

World Mall 691

Chapter 691: Two Unique Abilities?

"Clovis... You... Do you have... two unique abilities?"

"!!!" Clovis turned his head around, not expecting that Christina would say such a thing.

Now that he thought about it, Another World Mall could be considered a unique ability as well. It was just that he never thought of it that way.

But if he considered Another World Mall a unique ability, he could easily explain everything. Still, this unique ability was much more unique than anyone else's, considering it could benefit the others around him.

If that was the case, it meant his Perfect State was also another unique ability different from his Another World Mall. He could understand it to a certain extent, but how? How did it end up in him?

In the first place, if he was supposed to have Another World Mall as his unique ability, where did this unique ability come from? The answer derived back to the system panel that appeared in the middle of his fight against Tesron.

It mentioned a unique ability being possessed by two individuals, which broke the law of this world.

In other words, the Perfect State might actually come from Mara. But why? How? What happened that would lead to such an event?

Clovis couldn't find the answer. His parents? He couldn't ask them right away. But if it was about a unique ability, he probably had to ask his grandfather.

Still, could a human have two unique abilities at the same time?

Clovis was confused and shocked at the same time. On the one hand, having two unique abilities would make him surpass all other Tier 9 humans in this world. At that time, those people would surely come after him.

On the other hand, these two unique abilities might be his clue toward his ultimate goal, which was discovering the truth about this world.

'So that's how it is. My Another World Mall is my unique ability. But this makes things complicated.

'If it really is, then there's no way people will accept someone with two unique abilities. They will use everything they have to kill me before I can grow strong enough to oppose or even suppress them.

'On the other hand, having the Perfect State can camouflage my second ability. They might feel suspicious, thinking that my unique ability is similar to Mara's, but by telling them that it's different while showing them the items, they will believe it's different.

'It's just... A unique ability is supposed to benefit its host only. Meanwhile, my unique ability can actually benefit others. Besides, where are those items coming from?

'There are a lot of questions appearing in my mind right now, but the beasts are about to reach this place, so I don't have time to figure out everything yet. However, it's clear that my Another World Mall is a unique ability.

'This might also be a good way to explain it to my teammates later. No, this might work just fine.'

That was right. Although he underestimated the Tier 7 beast, which resulted in him paying the price by revealing his Another World Mall to his teammates so that they could survive, if he simply mentioned two unique abilities, they could probably understand it to a certain extent.

As for the rest, even he was still trying to figure it out. His mother might be able to figure out the reason for him to have two unique abilities. If she couldn't, he would go to his grandfather or ask Mara herself.

"We can talk about it later." Clovis shook his head. "For now..."

"Understood." Christina nodded in agreement. She turned back to face the incoming beasts. "We have to kill these beasts first before we can figure out the rest. It's just... I never expected that there's someone with two unique abilities."

"I didn't know about it before you told me about such a possibility." Clovis shook his head helplessly. "Either way, I'm planning to sustain everyone with this power. The boost is only temporary. You probably need one or two more before we reach the vault, so position yourself with that in mind."

"Duration?"

"Five and ten minutes."

Christina nodded. "I understand."

Clovis observed the beast's movement. "There's no Tier 7 beast spotted yet, but don't let your guard down. You might even end up dying."

"I know that, but thanks to this food, I should be able to fight better. Kill as many as possible. I will be taunting them for you."

Clovis nodded and shouted to Jay. "Jay. Get ready! Five minutes and come closer to me. Depending on the other team, I might signal a complete retreat all of a sudden."

"Got it."

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

There were only twenty meters left between them and the beasts. Although fighting on the rooftop was good, it would be troublesome if they bulldozed the bottom part, which would lead to its collapse.

Hence, both Clovis and Christina jumped off the building at the same time. Jay followed right after in a different direction. Kanaria remained on the rooftop while Aileen was still busy killing all the beasts within the facility.

Christina raised her shield and activated her unique ability. "Come. All of you!"

"!!!" The beasts suddenly felt an irresistible urge to charge straight toward Christina. In just a moment, their trajectory shifted toward her.

Clovis headed to the front. The beasts roared while waving their paws, trying to push him away to open up the path toward Christina.

But Clovis immediately activated his Perfect State and waved his sword, releasing his ranged attack. This time, he put more power into the width of the ranged attack instead of the range.

As a result, it cut the most front beasts in that road.

Roar!

The beasts fell down, creating a small obstacle for other beasts to charge. The beasts behind them simply leaped over their friends' dead bodies, but Clovis struck them in rapid succession and used his ranged attack to reach a beast that he couldn't physically reach.

However, there was a looming threat waiting for them. The Tier 7 beast was moving sneakily toward them, ready to launch an all-out attack.

Chapter 692: Tier 7 Beast's Identity

Clovis killed one beast after another like a war god. He moved swiftly and deadly even though he was being surrounded by a lot of beasts.

Still, it was Christina who played a big role in making Clovis have an easy time. By utilizing her Provoke, she could make the beasts not go all out against Clovis. As a result, Clovis took advantage of that small gap to eliminate them in one or two blows.

Unfortunately, Christina still hadn't fully mastered the new way of utilizing her unique ability. She couldn't focus on individual beasts, giving a different Provoke to each beast, which would ultimately make the unique ability even more efficient.

Nevertheless, Clovis killed close to a hundred beasts in just two minutes.

He often went back to Christina's side since there were a few beasts that would go toward her through the roof, which was impossible for Clovis to handle.

As a result, she had been crushing them with her shield, but some were too big for her to fight. In the end, she was a guardian with only two shields as her weapon.

"Clovis. We have found the vault. It should take less than ten minutes before we can go in. The trip to go here will take about four minutes." Melody suddenly informed Clovis.

"..." Clovis was still too focused on the beast that he couldn't really reply to her. Still, there was no need to reply. All of them knew their roles and would make sure to do them wonderfully.

At the very least, Clovis knew that they only had to last for another six minutes.

Clovis glanced to the side, specifically the corner of his skin, to check the map. According to the radar, they were being overwhelmed in all directions.

Kanaria was suppressing the beast from the left while Jay took care of the beasts on the right.

