

World Mall 791

Chapter 791 791: Unexpected Surprise

The moment Clovis took the first bite, his eyes widened to the limit. The taste was beyond anything he had eaten so far. And it came from the same nugget he had been eating for a while.

The difference was so great that he wondered if this was even the same meat. Normally, the chicken's flavor would be dominant, while the snake caused a change of flavor while chewing it.

This time, both flavors were equally strong. They didn't conflict with each other. In fact, it created a harmony on his tongue, creating a lingering aftertaste.

The heat spread into his lungs and nose, enhancing the flavor even further.

"This is..." Clovis was stunned for a moment, but his hand seemed to be unable to stop. One more bite, one more, and one more. Before he realized it, he had devoured the entire bowl.

"Second!" Clovis asked without thinking. "Ah!"

Rin and Dnanta chuckled. This was precisely what happened to Clovis the first time he ate here. It looked like he couldn't contain his desire and asked for more.

"Understood. Please wait for a moment." Rin smiled and received the bowl. Not long after, she returned with another bowl.

Clovis was completely overwhelmed. For some reason, he felt he could eat this all day and would still be hungry.

"This is weird. Are you using MSG or something? It's too addicting." Clovis asked.

"Of course not." Rin shook her head. "MSG might be good for home cooking, but please don't insult professional cooking with MSG. We just do it with natural ingredients, not the synthesized ones."

"No, that's not what I mean... I'm sorry." Clovis scratched the back of his head.

"Hahaha. I'm glad you like it. How is it? Amazing, isn't it?" Dnanta grinned.

"Yes, it's definitely amazing."

"Feels like you're able to eat it forever? No, it might even taste better than my food, right?"

"That's..." Clovis looked down, unable to answer. If he answered, one of them would definitely be disappointed.

"Hahaha. I don't mind. My daughter's cooking skills are still not as good as mine. However, she does have something beyond what I have, which is the reason her food tastes even better than mine."
Dnanta grinned.

"That is..." Clovis stopped talking as he just continued eating while waiting for the answer.

"People have individual tastes. The shape of their tongues, their taste buds, their habits, their experience, their memory, and so on. As a result, people develop their own favorite tastes.

"Normally, a chef does everything they can to cook the most amazing dish. Being able to make an amazing dish is what you need to become a first-class chef.

"However, when you are cooking for someone, you want to do something else. You are observing their tastes and trying to suit them.

"How is their day? Are they exhausted? Or are they stressed? Just knowing a lot of information about that person will be able to make your food become even greater just for that person.

"Aside from my goal of cooking every single ingredient in the world, this is what I'm trying to achieve.

"Although I can do it to a certain extent, my daughter is different. She was born with a sense I have trained in my entire career. You can say that this is her pseudo unique ability."

"Pseudo unique ability?!" Clovis widened his eyes. He never thought Rin would be that special.

"That's right. If you were her father, what would be the first thing you'd have in mind after knowing that your daughter has what you've been honing in your entire life since birth?"

Clovis thought for a moment before answering with an innocent gaze. "Thrilled?"

"!!!" Rin and Dnanta were surprised by his answer.

"Thrilled? Why do you think so?" Dnanta asked.

"If I were her father, I would be thrilled. My daughter can do such a thing since she was born, so why not let her find something beyond that sense by honing it through my experience?"

"Hahahaha." Dnanta was laughing. "Man. You are truly my fated customer. Whenever I asked this question, the answer was always the same. It's jealousy!"

"Why would you be jealous? The younger generation will definitely surpass the older generation." Clovis tilted his head in confusion.

Clovis definitely knew what jealousy was. He was awakened at a 15% absorption rate. At that time, he was jealous of people who had high absorption rates.

Yet, despite his feelings, the first thing he did was release the frustration in his heart. And the answer became clear. He just had to work hard for it.

Of course, he was lucky to have Another World Mall, but even if he didn't have it, he would still continue on this path. Rather than feeling jealous, he better use that energy to chase after his dream.

That was why he felt that last jealousy before he encountered Another World Mall.

Clovis smiled. "I, too, once felt jealous. However, I know that it's just a useless feeling. I realized at that time that rather than feeling jealous, I would just work hard until I didn't even have the energy to feel jealous.

"Jealousy might be inevitable, because that person has something you've worked your entire life for. However, isn't it interesting? I wonder what will happen if I combine that talent with experience? Will they find a different answer?

"In the end, this life is one hell of a journey. The one who has the last laugh wins."

Dnanta was stupefied. There was a slight darkness in his eyes as he recalled how he felt when he knew about Rin's talent.

In the end, he was actually saved by Rin herself. He wondered if Clovis were Rin's father, would Rin be happier?

