

World Mall 571

Chapter 571 SSS-Ranked Sword Master

"Huu... So, this is the movie theater? The same as I imagined." Clovis looked around while taking his seat. "I wonder what kind of surprise it will bring this time."

Clovis relaxed his body for a bit as the movie was about to begin.

The screen was gradually lighting up. To his surprise, instead of the beginning of the movie, his vision suddenly turned dark.

"Huh? What's going on?" Clovis was confused.

The next thing he realized, he could open his eyes again, but for some reason, the scenery had changed.

He raised his head and saw buildings burning. It looked like the wall was made of wood and the roof was made of straw.

'Now that I think about it, the movie is about a boy called Ethan. His village was destroyed by the Creature of Darkness.' Clovis wanted to look around to assess the situation before helping the people.

He noticed that he was gripping a sword, but the sword was extremely heavy, especially for the character.

Clovis wanted to say something, but the mouth refused to budge. He tried to lift up his sword, but the hand didn't move.

'Wait a minute. The character is moving on its own.'

"No. You vile creatures!" The character shouted while glaring at a slime-like creature made from black liquid.

'It also speaks on its own.'

"Aaaahhh!" The character charged forward, dragging the sword.

However, the weight of the sword ended up slowing him down. When he reached the creature, the latter had actually extended a part of its body like a tentacle and punched him.

"Gah!" He spat a mouthful of blood. Clovis couldn't help but grit his teeth, feeling the pain as well. 'This is so real. I really enter the movie and can only observe everything.'

He wanted to get up, but the enemy had reached him first. It was there a woman suddenly appeared in front of him.

She swung her sword, cutting the creature easily.

He looked shocked. Before he realized it, other creatures that attacked his village had been annihilated by the same person.

"Are you alr—" The woman turned around, wanting to check on him. However, she noticed the sword in his hand. "Kid... Where do you get that sword?"

He hesitated for a second before saying, "My house."

It was her turn to get surprised. She couldn't help but ask, "What is your name?"

"Ethan. Ethan Skyblade."

The woman completely didn't expect it.

However, before he could say anything, the vision turned dark as a flash of memory appeared in Clovis' head. In that memory, they cleaned up the enemies and put down the fire.

They buried the people who died because of the incident.

When the scenery changed, both of them were standing on top of a hill, looking at the two graves.

"Father, Mother... Sob..." He was crying. "I'm sorry that I can't protect the village."

The woman had a pained expression. "You can't protect anyone if you are weak. Come with me, Ethan. I will teach you how to become stronger. I know your father... Maybe this is fate as well."

"Mhmm..."

"I am Elia Hackerblade."

Clovis dropped his jaw to the ground. 'What the hell is this script? I mean, I can understand that she wants to bring him because of that sword. But it seems the sword is special. That means his father was supposed to be strong. Why did he die? Definitely not because of those creatures. And why would you suddenly go with the person who claimed to know your father? You didn't even know whether it was true or not.'

Clovis simply couldn't believe it.

And for some reason, she was a good person.

She actually brought him to a hut on a hilltop.

Both of them were standing in front of each other.

"I will teach you two ways of wielding a sword. Soft Sword and Heavy Sword." She pointed to the tree.
"Try to cut this tree with your sword. Swing with all your might."

He was confused, but he still walked toward the tree and swung with all his strength. It was a weak swing, but for some reason, he cut it as if it was butter.

The tree suddenly fell to the ground with a clean cut, shocking Ethan. "This is..."

Elia then smacked the tree next to her. "In that case, try to catch the tree's leaf with the tip of your sword, but without damaging it."

"Huh?" Ethan was confused. He saw the falling leaves and tried to pick up one of them, but the sword was simply too sharp that it sliced the leaf without him swinging his blade. "It's impossible."

Elia shook her head. She stretched her hand and said, "Let me show you."

He gave her the sword.

"A Soft Sword is a swordplay that allows you to deal with everything with a soft impact. When you master it, even with the sharpest sword..." Elia moved extremely fast, as if she was going to cut the leaf. But to his surprise, the sword stopped with a leaf at the tip of the blade. Even though they wielded the same sword, it didn't cut the leaf.

"How..." Ethan sucked a cold breath.

"This is what I will be teaching you. Even with the sharpest sword, if you don't intend to cut it, it won't cut. By utilizing this swordplay, you can hit the opponent and use their own weight to throw them off. Or you can destroy their attack by simply focusing on their weak point. As for the second one, the heavy sword..."

Elia took a few steps forward, looking at the hill next to them. "By utilizing all your power and unleashing it at a single point. Destroy everything in your path with pure brute force."

When she swung her sword, the hill that was located at least a hundred meters away from them was suddenly cut. The top part was shattered by so much force, which startled not only Ethan but also Clovis.

"I will teach you these two. Are you ready to get stronger?"

Both Ethan and Clovis looked excited as they said the same thing. "Yes!"

Chapter 572 Leaving

"Huu..." Ethan or Clovis took a deep breath. Even though Clovis couldn't control the body, he could still feel the sensation.

As the wind was blowing the tree, leaves fell.

Clovis closed his eyes for a moment, fully concentrating.

As the leaves were about to fall, Clovis waved his sword, which eventually picked up the leaf that was about to fall.

However, his sword still cut half of the leaf.

"Kh! It's still not working." Clovis clicked his tongue. For the first time in his life, he experienced the time skip in the movie. A flood of memory simply overheated his head, which almost made him fall unconscious.

Fortunately, he was able to hold on. The reward was massive, as he could get a lot of things from the memory, including this unique technique.

Clovis then glanced at the tree several meters away from him. After some time to concentrate, he swung his sword, cutting the tree cleanly.

"Huu..." Clovis let out a long sigh. "It seems I have succeeded."

Clovis observed the situation. "I can finally understand what the movie does. It is teaching me a new technique. Unlike the bookstore, I could actually get a lot of new understanding here. No, should I say that the movie theater is like the combination between the painting and the technique book?

"Still, I can finally understand what it means to watch adult content. Right now, I can't move my body, so if I watch that kind of stuff, doesn't that mean it will be something I should be concerned about?

"Not only me, I should hide it from everyone... No, not everyone. Maybe single people can watch it, especially Jay. I'm worried that he is going to marry his sword. Haiz."

