

World 1331

Chapter 1331: Battle Royale Game

"It's a trap!" Glover shouted. He wanted to turn and run but found that there was another man on his way to intercept his retreat.

"I can't see! I can't see...!" Naomi yelled in a panic. The three shields above her were still intact. The silvery sand only blinded her. It didn't cause her any damage.

The woman, who had blinded Naomi, equipped a karambit she had stashed behind her back. She was now about to slash Naomi's throat.

A flash of light and a loud clang was heard.

"Aahhh...!!" The woman cried in pain. Her hand which was holding the karambit was smashed aside.

Jack had made a fast two-slashing motion. First hitting the karambit before moving forward and slamming the woman's wrist using his wrench.

"Naomi, stay still!" Jack commanded. He pulled Naomi to his back. It would be difficult to protect her if she started running around carelessly.

The two men from earlier had returned.

"Argghh...! He broke my arm...!" The woman cried to the two.

Jack's strength was no joke. In the outside world, everyone was protected with a game body. The condition here seemed to more closely resemble their past real world. There was a possibility of injury.

"You a*shole!" One of the men scolded. He was wielding a nunchaku. His friend swung his wooden bat.

Jack's wrench slashed with deadly precision, striking the nunchaku and bat before they arrived. With his Sword's Heart, Jack was able to treat almost everything in his hand as if a sword. Too bad his mana manipulation was sealed. Otherwise, his slashes would have been much more devastating.

Even so, the two men's attacks were repelled. Their hands trembled from the collisions. Their strength was not comparable to Jack's.

The other four enemies who were hiding outside the park arrived. Two went to assist the man who was blocking Glover's retreat while the remaining two came at Jack.

"Careful! This one is no ordinary guy," the enemy with the bat warned his newly arrived friends.

"Hah! Doesn't matter, he is just one person," One of the newly arrived people said. He was wielding a bola. He threw the bola at Jack while his other three friends took position on Jack's other three sides.

"Shit!" Jack cursed while deflecting the incoming bola using his wrench. He couldn't move freely as he needed to protect Naomi. But without his mana sense, he had trouble protecting her from enemies who came from his blind spots. Even with his sword art, it won't be effective if he couldn't see where the attacks were coming from.

Luckily, their friends didn't just stay idle seeing their ordeal.

"Get away from them, you scum!" Stefan yelled as he came brandishing his wooden bat. He had followed Jack's instruction and ran to the side before flanking the enemy. The enemy holding the bola was startled to find someone coming at him from behind.

On the opposite side, Winson came swinging his nunchaku against one of the people who had surrounded Jack. Kramer followed behind him.

Dina and Kerry went to help Glover.

"You dare to trick us?!" The enemy holding the nunchaku said.

"You are one to talk!" Jack talked back as he used One-word Thrust.

The thrust was too fast and sudden for the man. It smashed right onto his face. He flew back with a painful yelp as one of the shields above him was shattered.

That attack caused the others to lose their nerves. The woman with the karambit had placed the weapon on her other arm. She was just about to join the fight when the man with the nunchaku fell next to her. She stopped then.

"Auugghh...," The man yelped on the ground. He was lucky that he was still somewhat protected by the game rules. Otherwise, his skull would have shattered from Jack's thrust.

Jack then moved in a circle around Naomi, slashing at the other enemies who tried to get close.

With them now catching the enemies in a bad position, it was the enemies who were in trouble. The battle continued as more enemies lost their shields. But they were not without casualty. Some from their side also lost shields. Glover, who had been ganged up on earlier, lost two shields. Luckily, he stayed alive until Kerry and Dina arrived.

The enemy with the bola was fending Stefan off by making a wide swing. Stefan was unable to approach since his weapon had a shorter range. This enemy was the leader. He still had all three shields on him.

This enemy leader was dejected. He thought they had found easy prey. He never expected this prey to hide such a force. He was just about to issue a command to retreat when he felt a sharp impact on his head.

He doubled down as one shield above him broke.

"What...?" He was dizzy but he could still turn to where the attack had come from. A distance away, he saw an ethereal woman wielding a slingshot. This woman was currently firing another bullet.

This second bullet wasn't aimed at him, though. It struck Stefan who was still confused as to why his opponent suddenly fell by himself. Stefan also lost one shield.

On the other side, new enemies appeared. These enemies caught everyone by surprise.

'It's another group!' Jack thought. When the first enemy team laid a trap for them, there was another team that was stalking them. This third team only took action now that both teams were in chaos.

"I... I can see now," Naomi said.

"Good!" Jack exclaimed. Luckily, the blindness effect from the silvery sand was not permanent. Now, Naomi could defend herself, which meant he could move freely.

Just when he was about to go on the offensive, he saw a fast movement.

Someone came in barreling while the others didn't notice. This new person was holding a karambit. With precise strikes, he hit Winson and Kramer before hitting the two enemies they were fighting with. All lost one shield. One of the enemies Winson and Kramer were fighting against only had one shield left, so he died.

Chapter 1332: Staying Behind for the Others

'A martial art expert!' Jack thought after seeing the new guy's movement.

His movement was so smooth and fluid that he had arrived before Jack as if his assaults on those four were merely him passing them by.

Jack's wrench clashed with the karambit on the man's hand. Jack had a clear look on the assailant then. It was an elderly man with a half-bald head and a thick beard, and he was of the elven race.

The old elf attacked from different angles after his first attack was blocked. Jack followed suit with quick movements. His wrench turned into a blur as it clashed with the opponent's karambit.

There was a glint of surprise in the old elf's eyes. He had seen that Jack was also a martial artist before he attacked, but only after clashing directly that he knew what Jack had shown was just the tip of the iceberg.

Jack himself was concerned after the clash. This old elf was no ordinary martial artist. Although he had no mana sense at the moment, he could feel from the impact that the old elf was using mana manipulation. This opponent had no problem contesting his extraordinary strength with that ability.

While fighting the old elf, Jack studied the situation. Things were not good. This new group seemed to only have five members, but they had struck at a most opportune time. Everyone was caught off guard.

Out of the eight people from the first enemy team, three had died, and the rest lost either one or two shields.

Out of their own team, Glover had just fallen. He only had one shield left after getting ganged up on by the first team. The sudden ambush from the second enemy team shattered his remaining shield.

Considering Glover was a native, the poor orc had died for real. Jack felt sad for Glover even though he was not especially close to that orc.

The others were not doing so well. Most had also lost one shield. Dina had lost two.