Dnanta soon laughed after finding his answer. "Hahaha. I really like your answer. Having the last laugh, huh? That's indeed the best thing to have. In that case, I will reveal one more thing to you. Now, try checking your body."

"Hmm?" Clovis was confused. He put down the spoon and closed his eyes, checking his body. It was at this time that something happened. Energy felt like it was surging from his body. "!!!"

"Do you feel energy filling your body?" Dnanta grinned.

Chapter 792: Hiring a Chef

"Do you feel energy filling your body?" Dnanta grinned.

"!!!" Clovis widened his eyes in shock. It was true. He suddenly felt a surge of energy coming from out of nowhere. "This is..."

Rin smiled and explained, "I specialize in healthy food. Healthy foods are divided into two in general. The first one is the food that gives you health benefits in the long run, and the second one is the food that gives you health benefits in the short run.

"What you are eating is the second one. With the addition of the benefits from eating food that has essence, it can spike a certain amount of energy. You will be able to experience strength for a period of time."

"!!!" Clovis was stunned. Isn't this food from his mall's restaurants?

When he thought about it, a lot of things came to his mind. The first one was his raw ingredients as well as the restaurants. It was something that could come from Rin.

There were also the medicines or even the recovery water. Lucifania had the ability to make one.

He couldn't help wondering if it was something linked to what he had. However, this was meat that no one had ever tasted before. So how could they have known about it?

Clovis felt weird. On the one hand, it looked like it originated from someone else. On the other hand, the items were too foreign to be the case.

Clovis wanted to bring out the restaurant food right away, but he didn't know whether it was the correct choice or not. Although he was curious, showing the ingredients was the extent of what he could do.

After some thoughts, he decided to keep it quiet. He wasn't strong enough to reveal that secret whenever he liked.

Dnanta squinted his eyes. "I noticed the shock at first, but it wasn't as much as I expected."

Clovis gave a faint smile. "Well, I'm shocked. I just don't know how to react properly to that information."

"Really?" Dnanta felt suspicious, but he didn't push further. He shrugged and sighed. "Let's leave it at that."

Clovis nodded and continued eating.

Rin didn't know how to feel from that lack of reaction. Her information wasn't that well-known, so even if Clovis had researched her father, there should still be more reaction after knowing about her food.

Dnanta, on the other hand, shifted the topic by pointing at the plastic bag Clovis brought. "Rin. It's time for you to check what's inside the bag."

"Yes?" Rin was confused, forgetting Clovis' claim about bankrupting her father. She had been too fixated on her menu.

Once she opened the plastic bag, she couldn't help but widen her eyes. "This is..."

Just like the nugget, everything looked like it was something from a supermarket. However, when she examined them, she realized the ingredients were nothing like they had seen before.

Rin gasped. "Father..."

"As you probably already know, I know nothing about them." Dnanta shrugged. "Let's see. There are ten ingredients, so I will pay you 100 million this time. Young man, are you seriously going to continue? At this rate, I will be bankrupt in a few days. It's not like you need money, right?"

"Ahaha. What are you talking about? Hana's money is hers. My money is what I earn." Clovis shrugged. "While the number can't be compared to what has been injected into my project, money is still money."

"You are really bullying this old man." Dnanta chuckled. He thought for a moment before asking, "How about hiring Rin as a chef for a few days as a payment?"

"!!!" Clovis raised his head while Rin gasped. "Father?"

"Why are you surprised? Aren't you coming here to try to recruit me?" Dnanta shrugged.

Clovis hesitated before revealing the reason. "That was what I thought in the beginning."

"Not now?"

"After learning about your integrity, I don't wish to taint your integrity with my own desire. Isn't that the basic respect you should give to others? You have been willing to invite me to your wonderful restaurant. I can't be ungrateful by repaying your kindness with such actions."

Dnanta fell silent. From Clovis' eyes, he didn't see any lies. There were people like this in the past, who showed restraint just to make him hold a high opinion of them. However, they usually slip up after tasting a lot of things.

In his eyes, Clovis was either telling the truth or a liar that surpassed those old foxes.

Dnanta raised one finger. "In that case, how about this? You may hire my daughter as your group's chef. As long as you don't ask her to fight, it doesn't count as breaking my integrity.

"In exchange, allow her to cook with all these new ingredients. What do you think?"

It was definitely a good idea. Even if it didn't show Dnanta's favor, it was enough to send a message.

If it were anyone else, they would have agreed immediately. However, hiring her as a chef would mean revealing some secrets of their Libation Fiesta to her.

After some thoughts, Clovis glanced at Rin while replying, "That will be your daughter's decision. She is already an adult who can make decisions herself. Rather than receiving your promise, I believe I should respect her decision more."

