

World Mall 771

Chapter 771: A Story

"Do you want to have a drink?"

"..." Lily widened her eyes in shock. Even the people from their two groups couldn't help but drop their jaws.

"Did he just..."

"I didn't hear it wrong, right?"

"Did he just invite Lily for a drink?"

Because he could hear their reactions, Michael shouted at them, "Just shut up. If you don't want to, then it's fine."

Lily shook her head. "No. Let's go."

"Hmph." Michael harrumphed and turned around before walking away.

"Hey, hey. If you are inviting me for a drink, shouldn't you properly escort me?" Lily grinned, teasing Michael from the side.

Michael looked away as he simply increased his walking pace.

"Hey, wait!" Lily pouted.

"Why?" Kayne roared to the sky.

Some people just stayed quiet and patted Kayne's shoulders. They all knew Kayne's feeling toward Lily, Lily's feeling toward Michael, and Michael's indifference.

However, this was Lily's choice. They followed Lily, not Kayne. That was why they had to stop Kayne as well.

Even some people couldn't help but whisper, "Poor Kayne."

"I know, right?"

"Kayne might not be the most handsome, but he's certainly reliable. He is also one of the few people who can keep up with Michael."

"In fact, if Kayne wants to choose anyone but Lily, I don't think they will reject him."

"What I'm curious about is why Lily actually chooses Michael the whole time."

"I'm curious about it as well."

The people couldn't help but whisper, but there were only two people in the world that knew the answer. They were Michael and Lily themselves. No, Lily might be the only one who knew it.

In the bar, Michael sat across from Lily with his arms folded. On the other hand, Lily placed her elbows on the table while placing her hands on her cheek, staring at Michael with such a bright face.

Her face was asking him whether something was wrong.

"..." Michael drank a full glass before squinting his eyes. "I don't understand why someone like you keeps following me for so many years. If you want anyone, I doubt they will reject you."

"What exactly is the reason?"

"The reason, huh?" Lily rolled her eyes playfully as if she was searching for an answer.

Michael's expression remained solemn, demanding an answer.

Lily chuckled. "I won't answer."

"Then, treat me as if I haven't asked you anything." Michael harrumphed.

"You're not going to demand it again?"

"I respect everyone. If you say no, I won't pursue. If you want to say it, my ears will be listening. I don't like to play games."

Lily's smile grew bigger. "I will give you a clue then. Once upon a time, there was a girl who was desperate to survive. However, the girl felt as if the world had betrayed her.

"First, her teammates betrayed her. She escaped with all her might and barely survived. At that time, the girl didn't have anything to eat or drink.

"At her lowest point, it was there she met a man. The man saved her life as well as her 'world.'

"After saving her, the man simply left her in the safe space. When the girl asked him why he saved her, the man was totally indifferent.

"There was only one big smile on that man's face. That smile... might be an ordinary smile, but that smile saved the girl's world.

"He said, 'I was training to get stronger. Saving you just happened because you were there, so you don't have to thank me.'

"He added, 'I don't know what you are currently feeling. However, I know for sure that the sky up there will become clear if your heart is clear. If it's not clear, then just do whatever it takes to make it clear.'

"Those two were the reason the girl could put on a smile filled with positivity. Every day, the girl could see the clear sky even in such a chaotic world."

Lily toned down the story a bit, but the man in her story had sacrificed for her, almost dying because of her multiple times. Yet the man remained indifferent.

The man knew the girl was conscious and felt guilty. That was why he gave her that answer.

But Michael couldn't help but drop his jaw to the ground as if recognizing that story. He had definitely saved a lot of people, but, more importantly, he could still recall a certain girl among them.

The girl's clothes were a mess, her bangs were messy to the point that they covered her eyes, and her overall hair looked as if it hadn't been treated for weeks. Upon meeting her gaze, Michael could feel the despair in her eyes.

At that time, she had given up on living and was just waiting for her death. And that girl had turned into a beauty before him.

"You... You are... Messy."

"As expected, you didn't even recognize me the whole time."

"Ugh..." Michael rubbed his cheek while looking away, feeling apologetic. "Well, you don't need to cling to that story and just follow your own path."

That statement made her smile even bigger. She asked, "Say... Why did you save me that day? The me now can definitely receive your honest answer, right?"

"..." Michael's fingers tapped the table, as if he was trying not to make it awkward. He thought for a moment before saying, "Because you hadn't given up."

"!!!" Lily's eyes were wide open. She had definitely given up on living at that time. So, why would Michael deem she hadn't?

"If you had given up, you would have gone upstairs and jumped off the building or exited the building to kill yourself."

"Maybe I was just a coward who couldn't take her own life..."

"I don't know which one is cowardice... Is it the suffering or is it the pain? You were still courageous enough to endure the pain of waiting for your death. That alone gave me enough reason to know you were still hoping someone would find you. And I just happened to be that someone."

"Is that so?"

"Yeah." Michael sighed. "You have wasted your youth on me. Now that I know you are Messy, I mean, Lily. You should walk your own way. Your feelings come from me saving you, not from your own heart. I am more suitable to be a hero than a lover."

"No." Lily shook her head. "That's why I stalked... Ahem, I mean I followed you."

"Oi! Did you just say you stalked me?"

Chapter 772: Hacfield Family

"Oi! Did you just say you stalked me?"

"It must be just your imagination." Lily's face calmed down as though she hadn't said anything suspicious.

"You..." Michael clicked his tongue. Even though he wanted to say a lot of things, the person in front of him was someone who had overcome her own challenges.

Back then, he could clearly see a woman whose strength had almost been depleted, but she was still hanging on the rope. At that time, he happened to be there and pulled her up.

Michael fell into deep thought. "You're wasting your youth, you know?"

"I won't be able to waste my youth if you are not there."

"What will you do if I pretend I have never heard all this?"

"Nothing will change." Lily smiled, staring at Michael as though she had never been bored with him. "After all, I'm your number one fan."

"..." Michael closed his eyes for a moment. "You know... anyone could have saved you back then..."

"Yes, but it happened to be you back then. Maybe it's fate, maybe it's not. However, even if it's not you, there's a chance my feelings won't be like this."

