

World Mall 671

Chapter 671: Letter

"Let me see that letter first."

"I understand." Vina smiled and happily handed over the letter.

The moment he opened the letter, he looked shocked. The letter didn't mention a single thing about the Dark Moon Mercenary. It was as if they were telling him to forge his own path and make a decision for himself.

People made mistakes. However, that wasn't the worst part. The worst part was that after making that mistake, they didn't learn from it and turn into a better person.

Hence, his family, or more like his mother, sent this letter to him.

Clovis asked, "Did you meet her?"

Vina shook her head. "All we know is that they will open the path for us as long as we deliver this letter. I don't think that's a bad idea, so I come."

There were a lot of questions in his mind, but having someone like Vina might be a good thing. It was true that his information might be exposed. However, Vina surely would give some information to him as well.

In other words, it was just a basic give and take.

"..." Clovis pondered for a moment. "What is your term?"

"We would like to have a base in your city. I would also like to ask for your favor to make me the leader of the Dark Moon Mercenary. As you can see right now, I lack power," explained Vina.

She was a Tier 3 human, but it looked like she had just become Tier 3. In the end, she focused on managing the group.

"I currently don't have the strength to assist you."

"I'm aware of it. As long as I can have that position in five years, it's all good. I don't believe you will still remain as a nobody after five years."

Clovis pondered for a moment before asking the most crucial question. "What can you do for me then? You're not going to threaten me by giving my information to others so that they can ambush me, right?"

"Of course not. If I do that, not only you but also your family will definitely come to me." Vina shook her head. "What do you want me to do?"

Clovis crossed his arms. "I have three conditions. First of all, you are going to follow my schedule. Starting a new base is easier said than done, so I will probably need about six months to even think about that.

"If we calculate the process and other things, you can only set up a base 9 months after this agreement.

"The second condition is that during those nine months, you are to help me mask my information as long as possible. It's a crucial time for my group, so I don't want anyone to hinder our progress.

"The last condition is to negotiate every small deal we have, whether it's me asking you for a favor or vice versa."

Vina looked quite surprised before smiling. "I understand. I shall agree to that deal."

"All right then." Clovis nodded.

"Since we are going to cooperate like this, please take this." Vina took out a Skyphone. "This is a special phone that has been personally encrypted. There's only one number inside. If we're going to communicate, it will be through this phone."

Clovis nodded.

"In that case, I won't bother you any longer. Please take care." Vina smiled and walked away.

The Tier 7 human who was accompanying him this whole time couldn't help but ask, "Are you sure about this? What if he backed off from the agreement after we fulfilled our part for those 9 months?"

Vina just chuckled, as though she had heard a dumb question. "I know you have a doubt, but Clovis is a man of principle and integrity. These nine months are like a test to gain his trust. But after that, negotiation will be smooth."

Meanwhile, Clovis' expression turned solemn as he waved his hand. "Melody. Hana."

Melody and Hana were confused, wondering why he called for them. Hana aside, Melody wasn't supposed to be a part of the conversation. In the end, it was Kanaria who would be planning for the city.

However, Clovis specifically handed the letter to Melody while saying, "Burn it after you read it."

Melody was confused for a moment, but once she read the letter, she couldn't help but cover her mouth in shock. She couldn't believe that this letter would come at all.

On the other hand, Hana understood why Clovis asked her to read it as well.

The letter stated, "Bring me Adante's blood test and all tests for his chest and head. Send it to this address under the green box."

Adante or Dante was none other than Melody's brother. He was the sole reason for Melody joining the Libation Fiesta.

Clovis wanted to reach Tier 5 because he wanted to fulfill his part as the captain of the Libation Fiesta. After all, that was the key for him to meet his parents.

The letter specifically mentioned her brother's name. In other words, this letter was sent specifically by his mother. She wanted to get all the information before operating on him.

And Hana would be the one to do it in her stead.

Hana smiled wryly while saying, "I guess you don't have to worry about it anymore, Melody. His mother is supposed to be one of the best doctors in the world, right? I will take care of all these tests here, so you should focus on setting up the base.

"I think the moment he reaches Tier 5, the operation will happen. Just come back like once a month or something."

"Hana... Can I ask you for a favor?"

"Hmm?"

Melody clenched her hands into fists. "I won't return. Can I ask you to help me with just a video call with my brother every month? That's enough for me. I will dedicate this time to making sure everything progresses smoothly and quickly. More than that, I might get distracted by this happiness..."

Hana smiled. "Sure. Go on." She patted her back.

"Yeah. I'm going." Melody had a hard time containing her excitement. She entered the bus with her body still shaking.

This base, she would definitely set it up quickly.

Chapter 672: Arrival

"So, this is the place..." Jay squinted his eyes while tilting his head forward.

In front of them was the fallen city called Entel. Even though the wall might not be as tall as the capital city, it was still taller than most cities they had visited so far.

However, as expected from a fallen city, the wall had deteriorated quite a bit. A part of it was destroyed by the beasts.

Still, it might be due to the size of the wall and the marvel of this wall engineering, as most parts were still intact.

They couldn't see much of the inside, but through several gaps, they could see a lot of tall buildings.

"This is Entel. It's one of the biggest cities back in the day, but due to the surge of beasts coming from the inside during the early era of explorers, they're unable to hold on and ultimately turn into a fallen city.

"Although the city on the surface looks much more intact, the underground city is expected to be much worse than this," explained Kanaria. That's why restoring this surface city shouldn't be a big problem."

"Reolf." Clovis squinted his eyes. "Is there any monster around the wall?"

Reolf shook his head.

"Alright. Jay. For now, we parked our bus right outside the wall. We'll investigate and find a good shelter, which will be our temporary base."

"Got it."

Kanaria continued, "For now, our plan is to secure a shelter and scout the area. Even the map won't be updated that quickly, so it's better to stay cautious for the time being."

"In any case, once we locate everything, we will clean up this city and guard the tower to ensure no more beasts come up." Clovis turned to Melody. "Once we're done, make a map of the city. Is it possible?"

"Yes. With AI, I can make a 3D model of this city. I have my drones ready." Melody nodded with a serious expression.