Clovis didn't notice it, but Dnanta's lips curved slightly. Dnanta asked, "That's how it is. What do you think, Rin?"

"That's..." Rin weighed the pros and cons before raising one finger. "I would like to ask for one more condition. If I join, please give me a few more ingredients to send back home. I want my dad to work around with the ingredients as well."

It was Dnanta's turn to be surprised. He was giving a way for his daughter to soar into the sky, but his daughter ended up opening another way for him. New ingredients were his goal, and he decided to give it up for the sake of his daughter. Yet, his daughter wanted to give it to him.

Clovis smiled. "I shall respect your decision. If you come as the chef, I will give you enough ingredients for you and your father to test it."

Chapter 793: Tasks

"So, what are we supposed to do now?" Kanaria asked. "There's no instruction or whatever. Clovis is still out of contact."

"I don't know." Melody shook her head.

"Since there are no other instructions, I will go shopping for the time being." Aileen glanced at Erwin.

Erwin grinned. "Isn't there a word you need to say?"

"Come with me, please, darling."

"It can't be helped." Erwin stood up.

"Wait a moment." Vina abruptly stood up. "I have found a clue."

"A clue?" Kanaria frowned.

"Yes, look at this." Vina projected her screen so that everyone could see. It was a recording of the city from the sky.

"Why are you showing this?" Kanaria crossed her arms.

"So, that's how it is." Melody looked like she was the only one who had managed to catch the clue.

"Puzzle games?"

"Puzzle?"

"Yes." Vina nodded. "This is a puzzle game. If you look at this recording, it shows three characters. E, A, and S."

"And what do these characters mean?"

"I am not entirely sure. To become the owner of the Dark Moon Mercenary, the successor is required to have three things: strength, mind, and connection. They are divided into three branches: the Blue Diamond Group, the Dark Emerald Group, and the Red Ruby Group.

"Blue Diamond Group is a security company that works on the surface. They are the strongest in terms of strength. It can be said that they are the swords of the Dark Moon Mercenary.

"Dark Emerald Group holds the information network of the Dark Moon Mercenary, which is currently under my control. We are practically the brain of the mercenary group.

"Last but not least, Red Ruby Group. If there is anyone who can negotiate and make even more connections, it will be them. Although they are not as big as top companies, they have controlled the finances of the mercenary group.

"Right now, our opponent is the Red Ruby Group. They have a connection to the Three Swords. Do you know why I chose you guys for this successor battle?

"That is because I believe you guys are the strongest under Tier 8. I believe in your growth. There is a condition during the successor battle. We are forbidden from moving a Tier 8 human in our group or outside the group.

"Hence, we'll be fighting the successor of the Three Swords from the looks of it. And the one who will be our opponent is none other than a woman called Stefany Rashia. Stefany might be talented in business, but she doesn't have the power to fight. Still, she is someone who is willing to do anything to achieve her goal.

"Our leader will be giving tasks for the successor battle. We have to decipher the code and figure out what he is trying to say.

"This is what I mean by having three qualities. Although all three successors have been placed in the group they excel the most, they need to figure out the tasks because they require connection, strength, and mind.

"And this E, A, and S must be the code that has to be solved by our minds. Then, the second code and third code have to be solved with strength and connection."

"I see. So, we have to solve the first code as quickly as possible to take the initiative?" Kanaria looked up, contemplating.

"Yes."

"E, A, and S. It might be an abbreviation. That's the only way to tell you something unless there are more clues." Jay looked down, unable to figure out anything.

"E stands for Explosion?" Luci tilted her head in confusion.

"Have your brain cells disappeared after tackling such a hard challenge, Luci?" Melody sighed.

"Huh? Why are you insulting me?"

"Because this is what E and A mean, no?" Melody projected her screen this time. It was a familiar building in this city. And underneath the picture, it was there they understood the meaning of those two characters.

"Explorer Association?!"

"Ah!" Vina gasped. "Don't tell me, the S is..."

"You probably guessed it correctly." Melody opened the next tab. It was the structure of the explorer association in this city.

"Salvatore Lee. The Explorer Association President of this country." As she expected, it was truly that person.

"So, will he give us the mission? No, judging from the puzzle, it looks like we have to find him? This shows 'connection.'" Kanaria frowned before turning to Hana.

"Why are you looking at me?" Hana tilted her head in confusion. "Well, I can probably try to have a meeting with him. I guess I'm the only one who can somehow meet him.

"Let's see. Setting up a direct meeting will be impossible without a big reason. If this is a test, the association president might deliberately not want to meet us.

"What if I bring up the topic for my new branch? But this is for the government, not the exploration association.

