

World Mall 151

Chapter 151 Reality

"What the heck did you do?!" Kanaria shouted while holding her pistol as if she wanted to kill the person before her. However, several people were holding her, preventing her from doing such a thing.

Melody was also angry, but she had to stay by Jay's side. In the meantime, she kept trying to contact Clovis but never got connected. Melody's face became pale as though she thought this was the end of Clovis.

All of them could feel their anger. How could they not? Clovis had done everything he could to contribute to the raid. Without him, they might not even survive.

But Nek, the captain of the shield team, simply walked away as if he didn't care about it.

The commander hadn't gone back yet since he had to return by foot after saving Clovis. Still, unlike Clovis, who couldn't be reached by any means, the commander had informed them through the radio that he would return.

There was a sign of disappointment when he knew that Clovis didn't have any response. He had no choice but to believe in Clovis at that time. But he must have miscalculated the condition of his body. He was still heavily injured from the fight against Tier 3 beasts, so it wouldn't be weird if Clovis ended up succumbing to his wounds.

While the majority of the people were sad after hearing the news, some were happy. The happiest one was none other than Ivan. There was only one thought in his mind. Now that Clovis has died, no one will be able to stop him anymore.

Nek simply left them. No matter what he did, his reputation would be destroyed. But it didn't really matter. He got the money he needed. A hundred thousand union dollars for killing a mere Tier 1 human was a huge sum of money.

When Kanaria saw his car moving away, she was gritting her teeth. The people felt that she didn't react as much, so some tried to move away.

Her body was shaking. Now that she couldn't release her anger, the tears started to come out of the corner of her eyes.

Once people saw those tears, they couldn't help but let her go. Kanaria simply dropped to her knees.

"This..." They didn't know what to say at this point. Everything was simply unfortunate. Even though they managed to survive, they didn't feel that good.

Kanaria couldn't help but cry. All the memories she had with Clovis flashed through her mind.

"Kanaria. Look at this!" Clovis held a package of the chicken nuggets. "Let's eat."

Or when he knocked her down in their sparring, Clovis said, "You are so flexible that it is going to be hard to catch you."

However, the one memory that hit her the most was when Clovis said, "By the way, when I'm not here. Jay will take care of the group. He is a rough guy, but please assist him. You don't have to worry about me. While I'm not strong, I'm not planning to die early."

Why? This was precisely why she was worried about him. Clovis had always put the group and all the members as his priority to the point where if someone had to fall, he would be the first. How could she not worry about him?

And finally, her biggest fear happened. She was heartbroken.

Now that he had left her, she didn't know what to do anymore.

When the crowd saw her state, they could only disperse with their heads hanging low. The members of the Silver Star team couldn't do anything about this. Even their captain, who valued Clovis highly, couldn't save him in that situation.

Melody gritted her teeth. Although she joined the group for the treatment of her younger brother, she had grown to like the group.

Clovis had always taken care of his people and would be at the very front whenever the group was in danger. Jay, who was following the order most of the time, might trust Clovis the most. Kanaria was always reliable in providing support.

The expedition was tiring and dangerous. However, the mood during the expedition was always warm and cozy, the reward was great, and the growth was exponential.

Melody knew that if it was this team, they could reach even higher. Even without Clovis's connection, they might reach a point where the group could get in touch with someone capable of treating her younger brother.

That was why she wanted to keep moving forward with the group. Sadly, the reality was different.

Clovis had gone. Normally, he would respond to assure them that he was fine. That was why they were convinced that Clovis had died on the battlefield.

Melody bit her lips while lowering her head, seeing Jay, who was still lying unconscious.

"Kanaria."

Melody's voice soon echoed in Kanaria's ears as the latter raised her head, finding Melody carrying Jay on her shoulder. "Let's go to the hospital."

Melody was indirectly implying that we shouldn't be too weak, we still had one more person to take care of.

Kanaria clenched her fists tight, her nails almost pierced the skin of her palm. But a word still escaped her mouth.

