

Overgeared 41

Chapter 41

"A disgraceful person. Trying to beat me like this."

Valmont chuckled as he watched Grid being arrested before speaking to the silent Rabbit,

"How is it? He is arrested before the result came out, so there is no concern about losing public sentiment?"

"...That's right."

Valmont's actions were understandable from the point of view of the leader of the Mero Company. If it were the usual Rabbit, he would've done the same thing as Valmont. But now, he didn't feel comfortable.

'That youth called Grid...'

Grid created such a great work in just three hours. A blacksmith of that degree might truly be the best on the continent. Becoming the best in his field at such a young age? He truly was a unparalleled genius.

'He has tremendous growth potential. If I could cooperate with that young man, I will be able to accumulate an unmatched wealth...'

Rabbit was a person who only moved for profit. His merchant's instincts meant he showed a profound interest in Grid.

On the other hand, Euphemina was still on the stage.

'It is clear who the victor is.'

She thought she had an incredibly high chance to win after making the Dagger of Bewitchment. The Dagger of Bewitchment was an outstanding work. However, she soon realized that she was mistaken.

The work that Grid made was far superior to her own at first sight. Euphemina knew she would lose and fail the quest the moment the information appeared on the display board. But at that moment, Grid was arrested? It was really exquisite timing.

'It is disgusting but...'

Euphemina descended the stage, walked over to Rabbit, and said,

"The development was strange and the actual result might be different, but the crowd is convinced of my victory. Even though the game has been stopped, the crowd thinks I won. Isn't that alone sufficient to achieve the Mero Company's aim? So I want the reward."

Rabbit nodded and said, "It is as you said. I will keep the promise."

[Quest success!]

[1,500 gold has been acquired.]

[Title, 'Competitor' has been acquired.]

[Fighting spirit stat will be opened.]

[Good luck stat will be opened.]

[The skill 'Rolling Dice' will be generated.]

Euphemina's expression brightened as she received the rewards. She checked the newly create stats and skills.

[Fighting Spirit]

The lower the health, the greater the attack power and mental state.

* The higher the number, the higher the effect.

* Stat points can't be distributed to this stat.

[Good Luck]

The likelihood of lucky phenomenon will increase.

* The higher the number, the higher the effect.

* Stat points can't be distributed to this stat.

[Rolling Dice]

Roll a dice and a phenomenon will occur, depending on the number that is rolled.

* If the target is yourself or an ally: There will be a beneficial effect if the number 4 or higher is rolled. There will be a harmful effect if the number rolled is 3 or lower.

* If the target is an enemy: There will be a beneficial effect if the number 3 or lower is rolled. There will be a harmful effect if the number rolled is 4 or higher.

'Isn't this a completely random skill?'

Fighting spirit and good luck. The effects of the two stats were so great that she forgot about the painful 'Agent of Revenge' quest for a moment. But the Rolling Dice skill was ambiguous. It would be nice if the good numbers were rolled when she used the skill, but what if the numbers were bad? That would lead to a terrible situation.

'However, if I increase my good luck stat, the probability of a beneficial number being rolled will rise. I'll be able to use it someday once my good luck stat is higher.'

Euphemina thought positively and prepared to say goodbye to Rabbit, but she hesitated and asked.

"By the way, why was that person captured?"

"He was witnessed conversing with an enemy of Winston."

"They suspect he is an accomplice?"

"Right."

“Oh...”

Grid had randomly ridiculed her. If possible, she wanted to beat him, but then he had been arrested.

‘Thanks to that, I managed to clear the quest.’

It was really lucky. But then she felt regret.

‘I wanted to know his identity...’

If he really was a unique class, it would be beneficial in many ways to get to know him.

‘No, no. I don’t want to see him again. Isn’t his nature too horrible? I will just get more wrinkles if I get close to him.’

Euphemina shook off the lingering regret and was about to leave, but then Rabbit called out to her, “You, in fact, you aren’t a blacksmith, are you?”

“.....?!”

Euphemina panicked and stuttered with confusion.

“W-What are you suddenly saying? Didn’t I make the dagger? How can I create something like that unless I’m a blacksmith?”

“I noticed that Eria wasn’t your real name. In addition, I don’t believe you are a blacksmith with those white, fine, delicate hands.”

Due to the nature of the class, blacksmiths had scorched hands that were full of calluses, but Euphemina looked completely different from a blacksmith.

“In addition, the way you handled the bellows was very crude. Even a beginner blacksmith would be more skilled.”

“.....”

“I noticed it more after you brought Khan to the stage, and then confirmed that you moved exactly like Khan. Perhaps you are capable of duplicating the techniques of others.”

Euphemina could try to refute Rabbit’s criticism. But she remained silent. She noticed that it was the prelude to a new quest.

“So? What are you trying to say?”

Rabbit cut to the chase. “Will you help me? Go and rescue Grid.”

“Huh? Why? Isn’t he your enemy?”

Rabbit shrugged. “There is no eternity in front of money.”

“I’m not sure what you’re talking about.”

Euphemina required a detailed explanation. Rabbit led her to an unfamiliar alley. He thoroughly checked that there was no one around and opened his mouth.

"The Mero Company is greedy for the maximum benefit from Winston, making it a ticking time bomb. It wouldn't be strange if Earl Steim received accusations against the Mero Company at any moment. In other words, there is a dark cloud in the Mero Company's future. It is time for me to leave it."

Rabbit's eyes shone.

"As soon as I saw Grid's skills, I realized where my new job would be. Khan's smithy. I'll take a job at Khan's smithy. Then I will form a team with Grid. I will distribute Grid's works using my network of contacts and my business skills. If I assist Grid well, I believe that Grid and I alone can generate a revenue that is equal to a small or medium business company."

"T-That much?"

Euphemina's eyes also shone. One user had the potential to generate top-level profits! It was indeed amazing.

'Who is the current first place merchant?'

Euphemina searched through her memories and recalled the person.

'That's right, Beiga. He became first place three months ago. But I heard the scale of his company is so small that he isn't able to make a profit compared to the NPC merchants...'

In other words, the first ranked merchant couldn't even operate a small company properly at the moment. However, Grid was able to generate the revenue of a small company just by making items.

'I know he doesn't have a regular class but to think it is to this extent...'

Rabbit explained his plan to Euphemina.

"These are the prerequisites to get a job at the Khan smithy. First of all, the fall of the Mero Company and Winston's lord. Secondly, makeover my image. Finally, the most important thing is to rescue Grid. If I can save Grid and cause the downfall of the Mero Company and Winston's lord at the same time, I will be able to appeal myself to Grid and the residents."

"So you need my help?"

"Yes. I have been watching your abilities. They will be sufficient."

[Quest 'Help Rabbit's Job Seeking Plan' has been created.]

[Help Rabbit's Job Seeking Plan]

Difficulty: S

Rabbit is uncertain about the future of the Mero Company. He predicts that the Mero Company will soon fall, but he would rather break it with his own hands so that he will get a new image.

Help Rabbit rescue Grid and cause the downfall of the Mero Company and Winston's lord!

Quest Clear Conditions: Rescue Grid trapped in the dungeon of Winston Castle. The fall of the Mero Company and Winston's lord.

Quest Clear Reward: 5,000 gold. Affinity with Rabbit and the Winston residents will rise to the peak.

Quest Failure: Level -2. Rabbit's death. All quests associated with Rabbit will be permanently destroyed.

[Would you like to accept the quest?]

'I can't believe it...'

Euphemina was speechless as she confirmed the quest. Quests that gave titles or S-grade quests weren't easy to find. But these type of quests were happening in succession after being linked with Grid. At the very least, this proved that Grid was an incredibly huge person in Winston.

'Grid... it is true that his nature is bad, but he has great abilities and presence. I think it would be wise to build up a relationship through this matter.'

Euphemina decided to accept the quest.

"Okay. I'll do it."

[The quest has been accepted.]

Just because a man wanted to switch jobs, the leader of a huge company and the lord of a territory were in trouble.

The residents of Winston gathered in Khan's smithy.

"The rumor that Huroi was caught while leaving Winston is true."

"Then the lord already knows what we entrusted to Huroi right? It is a big deal. The surveillance will tighten and a second Huroi won't appear."

"We can't do anything now. Winston won't be able to escape from the grasp of the Mero Company..."

The residents were agitated. Usually, Khan would be soothing them, but he wasn't in the position to take care of others right now.

'Grid...'

Huroi was arrested for trying to reach Earl Steim. Unless the Mero Company and Winston's lord were idiots, they wouldn't let him out of prison for the rest of his life. Considering how close Grid was to the Winston residents, including Khan, it was likely that Grid would suffer a similar fate to Huroi.

'I can't let Grid rot in jail for the rest of his life. I must save him!'

Khan made a decision and shouted.

"We can't close our eyes to this injustice! We have to protect our future with our own hands! Grab our weapons! We will drive the lord and the Mero Company out of Winston!"

Chapter 42

The residents freaked out.

“A-Are you suggesting a rebellion?”

"A rebellion? It is the lord who is causing the rebellion! We are the people of Earl Steim. We'll go against the demons who joined hands to go against Earl Steim's will!"

The residents were reminded that they had justification to go against the lord. Their morale started rising.

“Okay! I will follow Khan!”

"It is impossible to drive out the lord with our strength, but with our indignation, we will let the world know that something is wrong in Winston. Then Earl Steim will eventually hear the news about Winston."

"We have to fight for Grid, who is locked up because of us."

"I am going to fight!"

The residents decided to change Winston's fate with their own strength!

Khan opened the door of the warehouse and checked it. The warehouse was full of battle gear, the very same items that Grid produced while practicing for the game. The performance wasn't excellent due to the limitations of the materials, but they were better than farming equipment.

“Ohh!”

The residents were excited as they armed themselves under Khan's command.

“Head towards the Mero Company right now!”

“Yes! Grab Valmont!”

Khan restrained them. "If we attack the Mero Company, the news of our uprising will be delivered quickly to the lord and then the castle will be heavily defended."

“Then, we should go to the castle first?”

"Correct. We must enter the castle before news of our rebellion is passed onto the lord. If the lord is taken as a hostage, the soldiers won't be able to move and we can easily dismiss the Mero Company!"

A man came forward and said, "The architect who designed the castle is my great-grandfather. So I have a blueprint of the castle in my home. We can grasp the secret passages through the blueprint, allowing us to easily infiltrate the castle."

“Ohh!”

They saw hope. The residents weren't helpless. They were confident they could drive out the lord and Mero Company. But it only lasted for a moment.

Jaengurang!

The windows of the blacksmith's second floor were shattered and soldiers armed with bows entered.

“Drop your weapons if you don't want to die!”

The smithy's second floor was occupied by dozens of archers in an instant, all aiming their bows at the residents on the first floor. The residents were terrified as Valmont entered the smithy.

He laughed loudly, "Hey, I just came to take over the smithy, only to earn the chance for a big merit! Hahaha!"

The fat on his chin wobbled as he laughed.

Khan cried out to the laughing Valmont. "You framed Grid and had him arrested so that the result of the game wouldn't be revealed!"

Valmont shrugged.

"The result of the game is undetermined? That's ridiculous. It was the Mero Company's complete victory. Didn't you see the work of the blacksmith we hired? Even if the details of the dagger that you and Grid made were disclosed, you wouldn't be able to beat her work. Ask the crowd, everybody would agree. The Mero Company won the game, so the proper owner of this smithy is the Mero Company."

