

World Mall 611

Chapter 611 Downfall

"What do you mean by this, Hana Skylark?" Damian gritted his teeth.

"Hmm? I don't know what you're talking about." Hana tilted her head in confusion.

"Don't play dumb. We don't have a grudge against each other. Why would you sabotage us?"

Hana shook her head. "What do you mean? I'm not sabotaging you. Why would I sabotage you? All I want is to complete my project. After all, this will bring me money. That's all. Why are you accusing me? I'm disappointed in you."

"I told you. You don't have to play dumb anymore. I already know everything. Your grandfather is not in your country. One of the two bodyguards that comes here is your grandfather in disguise.

"I know everything, Hana Skylark. You are working with the Resshia family to harm the Heshton family.

"We don't have a grudge between us, so why would you harm us?"

Hana fell silent for a moment, as though she was feeling guilty. However, an evil smile appeared on her face as she said, "There really is no grudge between us. You're nothing but collateral damage. Though I've been hearing a few bad things about your son."

"!!!" Damian raised his eyebrows. He was furious when Hana admitted it. However, what made him even more curious was why Hana mentioned his son.

Damian had two sons and two daughters. The first son was leading the company well enough while his second son was more talented as an explorer.

Neither of them went to a place where they were supposed to meet Hana. He had never heard anything about them clashing with Hana Skylark.

Obviously, as the sons of the influential families, they shouldn't behave badly toward an important person like Hana.

So why would she mention his son?

"What do you mean?" Damian frowned. "I don't understand what you're talking about. My sons have never crossed paths with you before."

"Not me, of course. I told you, right? You're just collateral damage." If this was not a personal request from Clovis, she wouldn't do something like this. After all, no one really wanted to destroy such a big family just because of an arranged marriage. The best they would do was cancel the arranged marriage.

That was why she noticed that Clovis was much colder to his enemy than she originally thought. Considering he was the grandson of the madman, the person that the world feared the most due to his unpredictable mind and boldness, Clovis being ruthless wasn't that weird either.

Of course, Clovis must know that the reward he promised her was not enough. The only reason she agreed to it was because Clovis had things out of this world.

Those paintings, artifacts... there might even be more things he had kept hidden from her.

Showing that she would support him, even to this extent, would definitely gain his trust. In the future, if he ever wanted to sell those magical items, she would be the first one to be considered.

Hence, she took the risk of eliminating the Heshton family for him.

When she brought this up to her grandfather, the latter actually supported her. In the end, the support of a Tier 9 family was something everyone desired, but not anyone could get it.

Even Christina's family gained complete control over a single tower. That alone allowed them to gain a lot of resources, from materials to essence, let alone the money it would bring.

It was impossible to attach themselves to Michael Hacfield, but Clovis was different. If they didn't take that chance, anyone would definitely steal it from them.

Hana's expression turned solemn. "I've heard that your son has been trying to harm my man. He's so annoyed that I can't help but crush you."

"Your man?" Damian raised his eyebrows in shock. He knew Hana must be talking about Clovis, but why and how?

"What did he do? My son had never done anything to your man when he was in this country, let alone when he was in another country!" Damian slammed the table.

Hana shrugged. "That's all I can say. It's unfortunate for you, but there won't be a Heshton family in this country anymore."

"You..." Damian's expression darkened. "I will give you one last chance, Hana Skylark. Do you think you can get away with all this without paying any price? Do you think my Heshton family is easy to bully?"

Hana raised her eyebrows. "What?"

Damian took out a recording he had hidden in his pocket. "I have recorded all our conversations this whole time."

"You..." Hana took a step back in shock.

"Hahaha. I can always drag you down with me. I will give you one last chance. Apologize to me and marry my son and I will let this go."

"You..."

Looking at Hana's reaction, she definitely didn't see it coming. Just the pale face alone was enough to make him happy.

However, Hana suddenly smiled while saying, "In that case, just release it. That is... if you can record our conversation, that is. To think that you would be this foolish. I expected more... I guess the rest of my plans are ruined because of your foolishness."

"!!!" Damian glanced at his recording. It was still recording, but Hana simply took out another device. "Did you forget what my grandfather's business is? We have the technology that jams the ears of those who have a brain affinity to avoid getting spied on. Why do you think we don't have a jamming device for recording? Ah... I really like when my opponent is a businessperson. We aren't that keen on staying on our phone during a meal with our business partner. That's why they won't notice anything."

"!!!" Damian took out his Skyphone and even his Skywatch, realizing that none of them had a signal.

He then turned to his recording and checked it, only to find there was no sound being recorded this whole time.

"You..." Damian's face turned pale. He rushed to Hana and tried to grab her device, utilizing his Tier 7 strength. "Give me that!"

Hana skillfully took a step back and tilted her hand backward so that Damian only managed to grab her wrist. Then, she screamed, "NOOOO!"

In that instant, her bodyguard entered and pushed Damian to the side, protecting Hana, who was shivering as if she was scared.

And there was yet another trick behind her action. That was the hidden journalist she hired, which would lead to the destruction of Damian's reputation along with the Heshton family.

Chapter 612 Secrets

The aftermath of such an incident was huge for the Heshton family.

The moment the citizens saw how Hana was being treated, the people blew up.

"What is going on? The Heshton family was forcing her to sign something?"

"Damian Heshton must be pressuring her, thinking this country is their turf."

"Did they think they're above the law?"

"What will happen after this? Don't tell me. Would Hana Skylark pull out the investment? The new beast soul is extremely useful. And our country is the first one to receive it, other than Absalom."

"No way. The Heshton family must pay the price for this."

The people were angry, throwing insults after insults at the Heshton family. The Heshton family could usually suppress them by manipulating the media, but the scale of the attack was simply too big.

In addition, Jeremy Skylark and the Resshia family had cooperated with each other. Obviously, they knew where they should target their first strike.

Before everything blew up, they had actually worked together with several media. With such a huge scoop, the people would be happy and they would gain the favor of the Skylark Conglomerate.

In addition, more and more people were leaving the Heshton family's side. As a result, the Resshia family gathered them to make an alliance to take down the Heshton family.

While it was true that the plan worked wonderfully, they were possible due to the bad reputation that the Heshton family had.

Of course, the Heshton family would never go down without a fight. They immediately published the picture of Jeremy coming to the Resshia family, claiming that they were plotting against the Resshia family.