"Retreat!" Jack yelled. "Spread out! Run...!!!"

Things were too chaotic right now. It was better to retreat first before regrouping.

The leader of the first enemy team also had the same thought. However, unlike Jack, he didn't call his teammates to retreat. He just went and retreated by himself, leaving his teammates who thought they should continue fighting this new group. Only the woman, whose arm Jack had broken, ran with that cowardly leader. She was at the edge of the battleground thus she saw her leader's retreat.

Stefan and the others followed Jack's command. They immediately ran in different directions.

When one of the members of the second enemy team, an ethereal, wanted to chase after the fleeing ones. Jack ran to that ethereal's side. That ethereal was startled by Jack's speed. He stabbed the spear in his hand, only to have it smashed to the side by Jack's wrench. In one fluid motion, the wrench returned and struck his head. He was sent tumbling to the ground with one fewer shield above him.

Unfortunately, Jack couldn't be at different places at the same time. Another person was also chasing, and he caught up to Dina. Jack felt helpless as he saw the girl get killed.

"Behind you!" Jack heard Peniel's warning. Peniel might be in her secret dimension, but she had a view of Jack's surroundings.

Jack swiveled back just as the old elf came at him again. Rapid punches assailed Jack while Jack used his sword art to defend. With only one hand, Jack couldn't fully unleash the power of Formless Flowing Sword Style.

The old elf seemed to be an experienced martial artist, as he quickly identified the flaw in Jack's art. He frequently shifted to Jack's off-hand side as he made his assaults.

Another factor that caused Jack a disadvantage in the fight was that he was constantly surveying his surroundings. He would rush over if he saw an enemy trying to chase his teammates. He stayed behind and dealt with these people to let the others retreat safely.

The others weren't aware that Jack stayed behind. Once they heard Jack's command, they immediately ran. They didn't look back. They thought Jack was also running the same as them.

Jack did so intentionally. He believed in his speed. He could retreat later. He had to make sure the others were safe first.

Another thing that took Jack's attention was the ethereal woman with the slingshot. This woman had been stealing a lot of shots from afar. Her shots were very accurate. One thing Jack was relieved of was that this woman didn't chase after the fleeing ones. She continued to take out only the ones who were still battling on the battlefield, which were mostly from the first enemy team.

With a ranged opponent who could shoot him at any time, Jack was unable to fully focus. He won't be so concerned if he still had his mana sense. Since he didn't, he had to always keep an eye on this ethereal woman.

The old elf was aware of this. He always positioned himself to attack Jack from the opposing side of the woman. This caused Jack more difficulty in fending off his attacks.

Even though the situation favored the old elf, he was also greatly astonished. He didn't believe even with so many advantages, he still couldn't score a clean hit on this youngster. The three shields above Jack were still intact. Jack was just too damn fast.

The old elf also couldn't help but admire Jack's swordsmanship. The way Jack used his wrench was as if an extremely experienced swordsman. Something that was usually attained only by a practitioner who had spent decades using a sword as a weapon. Jack was swinging the wrench with ease and accuracy as if it was part of his body.

'Luckily, the kid cannot manipulate mana. Otherwise, this will be big trouble,' the old elf thought.

Almost all the remaining people from the first enemy team had been killed. Jack figured it was time to leave. The time he bought the others should have allowed them to reach safety. If he stayed any longer, his situation would become more troublesome when all five members of the second team focused their attention on him.

But when he was about to leave, the old elf's movements turned peculiar. He was as if falling to the ground but suddenly rose back with strange movements. His head, fists, and legs came attacking from weird angles. Jack almost couldn't defend himself against this barrage of attacks.

"Dru... Drunken fist...!" Jack identified the martial art the old elf was currently using.

While Jack was taken aback by the sudden change in his opponent's fighting style, the slingshot bullet from the ethereal woman slipped through Jack's defense and hit his torso.

One of the three shields above Jack broke apart.

Chapter 1333: The Sword's Heart

"Ugh...!" Jack felt a sharp pain on his side where the slingshot bullet hit.

Jack couldn't afford to succumb to the pain, though, because the old elf was coming again with his drunken fist. His movements were all weird and unpredictable.

Jack had been taken aback when the old elf suddenly changed his fighting style. However, he was ready for it now. His wrench slashed and repelled all the assaults.

It was the old elf who was surprised. "You... You know my moves...?"

"Hehe," Jack just grinned for a reply.

He had seen this martial art in the past when he studied at his grandfather's martial school. Domon knew this art but he was not proficient in it. Jack begged Domon to use this martial art when sparring with him because he just watched a movie showcasing this style and was fascinated by it. Domon instead invited a friend who was an expert with this style and had him play with Jack for some time.

It was a long time ago but all the moves came back to Jack now. With his current level of martial art, he had no trouble dealing with this style. That was, of course, if he was allowed to focus on it.

After getting hit one time, Jack had tasked Peniel to pay attention to the ethereal woman with the slingshot. She warned Jack when the ethereal woman took a shot. Jack ducked just as another slingshot bullet zipped by.

The old elf didn't let the chance go. He resumed attacking. But this time, his style changed again. His two hands were up high while his index fingers were stretched out forming hooks. These hook-like fingers attacked as if whips. His assaults turned even more aggressive in this manner.

"The heck, man... You can also do praying mantis style?" Jack uttered in surprise.

Jack's slashes were faster, but the mantis-style fingers blocked the slashes by diverting them away before whipping back with nasty counterattacks. Jack was having trouble keeping up.

He also kept on moving around to not become an easy target for the slingshot lady.

All of a sudden, he found himself surrounded. Three more opponents blocked his sides and rear. All the ones from the first enemy team had either died or fled.

"Give it up, kid. It's over," the old elf said. "I admit you are something, but you won't win against us all."

"I still have two shields, geezer," Jack talked back.

"Hmph! So be it! Attack!" All of them attacked at the same time.

Jack saw the ethereal woman pull her slingshot again. The situation was indeed not good, but he somehow felt calm instead. All his friends had fled, he no longer had to worry about them. He had been thinking about escaping himself, but maybe he shouldn't.

The calm brought clarity into his mind. Somehow, a part of the mantra from the sword's heart Arthur taught him echoed in his thought.

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...Everything I see, I cut,

Everything I hear, I cut,

Everything I smell, I cut,

Everything I taste, I cut,

Everything I feel, I cut,

I am a sword, as pure and clear as a shining light,

Cutting across all existence, there is nothing that I cannot cut...

