

World Mall 711

Chapter 711: Arrival

"Welcome." Clovis extended his hand.

"We're honored to be here. To think that the person that once came here suddenly became a big shot who owned a city." The familiar man who shook Clovis' hand was none other than Cain. He was the leader of the Opensky company's first team.

They once got the new beast souls together.

At that time, Clovis and the others were not someone important. They were merely a business partner who managed to have a deal with Hana.

Yet, in just a short period, Clovis not only became one of the most important figures in the country but also became so strong that he could take down a Tier 7 beast.

Meanwhile, the first team of the Opensky company was not an ordinary team either. Each of them was Tier 6, with Cain approaching Tier 7. This was the team that Hana had been nurturing without the help of her grandfather.

With them helping the team in securing the underground base, Clovis would have an easier time hunting beasts.

Clovis extended his hand. "Please come in. We don't have a lot since we still need to rebuild the city."

"Ah, yes." Cain nodded and took a step to the side. "We've brought them here. These are the professors we have found who will help you with the development."

"In that case, let's have them discuss it with Kanaria." Clovis nodded. "As for the rest of the money and connection, Hana will take care of it."

"Will that be alright with you?" Cain asked, staring at the few old men behind him.

"Yes. Restoring a city is a huge task, but it's something that everyone wishes to do. Unfortunately, only a select few have such privilege."

Most of the time, retaking and restoring a fallen city could be done, but the cost was so high that the government didn't want to do it. Instead, they would build another city from scratch not far from the fallen city and use that fallen city as a hunting ground to populate the new city.

Rebuilding the city was usually done by either a Tier 9 human or an insane government.

That was why it didn't take a lot for Hana to convince these people. There was no way they would argue with Kanaria over a small matter since the moment the city was done, they would be famous, like other world-class professors who were recognized for their works building a city for a Tier 9 human.

Hence, Hana entrusted them with the work.

Clovis nodded his head. "In that case, you can discuss it with Kanaria right away. Melody. Do you mind showing them the way? I will need to talk to Mr. Cain regarding the underground city."

"Sure." Melody agreed and moved to the side. "Please follow me."

"Mr. Cain, huh? I can't afford to have this politeness. Your status is much higher than mine. Just call me Cain, so I don't get too bothered by it." Cain smiled wryly.

"Hahahaha." Clovis chuckled. "I understand. In that case, let's talk about the underground city inside."

"Sure. What is your current plan, actually?"

"It's nothing big. While we have secured the underground city, the beasts will attack it. I want you to focus on defending the underground city. It doesn't matter if it's destroyed, since we will rebuild it.

"Meanwhile, I will be heading outside and thinning out the number of beasts. Since a few decades have passed, the number of beasts around this place is quite high.

"It's necessary to thin them out first before beginning with the construction.

"Besides, it's a good opportunity for us to take down a lot of beasts, considering we need growth the most," explained Clovis.

"Fair enough." Cain acknowledged Clovis' arrangement. "Still, I have heard of you defeating a Tier 7 beast. Even though this is a huge feat, don't forget that this beast was severely weakened due to the influence of the tower.

"If you end up encountering a Tier 7 beast outside, they might be much stronger."

"Yes. I'm aware of the danger. For now, we are not planning something far away. Most of the time, it will be to prevent any outbreak." Clovis showed a solemn face, assuring him that he wouldn't do such a reckless thing.

Clovis knew how the tower played such a huge role in weakening the Tier 7 beast they defeated, so he still didn't feel complacent about his achievement.

They planned to take their time in the next six months here to thin out the number of beasts around the underground city.

By that time, the calculation should be done and the construction of the Skylift could be processed.

He didn't know how long it would take, but he was hoping that by the time he reached Tier 7, the Skylift had been built. Even if the surface city and underground city hadn't been redeveloped completely, it was fine.

In the end, Clovis' main goal was to get stronger in this city.

"I understand. It'll be a pleasure to work with you. Let's discuss the details now."

"Yes."

Once the two captains had reached an agreement, they worked quite fast, allowing Clovis to go back to the underground city in just a week to resume their usual hunt. Even Kanaria had to leave her work behind to get stronger.

However, in the past seven days, there was one disturbing thing occurring in the city.

Every night, the people were woken up by the sound of the wolf's howl echoing from inside the city.

The people were confused because they couldn't find the wolf, no matter how hard they looked for it.

Meanwhile, Clovis casually told them not to worry about it and still feigned ignorance even though he was the one who told Reolf to do it.

His ultimate plan began the moment he was planning to go back to the underground city. Since he was planning to descend with their bus, they, specifically Cain and Rena, caught a glimpse of a wolf's eye in the gap between two curtains in Clovis' bus, raising a lot of questions in their minds.

Chapter 712: Six Months Later

Six months later.

Tak!

Tak!

Tak!

The clapping sound of high heels echoed across the hallway as a female doctor casually strolled in the hospital.

Yet, despite her familiar way of walking, the people couldn't help but have their gazes fixated on her, feeling unfamiliar but at the same time captivated by her beauty.

"Is there a doctor that beautiful in this hospital?"

"I don't know."

"This is the first time I see her..."

The doctor casually walked to the VIP room that had been reserved for a long time. In front of the rooms stood two men in black, each a Tier 6 fighter.

Yet, these two men didn't react when the female doctor entered the room, as though they didn't see her.

When she entered the room, she took out a candy and put it in her mouth, which wasn't the standard of a doctor. With just a glance, she checked all the necessary information she could find from the machine and the labels all around the bed.

"Nothing abnormal. That's good," she muttered before taking her leave again. "See you later, boy."

The two men remained unchanged, even though she abruptly came out.

She casually walked outside the building without anyone stopping her. On her ear, there was a device stuck on it, getting covered by her hair.

"You can't keep doing this, you know? If not for me hacking into the security system of that hospital, you would be found out," a man's voice echoed from it.

"Isn't it fine? I have you, darling." With a smug look on her face, she added, "Besides, can't I just go there right now? It's been a very long time. I miss him, I miss him, I miss him, I miss him."

"Do you think you're the only one missing him? However, no. We have agreed that we will wait until he reaches Tier 5. A promise is something that shouldn't be broken."

"Eh..." She pouted. "Fine. But it's been a few months since he has gone down. Is he alright? I have heard some pretty interesting rumors, you know?"

"Hoh? Such as?"