Clovis thought for a moment. "Depending on the situation, I might need to split our group."

"I see. Two groups to handle two sides, huh?" Christina nodded in understanding.

"No. To the extent of a pair. Of course, I have to make sure if the condition is right." Clovis shrugged.

"Well, we have ten people now, including Reolf. So, having five pairs should be possible." She nodded.

"Is there anything else?" Clovis asked Kanaria.

"Hmm. There are three Tier 6 beasts inside. Other than that, there's not much information about this city.

"However, in the early days, this city was extremely good, so we might be able to scavenge some stuff." Kanaria explained. "It might not be much, but it can help with the cost."

Clovis nodded.

"All right. I've got the heat vision." Melody operated the drone and showed the screen to him.

There were definitely a lot of beasts around the entrance. Although Melody wanted to go further, she decided to remain around the entrance to avoid this drone being found and destroyed.

Clovis pondered. "We will split our group into three. Reolf, Jay, Luci, and I will be the first group. Our role will be the vanguard. Our first destination is the city center, where the tower is located, and find our shelter there.

"The second group is Christina, Melody, and Kanaria. You will protect the left flank and kill any beasts around it. Make sure to remain as quiet as possible and stick with us. The third group is Erwin, Aileen, and Ragna. The purpose is the same as the second group, but on the right.

"Once we find a shelter, we will return and split the group into two to secure the road and escort our vehicles."

They nodded. Even Erwin and Aileen, who were in the second truck, agreed with the plan.

"All right. Let's find our shelter before dark today. There are still seven hours left. We might have to skip meals and go straight to dinner."

Once they reached the wall, Jay and Erwin parked their vehicles carefully while the others were preparing their equipment.

They had grown far stronger than they were a month ago. Even though there were multiple Tier 6 enemies, they were not scared. In fact, some were excited because they wanted to fight that beast.

"Our goal for this month is to secure a foothold for our group here as well as to have Ragna reach Tier 5. Christina will still take a while to reach Tier 6, but once she reaches that stage, we might be able to hold against a Tier 7 beast, so keep that in mind."

They nodded and gathered with their respective groups.

"By the way, I have reported the road situation to Hana. For the time being, since her group can't enter yet, she wants to fix the road to this city. At least, the goods can enter much safer and more smoothly once we have settled down." Kanaria reported.

"That's good enough. Also, tell her not to make it obvious. In the end, our existence here is still a secret. I don't want to deal with unexpected problems yet."

Kanaria nodded.

"We don't know where the Tier 6 beasts are yet. What will we do if we find it?" Jay asked. His face remained calm, but all the members could see how excited Jay was. He was practically saying, 'Come, Tier 6 beast. Come!'

Clovis smiled wryly. "Fine. Since you guys are so excited, Jay can take the first one while the rest will support. I will adjust the team depending on the circumstances.

"The second Tier 6 beast will be hunted down by Erwin and Aileen. The last one will be taken out by me and Christina. Does anyone want to kill a Tier 6 beast?" Clovis raised his hand, wondering if Ragna and the others wanted to.

Surprisingly, Reolf raised his paw. "Waaf!"

"You want to kill a Tier 6 beast, Reolf?"

Reolf shook his head. Instead, he raised both hands as though he were a human trying to show off his muscles.

"Ah. You want to become a Tier 4?"

"Waaf!" Reolf nodded furiously.

"Sure. Let's make you a Tier 4 beast within a month... No, within 2 weeks." Clovis grinned. "If there's nothing else, let's head inside."

Chapter 673: Scouting

The advance of the Libation Fiesta was swift and quiet. With each team having an extraordinary strength, they could kill a group of lower tier beasts without letting them call other beasts around the area.

In addition, Reolf helped them with confirming their location, while Melody guided the entire group. Melody was so pumped up that she was faster than what she had shown so far. It felt like the burden on her heart had been lifted up, allowing her to completely focus on the matter at hand.

Fortunately, they didn't encounter a single Tier 6 beast during the first trip. They ultimately reached a small mansion located near the city center.

From the looks of the mansion, it was clear that the one who owned it was quite wealthy. However, this person wasn't one of the top people in this city. Instead, he was similar to someone in the upper class that was trying to join the top rank.

It was apparent after seeing other mansions in the area. They even compared it with Jay and Kanaria's families, considering their families were at the top of their particular city.

Clovis picked it because they didn't want to clean up a lot of space but still wanted a certain amount of space to do things like practice.

Once they brought everything to this new place, they split up.

Most people stayed inside the mansion, cleaning up the place and making the mansion a proper place to live. It had been abandoned for at least twenty years after all. It required a lot of effort to clean them.

"Hmm?" Jay furrowed his eyebrows, looking at Ragna, who was wiping the floor. "Ragna? Where is Clovis? Isn't he with you?"

Ragna smiled wryly. "Captain told me he wanted to check the tower. Christina went with him."

"Kanaria?" Jay looked around, finding Melody, who was fully absorbed with her screen.

"Kanaria should be changing the sheet for everyone," explained Melody.

"Oh. What are you doing then? If you are not doing anything, how about helping us? This is going to take forever."

"Sorry. I'm mapping the city right now and searching for the potential spots where Tier 6 beasts would most likely reside."

While she said those words, Reolf suddenly slid with a wet towel on his front paws. In fact, he was pushing the towel as if he was playing around with the slide.

"..." Jay facepalmed while saying, "These people... Even the animal is actually much more helpful than them."

"Ahahaha." Ragna laughed wryly.

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Inside the abandoned Explorer Management Bureau, the place where they managed the explorers before going to the underworld, Clovis and Christina swiftly cut their way toward the tower.

With Melody's help, they didn't encounter any problematic beast, allowing them to reach the tower in less than thirty minutes.

Normally, the tower would have a platform that would carry them up and down, but the only thing that was left behind were broken pillars and snapped cables that were used to carry the platform in the past.

"Hmm... This is probably going to be the main problem, right?" Clovis squinted his eyes.

"Yes. Still, the tower is not straight up. It's like a tunnel that allows for both humans and beasts to cross even without the tower."

"I know. The sky lift is only there to allow humans to have an easier time crossing the tower." Clovis squinted his eyes. "Still, that is necessary if we want to develop the underground city."