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The slingshot's bullet which had been traveling with incredible speed, crashed into the wrench that was suddenly in its way.

This shocked the old elf. Jack wasn't even looking at the bullet. His hand just went in a precise way that hit the speeding bullet.

'Does this kid sense mana?' He thought.

He didn't stop his movements though. His two mantis-like hooks whipped at Jack, while his other three partners attacked from the other three directions. Yet, his mana sense suddenly blared intensively.

At the same time, the wrench in Jack's hand moved. It was a series of flashes, and all four that surrounded Jack fell backward.

The three who had attacked from Jack's flanks all lost a single shield. Somehow, Jack's slashes accurately struck their heads before their attacks hit Jack. They were reeling back with massive headaches without knowing what exactly had happened.

The old elf was also forced back. His mana sense had saved him at the last instant. He had blocked the slash with his arms, thus he didn't lose any shield. But he did feel as if his arms had been cut clean. If what Jack held was a real sword, perhaps that would have happened.

The ethereal woman fired again, but it was again stopped by Jack's slash. Jack didn't even move.

The old elf understood then. Jack wasn't using mana sense. Instead, his hand that held the wrench reacted in a way that followed his instinct. Any motion caught by his sight, any noise by his hearing, any smell, or vibration, or even the sense of danger he felt, his hand reacted accordingly, cutting all that were considered as menaces.

"You... How can your swordsmanship reach such a level...?" The old elf asked. "It's not possible for someone as young as you to attain such a mastery..."

In his mind, the old elf added, 'No, not even old practitioners reached such a level... In all my life, I have only met one person with this kind of swordplay...'

"Hehe, give it up, geezer. It's over. You won't win against me," Jack said.

The old elf was fuming. Jack was returning his words to him.

"Forget it, use it!" the old elf shouted.

"Huh? Use what?" Jack asked.

It was the old elf's comrades who answered, "Why didn't you use yours?"

"Fool! He is not someone we can defeat in a normal way," the old elf scolded. "Fine, I will use mine!"

The old elf took out a small black ball. Jack wasn't sure what it was but he didn't think he wanted to find out, so he was planning to lunge at the old elf.

But before Jack did that, a series of loud honks drew his attention. He still had the time to think that he hadn't heard such a sound for a quite long while.

Everyone turned in the direction of the honks. Out of the street, a speeding car came hurtling into the park. This car was coming straight at them.

Chapter 1334: Road Rage

"What the...," Jack was unsure what to think. It was a long time ago since he saw a functioning car.

The car was heading straight at them. Everyone forgot about killing each other and ran out of the car's way, including Jack.

But Jack then noticed the one behind the wheel. It was Stefan!

Naomi was riding shotgun. Her head was out of the glassless window. She was calling at Jack, "Hop in...!!"

Jack saw that the car's back doors' windows also had no glass. He ran toward it and dove in headfirst.

Stefan originally wanted to slow down when Jack approached, but the fellow went in at full speed. Jack was already inside the vehicle before he knew it. He was amazed at both the guy's speed and precision.

"Where the hell do you get this car...?" Jack asked after he was in.

No one answered his question because suddenly two treants appeared in front of them.

"F*ck...!!" Stefan cursed.

He made a sharp turn to avoid the treants, they were too close. Even though he didn't crash into them, the woody arms from one of the treants whipped down and struck the car's hood. It tore the hood off with one swing, turning the car into a convertible.

"Damn it to hell...!" Stefan shouted as he saw the other treant had run to their side when they were dodging the first one. This treant was also swinging its arms at them.

"Keep going!" Jack shouted. With the hood gone, he could stand up from the back seat.

Using One-word Slash, his wrench struck the treant's flailing arms. Despite no boost from active or passive skills, the collision between Jack's sword art and the treant still showed that it was the treant who lost the engagement.

The treants were much slower than the car. Now that they had driven past them, they should be safe. However, Jack heard Naomi shout in an alarmed tone, "What is that guy doing...?!"

Jack turned in the direction of Naomi's gaze and saw one of the old elf's comrades, who was an ethereal race. The ethereal was doing a stance while chasing them. His two hands were clasped together and glowing.

"That... That is Ki Blast...!" Jack exclaimed.

It was indeed the signature skill of a battle monk. The energy blast headed to them. Jack hurriedly duck back into the seats and held tight while Stefan hit on the gas.

The sudden speed boost allowed the car to avoid a direct impact with the energy blast. The blast hit its left tail light. The impact caused the car to jerk a little but was otherwise unharmed. Stefan continued driving the car out of the park and away following the street.

"Motherf*cker...!!" The ethereal, who had just unleashed the Ki Blast, cursed. "We wasted our skill-free tool for nothing!"

"Never mind, we took out quite a lot of competitors," the old elf uttered.

The ethereal woman who used the slingshot came to them. "One team is almost eradicated. Another is split and most of its members are wounded. We just have to deal with the last remaining team. Then we can go our own way."

"I think we still need to work together to deal with that one guy," the old elf said. "You all saw how he fought all of us just now. If we didn't use our tool, I don't think we can win."

"Even for you, old Freddie?" The battle monk said. "I thought our reigning champion once boasted he won't lose as long as it is a one-on-one fight."

"Hmph! Against you lot, that is. I've never said I'm the best martial artist," Freddie returned.

"So... Should we focus on that guy first before we search for the last team?" The ethereal woman asked.

Freddie nodded. He turned to the battle monk and uttered, "Finn, go take the truck! I want to save it for the last team but I think taking that kid out is now a priority."

"On it," Finn said.

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"How did those people use skill and spell? I thought our abilities are sealed here?" Stefan asked.

"Eyes on the road!" Naomi warned. Lots of obstacles were on the road like broken vehicles and stuff, so Stefan had to constantly avoid them.

"Those people must have used some kind of a tool," Jack said. Remembering the small black ball the old martial artist was holding before Stefan came charging with this car.

"Aglea did say there are some tools we can find here," Naomi said.

"Yeah. Like this car. Where the hell do you find it?" Jack asked.

"Accidentally," Stefan answered. "I was running and then saw this car is in good condition. I entered it to hide. Then I saw it has a key in its ignition, so I tried turning it."

"I was with him when we ran," Naomi said. "We then realized that you are not with us. You are pretty close to us during the fight, so I think it is weird if you didn't run together with us."

"Yeah. I figured maybe when we ran, you stayed behind to cover us," Stefan said.

