

World Mall 591

Chapter 591 Provoking Gillian

"Oh? You have come?" Erwin smiled. He stood up and extended his hand with a calm expression, even though he really wanted to punch the person before him. "To think we would actually work together again."

Gillian couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. On the one hand, it wasn't Clovis' team. On the other hand, these people were the ones fighting on the front together with them.

"Are you the people we used to work together with? The ones from the previous expedition?" Aileen raised her eyebrows, looking surprised.

"!!!" Gillian's body twitched. Even though it was better to have someone they were familiar with, this was the first time Aileen took the initiative to talk.

"Your group is extremely good. I guess we will have an easier time in taking down the Tier 6 beast this time." Aileen nodded. She wanted to smile or even chuckle due to how funny the situation was, but she couldn't do it.

"That's true. They are good."

"I know, right? We'll have an easier time."

The other two group members also agreed with Aileen.

Gillian couldn't help but grit his teeth as if he was looking at an annoying fly that kept buzzing around him.

He couldn't help but recall what happened a few days ago.

...

He was standing in front of the TV with his father's face right before him.

"Did you know that the company had filed a complaint? What the heck did you do on the expedition?! Are you trying to ruin our reputation? Do you know that we have worked hard to gain this cooperation? Are you trying to destroy our potential to develop in this country?"

Gillian looked down. He gritted his teeth before saying, "I killed a Tier 6 beast in this expedition. I contributed a lot to this expedition. It was my legal right to claim it as it was."

His father became angrier. "It was because you killed that Tier 6 beast that everything happened. How could you be so foolish? It was fortunate that those two were mature enough to realize the consequences of their anger and chose not to go through with it."

"But if they didn't, the expedition would end in failure. Not only that, but they would also lose a lot of people. When that happened, their company would go all-out war against us. They would even file a lawsuit.

"All of our efforts in expanding to this country would be useless. No, they would do everything they could to remove us from this country. In addition, they would surely use this to cause a lot of damage to our family in Axolonia.

"Just come back. You're useless! I have put too much expectation on you." His father let out a long sigh.

Gillian bit his lips. "No, I won't! I just need to finish the next mission, and everything is going to be fine. This way, we could say that those people were manipulating the battlefield, which caused the internal conflict."

His father facepalmed. "And the moment they realized it was your fault, they would definitely make it hard for the entire family!

"And what? Do you think that our family has a lot of strength over there? What if it's true that they are from a hidden family? Our information network in that country is not that great, so we can't be so sure.

"Even after searching for several days, I couldn't find anything about them. This is indeed one of the characteristics of a hidden family.

"In addition, a hidden family is powerful because they have been hiding from the public eye the whole time, maintaining or growing their strength.

"If there is indeed a hidden family in that country, they will kill you! You can imagine their strength the moment you see that young master who is only a Tier 3 but has the power beyond a Tier 5 human. Can't you see what's happening?!"

Gillian shouted back. "And there's still no proof about them coming from a hidden family! You're just paranoid. You might be scared, but I'm not!"

"You bastard!" His father's anger erupted even further the moment his problematic son shouted back at him. "Come back to Axolonia right now!"

"I won't! I will just complete this mission flawlessly and show you that you're just a scaredy cat!"

"You—!" His father pointed his finger at him, but Gillian ended the call.

...

After recalling their conversations, Gillian couldn't help but clench his hands into fists. He said to Erwin and the others in a cold tone, "Just do as I say. If any of you can't follow my command, get out right now!"

Erwin squinted his eyes. "You have a lot of attitude for someone who almost destroyed the expedition. I don't mind following a command, but if it's a nonsensical order, I won't follow it. The problem is... your command, is it a good one or a bad one?"

Gillian glared at him and approached Erwin until he was a few centimeters in front of him. "You dare to question my judgment? You're only a mere Tier 4 human."

"Yes. I dare to do it because of what you've shown. Track record is very important after all." Erwin had a smug smile on his face, showing that he wasn't scared.

"You!" Gillian grabbed Erwin's collar.

All of a sudden, Aileen grabbed Gillian's wrist and said, "That's enough. What he said made sense. There's no way they will follow an order that sends them to their deaths. However, they have made it clear that they will follow your order, so that's enough, Gillian."

"If it continues like this, we won't have anyone else to do the mission. After all, they're the only ones accepting the request after several days."

Gillian gritted his teeth. He glared at Aileen first, but after meeting her chilling gaze, Gillian snorted and turned around. "You better follow my order. If you fail, I'm going to make you pay for it."

Little did they know, Clovis and the others were actually watching their argument. Of course, Luci couldn't because she was the one driving.

"Hahaha. This is going to be hilarious. Erwin will surely provoke him all the time." Melody chuckled.

"I know, right? He's preparing for his own downfall." Christina nodded.

"Well, everything has been set up nicely. After this mission, he and the Heshton family will fall." Clovis nodded coldly.

Chapter 592 Hana's Movements

"Miss Hana. Are you really going to expand your business to other countries?"

"Miss Hana. What is the country you're looking for?"

"Miss Hana..."

The reporters were flocking around her, demanding all kinds of answers. Hana was still bound by the agreement with the government regarding the ban of selling the beast souls in other countries.

However, that was just business. It wouldn't be a breach of contract if she only made a building. The moment the agreement had ended, she could immediately start the operation.

In the end, building the laboratory and office would take some time.

And the one who suggested this was none other than her grandfather. When she told him about Nathan's request, her grandfather gave this idea without hesitation, as if he had been thinking about it the whole time.

After thinking about it, it was a rather reasonable action.

Hana turned to them and said, "Of course. The OpenSky Company will be expanding to other countries.

"After some considerations, we have chosen Axolonia to be the first country of our expansion. The person who has contributed the most to this project is also from Axolonia, and it's one of the closest countries to us.

"Hence, I don't have any reasons not to go there. We'll continue the expansion so that all the people in the world can get the power of the new beast souls just like how they have grown accustomed to the old beast soul.

"We have also received a lot of offers and are considering them positively. Unfortunately, that's the only thing I can say right now." Hana nodded to them and entered the car.