Aileen wasn't done with the beasts within the facility, so the beast from their back would most likely try to enter the facility or, even worse, the bank.

"Christina. I think you should go to the west. The beasts behind us will definitely block our path, so try to make sure our escape route remains open," said Clovis. Although there were still so many beasts in front of him, he had no choice but to do it. After all, the moment they blocked their escape route, they could break through it but would lose enough time for these beasts to catch up.

"Are you sure?"

"Aileen seems to be finishing soon. She just has to clean up the area around Kanaria. The rest of us are strong enough to take down any unexpected att—" As if trying to prove him wrong, there was an attack coming straight at him.

This attack wasn't like anything they had ever seen. Christina's instinct was soaring to its peak as her body moved on its own.

She went to Clovis through the shortest path, which meant she hugged Clovis from behind, her arms going around him so that she could put the shield in front of him.

Before Clovis could actually finish his words, the attack was connected.

Clang!

The ringing sound of the clash felt like thunder reverberating in one's ear. The attack was so silent but deadly.

"!!!" Clovis reacted a split second too late. If not for Christina noticing it, his instinct might kick in because of the Perfect State, but that attack would at least severely injure him.

Even with Christina's shield, the strike was so powerful that it blew both of them away.

Bam!

They both ended up crashing into the facility as two beasts who were about to come out of the facility found them and struck them.

While gritting his teeth, Clovis struck them and hurriedly got up. "Christina. Are you alright?"

Although he wanted to check Christina's condition, he couldn't afford to do it. The beast that attacked him was so stealthy that if his eyes were not constantly on it, the latter might disappear without a trace.

"I'm alright," replied Christina with a hoarse voice.

Clovis put both swords in front as the beasts' movement became even more frantic.

More importantly, his eyes were fixed on that particular beast.

"Melody!"

"!!!" Melody panicked because Clovis called her so loud that it made her heart stop for a second. Her AI was helping with the recognition while she also assisted in finding the correct information about the beast.

"Not good. It's a Morganucodon from the early Triassic to early Jurassic. It seems to be 2 meters long. Although it's quite big, it's not too big for a Tier 7. Because this beast is known for its rodent-like shape and small size. It's moving quietly to avoid predators and hunt insects."

"Insects, huh?" Clovis' expression darkened.

"Yes. In its eyes, we're like insects. Something it can kill easily. It has sharp hearing. It's said to be able to hear even through the wall, so it's no wonder how it's able to find us.

"Its hearing alone might surpass Reolf's current capability. It's specialized in stealth. It's nearly silent in motion and has an organ to detect vibration.

"I will try to track it down so that it can't launch a secret attack!"

If it were another beast, he would probably be glad because they would be more frontal. But this beast was extremely dangerous against his party, especially if they were trying to hide inside the vault.

"I will use my Provoke to make sure we don't lose it." Christina stomped the ground.

Christina's resolve was good, but it was unnecessary in this situation. Instead, Clovis adjusted the plan after knowing what kind of Tier 7 beast they were dealing with.

Clovis hurriedly grabbed a grenade on his back and tossed it toward the Tier 7 beast.

"!!!" The Tier 7 beast looked confused, considering it would just give it an advantage if they blew up everything and kicked up the dust on the ground.

Boom!

The grenade exploded, but this was the beginning of Clovis' plan. He turned around, stuck his short sword on his bracelet, and held Christina's wrist as he dragged her away.

"W-What?!"

Chapter 693: Run

"W-What?! What are you doing?" Christina asked, not expecting Clovis would do such a thing.

Clovis, on the other hand, muttered, "Melody. You focus on the vault. Try to make it as quickly as possible. We're going there right now."

"Jay, Kanaria, and Aileen are to retreat in an orderly manner. Open the map of the Essence Bank. We will use the size of the essence bank to stall them.

"Christina. Focus on the Tier 7 beast. We have no way of defeating it right now, but you're the only one who can follow it at ease and block its attack. If you're going to get blown away, do it in my direction. I will catch you and move according to my own plan.

"Right now, this battle is a battle between me and the Tier 7 beast," Clovis stated with a stern tone, as if telling them he wouldn't hear any objection.

Melody gulped down before making a resolute face. "Understood."

She immediately transmitted Clovis' order to those three.

"What?" Jay looked confused. Although he had been overwhelmed by the enemy's number, it hadn't reached the point where he couldn't retreat. That was why he didn't understand the reason Clovis gave that order.

On the other hand, Aileen returned to Kanaria's side in just thirty seconds.

"Kanaria." Aileen called her out loud.

"There's nothing to say. We'll proceed with Clovis' plan. I don't know what he is planning to do. It must be something reckless.

"Unlike anyone who does reckless things, he's someone who will do it by himself. In other words, our existence there will just hinder him. Instead, we should head straight to the Essence Bank and try to fortify it even further.

"He mentioned that we have to speed things up, so it means we will be entering a defensive position much earlier.

"Aileen. Cover for me. I will set up everything..." Kanaria stopped for a moment. "No. There's another place we have to visit."

"Another place? Didn't you say that we should go to the Essence Bank immediately?"

"Yes, but don't worry. This place is in the direction. And it's something that will help our plan." Kanaria nodded.

"I don't know what you mean, but I'm not here to argue with you. If it can help the team, then let's go."

Kanaria nodded. "Follow me."

Both of them immediately headed to the Essence Bank, but before that there was another place Kanaria had to visit. This was a military facility after all, so it should have that. Kanaria planned to use it to slow down these beasts.

Jay, on the other hand, looked a bit confused but really had no other choice but to comply.

Meanwhile, Clovis finally explained his plan after Christina decided to run alongside him, gathering all these beasts.

"The Tier 7 beast is focused on stealth and speed, so it's best to constantly be on the run and inside a building. This way, the beast has to destroy something if it wants to catch up to us.

"And if it's going straightforwardly, it will have to pass the horde of beasts behind us. Your Provoke ability is essential here.

"As long as we run around, we should be able to make enough time for Melody."

After listening to Clovis, she finally understood why Clovis had decided to break their formation right away.

