

## World Mall 561

### Chapter 561 Sudden Score Spike

"They're coming!" Melody said.

"Let's go, Reolf!" Luci cheered, her right hand holding on to Reolf's body while her left hand was waving. She seemed to be enjoying herself riding Reolf.

Reolf, on the other hand, was chased by close to a hundred beasts. He skillfully moved past the forest and gradually reached an open area.

Hana and Kanaria were standing on the right side.

Hana's drones were flying a few meters above them, revealing their respective weapons.

When the beasts saw her, Hana immediately activated her drones, shooting down the beasts one after another.

Kanaria wasn't planning to lose. She used her sniper rifle and killed multiple beasts in a single shot, as the bullet not only pierced through several bodies but also destroyed them.

The beasts had to move slightly away from them. They wanted to attack them, but there were three people in front of them: Clovis, Jay, and Erwin.

Melody and Ragna were on the left side. Melody shot them, but her firepower was not as powerful as Hana or Kanaria. As a result, some beasts were trying to attack them. However, Kanaria had previously said that they had a natural terrain.

Due to the sharp elevation, the beasts had a hard time coming toward them. Ragna was also there to push all the beasts away.

As a result, most of the beasts ended up continuing their way toward the trio.

"We have created the walls on the side. All we need to do now is kill them," said Clovis while pulling out his swords.

"Oh!" Erwin and Jay smirked. Both of them leaped forward.

Erwin waved his hand, using the strings to cut down and even drag several beasts. Jay swung his saber, cutting down two beasts every single time.

Luci and Reolf had already passed them and stopped behind them, ready to join the fight.

As soon as Luci jumped off Reolf's back, Clovis rushed toward the beasts, advancing at bullet speed. He cut down all the beasts.

This was Clovis' plan. He lured them and created two walls on the sides so that the beasts would be focused on the center and left the brute force to him, Jay, and Erwin.

On the other hand, Christina was provoking the beasts in her surroundings.

"Come!" The beasts instinctively charged toward her, ignoring the humans around them.

As a result, all five people in her group took down the beasts one by one at fast speed.

When the beasts reached her, Christina simply fought them with two shields. She managed to withstand all those beasts without sustaining a single injury.

She didn't kill any beasts due to the nature of her fighting style, but it didn't change the fact that it was because of her that the group managed to kill all these beasts so easily.

Christina took a deep breath. "Good. We'll continue at this pace. We should be able to create a gap between us and win this hunting competition."

"Yes, miss."

Obviously, their hunting competition was monitored closely by Marhan and his team, making sure nothing went wrong.

"How is it going?" Marhan asked while casually entering the control room.

His team, who had been monitoring the points, immediately informed him, "They're doing pretty well, especially the young miss."

Libation Fiesta: 6,700 points.

Elseingarde: 16,540 points.

"Oh!" Marhan took a glimpse at the points and nodded in understanding. "The young miss almost tripled their number, so I guess this point difference is understandable."

"That's what we thought as well, but..." One of them scratched the back of his head, wondering if he should tell him or not.

"What's wrong?"

"The Libation Fiesta started extremely slowly. Until two hours ago, they were still about 2,000 points. However, their number soared within those two hours."

Marhan thought for a moment before shaking his head. "It's fine. It's not that rare. They might have found a nest or something, which gives them a lot of kills.

"Or the young miss might have been too focused on gathering their essence. Nevertheless, they are still within our expectations, so it's fine."

The guy pondered. "Sir... If I'm not mistaken, the young miss is planning to join them if she loses..."

Marhan frowned. "Are you doubting the young miss? She has a unique ability. It's her destiny to become a Tier 9 human in the future. Do you think she will lose?"

"No, sir..." He furiously shook his head, afraid that he would die.

"Anyway, I should praise the Libation Fiesta for being able to maintain this difference. If they're going to continue this way, I have no doubt that they will be able to get half of the points of the young miss.

"If the young miss challenges his group with only six members, I believe she might lose. It shows how extraordinary this Libation Fiesta is. However, he is such a fool if he thinks he will be able to defeat the young miss with such disadvantages." Marhan snorted.

Clovis was too arrogant, he thought.

"Anyway, I'm going to leave. Make sure to observe their progress and tell me if there's anything wrong."

"Yes, sir!"

Marhan didn't know at that time he had been underestimating Clovis. Then again, no one in their right mind would think that Clovis would be able to provoke the beasts much better than Christina.

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The next day, the man slammed open the door and shouted, "Sir... Not good!"

"What's going on?!" Marhan was confused.

"Please take a look at the score, sir!"

Still perplexed, he followed the guy to the control room to check their scores.

The guy said, "Everything is supposed to be normal and we have been observing them nonstop. However, in the last few hours, the Libation Fiesta's scores spiked all of a sudden."

"Spikes?"

"Yes. It's an abnormal spike that lasts for a few hours."

"Did they hack our system?"

"There is no trace of an attack."

Marhan was still confused and hurried to the room, only to get the shock of his life.

Libation Fiesta: 110,760 points.

Elseingarde: 78,840 points.

Marhan dropped his jaw to the ground as Clovis not only beat Christina's score but also surpassed her by almost half of her point.

"W-What's going on?"

Chapter 562 Execution Ground

A few hours ago.

Christina was staring at the firepit.

"Young Miss. Please take your rest. We have set up your tent. Leave guarding the camp to us."

"I can also help. I don't plan to leech on you guys. It must be hard for you guys, considering we have to do it for seven days."

"How can we allow that? If not for you, we wouldn't be able to kill all those beasts. In fact, we would be in quite trouble just trying to find them. It's because of your unique ability that we are able to kill all these beasts today. That's why please allow us to contribute as well."

When they put it that way, Christina couldn't help but feel embarrassed. She nodded. "Alright, alright. In that case, I will leave the rest to you guys."

"Yes!"

As Christina was about to enter her tent, a howl suddenly alerted all of them.

"Aooooo!"

The howl was quite loud and not that far from their location.

That was why Christina couldn't help but raise her guard. "This is..."

"A wolf? Considering its voice, it seems the wolf is in the other part of the island."

"Hmm?" Christina squinted her eyes. It wasn't that rare for a wolf to howl, so she thought this was no different. She could hear the ruckuses coming after that howl. "Are the beasts moving?"

"I think so. Maybe Libation Fiesta has provoked a wolf or something. They're really working hard just to beat us."