"There is a rumor that our son has a pet. That pet is actually a beast, Dire Wolf."

"A pet?" The man fell silent for a moment.

"Intriguing, isn't it? Should I check the rumor to see whether it's true or not?"

"No. Pet is pet, no entry is no entry." The man gritted his teeth. "My answer will remain the same no matter how many times you ask or how you ask it. There are only two things that can be held by a man. Everyone knows the first one, while the other is his words."

"If my words can't be held, I will become a worse person than a gigolo, so no."

"Hmph. Fine. I will wait just a bit longer. I don't think he is that far from reaching Tier 5."

"That's true. However, a lot of influences have been restless recently."

She snorted. "They just can't find him. As expected of my son, he knows how to hide. Those people just want to possess him so that they will gain us as well."

"Although I don't really like that he chooses to remain here, I don't plan to argue with him about this decision. He's not a person who makes a big decision without putting any thought into it, after all."

"Yeah. We have one problem, though. There are three top powerhouses searching for him. They are Berserker, Bald, and Fish."

"..." She halted her step for a moment as if she was stunned to hear all those names.

"Sir Ezekiel seems to be stopping the Sniper, while Father is taking care of the Spear Saint and the Prophet."

She couldn't help but squint her eyes. "We can probably ignore Bald and Fish for the time being, since they're not Tier 8, but their backers are rather annoying."

"However, Berserker... Father's ultimate rival, huh? He kept challenging Father even though Father had beaten him multiple times. Did he want to make his current children defeat our little darling?"

"Most likely, and the problem is when he loses..."

"We know Berserker is a dirty one... If he dares to touch Clovis, I swear..."

"I'm the same. For the time being, I'm keeping track of them. That little girl, Vina, has done a good job in spreading misinformation. I guess that's what we should expect from the Dark Moon Mercenary."

"Well, they're shady, but at least they're useful." She nodded. "What do you want me to do?"

"Stay quiet over there for a while. I'm afraid that these three are planning to enter the country very soon. The effect of the misinformation has been diminished quite a lot, so they might find him soon."

"Can't Father make a move?"

"You know the Prophet and the Spear Saint..."

"Spear Saint, huh? That Carrick definitely didn't know when to take the loss. He is annoying. But the Prophet is more annoying."

"Yeah. He is much more secretive than the Spear Saint, so Father needs his full attention to distract him. That means he won't be able to stop others from approaching Clovis."

"In that case, do you want me to stay close to him? If they end up finding him, I can make a move."

"Berserker is Tier 9, you won't be able to stop him. Meanwhile, that baldie will definitely come with at least two or three Tier 8s, so there's no way you can stop him with your Tier 7 strength. Fortunately, that man who loves fish isn't really hostile, so just stand by there."

"So, you're telling me not to stop them from taking my dear son away?"

"No. I'm telling you to stay because I'm going out by myself."

"!!!" She raised her eyebrows before sighing. "Fine."

"Fortunately, most competitors have been held back by that president. He's much more competent than Axolonia. And by the time his presidency is over, Clovis should have no problem in reaching Tier 6 or even Tier 7. When that happens, it might be Clovis who will protect us."

"In that case, I will monitor the situation for the time being. Once he reaches Tier 5, I'm going to him even if you stop me."

"Heh. I'm not going to stop you when that happens."

"That's more like it."

Chapter 713: Figuring Out Clovis' Location

"Where is he?" A bald man slammed his fist into the table, splitting it into two. After searching for months, he hadn't found a single clue about Clovis. It was so frustrating, especially with Clovis disappearing as if he was swallowed by Earth.

"We haven't found him yet. There's basically no trace of him after that day. Absalom is doing their best to hide him," his assistant reported while shaking his head helplessly.

"What's even the situation there?" The bald man gritted his teeth. "This annoying Hacfield with their antics."

"Currently, we have searched about 90% of their cities, but none of our spies have spotted them, so we're planning to assume that they're not in the cities. Instead, they're either in the wilderness or in the fallen cities.

"Our spies are currently moving to the wilderness right now, especially in the underworld. There are a lot of spaces to cover, so we have a hard time finding them.

"If there's no progress, we will be searching for the fallen cities."

The bald man gritted his teeth. When he became a Tier 9, this country did give him a city, but he couldn't care less about a city. He wasn't the type of person who would handle such a thing.

Still, it wouldn't be weird for Clovis to be given a city after revealing his trump card. Of course, some countries wouldn't give it right away because there was a chance for them to die, but Clovis' identity was so big that they had no choice but to give it to him. And he was known to be someone who had escaped from a country before, so Absalom would definitely do everything they could to retain Clovis in their country.

The only problem was, which city did they give? Most of the time, it would be an already established city since they didn't have to rebuild it from scratch.

But they had been searching all these cities without finding any clues. If they continued at this pace, Clovis might have been gone in one way or another.

"We're also keeping an eye on the OpenSky Company, but they haven't done anything extraordinary.

"They are, as usual, sending their people to all kinds of places."

"..." The bald man squinted his eyes. "Pay attention to their movements. How about their top people? Where are they going? Are they staying for too long? My instinct is telling me that something is wrong. If they're going to stay out for long, they need equipment or supplies, so they will definitely need the OpenSky Company to assist them."

"That's..." His assistant rubbed his cheek.

"Don't you know my instinct? My instinct is telling me that they're the culprits. Give me the location of all their top groups... top 5 groups."

"I understand." The assistant nodded.

It didn't take too long for the assistant to prepare everything that he wanted. Once he presented the information, the bald man squinted his eyes, noticing something weird.

"There are three groups who are staying outside for months?" The bald man squinted his eyes.

"We're assuming it's for raid preparation. They're hunting and learning the behavior of their targets."

"While it's true, my instinct is telling me that one of them is the clue we're searching for." He rose from his seat.

"Where are you going, sir?"

"Of course, Absalom. I'm going immediately. I don't plan to wait for you to confirm it."

"But sir..."

"I have done a lot for this country, so let me do things as I please once in a while, understood? Who are you? Are you really my agent?"

"..." His assistant let out a long sigh.

"Handle the work. I'm heading out right now."

There were a lot of things his agent wanted to say, but in the end, the bald man had gone away. "Haa... I thought I had gotten used to this, but he became more and more absurd recently. I need to handle the paperwork, the political relationship with Absalom, and even blind their Tier 8... I'm not paid enough for this... He might be a Tier 9, but he can't do this all the time..."