Michael scratched the back of his head. He truly couldn't win in an argument with her. Still, the situation was simple. How should he respond to her feelings?

In the past two years, Lily had definitely bothered him a lot. At first, she was just annoying. But her presence gradually crept into her heart.

He didn't believe he could be a good person to someone. That was why Michael chose to say, "There is also Kay—"

When he was about to mention Kayne's name, a painful sensation struck his heart. Then, it felt like there was a hand clutching his heart, creating an emptiness aftersensation.

It was at this instant that he realized he couldn't say another name. His heart definitely didn't allow him.

He looked at Lily, who was tilting her head, wondering what he wanted to say.

Eventually, Michael asked, "Lily..."

"Yes?"

"Has the sky been clear to you?"

Lily didn't expect the question, but a big smile appeared on her face. She said without a shred of doubt. "Just by staying like this, it has never been brighter."

That response made Michael gulp down another bottle. "Are you sure you don't regret this?"

"Never."

Michael sighed. "I'm just a man who loves to fight. You are just one of the many people I've saved. And that number might increase a lot in the future."

"You are a man who protects. I am not one of the many people you've saved. I'm the only special person you have."

Michael awkwardly looked away as though he had just gotten the finishing blow. "I'm not a romantic person. But if you don't mind a rough guy like me, then..."

Lily's eyes brightened.

Seeing the expectations in her eyes made him feel guilty. "I need to let you know. I can't do many things. Most of the time, the people under me are doing the stuff. There's only one thing I can promise. I will wield my strength for you."

"You said I fight to protect, then I will protect you, your smile, and your future." Michael scratched the back of his head. "Jeez. I must have been drunk to have said all this stuff without even getting goosebumps. I—Mmmfff!?"

Without wasting any chance, Lily just grabbed his head, leaned toward him, and just took his lips.

"!!!" Michael was in complete shock, but he didn't fight her back.

From that day, Michael and Lily finally confirmed their relationship. As expected, their relationship shocked a lot of people.

The most shocked one was definitely Kayne. Kayne had been pursuing Lily, so he ended up quitting the group after realizing it was impossible.

As a result, the two groups decided to merge. With Michael's strength growing, they gradually absorbed more people into the group.

They had saved a lot of people and gradually formed the biggest influence under the banner of the Hacfield family.

It might be due to Lily's influence, but both of them were completely unrestrained. Lily got pregnant in just a year, so they immediately set up their marriage.

Once the group settled down, Lily finally gave birth to their son, Gerald Hacfield.

Still, Michael continued to grow while Lily was slowing down. They also heard that Kayne had become a powerhouse in another country after leaving their group.

Although it was a shame that their relationship had been cut off, they never treated Kayne as a traitor or as their enemy. In fact, Kayne did the same.

They might have cut their contact with each other, but they were following each other's news.

At that time, the Hacfield family had grown quite large.

It had been fifteen years since the apocalypse began. Gerald was 12 years old at that time.

Blessed with his own talent, Gerald made a name for himself. Although the people realized that his talent fell short compared to Michael, the function of Gerald's talent far surpassed Michael.

Then again, Lily had never been bothered whether their child was strong or not. As long as they were living fine, everything else didn't matter.

Of course, at that time, Gerald met someone whose talent was similar to his. However, their fields were different. Gerald was adept at martial arts, but Aisha's talent revolved around the medical field.

Even though they were different, they had one similarity. It was their curiosity.

Gerald was talking to Aisha because he believed the medical field could boost the martial arts, such as form or muscle. On the other hand, Aisha was learning about martial arts to find a lot of possibilities, and one of those possibilities resulted in evolution stimulation therapy.

Everything looked fine. The Hacfield family had become one of the biggest families in the world. Although Lily slowed down because she was the one taking care of the family's work, which resulted in her getting stuck at Tier 7, Michael continued to grow and ultimately became a Tier 9 human.

At this rate, the Hacfield family could expand its influence to various countries, if not for that incident.

Chapter 773 773: An Ambush

"Looks like everything has been set up properly," said Lily while looking at the report.

"That means I can go all out?" Michael grinned.

"Dear. You shouldn't go all out like that. This is a perfect chance to train the younger generation. Besides, most of the beasts are low level, around Tier 2 to Tier 4. This will be good training for Gerald and Aisha."

"But the overlord of this area is a Tier 8 beast, no? Shouldn't I go there?" Michael protested, only to stop when Lily's smile grew bigger. Despite that angelic smile, it felt like he would have to sleep on the couch if he said another word.

How could this be? He was a Tier 9 human. In the first place, he was supposed to be indifferent, but before he knew it, he couldn't say anything to his wife.

Lily sighed before whispering, "This is just between you and me, OK? If you say this to them, I'll get angry."

Once Michael nodded, she revealed the truth. "There's a high chance of a Tier 5 beast appearing. Although Tier 5 is strong, it's still within what Gerald and Aisha can do as long as they do their best. This will be a perfect chance for them to deepen their relationship. Isn't that how I fell in love with you in the first place?"

"Seriously? What do you mean by doing their best? There's a chance of them dying unless they overcome their limits."

"That's what I'm trying to do. Don't worry. I will be watching them. In this world, if we're too soft, our descendants will become too weak to protect themselves."

Michael scratched the back of his head before exiting the camp. He suddenly shouted, "Gerald, Aisha! You two are to lead the team forward. We'll be moving our camp a few kilometers deeper."

"!!!"

"Yes!"

Gerald and Aisha were surprised, but they exchanged nods, knowing what to do. Lily, on the other hand, could only smile helplessly. 'Jeez. I was supposed to be the one who announced it. At this rate, it would look like tough love from Dad.

'I guess he just doesn't want me to get hated by the children? This guy... really...' Lily helplessly fell in love again.

However, that happiness lasted only for a short while.

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A few hours later.

"We've finally done it!" Aisha cheered while jumping toward Gerald.

"Ah!" Gerald didn't know what to do other than catch her. Both of them were very tired, so they ended up falling over.

"Ouch!" Aisha covered her forehead before her gaze met again with Gerald's before they laughed together.

"Great job, everyone. Thank you for your hard work. Since the level of the beasts here has grown relatively high, we should retreat and consult with the main group before proceeding further." Gerald announced.

