

## World Mall 681

### Chapter 681: Jay and Kanaria

"Raaa!" The eryops groaned as it endured Kanaria's relentless attack. However, not a single bullet penetrated its skin, so the eryops could still continue onward, choosing to abandon Clovis and the others.

He let Clovis and the others fight all the beasts around the area.

Meanwhile, the eryops crawled toward Jay.

"Hmph!" Jay strengthened his grip and struck the eryops from below.

The eryops skillfully lowered its head and used its hard jaw to block the attack. After that, he stomped Jay, forcing the latter to jump away to avoid it.

When Kanaria ran out of bullets, the eryops took the time she needed to reload to reach Jay.

It would look like the eryops wanted to kill Jay first, but it suddenly halted its step and turned its head toward Kanaria instead.

He then sent forth his long tongue.

Jay managed to react, albeit barely. He struck the tongue, shifting the eryops' tongue just for a bit.

"..." Kanaria glanced at the side before taking a step forward, tossing a grenade into the eryops' mouth.

While retracting its tongue, the eryops looked down to block the blast, but Jay was already there and struck him, knocking his head back up.

Boom!

The grenade knocked the head down. As if knowing it would happen, Jay had already gone to the side right after he hit the eryops' jaw, so the head didn't crush him.

'It doesn't seem I use enough power to injure this eryops. I thought about replicating Clovis' attack, but this one has a tougher skin, so I guess I can't really hold back for this fight,' thought Jay.

The eryops sensed a threat coming from Jay. It hurriedly stood up and shifted its head toward him, but Jay, using his fastest speed, reached the front leg of the eryops and struck it with all his might. The ranged attack had been used, amplifying the power even further.

\*Zap!\*

A red line appeared on the eryops' leg before it burst, widening the wound and causing the blood to spurt out.

"Raaa!" The eryops screamed in pain. However, Jay's attack was too shallow to cut the entire foot.

As a result, the eryops was able to hit Jay with his big foot. Jay withstood this attack because this foot was injured and there was another opportunity for him to cut this foot.

However, he might have been too fixated on this foot so much that he didn't pay attention to his surroundings.

"Jay!" Kanaria warned him at the last moment.

"!!!" Jay snapped and widened his eyes. In the corner of his vision was a tail swinging directly at him.

It hit him and launched him away.

"Kh..." Jay gritted his teeth after bouncing several times on the ground. If not for the last warning and the items from Clovis, he would have suffered more injuries. 'I was careless. Fortunately, it didn't seem to crack.'

Jay could feel the excruciating pain in his hand, which might loosen his grip and cause him to lose a bit of his power.

Even so, he had to return because Kanaria was in danger.

Kanaria, on the other hand, looked at the incoming eryops with a solemn expression, noticing something.

"I'm not always your support, you know?" Kanaria smiled. She took out a small case from her bag and activated it.

This case turned into a giant sniper rifle for her. She then tossed two grenades toward the eryops, forcing the latter to stop for a moment to withstand the blast.

But in that one second, Kanaria aimed at the injured foot and shot it.

Bam!

The Soul Weapon produced a loud sound, which was amplified with the echo that this tunnel provided.

It almost gave Kanaria a heart attack and ruptured her eardrums.

Still, the power was apparent.

With such a powerful bullet, the injured foot was torn off completely, causing the eryops to lose its balance and tilt to one side.

"!!!" Jay couldn't help but widen his eyes. Kanaria was supposed to be the support, but she was actually planning to be the main show.

Kanaria turned her head toward him with a smile.

Jay couldn't help but feel an invisible hand clutching his heart. That smile was telling, 'The Jay I know is much better than this, right?'

Jay gritted his teeth and stopped holding back. He utilized every bit of his strength while using his fastest speed toward the other front leg.

Kanaria, on the other hand, switched back to her regular rifle and started suppressing the eryops.

As a result, the eryops had no chance to stop Jay, who almost reached it.

Jay's eyes flashed as he carried all the momentum he had and leaped into the air, swinging his sword so that all the momentum in his body would be transferred into his blade. Then he used that power to amplify his ranged attack before striking the other front leg.

The slash was swift to the point where it didn't look like it harmed the eryops. However, the next second, the power of that slash erupted and severed the entire leg.

"Raaaa!" The eryops roared, trying to endure the pain and use the last bit of its energy to kill Jay.

Kanaria just smiled as though she believed in Jay's power. She switched back to her Soul Weapon and aimed for its jaw.

Bam!

Another shot was fired, hitting the eryops' jaw. Not expecting another bullet, the eryops could only endure the attack that actually tore off a portion of its jaw.

"!!!" Jay noticed what Kanaria was trying to do. He swiftly looped around and returned to the front of the eryops.

The eryops lifted up its head, trying to smash Jay with his upper jaw.

Jay took a deep breath, recalling that one stationary strike he unleashed against his opponent. The slash he had trained for tens of thousands of times.

"This is my Splitting Slash." Jay swung his blade downwards as the ranged attack erupted and traveled directly inside the eryops' body and ultimately passed him.

"!!!" The eryops widened its eyes but couldn't do anything more because its vision was suddenly split and fell in a different direction.

It died... split in two.

Chapter 682 682: Erwin and Aileen

On the other side, Erwin stretched his thread.

"Raaa!" The eryops crawled forward, trying to force the thread to snap. Unfortunately for the eryops, the thread was much tougher than it expected. Instead of snapping, the threads actually stopped the eryops' charge instead.

Aileen leaped up and grabbed one of the threads to swing herself down. Then she struck the alien from its blind spot due to the eye being stabbed by Aileen earlier.

She didn't plan to stab another eye. It might cripple the beast, but it would also make it go on a rampage. Even though Erwin was strong, his threads might not be enough to stop the rampaging beast with unpredictable movement.

Hence, she struck the neck instead. She slashed it a bit, but the wound was so shallow that it looked like a graze.

The eryops hurriedly sent forth its tail. Even though he couldn't see Aileen, he could sense her, albeit barely.

"..." Aileen furrowed her eyebrows while another thread suddenly circled around her and pulled her back so that the tail didn't hit her. She smiled, knowing Erwin would be there for her. At the same time, she thought, 'As expected of a beast, their instinct is much sharper than a human. To think that this beast can sense me... I have to be extra careful in this battle.'