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While the Berserker was searching for Clovis with his instinct after finding enough information for his instinct to take over, others used different methods to locate Clovis.

"I believe he is in the fallen cities. That's the conclusion I have reached after not finding any clues for six months.

"Give me the information about all fallen cities in Absalom. Make sure you check the ones with the danger level that his group can take. I don't like underestimating anyone, so bring me ones with higher difficulty as well.

"If we still can't find other clues, we have no choice but to check each fallen city ourselves. Tell all our spies to move accordingly."

...

An old man fixed his glasses while smirking, "I found him. There are a lot of rumors about his whereabouts, but none of them are true. However, these noises have one origin.

"It's this fallen city. I don't know what kind of thing they have prepared, but they are still too immature if they think this is enough to fool my eyes.

"Get the ship ready. We're going to Absalom right away!"

...

Vina's protection was gradually running out of time. Even though she had skillfully spread misinformation, people simply had investigated all kinds of misinformation and gradually narrowed down Clovis' location.

As a result, more and more people were figuring out Clovis' whereabouts in one way or another.

Of course, some people couldn't pinpoint his exact location right away, but some managed to figure out the fallen city he had chosen.

Absalom had been denying their entry, but in one way or another, they could still enter the country even if it meant clashing with Absalom's Tier 8 fighters.

Meanwhile, there was one person who wasn't monitoring Clovis but the people that tried to find Clovis.

It was none other than his father, Gerald Hacfield. Seeing more and more people coming to Absalom, Gerald knew that he had to make his move pretty soon.

Chapter 714: Coming

"Sir!" A middle-aged man entered the presidential office once again. He panted a few times, as though he couldn't believe what was going on.

"What's wrong?" The president furrowed his eyebrows.

"Berserker is coming to our country!"

"!!!" The president stood up in shock. "Berserker? Do you mean that Tier 9 human, Berserker?"

"Yes."

"But why? Although he is known to be Madman's rival, he shouldn't have a grudge against him. Why would he come to this place?" The president gasped.

"We don't know the situation, but he's unstoppable."

"..." The president looked down while gritting his teeth. He was aware that Ezekiel and Michael were holding back several Tier 9 humans, but he never thought Berserker would take this chance to come.

His goal was definitely Clovis. This was not good.

Before he could give a command, the man also gave one more report. "According to our spies, Khain has made their move as well. They're approaching from the neighboring country. He should have gone down from his ship by now."

"Are you serious? Even Khain? Is he going to bring him to Lutvia? Not good."

Another man suddenly rushed into the room, reporting in a heavy voice. "Sir... We've just got a report from General Ran. According to him, William Kasfer has reached this country."

"!!!" The president widened his eyes. He never thought that these two would be making their move the moment the Berserker made his move. It was as if they were waiting for a Tier 9 human to distract them before coming directly.

At this rate, Clovis would be taken away.

The president gritted his teeth before asking, "Where is Clovis?"

"He's still in that city. He hasn't returned yet, but he should be returning from the regular hunts soon, according to our agent."

The president had a headache. If Clovis remained in the wilderness, they would have a hard time finding him. But if Clovis was returning, they could easily find him and capture him. At that time, no one could protect him anymore and he could do nothing to bring him back.

Although there were a lot of Tier 7 and Tier 8 humans in the country, they weren't really Clovis' allies. Hence, they wouldn't make a move.

In fact, because of what happened to the other academies and their sponsors, they would definitely love to have Clovis leave this country.

In other words, he had to watch his back if he wanted to protect Clovis.

"These people have been waiting this whole time... They're waiting for Berserker to find him before stealing Clovis under his nose." The president gritted his teeth.

"What should we do, sir?"

They looked at the president. The threat was simply too big. Even if they did something, there was no guarantee Clovis would stay.

It would be annoying if they tempted Clovis with a much bigger benefit than what their country could offer. In the end, both Khain and William came from a country considered to be one of the five superpower nations in the world.

They were really going to have Clovis with them, even if it meant kidnapping him. Clovis had a lot of weaknesses, such as his group, so it wouldn't be hard to make Clovis agree.

In addition, he had used a bit too many people to protect the family members of his squad.

When he thought about it, the situation became extremely clear. They had no other escape.

"What can we do? We can only..." Before the president gave a helpless order, the phone suddenly rang. The president couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows but still picked up the call.

People thought it came from their enemies, threatening the president. They were about to flare up if they dared to disrespect their president, but they didn't.

There was a sliver of hope appearing in his eyes. It was as if the hope they were waiting for had arrived.

"Alright." The president took a deep breath before putting down the phone.

"Sir... that's..."

The president smiled. "We've been informed that Jeremy Skylark is going to stop William."

"!!!" They looked shocked. Although there were still Khain and Berserker, the situation had become even more controlled.

The president stated, "Send half of our force to assist Principal Vhalor to suppress those academies. I don't want to deal with them when we're in this dire situation.

"Ask Radric to help Clovis and, if possible, bring him elsewhere. That Khain is extremely crafty, so it'll be close to impossible to stop him, so it's better to head to his target, Clovis."

"How about the Berserker?" This was the biggest question. Although they could stop Khain, the biggest enemy would be Berserker.

The president paused for a moment. "There's no other choice. There's a movement in the shadows as well. Although Jeremy didn't give me any clues, it appeared they were preparing for his arrival. It's better if we focus on Khain and make sure he can't ruin the plan."

"Understood."

The president nodded and continued, "Tell Clovis about the situation and have him cooperate with us."

"Yes, sir."

The people rushed to arrange everything, ensuring Clovis' protection. However, the president was still quite restless, considering there would be a clash against a Tier 9.

If Clovis' grandfather came here, the clash between two Tier 9 humans would be inevitable. In the worst-case scenario, they would destroy a city or two.

That was why the situation had become a headache. If it were just one person, he could still somehow handle it.

But with all these people coming at the same time, the situation had become unpredictable. There was also a high chance for other smaller forces to sneak inside and snatch Clovis in one way or another.

This was the decisive battle for Clovis.

Meanwhile, the person they were looking for had just returned from the city.

While stretching his hands, Clovis said, "This hunt is not bad. Jay is about to reach Tier 5, and Kanaria is close to 90%, right? I am 70% right now, only a third left to reach Tier 5." With Clovis revealing his mall, their progress increased drastically since Clovis didn't have to spread the portion anymore.