"Well, they won't be able to keep up with this. Eventually, they will be tired and we'll widen the gap between us. Still, we shouldn't underestimate them. We'll work hard again tomorrow. Good night."

"Yes. Good night."

Little did she know that howl had just provoked the beasts not only in the other part of the island but also her part of the island.

More than a thousand beasts were charging straight toward a hill, where a wolf was standing at its very top.

All of them were provoked by the howl and tried to kill the source of the howl.

"They really come..." Hana squinted her eyes. "It's no wonder why Clovis wants us to clear up the area around the north. This way, the beasts are coming straight from one direction."

"Clovis wants to kill the beasts from the other part of the island so that they have fewer beasts to kill. It's fine if we start late in the morning because we'll be doing this every night and during the day, we'll only clean up the area for this strategy." Kanaria nodded.

"And because Reolf is a wolf, it won't be that weird to hear his howl." Hana raised her hand as she looked at the incoming beasts. "I guess we should work hard during this time."

"Indeed." Kanaria pointed her gun as well.

As soon as the beasts started climbing the hill, Hana and Kanaria started raining them with bullets.

Gunshots kept echoing as more and more beasts died from the bullets. Their bodies either fell down to the ground or ended up rolling, which caused a lot of mess on the bottom.

Still, there was no way two people could take care of all of them.

A lot of beasts still managed to climb, almost reaching their positions.

Suddenly, when they were about to reach them, their bodies were sliced into pieces as if they were going straight into sharp knives.

"!!!"

The beasts were stunned. However, they couldn't stop because the waves continued moving upward.

As a result, more and more beasts were sliced into pieces until eventually there was so much meat that it turned into a wall instead.

If they looked closely, they would see the thin threads that sliced them. Everything had been spread all around the hills.

A lot of beasts fell to their prey.

Once the corpses built up, Melody tossed some grenades and blew them up. It caused their bodies to be blasted in all directions. Some bodies ended up crushing the trees, which ultimately destroyed the thread formation.

However, with all those corpses piling up, they ended up useless. Hence, blowing them up causes the trees or corpses to create an even harder terrain to conquer.

The beasts had a hard time reaching Kanaria and Hana. In addition, both of them gradually moved upward. They had their respective paths to avoid all those wires, with Melody guiding them.

Reolf turned around. Even though they had cleaned up other directions, there were still a few beasts remaining. His job was to take care of those beasts.

Meanwhile, Melody and Ragna were staying at a higher position in case the beasts reached their positions.

When all the beasts had started climbing up, that was the time for Clovis, Jay, Erwin, and Luci to make their appearances.

They all began from the very bottom, slaughtering all the beasts from behind.

Melody guided them through the Skyglasses, allowing them to avoid all the paths that contained Erwin's threads or difficult terrain.

Of course, Kanaria and Hana had to adjust their aims, making sure that Clovis and the others didn't get hit by stray bullets.

The beasts tried to fight back, but Clovis and the others eliminated them at bullet speed. Even with a Tier 4 beast among them, the fight didn't last for more than three hours.

This was Clovis' plan to increase their score rapidly. During the day, they would clean up the area around the 'execution ground,' and as soon as the night came, Reolf would be there to provoke them.

"Huu..." Clovis let out a sigh, looking at the numerous corpses. "This is going to take a lot of time to recover their essence..."

"True. But it's not like we're going to hunt in the morning, right?"

"Yes. We'll be going after lunch, so let's clean up." Clovis nodded before shouting, "Reolf. There is a lot of meat here. It's a feast."

"Waaf!" Reolf was delighted.

Little did Clovis know, his decision to use this kind of strategy allowed Reolf's rapid growth.

In three days, he would find himself by the change in Reolf's body.

Chapter 563 Gap

"This is..." Marhan gasped. "What the hell is going on?"

Libation Fiesta: 360,150 points.

Elseingarde: 202,390 points.

No one could get the answer. Everyone was thinking the same thing. What is actually going on?

How could the people from the Elseingarde family completely lose like this? This was the first time they suffered such a huge loss.

"Kuhh..." Marhan gritted his teeth. "Not only is the gap not shortening, but it's actually widening. Is our group that inferior compared to the Libation Fiesta? But the young miss is the one in charge..."

Marhan bit his lips. At first, he didn't think their group would easily win because no matter how abnormal Clovis was, the Elseingarde family had a lot more people.

Yet, the result was clear.

As the supervisor, Marhan had known about their bet. It would be troublesome if Christina ended up joining the Libation Fiesta.

Marhan bit his lips. It seemed he had no other choice. He grabbed his phone and called the master of the family.

"What's wrong?"

Marhan explained, "The situation is not looking good, Sir Lues. Our group is about to lose against the Libation Fiesta even with such an overwhelming advantage. And because their gap continues to widen, I'm afraid that our group will lose with our point not even half of them."

Lues fell silent for a moment. Instead of worrying, he actually smiled. "Alright. Report to me after they're done."

"What? Are you not worried about the situation, sir? The young miss is about to lose. If she loses, it means she will have to go with the Libation Fiesta." Marhan was confused by Lues' reaction. He thought he would be more concerned, considering how precious Christina was.

"Everything has been arranged. The result is shocking but not outside our expectation."

"Arranged? Are you trying to push the young miss on them?"

"No. Not me. Above."

"Above..." Marhan fell silent for a moment before realizing who he was talking about. "Sir Ezekiel?"

"Yes. That's why you just have to report to me after they're done. Don't do anything useless. If there's anyone who is trying to argue, deal with them harshly. I am not worried about Hana, but don't piss their captain. His identity is quite unique."

"Unique..." Marhan frowned. He wondered what made him unique. His ability was powerful and he would definitely become a leading figure in the future. However, he didn't think Clovis would be that scary.

He almost forgot that Clovis had no family name.

'Wait a minute. No family name. While it's not necessary to have a family name or something, an abnormal person without a family name doesn't sound like it's natural. Has it been removed...

'And for sir Ezekiel to arrange it personally... a Tier 9 family? He is from a Tier 9 family? If that's the case, everything has become clear...'

Marhan shuddered. He finally understood where Clovis had his confidence. He was simply that influential.

Marhan let out a long sigh. It seemed their loss was justified.

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Meanwhile, Clovis and the others had just started their day as usual. It was already 10 AM, considering they had been hunting the beasts until 3 AM due to their strategy.