The eryops stomped Aileen, who was stopped because of the thread, but Erwin had let it go so that Aileen could avoid it herself. She jumped and used the threads to propel herself to the back of the eryops.

Meanwhile, Erwin loosened the net and slipped past it so that he could punch this lizard.

The eryops's body tilted, but it still managed to remain standing. It sent forth the tongue to knock Erwin away, but the latter actually released several threads to circle around the tongue.

Bam!

The tongue hit Erwin. It was painful, but most of the damage had been absorbed by the equipment. He slid on the ground and tightened the threads, which ultimately wrapped the tongue.

"!!!" The eryops widened its eye. It wanted to pull the tongue back, but the muscle on the tongue was much weaker than the muscle of his body. As a result, Erwin easily stopped the tongue from going back.



The eryops hurriedly moved its entire body and head, pulling Erwin forcefully. Unfortunately for the eryops, this was just Erwin's plan.

Aileen had already leaped off the eryops' back. She fell right next to the tongue and used that momentum to cut the tongue.

"Rrrrrr!" The eryops produced a weird scream, but it was completely furious. Its eyes turned bloodshot as it charged forward. Aileen was pulled back by Erwin, but it didn't matter. The eryops continued charging, not caring about anything that would happen to him.

Erwin, on the other hand, produced the same net that stopped the eryops earlier. When the eryops hit it, the thread stopped the beast for a second but it started to snap as the lizard used even stronger strength in this charge.

Kanaria and Jay were able to defeat the eryops easily due to Kanaria's overpowered Soul Weapon and Jay's extraordinary strength. Meanwhile, Erwin had a unique fighting style and the combination of the couple.

Unfortunately, cutting the eryops with their fighting style was much harder compared to Kanaria and Jay's combination.

That was why the moment the lizard snapped all the thread, Aileen jumped on top of the beast. Meanwhile, Erwin grabbed the eryops' jaws, trying to stop it.

The eryops used every bit of its strength and overwhelmed Erwin. It first pushed him back, planning to either crush him with its massive body or simply bite him off.

That was why Aileen had a certain plan. She moved to the eryops' head and used both short swords to hit a different spot. The first one hit the remaining eye while the other one hit the neck.

Still, the first sword traveled at a slow speed, allowing the lizard to close the eyelids, which ultimately protected him from going blind.

But without seeing Erwin, the latter could actually use the last bit of his strength to create a small distance and jump up.

Aileen's strength might not be enough, but Erwin definitely had enough strength to pierce through the beast's tough skin. He dropped a kick directly at the back of Aileen's short sword.

"Rrrrrr!" The beast screamed as the sword pierced through the skin.

Aileen then used both hands to pull it to the side, widening the wound.

The eryops abruptly shook its body and spun it to shake off both of them from its body. It succeeded, but Erwin hurriedly released all his strings and wrapped the eryops' neck.

He clutched his hands to tighten the threads, but he ended up gritting his teeth because the threads failed to pierce through the remaining skin. Only the exposed flesh could be cut.

If he were alone, he definitely wouldn't be able to defeat this guy. However, he wasn't alone.

Aileen saw what was going on and understood what she was supposed to do. She skillfully struck the area that the threads enveloped, her swords slightly pushing the threads away so that it could make a small graze on its skin.

As a result, the threads then slid into that exposed flesh and tightened.

Aileen didn't stop here. She continued all around the neck, exposing all that flesh into the sharp threads. Even under the eryops' rampage, both of them didn't falter. They had complete trust in each other.

"I'm done. Erwin!" Aileen shouted.

"Oh!" Erwin's eyes turned bloodshot as he loosened his grip for a second.

"!!!" The eryops noticed it and chose to strike Erwin before he could do anything else. Unfortunately, it was useless.

Erwin adjusted the length of each thread and clutched his hands one more time, this time with a much more powerful force.

The threads joined together and turned into a knife all around its neck, cutting the neck from all directions and ultimately severing its head.

Chapter 683 683: Unexpected Report

"He wants what?" The president widened his eyes in disbelief.

"Can you repeat it again?" A middle-aged man next to the president was shaken.

It was obvious why they looked like they couldn't believe what she just said. Even she couldn't accept it either.

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A moment ago.

"What? A clean-up crew?" Clovis' agent, Rena Walstain, dropped her jaw.

"You didn't hear it wrong. I want a clean-up crew... you know, the people who are tasked to dispose of the beast corpses and their blood. If not, the city will be extremely stinky at this rate. Or are you saying that I can't ask for the government's assistance on this small matter?"

"I can rely on the OpenSky Company, but with the eyes on her, Hana's actions might expose my location. Is the country going to be fine with it?"

Rena furiously shook her head. "No, no. My apologies."

It was normal for Rena to be shocked. It had only been five days since Clovis started hunting. Yet he claimed he had killed all the beasts on the surface and wanted them to clean it up.

It was simply too fast.

"Weren't there three Tier 6 beasts?"

"No, not three." Clovis shook his head.

"Ah!" Rena nodded in understanding. Since the number of Tier 6 beasts was different from the reported, it was no wonder why they could be this fast.

However, Clovis corrected himself by saying, "There were four Tier 6 beasts. We did kill two of them on the first day, another one on the second day, and the unexpected fourth beast on the fourth day. After checking it twice, we confirmed there was no other beast on the surface."

It felt like something cracked inside of her. "F-Four Tier 6 beasts?"

"Yeah. Anyway, I don't have a lot of time. Can you do it or not?"

"Y-Yes! I can do it." Rena furiously nodded. As a Tier 6 human herself, she knew perfectly how terrifying a Tier 6 beast was. So, he didn't expect Clovis' group, who didn't even have a Tier 6 human, to be able to kill four Tier 6 beasts on top of other beasts in that city. It was too much even for her brain.

'Is this the power of the unique ability?' Rena gulped down. There were indeed two unique ability users and one pseudo unique ability user in his group, so she shouldn't measure them with the standard.

"Yes, I can send the clean-up team. Please leave it to me." Rena was a bit skeptical and excited at the same time when she was tasked as the agent for a future Tier 9. But after hearing this request, she realized that the future Tier 9 was beyond her imagination.

"Alright then. I will leave it to you. We're planning to go down and clear up both the tower and the underground city. Although we've checked that no other beast remains alive, you still need to be careful. And one last thing, don't get close to the tower or even follow me down. Understood?"

