

## World Mall 61

### Chapter 61 Clovis's Choice

"Here you go." Clovis brought a huge plate with the cockatrice nuggets. Early in the morning, he went to the convenience stores to buy all kinds of things to accompany the nuggets and ice cream.

Since he had seven item limits, he bought four cockatrice nuggets and three minotaur ice creams. He wanted to test whether they would notice it or not, since he had prepared several excuses to fool them for the time being.

While waiting, Kanaria was compiling their files and missions. Before they started eating, she showed the recommendations to Clovis.

"By the way, what do you think about this person? I asked my mother yesterday, but she said that while her character was questionable, her skill was pretty high." Kanaria asked, showing the information.

"Hmm?" Just like Kanaria, when he saw the recommendations of the other two people, it was quite impressive. But when he reached the third one, he couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows.

"Well, you're going to choose our operator. So, you can take your time. At least, we have to give an answer before twelve."

Clovis thought for a moment. "Can you ask her this question? If she is lazy, doesn't that mean she is useless? If she answers with 'No,' accept her. If her reply comes in the form of an explanation, I'm going to pick the other two. Anyway, you can talk to her for now."

I'm going to the convenience store to buy some stuff."

Kanaria tilted her head in confusion. She didn't expect that Clovis had another opinion about this person.

Then again, Clovis had made a decision, so it would be better to test it.

This was the first time he ate something that needed to be cooked. Before, all the canned food from Another World Mall tasted quite the same. But considering this was Tier 1, he expected that it would be either better or worse.

That was why he was the first one to grab the nugget to taste it. But the moment he bit it, Clovis couldn't help but widen his eyes.

"Mhm?!" Clovis looked at it for a moment, thinking, 'Delicious. What the hell? The texture itself was similar to that of chicken but more tender. There was a burst of flavor as well that lingered in my mouth. Is this really the difference in meat quality? If Tier 2 food will be more delicious than this, I wonder how the taste of dragon's meat will be when I reach Tier 8 or Tier 9.'

"The hell? Since when did chicken nuggets become this good?" Jay raised his eyebrows. Even Kanaria covered her mouth in disbelief.

"What's wrong? Did the young master not have any chicken nuggets back home? Well, you must have a personal chef working in your mansion." Clovis smirked, teasing Jay.

Jay looked away, not being able to deny it. Kanaria was the same since both of their families were at the same level.

"We do cook some monster meat, but I often sneak out to grab some fast food, you know. It's just a guilty pleasure." Jay stuck out his tongue.

"Hahaha." Clovis chuckled. As expected, the cockatrice nuggets became popular as they kept grabbing one after another as if the others were trying to steal from them.

Without realizing it, they had eaten all the nuggets.

"Damn. That's not enough." Jay sighed, feeling a bit disappointed even though he was the one who ate the most.

"Well, I can always restock it. Or we can always gather here in my house to cook it. This way, you don't have to deal with your family's food."

"Sounds good." Jay nodded in agreement. "But it seems that my dad urged me to go back. I somehow don't want to go back, but he is saying that he will come to this place if I don't return. So, sorry... I'm not going to stay over today."

"That's fine. Family is important." Clovis waved his hand as if it were not a big deal. Although his parents and grandfather were still alive, he couldn't meet them. So, he actually supported Jay if he wanted to go back.

Meanwhile, Kanaria received the reply to the question earlier. "She replied with 'No.' That's all. It's like what you said, Clovis."

"Alright. We will hire her then."

"Still, I can't understand why you want to hire her if that's her answer. Is there a catch here?"

"If she is truly lazy, then she won't bother to explain it. In other words, her ability should be like what your mother vouched for. If she is going to explain her laziness, it's fake laziness."

"That's why I asked whether she was useless or not. If she is not useless, she must have done the bare minimum of the jobs. So, the rest of the consideration is about her tier. Tier 2 humans should be able to protect themselves."

"Oh!" Kanaria nodded in understanding. "But the bare minimum, huh... Shouldn't we take the proactive one?"

"Not really. More often than not, the proactive ones are bound to mess up in one way or another. After all, they might do something they are not confident in." Clovis shook his head.