"Throwing my money away? This doesn't sound good... How am I supposed to meet him?" Hana crossed her arms. "I don't have a base in this country, so I can't easily meet someone like him."

"I see. Connection, huh? If it's the Three Swords, one of the top influences in this country, it will be easy for them to meet the president." Jay crossed his arms. "If Hana doesn't have the connection to meet them, how are we supposed to meet him?"

"Well, I can try to use the president of this country or any high-ranking government official to meet him." Hana sighed. "If that's the case, we have no choice but to wait for two more days. That's the day I will have a meeting with the Health Minister of this country."

"I guess we have no choice but to follow the arrangement." Vina scratched the back. "Unfortunately, I can't do anything here."

"Well, we will carry you in this task. You can repay us when you take over the Dark Moon Mercenary." Hana grinned.

"Please go easy on me." Vina smiled wryly.

"Don't worry. Clovis is the only person I will suck dry, no one else." Hana smiled. "So, who will accompany me to this meeting? Let's see... I will bring two people with me."

"I should go since I'm the one responsible for the successor battle." Vina raised one hand.

It would have been better if Clovis had been here, but it looked like they needed someone to represent them.

"I guess I have no choice but to step up." Jay, the vice captain, volunteered.

Chapter 794 794: Failed to Meet

Two days later.

Hana, accompanied by Vina and Jay, finally got to meet the Health Minister in this country.

They had been briefed about the person. Ramon Naraka. While he didn't have any big achievements, his connections in politics were all over the place, allowing him to remain as a minister for five periods back to back.

"To think that I would have the honor of meeting one of the most influential younger generations in the world, Hana Skylark. It is my honor." Ramon started with a light laugh.

"It is my honor to be able to meet a five-time minister, there are only a few people in the world who can match your achievement." Hana nodded with a smile. "Besides me are Jay Havenson, the vice captain of the Libation Fiesta, and Lavina, one of the three successors of the Dark Moon Mercenary."

"Well, this is certainly an honor. I have known of your relationship with the Libation Fiesta, but this is the first time I have heard about your connection to the Dark Moon Mercenary. That's indeed surprising."

"Thank you."

"It looks like Miss Hana doesn't plan to just talk about your new branch..." Ramon's expression remained calm.

"That is indeed true. However, my main reason is definitely about the new branch." Hana nodded. "So, you don't have to worry about that."

"I see. Well, if it's only about your branch, I would like to have dinner with you, but because this is not all about money, I guess I will have to keep this short."

"I am aware of the situation I put you in. I originally planned to create a branch here, but I have made a slight adjustment."

"Hoh?"

"Instead of a simple branch, how about I create a second headquarters that will oversee the development in the east?" Hana smiled.

"..." Ramon fell silent, not expecting Hana to open with such a huge piece. If it were just another branch, they could only get some beast souls and probably some new products.

However, if she planned to use this branch as a base for the expansion to the east, they could get a lot more. In fact, more branches in the country would definitely help them a lot.

Ramon squinted his eyes before saying, "May I know what you want with that request?"

"I'm merely asking you to set up a meeting with the explorer association's president," stated Hana.

Ramon widened his eyes in surprise. "Only that?"

"Yes. Though, I wish you to keep all the previous agreements intact."

Ramon was speechless. It was a generous condition for them, to the point where it was too good to be true. He thought she would demand a few more things, which he would gladly accept for the sake of this base.

Hana was greedy. Yet, for some reason, she didn't demand anything more. How could anyone not find it suspicious?

"I have heard about your reputation. How should I say this... You are different from the report."

Hana chuckled. "Is that so? Well, I'm merely feeling generous since I'm going to meet my fiance soon. How about treating this as a celebration?"

"!!!" Ramon glanced at Jay. That was right. If it were the Libation Fiesta, Clovis should have come. It seemed that there was another situation going on.

Ramon contemplated for a moment. It was indeed a tempting offer, but Ramon could only lower his head. "I'm sorry. I don't think I can accept that condition."

It was Hana's turn to be surprised. "Pardon?"

"It's not that I don't like your offer. It's just... I'm afraid that I'm unable to satisfy your request."

"!!!" Vina didn't expect that even someone like Ramon wouldn't be able to fulfill that request. When did the association president become so hard to meet?

"I'm sorry. I don't understand your words." Hana squinted her eyes, observing his reaction.

"It has been several days, but the association president has turned away all the guests. Even if I ask the president to arrange a meeting, I don't think it's possible."

"What? Even the president can't?" Hana didn't expect this answer.

"Yes." Ramon nodded. "I'm not entirely sure about the situation either. However, I can reveal one thing to you. I have heard about the successor battle. Right now, there's a movement in the shadows. And it's linked to the Dark Moon Mercenary."