"You! You definitely noticed that Grid's work was much better than your blacksmith's, so you hastily arrested Grid in fear of being defeated in the game!"

Valmont ridiculed him, "If you want to blame someone, shouldn't you blame the eyes of the public? Anyway, throw away your weapon if you don't want to be immediately executed for causing a rebellion."

"Who would listen to the commands of a merchant?"

"Hoh, is it a problem that I'm a merchant? Then follow the command of Sir Philipson, not me. Sir Philipson, those people are armed so doesn't that constitute as a rebellion? You should pacify them."

Philipson standing next to Valmont nodded. He waved his hand and the soldiers occupying the second floor pulled back their bows.

"Surrender all your weapons. And Khan, I will arrest you as the ringleader of the rebellion."

The residents were furious.

"Dirty bastard! Are you a knight? Valmont's dog! I don't have to listen to your commands!"

Philipson glanced at the soldiers on the second floor. Arrows poured down.

Puuok!

"Kuaack!"

"Hiik!"

One of the residents fell down after hit by an arrow.

Khan shook at the sight.

"Vicious bastards!"

"The next attack will aim at your heads. Drop your weapons if you don't want to die."

Even though they were all holding weapons, ordinary people didn't have a chance against trained soldiers. If they fought, they would just die a meaningless death.

"Ohhh..."

Jaengurang!

Their weapons fell weakly to the ground. Their determination fell and the helpless people lay down on the ground in fear.

Valmont watched the crying people and laughed. "Hahahaha! You fools! In the end, dogs like you will resist uselessly! Clearly understand this! You are meant to be ruled! All you need to do is unconditionally obey! Don't think about rebelling again!"

Valmont gave an order to Philipson.

"Confiscate everything in this smithy. And arrested the ringleader of the rebellion, Khan."

"Yes!"

The soldiers moved in an orderly fashion. Valmont approached Philipson and whispered. "Sir Philipson, the lord will clearly give a great reward to us, who stopped the rebellion before any damage was done. Why don't we have a drink tonight to celebrate? I will prepare beauties and delicacies."

"It is appreciated. We can play tonight. But you don't need to prepare separate beauties."

Philipson's greedy gaze was fixed on one side.

Valmont followed his gaze and saw some elderly people and women standing on one side. Among the females, there was one around 15 years old. When she was an adult, she would be a great beauty.

Valmont frowned and spoke to himself. "Wanting a young girl... you are worse than me."

"Huh? What did you say just now? I'm sorry but I didn't hear it."

"No, nothing. You didn't hear anything. I was just talking to myself."

While Valmont and Philipson were filled with anticipation at the lord's reward, the residents were desperate as they saw Khan being dragged.

"What do we do now?"

"What should we do? This is the end... There is no one else to rely on in Winston."

"I should've left when I could... Now I can't leave this place..."

Khan was the last remaining source of hope for the Winston residents. Now he was being dragged to the dungeon, so the residents lost hope. A saviour was needed.

Winston Castle's dungeon.

"....."

How many days had passed? Light never entered and Huroi felt despair as he remained trapped in the darkness. Now he couldn't tell if this was reality or virtual reality.

'Where is this? Why am I doing this? How can I get out of this hell?'

He would rather die. Meanwhile, in reality, Huroi's EEG was showing severe instability.

The atmosphere of the S.A Mongolian branch was very heavy.

"The EEG is too unstable. We can't guarantee Allunbatar's health. If we don't forcefully log him out right now, he might need to be locked up in a mental hospital."

The experts advised to give up on this quest.

However, the Mongolian branch director Park Eunhyuk's thoughts were different.

"Allunbatar has endured 48 hours and 10 minutes. It has reached up to here, so it isn't about PR anymore. We can't waste the effort of Allunbatar. There is only 1 hour and 50 minutes remaining. Until then, we will watch Allunbatar until the end."

It meant he wouldn't allow the forced logout. The faces of the executives turned white.

"Satisfy deserves criticism for the existence of a quest that puts the user at risk. If we don't take responsibility for the safety of the user, the company will take a bit hit."

"The whole world will think Satisfy is dangerous and service will be disrupted!"

Park Eunhyuk didn't back down from the executives. "My decision has been made. If anything goes wrong, I will take all responsibility. I will do my best to avoid damaging the company."

"No, why would you go so far? The current situation isn't that encouraging. The probability of Grid rescuing Huroi is only 9%! Furthermore, Grid was arrested as Huroi's accomplice. Rather than rescuing Huroi, Grid will be stuck in the same dungeon. Isn't it a wise decision to force him to logout, since the quest will fail anyway?"

Park Eunhyuk's thoughts were different.

"Isn't it a positive thing that Grid was arrested? They are now close to each other in the dungeon."

The executives were shocked.

"Grid is a legendary class, but he is low levelled. Furthermore, his items and weapons have been seized. How will he get out of the dungeon and rescue Huroi with just his body?"

"It has already been decided, so don't say anything more."

Park Eunhyuk dismissed them and focused on the monitor again. The first monitor had 48 hours stated on it. That was 192 hours stuck in the game, so Huroi was starting to panic. On the second monitor, the soldiers had just brought Grid into Winston Castle.

'Obviously, the situation is desperate. Huroi can't be rescued with Grid's strength. But something seems like it will happen.'

After the 'Wait' quest had been triggered, Park Eunhyuk watched Grid all the time. Grid was greedy, his tone was rude and his behaviour wasn't prudent. He was a figure far from the Apostle of Justice in the movies.

But nevertheless, Park Eunhyuk gained more confidence as he watched.

Grid always tried hard. He stood in front of a furnace for several hours and repeated hammering. He designed and made different items using the same materials. He moved his body and mind without any rest. He grumbled all day, but his actions were totally different.

Then he produced an amazing work in the item production game.

'A user created the first...'

Even if Grid had the fraudulent Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship Skill, it was still too much to produce such an item so quickly.

'He might not have talent, but his spirit is exceptional. It would be nice to believe in him.'

Heroes in movies never gave up, no matter what hardships they suffered. And the hero should win in the end. Perhaps Grid deserved to be a hero too, Park Eunhyuk thought.

Chapter 43

'These damn f**kers.'

I was arrested before the quest succeeded and dragged to Winston Castle. It had already been an hour since I was trapped in an interrogation room.

"Several people witnessed you talking to Huroi in front of Khan's smithy. Did you already know that Huroi was planning to contact Earl Steim?"

"So what if I knew?"

"...It was a resident of Winston who entrusted Huroi to contact Earl Steim. Since you are close to the residents, don't you know who that person is?"

"So what if I know?"

"Then aren't you one of them?"

"No? Are you stupid?"

"..."

I made a much better dagger than that girl called Erina. In other words, the quest to make an item was going to end with my victory and I would've earned 600 gold. However, due to this unreasonable arrest, the quest had failed. Thanks to these bastards, my 720,000 won had flown away!

"I don't think you know what position you're in... If you continue to be so carefree, you will regret it."

I talked back to the knight who was trying to intimidate me. "Shut up, you rotten bastard. Are you a comedian now? I want you to lose your heads immediately. I have no connection with Huroi. So let me out right now!"

I knew that I could be tortured and locked up in prison, or killed. But I was the incarnation of anger after losing my 720,000 won.

'How many bowls of mackerel is 720,000 won?'

I was so angry that I spat curses at the knights. "You ridiculous jerk! I will remember all of this, Ugly! One day I will return to squeeze 600 gold out of you, so release me now."

"Look at this guy. He keeps talking nonsense!"

The youngest knight pulled out his sword. I flinched, but soon changed my attitude.

"Kill me, you motherfu*ker."

"This rascal isn't scared until the end!"

The knight couldn't stand it anymore and rushed forward. I closed my eyes and accepted death. Why? In this situation, it was better to die.

'If I die, I will be resurrected in the square. I can't stay stuck here. It is better to die and resurrect, even if it means losing experience.'

I was concerned about Khan. In the worst case scenario, I wasn't the presumed winner so the Mero Company would obtain the smithy. If so, Khan would die. The class quest I received would naturally be destroyed!

"Kill me quickly, you son of a b*tch!"

I couldn't log out here. I had to die, resurrect and meet Khan. Then a quick-witted middle aged knight came forward and stopped the hasty young knight.

"Hey Leo, calm down. Aren't you aware of it? He has an immortal body. Killing him will just release him into the field."

Dammit, this plan failed. I kept provoking the young knight, hoping he would lose his temper.

"Hey, you aren't going to kill me? You can't kill me? Are you scared? What type of knight are you? You pathetic bastard, can't you eat chili? You will die a bachelor! If you die, you will become a ghost. A ghost who peeps at girls taking a bath!"

"Ugh...y-you..."

The young knight called Leo's hands shook as he held his sword. It wouldn't be strange if he stabbed me right away. But Leo refrained from attacking me. He bit his lip so hard that blood emerged. It would work if I insulted him a bit more.

"This... oof? Oof!"

I tried to provoke Leo further, but somebody shut me up.

'These rotten, lousy bastards!'

I glared at the middle-aged knight who gagged me.

"You have no intention of admitting to the crime you are accused of. You also have no intention of telling us who commissioned Huroi?"

"Oof oof!!"

If you want me to answer, then take off the gag. The middle-aged knight nodded as he interpreted my answer.

"You really won't answer? If so, I have no choice but to imprison you. But if you tell me who commissioned Huroi, you might be treated differently."

I didn't want to get stuck in prison. The imprisonment wouldn't just last a few days. Until I was released, I would continue to be imprisoned, no matter how much I disconnected and reconnected.

'I can tell them. If Khan gets arrested, I can find a way to rescue him.'

Khan was invaluable to me in Satisfy and reality, since he was a precious friend. He might be an NPC, but he was a friend. But a friend was just a friend! No matter how important a friend was, my life was more important.

I decided to give Khan up.

"Ooof! Oof!"

I will tell you who commissioned Huroi! So release me. The middle-aged knight nodded as he interpreted my answer.

"What a great guy. You have no intention of selling out your friend, even when you will be locked up in prison? You might be weak, but your sense of justice is admirable."

"Oof oof! Ooooooup!"

What was he saying? I will tell you who commissioned Huroi if you release this gag. The middle-aged knight nodded as he arbitrarily interpreted my reply and ordered the soldiers.

"Imprison him. Put him in solitary confinement."

S-Solitary?! I couldn't do anything if I was stuck in prison, but solitary confinement as well? I would be trapped alone without any other prisoners.

"Oof! Oooooof!"

I panicked and struggled to get rid of the gag. However, the knights ignored my calls. In the end, I was dragged underneath the castle.

'Damn, what the hell is going on? I have to be imprisoned forever? And what happened with Khan's smithy? Khan absolutely can't die... No, that stupid Huroi, why did you fail your quest and damage me...?'

It happened while I was being dragged by the soldiers.

[The quest 'Apostle of Justice' has been created.]

[Apostle of Justice]

Difficulty: S

Huroi, who was trying to inform Earl Steim about the happenings in Winston, failed his mission and was caught.

He has been locked in solitary confinement for a long time.

You are the only one who knows Huroi's circumstances, so you are the only one who can help!

Rescue Huroi for the sake of justice.

Quest Clear Conditions: After being trapped in the deepest dungeon, rescue Huroi within seven hours.

Quest Reward: The title 'Apostle of Justice.' Affinity with the Winston residents will rise to the peak.

Reputation in Winston will rise to the peak. Create a linked quest with Huroi.

