

Overgeared 521

Chapter 521

[You have taken a high grade mana potion.]

“Shit.”

The alchemy facility in Reidan produced the superior mana potion. If he could take it, Grid would've filled up all his mana with only one potion. But the high grade potion only filled half his mana.

‘That Rabbit...’

Before going to the East Continent. When Grid had requested the potion, Rabbit couldn't raise his head.

‘The potions we have built up over the last few months has been depleted because they were supplied to the Overgeared members who participated in the war. I'm sorry.’

Damn alchemy! He had questioned the value of the facility ever since the ‘coolness’ option was attached to Iyarugt. Reidan's economy had recovered and was growing, but Rabbit still had an obsession with alchemy.

‘There is little effectiveness and it's just wasting money.’

However, the higher the level of alchemy, the more types of options that could be attached to the item. It was also possible to produce enhancement stones themselves in the future. Grid had poured a huge amount of gold into the alchemy facility. He couldn't stop supporting alchemy now. Therefore, he could only hope that it would become useful in the future.

“Myaang! My husband's enemy is laughing!”

The outraged Queen Rat kept chasing him. Grid ran with all his strength, but the Queen Rat gradually narrowed the distance. Grid stopped thinking and summoned the God Hands.

“Buy me some time.”

The level difference between the hamster couples was generally around 20 levels. The female rats were always at least 20 levels higher than the male rats. Based on the assumption that the Queen Rat was at least level 420, Grid didn't dare face the Queen Rat head on. He planned to use the newly acquired Alarm spell to create a favorable situation for himself.

Kung!

Kung kung!

The ground shook every time the Queen Rat took a step. He didn't know how she carried her weight despite her wrists and ankles being thinner than Grid's.

‘This monster!’

There was the possibility that Grid could be overwhelmed and commanded the God Hands to attack. First of all, he had the God Hand swing the Ultimate Enhanced Mjolnir at the Queen Rat. It was the

precursor of infinite stiffness. The Ultimate Enhanced Mjolnir boasted a 100% accuracy rate and struck the Queen Rat's head hard.

Peeok!

[The Ultimate Enhanced Mjolnir has caused the target to stiffen for 0.15 seconds.]

'What...?'

Originally, the Ultimate Enhanced Mjolnir caused 0.3 seconds of stiffness. Then what was this 0.15 seconds?

'Is it a 50% resistance to status conditions? Or is it due to the level difference?'

A chill went down Grid's spine. The Queen Rat quickly recovered from the stiff and blocked the strikes of the other God Hands with her trident. Then her red eyes glowed as she hit the God Hands.

[God Hand (1) has received a strong shock and has become stiff.]

'Dammit!'

0.15 seconds was too short. It seemed impossible to cause infinite stiffness to the Queen Rat because she could recover before the other God Hands would link their attacks.

"Myaang!"

The Queen Rat caused all the God Hands to stiffen and threw her trident at Grid.

Kuwaaaaang!

It was like a fighter jet was flying. The trident rushed through the atmosphere like a missile. Grid responded instantly.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

He had to run while waiting for the cooldown time of the potion to be over. How could he take advantage of Alarm to knock down that monster? He actively used his brain and coped with the thrown trident by using Revolve.

Peeeeeeong!

The rotated light and trident hit each other.

Puook!

[You have dealt 190,300 damage to the target.]

The trident was turned around by Revolve and stabbed at the chest of the Queen Rat. The Queen Rat suffered 200,000 damage in one blow, but didn't slow down at all.

"Muong!"

She pulled the trident out and chased after Grid again with the trident. Grid was able to figure out one feature of the Queen Rat.

'She will unconditionally use a throwing attack once we're a certain distance apart?'

If he knew it in advance, it wasn't difficult to cope with.

Kuwooooh!

The trident made a loud sound like an animal's roar. Grid confirmed that the cooldown time of the mana potion returned, drank it, and used Blackening and Quick Movements.

Peeng!

Grid disappeared just before the trident reached him. The only thing left in his place were the remains of demonic power.

"Muong?"

The Queen Rat started to explore the area to find Grid. But he wasn't easy to find. It was because Grid wore the Hooded Zip Up the moment he had escaped. It was only a matter of seconds before the Queen Rat could find Grid, so Grid needed to catch her during this time.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

Grid appeared in the space where there was nothing. His position was above the Queen Rat's head.

"Muoong!

The Queen Rat grasped Grid's position immediately using her excellent sense of hearing. She showed a ridiculous reaction rate. She avoided Grid's Pinnacle and prepared to counterattack. However, the Queen Rat hesitated before attacking. It was due to the God Hands. The God Hands had recovered from the stiffness and aimed at the Queen Rat with Mjolnir.

'It's the end if I kill that human! Myong!'

Then Queen Rat made a decision quickly. She hesitated for only a moment. She ignored the attacks of the God Hands and waved her tail at the enemy human who killed her husband.

Peeok!

Like a bee's stinger, the sharp tail hit Grid's face. In return, the Queen Rat allowed a hit from the Mjolnirs and became stiff for a total of 0.3 seconds. At this time.

Sururuk.

Grid flew back after being hit by the tail and changed into Randy.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

The voice of the 'real' Grid was heard behind the stiffened Queen Rat.

"...Myong!"

It was a fake? The Queen Rat's eyes widened with surprise. She looked just like a hamster! Honestly, the expression was cute. But Grid wasn't deceived by the outward appearance and connected the skill to the end.

“Linked Kill!”

“Myaang!”

It was too late. 0.3 seconds of stiffness was too short. The Queen Rat was released from the stiffness and avoided the God Hands’ next attacks. She intended to counter the human’s attack. However...

“Muong?”

The Queen Rat was stunned. Didn’t she clearly hear the voice of the human using a skill behind her? Why was there nothing when she turned back? The moment that the Queen Rat was feeling confused.

“Linked Kill Wave.”

Grid’s voice was heard from the sky. That’s right. The real Grid was in the sky. Grid’s voice that the Queen Rat heard behind her was merely a fake recorded with the Alarm spell. As soon as he learned new magic, Grid applied it properly in practice.

Ku kwa kwa kwa kwa! Ku kwa kwa kwa kwa!

The bombardment of black energy blades!

"Kyaaaaang!"

The Queen Rat screamed from the pain. In the interim, the God Hands continued to attack the Queen Rat and Grid took another mana potion. He accumulated Magic Missiles.

‘Magic Missile. Magic Missile. Magic Missile.’

Magic Missile (Enhanced) Lv. 3 could be used once per second. He summoned it every time the cooldown returned and attached the Alarm spell to it. The result.

Kuoooooh.

Right now, Grid was as splendid as the sun as he floated in the sky. There were lumps of white mana around him.

“Pagma’s Swordsmanship.”

“Uhh!”

By now, the Queen Rat had learned the name of Grid’s skills. In the midst of the bombardment of energy blades and Mjolnir, she caught Grid speaking the name of a skill. She used the ‘Maintain Dignity’ skill that was the privilege of the queen who led the big poisonous rats.

Paaaang!

Maintain Dignity was a one-time override threat skill that a few leaders of a species had. The effect was absolute. The energy pouring from the Queen Rat caused the God Hands to stiffen and the Queen Rat rushed forward.

“Myaang!”

The angry Queen Rat's voice was heard to Grid's right. This time, it was an attack where she intended to kill her husband's enemy. But once again, the Queen Rat went hungry. The real Grid was in the sky while Grid's voice that she heard was a fake caused by the Alarm spell.

"This magic is a scam. Right?"

Ssik!

The Grid in the sky laughed and ridiculed the Queen Rat. The moment that the Queen Rat's anger soared into the sky.

"Where are you looking, nyang?"

Noe suddenly appeared behind the Queen Rat and swallowed her. It was the activation of Soul Ingestion. The Queen Rat's highest stat was weakened. The crisis of the Queen Rat started from here.

"Sublime Sword."

The Queen Rat appeared again with fur wet with saliva. A demon stood in front of her confused self. It was a white-haired old demon.

Sakak-!

"Myaang!"

A swordsman who had even threatened a great demon. The Sublime Sword struck the Queen Rat's chest. The Queen Rat screamed as she suffered a great deal of damage and Grid in the sky pounced. He fired 50 Magic Missiles as well as Pagma's Swordsmanship, Pinnacle Kill. Then...

Kuwaaaaaang!

The past 2 years. The center of the monster community that made the people of Pangea tremble was ruined. It was an extraordinary accomplishment created by a single man passing by the East Continent.

Chapter 522

[The +8 Holy Light Gloves's option effect is activated, causing the skill '5 Joint Attacks' to be generated!]

[The +9 Failure's option effect is activated, causing the skill '5 Joint Attacks' to be generated!]

[The +9 Failure's option effect is activated, causing the skill 'Bisect' to be used!]

[Pinnacle Kill has completely ignored the target's attack!]

[Critical!]

[The effect of the title 'Death in One Shot!' has been activated, adding 30% critical damage!]

[The weak spot has been attacked! Further damage will be dealt!!]

[Magic Missile has pierced the target.]

[Magic Missile has pierced the target.]

[Magic Missile...]

...

...

[You have dealt 23,230,470 damage to the target.]

[You have renewed the highest damage record!]

[The effectiveness of the title: 'Death in One Shot' has increased. Critical damage will increase by 10%!]

[You are establishing unparalleled damage achievements. The protection of War God Zeratul has slightly increased attack power, defense, and penetration power.]

[The blessings of God Dominion and War God Zeratul have combined to give the hidden passive skill 'God's Command.']

[God's Command]

Rating: SSS

The strongest passive attack power skill related to domain and ruling ability.

When using an attack skill, there is a 50% chance to reset the cooldown. Reuse of a reset skill within 3 seconds won't consume resources.

"Ugh...!"

The mass of notification windows was confusing. Grid dimly grasped that the notification windows contained positive contents. But he didn't have time to verify the details. The situation was desperate.

'Shit!'

40 minutes. He had been moving through the community for a long time. Then he consumed his stamina avoiding the Queen Rat's attacks while tying Alarm to Magic Missile. He freely took advantage of Alarm magic. But the result was the worst.

'What is this crazy health?'

He had been uneasy since he saw that the stat Noe took from the Queen Rat was stamina. The Queen Rat was a perfect tank-type boss monster and didn't die even after suffering heavy damage from Grid. She still had two-thirds of her health left. She was a monster with ridiculously high health.

"Pant... Pant... What the hell should I do against this rat?"

His stamina gauge was flashing. It was a warning that if he didn't take a break right now, he would fall into a state of incapacity. But the monster. How could he rest when a boss monster was right in front of him?

"Noe, can you carry me and bring me away?"

"Nyahahat! I am the best demonic beast of hell! But I am too small to carry Master... Nyang."

"Kuk."

The best demonic beast of hell, a memphis. Grid had never once felt envious of other players since acquiring him. But at this moment, he felt envious.

'I would've been able to run away if I had a wyvern.'

The Queen Rat couldn't fly. If he had a bit more stamina remaining, Grid would be able to get away with Fly.

'Mana isn't a problem.'