"Kh..." Clovis felt a bit heavy. It was as if something big was pressing down on him.

"Huh?" Clovis opened his eyes to check what was going on. As usual, Kanaria was sleeping next to him. Reolf was sleeping on the opposite side.

But for some reason, his tail was on top of him.

"What?" Clovis rubbed his eyes, wondering if he saw it wrong. "Reolf?"

The tent was big enough for Reolf to sleep with no worries, but for some reason, Reolf couldn't fit in.

"Uuu..." Reolf let out a small wail, wondering what was going on.

He suddenly raised his head as if noticing something different from his body. "Wuu?"

Reolf wanted to stand up to see what was going on, but he was a bit too big for the tent to the point where he almost lifted it up.

"Wait. What? Reolf? Did you get bigger?" Clovis raised his eyes.

Reolf looked at his body and everything, realizing that his eye level wasn't the same anymore.

"Waaf?" Reolf looked confused but Clovis was certainly right. He grew.

Even he didn't understand what was going on.

"What's going on?" Their confusion ended up waking up Kanaria.

"What is happening?" Clovis was still perplexed, so he reached for the item that monitored Reolf's growth. It was there he found out the reason for his sudden growth.

"Tier 3?" Clovis gasped. "Reolf. You have just become a Tier 3 beast?"

"Waaf?!" Reolf was confused and happy at the same time. The others had become Tier 3 for a while, so he was the only one who hadn't. To think that the opportunity came to him in this competition.

"Hahahahaha! You have become a Tier 3 beast. Let's... Let's go out and tell everyone about it. They will be surprised by how big you are now..." Clovis laughed out loud.

While the Libation Fiesta was having joyous news, the Elseingarde family was confused for a different thing.

"We're done here," said Christina while putting down her shield. She felt something was amiss.

"Good work." The others nodded to each other.

Christina looked around and asked, "Hey, guys. Have you noticed anything strange?"

"Strange? What do you mean? There is nothing strange for the time being." They shook their heads.

"I'm talking about the fact that the beasts around here are rather low. I thought we had scouted this area previously and confirmed their number, but for some reason, their number was a bit too low. I'm not very sure, but that's what my feelings are telling me."

"Hmm?"

The people couldn't help but furrow their eyebrows.

"Is that so?"

They looked around and shrugged. They didn't know.

"Maybe it's decreasing?"

"Did we kill too many beasts yesterday?"

"Maybe?"

"I don't know. Should we count them?"

"Ask the young miss. What should we do?"

Christina couldn't quite grasp it as well, but it was clear something was missing. And she felt this was extremely bad, especially for their group.

Chapter 564 Complete Defeat

Christina continued hunting the beasts, but the lack of beasts was so apparent that the rest of them couldn't help but notice them as well.

"Have we killed all the beasts here?"

"How about the other groups? Any reports from them?"

"This is weird. Is the other part of the island stealing our kills?"

"But we're wearing this ring. It has a censor that will notify Sir Marhan we've passed the border."

Christina's expression turned solemn. She had never thought the situation would turn out this way.

'What is going on? Is Clovis cheating? Then again, this is not considered cheating. If he is able to pull the beasts from our location, it's simply his strategy. However, what kind of strategy does he have to be able to do such a thing? Does he have a method? Hana has a drone, so does the drone attack the beasts from our side?

'I don't know what's going on, but if Sir Marhan is watching, it should be pretty safe to assume that they haven't broken any rules.'

Christina still didn't know the gap between their points. In fact, in a real competition, it wouldn't be weird for both parties not knowing each other's condition, including their point.

This way, they would be using their strategy accordingly, fully aware that the other party might do better or worse. They might fall for the pressure and lose.

That was the kind of competition they had agreed upon.

However, Christina wondered what Clovis had done and his points compared to them.

They had killed a lot of beasts, even though there was a steep decrease in the beasts in their part of the island.

So, they should get pretty decent scores.

On the other hand, she didn't think Clovis had the ability to kill all the beasts with only that number.

'Something is missing. I feel like there's a trap... What is this?' Christina gritted her teeth. She knew Clovis had done something big, but she couldn't figure out what happened.

Meanwhile, Clovis and the others were taking their time with their lunch.

"Today is the last day. It's a good hunt, right?" Clovis asked. "We have Reolf becoming Tier 3 too. Also, Luci, get away from Reolf."

"What? How can I get away from this fluffy ball?" Luci hugged Reolf. Since his size increased, Reolf had become a bit more hairy. In addition, Reolf definitely needed a bigger space in their bus because of his size. In the future, they might even need a special vehicle to transport Reolf.

Hopefully, when that happened, Clovis had shown Reolf to the entire world.

Clovis sighed. "Yeah. Said that after wiping your drool."

"Ah!" Luci hurriedly wiped it. It was clear that she was trying to dissect Reolf or at least get his blood's sample.

"Anyway, we'll be going back this evening, so that means there won't be any hunting during the night. We'll just spend the rest of the day hunting the rest of the beasts or... should we go to the elevator? I'm kind of curious about it."

"Oh! Let's have a tour. We have done our best, so I think we deserve some touring time!" Hana raised her hand, supporting the idea.

"Let's just wait until there's one hour left. It's plenty of time either way. And it's not like we can go down." Kanaria shook her head.

Hana pouted. Then again, she couldn't complain because of the ring. She had to find a way to get another item from Clovis.

The more she knew him, the more mysterious he became. At one point, she just wanted to open Clovis up to see everything he had.

In the end, the group continued to hunt beasts, not realizing that they had a huge gap with Christina's group.

They had done their best, so whether they won or not, it didn't really matter to Clovis.

However, Clovis had used one clever trick.

The first time they utilized Reolf's provocation, he started from the north.

He then set up the second provocation south of that location. He gradually moved south and thinned out the numbers of beasts around the border between two groups. This way, he had full control over the beasts in the deeper region, allowing him to kill more beasts compared to Christina.

After seven days of hunting, the group received their signal to retreat to the shore where they first departed.

Marhan had been waiting for them.

He maintained his calm face. Although he was disappointed that Christina lost, he realized Ezekiel's arrangement had to be prioritized. Then again, he was recruited by Ezekiel personally, so he was more loyal to Ezekiel than Lues or Christina.

Still, when he looked at his tab, he was amazed by the scores.

Marhan looked at both of them and said, "Since you have returned, I'll be announcing the winner. Is there anything you'd like to say to each other first?"