Clovis had a lot of ideas regarding this movie theater. Still, there was one thing to do. "I should have finished the training. Although it's not as strong, I have completed the training arc..."

As Clovis said, the arc continued with Clovis going on a trip. He went into the bar and actually met the comrades that would fight together with him.

As Clovis, there was not much of a feeling toward his team. However, Ethan put a lot of emphasis on these guys, which made it hard for him.

Nevertheless, the story continued. He showed the result of his training, cutting down the darkness creatures with his friends.

He gradually got stronger as he got more experience with swordplay.

Still, the movie itself only took 2 hours. And the flow of time inside the movie and the real world was the same, meaning that there were a lot of things skipped. The information was just transferred into Clovis' head.

Eventually, they reached the castle of the darkness creature that was said to be the leader of the army that attacked his village.

Ethan fought as hard as possible. His comrades were fighting alongside him as they gradually made their way toward the boss.

As a result, Ethan ended up fighting the boss while his comrade took down the rest of its commandants.

After fighting for a while, Ethan finally came out on top.

And the movie ended.

"This is..." Clovis was completely stunned. He never thought the situation would be like this.

"I feel like the movie has left out a lot of parts. And it doesn't seem to be the end, considering it's not the strongest enemy in the world." Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought.

[Yes, Master. It's a series. The more your tier increases, the more movies you're able to unlock. Right now, you don't have the skill, strength, or qualification to learn it, so you have no choice but to wait.]

"I see." Clovis nodded in understanding. "There are a lot of things I want to ask, but the movie is definitely wondrous. This is the first time I see something this scary. I know about the role, but if one gets too attached to the movie, they might end up becoming the characters themselves.

"As a result, there's a chance that they will love the people who are not real. It will cause a lot of trouble."

[Yes, Master. It has been considered carefully. That's why you're only allowed to watch one every month.]

"That's understandable. It's going to take a while to finish a series, but it lowers the chance of getting influenced." Clovis nodded in understanding. "Anyway, I have benefited a lot. I really want to go out right now and immediately fight someone to test these two techniques. If I can really replicate it, it's going to be amazing."

[See you later, Master.]

Clovis chuckled. "No. I'm not leaving yet. I still have a super discount, right?"

[Yes.]

"Spin it for me."

Blue processed his request.

"Let's go!" Clovis raised his head, looking at the wheel.

It started spinning fast and gradually slowed down.

And the arrow landed on the 'Bookstore.'

"Oh!" Clovis took another glance at his status, making sure that he had enough money. "Blue. I think it's about time we clean this store up."

[Are you going to purchase everything, Master?]

"Yes. It will be fun if we have a library at home. I can trick them by making them think they're the techniques my father invented. They should believe it, considering my father's status and reputation.

"Besides, this will be good for all of us. It's been a while since we mastered those techniques, so having more will be good. Of course, I'm not getting one since I'm too focused on these two techniques."

[Understood. Do you need anything else?]

"Upgrade the visit limit once. With four visits, I should be able to speed up my progress. Also, increase the item limits to 25 or until there's only 100 million left in my pocket."

[Upgrading.]

[Visit Limit has increased to 4.]

[Item Limit has increased to 24.]

[I will be purchasing the books by using all the item limits and visit limits.]

"Alright. I'll leave it to you. See you later, Blue." Clovis smiled as he disappeared.

Chapter 573 Testing New Ability

Clovis came to the garden, seeing Jay and Christina training their bodies.

Although he wanted to talk to them, there was something he would like to test first.

He grabbed one of the dummies in the corner and planted it to the ground.

After that, he took a bit of a distance.

"Hmm? What are you doing?" Jay asked while raising his eyebrows. Since he trained the ranged attack together, he knew Clovis was trying to use his ranged attack. However, he still remembered that Clovis' range was only 7 meters at maximum.

This time, he actually stood 15 meters from the dummy.

"It's nothing. I've just got a kind of understanding, so I want to test something."

"A ranged attack? I have seen you guys practicing it in my home." Christina raised her head.

"Yes. My range is 5 meters, while Clovis' range is 7 meters. However, that distance..."

"Oh!" Christina crossed her arms.

Clovis ignored their reaction for the time being. Instead, he closed his eyes. His left hand was on his scabbard while his right hand was holding his sword, ready to draw it.

'Heavy Sword. I originally thought I should take advantage of the momentum to generate the force for me. However, that Heavy Sword is slightly different. Instead of momentum, it's more like the velocity as well as the smoothness of the swing.

'It cuts through the air, which causes the airflow to become smoother, which ultimately increases its range. The momentum itself consists of two elements: velocity and mass.

'I can't increase the mass for the time being, but the velocity of the sword is something I can control.

'Instead of focusing on the sword itself, I should actually shift it toward the center of gravity as well as my arm as if I'm throwing my own body when launching that attack.'

Clovis took a deep breath. When he was ready, he sharply opened his eyes and drew his blade, unleashing a different kind of ranged attack.

"!!!" Jay widened his eyes in shock. It was fast, but there was something more that he couldn't describe.

More importantly, the dummy was split in half, meaning that the ranged attack came with such a force that not only did it cut the dummy, but it also continued traveling forward.

"What is that?" Jay gasped. "The power is stronger. The range is around 3 times your previous ranged attack, which means 21 meters..."

"Hehehe." Clovis chuckled. "I will tell you later. It's just something I learn overnight. Jay. Shall we have a spar?"

They had a lot of sparring sessions, so it wasn't that rare for them to fight. However, this was the first time Clovis requested it. It was usually the other way around.

Jay smirked. "I'm not going to say no."

Clovis smiled. "Christina. Do you mind supervising the sparring match?"

"Sure." Christina was also curious about Clovis' sudden improvement. She wanted to know how much he had improved in a single night.

Jay and Clovis stood in front of each other.

"As usual, only swords."

Jay nodded.

With his confirmation, Christina immediately said, "Begin at your discretion."

The first thing they did was to leap back, gaining some distance. Both of them pulled out their weapons.

Once they were ready, they charged toward each other.

Obviously, the one that made the first move was Clovis, trying to overwhelm Jay with his speed.

There were numerous attacks coming from the two sides, but Jay was able to keep his form close, using only minimal movements to block every single one of his attacks.

When Clovis showed an opportunity, Jay immediately took it and struck him with all his strength.