The reporters tried to get some more information, but the car had already driven away.

As she expected, the moment she mentioned anything about the expansion, the first one coming into her call was none other than the military.

"Yes? This is Hana Skylark. It's an honor to receive a call from you, General."

"Hana Skylark. What do you mean by the expansion? Have you forgotten about the agreement between us? Are you going to breach the contract?"

"Sir. Please don't accuse me of something I didn't do. I'm planning to follow the contract."

"Then why are you going to Axolonia right now? I have seen your registered entry to Axolonia."

"Can't I prepare everything before the expansion even starts? The only thing we have agreed on is that I'm unable to sell the new beast souls in other countries for a year. However, there's nothing that tells me I'm unable to prepare the building and other regulations before that time."

"You..." The general gritted his teeth. Hana wasn't wrong, but this was a little annoying to him.

"I have done nothing wrong. I will sell the beast souls only after the agreement has ended. I have the option of moving everything, especially the beast souls over there, but to avoid you using it as if I've done a transaction over there, I will bring everything except the beast souls."

Hana harrumphed. She didn't mind if she was late for a few days due to this process, but it would be clear that Hana didn't like the government for trying to monopolize the beast souls. It wasn't that she didn't want her country to get stronger, but it was annoying to get banned by her own country.

Hence, Hana didn't plan to stay silent anymore. She was scared of them before, but her grandfather had assured her that he would take care of the people on Absalom's side while she could do whatever she wanted with Axolonia.

And this was enough for Hana.

Obviously, the news became a headline not only in Absalom Country but also in other countries, especially Axolonia.

"This is..." Axolonia's president couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. "Is she really going to sell the beast souls here? Is this not a trap, considering there are some conflicts between us and the guy who provided her the beast souls?"

"It might be a trap, but from the looks of it, she still intends to sell it here, even if this is a trap. Or should I say that the business itself is the trap?"

"Nevertheless, receiving this new beast soul is good for our country. From the looks of it, she is planning to work with a medical company in our country, but we're still unsure who she will work with."

The president frowned after listening to his minister's words. "Hmm? We have two medical families in the capital. Heshton and Resshia. Which one is she going to work with?"

"If you look at it simply, Heshton is a better choice. They're bigger and have a lot more connections. The Heshton family will definitely do everything they can to secure the deal."

"Resshia is smaller than Heshton, but they haven't revealed all their strength yet. If they want to win, they have to use whatever they've been hiding this whole time. Even then, it's not guaranteed they can win against the Heshton family.

"So, I'm not sure who she will work with. After all, this project will bring so much money that it would allow the Resshia family to take over as the top medical family in the capital city.

"On the other hand, the Heshton family has to get it to avoid getting their title stripped away. This might become a little bloody."

The president frowned. "They're not mafias..." The president fell silent. "Never mind. Keep a close eye on them. If it has become too much, we will have no other choice but to step in."

"Understood."

The president crossed his arms. "Still, their families are here, right?"

"If you are talking about Jay Havenson and Kanaria Renvolt, then yes. Erwin's father is going on a business trip to another country for the time being."

The president fell into deep thought. "Do you think that her reason for choosing Axolonia is as simple as fulfilling Clovis Hacfield's request?"

"Definitely not. There might be some part that is true, but I still consider it a lie. We are unsure about what's going on right now, so we need to investigate it."

The president's expression turned serious as though he had a hidden intention in this business.

Chapter 593 Trap

Hana was looking through the city from the restaurant.

"Hello, Miss Hana." A middle-aged man approached her. He had a rather gentle face, but she could sense that underneath that suit were muscular arms. "I apologize for making you wait."

"It's fine. I just love to come thirty minutes early." Hana smiled. "You're not late either."

"Ahaha." The middle-aged man's smile became awkward. Even though he wasn't late, he still made Hana wait for fifteen minutes. "Please allow me to introduce myself formally. I am Damian Heshton. I'm currently the director of Releson Medical Center."

The middle-aged man couldn't help but feel a bit pressured both by Hana and her bodyguards.

Hana actually came with two bodyguards, considering the Heshton family could harm her if she brought any less. Each bodyguard was actually a Tier 8. Both of them looked like they had been nurtured by her grandfather.

Hana nodded calmly. "It's a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Damian. I've heard how great Releson Medical Center is. After all, it is the best medical center in Axolonia."

"Thank you very much." Damian nodded.

Hana's expression turned solemn. "In that case, I don't plan to beat around the bush. I'm planning to make a small medical center in this city. Do you think it's possible?"

"Pardon? Medical center?" Damian thought Hana wanted to use their name to create a new medical center that might rival them.

However, Hana raised her hand, implying he was wrong. She explained, "The medical center is just a term I use because there's no official term for it yet. I'm planning to create a facility that has access to three things: the operation of the new beast soul, the training center, and the removal hospital.

"As you probably already know, the operation itself won't take long, but there's a need to learn how to use it. Even if you are going to leave immediately, I think having a training center where you learn the basics from people who have experienced it and our experts is a good idea.

"In addition, the removal hospital is necessary. While it's true that people are hyping the new beast soul right now, it will soon die down, and people will start to consider other things, including the removal. I'm planning to build the facility at the same time so that people will feel relieved that they can remove it if they want to."

Damian contemplated. The plan itself was reasonable. If they could provide all that service, it meant people had no other choice but to go to them if they wanted to have anything to do with the new beast soul.

The cooperation itself would bring a lot of money. However, the biggest benefit was to have a close relationship with her and her family.

In fact, this was their original intention. They actually discussed whether they should let the young one come, considering they were trying to appeal and consider political marriage.

However, they remembered that Hana had an unknown lover who didn't come from any background.

They could claim that they were much more qualified than that person, but Clovis had a strange background that they couldn't see through.

He was either unqualified or hiding something. Before they could determine which type he was, they couldn't send the younger ones.

In other words, this was purely business conversation.

"I see." Damian narrowed his eyes. "I can understand your aim, Miss Hana. May I know the investment put into this project?"

"I will put 4 billion union dollars toward the initial investment. All I ask is the permit, land, and other operations from the Heshton family."