Christina turned to Clovis with a smile. "A clever trick you've used there. To think I would be falling for that trick..."

"I don't know what you're talking about."

"You precisely know what I'm talking about. If not, we wouldn't have lost. Isn't that right?" Christina turned to Marhan, asking for confirmation.

"What?"

"We have lost?!"

"For real?"

The people from the Elseingarde family looked confused. No one expected they would lose, especially with this number.

Marhan smiled wryly. He projected the scores while shouting, "I don't even know how the gap becomes this big."

Libation Fiesta: 845,760 points.

Elseingarde: 398,400 points.

"!!!" Everyone from the Elseingarde family dropped their jaws to the ground.

Why did they not get even half of their points? This defeat was such a humiliation. Was their family that inferior compared to the Libation Fiesta?

Christina sighed. "I expected that we would lose, but not this much. This is a complete defeat."

"Welcome to the Libation Fiesta." Clovis smirked.

"No way! We should have won. It's because you're cheating! That trick you confirmed—!"

One of them tried to protest, but Christina raised her hand, stopping him. "Even without that trick, he could've won. Isn't that right, sir Marhan?"

Marhan nodded. "During our observation, whenever he used the 'trick' I don't know of, their score would jump. But when he didn't use it, the rate of their points increasing was still higher than all of you. It was a complete defeat. The trick was for assurance."

Chapter 565 Shocked Christina

"Thank you for your hard work in the past two weeks. I hope you learn a lot." Lues smiled while extending his hand.

"Yes. Thank you very much." Clovis shook his hand. "It helps us a lot."

"Is that so? I'm glad you think that way." Lues nodded. He looked around, noticing someone was missing. While turning his head to Marhan, he asked, "Where is Christina?"

"She is probably in her room."

"Jeez, this girl." Lues smiled wryly. "Don't worry. As the heir of the Elseingarde family, I would make sure that she fulfilled her promise."

"Ahaha. Please don't worry about it." Clovis chuckled. "In any case, we'll be returning right now. If not, Hana will be angry at me for not being able to take care of her company."

"Hahaha. Indeed." Lues chuckled. "In that case, have a safe flight."

"Yes. Thank you very much."

Clovis nodded to them before turning around, leading his group back to the airship.

But before they could enter the airship, Christina's voice soon echoed from the side.

"Wait."

Everyone turned around, finding the source of that voice. And Christina was there. She wasn't holding back at all.

Behind her was at least ten bags worth of items along with her shields. Everything had been packed as though she emptied her entire wardrobe and collections.

"Christina..." Lues wanted to say something but Christina was already walking toward them, dragging everything. "If I have to go, then it's better to make it feel like home."

Lues was completely speechless.

Even Clovis could only chuckle. "We don't mind. Please enjoy."

Christina casually walked toward the entrance of the ship, but before entering, she dropped her luggage and returned to Lues and gave him a big hug. "Of course. I won't forget this. Goodbye, Dad. Don't bully Mom."

"Look at this girl. Doing everything at her pace. You are just like your mom..." Lues shook his head helplessly. "Be careful out there."

"Mhmm."

After a while, Christina waved her hand while dragging her luggage to the airship. "I will call often. Don't miss me."

"Make sure you take care of yourself out there."

"Yep!"

"I thought you would be weeping your tears in your room." Clovis grinned, teasing Christina as soon as the door was closed.

"Are you kidding me? Who is still crying at this age?"

"Hahaha. I'm just kidding." Clovis chuckled. "Once again, welcome to the Libation Fiesta."

"Oh! Thank you. But you haven't forgotten about our promise, right? You're going to tell me about how you end up crushing my group."

"Don't worry. I know that." Clovis nodded. "But you shouldn't forget that once you know the truth, you shouldn't tell anyone about it, including your parents and grandparents."

"You're so secretive. Then again, it must be a big secret, so I understand."

"Welcome to my airship. I hope it's to your liking." Hana walked toward them.

"Where are the others?" Clovis asked.

"They're already on the deck, playing with Reolf."

"Oh!" Clovis nodded before extending his hand.

"What?" Hana raised her eyebrows before understanding his request. "Wait! No! Are you going to take back this ring?"

Hana looked at him as if he had wronged him. She even took a step back and protected the ring on her ring finger as if she were protecting her life.

"I know that your relationship is good, but she is your fiancée, right? You shouldn't casually ask for her ring. It's a matter of trust." Christina frowned.

"So, you want speed? I thought you wanted to have better stamina since it will be helpful for you to do your job. I guess you don't want to..." Clovis took out another ring but immediately put it back.

But before he could do it, Hana already grabbed his wrist and looked at him intensely. "Wait... I was wrong."

When she saw Clovis pulling out his hand again, she grabbed her ring while asking, "Can I have both?"

"No." Clovis answered with no hesitation.

"Eh..." Hana looked like she wanted it that badly, but Clovis simply shook his head, not planning to budge.

In the end, she had to exchange the ring.

Christina was stunned the whole time. She didn't understand why exchanging an engagement ring was a thing.

"Look. She is confused because of you." Clovis pointed at Christina.

"Eh? Why is it because of me?" Hana sighed.

Clovis raised two fingers. "The reasons you lost to us... this is the first one."

Clovis took out a bracelet. "Considering you are a guardian, I guess you need strength to ensure that you are able to keep up with the beasts. Try to put it on and you will understand."

"Huh?" Christina received it with a dumbfounded face. She was staring at Hana, wondering if this was the right thing to do.

"Don't worry about anything else. Just try it and you will understand what he is talking about."

"Is that so?" Christina narrowed her eyes. Although she was a bit skeptical, she still tried the bracelet.

And that was when she understood what they were talking about. There was an indescribable strength welling up in her body.

Christina's eyes were shifting back and forth between the bracelet and Clovis. "Eh? This is... Eh?"

"Look. She is confused." Hana chuckled. "Still, why can't you be nice to me and give me one more item?"

"No. You're too persistent." Clovis shook his head helplessly.

She pouted.

Clovis turned back to Christina. "Anyway, this is only one of the items. Our people are usually wearing a few, including the clothes. They have been enhanced by my blood, which allows them to have special abilities. Once we arrive, I will give you the rest. Well, you can also tell me what you really need. Well, you can think of them as having external power, but it's a bit different.