"Yes. I'll personally go there to ensure the cleaning process."

"All right." Clovis nodded and hung up.

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She had no choice but to report it directly to the president as she was ordered.

As expected, the president couldn't believe it. Even the man in charge of the Ministry of Defense simply couldn't believe what he had heard.

"Yes, sir. He requested a clean-up crew because the OpenSky Company is being watched from all directions."

"..." The president glanced at the man on his side. "Fredrick. What do you think? How long do you need to clean up the whole city?"

"Let's see. If I wanted to annihilate all beasts in that city, I would probably send the SEF (Special Explorer Force) squad there... I might need the first and second squads along with some support. A total of 20 people.

"It would take at least two weeks... no, ten days. However, there would be at least three Tier 6 humans among them due to how high the threat was. To kill a Tier 6 beast is easier said than done. It might be near the tower and their strength is suppressed at a certain level, but it's still a Tier 6 beast.

"There will be injuries as well, so taking all that into consideration, I need ten days to kill all those beasts.

"However, the Libation Fiesta actually took half of that time. Is it because they haven't killed all the beasts in that city?" Fredrick crossed his arms.

"Ehm..." Rena raised her hand.

"What's wrong? You are his agent, so speak your mind freely. Your opinion matters a lot." The president nodded.

"He said he has checked twice, so I believe it's safe to assume he has exterminated all the beasts inside the city," explained Rena.

"Are you serious? This is not a matter of whether you believe it or not. Do you know how hard it is to kill the beasts inside the city? Even though there's a radar, you have to go door to door, not accounting for sneak attacks!" Fredrick raised his voice.

Rena could only lower her head.

"Well, well. There's not much data about the Libation Fiesta. Even though it might look impossible, don't forget that they have the grandchildren of Michael Hacfield and Ezekiel Elseingarde, so they might have a method to do it.

"So, the possibility of them succeeding is not zero. How about this? You go there personally, Fredrick? Take this girl with you and bring the cleaning crews there.

"Since Clovis Hacfield is not really fond of us meddling too much, just briefly check it and return so as to not meet him. Just let this girl handle the rest," suggested the president.



"..." Fredrick closed his eyes for a moment before saying, "Understood. I'll check the city personally."

The president nodded, satisfied. Meanwhile, Fredrick turned to Rena and said, "If there are still a lot of beasts in the city, do your job properly. Make sure someone like him knows what it means to send a clean-up crew!"

"Y-Yes." Rena nodded furiously.

Chapter 684: Arrival

"So, this is the city..." Fredrick squinted his eyes. "I'm going ahead."

"Yes, sir."

Fredrick immediately headed to the wall.

"Even though they're abnormal, they shouldn't be able to kill all the beasts in this city easily. Even with the radar, they will have a hard time locating every single beast inside. There's also a chance they miss a smaller beast in a building, especially a tall one."

Fredrick immediately went around. The reason he couldn't believe Clovis was due to his experience.

He had seen a lot of people underestimating the beasts. They would challenge a city and end up suffering because of a hidden beast.

He acknowledged that Clovis and the Libation Fiesta were strong, stronger than anything he had seen so far, especially on their level.

Still, they were too green. No matter how talented they were, they couldn't replace the power of experience.

At the very least, he wanted to use this to lecture Clovis so that he didn't become too complacent because of his talent. He just hoped it would serve as a lesson that could make Clovis not only powerful but also stable.

However, there was another reason for him to misjudge Clovis' ability. The reason Clovis believed there was no more beast inside this city was not because of his talent or anything. Instead, it was because of his friend, specifically Reolf.

That was right. Reolf was sharper than the radar.

No matter how hard the beast tried to hide from him, Reolf could sense them. Even Aileen couldn't escape from Reolf with that pseudo unique ability of hers.

With him going around the town and confirming the extermination of the beasts, it was nothing but assured. Of course, Melody even attached the radar to him to make sure he didn't miss a single spot.

That was why, when Fredrick was going around the city, he couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows.

"Where? Where are the beasts? There's not a single beast here..." Fredrick gritted his teeth. He thought Clovis was ignorant, but at this rate, it was he who was ignorant.

He continued even more carefully, searching every nook and corner. But as reported, there were no more beasts.

Eventually, he realized he was wrong. Clovis definitely did his job perfectly. It wasn't ignorant. It was simply his confidence.

'The Libation Fiesta is an abnormal team with a very strong offensive power. It might not be weird for them to kill hundreds, if not thousands, of beasts at a faster speed than their peers.

'But offensive power and doing meticulous work like this are two different things. Is this really the power of the Libation Fiesta? Did they truly wipe out everything in this city?'

While Fredrick was inspecting the city, Rena received a call from Clovis after mentioning her arrival.

Clovis was already inside the tower, gradually descending.

"Have you arrived yet?" Clovis asked.

"Yes, I have arrived." Rena nodded. "Do you need anything from me?"

"Are beast corpses good?" Clovis asked. "I mean, as materials."

"They're certainly quite good. They can be turned into weapons or something else."

"I know that. There are a lot of missions from the Explorer Association to gather materials for weapons and other things. It's just... I'm wondering if the government needs it as well."

"Well..." Rena paused for a moment. "We certainly do. The number of soldiers is high, so we definitely need a lot of materials for the soldiers."

"I see." Clovis thought for a moment. "Let's see... How about the cleaning crews? How many are they?"

"I've brought about fifty people, divided into three groups. The first group will be transporting the materials, the second group is tasked to dismantle them, and the last group is to clean up the blood and other things to make sure the city remains clean."

"I see. In that case, is 30% enough?"

"Pardon?" Rena blinked her eyes a few times.

"I mean, I have gathered the essence, so all that is left is the beasts. How about taking 30% of them and using that money to share with the cleaning crews? I don't know their level, but earning more money is not a bad thing, right?"

"As for the remaining 70%, move it to my account. Do you think it's good enough? Or is it not enough? I'm not really that familiar with the rate."

"We are just assisting you, sir. We don't dare to take even a single material, let alone 30%..." Rena shook her head hurriedly.

"No, it's fine. I just want you to be honest with me. Is it enough or not, compared to the formal team out there?" Clovis asked.

"Normally, cleaning up like this is the task of their respective organization. I mean, they usually have a team to do this."