Damian didn't think it was bad. 40 billion union dollars was enough to build all those facilities.

On the other hand, Hana wanted their name and their connections to make everything go smoothly.

Of course, they should put some money in, but compared to her company, the cash they currently had was not much. Besides, there was a reason why the Skylark was considered one of the biggest conglomerate families. They could simply throw away all this money without batting an eye.

"I have long heard about Miss Hana's boldness. To think I would be able to experience it personally, it's really an honor." Damian smiled. "Since Miss Hana has proposed such a deal, our Heshton family can't lose either."

"We will provide an additional 15 billion union dollars. In addition, we will also do our best to ensure everything goes smoothly, including all the contracts and legal documents necessary for the process. Please don't worry about it. Our Heshton family might not be the best, but in this field, no one comes close to us."

"Hoh? Such confidence?" Hana smiled. "Still, I have heard a few controversies from time to time regarding the Heshton family. The new beast soul is rather a sensitive topic. If the Heshton family ends up in another controversy, it will be a bad start for this, right?"

"..." Damian fell silent. He couldn't really deny it. Damian nodded with a solemn expression. "I understand. Don't worry. Our Heshton family is reliable when the time comes. You won't regret your decision today."

"In that case, let's eat and continue our conversation at a later date. I will bring the contract at that time." Hana nodded in agreement.

"Yes."

Hana had brought two bodyguards, each being a Tier 8 human. However, one of them was just acting as her bodyguard. He wasn't the true bodyguard.

When the discussion had ended, this bodyguard pulled off his wig, showing the slight gray hair.

Without anyone noticing, excluding Hana, this bodyguard held a secret meeting in another restaurant, this time with a different family.

"I apologize for being late. There are a few things I need to take care of." The bodyguard smiled.

The guy bowed politely. "It's an honor to see the living legend himself. I'm the head of the Resshia family, Alegar Resshia. Nice to meet you, Sir Jeremy Skylark."

That was right. The meeting this time was actually between the competitor of the Heshton family, the Resshia family. And the one who held this meeting was none other than the one hiding his identity as Hana's bodyguard, her own grandfather, Jeremy Skylark.

Chapter 594 Beginning

A man entered a hotel with a woman like any other affectionate couple. However, unlike normal people, they were actually tailed by sneaky paparazzi, taking a picture of them.

It looked harmless at first, but the change came the next day.

All of a sudden, the news spread like wildfire.

[William Heshton, Director of Releson Medical Center, was found to enter a hotel with a mysterious woman.]

The picture showed their intimacy, which made people think about what was actually going on. If this was a normal case, they wouldn't have to bother with such news.

However, William Heshton already had two wives. With the sudden information about the 'potential' third wife or a random person, the scandal would become big, especially due to the fact that they were working with Hana's OpenSky Company.

The Heshton family and the Releson Medical Center were a hot topic in the past two days, which caused an even bigger flame the moment they heard about this.

"Is he showing off to us that after getting a project from the renowned OpenSky Company for the new beast soul, he is going to get a new wife?"

"Why doesn't he put all his efforts into the success of this new beast soul for the people and this country?"

"Has the success gone straight to his head?"

"Don't tell me. The OpenSky Company is going to accept this?"

The people were fighting on the Skynet. However, most of the comments were negative, questioning the OpenSky Company's decision to choose Releson Medical Center to build their facilities.

In fact, people pointed at the Resshia family and their medical center. Unlike the Heshton family, they didn't have a lot of scandals. Their name was much clearer and better than Releson Medical Center.

It was true that the Resshia family wasn't as big as the Heshton family, but people believed them more than the Heshton family.

Obviously, the news had reached both CEO Damian Heshton and Hana.

Hana crossed her arms while tossing the paper that contained the news on the table. "Mr. Damian. Didn't you say you would take care of the Heshton family's reputation previously? Why did this suddenly happen two days after you assured me?"

Damian's heart skipped a beat. He truly didn't expect that such a situation would occur all of a sudden.

Damian hurriedly explained, "He has already been seeing this woman for quite some time. Don't worry. We'll take care of this."

Hana glared at him. Even though she was only a Tier 4 human, her gaze was more painful than even a Tier 6 human like him.

She was judging Damian on whether he was trustworthy or not for her to hand over all that money.

Just a single word from her could create a lot of problems within the Heshton family. Even if they could defend against Hana's OpenSky Company, they couldn't fight against the Skylark Conglomerate.

Damian smiled. "Don't worry, Miss Hana. We'll take care of this."

Hana squinted her eyes. "Why did such an article appear all of a sudden? Weren't you supposed to be the number one family in the medical field? Don't tell me... Someone is targeting you or me? Mr. Damian..."

Damian noticed that she was questioning his ability. If they were indeed powerful, the people wouldn't really dare to go against them, especially with such a huge gap between them.

The fact that they dared to do it meant the Heshton family was actually just a paper tiger. They were strong on the outside, but the people who knew them more would realize they could make the Heshton family crumble easily.

If that was the case, Hana better bail out and sue the Heshton family for the damage. After all, it was the Heshton family's responsibility to make the project progress smoothly in the contract.

If Hana used it to bail out, it wouldn't count as her breaching the contract.

Damian waved his hand down, treating it as not a big deal. "Don't worry, Miss Hana. They're just jealous of us and don't want us to succeed. However, we will take proper actions to ensure that the progress goes smoothly.

"Of course, I will warn my family once again to make sure they don't make any mistakes for the time being.

"I'll immediately fix this," Damian assured Hana, stopping her from moving away.

Hana squinted her eyes for a few seconds before saying, "Fine. Do it right this time."

"Yes. Don't worry about it." Damian nodded. "In that case, I'll take my leave and fix everything."

Without hesitation, Damian walked away. He immediately made a phone call.

"Sir Damian?"

"What's wrong with that news? Xeso is affiliated with our Heshton family. Why on earth did your Xeso actually publish such an article? Are you trying to pick a fight against us?"

The person on the other side fell silent for a moment. "Mr. Damian. I don't understand what you're talking about. Let me check what's going on and get back to you."