It would have been a good counterattack, except for the fact that their weapon was something Jeremy already knew. In fact, he was the one allowing them to get that information.

"I have never really hidden myself. Unlike my granddaughter, who has come here once, I have never really visited this country, so I tag along to see what kind of country this is.

"While looking around, I stumbled upon the Resshia family. After looking at the Resshia family and the Heshton family on the Skynet, I have asked my daughter to look at another potential business partner.

"Unfortunately, she kept saying that the Heshton family was a better choice. Hence, I didn't attend the second meeting onward because of our disagreement.

"Look at now. She ended up getting betrayed and threatened by the Heshton family. As a grandfather, I can't simply sit still."

Jeremy skillfully directed people's opinion to make the Heshton family the biggest villain. Of course, Hana's reputation took a bit of a hit because of this plan, but this was something they had originally expected.

As long as they managed to settle a new deal and completed the facility, the damage would be gone.

By showing her remorse for not trusting her grandfather, she immediately went to the Resshia family to politely apologize and create a new agreement with them.

Of course, the one in charge of the Resshia family already knew that this was just a publicity stunt. They were merely plotting against the Heshton family.

"The Resshia family accepts the apology and agrees to cooperate with the OpenSky Company to provide the new beast soul for the people." Enjoy exclusive content from My Virtual Library Empire

Once the article was published, the Heshton family's business took a massive hit. Their shares plummeted.

However, there was one more trick that Hana had hidden. She initially tried to give them money to build the project, while the Heshton family also contributed a lot of money.

Unlike the OpenSky Company, the Heshton family didn't have a high cash flow. As a result, the moment their money was lost, they were stuck, unable to buy back their stock to maintain the stable share price.

Even when they tried to find another source of money, a lot of people had gotten away from them.

Seeing the Heshton suffer so much damage, the people realized that this was the time to attack. If they started biting the Heshton family now, they would still get a piece of the pie.

"It seems everything has gone according to the plan." Jeremy took a sip of his tea while looking at Hana.

"Yeah." Hana nodded. "Sorry for making you get involved in this, Grandfather. I'm afraid I'm unable to do it this quickly and safely without your help."

"That is fine. I'm rather curious about the capability of Clovis Hacfield. If all this is enough to gain a bit of his trust, it's worth it.

"After all, from what I can see, Clovis has two secrets. The first will be his unique ability, while the second one is everything he is able to take out.

"While he has been hiding it under his grandfather's or father's name, I'm sure they are his."

Hana nodded. "Yes. I suspect the same. And I will just follow his scenario."

"Yeah. No need to expose him. Besides, I'm afraid that this second secret is much bigger than his unique ability. I have been wondering... what kind of secret it is, so I can't help but think about his original goal..."

"His original goal?"

"Yes. What is his original goal?"

"To find the truth about this world, that is said to be only a simulation."

"That's right. What if his secret is actually linked to that truth? Something extraordinary that is beyond the simulation..."

"!!!" Hana raised her eyebrows. "Are you saying that he is someone that the simulation can't calculate perfectly or is his existence a kind of bug in the system?"

"Who knows? However, it must be something along those lines. That's why Clovis' value is much higher than even a Tier 9.

"Whether it is for the good or for the bad..." Jeremy squinted his eyes.

"Who cares? The only one who can decide whether it's good or bad is the person himself. As long as he doesn't change, I believe everything is good." Hana smiled. "I wonder how much money I can get by selling the truth about the world?"

"..." Jeremy looked surprised by her statement before chuckling. "Hahaha."

Chapter 613 Ruined

The moment the cooperation between the Skylark Company and the Reshia family was finalized, the people rejoiced.

In the first place, this cooperation meant Hana still tried to do her best to complete this cooperation.

It might look like she was trying to fulfill Clovis' request even though she was almost harmed in this country, which was slightly different from the image she originally planned but still aligned to her original image.

In addition, the Reshia family's reputation soared. They didn't have a lot of scandals, and their family had a good reputation in the public eye. Your journey continues with My Virtual Library Empire

With this agreement, the people thought of them as a hero for retaining Hana in this country.

Jeremy also helped, making sure that people knew he was already here and would watch over the entire project.

His reputation was bigger than Hana. When people knew about his involvement, they didn't hesitate to switch sides.

Now that the Heshton family had been greatly weakened, everyone knew that Jeremy could easily crush them if necessary, even though he wasn't originally from this country.

"Sir. Miss. This is the report."

"Hmm?" Hana grabbed the report. "The Heshton family has lost a lot of money. Their reputation is in shambles. It appears they're doing their best to retain everything they have, but it's useless. More and more scandals appear."

"Those people are showing them because they know it's the right time to strike. Not only them, but even the normal people are also exposing them.

"To think that they're this dirty." Hana frowned. "Still, with this, we don't have to lift a hand anymore, right, Grandfather?"

Jeremy nodded. "Yeah. Even if we don't do anything, they won't be able to stop the Heshton family from collapsing.

"Still, don't underestimate them. If you push them into the corner, they might fight back without thinking about the consequences.

"In addition, it's not like we have a lot of power in this country, so eliminating them directly is not a possible option.

"Hence, those people will do the job to curry favor. As long as you play your trick correctly, the Heshton family will lose almost everything.

"Still, they're a powerful family. They have dozens of loyal people, including Tier 7 and Tier 8 humans.

"They can bounce back. What you need to do is to match the situation with Clovis. Isn't he pretending to be the young master of a hidden family right now?

"That will be perfect. Just make it as if the hidden family is the one attacking him. There's no hidden family, so they won't realize something is going on.

"However, you have to remember that this might not be the end of it. There's a chance that these people will collaborate with other people to harm you.

"So, you should handle the migration documents for Clovis and the others, making sure to make his identity as mysterious as ever while allowing them to sneak back to the country."

Hana crossed her arms. "Still, to think he would be asking such a thing because of a girl."

"It's not about a girl who is not even his woman. It's about his teammate." He shook his head. "The fact that he cares that much about his teammate means becoming his ally will also result in him protecting you when it really matters. And at that time, either he will do it personally or he will ask his grandfather to do it.

"But you should heed this warning. To walk in this path means you will make a lot of enemies. There might even be a time when you will be on the verge of collapsing. And you will be confronted with two options.