"Yes."

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In another city.

An old man was standing in front of a building. He looked thin and frail. Even passersby thought that he was harmless even though he suspiciously remained still in the middle of the night.

The building before him was a five-story building located in the middle of the city. While it was built no different than the buildings around it, its identity was a bit special. It was the branch of the assassin group that had been trying to kill Clovis this whole time, the Red Dagger.

The old man let out a long sigh.

"I have given you the warning, but it seems that you don't heed it." The old man placed his hand on the wall gently as if he didn't have any strength at all. He closed his eyes for a moment before muttering, "While I don't believe that my grandson will die so easily, you really need a punishment."

He opened his eyes and pressed his hands against the wall.

Bam!

In an instant, the building trembled as cracks appeared all over the building and showed a sign of crumbling.

Chapter 152 Angry

Bam!

A crack spread all over the building, making it look like it was about to collapse at any moment. Yet, there wasn't a single window that actually shattered as if the old man was able to control his strength to an absolute degree.

All of a sudden, a man came out of the window. He had a sword on his hand while shouting, "Who are you?!"

"I am just a simple old man," he replied with a face devoid of emotion.

"If you're not going to talk, then I'll make you talk!" The man disappeared into thin air.

The old man slowly raised his other hand, where the man suddenly appeared before him, the old man's hand capturing his head.

"!!!" The man widened his eyes in shock. "What? I'm a Tier 7 human, but..."

As a Tier 7 human, he had obviously fought against a Tier 8 human just to test his strength. However, a Tier 8 human was never this strong in his memory. In other words, the old man before him was beyond that.

There was only one man in his mind who would do such a thing. "You... You are... Michael Hac—!"

Before he finished his words, he felt a sharp pain in his head as the old man was trying to crush his skull. He drew his sword, trying to cut him. But the next thing he realized, his hand was actually flying into the air with the sword.

The man was shocked as he opened his mouth once again, trying to say something. Sadly, he didn't get a chance to even utter a single word before his head exploded, splashing blood everywhere.

"This is the first... You better pray that my grandson manages to survive, or I will destroy all of you." The old man lowered his body while placing his hand on the ground.

Boom!

There was a huge explosive sound across the city, alerting all the people inside. The ground even trembled as though there was an earthquake.

The high tier humans in the city couldn't help but realize that this was not an ordinary earthquake.

"What is going on?! Did someone fight inside the city?" The head of the police department in the city roared, ordering all his subordinates to check what was going on.

The sirens from all emergency responders filled the night as they traced the origin of that sound.

And the moment they arrived at the scene, they couldn't help but drop their jaws to the ground, not believing that something like this could happen.

"This is..." A police officer was standing at the edge of a sinkhole. Yes, instead of a crater, it was a sinkhole. It was so dark inside, showing how deep it was. Inside, there was nothing but rubble. It was possible that there were corpses as well. "What is happening here?"

The people were confused. Some thought this was not a natural sinkhole, but if that was the case, who actually caused it?

Only those who understood the darkness of society knew the meaning behind this sinkhole.

After all, they were the reasons why even a Tier 9 human like Michael Hacfield didn't do anything explicitly. Now that he didn't have any reason to hold back anymore, all of them understood the meaning behind this destruction. It was a message to all those people.

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Red Dagger Assassination Association.

A middle-aged man was calming himself down with a cigarette while reading the report. "That freaking old man is finally making his move?"

"It appears that there was an incident with his grandson. According to the report, someone attempted to kill his grandson by pushing off the truck while they were escaping from beasts."

"What? Then, he should kill that guy, not us. We have warned our people not to take any direct action against his grandson, right?" The middle-aged man slammed the table. "Michael Hacfield is a madman. A country once tried to crush him by killing his son and daughter-in-law, but the next thing they realized, a few of their cities turned into lakes, and they had no choice but to formally apologize.

Do our men know what will happen if they break the rules?"