"I am the one who figured that!" Naomi exclaimed.

"Okay, okay. So, when I found that this car is usable, we use it to rush to your help," Stefan said.

"Now, this is what good friends are about," Jack clasped the two. "Where are the others?"

"I don't know. Everyone just ran in different directions," Stefan said.

Jack was worried about Kramer. But back then when everyone started running, he saw Kramer was with Winson, so at least the boy wasn't alone.

"Maybe if we drive around while honking, we can get their attention," Stefan added.

"We can also get the attention of our enemies," Naomi said.

"I think the only working car cruising on a street in an apocalypse world is for sure already drawing attention, don't you think?" Stefan returned.

"Uh... I will have to disagree with you about that thing you said about the only working car," Jack said.

"Why do you say that?" Stefan asked. He then saw from the rearview mirror. His eyes went wide.

The sound of a couple of crashes was heard from behind. Naomi looked back and her eyes also turned wide.

Behind them, a gigantic truck was chasing them at top speed. With its titanic frame, it just smashed through all the obstacles that were on the street. The truck was now letting out a menacing honk as it drew near.

Chapter 1335: Car Chase

"Hit the gas! Hit the gas!" Naomi yelled.

"I'm hitting the gas!" Stefan yelled back. "I'm going as fast as I can! I don't think this piece of junk is made for racing."

The truck was gaining at them. Despite its bigger size, the truck's speed was not less than the car they were on. Since it didn't need to avoid obstacles, it could continue going straight. All the obstacles it barreled through didn't even slow it down, while their car had to swerve left and right to avoid hitting stuff. Thus, the distance between the two vehicles continued to shorten.

Due to constantly going at top speed, their car ended up scrapping the obstacles a few times. One time they even crashed into a broken trolley. Luckily, it caused no damage to their car and the car could continue to run.

"Where the hell do you learn how to drive? Gran Tur*sno?!" Naomi complained.

"Hey, that's a good racing simulation! I also learn how to drive from there," Jack uttered.

"Is this the time to discuss that?! And I didn't learn how to drive from a racing game!!" Stefan yelled and bumped into a ruined car by the side of the road.

"Drive properly!!" Naomi yelled.

"How about you take the wheel!" Stefan yelled back. "If you willingly go into a car with someone else on the wheel, you accept that you put your life in that person's hand! If you don't like it, you can either drive yourself or jump the hell out...!!"

"Wow... Never peg you to be so fierce," Jack remarked.

"Just... drive," Naomi uttered.

A loud honk was heard again. It sounded very close now. Jack looked back and saw the truck is drawing nearer. He could even see the person behind the steering wheel. It was the ethereal who shot their car using Ki Blast earlier.

"Make turns! That oversize truck should have less maneuverability," Jack uttered when they were coming onto an intersection.

Stefan first turned the wheel in one direction, but he then spun the steering wheel hard in the opposite direction while pulling the hand brake. The car made a screeching sound as it swerved hard, leaving tire marks on the ground.

"Dude! Did you just drift?!" Jack exclaimed.

"Hehe, I was called Takumi when I street raced during high school," Stefan uttered.

"It's not the time to be showing off!" Naomi scolded. "And what are you doing street racing during high school? That's not something to be proud of...!"

Jack looked back and saw the truck turning. As he expected, the truck had to slow down to make the turn. Otherwise, its heavy frame might cause it to tip over due to making a sharp turn at high speed.

This allowed them to put a little distance again.

"It's working. Make more turns!" Jack told Stefan.

Stefan did another drift at the next intersection. This time, it was not so smooth, he ended up bumping the car's rear onto a lamppost.

"Stop trying to show off...!!" Naomi slapped Stefan's arm.

"Look! Stairs!" Jack pointed. There was a wide flight of stairs that brought them to the plaza below before connecting to another street. "I bet that truck will not dare to go down those stairs!"

"Put on your seat belt...!" Stefan said. He then turned toward that flight of stairs.

"Crap!" Naomi put on her seat belt. Jack was looking for his at the back only to find that the back seat had none.

"F*ck! What kind of car is this? Why is there no seat belt on the back seats?" Jack cursed.

"Hold on tight...!!!" Stefan exclaimed.

He drove the car down those stairs. It bumped and rocked all the way down. Jack had lay flat on the rear seat while holding something under the seat.

With a loud thump, the car finally arrived at the plaza below. The three looked up, expecting to see the truck's driver stop and go look for another way down. Instead, the massive truck came barreling down the stairs as well. Its wide frame was just enough to fit the stair's width.

"Sweet sister, that driver is crazy...!" Stefan said and hit the gas again.

The truck's heaviness caused it to go down the stairs much faster than Stefan's small car. Its front tires slammed onto the plaza's stone pavement just as Stefan's car sped away from there.

"That truck is unrealistically durable," Jack uttered. "It should have broken to pieces doing that crazy stunt!"

"Any more smart ideas, genius?" Stefan said to Jack.

"How about you think of one, prick!" Jack talked back.

"More driving, less talking!" Naomi again slapped Stefan's arm.

They continued driving, making turns as much as possible. However, they found fewer turns in the neighborhood they were now in. This allowed the truck to slowly catch up to them again.

The area they were in was filled with mid-rise buildings. These buildings had narrow alleys in between them. Jack had been looking at these alleys as they drove past.

"At the next intersection, go left!" Jack told Stefan.

"Why?" Stefan asked.

"Just do it! No time to explain," Jack said.

Stefan looked in the rearview mirror. The truck was gaining up on them. He would still have to turn if he wanted to add some distance to that truck.

So, he performed drifting again, trying to maintain the car's speed while turning.

"Go left again," Jack said.

"Are we going to go in a circle?" Stefan asked.

"Just turn!!" Jack yelled when they were close to the turning point.

Stefan turned the wheel.

Jack leaned forward so he came up between Stefan and Naomi. He pointed forward. "Now, pay attention! On the third alley, go into it."

"What? Those alleys are narrow!" Stefan exclaimed.

"Your car can still fit inside," Jack said.

"What if there are obstacles inside the alley?" Naomi asked. "We will be stuck inside then."

"There isn't, I've watched those alleys when we passed them by from the opposite sides," Jack said. "The number three alley is clean."

Stefan looked in the rearview mirror. The truck was just done turning and was now picking up speed again.

"F*ck it!" Stefan cursed. He slowed the car down and turned after coming up to the alley Jack mentioned. Now that they were in front of it, they saw that Jack was right. This alley was clear of any obstacles.