"Also, I think it's fine if you go to that room as well. Anyway, just remember not to tell anyone about it, including your family, even if they ask. I'm planning to reveal them sooner or later, but not now."

"As for the second reason, let's go to the main deck. I'll be introducing you to Reolf."

Chapter 566 Officially Joins the Libation Fiesta

As soon as they reached the main deck, they could see all the people in Clovis' group.

Clovis smiled while pointing at Christina. "Guys. Meet our new member, Christina."

Jay and Erwin nodded. Kanaria waved her hand. "Nice to meet you."

"It's a pleasure to meet you." Melody glanced at her for a second before returning to her screen.

"Another guardian?" Luci tilted her head.

Ragna politely bowed. "Welcome, and please help me from time to time."

"Thank you. Nice to meet you all. It will take time, but I will adjust myself to the group." Christina nodded to them.

"Yep! This is our ninth member." Clovis smiled.

"Ninth?" Christina raised her eyebrows. "Is Hana in your group as well? Isn't she too busy with her company?"

"Me? Of course, I'm not in this group. I just want to earn money."

"Then who is the eighth member?" Christina asked. "Is that person not here?"

"Nope. He's here." Clovis took a deep breath before shouting, "Reolf! Come here. Meet our new member."

All of a sudden, a huge shadow appeared from the hallway on the other side of the hall.

Christina suddenly raised her stance. "A beast? That's... a wolf... a dire wolf."

Reolf had expected such a reaction, so he just sat down and raised his paw. "Waaf!"

"Eh?" Christina dropped her jaw. It was as if the wolf had been completely tamed. But no one had ever done this before.

"Hahaha. I had a similar reaction when I first met Reolf." Hana chuckled.

"Eh?" Christina's eyes went back and forth between Clovis, Hana, and Reolf. "Eh? What's going on? The eighth member is a dire wolf?"

"Yep!" Clovis nodded. "He just became a Tier 3 a few days ago. He had one beast soul. His name is Reolf. Talk to him like you're talking to a human. He can't speak human language, but he understands you completely."

"W-What?!" Christina was taken aback, but she soon remembered what happened on the island. "Wait a moment. The wolf kept howling during the night... Don't tell me..."

"Yep! It was Reolf. Thanks to you, I thought about provoking the beasts. Reolf could understand them but couldn't lead them like other high tier beasts. Nevertheless, he could still challenge them, and that was what we did.

"Of course, we provoked the beasts near the border so that they would end up coming toward us."

Christina gasped. "So that's the reason I felt the beasts in my area were less than what I thought."

"Yep. Thanks to those items, Reolf is able to defeat a Tier 4 beast and fight a Tier 5 beast. Since I'm planning to give you some, I think you can defeat a Tier 6 human or beast pretty easily."

Christina looked around. She finally understood why Clovis wanted to hide all this information.

First of all, she had never heard anything about an item that could raise their physical ability. Then there was Reolf. If he was known, Clovis could become pretty much a beast tamer. His name would be so famous that no one could know what they would do to Clovis in order to get his secret.

Clovis raised two fingers. "Anyway, I'm planning to let you inside the art room. It's better for you to enter it first before I explain what it's used for. Anyway, that's all for now."

Christina was speechless. There were simply too many things she needed to take. "What... What is going on? How are you able to do all this?"

"His blood is special." Luci was the one to answer that question. She licked her lips as if she was eyeing Clovis' blood. "I'm one step closer to getting his blood and research on it."

"..." Clovis' eyebrows twitched.

Christina fell into deep thought. 'His blood, huh? So that's how it is. It's no wonder why even someone like Hana is trying to get everything from him.

'If his blood is able to create these abnormal items, that alone will make people crazy. Then, there is Reolf. If he can even control a beast with his blood, this will change everything.

'And there might be other secrets like this art room he is talking about. More importantly, he has a Blood Affinity if I'm not wrong, which is pretty much aligned to his secret.

'His unique ability is releasing all that bloodlust. If I just take all these things into account, his blood is indeed special.

'This must be the reason the Skylark Conglomerate doesn't even care about the relationship between them.

'In other words, his blood is the most precious blood in this world. If someone knows about it, they will try to possess it. Hana is fortunately an ally, but what about his enemies or other neutral parties?

'They will try to kill him or capture him. They will extract his blood and lock him somewhere where they can continue getting his blood without him dying. It's a fate much worse than death itself.'

Christina closed her eyes. She finally knew why Clovis wanted to keep everything a secret.

"I see." Christina turned to Clovis. "Don't worry. I will keep this a secret, but you said earlier that it's not going to be a secret forever..."

"Yeah. In the end, it's impossible to hide all this, especially Reolf. It's unfair for him to be kept hidden. I don't want to restrict his movement, so I'm planning to gradually release the information bit by bit."

Christina nodded in understanding. "Alright. I now understand what you're trying to do."

"Since that's the case, I will take my leave. I have to do my work." Hana waved while walking away. "Also, Clovis, I will be sending the royalty in a week."

"Why in a week? You can't do it now?"

"Well, I don't mind doing it now, but give me some incentives. Because of a certain guy asking me to participate in that competition, I can't really do any work. I have to catch up right now..." Hana pointed at the ring on her finger, implying what she wanted.

"Fine. One week from now." Clovis sighed. He was disappointed he couldn't upgrade his Another World Mall sooner, but it was fine.

"Stingy." Hana pouted.

#### Chapter 567 Unexpected Guest

"This is the art room." Clovis spread his arms, showing the collection of paintings from Another World Mall.

"This is..." Christina noticed something was different instinctively.

"You can take a look at the paintings for the time being. I hope it can help you." Clovis smiled. "I will go out and discuss a few things with the rest."

Before Clovis could even take another step, Christina's gaze already turned empty.

'Eh? Isn't this too soon?' Clovis looked shocked, but Christina's body was already swaying. Without hesitation, he caught her and put her down gently. "Phew..."

Clovis looked at Christina for a moment before smiling wryly.

It took her three hours before she ended up returning to herself.

"Ah!" Christina raised her head and noticed she had returned from the world within the painting.

She couldn't help but cover her mouth, realizing what kind of paintings had been collected in this place. There was a painting that managed to help her understand her own ability. If other paintings worked for others, that meant this art room was basically a treasure box.

It was no wonder why Hana had been eyeing Clovis this whole time. Everything he had was basically a priceless treasure.

Christina gulped down. However, she soon noticed that there was another presence in this room.