*Apostle of Justice: The 'Courage' stat will be opened. All stats +10. The skill 'Unbreakable Justice' will be generated.

Quest Failure: Level -2. The title 'Coward' will be generated.

* Coward: Affinity with NPCs will decline. The probability of acquiring quests will decline.

You will be despised by NPCs with a positive inclination.

'The contents of the reward are familiar? Ah!'

This was the same compensation when Huroi shared the information of the 'For the Residents of Winston' with me. A linked quest with Huroi was generated.

'I am greedy for a new title.'

B.U.T.

'I have no intention of accepting the quest!'

I was going to be stuck in solitary confinement, yet I was expected to rescue Huroi? In addition, it had to be within seven hours! It was an unconditional quest failure. 'What fool would be stupid enough to accept this quest?'

'The penalty if I fail the quest... I have goosebumps. My level would drop and I would receive the Coward title? It is a junk title.'

The 'Coward' title was just as bad as 'Noble Killer.' I could never accept this quest. But...

[You can't refuse this quest. Quest is in progress.]

Why? Why me?

“Oof! Ohh! Ohhhhhh! Ohhhh!”

I was going nuts. I couldn't help cursing despite the gag in my mouth, almost choking me. I drooled and coughed through the gag in my mouth, causing the soldiers escorting me to hit me on the back.

“This bastard! Can't you be quiet?”

“Bah! Solitary confinement is scary. Stupid guy, you should've talked when the knights gave you a chance. Why are you pretending to be cool when you're just afraid?”

“Oof! Ooof!”

I thought it wasn't fair. It was frustrating to see the soldiers misunderstand and talk so arbitrarily.

“Ouch!”

I was brought deep underground and pushed by the soldiers into the solitary confinement cell. But they didn't release my gag. The soldiers talked amongst themselves.

“Hey, should we release the gag?”

“Leo told me to only release it at meals. Apparently he has quite a mouth, so Leo will be tempted to kill him if his mouth is free.”

“I see.”

What was this?

“Oof! Ooof!”

Release the gag! Eh? The soldiers looked at me with terrified expressions.

“Wow, he is so desperate to talk that saliva is dripping down. If we keep him gagged all day, his blood pressure might rise.”

“This is really a punishment for him.”

“Ooof! Oooooof!”

Then release this rope! The rope was pressing against my body, making it difficult to move my fingers.

Kwang!

The soldiers ignored me and walked away.

‘They really are leaving.’

My body was tied up and my was mouth gagged. Would I be trapped in this smelly place forever? Furthermore, time was running out. The Huroi rescue quest would fail even if I just stood still.

‘What about my level?’

And why did I have to get the ‘Coward’ title? I had to be called a coward because I couldn't rescue Huroi?

“Ooof! Oooooof!”

I started shouting again. Please help me. But there was no answer. My moaning echoed in the deep and dismal basement.

Time passed with nothing happening. At the top of the screen, there was a window showing that I had four hours left in my quest time limit. I had been trapped in jail for three hours already.

‘Shit.. this rotten...’

Somehow, both good luck and bad luck followed me recently. All that luck was a precursor to my misfortune today.

‘I forgot how unlucky I am and wasn’t vigilant...’

I was someone who had never found a 10 won coin on the side of the road in my 26 years of life! Then I managed to obtain a legendary class!

‘I want to hit Lady Luck...’

Just as I was cursing at Lady Luck,

“Grid! Grid!”

I heard a woman’s voice from upstairs.

‘This voice?’

It was familiar? Where had I heard it recently?

‘Ah!’

Erina. Her voice was as pretty as her face. This damn unfair world! Why was one person born with so many advantages? No, now wasn’t the time to lament at the world.

‘Why is that kid here? No, it doesn’t even need questioning.’

A very surprising person had come but she was my only hope. I had to accept her help. I started shouting.

“Ooof! Oooooof! Oof! Oof!”

Here! I am here! No matter how I shouted, it was hard to make a loud noise with the gag.

Erina was still looking for me upstairs. “Grid! Where are you? Where is this man?”

“Oooooof!”

A hoarse cry emerged from my mouth. But Erina couldn’t find me easily. At the top of the screen, the quest display window was pointed at two hours. In the next two hours, I had to escape and rescue Huroi.

What could I do? Dammit, I don’t know! I had to do something!

“Ooof! Oof!”

“Grid!”

Ah, finally...

Erina, who came downstairs, barely heard my voice and ran. Ahh! That unlucky girl seemed like an angel at this moment. My appreciation towards Erina rose significantly as she confirmed the situation through the bars and said.

“I’ll save you. Not just that. I’ll give you this dagger.”

“Oof! Ooof!”

Erina held a sheath made of a minotaur horn. It was the dagger I made when I competed with her.

Chapter 44

Erina’s personality was as angelic as her looks.

‘A really good girl.’

As I was feeling thrilled, she spoke. “I have a condition instead.”

Indeed, it was rare for a girl to be pretty and have a good heart.

“Oof! Oooof!”

This damn girl! Setting a condition in a situation like this? If she came to rescue me, shouldn’t she rescue me? Erina interpreted my expression and laughed.

“You will listen to any conditions, so talk quickly? It’s good that you are so straightforward. You will make an orb for me that contains as much magic as possible. At a minimum, the orb should have the same performance as this dagger. You can do it with your blacksmith skills, right?”

Orb? I had never created one before. Was an orb a magic item? Why is she asking me, not a magician...? No, now wasn’t the time to think about that.

I nodded.

Erina made a satisfied expression. “Okay. The other condition is that you can never call me ‘kid’ in the future. My name is Euphemina. Just call me Euphemina. Understood?”

Did she drink alcohol during the day? Earlier she was Erina and now she was Euphemina? Did she forget her name? ... Or was it a pseudonym in the first place?

Anyway, this was good. I nodded again and Erina, no Euphemina took out a key and opened the prison door. Then she released the gag in my mouth.

"Puak!"

I finally felt alive again. I wiped the saliva around my mouth and asked Euphemina to release my tied up body.

“What is happening? Why did you come here to save me?”

Euphemina threw the dagger towards me.

"Isn't it better to talk once we escape?"

As she finished talking, there was the sound of dozens of soldiers rushing down the stairs. I was dismayed.

"Hey, Kid...no, Euphemina, what is this? Didn't you manage to come here because you took care of the soldiers?"

"There are a lot of soldiers. I took care of over 100 soldiers, but there are still people remaining. You'll have a hard time escaping."

"Pfff!"

I let out a laugh at Euphemina's ridiculous words. Euphemina glared at me.

"Why are you laughing?"

"I'm laughing because you said you took care of over 100 soldiers. How can a blacksmith fight so well? Yes? You should bluff more moderately..."

"I'm not a blacksmith."

"Eh?"

Euphemina faced me. Her deep blue eyes were as beautiful as any jewel. Although, she was still a kid. Well, if she ate a lot of rice and her breasts grew bigger, then I might be attracted.

"Where are you looking?" Euphemina covered her breasts and asked with a frown.

"I'm not interested in small breasts, so don't worry about it. You aren't a blacksmith? What do you mean?"

"I really dislike people like you." Euphemina grumbled, but still explained. "I have a special class. My class is a Duplicator. I was able to pretend to be a blacksmith by duplicating Khan's blacksmith skill. You are like me, right? You're not an ordinary blacksmith?"

Duplicator? It was the first time I'd heard of this class. Perhaps...

"A rare class?"

Euphemina cried out indignantly. "It isn't a rare class! It's an epic class!"

"Heok!"

One of Satisfy's three epic classes belonged to this kid? There was no reason for her to bluff in this situation, so if this was true...

"Didn't you thoroughly hide your identity? Then why bother revealing it to me? And why in this situation?"

"I am saying it now because of this situation. Don't you have a hidden class as well? I know everything. So don't pretend to be an ordinary blacksmith, and fight with all your abilities. Otherwise you'll be killed here."

"I was already planning on that."

I nodded with a convinced expression and held the dagger.

[Due to your class characteristics, you have equipped the Ideal Dagger.]

[This is an item you created. Your understanding is 100%.]

[In the case of items made by you, a penalty will be applied if you don't meet the item usage requirements, even if you have full understanding.]

[Attack power of the Ideal Dagger will decrease by 20%. Only half of the option effects will be applied.]

[Ideal Dagger]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 168/168 Attack Power: 242~264 Attack Speed: +11%

* There is a rare chance of instantaneously killing the target.

* Agility +20

* The skill 'Wind Blast' is generated.

* The skill 'Quick Movements' is generated.

A dagger created by a craftsman with great skills and potential, but lacks experience and reputation. It was made with the renowned blacksmith Khan.

There is nothing special about the materials or method used, but the craftsman's skill and the co-operation with Khan has created an ideal dagger.

User Restriction: Level 180 or higher. More than 450 agility. Advanced Dagger Mastery.

The penalties would be applied even if I had the maximum understanding of the items I created!? Dammit! This was truly deplorable.

'But the penalty of a unique item is only 20%? Still, this is nice.'

Euphemina was astonished as she saw me equip the dagger.

"Is your real class part of the assassin series? It requires 450 agility and Advanced Dagger Mastery... But isn't it strange? How do you have the blacksmith's craftsmanship technique?"

I noticed when she told me to produce the orb, but Euphemina must've seen the information about this dagger. However, she wasn't greedy and returned it to me. When I looked at her, she was a pretty good person.

'If it was me, I wouldn't taken it... She's stupid. Truly a little kid who doesn't know the truth of the world. No, she wants me to make an orb that is as good as this dagger? Wait... Will she support the cost of the materials needed to make the orb? S-Surely she isn't expecting me to make it for free? W-Wicked girl...'

No, it was still too early to know. I had time to make a decision about Euphemina.

"Wind Blast."

I used the skill in the direction of the rushing soldiers. A sharp wind emerged from the dagger, causing blood to pour from the soldiers. Euphemina confirmed that 10 soldiers were seriously wounded and whistled.

"A skill attached to an item manages to display this much destructive power, how incredible."

Originally, the destructive power wasn't at this level. If I met the conditions to use this dagger, the power of Wind Blast would've been two times stronger.

'It is a pity that only half of the option's effect is applied.'

I lamented again before speaking to Euphemina.

"Hey Euphemina, I have to go rescue a person."

"Eh? A person? Ah, are you talking about Khan? I already rescued Khan before coming here..."

"Khan was also captured? I'm glad he's safe. But the person I'm talking about isn't Khan. It's Huroi."

"...Who is that?"

I briefly explained to Euphemina, who made an annoyed expression.

"I don't know the name."

"..."

I could read Euphemina's feelings. She seemed to think she had stepped in shit. Well, it didn't matter how she felt. There was only 1 hour and 50 minutes remaining. I had to rescue Huroi during that time period!

'After I save that bastard, I will tell him off.'

He was the cause of all of this. I was furious.

"Wahhhhh!"

The soldiers jumped in unison. There seemed to be around 30 soldiers. I was nervous, but Euphemina didn't show any signs of agitation at all. She didn't change her expression and reached out a hand.

"Spear of Destruction."

Pachichik!

A dark red spark jumped from Euphemina's fingertip. A spear was created and the soldiers were hit.

Bam bam bam!Kwang!

The spear pierced the bodies of the soldiers and exploded, causing the 30 soldiers to turn into a grey light. It was an incredibly powerful spell that was used lightly. Maybe Euphemina was comparable to that witch Yura? How could she cast it so easily?

“Hiccup!”