"However, a lot of smaller groups don't have cleaning crews, so there's usually a company for this kind of stuff. According to the rate, they are usually getting 10-15%, but that includes the essence."

"I see. If I want all the essence and just share the materials..." Clovis squinted his eyes.

"It should be about 20%. No more than that."

Clovis contemplated. "It's fine then. Just give them 30%... or is it 20% for the government and 10% for them?"

"I understand. I will arrange it. I believe they'll be happy with this bonus, sir."

"Sure. Take care of it for me. Also, I will send the map of the city, including the location of all the beasts. And for you, just take the materials from the four Tier 6 beasts yourself. I don't need it for the time being. I guess in the future, I don't need to collect the essence anymore and just let you take care of it for me? It will speed things up for me."

"Yes, sir. I will do my best." Rena looked shocked. She didn't expect Clovis to casually give her the corpses of four Tier 6 beasts. Even though he had collected the essence, the materials of Tier 6 beasts were still worth a fortune even for a Tier 6 human like her. That was why she thought about giving it up.

Clovis simply said, "Take care of the meticulous thing for me. That's what is important to me. Do that and I won't treat you badly. Anyway, I'm going to hang up."

Rena's lips were shaking before she nodded her head. "Yes. I will do my best."

As Clovis hung up, Fredrick actually returned while saying, "I couldn't find a single beast. Did he really kill all the beasts inside this city?"

Chapter 685: Smooth Progress

Clovis smiled. "Isn't this quite convenient? This cleaning stuff."

Kanaria nodded. "Yes. Even when I haven't joined the group, the cleaning group is quite important. After all, the essence is not the only thing that can be extracted for money. However, not many can create a successful cleaning group.

"First of all, the cleaning group rarely goes to the battlefield to extract all these corpses. After all, it's an extremely risky operation. The higher the risk, the higher the cost.

"Hence, most of the time, the people only send out trucks to bring back the bodies for them to be dismantled.

"Of course, it has to be done as quickly as possible. The rotten ones can't be extracted anymore, so no time can be wasted.

"The reason we didn't use them this whole time was simply due to how our group usually operated. We went to a high-level danger zone, which no one really wanted to enter. As a result, they couldn't really send a cleaning group. Even if they can do it, the fee will be much higher.

"However, now that we have both Hana's OpenSky Company and the government's support, we can utilize both of them. Of course, we have to ensure the safety of the operation. Still, it's much easier to do this. After all, most of the time, even though we're able to extract those materials, there's no buyer for them.

"On the other hand, the OpenSky Company and the government definitely have their own channels for these materials.

"In addition, by relying on the government, they will think we are not doing anything crazy, such as betraying them or something. That's why I suggest asking for the government's help," explained Kanaria.

"I see." Clovis nodded in understanding. "In that case, we will clean up this tower and try to set up the base down there." Then we'll ask the cleaning team for this tower while we clean up the underground base."

"I think that's fair enough." Kanaria agreed. "With the first cleaning process, they should be able to trust us if we tell them it's safe."

"At the same time, it's good to make your agent feel they're special." Christina grinned. "My grandfather used this trick so that he would go through fire or water whenever he asked. Creating an image that you're reliable is that useful."

Clovis nodded. "In that case, let's continue, shall we?"

Melody reported, "Yes. It's been a while since we began descending. However, according to our calculation, we will need a day or two to reach the bottom.

"This tower has a spiral-shaped tunnel inside. The angle is one degree and has a diameter of forty meters.



"With all these beasts and the calculation of distance, we need all that time to reach the bottom."

"Normally, it will take the Sky Lift about 15 minutes to reach the bottom, but to think it would take us this long to reach the bottom."

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As Melody said, they needed a lot of time to descend the tower. The entire way, there was a lack of light, so they had to rely on night vision the whole time. It was quite hard to descend, especially as the floor became slippery due to all the blood spilled above. The blood continued to flow down, sometimes alerting other beasts.

As a result, their descent was much more arduous than they originally expected.

Still, with the Libation Fiesta's combat ability, they skillfully continued their progress. Even though it was a bit slower, it only took them two days before they reached the bottom of the tower.

During that time, Christina continued her evolution progress, approaching the Tier 6. In fact, it shouldn't take her too long before she could reach Tier 6. On the other hand, Lucifania became a Tier 5 human one day before their arrival in the underground city.

Melody and Ragna were close to Tier 5 as well. According to their pace, they could become Tier 5 after absorbing the essence from the beasts in the underground city. In addition, Clovis was also helping them with the food from Another World Mall. Hence, it might be faster than they expected.

The most concerned one was actually Reolf. He was still stuck at Tier 3. Even though Clovis had been giving him the food from Another World Mall, he hadn't evolved yet, so they could only wait for him.

Still, if all these people managed to evolve, the Libation Fiesta would have four Tier 4, five Tier 5, and one Tier 6 human. Although they would stretch a bit, Clovis believed it was enough to take down a Tier 7 beast as long as they played their cards right. In the end, it wouldn't be a raid similar to what they did in another country.

The beasts inside the underground city would be less compared to a huge field, and the tower suppressed their strength to a certain degree.

Nevertheless, Clovis was preparing his team to go against a Tier 7 beast.

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Meanwhile, Rena and the cleaning crews were still surprised by how many beasts were actually living inside the city.

"We've been dismantling them for two days, but there's still a mountain of them..." One of them looked at the mountain, terrified. "How many beasts have they actually killed?"

Rena checked the logs in her skyphone. "There were 1,965 beasts according to their calculation."

"That many? Isn't it normal for a city like this to only have less than a thousand beasts inside?"

"Apparently, that was supposed to be the case, but this city had a lot of tall buildings and it was also prone to storms, so the sewer was big enough for the beasts. That's why the number is higher.

"Besides, they're asking for our help to take care of the tower cleaning as well. It seems they've reached the underground city," explained Rena.

"Seriously? We're going to die at this rate."

"Don't complain. Apparently, he's planning to give 20% for the fee and 10% for the bonus."

"10%? Seriously? All these materials alone can get a total of a few hundred million union dollars, right?"

Rena nodded. "Yes. If we also include the tower and the underground city, it won't be weird to get more than a billion. 10% alone is already over a hundred million. So just work hard for a while. It's not easy to get a job like this."