"Boss, that's..." His assistant scratched his cheek before saying in a hesitant tone, "He was running away from the beast wave that we created in order to kill him."

"..." The room instantly turned silent as the middle-aged man looked down. "Oh..."

There was no other word that could describe this situation.

The boss pinched the bridge of his nose while saying, "Find out the person who pushed his grandson and use it to try appeasing his anger. I will try to find another solution in the meantime."

The atmosphere turned so awkward that his assistant chose to leave instead of staying inside.

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They were not the only ones who actually made a move.

In another country, someone was actually smiling after hearing this news. "So, that madman is not far from us... Send all our scouts and try to tail him."

"Should we kill him?"

"No. Just find his location and give away that information. I bet there are some who would like to come for his life."

"Since he is far away, shouldn't we target his son and daughter-in-law?"

"That's where you're wrong. We shouldn't corner that madman so much. Even if three out of ten Tier 9 humans besieged him, he could still drag one down with him while heavily injuring the other two. And those two would be killed by other Tier 9 humans who want to take advantage of that weakness.

He is a man who values family more than his life, so we won't target his family since they are the ones making him weak."

"Understood."

People all over the world started making their moves. This was the reason why Clovis's grandfather chose to hide instead of actively protecting his family.

He knew that he would just bring more danger to the family. Once he made a move or was even injured, there would be more people that came after him.

And this time, he came out once again after knowing someone had broken the rule.

Chapter 153 Message

That night, Kanaria returned to her house. Her complexion was pale, her eyes had a big black socket underneath them, and her head was hanging low.

Her mother, Vania, stood outside the house to welcome her. Sadly, there were no words she could say to fix something like this.

Revenge? They would do it. However, revenge wouldn't bring back the deceased. So, it would be impossible to say anything to her.

The only thing she could do was take care of her, making sure that Kanaria didn't do anything dangerous.

Vania was also hit deeply by this news. Still, she did her best to comfort her daughter.

...

In another corner of the city, specifically inside Nek's house, the sight that greeted Nek when he came home was nothing but terrifying.

"What is this?" Nek shouted in horror. He had just gone back from getting the money Ivan promised. His wife and his daughter were on their knees, their hands were tied behind their backs, and their mouths were gagged. Behind them was a man whose eyes were emanating killing intent.

"Who are you?" Nek gritted his teeth. He wanted to help his family right away, but he was afraid that the other party would do something to them.

"You don't need to know who I am. You only need to know that you have made a grave mistake," said the man with a cold tone.

"Mhmmmf!" The daughter tried to say something, but the man was annoyed by the sound she made, so he kicked the back of her head.

Her body tilted forward and her head hit the ground, instantly knocking herself out.

"You!" Nek roared and jumped toward him...or so what was supposed to happen. All of a sudden, he fell to the ground, not because he lost his balance, but because he couldn't feel his feet anymore.

"!!!" Nek raised his head and turned around. It turned out there was another man behind him. He had never felt his presence. And the moment he lowered his head, seeing that his legs were cut on the knees, he felt the sharp pain spreading all over his body.

"Aaaaarrggghhh!" Nek screamed in pain, tears were coming out of his body. If an explorer lost their legs, it was basically the end of their career. However, that was the least of his worries.

"I will just ask this simple question. Who told you to kill that person?"

"That person?" Nek was confused for a moment but hurriedly remembered who they were talking about.

Unfortunately, this reaction wasn't liked by these two people.

The man behind his wife suddenly waved his hand, cutting his wife's left arm.

"Mmmfmffmfmfmfmf!" The wife screamed in pain, her body was convulsing uncontrollably. She fell to the ground, unable to endure the pain.

"Wait, wait, wait! I'll tell you!" Nek panicked, watching his wife in horror.

"I won't wait!" The man snorted and stabbed his daughter's leg, ready to sever it.

Nek realized that uttering a word other than the answer would result in his daughter's leg getting cut. So, he hurriedly shouted, "It was Ivan! Ivan from the Drake Group!"