"Haaa!" Jay tried to blow him away.

Clovis looked at this attack carefully and slightly shifted his stance to the ones that Ethan used when using the soft style.

He received it as smoothly as possible, deflecting the impact away from him.

Still, the movie only gave him the sensation. Even if Clovis possessed Ethan, he still didn't control that body. Hence, repetition was required to master this technique.

With him using this technique for the first time, Clovis could only deflect half of the force from this blow.

Instead of getting pushed back as usual, Clovis managed to stand on his spot.

"!!!" Jay widened his eyes in shock. "What's that? Did you just..."

"Argh. As expected, I still need to train more to do it perfectly." Clovis clicked his tongue.

Seeing Jay leaping backward so as to observe Clovis' new style, Clovis waved his blade, sending forth his ranged attack.

Normally, Jay could easily avoid it by leaping out of the range. However, with the ranged attack traveling for more than twenty meters, it was impossible for him to escape.

In the end, the ranged attack hit him.

"Kh." Jay gritted his teeth. "Muscle!"

His arms bulged as he slashed the attack apart. "That's freaking heavy."

Clovis circulated his breath carefully. As expected, to boost the efficiency of his strike, he needed to improve his breathing.

'In the end, the breath allows the oxygen to circulate within the body. Using that much power at once exhausts a lot of oxygen, which means I won't be able to keep up. I have to either choose the perfect time to unleash them or improve the breathing technique. In the end, breathing technique is the foundation of everything. Whether you are a professional athlete or explorer, you need a good breathing technique...'

When Clovis was examining his move, Jay had moved past his attack and approached him again.

Since Clovis' ranged attack was deadly, he had to keep him close.

And that was when Clovis thought of another way to utilize the soft style.

When Jay was about to arrive, he took a step back, matching Jay's speed even for a split second. After that, his short sword gradually moved toward the sword that Jay was about to swing.

"Huh? This is... Doesn't Clovis' swing look slower than usual... but... it's..." Christina gasped. Despite its slow movement, the sword was already in front of Jay's sword before she realized it.

The moment the swords clashed, Jay abruptly lost the grip of his sword as Clovis' short sword flicked it into the air.

"!!!"

Chapter 574 Two Months Later

Clink!

Jay's sword was flicked into the air, spun a few times, and hit the ground.

Jay and Christina looked surprised because no one would expect Clovis to be able to easily flick his sword like that. Jay's grip was one of the strongest in the group, so they were simply unable to comprehend how Clovis was able to do it.

"Hu..." Clovis took a deep breath. "I managed to do it."

"Clovis... What did you do?" Jay didn't know what to say. Even if Clovis got stronger, this change was simply too much. He couldn't comprehend how he was able to go this strong in just a single night.

Clovis smiled. "Well, maybe you call it an inspiration. The first one you saw, the one that allowed my ranged attack to travel much further, is a heavy sword. The one that flicked your weapon was the soft sword.

"Both of them are complementing each other. For example, I utilized the swing by using the Heavy Sword. However, I also sliced the wind with a Soft Sword. This way, there's completely no resistance from the wind, allowing my attack to go much further."

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

Even Christina couldn't help but wonder if she could do the same thing but with her shields. If she could use that Soft Sword, she might be able to increase her arsenal. In the end, their Elseingarde was a family known for their defense.

And their defense had been boosted to the highest. Even her grandfather knew how to defend offensively.

That was why she wanted to learn this.

"Do you mind if I observe you when you are training?" Christina asked.

"Sure. I don't mind." Clovis nodded.

In the end, the three of them were training together. In the end, the three of them were working together to practice the techniques. Clovis didn't know whether Christina could learn it or not, adjusting it to switch her style. However, he knew Christina was talented. She definitely knew whether she could learn it or not.

For the next two months, they continued training the techniques while hunting down some beasts from time to time.

Clovis wanted to reach Tier 4 within a few months, fully aware that he didn't have a lot of time before problems would start to occur.

Kanaria and Jay would be the first ones to reach Tier 4, but they didn't know whether they could reach it before the upcoming trip.

As expected, the one who was most thrilled by the upcoming trip was none other than Erwin.

"Are you really going there as well?" Aileen's voice echoed through the Skyphone.

"Yep. I told Clovis two months ago about your trip and asked him if he wanted to go or not. The upcoming trip would be quite hard for you, no?"

"Well, the trip itself isn't hard. The problem is with my teammates." Aileen sighed.

"They are not skilled? Or they are annoying? If it's the latter, we will beat them up. If it's the former, we can help you."

"Mhmm... Both?" Aileen paused for a moment. "My teacher seems to be arranging it in a way that I can get closer to this guy."

"Who?"

"An annoying prick. He is born from a good family, and my teacher is trying to get close to that family."

"What? Isn't your teacher supposed to protect you?"

"I know, right? This is frustrating."

Erwin thought for a moment. "In that case, why don't you leave? I bet Clovis doesn't mind if you join our group. You have almost reached Tier 5, right?"

"Yep. Well, I don't really want to trouble my family. If I leave just like that, not only my teacher but that guy's family is going to harass my family. While it's true that my family is a powerhouse in the city, the problem is much bigger than that." Aileen sighed.

Erwin could hear the frustration in her voice. "Well, I have told you I will beat anyone that dares to approach you and shut the mouth of the people who think I'm not worthy. I know how much you care for your family, but I believe it's better to cut the connection. Are you even that indebted to your teacher?"

"Mhmm..." Aileen pondered. "I don't think so. He has taught me a couple of things, but I have also helped him with a few things."

"I personally think enough is enough. Even if I have to beg Clovis, I will take my leave. Besides, we also have Christina, who is from the Tier 9 Elseingarde family."

Aileen couldn't help but smile. She knew how prideful Erwin was. Even though it was to his captain, he was willing to lower his head and bend his knees.

"Let me think about it for a while. If it's truly that bad, I will leave without much care." Aileen finally agreed.

"Alright. Just tell me if you need anything. I will help you. For the time being, we're planning to visit the same destination. You don't mind, right?"

"Mhmm. That's fine by me." Aileen nodded. "Well, it's already almost a year. We can finally meet again."

"Yeah. You don't know how excited I am. Though I know you are more excited than I am. Finally seeing your handsome boyfriend after so long must be exciting."