"Yes. Still, it's going to take some time even if we employ a lot of people." Christina shrugged. "I think even Kanaria knows this, but how many people can actually work in this city?"

"Even my grandfather didn't dare to take a fallen city. He only took a very desperate city where he could gain the most after regaining its strength."

Clovis crossed his arms. "I know this is not an easy project. In the end, I will be providing the funds."

"Fair enough. Just be careful that people are not saying you are Hana's kept man." Christina grinned, teasing him.

"What kept man? I feel like I'm dealing with a vampire." Clovis sighed. "Anyway, how long is this tower?"

"I'm not very sure. You should ask Kanaria or Melody. However, most towers have a height of 2 kilometers. And because the tunnel is at an angle, it's about ten times that number."

"Now that we're thinking about rebuilding this, it's quite amazing that there's no magma whatsoever to destroy this tower." Clovis chuckled.

"I know, right?" Christina shrugged. "According to my grandfather, nothing happened when the tower suddenly appeared.

"It felt like the rock formation was removed and this new underworld appeared out of the blue. There was no tectonic shift whatsoever.

"The only thing that happened was the sudden disappearance of resources. Petroleum was gone, mines disappeared, and even geothermal energy completely vanished. There are no active volcanoes on the surface. Some even thought these towers were volcanoes that collapsed.

"In the end, we could only speculate. There's no telling what's actually going on with our world. The absurdity or more like the lack of realism, feels like..."

"A game." Clovis nodded in understanding.

"Yeah. Our people have created games and things like that without much thought, but after this incident, people definitely understand how unpleasant it is to be seen as a character in that game and some people are watching us like gods." She nodded.

"That's why I want to find it... the answer." Clovis smiled. "Anyway, we have scouted the area. The tower itself seems to be working just fine. Once we take care of the beasts outside, we will start delving into the tunnel."

"Yeah. Though, there's someone who is close to the answer." Hana looked at Clovis. "He is your grandfather."

"I know. Even though I wasn't really bothered with my family's circumstances, I at least know that it's because of that very reason that the Hacfield family is in this condition."

"Yes. Just like there are people who are curious like your grandfather, there are people who don't want to discover the truth. The unknown is too scary after all. It can be anything. It can break our hope and it will be too late to do anything about it."

"Indeed."

Chapter 674 674: Movement

While Clovis and the others were setting up their new base, a lot of groups were on the move, figuring out a way to get Clovis to join them.

"What? Absalom is truly ridiculous. They're stopping our entry to their country? Are they so afraid that we'll steal Clovis from them?"

"Well... isn't that what we're supposed to do?"

"I'm just letting it out of frustration!"

"Yes... so, what are we going to do now?"

"It can't be helped. If the normal route is blocked, we have to come from the underworld. Unlike the surface, they can't stop our entry there."

"But we don't know where he is. And even if we can find him, as long as he's inside an underground city, we will have a hard time bypassing their security. It looks like they're tightening both the surface and subterranean security."

"It doesn't matter. At the very least, people will make less fuss if we enter from there."

"I understand."

"Where is he now?"

"We don't have that information currently. It appears that the country is sealing off his information. I'm afraid they're trying to strike a deal or something. Are they..."

"Are they going to offer a tower to make him stay? This is not good. Find all information about him, especially his whereabouts. Even if he gets that kind of deal, we can offer the same thing. We will just offer him to get stronger and let him get the tower after being recognized in this country."

"Our country is much stronger than Absalom. I'm sure he will be more pleased to join here."

"I understand. In that case, I will find any information about him."

"Focus on his location first. We can't afford to let others take the initiative to contact him."

"Yes."

A lot of people were trying to find a way to enter Absalom, but some had actually worked on it. There were some people who actually entered the country with a fake passport, identifying themselves as the citizens of Absalom who had just returned to the country.

Some even had spies hiding inside the country the whole time, and it was time to utilize them.

Unfortunately for them, Clovis had prepared another layer of defense against them, which was none other than Vina. With Vina spreading misinformation, these people shouldn't be able to figure out his location, at least for a few months. Even Clovis didn't expect Vina to be able to mislead everyone for the entire nine months.

Still, there were some who actually used another way to find Clovis. That was by talking to Clovis' members, specifically their relatives.

"Congratulations. The Renvolt family will definitely rise from this point onward. Kanaria Renvolt was so strong during the fight, capable of defeating an enemy despite being at a disadvantage. She would definitely become someone that would be recognized by the entire world sooner or later."

"Thank you." Kanaria's father nodded while her mother had a smug smile inwardly.

However, there was a question that tried to slip past their defense.

"That's right. We would like to discuss the sponsorship for Kanaria Renvolt. If possible, can we talk to her? Or to express our sincerity, it would be good if we could meet her directly."

The same was happening to all their relatives. Jay's family also received a similar type of visitor, trying to figure out their information by acting like a sponsor.

That was why Clovis had told them not to tell even their parents their current location or plan. They might worry a bit, but as long as Kanaria and the others warned them about this type of person, they would surely understand.

Though, there was one family or two that didn't get bothered by this, simply because they were too occupied with each other.

"Hahahaha, in-law." Aileen's father, Albert Risevan, laughed out loud with wine in his hand. "To think that Aileen becomes someone so strong. If your son didn't make her leave this country, her talent might be buried. How dare those people force my daughter to marry their playboy son? Look at them now. Hahahaha!"

Erwin's adoptive father, Professor Genzert, smiled wryly. "I'm just wondering if my son is good enough for your daughter."

"What are you talking about? Your grandson is literally the left-hand man of Clovis. There must be a reason for Clovis to entrust that position to him. That's why you should believe in your son. Look at my daughter. She knows what to choose. As a result, her talent is finally acknowledged. Come on. We're a family now. Let's have a toast."

Professor Genzert just smiled, still feeling overwhelmed.

Obviously, the academy that lost Aileen without them realizing it was completely baffled.

The dean of the Deinesse National University couldn't help but slam his table. "What? A pseudo unique ability? Why did such a talent get away from this academy? Investigate it right now!"

