care about a high level mission like hunting a Tier 2 beast? We still have the prize money, so the price is in that range."

"Mommy can do it for free."

"No. Don't ever come here!"

"Fine. I'm just joking. No need to be that serious. I can give you a list of recommendations later. There should be two or three names, which you can consider. Is there anything else?"

Kanaria thought for a moment. "Not really. We'll just hunt like usual."

"No need for transportation?"

"I might need one. But I can't drive. I don't think Clovis has learned how to drive as well." Kanaria looked at the house's condition, believing that Clovis couldn't afford transportation.

"Jay knows how to drive, so you can make him the driver. As for the transportation, I can send you one. You don't have to pay for it."

"But..." Kanaria frowned. This was their group, so they wanted to be independent.

"It's just a basic car, not a modified one for a raid. So, you don't have to think much about it. If you feel bad about it, you can send me a few hundred dollars for the rent."

"Alright then." Kanaria sighed. "That's all, Mom. Thank you."

"Before you hang up, I have a question."

"Sure."

"Where are you going to sleep? The living room?"

"No. Clovis tells me to sleep in his room."

"With him?"

"Alone!" Kanaria's frustration increased the more she talked to her mother.

"Oh. In that case, go explore his room and search for everything he hides under his bed. You can learn his preferen—Beep!*

"..." She hung up.

Chapter 59 Recommendations

"Fuu..." Kanaria let out a long breath while burying her face on the pillow. "What a crazy day."

She thought that visiting Clovis's place wouldn't bring a lot of shock. But she had never thought that she would receive this Star Method and even precious shorts from Clovis.

"The Star Method is amazing. There will definitely be a lot of people eyeing this method because they can train their fighters from a young age. However, the magical shorts are even more amazing. If this goes on the market, it will definitely fetch a good price.

"Clovis should be able to live comfortably if he sold this kind of thing, but I guess this is the reason why the Hacfield family is mysterious. No matter what happens, I can't let these shorts go to another hand."

Kanaria looked at the ceiling, wondering what she should do now. She couldn't help but remember what her mother said earlier and complained, "Why can't she be serious whenever she is talking about Clovis or the Hacfield family?"

Kanaria let out a long sigh. But there was an awkward silence after that, making her think about it again and again.

Her eyes started wandering around the room. She thought she wouldn't be this conscious about the room, but she couldn't help but look around.

"This is Clovis's room, huh? Now that I think about it, I rarely care about sleeping in another place. Even if I have to share a tent, as long as they are someone I can trust, it's going to be fine.

"But in the tent, there is nothing to be seen. This room is different." Kanaria fell silent for a moment before standing back up and walking around the room.

There was one thing that piqued her interest the most. It was the picture on the table. Clovis must have used this table to research a lot of things and this picture would always remind him of his family, making him less lonely.

It was a family portrait. Clovis looked like he was only ten years old. On his side were his parents. Their appearances were exactly the same as what she saw during the recording as if they hadn't aged at all.

She noticed that his grandfather was sitting peacefully in the background while looking at the sky.

However, she noticed that his grandmother wasn't here.

"Now that I think about it, Clovis rarely mentioned his grandmother. There isn't any news about her as well... Besides, if I'm not mistaken, the one carrying Hacfield's bloodline is his father. How about his mother?"

Kanaria tried recalling the information regarding Clovis's mother. "My mother seemed to have told me something about her coming from a ruined family. But there wasn't much detail about it."

Kanaria fell silent for a moment. "This Hacfield family is much more mysterious than I originally thought. Has their background been erased in one way or another? With the authority of a Tier 9 explorer, it's possible, right?"

Unfortunately, most of Clovis's possessions had been sold to get by, so she couldn't find anything other than the picture.

In the end, she subconsciously listened to her mother, albeit couldn't find anything.

Before going back to bed, she heard a beeping sound from her device.

Mom: I have given you a list of names. There are three people that I can recommend after hearing about their track record. They are pretty peculiar, but I can guarantee that they are pretty skilled. Also, you must have checked the room. Did you find anything? Twintails?

Ponytails? Short? Long?

"..." Kanaria's eyebrows twitched. "How in the world does she know? Don't tell me, she hacked into my device?"

Blowing up here would just be meaningless, so she immediately checked the information on these three.

Name: Tier 1 Roman Weinstein (9/10)

Job: monitoring the map, updating information, and providing all sorts of data regarding the beasts.

Price: \$4,000/day (devices and food are not included. The party has to provide them.)

Name: Tier 1 Ferlen (8.8/10)

Job: Map, Information, and Monitoring. I can fight, but I can't help the party.

Price: \$4,200/day (Devices and food are not included. The party has to provide them.)

Name: Tier 2 Melody (2/10)

Job: Monitoring. I am lazy.

Price: \$5,800/day (I provide my own devices, but I need to be well fed.)

"..." Kanaria was speechless when she saw the last recommendation. "Why in the world does my mother recommend this kind of person? Even the rating is only two stars... She must have done a very bad job.

"But..." Kanaria couldn't completely disregard her mother's opinion. She might know something that other people didn't know. At the same time, this person was actually a Tier 2 human. It was clear that she was much stronger than the other two.

At the same time, she couldn't overlook the fact that she was lazy and even had the audacity to put all this in her bio.

It was so ridiculous that Kanaria had no choice but to call her mother.

"Mom! Why are you recommending the last one? The rating is only two stars." Kanaria complained.

"Don't you know my character already? Do you think I will recommend someone useless to you? Her character is rather questionable, but she is a good operator. That's all I can tell you."

"..." Kanaria gritted her teeth before sighing. "Still, she doesn't look that promising."

"Well, I personally recommend her the most. When I was walking around the association, I was listening to their conversation about this girl. Most parties didn't suit her well, but they were rather satisfied with her performances. Besides, because of her rating, her price became quite low. It was rare to be able to hire a Tier 2 human with that amount."