"Look at you, bragging again." Aileen chuckled. "I will send you the details about the mission as well as the place we're staying."

"Yeah. We are done with the paperwork, so we just need to book the rooms. How long are you going to stay there?"

"The mission this time will take a lot of time, so most likely about a month?"

"Sounds good." Erwin nodded.

"I'll hang up then. Hearing your voice makes my worries gone. Thank you, Erwin."

"Hehehe. This bro is so charming that it can ease your worries."

"Hehe." Aileen chuckled. "Love you, take care."

"Yep. I love you too, take care over there. Don't hesitate to call me if you need help."

Aileen smiled while hanging up. She looked at the sky that somehow brightened after the call. She grabbed her swords and muttered, "Alright. Let's get fired up one more time today and finish the training."

Chapter 575 Lovers Reunited

Slathan Country.

"We've finally arrived in this country. To think that it would be such a chore."

"Indeed."

A guy and a woman had just finished putting their luggage down. They were meeting up outside the room.

There was another guy in the room next to that.

"Aileen, Aileen!" The guy knocked on the door multiple times but showed no response. "Aileen!"

"Has she left? That's fast..." They exchanged looks. The guy looked angry, but if Aileen had really left, there was nothing she could do.

On the other hand, Clovis and his team had finally arrived at their destination.

"So, what is the mission this time?" Kanaria asked. "Erwin. Do you know something?"

"There are a couple of missions, but I think it's better to let Aileen explain it to you guys."

"Oh! Alright." Kanaria nodded in agreement.

"Still, it's been a while since we last met her. I guess I'm kind of anticipating what level she has reached?" Clovis smiled. "Don't worry, Erwin. I will let you guys go for today. Just come back tomorrow and explain it to us."

"Mhmm..." Erwin scratched the back of his head. He was too embarrassed that he couldn't even show off.

"Ah. This guy is hopeless." Melody shook her head helplessly.

"We have arrived. Also, Erwin. Put away that smirk of yours. It's annoying." Jay shouted while parking their bus.

Erwin just smiled, ignoring Jay.

"Yeah. He is hopeless. He has fallen to the bottom of the ocean." Kanaria agreed with Melody's opinion. Even Jay's remark couldn't make him work up any more.

"Alright. Let's check in." Clovis came out.

Unfortunately, they couldn't bring Reolf this time. Even if it was alright to tell Aileen about it, there was a chance they would be spotted by the people coming with her.

Hence, it was better for Reolf to stay in the mansion for the time being.

The one who would be taking care of him was none other than Hana. Of course, the price was to give her an earring from Another World Mall.

Luci volunteered, but in the end, it was better if everyone came.

Clovis was the first one to come out of the bus. He stretched his body while saying, "Finally, it's been such a long ride."

"Indeed." Kanaria nodded. "Since we're here, should we go sightseeing as well? I have made some plans."

"Sure. We can go later." Clovis glanced at Luci, who was staring intensely at Clovis. In the end, Kanaria chuckled and said, "You can come too."

Luci pouted. It seemed this was the only way to pacify her anger. She really wanted to stay with Reolf.

Then again, Reolf would be in danger if he was left alone with Luci. The only way to stop Luci was to make her focus on Clovis.

Clovis sighed. "Fine, fine. If this trip is successful, I will give you 20 ml of my blood once I reach Tier 4."

Luci's expression brightened. "Really? No taking back, okay. Don't worry. Anyone that dares to make this trip unsuccessful will be dissected on the operating table."

Clovis shook his head helplessly.

"Let's go. What are we waiting for?" Erwin had already come out. He even brought several bags that were not his, as though he couldn't just wait for them to retrieve them.

Clovis chuckled. However, his eyes were focused on someone behind Erwin. "It's been a while, Aileen."

"Clovis! Don't play me!" Erwin gritted his teeth. However, he immediately shut up when he heard Aileen's voice coming from behind him.

"He is telling the truth."

"!!!" Erwin wasn't the only one shocked by Aileen's sudden appearance.

Christina and Luci couldn't help but turn around. They actually let someone approach them this close without noticing them?

"Huh?" Christina blinked her eyes a few times. Now that she saw her, it felt blurry. It was as if she existed and did not exist at the same time.

'What is this? This is the first time I feel something like this. She is an assassin, so she must be erasing her presence. But this level... isn't she only a Tier 5? The only one who can sneak up on me like this is at least a Tier 7 assassin.

'Is this the reason Clovis thinks highly of her? If there's someone who can actually approach a person without being noticed, they can simply kill her without the other party realizing it.

'Scouting the area will be much easier as well because the beasts won't notice her. I see. I finally understand what he means by strong. She is indeed strong in this area. No, her talent might even rival mine and Clovis'. No, does she have a unique ability?'

Christina couldn't reach an answer.

Meanwhile, Aileen simply said with an emotionless face. "By the way, you said I was the one who was unable to wait to meet you. But how come you are the one trying to drag them as fast as possible? You're so impatient to see me. How cute."

Erwin's lips were shaking. "This bro is just making sure you don't wait for too long as a responsible boyfriend. You're the one who is impatient. Why would you even come to the parking lot?"

Erwin thought he made a comeback, but Aileen simply pointed at Clovis. "He told me to come here."

"Huh?" Erwin looked at Clovis, who was showing a peace sign. "Clovis, you bastard!"

Clovis smirked. He ignored Erwin and said, "Anyway, we can go. I have asked for one more key card for our suite. It's for you. You can sneak up into his room whenever you want it."

"Ah!" Aileen was startled but soon bowed. "Thank you very much."

"No worries. Anyway, let's go up." Clovis waved his hand.

"Pfft!" Jay laughed. "Such an impatient guy. How cute."

"Jay, you bastard!" Because of the embarrassment, he finally replied to Jay's remark. "You are still single. Why don't you marry your blade already?"

Unlike any other time, Jay simply shrugged while looking down on him. "Sure, sure. Let's go up, cute guy."

Chapter 576 Aileen's Problem

After getting their respective cards, all of them immediately split up. Clovis, Christina, Kanaria, and Luci ended up going together to see around the city. Melody sneaked out so that she could buy as many things as possible to tell her younger brother.

Jay and Ragna remained inside the room while Erwin and Aileen went on a date.

However, the matter seemed to be much more serious than anyone originally thought.