She hurriedly turned around and found Clovis sitting in the corner of the room. "Good afternoon. It seems you've got a good harvest."

"You're still here? I thought you were discussing things with the rest of the group."

"Well..." Clovis scratched the back of his head. "I'm just worried about you. Besides, I think it's unfair if you're being left out even though you are in this art room. Let's go to the dining room. The others are preparing the meal. Let's discuss our next move there."

Christina couldn't contain her smile. She nodded her helplessly. "Sure."

Both of them immediately headed to the dining room. Everyone except for Reolf and Jay was already there.

"I'm starving." Clovis stretched his body while taking his seat.

"Everyone is starving." Melody nodded, her eyes still glued to the screen.

"Have you visited your brother, Melody?"

"Yep. I just returned an hour ago."

"It's just a bit more, eh?" Clovis thought for a moment. "Should we focus on reaching Tier 4?"

"I can actually reach Tier 4 soon. In fact, Ragna is the same." Melody nodded.

"That's good. That means Kanaria, Jay, and I will have to catch up again. Oh, Reolf needs to catch up too." Clovis smiled. "A few months... I guess we should focus on reaching higher tiers for the time being. Due to Christina's identity, I bet the people in the shadow won't try to harm us for a while. If they still want to do it, they need a certain level of backing or a good plan. Anyway, we should be fine in the next couple of months. Anyone have a good idea for where to hunt?"

"It's not really a suggestion, but I think I know where to hunt." Erwin raised his hand.

"Where?"

"Slathan."

"Slathan?" Clovis tilted his head in confusion before recalling a certain name. "You mean Slathan, the country located south of this country?"

"Yeah." He nodded.

"Why? I don't think we have a connection there..."

Erwin smiled wryly. "Well, Aileen is going there for a month or two to build up experiences. I'm wondering if it's fine to go there as a backup. Well, not necessarily a backup, but doing a couple of missions together is fine."

Clovis chuckled. Looking at Christina's dumbfounded face, Clovis explained, "Aileen is his girlfriend. A very good assassin who can practically disappear right in front of your eyes. Even her presence can't be found."

"Ah!" Christina nodded in understanding.

"I don't particularly mind. We have time and don't plan anything big anyway. How about others?"

"Are we going to stay there for a while?" Melody asked.

"If possible. But she is scheduled to go there in two months."

"Oh! If it's in two months, there is a lot of time to prepare. Then, I don't mind." Melody felt relieved since she didn't have to leave her brother for so long after she just returned.

"Yep."

"In that case, we can go." Clovis nodded. "I'm kind of wondering about Aileen's level right now. She must be pretty strong after arriving at the capital."

"Yeah." Erwin smiled, replying half-heartedly. He was completely glued to his phone.

"In that case, for the next two months, we'll just have small expeditions to increase our evolution traits. I hope Melody and Ragna can reach Tier 4 at this time.

"After that, we will head to Slathan. Ask her about the destination and other details, Erwin."

"Yes!" Erwin gave a thumbs up.

"Anyway, let's eat. I'm starving. Someone, call Jay and Reolf here. We can't start eating without them." Clovis looked around, wondering who would call them.

To his surprise, there was no need to call them anymore.

"Clovis!" Jay's voice suddenly echoed inside the mansion.

It was so loud, as if Jay shouted at the top of his lungs, which was rare for Jay to do. "You've got a guest."

"A guest?" Clovis frowned. It must not be an ordinary guest. Hence, Clovis signaled Melody to help him.

Melody dropped her game and immediately checked the situation, making sure Jay wasn't threatened.

As a result, Ragna, Christina, and Luci raised their guards, wondering if they should pick up their weapons.

However, the moment they reached outside, they were shocked because the guest was much more extraordinary than anyone could ever think of.

There was an expressionless woman standing next to Reolf, who seemed to have submitted to her. She was just standing there, trying to braid Reolf's fur.

Christina couldn't help but drop her jaw to the ground. There was no need to raise her guard because if the other party wanted to kill them, it would be as easy as flipping her hand.

Clovis crossed his arms while smiling helplessly. "I never thought you would visit this humble home, Mara."

Chapter 568 Unexpected Matter

"I never thought you would come here, Mara." Clovis smiled wryly. "How do you even know this place? I thought you had no interest in other things, including the privilege of a Tier 9."

They couldn't help but feel shocked. Kanaria and the others had met Mara once, even though they saw her from afar.

However, Luci, Reolf, and Christina had never seen Mara as a member of the Libation Fiesta.

'Mara? Who is she? Why do I feel familiar, as if I have seen her somewhere?' Luci frowned.

"Mara... Leverstrike..." Christina dropped her jaw to the ground. With a Tier 9 grandfather, she obviously knew Mara. In fact, she was the genius she had to surpass, considering Mara was known as the youngest Tier 9 human.

She couldn't think of a reason how Clovis would meet her. On the one hand, Clovis indeed had Michael, but she originally thought Michael was gone, so there was no way Clovis could introduce her to Mara. Her doubt became even bigger when she saw everyone's expression. It looked like they were familiar with her.

Mara turned her head to Christina. "You should be that shiny shield... Ehm, who is your grandfather's name again?"

"Ezekiel!"

"Yes, him." She nodded. She turned back to Clovis as if it wasn't important. To everyone's surprise, she pointed at the empty air next to her head while saying, "This told me."

All of them were confused. Only Clovis probably understood what was going on.

Clovis nodded in understanding. "I see. How about coming in?"

Mara shook her head. "No. I will just say my piece and go to another place."

"Alright. I thought you were going to fight us or something."

"I did fight your grandfather."

"!!!" Clovis raised his eyebrows. "You did?"

"Yeah. I'm pretty sure others will find out sooner or later." Mara pondered. "Well, your grandfather asked me one thing."

"Hmm?" Clovis crossed his arms.

"He wanted me to teach you."

"!!!" Everyone widened their eyes, especially Christina. She was screaming inwardly, 'What the hell is going on? Mara Leverstrike, the youngest Tier 9 in history, is trying to teach Clovis? I know he is abnormal, but they shouldn't be that close. Do I miss something?'

'I thought his secrets were the only thing that makes him surprising, but it seems his connection is extremely powerful. If we include her or my grandfather, we basically have three Tier 9 humans. Both me and Clovis also have the potential to become Tier 9.