"I don't care. Just take the news down!" Damian gritted his teeth. He actually noticed that the other party had dropped the formality as if showing that he wasn't under him anymore.

"..." Damian just hung up while staring at his Skyphone, noticing what was actually going on.

He made several calls, which completely stunned him.

For some reason, in the last two days, he realized that thirty percent of his allies had actually turned back against him.

As Hana said, this might be an attack targeting either her or the Heshton family. After all, the Heshton family's position would rise the moment the project succeeded.

However, something felt off. These people shouldn't have had the courage to go against him, but for some reason, they were actually moving away from him without anyone realizing it.

It was as if there was another person pulling the string in the shadow. Why would they attack at this time? It felt like the enemy had been pushed into the corner by the project, and they desperately wanted to take them down to stop the Heshton family's hegemony.

Little did he know, Hana was actually smiling as if she couldn't care less about the scandal.

Chapter 595 More and More Beasts

While Hana was doing her best to set up everything that could lead to the Heshton family's ruin, Clovis and the others were doing their best to make Gillian have a hard time.

"There are too many beasts coming in this direction!" Erwin shouted at Gillian while punching a beast. "Can you even change the position or send one person in this direction?"

"Shut up!" Gillian shouted back. Even he had a hard time. Unlike Clovis' group, they had a limit to how many beasts they could handle.

On the other hand, Erwin and the others were restricted due to them not using their main weapons.

Only Jay could perform like usual.

"Kh." Gillian gritted his teeth, looking around. The situation didn't look great after facing more than three hundred beasts at once. They managed to hold up, but their positions weren't great.

If more beasts came, they had to retreat.

In this situation, the one who shone the most was actually Aileen. She sneaked up on one beast after another and struck a killing blow.

With her talent in erasing her presence, she was able to hide her presence from the beasts, which allowed her to kill every single one of them without the other parties fighting back.

As a result, over 50 beasts died in rapid succession, lessening their burdens.

Still, it was quite hard due to the fact that higher tier beasts had much sharper senses. She had been targeting the lower-tier beasts, but the moment she encountered a Tier 4 beast, she couldn't kill it in an instant as the beast sensed her at the last second.

As a result, she had to correctly manage her movement, ensuring that she could flow smoothly from one place to another without getting stopped by those powerful beasts.

Of course, Aileen let out her presence from time to time. She directed her gaze straight to Gillian, as if reminding him that she would be watching her performance and telling his family about the result.

Gillian, who had to do his job perfectly, gritted his teeth as more and more beasts came.

He never thought he would be this unlucky when he was just trying to complete this one perfectly.

Little did he know, it wasn't that he was unlucky. There was actually someone who manipulated the number of beasts. And that was Clovis.

Yes, Clovis asked Christina to use her unique ability to bring the beasts toward them.

Of course, Clovis asked Melody to count the beasts and manage the team's condition, making sure that they were capable of taking down those beasts while still having a hard time.

Jay and the others had already known about this plan from the beginning. That was why Erwin decided to be annoying and continued complaining to Gillian.

Erwin was actually enjoying this fight because he could annoy Gillian, the man whom Aileen's teacher tried to match. If he could anger Gillian to death, he would be a happy man.

Jay, on the other hand, only thought about fighting. The more serious the condition was, the more he got fired up. And this time, he could finally unleash everything he had while polishing the technique he learned from Clovis.

He gradually increased the distance of his ranged attack.

Ragna never had a problem with fighting, so there was no complaint from him. The only one who had a complaint was Kanaria. Of course, Clovis would console her once they returned.

Clovis looked at the map in front of Melody while asking, "How's the situation?"

"Everything is fine for the time being. Sending more than this will make it suspicious. I suggest we let them take a break first. We have spotted another good area to trap them again. And it's close to the Tier 5 beast.

"If we tell Erwin and Aileen to conserve their strength, we can probably bring in the Tier 5 beast so that both of them can fight together. They will be happy as a couple, which will induce jealousy from Gillian. It will be hilarious to see, don't you think?" Melody smirked.

"You are getting more and more bad, you know?"

"Who taught me?" Melody harrumphed.

Clovis chuckled. She definitely picked it up from him, considering she was the one managing all his plans.

"Sure. We can do that. Please handle it properly." Clovis thought for a moment. "The closest ones to reach the next tier are Luci, right?"

"Yes. I and Ragna have become Tier 4 before we came here. I guess Erwin is pretty close to Tier 4... but Luci is much closer. No. Maybe you, Jay, and Kanaria are closer to Tier 4." Melody tilted her head.

"Mhmmm..." Clovis recalled that he, Kanaria, Jay, and Reolf were the only Tier 3 in the group. Melody, Ragna, Erwin, and Luci were already Tier 4, while Christina was the only Tier 5 in the group.

Luci and Erwin had been Tier 4 for a while, so it wouldn't be weird for them to reach the next tier at any moment. In fact, he predicted Luci would reach Tier 5 after this small expedition. Meanwhile, he, Jay, and Kanaria would reach Tier 4 before returning to Absalom.

He didn't know much about Erwin's progress.

Clovis considered it carefully and said, "In that case, we should get going. Kill as many beasts as possible. We're close to reaching the next tier, so we should take advantage of this time to reach the next tier. I'm afraid that once we're back, we'll be facing a lot of problems.

"Hana had told me that other academies had begun to make their move. The dean had warned me that they were planning to invite someone to challenge me or something.

"To have such confidence meant they would bring a famous and strong person."

Melody sighed. "It's hard to be famous, eh?"

"Hahaha. Well, isn't it fine? I'm going to be Tier 5 soon. If possible, within a year after I become a Tier 4. This way, I can meet my parents and your brother..." Clovis just smiled, not continuing his words. He couldn't guarantee it, but the intention was there. He just hoped that his mother could do something about it.

Melody smiled. "Yeah. Let's work hard. I won't slack until next year. We'll focus on killing more beasts even until you throw up after seeing so much blood."

Clovis chuckled. "Let's go."