Stefan hit the gas and the car pierced into the alley. The width was just enough for the car to pass through. Because the car went through the alley at high speed, Stefan had trouble keeping the car straight. It scrapped the walls of the alley several times, breaking the car's side-view mirrors.

Jack looked back and saw the truck stopped at the alley's entrance. It was too large to follow into this alley.

Chapter 1336: Running Out of Gas

Jack's eyes stayed on the truck. Which direction they went next would depend on which direction that truck decided to go.

Jack saw the truck make a U-turn and back to where it came from. It probably wanted to circle back to the street on the other side of this alley to resume its chase. Continuing forward might have a left turn to that street as well, or there might not be a left turn. The truck driver didn't want to take the risk, so he did the U-turn.

Seeing that, Jack told Stefan, "Turn right after coming out of the alley!"

This time, Stefan didn't argue. He followed the instruction.

They came out to the street they previously were. By turning right, they were going in the direction they came from. Since the obstacles had been cleared by the truck when they passed this street earlier, Stefan could just go straight at high speed. This effectively put more distance between them and the truck.

They made another turn before the truck came back to the same street. This way, the truck wouldn't know which turn they made. Thus, not knowing which way they went.

They continued to drive further and further, in a general direction that was away from where they lost the monster truck.

After thinking that they were safe, Stefan asked, "Where should we go?"

"Back to where we came from. We need to find the others," Jack said.

"Do you know which way?" Stefan asked.

"In that direction," Jack pointed. There was no sun up in the sky to gauge the North or South, but Jack had been keeping track of the direction from where they came ever since he entered this car. His plan was always to return.

Stefan drove the car in the direction Jack pointed.

"What if the friends of that truck driver are still back in that place?" Naomi asked. "There are five of them, right?"

"I don't think that truck driver comes at us alone," Jack said. "The other four should be at the back of the truck."

"Why do you think so?" Stefan asked.

"Because if that driver is alone. He won't be able to do anything even if he catches up to us. He won't be able to win against me alone."

Both Naomi and Stefan were speechless at Jack's declaration of confidence.

"You do remember they can use their skills and spells, don't you?" Naomi asked. "Remember the treants and the Ki Blast?"

"They did that using a tool. I don't think the tool unsealed their skills completely. Otherwise, they would have used that tool from the start. I think it only let them use skills for a short duration or maybe even only one-time skill usage."

"They are very lucky to find those tools so early. It is not even one day yet since this battle royale game started," Stefan said.

"I don't think it has anything to do with luck," Jack said.

"What do you mean?" Naomi asked.

"Remember Aglea said that the players who die in this game will be sent to what she called the nursery hall? Where those players are leveled up to rejoin the game again? I think those five are the participants from previous games, or maybe even the winners of the previous games."

"That makes sense...," Naomi said. "That's how they know about the tools and probably they started searching for those tools the moment this battle royale game started."

Jack nodded.

"But... If they were the past participants, why are there only five of them?" Stefan asked. "If they are only five, that means they lost every member during the sacrificial round. Wouldn't that be odd? They should have been more experienced in saving their comrades during the sacrificial round if they had gone through this game before."

"Perhaps they split up. Maybe the ones we saw are only half the team," Naomi guessed.

"In that case, we need to be careful. We might stumble into the second half of their team even if we go away from where that truck was," Jack said.

"Or the fourth team," Stefan reminded.

"Oh, I do hope we stumble into the fourth team. My friend should be on that team," Jack said.

"Yeah, yeah. The super beautiful woman, right?" Stefan said mockingly.

"If she still survives," Naomi said.

"She still," Jack said confidently.

The car continued to head in the direction Jack pointed. But instead of going straight in that direction, they took a rather roundabout way, one that was away from the last location of the truck. This was so it was more unlikely for them to accidentally stumble onto that truck.

"Anyway, how big is this place? We have been driving for more than an hour. This place is huge," Naomi uttered.

"It will shrink as time passed. Maybe it is big so we can get used to the place before we encounter the other teams," Jack said.

"Then how come we stumble into two teams just a few hours since the game started?" Stefan asked.

"Uh... Bad luck I suppose...?" Jack replied. "But that also means the starting points for all four teams are random rather than being intentionally placed far away from each other. Considering how big this place is, three teams won't meet each other so fast if it was arranged that way. We must have spawned nearby those two teams. So, yeah... Bad luck..."

Beeping sounds drew their attention. They also saw an indicator on the car dashboard that started blinking.

"Shit! We are low on gas," Stefan informed.

"This car runs on gas?" Jack asked.

"What do you think it runs on?" Naomi gave Jack a weird look.

"Uh... Game power?" Jack answered.

"We have to find fuel if we want to continue using this car," Stefan said.

"I remember seeing a fuel station a while back," Jack informed.

"I also remember it looks deserted," Stefan returned.

"Do you have a better idea where to look for fuel then, smart ass?" Jack asked.

"Let's go there. It's as better a place as any to start looking," Naomi said.

Stefan didn't argue. He turned the car around and traced the road they passed earlier.

"There!" Jack shouted.

Stefan also saw the fuel station. He drove the car there and parked right beside one of the pumps. The three came down the car and Stefan went and checked the pump.

"I never expect to ever go on a road trip in a car again. It's a nice feeling... Well, when we are not being chased by a monster truck, of course," Naomi said. "Do you think we can bring this car to the outside world?"

"I don't think so. This place is separate from the outside world. This car is a pure creation of this pocket world, it can't be brought out. If this pocket world collapsed, everything not part of the outside world will be gone with it."

Jack was repeating what Peniel told him in his mind. Naomi just took his words at face value.

"Crap... There is no gas," Stefan, who was checking the pump, told them.

Chapter 1337: Convenience Store

There were other pumps. The three went and checked those other pumps, but their searches turned out fruitless. The pumps were all empty.

"Shit... Now, what should we do...?" Stefan asked.

"I'm going to head in there to take a look," Jack said, pointing to a convenience store next to the fuel station.

"What do you expect to find in there? Chips?" Stefan asked.

"We can't go much further without fuel. Plus, we can't find those tools that help us survive this game if we continued traveling on wheels. That convenience store is as good a place as any to start searching."

"I agree, let's go in there," Naomi said.

Stefan decided to stay outside with the car and keep watch just in case that monster truck passed by.

Inside the convenience store, everything was a mess. Most of the shelves were empty. The ones that still had few items on them were mostly broken stuff or rotten food.