All of a sudden, Clovis ended up gathering them in a restaurant to talk about Aileen's problem.

Because it involved so many figures, even Ragna and Jay had to go as well.

"So, the problems are that Tier 8 master and the influential family, huh?" Clovis looked down, falling into deep thought.

"Should I ask my grandfather to put some pressure on that family?" Christina asked. "No. Even my father should be able to do it."

"How about we ask Hana to deal with that influential family? In terms of money, Hana should have the ability to take them down." Kanaria asked.

"Well, a Tier 8 human is threatening, but not enough for our group, no?" Luci glanced at Clovis.

"Hmm..." Clovis closed his eyes for a moment.

"I think you're making this hard for Clovis. It's fine. I should be able to handle it somehow just by waiting for a while." Aileen waved her hand.

Jay sighed. "Well, it's certainly a big problem. What he needs to consider is not only their families but also our families.

"It's true that we have Christina here, but Clovis' grandfather has once interfered in a certain matter in that country.

"If he acts unruly one more time, I feel like the country is most likely to put a bounty on him and blacklist all our families from there. And most likely, they can either take them hostage or destroy them completely, even if it means angering the two grandfathers.

"Hence, it's rather hard for them to make a move. Even if we try to relocate the families, they're most likely watching the movements of our families. After all, there's a high chance a big move will be linked back to us.

"As such, you have to consider it properly before making the move."

Now that Jay had explained the consequences, they couldn't help but fall into deep thought.

Aileen was more determined to keep this to herself.

Clovis, on the other hand, thought of another possibility. "Hmm... I can completely remove them from the picture if you want it."

"Huh?" They looked confused.

"Clovis. Did you hear what I said earlier? If your grandfather made a move, they would be like, 'Screw it,' and attack you." Jay frowned.

"No. I won't ask my grandfather." Clovis shook his head. "Hana will be the one making her move. There should be no problem after that, but the condition is that Aileen will have to join the Libation Fiesta right away."

"Is there really a solution?" Erwin asked while furrowing his eyebrows. "Joining the group is not a price, but a reward."

Aileen still didn't know about the items from Another World Mall, but she would be able to relate more if she joined the group.

Then again, Clovis' group had become big and strong, so she could kind of understand why it was a reward.

"Yeah. I'll just strike some deal with her, and she will handle it," Clovis explained nonchalantly as if it were something easy."

"See? Clovis definitely has a way." Erwin smiled, feeling relieved.

Aileen looked unsure. In the end, Clovis still needed to strike a deal. She didn't know what kind of deal he was talking about, but it must be something big.

Aileen looked down, falling into deep thought. "Can you let me think about this first?"

"Sure. There should be a reason for someone like you to be indecisive. Take your time, we are completely fine." Clovis nodded. "Even if it's a sudden request, I should be able to deal with it as well."

"Thank you." Aileen smiled.

"No worries."

"In that case, all we need to do is work together with her during the mission, huh?"

"Yep!" Clovis nodded. "What's the mission again?"

"There are several missions. The first one is to meet up with a certain person. They seem to be planning to go on a large subjugation to take down a Tier 7 beast without a Tier 7 fighter accompanying them.

"In other words, it will be quantity versus quality. The large number itself is to take down the rest of the beasts before making our way against the Tier 7 beast."

"Oh? That's indeed a big mission. I guess you're not playing around when going to this country." Clovis thought for a moment. "In that case, should we join it as well?"

"Tier 7, huh? We can't do anything against it, but I wonder if we can fight a Tier 6 enemy right now. In the end, I think I should be able to hold down a Tier 6 beast by myself after joining this group." Christina pondered.

"Still, if we want to do this, we should do it together." Erwin pointed at Aileen.

"We know that, but won't they be suspicious of us? Although we are not as famous, we still have Christina here. There's a chance they know our identities as well." Kanaria asked.

"Well, that's a simple task." Clovis smirked.

All of them couldn't help but look at him.

...

Two days later.

The Libation Fiesta had just arrived.

"Hello. We would like to register our group." Clovis smiled.

The staff looked at them for a second before nodding her head. She couldn't recognize their faces, so they must not be as famous.

Yes, Clovis' solution was none other than disguise. All of them had their respective wigs and other accessories so that there was no resemblance to their former selves.

Since they had a lot of money, they spared no effort in buying all the necessities.

Clovis said, "We'd like to join the raid. Our group is called Frozen Crystal."

Chapter 577 Provocation

"Whoa. There are so many people here," Clovis looked around. "How many are there?"

"About 200 people," said Melody after taking a look at the radar.

"Still, are we going to be fine with this?" Christina asked.

"Are you talking about splitting the group into two?" Luci raised her eyebrows.

What Christina was talking about was the fact that Clovis had divided them into a group of four. The first group was called Frozen Crystal, which consisted of Clovis, Melody, Christina, and Luci.

The second group was Jay, Erwin, Ragna, and Kanaria. In addition to splitting their group, they had weakened themselves by abandoning their original weapon.

Clovis had dropped both his pistol and short sword. In the end, his choice of weapon was quite unique, so if he used it, the other party might realize it was him.

Christina couldn't bring her second shield, so she needed to do everything with only a single shield, which reduced her aggressiveness. Melody remained as an operator, but she brought a shotgun instead of a pistol. Luci chose a huge cleaver, as if she wanted to chop some beasts, which also stunned their group at first.

Jay was the only one who didn't have the change of weapon. Meanwhile, Erwin's weapon was the most unique. Hence, he focused on punching and kicking for the time being, but when others didn't see it, he would use his wires.

On the other hand, Kanaria brought out her automatic rifle instead of a sniper rifle while Ragna dropped his shield and fought only with his spear.

"Group A. Please go here!"

"Group B!"

People started calling them one by one. Of course, with the help of Aileen, they were able to get inside information, allowing them to be placed in the same division.

Yes. Each division contained four groups in total. The Libation Fiesta occupied the two slots, while Aileen got the other one. The last one was a middle-rank group with two Tier 4 explorers.

Seeing all of them gathered made Clovis unable to contain himself.

He immediately came to them while raising his hand, "Hello, hello! My name is Ivan. Let's get along, shall we?"

"Ivan..." Luci tilted her head in confusion.

"That's the name of his previous enemy. He said no one would try to use their enemy's name, so no one should expect it." Melody sighed.