If they stayed there for a bit longer, the Tier 7 beast would hide and once again aim for them. No. Since it was clever enough to trap them in this situation, it should be able to realize Kanaria and the others were a much more enticing target.

There was even a chance for the Tier 7 beast to hide inside the building.

Hence, Clovis immediately asked his group to retreat to the Essence Bank directly. This way, the Tier 7 beast couldn't catch up to them.

As a result, the Tier 7 beast would believe they were the easier target. All he had to do was mingle with the rest of the beasts and find a perfect opportunity to kill them.

Still, Clovis didn't have enough skill to completely grasp the opponent's presence this time. It might be because he had to focus on so many different things, but it didn't change the fact that he had a hard time.

That was why he wanted Christina to focus on the Tier 7 beast. She was the only one capable of stopping it.

Meanwhile, Clovis cut down one beast after another, ensuring Christina's protection. Even if he had to be injured in the process, he needed to take down all the beasts coming toward them.

Clovis kept an eye on the map because he had to be constantly on the run and ultimately reached the exit.

"Clovis. This is Kanaria. Jay and Aileen are already with me right now. We're waiting for you at the entrance," reported Kanaria while shooting down all the approaching beasts. "If you want to reach here, go to the previous exit. I have prepared a surprise there. It should be able to slow down the beasts to a certain extent."

"..." Clovis glanced at the map. "Got it."

Still, there was no way for the enemy to let them do whatever they wanted. The pursuit had become more aggressive.

More and more beasts threw themselves at Clovis. It was fine even if they died in the process, as long as they could stall Clovis for a second.

The moment the beasts were about to catch up, Christina suddenly shouted, " Watch out!"

Christina hurriedly shifted her position to Clovis' right while raising her arm.

"!!!" Clovis raised his eyebrows because a huge rhino suddenly emerged from the wall, crashing everything in its path.

She blocked the direct attack, but the momentum was unstoppable. In the end, both Clovis and Christina were blasted to the wall in the opposite direction, which ended up getting destroyed by the rhino again.

Bam!

"Kh!" Christina had a hard time stopping this Tier 5 rhino. More importantly, her instinct kicked in one more time. "Right!"

"!!!" Clovis raised both swords and swung them to the right as a clicking sound soon echoed in his ears as he saw the Tier 7 beast appearing once again before him. This time, it worked together with the rhino to pin them down here.

Chapter 694: Entering the Vault

"Kh!" Clovis gritted his teeth. It took him everything just to stop this attack. But it looked like the Tier 7 beast would overpower him soon.

Meanwhile, the Tier 5 was actually strong enough to completely stop Christina. Although it was due to her momentum, she would still need some time before she could recover from the attack and somehow turn the situation around.

But before that could happen, all the beasts would have surrounded them and eliminated them.

Roar!

Roar!

The beasts followed them in a much more orderly manner.

At this rate, they would truly die. Clovis decided to let go of his short sword, which ultimately allowed the Tier 7 beast to overpower him. It struck the long sword to the ground and slashed Clovis in the chest.

"Kh!" Clovis gritted his teeth, enduring the pain. Even though his hand was shaking, he still grabbed the grenade on the back.

"!!!" The Tier 7 beast was surprised by the grenade and hurriedly moved back.

"As expected, you're truly smart enough." Clovis grinned.

In that instant, the beast realized he had been tricked. Clovis pulled out the pin and tossed it toward the rhino instead.

Boom!

Roar! The rhino's body tilted to the side.

Clovis shouted. "Run, Christina!"

There was no time. Before they could catch up, they had to reach the exit.

Christina noticed that Clovis was running in a certain direction. Without hesitation, she followed him at her full speed. However, they were still in the middle of a field within the military facility. There was a wall in front of them.

But Clovis didn't care. He simply jumped toward the window and broke it with his body. By utilizing his Perfect State, he could see everything slowly. He expanded his body as much as possible so that he would brush away all shards from the window.

It would create a gap for Christina to also enter without worrying that a small shard was left behind and hurt her.

Christina followed right behind as they managed to go back inside the corridor, this time taking a shortcut to the exit.

"Let's go!" Clovis shouted again while dashing toward the exit.

Bam!

The rhino blasted the wall to open up the path for the rest of the beasts. But it didn't matter. They still hadn't caught up to Clovis and Christina.

Clovis tossed a grenade toward them, which would slow them down a bit more. Meanwhile, Christina kicked the exit.

In that instant, they saw Kanaria and Jay standing by the Essence Bank's entrance. Kanaria was shooting the beasts around the entrance while Jay was responsible for taking down the rest of the beasts she didn't manage to kill.

Meanwhile, Aileen had already entered the building and created some barricade that Kanaria could use later when they retreated. Of course, Melody had created a guide for their route.

"!!!" Kanaria noticed the door had opened. She waved her hand. "Hurry up!"

"Clovis!" Christina nodded.

"Yeah! You go first!"

Christina led in front, this time with Clovis following right behind her.

Still, there was no way the beasts would let them go. The rhino created another path by using its body. Some beasts followed his route, while the others used the same path Clovis and Christina took earlier.

At that moment, Kanaria shouted. "Kaboom!"

"!!!" Both Clovis and Christina widened their eyes as their instincts kicked in almost at the same time.

Christina, on the front, suddenly turned around and let Clovis run into her embrace before she raised both shields to protect their back.

Boom!

A massive explosion occurred. It turned out Kanaria had laid down so many explosives right at the exit. There was so much that it tore down the wall, stretching over twenty meters on both sides.

The blast made them grit their teeth because of the shock wave and sound.

However, Clovis prioritized Christina first by closing her ears.

Then, the shock wave blasted them away. As soon as the sound passed, Clovis shifted his hand, protecting the back of her head and her back before he flipped them around, using his own body as a cushion for their fall.

"Kh!" Clovis was tattered.

"Clovis!" Christina panicked and shouted his name, but Clovis' ears were ringing badly so that he could barely hear what she was saying.

There was no way Clovis could make her worry about him. He said, "Get up. We still have to run! We don't have time!"

There were so many things she wanted to say, but it wasn't the time for it. She rose from the ground and helped Clovis up. Both of them continued running toward the Essence Bank.