"Oh!" Kanaria thought for a moment. "Meanwhile, the lazy one doesn't do anything they are not confident in. And when needed, they might do things one step further since it's still within their capability. In the end, they only complete the bare minimums."

"Yup. That's the reason why I want to get her."

Kanaria nodded in understanding. "I have sent the request to her. We should be able to get a response soon. I'll also ask her about the devices that we need for the next exploration."

"In that case, I'm going back now. I have to undergo numerous scoldings after this." Jay sighed.

"Hahaha." Clovis chuckled. "Sure. If you need anything, you can call me. I will do my best to help you."

Kanaria also stood up while saying, "I'm going to send all the mission's details later. Since this is the first time we're fighting on the surface, I hope that everyone can go through the details."

"Got it." Clovis nodded and walked with them outside. It was only for a day, but the loneliness he had suffered in the last year had been erased. There would be more opportunities like this anyway. "Good luck."

"See you tomorrow, Clovis."

Chapter 62 Havenson and Renvolt Families

Havenson Family.

Jay was standing outside, a little bit hesitant to come over. However, the door was actually opened from the inside.

And the one who opened it was a middle-aged man. He had a big, muscular body. He had a big scar on his left eye that made it blind. His spiky, short hair and wrinkles increased the intensity of his gaze.

"Geh. Old man." Jay took a step back in panic. He never thought that his father would be the one to open the door.

"So, you know how to come home." The middle-aged man squinted his eyes.

"Well, you said you'd come if I didn't go back." Jay harrumphed while looking away.

"Come in." The middle-aged man opened the door wide and took a step back so that he didn't block the way.

Having no choice, Jay entered his house nonchalantly. But before he could step inside the house, the middle-aged man suddenly stopped while raising his voice. "Oi!"

"What?!" Jay frowned.

"Take off your shoes and put on the slippers. It's bad manners! Did you do this at your friend's house as well?"

"I cleaned it later..." Jay looked away.

"It was because you were too strict that he ran away from home." A feminine voice echoed from behind the man.

"Mother." Jay politely nodded her head.

"Vania had told me about your group. Your dad and I have talked it out and decided to allow you to do whatever you want."

Yes, these two were Jay's parents: Nick and Laura. Jay scratched the back of his head. "Mhmm... But you should have heard about what happened during the competition, right?"

"Indeed. You don't have to think much about it. We have shown our stance to the Drake Group and the Rusth Family. For the time being, you should be pretty safe. But if they're going to make a move, it's probably during the raid next month."

"Next month..." Jay looked down.

"That's enough." Nick raised his voice again and glared at these two. "If you want to talk about it, don't do it at the front door."

"..." Both Laura and Jay were looking at him dumbfoundedly. Before they realized it, they had moved to the living room to make them feel more relaxed. He had even asked the maid to bring out the tea to soothe the tension.

After that, Nick looked at Jay and opened the talk with, "Don't you have something to say to me and your mother?"

"!!!" Jay's body tensed up as he couldn't help but look down. "I'm sorry... for running away from home."

Nick then closed his eyes for a moment and said, "Alright. Apology accepted."

"Eh?" Jay raised his head, expecting a lot of lectures. However, Nick actually dropped this matter right away.

"If you do something wrong, it's only right to apologize. That's all. Or do you want me to slap or beat you?"

"N-no." Jay shook his head furiously.

"Then, that's settled. Also, don't cause inconvenience to your friends."



Laura couldn't help but chuckle, looking at Jay's reaction. "Your father is always misunderstood because of his stern face. But his intention is good. It's important to have good manners and not cause others problems."

"I know." Jay nodded, feeling bad about it.

"Then, that's all we need to talk about." Laura ended this matter with a smile. "As for the competition, the other party is in the wrong. For now, Vania has the recording, so they should stop them for a bit. Is there anything you want to talk about?"

Jay looked down, pondering. There was no way he would talk about the Hacfield family and the things he had received from Clovis. However, he thought he still needed to say this one. "I have become a Tier 1 human."

"That's good. Have you got any beast souls?"

"Yes. It's from a dire wolf, allowing me to increase my speed."

"That suits you very well."