Chapter 596 Hidden Threat

"We are about to arrive at where Jay and the others are supposed to fight their enemies," reported Melody while maintaining a close look at the radar.

"How many beasts are there?" Clovis squinted his eyes, scanning the area filled with beasts.

"About 400 beasts. However, there is a place with a higher number of beasts. It seems to be where the Tier 6 beast is located."

Clovis looked around from the top of a tree, wondering if there was something they needed to do.

"Should we help them? Although Jay is able to do it, this number is a bit too much, considering they're not fighting to the best of their abilities." Melody frowned.

Clovis thought for a moment and nodded. "Yeah. It's a bit too hard for a small group. If we are able to use everything we have, we wouldn't have to worry, but Erwin, who is supposed to be the main attacker, can't function properly.

"In this case, we should take at least a hundred beasts from here. This should be enough, considering Evelyn and Gillian are Tier 5."

Christina nodded. "In that case, I will use my Provoke to bring them away. We'll kill them and move to our own target."

"Yep."

"In that case, let's go around and pick the beasts in this spot." Melody showed a plan on the map, allowing everyone to see it.

They exchanged nods and immediately went around the area. Since the beast's territory was quite big, it took them some time to reach their target.

Melody changed their route. "Alright. We'll grab the beasts here and head north. It shouldn't be too far because the beasts in the north might come. And they're our targets, so the Tier 6 beast might notice us. It won't be funny if we get targeted by two Tier 6 beasts."

Christina approached the beasts as close as possible before activating her unique ability. She targeted the beasts in front of her, but all of a sudden, she paused.

Clovis and the others tilted their heads in confusion. Normally, the beasts would have come by now, but for some reason, Christina had yet to activate her unique ability.

"What's wrong?" Melody's voice echoed through the earphone.

Instead of answering her, Christina quietly returned to them while saying, "We've got a problem."

Clovis frowned. "You can't activate your unique ability?"

"No." Christina shook her head. "When I activated my unique ability, I could somehow target things underground."

"There are some beasts underground? Considering the scale of this territory, is there another Tier 6 beast hiding?"

"Like the one on the previous expedition?"

"Yeah."

Christina shook her head for the second time. "I could target at least a hundred of them. And that was only for the beasts near me."

"!!!" Clovis and the others widened their eyes in shock. "What did you say?"

"You didn't hear it incorrectly. There might be another nest underneath the ground. And the size might not be smaller than the one on the surface."

Clovis' expression darkened. "You're not joking, right?"

"Do you think I will joke about something like this?" Christina sighed. "This place is actually much more dangerous than we originally thought. We should warn Jay and the others and stop the mission."

"Do you think it's possible to convince that Gillian?" If that was an easy task, he wouldn't feel this troubled. After all, it would be weird if Jay and the others found out about this nest all of a sudden. And if they stopped Jay, Gillian would most likely continue, no matter the risk.

They couldn't care less about Gillian's fate, but Aileen had no other choice but to follow him.

Clovis took a deep breath. On the one hand, he didn't have time to find the location of the entrance. On the other hand, even if he found it, he might not be able to attack it right away. After all, the beasts on the surface would be aware of what was happening underground as well. If they reinforced them, the situation would go awry for both Clovis and Jay.

Hence, there was only one solution. "Christina. I will have to ask you to use your unique ability by yourself. Drag all the beasts in the surrounding area and force Jay and the others to fight them.

"Keep doing it until you buy us enough time to determine the entrance. In fact, it will be better if you can make them too tired to face these beasts and choose to rest for a few hours.

"In the meantime, we'll be searching for the entrance."

"Are you going to enter the nest? Without me?" Christina crossed her arms.

"We'll attack them together, of course, but Jay's group will be included in that plan."

"So, we'll attack the beasts underground while Jay's group takes care of the ones on the surface?"

"Yeah." Clovis turned to Melody. "Tell Jay about the situation. Even if he has to act, make sure to delay it as long as possible.

"Explain that we will have to attack together, so we need him to be our eyes and clock. In addition, during the battle, there's a high chance that the beasts from the north, especially the Tier 6 beast, will notice the commotion. As a result, they might have to fight two Tier 6 beasts by themselves."

Melody nodded while Luci couldn't help but say, "Knowing Jay's personality, won't it mean Jay will unleash everything he has from the beginning to kill as many beasts as possible?"

"Yeah. On the other hand, we don't know the scale of this underground nest." Clovis contemplated. "We don't have night vision, huh?"

Melody took out a few scopes and said, "Use these. Not as reliable and comfortable, but it should allow you to see in the dark. My senses are sharp, so I don't have this trouble."

"How come you even prepared for this thing?" Clovis couldn't help but glance at the small bag that Melody always carried on her waist with her.

"We don't have time, so make do with it." Melody shrugged and started explaining to Jay about the situation while Christina headed east.

Chapter 597 Decision

Erwin and Jay were following Christina's movement on the radar that Melody sent secretly through the Skyglasses.

When they were approaching the Tier 6 beast's territory, both of them suddenly turned around.

"Wait!" Erwin raised his voice.

"What are you doing?" Gillian gritted his teeth, glaring at Erwin. They had been stalled for a long time due to the previous attack of the beasts, so he didn't want to waste any more time.

However, Erwin couldn't help but point in the direction where Christina was coming from. "Incoming enemies."

Aileen raised her head. It would be impossible to see the incoming beasts at the same eye level since there were trees and boulders blocking their view.

Still, a group of beasts would kick up the dust on the ground, which created a dust cloud that rose up to the sky. And that allowed people to notice their arrival.

Aileen took out her swords. "Incoming attack. How many are they?"

"Calculating." One of their teams shouted while looking at the radar. "About 200 beasts."

Aileen clicked her tongue. "There are too many beasts. We won't be able to skip them and focus on our target. It will be troublesome if they end up pinching us from behind when we're focusing on the Tier 6 beast."

"..." Gillian gritted his teeth. "We—!"

Gillian wanted to continue, but Aileen was glaring at him. With the power of reporting his action, Gillian had no choice but to obey her.

Even though he was infuriated, he still shouted, "Get ready. There is no terrain to take advantage of here. We'll go into a formation and engage them first."