"Kanaria, Jay! Let's retreat. Where's Aileen?"

"Inside!" Kanaria shouted while Jay pointed inside as though he noticed his ears' condition.

Clovis nodded. "Let's go inside and retreat to the vault. I don't know what the situation is there, but we should go there right now. Jay, coordinate with Melody now. We will try to hold the beasts back until she's ready!"

Jay nodded. It appeared his condition was much worse than he thought, considering he even delegated him for that kind of task. Either way, he had to do it.

The moment the four of them entered, they saw the arrow in their skyglasses left behind by Melody. There was an additional barricade from all kinds of things Aileen could find on the way.

They traveled past all of them. From time to time, they turned around. Clovis changed to his pistol and worked together with Kanaria to overwhelm them with their firepower.

Meanwhile, Jay focused on coordinating with Melody. Christina helped the team by grabbing the remaining grenades both Clovis and Kanaria had while keeping her instincts sharp so that she could react to any unexpected attack.

Although it was hard to stop them, this was the Essence Bank, the toughest building inside the city.

Even the rhino would have a hard time destroying the building, so they ultimately managed to retreat without any successful attack from both the rhino and the Tier 7 beast.

After a long retreat that lasted 7 minutes but felt like 7 hours, they finally found the vault, with Melody waving her hand and Erwin preparing his threads.

All of them rushed inside as Erwin laid down the last wire and entered too. Aileen and Ragna closed the door while Melody locked it.

Chapter 695 695: The Truth

"Ha... Ha..." Clovis panted heavily.

"Clovis. Are you alright?!" Kanaria panicked while Luci immediately checked his condition.

"Yes. I'm alright for the time being." Clovis nodded, glancing around. There was no light other than the flashlight Melody brought, and they shouldn't really rely on it too much. His ears were still ringing, but they had recovered to a certain degree.

"Let me..." Luci was grabbing her bag as if she was searching for her medical tools.

Surprisingly, Clovis stopped her. "There's no need."

"What are you—" Luci was stopped once again when Clovis showed his palm. Soon, a bandage appeared out of thin air. "Use this instead."

"Huh?" Luci looked confused.

In fact, the others couldn't help but widen their eyes in shock, wondering where it came from.

"Clovis... that..." Kanaria gasped.

"Well..." Clovis looked at Luci as if telling her to just bandage him and he would be fine. While she wrapped his body with the bandage, he would explain everything.

Luci was a bit hesitant but immediately followed his instruction.

Clovis smiled wryly. "Let's see... Where should I begin?"

"When did you discover this unique ability?" Christina asked.

"Ah, that's right. From the beginning, I guess." Clovis nodded. "Well, I don't even realize this is a unique ability. It's all thanks to Christina for making me realize that this is also a unique ability."

"Also?" Kanaria tilted her head in confusion.

"For some reason, Clovis' body contains two unique abilities!" Christina explained, "My grandfather told me after seeing the first unique ability. That unique ability was extremely similar to what Mara Leverstrike had.

"However, after seeing what happened in the battle, I realized that this was another unique ability."

Clovis nodded in agreement. "Yeah. Although I don't know the reason, it's probably what attracts Mara to me. However, it's not really important right now. Even if we spend all the time we have here to learn about it, we probably won't be able to come up with a reasonable answer.

"Hence, I will tell you about my first unique ability instead, which is probably the only one that belongs to me.

"This unique ability is called Another World Mall. I awakened this Unique Ability an hour after I awakened as an explorer."

Clovis still remembered vividly that scene where he let out his frustration at his lack of absorption rate. Of course, he didn't give up, but his path would be more arduous than the rest of the people's. This Another World Mall came to him to solve all that problem.

"Another World Mall..." Kanaria muttered, feeling a bit confused.

Clovis pointed at everyone's equipment. "Elf's shirt, Dark Elf's boots, Minotaur's hide, Vampire's strap..."

They didn't understand why Clovis actually added fantasy creatures, but the fact that each piece of equipment contained the name of a species, they couldn't help but picture the meaning of 'Another World Mall.'

"To put it simply, all these items come from another world, or so it claims. And it's not just a fantasy creature. There is a high human, or maybe a technologically advanced world.

"It allows me to enter this Another World Mall. I believe you already know that your evolution progress skyrockets, especially for those who are in the same tier as me."

"!!!" Jay, Kanaria, Ragna, and Melody raised their eyebrows. Now that they thought about it, it was true. They were the ones benefiting the most from the food.

Clovis continued, "Just like any other mall, it has a grocery store. In this store, I'm able to buy things that are usually there, such as ingredients, completed products, and other miscellaneous stuff.

"For the ingredients, they're able to increase the evolution progress of my current tier. In other words, if I am Tier 3, it provides me with ingredients for Tier 3 evolution. Of course, there are sections to store items for Tier 0, Tier 1, and Tier 2, which I'm allowed to buy. So, yeah, I can also help people advance quickly.

"The most important thing is that the ingredients here don't get calculated by your absorption rate!"

"!!!" This was the most shocking thing they ever heard. This was the reason Clovis was able to advance so fast even though he only had a 15% absorption rate.

"That's the reason I can catch up to you guys." Clovis smiled wryly. "Of course, relying on this allows me to do it, but I personally need to get stronger, especially practice my skills.

"If not, I will just have high tier but not high combat prowess. For now, I haven't unlocked the full ability of Another World Mall. There are still so many stores I haven't opened.

"And this grocery store is just the first store. There are other stores, such as clothing stores and accessories stores, which is what you're currently wearing right now.

"Each of them has an ability. Maybe Melody will understand it more if you think of it as a game.

"For example, this shirt from Minotaur's hide has the ability to increase 5% of my strength and 7% of my defense. There is silk so springy that it can absorb an impact to a certain degree.

"Of course, this is also limited to their tier. From what I have found, even though it increases 5% of my strength, it's only limited to the peak tier of the shirt. If it's Tier 3, it's 5% of the peak Tier 3 with Muscle Affinity. Once I become Tier 4, there will be another item.