"How do we recognize one of these tools Aglea mentioned?" Naomi asked. She was holding a flashlight that was displayed on one of the shelves. The flashlight was one of the items that seemed to be in good condition. However, it was not working when she tried to turn it on. "I mean, we can't use our Inspect skill. We might pass them by without knowing that they were useful tools."

"Well, I have seen one of these tools. It looks like a small black ball," Jack said. "But yeah. If I haven't seen those people use this ball before, I will also just consider it a useless thing even if I see it."

"So? Should we just take everything that looks suspicious?" Naomi asked.

"I don't know. Let's just try to find one first," Jack said.

Jack saw a first aid box that was fixed on the wall. He approached the box and opened it. Inside, there was an adhesive bandage and several medicinal bottles. He wondered if these things could be used.

He grabbed the bottles. He couldn't take things out of his inventory system, and he also couldn't put things in. If he wanted to bring these things with him, he had to carry them in a bag.

He opened one of the bottles. It was empty. He supposed it was useless then. There was no point in bringing it. He opened all of the bottles and found that they were all the same. He put the bottles back into the first aid box and took the adhesive bandage.

The moment his hand touched the bandage, a series of texts popped up above it.

*

Bandage

Recover one shield.

*

"Whoa!" Jack cried.

Naomi came running, thinking that Jack had encountered trouble. "What's wrong?" She asked.

"... You don't see this?" Jack asked.

"See what?" Naomi gave Jack a confused expression.

"Try holding this," Jack gave Naomi the adhesive bandage.

"Wow!" It was Naomi who now cried out after the bandage was in her hand.

Now that Jack was no longer holding the bandage, he also could no longer see the description texts.

"This is one of the tools," Naomi uttered.

"Yeah," Jack said. "Apparently, we have to touch these tools to know that they can be used. Okay, let's go around and start touching things."

"Why do you have to make it sound so dirty?" Naomi complained.

"Oh, one more thing. Keep that bandage for Stefan," Jack said.

Naomi looked at the adhesive bandage in her hand. Both she and Jack had lost one shield. This bandage is useful to them. But Jack was right, Stefan had lost two shields during the fight earlier. He only had one shield left. He needed this bandage more than them.

Naomi was not a selfish person, so she nodded.

The two continued to look around the place. Now that they knew how to identify a tool, they went back to the shelves and started touching all the things there.

"Hey. These are just junk, but we can use it to store stuff," Jack said and handed Naomi a small backpack. He himself wore a fanny pack. Both were things he picked up from the floor

Naomi accepted it and placed the adhesive bandage into the bag. He then wore the backpack on her back before continuing to examine the goods on the shelves.

Jack couldn't find anything useful on the shelves on his side, so he went to the counter to see if he could find anything there.

He rummaged through the place. He even opened the cabinets under the counter. Most were empty. The ones that had something in them mostly contained junk. Nothing was triggered when Jack touched them.

He had given up on finding anything useful when he opened the last cabinet, then he saw the thing inside. There was only one thing inside.

'Oh... Please be what I hope it is,' Jack said in his mind and touched the thing.

Naomi had scoured most of the things on the remaining shelves of the convenience store, which weren't many. She even touched the things scattered on the floor. She only found one more tool aside from the

adhesive bandage Jack gave her. She was just about to show Jack the item when Jack came to her holding something in his hand.

"Is that what I think it is?" Naomi asked.

"Yeah, I got texts above this thing," Jack said. He was holding a fuel canister. "The texts say this canister holds twenty liters of fuel that can be used on any vehicle."

"Great! We can continue using the car then," Naomi celebrated. "How long do you think that fuel will last us?"

"I'm not sure if the consumption rate here followed our real-world rule, but I would say at least three to five hours, I think. Do you find anything?"

"Yeah. This," Naomi showed Jack a small shield-shaped badge.

"What does it do?" Jack asked.

"If I use it, it will protect my shields from getting broken for five seconds," Naomi answered.

"An invulnerability item. Cool! You keep it then," Jack said. "Let's leave. I don't think there are any more tools here."

"Yeah. Seemed like these tools are rarer than we think. Do you want to go check the other buildings?"

"Nah... Now that we have the fuel. It's better if we resume our way back. The longer it is, the more likely the others have moved away from where we split up."

Naomi nodded. The two then walked out of the convenience store.

Chapter 1338: Intercepted

Stefan was inside the car waiting for them. "Found anything?" He asked when he saw the two come out of the convenience store.

Jack lifted the fuel canister in his hand.

"Is that... Are you...?" Stefan was unable to complete his question.

"Yep. Pop up the fuel tank door," Jack answered.

"Yes!" Stefan exclaimed. He was very happy they could continue using this car. He had been sitting on the driver's seat savoring the feel. He didn't know when he would be able to drive a car again after this.

He pulled the lever underneath the seat that opened the fuel tank door. Jack then poured the fuel into the tank.

"Huh," Jack remarked after finishing pouring. "The texts are gone once the fuel is gone. Now this canister is just a junk item."

"What texts?" Stefan asked.

"Touch this and you can see for yourself," Naomi handed Stefan the adhesive bandage.

"Whoa!" Stefan had the same reaction as Jack.

"Use it," Naomi said. "You only have one shield left."

"Are you two sure?" Stefan asked. This item was found by Jack and Naomi, after all. "You two also have a broken shield."

"We can take two more hits. You die if you get hit once. Do you want to die?" Jack asked.

"Go ahead," Naomi said. "I have something else to protect me."

With the two's blessing, Stefan used the item. It was the same as using an item outside this dimension, it was thought-activated.

Fragments of shield appeared above Stefan's head. Those pieces were then assembled and formed a full shield. Stefan now had two shields floating above him.

"Okay, let's resume our journey," Jack said.

"Hop on!" Stefan said. He was already back in front of the steering wheel.

"Um... Can I drive this time?" Jack asked.

"Nope," Stefan replied.

"Sigh... Okay, then I sit shotgun this time."

"Nope," Naomi also gave the same reply. She was already sitting in the front passenger seat.

Jack grumbled before jumping onto the back seat.

Stefan started the engine. He pressed the honk button and made two loud honking sounds before the car started moving.

Naomi slapped Stefan's arm. "Are you trying to tell the enemies where we are? That monster truck can be nearby!" She scolded.

"Oops, my bad!" Stefan apologized. He got carried away because he could still drive.