Erwin and the others complied. However, Erwin's team had been instructed specifically not to do anything special. In fact, they shouldn't go all out and kill the enemies as slowly as possible.

They could use the excuse of being tired to slow down, and Aileen was planning to do the same. She was their double agent after all.

"Incoming!"

The beasts pounced on them at their fastest speed.

Erwin and Jay defeated one beast at a time instead of going at their usual pace. Even Kanaria kept shooting the beast that was already dead for a bit, just to show she was trying to contribute.

Aileen killed some beasts, but if one paid attention to her number of kills, it was actually half of what she usually did.

"Kh." Gillian noticed that the group was having a hard time fighting. How pathetic! He thought.

Sadly for him, there was nothing he could do.

"Ah. We are getting pushed back!" Jay shouted, even though everyone in the team knew he was just playing around.

"Are you tired? Go back. I will try to give you some time to recover!" Erwin acted as if he was a good captain even though his true reason was to stop Jay from killing more beasts.

They might be too tired to continue their expedition today. At this rate, they would have to rest for the entire night before hitting their target in the morning.

Gillian was frustrated. After all, he was supposed to be able to finish this mission before 3 PM. Yet, it was already 2 PM, and it didn't look like they could finish it before dark.

They didn't bring equipment that would allow them to fight in the dark after all.

If Gillian continued, Aileen would report it to his family, and it would be game over for him.

On the other hand, Christina kept sending them one beast wave after another, wasting their time.

It was until Jay and Erwin determined it was enough that she finally stopped.

Meanwhile, Clovis, Melody, and Lucifania were having a hard time finding the entrance.

In fact, Luci was tasked with a different thing. Instead of finding the entrance to the underground nest, she was tasked with digging down.

She was the only one who could do it, considering her sword was big enough to act as a shovel.

Of course, she had to do it carefully since she would die if she ended up falling into the nest.

She tied herself into the tree while digging the ground as slowly as possible.

There was one simple reason.

As soon as she dug 4 meters deep, she put down the radar.

In that instant, they could find more and more signals from underneath the ground.

"Hmm..." Melody frowned. "This nest is bigger than I thought. How could one make such a big nest without collapsing? A limestone cave? It's unlikely. Nevertheless, we should be able to fight in this nest. There should be a lot of space inside, judging from the positions of these beasts.

"What do you think, Clovis? There are about 400 beasts underground. And that's what can be scanned right now. I'm assuming there are at least twice that number underground."

"Is it possible to kill a few at a time?" Clovis asked.

"Maybe. If Reolf is here, we could confirm it with him, but I can only give you my opinion from the radar alone. It's like an ant nest. There are a lot of tunnels underneath, but I'm unsure what's keeping the entire ground intact.

"Considering the surface beasts are still staying here means they should be strong enough to hold the full power of a Tier 6 beast."

"Ant nest, huh? Doesn't that mean..." Clovis frowned.

"Yeah." Melody smiled. "That's good news. Most of the time, the ant nest will only have one entrance. It means we don't have to worry about the beasts coming out of the nest and messing with Jay and the others."

"Got it." Clovis paused for a moment, thinking, '800 beasts, huh? This is still too much. While my Perfect State is powerful, its downside is that I can only activate it for 30 minutes. Longer than that, or getting frustrated in battle, will gradually turn me insane...'

"In that case, let's find the entrance and coordinate our attack with Jay. Recall Christina once she is done."

Clovis knew that at this rate, he might have to push himself.

Chapter 598 Reckless

In the end, Erwin and the others were forced to get some rest. And they ultimately weren't confident in fighting the enemies during the night.

They didn't bring proper equipment to fight in the dark, so they had no other choice but to set up a camp a bit far away from the target. They were planning to rest and attack the Tier 6 beast in the morning so that they could return to the city before dark.

It was a reasonable plan, considering their previous one was to kill the enemies before dark and camp in the place they had cleaned up so that they didn't have to worry about the enemies anymore.

Although Jay and Clovis were separated, Clovis was still conducting the meeting with everyone. This time, he included Aileen in the meeting. After all, Aileen would most likely join their group after they took care of the Heshton family.

Aileen was sitting by the campfire while the others were either on the lookout or hiding inside their tent.

Melody first reported their current situation. "As I mentioned previously, there is a nest underneath you. This nest and the Tier 6 beast's territory on the surface are most likely connected. They will help if the one on the surface is attacked.

"Hence, we will have to stop the beasts from the nest to reach your group. We have found the entrance."

"Are you going to be alright? There are only four of you there. That nest might contain another Tier 6 beast, you know?" Aileen asked, concerned about Clovis' team.

Jay and Erwin felt the same, but Clovis wouldn't change his mind after making his decision. So, there was no need to persuade him.

Clovis looked at the map while saying, "First of all, the basic plan will be attacking both the surface beasts and the ones underground at the same time. With Melody here, we'll match your time.

"It's true that the underground nest is dangerous, but you're not in the position to worry about us.

"The location of another Tier 6 beast is very close to you guys, so if you attack them, this Tier 6 beast will most likely bring the beasts to attack you guys.

"Besides, Christina and I have unique abilities, so there's no need for you guys to worry."

Jay thought for a moment. "In that case, I and Ragna will stop the Tier 6 beast. Although we're not strong enough to challenge it, we can buy enough time for you guys. Erwin should handle the rest of the beasts."

"No." Clovis shook his head. "Erwin and Aileen will kill this Tier 6 beast. Jay and Ragna will focus on keeping the rest of the beasts away from both of them as well as the main group."

"!!!" Erwin widened his eyes. "Although it's possible to kill a Tier 6 beast, I'm not using my wires, Clovis."

"I know. However, you bring your wires, right?"

"Yes."

"In that case, that's simple. Put on a performance and go to the east side of the territory." Clovis paused for a moment as Melody marked the place. "The Tier 6 beast's territory might be a plain, but not far from it is a wooded area. If you go there, you can use your threads."

"Aileen will be there to help you. You guys are a couple that can fight a much more powerful enemy when fighting together, so I will trust you guys to be able to do it. Understood?"