His mana could be replenished by taking potions, but stamina could only recover naturally.

'I still lack the ability to manage my stamina.'

There was never an end to learning. While Grid was thinking about his own shortcomings.

"Muong... Hu...man... The enemy of my clan..."

The Queen Rat on the ground twitched and started to get up. The smooth and beautiful fur was now dirty with sweat, blood, and dust. However, her momentum was stronger than before. Her eyes were filled with the desire to tear Grid apart.

"Human...! You are weakened! Myaang!"

Thump thump thump thump.

Grid's face became darker as the Queen Rat charged.

'It's difficult to avoid. I have no choice but to fight in the immortal state.'

But this wasn't an opponent that could be beaten in 5 seconds. He couldn't see any chance of victory. However.

Kkuok!

Grid tightened his grip on Failure. In addition, he summoned Magic Missile and Alarm. The raid might fail, but he was determined to fight his best to the last minute. Who cared if he failed? He just wanted to become stronger. Grid planned to gather as much information about the Queen Rat as possible and use it as a springboard for the future.

'If today's raid fails, it will be different next time!'

It was the moment when Grid's unique commitment appeared.

[The Legendary Blacksmith's Patience skill has been activated.]

[Concentration, stamina, and defense will rise to the extremes for one hour.]

A skill with terrible activation conditions. Since becoming Pagma's Descendant, he'd experienced the effect less than 10 times. There was a low probability of it activating when he was focused on making items, and then all his fatigue would disappear. The Legendary Blacksmith's Patience filled up Grid's flashing stamina gauge.

"Ah, really..."

A dark smile appeared on Grid's face as he felt the lightening of his body.

"This feels like fate. Go, God Hands."

It felt like he was born with the mission to destroy the big poisonous rats. It felt like he became the protagonist of the world at this moment. Grid aimed precisely at a gap in the Queen Rat, who lost her momentum because she was beaten by Mjolnir. He moved in the steps of a sword dance.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship!"

"Myaang!"

"Linked Kill!"

Jjejeong!

Jjeejeeong!

The Queen Rat had planned to crush Grid. The moment she was about to strike Grid's head, Grid responded with a series of intense attacks.

[The hidden passive 'God's Command' has reset the cooldown of Linked Kill.]

"...Eh? Hidden passive?"

Grid realized that it was a skill he acquired a while ago that he hadn't been able to look at! He was confused by it, but didn't waste any time. He once again used Linked Kill on the Queen Rat who was floundering from the pain.

Jjeejeeong!

"Muaaaaang!"

Linked Kill didn't have the effect of ignoring defense, but it boasted explosive damage. Unless the target had extremely high defense, it was expected that the damage of Linked Kill would be higher than Pinnacle Kill. This strong attack struck twice in a row. The Queen Rat's momentum was broken.

"This male is so strong!"

The Queen Rat was dismayed to realized that Grid had hidden his power. The God Hands were constantly acting. They repeatedly caused stiffness in order to prevent any damage to Grid.

"Myaaaaang!"

Peeng!

The Queen Rat broke through the sword and hammer bombardment. A powerful shock wave scattered Grid and the God Hands all over the place.

"Shit...! Don't be fooled by the cute little monster!"

The God Hands and Grid were separated. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that his defense had weakened by at least two times without the protection of the God Hands. The Queen Rat narrowed the distance and brandished the trident at Grid.

Chaaeng!

Chaeeeeeng!

Grid swapped to Sword Ghost and desperately defended against the onslaught. However, the basic difference in levels made it impossible for him to defend against properly.

Puok!

He could no longer endure the force and was stabbed in the side.

Pepeok!

He missed the unusual trajectory of the tail and was hit in the cheek. There was a flashy kick that hit him on the chin, forcing his head back.

"Ku...ack!"

In the end, Grid allowed successive attacks and his health was exhausted, making him fall into the immortal state. Grid had only 5 seconds left. The worst result would happen if he couldn't get rid of the Queen Rat in that time. Grid didn't assume that the worst outcome would happen. It was the reason why he didn't recall the God Hands in the distance.

[You have succeeded in combining the +9 Failure and the +9 Iyarugt!]

Mjolnir was a hammer and the God Hands were blacksmith's hands. The blacksmith's hands held the hammer and completed Item Combination in front of the portable furnace and anvil.

Peeok!

Pakak!

In the immortal state, Grid ignored the Queen Rat's attacks and looked at the finished product on the anvil. He avoided the trident of the Queen Rat and commanded the God Hands.

"Throw Mjolnir! Item Transformation! Lifael's Spear."

Pepepepeok!

There was the additional acceleration effect of throwing Mjolnir, damaging the Queen Rat. Grid used this time to run to the portable furnace and grab the combined weapon.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

Grid used Blacksmith's Rage and started a sword dance. Beside him, 20 Magic Missiles and the four God Hands that transformed into Lifael's Spear (Reproduction) aimed at the Queen Rat.

"Linked Kill Wave."

Ku kwa kwa kwa kwa! Ku kwa kwa kwa kwa!

The blue and red energy blades, the 20 white flashes, and four golden spears shot at the Queen Rat. It wasn't over.

[The hidden passive 'God's Command' has reset the cooldown of Linked Kill Wave.]

"Linked Kill Wave."

A new rain of energy blades was unleashed.

"Muaaaaang!"

The Queen Rat tried to resist, but was too late. The 0.3 seconds of stiffness caused by the thrown Mjolnir earlier was fatal.

Kuwaaaaang!

The central part of the monster community was caught up in an explosion.

[The ruler of the big poisonous rat community, the Queen Rat, has been defeated!]

[The first gateway in the north of Pangea has been dealt with!]

[The title 'Pangea's New Star' has been acquired!]

[The Queen Rat's Walnut has been acquired.]

[The Queen Rat's Fur has been acquired.]

[5 blessed weapon enhancement orders have been acquired.]

[4 blessed armor enhancement orders have been acquired.]

[Idan's Frying Pan has been acquired.]

[Your level has risen!]

"Pant... Pant..."

He improved in the second half of the raid and was able to succeed. All his stamina was consumed in an instant and he couldn't bear it anymore, flopping down on the ground. The struggle was over, so he checked the titles and rewards that he had acquired. Joy appeared on his face.

Chapter 523

"Huh??"

Grid had question marks as he checked the information of the hidden passive skill God's Command. A bell rang. It was truly shocking.

"I-It is good but..."

This was why the cooldown of Linked Kill and Linked Kill Wave was reset.

'Amazing!'

It truly had the best value. It was comparable to the time when he obtained Pagma's Descendant and the Legendary Great Magician classes.

'I never thought Dominion's blessing would be such a big help.'

During the Pope Drevigo episode, he obtained blessings from Rebecca, Judar, and Dominion. All three blessings were on the pavranium and buffed Grid. Rebecca's Blessing increased the speed of health recovery by 300%, Dominion's Blessing increased attack power by 15%, and Judar's Blessing increased defense by 15%. At this point, Grid could make one guess.

'Dominion's Blessing is one of the three major passive attack power buffs...'

Judar's Blessing was one of the three major passive defense buff and Rebecca's Blessing was one of the three major recovery buffs?

'Isn't there little odds of getting all of them?'

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that the acquisition requirements for God's Command were ridiculous. With God Dominion's blessing, he could gain unique damage achievements and receive Zeratul's favor? How many of the two billion users would meet these requirements? It was difficult to imagine the other passive skills that could be acquired from Judar and Rebecca's blessings.

'It's the same with domain and ruling ability.'

Grid had many unlucky experiences, so the effect of domain and ruling ability was far more fraudulent than God's Command.

'In the future, my enemies will acquire the domain and ruling ability. No, maybe they have already learned it.'

It was an obvious part of someone's repertoire. This damn world wouldn't let him off so easily.

'Will I later die from the domain and ruling ability?'

Of course, he didn't intend to let it happen so easily.

'From now on, I am invincible.'

Why? He had the good luck stat!

"Kuhuhuhut! I will show you the combination of God's Command and good luck!"

God's Command had a 50% chance of resetting the cooldown. What if the good luck stat affected it?

'There will be a higher than 50% chance of resetting the cooldown!'

Yes, just like a little while ago. There was a low probability of the skill cooldown being reset continuously. Grid believed in the good luck stat and aimed at the wrecked tent in front of him. He took a deep breath and fired Pagma's Swordsmanship, Wave. It was to confirm the effect of God's Command. But the effect that he expected didn't activate.

Grid was very confused, but reacted calmly.

"Hu... Hut! Well, it isn't a 100% chance. It can fail once in a while."

The good luck stat might be in bad condition. Grid controlled his heart. Then he fired Pagma's Swordsmanship, Link. The result? The effect of God's Command wasn't activated and the cooldown wasn't reset. It was the same when he used Kill and Pinnacle.

"Pant pant. This is really rotten."

There was a sense of instability. In retrospect, the 5 Joint Attacks skill attached to the Holy Light Gloves and Failure had also barely been seen in the last few months. Unfortunately, Grid's bad luck was so high that it exceeded his low good luck stat.

"No... Why? Why do I keep getting skills like this?"

A less fraudulent skill. He wanted to get a definite skill that didn't rely on luck.

Flop!

Grid's happiness turned to frustration. No matter how much he thought about it, he had trouble believing in God's Command. Grid came to a conclusion.

"I don't need to be aware of this skill."

He would just receive setbacks if he fought with the assumption that God's Command would activate. He would rather fight as usual and thank the gods if God's Command activated.

"Yes... God's Command isn't the only thing I got. I don't need to be obsessed with it."

There was the title of Pangea's New Star.

'I hope it's a title that increases my good luck.'

It was unfortunate because he felt like his luck would be bad forever. He desperately needed the good luck stat. Grid confirmed the information of the title.

[Pangea's New Star 1st Stage]

Stage 1: It is relatively easy to obtain information from the residents of Pangea.

* Every time you destroy a monster community formed in the north, the level and effectiveness of the title will increase.

"..."

It was really less than expected. Maybe he felt more disappointed after seeing the hidden passive God's Command.

"Hah..."

Grid sighed deeply and checked the items he received in turn.

[Blessed Weapon Enhancement Scroll]

A scroll used to enhance weapons.

The successful enhancement of a weapon will increase the enhancement value by +1.

If the enhancement fails, the strength of the weapon won't fall.

[Blessed Armor Enhancement Scroll]

A scroll used to enhance armor.

The successful enhancement of an armor will increase the enhancement value by +1.

If the enhancement fails, the strength of the armor won't fall.

"...?"

So far, Grid had thought of blessed enhanced scrolls as enhancement stones. Unlike the West Continent, the East Continent didn't use an ore for enhancement. It was an item with the same effect, but had a different name and appearance. But that wasn't it at all. The blessed enhancement scrolls weren't as strong in enhancement. However, they had tremendous stability.

'Wow, wouldn't conglomerates buy this for a huge price?'

The success rate of enhancing items was in the decimals. A person could try 100 times and fail 100 times. But the burden on players when enhancement failed wasn't just a loss in money. The enhancement value of the item would drop every time it failed. That was the biggest problem. But this scroll had the effect of protecting the enhancement value. Wouldn't the chaebols be willing to spend billions on the blessed enhancement scroll to reach +10?