"!!!" Hana turned to Vina. Vina only shook her head, not knowing anything.

"I'm assuming it is connected to the Dark Moon Mercenary's leader. As you probably already know, the Dark Moon Mercenary is one of the two strongest mercenary groups in the world.

"While the country isn't scared of them, they don't really want to pick a fight with them as well."

"That's... definitely something that can happen if the leader makes his move." Vina looked down, falling into deep thought.

"So, he's sabotaging you?" Hana frowned.

"I don't think so. The leader doesn't have any favorites or children," denied Vina.

Hana thought for a moment before sighing. "It doesn't look like we can meet the association president."

"That's indeed unfortunate. Still, the investment..." Ramon's expression turned solemn.

Hana sighed. "The investment can proceed as it is. If you feel bad for not being able to get an audience with the association president, how about giving some benefits to me, such as land?"

Ramon nodded. "In that case, how about we discuss it after the meal? It's going to be cold if we don't eat now."

"Indeed." Hana continued to try to find out whether Ramon was lying or not. If he were lying, Ramon would definitely face the wrath of the country because it meant Hana would pull back the investment.

On the other hand, Vina and Jay remained quiet. Jay was there as a figurehead to represent the Libation Fiesta and had no interest in business. Vina observed their conversation, but both Ramon and Hana were very careful with their words.

In the end, they still couldn't figure out a way to meet the association president.

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Explorer Association.

"Hehe. Looks like you are very popular. I have been hearing a lot of inquiries to meet you, Mr. Association President." An old man sat down, resting his cane next to him.

"You are the one making me do this. If you are not my old friend, I won't do any of this. Even when old, you really love this kind of mischief. Just pick a successor already, Van." President Orto sighed. "So, who do you think can meet me first?"

"It is probably Stefany. Although she's not good with mind games, she has plenty of connections that can trap you into accepting the meeting. Besides, Vina is too reliant on her current backer. I want to make her think that money is not the only way."

"Hana Skylark, huh?"

"Yeah. Besides, I'm curious whether that group has another trump card or not."

"The Libation Fiesta? Well, what if they threaten me to meet them or they will unleash that madman on this country?"

"Ahahaha. I don't think they will do such a thing, but I'm a little curious about this young man, Clovis Hacfield. I wonder how he's going to back Lavina up. And let me see whether they understand the meaning of the successor battle or not."

"Jeez. You and your mischief." President Orto harrumphed. "You're going to pay me after this."

"I know, I know. How do you want me to repay you?"

"Accompany me." He took out a letter.

"That's the invitation from the Ingredient Master?"

"Yeah. Looks like he's in this town, and I'm one of his fated customers in this city. It's boring to eat by myself, so come with me. Let's have a drink like old times."

"Fine."

Chapter 795: Outplayed

"Welcome." Dnanta greeted cheerfully, taking a peek at the person who had just entered the restaurant. "Hmm? You are not alone?"

President Orto smiled. "It's an honor to receive the information from you, Master of Ingredients. My apologies for coming with another person."

"Well, you can bring whatever you want. But you know the rule, right?" Dnanta frowned.

"Of course. Anyone who receives an invitation is allowed to bring up to two people. However, if it's getting taken advantage of, which can harm or hurt the chef's interest, the chef reserves the right to withdraw the invitation. Don't worry. This person here won't do anything like that," assured Orto.

"Well, we'll see. Isn't he the reason this city became so lively?"

"!!!" Evan looked surprised. "Do you know me?"

"Dark Moon Mercenary's Dark Supreme, Evan Kohl. Who doesn't know you? Even if I'm a chef, I still watch outside things like I observe my ingredients." Dnanta shrugged.

Evan fell silent while Orto laughed out loud. "See that, Van? He's definitely a unique chef. Well, it looks like the menu here is like the rumor."

"I have heard the rumors about it, but there are really only three options. I will go with whatever the chef recommends."

Orto nodded. "In that case, I will be the same."

"Hoho. I don't think you will be disappointed with this choice. We've received some special ingredients today." Dnanta chuckled.

"Oh? That makes us look forward to the food." Orto smiled.

Dnanta nodded but remained still.

Orto and Evan looked at him, but they ended up staring at each other without doing anything. The atmosphere became awkward. They wanted to ask why Dnanta didn't go to the kitchen, but they kept hearing the sizzling sound from the kitchen.

"You're not cooking for us, Chef?" Orto asked.

"Nope. Haven't you seen the invitation?"

"Hmm?" Orto was confused and took out the invitation. "This is not your invitation?"

"Not mine. Check again."