With this, it would take them one more month to reach Tier 5.

However, Rena abruptly ran toward them before they could even enter the city gate. She shouted, "Not good. The enemies are coming! They're coming for you!"

Chapter 715: Rush

"This hunt is not bad. It won't take us too long to reach the next tier," said Clovis while checking the data Melody had compiled previously.

Each of them had an average number before their names, making it easier for Clovis to keep track of everyone's progress.

(Tier 4)

Clovis - 70%

Kanaria - 87%

Jay - 95%

(Tier 5)

Ragna - 30%

Erwin - 68%

Melody - 28%

Lucifania - 49%

Aileen - 82%

(Tier 6)

Christina - 22%

Clovis nodded with a satisfied smile. The hunt had been very effective. It was unfortunate that he couldn't get the number for Reolf, but he knew Reolf was keeping up just fine.

"I'm a bit tired. Let's get a proper one or two days' rest before going for another hunt." Melody stretched her body while yawning.

"Indeed. I just want to take a warm bath and call it a day." Kanaria agreed.

"In that case, let Miss Rena handle everything else. We will just call it a day." Clovis smiled. "We don't have a lot of time left for us to be discovered. So, it's best if we can somehow reach Tier 5 first. According to my prediction, with the current situation... instead of my parents giving a clue to me how to meet them, they will be doing the opposite thing.

"In other words, they're the ones going to find me. With the current situation, we definitely need their help to fend off any attack.

"So, if possible, we will head for another hunt soon and reach Tier 5. Still, I know everyone is tired, so we'll have two days off for now, especially you, Kanaria."

"Ah..." Kanaria scratched the back of her head while looking away. In the past six months, she had been the most sleep-deprived. She often discussed a lot of things with the experts Hana sent, since this was the first time she had a project like this.

So, it was time for Clovis to be the one supporting her, giving her less work so that she still had time to do it. However, Clovis still wanted her to keep growing her strength until a certain point... at least until she was strong enough to protect herself.

"Anyway, let's head back." Clovis waved his hand and took out his Skyphone to inform Hana.

To everyone's surprise, Hana suddenly rushed out of the gate and shouted out loud, "Not good, not good!"

"!!!" Clovis and the others couldn't help but furrow their eyebrows.

"What's going on?" Clovis asked, his tone was heavy.

Rena's expression turned grim. "I've just gotten information from the HQ. Apparently, three people are coming to this country. The first one is a Tier 9 human, who is known as the Berserker, Caelous Zarcus. He's rumored to be your grandfather's rival. We don't know about his objective, but it's probably either kidnapping you or revenge.

"The second person comes from a superpower country, Lutvia. He's trickier because no one really knows how many people he has brought here. However, his mission is pretty clear. I'm afraid he's going to kidnap you.

"He's a person who can't be tracked. Even when we see him, he's probably already changing his pattern. Hence, we don't know his current whereabouts.

"Last but not least, William Kasfer from Qarlas. While he's the CEO of Qarlas, he's also getting a position as a minister there, so he's trying his best to capture you. If they can't possess you, I'm afraid they're going to... kill you."

Clovis' heart sank. This was faster than he originally expected. At the same time, he might have underestimated his opponent.

He knew something was going to happen in six months, but he thought he could somehow head back to the wilderness again before their arrival. This way, they would return as a Tier 5.

However, it didn't seem that these people were planning to let him be.

"..." Clovis squinted his eyes, wondering what he should do. "What's our current situation? Does the president have something to say?"

Rena nodded, reporting the current situation. "Right now, Miss Hana's family is taking care of William Kasfer. We're unsure about the details, but he seems to be confident enough as he asks us to focus on the other two.

"A portion of the reinforcement has to be sent to the academy so that Principal Vhalor has enough people to suppress other academies.

"Last but not least, they have sent three Tier 8 people to this place. We're unsure about what's going to happen, but Mr. Radric will be coming here. He is going to be the one escorting you out of this city and finding another safe place."

Clovis nodded in understanding. "In that case, we need to head up immediately and regroup with him."

"Yes, sir!" Rena agreed.

Clovis thought for a moment. Reolf was inside the bus, so if he brought Rena with him, it meant Reolf's existence would be exposed.

At the same time, they didn't have a lot of time. Leaving Rena here could prevent Reolf's existence from spreading, but it also meant losing contact with Rena or the government. She was his agent, so if the reinforcement arrived, she would be the first one to be notified.

So, losing her here would probably cause a lot of problems.

Clovis clicked his tongue. He glared at Rena while grabbing her shoulders, asking solemnly. "Rena. Whatever you see, think of it as just your imagination. I need you to keep a secret about this even if the president asks about it. If you ever reveal it under any circumstances, it will be your fault if I choose to leave this country. Understood?"

"W-Wha—?" Rena was bewildered, wondering what was going on. Leaving the country?

Rena panicked. She didn't know whether to nod or shake her head.

Still, she was Clovis' agent. There was a secret that Clovis didn't want anyone to know, so she had no choice but to help him.

She gritted her teeth before nodding furiously. "I understand."

"In that case, let's go!" Clovis simply dragged Rena inside the bus, where she finally found the existence of the wolf that she once took a glimpse of six months ago. "This... This is..."

Chapter 716: Enemy

"Thank you for helping me with this problem." A woman politely bowed to three people. These three people had extraordinary strength. The first one was none other than Jeremy Skylark, a Tier 8 businessman.

While it was true that he had spent a lot of time expanding his business, he was still considered to be one of the strongest in the country.

The second person was none other than Alan. He had been helping with any problem related to Clovis and could be considered a great ally in this country.

Last but not least, it was a middle-aged woman. She once appeared together with Alan, helping Clovis enter this country for the first time.

She had never helped Clovis again after that, but there was no other choice but to involve such a person this time. She was known as a Tier 8 human who mastered the will of the blade, Karin.

"It's not a problem. I have to do my part as well. As long as Clovis treats my granddaughter well, I don't mind dying today." Jeremy waved his hand casually.

Alan chuckled. "I won't be here today if the Hacfield family doesn't help me, so it's time for me to repay it."

"I'm just here for those ten blade books for my family." Karin shook her head. "But to think that you have been in this country the whole time, Lady Aisha?"