"That's enough. You shouldn't ask him too much. He should be very tired. It's better to let him take a bath first or rest or it will make him tense." Nick tried to stop her, but Laura simply replied, "It's your face that makes him tense."

"..." Nick fell silent while Jay gave a wry smile.

"Well, it's not like your father is in the wrong. So, get some rest first."

Although it was slightly different, they were still his parents. There was no way they wouldn't show any care for their son.

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Renvolt Family.

Unlike Jay, Kanaria was busy with all the work.

"This and that. We also need these things." Kanaria was ordering a lot of stuff by herself. After a warm welcome from her mother, she instantly returned to her work mode.

In the past, Kanaria had been helping the group with all this stuff, but she rarely worked this hard. Even when she returned home, she would just throw away her tab to get a good rest.

Yet, with this new group, she became a workaholic. How could she not? When she was with the group, Jay continued training as if he were being possessed. Clovis might not be the same, but it didn't change the fact that he still utilized that time to come up with a good plan for the group.

It was she who usually had the least work among the three. That was why whenever it was preparation time, she always worked this hard.

At the same time, this also showed her desire for the group.

Vania could only smile from afar, watching her daughter like this.

"What do you think?" Vania asked a man similar to her age.

"If that's her choice, then so be it. The only problem will be the elders of the family. I will try to find a way to shut them up without disclosing that kid's identity. As for outside matters like the Drake Group and the Rusth Family, you should be able to handle them, right?"

"Of course. It's time for the young bird to fly, so I won't let anything happen to her and her group."  
Vania smiled.

Finally, after a full rest day, the group could explore the ruined city on the surface.

Chapter 63 A New Operator

"Have you got a good night's sleep, Jay? It's going to be a tough few days." Clovis waved his hand, watching Jay drive the car toward him.

The car was normal. It wasn't modified in a way to fit more people or contain a lot of weapons. It looked like a Jeep, which was quite useful in hard terrain. Considering there would be a lot of ruins, this car should be enough to push some midsize rubble and cross over rocky areas.

The only modification that the car had was probably the engine. No matter how cool it was to have a roaring engine, they were going to hunt, so a loud engine was just going to attract those beasts.

It seemed that they had also packed up all the equipment they needed for this exploration.

"Yup! I'm pumped up for this." Jay peeked out the window while waving his hand. After resolving the matter with his family, it seemed that Jay became a bit more cheerful.

Kanaria was sitting in the front seat since she was the one doing the navigation. Meanwhile, they had to wait for their operator to arrive.

But to their surprise, the operator had yet to come even though the time was approaching.

"Have you told the operator that we are going at eight?" Jay asked Kanaria while furrowing his eyebrows.

"Yeah. I've told her about the time. Kh. Don't tell me, she is going to be late." Kanaria gritted her teeth.

"Well, well... It's going to be fine." Clovis waved his hands, treating it as nothing bigbiting.

"You can't be too lenient toward her, Clovis. If you don't force her, she will definitely slack off during our exploration." Kanaria sighed.

"It's going to be fine." Clovis smiled. "She should be on the way."

As they waited, they kept wondering when this person would come. Kanaria was biting her lips. The group had never been late. In fact, they usually came thirty minutes earlier.

When Kanaria was about to blow out, they soon noticed a car coming in their direction.

"Is it her?" Clovis turned around, wondering who would come out of that taxi.

It seemed that she was the person they were waiting for. She had long brown hair and sleepy eyes.

She was wearing a sleeveless white shirt and a skirt as if she were telling them that she didn't intend to partake in the fight.

Her appearance looked much younger than they expected. But according to her information, she was actually four years older than them.

On the one hand, it was amazing to become a Tier 2 human at twenty years old. On the other hand, compared to the real geniuses with a high evolution rate, she was much slower than them. People like Clovis, Jay, and Kanaria should be able to become Tier 2 humans before they are 17 or 18 years old. So, they were most likely to become Tier 3 humans before twenty years old.

Still, Clovis believed that she was still higher than average.

She noticed Clovis standing outside the car, so she immediately walked to him.

"Hello, are you our operator?" Clovis asked while extending his hand.

"Mhmm." She nodded her head before shaking his hand. "Melody. Pleasure working with you, Clovis."