They acknowledged Gerald's order.

However, the forest suddenly shook as though an earthquake had occurred.

Cries and roars echoed across the forest, startling everyone in the advance party.

"!!!" Gerald and Aisha cut their celebration short. Gerald hurriedly gave another order. "Something is happening. We should return right away..."

Gerald abruptly stopped as a huge beast bulldozed through the forest and appeared before him.

"This is... the Tier 8 overlord?" Aisha recognized it right away after seeing the information the group had gathered prior to this expedition.

"Not good!" Gerald gritted his teeth. "Run!"

Roar!

The beast charged toward them as a shadow emerged from the opposite direction.

"Mom?!" Gerald was startled. The advance party was quite far in front, so Lily shouldn't be here unless she had followed them the whole time. In his eyes, Lily looked like a worried mother who was keeping an eye on their kids after the father gave a dangerous mission.

But that wasn't important. Lily might be strong, but she was only a Tier 7 human. The opponent was a Tier 8 beast.

The beast stretched its arm toward Gerald, but Lily drew her sword in such a swift movement and contained such massive momentum that it blasted the arm down. The residual momentum dispersed, creating a violent gale that caused the leaves to snap from their branches and fly into the air.

The sight alone was enough to know why her nickname was the Sword Gale Lily. She, too, was similar to Gerald, possessing a pseudo unique ability, which controlled the momentum in a unique way.

"Run, kids! I'll take this beast on. Call your dad here!" Lily shouted. "Don't worry. A mere Tier 8 beast won't be enough to hurt me until your dad arrives."

"Yes, Mom!" Gerald hurriedly helped Aisha up before running together with the rest of the advance party.

However, that was also the exact moment when a man, who wasn't supposed to appear in this kind of place, emerged.

As Lily had another clash with the Tier 8 overlord, she sensed two presences coming.

The first one appeared on the left side. Lily hurriedly swung her sword at the presence, because it came for her instead of the beast.

Clank!

Her sword clashed with a metal staff. When Lily took a glimpse of the person, she couldn't help but gasp, "Why are you here, Carnan Deli Vioente?! What are you trying to do?"

He was a man of the same age as her, but the man was famous on his own. After all, he would later be known as the Prophet.

However, the guy didn't say anything. Instead, his attack only served as a way to restrain her.

Another man appeared from the opposite direction.

"Kh!" Lily panicked. With such strong people coming from two directions, there was no way she could stop them. There was also the Tier 8 beast that looked like it was about to attack.

Still, she surpassed her own limit and continued the swing that had been stopped. "Haaaa!"

Surprisingly, the swing continued, and the momentum actually curved to her back. It clashed with the spear that was about to pierce her heart from behind. The momentum swayed the spear slightly, deflecting it to the side.

However, it still grazed the side of her chest, destroying it all the way to her waist.

But this kind of pain was something she could endure. What was even more shocking was that it felt like the pain suddenly intensified more than it was supposed to.

"Aaarggghhh!" Lily screamed in pain. It felt like her entire being was being ripped apart from the inside. There was only one person who could do such a thing with a spear.

The Spear Saint, Carrick Melesviet.

Chapter 774: The Hacfield Family's Defeat

"Aaaahhhhhh!"

No one would have expected that two Tier 9 humans would be working together to kill a Tier 7 human. At the same time, they orchestrated the entire situation, including pushing away all the people around by dragging the Tier 8 beast into this place.

Due to the immense pain, Lily's grip on her sword weakened. The Prophet took advantage of the situation and grabbed her by the neck.

"What are you trying to do? Are you trying to provoke my husband?" Lily gritted her teeth.

"Provoke, huh? That might be the correct word for what I'm about to do."

"There is no grievance between us." Lily couldn't see the reason why the Prophet would come to get them.

It was true that the Hacfield family had a small conflict with the Melesviet family, considering they were rising influences. Of course, they would be competing for those resources. However, the Prophet was far from this place and should have no connection to the Melesviet family.

So, why would such a person come to this place and try to pick a fight?

"You can't see it, the inevitable end." Those were the only words the Prophet gave before he extended his hand toward Lily's face and, surprisingly, gouged her left eye.

"You..."

"I will kill her now." Carrick raised his spear, ready to deliver a finishing blow.

The moment Carrick's spear touched her skin, the intense pain returned, causing her to scream. However, Carrick couldn't help but stop right away because he sensed an incoming presence.

It was moving faster than he had ever expected.

Before he realized it, Michael appeared next to him, punching Carrick in the face. His bloodshot eyes were filled with anger. He gritted his teeth and released the most powerful punch of his life.

The punch caused a massive shock wave, it shattered everything in a circle. The shock wave traveled for over a hundred meters, launching Carrick, first to the beast, then over five hundred meters away. The thundering sound of the shock wave was as if it were Michael's roar of anguish after seeing his wife humiliated in such a way.

The Prophet was about to snap Lily's neck, but Lily, even in her weakened state, still managed to hit his wrist with her palm, producing a small momentum that weakened his grip for a second.

That small time was enough for Michael to spin his body and punch the Prophet. Knowing he would get hit, the Prophet shifted his stance and raised his other arm to block his punch. Of course, the Prophet put Lily's eye in front as if trying to make Michael hesitate.

He succeeded. There was no way Michael could destroy her eye, thinking it could be restored later.

Seeing such a faint hope in his eyes, the Prophet abruptly crushed that eye.

"!!!" Michael's killing intent soared to a whole new level. He first hit his wrist, freeing Lily. Then he punched the Prophet with everything he had.

The Prophet received the attack head-on, dislocating two of his fingers but stopping the entire force from blowing him away. Michael didn't give up. He forcefully raised his foot with that stance, using the toughness of his body to endure that strain to kick him in the stomach.

"Lily?!" Once he was launched away, Michael then turned his head and caught Lily.

Before Lily could speak, Carrick had reemerged and stabbed Michael.

Michael's body was tougher than steel. It stopped even Carrick's trust for a bit before it pierced through.

As a result, Michael was subjected to the same level of pain that Lily had just experienced.

To their surprise, there wasn't a single scream from Michael. He just turned around, blood pouring out of his eyes as though it were tears.