It didn't take too long for the investigation result to come out. And no one would expect that her teacher was planning to sell her to the playboy from the Heshton family.

As a result, even without Hana or Clovis doing anything, the people hated the half-destroyed Heshton family, which ultimately resulted in their downfall. Her teacher disappeared after the news spread.

It had become too chaotic for Axolonia to do anything to Clovis yet. In the end, they were the biggest laughingstock for letting Clovis and Aileen leave the country.

However, there was one unexpected result. It was the fact that the information about Clovis would be found sooner than expected.

"So, that's how it is..." The Tier 9 human from the Melesviet family, Carrick, slammed the table while grinning. He was staring at the paper in front of him, showing the reason he lost.

That paper contained information about the person that caused him to lose.

And the first row of that information contained the name of that person.

Name: Clovis Hacfield.

"Hahahaha. Do you think you can hide your affiliation with that family? Don't think this is over after you scam me out of ten percent of my family's revenue and all this embarrassment."

Chapter 675: Revealed

Because of the embarrassment after that battle, the people had been spying on the Melesviet family, wanting to know what they thought about the battle.

It was true that the Libation Fiesta was abnormal, but they were supposed to beat them, especially with their current strength.

That was why people had been asking for an explanation, considering the country's reputation had been tarnished.

Carrick was furious, but more importantly, he was focused on searching for Clovis' information.

Finally, after a lot of digging, he found it. It was at that time the Melesviet family spoke up.

Carrick immediately prepared for a press conference, planning to clear up the name of the Melesviet family and shift all the trouble back to Clovis.

At the very least, he could finally punish his grandson without anyone knowing it this time. After all, everyone's eyes were on Clovis.

In front of numerous reporters, Carrick got a question. "Sir Carrick. Did you not feel embarrassed after suffering such a disastrous defeat in Absalom?"

Before, Carrick would be furious. But after figuring out Clovis' identity, Carrick simply smiled. It was as if he had let go of his burden and the embarrassment was just a thing in the past.

"!!!" The people were confused by the sudden smile. They thought Carrick had gone insane. How could a loser smile like this?

But before they could speak another word, Carrick said, "I don't feel embarrassed losing to an old rival."

"An old rival?" The people were confused. They thought Carrick was talking about Ezekiel, considering he was also present.

However, when the reporter asked, "Sir Carrick. Mr. Ezekiel—!"

Before he finished his question, Carrick raised his hand, stopping him. "No. You misunderstand. I'm not talking about Ezekiel Elseingarde. He is nothing but an old fox who is taking advantage of the situation.

"The person I'm talking about is Clovis' grandfather. Losing to the grandson of that person is not embarrassing. In fact, I'm relieved. With this, my grandson, Tesron, can finally mature, knowing that there are hidden dragons in this world, including someone who is deliberately erasing the trace of him from his grandson.

"Clovis must be the hidden weapon of that family. The proof is that group of his. I'm now relieved because I can finally see what kind of thing they've been preparing this whole time... I guess I shouldn't really call him Clovis anymore. Instead, I should call him by his full name... Clovis Hacfield."

"..."

The people who were watching it live fell silent. They widened their eyes and paused for a moment, as if their brains had stopped working for a moment.

More and more people started to recognize the name and immediately dropped their jaws to the ground.

Hacfield. That was a cursed name in this world. Of course, the Hacfield family wasn't that hated. However, they were like a walking disaster. A mysterious family that could do anything they wanted in this world, the Hacfield family.

Starting from his grandfather, Michael Hacfield, the family is basically one of the strongest families in the world. In addition, Michael Hacfield was free from any obligation because he wasn't affiliated with any countries like Mara. Still, Mara Leverstrike wasn't as dangerous as Michael, because she just walked around without causing much ruckus. However, Michael was known as a madman who did the unthinkable.

His son, Gerald Hacfield, was no exception. He might not have the unique ability, but his talent was so high that it was considered one of the pseudo-unique abilities. That talent allowed him to understand, develop, and improve a martial art.

People even called him the World Guru. There were many influences who were indebted to him because he managed to improve their techniques.

He married Aisha Meilern, now Hacfield, the person who was known as the best doctor in the world. She mastered three major fields and her research has improved the whole world. In fact, she was one of the leading scientists that created the Super Injection and also the Recovery Pod.

The Hacfield family might not be big, but these three pillars alone were so tall that most people could only lower their heads, not daring to compare their achievements.

This time, Carrick dropped a bomb, revealing that Clovis was actually the grandson of Michael Hacfield and the son of Gerald and Aisha. How could they not be shocked?

Looking at his unique ability alone, Clovis was definitely going to become a Tier 9 human in the future. More importantly, he had an abnormal group that might eventually become one of the strongest groups in the world.

Last but not least, he had another unique ability user and a pseudo-unique ability user under him.

This fact alone elevated Clovis' status to a rare position. Getting Clovis meant getting the Libation Fiesta. People thought that at first.

Once Carrick revealed his full name, the people realized that they wouldn't just get the Libation Fiesta but also the Hacfield family. Any influence would simply shoot up to the top if they managed to get Clovis.

That was why this announcement shocked the world more than Clovis defeating Tesron's team.

The mysterious family that had been hidden from the public eye now could be seen in Clovis.

Carrick simply continued, "As such, my family will be doing our best to become stronger from this point onward, now that we know who our rival is. I know you are watching this, Michael. Deny it if Clovis is not your grandson. I know you can't. Even if you are trying to be mysterious and erase his family name, you are not someone who will deny this."

After stating it, Carrick simply left the room.

"Sir Carrick!"

"Sir—!"

The reporters tried to ask a few more questions, but Carrick had left the room. There was nothing that needed to be said. Clovis' full name alone was enough to shift everyone's attention from his family.

The press was broadcast to the entire country at first, but it soon spread to Skytube before spreading even further to conventional media in each country.

In less than an hour, Clovis' full name was spread to the entire world.

Chapter 676 676: Shocked

"Clovis Hacfield?"

"That family?!"

"He is the grandson of Michael Hacfield?"

The people dropped their jaws, as they couldn't believe what Carrick had just revealed.

Almost every single person in the world knew about this news in just a few hours, including the president of Absalom.