"Got it!" The one replying to him was the man behind Nek.

Nek widened his eyes as his vision suddenly rose into the air before he was able to see his own headless body. 'Why did my body...'

His wife watched in horror, but she and her daughter soon followed him.

"So, it's that bastard." The two assassins looked at each other.

"Should we kill him now?"

"The Drake Group should be responsible for him. But people might not know about his connection, so we don't have to do that. Still, it's annoying that he can get away after making us clean up all this mess."

"A punishment is indeed necessary."

Both of them seemed to have reached an agreement before disappearing into thin air.

...

Unlike them, who were trying to clean up the mess, there was a person who couldn't do anything.

Kanaria just sat on her bed while covering her face with her knees. Her gaze was empty as though she didn't have any more will to survive.

For her, the world had turned gray and time had stopped. She was supposed to know that being an explorer carried a very high risk. It wouldn't be weird for them to die suddenly.

However, this was not what she had in mind. Even if they ended up dying, it would be after fighting against numerous beasts, not a betrayal like this.

The journey of the Libation Fiesta was over. Even if Jay recovered and took the captain's position, it wouldn't be the same anymore.

Although Jay had never admitted it, the reason they all gathered under the banner of the Libation Fiesta was Clovis. Now that he was gone, no one could replace him.

'Why do you have to go like this?' Kanaria bit her lips while holding the necklace. 'A lucky necklace? If you're that lucky, then please... allow Clovis to survive. I don't care whether it's a miracle or not...'

Kanaria felt like she wasn't lucky at all.

As if the necklace was trying to respond to her, her device suddenly rang.

"Huh?" Kanaria raised her eyebrows. She didn't have any mood to pick up her device if not for the fact that it was ringing in a special ringtone. This melody only came if the one sending the message was Clovis.

How? That was the only thing on her mind. However, Kanaria still reached for her device, clinging to the sliver of hope that the lucky necklace had actually granted her wish.

And that was where she found her answer.

Clovis: It took me a while to send you a message, but I want to tell you that I'm alright. There is no need to send reinforcements or anything, since I want to see how the people targeting me react about my supposed 'death.' Please wait for another one or two days. I'll definitely return.

Chapter 154 News

Clovis woke up, feeling a bit sluggish. His body was hurt, but his wounds had been either covered in bandages or recovered.

As soon as he entered the mall, the first thing he did was to get all the recovery items and treat his wounds.

It was quite effective. However, the thing that shocked him the most was the fact that he could stay at Another World Mall.

"This is truly amazing." Clovis looked at the system and noticed that the visit hadn't reset. "The fact that I can stay here for a long time is huge. I can escape from my enemy easily and make them think I'm not there. Unfortunately, the visit and the item limits haven't been reset.

"Then again, if that happens, I would be able to stay here forever. But if we consider the item limit and visit as the price for saving my life, it's a cheap price to pay.

"Still, to be able to test this pretty early is a good thing for me. Unfortunately, there is no connection here, so I can't really tell anyone about my condition. They must be very sad right now.

"Then again, it's better to let those people who are trying to kill me believe I have died first. It's going to be impossible to hide the news that I'm still alive, but it's enough to see what kind of things will happen if I die. If something big happens, I'm sure that my grandfather knows about my news as well."

Clovis thought about it for a moment before grabbing his weapons again. "I can't stay here forever. Let's go out and inform them that I'm safe."

Clovis exited the mall and immediately raised his guard, searching for the beasts around him. Since there was more blood than what he saw before coming here, he knew that the assassins must have come here.

Fortunately, there were no other beasts. He took out his radar and found the scattered dots around him.

"It seems I'm safe for the time being." Clovis took out his device with a smile on his face. He hurriedly sent a message to Kanaria and turned it off again so that the latter didn't call and ended up producing a sound that alerted the beasts.

'What should I do next?' Clovis took a look at the window while holding both swords. 'It's been a while since I last hunted by myself. I guess I should take my time here. I have plenty of time after all.'