I hiccuped from the surprise.

‘What did I say to her before? Didn’t I say a lot? Is she angry with me?’

As I froze with fear, Euphemina said to me.

“What? Don’t you have to go and rescue Huroi?”

“...Y-Ye...s.”

I was going to speak casually, but suddenly thought that it would be awkward not to use honorifics.

‘Let’s never call her a kid again. I will make her orb. She has endured it so far. I won’t offend her anymore.’

I made a decision and headed deeper underground.

Chapter 45

Winston Castle’s dungeon.

I was trapped in a solitary room on the third underground floor, but was rescued by Euphemina and was now looking for Huroi.

“Damn! I’ve looked everywhere, but I can’t find him. Where is that bastard Huroi trapped?”

“I don’t think he is on this floor. Maybe we should go down further?”

“What? The third floor isn’t the end?”

“According to information I received, there are four floors.”

“I have to go down to the fourth floor...”

The time limit for rescuing Huroi was 1 hour and 10 minutes. I was becoming more and more irritated. If I exceeded the time limit and failed to rescue Huroi, I would receive a really big penalty. I had to find and rescue Huroi as quickly as possible.

But Winston Castle’s dungeon was very large and the corridors were as complex as a maze, making it difficult to find the way. I decided to follow Euphemina’s opinion, but it wasn’t easy to find the stairs heading down to the fourth floor.

“Hey, you! Are you sure that the fourth floor really exists? The third floor isn’t the end? Maybe Huroi is on the second or first floor...”

“I swept through the first and second floors while looking for you, but I didn’t see a prisoner called Huroi. And the fourth floor really does exist. I received the information from a trustworthy person.”

"Uhh... But I can't see the way down to the fourth floor..."

"Stop whining. I'm annoyed."

"...Yes, sorry."

Time continued to pass while we wandered around. Before I knew it, there were only 50 minutes remaining. Meanwhile, the pursuit of the soldiers didn't stop and there were traps installed in the corridors.

'But I'm glad. The traps are so obvious that I don't need to worry about falling for them.'

This prison was made of rocks. The floors, the walls and the ceiling, everything was made of rocks. In addition, it was underground, so sunlight couldn't reach it. In other words, it was a space where blades of grass couldn't grow.

But funnily enough, I saw places on the floor where flowers and grass were growing. In addition, there was fruit and bread hanging from the ceiling. There were also high-quality items that didn't match the prison space hanging on the walls.

It was clearly an unnatural sight!

'They are all traps.'

Even a person with the intelligence of an elementary school student would be able to notice such ridiculous traps.

"I think you should bow. Otherwise you might die."

"Eh?"

I listened to Euphemina's voice and hurriedly bowed down. At the same time, sharp arrows flew over my back. I checked the arrows stuck in the wall and cried out.

"H-Heok...! W-What is this all of a sudden? I was almost hit."

As I was wiping at my sweat and sighing with relief, Euphemina pushed me in the back. Due to that, I lost my balance and fell down, while a spear shot up where I was just standing. If Euphemina hadn't pushed me, I would've been skewered by that spear.

I got goose bumps.

"Hik! Hiyaack! What the hell is this?"

"I'm sorry. I accidentally activated a trap."

Euphemina giggled while walking. There were several colorful flowers in her hands.

...This was crazy.

"Isn't it strange for flowers to grow in this place? It's obviously a trap! So why did you pick the flowers? Eh?! How can you fall for the trap, you dumb girl!?! I almost didn't make it! And why would you pick

flowers in this situation in the first place? Dammit! Useless person. If I died because of you, I would make you take responsibility. Don't do anything unnecessary and just find the way!"

..That was what I wanted to yell at her, but I didn't.

'Patient, be patient.'

I barely suppressed my anger. Euphemina had great skills compared to her fragile appearance. Her combat skills were equivalent to Blood Witch Yura. In addition, she had an epic class that only three people had. I didn't dare mess with such a great person

Most of all, her strength was needed to rescue Huroi. I couldn't afford to rescue him with just my strength. No matter how wrong she was, I needed to continue flattering her.

"B-Be careful. I can't use defensive magic like you."

"Yes~ yes~ I'm sorry."

Euphemina apologized to me in an insincere manner. I was once again infuriated.

"This woman! How can you act so shameless despite almost killing someone!? Kneel down and apologize right now!"

...Was what I wanted to yell.

"Patience... Kuoh... Huh?"

I felt a new sense of anxiety. Euphemina was staring at the bananas hanging from the ceiling.

'Surely she isn't planning to pluck such a suspicious thing to eat? Ah, it can't be. She isn't a monkey...'

At that moment! Euphemina jumped lightly and grabbed a banana.

No, why?

Crack!

Immediately after Euphemina grabbed a banana hanging from the ceiling... The floor where I was standing started crumbling.

"Kiaaack!"

I barely escaped from danger by rolling my body to the side, and finally couldn't resist yelling at Euphemina.

"What are you doing now? Why are you eating bananas in this situation?"

Euphemina answered with the banana in her mouth.

"Chew chew.Gulp. I just wanted to eat a banana because there was a banana in front of me."

"Look, it's just plain common sense! It's odd that bananas are hanging in this dungeon. It's clearly a trap!"

"Isn't it strange for it to be a trap? The bananas could be hanging for patrolling soldiers to eat when they're hungry."

Euphemina sighed. "You poor person. You live by looking at the world from a very negative perspective. I bet you don't have any friends to confide in."

"..."

I was sure of it. Euphemina was clearly very angry. So she deliberately triggered the traps.

'I can understand.'

Euphemina had come to rescue me because of a quest that would benefit her. But rescuing Huroi had nothing to do with her. Her current actions were complaining that she didn't like rescuing a person unrelated to her quest. That's why she purposely triggered the traps!

'She has a temper...'

Indeed, it was rare for a beauty to have a good nature. Most beauties were sheltered like princesses.

'But Ahyoung is pretty and has a good nature.'

My heart felt cleansed as I was reminded of my ideal love, Ahyoung.

"Ahyoung... I want to see you..."

"Over here! Those people are here!"

"...You dare disturb my contemplation?"

I was drawing a beautiful picture of Ahyoung in my mind when I heard a noise from both ends of the corridor and soldiers quickly arrived. There were around 50 people.

I sighed.

"How come they keep coming endlessly? This is bothersome."

Euphemina snorted.

"Bah, aren't I the one dealing with them anyway? Won't you just be watching or running away? Don't you think it is disgraceful to complain when you aren't doing anything? I can't understand it when you have that weapon. You should be fighting."

"Fighting? Me? I can't do that."

I had the unique rated dagger that Euphemina returned to me. Obviously, this dagger's attack power could easily handle the attacking soldiers. But I couldn't enter battle. Why?

It was simple.

"I don't have any armor."

"..."

The clothes that I was wearing had absolutely no defense. I couldn't fight against soldiers with no defense! At the end of the day, Euphemina was helping me so I could concentrate on rescuing Huroi without fighting.

"Even if you don't have armor, isn't it easy for you to handle the soldiers?"

"No. I'm not as strong as you think. Then... I'll leave this to you."

"Huh? What does that mean...?"

I patted Euphemina's back and headed towards the hole caused by the trap she had triggered earlier. "I'll go and find Huroi first. Hold their attention until then!"

"H-Hey!"

The confused Euphemina hurriedly tried to catch me, but it was too late. I ignored her and dove into the hole.

Ku tang tang tang!

"Wah!"

[You have fallen from a high place and suffered 200 damage.]

I left the soldiers and Euphemina, falling alone to the fourth floor.

"Cough! Cough! Uhh...fortunately, I didn't get significantly hurt."

I raised my dusty body and moved my gaze to the dusty ceiling. The battle between Euphemina and the soldiers had already begun, as flashing lights and the soldiers' yells were heard.

"Good, Euphemina. You're doing very well~."

If she fought as loudly as possible, the enemies would believe that Euphemina and I were on the third floor, pulling all the defensive troops to the third floor. Then the defense on the fourth floor would be relatively poor.

"Huhut, I can find and rescue Huroi in this gap. Aren't I surprisingly smart?"

Did I feel bad for leaving the fighting to Euphemina while I rescued Huroi? Well, no. My conscience didn't exist. I was the type to use others if it would benefit me.

Was I worried about Euphemina fighting alone? Of course I wasn't worried. She was the first epic class and so OP that she could use all types of magic spells without chanting first. She would survive even if hundreds of soldiers and dozens of knights were her opponents.

Chapter 46

'Duplicator...'

Blood Witch Yura, the 1st ranked South Korean and 5th rank on the unified rankings. Even she, who was at the top of two billion users, had to chant long spells when using great magic. But Euphemina, who said she was a Duplicator, could use powerful magic equivalent to Yura without needing to chant.

'Duplicator...it seems to be a magician type class that duplicates the skills of others. It is an epic class but isn't this too much of a scam? It completely destroys the balance.'

What were the disadvantages of a magician class?

While the versatility of magic that could be used for various purposes was certainly an advantage, the magician's strong attack power and high damage were their biggest advantages over others.

The strongest warrior could sweep away dozens of enemies with swords and spears, but the highest attack spell of a magician could destroy an 'army' in one blow. This meant a magician had horrific attack power.

However, every time they had to chant a spell. The higher the level of the magic, the longer the chant. And this was a magician's fatal disadvantage. But Euphemina didn't need to chant when using spells. It meant she could use magic in quick succession, and the biggest disadvantage of a magician didn't apply to her.

To briefly describe the Duplicator class, it was 'a magician who could duplicate the skills of others and had no disadvantages?' She could even learn the Advanced Blacksmith's Craftsmanship skill.

"...Um, so a Duplicator can copy all types of skills and use spells without any penalty...then that is... Ah, I don't know. Anyway, it is a fraud class."

I wanted to guess correctly about the Duplicator class, but it was painful when I thought about it, so I just focused on finding Huroi.

"That shameless human..."

Because Grid ran away, Euphemina was left alone among the soldiers. Why was she in this smelly and dreary dungeon?

Because she had to rescue Grid (the reason for the rescue was to clear the quest received from Rabbit). Why did she retrieve Grid's unique rated dagger and return it to him? Because it was a favor so that their relationship would continue to be good in the future (to be precise, she wanted Grid to make a unique rated orb for her).

As such, Euphemina treated Grid nicely, only for him to act like this. He used Euphemina's power to clear his quest and now left her alone with the enemies.

"I know that it's wise to use one person as bait while the other rescues the quest target. I know that, but..." Euphemina's anger reached its peak and eventually exploded, "That ungrateful person dared to use me as bait? If I hadn't helped him, wouldn't he be trapped in the prison forever and deprived of his unique dagger??"

Shaaaa-

The air around Euphemina became cold.

"W-What?"

“She is a magician. Don’t give her time to cast a spell!”

The soldiers surrounding Euphemina felt the danger as their helmets and armor started freezing. They hurried to attack Euphemina, but it was already too late.

“Frost Queen’s Breath.”

Kudududuk!

An unbelievable sight unfolded, as suddenly, a blizzard raged and the soldiers’ bodies started to freeze from their toes up to their heads.

"Kuaaaaak!"

“Hiik! Body... my body is becoming stiff!”

“C-Cold... Colddd!”

The soldiers couldn’t run away because their feet were freezing. They were frozen in place and suffered from terrible pain. After a while, more than 50 ice statues with expressions of fear were created.

Euphemina trembled among the statues.

"Grid... if you hadn’t promised to make an orb, I would kill you.”