"It's not easy? There's basically no job like this."

"Anyway, go to work." Rena waved her hand. "I will help as well."

Chapter 686: Clovis' Target

"How is it?" Clovis asked Kanaria, who was looking at the area around the tower. They were hiding in the darkness, but they still had to be careful because there was a high chance the beasts would notice them.

Kanaria squinted her eyes. "It's fine for the time being. It's not that bad. The monsters are well spread, so it's not that big of a problem.

"However, there's something weird about this city."

"Something weird?" Clovis frowned.

"Yeah." Kanaria pointed to the left before to the right. "If you look at the movement of the beasts around here, you will notice that their behaviors are similar."

"What do you mean?" Clovis crossed his arms. "Similar..."

"On the surface, the beasts inside the sewer system and the ones on the surface behaved differently, right?"

"Indeed."

"Right now, these guys behave similarly."

"!!!" Clovis raised his eyebrows, understanding what she wanted to say. "Do you mean there's one ruler?"

"Yes. Although we don't have the full view of the city, a city of this size should at least have multiple rulers. Yet, at least half of the city is moving in unison. I don't know the exact scale, but it's clear that they're under a single overlord. Maybe Tier 6... but if this is truly what's happening to the entire city... I'm afraid..." Kanaria's expression turned grim.

"A Tier 7 beast, huh?" Clovis squinted his eyes.

He had prepared their team to fight against a Tier 7 beast, but it wasn't ready yet. After all, he still needed Reolf, Melody, Ragna, and Christina to evolve first.

After all, they wouldn't fight only the Tier 7 beast alone. They had to exterminate all the beasts under that beast.

Hence, Christina would be the one to stop the Tier 7 beast while the rest of the team fought together to kill the rest of the beasts before ganging up on the Tier 7 beast.

It might look like Christina was the key, but even if she managed to evolve alone, the team wouldn't win. After all, the group didn't have the necessary strength to swiftly kill all the beasts. They might be able to

do it, but it wasn't fast enough. As a result, Christina would be exhausted before they finished, which would result in a disaster.

Hence, Clovis had to be careful when Kanaria mentioned the Tier 7 beast's existence right away.

Clovis remained silent for a while as he couldn't help but wonder what they should do.

Kanaria, on the other hand, continued with the report. "The Essence Bank is located not far from here. In fact, it's only several buildings away from here. Standing between us is the military facility."

"Military facility, huh?" Clovis thought that this facility should have some equipment for them to use, mostly explosives. It could reduce the enemy's number significantly, but it would also attract the Tier 7 beast.

But after Kanaria mentioned the military facility, Clovis couldn't help but think about something else.

"Now that I think about it, what's about the guns on top of the wall? Even though some have been destroyed, there should be some still intact, right?"

"That's actually a problem." Kanaria sighed. "Even if they're intact, I don't know how to use them. After all, they were made a few decades ago. They're quite outdated. I don't think the machine is good enough to be used right away. Heavy maintenance is probably required. It's in the same state as the weapons in the surface city."

"..." Clovis paused for a moment. "In that case, we have no other choice but to use anything we can find. First, let's check the military facility and use whatever is still usable.

"Where is the explorer association?" Clovis remembered that the association had a lot of facilities as well.

"It's in that direction. Almost the next block." Kanaria pointed in another direction.

"That's troublesome." Clovis frowned. It was understandable, considering the Essence Bank and Explorer Association were in the opposite direction.

"Yes. I believe we should focus on one first. We should prioritize our main problem, which is evolution. So, I believe we should go to the Essence Bank first. If there is still essence in their vault, we can use it to break through. Even if it's not a super injection, which means taking longer, it doesn't matter as long as we can evolve," suggested Kanaria.

"Yeah." Clovis nodded. "Let's go back. You inform the others about our new objective and plan."

Kanaria agreed and walked away. Meanwhile, Clovis called Rena.

"Yes, sir? Do you need anything from me?" Rena picked up the call weirdly fast.

Clovis raised two fingers. "There might be a Tier 7 beast hiding inside the underground city. If anything happens, we won't die, but it might not be safe there. So, prepare to evacuate yourself the moment you notice anything weird. I might not have enough time to inform you about it."

"!!!" Rena looked shocked. "Tier 7?"

She had understood the power of the Libation Fiesta, but a Tier 7 beast was different. She was worried because Clovis' party was still too weak compared to a Tier 7 beast.

However, Clovis casually continued, "As for the second matter, do you know how to unlock the Essence Bank's vault? Unlike the one above the surface, this one is much bigger. And according to history, everything from the bank on the surface is stored in this underground city. Considering the jurisdiction, this should belong to me, right?"

Rena thought for a moment. "Yes. According to the special right granted to you, everything is yours. Still, for a vault like this, they're usually strong enough to be impenetrable, so destroying it is impossible, whether it's you or the beast.

"Please give me some time. I will try to coordinate it with the government and see if we can obtain the right to open the vault."

"Got it. I will leave it to you then. We're preparing to go there, so please hurry up."

"Yes, sir!"



Rena coordinated everything for Clovis, which was actually not hard. In the end, it was just a matter of Clovis getting information about the vault, which would show Clovis' location. Still, the Essence Bank was a neutral force, so they would have to pay a huge price in case Clovis' information leaked.

Unbeknownst to Rena, giving the information about the vault to Clovis would actually result in losing contact with the Libation Fiesta.

#### Chapter 687: Unexpected Roar

President of the Essence Bank, Frey, put on a solemn face while staring at the president of Absalom.

"You are asking for something unexpected, President Rysen." Frey squinted his eyes.

"Let's not beat around the bush, shall we? According to the regulation, the Essence Bank in the fallen cities has their rights returned to the country." Rysen crossed his arms. "It's not unexpected for someone like me to get it."

"Oh my. Not unexpected? It's normal for a president of a country to ask for this information, but it only happens when you have the desire to conquer it. However, there's no military operation being conducted in the fallen cities, especially in your country, right now. So, I can't help but wonder..." Frey smiled, calculating everything.

"Let's see... According to the regulation, even a normal explorer group can get access to this information as long as they're able to prove to us that they manage to secure the vault itself.