"The first option is to leave him and retain anything you have left. The second option is to stick with him. If you win, you gain everything you can't imagine. If you lose, you will lose everything, including your family and your own life.

"When that happens, what will you do?" Jeremy asked. He knew precisely that the Hacfield family had a lot of enemies. Their enemies might even come to them, so even though they were big, they might not be able to handle them.

Hana smiled. "I will... follow the path where I smell money, even if it means my death."

Jeremy sighed while shaking his head helplessly.

"Anyway, you do the rest. I will take a look around." Jeremy walked away.

"Yes."

...

Meanwhile, Clovis had returned to the city, gathering all the people as they watched the situation unfold.

"The Heshton family is really in trouble." Aileen gasped. "To think Hana can do all that... Is this really worth it?"

Clovis smiled wryly, thinking, 'This woman... must be trying to extort me once we return. She even smeared her own reputation to strike them. She is probably thinking how to demand compensation right now.'

Erwin asked, "By the way, have you heard anything from your master? Don't you think it's a good idea to act like you've been wronged and sever your relationship?"

"Once it's revealed that you're joining us, your teacher will be wary when making a move against us or our families. After all, Hana can still attack, and Christina's family is quite influential as well."

"I don't know. I haven't heard anything yet." Aileen turned to Clovis. "I will follow the arrangement of the captain."

"Heh? You're already considering yourself one of us before this is over?" Clovis chuckled.

"Hehehe. Can't I?"

"Suit yourself. For now—!" Clovis abruptly stopped when he saw his Skyphone ringing. "It's Hana... For now, wait. By the way, you should check on Gillian. Don't let him do anything."

Clovis waved his hand, implying that he needed to talk to Hana for a moment.

...

Gillian, on the other hand, was shivering in fear. He was staring at all the news about his family. No one could imagine that his family would suffer such a disaster when he was away. And if he took a look at his Skyphone, he would see numerous messages blaming him for his encounter with the young master of the hidden family, as though the culprit behind Hana's movement was him.

Chapter 614 A Challenge

"Do you know what I have done here?"

Clovis smiled wryly, looking at the frustrated Hana. Considering reputation and honesty were what a businessman needed, having her wreak havoc by playing around with those two had already damaged her ability.

If he asked her something like this a few more times, no one would ever have a business with her again.

"I know, I know." Clovis sighed. "Let's talk about this once we're back, okay?"

Hana's lips were shaking, as though she wanted to say a few more words. However, she ended up dropping the matter. "All right. For the time being, I'm not sure whether it will be enough to eliminate them, so you have to be careful over there.

"Still, they will definitely bring back Gillian, so tell the lady over there to handle the rest of the matter before joining your group.

"I should be able to return in two weeks after ensuring the foundation of the business is firm in this country. Are you going to return straight away?"

"Not really." Clovis shook his head. "Our original intention to come here is indeed Aileen. But our second objection is to increase our tier. Experience exclusive tales on My Virtual Library Empire

"According to our calculation, Jay and Kanaria will be able to reach Tier 4 in a few weeks, so we'll stay here to hunt until they reach Tier 4."

"Aren't Luci, Melody, and Ragna about to reach Tier 5 as well?"

"Luci and Ragna, yes. Melody will still take a bit more time. I will probably take a few more weeks after Jay and Kanaria as well."

"That's fine." Hana nodded. "Do you need anything else?"

"Not really." Clovis contemplated.

"Then I'm going to hang up. Let's talk again after returning to Absalom."

When Clovis was about to nod his head, he suddenly heard Jay's voice calling him.

"Clovis. Look at this. Do you have a feud with this guy called Tesron Khalika Melesviet?"

"Huh?" Clovis raised his eyebrows. He hurriedly turned to Hana, saying apologetically, "Sorry, let's talk later. I'm going to hang—!"

"Wait. What the hell? You have a feud with this guy?"

"Who?"

She furrowed her eyebrows. It didn't seem Clovis knew about this guy. There must be something going on.

"What happened, actually?" She asked.

"Ehm..." Clovis didn't hang up. Instead, he brought the Skyphone to the room, where he saw Jay, Ragna, Kanaria, and Luci staring at the screen.

There was a headline stating, 'Tesron Khalika Melesviet is coming to Absalom, wanting to challenge the first academy?'

The article was definitely mentioning Clovis, considering he was currently one of the strongest people there. In addition, he was the biggest rising star that the academy had ever had, not including the new beast soul.

"Seriously?" Hana frowned.

"Do you know him?" Clovis asked.

Even the others glanced at her while Jay stated, "You're the weird one for not knowing him, Clovis."

"Huh? Really? Clovis tilted his head in confusion. "You know him, Jay?"

"Tesron Khalika Melesviet." Jay nodded. "Consider him as Christina from a different family."

"!!!" Clovis raised his eyebrows. "Seriously? Why would he come all of a sudden?"

If he was similar to Christina, it meant this person had a unique ability. In addition, his family should be at the same level as Christina's, which meant someone in his family was a Tier 9 human.

Hana crossed her arms for a moment before her expression turned grim, as though she realized something important. "Those bastards."

"Enough cursing or being mysterious. Just explain." Clovis sighed.

Hana raised two fingers. "The second academy. They must be planning with other academies to take down the first academy.

"That's for one big reason. If the first academy continues to nurture you even in paper only, they will have all that reputation once you grow stronger, resulting in them being the first academy until its destruction. No other academies can challenge them.

"The competition between academies in Absalom is fierce. They're searching for investors, giving more benefits to the students and teachers, and so on. That's why all academies have the chance to rise to the top.

"However, they won't have that chance anymore as long as you graduate properly from that academy.

"In order to stop you, they are trying to ruin the first academy's reputation.

"I'm still unaware of the details, but it looks like they're inviting this guy to wreak havoc in the first academy.

"You could say that he is coming to defeat you so hard that he will be your nightmare.

"The results they desire are you dropping you, the first academy's reputation is ruined, and increasing the chance for other academies to devour you."

Clovis furrowed his eyebrows. "Still, this guy is from a Tier 9 family, right? Even if a lot of people in that family are foolish, there must be a few smart enough to understand that this guy is being taken advantage of."

Hana shook her head. "And that's why they bring in this guy. He is a troublemaker. His reputation is much worse compared to Christina's."

"The biggest problem will be whether he knows your true identity or not. Even if he doesn't, there is still Christina."