...

Kanaria was heading straight to the hospital, wanting to inform Melody and Jay about Clovis. Unfortunately, she couldn't call Clovis and probably had to respect his decision to remain low.

When Kanaria reached the room Jay was in, she saw Jay had woken up while Melody was peeling some fruits for him.

Melody turned around when the door was opened, surprised to see Kanaria. After all, the one who was hurt the most by Clovis's death was her.

On the other hand, Jay opened his mouth. "I've heard the news. Clovis is dead? Do you believe it? The commander told you both that Clovis said that he could manage, right? So, why do you kill him off?

The first thing we should do is search for him."

Jay wasn't someone who loved to encourage people. He was simply stating the facts and fully believing in Clovis's words. Clovis was his captain, so if he couldn't trust him, who would?

He was slightly annoyed to know that Kanaria and Melody actually believed that their captain couldn't survive such an ordeal.

Kanaria bit her lips, unable to refute Jay's words. After living with Clovis for so long, she thought she was the closest to Clovis. Yet her trust was much lower than Jay's. She felt ashamed.

Still, she came here to bring the news. After taking a deep breath, Kanaria said, "Clovis hasn't died. I've just received a word from him."

Kanaria showed them the message from Clovis.

"This..." Melody was surprised, but if this message was true, it meant that Clovis was alright.

Jay simply nodded his head as though this was just what he expected. "He should be just busy and making any sound would give his position away. Hence, he turned off all items that could produce the sound and waited until he was safe before sending that message."

Melody agreed with the explanation.

On the other hand, Kanaria thought for a moment before asking, "I'm thinking about getting the reward for the raid while waiting for Clovis to return. By doing so, we will be judged as people who love money more than our team captain. However, I don't care about that and will treat it as my punishment.

"And I think this can respect his wish for staying low. What do you think?" Kanaria's tone was hesitant since he didn't want to implicate them.

"Go for it." Jay nodded with a serious expression. "I should be able to move soon, so I might be able to come with you."

"No. You can rest here. I and Kanaria will go." Melody thought that she should also get punished for not believing in their captain.

Besides, the reward this time would be extremely big. They had killed two Tier 3 beasts and helped them escape after all. In addition, Clovis was considered a 'casualty' in this raid. So they would definitely try to compensate for what happened.

"By the way, Kanaria. Have you seen the news?" Melody asked.

"What news?" Kanaria tilted her head in confusion. Because of what happened to Clovis, she wasn't in the mood to read the news.

"The one that pushed Clovis off the truck died along with his family. It was an arson, they said, but a Tier 3 human would certainly not die from house fire... So, I'm assuming that he was murdered."

"..." Kanaria paused for a moment before saying, "I haven't retaliated yet. The murderers are not among us."

"Then, it might be those suspicious people." Melody sighed.

"If that's the case, it will also confirm that no one can kill Clovis directly."

"Yeah."

Chapter 155 Monetary Reward

"So, have you made your decision?" The Tier 4 raid commander looked at the two women before him.

"Yes." Kanaria's expression was solemn, while Melody's was devoid of emotion.

The commander fell silent for a moment. Obviously, he heard about the incident with Nek after this whole thing. He suspected that this was a retaliation, but this wasn't his place to meddle.

Since the situation had reached this point, he should have stayed out of it.

"Alright." The commander let out a long sigh before saying, "Your contribution is the highest among all of the other groups. You had killed two Tier 3 beasts and ensured that they didn't mess with the rest of the team.

"In addition, your group was the first to react to the sudden attack of the beasts outside the city. Even the Silver Star Team testified regarding your ability and performances, so as the commander, I have nothing but praise.

"Regarding the essence, you can get it from the room on the right. Meanwhile, for your participation, you get the base reward of twenty thousand union dollars. As a thank you for killing two Tier 3 beasts, the group has decided to reward you with two hundred fifty thousand dollars.