"I wonder... who asks you for such a thing?" Frey knew someone was asking it. At the same time, there weren't many people who could ask the president of a country to do such a thing in Absalom. That was why Frey asked, "It appears I have gotten sidetracked a bit. Of course, I don't oppose you for getting that information. Please inform me of the location. I will send the data and process to you."

'This guy has figured it out...' Rysen wanted to punch Frey, but he had to do it for Clovis. If Clovis got stronger, their country would become stronger as well. Hence, Rysen asked for something unexpected. "All the fallen cities."

"!!!" Frey widened his eyes in shock. This was Rysen's move to prevent Clovis' location from leaking. Even though they could narrow it down to several cities, they would have to check every single one of them.

Frey's smile became even bigger. "In that case, I will send you the information you want. I can guarantee it will arrive in less than an hour."

Rysen nodded. As the president, he didn't plan to follow along with Frey's questioning, nor did the latter intend to push the president into the corner.

Both of them got what they wanted. Before Rysen hung up, Frey added, "Well, congratulations, President Rysen. I wish you a pleasant day."

Rysen's eyebrows twitched. It was obvious what the congratulations were for. With this, President Frey had become another person who knew that Absalom had obtained Clovis.

Nevertheless, it was something supposed to happen sooner or later, so he just dropped this matter. At the very least, by keeping Clovis happy, the latter would contribute to the country. That was enough for him.

...

After receiving the information, Clovis decided to execute their plan right away.

Clovis and Christina first came out of the tower and moved as quietly as possible, heading to the military facility. They put down a radar here for Melody to scan the area and maintain this vision.

Meanwhile, they both entered through a broken window before looking around. After noticing there was no beast around, Clovis gave a hand signal through the camera on his chest.

Then, Aileen came out of the tower and used her talent to the maximum. Instead of heading to the military facility, she actually headed to the opposite side of the tower, trying to check the movement of the beasts.

Melody watched them closely before muttering, "As expected, it does seem they're being ruled by a single beast instead of multiple high tier beasts. In other words, this entire city was controlled by a single beast, which might be the Tier 7 beast.

"Now that we've confirmed their movement, what should we do, Clovis?"

Clovis paused for a moment. He observed the beasts around the facility before saying, "Proceed with Plan B. While the original plan might succeed, the number of beasts is lower than we originally expected. Hence, we should focus on speed instead."

"Got it." Melody nodded. "Guide mode."

The first one coming out was none other than Reolf. He had the sharpest sense, so he should check the situation on top of the radar. However, Reolf's body was much bigger than a normal human, so he would stand out.

That was why, as Reolf moved, Aileen returned and struck down multiple beasts as silently as possible.

Meanwhile, Clovis and Christina were looking for the entrance and secured it. Christina first provoked the beasts so that they focused on her instead of alerting other beasts. Clovis, on the other hand, swiftly eliminated them with his speed.

Once the entrance was secured, Reolf entered the building.

"Good. Reolf is safe now. Aileen." Melody typed a few things as arrows appeared on Aileen's screen, showing her targets. These were the beasts close enough to notice Clovis and the others, so they had to eliminate them first.

While Aileen took care of them, it was Kanaria and Jay's turn to enter the facility. Erwin and Luci followed behind them, as Melody and Ragna became the last ones to enter the facility.

It was true that Clovis was able to kill a lot of beasts and finished his mission faster than the others, but the way they executed the plan was still similar to other groups.

They first secured a building to hide themselves. Then, they used that building as a bridge to go to their destination.

They did it as quietly as possible so as to not disturb the peace inside the underground city.

However, they did one thing differently. Normally, the group was supposed to clear the facility first and grab some equipment that could still be used before heading to the Essence Bank.

Clovis, on the other hand, instructed, "Melody. Lead us directly toward the closest point to the Essence Bank."

Melody gladly obeyed. Although it was good to grab some equipment from here, they first had to find out whether the bank had it or not. They could send Aileen, but they didn't want to risk it too much. In case a beast noticed her and alerted them, it would be harder to save her from that position than breaking through the enemy's rank as a group.

Once they reached the nearest exit toward the Essence Bank, Clovis scanned the area before nodding his head.

Melody began the countdown as Clovis and Christina were ready to open the door.

But before the count reached zero, they suddenly heard a deafening roar echoing inside the city.

"Grraaaaa!"

Chapter 688: The True Terror of a Tier 7 Beast

"Grraaaaa!"

"!!!" All of them couldn't help but raise their heads, following the roar's direction. After that roar, the beasts started to follow up with another series of roars as well as moving as though they had received individual orders.

Reolf was the first one to react by turning around.

"Reolf? Do you understand what it was saying?" Clovis asked.

Reolf nodded.

"Did it notice us?" Clovis asked another question.

Reolf nodded again before pointing to their back with his paw. He was indicating that the beasts were trying to hunt them from behind, in other words, from the tower's direction.

"It's true. They're coming from the tower's direction. Don't tell me..." Melody gasped, staring at the radar. "Are they sealing our escape route? More and more beasts are also surrounding us from all directions."

"Sealing our escape route? But doesn't that mean they have found us and have been waiting for us this whole time?" Christina frowned.

"..." Clovis' expression darkened. If that was true, how could they find out what they were up to and their exact location? To be able to do it this way just showed them how intelligent the beast was.

It made no sense. He had experienced fighting a Tier 7 beast two times. The first time was rescuing the people in the underground city. Of course, he received help from Mara, which caused the fight to be quick.

Meanwhile, the second time was during an expedition with a large group. At that time, they brought a lot of things to take down the Tier 7 beast. Although the beast was smart enough to create an unexpected situation, this one was beyond that beast.

Not only did the Tier 7 beast realize what was going on, but they also sealed the escape route to make sure they could kill the Libation Fiesta.

"This..." Erwin frowned. "...doesn't seem good. If it's smart enough to seal our escape route, it must know how we operate as well. In other words, if we leave this city, won't it climb the tower and attack the people there?"

"That's not the problem. We need to know how this beast is able to find us. If we don't know the reason, there's a high chance it will take advantage of it again to locate us and ambush us. More importantly, we don't have a lot of time to figure it out." Aileen shook her head.

"Clovis. What should we do?" Ragna asked. In the end, the decision was in Clovis' hand. They had been outsmarted by the beasts, so should they retreat?

It was a reasonable decision, but they had to break through the enemy's rank. If the beast was that smart, it would place a large number of beasts in that direction or stay there personally to block them.