The pain he experienced from Carrick's spear couldn't be compared to the pain his heart felt when he saw Lily's state.

"You bastard!" Michael roared. He grabbed Carrick's spear before he could pull away and punched Carrick in the chest.

Carrick protected himself by putting one arm forward, but the arm broke in an instant. The punch ultimately hit the chest, cracking his ribs.

Carrick spat a mouthful of blood as his body got blown away by the punch.

Michael was going to follow him so that he could kill him, but Lily coughed up blood, causing Michael to stop.

"Lily?!" Michael panicked and checked on her. She was losing consciousness. Gritting his teeth, Michael had to decide whether to pursue the enemy or not.

Unfortunately, it didn't look like the enemy was more important than Lily's life. Hence, Michael hurriedly carried her back.

Obviously, the doctor team, including Aisha, was horrified at the extent of damage Lily received. They never thought there was such a cruel person who could leave such damage in just a single thrust.

In fact, if Lily didn't have a pseudo unique ability that allowed her to avoid the most lethal damage, she would have died on the spot.

They had no choice but to suspend the expedition and return to treat her.

Although Michael was their strongest fighter as well as their guardian, the leader everyone recognized was obviously Lily. She took care of almost everything within the group, from training to connections.

If not for her, the group would have collapsed a long time ago. She was the reason Michael could comfortably raise his strength and fight on the front line.

Seeing her current state, hatred rose in every single person in the group. How could they do this to their leader?

Driven by anger, Michael immediately scrambled the fighters and led a retaliatory strike to the Melesviet family first, considering they were the closest. The Prophet didn't have an active influence near them as well, so they had no choice but to focus on the Melesviet family.

All the people wanted to follow, including Aisha and Gerald. However, Michael forced them to stay to accompany Lily, especially Aisha. Michael also left behind some people to protect them and brought the rest to the Melesviet family.

However, this attack was none other than the trap that had been set up by the Prophet. Without Lily and driven by anger, they fell into a trap and were almost annihilated.

The Hacfield family lost.

Chapter 775: Madman

The defeat of the Hacfield family shocked the whole world. All of them already knew what kind of power the Hacfield family had, as it was led by one of the strongest people on the planet.

At the same time, they couldn't help but be amazed by what led to that defeat.

When the Hacfield family came to destroy the Melesviet family, they were ambushed. If it were an ordinary ambush, the Hacfield family could easily break their way through or even turn the situation around.

However, what people didn't expect was the fact that the Melesviet family worked together with the government.

That was right. The biggest reason the Hacfield family lost was due to the country's interference.

Because of their strength, Tier 9 humans were often seen as someone who was above countries. But thanks to this incident, the government finally showed its worth.

The Hacfield family was surrounded by the Prophet, the Spear Saint, and the country. The country offered many high-level experts from both the government and the influences who wanted to work together with them.

In addition, there were many weapons that the government could use to take down the Hacfield family.

Outnumbered, the Hacfield family suffered the biggest defeat ever since its creation. After seeing the power of what they could do, a lot of nations took advantage of this momentum and chose to partner up with their respective Tier 9 humans.

With the government protecting the Tier 9 human and the Tier 9 human fighting together with the government, their defense became impenetrable.

70% of the Hacfield family force was wiped out. The people who had been waiting to devour the Hacfield family couldn't help but show their fangs, weakening the entire influence.

Michael Hacfield also suffered a severe injury and couldn't help them. If this continued, the entire Hacfield family would be destroyed.

With no way to stop them, Michael chose the best path for the ones who survived.

He disbanded the influence.

Although it was a hard choice, it was the best thing he could do for the people who had trusted him. This way, the low-level influences who couldn't endure it could join the others to maintain themselves.

Still, there were a lot of loyal retainers in the Hacfield family, who chose to die rather than disband. People like Alan still felt grateful and would help the family without hesitation, which was the main reason for him to help Clovis in the first place.

Ultimately, those people scattered across the world, especially after Michael closed the gate and hid from the enemy's pursuit.

It was an incident people couldn't forget.

...

5 years later.

Michael had recovered completely. However, the person that he wanted to recover the most was still lying down on the bed, her vitals were weakening as time passed.

He was staring at the wife he loved so much. Ever since that day, the sky had been cloudy. It felt like the world had lost its color. The smile that he usually had on his face had disappeared completely.

The ambush destroyed the Hacfield family, but Lily's condition broke Michael. Michael could endure everything as long as Lily was there, but it was impossible.

"What are you saying? You didn't monopolize me. I..." Michael bit his lips.

Lily understood very well the pain Michael is experiencing right now. Sadly, there was nothing she could do. Still, she couldn't bear to make it even sadder. "I'm going ahead. I will be waiting for all of you, and whoever dares to follow me without dying of old age, I'm going to whoop their asses. See ya!"

Despite all the efforts, everyone was crying. Even Michael, who remained strong even after losing the Hacfield family, broke into tears.

Lily was a pillar of their household. Losing her meant losing the family.

Even after saying those words, there was only one thought in Michael's mind: revenge.

After Lily's death, Michael went for revenge. Now that five years had passed, the story about the Hacfield family had gone past people's minds.

And this was also the start of Michael's new path. Lily had been considered a saint due to her cheerful nature and her problem-solving. Meanwhile, Michael was considered a hero. Thanks to his casual way of saving people and Lily's image, people portrayed him as a hero.

However, the act of revenge was nothing like that of a hero. In his revenge, he destroyed over 50% of the Melesviet family's allied forces, not a single person was spared, even if it was a baby.

All three generations of their allied forces were exterminated. People tried to find him, but they failed to do so.

Last but not least, his target was none other than the president, who was allied with the Melesviet family at the time. He was the person responsible for that crushing defeat.

That was why Michael killed him, along with all his family. He hung their bodies at the landmark of the nation, which became a spectacle to the entire world.

The country was enraged, but they couldn't find Michael. Those who searched for him disappeared along the way.

The countries all around the world once again realized the terrifying existence called Tier 9 humans. The reasons they partnered up with them and did nothing but please them.

Because of that incident, there was one nickname that stuck out the most.

Madman.