"Well, it doesn't mean the clothes become ineffective. It will still give you a boost of 5% but at the peak of Tier 3 instead of Tier 4."

They looked at each other. Christina gasped, "So, the reason for the sudden boost of my strength..."

"Yeah. It's the items from Another World Mall. I lied to you guys, saying that this is made of my blood. At that time, I didn't know the exact reason for Another World Mall, so I couldn't really explain something I didn't understand.

"At the same time, I have always wanted to tell you about it, but I'm just afraid that this information will leak. It's not that I don't trust you guys, but maybe someone can slip up with alcohol or something. So, I have no choice but to seal that information for the time being."

Chapter 696: Reactions

"..." Everyone fell silent. This was the first time they heard this information. They had always known Clovis for being miraculous, but they didn't expect it to be a unique ability.

At the same time, they finally understood why Clovis never really said anything.

Normally, people would call Clovis being unable to trust his teammates, who had gone through life and death together for so long.

However, for Kanaria and the others, who had seen Clovis' personality, they were aware that Clovis wanted to tell them about it this whole time.

The only reason he couldn't do it was because of his identity. That was right. If he were not from the Hacfield family, it would have been easier to reveal that secret.

But because he was linked to the Hacfield family, people would pay special attention to him. And what would happen if they knew that the child of the Hacfield family had a unique ability? The answer was pretty obvious.

Telling them this information might lead them to be captured and tortured for that information. That was why Clovis didn't want them to know, so that people didn't have any reason to go after them.

Of course, he genuinely didn't know it was a unique ability until just a moment ago. Even so, Clovis understood the burden of a captain more than anyone else.

That was why he hid it this whole time. And the perfect time for him to tell them the truth was probably when he reached Tier 5 and met his parents.

It was just that this incident made Clovis tell them the truth much earlier than he originally intended.

Kanaria wanted to say something, but the words stuck in her throat. The others also wondered what they should say in this situation.

Only Jay acted indifferent to it. He asked, "So, you have all this miraculous stuff all the time? How many stores are there? I don't particularly care about the content, but I wonder how much you have utilized your unique ability. Do I have any way to help?"

"Eh?" Even Clovis was shocked by Jay's reaction.

"Eh, what?" Jay tilted his head in confusion.

"There are a lot of things you can say after knowing the truth, but that's your question?"

Jay shrugged. "Why not? You should really have a unique ability or else the Libation Fiesta will have a change in ownership."

Clovis was dumbfounded.

"Listen here. Do you use this unique ability with the intention of harming us?"

"No."

"Then do you have any intention of using us?"

"Of course not. You are my comrades."

"Then it's not a problem, right? Who cares about the heavy topics? Even the strongest people in the world begin from Tier 0. They use their wisdom, work hard, and even scheme against their opponents to get where they are now. I look at it in a simple way. As long as your conscience is clear, then it's okay!" Jay harrumphed.

Clovis smiled wryly. This vice captain of his was definitely a unique one, but this might also be why he could trust Jay more than anyone else.

Jay harrumphed. "So, can you answer my question? Do you need my help? How do you unlock the full potential of your unique ability? What kinds of stores do you have right now? Is there anything that can make us stronger so that we can help you unlock your full potential? If you become strong, we'll follow. Isn't that what your unique ability is all about?

"Use me. I will also use you to get stronger. Protect me, and I will protect your back with my life. It's that simple for me, Captain."

Clovis' expression melted, but it soon turned pale when he saw Kanaria's face was right beside Jay's.

"So, are you done talking, eh, Vice Captain?!"

"..." Jay finally understood Clovis' change of expression. He dragged himself to the side while saying with a shaking voice, not showing any resemblance to himself from a few seconds ago. "Please, Ma'am. Go ahead."

Kanaria glared at Clovis and said, "I don't think I need to tell you anything else, since Jay has said it all. If you're worried about your comrades, just take a look at your comrades. They're the people you pick. It's said that similar people tend to flock together, and from what I can see here, that statement is true. Just look at these people. Oddballs."

"..." Clovis glanced around.

"I don't care. You allow me to fully utilize my talent, so my goal will remain the same. I will protect you as long as I can still wield this shield." Ragna smiled.

Erwin crossed his arms. "So, I lose to a unique ability user. That's understandable. No, wait. Won't this information make my prestige even higher?"

"It's fine that way, but don't you dare to get another woman using that, okay?" Aileen glared at Erwin with a murderous intent. In fact, she instantly dropped such an important matter and fully focused on Erwin.

"...Yes, Ma'am."

Melody looked down, muttering, "A mall has a clinic, right? Does that mean if the treatment doesn't work, this magical power called Another World Mall that might have a clinic can help my brother? This

might become my plan B." Just like Aileen, the only thing Melody cared about was her brother's well-being.

Lucifania had the biggest reaction as she went insane. While clutching her head, she muttered, "So, it's not about his blood? No, wait. He has two unique abilities. Does that mean studying his blood will allow me to figure out the secret of the unique ability? I'm going to get all the samples, blood...no, sperm, is it?"

"Woof!" Reolf simply wagged his tail as if the only thing he cared about was the fact Clovis was his master.

Christina smiled wryly. "You definitely have a weird party... This is fine, I guess." Christina couldn't help but look down, falling into a deep thought. The fact that Clovis had two unique abilities and, more importantly, his original unique ability could actually help others get stronger just made her grandfather even push her to Clovis.

"See?" Kanaria sighed. "Aren't you glad that all of us are oddballs? As Jay said, you don't have to blame yourself for hiding it this whole time. Instead, it's better for you to think about how to utilize it better. So, how do we help you utilize your unique ability? Can we help at all?"

Clovis smiled. "Everyone... Thank you..."

"No. Stop that thank you. I mean it. Answer the question already."

"..."

Chapter 697: Another World Mall

"Let's see..." Clovis recalled every piece of information about his mall. He explained, "Currently, I have several types of stores, such as a grocery store, a clothing store, an accessory store, a restaurant, a bite-size food store, a bookstore, a pet store, a gallery, and a movie theater.

"As you probably already know, you are eating food from the grocery store. Those who are of the same tier as me probably advance leaps and bounds for their evolution progress. This is also why I'm able to become a Tier 4 human, even though I isolate myself inside my room for a week.