"Oh." Clovis was surprised that she was more direct than he expected. It seemed that she didn't want to waste her time with normal pleasantries.

Clovis glanced at her backpack and asked, "Do you need me to place the backpack on the back side?"

"No. It will stay beside me."

"Alright. Since it's past the time, we should head out immediately."

Melody agreed with him and immediately walked toward the Jeep, entering it casually as if she hadn't done anything wrong.

Clovis was coming from the other side, getting greeted by Kanaria's rant. "You are late."

Both Clovis and Melody actually said the same thing.

"I (She) did not."

"..." Kanaria raised her eyebrows when she heard Clovis was protecting her. Meanwhile, Melody was looking at Clovis in shock.

"Clovis?"

"Well, she technically wasn't late. Or you could say, she was about thirty seconds early." Clovis gave a wry smile, trying to stop the conflict.

"Mhmm." Melody nodded her head in agreement. To think that she would meet someone who understood her. Melody looked at Clovis with a new impression before Clovis smiled back.

At first glance, it looked like Clovis was just being gentle with her and helping her avoid unnecessary arguments. However, Clovis actually used this chance to give out a warning.

His expression turned dark and his smile felt like he was about to murder someone. He said it with a playful tone. "I don't mind if you want to slack off or anything. In fact, you can do it openly and I will reprimand everyone who is getting bothered by that."

"Clovis?!" Kanaria widened her eyes, not believing what she had just heard. Jay was focused on the road, but he was listening carefully. It didn't seem that Clovis was playing around this time.

"It's just... when everyone is tired, I'm going to make you work for what I have paid for." Clovis's message was simple. He didn't restrict her or reprimand her, but he would definitely get the service he paid for.

Melody didn't know why, but she felt chills down her spine. She had handled people like Kanaria, who would pick a fight with her every time, or people like Jay, who didn't look bothered but would get annoyed sooner or later.

However, this was the first time that she had met someone like Clovis. He looked like he was someone who understood her. No, it might be because of that very reason that he knew how to handle her.



"Laziness is not a problem as long as you are useful. I hope you don't think that you can do anything you want simply because you are a Tier 2 human." Clovis sighed. In the end, he had to act tough because the other party could look down on them as a higher-tier human.

It seemed that his message was pretty effective, as Melody said, "Don't worry. I will work for my pay."

#### Chapter 64 A Deal

The road from the previous civilization was still intact, even though most of the infrastructure, like freeways, had been destroyed. They had also done a lot of work pushing away all the remaining cars and other scraps off the road.

In fact, a lot of them had been taken back to the city to be recycled into another item.

So, there wasn't much left to plunder on the road.

Of course, they often heard about bandits that had been hiding in the ruined cities, raising explorers. However, the city had done a lot of work in eradicating all the bandits near their base.

As a result, the bandits usually only appeared far away from the city.

Clovis couldn't help but look at this desolate road in reminiscence.

...

A year ago.

"Evacuation!"

"Send the truck away."

"Mama!"

"Don't leave me."

"No!"

The situation was chaotic as the city was overrun by the beasts. There were a lot of evacuation buses and trucks, but a lot of them were attacked by the beasts.

Clovis was in one of the evacuation trucks, hiding his face while trying to hold back his tears.

"Open up the way!"

"Oh!"

It was the voice of his parents. That was right. The moment the city gates were destroyed, his parents immediately began the evacuation.

They were doing their best to escape from the city. Unfortunately, it was impossible.

\*Roar!\*

A deafening roar shook the entire city. Even Clovis had to close his ears if he didn't want his eardrums to explode.

"Not good. It's a Tier 8 beast. How come there is a Tier 8 beast in this place?"

"That's not important. There are more and more beasts around that beast. I am going to stop that Tier 8 beast. You go protect our child!"

"No. I have to remain here and distract the enemy. If not, they are going to keep chasing us."

"Hurry!"

That was the last time he heard from his parents. They were coordinating with the city guards and the envoys to evacuate all the people. Their sacrifices were admirable, but in the end, they would end up leaving Clovis alone.

He didn't know how they did it, but from there, Clovis realized that the city might fall because of the Hacfield family. No, it was more accurate to say that they were solely aiming for the Hacfield family, the city was simply on their way.