A person who dared to kill thousands of people and even hung the bodies of the country's former president along with their family in their landmark.

There were countries that tried to help, but they suddenly dropped the matter when Michael 'visited' their countries.

From that point on, a saying echoed in almost all people's ears, "Be a good boy or the crazy bastard will wreck your home."

At the same time, this saying also protected both Aisha and Gerald. If they were harmed, they would be the ones doomed for incurring Michael's wrath.

However, as time passed, the achievements of Aisha and Gerald gradually made people forget about such a dark past.

Still, the fact that the Hacfield family once existed remained in people's hearts.

Chapter 776 776: The Truth

Clovis sucked a cold breath after listening to the story. He had never thought such a thing had happened in the past.

Michael had been avoiding the conversation related to his grandmother. Now that he had learned about the story, he understood why Michael didn't want to talk about it.

There was also a matter regarding the Hacfield family. Of course, as a curious person, Clovis had searched for news about his family on Skynet. But for some reason, he couldn't find much about it other than the fact that the Hacfield family was terrifying.

He had always thought that was simply because his grandfather was strong. His strategy made him look like a madman, whom no one wanted to provoke.

With this story, he even understood why Gerald and Aisha had to leave him back then. They might have realized that the enemy had been on to something.

To avoid suspicion, they had to get separated. Clovis' information had been erased as well. Whenever Clovis' identity was found, Michael would intervene personally.

After knowing about his grandfather hanging the former president's body in his country's landmark for everyone in the world to see, there was no way the president of the Essence Bank or Axolonia's president would reject his request.

At the same time, they had to hide Clovis' existence a bit longer. However, it looked like enemies were bound to cross paths.

At that time, the Melesviet family clearly didn't know anything about his true identity. Clovis defeated them earnestly.

But that battle caused his true identity to be exposed. As a result, the Spear Saint had been doing everything he could do to harm him. Meanwhile, his grandfather separated himself from him and hid, preparing an ambush if they decided to attack.

This was the biggest reason no harm had come to Clovis until now.

However, Michael must have found it frustrating. After 20 years of non-aggression between the Hacfield family and the Melesviet family, Carrick chose to start the aggression again by spreading the analysis about his power.

Meanwhile, his grandfather must have thought, "Enough is enough." He had endured everything all this time simply because of the promise he had made to his late wife.

Now that he had touched his reverse scale, Michael chose to stop respecting his late wife's wish. If the Melesviet family wanted a war, he would give them that war.

At the same time, the Melesviet family must have been terrified by Clovis' existence. After all, Clovis could strengthen his teammates. As long as he reached Tier 9, it wouldn't be weird if the people around him at least became Tier 8 or at the peak of Tier 8, whose strength could resist Tier 9.

There was also Reolf. The beast was much more loyal than a human, so at the very least, Reolf would be with him.

In addition, Clovis' connection was terrifying. He had Christina, which meant the relationship with Ezekiel, and Mara Leverstrike as his mentor.

The balance was definitely going to tip in their favor, especially if Clovis became a Tier 9 human in the future.

Even with the help of the government and the Prophet, there was no way the Spear Saint could stop the Hacfield family if they chose revenge.

Clovis finally understood it all. Everything, including why the Hacfield family was in this state.

"..." Clovis closed his eyes for a moment. "I see. Thank you for telling me everything, Grandfather. I never thought such a thing had happened in the past. It must have been a hard decision for you to tell me everything."

"No. I should be the one apologizing. If not for me, you wouldn't have suffered all this time. As a grandfather, I'm ashamed."

Clovis shook his head. His grandfather had another ambition, which was to figure out the truth of this world. He must have gained that ambition from the Prophet.

This was the only method to figure out why the Prophet had come to attack him when they had never had a clash prior.

Clovis picked up that ambition for a much purer reason, which was to figure out what the simulation world meant.

If this were indeed a simulation world, something that had been arranged, it just made the desire to know why the simulation led to the conflict between the Hacfield family and the Melesviet family rise even more.

Clovis paused for a moment before smiling. "Still, my goal remains the same. I want to know what is beyond this simulation world. Who is the person behind it? I want to know everything."

"However, it looks like the Melesviet family and the Prophet are in the way. That's why this is not about avenging Grandma. This is not you not following her wish, Grandpa. This is about me, who wants to find the truth. Those two just end up in my way, so I need to remove them. The Prophet seems to have a lot of clues, so torture him first."

Michael felt moved. He thought Clovis would scorn him for being such a horrible person. The act he had done in the past was driven by anger. It was excessive.

If not for him spending all this time hiding while removing all traces of the Hacfield family, Clovis would have suffered the reputation even more.

Nevertheless, Clovis was the first person who managed to make Michael smile for the first time after his wife passed away.

He wanted to protect Clovis, but first he had to tell him the truth. Thanks to being honest, he couldn't help but look at the sky again.

It had always been cloudy ever since that day. The color returned when Clovis was born, but the sky remained cloudy in his heart.

However, after telling him everything, it felt like the burden in his heart had been lifted up, even if it was just a small portion. As a result, it felt like there were holes in the sky where sunlight finally entered his world.

Little by little, Michael had accepted that the world was continuously moving. And it was time for his world to move as well.

Chapter 777: Michael's Suggestions

Michael just smiled, gratified. This was the reason why his smile returned after Clovis was born.

Clovis raised two fingers. "Still, Grandpa. Since the Melesviet family is coming at us, it's fine if we retaliate, right?"

"That's right. I will try to keep that old bastard in check. However, I can't do much because there's a chance of their action being a trap. It looks like that mysterious bastard is also on the move. So, I can't do anything big to help you, I'm sorry."

"That's fine, Grandpa. What I'm trying to say is that I need your permission to retaliate."

"Mhmm?" Michael couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. If Clovis wanted to retaliate against the Melesviet family, it would be impossible. He was too weak to do anything.

However, if he understood his grandson correctly, Clovis wasn't the type of person who came up with something purely from his feelings. In other words, he must have thought retaliation might be possible.

"Can you elaborate?"

This question alone showed that Michael trusted him as a capable person. Clovis nodded and carefully explained, "Although my strength is not powerful enough to shake the Melesviet family. I still have a method that can harm them."