"Regarding the clothing store and accessory store, you have been wearing them, so I don't really need to explain more than that. You understand the effect, but from now on, I will just say the power at face value, so it's easier to understand.

"Regarding the restaurant, there are multiple food stores, from fast food to proper restaurants, but I haven't seen any high-end restaurants yet like the ones in the hotel. The effect of the food in a restaurant is much higher than the bite-size stores and longer duration. As you can see, the latter is more practical, but the former is much more useful.

"I'm planning to use them to supply our food for a while. Although there are item limits, I have increased them enough for us to go with three meals a day without any problem.

"As for the bookstore, those weird books originated from this store. It's not my father. That's why the effect is different. They're most likely emphasizing the power of that particular race.

"And you definitely have seen the painting from the gallery at least once. I have bought every single thing from there, so we have a good collection of everything. It's also extremely useful.

"The pet store is basically the reason why I'm able to become friends with Reolf. Currently, as an owner, I can only become friends with a single beast, but it's indicated that I can have more in the future, but I don't think there will be that many. The food is provided and allows Reolf to grow stronger or even evolve to a higher tier.

"Last but not least, the movie theater. This is something I can't really show, but I guess the only ones who have seen the effect are Jay and Christina. Do you remember that I suddenly used the soft and hard sword and that I could unleash a longer ranged attack?

"The movie theater is like a full-dive technology where I'm absorbed into the play that I become the main character of that movie. I can feel, see, and even remember the training, which allows me to make sudden, drastic progress."

Jay and Christina definitely remembered it. They never thought it was the movie theater.

"But how do you even improve this ability? Is it related to money?" Kanaria asked. "I remember that all money has to go through you."

"Yes." Clovis nodded. "To put it simply, all the money inside my account will be registered into the mall's currency as if the money is being copied into the mall. At the same time, it won't use the real-world currency, so it won't affect the real-world currency. No inflation or such a thing.

"Of course, this also means that the money that has been registered in my mall can't be registered twice, even if I earn it. In other words, if I have used the money to buy something from Company A, and Company A hires me and rewards me with that same money, I will get nothing in the mall.

"Hence, Hana is the answer. She has a financial background and is also a good businessman. If she expands internationally, it means I have huge access to all the money all around the world.

"However, from what I can see, it's being exchanged according to the Union Dollar, which is currently used as the world-recognized currency. In other words, I can't just go to a country with a collapsed economy and get a bzillion of their currency and exchange it for a bzillion coins."

After listening to Clovis' flow of money, Christina couldn't help but ask, "In that case, why not ask for an investor? Or maybe tell Hana about it? Or have you?"

Clovis shook his head. "First of all, I don't want the influence of an investor. The effect of having an investor might not be significant right now, but in the future, I can't say the same.

"As for Hana... I don't plan to tell her for the time being. That greedy little goblin will definitely suck me dry if she knows about all this.

"However, she is a good partner. At the very least, I know that money can gradually increase with her as my partner. Once everything has settled down, I'm planning to let her know. Actually, after I upgrade the mall several more times, I can bring someone inside, but it might take at least a few months to achieve it. That's when I plan to explain, since it's easier to show it than to explain."

Kanaria looked away when she heard about Hana. As Clovis said, Hana would definitely suck him dry the moment she heard about this unique ability.

Christina nodded in understanding. "So, you can develop your unique ability as long as you have money?"

"Yes." Clovis raised three fingers. "The previous plan of mine is to increase my tier, upgrade the mall, and use the items to grow even stronger.

"But with the current amount of money required to upgrade the mall, I have switched my plan to grow stronger, create a business opportunity with Hana, and use the money to develop both strength and influence. This way, by the time this unique ability is revealed, they will have to think twice before trying to take advantage of me."

Christina agreed. "That's true. This is the first time I've heard of a unique ability that can benefit others. The value of this unique ability is much more significant than any other unique abilities. After all, you can create an army of elites. They will probably kidnap you, feed you money, and force you to get them items."

"Yeah." Clovis nodded with a wry smile.

Chapter 698: Conclusion

"So..." Christina pinched her chin. "Basically, Another World Mall is all about money. If you have money, you will have the goods?"

Clovis nodded. "To put it simply, yes. First, I need to use money to upgrade my membership and save enough money to maintain that membership. Then, I can expand the limit of my purchase with money. Last but not least, I will use the remaining money to purchase items.

"From the time being, I should unlock one more store first before having a big upgrade. After this upgrade, there will be a store that provides service. And that's also when I can actually take people from this world to Another World Mall.

"I have tested it as well. When I was being pushed from the trucks and surrounded by beasts, I escaped to Another World Mall. Apparently, it allowed me to completely disappear from this world.

"I'm not entirely sure how it works, but this is my trump card in saving myself."

"Still..." Christina crossed her arms. "Just look at all these items. You can actually provide them as much as you want, right?"

"Yes. Although there's a limit for the purchase, I can bring them out as much as I want," confirmed Clovis.

"I understand why Hana will suck you dry." Christina smiled wryly. "If she learns about this, the only thing on her mind is how to make you take as many items out as possible. Even if it bankrupts her, it will mean she can fork out all those items from you."

"Yes. Although I trust Hana, I don't plan to let her control me. That much is clear." Clovis waved his hand. "So, you don't have to worry about it."

Kanaria asked, "In that case, there's no change in our method? I mean, we can just continue to hunt and get stronger while getting some money, right? And because we know how your unique ability works, we just gather the money for you and circulate it back to us without telling anyone about it. Is that right?"

"Yes. But try to make it not as obvious. After all, the bank still tracks our information. Although there is some security, we can't fully trust them. It will be hard if people see through this method before the time for me to reveal it comes." Clovis nodded.

"Fair enough." Kanaria agreed.

Jay frowned. "Does that mean you are going to be more proactive in using your unique ability? While I don't really want to rely on that food, I can't see any way to defeat the Tier 7 beast without them... even if we reach the next stage."

"That's my concern as well." Clovis raised one finger. "I don't want to rely on the food either. After all, like a wise man once said, if there's a first time, it means there will be a second or third time."