Clovis kept biting his lips. He didn't know his parents' conditions at that time, thinking that they would catch up to him.

On the way, he could only look at the desolate road with an empty gaze, hoping to see his parents again.

Unfortunately, they had never come. Even when he reached the new city and settled down in a house they privately owned, they never returned.

Just like that time, Clovis was staring at this road once again. This time, he was a full-fledged explorer and he knew that his parents were still alive out there.

Although he couldn't meet them, he still had the chance to reunite. There was also the mysterious enemy that was capable of bringing a beast wave with a Tier 8 beast at its helm.

'Becoming stronger together, exploring the unknown, finding the truth about the mysterious enemies, and reuniting with the whole family. There are a lot of things I want to do before becoming the greatest explorer.'

Clovis clenched his fists before letting out a sigh. He shouldn't think much about this and focus on the mission first.

"By the way, Kanaria. Our destination is Severen City, right?"

"Yes. According to our information, it's now known as Tier 3 Danger Zone, Severen Fallen City. The king that rules the city is a Tier 3 Proconsul. But it's usually staying in the center of the city, while our target is a mutated Tier 2 Thylacoleo. We don't know about its exact location, but it's a hunter, so it's usually staying on the outskirts of the city to find humans to hunt."

"So, we will go around the city?"

"Yes." Kanaria nodded.

Suddenly, Melody tugged on Clovis's arm while showing him a projecting device. As soon as she activated it, a 3D model of the fallen city appeared.

"This is..." Clovis sucked a cold breath while Kanaria took a peek at what was going on.

"This is the model that I got after collecting all the data I have regarding the city. If I'm not wrong, you are planning to hunt other beasts as well, right?"

"Yes."

"Do you want to have a trade? If I give you information about other beasts, especially ones related to missions from the association, give me more commissions."

Clovis looked a bit surprised and asked, "Kanaria. Let me see the mission post again."

"Here you go." Kanaria projected the mission post so that everyone could see it.

Mission: Mutated Thylacoleo

Description: Hunt the Tier 2 Mutated Thylacoleo in the Tier 3 Fallen City, Severend. The beast has distinct purple horns as a result of the mutation. The requester also has the priority to buy the essence and beast soul.

Reward: 20,000 Union Dollars.

The mission itself didn't generate a lot of reward, but if they actually sold the essence as well, it could reach fifty thousand, let alone if there was a beast soul.

"Hmm..." Clovis took a look at the mission before asking, "Why do you propose this trade? Aren't we just Tier 1 explorers?"

"You should include the troublemaker accident where a group of three defeated a Tier 2 snake while they were only Tier 0 explorers. From the looks of it, all of you have become Tier 1, so there should be no problem in killing a few Tier 2 beasts."

Clovis thought for a moment. "10% of the reward?"

"It's too little. I need at least 40% since I have put everything into my database, especially the missions. You can exchange it once we return."

"15%. 40% is simply too much since we're the ones doing the fighting. Besides, the hiring contract is per day, so we might stumble upon them in one way or another."

"30%. With my help, you can get more money than you can imagine. Earning a hundred thousand shouldn't be that easy with my help. In fact, my estimate is that your group can earn two hundred thousand. So, giving me 30% of the mission reward shouldn't be a problem, right?"

Clovis thought for a moment. "Fine. 30%. However, we are the ones getting the essence and any beast soul may drop."

"Deal."

## Chapter 65 Testing the Operator

"We are about to arrive in a few minutes. I think you should be able to see the city soon," said Kanaria while looking at their GPS.

"What radar do you have?" Melody asked.

"The standard type with a 100-meter range," replied Kanaria while glancing at Melody's expression. She was still a bit frustrated by her character.

"Other equipment like the skyglasses?"

"We have the skyglasses, radars, infrared sensors, and trackers."

Melody searched for something in her bag before opening the window. It was a dome-shaped item that looked like a transmitter. She placed it on top of their vehicle.

"Where are the items? I'm going to fine-tune them now and match them with my device."

"Now? Not when we arrive?" Kanaria furrowed her eyebrows.