"Because of what happened previously, her grandfather is still in retreat, right? If he runs rampant, it's like saying that his family beats her."

"The same applies to your family. If he actually knows that you are Clovis Hacfield, it can be done as such. I know that the Hacfield family doesn't really care about their reputation, considering the current state of your family."

"Still, just announcing your name out loud will create a problem, no? They might even bait your grandfather out."

Clovis frowned. He finally understood the severity of this matter. He never thought the academies were preparing for such an attack.

If he didn't accept the challenge, he would be labeled as a coward.

If he accepted, there was no guarantee of victory.

Clovis frowned.

Christina suddenly stormed out of her room, saying in a rush, "Clovis. My grandfather somehow found the news. He said, 'If you can beat him, no need to hesitate. He will be there.'"

"He asked me whether you're going to beat him up or not."

Chapter 615 Found Out

"Hahaha. I enjoyed the trip. Thanks for everything, Clovis." Aileen smiled.

"Are you going back already?"

"Yeah. Gillian has been recalled back, and I'm sure he will experience hell after this. Meanwhile, I will properly settle my affair over there. Once I've finished my business, I will run straight to your group." Aileen nodded.

"I see. In that case, take care of yourself. If there's anything you need, just inform me about it."

"Yes, sir!" Aileen playfully saluted. Then again, Clovis would soon be her captain, so it was just a subtle hint that she had recognized him before officially joining the Libation Fiesta.

Clovis chuckled. "Take care."

Aileen nodded. She turned to Erwin. "Make sure you don't cheat on me. Or the next time I come, I'm going to cut it off."

"Cheat? With you as my wife, do you think I dare cheat? I'm not Clovis."

"Oi! Why are you dragging me into this?" Clovis' eyebrows twitched.

Aileen just laughed before kissing Erwin on the lips. "I'm going."

"Yep. Message me when you arrive."

Aileen nodded, waved her hand, and walked away. "See you later, everyone."

"See you."

"Take care."

"Come back quickly."

It appeared everyone had recognized Aileen as a part of the group. In the last two weeks, they had been hunting together.

They understood Aileen's talent and strength. Her control over her presence was rivaling that of a unique ability.

In addition, Aileen had become much happier and more expressive after their fight at that time. Getting along with her has become easier. Of course, they hadn't introduced her to Reolf yet. Clovis hadn't even bought any items for her.

Once she used the items from Another World Mall, her strength would soar. It wouldn't be weird if she ended up becoming as strong as Christina.

On the other hand, the Libation Fiesta had been increasing their strength drastically in a short period.

Jay and Kanaria had actually reached Tier 4 a few days ago. Clovis wanted to become one, but he was still lacking some essence. Fortunately, it would only take one more week before Clovis could become a Tier 4 human.

Once they returned, they were planning to have a small expedition in order for Clovis to reach Tier 4.

After all, even Melody and Luci had already advanced to Tier 5. Ragna was on the verge of advancing like Clovis.

Clovis turned around. "We still have three days here. I'm sure you guys are tired, so get a proper rest and enjoy the remaining three days. Training is necessary, but rest is the same. We'll return to Absalom in three days."

They all nodded their heads. In the end, they had gone to another country, but they had been occupied with expeditions after expeditions, so it was finally time to enjoy the new country.

Of course, Clovis planned to use this time to absorb some more essence. In addition, he had to think of Reolf's development plan, Hana's compensation, and how to deal with the person from a Tier 9 family. Unlike Christina, he was hostile after all.

"Clovis. Take a look at this." Melody gave a tablet.

"Hmmm?" Clovis frowned.

"I have made a profile for our group. Although they're rough, they're easy to read."

Jay Havenson (Tier 4: 2%)

Kanaria Renvolt (Tier 4: 1%)

Melody (Tier 5: 5%)

Ragna Book (Tier 4: 86%)

Erwin (Tier 5: 44%)

Lucifania (Tier 5: 12%)

Christina (Tier 5: 57%) Experience tales at My Virtual Library Empire

"What is this number?" Clovis frowned.

"It's the average number of their evolution. It's a rough calculation, but this will be easier to read. They will handle their own progress." Melody explained. "You have been asking people about their progress from time to time, so I've been thinking about keeping track of them from time to time so that you don't have to bother anymore."

"..." Clovis blinked his eyes a few times. It was indeed a good system. He would say it was convenient... if their circumstances were normal. Wouldn't this information allow them to realize something was wrong?

As if knowing Clovis' mind, Melody added, "By the way, I know that you have been helping us. I'm not sure about the details, but from the looks of it, you, Jay, and Kanaria are progressing much quicker than us.

"Don't forget that our absorption rate is above 90% as well. The fact that they're able to progress this fast to the point where they're about to catch up means something is spiking up their progress.

"You can't simply brush it off with the number of lower-tier beasts being higher. In the end, their number doesn't match up.

"We already know it. We have felt it. It's just... we never really bothered with it. After all, you should have your own reason and we're benefiting from it.

"If it's too much, I would have complained, but it's not really concerning right now." Melody sighed.
"Then again, Luci and Christina must not realize it yet since they're new.

"I don't know what you have done, but I don't really plan to bother myself with it. You're not a fool. Someone with your ambition will definitely play it in the long run. If you're using us to increase your strength, you will try to make it as long as possible.

"In other words, whatever you're doing won't cause a problem for our body, which might ruin our future. And I trust you in that matter."

Clovis scratched the back of his head. "This... Sorry."

"It's fine. You don't need to worry about us." Melody shrugged. "Kanaria is too soft to tell you, while Jay will never question your judgment. Ragna is loyal to you, so the only one who can speak up is me. Then again, I don't care what happens to me as long as I can heal my younger brother."

Clovis sighed. "Well, I'm planning to tell you guys. Unfortunately, it's not now. Wait for a bit more, will you? When the time is right, I'll tell you guys."

"It's fine, even if you don't tell us. That secret must be extremely important. I just sympathize with you for carrying such a burden." Melody shrugged. "By the way, is there something that can heal my younger brother?"

"Not yet. I haven't seen anything that is useful for your brother." Clovis shook his head. "For now, I plan to ask my mother to treat him. If it's not possible, I'll get even stronger and hopefully find something that can help him."

"Mhmm..." Melody nodded. "Anyway, I'm not going to pry into your secret."