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Absalom.

"This is... truly..." The president smiled wryly. "It's going to be hard to protect him like this."

"Yeah. To think that he would reveal that information. No... it's to be expected, but I thought he would focus on his grandson and embarrassment. Even a simple dig won't be enough to find his origin, but to think that he would dig that deep..."

They let out a long sigh. The value of Clovis in people's eyes had just skyrocketed. At the same time, while there were a lot of people wanting Clovis, his grandfather's enemies were a lot more. They will definitely come for him.

"We will have to—" Before the president could say something, his phone suddenly rang, startling the people inside the room.

"..."

All of them had a troubled face as though they knew what kind of call this was.

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In the west, a middle-aged man smiled. "Clovis Hacfield, huh? After knowing that, there's no way we're going to miss out. This is not just about someone who has the potential to become a Tier 9 human in the world."

"What are we going to do, sir?"

"I'm going to meet the president right away. If we can snatch Clovis from Absalom, we might be able to get the Hacfield family behind him. There's also the Elseingarde family." The man clenched his hands into fists. "Prepare my car... no, I'm going there myself."

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In the east, an elderly woman tapped the ground with her cane. "To think he is his grandson... I have failed to get his son, but there's still a chance to get his grandson. For the sake of our family, you have to find out his whereabouts right now. I'm sure he hasn't left Absalom."

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In the south, a muscular, bald man laughed. "Hahahaha. I never thought his grandson's identity would be revealed. As expected of my rival, let's challenge him, shall we?"

"But sir... Do you even have a grudge against him?"

"Of course not. I just want to fight someone strong. But I guess I shall let my son do it this time." The bald man pointed to the north. "Go! I want you to wreak havoc over there. Just challenge him or whatever.

"While Michael is feared by the world, he has a lot of enemies who aren't scared of him. Go and challenge him before his enemies kill him."

"Still, Ezekiel Elseingarde seems to be protecting him in the open right now. I'm afraid that we will incur the wrath of both Michael Hacfield and Ezekiel Elseingarde."

The bald man harrumphed. "It's fine if I have to fight those two men. Just go!"

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The world was in uproar and it wouldn't stop for at least several days. All the media were talking about Clovis and the Libation Fiesta.

Obviously, it had reached the ears of his grandfather.

"Look at them. They're going after your grandson, you know." Ezekiel smirked while placing a pawn on G4.

"Indeed. That's going to be a problem, but I don't think you have to worry about it. You just have to protect him for a while." Michael shook his head while moving the rook to E8.

"You're going to make your appearance soon?"

"Not really. I don't need to show myself. There's someone who is going to take care of it."

"Huh?" Ezekiel looked confused. "Who? Is that person even strong enough to stop them?"

"I'm talking about his soon-to-be teacher. If his teacher is not enough, then I don't know who is capable of dealing with them."

"!!!" Ezekiel raised his eyebrows. "This is the first time I have heard about your grandson having a teacher. Aren't you his teacher?"

"Not really. I did teach him a couple of things, but it wasn't to the point where I would be considered his teacher. The person I'm talking about is Mara."

"Mara? Which Mara?" Ezekiel frowned. "Wait. Don't tell me. That Mara?"

Michael winked playfully.

"She is his teacher?" Ezekiel dropped his jaw to the ground.

"Hehehe. It seems she has taken an interest in him. As expected of my grandson, he's truly capable."

"No, no. That wasn't the reason I was shocked." Ezekiel waved his hand. "According to Clovis, he had reached an agreement with Mara that she would join his team in the future after fulfilling a certain condition."

"Join his team?" Michael's eyes lit up before laughing out loud. "Bahahahaha. As expected of my grandson. He's truly exceptional. Aren't you glad to have me as your friend?"

"..." Ezekiel sighed. "Well, I guess it's fine. It's best to nurture a relationship in a life-and-death battle. I just hope they're able to overcome all those challenges. Besides, isn't it you who asks me to betroth my granddaughter to him?"

"What are you talking about? My dear Clovis is too much for anyone in this world. You were the one begging me to have Clovis get engaged to your daughter. If you're not my friend, I wouldn't even consider this," Michael snorted.

"What did you say?" Ezekiel gritted his teeth while sneakily placing the queen at E1. "By the way, checkmate."

"Ah!" Michael looked down with his mouth wide open. "You bastard!"

...

"This is going to be quite troublesome, dear." Aisha showed the news.

Gerald shook his head. "We know this is going to happen. That was why we used that brat from the Dark Moon to take care of it."

"Still, Clovis is going to be in danger. That lass is like a leech, you know?"

"That's true. Of course, I will do something if they're too much, but for now, I will choose to trust Clovis. He's our child, so I'm sure he's capable enough to deal with all the challenges. Besides, Father has contacted me. It seems he has made some arrangements beforehand."

"Well, I will trust you for this, but if something happens to Clovis, you're going to sit on the couch for a year." Aisha squinted her eyes.

"..." Gerald smiled wryly. "Are you telling me to die?"

"Dying might be better than living." Aisha pouted. "Anyway, I'm off. I need some medicine without any side effects for my dear son if he's going to have multiple wives."

"..."

Chapter 677: Unexpected Find

"Clovis. Look at this." Hana showed news from the video call.

"Hmm?" Clovis furrowed his eyebrows.

"What's that? Why is your full name on the news?" Kanaria crossed her arms.

"It looks like they're spreading his name." Christina looked concerned. As an heir of the Elseingarde family, she knew precisely how sensitive Clovis' name was.

"It seems Carrick Melesviet figured it out and spread the information. He even challenged my grandfather to deny it. Knowing my grandfather, he would only hide it, but when it's found out, he won't deny anything." Clovis pinched the bridge of his nose. "It seems everyone is already aware of my identity now."

"Isn't this bad?" Kanaria gasped.

"Yeah. This is bad... extremely bad." Christina looked down, contemplating. "Once they know about his identity, his value will skyrocket because getting him is the same as getting the Hacfield family.

"Meanwhile, his family's enemies will definitely try to harm him since he's their weakest link. Normally, my family only allows me to go out if I'm protected carefully. In fact, the protection will be quite similar to how the president's protection team works.