'If Mara teaches him, what will happen?' Christina was thinking hard, realizing that Clovis was a much bigger man than she had ever imagined.

"Teach me?" Clovis raised his eyebrows. "I don't really mind, but... why don't you join my group instead? This way, you can teach me everything you need."

They were even more shocked when Clovis had the audacity to actually recruit Mara.

Mara shook her head. "If you can beat me in a fight, that is."

"What? Are you sure? No taking back?" Clovis looked shocked that Mara actually agreed.

"If you can, but I doubt it." Mara paused for a moment. "Anyway, it looks like you have gotten pretty used to your power. Or should I say more aware?"

"Yes." Clovis glanced at Christina, as she was the reason he was able to do it.

"In that case, continue to get used to it. Once you're used to it, I will come back and teach you."

"Are you sure about teaching me? I thought you would reject it, since it was a hassle."

"I just like to destroy 'it.' This action would simply allow me to understand 'it' more."

"I see. That's understandable." Clovis nodded in agreement. He pretty much used the glitch to recruit Christina.

"That's all I have to say. I'm going then."

"How about fighting us once? This will show us the level of strength we need to reach before I try to defeat you."

Mara thought for a moment. There was one more way to do that.

"In that case..." Mara took a deep breath.

When they looked happy because a Tier 9 would grace them with some advice, a combination between killing intent, bloodlust, and overwhelming rage suddenly overwhelmed them.

"!!!"

Reolf was gritting his teeth, trying to pounce on Mara. However, his legs were shaking as he couldn't move them as though they were glued to the ground.

Luci's body was shaking violently as she dropped to her knees. Melody's fate was similar to hers. She dropped on her butt, trying to fight against that fear.

Ragna was trembling in fear as his legs were about to give up. He still had an overwhelming sense of responsibility in protecting everyone, so he couldn't give up.

Kanaria fell down, but her hand was on her waist as though she were trying to grab her pistol. Even though she ended up succumbing to it, she still had the will to fight her.

Still, as one would expect from Christina, she managed to withstand it. Although her body was shaking, she still raised her stance.

Erwin stretched his hands, ready to unleash his wires. He had once seen the abyss, so he got a certain immunity. Of course, his responsibility as the vice captain also made him refuse to fall down.

Jay was training a moment ago, so he was the only one having a weapon. His hand was already reaching for his blade, and surprisingly, he was the only one who could withstand it and was ready to fight back.

On the other hand, Clovis was actually grinning. He instinctively activated his Perfect State and embraced this feeling. It felt a bit nostalgic.

The overwhelming pressure lasted for several seconds before Mara recalled it.

"If you can't even withstand that, you shouldn't even think about facing me." She looked around. "Still, it seems they're already pretty good."

"Right?" Clovis clenched his hands into fists, as if he were trying to hold back. It was as if the madness inside him was about to take over.

Mara said, "Once you get used to it, I will teach you how to control it. That's all. It's time for me to go."

Chapter 569 Manipulate

"We can't let this Libation Fiesta continue like this."

"That's right. If we let them grow even further, we'll be the ones getting destroyed."

"The first academy has been hindering us."

"Are we just going to let them get everything?"

"We have to eliminate him."

The people were staring at each other. Despite their words, none of them had the courage to do it. After all, the first academy's dean was doing his best to stop anyone from attacking Clovis.

He even made sure that no academies could also poach him, which meant he monopolized everything Clovis achieved for the first academy's clout.

Of course, during that time, Clovis could go anywhere he wanted.

This was the only reason Clovis even agreed to the condition.

During that time, Hana took her chance to graduate from the academy.

They took a deep breath. One of them started speaking again, asking, "Should we do something different?"

"Like what?"

"I've heard recently that Christina Elseingarde, the granddaughter of Ezekiel Elseingarde, has just joined them."

"What? Elseingarde? You mean the Tier 9 Ezekiel Elseingarde? The man who is said to be the best guardian in the world? His granddaughter has joined the Libation Fiesta? Doesn't she have the potential to become a Tier 9 as well?"

"This Libation Fiesta has to be stopped. If they continue to rise like this, not only the first academy will be able to suppress us in the future, but their achievement will cast a shadow on the people's hearts."

"But how? If they're protected by a Tier 9 human, they could basically do anything. Our academies could be destroyed and the president wouldn't bat an eye."

"If I remember correctly, Ezekiel Elseingarde just fought another Tier 9. Both of them were heavily injured, so they hid for recuperation. Right now, the Elseingarde family is in their weakest state."

"Even if they're in the weakest state, what will happen if he returns? He can get his revenge."

They paused for a moment until one guy raised his hand. "What if... we use a Tier 9 human as well? Even if it's impossible to move the Tier 9 humans personally, what if we use their relatives, specifically their heirs?"

That suggestion made them fall into deep thought. That was right. Even with their combined force, they might not be able to invite a Tier 9.

However, they could definitely get their heirs to make a move.

Clovis was strong, and Christina was with them. With such a challenge, they would definitely take the bait.

"In that case, we really need to find the heir we can influence."

"That's right. We have to be careful. We will pick someone who is easy to influence. In addition, we have to be wary of their guardians, making sure that we don't do anything that will end up provoking them in this plan."

"Still, we have to pour out our resources if we want to invite them."

"True. The selection and planning will also take a lot of time."

"It's fine. Even if it takes a few months or a year, as long as we can destroy the Libation Fiesta, it doesn't matter."

"We just have to make one correct move and destroy them in one swoop."

None of them seemed to have objections to this plan. This was the only way they could avoid responsibilities in provoking a Tier 9.

If everything succeeded, Christina would most likely leave the Libation Fiesta.

Meanwhile, Clovis immediately went on another expedition while waiting for their new bus.

Due to Reolf's bigger body, they had to make sure Reolf had enough space to be comfortable during the journey.

Even though Christina said it would take a while, she managed to integrate herself into the group within a few days.

Of course, Clovis didn't plan to save any money in nurturing Christina. He bought a lot of things from Another World Mall to strengthen her.

Christina's offensive power was small, but even a Tier 6 wouldn't be able to hurt her at all.

With her becoming the second wall of the Libation Fiesta, the group could finally be split into two and moved at a much higher pace.

Of course, Clovis didn't plan to divide them most of the time, considering they only had one bus.

According to their calculation, Ragna would reach Tier 4 two weeks after Christina joined. Melody followed him after another three weeks.