"Thanks." Clovis smiled before switching the topic. "By the way, what is this information?"

"Oh this. They are..."

Chapter 616 Cooperation

"I'm sorry. I never thought that they would call that person to this country to mess with us." The principal of the first academy lowered his head. He had been trying to protect Clovis as a part of the agreement.

However, the situation became even more complicated once a Tier 9 family joined the battle.

Clovis closed his eyes for a moment. "What are their demands?"

"They want to fight you, who is said to be the most monstrous talent in this country. In addition, they're provoking your friend, especially Christina Elseingarde."

"Mhmm..." Clovis looked at the principal through the screen. It appeared that the enemies only knew about Christina for the time being. They must still be searching for his information, so it should be safe for a moment. "It seems they're aiming for Christina instead of me."

"No. It's only because of us that they're coming to this country in the first place. It's my fault for not stopping those people." The principal shook his head.

"Is there anything I need to know?" Your journey continues with My Virtual Library Empire

"The problem right now is that they're thinking about coming together with the Lord of the North under the pretext of sightseeing and looking at talented people.

"However, this is clearly a lie. They're placing you in a scenario that you can't win against him. If the Tier 9 human gets involved, there's no chance to get an explanation."

"How about this country?"

"We don't have any Tier 9 humans in this country, so unfortunately, we can't help you. But they're debating how to proceed. It seems they're planning to protect you in one way or another."

"They haven't made a decision yet, but the discussion is leaning toward how many Tier 8 they will bring to protect you and stop the Lord of the North."

Clovis crossed his arms. He didn't know why the country wanted to protect him from a Tier 8, but considering he was a Hacfield while still cooperating with the Elseingarde, there was no way they would let such a person go. In addition, Hana and the entire Skylark would come to back him up, so the country wouldn't be so foolish as to let him go.

Clovis narrowed his eyes. "Only a fight against me?"

"No. They brought a team of six. They're planning to destroy you and your entire team."

"When are they planning to come and challenge us?"

"They're on their way here already."

Clovis' expression turned cold. "Suppose I plan to defeat him..."

"The first academy will stand by you. In addition, I have gained cooperation with several Tier 8 humans as well."

"What if I have a way to stop their Tier 9?"

"You can?" The principal paused for a moment. "If that's the case, you can focus on defeating them. The rest will be dealt with by me."

"I have three goals and three conditions." Clovis raised three fingers. "I'll state my goal first. Crush other academies. If I manage to win and stop the Tier 9, can you do it?"

"Of course. The academies have been competing with each other, so crushing them is something I also want to do. I can't destroy them, but destroying their reputation and such is possible. In the end, the country will try to preserve them to avoid a monopoly on students."

"Either way, if we crush them, the investors will be gone and their management will be in shambles. By not destroying them, we can keep them stuck in that place. This is an easier way to monitor them and prevent them from doing anything this crazy again. Even the country will cooperate with me in that area."

Clovis nodded, satisfied. "My second goal is to crush the Lord of the North. Although I can't guarantee I'll be able to defeat him, I'm planning to promote the new beast soul through this challenge."

The principal raised his eyebrows. "If you manage to win, it's the best advertisement you can have. After all, I'm afraid this battle has gained the attention of all people around the world."

"If you strike them by blacklisting their country, it should harm their reputation. They will have a hard time moving after that. However, this will put your group in danger."

"We're not afraid of danger." Clovis nodded. "My last goal is to focus on my own personal growth, whether it's strength or reputation..."

"If that's the case, we'll do our best to cooperate." The principal nodded.

Clovis nodded. "All right. In that case, I will give you three conditions. That guy is a Tier 5, right?"

"According to our information, he is indeed a Tier 5, but it's been a while since he reached Tier 5. Hence, he might be close to Tier 6."

"As long as he is still Tier 5, it's still possible for me to defeat him. It's just... right now is not possible. I need to make another preparation. And it might cost you..."

"!!!" The principal knew that Clovis wanted him to stall for time. And it would be the same as sacrificing his students. Still, Clovis wouldn't really come out without any chance of winning. After some consideration, the principal nodded. "I can give you time. How long do you need?"

"One week is enough."

"You will get it."

Clovis continued, "My second condition is rather simple. Since the enemies are bringing their big guns, I'm planning to do the same."

"!!!" The principal widened his eyes in shock. "Don't tell me... Lord Ezekiel Elseingarde?"

Clovis smiled. "Yes. He said he will come. I want you to handle all the administration processes as secretly as possible. At the same time, he doesn't like to appear in public, especially outside his country. During the negotiation and such, I hope you can take care of the media for a bit.

"It will be fine if people create a narration of him being in this country, but there's no need for his picture or video. He will also handle his own disguise."

"I see. All you want is an arrangement in a way that they can't find him, huh?" The principal nodded. "If that's all, it shouldn't be too hard."

"My last condition is that you help me to do something once I reach Tier 5."

"Huh? Not right now?" The principal frowned.

"Yes. Just consider it as you owing me a favor. After all, if I defeat him, the reputation of the academy as well as yours will skyrocket. It's not like I'm going to ask you to do the impossible. Of course, it's fine if you don't follow through with this agreement if I end up losing."

The principal squinted his eyes. After some thoughts, the principal nodded his head. "I understand. I will deal with the rest." The principal nodded. "Good luck."

Chapter 617 Back

"We're finally back!" Kanaria stretched her hands up while yawning. "We're finally back home."

"By the way, don't forget that we'll be fighting against those people. Considering our current members, I think the six people should be Clovis, Christina, Erwin, Ragna, Luci, and me," said Jay while crossing his arms.

"That's true." Luci glanced at Clovis. "Still, why not use this chance to introduce Aileen? Has she finished her matter over there? I mean, she can replace me or Ragna."

"Why are you guys getting ahead of yourselves? Our captain hasn't even said anything about the fight, you know." Erwin shrugged. "Just prepare for the battle and see who will go up."

"..." It was indeed true. Considering the enemies brought his group, it meant six of them had to fight. Kanaria and Melody were strong, but they focused more on providing support to the entire group.

Clovis had a different thought in mind. It was true that the battle was important, but the more important thing would be to reach Tier 4.

Originally, he wanted to use another expedition to reach Tier 4, but he hesitated after listening to Melody.

These people had trusted him with their lives and chose to follow him. He thought about waiting a bit more to reveal his secret, but after listening to Melody, they might already be aware of it.