"What the heck are you? You are just a mere Tier 3 explorer... in other words, a burden!" The guy, whom Aileen mentioned previously, snarled.

The guy had spiky black hair. His body might not be extremely muscular, but he was still considered big. He was exuding a fierce and arrogant aura, reminding him of the same guy that challenged him in the banquet.

Still, the guy was a Tier 5, so it was understandable that he would be picking on him.

Christina couldn't help but furrow her eyebrows. Although they were in disguise, it was a bit annoying to have someone looking down on her captain.

In the end, Clovis was a person she had acknowledged from the bottom of her heart.

"Oh? To think that there's a beautiful lady. Instead of going with this little prick, why don't you come with us?" The guy smirked. "I'm Gillian Heshton. I might not be local, but my family is huge."

Christina thought of something amusing. She snorted, "Your family? How dare a mere lowly family disrespect my young master?"

"!!!" Gillian was startled. Aileen thought about stopping him while Erwin wanted to punch this guy in the face. At least, if he wanted to be a playboy, he should be a good one like Clovis, who wasn't naturally lustful.

Clovis didn't expect such a response from Christina.

"Young master? It seems because I'm not a local, you don't know how big my family is! Do you know that my family is one of the top four families in Axolonia? What is your family?!" Gillian gritted his teeth.

Christina harrumphed. "Top four families in Axolonia, huh? As expected, a mere lowly family."

Of course, Christina didn't lie. Their Elseingarde and Hacfield families could literally destroy a mere top four families, since both of them had their respective Tier 9 explorers.

"Want to know our family? Heh... You're not worthy." Christina snorted.

Clovis raised his hand, stopping Christina from playing. "That's enough. We are here to gain some experience, not to argue."

"Yes, young master. Please forgive me." Christina politely lowered his head.

Then again, Clovis teaming up with Melody and Luci, who were also beautiful women, gave them the feeling of a real young master who kept flowers left and right. That was why a part of them believed Clovis was a young master of a very powerful family.

"Do you have the guts to mention your family name? Are you scared?" Gillian provoked him.

Christina wanted to say something, but Clovis stopped him once again. "There's no need to entertain a clown."

A smile soon appeared on his face, as if all that serious face was just a lie. He waved his hand at the other group, including Jay's. "Hello, guys. I'm Ivan from Frozen Crystal."

A muscular man stood up and shook Clovis' hand. "Hello. I'm Andrew from Iron Roc."

Because of Aileen's problem, Jay actually let Erwin be the group's leader. Then again, he had the highest tier, so it wouldn't be that weird for him to become a leader.

"Hello. I'm Ryan from Bloody Demon."

"Hoho. Nice to meet you guys! I'm looking forward to working together with you. Let's make this hunt a success, shall we?" Clovis waved his hand.

"You bastard!" Gillian was angry at being ignored. He tried to grab Clovis' shoulder to show him who was the boss, but all of a sudden, Christina grabbed his wrist.

Both of them glared at each other as Gillian tried to move his hand, but surprisingly, Christina didn't budge. It was as if he was trying to move a mountain.

'What is this? This bitch...' Gillian wanted to use his weapon, but Clovis' voice soon echoed. "That's enough. They're about to start."

"Yes, young master." Christina snorted and immediately dragged Clovis away to safety.

As Clovis said, a bald, middle-aged man stood on top of a platform and shouted, "Everyone. From this point onward, we shall be moving according to your respective roles and heading to the Dark Plain, where we will take down the tier 7 Elasmotherium Sibiricum. Let's move out!"

Chapter 578 Cutting a Tier 4 with a Single Swing

The groups ended up going to the trucks as they headed to the plain where the rhino was.

Gillian had been glaring at Clovis the whole time, as if he was trying to pick a fight with him. He couldn't care less about Aileen, like her opinion didn't matter.

His face was literally saying that he would be using his family and dealing with Clovis.

In another truck, Erwin was fuming. Not only did he underestimate his captain, but he also disrespected his girlfriend.

Jay simply said, "Don't mind it. You have your time to shine, so leave the first one to him."

Both of them knew that Clovis wanted to direct Gillian's hatred to himself, which he could understand. He just hated the fact he was powerless that he couldn't take that role.

Fortunately, the journey was smooth. There were some beasts, but the division in charge of protection managed to kill them all.

Eventually, they reached the plain where the Tier 7 rhino was found.

"We are about to arrive. There is an increase in the number of beasts in the area. We'll now be advancing on foot. All people, go to your respective positions." A man's voice echoed on the radio, giving them instruction.

The trucks came to a halt as the people started to go off, heading to their respective positions. With so many people, the group could advance by forming the two flanks. These left and right flanks would allow the group in the middle to advance with ease.

Clovis was stationed on the left flank with the other three groups in his division.

A Tier 6 middle-aged man came to them and shouted, "Your task is important. It is to protect the main party from all beasts coming from the left. Don't mess up!"

Gillian suddenly raised his hand and said with a smug smile. "There is no leader in this division. I can become their leader and command them so that we can move in a more organized way."

The middle-aged man could see through Gillian's intention. He simply said, "There won't be any leader in both left and right flanks. You are free to move according to your discretion."

Gillian was startled. His decision was the correct one, but why would he reject it? This was his way of showing his superiority, but how dare this man stop him?

He gritted his teeth.

Clovis, on the other hand, glanced to the middle, noticing that they were bringing out a lot of huge weapons. Considering they didn't have a Tier 7 human among them, it wasn't to use all those weapons. The Tier 6 humans would be keeping the Tier 7 rhino at bay until it was weakened enough for them to sweep in.

And to protect all those weapons and arrange them in a fight, most of them had to focus in the middle. As expected, the protection division would be taking care of their mess if they screwed up.

With this in mind, the group started to move in.

Clovis' expression turned serious. He came to Melody and whispered, "Arrange the position of our group to the front. Let Jay and the others remain in the back. With such terrain, it wouldn't be weird if there were multiple small groups encircling us, so make sure they watch out for them."

Melody nodded. "I'll instruct them secretly."

"I have told the other group to take care of the side. They're fine with us taking care of the front. After all, I am Tier 4 while Christina is Tier 5," said Luci.

"Good." Clovis nodded, satisfied.