"After all, an angry Tier 9 human can wreak havoc in a country. Fortunately, no one knows our location yet. I don't know how competent Vina is, but I believe the organization behind her is competent enough to hide us for a few months.

"The only problem is what we will do when we are found out." Christina sighed. "It's going to be a bloodbath."

"For now, we will focus on having everyone who is close to evolve to reach the next tier before our location is found.

"Although this is not enough to stop a Tier 9, with your grandfather protecting us, I don't think a Tier 9 human will come unless they're ready to face your grandfather.

"The country will most likely mobilize their own Tier 8 humans to stop their high-ranking people. So, at most, it will be Tier 7. That's why it is important for you to become Tier 6, Christina.

"Although the gap between Tier 6 and Tier 7 is much wider compared to the gap between Tier 5 and Tier 6, with your unique skill and my items, you should be able to hold out.

"The only problem will be how to deal with them. None of us is strong enough yet," Clovis sighed. "I didn't expect them to figure out my identity this fast. I thought we could stay quiet for a few months..."

Christina nodded in agreement. "Yeah. The original plan is to hide that identity for a few months, so when they know your identity, they will still require a few more months to find us. This will be enough for you guys to become a Tier 5."

"In that case, should I mobilize my people?" Hana asked.

Clovis shook his head. "If you mobilize your people, they will find us quickly. After all, the only way to find us is through..."

"Us, huh?" Kanaria squinted her eyes.

"That's true. I have been getting a lot of calls ever since that news went live." Hana sighed. "In that case, should I send out people to protect their families, specifically, the Renvolt, Havenson, Tyska, and Risevan families?"

"No. There's no need to do it. I'm sure that the country will try to make us comfortable in this country by protecting the families in secret. After all, they want us to bring our families into this country so that our families can become a chain to stop us from going anywhere else." Clovis couldn't help but recall the conversation with his grandfather.

...

A few years ago.

"I want a big group!" Clovis declared with a big smile on his face.

"Why do you want to have a big group?" Michael smiled. "Are you not satisfied with getting stronger by yourself? If you want a big group, this family alone is enough."

"No!" Clovis shook his head furiously. "I don't want to be like Grandfather. I want a big group where I can rely on everyone. I'm going to surpass you, grandfather, but it won't be just me. It will be us."

Michael's smile turned wry. "Do you know the consequences of your decision? If you have a big group, you have to be responsible for their own people, their own families, you know? Can you even protect them that way?"

"It's different from me. Whenever we're together, that's the family and I can protect you all. However, with so many people and so many families, you have to protect them all and shoulder their burden. Can you do it?"

Clovis looked down, feeling sad at that time.

...

Now that he had to face this problem head-on, he got the answer he was looking for.

If he couldn't protect them, he just had to create a situation where he could. Accepting this country's offer would grant them a certain protection.

He had to continue shining so that the country wouldn't hesitate to send manpower to help him.

That was why he knew what should be done in this situation. "Let them come. Hana, you hold the fort for the time being. It doesn't matter for how long."

"Sure. It seems you have a plan. I will announce a new branch in another country to shift the public eye for a bit." Hana nodded.

"Kanaria. Ask Melody about the map of this city. I want to know the location as soon as possible. I want to clean up this city in less than two weeks... No, one week. After that, we will immediately descend and clear up the tunnel.

"It's going to be hard for everyone, but with this pace, we should be able to surpass our original goal."

"There's no need to do that. I have already finished the map." Melody suddenly entered the room.
"Besides, there's something I'd like to report. Actually, the Underground City has an Essence Bank, bigger than the one on the surface.

"After looking at the log, it seems the Essence Bank in the underground city is capable of performing a Super Injection.

"Clovis... If we are able to get to this Essence Bank, we might be able to use the resources they abandoned to perform Super Injection." Melody smirked. Chapter 678: Raiding the Essence Bank

"Clovis... If we are able to get to this Essence Bank, we might be able to use the resources they abandoned to perform Super Injection." Melody smirked.

"That's an interesting topic you have there." Hana's eyes brightened. "Since it has been abandoned, everything you're able to get will be yours."

"But considering this place can be raided, don't you think it has been ransacked by a lot of people?" Clovis asked while shrugging his shoulders. "I don't know. I believe that they have gotten everything they needed from this city."

"That might be true." Hana crossed her arms. "Still, I believe it's only limited to the surface. You have to cross the entire tower if you want to reach the underground city, not counting the fact that the underground city is much more dangerous.

"You need a huge group to reach that point, but if you do it like that, it's going to be hard to go down together. A single mistake might result in people rolling down to their death. So, while the surface might be empty, there's a high chance the bank in the underground city hasn't."

"But we're talking about the second biggest corporation in the world, Essence Bank. Don't they have enough people to recover them? That much essence is worth a lot of money, you know?" Clovis argued.

"You're overestimating it. While it's true that Essence Bank is that big, they don't have that kind of manpower. They're usually cutting off losses the moment it has been abandoned.

"After all, for a city of this size, they might have to ask at least two Tier 8 humans to take care of it.

"Currently, Essence Bank has about 30 Tier 8 humans under them, but they're scattered around the world, so it's hard to gather two of them at the same place."

Clovis crossed his arms. "Now that I think about it, why do they not have a Tier 9 human? They should have the capital to do it, no? In fact, even for a Tier 9, having the Essence Bank in their palm is still quite enticing."

"Not really. There is one big reason. They might hire a Tier 9 human, but they won't be able to make them lead for various reasons. The Tier 9 human might not be good at business, so they will end up being a figurehead, which ends up sucking their revenue. At the same time, the Tier 9 human might not want to be restrained by them.

"After all, a single call from a Tier 9 can make the Essence Bank do something for them. However, the number one company in the world, Skylink, is different though. They're led by a Tier 9 human and have a lot of Tier 8 humans under them.

"Still, even though Skylink is the number one, sometimes, the Essence Bank is scarier. Unlike other companies, Essence Bank is able to make a lot of strong people.

"If you end up getting banned by the Essence Bank, it's basically a death sentence, not just for you, but also for the people around you.