There was no way Clovis could afford to let them die.

In other words, the best choice was to go outside this city and hide somewhere. But the beast might be smart enough to lure them far enough until the tower's influence weakened or nullified before attacking them. At that time, the beast would fight them at full power. Without Christina reaching Tier 6, it was impossible for them to survive.

There was also an option to use the guns on top of the wall to suppress these beasts, which would create an opportunity. But Kanaria couldn't guarantee they could be used due to the technological gap.

Hence, there was only one option left. This would be what most people would do. It was to use everything they had to break through. Even if it meant sacrificing some of them, the group could still survive.

They had been completely beaten by this Tier 7 beast. No. They had severely underestimated the intelligence of a Tier 7 beast.



There was a reason Tier 1 to Tier 3 beasts were known as low-level beasts, while Tier 4 to Tier 6 beasts were classified as mid-level beasts, and Tier 7 to Tier 9 became high-level beasts.

Even in human classification, they were also split into those three categories.

It was no wonder why the expedition wanted so many people and required all that equipment just to kill a single Tier 7 beast. This was the true terror of a Tier 7 beast.

"It doesn't seem there's any option left." Jay moved forward. "Ragna. Let's go!"

Ragna nodded with a solemn expression. It looked like she understood that they were the ones responsible for creating an opportunity for Clovis and the others to escape. For Jay, it was his responsibility as the vice captain. Meanwhile, Ragna had once sworn to protect Clovis no matter the price.

Erwin and the others looked at Jay and Ragna, wanting to stop them. But all of them could see their impending doom if they didn't decide right now.

However, it did seem Clovis was incapable of ordering his subordinates' sacrifice for the bigger picture.

Jay took a deep breath. "Let's go, Ragna!"

"Yeah." Ragna nodded.

But before they left, Clovis suddenly stopped them. "That's enough. Why did both of you make a decision by yourself?"

"Can't you see the current situation?" Jay gritted his teeth.

"I'm the captain of the Libation Fiesta. I haven't even given up yet, and you already think about sacrificing yourself? Are you an idiot?!" Clovis sighed.

"Are you serious right now? If we miss the timing, it will be all over." Jay grabbed Clovis' collar.

"I'm being serious." Clovis grabbed his wrist and pushed his hand away. "We'll split our group into two. The first group is to remain here and buy as much time as possible. The second group will create a path toward the Essence Bank and open the vault. We'll be retreating to the vault."

"The vault?!" Christina raised her eyebrows. "Now that I think about it, the vault here is impenetrable according to them... at least for Tier 8 beasts. Are we going to seal ourselves there and try to get stronger? Even so, absorbing the essence and evolving require a lot of time. We don't have enough supply."

"Don't bother with the supply. This is the only path for all of us to survive. I will now tell the members for each group!"

Chapter 689 689: Mysterious Food

"Go, go! We don't have a lot of time. We have to clear up the path!" Erwin shouted.

Reolf swiftly reached a beast and bit its neck. Several others followed behind him and struck down all the beasts in their path.

Erwin's expression was much grimmer than ever. He was a bit disappointed, but he also understood the heavy responsibility he had.

...

A moment ago.

"I will divide the group into two." Clovis raised two fingers. "The first group will consist of Erwin, Melody, Reolf, Ragna, and Lucifania.

"Your task is simple. Open a path for us and make sure we can enter the vault right away. Melody, you will guide them and take care of the security. Reolf, you go there and become my assurance. Ragna, protect Melody well. Lucifania, you shall help Erwin to open up a path. Erwin, you lead the team!"

"But... if you want to defend the rear, I should be one of them. My ability is much better for a defensive battle!" Erwin raised his objection.

"You are still clueless? It's exactly why you're going there! He even asked Luci to be the vanguard!" Aileen sighed.

"!!!" Erwin instantly realized it after Aileen pointed it out. That was right. His specialty was defense. It was already too late to create a defense for the rear. The area they had to cover was also too wide.

Hence, it was better for Erwin to go there. His main objective was to create traps and defensive threads all around the building that could slow the enemy down, allowing a complete retreat.

Clovis didn't wait for him and simply continued with assigning the task. "Kanaria, take everything you have here and blast as many beasts as possible. Aileen, this area hasn't been cleaned up properly, so I have to rely on you to protect Kanaria and try to kill as many beasts as possible in this area.

"Christina, you will be working with me and facing the beasts from the tower's direction. There's a chance that Tier 7 beast will be coming for us, so we will have to work together.

"As for Jay... Your job is simple. Kill!"

Jay agreed without hesitation. This job simply suited him well. However, it was different for Kanaria. She noticed that this plan had one flaw. Clovis looked like he wanted to go to the vault and hide there to build up their strength. However, they didn't have the food supply necessary for this kind of request.

That was why it was unexpected for Clovis to give this assignment. Still, Kanaria believed Clovis wasn't someone who gave an order without thinking about such a possibility.

Unlike Kanaria, Christina was more outspoken. She couldn't help but mention, "Clovis. We don't have enough supplies to hide inside that vault."

The others furrowed their eyebrows, knowing the same thing. However, Clovis simply looked Christina in the eye and said with a solemn tone. "Look at my eyes, Christina. Do you think I will give an order without thinking about that possibility? We have enough supply."

Christina didn't understand what was going on. Meanwhile, Melody and some others realized what Clovis was talking about. It was basically the item he took out from Another World Mall. Although they didn't know the exact thing, they knew Clovis had the ability to sustain them.

"If you understand your role, go now!"

Erwin clenched his fists and shouted, "Let's go!"

...

When he recalled their assignment, Erwin turned around and left behind several wires that could trip the beasts. Meanwhile, Melody recorded it so that the rest could easily pass them.

Meanwhile, Clovis was standing on top of the military building with several corpses around him. Christina came to him, looking at the incoming beasts. "I guess we underestimate a Tier 7 beast too much."

Clovis squinted his eyes. "Yeah. I'll pay the price for underestimating it. However, I'll use this experience to ensure that such a mistake will never happen again."

"Paying the price? Clovis. Are you..." Christina worried that Clovis wanted to use his life to pay the price.

Clovis simply shook his head, reassuring her. "Don't worry. I'm not going to die or anything. Still, I haven't found the Tier 7 beast yet."