'They can't afford to miss this.'

Wouldn't it sell for at least 10 million won per scroll?

'What 10 million? I might sell in the billions.'

The scroll was like a talisman. A language similar to Chinese characters was written on the centre and it could only be obtained on the East Continent.

'An item that hasn't been released on the market yet. Its value will be absurd.'

It wasn't necessary to dispose of the item right away, since Grid gained stability after becoming a landlord. He could watch the trends of the auction house and sell it at the price he wanted, or he could use it himself. Grid checked the next item. It was an item dropped by the Strong Male Rat.

[Strong Male Rat's Gallbladder]

A very big and bitter gallbladder.

You can fall into shock if you take too much.

However, if it is endured, resistance to poisoning and confusion will permanently increase by 0.5%.

Weight: 4

[Strong Male Rat's Heart]

A heart filled with the natural strength of the Strong Male Rat.

It is why the Strong Male Rat is so strong.

Once consumed, strength will permanently increase by 5.

Weight: 2

"Mini elixir!"

He hadn't obtained any elixirs despite killing so many vampires. The effect was halved compared to normal elixirs, but he would gladly eat it to permanently increase his strength stat. Grid took the heart without hesitation and packed the gallbladder into the inventory. The phrase 'the possibility of shock' was annoying, but he was planning to sell it to the Overgeared members.

'The items dropped by the intermediate boss are great. It should be the same with the Queen Rat's items.'

Lululala~

Grid hummed in anticipation. He checked the items dropped by the Queen Rat without hesitation.

[The Queen Rat's Walnut]

A walnut that the Queen Rat stored for a quick meal.

Weight: 1

"...?"

It was very embarrassing. Grid was stunned for a moment before using the Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal skill.

Ttiring~

[A hidden function doesn't exist.]

"Shit."

A walnut soaked in saliva. It stunk like the hamsters' saliva, so Grid threw it away. It was absurd that a boss dropped a junk item. The angry Grid appraised the next item.

[Queen Rat's Fur]

The Queen Rat's fur is called the best fur and has a very high value.

But the Queen Rat is a fierce and powerful monster.

Obtaining the fur of the Queen Rat is like picking a star from the sky.

Weight: 120

[This item has a hidden function.]

[It is rumored that the lord is looking for the fur of the Queen Rat!]

"...This is better."

It was obvious that it could be sold for an expensive price because it was one of the finest leather materials. But Grid wanted to use it himself rather than sell it.

‘Let’s make a legendary leather armor.’

He didn’t have much interest in the quest. It was too much to waste this precious material on a quest.

‘Obviously, it is a quest that requires a rare item, so the rewards are likely to be enormous.’

But there was a chance that the rewards wouldn’t benefit him, so it was better for him to use it directly. Grid already feel deeply betrayed by the odds of God’s Command activating and the walnut. Finally, he was amazed by Idan’s Frying Pan.

“This is real?”

The chef who couldn’t cook, Idan. To be honest, Grid didn’t recognize this quest as important. He coveted the 30% experience, but it was faster to hunt monsters to level up than to waste time searching for the frying pan. The experience given by the monsters of the East Continent was enormous.

But now that idea had changed. Grid placed tremendous significance on Idan’s quest.

‘The experience is just a side benefit.’

He had to increase his affinity with Idan. The enlightened Grid rushed back to Pangea.

Chapter 524

Players no longer discussed the Seven Guilds.

One force was stronger than the Seven Guilds combined. From that time on, the Seven Guilds lost their majesty. Far from getting the title of the strongest, the Seven Guilds gradually declined. They were more inundated with requests to leave than to join.

“We will remove ourselves from the alliance.”

The French representative, Bondre.

Until he met Grid in the National Competition, he was the 1st ranked ice mystic with the nickname of ‘undefeated.’ He was also the master of the strongest magician group, Ice Flower. Now he expressed his intention to withdraw from the alliance.

The leaders of the guilds in the Seven Guilds didn’t stop him. However, Bondre’s declaration of withdrawal became an ignition point. The other guild masters also declared their intentions to leave the alliance. It wasn’t necessary to obsess over the alliance that had become obsolete.

Zibal, the leader of the alliance, was the same.

“I won’t stop them.”

Zibal had changed since the 2nd National Competition. In raids and hunting, he didn’t doubt that he was the best. However, he changed his perception after being beaten by Grid. He wasn’t the best. He wasn’t qualified to be self-confident and to force others.

Zibal was no longer obsessed with the Seven Guilds. He chose to grow in order to regain his past glory. Now he was about to step foot in the Behen Archipelago. After confirming that the guilds had withdrawn from the alliance, he laughed and entered the Behen Archipelago.

“What will happen to us now?”

The Ice Flower Guild was somewhat uneasy. Ice Flower. They were an elite group of magicians and there were only 30 of them. It was obvious that many uncomfortable things would happen if they left the alliance. They had complicated relationships with some people due to disputes, and the guild had no production players, so item trading was disadvantageous for them.

Bondre reassured the worried guild members.

"We will go to the god of war. This will make our lives much better than before and we will be guaranteed a brilliant future."

“God of war?”

"Who is it?"

Bondre explained to the bewildered guild members. "Ares. An unofficial ranker with a unique ability. He's equivalent to Grid."

“Wow...”

How strong was he that their master Bondre would compare him to Grid? The Ice Flower Guild members were incredulous.

“Then why is he unknown?”

“Yes. This is the first time I've heard of him.”

“Satisfy is wide. Do you know all the people in every field in the world in reality? It's unknown how many of them there actually are. In that sense, Satisfy is like reality.”

In fact, Bondre also had no idea who Ares was not long ago. However, Scott contacted him three days ago and told him about Ares. Bondre had been shocked the moment he saw the information.

"The world is wide and there's a lot of chaos."

Bondre heard a strange voice as he thought about joining Ares' guild.

"Yes, the world is wide. But you're all under my feet."

“Who?”

The Ice Flower Guild instantly became alert. They were embarrassed by the dozens of skeletons blocking the way back to their territory. The voice of the unfamiliar man was heard again as they perceived the danger and started to cast spells.

"Bondre, become a sacrifice of the king."

Chill.

Bondre and the Ice Flower Guild members got chills at the same time. The madness in the voice of the unidentified man made them feel an instinctive fear.

'Entering a fear state just from speaking?'

Boss monster?

'A boss appeared on the road where thousands of people travelled every day?'

It was ridiculous.

"Reveal yourself!"

Bondre finished casting the level 8 Ice Cutter and fired the magic. It was a strike aimed directly at the location of the voice.

Jeeeong!

The sharp ice blade flying through the air stopped. Then it shattered. It was due to the curtain of darkness that was instantly created.

'My magic was so easily blocked?'

Swaaah.

In the wreckage of the sparkling ice crystals.

"Agnus?"

Chwaaaak!

Bondre was shocked as he saw the man who appeared from the dark curtain.

Agnus. After the top ranked players like Kraugel, Zibal, and Yura disappeared from the rankings, he had risen to 3rd place. In addition, he was the rumored psychopath that even Kraugel avoided.

"Kikikik!"

His eyes shone gold as he looked at Bondre like a frightened rat.

"The hunting grounds are far from the city. I should prepare a return scroll next time I go."

Originally, Grid planned to return to Pangea when it was time for the smithy competition. But his plans changed the moment he found Idan's Frying Pan and he returned to Pangea. It was imperative to raise affinity with Idan. The reason was the information of the frying pan.

[Idan's Frying Pan]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 35/260 Attack Power: 89

* When used, Intermediate Cooking Lv. 2 will be created.

The moment it is used, the person will become a seasoned chef!

It is the frying pan that has been used for centuries by the Idan family, who has a philosophy of cooking.

It is optimized to draw out a unique taste from the ingredients.

In addition, special events sometimes occur because the frying pan contains the desires of the elders of cooking.

When an Idan family member cooks with this frying pan, there is a high probability that food with a buffing ability will be created and a low probability that food that increases stats will be created.

However, the premise is that you eat all the food without leaving anything behind.

Conditions of use: Beginner cooking master. A special effect will occur only when an Idan family member uses it.

Weight: 40

'I don't know about the taste, but this is why Kraugel ate it four times.'

Idan. He was a golden goose who would give birth to elixirs. The chef might make bad food, but his value was astronomical. A one in a million talented person.

Grid decided. He would leave here with Idan as his personal chef!

"Idan!"

Pangea's North Street. Grid ran to Idan's restaurant and immediately asked the waitress working there.

"Where is Idan?"

"The boss went out to obtain ingredients."

"Can't he get the ingredients delivered?"

"Yes, there's no contractor who will deliver a rotten liver from a jiangshi."

"Jiangshi rotten liver?"

A chill went down Grid's spine. Idan's Frying Pan was optimized to draw out the taste of ingredients. What if he cooked a jiangshi rotten liver?

'...Really a mess.'

It was crazy. His eyes darkened.

'This is crazy... Why is he cooking rotten liver?'

Even...

'It's the body of a jiangshi?'

If he took Idan as a full time chef, would he have to eat such ridiculous dishes every time?

'...No, that's impossible.'

Idan couldn't make strange dishes every time. He had to make some ordinary dishes.

'I have to eat. If not, I'll ask him to make it for me.'

Grid couldn't believe it and asked the employee again.

"Where is the jiangshi?"

"If you go out the south gate and head north, a cemetery will appear. There's an infestation there."

"Okay, Idan is there?"

The moment Grid verified the information and was about to leave the restaurant.

"Umm? You are?"

Idan returned to the restaurant. There was a basket filled with something black in his hands. Grid ignored the rotten smell and handed the frying pan to Idan.

"Here's what I promised you."

"Hrmm."

It was the hard to regain family heirloom. Did he not expect it to be found in just two days? Idan looked at the frying pan with a questionable expression before cheering.

"Oh...! Ohh! Ohhhh! Unbelievable! You found my family's heirloom so quickly!"

Idan was genuinely pleased. The moment he held the frying pan, a notification window appeared in front of Grid.

[The quest Find the Traces of the Great Hero! has been completed.]

[30% character experience has been paid as compensation.]

[Affinity with Idan has increased by 10.]

"Eh?"

Affinity +10? Affinity only increased by 10 despite returning a family heirloom? Grid thought it was unexpected.

'Shouldn't it increase by at least 50?'

Idan guided the confused Grid to a table.

"Have you not eaten yet? Now, sit down. I will treat the person who brought back my family's heirloom to a wonderful dinner."

"Ah, yes."

Hopefully, this was a chance to eat food that increased his stats. Grid hesitantly sat down and belatedly said something.

"Please note that I have a liver allergy."

In other words, don't bring out a dish made with jiangshi liver! Idan's expression became as cold as ice.

"Y...es? Is that so?"

Idan clicked his tongue and headed to the kitchen. His unfriendly demeanor made Grid think the worst.

'Don't tell me that my affinity just fell?'