Yes, the one who requested them to come was none other than Aisha Hacfield, Clovis' mother.

Karin couldn't help but squint her eyes.

Aisha smiled. "I'm here just to help. I won't bother the three of you. As long as we can stop them here, it's good enough."

"But what about those kids? They're going to face a bigger opponent, you know?" asked Jeremy.

"I'm not entirely sure, but my husband is making his move. Besides, we have informed our father, but the only thing he told us is that everything will be fine."

"!!!" They couldn't help but widen their eyes.

"Is he going to make his appearance?" Karin asked.

"If he comes to this country, there will be a huge fight that might destroy one or two cities... We might have to update the map because of them..." Alan smiled wryly.

"No. He won't come. If he comes, no one can stop other Tier 9 humans." Jeremy shook his head.
"Anyway, I don't think I can find the reason today, so I will just have to trust that decision this time. Hopefully, the kids will be alright so that I don't regret this decision in the future."

Aisha nodded. "Yes. That's what I'm hoping for as well."

...

Just like Aisha, Gerald had arrived, but knowing the brutal nature of the Berserker, Gerald had no choice but to stop him right outside the city, specifically Clovis' city, Entel.

He had two people assisting him. The first one was the elder that helped Vina this whole time. The second person was none other than the person who loved talent the most in this country, Radric.

"Thank you for the help." Gerald smiled politely.

"Hahaha. To think that Clovis is indeed from the Hacfield family. To meet the greatest martial genius of all time, Gerald Hacfield, is truly an honor." Radric laughed wholeheartedly.

As someone who loved talents, Gerald was obviously at the top of his list. Gerald had perfected or created numerous techniques, helping numerous clans, companies, or organizations.

In one way or another, a fifth of the world population would have learned from Gerald, whether learning it from the techniques he released on the Skynet or through other ways.

Meanwhile, the elder from the Dark Moon Mercenary simply shook his head, saying, "This is a gamble that our young miss has personally chosen. I'm merely doing my duty, which is to make sure that the gamble ends in a victory. Of course, I'm going to get the full reward from that gamble."

Gerald smiled. "I understand." He turned around before looking at his Skylink. "That person is going to come soon... It's best if we can stop him outside, but I don't think it's possible."

...

Meanwhile, Clovis and his team had finally returned to the surface.

They met two Tier 8 humans that had been ordered to escort him away from this city.

"!!!" Clovis recognized one of them because he was one of the Tier 8 humans that participated in the discussion about his terms.

"Hmm, you are..." Clovis raised his eyebrows while extending his hand.

"It's the second time we've met." The Tier 8 human stepped forth and shook his hand. "I'm the captain of the Special Force, Sigurd. I have never thought you'd be able to achieve all this in a couple of months.

"This is my partner for today. I dragged him back from the retirement home, but he was formerly the one commanding the secret service, Dan."

Dan nodded and shook his hand. "Dan. With this growth, I have no doubt you can grow strong enough to reach Tier 9. The problem is whether you have the opportunity to reach that tier or not."

"Yes. Thank you." Clovis looked around. "It seems we don't have much time either..."

"Indeed," confirmed Sigurd. He pointed to the side. "We have brought special troops for today. I hope you don't mind them infiltrating this city."

"Of course. What's the plan for us? I don't think holding out here is a good idea."

"That's true." Sigurd explained further, "We're planning to leave the city and loop around. Our people will escort you the whole time until the enemies are confused."

"Although going to the wilderness is another option, it's not extremely useful with Tier 9 chasing after your back. It's true that Tier 9 humans can do almost everything, but they can't freely destroy a city since once their reputation is destroyed, they can become the world's enemy. Hence, we'll use it to our advantage."

"I understand. Do you mind if I use my own bus? It's extremely important for me because of various reasons."

Sigurd glanced at Dan. Dan thought for a moment before nodding his head. "It doesn't matter. What's coming is a group of elite, meaning high-tier people, not random terrorists who rely on weapons. Even if we escort you with a tank, they might end up cutting it open."

"I understand. Thank you for accepting my request. Shall we head out immediately?"

"Yes." Sigurd and Dan nodded at the same time.

It was at this time a voice echoed in their ears. "Not so fast."

Chapter 717: Surrounded

"Not so fast."

"!!!" Clovis, Dan, and Sigurd suddenly raised their heads, looking up.

They saw a man who looked like he was in his late twenties, wearing a plain white shirt and black pants as though he had just gotten off his office job.

However, no one would expect that such a man would actually reach this place without anyone noticing.

"You are..." Sigurd gasped. "...Khain."

"We can't find him on our radar..." a soldier reported in panic.

All of them were aware of what was going on. Sigurd had brought 25 men, with 5 of them being Tier 7 and the rest being Tier 6. It was an elite group that couldn't be penetrated easily.

Yet, for some reason, this guy was able to do it. They immediately noticed that if Khain couldn't be detected, there was a chance for more people to come undetected.

All of them hurriedly circled around Clovis as if they were being surrounded.

"Well. Look at this group. Isn't this a group that you usually have to protect the president? Are you sure it's going to be alright with you leaving your president unprotected?" Khain smiled casually.

Dan muttered, "Be careful. This might be a new technology they have developed, the ones that can ignore the radar. And Lutvia is known for their enhanced soldiers... This won't be easy."

Sigurd's expression turned dark. "What are you doing here? What you're doing can be considered an aggression against our country."

Khain shrugged. "If you think it like that, then you can announce it, but can you?"

Sigurd gritted his teeth. If he claimed Khain had invaded their country, it would be a war between two countries. Against Lutvia, Absalom stood no chance.

Obviously, other countries might join the fray and weaken them so that they could steal Clovis. That was why the country couldn't announce such a thing.

Khain simply stated, "Give us Clovis Hacfield and his team."

"He's with us. Do you think we will just give it to him with a smile on our face?" Sigurd raised his hand, signaling the group to prepare for a fight.

"Sorry. I wasn't asking." Khain harrumphed.

In that instant, several people emerged from the tops of buildings, surrounding them.

There might only be 8 of them, but each individual had Tier 7 strength. In fact, there were two Tier 8 humans among them.

If they added Khain into the mix, the enemy had three Tier 8 humans.

Clovis stepped forth.

"Clovis?!" Sigurd and Dan panicked, thinking Clovis might switch sides.