Now that everything had been arranged, he moved his position forward, walking next to Gillian's group.

Aileen had erased her presence while secretly glancing at Clovis, ready for their little plan.

They might know or not be aware of it, but the leader of this expedition had been watching their movements the whole time.

There was a disparity between the right flank and the left flank. To his surprise, the left flank was much more organized and positioned themselves correctly.

"Hoh? Did they move according to the plan? Does that Heshton guy manage to control the division? Not bad." The leader smirked.

"According to our observation, it was not him. It was that Tier 3 guy. He was some sort of young master, but he had been talking with other groups, which made them agree to take those roles... except for that young man called Gillian." His assistant explained.

"What?" The leader was startled. "For real? I heard they were trying to send some talented people to gain experience."

His assistant could only shake his head helplessly.

"Well... We'll see it first. Here the first wave comes." The leader raised his head.

There were a hundred beasts coming to the right flank, while only fifty beasts came from the left.

Gillian couldn't help but smirk. "I have been tired of waiting!"

Seeing the beasts coming closer, he immediately jumped into the air and fell like a meteor, crushing the beast with his fist.

After that, he punched the beast to his right, killing it in a single strike. He then jumped to the other beasts, taking them out with one hit each.

"Hahahaha. No beasts are my match!" Gillian shouted while glancing to the side, trying to pick on Clovis.

Aileen and the others had to work around him, making sure there were no beasts that slipped past them.

Clovis, on the other hand, remained in his position.

Christina charged forward and stopped several beasts with her shield. When they wanted to continue, Christina banged their heads with her shield. It carried so much force that they ended up getting stunned.

After that, Luci struck them one by one, killing them at a speed not inferior to Gillian's.

"Why are you not fighting? Are you even a man?!" Gillian shouted, glaring at Clovis.

Clovis looked at him with a dumbfounded expression. Couldn't he see that they were being overwhelmed?

If not for Aileen and the others, he couldn't do anything he wanted like this.

Hence, he ignored him and pointed to the left. "Melody. Take care of the ones over there."

"Got it." Melody nodded.

Instead of fighting by himself, Clovis continued managing his group to make sure there was no gap in their defense. It frustrated Gillian so much that he realized he should punish Clovis by himself.

And the opportunity came to him when he spotted a Tier 4 boar coming toward him. He could kill it, but Gillian actually punched the boar with strength only enough to shift that direction to the side, specifically Clovis' direction.

"Oops. I didn't manage to kill it," he shouted.

"!!!" Aileen was startled, thinking about assisting Clovis.

"Maybe you should have protected him better. No, he should have been stronger. Such a man doesn't deserve to be served by you." Gillian laughed at Christina and the others.

Before Aileen could leap to Clovis, the latter let out a sigh.

"Is this... some sort of joke?" Clovis didn't mind fighting him, but he shouldn't have messed with the formation, especially since the leader wanted it and they had no captain to manage all four groups.

Clovis flicked his blade with his thumb, unsheathing it a bit. His other hand grabbed the handle and made a swift swing upward, releasing his ranged attack that now traveled far enough to cut the boar into two.

Chapter 579 Overpowered Clovis

Roar!

The boar let out its last roar before his body was split in two. The momentum carried the body past Clovis, but not a single drop of its blood reached him.

"!!!"

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

Only those from the Libation Fiesta knew the true strength of Clovis' ranged attack. However, no one would expect that the ranged attack was so far that it could split such a huge boar into two.

After all, Clovis was only a Tier 3 human. It was far too weak and young for him to wield this kind of power.

Aileen gasped, thinking, 'That guy... is much stronger now. Can others do something like that? I have seen a lot of talented people in the capital city, but no one comes close. At least when they're a Tier 3 human.'

Aileen thought that she would be able to compete with Clovis after going to the capital and letting her talent fully bloom. However, Clovis was simply an anomaly.

Aileen couldn't help but wonder how monstrous Clovis would become the moment he reached Tier 4 or even Tier 5.

The other two people in their group couldn't believe it either. They had never seen such strength in the university.

More importantly, that kind of power had just slapped Gillian on the face. The guy who he claimed to be weak actually showed a power equal to or greater than him.

"Damn. Is that guy really a young master from a hidden family?" The guys from the fourth party couldn't help but whisper to each other.

"I know, right? It's no wonder he is so strong. He is from a hidden family."

"No. It's the other way around. We are convinced that he is from a hidden family because he is that strong."

"Is this time for a conspiracy theory?"

"No way. Does he still accept a maid?"

"Can you even compete with the three girls protecting him with your dinosaur face? No, are they even protecting him? It's more like the girls are protecting others from his absurd power."

While sheathing his sword, Clovis looked at Gillian before saying in a cold tone, "If you were my subordinate, I would have executed you for insubordination, creating a ruckus in the ranks, and refusing to cooperate."

Gillian gritted his teeth. "You bastard!"

Clovis ignored him right away. Instead, he turned his head to the side, noticing the gap in their rank.

"Tina. Patch that hole." Clovis pointed in that direction. For Christina, he dropped all other letters in her name for her name.

Christina nodded and immediately left her position, even if it meant creating a hole in their rank.

After all, there was a reason for Clovis' order.

Christina blocked the smaller hole with her shield and worked together with Melody to take the enemies down.

Meanwhile, Clovis walked toward the hole Christina left. As expected, the beasts were coming toward him. There were at least eight beasts, but it didn't matter to Clovis.

When they came closer, he made another quick draw, which sent forth the ranged attack. However, Clovis used his full power aside from the Perfect State this time, releasing a ranged attack that traveled for twenty meters.

The beasts wanted to escape but failed. Six of them were cut into two horizontally and dropped to the ground.

After that, Clovis leaped to the remaining two. They wanted to fight back, but Clovis skillfully cut them down with a single swing each.

He was so overwhelming that it felt like he was actually stronger than Gillian.

He completely dominated the battlefield. In addition, he was calm enough to actually give orders to his people and other groups so that the expedition could run smoothly.

He was the complete opposite of Gillian.

When the leader saw the progress, he couldn't help but smile.

"Who is that guy? Not only does he possess a commanding ability, but his strength far surpasses his tier. This is the first time I've heard about him."

"We are unsure about it. There's no information about him other than the fact his name is Raven. I don't think it's a real name either. He must be trying to hide his identity."