It was likely that Idan was a NPC who only liked people who ate his dishes.

'It is almost certain.'

It was the reason why returning Idan's Frying Pan only raised affinity by 10. On the first day they met, Grid left behind a lot of the orc cream pie and his affinity must've fallen.

'This truly sucks.'

In order to recruit Idan as a full time chef, a high affinity was required. How could he increase his affinity without having to eat the food that Idan made? The moment Grid was feeling frustrated.

"This is my signature dish that I cooked just for you, japchae."

"..."

Idan handed a dish of japchae to Grid. Japchae. It was a favorite dish for South Koreans, and clearly Grid as well.

'Phew, thank goodness. It isn't hard to make japchae delicious.'

Vegetables, meat, and japchae noodles. Grid grasped a fair amount with his chopsticks and shoved it into his mouth without hesitation. Then he spat it out as soon as he ate it. The vegetables tasted of soil and were really crunchy. The slightly cooked pork was cold and hard. The noodles were chewy. There wasn't even any strange ingredients in it. The original tastes of the ingredients were very strong and didn't mix together.

"No, this..."

He was supposed to eat this? Grid was about to curse reflexively when he stopped. It was because Idan's eyes were glaring at the japchae that he had spat out.

"Did you spit it out because it didn't fit your tastes?"

"Nope. It's delicious. I was so surprised by the delicious taste that I spat it out a little bit."

Endure. Grid blocked his nose. Then he shoved all of the japchae in his mouth at once.

Chew chew.

Grid chewed the japchae with a pale face while Idan asked.

"Why are you blocking your nose while eating?"

"It's my eating habit."

"Huh, really? What an unusual eating habit."

'Your dishes are more unusual...'

Grid sweated as he barely endured it.

[The effect of eating Idan's dish has permanently increased intelligence by 1.]

"Ah!"

It was the moment when Grid's sorrow was larger than his joy.

Chapter 525

'I was wondering why there wasn't a function to turn off taste every time I drank a bitter potion...'

The bitter taste of potions was one of the barriers of entry in Satisfy. In particular, a few people tried to turn off their taste function because they disliked the bitter taste. But the S.A. Group didn't accept their request. The sense of taste was one of Satisfy's best features that created a sense of reality. They didn't want to give the players the authority to lower their immersion. But at this moment, Grid interpreted it differently.

'I can't turn off the taste function and have to suffer from eating the food that Idan made... In other words, it sucks.'

There was a pervert among the Satisfy crew. Grid was sure of it and asked the employee for a cup of tea. He needed something to get rid of the subtle sensation of dirt on his tongue.

"Water... No, I don't think that will work. Give me the cheapest herbal tea."

"The cheapest herbal tea?"

"Yes."

"You don't care about the smell or the taste? If you want to order tea based on the price, I recommend our citron tea. That's the cheapest. It's also delicious."

"Hoh?"

Grid belatedly noticed the employee that he hadn't paid much attention to. The girl was a considerable beauty whose emotions were hard to read, but she was only an A cup. It meant that Grid didn't recognize her as a woman. But Grid had a great sense of liking towards her.

'She's an NPC with considerable intelligence.'

It was uncommon for NPCs in hospitality to know exactly what the customer wanted. Satisfy's artificial intelligence was perfect, but there was a big difference between NPCs. Store employee NPCs usually had slightly better intelligence than Jude. Given these points, the female waitress working in Idan's restaurant was a very interesting NPC.

‘Could she be a pearl in the mud?’

If Grid was a regular player, he wouldn’t have noticed Yang Fei’s unusual point. But unlike usual players, Grid concentrated heavily on NPCs. That’s why he knew.

"Yes, a cup of citron tea please."

“Yes.”

Yang Fei and Idan’s attention dispersed after Grid ordered the tea.

Clink.

Grid took out the Great Lord’s Sword from the inventory and used Character Observation.

Ttiring~

Name: Yang Fei

Age: 17 Gender: Female

Occupation: Restaurant Employee

Title: Quick-witted Person

A commoner born in an ordinary household with 1 son and 14 daughters.

As the 7th daughter among 14, Yang Fei had to take care of her sisters.

Since she was born and raised in a home where there was a struggle over just one bean, her survival skills are remarkable.

Level: 53

Strength: 22/99 Stamina: 92/510

Agility: 65/250 Intelligence: 204/1,090

Dexterity: 139/650 Charm: 53/150

Skills: Hospitality (A), Housework (A), Adaptability (S), Pushover Detection (SS)

"..."

Even talented knights rarely had S-grade skills. It was like a bean growing in the middle of a drought. However, Yang Fei had an S-grade and SS-grade skill. She was a mere employee. Were all the NPCs on the East Continent like this? Don’t speak nonsense. Yang Fei was just special.

‘I have to bring her with me when I return to the West Continent.’

It would be best to leave her as a maid for Irene and Lord, but it was a waste because her intelligence was very high for a mere maid.

‘In particular, there is the Pushover Detection skill.’

Grid decided.

'Yes, I will make her Rabbit's deputy.'

Changing sand to a special remedy and selling it, or only paying Piaro 73 silver. For Rabbit, who was eagerly searching for ways to make a living, Yang Fei's Pushover Detection skill was a great talent.

'It's like giving him wings!'

A huge smile. Grid was happy about finding new talents. He washed away the memory of eating poisonous food and laughed widely. Idan saw it and misunderstood.

'This friend...'

Had there ever been anyone who laughed while eating his food? This was the first time since the little hero Kraugel.

'I had a good feeling since the first time we met.'

Grid had no status in the East Continent. He was just a traveller. However, Grid had a high dignity and charm stat. It was easy to gain affinity with NPCs, even if he acted tactless. This was the reason why the famous Idan was talkative since he first met Grid.

That's right. Originally, it wasn't easy to receive quests from Idan. But Grid wasn't aware of this fact. Only 31 players had gone to the East Continent. There was no information available about it.

"Hrmm... You."

"Huh?"

Grid jumped with surprise as Yang Fei put the tea in front of him. He was worried about Idan misunderstanding again.

'Will he wonder why I am rinsing my mouth after eating?'

There was no mistake. The affinity dropped again.

'Shit, I'm lacking subtlety.'

Surprising, Grid realized that it was one of his problems. He smiled nervously as Idan spoke.

"Smiling so happily after eating the meal I made. You are a true gourmet and you are polite to the chef."

'What is this nonsense?'

The chef should be polite to their customers.

'You can't make food at all.'

Grid wanted to say, but he maintained his smile. It was in an effort to get Idan's liking. His effort succeeded.

"You are a foreigner... Do you plan to stay in Pangea for a few days? If you don't mind, I'd like to provide you with three meals a day. It's in return for recovering my frying pan."

“Ah...”

This was what he really wanted. Grid’s goal was to accumulate a lasting relationship with Idan and consume his food. At this moment, Idan was making a promise to cook for Grid. The situation was better than he expected. But Grid...

‘...Why aren’t I happy?’

Grid got goosebumps at having to eat Idan’s food three times a day. He stared into the air for a moment. Then he spoke with a grin.

"Yes, I will be honored."

“Ohh! Indeed! I knew you would appreciate it!”

"...Ah, for reference, I like chicken, beef, and eggs."

They were ingredients that couldn’t be tasteless no matter how bad the chef. Idan readily agreed to Grid’s words.

“Um, okay. I will prepare your three meals a day using these ingredients.”

"It’s appreciated!"

Grid was finally able to truly laugh.

During this time with Idan, Grid paid attention to his relationship with Yang Fei. He tried to build up affinity with her using glances and words.

The result.

"Goodbye."

Yang Fei said goodbye to Grid at the entrance of the restaurant. Grid smiled as nicely as possible.

“Yes, thank you. I’ll come again in the evening."

The first friend in Grid’s life was an NPC. Even his wife and friends were NPCs. It meant he was an expert when dealing with NPCs. He was confident that he could quickly raise his affinity with Yang Fei. But in reality, it was only half right. It was true that Yang Fei was started to like Grid better, but it wasn’t for the reason he thought.

She had the Pushover Detection skill. She was aware of Grid’s nature.

‘A customer who orders without looking at the menu.’

Grid had ordered the cheapest tea. He never asked for the menu. Yang Fei had a chance to deceive him. In fact, it wasn’t the cheapest tea, but the second cheapest.

‘Selling citron tea every time he comes in...’

It seemed she would barely be able to receive this month's salary. She didn't have to let her thoughtless sisters and brother starve.

'Sigh.' Grid sighed as he watched Yang Fei. 'I am lacking impact. It's time to deepen this relationship.'

Grid released the power of his hands.

"Yang Fei, I think that your shoulders are too tense. Come here."

"...?"

All of a sudden, touching her shoulders? Yang Fei tilted her head with confusion. Grid exerted his legendary hand techniques. He approached Yang Fei in an instant, aiming precisely at her shoulders and pressing firmly. Yang Fei's expressionless face changed for the first time.

"Ahak!"

Grid saw Yang Fei as a young girl, but based on Satisfy, she was at an age to marry. However, Yang Fei wasn't in a position to dream about marriage. Her sisters had to marry and leave the house first. In this case, it was likely that she would miss her prime age to marry. Yang Fei thought she would never feel the happiness of a woman for her whole life. But right now...

'Ahh, this feeling must be...!'

She had to feed her family, not think about romance. She only knew theories about relationships with men. Now, she finally experienced it in reality. Every time Grid's fingertips touched her skin, she could feel the same sensation she got when reading books. Yes, this feeling...

Omitted.

"Hah... Hah..."

The expressionless face was gone. Only joy filled Yang Fei's face as she flushed and gasped for breath. Her most and trembling eyes stared at Grid.

"How is it? Did your fatigue go away?"

"...Yes."

"I'm glad. I'll do it whenever we meet."

"...!"

It was a massage for Grid, but Yang Fei thought differently.

'Doing this naughty act every time we meet...?'

It was embarrassing. But she couldn't refuse.

'Ah, I have become corrupt.'

Yang Fei was feeling confused.

On the other hand, Grid headed for the White Hammer smithy. He didn't ask for any accommodations. For him, the smithy was the best place to stay and work.

'There are 15 hours left until the blacksmith competition. I will trim the Queen Rat's Fur and eat Idan's dishes.'

"Did you see the system message from two days ago?"

"Of course. Wasn't there the message about the 31st visitor?"

"That's right. He's alone."

"He must have little information about the East Continent, which is why he dared come alone."

"How foolish. Kukuk, I don't know who he is, but it's good. We can eat properly."

A pub in Pangea. Players were sitting in a corner and laughing wickedly.

Chapter 526

The means of moving from the West Continent to the East Continent was estimated to be very diverse. But to date, the only clear method was to use the Behen Archipelago.

This was a difficult task.

How many people had used the Behen Archipelago to cross over to the East Continent? Over the past three years, there had been only 30. This was 30 out of two billion users. Behen Archipelago was a one player instant dungeon. It was an area difficult to break through, making a person feel pride just from reaching the 10th island.

In other words, the players who made it to the East Continent were great. Of course, there were some exceptions. There were a few 'lucky' enough to meet Fog Island early on and managed to cross over to the East Continent.