Christina looked around, finding only several Tier 5 beasts. In fact, there was no Tier 6 beast in sight, which was quite surprising. Normally, they would see a Tier 6 beast when a Tier 7 beast was involved.

They might also resort to using the underground attack to surprise them, so they had to be wary of anything.

"Blue. Buy me all the bite-sized food for speed and strength to the limit." Clovis muttered.

"Huh?" Christina looked confused. She wondered who Clovis was talking about.

All of a sudden, Clovis took a bite-size cupcake out of thin air.

"!!!" Christina widened her eyes in shock. "Clovis... What are you..."

How did a cupcake appear in his hand? Who did he talk to? There were a lot of questions appearing in Christina's head.

He swallowed it in one go while saying, "I will explain it later. But can you trust me in this?"

Christina noticed this thing was what Clovis had in mind when he assured her there was enough food. If Clovis could really do it, they would definitely last long enough inside the vault.

Christina took a deep breath to regain her composure before nodding her head. "Yes. I will trust you with my life."

Clovis then took out some food from Another World Mall's inventory and handed it to Christina. Then, he turned around and shouted, "Jay!"

Jay turned around and saw Clovis tossing food toward him. He was confused but still caught the food. After seeing Clovis munching the food, he knew Clovis wanted him to do the same thing.

That was why Jay hurriedly put them inside his mouth.

"!!!" Both Jay and Christina were shocked to the core when they suddenly felt unknown strength surging in their bodies. They could feel it boosting their strength and speed at the same time.

This was Clovis' trump card. With this additional power, they could finally see a small path to victory.

Chapter 690: The Identity of Another World Mall?

Christina gasped after consuming the food.

'How in the world... What is that food? How can it influence my strength and speed? Is it something related to his unique ability?'

Christina had a lot of questions in her mind. Even though she wanted to ask it right away, she knew it wasn't the time yet.

From this food, she could see several possibilities. If Clovis distributed the food to everyone, they could power up and somehow escape from this situation.

No. Clovis might have thought about it and deemed it was still impossible. However, Clovis also understood that if they endured it and hid inside the vault until they reached the next tier, coupled with this unique food, they might be able to break their encirclement and destroy all these beasts.

That was why Clovis chose to retreat instead of sacrificing someone else.

Still, there was one problem haunting her mind.



'But this food and his blood... I can't see how they're related. I know that he can probably say this food has his blood in it. It's quite disgusting because it makes me look like a cannibal, but the blood can't explain how the food can appear out of nowhere.

'Hence, I'm 100% sure this is not related to his blood. In that case, what is this power? Is this the secret he has been hiding the whole time?

'Now that I think about it, there are so many weird things about Clovis. The items he has given... are they related to this weird ability instead of his blood? The food can boost our strength, so it might not be weird if the items can too...'

"!!!"

In that instant, Christina realized something shocking. It started with how she remembered her father's message after the fight against Tesron.

At that time, Ezekiel said, "Christina. Do you know about Mara Leverstrike?"

"Eh?!" Christina was startled at that time, but this reaction was enough for an answer.

Ezekiel closed his eyes for a moment before asking, "In that case, do you still find Clovis to be repulsive or anything? Or do you like him?"

"Grandfather. What are you saying..." Christina had a wry smile on her face, but against her grandfather's solemn face, she couldn't help but say, "To say I like him might be an exaggeration, but to say he's only a friend of mine... is not right either."

"In that case, listen to me." He paused for a moment. "Clovis... is actually your fiance."

"F-Fiance?!" Christina widened her eyes in shock.

"It's a promise I gave to his grandfather two decades ago. However, we don't really think much about it and won't force you other than letting both of you meet."

"Still, after seeing his unique ability, I will tell you this. If you don't find him repulsive, get to know him more with the intention of marrying him."

"Grandfather. What are you talking about?!" Christina panicked, but his solemn face remained unchanged.

"His unique ability is similar to that woman's." Ezekiel sighed.

"That woman? Mara Leverstrike?!"

"Yes. This is the first time I see a unique ability similar to another person's unique ability. No. It might even be the same. I don't know how they meet, but if Mara Leverstrike knows about this, it's not weird for her to want to teach him."

"His unique ability is the same as Mara Leverstrike's? But isn't it impossible for two people to possess the same unique ability? It won't be called a unique ability anymore if this is the case."

"Yes. Well, I don't care about the continuation of the terminology, but there's one thing I can say for sure. This unique ability is not supposed to have this level of power. Mara Leverstrike might be able to fully utilize its power, but it's clear Clovis can only extract a bit of its power. In other words, that's not enough for him to unleash this much strength as a Tier 4 human. There's another secret he's hiding. And it's much bigger because he's willing to share this unique ability instead of that secret."

"..." Christina paused for a moment.

Seeing the reaction of his granddaughter, Ezekiel nodded in understanding. "It seems you're already aware of this secret to a certain extent. I don't know what it is, but I'm afraid that everything weird around him, like that wolf... is related to this secret. That's why I can't help but say this to you. Become his wife as long as you don't hate him. That guy... will become a monster surpassing all Tier 9 humans in this world... No, there's a possibility that even when all of us fight him together, we might not necessarily lose."

"!!!" Christina was shocked at that time, but after eating the unique food, she finally understood why her grandfather said it.

Clovis' mysterious power was not just about him. Instead, it could also help the people around him.

In other words, if she reached Tier 9 in the future, because of this power, she could surpass a normal Tier 9. In fact, there was a chance for Clovis to help his people to break through the limitation of a Tier 9. All the Libation Fiesta's members might be able to reach Tier 9 with this method.

Clovis might be able to become a being surpassing a Tier 9 human in the future. There was a chance he could even figure out the real secret of their simulation world.

While it was amazing, Christina's focus was actually on the identity of this power.

'Grandfather. I think you are wrong. It's not a secret beyond a unique ability. Two people with the same unique ability aren't supposed to exist.

'But in this simulation world... What if everything Clovis has is nothing but a simulation? What if the unique ability Mara possesses is granted to him as a part of the simulation?

'When I see it this way, it becomes clear the identity of this power.'

Christina was so shocked that she subconsciously smiled. It was so ridiculous that she had never thought about this possibility before.

'The painting, these items, the food...' Christina turned to Clovis. "Clovis... You... Do you have... two unique abilities?"