"And that is..."

"That is..." Clovis grinned. "Competition."

"!!!" Michael almost forgot this was how the conflict restarted as well. In the competition, Clovis and Tesron could fight each other. By suppressing Tesron, they could harm the trust in the Melesviet family. They would think that the Melesviet family was lacking compared to the Hacfield family... at least their future generation.

Once Carrick passed away, the Melesviet family would definitely be destroyed by Clovis. Once that trust weakened, their family would start to weaken. Sponsors and other influences that wanted the benefits from the Melesviet family gradually backed away, thinking the second battle between the Hacfield family and the Melesviet family was about to begin.

And this time, it was clear that Clovis surpassed Tesron in every aspect.

"That's indeed possible. So, you're planning to enter a competition Tesron is participating in?"

"Yes. However, I'm still in the middle of the training, so I have to wait until that time. Besides, I always want to have a big family.

"I will be making our family even bigger. Just like the Beast Soul, I also have other secrets that can be used to develop our family.

"This is my second plan. By utilizing the relationships I have, I'm planning to popularize the Hacfield family again.

"I need your permission, Grandpa. All this time, you can't do anything other than reducing the Hacfield family from a globally recognized family into a hidden family. If I want to develop the Hacfield family, I need to change our status back to the globally recognized family."

Michael sucked a cold breath. He couldn't help but see Lily in Clovis. This was probably what Lily was going to do if she were right before him, having everything in Clovis' possession.

"Still, won't it be troublesome for you? This means you will have to reveal your secret."

"Not at all. I have been planning to do this in the future. Now that I know the story of our family, I can finally finalize the concept I have for the future."

Michael thought for a moment. "Well, it looks fine. However, there's one thing you need to know. Once you do this, you might garner attention that you don't need."

"For those who want to get me, they will have to face my fist."

"What about the people above?"

"!!!" Clovis raised his eyebrows. "Are you saying that even the strongest and second-strongest people in the world might get involved as well?"

"Yes. What you're doing right now is about to revolutionize the entire system. This kind of disruption is something that those two will pay attention to."

Clovis looked down. "So, does that mean I have to cancel the plan?"

"No. You don't have to cancel it. You just have to push back the schedule a little. Right now, you might be strong, but you are still nowhere compared to us."

"That's obvious."

"That's right. In that case, what you should do right now is to get stronger, not just in your strength, but also in your connection."

If it were anyone else, Clovis would sneer, wondering if he had enough connections or not. After all, he had a Tier 9 grandfather, a Tier 9 grandfather-in-law, and a Tier 9 mentor. There was also a Tier 8 businessman as well as a country.

But if his grandfather deemed it to be insufficient, it might really not be enough.

"So, what am I supposed to do?"

Michael raised three fingers. "First, secure the information network. I know that you are working together with the Dark Moon Mercenary right now. Once you return, it might be good to forge a solid relationship with them. You know what this means, right?"

"Yes. I will make Vina the leader of that group."

Michael nodded. "The second is to secure an alliance. An alliance that stems from your future potential."

"An alliance?" Clovis looked down, contemplating. "I still don't see the point of an alliance like this. I might want a big family, but not that kind of family. I want a family filled with elites."

"That's not what I mean." Michael shook his head. "I should have worded it better. What I mean by alliance is connection. For example, an alliance that can process all kinds of administrative work for a certain country, or people working in the government, or something along those lines."

"Ah!" Clovis nodded in understanding. "But..."

"Right now, you are connected to Absalom through the current president. How about the next president? What if the president changes to a new one? How about the people under him? If you need something illegal, such as bending laws or a media cover-up, how do you need to proceed?"

"..." The answer was obvious. Hana was handling it. At the same time, his grandfather was basically telling him not to rely completely on a single person. He was supposed to be the pillar.

Chapter 778: East?

Clovis didn't expect this piece of advice. Now that he thought about it, he definitely needed a lot of connections. It could be included in the information network, but at the same time, the media was a powerful tool on its own.

Carrick loved the media, especially to spread information about Clovis.

So, he definitely needed a lot of connections, especially to the high-ranking people in various places. If he didn't have that connection, he would be isolated.

"It looks like that is indeed necessary." Clovis sighed. "My thinking has been too shallow, Grandfather."

"No. Your thinking is ideal, but the world doesn't work that way."

"I understand. I will carefully consider it when moving forward."

"Good. Then, one last thing you need to consider is having at least one big ally. In my case, it will be Ezekiel. Of course, Christina can be considered one, but that comes from me, not you.

"No matter how you're going to say it, it originated from me. You two wouldn't have met if not for my arrangement."

Clovis nodded in understanding. "Don't worry. I can see that clearly. So, a Tier 9 human's ally?"

"Correct. It doesn't matter if it's the current Tier 9 or the future Tier 9. As long as you have that, it will be quite good. Because that person will be there when you are not."

"..." Clovis could see his intention. It was indeed good to have an ally. Before he became a couple with his grandmother, the strongest ally would be Kayne instead of Lily. However, due to their relationship, Kayne left.

If Kayne were there, Lily might be safe. This type of friend was different from Jay and Erwin.

It was more like a relationship between the Spear Saint and the Prophet. In fact, the strongest people in the world seemed to have that kind of ally.

The biggest reason would be the injury. If they happened to be injured, they would become a target, thinking that this was the perfect time to erase them. In that case, they had no choice but to rely on that ally.

While Mara could be considered an ally, he doubted Mara would help him if he faced such a crisis. Hence, there was indeed a need to find an ally.

A big alliance, connections to high-ranking people, and one shield. These three were what Michael wanted him to find. Clovis could see why these three were important if he wanted to achieve his goal.

Clovis nodded with a serious expression. "I understand, Grandfather. I will do my best to find those three."

"Good." Michael smiled.

"Since we have some time, do you mind..." Clovis scratched the back of his head while looking away, a bit hesitant to ask.

As if he could see through Clovis' mind, Michael nodded. "Sure. We haven't met for so long, so I'm sure there are a lot of things to talk about."

"!!!" Clovis was surprised but soon smiled. The two began chatting about a lot of things. Since the serious topic had been discussed, Clovis began to tell him a lot of things, wondering if his grandfather also had another method to solve his problems in the past.