He stepped on the gas hard and the car sped forward. If anyone heard his honking, they should be away already by the time those people came.

They continued going in the direction Jack pointed, but it turned out there was no road going in that direction. If they wanted to continue going straight, they had to ditch the car and walk on foot. They weren't willing to. So, they went on a roundabout way.

After another hour of driving, they came to an area that seemed to be a residential complex. Like the other places in this pocket world, everything was in ruin, as if a great battle had occurred here a long time ago.

Suddenly, Jack yelled, "Stop! Stop!!!"

They had been cruising at a decent speed, so Stefan wasn't able to respond fast enough when Jack started yelling. He was still confused as to why Jack asked him to stop when he heard loud popping

sounds, four times. He knew what those sounds were the instant they entered his ears. They were the sound of tire blowouts.

Stefan was an experienced driver. He knew what to do when this kind of thing happened, which was not to hit the brakes. Doing so would cause him to lose control of the car. He instead stepped on the accelerator a bit before slowly letting go. His car continued onward stably.

However, the tire blowouts were not their only predicament as a wall of ice was suddenly erected in front of them.

The car smashed into the ice wall. The collision was rather powerful because the car was still speedy. Neither Stefan nor Naomi wore seatbelts. They were thrown forward and crashed into the car's windshield before slamming into the ice wall.

Jack had been ready ever since he yelled for Stefan to stop the car. The reason he yelled was that he had spotted a spike strip on the road. The one that was usually used by the police to stop speeding vehicles. He only spotted it by accident. His eyes were originally not on the road. He was instead surveying the surroundings for movements in case an enemy was hiding nearby. That's why he was a little late when he warned Stefan.

When he saw the ice wall appearing, he stood up on the rear seat. The car slamming into the ice wall produced a strong momentum which he used to perform a long jump. The force sent him flying over the ice wall. He somersaulted above the wall before landing on the other side.

As he landed, he also caught movements coming from his left and right. Several people ran out of the ruined houses beside the street and headed to him.

His wrench was ready in his hand. The earlier battle with the old elf's team had given him enlightenment on his sword's heart technique. He could be said to have reached the intermediate state. His expertise in sword control had gone up a notch.

Even without mana sense. He only needed a glance before his wrench moved to intercept all the incoming attacks.

The enemies felt as if Jack only made one swing, but his arm had actually performed several complex movements that accurately struck their weapons. They felt a strong impact that caused them to take several steps back.

Jack saw four opponents. Were these four the other half of the old elf's team? Either way, Jack couldn't risk them using tools on them. He had to reduce their number while they couldn't react.

All these four didn't have complete shields. Jack's eyes quickly identified one who only had one shield left. That person was his target. His extreme speed brought him in front of that person, who was an ethereal.

The ethereal was visibly startled when he found that Jack was already in front of him. Jack's wrench was lifted high, ready to strike as if a guillotine's blade.

Chapter 1339: The Fourth Team

Jack was about to execute the ethereal but he caught sight of an incoming attack. His wrench changed direction and a clang was heard when it collided with a flying stone.

The stone was fired from a slingshot, which was held by someone inside a sidecar of a motorcycle. This motorcycle was currently coming at high speed. Both the motorcycle's rider and the slingshot user were wearing full-face helmets.

The ethereal whom Jack almost executed was about to retaliate using his wooden bat, but the call from the motorcycle's rider stopped him.

This same voice also caused Jack to freeze.

"Everyone! Stopped fighting...!!" The female voice of the rider ordered.

She stopped the motorcycle and climbed down before she took off her helmet. Grace's beautiful face was seen then. She ran towards Jack.

"Grace! I finally find you. I know you are—!" Jack didn't finish his sentence, because Grace had rushed onto him and hugged him.

"Uh... Um... This is nice," Jack chuckled.

Grace let go of him and gave him a pouting face. She knocked on his head. "You, dummy! Next time listen, will you? You can't just rush into unknown places carelessly. Didn't I already tell you I have a bad feeling about the mist?!"

"Uh...yes... yes... It's my fault...," Jack kept on nodding as if a student who was being admonished by a teacher.

The others didn't know what to do about the situation. They were about to tear each other apart a moment ago. They now just stood there waiting for Grace to explain the situation.

Naomi and Stefan were sprawling on the ground next to the wrecked car. The ice wall had disappeared and they were also confused by the series of events.

"The most beautiful woman... Damn, that guy is not joking," Stefan muttered.

"Even as a woman, I must admit I also agree with that statement," Naomi said.

"Boss... Who is he...?" Aren't he with the ones who attacked us not long ago?" The ethereal asked Grace.

"No. He is a friend. He is not part of the team from before," Grace answered.

"Boss?" Jack asked.

"Yeah, she is our boss. I am her lieutenant," The one who was in the motorcycle's sidecar said. He had climbed out and was now walking toward them.

"This voice...," Jack uttered.

"Yeah, it's me," Spring Crown took off his helmet. "It's amusing, isn't it? Allies have become enemies and enemies have become allies. Speaking of which. Boss, although he is your boyfriend, he is from a

different team. The game is supposed to have us killing the ones from the other team. Are you not afraid something bad might happen if we get friendly with our enemies?"

"The enemies are those who have forced us into playing this sick game in the first place," Grace replied.

"I agree, boss... But we are still powerless against these beings who force this game onto us," Spring Crown said.

"By the way, your real boss is in my team," Jack told Spring Crown.

"What...?! Are you serious? You are not joking, right? Oh, I would have done anything to be on your team. To see the two of you working together. That would have been hilarious!"

"Uh... We are not exactly working together," Jack said.

"Where is he? I still can't believe he comes into this place. He must have gotten rather impatient. Ugh... Now, I'm not sure I want to be free of this place. I will get an earful when this is over."

"He ran off by himself once this battle royale game started. What a prick," Jack said.

"I won't argue with you about that," Spring Crown said.

"Forget about him. You said you thought us to be someone who attacked you earlier?" Jack asked Grace.

"Yes. We lost some people in the attack," Grace answered. "We have been laying traps around the place in case they return."

"You have wasted your traps on us then," Jack said.

"Yeah. You also owed us a car and two shields!" Stefan exclaimed. He was now looking at his wrecked car sadly.

The strong collision with the ice wall had taken out one of their shields. The ice wall must be one of those effects which Aglea said could deal damage to them aside from their weapons. Both Stefan and Naomi only had one shield left.

"I'm sorry. Here, for your shields," Grace said and handed them two adhesive bandages. "I can't do anything about your car, though."