However, Clovis simply waved his hand to reassure them before asking out loud, "Khain, was it? Are you sure you understand what you're doing? Will bringing me with force allow you to get what you actually want?"

Khain simply smiled. "Of course. Mr. Clovis. Our country would like to have someone like you. Anything you desire will be fulfilled, whether it's fame, wealth, or women. Our country can provide more than this small country can offer."

"Do you?" Clovis smiled. "Then, can your country provide protection from two Tier 9 humans?"

Khain's eyebrows twitched. The two Tier 9 humans in Clovis' mouth were Michael and Ezekiel. He wasn't talking about the enemy that the Hacfield family had. Instead, the moment they were kidnapped, those two Tier 9 humans would come for them.

Still, there was no way the two of them would come if they held Clovis and Christina hostage. As long as they played their cards right, they would be safe.

Hence, Khain, still with a confident smile, replied, "What makes you think we can't do it?"

"I see..." Clovis closed his eyes.

"Clovis..." Sigurd and Dan gritted their teeth. They had to stop him. There was no way they could lose Clovis after investing this much.

"I guess we can only pave our way out from here."

"!!!" Sigurd and Dan's eyes lit up. They hurriedly commanded, "All units. Prepare to break—!"

Unfortunately, their happiness came short as a thunderous sound echoed from the other side of the city.

Boom!

"!!!" Everyone couldn't help but turn their heads around.

"What's going on?" Sigurd asked in panic.

Khain, on the other hand, simply smiled. "It seems... another party has arrived. If you think you can succeed here, you'd better drop that idea. Follow me so that we can avoid unnecessary bloodshed."

Clovis just glanced at the side calmly as though he had made his decision. He suddenly laughed as if he had gone crazy.

"Hahahahaha!"

"What's funny?" Khain squinted his eyes.

Clovis pulled out his sword while asking, "Do you know why no one has ever been able to contain the Hacfield family? There is only one reason. We refuse to be contained."

In that instant, Clovis rushed back toward the tower.

"!!!" Khain understood what Clovis was planning to do. If breaking out was impossible, he just had to hide in the wilderness. At least, this would give him some time even if it was useless in the end.

During that time, anything could happen. In fact, the Tier 9 human might be the one capturing him instead of Khain.

By going back to the wilderness, he could make Khain face off against the Tier 9 human, which would result in a situation he never thought possible before.

Khain hurriedly shouted, "Stop him! Don't let him go back to the underworld!"

In that instant, the bus door was opened as all his group emerged from the bus, including Rena. Although she was shocked by Reolf, this was a much more pressing matter.

At the same time, Sigurd commanded, "All units. Stop them. Give Clovis time to go back to the underworld."

All people in the area moved at the same time.

Khain was stopped by Sigurd. The operator matched everyone, like Dan facing another Tier 8 human. Five Tier 7 humans on their side had to work together to stop a Tier 8 human on the enemy's side.

The same applied to the remaining 20 Tier 6 humans. They split into four groups and faced off against four Tier 7 humans on the enemy side.

The enemy only had 7 Tier 7 humans and 3 Tier 8 humans, meaning Clovis' group had to deal with two Tier 7 humans if they wanted to break through.

It was at this moment Clovis muttered in a very low voice. "Melody. I have a plan."

Chapter 718: Unbreakable Defense

"!!!" Melody was surprised by Clovis' plan. She couldn't help but ask for confirmation. "Are you sure about this?"

"Yeah. Either way, they're going to find out about it sooner or later. Someone like them will most likely keep it a secret, so the people eyeing me won't increase."

"I understand."

Clovis shouted, "Rena, sorry, I might need your help."

"Yes!" Rena had a firm nod. Although she didn't have all her equipment, she was still a Tier 6 human. Her spear was always on her back because there was a chance a beast would appear at random places. Even Clovis didn't say anything about it.

At the very least, Rena could help them to a certain extent.

However, before they could reach the tower, two men had landed in front of them, stopping Clovis and his team.

"Where do you think you're going?" The first man asked, his eyes oozing with fighting intent. His body was big and muscular, making his suit extremely tight and barely covering his muscles.

The second man was thin, similar to Clovis. Still, he was a Tier 7 human, so he was also dangerous.

"Group 2: Erwin, Ragna, Aileen, Kanaria, Rena, and Lucifania. Go for the right one!" Clovis commanded out loud.

As they usually worked, the group immediately split into two. But this time, the opponent didn't plan to give them the time, especially to Clovis.

The muscular man suddenly leaped toward Clovis, his big hand was about to grasp him.

Clovis' eyes were wide open, as if he was able to follow his movement. His Perfect State was activated to the very limit.

Clovis slid on the ground as the hand missed him, albeit barely.

Bam!

The hand smashed the ground underneath him, even though it was supposed to be a grabbing motion.

Clovis twisted his body and struck the guy on the side.

Clink!

To his surprise, he actually heard a clicking sound as though he had just hit metal. In fact, his arm felt slightly numb, which made him realize that this man's body was absurdly strong to the point where it was as hard as metal.

"Do you think that a weak strike like this can injure this iron body of mine?" The guy smirked and smashed Clovis with both hands.

Fortunately, before he succeeded, Christina activated her unique ability on him, forcing him to shift the direction of that smash. Ultimately, it hit the ground next to Clovis' head as his attack once again failed to catch Clovis or knock him out.

Jay came from the side and struck his neck, but the result was the same. The clicking sound echoed in their ears as Jay gritted his teeth. 'What's with this skin? It's even harder than most beasts...'

Melody, on the other side, pointed her shotgun at him before shooting him multiple times.

Yet the man ignored her as the bullets also failed to pierce through his body.

"It's too hard." Melody glanced to the side as her Skyglasses found something. "Not good, Clovis. He is Allan, known as Iron Man from Lutvia. A Tier 7 human with a pseudo unique ability. His skin was as tough as steel. Half-hearted attacks won't be able to pierce through his defense!"

"And what can you do about—!" The man snorted, but Clovis had already shifted his stance underneath him.

Before he could finish his words, Clovis had thrust his long sword at his eye, forcing the man to stop talking and tilt his head up so that the sword only grazed his cheek.

"You bastard!" The muscular man roared while punching Clovis, but Christina had activated her Provoke again. "Kh... This annoying unique ability! I've been told I can beat all of you up as long as it's an injury that can be recovered by the pod. Then, I should beat you half dead first, you brats!"