"This is the second reason as to why the Essence Bank doesn't have a Tier 9 human controlling it. Even if there's a suitable candidate, a lot of people will try to prevent it so that no Tier 9 human has the control over the most important resources in the current era."

"Fair enough." Clovis nodded in understanding. "So basically, they don't have any personnel to recover their goods?"

"We've strayed a bit from the topic, but yeah. There's a high chance they haven't recovered from it. As for other influences, even if they organize such a thing, it will be so big that I will definitely know about it.

"However, there's nothing about such a thing, so I think raiding the Essence Bank will give you quite an advantage."

Clovis fell into deep thought, considering the challenge. Still, he found one problem. "Well, even if we have the essence, how can we do the Super Injection?"

"True. That's indeed a problem. I can send one of my men there, but the facility might not be up. If you bring it back and receive it here, your whereabouts might be found by them.

"On the other hand, if I create a portable one, I might be found out. After all, a lot of people have their eyes on me right now, since I'm the closest person to you they could find."

"Should we save it for now?" Clovis asked. "We can probably store it somewhere here and use it when we go back or something."

"No, I think it's fine." Hana waved her hand. "I will try to make a portable one. It won't be as fast and intense as the real Super Injection, but you could still take advantage of it. For now, I will try to give it to you when sending supplies.

"As for the machine itself, while it's true that the Essence Bank is the one usually doing it, it's an open-source technology under the World Essence Organization.

"So, the device itself shouldn't be a problem. I will just open a bit of my coffer." Hana winked playfully at Clovis.

Clovis smiled wryly. Still, he had some funds for the city restoration, so he could probably transfer it to Hana since he didn't need it yet. And his mall had already registered the money.

Hence, it might be possible. Clovis nodded. "Alright. Let's do it that way. You can take your time. It's not like it's guaranteed we'll find something there. And even if we do, we don't know if there is essence suitable for our group. After all, the essence of that tier is pretty scarce."

"Yes. For now, I'll make my preparations. See you in a week."

Clovis nodded. Once Hana hung up the call, Clovis turned to Melody. "Have you finished with the mapping? Right now, we'll focus on raiding the Essence Bank and everything around it. If possible, I want to kill the first Tier 6 tomorrow."

Melody gave a thumbs-up. "Sure. I'll compile everything for you. Just give me fifteen minutes."

"Tell everyone to gather for a briefing."

Chapter 679: Going Down

"This is the layout of the Essence Bank in this city. We first have to secure everything on the first floor and make our way up. However, we can't ignore the possibility of a basement, so keep that in mind."

The Libation Fiesta recalled the briefing Melody gave a moment ago while entering the Essence Bank. The group was split into two.

Clovis led the first group while Jay took care of the second group. Clovis moved together with Reolf so they swiftly discovered the beasts living in this place and cut them down.

However, their true objective was the basement. According to Reolf, he could hear beasts coming underneath them, so Clovis split up to find the entrance to the basement.

On the other hand, Jay focused on killing all the beasts on the first floor before moving up.

With their current strength, not a single beast was their match. There was one Tier 5 beast in the basement, but Christina and Clovis worked together to cut it down in less than a minute.

Meanwhile, Jay, Erwin, and Aileen wreaked havoc on the upper floors. Of course, they didn't forget to scavenge everything they could find, but there wasn't much. After all, there were a lot of people who had scavenged this place in the past. They could see a lot of drawers had been opened, and the safe had been discovered.

In the end, they cleaned up the entire building in less than two hours.

While standing on top of a beast's body, he asked, "How is it going up there?"

Melody, on the top floor, squinted her eyes. "Everything has been cleaned up, as expected. Right now, I'm searching for a Tier 6 beast. Although I haven't figured out their location, there's something that piques my interest.

"Right now, I'm looking at a big hole located not far from the city center. This hole might lead to the sewer system, so there might be an unexpected beast hiding there."

"Sewer system? Is the sewer system of this city big?" Clovis frowned.

"It's a hurricane prone area, so yeah. I don't know how big, but our entire group shouldn't have a problem entering there. We should clean up the sewer from the beasts anyway."

"I see. In that case, we'll go there. Just wait for a few minutes. I'm about to finish as well."

"Understood." Melody nodded.

"I never thought she would be this efficient." Christina looked surprised, listening to the entire conversation, considering they were talking on the group channel.

"Yeah." Clovis chuckled.

"Is it really because of her brother?"

"Indeed. I just hope she doesn't push herself too much." Clovis shrugged. "If she's sick, it will be a problem for our group after all."

"Fair enough." Christina agreed. Melody's help was definitely top notch. It could rival even the top operators in the family. In addition, her combat strength wasn't that weak either.

Coupled with other skills she had, Melody was definitely considered a rare operator.

Clovis fell silent for a moment before giving an order. "We'll regroup in 45 minutes. Make sure you get all the essence before regrouping. We'll then make our way toward the sewer. Kill all the beasts in sight."

"Understood."

With Clovis' order, everyone sped up. They managed to accomplish the task faster.

While on the way, Clovis and Melody remained at the rear, letting the rest of the group handle everything in their way.

"This is the layout of the sewer we got from the government." Melody pointed at the map. "Judging by the hole, we should enter from this part. There are two main ways, so I suggest splitting up."

"Do you have any visuals on the sewer?"

"Not yet." Melody turned to the screen and controlled the drone, gradually approaching the hole. When it hovered above the hole, they could see a massive storm sewer.

"This is quite big, isn't it? Is it really that prone to a storm?" Clovis asked.

"Pretty much. That's why this place is built to withstand such a thing. Despite the situation, the location is simply too strategic, so this city is quite big and equipped with a lot of things. Depending on the damage of this system, we might also have to rebuild it... meaning more money to burn."

"Well, money doesn't really matter right now." Clovis crossed his arms.

"The size of this system is 2 meters in radius, so we can fit easily there. Even if there's a beast hiding there, it won't be over three meters tall and its body won't be too big."

"How about going down with the drone and checking whether the beasts reside in it or not?"

"OK." She nodded, controlling the drone to go down into the sewer. Unfortunately, there was no light, so it was hard to see.