Orto examined the invitation but couldn't find anything weird. Evan, on the other hand, instantly understood what was going on. "Well, it only says the invitation comes from Chef Len as well as the mark of this restaurant. There are two Chef Len's in the world that can make this invitation."

"Ah!" Orto gasped. "Don't tell me, the one who invited us is your daughter?"

"Correct. I won't be cooking today."

"What?" Orto was stunned. "Isn't this unfair, Chef?"

"I don't understand what you're talking about." Dnanta shook his head casually. "Let's see. You guys are so deceiving to those youngsters, so why are you complaining now?"

"Those youngsters?!" Orto and Evan obviously understood who the 'youngsters' he was talking about were.

"Don't tell me, you are influenced by their group? You? Who is known to not work for everyone?" Orto simply couldn't believe it.

However, Evan seemed to have seen through everything. "Ahahaha. Looks like we have been outplayed this time."

"Van?!"

"Come on. You should be able to see it." Evan grinned in amusement.

Before Orto could say another word, Rin came out of the kitchen, bringing fried rice with some special ingredients from Another World Mall.

"Here you go. Special Fried Rice." Rin placed down the food in front of them before extending her hand. "As for the payment, you just have to hand it to me."

"!!!" Orto widened his eyes in shock. Evan finally spelled it out. "That's how it is. Chef Dnanta Len still sticks to his principles. However, the same can't be said for his daughter. Am I right, Chef? Isn't that the reason your daughter sent the invitation?"

Dnanta nodded. "Not 100%, but you are 80% correct. I remain an outsider, but my daughter is currently working as Clovis Hacfield's chef, though she's not a part of the Libation Fiesta. As long as my daughter doesn't join the fight or something, I don't plan to do anything."

Orto was stupefied. As Evan said, they had been outplayed. Clovis actually took advantage of this connection to lower their guards.

Evan slapped Orto's back multiple times. "Hahaha. We have been had, right, Orto? Looks like the younger generation is really meant to surpass the older generation. I'm looking forward to the mission itself."

Orto facepalmed and shook his head helplessly. He looked at Rin and asked, "May I finish my food first, young lady?"

Rin nodded. "Please enjoy."

After saying those two words, Rin returned to the kitchen. Before Orto realized it, Dnanta was already sitting next to them with a beer bottle.

"Hahaha. Chef. I'm truly amazed. How can such a person even convince you?" Evan cared a lot about the successor battle. He wanted to see what kind of person Clovis was to figure out whether he was the correct person for Vina or not.

Dnanta smiled. "Well, he's my fated customer. Just a bit more fated than this guy."

"Haha, Orto." Evan laughed.

"Then again, isn't that why you're doing this succession thingy?"

"Well..." Evan's smile disappeared almost instantly. He sighed before scratching the back of his head. "That's true. I created three divisions in my mercenary group so that they could keep each other in check. If one were to attack, they would risk being ganged, and so on.

"That's why they need to be bold, calculating, and decisive. And by creating this succession battle, I can let them grow. Besides, you need a good eye to choose a good partner. That's why I'm curious about this person, not as the successor of the Hacfield family, but as an individual.

"After all, he could convince a chef like you. I just hope that they're able to see through the true meaning of the succession battle."

Dnanta shrugged. "Are you fine with saying that in front of my daughter?"

"It's fine even if she wants to tell them. It doesn't really matter." Evan shook his head. "Since I have given you this information, may I eat for free today?"

Dnanta laughed. "No way. I'm about to go bankrupt because of a certain boy. You still need to pay."

"Eh..." Evan's face was twisted as if he had been wronged. But they ended up laughing again.

Orto looked at the two next to him and couldn't help but sigh, saying, "Why are you guys so carefree? I'm having a headache right now because of all this stuff."

The two abruptly stopped before laughing as if they were the same kind of people. They even said the same thing. "Hahaha. You need to laugh a lot if you want to live long."

Chapter 796: Clovis's Help

"What are we going to do now? Everything doesn't look like it's going to work." Hana looked down. "Sorry, I can't help you more than this."

"I can't think of anything. Even though this is my battle, I'm the most useless here." Vina scratched the back of her head.

Kanaria crossed her arms before asking, "Christina. Why don't you ask your grandfather to go on a rampage here? We will demand that they set up the meeting if they don't want such destruction."

"I can ask, but I don't think my grandfather will agree. There's a reason he's called The Guardian. Although he is excellent in politics and other things, he has a line he doesn't want to cross." Christina shook her head.

"We have to think of another way." Melody sighed before looking at Aileen. "How about you? Do you have a succession battle like this?"

"Nope. I'm the sole successor in my family, so I don't have any experience in this matter." Aileen shook her head.