Aileen frowned. "But how about Gillian? I don't think he will agree."

"Provoke him. Just treat him as if he can't kill a Tier 6 beast on his own. He will be a bit reckless after that and doesn't need more help. Kanaria will help if necessary. He can't die here, but it doesn't mean he can't suffer.

"Besides, just tell him that Erwin will die if you don't help him and the Tier 6 beast will surround them, causing the expedition to fail. And he will be freed from you, so he will most likely agree to it." Clovis shrugged.

"I understand. We can take care of the Tier 6 beast on our own. Even if there are some beasts coming toward us, we can kill them as well." Aileen nodded in agreement.

"Yeah. We'll kill them." Erwin corrected her words with his usual arrogance and confidence, which put a smile on Aileen's face.

"Good." Clovis nodded. "The biggest problem will be their number. Although all of us are strong enough to handle those beasts, the number will be overwhelming."

"Don't worry about it. We'll worry about it ourselves. You should focus on the beasts underground. From the looks of it, there are at least several hundred beasts inside."

"Yeah." Clovis thought for a moment. "I already have a plan for that. If you don't have any questions or objections to the current plan, then that's all for tonight's meeting."

They exchanged looks. Not wanting to burden Clovis any more than this, all of them just agreed not to ask anything. Besides, the plan was reasonable as always.

They didn't know the plan that Clovis had in mind for the underground nest was a bit reckless, even for him.

As soon as everyone was disconnected, Clovis immediately walked to Christina, saying, "Can you do something for me?"

"Hmm?" Christina frowned. "What?"

"If I go insane, leave me there. I should be able to calm down by myself after killing all those beasts."

"Insane? Wait. Are you..." Christina gasped.

"Yeah. I will use my Perfect State from the start. The battle itself will definitely last at least an hour. I will maintain my Perfect State the whole time, so the first thirty minutes will be focused on finding the Tier 6 and killing it.

"If I show any sign of going insane, you bring Melody and Luci out. I will kill the rest of the beasts and calm down."

Christina stood up while glaring at Clovis. "No. I won't comply with your request this time. I will bring you back. That's my job. If you're going to reject it, I will tell everyone about it and force you to change your plan."

Clovis opened his mouth before scratching the back of his head. "Fine. But make sure to eliminate the beasts first before stopping me."

Chapter 599 Entering the Nest

The next day.

Clovis and his team were ready next to the entrance to the underground nest.

Melody warned, "There are at least four hundred beasts inside and we will have nowhere to run because we have to protect the entrance. At the same time, we can't really create a wall with their corpses because they might end up going to the surface on another path.

"Hence, we have to keep the flow going.

"I'm pretty sure that there are a lot of Tier 5 beasts as well, so all of you should be careful.

"For today, Clovis will go on a rampage and kill as many beasts as possible, grabbing their attention and rage. Luci will remain near the entrance with me, while Christina will be the buffer zone. You direct or even kill the beasts coming to the entrance in a way we can keep up.

"This is going to be a hard battle because none of you are able to utilize your full strength due to your current weapons. Besides, we are lacking equipment to fight in the dark.

"However, we can't really fail because those beasts will be coming directly toward Jay and the others. So, good luck."

Clovis nodded with a smile. "Yep. We won't fail. Make sure to maintain contact and coordinate with Jay's group. Tell us when we're supposed to enter."

Melody lowered her vision, focusing on the screen through the camera Kanaria had.

"We'll kill the Tier 6 beast. All of you just have to focus on other beasts." Gillian ordered in a condescending tone.

Erwin nodded with a serious expression, even though he really wanted to punch this guy's face. "Don't worry. We will kill the beasts and ensure the safety of your group. Unless you're doing something reckless, we will be able to handle it."

Gillian glared at Erwin, but Aileen glared at Gillian. She was obviously protecting her boyfriend, but Gillian thought this was a warning from Aileen to not start anything because she would report it.

Gillian clicked his tongue. "We'll begin now and finish in the afternoon. Don't be slow."

Without waiting for them to respond, Gillian had already turned around and started rushing toward the Tier 6 beast's territory.

Unfortunately, they could do nothing but follow him. It didn't take them long to reach the Tier 6 beast's territory.

As soon as they reached the small plain, they could see all the beasts scattered around the field.

Without hesitation, Gillian advanced forward.

Roar!

Roar!

The beasts let out a roar, informing the others that they were getting attacked by humans.

More and more beasts noticed them. Those who were closer immediately rushed forward. Two beasts at the very front pounced on Gillian, but the latter sped up and punched both of them at the same time. The force behind those punches was actually enough to snap the beasts' necks.

With more beasts coming toward them, Jay and the others began to spread out and kill the incoming beasts, mainly protecting Gillian's group so that they could conserve their strength to kill the Tier 6 beast.

Obviously, the ones that stood out the most were Erwin and Jay.

Jay cut down one beast after another so easily, despite being a Tier 3 human. In fact, there was a Tier 3 beast coming toward him.

Normally, it would take a lot of time for a Tier 3 human to kill such a beast. Even the talented people in the famous academies or companies would still need at least a minute or two to take a single one of them down.

Yet Jay showed that he was different. The Tier 3 beast came straight toward him, but Jay first overpowered him with his superhuman strength, tilting the Tier 3 beast's body.

After that, he made one big swing, carrying all his strength.

The Tier 3 beast tried to block it, but his blade simply cut through the claws, arms, and the body.

Gillian only snorted at his performance because he could do it too. On the other hand, the other two in his team were impressed because they didn't have prejudice or hatred toward random people.

Erwin wasn't losing either. He couldn't use his wires, but it didn't mean his fist was any less than Gillian's.

A Tier 3 beast wanted to challenge him, but it was unfortunate that Erwin was a Tier 4 human. When the beast pounced on him, he just punched the paw and overpowered the beast, knocking it down to the ground. The punch was so powerful that it actually crushed the beast's skull, ultimately killing it.

Both Jay and Erwin showed their prowess that was different from people on their level. In fact, they were actually much stronger than what they had shown so far.