"I can't deny that, but..." Kanaria sighed. "I will bring it up with Clovis then. I'm going to send some questions to her."

"Sure."

Kanaria had to make sure that this person was someone with an ability. So, she sent out a few questions such as her intake about their current mission, the date, and her performances in the field.

But Kanaria almost threw her device away after seeing the response.

"I'm good!"

That was the only answer to all her questions. Well, Kanaria couldn't deny that this could be considered an answer as well. After all, she didn't mind about the current mission or the date. And her performance could be summarized by that confidence.

In other words, she was entitled to use that answer. At the same time, she understood why this person called herself lazy. She didn't even bother to ask for the details or write an appropriate or formal response.

"I don't know if this person is good or not, but I will just ask Clovis for his opinion. In the end, he is the one who will decide. I will also ask some questions to the other two."

Kanaria spent the rest of the night getting as much information as possible.

Chapter 60 Tier 1 Upgrade

While Kanaria was busy with her work, Clovis was fixated on his Another World Mall.

That was right. He had just become a Tier 1 human, so he was kind of wondering what kind of change Another World Mall would have.

As soon as Clovis reached Another World Mall, his eyes were fixated on the two stores that had been opened.

"So, which one should I check first?" Clovis thought that since the grocery store was bigger, he should check the items in the boutique store first.

However, the boutique didn't seem to offer something new. "The effect is the same even though I am a Tier 1 human now. Does that mean the grocery store is the same? But unlike the boutique, I have seen the items' names marked as Tier 0."

Clovis slowly approached the grocery store to see if there was anything new. On the one hand, he wanted the items to become Tier 1. On the other hand, he wanted these Tier 1 items to be placed in a different place.

"Hmm..." Clovis looked at the usual basket where he would find the Tier 0 vegetables. But to his surprise, the vegetables remained the same.

"It's still Tier 0. Then, is there any change?" Clovis looked around, feeling a bit weird. He checked on the upgrade to see if he needed to spend more money to upgrade the item to Tier 1.

But there was nothing he could find.

"What should I do? Is the Another World Mall not updating?"

While thinking, Clovis walked around to see if there was any change or not. However, he abruptly stopped when he saw that a new section had been opened. This new section was located on the back of the left aisle, so his vision was blocked earlier.

When he approached this place, he noticed that the items had been updated. In fact, there was a long open refrigerator where they usually stored all the frozen food.

Without hesitation, Clovis checked on the items.

Name: Tier 1 Nuggets

Description: Nuggets made of cockatrice meat.

Effect: Muscle +3.5%

Price: 799 Otherworldly Coins/Package (10 Pieces)

"Cockatrice? Is that the magical chicken? The one with a snake tail?" Clovis sucked a cold breath. From the looks of it, it didn't seem that the outer appearance was any different from the nuggets he could find in the real world.

He couldn't help but take a look at other items.

Name: Minotaur Ice

Description: Ice Cream made of Minotaur's milk.

Effect: Blood +3.5%

Price: 1,200 Otherworldly Coins

"It seems that the higher the tier, the more ridiculous these fantasy monsters will become. What's next? Centaur? Maybe when I reach Tier 9, I will find something like a kraken takoyaki." Clovis shook his head helplessly, not being able to imagine it.

It seemed that the effect was reduced as well.

"Hmm. This is quite interesting. In the first place, I'm glad that the Tier 0 items are not being replaced. It seems that the other aisles that can't be opened right now are for the higher tier. There are aquariums over there, probably for a fresh fish section. There must be other sections as well.

"And with the fact that Tier 0 items won't be erased, it means that I can also increase people's strength from the very bottom. If there is someone with a lower Tier than me, I can simply allow them to evolve to the next Tier by using this method.

"Of course, I'm going to calculate how much I can spend to avoid a lot of suspicion. If the people know that I have this kind of ability, they will raise me to Tier 9 and provide the money so that they can reach Tier 10... a tier that no one has ever seen before."

Clovis thought for a moment. "Still, the effect has been reduced. I can somehow understand this. If I have the same speed as a Tier 1 or even a Tier 7, I can easily reach the next tier.

"I believe the higher the tier, the lower its effect. At the same time, won't it be good to utilize the fresh ingredients and share them with others? And at that stage, my item limit should have increased by a lot to the point that I can hold a banquet with all these items."

Clovis thought for a moment.

"The nuggets and the ice cream... Can't I buy them and make it look like it comes from a convenience store?"

Clovis couldn't help but smirk, thinking this was a possibility. They rarely checked their status since most people waited until they injected the essence into their bodies. So, there was no way the two would realize it.

This way, he could grow stronger together with his friends.

This would probably be the best scenario.

"Alright. I'm not sure about the taste, but this is a perfect opportunity to test my theory. Let me buy three ice creams and the race will be... nuggets? We need other things so that Kanaria doesn't complain. Well, I will find other items in the real convenient store I guess."

"Unfortunately, I can't upgrade the item limit right now. The item is extremely expensive. I might have to worry about my spending in the next few days or I might not have any coins left to buy these items."

Clovis let out a long sigh. To think that even after earning a lot of money, he still felt so poor that he had to think a lot about money.

"I'm really going to become the best explorer in the world, where I don't have to worry about money anymo..." Clovis abruptly fell silent, almost forgetting about the fact that the items would become more and more expensive as he raised his tier. In the end, he would definitely become poor again.

In fact, there would be a lot of other stores to the point that keeping his money would be impossible.

"Oh shit. Do I want to start a company instead? No, how about a sponsorship? Maybe I should just find a sugar mommy?" Clovis shook his head helplessly. "Finding a good partner who is adept in business is probably the best option."