He wanted to hide it. At the same time, these people deserved to know about it.

That was why he considered one more option, which was to use the items from Another World Mall to advance to Tier 4.

This way, it would be seen as a subtle message to everyone that despite not taking any essence, he could still advance to Tier 4 because of this secret. And the fact that he was using it and showing it to them meant he trusted them.

However, the secret was not convenient to disclose, so he couldn't reveal it yet. At the very least, he could send the message he couldn't this whole time.

When this option appeared in his mind, he was thinking about waiting for his mother's inspection before he could reveal the information. At the very least, he wanted to check what the items from Another World Mall brought to this world that couldn't be visible to the naked eye.

Clovis hadn't said a word about the fight against the Tier 9 family. He had to consider his options carefully. Depending on how he approached it, he would be taking the full brunt of a Tier 9 family. Even his family might have no choice but to act.

While he was in deep thought, Reolf suddenly emerged from the corner and rushed toward Clovis.

"Aoo!"

"!!!" Clovis raised his head. "Ah. Reolf!"

Reolf pounced on him and pushed him down before licking him.

"Hahahaha! Are you doing good, Reolf? Sorry that I can't bring you out this time."

"This kid is very intelligent. This is the first time I see such an intelligent beast who doesn't really have the instinct to attack humans." An aged voice echoed from the side.

There was another person behind Reolf. She was an elderly woman, but Clovis and the others immediately greeted her politely the moment they saw her.

"Hello, Ma'am."

Clovis stood up and bowed. "Thank you for taking care of Reolf."

"It's fine. It's fine. I've got my share of fun too." She chuckled. "Hana should return tomorrow."

"Yes." Clovis nodded. The job of taking care of Reolf was supposed to be Hana's. But due to the circumstances, Hana had no choice but to leave. It wasn't like Jeremy could help him, so there was only one person qualified to take care of Reolf.

Although it was outside his plan, he and Hana entrusted the task to Hana's grandmother, Elya Reiquinn, though she was more known as Madam Skylark.

Elya smiled at Clovis. "I thought about asking you regarding the battle, but looking at your expression, it doesn't seem I should ask that question. I don't know what you're planning to do, but I will just pass my husband's message. Whatever you do, do it boldly. We've decided to be behind you."

Clovis smiled. "Ahaha. I'm ashamed. But I'm grateful for the thought. Thank you."

Elya waved her hand. "In that case, I will take my leave here."

"Allow me to—" Clovis wanted to take her home, but Elya simply waved her hand. "No worries. I'm a Tier 7 human, you know? Going back by foot is much faster than a car."

As she said those words, she disappeared. Find your next read on My Virtual Library Empire

"..." Clovis smiled wryly. He turned to Reolf. "It seems you've been having a great time, huh, Reolf?"

"Indeed. Look at this chubby wolf." Luci immediately jumped and hugged Reolf. "He becomes fluffier."

"Can he really fight like that?" Jay asked.

"Don't ask. Don't you remember that when you got sent to your grandma for a vacation, your weight increased by 12 kg?" Kanaria chuckled. "Was it 10 years ago?"

"..." Jay's eyebrows twitched. "Anyway, I'm going back to my room."

Kanaria waved her hand. "I'm going as well. By the way, Clovis. When are we going to go for the next expedition? Three days? You're close to Tier 4, right? It shouldn't take a lot of time."

"No. I will remain in this mansion until the battle." Clovis shook his head. "The enemy is monitoring our movement. Staying here will decrease the chance of meeting them outside. They might even plan to meet us in one way or another to create an even bigger mess."

"!!!" Kanaria looked surprised at first. Christina, Luci, and Erwin couldn't help but halt in their tracks. Jay and Ragna didn't care about the secret, so they just entered the mansion. Melody, on the other hand, had a small smile on her face before following Jay and Ragna.

"Is that so?" Kanaria nodded. "We'll stay in the mansion as well. Except for Melody, of course. Still, you're going through hell tomorrow, you know?"

"..." Clovis could only scratch the back.

As Kanaria said, he was definitely going through a mess. In front of him was none other than Hana. It felt like he was facing a debt collector, ready to suck him dry.

No. He might even prefer to face a debt collector than the woman in front of him, knowing full well how hard handling this person was.

Chapter 618 Money

"It's been a while, hasn't it, Clovis?" Hana had a big smile on her face.

Clovis sighed. "Indeed. It's been a while. Are you alright?"

Hana paused for a moment. There were two things they could talk about. The first was compensation, while the second was the battle.

After some consideration, Hana actually picked the latter. "I should be the one asking you that question. Are you alright right now?"

"..." It was Clovis' turn to fall silent, as though he was surprised by her choice.

Hana ended up standing up, walking toward Clovis, and opening her tab. "Look at the news. They're really bombarding you with questions, aren't they?"

"Tesron Khalika Melesviet challenging Clovis from the Libation Fiesta. Is he afraid of him? Is that why he is hiding? Tesron Khalika Melesviet is crushing the First Academy's students.

Find exclusive stories on My Virtual Library Empire

"The headlines are truly not holding back this time. It appears that other academies are pouring all their efforts into this.

"Are you going to fight him, Clovis?" Hana asked as she sat down next to him.

Clovis leaned back, feeling tired. "I've told the principal to give me a week to prepare."

"!!!" Hana felt something was off with that sentence. She glanced at Clovis before finding out his intention. "A week? And you're not planning to go out?"

Yes, Hana was actually the one visiting Clovis this time. So, they were still hidden within the mansion with no sign of coming out.

Even with Clovis' silence, Hana had gotten her answer. "I see. The only way for you to defeat him is to be a Tier 4 human. Although Tesron is a Tier 5, he has a unique ability. Unlike Christina, who is focused on defense, Tesron is an all-rounder. He is much more aggressive than Christina.

"That's why you might be able to put up a fight against Christina, but you might be obliterated by Tesron.

"After all, his unique ability is the String of Fate. He is able to see the strings leading toward him, rendering any attacks useless. It's said that even a sniper from two miles away won't be able to shoot him down.

"As a result, he is known to be an immortal. Only a glimmer of people can actually injure him, let alone defeat him. This is just like peeking into the future. Knowing where you are going to attack him will allow him to react as well.

"He is basically the pride of the Melesviet. If Christina hasn't met you, she would probably lose against him. However, thanks to you, the result will depend on how they perform.