Nevertheless, Melody still spun it around, trying to see any beast. To their surprise, before the drone could make a 360 degree spin, it suddenly went offline, the camera shaking as though it had been struck from behind.

"!!!" Both Clovis and Melody widened their eyes before exchanging looks.

"It doesn't seem to be safe." Melody smiled wryly.

"Indeed. Do we have the nightvision ready?"

"Yep. It's in my backpack."

Clovis thought for a moment. "In that case, I will once again split the group into two. The first group will be led by me. It consists of Jay, Ragna, Kanaria, and Luci. The second group will be led by Christina. Erwin, Aileen, Melody, and Reolf will follow her.

"If the first group finds a Tier 6 beast, Jay and Kanaria will take care of it while the rest will support them. For the second group, Erwin and Aileen will take care of it.

"Melody. Guide us through the entire system and check if there's any other entrances."

Once they reached the edge of the hole, everyone stopped for a moment and put down all the unnecessary luggages in the house not far from the hole. After that, they set up some ropes while Kanaria released her butterfly wings.

Clovis nodded before jumping off. "Let's go!"

Chapter 680: Two Tier 6 Beasts

Clink!

Clink!

Clink!

Aileen parried the tongue of a beast in rapid succession, only to have her get pushed back every time.
"Kh."

Bam!

Christina came to her, blocking a stomp from this huge beast. Christina smiled, "So, we're the ones getting the jackpot."

"As expected, we'll be the ones taking it down." Erwin nodded.

"Sure."

Melody nodded. "Clovis. We've found the Tier 6 beast. Everything is under control right now, so please proceed according to plan."

Clovis was supposed to acknowledge the information, but for some reason, there was no response from him.

Instead, the reply came from Kanaria.

"This is Kanaria. You are not the only one getting the jackpot today. Our group has also found the Tier 6 beast."

"There are two?" Melody was stunned. She hurriedly checked the camera, finding the same beast standing in front of Clovis and Jay. "This is..."

"We'll take care of this, so you take care of that side as well."

Melody couldn't help but gulp down. The fact that there were two Tier 6 beasts in here meant this place was much more dangerous than they originally thought. The people claimed there were only three Tier 6 beasts here, but it didn't seem to be the case. There might be even more Tier 6 beasts hiding in this sewer.

More importantly, the species before her might have used this place to multiply. "This might be a nest for..."

...

A moment ago.

"Let's go!"

All of them jumped into the hole and gradually lowered their descent speed by tightening the grip on their respective ropes.

Clovis was the first one to reach the bottom. He immediately scanned the area, finding a lizard already crawling before him and was about to hit him.

Without hesitation, Clovis struck the lizard's head while scanning the area, ensuring the others' safety.

Only Kanaria and Melody didn't need a rope, since they descended smoothly with their butterfly wings.

Ragna and Christina immediately took their posts to block any unexpected attack. With the night vision, they had no problem in this darkness.

Clovis pointed at one tunnel, while Christina took the other one. They both immediately went separate ways, not needing any explanation.

Melody fully focused on the route, making sure they didn't get lost.

Although this was their first time fighting inside the storm sewer, the beasts hiding inside weren't that much different from the beasts usually staying in the wet area.

They had no problem advancing through the tunnel. However, even though the groups fit inside these tunnels, it wasn't big enough for all of them to go all out.

Even with Ragna and Jay in the front, Clovis couldn't join them or they would crash into each other.

In the end, they created a rotation system so that they were able to conserve their stamina.

Still, the tunnel was 'busier' than they expected. There were actually a lot more beasts hiding inside this place compared to a huge building like the Essence Bank.

According to Melody, this place would usually be submerged whenever the rainy season arrived. However, since it was still summer, the water level was even lower than their ankles, which was suitable for those who loved wet areas.

With so many beasts going around, they kept changing their positions to conserve as much energy as possible. After all, the more beasts resided in one location, the higher the chance they would find a Tier 6 beast. Hence, Clovis specifically wanted the four people who would beat the Tier 6 beast to rest as much as possible.

Christina did the same thing as Clovis.

Still, the sewer system was extremely complicated. They had to check every nook and corner, making sure there wasn't a single beast left in this area.

But it didn't seem they had to wait that long.

"Erwin. Watch out!" Christina shouted while putting her shield in front, blocking an extremely tough tongue. The tongue was long, and the force contained in it felt like she was being hit by a car.

"Tsk." Erwin clicked his tongue and released his wires while Aileen moved forward, forcing the beast to hit her instead.

"This is..." Melody frowned. "Isn't this Eryops? It's an ancient amphibian that once lived 295 million years ago. It looked like a bulky mix between a salamander and a crocodile.

"From what I can see, the length alone is about four meters, and it's estimated to weigh around 200 kg. It has strong limbs, tough skin, a big skull, and big jaws. While it's slow, it's extremely powerful.

"Watch out!"

"Oh!" Christina nodded and rushed forward.

The eryops would definitely try to stop her, but Christina actually didn't bother to protect herself here. Instead, she looped around the eryops because her role wasn't to kill him but to stop any other beasts from helping him.

When the eryops were about to hit Christina, Aileen appeared in the opposite direction and struck the beast's neck, barely injuring it.

"!!!" The eryops noticed her, but it didn't seem too wary of her. He continued to focus on Christina until Erwin suddenly came and punched him in the face, knocking his head the other way around.

"Your opponent is me," Erwin harrumphed.

"It's us!" Aileen harrumphed and struck the eye with her short sword.

"Seeee!" The eryops screamed in pain and started shaking its body to push them away.

...

Just like Christina, the first thing Clovis did the moment he found this beast simply passed him.

The beast wanted to stop him, but Jay struck its blade and cut through the neck. It wasn't deep enough to become fatal, but it was much deeper than Aileen's strike.

In addition, Kanaria shot the eryops in the jaw, knocking its head to the side. The bullet pierced through the jaw, forcing the eryops to focus on these two.

Meanwhile, the rest of the team positioned themselves accordingly, ensuring that those four could fight without any interference.

Jay took a deep breath, staring at the eryops. This was the battle he had been waiting for. After defeating a Tier 5 human from Team Melesviet, he wondered how much he had improved.