It wasn't just a normal talk between grandfather and grandson. It was like a discussion between two experts.

Clovis had regarded his grandfather as his teacher since the beginning, so he could finally seek that guidance again.

Time passed as the two enjoyed their talk. However, Mara was as strict as ever.

As she had previously said, she returned the moment she finished her burgers.

"Time is up." Mara remained expressionless when separating the two.

"Thank you for your consideration." It would be wrong if he weren't disappointed, but Michael was thankful to Mara for teaching his grandson. She was even kind enough to give some time and space for them to chat.

Michael politely said, "I hope that you can forgive Clovis if he has somehow offended you during his training. And thank you for teaching him."

Mara nodded. "I agreed to do this not because of your request, but because of something else. So, you don't have to care about it."

From her words alone, Clovis could see that she was doing it because of the system. Although he didn't know what the system told her exactly, it was clear that it was related to what the system said about having the same unique ability.

There was indeed a connection between Clovis and Mara beyond this simulation world.

Michael nodded. "All right. In that case, I'll leave Clovis in your hands."

Mara nodded back.

Michael then waved his hand at Clovis while saying, "Grandpa is leaving now, Clovis."

"Grandpa..." Clovis stopped him for a moment. He considered it carefully before asking, "Can I... get your number?"

Michael shook his head without hesitation. "It's better if you don't have my number. Right now, my number is much more closely monitored than even that business kid's, so it's better not to call me.

"Let's see..." Michael added after seeing the disappointment in his eyes. "How about becoming strong enough to receive my number? Maybe the next time we meet, if you have already reached Tier 7, I won't mind telling you my number."

"Really? No taking back." Clovis smiled.

"I promise."

Clovis looked excited. He would definitely work hard. Currently, he is a Tier 5 human. Reaching Tier 7 would require a considerable amount of time, considering it would be harder to hunt high-level beasts than the lower ones.

Still, it shouldn't be that long. After all, he had Another World Mall. In fact, he believed he would start catching up with the others at Tier 6 or Tier 7. At that time, there wouldn't be any gap between them anymore.

"See you again, Clovis." Michael started walking away, but he abruptly stopped as though he remembered something. "That's right. If you are looking for a new teammate, you might want to look to the East. There are plenty of amusing people there, but I don't have any connections there.

"It's better to join a competition there if you want to look for a new teammate."

"!!!" Clovis was surprised about this suggestion. He definitely needed more people, but his member slots were soon going to be filled up. Right now, he has nine humans and one beast. Since he wanted to create two small groups, which meant a total of 12 members, he would either need 3 more humans if he didn't account for the beast or two more new teammates.

Chapter 779: New Recovery Liquid

With Clovis learning everything from his grandfather, he was surprisingly not as angry as he imagined he would be. His grandmother had died due to the Spear Saint, but at the same time, the real culprit would be the Prophet, who orchestrated the entire thing.

That was why he couldn't help but wonder whether revenge was the correct thing or not. It looked like there was something going on with this world system. He wanted to know the truth first before doing anything, like he always did.

In the end, whatever he wanted required him to have sufficient strength. And there was nothing he could do other than continue training under Mara.

Time passed quickly. The existence of Reolf continued to spread, especially since Mara and Clovis entered a couple of cities during their training. With Mara around, no one dared to harm Reolf.

After all, not only they, but also the people behind them would face her wrath. If Reolf was stolen, there were plenty of people willing to actually work together to find him.

Of course, there had been several kidnapping attempts, but they had never done it directly. All the people involved were knocked out with a single glance from Mara.

Even if Tier 9 humans wouldn't kidnap Reolf when he was near Mara. After all, this would be the same as forcing Mara to join the alliance with Michael Hacfield and Ezekiel Elseingarde. With three Tier 9 humans forming an alliance, they would definitely be in a perilous situation no matter how strong they were.

Thanks to Melody, he managed to follow some big news all around the world. It looked like Tesron was doing his best to make a comeback after his defeat.

He would be a perfect target if he wanted to harm the Melesviet family's reputation, but Clovis didn't suggest anything to Mara because it would have been better if he was the one doing it.

Hana's business was also expanding rapidly. Thanks to the new beast soul becoming even more popular as the videos of them saving the lives of the explorers spread, the sales increased drastically. More and more branches had to be opened.

With the business going up, the expectations of the Power Armor and the Soul Weapon increased, making people wonder if they were going to help them even more on the battlefield.

For Clovis, Hana's business expansion was a good thing. He got the royalty from Hana, which he spent directly at Another World Mall. Clovis was gathering as much money as possible to upgrade his mall's membership to open the service area.

On the other hand, Kanaria had learned a lot about the city's development. Although she couldn't participate in it fully due to her schedule with the group, she was definitely gaining some experience to become the mayor of their new city.

The plan progressed smoothly. Without Clovis there, no one was too interested in doing anything in that city.

Thanks to the city being redeveloped quickly, the migration progressed faster than they expected. The first few families that moved in were definitely the Renvolt family and the Havenson family. Erwin's adoptive father had brought his team to this city and gained a temporary monopoly over the minerals in the underworld.

On the other hand, Jay and the others had also been progressing quickly. For the first time, they finally realized what kind of hole Clovis had left behind.

Usually, Clovis would be there to give a suggestion, lead them, and use his overwhelming power to make a lot of things possible.

When Clovis left, they had a hard time hunting the beasts. Even Jay started to doubt his leadership despite doing better than most captains.

Fortunately, Melody assisted the group. With Melody's brain and Jay's leadership, the group adjusted themselves.

Christina was holding the group together with her defensive style during that time. Although their hunt wasn't as fast as when they were with Clovis, they didn't share as much essence anymore, so their evolution progressed much quicker without Clovis.

In addition, they were hunting in their exclusive underworld zone, so there weren't any competitors. The only people around were either workers or groups from Hana's company.

Still, the one that created the biggest shock wave was actually Luci.

"This..." Luci gasped. Next to him was Professor Xander, who was clenching his fist. "It's really working. What's the output?"

Luci checked it carefully before saying, "It increases the recovery speed by 200%. In addition, internal injuries are even more effective thanks to the essence. By stimulating their body evolution, we also stimulate their regenerative system.