'I was the strongest on the West Continent.'

'Who would've imagined that I couldn't even leave the starter village?'

'Shit, my bad luck. If I knew the East Continent was this type of place, I would've never come.'

'I thought I was lucky to meet Fog Island earlier than others...'

A shabby tavern on Pangea's North Street. There were some men who were lamenting. The four people sitting down at a table and drinking were all players. They were level 310 'beginners' who arrived on the East Continent a month ago, but hadn't yet escaped Pangea.

"That damn Kraugel."

The ultimate goal they had when they quickly crossed to the East Continent. It wasn't just levelling. By clearing new content first, they would monopolize all types of titles, skills, and hidden items. This was

the goal they pursued on the East Continent. But it was too late by the time they arrived on the East Continent.

Pangea, the starter village in the East Continent, had already been swept away by Kraugel. Pangea entered a new episode in the aftermath and the difficulty rose exponentially.

“The moment that a player comes from the West Continent, Pangea will experience a crisis. That player will become a hero by repelling the monsters that invaded Pangea...”

Once again, the first person had the advantage. It was clear that as the first visitor to Pangea, Kraugel received a huge benefit. Due to that, they became the dogs chasing after the chicken.

‘How rotten... I’ve been in Pangea for a month and never once received a special quest. Kraugel alone obtained all the crucial quests.’

‘It would be best to leave Pangea and advance into a new territory, but...’

The monsters in the north had been growing steadily since being defeated by Kraugel. Now they were too strong.

‘With our skills, it will be hard to move north...’

‘Ah, that asshole Kraugel.’

They couldn’t achieve their original purpose in the present Pangea. Kraugel had cleared most of the hidden quests and the environment became too difficult. Anyway, moving to a new area was the best way. The problem was that it was impossible to move outside Pangea. They had to move north, but it wasn’t possible because the big and powerful hamsters were spread out in the north.

“There are quests to run errands in the neighborhood and also to catch monsters near here, so the levelling up is quite good.”

"Yes, we’re definitely growing. We’re much better than when we first came here. The renowned Seven Guilds and rankers of Overgeared are probably weaker than us.”

“The East Continent is great. But we’ll just die in front of the Queen Rat. We can’t catch the Queen Rat.”

But.

“If we take advantage of the new arrival on the East Continent, we’ll be able to break through the monster community while the Queen Rat is distracted.”

They hadn’t just been playing around during the past month. They completed all types of miscellaneous quests in order to discover the weakness of the Queen Rat. Then they achieved results. The Queen Rat was partial to the ‘golden walnut.’

“Did you obtain the promised number of golden walnuts?”

"Yes, I have 10.”

"It adds up to 40... This should be sufficient.”

"Damn, what type of walnut is so expensive? I went broke from buying this.”

"I also spent all my money playing this game."

As the name suggested, the golden walnut shone gold. The taste and nutritional value was comparable to ordinary walnuts, but the effect was enormous. When it was eaten, it increased all stats by 10% for an hour and had an average chance of permanently increasing a stat by 5 points. It was the strongest buff potion, while also demonstrating half the efficiency of an elixir. It was a fantastic thing that any player would want to have.

But the price was ridiculously expensive. The quantity was too limited because it was difficult to obtain. It was also a snack enjoyed by the nobles and royalty of all kingdoms on the East Continent. The price? A huge 160,000 gold. It was 160,000 gold for one! When converted to won, this small walnut cost at least 2 million won for one.

No matter how great, the 'elixir' effect wasn't guaranteed. Unless a person was rich or a gambling addiction, they would never buy the golden walnut.

"Hah... We have to give such an expensive item to a monster."

"Stop it. We have to consider it a worthy investment."

"Those who left Pangea clearly used this walnut."

We will be able to achieve our desired goal if we can get beyond Pangea, obtaining a land of gold. It was worth investing the money if they could obtain one good item, title, or skill. If they got stronger and returned to the West Continent, they would soon become rich. The players were filled with anticipation.

Then someone came up to them.

"Eh? Are you users?"

It was a black-haired man with a sturdy body. He was around 181cm tall. The wide shoulders, flat chest, and muscles made it an ideal body. Of course, this man was also a player. However, his ID was covered. It was because the man had covered up more than half his face with a black mask.

'This guy is the newbie who just came to the East Continent.'

'Our target came to find us, isn't this big?'

The players were excited, but tried not to show it. They greeted the man with a polite attitude.

"I'm surprised. I didn't expect to meet another player like us on the East Continent."

"You came all the way to the East Continent, so you must have a considerably high level? It's nice to meet you."

"But what is with that mask?"

"Is it an item for decoration? It's nice that it looks somewhat threatening. But isn't it uncomfortable to cover your vision...?"

There were greetings and questions. The man scratched his head in an awkward manner.

"I was called a sexual molester by the guards and chased, so I have to wear the mask for a while. I'm sorry, but please pretend to be my companions for a while."

"????"

Introducing himself as a molester at the beginning of the conversation? It wasn't exactly sexual harassment but a 'molester.' Was there any thief who would admit that he was a thief? No. The fact that he wore the mask and was being chased by guards meant he really was a molester.

The players were embarrassed.

'I've heard rumors that there are players who molest NPCs in the game, but I never expected to meet such a trash person.'

The man who was a trash molester wore a bizarre laughing mask that covered half his face. That man was currently very upset. It happened after he gave Yang Fei a massage at the entrance of Idan's restaurant. He was chased by guards while heading to the smithy? He was framed as a molester who harassed women in public.

'Shit... What is this?'

His legendary dexterity. It was incredibly useful depending on the use, but the risk was also great. Grid realized that he should seal the use of his hands in public. He avoided the guards by entering the tavern and came across four players.

'Lane, Mook, Evan, and Oshihoz.'

The four players were strange. Since they crossed to the East Continent, they must at least have their third advancement. But their IDs and faces were unfamiliar, so they must be unofficial rankers.

'I met them by chance, but I should obtain some information from them.'

The Grid of the past would've tried to take advantage of them. But now Grid could have moderately good human relations like an ordinary person.

"Do you know any good hunting grounds? Sit at the bar and unburden your hearts."

'Oh.'

The eyes of the four players sparkled. It was a very nice situation because the prey approached by himself.

'It's tough since we don't know his identity.'

Maybe he was on guard and concealed his identity from the beginning. The players suppressed their curiosity in order to trap the man in the mask.

"Yes, we got a huge jackpot today."

"Ever since coming to the East Continent, it feels like being in heaven every day. We made a huge amount of money and experience."

"We know a lot of good hunting grounds. Well, since you're a skilled player who made it to the East Continent, your ability to find hunting grounds should be excellent."

Grid's eyes shone from behind the mast.

'Incredibly good hunting ground!'

Grid's ultimate goal behind coming to the East Continent was to level up. Grid had no choice but to be interested in these words.

'In fact, I have been on the East Continent for less than three days and don't know that much...'

If the players knew this truth, they might not let him in. Grid made a bluff. He couldn't expose his current situation. He needed to act with the dignity of the leader of Overgeared.

"Of course I know a few good hunting grounds. Do you want to share information with each other?"

'What would he know?'

The players knew when the masked man arrived on the East Continent. This newbie was trying to trick them without knowing he was the one being deceived.

"Ah, should we? It would be good for both of us. Okay. Players in a strange land should help each other out."

"That's right, that's right. The hunting grounds are very large and there won't be any damage from adding one more person."

The players smiled widely and spoke to Grid.

"We happened to finish our food and drinks while talking. We'll be happy to lead you to a hunting ground."

Grid readily accepted. "That sounds good. Later, I will share information about hunting grounds with you."

The players grinned wickedly at Grid. They left the tavern and headed northwards towards the community of big poisonous rats.

Grid was astonished.

'Ah, what? This is the good hunting ground?'

Certainly, the community of big poisonous rats was 'good.' But not after the Queen Rat was killed. After the Queen Rat died, the respawned big poisonous rats were much weaker. Their average level fell by 30 and they didn't give as much experience.

'I wanted a place other than here.'

Grid clicked his tongue.

'Heok? What the?'

'Why are the hamsters so weak?'

'It's so exhilarating. I don't know what changed with the hamsters, but it is likely that the Queen Rat is still strong. Has the illusion magic been used on the walnut?'

'Yes, there is no way for that guy to tell that this is a golden walnut. Even a top rated appraisal item will only display it as a simple walnut.'

It was good that a newbie who could become bait had appeared in front of them. The players believed their plan would be successful. Of course, it was a misunderstanding. A misunderstanding that was likely to be good for Grid.

Chapter 527

Mook had considered himself a lucky person. He had felt confident about this since encountering Fog Island on the 7th island of the Behen Archipelago. However, that idea had changed since coming to the East Continent. It was an environment different from what he expected. The difficulty was beyond imagination. Due to this, Mook was isolated in Pangea for a month.

'Ah, I really have no luck.'

He crossed over to the East Continent just to run errands for the NPCs and take care of easy mobs? The situation was different from what he imagined. It would have been better if he hadn't come here. The days when he was a high ranking player on the West Continent were much more interesting.

It was bad luck, not good luck, that he encountered Fog Island. This damn East Continent, he wanted to get away from it. But it wasn't a decision that could be easily made. Mook only had two East Continent Portal Scrolls. It was a phenomenon caused by lacking points because he encountered Fog Island too soon.

Mook spent his days in Pangea feeling frustration. Then that thought once again changed today.

'I am really lucky!'

Why had the hamsters weakened overnight?

'Heaven is helping me!'

The hamster hunt was very easy. Before, there were dangerous moments because he had to fight two every time. Then he would have to rest for a few minutes after hunting four or five. Even if he didn't manage his stamina or mana, the hamsters were so weak that he could hunt for 30 minutes without stopping.

Of course, the amount of experience that they gave was lower. However, the number of hamsters that could be hunted at the same time was greatly increased. In the process of advancing to the center of the monster community, they steadily gained experience. The gallbladders also dropped constantly, so he could probably achieve a 30% poison and confusion resistance.

'Should I just stay here and hunt? If I could increase my poison resistance to 30%, I will be able to catch the poisonous trolls on the West Continent that I couldn't before.'

Honestly, the golden walnuts were too valuable to be wasted like this.

'It's better to save the golden walnuts... Isn't this better?'

Even spoke as Mook started to feel conflicted. "We can raise our level on the West Continent. And the gallbladder of the big poisonous rats can be collected later. Don't forget our purpose. Our real purpose is to gain titles, skills, and items first."

Lane agreed. "Evan is correct. Mook, don't get bogged down by the immediate benefits. We have an obligation to escape from Pangea."

"It's important to act quickly to monopolize various benefits first. The gap with the front runners can't become bigger. We might be chasing after them forever."

Oshihoz' words broke Mook's conflicted thoughts.

"That's right. Your words are correct."

The newbie who came to the East Continent with good timing a.k.a. the masked man. It was time to use him to leave Pangea. Mook controlled his mind again and checked the party window.

Lane - Level 311

Class: ???