"Maybe I should have gone instead of Jay. I could have read that guy's expression to know whether there is something we can take advantage of or not," said Erwin. "Give me your position... Jay?"

Normally, Jay would bicker with Erwin after hearing those words. But for some reason, Jay was silent the whole time. Even the others expected Jay would start up something, and they had to stop them.

But when they turned to Jay, they found him glued to his Skyphone.

"Jay? What are you doing? Don't tell me. You have a girlfriend? As your childhood friend, shouldn't you tell me about it? What kind of woman managed to snatch your heart from the sword?" Kanaria asked.

"He doesn't seem to be lovestruck from his expression." Erwin squinted his eyes.

"Who are you texting then?" Melody took a sneak peek.

Before Melody could read, Jay simply showed his message. When they saw the person he talked to, everyone became perplexed. He was talking to someone who had been out of contact the whole time.

Yes, he was talking to Clovis. Surprisingly, Clovis actually replied to him. No, more importantly, Clovis actually told them about the mission.

Succession Mission:

First Path - Head to the explorer association and tell the most beautiful receptionist, 'I have come in peace.' The receptionist will be registering you for the mission arrangement. Complete that mission.

Condition:

No Tier 8 humans shall be involved or the party will be disqualified and lose their succession right. You can get a helper, but the maximum number of Tier 7 is 3 people. Your group can't be more than 20 people. In the case that you fail the mission, you are allowed to retry it as many times as you need to complete the mission. Any conflict that occurred during the succession battle needs to be resolved, but killing is not allowed.

They widened their eyes in shock.

Kanaria snatched the Skyphone and shouted, "How in the world are you able to contact him? Don't tell me you have been contacting him this whole time?"

However, the contact only happened today. The only thing she could see from their chat messages were reports about the group.

It turned out Jay had been reporting to Clovis the whole time.

"To think that he has contacted you. Where is he right now? No, let me call him!" Kanaria used Jay's Skyphone to call him, but Clovis never picked up. It was as if he had known about her using Jay's Skyphone and didn't want to contact them. "What the..."

"Why is he not picking up? He just texted him a minute ago." Hana squinted her eyes. "This is suspicious. Don't tell me... After one and a half years, he has finally moved on from us?"

"No way, right? Clovis is not that type of person. He's probably avoiding you so that he doesn't get sucked dry." Christina chuckled.

"So, it's Hana's fault." Lucifania nodded.

"Why are you guys bullying me?" Hana gasped.

"More importantly, why does he know about this mission? How is he even able to meet the association president?" Kanaria waved her hand, reminding them of this mission.

"I don't know." No one could provide that answer. They were in utter shock. Clovis wasn't with Mara, so there was no way he could use Mara to threaten the association president.

In other words, Clovis had another way to figure out how to meet the association president.

"But if he's already in the city, shouldn't he have returned to the group already?" Kanaria let out a long sigh.

"Well, it doesn't look like he's planning to come back right away. As much as I want to find him using all kinds of methods, I will respect his wish." Hana clicked her tongue.

"You guys are just too thirsty for whatever reason. Maybe that's why he's avoiding you." Melody shook her head helplessly.

"..."

What they didn't know was that Clovis was simply visiting a certain restaurant the whole time.

"You have gotten the mission. Even though I'm working as your chef, shouldn't you give a bonus to your employee, especially after a job like this?" Rin squinted her eyes.

Clovis looked surprised, but he smiled as if he had already prepared something.

"Right? I don't know what you like, so I have picked up several. It's not much, but please accept this." Clovis put the plastic bag on the table.

When Rin opened it, she could see three slices of cake. The first one looked like a cheesecake, while the others were a cupcake and the basic chocolate cake.

Rin was surprised. It wasn't bad for a present, but this cake should be different from the weird ingredients he had brought for the past few days. So, wasn't this too cheap for a reward?

"Well..." Rin looked a bit disappointed.

"If you don't want it, then give it to your father." Dnanta grinned, suddenly intruding on their conversation.

"!!!" Rin widened her eyes, not expecting Dnanta to ask for them. Her father never asked for something ordinary, so she realized her judgment might be too shallow. "This is my reward, so no."

"What? Where did my generous daughter from two days ago go?" Dnanta took a step back.

"I have a sweet tooth, so I monopolize the sweets at home." Rin pouted and hurriedly took them away.

Chapter 797: Stefany

Once they received the answer from Clovis, they didn't hesitate to take the next step.

The entire Libation Fiesta accompanied Vina to the explorer association, while Hana had to arrange another meeting for her company.

As one would expect from the explorer association of the capital city, it was packed with so many people. There were more than ten counters who were taking care of the explorers.

Of those ten, six of them were female. However, the line to reach them was quite long.