Of the dozens of spells she duplicated in preparation to take care of Piaro, there were only 11 left. On the other hand, the number of enemies didn’t show signs of diminishing. Soldiers constantly came and went, as if they were products of a factory.

In particular, she was concerned about the existence of the knights. She hadn’t encountered one knight yet. It meant that all five of the Winston lord’s knights were alive somewhere in the castle.

Was it possible to deal with all five knights and the tsunami of soldiers with only 11 spells? It was impossible. NPC knights had a minimum level of 180. No matter how good Euphemina was, she couldn’t deal with all of them.

“Hah...”

Euphemina felt regret. She was blinded by the rewards and the thought of friendship with Grid when she accepted Rabbit’s quest. But the water had already been spilled. She couldn’t give up the quest now.

“Eh? Aren’t there supposed to be two of them?”

"That’s right. I heard that she broke Grid out and they are acting together... This! Grid went a different way!”

“He is after Huroi! He fell to the fourth floor to rescue Huroi. Separate half the troops right now! Half will face that woman while the other half will head to the fourth floor.”

The soldiers quickly confirmed that Euphemina was alone. Then they moved to chase Grid in an orderly fashion. She felt it from the beginning, but the northern soldiers were very skilled. Even the low-level

soldiers were good at coping with this situation. It was proof that they trained hard. Even though they were weak, they weren't easy targets.

So Euphemina did her best.

"Demon King's Tail... No, using fire magic here is nothing more than suicide. Sword of Light."

Kwachichichik.

A brightly-shining, white sword appeared in the air. Euphemina aimed the sword towards the separate group of soldiers pursuing Grid.

Sekeokeok!

The sword of light swept through the bodies of the soldiers, leaving a bloodbath in its wake. After that, Euphemina used a spell to deal with the rest of the soldiers.

Now she only had nine spells remaining. Euphemina wanted to preserve her power but more soldiers were coming.

'It is serious. In the worst case, I might need to use Rolling Dice.

Rolling Dice was a skill that gave a random effect to the target. If she was lucky, it would be something that could change this situation into a positive one. But if she was unlikely, it could make things worse. Therefore, she wanted to refrain from using it until her good luck stat was higher, but it seemed she would have to make an unavoidable choice.

The first thing to do was take care of the knights, while Grid rescued Huroi.

"...The problem is that he is an untrustworthy man."

An ominous chill went down Euphemina's spine. She thought that Grid might run away and leave her alone.

'Can I trust a garbage person like that? If he has a minimum of conscience...'

She tried to think positively but...

"Wahh! That bastard won't have a conscience! What should I do?"

Euphemina wanted to cry. If possible, she wanted to go back in time and refuse Rabbit's quest.

The deepest solitary place on the fourth floor.

"Uhh... uhh..."

He had reached his limit so he could no longer even smell the horrible rotten water puddles. He couldn't hear or see anything. In this narrow space where only darkness existed, Huroi was unable to remember where he was, why he was here and even who he was.

50 hours in real time, 200 hours in Satisfy, he was trapped in that darkness alone.

"Kuohh...Kuaaaah!"

Terrible screams echoed underground. Grid heard the sound.

"...Huroi?"

It was a familiar but also unfamiliar voice. Grid was able to notice that the screams coming from the end of the corridor was from Huroi.

"Okay, here I come! This damn bastard. I will make sure you pay me back for all this suffering."

Once this quest was cleared, he wanted to hit Huroi 200 times. Grid ran in the direction of the screams. But his legs soon stopped moving.

"I have been waiting." It was Leo, the young knight who was insulted by Grid in the interrogation room! He blocked Grid's path.

"W-What? Bachelor Ghost? Why are you here?"

Grid had predicted that most knights and soldiers would be on the third floor or blocking the exit. Therefore, he was confused about why a knight was on the fourth floor.

"Who is the bachelor ghost?" Leo turned red with anger and explained. "Weren't you allied with Huroi? I expected that you wouldn't escape alone. I knew you would rescue Huroi so I came here to wait for you."

'Ah, damn. I only shared a few words with Huroi. Anyway, the NPCs are using their head.'

Grid looked around. But he couldn't see anyone other than Leo.

Leo looked at him and ridiculed. "Hah! Did you think I would come with soldiers? Don't be too confident! Why do I need to bring soldiers to kill a lowly person like you? My strength alone is enough to rip you apart. Grid...! You will pay the price for insulting me!"

Leo had an extremely pleased expression on his face. This meant he had a deep grudge against Grid. Grid was forced to blame his actions a few hours ago.

'I made him crazy with anger... If I knew this, I wouldn't have been so rude.'

Once again, Grid realized that he shouldn't curse people. But regrets always came too late.

Leo's blue cloak flapped as he rushed forward.

Grid used a skill.

"Blacksmith's Rage. Quick Movements."

[Blacksmith's Rage has been activated. Your attack power and attack speed will increase significantly for 20 seconds.]

[Quick Movements has been activated. Your agility and evasion rate will increase significantly for 1 minute.]

Chapter 47

Pahat!

Leo narrowed the distance towards Grid with quick movements. Grid wanted to step back, but Leo was already in front of him.

“What?”

Leo aimed a flashy blow towards the panicked Grid.

Kaaang!

Grid raised his dagger and barely managed to defend against Leo’s attack. His wrists and shoulders were strained in the aftermath, and his right arm was temporarily disabled, but Grid survived thanks to the successful defense.

‘I wouldn’t have caught Leo’s movements at all if it weren’t for the Ideal Dagger.’

This was true. After using the skill ‘Quick Movements’ attached to the Ideal Dagger, his agility doubled. Ideal Dagger itself increased the user’s agility by 20. In addition to that, all of Grid’s stats had increased by 12 points after making a unique item. Grid’s combined agility was close to 250 points, making him able to respond to Leo’s attacks.

Leo frowned with an unpleasant expression and asked,

“You avoided my attack? Aren’t you a blacksmith?”

Leo was one of Winston’s most accomplished young talents. He was even called the ‘Northern Nova’ and his name was spread throughout the north. It was impossible for an ordinary blacksmith to block his attack, even with a fluke.

Thus, Leo started taking the battle seriously.

“You aren’t an ordinary blacksmith? Were you just acting in the interrogation room? Good, I will acknowledge your skills and do my best.”

Hwaruruk!

Red flames emerged from Leo’s longsword. It was a magic sword equipped with the fire attribute. Grid, who had been hoping there was a slight chance of victory, felt despair again.

“A magic sword...! Why is a strong person using something like that? This is a foul!”

The time limit for rescuing Huroi was 25 minutes. Could he defeat a knight equipped with a magic sword? It was impossible. He would be killed in a minute.

Grid was completely lost.

‘I have to run away. At this rate, I will die a dog’s death and fail the quest. Running away is the only option. But how can I run?’

Grid couldn’t outrun the knight. The physical abilities of a knight transcended him. It might be possible if he had a skill that gave the target an abnormal condition, but Grid was a blacksmith and didn’t have such useful skills.

In the end, Grid was destined to be killed here by Leo. But at that moment, something happened that no one could predict. There was suddenly a huge explosion in the spot where Leo was standing.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

“Wah!”

Grid fell as flat as possible in order to avoid being affected by the aftermath of the explosion. However, the explosion was so big that it was impossible for his body to not be damaged.

[You have suffered 17,300 damage.]

[A legend doesn't die easily. You can resist all attacks for 5 seconds with a minimum of health.]

He had one health point remaining. After a moment, the explosions stopped.

“Ugh... what happened all of a sudden...”

Grid rose from his spot and drank a potion to replenish his health before looking at the collapsed Leo.

"Cough! Cough!"

Leo coughed up blood. He was in a miserable condition. Leo's silver majestic armor was in pieces and his body was covered in burns. It was a miracle that he was even breathing.

‘What on earth happened?’

When Leo exploded, Grid thought that Euphemina had appeared. He believed it was Euphemina's magic that hit Leo. However there were no signs of Euphemina at all, and there were still only two people here, Grid and Leo.

Grid was stunned by the situation and immediately confirmed the status of Leo's sword. Leo's sword had completely shattered. This meant it received the most damage from the explosion. It was as if the explosion began from Leo's sword.

“It can't be...” Grid thought rapidly.

This was underground. There was no wind because there was no ventilation and the ceiling collapsed due to Euphemina triggering the trap, filling the air with dust. What would happen if a fire started in this enclosed space?

Grid was reminded of the dust explosion that his chemistry teacher taught him in high school. Dust explosion was a phenomenon where dust was concentrated in the air and exploded after receiving heat and pressure. In the past, there were insufficient dust explosion prevention methods and this phenomenon frequently occurred in coal mines, mills and other areas.

“Ha! What? It's like that? Pfff! Puhahahahat!”

Grid relaxed as he grasped the situation and then laughed like crazy. He was really lucky to be able to succeed in the quest after thinking he would be killed by Leo.

“Uhh... you... what did you do?”

The collapsed Leo could barely open his mouth to ask. Grid stopped laughing and turned to Leo. He tried to look as cool as possible as he declared.

“This is what you call the difference in skills. In fact, I moved at a tremendous speed that your eyes couldn’t follow and made your sword explode. That is why you can’t avoid death.”

“W-What? Such a thing is possible? You... what is your identity?”

Grid placed the dagger above Leo’s heart and replied, “I am Pagma’s Descendant. Now you really are going to be a bachelor ghost.”

Puk.

Grid’s dagger pierced Leo’s heart. His words came true. Leo really was going to be a bachelor ghost!

“Kwaaaack!”

Leo turned into a grey light and dozens of notification windows emerged in front of Grid.

[You have defeated Winston’s knight, Leo.]

[The title ‘Knight Slayer’ has been acquired.]

[8]

[The prison key has been acquired.]

[432,000 experience has been acquired.]

[Your level has risen.]

[Your level has risen.]

[Your level has risen.]

[Your level has risen.]

[Your level has risen.]

[Your level has risen.]

[Your level...]

The level of ‘Northern Nova’ Leo was exactly 188. Grid’s level rose from 21 to 45 in an instant. There was also a bonus title.

[Knight Slayer]

Stamina +100. Strength +30

“Ohhhhhhhh!!!!”

Knight Slayer was the easiest title to obtain because it was received after killing a knight. However, it was necessary to be skilled to take down a knight. So it wasn’t a title that could be obtained unless the person had a high-level. Yet Grid, who was level 21, killed a knight and acquired the Knight Slayer title.

'I received the title of Knight Slayer, which is one of the indications of a high-level user...!'

He never dreamed of getting the Knight Slayer title, even in his days as a warrior. Grid enjoyed the thrill as he started running. Then he reached the end where Huroi's voice had been heard.

"Huroi, I'm here!"

Ching!

The iron door easily opened due to the key from Leo.

"Ugh!" Grid frowned. The solitary cell was filled with a bad stench. And Huroi didn't look the same. It was like touching a skeleton. "What? You... You are Huroi right? Why do you look so different? What have you been doing in the meantime?"

Grid originally planned to hit Huroi's cheeks 200 times, but Huroi's condition was so bad that he didn't dare. It wasn't because of his conscience.

'Won't he die immediately if he is slapped? I don't want to be stigmatized as a criminal and player killer.'

"...You?"

Huroi slowly opened his eyes in the darkness. Then he looked at Grid. At that moment, Huroi was able to recall who he was, where he was and what type of quest he was completing.

"You... you are my saviour... Thank you... thank you..."