Mook - Level 310

Class: ???

Evan- Level 312

Class: ???

Oshihoz - Level 310

Class: ???

?? - Level 320

Class: ???

Lane, Mook, Evan and Oshihoz got to know each other on the East Continent. They might be in the same position, but the time to get to know and trust each other was too short. They only occasionally established a party in order to challenge the big poisonous rat community. But even if they were in a party, they set their class to private like now. That's why the classes were just question marks.

However, Mook judged there was no need to be so vigilant.

'The PvP gap isn't that big between combat classes. The balance is right.'

It was disconcerting that the masked man was level 320. The skills that could be learned at level 320 were famous for being powerful. But there were four of them and he was alone. Even if the plan failed and their intentions were revealed, he wouldn't be able to face them...

'There is nothing dangerous!'

Mook concealed a wicked smile with his hand.

"Everybody, please wait."

They were close to the center of the community. It was night and the moon wasn't out. In the distance, the large tent of the Queen Rat could be seen.

"Half-face."

'Me?'

Was he called Half-face because of the half mask?

'This naming sense...'

If he was going to have a nickname based on the mask, he would prefer something like Mask Man. Grid felt regret as he replied.

"Yes."

"Do you see that big tent over there?"

"Yes."

"The leader of the community lives there."

'I killed her.'

The respawn time for a field boss was approximately three days. In particular, the Queen Rat that Grid killed earlier was likely a named boss. As soon as the Queen Rat died, the big poisonous rats were weakened overall. It was likely that the future Queen Rat would be very weak.

It was unfortunate. Mook wasn't aware that the Queen Rat had already been hunted. He'd never dreamt of it.

"It's impossible to catch the leader with the number of people we have in our party. In particular, the Queen Rat is strong. How strong... Um, yes. Do you know the big name players like Kraugel, Zibal, and Grid? They wouldn't be able to hunt it even if they formed a party."

'Why is my name at the end?'

His ego was pricked by his name being after Kraugel's. Grid snapped out, "So?"

"Unfortunately, it's our duty to defeat the leader. Why? It's necessary to enter the fantasy hunting grounds much better than this."

'If that fantasy hunting ground is the next monster community... I can just go since the queen is already dead.'

He didn't bother speaking his thoughts. It would be annoying if he had to explain how he killed the Queen Rat.

'In the first place, I wonder how they were planning to defeat the Queen Rat.'

Grid was feeling interested when Mook handed him a small pouch.

“What’s this?”

Mook let out a laugh at the question.

“Open it. It’s just walnuts.”

“Walnuts?”

“All of the big poisonous rats, including the Queen Rat, are partial to walnuts. It will lure them.”

“Hrmm.”

Grid opened the bag and saw that it really contained walnuts. They were walnuts in a perfect condition before being peeled. They were big with an extraordinarily smooth surface.

“Starting from now, set the walnuts at 2 meter intervals leading up to the entrance of the Queen Rat’s tent. The Queen Rat will be attracted by the smell of the walnut and will be led away.”

“You will leave the community during this gap?”

Grid’s eyes flashed behind the mask.

‘What? At this moment, he seems like an entirely different person...’

His eyes were fierce. It was like he was looking down at them with arrogance. To exaggerate it a little bit, he was like a king of heaven. The eyes behind the mask were similar to a raptor contemplating its prey. It was a force that felt difficult to resist. It happened because Grid was born with naturally sharp eyes and a high dignity stat.

“Haha...” Mook forgot to breathe in front of those eyes. Then he responded calmly without losing his smile. “What are you saying? No. We naturally won’t leave without you.”

Grid’s eyes returned to normal.

“Oh, what is this? Won’t I become the target of the Queen Rat if I place the walnut at the entrance to the tent? Are you going to run away while I’m attacked?”

“No. The Queen Rat is only attracted to walnuts and won’t notice you.”

“How can I believe that? Why won’t you play this role?”

“Haha, didn’t I tell you? We know a lot of good hunting grounds. We always use this method to move to another fantasy hunting ground. Putting walnuts at the entrance to the Queen Rat’s tent is something we do all the time. We want to give you this role so that you can experience what it is like to move to another hunting ground.”

‘Isn’t this strange?’

It was impossible for it to be the truth. But Grid was filled with kindness. In the first place, the Queen Rat wasn’t present. There was no danger and no reason to refuse, so Grid nodded.

“I understand. I will trust you and do my part.”

"Good choice."

Mook looked at Grid with relief, while also having a nasty grin on his face.

'The Queen Rat does like walnuts. But she likes the flesh of humans more. She will try to taste you before the walnuts.'

Be the scapegoat as planned. In that gap, they would leave this place and say goodbye to Pangea! The blissful Mook's party left Grid behind. Grid looked at them in the distance and pulled out a walnut from the pouch.

"There's no need to scatter this on the ground for the Queen Rat."

It was better to eat the walnuts while moving to the next hunting ground. He had close to 3,000 strength. The hard walnut shell was useless in front of Grid's strong fingers. He easily exposed the insides. It was amazing that the husk was completely powdered while the insides were fine. This was the result of Grid's legendary dexterity.

"Yum."

Grid placed the walnut in his mouth. At that moment.

'Delicious!'

Grid's eyes widened. As soon as the walnut was placed in his mouth, a unique nutty flavor exploded? Then sweetness spread as he chewed. It was so much better than Idan's food that Grid was in tears.

"I have to eat more... Eh?"

Grid swallowed one walnut and was placing his hand in the pouch when he stopped. He was completely stiff, like a stone statue. He was amazed at the incredible effects.

[You have eaten a golden walnut.]

[All stats will rise by 10% for one hour.]

[The kernel of the golden walnut is perfect without any damage. It provides a complete supply of nutrients.]

[Intelligence has risen permanently by 5.]

"...Eh?"

Grid couldn't understand the situation.

"Ah..."

Grid was filled with emotions. It was better than joy.

"Those people... They are big pushovers."

They mistook this amazing walnut for common walnuts and tried to feed them to monsters? How pathetic. They couldn't even take care of their own rice bowls.

"Aigoo, tsk tsk. I don't think they're scammers."

Grid clicked his tongue and placed the walnut pouch to one side of the inventory. Of course, there was no way he would return the walnuts to Mook.

Chapter 528

"Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal."

The walnut pouch in the corner of his inventory. Grid pulled out a single walnut from it and used his appraisal skill to determine the true identity.

[The blacksmith who became a legend can appraise items with an excellent discerning eye. If a hidden feature exists in the target item, it will be found.]

[6th grade illusion magic has been detected.]

[The illusion is useless in front of your eyes and scattered like a mirage.]

[The information about the walnut has been updated!]

[Golden Walnut]

Also called the blessing of nature.

It is a snack and remedy enjoyed by all nobles and royalty on the East Continent.

All stats will rise by 10% for one hour.

In addition, there is a very low probability of permanently increasing one stat by 5 points.

Weight: 0.1

[You have discovered a hidden feature!]

[Golden Walnut]

Also called the blessing of nature.

It is a snack and remedy enjoyed by all nobles and royalty on the East Continent.

Somewhere on the East Continent, there are creatures whose main food is this walnut.

All stats will rise by 10% for one hour.

In addition, there is a very low probability of permanently increasing one stat by 5 points. The better you shell the walnut, the more likely it is that your stats will permanently increase.

Weight: 0.1

This was huge. Grid's mouth widened. He shook with joy at the huge value of this walnut. Grid smiled and shook his head.

"The more I think about it, the poorer they are."

The golden walnuts were covered by illusion magic. They probably never knew. If they knew, they wouldn't have considered feeding it to a monster.

Grid pledged. 'They are pitiful pushovers. I should be nice to them.'

Grid was projecting his past self onto Mook's party. He felt a great sense of sympathy when he thought about what they suffered on the East Continent. Then he thought about himself.

'Who would've thought I would be so nice to people I met for the first time today? I am really too nice.'

Well, if he wasn't nice then he wouldn't sponsor X University 3,300 won a month. Grid truly believed he was nice.

'I'm not good enough to return the walnuts, but I'm still an angel.'

Grid was proud in his heart. He refrained from eating another golden walnut.

'Eat it sparingly. Before it's an elixir, it is the strongest buff potion.'

Bufs that raised stats usually had a duration of 1~10 minutes. On the other hand, the golden walnut had a buff duration of one hour. In addition, Grid knew of only one other buff potion that raised 'all stats' apart from the golden walnut. That's right, the Sweet Candy. A buff potion that could only be purchased five times per account from the Reputation Store, it was a fraudulent item that raised all stats by 30%.

'It's too precious to eat, unless I encounter a dragon. This walnut is the best buff potion. Therefore, eat it sparingly.'

Dragon! The strongest creature created by the S.A. Group that players couldn't hunt yet. Grid didn't want to encounter a dragon til his dying day. He planned to avoid it at all costs. But the world was still unknown. In particular, Grid had no luck. One day, Minerals Detector Minor might suddenly declare as he was searching around Reidan.

"I have found the best minerals in a dragon lair!"

"Then I can't go to that place..."

Please don't let that happen.

"Hmm?"

Grid was praying when he thought of something. Was there a way to secure a large amount of golden walnuts? His face suddenly darkened as he was thinking of a new plan. Before he knew it, the time for breakfast was approaching.

'Ah, XX.'

Grid had improved greatly since he started exercising. In Satisfy, the maximum stamina would be temporarily lowered if a player didn't eat three meals a day. They shouldn't skip meals. But Grid wanted to skip today's meals. His eyes were dark at the thought of eating Idan's dishes.

'No... Today will be different.'

He made it clear yesterday. He liked beef, chicken, and eggs. They would food ingredients that were delicious even when not cooked well. Grid planned to use these ingredients so that Idan could make a dish that was better than dog food.

'Hurry. I will eat and then go watch the competition.'

Still, he was slightly concerned about Mook's party.

'Well, there's no Queen Rat left in the community.'

Step.

Grid turned and left for Pangea.

Darkness encroached on the big poisonous rat community. Dawn started to reveal its grand scale. Mook's group felt disturbed from where they were hiding like dead mice.

"This is the time that the hamsters will wake up."

"What should we do? We'll be isolated."

"What else? We can't run away anymore, so we can only wait."

It had been 15 minutes since the masked man left. Soon, it would be time for the man to place the last walnut in front of the Queen Rat's tent.

"One minute. Wait one more minute."

"The moment that the masked man places the last golden walnut in front of the tent, the Queen Rat will wake up."

"All the big poisonous rats will chase after him."

The big poisonous rats had a funny habit. They had the ability to detect when the Queen Rat was in danger, even if they were far from her tent, and would chase after the intruder. That's right. Mook's group planned to escape while the Queen Rat and all the big poisonous rats were chasing Grid. Grid was the sacrificial lamb. However...

"Isn't it strange?"

"Why is it so quiet?"

The expected time had passed and the big poisonous rats were still quiet. The health gauge of the masked man in the party window was still full. It meant the Queen Rat hadn't appeared and the masked man didn't fulfill his role properly.

"No, is he stupid enough to not place the walnuts properly?"