"This... So, who is that person? The most beautiful one." Kanaria asked. "Jay. If you have any woman that you would like other than your saber, who is that woman?"

"Huh? Was that an insult or something?"

Kanaria shrugged. "Take it however you want it. I just want the answer."

Jay's eyebrows twitched as he raised his saber. It remained sheathed to not make other people worry.

He just wanted to compare those women with his blade before pointing at one woman. "That person."

The line of the person Jay chose was the second longest line. It would probably take them some time to reach her, but if this was a mission, they had no other choice.

"Well, looks like we have no other choice." Kanaria sighed. "I will line up. Vina comes with me. The rest of you can go somewhere."

"If I have to choose one, it will be a different person. Beauty is subjective after all." Ragna frowned. "Why not just split up so even if one fails, the other might succeed?"

"That's fair as well." Kanaria nodded and turned to the others. They agreed. "All right then. Let's—!"

Before Kanaria ordered them to split up, Erwin raised his hand, stopping her. "As Ragna said, beauty is subjective. So, why not measure it objectively?"

"Huh? How to do that? In the end, everything is our preference, right?"

"I know. But inner beauty is easier to measure objectively, no?"

"Ah!"

Erwin pointed to a man this time. "I believe that guy is better."

"Jay... You..." Aileen was in shock. "If you are going to cheat on me, you should choose a woman..."

"What?!" Erwin was speechless. "I'm not talking about that. From his expression, I only know that he's the kindest. He is explaining things slowly so that others understand."

"I'm joking, of course. Why are you so worked up like that?" Aileen grinned, teasing Erwin this time.

"..." Erwin's eyebrows twitched. He was the one who always did all the teasing, but it was his turn to receive it.

"Well, we can try as Erwin suggested." Kanaria nodded.

It took them only three minutes before they were able to reach the receptionist.

"How may I help you?" The receptionist offered a gentle smile.

"I have come in peace." Vina gave the password, not knowing whether this man was the correct person or not. She was a bit embarrassed. Even the people behind her had weird faces, not knowing why she would even say those words.

The receptionist was surprised before asking, "May I know why you say those words to me?"

"One of our people has a sharp eye."

"I see. May I know your name?"

"Lavina."

"Congratulations, Miss Lavina, for finding me." The receptionist smiled. "I have received specific instructions from the association president regarding your special mission. Would you like to receive it right now?"

"Yes. Please register it under the Libation Fiesta." Vina nodded as Kanaria gave their group's card.

"Understood."

It might be due to how long they hadn't made a name for themselves, no one near them seemed to recognize the name of the Libation Fiesta. Then again, their group was much more famous in the west, so it was no wonder that the people in the east didn't recognize them.

"This is the mission. Please read it."

Type: Visit

Location: Bear Mug

Description: Please visit Bear Mug and find Mr. Apollo.

The mission was simple, but it was quite weird. Why would the mission request them to find a person? They couldn't help but wonder if this Apollo would be the one giving them the request.

"Bear Mug..." Vina muttered. "Where is this place?"

"It's in this city. That's all I can say. I can't give you more information." The receptionist shook his head.

"I understand. Thank you very much."

"No problem. If you have finished your mission, please return to me. I will give you the next mission."

"Okay." Vina nodded as she and Kanaria returned to the group.

"Melody. Can you figure this place out?" Kanaria asked.

"Hmm?" Melody frowned. "There's nothing that can be found... No, wait. Is it something like the previous test?"

Melody scanned the city map as Kanaria pointed at one of the blocks. "Look at this one... Doesn't this look like a mug? This block."

"Ah! It must be located in this block. We have to search for anything related to the bear there." Vina nodded in agreement.

"That sounds easier than finding a way to meet the association president." Jay nodded.

"Let's go then. Thanks to Hana, we can bring our bus here, so it's much more convenient to travel." Ragna nodded.

"I will drive." Erwin extended his hand, asking for the key from Kanaria.

"Sure. Let's go—!"

Suddenly, their conversation was interrupted by a high-pitched laugh.

"Hohoho! To think I would be meeting you here."

"!!!" Vina recognized this voice and hurriedly turned around, finding a brown-haired woman accompanied by several other people. Each of them looked fierce, their bodies emanating pressure.

However, all of them were wearing big sunglasses, so they had a hard time recognizing any of them. Still, they already knew these people were part of the Three Swords.

"Stefany..." Vina gritted her teeth. "What are you doing here? You shouldn't have found a method to find the association president."

"As expected of Lavina. You definitely have a way to track my movement. But there's no instruction telling me not to get the information through another method."

"!!!" Vina widened her eyes before glancing out. She noticed that two people were suddenly running. "Not good. They have got the information. We have to head there right now! Chase them!"