The muscular man leaped toward Christina. Since he couldn't target anyone except for Christina, it was better to defeat her first.

Christina gritted her teeth and used her entire body to block this attack. Unfortunately, the man's punch was nothing like she had ever experienced before.

Even the Tier 7 beast they fought previously was not this powerful. It felt like this man was the Tier 5 rhino who utilized its own body weight to ram into her, but this guy still had a Tier 7 strength.

Her right eye closed as she was enduring the charge that almost snapped her finger. If not for the quality of her shield, this shield would have probably been broken.

Even so, the charge actually knocked her into the air and fell down several meters away.

Clovis and Jay obviously couldn't let Allan focus entirely on Christina, so both of them immediately came toward him, striking him in the arm.

Just like how they usually fought a tough opponent, they would concentrate their strength in one spot to deal some damage.

Yet Allan simply raised his arm and took it head-on. The only thing that came from that attack was just a clicking sound.

They could see even with their combined attack, they wouldn't be able to hurt him.

"Useless!" Allan grinned and grabbed Clovis and Jay.

Clovis' reaction speed was much faster, so he was able to avoid it at the last moment. However, Jay was caught.

Allan threw Jay at Clovis, causing him to crash into Clovis and fall to the ground.

Melody threw a grenade at Allan, which exploded at point-blank range.

Boom!

The explosion blinded him for a split second, but Allan simply waved his hand and charged at Melody as though nothing could hurt him.

"It's useless, I said!" Allan shouted.

"!!!" Melody jumped into the air and activated her beast soul. The pair of butterfly wings allowed her to escape from him.

When Allan jumped into the air, Christina activated her Provoke at the last moment, causing him to fall to the ground because she couldn't ignore her.

Christina got back to her feet while Jay and Clovis had recovered and swiftly struck Allan again on the ground.

"Annoying pests!" Allan roared.

Chapter 719: Kill

"Annoying pests!" Allan roared.

Allan reached for Jay, who he already knew to be slower than Clovis. However, Christina focused her Provoke in his hand, stopping his momentum.

"Kh." Allan gritted his teeth. The unique ability was indeed annoying. Even someone with a pseudo unique ability couldn't ignore it completely.

Hence, Allan rushed toward Christina again, trying to knock her out before dealing with the rest.

Clovis and Jay exchanged nods. Melody first threw a grenade at him. Allan, however, ignored it completely, showing that a grenade wasn't enough to injure him.

Christina raised both shields as though she was planning to face Allan head-on. But when her shield and Allan's fist were about to clash, Christina actually jumped back.

"Do you think you can leave just like that?" Allan extended his hand. Melody shot him multiple times, but he acted as if she didn't exist.

In terms of speed, Allan was faster than Christina, so there was no way Christina could escape.

But the last bit of time she bought was for Clovis and Jay.

Bam!

The fist struck the shield and smashed her to the ground.

"Kh." Christina gritted her teeth, blood leaking out of the corner of her lips. It was heavy. It felt like her body was going to be crushed at any moment.

Allan was even stronger than a Tier 7 beast they fought. Then again, unlike that beast, Allan didn't get the suppression from the tower. In addition, he had the pseudo unique ability, so there was simply no way Christina could hold a candle against Allan, even with the progress she had made in the last couple of months.

Yet, Christina could smile despite knowing she could get knocked out if a single fist somehow hit her.

"If you think those two guys can do anything to me, you have fallen so low, young lady of the Elseingarde family!" Allan raised his fist.

Both Jay and Clovis had finally caught up. They looked like they were about to strike him, but Allan was confident that his iron body would be impenetrable by these two guys. Even if Clovis had a unique ability, he was still Tier 4.

However, Clovis and Jay fought in an unorthodox way. If they couldn't break through his defense, they just had to focus their attacks on the part the iron body couldn't reinforce.

Clovis extended his sword forward as if he was trying to stab a certain place. Meanwhile, Jay activated his beast soul and struck the back of Clovis' sword.

"Khhhh!" Allan suddenly widened his eyes in shock as his eyes rolled back, almost losing his consciousness.

The place Clovis chose to thrust was none other than his butt. Even a Tier 7 beast couldn't have tough skin covering its rear, so there was no way Allan would have that iron body in this place.

If he had it, the muscle inside that hole would simply become too strong for him to even do basic needs.

Hence, it was a perfect place to strike for Allan, who chose to ignore them. They could aim for the eyes, but it was better to let Melody take care of it.

"Congratulations, you are now not a virgin." Clovis grinned. Although the wound wasn't deep, it was shameful enough that it would alter Allan's focus.

By utilizing that gap and Christina's Provoke, they could manipulate Allan or, even better, stop him completely.

Clovis and Jay knew that they couldn't defeat Allan, but it didn't mean they couldn't render him useless.

However, provoking Allan this way would surely force them to face his wrath.

"You bastard!" Allan's eyes turned bloodshot.

Melody looked around, wondering if his teammates were going to say anything. After all, Allan clearly said they had to kidnap them and it was fine to hurt them as long as the injury could be healed. In other words, Allan, who might kill them, had to be stopped.

This was what Melody wanted. Once the discord between them was sown, they only had to find a perfect gap to exploit.

But to her surprise, no one was actually watching Allan's actions. It was as if they didn't care what happened to Clovis. No, it was more like they knew Allan would be able to control himself.

"Do you think you've done something great?!" Allan grabbed Clovis' and Jay's faces. His killing intent suddenly disappeared. "Ah. You think you're the only one who could think of that kind of plan?"

"!!!" Clovis widened his eyes in shock. From this reaction alone, he realized that the plan was not successful. And now, they were screwed. 'Not good!'

Christina activated her Provoke to stop him, but Allan simply shoved his foot to the back, kicking Christina, who was still pinned to the ground from the strike earlier.

She bounced several times on the ground before stopping. Her Provoke had disappeared, allowing him to move again.

With a grin on his face, Allan slammed both of them to the ground.

"Gah!" Clovis and Jay had their eyes rolling back as if their consciousnesses were fading.

Fortunately, Clovis gritted his teeth and clung to this hand as if trying to twist it.

"You might have that unique ability, but you're nothing compared to those Tier 9 humans! It's the end." Allan snorted, ready to knock Clovis unconscious.