"Isn't this going to be hard for you, Clovis? Unlike Christina's unique ability that can go against his eyes, yours... not so much.

"Still, if you manage to win against him, his reputation will crumble and yours will soar. All the people in the world will start paying attention to you. After all, the only one who can defeat him is probably another unique ability user. Your potential as a Tier 9 and even your relationship with the Elseingarde will increase your value.

"That's why you must want to defeat him. The problem will be how? I believe in you, but at the same time, I know that Tier 3 won't be enough to go against him. So, the only way for you to defeat him is to at least reach Tier 4. But you're not planning to go out... It's either because you have a stock of essence... which I'm unaware of or you have another way to evolve to Tier 4."

Clovis smiled wryly. "Right? Right? Look at how clever you are..."

Hana's eyes flashed. "So, that's how it is... It seems I have underestimated you this whole time."

Hana's hands sneaked around Clovis' arm as she asked coquettishly, "So, my dear investor, will you forgive this rude woman who is trying to be clever?"

"Enough with the acting." Clovis sighed. "Do you think becoming a Tier 4 is enough to defeat him?"

Hana's expression turned solemn. "Hmmm? Do you have another trump card? Don't tell me you're going to introduce yourself as a beast master and have Reolf fight with you. But Reolf is still a Tier 3. While it's shocking, it's not enough to fight against him.

"If you reveal Reolf all of a sudden, people will wonder how many beasts you can command. If you command thousands, tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, your threat level will be immeasurable. Even my Skylark family can't do anything to sustain you. After all, a lot of people will definitely love to kill you, especially with you being a part of the Hacfield family. A man from a family of madmen has the ability to command millions of beasts... They will probably think of you as a demon lord and unite to destroy you."

Clovis nodded. "I know that. The card I'm going to play this time will be slightly different. It's just... I might need your help."

"My help?" Hana furrowed her eyebrows. "I don't think it will be about weapons. What I have besides technology is... money... Do you need money? How much?"

Clovis smiled. "I'm not sure right now, but I'm afraid it's not going to be small."

That was right. Clovis' plan was actually to upgrade his memberships and open a new store. This was a gamble. If he got something good from the next upgrade, he might be able to win against him. If he didn't get something good, he would definitely lose.

Of course, there was an option to get more money, but when he owed too much money, especially to Hana, his position would definitely become lower than Hana's. It was something he couldn't have. Besides, it would also create a nice misunderstanding, which confused Hana for a moment about his true trump card.

Hana frowned. "How much do you need? Maybe a few hundred million? Well, I should be able to prepare that right away, but because of the investment to open a new facility in Axolonia, I don't have much cash right now."

Clovis raised one finger. This would be the amount enough to maintain his position without pushing Hana too much.

"A hundred million, huh? Wait, no..."

Clovis nodded. "I need a billion."

Chapter 619 Realization

"I need a billion."

"..." Her eyebrows twitched a bit. While she could somehow fork out that money, she would be strapped for cash, since she had invested heavily in the new facility in Axolonia.

At the same time, she noticed one more secret. 'Wait a minute. He needs money... Then what about his blood? They're contradicting each other. His unique ability is not like this. If I'm not wrong, it should allow him to possess god-like abilities and not have any relation with money.

'Does this mean these two are not the same? Does this mean he has the second secret? One related to money. Now that I think about it, Kanaria has once told me that Nathan will be the one selling things. Or at least, the account that manages the group's fund is in Nathan's hand.

'While he doesn't care about spending money, he still wants to gather money for one reason or another.

'Doesn't this look like there is another secret related to money? I don't know what kind of secret this is, but it looks like it's able to bypass the gap between him and that person.

'No, wait. He has been asking me for money a few times, right? Why have I not noticed this until now? The number keeps increasing every single time, from a few million to a few hundred million. And right now, he asks for a billion.

'At this rate, he might ask me for tens, if not hundreds, of billions. It's not easy even for me to have all that cash.

'But... he must know about that fact as well. I've been helping him the whole time, so he must have a way to increase my financial power. In fact, his items alone are priceless. If I ever auction it, I can get a lot of money.

'That's why... He must have a way to increase the size of my business or open an entirely new field. To put it simply, I give him money, he will eventually give me an item to make more money. Isn't this just a fundamental investment principle? Investing more money to make more money...

'He needs more money, which means he will rely on me and has no choice but to let me grow. At this rate, becoming the richest woman in the world is possible. The fact he reveals this concept to me... means he trusts me.'

When that thought appeared, a smile appeared on Hana's face. "Sure. I will give you a billion. Give me a day. I'll transfer all of it tomorrow."

"You're not going to ask about it?"

"Do you think I'm foolish enough not to realize it?" Hana smirked. "Our relationship is mutual, so why should I care about the rest?"

"However, I have one concern. Although I'm not sure if my speculation is right or not, there's a limit to the world's money, you know..."

Clovis shrugged. Even he didn't expect to settle everything that way. "If this world is an illusion..."

"No, wait. What did you say?" Hana's body shook. She thought, 'That's right. This world is a simulation, right? If investing in him allows him to find the truth about the world and somehow escape the so-called simulation? There's another opportunity ahead.'

'In addition, this world is just a simulation. Using simulation money to empower him is much better than real money. What the hell? Why did I not think about this? He was clever enough to realize this kind of trick?'

Hana shook her head furiously, brushing the thought away. "Alright. Don't worry about the money. Still, is this going to be enough to take care of him?"

"I don't know." Clovis shook his head. He just roughly calculated the amount of money required to open a new store. He didn't know whether it was enough or not. Fortunately, the previous expedition should give him one or two hundred million. This should be enough to cover the cost.

Clovis glanced at Hana. He felt that the misunderstanding in Hana's mind had grown to an absurd level.

Hana asked, "Still, you should hide your secret a bit. I know that you can somehow trust me, but there's going to be a problem if you reveal everything right away.

"No. In fact, the money shouldn't be known at all. If people know about your second secret, they might want to capture you or eliminate you.

"I think it's good to camouflage it with your blood. Just use your blood as an excuse. In fact, this is actually perfect. Your main affinity is Blood, so it can't be helped if it's going to be something special.

"If you make people think that your affinity is your unique ability, you can fool them for a while... at least until you get strong enough.