"The biggest change is the fact that this corresponds with tiers. In the normal recovery pod, the recovery speed of a Tier 7 has become 10% of the recovery of a Tier 1 human due to the massive requirement that the body of a high-tier human has for recovery.

"On the other hand, by utilizing the new liquid, simply exchanging the composition will allow the liquid to maintain the recovery speed just fine.

"Of course, it's still getting slower, but this new recovery liquid will have about 30% to 40% of the recovery speed of a Tier 1 human for a Tier 7 human.

"If a Tier 1 human suffers some superficial wounds along with a pretty serious internal injury, it will take them about thirty minutes for first aid and another hour for full recovery.

"For a Tier 7 human, it will need about half a day to fix them. But there's no guarantee it will succeed either. After all, the nutrients within the recovery liquid might not be enough.

"But with this, a Tier 7 human can actually recover in four to six hours. And it's guaranteed recovery.

"We don't have a Tier 8 human to test it, so we don't know about the composition, let alone Tier 9. But with this..." Luci looked excited.

"Hahaha. That's correct." Professor Xander smiled. "We should publish this right away. This is your idea, so you will be the first author. I will be the second author. It's time for you to make yourself known in the medical world."

Chapter 780: Lucifania Shocked the World

Lucifania politely bowed as she was greeted with a standing ovation after her presentation. This was one of the biggest forums in the medical field. And she presented her new liquid in front of a lot of leading professors in their own fields.

"Amazing. To think such a thing is possible."

"This invention will definitely change the world."

"To think that such a young woman is able to achieve so much."

"Indeed. However, Professor Xander assisted her, so it is to be expected."

"Yeah. Her figure reminds me of that woman."

"Do you mean Professor Aisha?"

"Now that you think about it, Professor Aisha also attended this event, right? Ah, there she is!"

"No, wait. Once you mention Professor Aisha, I can't help but recall her son. Isn't her son Clovis Hacfield?"

"The Hacfield family? No, like, why?"

"Don't you see that woman in front? Isn't she part of the Libation Fiesta? The group her son created?"

"Now that you mention it... Don't tell me..."

"I don't think it's Professor Aisha's research. Although I don't believe her that much, Professor Xander never lies about research. He told me that the original idea and the one who completed it were hers. He was there to assist her."

"Then, doesn't this mean it will benefit the Hacfield family?"

"If you think that way, then yes. No, wait. Is she one of Clovis Hacfield's girlfriends?"

"Now that you say it, I'm curious about that. The father snatched the most brilliant mind in the medical field at the time. And now, his son snatches another brilliant mind in our field?"

"You should say it's running in their blood."

"Hahahaha. That's true. But the son is more terrifying."

"I agree. He has multiple women, and all of them are terrifying. Hana Skylark is a businesswoman. Her talent is said to surpass even her grandfather. Thanks to the new beast soul, it won't be weird for her to reach the top ten biggest companies in the world."

"There is also Christina Elseingarde. Her unique ability along with her growth is enough to show everyone that she is bound to become a Tier 9 sooner or later. Her grandfather is still alive as well."

"I know, right? And if we add this girl into the mix, how amazing is the son to be able to snatch all those women?"

"She's not the last, you know. There is one more woman. Her achievement might not be on par with theirs, but I heard she has been leading the reconstruction of the city granted by Absalom to Clovis Hacfield. It's said to finish the reconstruction within five years. It's at least 40% faster than the experts predicted."

"Wow, that's fast."

"Damn. With a mayor in the mix, his son has everything covered, doesn't he?"

"I know, right? Why don't I have a son?"

"I don't want a son. I just want a daughter. I will marry her to him."

"Oh, I have a daughter. I should have brought her here to introduce her to Professor Aisha."

"Do you think she wants a dinosaur as a daughter-in-law?"

"What did you say?"

Clovis' women started to become a talk in the forum. This talk would soon spread even further. For a high-tier human, especially Tier 9 humans, they were expected to have a lot of children and pass their superior genes to a lot of people.

Even though all Tier 9 humans except for Mara were people who had the former era's moral values ingrained in them, 5 of them had multiple women. Even Carrick Melesviet had six wives, with one of them giving birth to a Tesron.

That was why the talk about marriage had become easier with the new moral values. And Clovis had multiple women. They were able to get a significant achievement in their own field.

At this rate, Clovis would create his own empire. It was different from what others had. In Carrick's case, he was the pillar of the family. He lent a hand to his wives and their families to grow drastically.

On the other hand, Clovis didn't even need to lend a hand to his wives because the wives were able to create their own empires. He was there simply to become the pillar that gathered them together.

With Luci's current achievement, the situation would change drastically.

And it all began with Hana, who was calling Lucifania as soon as she received the news. After all, her achievement had become an international sensation. It was a liquid that could aid high-tier humans' recovery after all.

"Aiyo. Big Sister. Don't do this to me. Why haven't you contacted me when you have this kind of thing?"

[Ahahaha... I really need to keep it a secret. At least I've gotten the patents now, so there's no need to worry about it being stolen.]

"So, why don't you let me handle it? I can sell it for you."

[Sure. I don't mind. However, you need to ask Clovis' permission first.]

"Huh? Why him? Aren't you the one creating it, Big Sister?"

[I did. But if not for his aid, I wouldn't be able to create it. It's related to his unique ability, so I can't really explain it right now.]

"Looks like I need to have a long talk once he returns. But I will ask his permission first. If he accepts..."

[No worries. You are free to use it.]

"Okay. With your words, I don't have to hesitate anymore. Don't worry. I will make sure the royalty is good for you, Big Sister. Besides, with this liquid and the new beast soul, I think it's time to create a new subsidiary that will be in charge of these two products. There's also a new subsidiary for the Soul Weapon and Power Suit.

"They are OpenHealth and OpenPower. With this money, the new city can develop even faster."

[I know, I know. You are the best in this field, so I will let you do whatever you want as long as you get Clovis' permission. I still have a lot of things to do here, so I will hang up, OK?]

"Sure. See you later, Big Sister." Hana hung up the call before pumping her fist. The money was circulating so well that she became excited.