"By becoming the top group in the raid, you are eligible for the grand prize of a hundred thousand.

"And thanks to your effort so that our team can retreat safely, we have decided to award you with another one hundred thousand.

"Last but not least, as compensation for that accident, even after contributing that much, I hope that you don't mind if I add an additional one hundred thousand.

"In total, you are eligible for a reward of five hundred seventy thousand union dollars along with the essence you're entitled to."

Kanaria looked down for a moment, contemplating. The raid group was huge, so it would be hard to monopolize all the rewards, no matter how good their performance was. In fact, the commander had actually stretched the reward a little bit due to Clovis's accident.

More importantly, they awarded this amount of money to a Tier 1 group. It was an unimaginable amount of money for a normal Tier 1 group. And it definitely exceeded Clovis's expectations.

They still had the Tier 3 essence as well as other lower level essences. Even if they chose to sell a portion of them, they should get close to seven hundred thousand. This was definitely a reward that couldn't be ignored for a Tier 2 group or even a Tier 3 group.

Clovis would surely not mind this amount of money, so Kanaria nodded her head. "Alright. Let's settle with this and never meet again."

The commander nodded with a serious expression. It was truly hard to handle the public's opinion.

Still, the commander didn't expect that it would only take them a whole day to recover from the disastrous incident and asked for the reward. He knew that the group had to move on, but this was simply too fast.

Clovis himself must be quite charismatic to be able to get these amazing people. So, it looked rather cold to have them ask for the reward like this. He originally thought he would have to talk with someone else on their behalf about the settlement.

Unfortunately, it wasn't his place to talk about their decision. After writing the note, he handed it to them and pointed at the door on the right. "Please head to that room to get your reward and essence."

Kanaria nodded and stood up. They didn't want to waste their time here, so they immediately headed to the next room.

The one handling the reward simply saw the amount and their name before giving them a box filled with essence as well as a check.

Now that they had gotten the reward, both Kanaria and Melody left the building.

"Mhmm?" Kanaria couldn't help but furrow her eyebrows when she saw a group of familiar people.

It was Lovelia's group. Not only her, but there were also the women in Ivan's group.

They all had an angry expression on their faces as if there was a deep hatred between Kanaria and these girls.

"You are seeing what I'm seeing, right?" Melody raised her guard, not knowing what these girls planned to do.

"Yeah." Kanaria nodded.

"You!" Lovelia stomped the ground and tried to reach for Kanaria's collar, only to have her hands slapped by Kanaria.

"What the hell are you doing?" Kanaria took a step back, thinking that if they wanted to fight, she would definitely take her down in her next move.

Lovelias gritted her teeth and shouted, "If not for you... How dare you..."

Kanaria simply couldn't understand what she was talking about. She hadn't done anything. Even her family had yet to send experts to deal with those people.

Lovelias was fuming in anger. On the other hand, Vina tried to stop her while asking, "You're not the one doing it, right?"

"Doing what?" Kanaria was bewildered while Melody said, "We haven't done anything since we're still devastated. If you're going to do something to us, don't expect that we'll be on the receiving end. We'll fight back."

"It's nothing." Vina shook her head helplessly before turning to Lovelia. "They might not be the ones behind this."

"Why are you trusting their words just like that? If not for them, Ivan... Ivan..." Lovelia's body was convulsing. It looked like she was about to explode and do the unthinkable.

That was why Vina said, "We're not here to pick a fight. You guys should go."

Kanaria didn't know what was going on, but this wasn't the time to fight with them. So, she grabbed Melody's hand and walked away, feeling something was amiss.

As soon as they got away, Kanaria messaged her mother.

Kanaria: Mom. Did something happen to Ivan?

Mom: Are you worried about him?

Kanaria: Heck no. It's just that I met those girls from his group not long ago. Their expressions were as if something had happened to him.

Mom: Sent a picture.

Kanaria and Melody couldn't help but widen their eyes when they saw the pictures, not believing it was actually possible.