Clovis, Kanaria, Jay, and Reolf had to pick up their pace.

Hana promised them they would get a new bus within a week. She was thankful for the ring since it allowed her to work even harder and still wouldn't get tired at all.

There were only a few things that could stop her from working.

For the next several days, Clovis continued to have multiple battles every day against Christina. He had to push his unique ability to the limit and get used to the insane state as much as possible.

If he managed to do it, Mara would appear again and teach him how to control his killing intent. He understood how much a killing intent could affect others after how effortlessly Mara prevented his entire group from functioning properly.

And if he wanted to defeat her, he needed to utilize his unique ability to the limit.

After getting showered by items, Christina obliged, since if Clovis was strong, their group would be strong and the Elseingarde would have a strong ally too.

Finally, one week after they returned, they were ready for another expedition.

Before that, Clovis had one more important thing to do before they restarted their expeditions, as he was staring at his phone.

And that was shopping. Yes, he was planning to have a shopping spree, as he finally received the money from Hana.

Clovis looked at the message coming into his phone with a huge smile.

[Transfer from OpenSky Limited. Your account is now...]

He could finally upgrade his mall once again. Without hesitation, he returned to his room and disappeared into thin air.

"Enter."

Chapter 570 New Store

Clovis finally reached his mall. Of course, the first thing he did was to call Blue while checking his status.

[Name: Clovis Hacfield.]

[Membership: Level 22 (Special Member)]

[Money: 534,500,145 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Item Limit: 21/Visit]

[Visit: 2(3)/Day]

Clovis couldn't help but smile when he was staring at the money.

"Oh wow. I have never thought I would have this much money so easily.

"In the past month, we killed a lot of beasts. There were a lot of Tier 5 as well, so we managed to gain almost a hundred million.

"Before Hana transferred my portion, I had about 195 million. To think that my portion would be that big. Then again, she had transferred some in the previous month.

"Nevertheless, I should be able to get about 300 million every month. It might increase when she hits the global market, but the hype will die after that. Well, I'm not complaining. At the very least, I might be able to get to level 30 within a year. It's all thanks to the new beast soul.

"I can't help but imagine what will happen if I sell items from Another World Mall. I can easily earn a few billion depending on what item I sell."

Clovis couldn't help but smile. "It's really easy to earn money, but I have to rely on Another World Mall. I don't really want to be that dependent, but well, I will still have to rely on it. At least, I will grow much stronger to the point where I might not have to rely on it in the future. For now, just use whatever I have."

Clovis turned to Blue. "Let's upgrade the membership, shall we? I have been saving money for quite some time, so do it, Blue. Three levels."

[Processing.]

[-65,000,000 Otherworldly Coins]

[Membership is upgraded to level 23.]

[-75,000,000 Otherworldly Coins]

[Membership is upgraded to level 24.]

[-100,000,000 Otherworldly Coins]

[Membership is upgraded to level 25.]

[Opening a new store.]

"Hehe. I've been waiting for this." Clovis smirked. "So, what's the new store?"

[Movie Theater.]

"Say what?" Clovis widened his eyes in shock, not believing what he had just heard.

[It's the movie theater. With your current privilege, you have unlocked a movie theater.]

Clovis gulped down. "Well, if you're going to a mall for a date, you will obviously go to a movie theater. It's sad that I have no one else besides me, but it's fine. I wonder what kind of effect the movie theater has.

"There's no way it's a normal movie theater."

[There is also a big announcement for you, Master.]

"What is it?"

[With your current privilege, you have the right to know regarding taking other people into this mall.]

"I can do that now?" Clovis took a step back.

[Not yet. However, you will be able to do it soon. Right now, your membership level is at Special Elite Customer. Once you're able to become a Silver Member, you'll be able to bring other people here. Of course, the number of people will also be limited to a single one. If you want to bring more, you have to increase the limit, like the visit and item limits.]

"For real? Well, that's good. I have been thinking about bringing them here for quite some time, but it doesn't seem I can bring them right away. Maybe after another year or something..."

[Yes. And there's one more thing you'd like to know. After becoming a Silver Member, your monthly fee will stop increasing.]

"Really?" Clovis gasped. Due to the monthly fee, he had been having a hard time saving up since it swallowed quite a lot of money every month. But if this wasn't going to increase any further, he could save up by killing enemies above his level.

[Yes. You will become a Silver Member once you reach level 31. The fee will be at 1 billion per month.]

"1 billion..." Clovis wanted to protest but soon fell silent. It might be big, but he should continue getting stronger. If he could take down Tier 6 enemies, 1 billion should be possible. If he could somehow take down a Tier 7 beast, 1 billion was just a small number.

In fact, he heard that a Tier 8 beast was so rare that people around the world were fighting for it. If they managed to hunt one, it wouldn't be weird to earn at least a hundred billion from the essence, body parts, and other things.

A Tier 9 beast was simply priceless. That was why a Tier 9 human had a lot of privileges in this world.

Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought. "This should be feasible. Once Hana expands to a global market, earning one billion a month shouldn't be a problem. I expect it will settle down to around ten billion a year in the future, which should be enough for the cost.

"If I need more, I will start releasing the items from this mall and claim they're artifacts. They should earn as much as a Tier 8 beast... maybe? Who knows? Their effect is upgraded the higher my tier is, so it might earn more.

"Nevertheless, I should take a look at the movie theater soon." Clovis turned to Blue. "Is there anything else I need to know?"

[That's all.]

"I see. I'm planning to upgrade my visit limit this time and spend a lot of money by using the special discount, but I have to check the movie first."

Blue guided him to the movie theater located on the top floor. As he expected, the theater itself was no different from what he had seen in reality.

Blue came to the counter and showed the list of the movies.

[In this theater, you have to unlock the movie. It will be a permanent unlock, so it'll cost quite a fortune.]

"I understand. Give me the list of the movies for now."

Clovis nodded, already expecting something like this.

[Yes.]

[Shoot the Sky.]

[Cost: 10,000,000 Otherworldly Coins.]

[I See You on Hot Steamy Night (Age Requirement: 18)]

[Cost: 8,000,000 Otherworldly Coins.]

"..." Clovis twitched his eyebrows when he saw the second one. It was the same as the bookstore. "Why do you even sell this..."

However, the one that piqued his interest the most was the seventh movie.

[SSS-Ranked Sword Master.]

[Cost: 24,000,000 Otherworldly Coins.]