"Regarding the money, you can leave it to me. I'm a greedy bitch and I don't intend to hide it. It's fine if I'm seen to be even greedier.

"I will get all the money in the world for you. You spend that money so that I can make more money. Isn't this perfect?" Hana pumped her chest proudly.

Clovis smiled wryly. "Isn't that like a proposal?"

"Indeed. Let's get married. After we get married... What's yours is mine, what's mine is mine."

"Aren't you supposed to say what's yours is mine?" Clovis chuckled.

"Did I stutter?" Hana harrumphed.

Clovis sighed. "Well, let's talk about it another time."

"All right. In that case, I will return right away and prepare the money as quickly as possible. I want to confirm it one more time. Are you sure this is enough?"

"The chance is there, but there's no guarantee I can beat him, especially due to the difference in our strength." He shrugged.

"Fine. If you need more money, ask me." Hana waved her hand. "I've got more than I thought. Hehehe. I'm fired up. I'm going to see how that guy is going to cry to his grandparent."

Clovis chuckled. He could probably get a lot of money by doing this himself, but he didn't have the time or energy to manage such a huge business. Letting someone capable of handling it was not a wrong option. And that person just happened to be Hana. While it was true that she was greedy, her skill was much better than most people's.

Enjoy new tales from My Virtual Library Empire

So, he decided to let her take care of the money while he focused on becoming a Tier 9 human.

"Now that the money's problem is solved, it's time to evolve to Tier 4."

Chapter 620 Mall's New Section

"Now that the money problem is solved, it's time to focus on my Another World Mall again." Clovis muttered, looking at the one billion that had just been transferred. He had been eating all sorts of items to increase his evolution progress, so it wouldn't be long before he reached Tier 4.

Clovis entered the mall, knowing that the first thing he should do was to upgrade the mall.

As usual, Blue was already there, waiting for him.

[Welcome back, Master.]

"Oh! I'm back, Blue. Well, I'm here to once again upgrade the mall to open a new type of store." Clovis glanced at his status, noticing something different.

"Huh, wait?"

There was one important thing that was missing. And it was none other than money.

[Money: 1,123,960,304 coins.]

"Blue..." Clovis pointed at the money. "Why did I only have this much money? With 1 billion from Hana and 150 million from selling my materials, and my initial money, shouldn't I have about 1.3 billion?"

[There is no mistake in the money calculation, Master.]

"What do you mean?" Clovis frowned. "Don't tell me. "Is there a tax or something?"

[There is no such thing.]

"Then why do I have less money?"

[It can happen because of two scenarios. The first will be the money you receive is not real money.]

"Something like a fake one? Is it from money laundering or something? Or is it fake money made by bad guys?"

[It is a possibility. The second scenario will be the money that you've received is actually the one you've owned before.]

"!!!" Clovis widened his eyes in shock. "Something I've owned before? Don't tell me. Even with the money circulating around, something that has been registered won't come back? It's not even giving someone money and the other person is returning it..."

[Yes. Even if you buy something with real money and the seller buys things, which somehow makes your money return to you, the money that has been registered won't be recognized.]

"Ah, shit." Clovis clicked his tongue. "Doesn't this mean there's an infinite amount of money I can get? No. Should I ask Hana to rapidly expand the business overseas? I might have spent a huge amount of money in this country, but not in other countries. I can still get a lot of money if I see the global market."

[That is also a solution, Master. However, ultimately, everything will run out and you have to find other solutions.]

"I see. Still, you're using Union Dollar as the base conversion, right?"

[Yes. The mall has registered it to be the base value. Even if you earn money with a different currency, it will be converted according to the base value and exchange rate that your world has.]

"This is getting complicated." Clovis sighed. "Nevertheless, expanding overseas might not be a bad idea. I can get more money that way. The mall sucks a lot of money after all."

Clovis fell into deep thought as he adjusted his plan a bit. After that, he turned to Blue, asking, "By the way, I'm going to upgrade the mall three times and open a new shop. Can you handle it for me, Blue?"

[Of course, Master. However, there is something I'd like to warn you about.]

"What is it? If the money is not enough, you can't proceed?"

[No. After opening this new shop, the mall will be undergoing a renovation.]

"A renovation?" Clovis frowned. "Do you mean I can't access the mall?"

[Not necessarily. Please follow me.]

Blue guided him to the other side of the mall, where everything was empty. In fact, he couldn't go past the dark area as it hadn't been unlocked.

"Why did you bring me here, Blue?"

[For the next upgrade, you will be able to open this area. This will be different from the stores and entertainment area.]

"Stores and entertainment, huh? And it's not food either, right?"

[Yes. This section was off-limits previously because of one thing. It provides service.]

"Service? Now that I think about it, everything has been self-service this whole time. It changes when Blue is here, but it's true that there is no shop selling services. All of them are items or entertainments."

[Yes, Master. This section is for service.]

"I see. So, the one providing that service... It's not a real human, right? I can't imagine you transporting a real human here..."

[Yes. Everything will be handled by robots. However, unlike me, a guiding robot, the service robots are humanoid robots mimicking the appearance of people in this world. You may even change their appearance to suit your needs.]

"Fulfilling my request, huh? Considering there are items made of fantasy creatures, it's possible to even make an elf, vampire, or something else. Is that what you mean?"

[Essentially, yes. It is also more beneficial to mimic the human's appearance since it's that kind of service.]

"That kind of service?" Clovis' eyebrows twitched. "Lewd one?"

[We definitely offer such a service. I'm sure that Master has known about it after visiting the bookstore and movie theater. However, that's not all. In this section, you will find a lot of shops offering services such as salons and spas.]

"For real?" Clovis sighed. "Now that I think about it, I am supposed to be able to bring someone soon, right? The reason you're offering service... Are you trying to cater to more people? You even specifically mentioned the salon and spa. Are you going to make the girls visit that place?"

[I am just a Guiding Model AI. I have no authority to change the mall's upgrade plan.]

"..." Clovis facepalmed. Considering the items they sold in this mall, suddenly having a beauty shop that could allow people to look young or more beautiful, which somehow transcended anything he had seen in the real world, wouldn't surprise him.

Clovis let out a long sigh. "I understand. For the time being, I want to focus on upgrading the mall. It's only going to open this section, not open a new store in this section, right?"

[Yes, Master.]

"In that case, let's proceed with the upgrade."

[Processing.]