Stefan was still sulking beside his car. Naomi accepted the bandages from Grace.

"I must say, you found a lot of tools in such a short time," Jack remarked.

"Spring Crown and I scoured the place. There happened to be quite a number of them as long as you pay attention," Grace said.

"I think no one can beat you two in terms of attentiveness," Jack said.

"I don't think so. I believe you have sharp eyes as well. You just didn't give what you see enough thought."

"You are just saying that to make me feel better."

"No, I'm being serious."

Spring Crown's eyes had been darting between Jack and Grace. He could see that he had practically been forgotten at this point.

"All right, folks. Let us clear the space a bit. Let these two lovebirds catch up with one another," Spring Crown announced.

"What lovebirds?!" A voice suddenly exclaimed.

Grace facepalmed once she heard the voice. Spring Crown, on the other hand, was grinning widely. He was very happy to hear the voice.

"You! How dare you stand so near to my dear?! Move away from her now!" An elven man in a priest's garment approached. He had been running from where Grace's motorcycle came from. He had been chasing the vehicle on foot.

"De... Dear...?" Jack was flabbergasted.

"Yes, I am Evan. Grace and I, we are a pair. You, sir, should be ashamed of yourself," Evan said.

"Is he on your team?" Jack asked Grace. "He is pissing me off. I can't promise I won't beat him."

"Is that a challenge, sir? Well then, your challenge is accepted! For my love, I challenge you to a duel to the death!" Evan brandished a shortsword. "Who wins will prove himself worthy of Grace's love!"

Chapter 1340: A Duel Over Love

Spring Crown was laughing his ass off with silent laughter by the side. Jack glanced at him annoyingly. That guy was obviously enjoying this.

Still, this Evan guy pissed him off even more.

"You won't blame me if I kill this clown, will you?" Jack asked Grace.

Grace just shrugged.

"Haha. I might be a priest, but I'm a master fencer before I was transmigrated into this world," Evan laughed. "Your overconfidence, sir, will be your ruin!"

"Right back at you, moron!" Jack exclaimed, but then he stopped. He had a feeling he had heard what he just said before, except he was the recipient. He couldn't quite remember when.

Spring Crown had been ushering everybody back to give the two some space. Not that he thought the fight would last long to need wide space. He just didn't want someone to accidentally block his view when the duel started.

"If you are so eager to die, I will fulfill your wish," Jack said.

"Both of us have two shields left. How poetic. This is fated. For after this duel, Grace will only have me to look at!" Evan declared.

"Can we start now? I find you even more annoying than John, and that is a testament," Jack said, brandishing his wrench.

"I am always ready," Evan adopted a fencing pose with his shortsword.

Spring Crown self-appointed himself as the referee. He came between the two and uttered, "Ready? No? Well, it doesn't matter. Let the duel begins!"

Jack walked over casually after Spring Crown's announcement. Evan was no martial artist. Jack could see from Evan's small movements in a glance. He might claim to be a fencer but the way he twirled the shortsword around while waiting for Jack to arrive also showed that he was not an expert swordsman.

"En Garde!" Evan shouted before he trusted the shortsword at Jack when Jack came into range.

With how Jack was walking casually toward Evan, everyone except those who knew Jack thought he was underestimating his opponent. They expected the shortsword to sink into Jack's body and showed him what it meant to be careless in combat.

Yet, the shortsword passed by Jack's body with just an inch between them. Jack had swiveled his body to the side just as the shortsword came. He did so by simply stepping one of his feet to the side. His intermediate sword's heart let him predict Evan's direction of thrust with perfect timing. He was not yet at Arthur's level where he could predict all attacks performed using swords but he was getting there.

Even when Evan had not yet processed the fact that his thrust had missed, Jack's wrench already came to the side of his head. The impact made him lose vision for a second. When he could see again, he felt that the world was spinning.

Then he felt a second hard impact on his head and he fell to the ground.

'I... I am dead...!' He thought. He couldn't see properly.

When he came to, he saw people crowding around him. "I'm not dead?" He asked.

He checked his shield. There was one left. "But... I was hit twice."

"He hit you the second time using his fist," Spring Crown informed. He then turned to Jack, "Why spare him?"

"Come on, dude. Do I have to kill him just for a quarrel over love? He is simply misguided. I'm only giving him a lesson," Jack replied.

"Ooh," Spring Crown grinned. "Did I just hear a confession?"

"Uh... I... You know what I mean!" Jack said.

Grace, who was standing by the side, had a reddened face. Stefan and Naomi were by her side. They were looking at her with teasing grins.

"Knock it off!" Grace told them.

"A gentleman knows it when he is beaten," Evan stood back up. He still felt a bit dizzy but he refused to look weak. "However, this doesn't mean I've given up. I lost today. I'll leave but I will return for my love!"

Everyone looked at each other with mixed feelings. They didn't know if they should applaud Evan for his persistence or if they should knock him back to the ground. And why was he talking as if he would be leaving them? Where would he go in this place? Did he want to separate from the team and be vulnerable just to appear cool?

Evan didn't give the others' expression any mind. He turned to Grace and said ardently, "My dear, it is not your fault we can't be together. It is mine, for I am too weak to protect you. You need someone who can keep you safe in this world. So goodbye, please don't cry. We both know I'm not what you need, and I will always love you."

"What the...," Jack made a surprised look. "Did you... Did he just quote the lyrics from Whitney Houston's song?"

"He does that a lot," Spring Crown nodded.

"Don't listen to them, my dear. These are my sincere words conjured straight from my loving heart," Evan told Grace, who was not even looking at him.

"I regret not landing the killing blow now," Jack said.

"Well, the guy is still within reach," Spring Crown offered.

Jack didn't take action. Evan might be annoying but not evil. Jack wasn't a cold-hearted man who killed just because he could. Furthermore, Evan said that he would be leaving.

Evan sheathed his shortsword. He said goodbye to everyone, who mostly didn't return the gesture. He then walked away from the others and... sat on the sidewalk.

"Uh... I thought you are leaving?" One of his team members asked.

"My heart has left," Evan answered. "My body will continue to accompany you, people, here. For I have considered you all my family. For what is more important than family? How can we not talk about family when family's all that we got?"

"F*ck me! He is quoting a movie soundtrack now," Jack uttered. "And the sentences were not even in sync. Stop trying to force song lyrics into your speech!"

Spring Crown nodded in agreement by the side.