Then a notification window flashed in front of Grid.

[Quest success!]

[Title, 'Apostle of Justice' has been acquired.]

[The courage stat has opened.]

[All stats have increased by 10.]

[The skill 'Unbreakable Justice' has been generated.]

[Your reputation in Winston has reached the peak. In the future, the Winston residents will show you the best hospitality.]

[Affinity with the Winston residents has risen to the maximum. In the future, the Winston residents will share things with you.]

Huroi also had notification windows appear in front of him.

[Quest success!]

[The second class 'Apostle of Justice's Partner' has been acquired.]

[The courage stat has opened.]

[When you are with the Apostle of Justice, all stats will increase by 20%.]

[The skill 'Unbreakable Justice' has been generated.]

[The skill 'Sacrifice for Justice' has been generated.]

[Title, 'One who Overcomes Hardships' has been acquired.]

[Indomitable stat has opened.]

[The skill 'Strong Will' has been generated.]

[Congratulations! You are the first to obtain a second class in Satisfy. If you wish, your achievements will last for a long time in Satisfy.]

"Ah...!"

Tears poured from Huroi's eyes. He was thrilled at receiving these rewards after the hellish ordeal. Huroi used all his strength and barely raised his body. Then he fell to his knees in front of Grid.

"Grid, I didn't know it when we met but we clearly have a destined relationship. My saviour, Grid! I Allunbata, descendant of the Blue Wolf, will follow you for the rest of your life as the Apostle of Justice's Partner!"

'What is this?'

Grid didn't know the details and just thought Huroi was crazy. But Huroi was sincere. Huroi dismissed Grid when they met a few days ago, but now he was convinced that Grid was his destiny. He vowed to repay the favour to Grid.

Thus, the relationship between the two men began in earnest.

Chapter 48

Duplicator, a person who analyzed the skills of others, duplicated them and then could use the skills with no conditions. Duplicators could enjoy all types of benefits depending on the skills they duplicated. It could be anything they wanted. It could be called the most effective of all classes in Satisfy.

They were also a specialist in combat. Depending on the skill combination, it was possible to take on a boss raid alone, become the strongest assassin or even fight alone against an army. A Duplicator was the closest class to being called the 'strongest'.

However, a Duplicator also had fatal disadvantages.

Firstly, it could only duplicate a skill three times a day. Secondly, the duplicated skill only had a single use. Thirdly, she only nine basic skills, none of which were combat skills. Fourthly, the basic physical abilities of a magician were poor.

In other words, it meant Euphemina was the strongest when she duplicated a lot of skills, but the weakest when she had few skills. And right now, Euphemina was in her weakest mode.

"It's ruined," said Euphemina, her complexion pale.

Grid headed to the fourth floor, leaving her alone on the third floor. While she had defeated hundreds of soldiers that kept appearing, she had used most of her skills in exchange. To be precise, there were

three fire magic spells left. However, it wasn't possible to use them because fire magic was likely to cause an explosion.

In such a situation, four knights appeared as if they had been waiting and surrounded her.

"I'm screwed..."

There were no signs of Grid coming back. There was a massive explosion on the fourth floor, so maybe the worst had happened and Grid died.

'If he survived and rescued Huroi, can I guarantee that he will come back here to rescue me?'

Maybe Grid had already escaped alone from the prison? The knights aimed their swords at Euphemina, who stood idly like her soul had escaped.

"You are a ridiculously strong woman who killed more than 500 soldiers alone. Do you have the title of great magician?"

Fortunately, the knights didn't dare attack Euphemina. She had killed hundreds of soldiers, so it was natural for the knights to be afraid of her. However, the pointless confrontation didn't last long.

"Now the only troops left in the castle are the lord's bodyguards. Since there are no forces left to block the exit, Grid might escape while we are tied up here."

"Is there even a chance? Didn't Leo go down to the fourth floor? Leo has probably already caught up and will happily kill Grid."

"The lord's comfort is at stake. We have to consider and guard against the worst possibility."

"Yes... Then let's hurry. It isn't honorable, but I am afraid we will have to fight four against one."

The four knights made a decision and rushed at Euphemina at the same time. Now Euphemina was forced to make a decision.

'I can't be still.'

Euphemina took out a gold dice. It was the Rolling Dice skill that she got for winning the item making game against Grid.

[Rolling Dice]

Roll a dice and a phenomenon will occur, depending on the number that is rolled.

* If the target is yourself or an ally: There will be a beneficial effect if the number 4 or higher is rolled. There will be a harmful effect if the number rolled is 3 or lower.

* If the target is an enemy: There will be a beneficial effect if the number 3 or lower is rolled. There will be a harmful effect if the number rolled is 4 or higher.

Skill Mana Cost: 1,000

Skill Cooldown Time: 3,000 seconds

What if she rolled the dice and the situation became worse?

'If the situation becomes too bad, I will use the fire magic.'

Euphemina didn't intend to die alone. She grumbled but there were still no signs of Grid returning. She couldn't imagine how but she would later get revenge on Grid in a terrible way.

At that moment!

"These knights ganging up on a weak... no, this woman isn't weak but still... There is no difference between being gangsters."

"G...rid?"

Euphemina and the knights gazed in the direction of the voice. Grid and Huroi were standing next to each other.

"Ah...!"

Euphemina's face brightened at Grid's emergence. She thought that Grid was human trash without any loyalty, but he actually wasn't the worst person. He came back as promised.

'Really pretty.'

Euphemina's smile was as beautiful as a flower in full bloom, so Grid's heart couldn't help pounding.

'Let's not be deceived by outward appearances. She just has a beautiful outside that is covering the dirty inside! So don't run wild, my damn heart!'

The knights struggled to maintain their composure as they stared at Grid.

"How is that guy here...? Leo, who was called Northern Nova, was killed by a person like you?"

"I don't know who the Northern Nova is, but that young brat called Leo was easy to handle. One against one. One. Against. One. I killed him. Huhuhut!"

"You!"

The faces of the knights distorted after hearing that their colleague was killed. Grid didn't feel fear as he faced them. It was because he believed in something.

"Yes, you are angry so what are you going to do? Do you think any of you can touch me?"

"Ugh!"

The knights flinched. Listening to this, wasn't Grid good enough to destroy Leo? They were briefly off guard because Grid looked like trash, but he wasn't easy to deal with.

Euphemina felt admiration as she watched the knights stepping back from Grid.

'Making the knights back off with just a few words... How high is his level?'

Monsters and NPCs tended to shrink back from opponents more than 30 levels higher than them.

Therefore, Euphemina misunderstood and thought that Grid's level was much higher than the knights.

Meanwhile, Grid kept talking while approaching the knights. "Hey guys, if you don't want to die a dog like death like Leo, get out of the way. This is your only chance to get away."

"This guy...!" A knight was filled with anger and tried to rush forward. But the other knights stopped him

"Don't fall for his provocation. I know your skills but you shouldn't face him alone. It is probably a trap."

"Aren't you overreacting? Think about it calmly. That bastard's class is a blacksmith! Blacksmiths can't be that strong!"

"But Leo hasn't come back. I can't tell if he is a good actor or not, but he is clearly someone to be wary of."

"Kuoh...!"

The knights were tense because they were thinking too much, while Grid continued walking forward. The knights backed away with every step Grid took.

Huroi was thrilled when he witnessed the tremendous sight of Grid overwhelming the four knights alone.

'Truly amazing... Grid's outward appearance might seem insignificant but he is actually a tremendous high-level user who made the knights tremble in fear. The other day I saw him in the smithy and treated him as a comedian. I am ashamed of my eyes.'

From Euphemina, to Huroi, to the knights! At a time when all of them were greatly mistaken about Grid, Grid was smiling with satisfaction.

'With Euphemina's skills, can't she get rid of these knights at any time?'

That's right. In fact, the reason Grid was so confident right now was because there was the existence called Euphemina. Grid had no doubts that Euphemina could handle all of them.

Thump, thump.

Grid kept moving forward, while the knights backing up became increasingly anxious. Then they reached the stairs leading up to the second floor. At this point, the knights made up their minds.

'What are we doing? We are honorable knights, so why are we scared of a person who escaped from jail? This is the shame of a lifetime!'

'This might cause harm to the lord. I have to defend this place, for the lord.'

'He isn't a simple blacksmith if he managed to kill Leo. It is a matter of pride now. I won't back up anymore.'

'Leo was alone, but there are four of us. We can't lose.'

The knights decided to no longer back off. This caused Grid to stop moving as well.

"What? Do you want to fight? Won't you regret this?"

The knights gripped their swords and yelled. "We will fight! I can't tolerate letting a criminal like you escape!"

"...I'm not a criminal. Crazy bastards."

Grid became really irritated. In the first place, wasn't he unfairly framed? Originally, he should've won the prize for winning the blacksmith game. Then he was taken to prison and unfairly suffered!

Grid angrily shouted. "Euphemina! Show these guys! Use your magic. Take it away!"

Euphemina made a surprised expression. "Right now... it is a little... Can't you handle it directly?"

"What? It is impossible."

"Stop joking. Can't you beat them with your skills?"

"What are you saying? You should be the one fighting, not me."

"No, why are you refusing to fight now?"

Grid explained to Euphemina, "I can't win against them."

"Don't lie. You were able to get rid of the Northern Nova by yourself!"

"No, that isn't..."

Somehow, the conversation was strange. The faces of Grid and Euphemina gradually stiffened, while the knights completely lost their hesitation and attacked.

"...Dammit!"

It was like a teleportation move. The knight Rupert used his patented 'Dash' skill and immediately reached Grid's side, aiming a sword at him. Grid was completely caught off guard and it seemed like he would be pierced by the sword. Just before Rupert's sword hit Grid, Huroi pushed him to the side and was stabbed instead.

".....!"

Everyone thought that Huroi would die. Huroi was already in a bad condition and he wasn't wearing any armor. At that moment, a strange thing happened.

"What is this...? Urghh!"

Rupert was astonished. This was because his sword, which should've pierced Huroi's abdomen, was blocked by it. It was like stabbing at steel. His wrist was broken. On the other hand, Huroi was fine. The person who attacked was injured, while the person who was attacked was fine.

Euphemina asked with confusion. "What is with that guy? Why can't the knight's sword pierce him?"

Grid couldn't reply. "Well... I don't know..."

"Why are you answering so half-heartedly? Why are you running around to save someone you don't know? Stop joking around and just tell me the truth for once!"

“No... I really don't know...”

High-level martial artists had a defense skill called Impenetrable Skin. But even Impenetrable Skin wasn't able to block the sword of a knight with just the body. It was clear that Huroi had some defensive ability that went beyond Impenetrable Skin.

Huroi spoke during the silence. "I will tie up their feet. You two should use this gap to run away."

The reason why Huroi was able to block the knight's attack with his body. It was thanks to the skill given by the title 'One who Overcomes Hardships.'

[Strong Will]

Resists any attack for 10 seconds after using the skill.

Skill Mana Cost: 200

Skill Cooldown Time: 9,000 seconds

The waiting time to reuse it was around 2.5 hours, but its performance was clearly great. It was a priceless skill acquired after enduring and overcoming a hellish trial. And Grid was the one who saved him from hell. Huroi already vowed to pay back this favor for the rest of my life.

After that, Huroi determined that he would sacrifice himself for Grid. He wanted Grid to escape safely through the gap while the knights were unharmed.

“Huroi...” An ordinary person would hesitate to leave a fellow colleague but... "Buy as much time as possible so that we can escape safely."