"Even if we say we don't want to rely on it, we will end up eating them quite often. At the very least, we won't be able to resist much if we want to eat them again."

"The previous one was forced by the situation, but when we thought that way, in the future, we might end up thinking the same thing." Clovis let out a long sigh. "Sorry."

"It doesn't matter." Jay shook his head. "It's not a problem with how many times we're going to rely on it. What we need right now is a clear conscience.

"We can rely on it because it's a unique ability, just like we're using our tools, weapons, and so on. However, we shouldn't be dependent on it.

"As long as you don't use them to make a certain situation manageable, I don't really mind. We're trapped right now, so let's use this incident as a lesson.

"However, in the future, if you think that you're able to challenge a person just because you have this food, I'll be the first one to punch you... Well, maybe not. At least, if it's just you alone. After all, you can bring out food anytime you want.

"But it's not the same for the others. If we become dependent on your food, we will die sooner or later. So, if you feed us forcefully again, I'm going to punch you. Yeah, it should be like this."

Clovis smiled wryly. Still, thanks to Jay, he didn't have to worry much about the Libation Fiesta.

Clovis nodded. "I guess that's all I can say about my unique ability right now. That's all I know currently. If you want to know more, you have to wait until I understand it. Maybe you can help me figure it out as well, especially once I'm able to take someone inside.

"Maybe Jay will be interested in the movie theater and learn it by experiencing the training directly to grasp a couple of new techniques."

Jay smiled. "Of course, I'm going to take advantage of it. Anyway, don't say anything about this, Christina, even to your family. I don't think it's appropriate."

"I know that." Christina sighed. "I know I'm not that trustworthy, but I know which one I should share and which one I shouldn't. I will only share this information with my family once Clovis formally shows it to the world."

"But for now, I will keep quiet... even though I'm sure my grandfather can offer some advice regarding a unique ability since he's more experienced than me. But I guess telling Sir Michael directly will be a much better option."

Clovis agreed. "For now, the discussion ends here. Anyone have something to say?"

No one raised their hands.

Clovis then clapped his hands. "Alright. With the unique ability topic coming to a close, let's talk about what we should do next. Since we're inside the vault, we can only go out once Reolf, Ragna, Melody, and Christina reach the next tier.

"Although my unique ability can help to a certain extent for all of them except for Christina, I want to use essence as the big part of it. Hence, let's gather around the essences and try to use them. It's fine if we don't use it as a part of the super injection. At this point, I can't care less about the super injection. What do you think?"

Chapter 699: Getting Ready to Kill Tier 7 Beast

They agreed with Clovis' plan. In that instant, they began to gather all the essence inside the vault, using everything they could find to evolve.

To everyone's surprise, the first one to evolve was actually Reolf. That was right. It was Reolf. Even Clovis thought Reolf would take longer than the two Tier 4 people, but it turned out he had the highest progress among them.

The second person to evolve was Melody. It was probably because she was fired up with the potential of helping her brother that she didn't rest much in the last couple of days.

It allowed her to absorb more essence, surpassing Ragna, who was supposed to have similar progress.

Still, Ragna managed to evolve to Tier 5 one day later, so it didn't really matter.

Last but not least, Christina. Christina reaching Tier 6 was the biggest reason Clovis looked so confident in taking down a Tier 7 beast. While it was true that they still didn't have enough strength to take down a Tier 7 beast, they had food from Another World Mall.

People understood that the gap between Tier 6 and Tier 7 was extremely massive, so they understood why Clovis needed food to boost them.

...

While Clovis and the others were inside the vault, the people on the surface couldn't help but sense something was wrong.

"This is weird..." Hana looked down, falling into deep thought. "I haven't heard anything from Clovis last week. He promised to call me at least once a week just to make sure everything goes according to our plan.

"But it's unlike him to remain quiet for so long without informing me. Has something happened to him?" Hana frowned. "But Clovis is not someone who will take a risk, but he's not reckless enough to challenge something he can't even face.

"Don't tell me... Someone has come to kidnap him? But it's too fast. They shouldn't have known anything about his location yet. Is it because of the people from the government?"

Hana fell silent. There was indeed a number she could contact. It was Rena.

"This is Delia Litan. May I know who I am speaking to?" Rena was clueless. Although she had heard about Clovis' relationship with Hana, this was the first time she was called by this number.

"This is Hana Skylark. Clovis has told me about your number, Miss Rena. You don't have to use an alias on this call. It won't take too long so as to avoid this conversation getting tapped."

"!!!" Rena fell silent for a moment. Considering Clovis trusted Hana a lot, Rena dropped the act. "This is Rena. May I know why you called me, Miss Hana?"

Hana asked, "You must be 'there' right now, correct?"

"Yes."

"Has something happened there?"

"I'm not sure I'm following you. What do you mean? Sir is strong, so I don't think there's anything going on. He has informed me that he will call me once everything is done with the underground city."

"..." Hana paused. On the one hand, that was how Clovis indeed operated. But he never broke a promise except when he was troubled by a special circumstance.

Still, should she inform Hana about her suspicion? She would just cause problems because of it. Besides, there was also a chance Clovis was fine and he just couldn't send a word to her at the moment.

Even Rena noticed something was off. Still, there wasn't a single beast climbing the tower for the last 9 days, so she thought Clovis was doing just fine. That was why Hana might be just paranoid in her mind.

"It's nothing." Hana let out a long sigh. "Just monitor the situation over there. Sorry for bothering you."

"No. That's fine." Rena politely ended the call, thinking Hana was just worried about her 'little boyfriend,' which was understandable.

What Rena didn't expect was that the reason there was no beast climbing the tower was because all those beasts gathered around the Essence Bank. They were sitting quietly as if they were waiting for Clovis' team to come out.

They tried to break the vault multiple times, but to no avail. The only thing they could do was to starve them out, but the beasts around the vault could still sense their presence inside, meaning they were still alive.

As long as Clovis hadn't died, the Tier 7 beast chose to remain vigilant. After all, this was the first time its peace had finally been disturbed by humans after twenty years. It wanted to thoroughly eliminate the humans that threatened his life.