"Normally, there would be some beasts hiding around the gate. So, I'm going to synchronize your equipment first so that we're ready for combat at any time."

Kanaria looked at Clovis, unsure whether she should do it or not. But with a nod from Clovis, Kanaria said, "It's in the blue bag on the back of your seat."

Clovis immediately grabbed the bag and opened it, showing all the electronic equipment to Melody.

Melody, who had been sleeping the whole time, instantly worked on everything.

"Two radars, three sky glasses, dozens of infrared sensors, and a few trackers, huh?" She thought for a moment. "I don't need the trackers. So, I will just adjust the others with mine."

Without hesitation, she threw away all the trackers to Clovis and immediately picked up the rest. She tapped on her device, projecting multiple screens.

Clovis was completely astounded by all this. All he could do was watch Melody do whatever she wanted for several minutes before handing the three skyglasses to Clovis. "Here you go. Wear it all the time. I will send the information regarding the beasts and their location. If needed, I will show the map and even the route for you.

"Since the two of you are close combat fighters, you only need one radar. The sniper girl will bring the other radar, even though I personally wish to have more radars. Anyway, bring a few infrared sensors with you since they're going to be useful. I will show you the locations to place them."

"O-oh?!" Clovis nodded and just shared the equipment with everyone.

Clovis wore the skyglasses that had been equipped with a headset so that they could communicate easily.

"Do you have enough battery if I ask you to turn it on the whole time?" Melody asked.

"We have more than enough." Kanaria nodded while receiving the skyglasses, wondering what she could do with them.

Curious, Clovis activated the skyglasses to see what she was talking about. It had been equipped with a camera, so Melody could see what was going on the whole time.

At the same time, due to the skyglasses, he could see a few holograms that had been designed for them.

"Are you going to place the radar on the bottom?" Kanaria asked, thinking this was the standard.

Melody sighed. "Yes, but you don't have to focus on the radar. I will be the one monitoring it while updating the information. If requested, I will create a path for you.

"If we have more radars or an advanced one, I can probably give you detailed information, especially their elevation. But we only have one, so I will use the pillar style. That pillar will indicate the location of the beasts, but be careful since it can be above or underneath you."

This was the first time Clovis fought together with an operator, so he was quite curious what she could do.

"Guys. The city is in sight." Jay, who had been silent the whole time, finally opened his mouth while pointing forward.

Clovis furrowed his eyebrows. It was only the city wall, but he could see all the destruction it had.

A part of the wall on the left had crumbled and the beasts should be able to come back and forth through that wall.

"I have one last thing to say." Melody raised a finger. "You guys have enough fuel, right? I am going to stay inside the vehicle the whole time and if you need to move, you have to bring this vehicle along with me. I'm not planning to waste my energy running."

"..." Kanaria's eyebrows twitched, but Clovis immediately stopped her by saying, "Of course. It's great that you make it clear right now. While we will try to protect you, there is a chance that a beast can pass through..."

"If that's the case, I will do my best to defeat them even though I don't want to. Besides, it will be troublesome for me if the car is destroyed." Melody nodded her head.

"Alright. That's enough. As the captain here, you have my permission." Clovis nodded with a serious expression.

"Then, I will update the information on your glasses." Melody typed a few things on her device before suddenly a few light pillars appeared in their vision.

"This is...." Clovis raised his head, looking at these pillars. According to Melody's explanation earlier, they were supposed to be beasts. "Six beasts? Two groups of three. They are probably the same species."

Kanaria took out the binoculars and said, "I have found the first group. Hmm... Are they hyaenodons?"

"Jay, slow down the car. I will go forward. Kanaria, back me up."

"Roger." Kanaria and Jay acknowledged the order. Kanaria rolled down the window and went to the top of the car while bringing her bag. She hurriedly assembled her weapon while Clovis grabbed his weapon before jumping off the vehicle.

Since it was going extremely slowly, Clovis sped up and ran much faster than the car.

Before Clovis reached the enemies, Kanaria had finished assembling her sniper rifle and aimed at them.

"On position," Kanaria reported.

"Shoot them right away. I will take care of the rest." Clovis smiled. This was the first time he fought with an operator, so he wanted to see the magic of an operator like the others said.