"I'll see you next time."

Grid and Euphemina weren't emotional people. They immediately left this place and Huroi was left alone.

“This...!”

The knights tried to chase Grid but Huroi blocked the way. He opened his mouth with an expression of determination to protect Grid.

"I have no thoughts of letting you leave, you #*&!(\$#@. This damn \$.“

“.....?”

Huroi was an orator so words that couldn't be repeated emerged from his mouth. The knights suffered a profound psychological blow because of Huroi's words, which were more abusive than anything they've heard before.

This was Huroi's Spiteful Tongue skill. Huroi attacked the knights while they were confused and their stats were down.

“Unbreakable Justice!”

It was one of the two skills acquired from his second class, Apostle of Justice's Partner. It was his ultimate attack skill that dealt damage that was 300% of his attack power.

Peeeong!

After Huroi's fist struck Rupert's face, the shock wave reached the knights standing around Rupert. The sound of a huge blow echoed through the underground prison, causing the knights to reflexively scream in pain.

"Kkack!"

But it was just a reflexive reaction.

"...Huh?"

The knights strangely couldn't feel any pain. It was a natural phenomenon. In the first place, an orator had poor physical abilities and he currently wasn't equipped with any weapons. A 300% increase in an orator's damage still wasn't enough to deal a blow to armored knights. The difference was too big.

Huroi accepted it calmly. "It is as I expected. This is a useless skill to the current me."

"....."

It only took a few minutes for Huroi to be captured by the knights and locked in solitary confinement again. But Huroi didn't care. He hadn't been able to log out for 50 hours in reality. Therefore, he was exhausted and wanted to log out and rest.

Since the quest was clear, there was no penalty for logging out.

'Based on this situation, it will soon be over for Winston's lord... I can easily escape from the prison after I get some sleep and log in again. Then Grid, I wish you good fortune.'

So, Huroi logged out.

Chapter 49

Grid and Euphemina hurriedly ran away from the knights. Thanks to Euphemina grasping the layout of the first and second floors of the dungeon, the two people didn't have to wander and managed to reach the surface level.

Brilliant sunshine! Blue sky! A green lawn! Grid was excited by the bright and brilliant landscape that was unlike the dark dungeon where all sides were blocked.

"Hahahahat! We escaped the castle~"

The dungeon entrance that Grid and Euphemina escaped from was located between towers erected on the east-facing wall. The two of them were exiting the tower, and there was a lookout above them. In other words, there were concerns that the guards in the watchtowers would hear Grid's loud voice.

"Be quiet, we are still in the middle of enemy territory."

Euphemina tried to calm Grid down but he was so excited about escaping that he didn't hear her.

"Kya! Look at this clean air. The humid air in the dungeon was so bad! I thought my lungs were rotting away. Air is important! I finally understand why city people are so excited about the air in the countryside!"

Grid made a fuss as he lay down on the lawn and rolled around. He was out of control.

Euphemina had a headache. Most of the soldiers were defeated but the power of the lord's bodyguards still seemed intact. The bodyguards weren't a match for knights, but their level and skills exceeded that of ordinary soldiers. Euphemina didn't want to face them. In the worst case, they could tie up her feet until the knights arrived from underground.

"Hey Grid, we need to leave this place as secretly and quietly as possible, so be a bit more quiet..."

"Hah~~ the smell of the grass is so clear and refreshing! The nice scent of pine needles!"

"....."

Euphemina tiredly rubbed her temple, steadily reaching the limits of her patience.

"....."

In the end, Euphemina took action and approached Grid, who was sniffing the lawn, and grabbed his collar. Then she pushed her mouth towards Grid's ears and yelled,

"You! Didn't I tell you to be quiet? Don't you have a brain? We are in the middle of enemy territory! We should be running away from this dangerous territory, so why are you making noise while rolling around!!! Yes?"

"Aaaagh!"

Grid felt like his eardrums had ruptured from the shock. The tearful Grid struggled to escape from Euphemina.

"You, don't embarrass me anymore but acting like a fool. Don't you want to leave this damn place? So do it properly. If you act so stupidly again, I really will kill you."

Euphemina knew that the grade of Grid's class was higher than hers. Grid wasn't a weak person. Nevertheless, she couldn't help becoming angry as she kept scrutinizing Grid.

Grid was really afraid that he would be killed by Euphemina when he suddenly turned his attention to one side. Then he gently spoke to Euphemina.

"There... are they enemies?"

An ominous feeling. Euphemina slowly turned in the direction that Grid pointed. Then she was frustrated. 16 bodyguards armed with full plate armor appeared in a systematic formation.

Chaeeeeeng!

Their 16 swords reflected in the sunlight, causing flashes throughout the castle.

Grid scowled and snapped at her. "Look what this angry girl did... You caused such a big fuss that the enemies emerged."

Euphemina was upset and retorted, "This is because you were loud first!"

Euphemina's killing intent flared up. Grid trembled with fear as he apologized, "S-Sorry, I was wrong. It was a slip of the tongue."

Euphemina's head throbbed as she thought,

'This man, what type of concept is he trying on? Why does he keep acting afraid of me?'

Grid was the one who defeated the Northern Nova in a one-on-one match. He also overwhelmed four knights with just his presence. She didn't have direct knowledge of his skills, but she could make a guess. Grid was strong. A type of man who wouldn't be afraid of anything in Satisfy.

So, Euphemina started trembling.

'This guy is playing with me.'

Euphemina disliked Grid from the beginning. When the two people first met at the item production game, Grid wasn't misled by Euphemina's beautiful appearance. That fact alone was humiliating for Euphemina, then she heard all the ridiculing words Grid had spoken.

Kid, fox, etc!

Now he was blaming her for doing nothing wrong? This man! It was an embarrassing memory that Euphemina wanted to forget for the rest of her life.

At that moment, a middle-aged man dressed in silver and gold appeared from among the bodyguards. His identity was Baron Lowe. He was the lord of Winston, the one who allied with the Mero Company and allowed the residents of Winston to suffer.

"To have reached here... did you get rid of all the soldiers and knights? Ha...hahaha! I can't believe it!"

Baron Lowe laughed like he was insane. It was impossible to maintain his sanity after losing most of his army from one intruder and one prison escapee.

"...The people can't be controlled without the army. Now I have no way of stopping people from going to Earl Steim. Thus, Earl Steim will find out about my actions and my life is ruined."

Baron Lowe was extremely angry after realizing his fate. He couldn't forgive Grid and Euphemina, who took everything away from him.

"Catch them! Tear apart all their limbs and make it so that they can't close their eyes!"

The 16 bodyguards followed what was possibly the lord's last command and got into formation. This was a formation that could even compete with a knight. But it was no use in front of Euphemina.

"Demon King's Tail Fire."

"Ack?!"

The bodyguards groaned at the same time. It was because their armor started to heat up. Then the amazing sight unfolded.

Hwaruruk!

Blue flames soared from the bodies of the bodyguards.

"Aaaagh!"

"W-What is this...? Kuack!"

The terrible screams and painful struggle only lasted a short time. It didn't take long for the bodyguards to be turned to ashes.

"Wow."

"T-This is ridiculous..."

A magic that annihilated 16 of the bodyguards. Grid and Baron Lowe couldn't believe it, despite witnessing the scene with their own two eyes. As their faces paled with horror, Euphemina gave a refreshing smile. By taking care of the bodyguards, she had managed to relieve some of the stress that reached the limit due to Grid.

'Indeed, the lord's guards are very strong. Their experience is pretty good.'

Grid and Baron Lowe felt a similar sentiment as they looked at her.

'I need to avoid this evil girl...'

'Demon. She is a demon.'

After that, Baron Lowe was captured by Euphemina. He was tied up and dragged away like a dog caught by a dog catcher.

Grid vowed yet again. 'I must never touch this woman again. I won't be able to survive if I do.'

Maybe Huroi had managed to tie up their feet for a while since the pursuit of the knights still couldn't be felt. Euphemina hurried and they managed to safely escape the castle.

Then they met an unexpected person outside the castle. It was the second highest ranked person in the Mero Company, Rabbit. He was standing with 10 people as if he had been waiting for them.

Colour returned to the face of the lord. "Ohh! Aren't you Rabbit? You heard the news and came to rescue me!"

Grid became tense.

'This... are they soldiers from the Mero Company?'

As Grid inwardly shouted, Euphemina strode forward towards Rabbit. She looked at Rabbit's subordinates and asked.

"These are the people you mentioned earlier?"

Rabbit nodded. "That's correct. They originally followed Valmont but became disappointed with his brutality. They won't hold you back."

“They do look strong. Great. I can count on them.”

The two people were talking like they were friends!

Grid felt extreme anxiety. ‘Why are the two of them so close? Wait, wasn’t Euphemina hired by the Mero Company in the first place? Then why? Maybe Euphemina saving me was a trap!’

Grid’s guess was this:

Winston’s lord and the Mero Company had joined hands. Euphemina, who was hired by the Mero Company, was subsequently the lord’s ally. The conclusion that could be drawn from the first and second fact was that Euphemina was an enemy.

If Euphemina really belonged to the lord, she wouldn’t have killed his soldiers. She also wouldn’t be dragging the lord around like a dog. In the first place, why would Euphemina rescue Grid if she was the enemy? She also returned the unique dagger to him instead of selling it.

But Grid was so confused that any thinking was impossible. He could only make the simple judgment that Euphemina was the enemy.

‘It is the end... I really can’t easily trust a black-bellied animal like her! I showed her some goodwill, only to be duped!’

Grid thought of some of the historical dramas he watched and decided.

‘I won’t obediently let her kill me. I wanted to be more careful about my stat distribution, but it can’t be helped. Status window.’

Name: Grid

Level: 45 (3,400/238,000)

Class: Pagma’s Descendant

- * The probability of adding additional options when making items will increase.
- * The probably of item enhancement will increase.
- * All equipment items can be worn unconditionally. However, there is a penalty depending on the rating of the item.

Title: One who Became a Legend

- * Abnormal conditions don’t work well on you.
- * You won’t die when health is at the minimum.
- * Easily acknowledged.

Title: First Unique Item Maker

- * Dexterity +200

Title: Knight Slayer

* Stamina +100.

* Strength +30

Title: Apostle of Justice

* All stats +10.

* The Apostle of Justice's bravery is unmatched.

Health: 2,964/2,964 Mana: 243/243

Strength: 166 Stamina: 244 Agility: 118 Intelligence: 91

Dexterity: 391 Persistence: 82

Composure: 66 Indomitable: 74 Dignity: 66 Insight: 66

Courage: 10

Stat Points: 240

Weight: 842/4,960

Chapter 50

Grid's status window was unusually gorgeous. While he was only level 45, his total stats were comparable to a user in the mid-200s. Particularly impressive was that he had six rare stats such as: persistence, composure, indomitable, dignity, insight, and courage.

But was that all? He also owned four titles. Originally, titles were very difficult to obtain and those with four titles could be among the top rankers. Grid already had four titles at level 45. Befitting of a legendary class in Satisfy, the status window was truly overwhelming.

But Grid was dissatisfied rather than pleased.

'I hammered day and night, trained my stats and succeeded in ridiculously difficult quests, but this is it? Didn't I fight one-on-one against a knight at level 21? But the result is too bad compared to my hard work. Dammit. By now, all my stats should be around 300 points. What type of legendary class is this? Dammit... Euphemina has an epic class but she is so OP she can use all types of magic with no chanting... Ah... I'm unhappy.'