The leader squinted his eyes. "Investigate him when you have the time. Make sure the other party doesn't realize it's you. If he is useful, try to think of a way to recruit him."

"Understood."

The leader then turned to Gillian. "I thought that young man was the one from the Heshton family, but it turned out that useless buffoon was the one they sent.

"They told me he was talented, but he was useless. I should tell the leader about this and file a complaint. We are here to take down a Tier 7 beast, not play around.

"Record his mistakes."

"Yes, sir." His assistant nodded.

"Still, he allowed the other two groups to actually conserve their energy so that they could switch in the middle. And with that, he could become the focus of the expedition." The leader wondered if he should meet him personally. But it would just look like he was abusing his status, so it was better to know about him first before approaching him.

After commenting on their performance, the leader turned to the other side. "Is everything fine over there?"

"Yes. The Protection Division is standing by. While all the people in the right division have joined the fight and struggled a bit, they seem to have enough skills to deal with the rest. It will just take a bit longer."

"Alright. We have to conserve as much stamina as possible."

The leader carefully led the expedition, making sure to have the people in the middle stay as fresh as possible. After all, these people were the ones who would be taking down the Tier 7 beast.

The march took more than three hours due to the increasing number of beasts as they approached the site.

And finally, they had reached the plain where the boar resided.

Chapter 580 Unicorn Rhino

After a long journey, they had finally reached the plain where the boar resided.

"We have spotted the boar in the distance. We should be able to see it soon."

The leader squinted his eyes. "I see. Prepare to fight then. Also, have you figured out that guy's identity?"

"Yes. We have sent our people there in the guise of offering some help, but from what we've heard, there was a clash before the expedition began. The one the Heshton family sent was trying to flirt with the mysterious guy's... bodyguard.

"As a result, the former tried to harass that mysterious guy, only to be slapped back. As for his identity, there's not much we can find. It's clear that he is registering a fake name. Other than the testament about him coming from a hidden family, there's no other information."

"Hidden family?" The leader looked surprised.

"Yes. Is he from a family that is filled with conspiracy theories of their strength? There are a lot of them in the world, like the one governing the economy, the one with military strength surpassing a country, and so on..."

The leader crossed his arms. "We can't rule out such a possibility. He has just unleashed a ranged attack surpassing that of a Tier 6 swordsman. While the power is not there yet, the most important one is the range.

"And he does this when he is only a Tier 3. His face has shown that he is extremely young, so he must be that talented. So, being a part of a hidden family might not necessarily be false.

"If that's the case, we can't touch him. Try to warn that guy from the Heshton family not to cause a mess that their family would have a hard time facing. For—"

The leader abruptly stopped. He noticed that Clovis actually switched with another group and changed their positions to suit their needs in subjugating the rhino.

"That mysterious kid is a freak. Don't fuck with him. For now, just let him do whatever he wants as long as it helps the subjugation."

"Understood."

Like what the leader said, Clovis actually received information from Aileen sneakily.

[Tier 7 beast ahead.]

After seeing that message, Clovis headed to Erwin's group, as well as the other group.

"Hello. Although this is a bit absurd, can you take care of my position? We are about to arrive, so we should prepare for the incoming beasts so that the main group can focus on the subjugation without worrying about their backs."

Erwin nodded. "Of course. We don't mind taking over. You have done a lot, so get some rest. I'm sure that there will be a lot of beasts coming to us soon."

"Yes. Although our group is not as flashy as yours, we are still strong enough to kill some beasts. Thanks to you, we barely had any fight, so we would definitely give it our all."

"Thank you so much." Clovis smiled. Unlike Gillian, who was arrogant, Clovis remained humble and thanked them politely as if he didn't have a special status. Erwin knew Clovis was just playing around, but for the other group, Clovis looked much more pleasing in their eyes compared to Gillian.

Both of them were strong, but their personalities couldn't be any more different.

In the end, the two groups headed to their respective positions. As Clovis expected, to avoid getting overshadowed by Clovis, Gillian didn't choose to rest. Instead, he continued on the front as though he was going to fight all those beasts by himself.

"This is getting hard."

"Yeah."

The two people in his team looked worried. They had used a lot of their stamina when coming here, so they might not be able to last long.

Aileen couldn't help but furrow her eyebrows. "Gillian. We should move back. At this rate, we will exhaust all our stamina before the subjugation ends."

"Shut up! Are you trying to order me around? Are you working together with that guy?"

Aileen looked devastated, knowing that he was already useless. "I'm merely stating the possibility that will come from our current condition."

"Shut up! No one is allowed to go back. I'm strong enough to crush them all. Not a mere coward who can't do much."

Aileen clenched her fists, wanting to break his nose. However, she let this go for the time being because Gillian would definitely receive a bad reputation from this country, which would cause a lot of problems for his family.

As Aileen said, they finally found the rhino.

The rhino itself wasn't as big as they originally thought. It was only seven meters tall, but the skin looked like it was made of a combination between metal and rock, which made it look much more solid.

The *Elasmotherium sibiricum* was often referred to as the Siberian unicorn. It was because of its massive horn.

Its weight was over ten tons. In addition to that robust build, this rhino was known for its speed, endurance, and strength. If they underestimated the beast, they would definitely fail this subjugation.

In addition, there were a lot of beasts near him, ready to intercept the humans.

As soon as he noticed the beast's movement, the leader immediately gave an order. "Spread out our men. Get ready to encircle the rhino. How is the condition of our weapons?"

"Everything looks good. We are ready."

"Good."

As he ordered, the group gradually spread out as if they were trying to trap the rhino inside.

Obviously, all the beasts were charging straight in, trying to destroy them and protecting the rhino.

However, they were intercepted by a lot of people, including Erwin and the others.

There was another reason Clovis wanted to fight first and conserve their stamina the moment they reached the rhino.

While the others were busy fighting lower-tier beasts, Clovis could actually watch the subjugation itself.

"Get ready!" The leader's voice echoed in their rank.

People were going to their respective positions, holding all kinds of weapons. However, a lot of them seemed to be holding any kind of explosives from RPGs to bombs. They were planning to use a lot of explosives to actually break through the rhino's defense.

"Interesting." Clovis smirked. "I have gone on several expeditions, but this is the first time the expedition is made for a single beast. Let's see how this turns out."