On the other hand, Ragna and Kanaria were working together to handle the rest of the beasts that slipped past Erwin and Jay, allowing Gillian's group to conserve their strength.

Even though Aileen wanted to join them, she knew that it was better to observe Clovis' group as much as possible. After all, she will be joining this group soon.

While they were advancing toward the Tier 6 beast, Melody said, "They've begun and are about to reach the Tier 6 beast. The beast hasn't shown anything yet, which results in the underground nest yet to have a movement."

Clovis nodded. While fixing his night vision scope, he said, "In that case, let's begin. Inform them that we will be going in."

Christina and Luci were standing beside him while Melody positioned herself at the very back.

The moment they entered the nest, they could see a huge cave containing hundreds of beasts. It looked like a limestone cave, which was quite unique to be found near the surface that didn't seem to have much ground movement.

Nevertheless, Clovis activated his Perfect State while Christina scanned the area to get a good grasp of which enemies she should use her unique abilities on.

"We're entering the nest. Good luck, everyone."

Chapter 600 Wreaking Havoc

The moment Clovis entered the nest, he instantly activated his perfect state. As they expected, their entry immediately alerted the beasts near the entrance.

They hurriedly roared to inform the incoming intruders.

However, Clovis swiftly cut them down so that they didn't produce anything that would alert the people above ground.

Christina followed right after, securing the entrance. Melody and Luci came last since their job was to guard the entrance.

As soon as everyone entered, Clovis immediately leaped forward, heading deeper into the cave.

There were multiple beasts in front of him, but Clovis wanted to fight a bit differently this time.

There was a rat as big as a human in front of him. He could easily kill it with his ranged attack, but it would take too much stamina. After all, a ranged attack required him to condense all that momentum into a single action.

It was even more tiring if he released the longer ranged attack. However, without the ranged attack, it was quite hard to kill the beasts in a single stroke.

After all, the length of his blade wasn't enough to reach the other side of the beast's body.

Hence, Clovis cut the rat in front of him with a ranged attack, but this time, the range was barely enough to slice the body into two.

The two sides of the body fell to the left and right, creating a small gap where Clovis could slip through.

Then, a centipede wanted to stop him, but Clovis simply cut its head vertically, killing it. He didn't even cut the entire body.

Instead of continuing forward, he leaped to the right, only to meet a bear-like ground animal. Clovis skillfully sliced it horizontally, so the body fell down to the ground, allowing him to step onto it and jump into the air.

Several beasts followed suit, but the latter simply cut the one coming from the front, using its sliced body to distract the remaining beasts.

In addition, they ended up crashing into each other, which would give them quite a hard time.

"Huu..." Clovis took a deep breath. All this action required him to focus on the ranged attack. If he used too much stamina, he wouldn't last long. It would become even more troublesome if he went berserk when he was completely exhausted.

It was true that it would be easier to suppress him in that condition, but he might die without being able to control his body.

Hence, Clovis had to maintain his focus all the time.

As if realizing that Clovis couldn't be defeated through normal means, a Tier 5 beast came to stop him.

The Tier 5 beast waved its claws from the right, but surprisingly, Clovis spun his blade and let the claw slide on the blade before he flicked the sword with enough strength to knock the claws away.

As a result, the Tier 5 beast's claws ended up hitting the beast on its side, killing it.

Enraged, the beast used the other claws to hit him, but Clovis skillfully twisted his body so that he could reproduce the same thing.

"!!!" The Tier 5 beast was shocked. Clovis was actually using him to kill his kin. However, for Clovis, this wasn't an efficient method.

Deflecting an attack of a Tier 5 beast took more stamina compared to killing a Tier 1 or Tier 2 beast in a single slash.

Hence, the moment the Tier 5 beast lost a bit of its reasoning by attacking him for the third time, Clovis immediately slid down, passing the Tier 5 beast from below.

"!!!" The Tier 5 beast was shocked to see Clovis sliding underneath him. However, before he could get him, Clovis had already gotten up behind him and sliced his right leg.

"Reee!" The Tier 5 beast was screaming in pain, trying to get Clovis and making him pay for it.

Unfortunately for the beast, Clovis had already leaped into another place as if he was ignoring the Tier 5 beast.

The Tier 5 beast was fully enraged and dragged its body even without the right leg, chasing after Clovis.

Other beasts were trying to stop him, but to no avail.

The longer the Tier 5 beast chased him, the weaker it became. The right leg simply caused too much blood to flow out.

The moment he saw the speed decreasing, Clovis acted as if a beast had managed to stop him.

The Tier 5 beast instantly caught up and attacked him from behind. Unfortunately for him, this was a trap.

Clovis slid to the side and sliced his arm this time.

The Tier 5 beast couldn't react at all. In the end, the perfect state allowed Clovis to have the same physical abilities as that of a Tier 4. In addition, he was equipped with the item from the mall.

Once he had gone deep enough, Clovis immediately opened the mall's inventory. He couldn't eat before, but without anyone watching him, he stuffed some food into his mouth, boosting his physical abilities even further.

With the loss of its leg and arm, the Tier 5 beast had already lost the ability to move around as much as it liked.

Clovis immediately swung his blade diagonally. The Tier 5 beast put his remaining arm and claws in front, but Clovis unleashed his full strength with the addition of the food boost.

The arm and the claws could only last for a second before Clovis cut through it and continued to its chest.

The beast opened its mouth, trying to let everyone know, but Clovis didn't give it that chance and simply cut the Tier 5 beast in two.

Several beasts around him came to avenge the Tier 5 beast at the same time, but Clovis skillfully scanned their movements in his perfect state and cut them down in rapid succession.

As expected, he could hear a lot of rumbling sounds as the beasts were coming toward him.

'I have caused enough ruckus. It's time to move to a different spot...' Clovis couldn't help but glance, noticing a threat coming toward him. This presence was actually stronger than the Tier 5 beast. No, it was more accurate to say this presence was similar to the mole he and Christina killed previously.

'So, even a Tier 6 has come. That's good. I don't have to worry about The Tier 6 beast when I go berserk as long as I kill it now...'