Grid was paying attention to Euphemina and Rabbit while grumbling.

Euphemina was wearing a magician's robe, Rabbit was wearing chain mail and held a one-handed sword that seemed expensive, and his subordinates were holding various weapons such as spears, swords, and bows.

'They aren't heavily armed so if I increase my attack power, I can easily handle them... I'm not wearing armor right now so I need to increase my stamina and defense... my agility is more than enough with the Ideal Dagger...'

This was a desperate situation! Grid made a quick decision without thinking too deeply.

‘150 points in strength and 90 points in stamina.’

Since Grid was essentially a blacksmith, it was wise to invest as many points as possible in dexterity. The higher the dexterity, the higher the probability of producing a higher rated item. But Grid was born as a warrior. He had a basic desire to strengthen his combat power, plus it was wise to raise his strength and stamina to avoid the immediate crisis.

‘Anyway, my dexterity stat will naturally increase the more items I make, so there is no need to invest my points in it.’

Furthermore, he received the title of ‘First Unique Item Maker’ after making the Ideal Dagger in the item production game against Euphemina, and this gave him 200 points in dexterity. Thus, Grid didn’t feel sorry about not investing in dexterity.

[You have invested 150 points in strength. Is this correct?]

‘Yes.’

[Once the points are invested, it can’t be reversed. Do you want to proceed?]

‘Yes.’

[You have invested 90 points in stamina. Is this correct?]

‘That’s right. That is no need to ask, so do it quickly.’

[Your changed stats will be applied.]

As a result, Grid’s strength was at 316 and his stamina was at 334. Considering that the current average of blacksmith users was 80 strength and 100 stamina, Grid’s strength and stamina was an unbelievably high number.

No, it was possible to explain the greatness of Grid’s stats more clearly by comparing it with a combat class, rather than a blacksmith.

A level 45 combat class had an average of 210 strength and 100 stamina. The average of a class that emphasized defense was 100 strength and 230 stamina. The average of a combat class that emphasized speed was 120 strength and 80 stamina. More importantly, a level 45 combat class had a total of fewer than 500 stat points.

Compared to general users, Grid’s stats were really great. It was overwhelming. But Grid wasn’t aware that he was strong.

Starting with Earl Ashur and his knights, to Doran, Yura, Leo, and Euphemina. From the moment he became a legendary class to the present, Grid had encountered strong people in succession and carried out difficult quests. So he thought he was weak when he compared himself to them.

But what was the truth? When equipped with the Ideal Dagger, Grid was stronger than a level 100 combat class. The moment when Grid was about to attack Euphemina and Rabbit.

“Hey Rabbit! Why are you talking to that evil girl? I need you to save me!”

Baron Lowe shifted Rabbit's gaze towards him. Then Rabbit spoke with an expressionless face, "You still haven't grasped the situation? I didn't come here to help you. I am the one who hired Euphemina to break into your castle in the first place."

"What?"

"Eh?"

Baron Lowe and Grid spoke at the same time. Rabbit dropped a bombshell remark, "I don't belong to the Mero Company anymore."

"What does that..."

"Valmont is becoming increasingly oppressive. It has become noticeable ever since he took control of Winston's trade with your help. It's pretty obvious that he can't read the mood in the village and will soon fall; therefore, I have decided to leave because a dark cloud is hanging over the Mero Company's future. And today, I am prepared to punish you and Valmont."

Baron Lowe's face turned red as he yelled, "You! You are just a traitor! What right do you have to punish us? You are a merchant, not an apostle of justice!"

"As you said, I am a merchant. That's why I only move for profit. I have no sense of justice. He is why I want to kill you and Valmont."

Rabbit pointed to Grid. Grid found it strange.

"Eh? Me?"

Rabbit bowed to Grid, who looked dumbfounded. "I'm glad you are safe, Grid. It was correct to leave this to Euphemina."

"What is this? Why did you betray the Mero Company?"

Rabbit smiled and explained, "I saw your blacksmithing and realized a new future."

"New future?"

"Grid, you know it yourself, but your potential is excellent. It is clear that your work will one day be traded among people at high prices. You will make a big amount of money. However, it is hard to do business with the power of an individual. There will obviously be limitations to the amount of money that can be earned. So I would like to work with you. I will help you use all the experience I've accumulated as a merchant, as well as the network I've built. I will make it so that a lot of people can use your work, from the Eternal Kingdom to other kingdoms."

Rabbit spoke his aspirations,

"We will make the best smithy, which will have profits comparable to a small and medium-sized company. If you and I join forces, we can clearly succeed. However, in order for me to work with you, I need to reform my image and appeal to you and the residents of Winston. That is why I rescued you, and also prepared a means to take down the Mero Company and Winston's lord."

"Yes... so you betrayed the Mero Company because you want to work with me? That's why you sent Euphemina to rescue me?"

"That's right."

"It is appreciated. But why are you trying to obtain the liking of the Winston residents?"

"Our business will be starting at Khan's smithy. It has geographical advantages, so Khan's smithy is the most ideal place to act as a base. In other words, I need to get a job at Khan's smithy. But how can I get a job when I am blamed by Winston's residents?"

"...Ahh, I understand. How exactly do you plan to do business?"

Euphemina urged Rabbit to explain quickly, "Do you have enough time to spare? We are in a hurry."

"Yes, I understand. Mr. Grid, I'm afraid the detailed explanation needs to be left for the next time we meet. First, you only need to know one thing. I will make you rich. Then I'm going now."

Rabbit bowed politely to Grid and turned around. The man who was an enemy was now talking about becoming a business partner... Grid couldn't adapt to the sudden development and was confused.

"It can't be helped. I'm tired so my head isn't working properly. Let's log out and take a break."

Euphemina called out to Grid who was about to leave. "Hey Grid, did you forget something?"

'This girl, she only saved me because of a quest so why is she acting so condescending. But well... she did rescue me and gave me back my unique dagger...'

If it hadn't been for Euphemina, Grid would've failed his quest to rescue Huroi. Grid greeted Euphemina genuinely after thinking this.

"Thank you again."

Euphemina frowned. "Did you think I called you just to hear that? Surely you haven't forgotten?"

"What?"

"You promised to make me a unique rated orb."

"H-How could I forget? Of course I remember."

He had actually forgotten. The thought of forgetting and then Euphemina killing him because he didn't keep his promise sent a chill through him.

"I will make it for you. Instead, I need a method of making orbs. Naturally, I'll also need the materials for it."

Grid was sincere. He intended to make the orb to fulfill his promise to Euphemina. Was it to repay Euphemina after being helped by her? No. Grid was trying to keep his promise with Euphemina for another reason.

'This is a great chance to learn another production method for free!'

But was that all? Every time he made an item, the level of his skills related to production would increase. Wasn't it good to raise his skill level using free materials?

"I understand. I will contact you again when I obtain them."

Euphemina said goodbye to Grid.

Grid fell into deep thoughts once he was alone. 'If I join hands with Rabbit, can I really become a blacksmith who earns the equivalent of a small business company?'

Grid was already aware that his class was lucrative. If he tried hard, he would be able to get rid of his debt someday. Maybe he could even buy a foreign car. But the future that Rabbit spoke about was different in scale.

The revenue from converting a small amount of gold into cash was nothing compared to the revenue of a small business company. If he could earn an equivalent amount as a blacksmith, Grid would definitely be able to buy the car.

'No, a foreign car is nothing. I can live in a mansion with many foreign cars. If I have that much financial power, Ahyoung will be attracted to me!'

Grid shook with excitement. On the other hand, Rabbit asked Euphemina after they left Grid.

"Grid seems afraid of you. Did something happen?"

"What? Does it make sense that he is afraid of me?"

Euphemina laughed.

"Grid is the one who defeated the knight called the Northern Nova. In addition, he overwhelmed four knights with just his presence. Does such a mighty person fear anything in this world? That guy is just playing with me. He isn't actually afraid."

"Hoh...wait? What did you say just now?" Rabbit doubted his ears. "Grid has the power to overcome a knight?"

"Yes."

"Isn't Grid a blacksmith?"

"Yes, he certainly is a blacksmith. But he is also strong. I don't know what his identity is."

"....."

A blacksmith who could create a unique item and was strong? Rabbit was able to get a vague hint about Grid's identity.

'Perhaps he is...'

The legendary blacksmith. His name was Pagma. Maybe people only knew him as a great blacksmith, but Rabbit searched through related documents and found out that Pagma wasn't exactly a blacksmith.

'If he has inherited Pagma's skills...not only is he an excellent blacksmith, he also has excellent combat skills. Is Grid Pagma's Descendant? That's right. It is the most likely option.'

He never thought that the person he decided to be his business partner would've been a legend's descendant! Rabbit felt an enormous joy that was beyond words.

'I am lucky. This is an opportunity to sell works that contain Pagma's soul.'

If he worked with Pagma's Descendant, he could earn a profit that was equivalent to a huge business company. Rabbit was exuberant. He hastened his steps towards the Mero Company.

"R-Rabbit! You bastard!"

Valmont and Philipson, who hadn't yet noticed that the castle had collapsed from intruders, was caught by surprise by the attack. Philipson was murdered by a furious Euphemina after she discovered he had kidnapped a young girl.

Then Valmont and Baron Lowe were sent to Frontier and executed by Earl Steim.

But there was a variable.

"It is obvious that Rabbit saved the Winston residents from the crisis, but he has noticeably been the Mero Company's second hand man for a long time. Rabbit could be considered a felon for persecuting the residents of Winston, so I will sentence him to 10 years in prison."

Rabbit's mistake was to overlook that Earl Steim was a stern figure. Rabbit had expected his sins to be forgiven in recognition of his contribution to the downfall of the Mero Company and Baron Lowe, but he was unexpectedly sentenced to prison.

Rabbit was unhappy, but he had to accept it because it was the earl's decision.

"I have formed a relationship with Mr. Grid... It is regretful, but he recognizes my merits so I should just be glad about that."

Rabbit smiled as he went to prison. He was satisfied at just decorating one page of the biography of a future legend.

Winston entered a new era.

The village was upgraded to a city and the new lord of Winston, dispatched by Earl Steim, distributed exclusive merchandise to the residents and reimbursed the heavy debts of the residents.

The residents of Winston started talking about the heroes who freed them from their nightmare.

"Do you know the person called Rabbit? Originally, he was the second highest ranked person of the Mero Company, but he was unable to tolerate Valmont and Baron Lowe's evil, leading to their downfall. He is currently in prison, but he is the reason we can live like this now."

"Do you know the most beautiful woman in the world? Her heart is as beautiful as her face, and she ran alone into the castle to save the residents of Winston. She is the protagonist who caused Winston's peace."

"There was a young blacksmith. The young man with a strong sense of justice fought valiantly to protect the residents of Winston from the Mero Company and Baron Lowe. He tried to protect Khan's smithy and jumped into the dungeon to rescue the man who was arrested for trying to get to Earl Steim. I am over 80 years old this year and that man is young enough to be my grandchild, but I respect him regardless of his age. Such a just and courageous person is indeed rare."

Rabbit, the beauty and the young blacksmith.

The travellers who came to Winston were exposed to stories of the three people from the residents. This was evidence that the three people's reputation had reached its peak in Winston.

Irene, Winston's new lady, showed great interest in the beauty and the young blacksmith.

"Anyway, their merits should be recognized. I would like to meet them as soon as possible."