However, Clovis simply smiled as if everything had gone according to plan. "I know... we can't defeat you. But that's only because we don't have enough numbers... Reolf! Kill him!"

"Aaaagggghhhh!"

All of a sudden, a huge dire wolf emerged from the bus and bit the other Tier 7 man that the second group was fighting. Christina couldn't help but smile. Their real target was not Allan, it was the other Tier 7 human beside him. That was why Clovis gave them more members.

All the people in the area could see that giant dire wolf biting the Tier 7 man, whose movement had been locked by Christina while being restrained by Erwin and Ragna. At the same time, Aileen appeared on his side, slicing his neck.

Both Reolf and Aileen combined their strength, taking this small gap to send the man's head flying.

"!!!"

Chapter 720: Killing a Tier 7 Human

Clink!

Clink!

Rena and Ragna came in, striking the Tier 7 human. Unlike Allan, who had an iron body, this person was much more normal. In fact, Allan was supposed to be the one dealing with them.

"Gan, you need to take care of them. As long as you can take them down and capture them, the rest won't have any other choices. We can ignore the officials."

"Copy that." Gan answered while waving his spear, pushing back Rena and Ragna.

"Kh. This is too heavy..." Rena gritted her teeth, but she couldn't help but notice how Ragna achieved the same result. She knew Ragna was a guardian, but he was only a Tier 5 human. Yet for some reason, it felt like Ragna's strength was comparable to hers, who was already Tier 6. 'Is this the strength of the Libation Fiesta?'

Meanwhile, Erwin and Lucifania came next. Luci struck him from above, forcing Gan to lift up his blade before Erwin came from the side, punching him.

Unfortunately, Gan only held the blade with only one hand against Luci, while his other hand stopped Erwin's attack.

"!!!" Erwin couldn't help but act as if he was surprised. The attack should have been connected, but it was not by him.

Once both his arms were occupied, Aileen approached him and struck his leg as if a ghost had just appeared out of thin air.

Clink!

Another clicking sound echoed.

This time, it was Aileen's turn to be shocked. She didn't expect that Gan would be able to find her. After all, no one had ever found her before.

More surprisingly, Aileen saw Gan looking at the front. It was as if he didn't see her at all.

Gan simply lowered his head and actually used his headband to receive the attack without even seeing his opponent.

"Ah. There you are!" Gan smirked. His eyes soon shifted up, locking on Aileen.

"!!!" Aileen panicked and tried to get away, but Gan sped up. He grabbed Aileen's arm while kicking Erwin. She then threw her toward Erwin, causing them to fall to the ground together.

Ragna and Rena looped around Luci as if they were planning to surround him, but the real attack came from the left. Although Kanaria couldn't find a good position to snipe, she chose to utilize the Soul Weapon and took advantage of the firepower to overwhelm the opponent.

In that instant, Luci took a step back while Ragna and Rena halted their steps. Everything had been planned in their Skyglasses, as Melody was the one controlling the battlefield despite fighting with the other group.

"!!!" The guy looked surprised at first, but soon a smile formed on his face. Gan surprisingly leaped back, avoiding the bullet at the last second as though he had been keeping track of her.

'No way. This guy doesn't look as flashy as the other one, but he's clearly an expert. Even among Tier 7 humans, his ranking shouldn't be too low...' Kanaria squinted her eyes.

However, it didn't seem Melody's plan had ended. They didn't know what she was planning, but it looked like Clovis was the one issuing the order.

Hence, Ragna rammed the shield with his body to Gan. The latter stopped him with just a single hand.

"I don't particularly have high raw strength, but you... are pretty light, aren't you?" Gan smirked and overpowered Ragna as he pushed him down as hard as possible.

While pinning Ragna on the ground, Gan waved his blade to the right as Rena and Luci tried to work together to free Ragna.

Erwin waved both hands, surrounding the man with his wires, but it looked like the man could see his wires clearly despite how thin they were. Gan simply jumped back, knowing this was the correct answer to avoid the annoying wires.

In that instant, Kanaria raised her gun but soon gritted her teeth as if she couldn't shoot him.

"!!!" Gan noticed Kanaria's hesitation. When he glanced back, he realized this was their bus. It seemed they didn't want to destroy their bus, even though this was the right thing to do.

At the same time, the bus was giving off a weird atmosphere, which he didn't understand. Still, from the data he had alone, they weren't supposed to have another member, so Gan chose to ignore this feeling.

He planned to fight around this bus, taking advantage of their hesitation to the fullest.

Little did he know, fighting around the bus was the worst decision of his life.

After all, Melody's plan had been completed.

Once they saw the target, Melody gave one last order to everyone.

Ragna and Rena came from the front this time. Ragna slammed his shield while Rena covered herself behind Ragna before thrusting her spear from behind him, utilizing the long range of a spear to the fullest.

Gan grabbed the spear and used his arm to stop them. After that, Luci struck the blade, forcing Gan to stop her with his blade.

Unfortunately for him, this was nothing but a trap. The moment the blades made contact, Gan suddenly noticed the wires that somehow wrapped around their blades and tied them together.

"!!!" Gan realized Erwin was planning to tie them together, thinking Luci could overpower them. But Gan planned to prove them wrong.

Just as he was about to steal Luci's big blade, he couldn't help but hear Clovis' voice from afar.

"Reolf, kill him!"

"!!!" Gan was confused at the moment, but his instinct was telling him that something was coming from behind. What happened? Who? Gan was confused, but he chose to follow his instinct, since it had saved his life multiple times.

Right before he swirled around to free himself, his body suddenly stopped moving.

"What's going on? I can't move... No, my body..." Gan couldn't help but shift his gaze to someone far away, specifically Christina. His instinct had changed from danger to anger, trying to kill Christina. As a result, he couldn't move.

In that instant, the door was slammed open as a huge dire wolf emerged from inside the bus.

"What? A monster?" Gan tried his best to move his body, but to double the distraction, Aileen came out as well.

"Not good!" Gan couldn't do anything. Rena, Ragna, Erwin, and Luci were working together to hold back both arms as much as possible. Christina's Provoke had stopped his movement for a second, and even if he could somehow move, it would be impossible for him to stop Reolf and Aileen's attacks at the same time.

He never thought that despite being much weaker than him, he would be trapped against these kids.

In the end, Reolf bit his neck and Aileen sliced it, sending the head flying. Tier 7 human from Lutvia, Gan, fell in battle.