"Don't tell me... He figured out the value of the golden walnuts and ran away?"

"Don't speak such nonsense!"

"It's impossible. My illusion magic might last for only an hour, but it can block the best appraisal skills. It boasts a tremendous sophistication."

"Then what is this situation? Why are the big poisonous rats so quiet?"

If the masked man succeeded in attracting the Queen Rat as scheduled, all the big poisonous rats should've popped out by now. But the rats were dead silent. Surely the masked man hadn't noticed their trap and ran away? Mook's group came up with the worst situation and became nervous. They started to talk in the party chat.

-Excuse me...Half-face?

-Where are you?

-What happened to the walnuts?

-Don't you need to lure the Queen Rat?

The person called Half-face! Grid belatedly replied to them.

-There is no Queen Rat, so you can move freely.I'm going to get some breakfast.Then I'm going.

[??? has left the party.]

"...??"

Mook's party was stunned. They couldn't understand Grid's words.

'There is no Queen Rat?'

'He withdrew from the party to eat breakfast?'

First of all, it didn't make sense that there was no Queen Rat. It was only possible if she had been raided in the past three days. The Queen Rat was raided? It was impossible. None of the players currently remaining in Pangea had the ability to catch the Queen Rat. There were four players still stuck in Pangea, which was Mook's group.

Oh, there was the masked man who joined a while ago. However, it was impossible for him to raid the Queen Rat alone.

'Dammit... What happened to the walnuts?'

It was extremely rare for a player to leave the party to eat food. Most of them cooked food and ate at the hunting ground. But this person withdrew from the party to eat breakfast. The situation was clear.

'We've been tricked!'

They were ruined. The masked man deceived them. They tried to strike him in the back of the head, only to be struck themselves.

"That guy... He knew our ulterior motives from the beginning!"

He pretended to be deceived and acted at the crucial timing to hit them in the back of the head. Evil and smart.

“Shit...! Shit!”

They were completely abandoned. The golden walnuts they spend all their money buying had disappeared. In a nutshell, they were ruined. Everyone was feeling frustrated when Mook gave them hope.

"Hey, wake up. No matter how clever he is, it's impossible for him to figure out the identity of the walnuts."

"That's right! He might think that the golden walnuts are ordinary walnuts and abandon them on the side of the road!"

"Okay! We'll search for the golden walnuts from now on! We will get revenge after getting back the walnuts!"

"Ohhh!"

They regained their hope and morale, but it was only for a moment.

"...By the way, how many walnuts are there in this large community?"

"This is the time when the big poisonous rats are the most active... How can we deal with them if they leave the tent in a group? They might be weakened, but it will be hard to deal with a large number of them."

"Above all, the biggest problem is the Queen Rat. She often wanders around the tents in the morning. We will die if we meet her."

"..."

It was a continuous cycle of frustration. What should they do? Mook thought about it and found an answer.

"We... We'll hide and wait until it is their nap time."

They had to hide for 10 hours until it was time for the rats to nap. They couldn't move a single finger.

"Once they go to sleep, we'll start the walnut search operation."

They could find the golden walnuts if they repeated this for around four days. Mook's group breathed slowly as the hamsters left the tents one by one. There were tears in their eyes. It was the day they remembered that people shouldn't do bad things.

"Right now, they should've passed on safely to the next hunting ground?"

Who would've known his raid of the Queen Rat would be a big help to Mook's group? It was something he had never thought about.

"This connection is strange... Huhut."

Grid was glad to help the poor people. He arrived at Pangea that was bustling for the festival and took off his mask. Then he was startled.

Chapter 529

"..."

Grid was surprised because the bustling crowd on the street all sat down. Tens of thousands of people. The festive atmosphere became as silent as a dead mouse. It was an unbelievable and unrealistic thing to experience.

'Pagma?'

The cause of the sudden silence! Grid got goosebumps as he watched the group of people that appeared in the center of the street. The group walked past the bowing crowd. They wore blue daoist robes and had long black hair tied up. It was exactly the same appearance as the Pagma that Randy copied in the Mysterious Forest.

'These people are?'

The men in robes boasted a beautiful appearance. Why did they look so much like Pagma, and why did people bow before them? Someone poked Grid's side. It was a regular NPC. His head was bowed and he was shaking. It seemed like he was afraid to be noticed by the robed men.

"Not bowing before the yangban, are you crazy? Do you have 10 lives?" (Wiki Link)

"Yangban?"

"The residents of the Hwan Kingdom!"

'The Hwan Kingdom...'

The kingdom that used the white phosphorous tree as their national tree. Grid bowed his head and asked the NPC.

"Is Pangea part of the Hwan Kingdom?"

"Tsk tsk. I should've known you were stupid the moment you didn't bow in front of the yangban."

"..."

"Pangea is part of the Cho Kingdom.

"Then why are you bowing to the yangban of the Hwan Kingdom?"

"What are you saying? Isn't it natural to bow to people who serve their kingdom? Do you not know this because you're stupid?"

"...?"

Did the Hwan Kingdom have the concept of a common kingdom?

'It seems like Pagma was born in the Hwan Kingdom...'

He was gradually finding out information. Grid decided not to fret about it.

"Hrmm."

At this moment, a yangban in blue robes passed by Grid and gave him a meaningful smile. Grid felt awe the moment he looked into the yangban's eyes. There was an unknown aura and overwhelming majesty that made his heart race.

[You have an urge to bow.]

[You have resisted.]

This was just because Grid met his eyes?

'Don't tell me...'

Grid gulped.

'The power of a legend?'

Grid was confused.

"Huhut."

There was coy laughter as the yangban left Grid's field of view.

Idan's restaurant.

"Would you like me to prepare the citron tea in advance?"

A beautiful girl reminiscent of a cat. The employee Yang Fei asked the question with an impassive expression. But Grid didn't answer. He was still thinking about the yangban that he encountered on the street.

'I'm certain. That's a legend-grade presence.'

When Grid first lent his body to Braham. Grid had been shocked and thrilled when seeing Braham gather all the mana. The yangban's presence matched Braham of that time.

'But... None of the legends were described as originating from the East Continent? It's just my guess that Pagma came from the East Continent.'

In the first place, there were nine legends. But the number of yangbans he saw today was over 10.

'Don't tell me that separate legends exist for the East Continent?'

Separate from the nine legends of the West Continent.

'...Ah, it's natural.'

The West and East Continents were isolated from each other. It stood to reason that they wouldn't share legends. It was right for them to be separate.

'Look at Lord.'

He was called a genius that represented the West Continent.

'Hey... This is really...'

The world became bigger. The powerhouses that couldn't be seen on the West Continent and in Hell overflowed in the East Continent. But Grid didn't feel frustrated. Rather, he found it interesting.

'In the future, I will be stronger.'

Even if he became stronger than he was now, he wouldn't be criticized for destroying the balance. In other words, it meant Grid had the confidence to be strong.

'I am a legend.'

He was always trying hard. Yes, like right now!

"Now! Sorry to keep you waiting!"

"..."

Idan cooked eggs for Grid's breakfast. The yolk was cooked to the point of being burnt, while the whites were raw.

"Crazy. It's hard to deliberately make this."

Grid couldn't help spitting out. Fortunately, Idan took it as a compliment.

"It took a lot more work than normal egg rolls. After separating the yolk and egg whites, I cooked only the yolk and poured the whites, using the concept of them as a sauce."

"...Don't you think you should cook them normally?"

"Aish, this person. How can you eat ordinary egg yolk and egg whites?"

"You can cook moderately..."

"I made this dish with a chef's heart of wanting to feed my guest the best egg. Using the soft egg whites to cover the hard yolk, isn't this new and ingenious?"

'You could start off with soft-boiled.'

It was surprisingly a dish not made out of malice. Grid really didn't want to eat it, but he closed his eyes and poured the eggs into his mouth. The feeling of the egg whites wrapping around his teeth every time he chews made him feel bad. The smell of the egg spreading in his mouth made it hard to breathe and the unique flavour of the yolk disappeared after it was cooked too much, giving a feeling of chewing dry stone.

Gulp!

Grid wanted to spit it out but barely managed to swallow it, tasting sweet fruit at the end.

[You have received food poisoning from eating uncooked food.]

[You have resisted.]

[Stamina has risen permanently by 1.]

'The food wasn't cooked properly...'

But Idan was the serious problem. It was clear that Idan didn't have a talent for cooking.

"Hah."

Then Grid asked him.

"Why didn't you use salt?"

It would've been a bit easier to eat. Idan felt and replied to Grid.

"Salt is bad for your health!"

'You will die if you eat ramyun.'

"Here."

Yang Fei served the citron tea to the grumbling Grid. She prepared it beforehand. Grid lit up at the thought of rinsing his mouth with the tea. Grid looked at Yang Fei like she was an angel.

"Thank you."

Gulp gulp.

Grid tried to get rid of the egg taste with the fragrant tea. Yang Fei spoke meaningfully as Grid's face recovered its color.

"That... My legs are sore today."

Yang Fei lifted her skirt slightly and exposed her white calves. It was a stimulating sight. But Grid wasn't stimulated. For any woman under the age of 20. Grid didn't recognize them as a woman unless they had a D cup.

"Yes, I will massage it with sincerity today."

"..."

Grid spoke carelessly while Yang Fei's face became like a carrot. She already had a body that couldn't live without Grid's hands.

"You came!"

A large stadium to the north of Pangea's Castle. Grid visited the waiting room of the stadium that reminded him of the Coliseum and White of the White Hammer smithy welcomed him. White grabbed Grid's hands tightly.

"Mr. Woodcutter, thanks to you, we can now create flames of the desired temperature with the white phosphorus wood. It will be your achievement if the White Hammer smithy wins the competition this year."

'Woodcutter?'

Grid thought it was strange but didn't question it.

"What is the theme of the competition?"

Grid was interested from the perspective of a blacksmith and White replied.

"It's the same as last year. It is to reproduce Pangea's treasure that was lost in the war two years ago."

"What's the treasure?"

"Red Phoenix Bow. It's a bow."

"Red Phoenix...Bow!"

Grid felt a strong interest. Red Phoenix Bow. Based on the name, a red phoenix... Then the bow would have powerful fire properties. It was highly likely that Jishuka would have a high compatibility with it.

'This is a treasure of the East Continent, so the base attack power won't be a joke. It would be nice to obtain the production design.'

It was virtually impossible to get a production design just by seeing the item being made. One in 10,000 blacksmiths couldn't do it. But Grid was a legendary blacksmith, not an ordinary one. He could try it.

'Of course, the probability of success is low.'

He would do his best as always. The excited Grid suddenly felt doubts.

"Why is the theme of the competition the same as last year?"

"Last year, the blacksmiths failed to reproduce the Red Phoenix Bow. The lord probably intends to keep the same theme until a perfect masterpiece is reproduced."

"What type of bow is the original Red Phoenix Bow? Do you have the design of the Red Phoenix Bow?"