On the other hand, the last evolution was done after 11 days, with Christina being the last one.

All of them had increased their strength as well. With Clovis revealing everything about his Another World Mall, he could actually give the items they requested.

After all, while he understood their fighting style, they might have another intention, like Melody asking for a stealth item to avoid getting detected by the beasts, allowing her to have more time to focus on being an operator or Christina, who wanted speed and strength because she was already confident enough with her durability.

Of course, Clovis also took out several other items to adjust the team's strength. Their opponent was Tier 7, so they needed an appropriate strength to challenge it.

Clovis stood up while taking back all the junk from Another World Mall to its special inventory. "It looks like everyone is ready. Everyone understands the plan, right?"

They all nodded in unison. They had been preparing so much in the last 11 days, so it was time to challenge the Tier 7 beast one more time.

With an excited smile on his face, Clovis turned around, heading to the vault door. "Let's kill the Tier 7 beast this time."

...

Hana was leaning back in her chair while staring at the ceiling. "Is something happening to Clovis right now? Why am I getting bothered by this? He rarely called me anyway, so it didn't matter..."

Hana fell silent for a moment before scratching her head as if she was contradicting her own words. She clicked her tongue and muttered, "Fine. I will gather my own team to descend to the underground city if there's no news about him after two weeks..."

Chapter 700: Time to Hunt

Melody's voice echoed inside the vault. "This is the layout of everything I can see on the radar right now. I have built a 3D model of this and its surrounding areas.

"The beasts seem to be waiting for us. I'm not entirely sure of the reason. They might know we're still alive or something, but because they can't do anything to us yet, they are waiting until we open the door ourselves, believing that we'll have to come out sooner or later for food.

"Hence, the moment we open the bank vault, we will be swarmed in a few seconds.

"Currently, there are about 50 beasts around this vault, waiting for the right moment to alert the rest of the beasts to come.

"Regarding this building, they have blocked the path to the next floor according to the radar, so we might need to kill some beasts to get to an advantageous position.

"Meanwhile, the outside is even more terrifying. Although I can't find all the beasts as they might wait in a further area, there are still thousands of beasts in there.

"If we want to handle them... I'm afraid it's not possible, especially while fighting the Tier 7 beast."

Clovis and the others were listening seriously. They realized that their predicament was much more than they originally thought.

With the beasts lying in wait, they would have to provoke them to get them to move according to what they wanted. Hence, the most logical plan to fight the Tier 7 beast was to separate them from the rest of the beasts. It was impossible, but as long as they took a huge portion of the beasts, they might succeed.

Normally, Clovis would do the major planning, but it didn't seem he was needed anymore, especially with that confident face of Melody.

"It appears you have something for us, Melody?" Clovis smiled.

"Yes." Melody nodded. "I'm planning to divide our group to handle their respective objectives. I'm pretty sure you're already aware of the most reasonable solution just by looking at this 3D model.

"We have to separate the boss from the rest of the beasts. Then, someone will kill the boss before decimating the rest of the beasts.

"But I have to mention that if we want to just retreat to the surface, our strength is already sufficient without baiting them, but that's not our objective."

They nodded their heads. No one really wanted to hide in this vault, if not for the sake of killing these beasts.

Christina couldn't contain her curiosity. "As expected, we're going to split our group into two, huh? One is the bait, while the other is the execution team."

"No. Not two, three!" Melody smirked.

"!!!" Clovis raised his eyebrows. He was probably the most surprised one among them. Melody was already good at strategic thinking, and she learned from Clovis' unorthodox approach. By combining the two of them, it was a kind of first step to actually surpass Clovis in this field.

Melody raised three fingers. "There are three objectives. The first one is to bait not only these beasts but also the boss."

"Huh? The boss too? Are you sure?" Kanaria frowned.

"Their leader is not visible to us right now. We don't know their location, so it's better to let him show himself." Aileen squinted her eyes. "That means the second team's purpose is..."

"Yes." Melody confirmed her suspicion with a nod. "The second team's purpose is to launch a sneak attack on their leader and stop it, even just for a few seconds. Basically, the second team has to stop the leader from killing the first time while buying enough time for the third team to come in."

"But there's a problem." Jay crossed his arms. "Although the plan itself is good, it has one flaw. If we proceed with these three teams, their leader will most likely bring a lot of beasts as well. If it's going to come to the first team, won't they be close enough that the rest of the beasts wouldn't be provoked?"

"That's why there's a need for the second team, Jay. And that second team will be me." Aileen shook her head.

"Ah!" Jay finally understood. By erasing her presence, the beasts would have no choice but to focus on the ones they could find, which was the first group.

During that time, they could single out the Tier 7 beast or even put a marker on it on the radar so that they wouldn't lose him anymore. Even Christina's Provoke would be extremely useful for this approach.

Clovis smiled. "But this kind of plan means each group will not have balanced members. Isn't that right, Melody?"

Melody smiled back. As expected, Clovis had figured out the plan she had made in the last couple of days just from all the clues she had given so far. "Yes."

"So, why not tell us the members of each group?"

"They are..."

...

Creak!

The vault door was once again opened.

"!!!" The beasts were startled because it had been a while since they had come in. The beasts hurriedly stood up, as if they wanted to alert the rest of the beasts.

However, in front of them was Aileen. She appeared like a ghost and killed them in a single cut.

Although she hadn't reached Tier 6, she had the highest progress among the Tier 5 people in the team.

Killing several beasts was easy, but as if knowing it would happen, the Tier 7 beast placed several layers of beasts so that when they came out, they would be able to alert the rest of the beasts no matter how many beasts Clovis killed.

Roar!

Roar!

Two beasts were the fastest, considering they were located at the opposite corner of the vault, where Aileen couldn't easily reach.

Meanwhile, the rest of the team emerged from the vault. They were still together this time, as if they were waiting for the beasts to swarm this place.

They cut down all the beasts in their way and make their way out of the Essence Bank.

"Clovis. Everyone is coming." Melody heard numerous roars around the bank and checked everything on her radar.

Clovis nodded with a smile. "It's time to hunt."