"It is a bow based on one of the four patrons, the blue dragon, the white tiger, the black tortoise, and the red phoenix. It's a bow that shows the amazing destructive power of fire. Of course, there's no design. It has been lost since ancient times. We can only use our imagination to create it."

"Hrmm..."

If it was a bow with the fire attribute, was a fire stone used as material?

'Melting down the fire stone and using it with iron... The iron bow originally boasts great destructive power... No, wait.'

This was the East Continent. He couldn't think about it with the perspective of a West Continent blacksmith.

'There might be another specialized material on the East Continent with the fire attribute... Ah!'

A sudden thought passed through Grid's head.

'The white phosphorus wood!'

Grid was convinced.

'I am the only one who can make the Red Phoenix Bow.'

Why? He was the only blacksmith in the world who could cut down the white phosphorus tree! Grid's eyes flashed.

"What benefits will be received from winning the competition?"

Greed was within Grid's shining eyes. A powerful greed that wanted to devour everything in the world! But White was blinded to Grid's nature.

'Oh, look at those passionate eyes!'

White misunderstood and explained the situation.

Chapter 530

"What benefits will be received from winning the competition?"

"We will be able to exclusively deliver battle gear to the lord for a year. We will also be featured in the recommendation to tourists and will earn a huge amount of revenue as a result."

Pangea was twice as big as Reidan, the second largest city in the Eternal Kingdom. Unlike Reidan, it was constantly full and had a high floating population. The smithy that won this competition could indeed amass a large amount of wealth. They would be honored as the best blacksmiths of Pangea, so winning the blacksmith competition was the dream of all blacksmiths in Pangea. But that wasn't White's only purpose.

"And... We become qualified to enter the dungeon of the lord's castle."

"The dungeon of the lord's castle?"

In fact, there were castles that contained dungeons. Chris' territory was an example. Chris was famous for having a vampire boss that appeared in his castle's underground dungeon and accumulating elixirs. As it happened, Grid's territories didn't have a private dungeon.

'I heard that a castle's dungeon is also a good place to collect rare items...'

Lael's strengthening Overgeared plan included the occupation of all such castles on the West Continent and monopolizing the dungeons.

'It isn't feasible.'

Grid's eyes recovered from their greed. At the same time, they sharpened.

"What's in Pangea's dungeon?"

“Armored needle...”

“Armored needle?”

“The enemy who murdered my father, the monster that produces the ‘Silver Thread’ that all blacksmiths dream about.”

‘Thread made of silver?’

The silver thread sounded ordinary. But if it was simple silver thread, the blacksmiths of Pangea wouldn’t dream about obtaining it.

"It isn't like normal silver thread?"

"It is silver thread obtained by the silver armor worn by the armored needles melting from their rotten blood. This silver thread is hardened by this process, repeating for many years. It's said to never break and exerts mysterious effects."

“Your father being killed by the armored needles...”

"It's as you expect. My father won the competition several years ago, entered the dungeon to obtain the silver thread, and was killed by an armored needle."

White’s father got into trouble when he entered the dungeon with the lord’s troops who regularly entered the dungeon. White was afraid that he would step on the same path as his father, but he was angrier and greedier than he was fearful.

“I will surely recreate the Red Phoenix Bow, win the competition, gain access to the dungeon, and gain resources from the lord. I will sweep away the armored needles and use the silver thread to make the White Hammer Smithy the best smithy. That was my father’s dream.”

“...Hrmm.”

Grid’s eyes changed once again as he looked at White. There was warmth in his eyes. Based on the humanitarian ideology of Pagma’s Descendant, Blacksmith’s Affection was expressed.

‘A blacksmith with dreams looks good.’

It was at that moment.

Ttiring~

[A quest has been created.]

[Win the Smithy Competition!]

Difficulty: SSS

You are the successor of Pagma’s techniques and will! You have Pagma’s humanitarian ideology of using ‘blacksmithing to benefit other people.’

You are impressed with White, who is trying to make the White Hammer smithy the best smithy in Pangea for his father. Help White win the smithy competition!

The moment that the White Hammer smithy is crowned the best smithy in Pangea, you will have an absolute ally in Pangea.

Quest Clear Conditions: A unique or higher rated Restored Red Phoenix Bow.

Quest Reward: White's affinity will be MAX. The lord's affinity will rise by 30~80 points. Different compensation will be obtained depending on your affinity with the lord. The right to enter the dungeon of Pangea's castle. Your level will rise by one.

Quest Failure: Affinity with White will decline. Your reputation in Pangea will drop.

'Good.'

Grid's desire to participate in the competition grew. He had a reason and would even receive compensation, so there was no reason for Grid to refuse.

[Would you like to accept the quest?]

There were only two options in the notification window. YES or NO. Grid chose YES without hesitation.

"Now, Grid."

White responded after the quest was accepted.

"In fact, I'm not confident about handling the white phosphorus wood properly. I am able to get better firepower than before thanks to it, but I can't completely control it. But as a legendary woodcutter, don't you also specialize in firewood? That... I'm asking despite the shame. Will you participate in this competition as a member of my smithy?"

"..."

A legendary blacksmith was mistaken for a woodcutter? Grid was embarrassed because the development was different than what he expected, but he nodded.

"I understand. I will help you."

"Ohh...! Ohh! Thank you! I really appreciate it!"

Of course, the legendary blacksmith was also good with the bellows. It wasn't difficult for Grid to handle fire.

'I just need to participate in the competition, no matter the manner.'

Once the competition began.

'I will take the lead.'

"Umm."

Han Seokbong. He was the descendant of a fallen noble family and had a poor childhood. But thanks to his wise mother, he was able to become a civil servant and rise in the ranks. Han Seokbong was

appointed to help the king of the Cho Kingdom. It was said that the policies developed by Han Seokbong made the Cho Kingdom strong.

He was the genius who was appointed as lord of Pangea at the age of 50. The hero who raised his family name, a role model to the common people, and a national treasure, he had been troubled in recent years. It was because of the loss of Pangea's treasure, the Red Phoenix Bow.

"In the end, the yangbans of the Hwan Kingdom moved!"

The four treasures that contained the power of a god.

The Blue Dragon Dao in the eastern Kaya Kingdom. The White Tiger Spear in the western Pa Kingdom. The Red Phoenix Bow in the southern Cho Kingdom. The Black Tortoise Jewel in the northern Xing Kingdom.

The Hwan Kingdom gave these four treasures to each kingdom and ordered them to protect them well. Now the Cho Kingdom had lost the Red Phoenix Bow. It was when Han Seokbong was the lord of Pangea.

'The yangban said they would give me half a year...'

If he couldn't regain the Red Phoenix Bow in half a year, Han Seokbong's safety wasn't the only problem. The Cho Kingdom had a lot of exchanges with the Hwan Kingdom, so it was likely the Hwan Kingdom would place severe restrictions for a few years. It was a situation where the status of the kingdom would plummet and become paralyzed.

"Hah!"

Han Seokbong felt resentment. Three years ago, an unidentified evil daoist priest invaded Pangea and stole the Red Phoenix Bow. Why did the Cho Kingdom have to be driven to a corner? 'If the Cho Kingdom is weakened, the northern Xing will obtain the greatest profit... However, it was unlikely that Xing would've caused this incident since they knew the importance of the four divine treasures.'

Maybe the enemy was within. There were only a few candidates who would benefit if the power of the Cho King weakened.

'Seok Hyungong.'

The king's younger brother.

'But he isn't bold and his support base is weak.'

In the worst case...

'Maybe someone knew the meaning of the Red Phoenix Bow and desired it...'

In this case, they might also go after the Blue Dragon Dao, the White Tiger Spear, and the Black Tortoise Jewel. It was dangerous. The entire continent might fall into chaos.

'No, this isn't an issue I should worry about now.'

If the situation became serious, then the people of the Hwan Kingdom would come to solve it. Perhaps.

'I just need to concentrate on regaining the Red Phoenix Bow.'

But he didn't know where the Red Phoenix Bow was. Due to the monster community in the north, communication with the outside was limited. It was more realistic to create a new treasure that would replace the Red Phoenix Bow, so Han Seokbong placed hope in the blacksmiths of Pangea.

"Please... I hope you will recreate the Red Phoenix Bow this year."

A tombstone made of white jade. The voice of an old woman entered his ears as he looked at the place where the Red Phoenix Bow would've been.

"Your face is becoming more anxious the more days that pass. Won't it be more toxic if you feel meaningless anxiety?"

"Mother!"

Han Seokbong grasped the owner of the voice and rose from his seat. He was worried for his mother, who was 80 years old. She shouldn't be coming all the way down here.

"Your knees will be sore if you keep going up and down the stairs."

Han Seokbong ran to his mother, helping her up as she handed him a writing brush.

"Your mother is still fine, so don't be worried. Don't forget that you must always be calm. Train your mind and body. Sigh."

Han Seokbong's mother blew out the candles placed around the white jade tombstone. Then she sat down in the darkened room.

"From now on, I will slice some rice cakes, so calm yourself."

"Yes...! I understand, Mother!"

His mother had always been by his side since childhood. She appeared whenever he was feeling confused and anxious.

'Once I start writing things down, my head always clears and my mind calms down.'

Han Seokbong smiled cheerfully and started doing calligraphy. Writing in darkness was a new development. It was natural for the handwriting to be poor.

"Ahat!"

Han Seokbong's mother cut her finger while slicing the rice cake. It was something that frequently happened and it was just a small cut.

"Hey! Who is this? Isn't it the dark White from the White Hammer smithy?"

An hour before the competition. A guest came to the White Hammer blacksmiths who were gathering the materials to be used in this competition. It was the owner of the Blue Flames smithy, Enoch.

"The White Hammer smithy has been disgraced for the last three years and it won't be able to win again this year. Are you enjoying your last bit of fun?"

Enoch was someone with a kind and comforting appearance. But his tone and words were nasty.

"Your father would be sad. The White Hammer smithy will soon be destroyed because a blacksmith who can't handle fire was made the successor."

"..."

Enoch talked about White's dead father. White was furious. But he tried to be patient and not show his anger. In the end, Enoch's words weren't wrong. If he became angry now, wouldn't that make Enoch laugh even more?

'I feel sorry for my father.'

White was guilty of being a bad son.

Kkuok!

Blood flowed as White formed a tight fist.

"A blacksmith should cherish his hands."

Grid stepped forward from where he had been watching the situation. He took out a bandage he used when he was a beginning and handed it to White, before speaking to Enoch.

"Are you good at handling fire?"

Enoch thought it was ridiculous.

"What's this? I've never seen you before? A newbie like you dares to interrupt a conversation between adults? Is this your concept?"

"What adult? There's only a 10 year difference between us."

"Hah, the level of the White Hammer smithy is really low. I don't like this type of rudeness. Tsk tsk, really. All the talented people are gathering in my smithy. Well, this year's winner is obvious. Let's celebrate in advance. Puhahat."

'What a funny guy.'

Going to another waiting room just to argue? A complete gangster. Grid disliked this type of person.

"I'll have to beat you first."

A woodcutter made an absurd remark about beating the master of the Blue Flames smithy. White didn't hear it. He was trying to swallow his anger.