



THE
HERO

히어로

양승훈 현대판타지 소설

1

 주라온 E&M

The Hero

Volume 2 – Adapting

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Chapter 1

“.....You’re a hero with a very quiet personality, but I get the feeling we’ll be seeing each other a lot from now on. Well, today was a very grand day for these heroes, yet a sad day for the deceased. I am the hero reporter Mi Yeon Lee, reporting to you on scene.”

That’s how the broadcast finished.

The sudden interview was just 2 hours ago, but for it to be all over the internet already...

Haneul was reading through each and every one of the articles with a blank face.

‘THE SILVER HERO IN QUESTION!! SAVES OTHER HEROES!!’

‘THE GOVERNMENT’S MISTAKES. A LIE IN THE EARTHQUAKE LEVEL.’

In the middle of all these articles popping up, the netizens were just as busy leaving comments. The majority of these comments had nothing to do with the government and the incorrect earthquake level, but about a Hero in Silver who appeared out of nowhere.

- "He looks so cool. Does anybody know who that hero is?"

- "I don't think he's in the Hero list."

- "Please tell me who he is."

Haneul walked away from the computer, and the moment he did, another person took his spot.

A cone like structure, raised up like a tent, was set up as a relief facility and everyone who had to deal with the sudden disaster was in it.

Everything just felt and looked unreal to Haneul.

'How exactly did all of this happen? Am I the only one that thinks this is weird? Am I the only one that thinks this situation is surreal?'

A hero reporter that appeared out of nowhere after the fight, came with sparkling eyes and asked many questions.

- What is your name? Your hero name.

Haneul wasn't able to answer to any of the questions that were asked, as he stayed quiet until the end of the interview, and then disappeared as if running away from

something. He then got rid of his armor in a secluded area, and blended in with the refugees.

The situation seemed to have calmed down, but it seemed like the military were still keeping the civilians inside this oddly shaped relief facility.

'I don't think it's because it's dangerous outside.'

Haneul looked around him.

The people were getting a proficient amount of food to eat, while listening to the directions of the military personnel. Even with everything being chaotic, with the efforts of the military, the refugees were able to adapt to the situation as if it was normal.

No, it felt like this situation was normal.

One can tell just by looking at the news articles getting populated that the existence of heroes was an everyday norm, and the only one that felt out of place was Haneul.

At that moment, Haneul was able to see several soldiers divulging in a conversation.

As soon as the instructions were given, the soldiers that were blocking the refugees from leaving the camp, walked outside.

“It seems like it’s finally over.”, muttered a weak person, sitting on the side.

Suddenly, one of the soldiers picked up the mic and said, “The last wave from the earthquake seems to have been confirmed as being finished. Several buses will come to take everyone to their respective neighborhoods, so please follow our instructions and make way towards the correct bus.”

People got up one after the other and started moving to their respective spots, as Haneul followed behind them.

There was still no reception on his Smartphone.

As the line progressed down towards the outskirts of the city, dozens of military buses could be seen. Each and every one of them were peculiar, thought Haneul.

“Is this something that happens frequently?”, Haneul asked the person next to him, and a lady next to that person stared at him as if he was crazy.

After looking at her expression, Haneul realized that asking anymore questions would be unwise.

Something must have happened.

Either the world flipped over or Haneul was going crazy.

The bus took them from Seoul to the North side of Kyung-gi Do, and from there it went straight down towards the South side. Haneul's house was just in front of his nose, and that's exactly when his Smartphone started to get reception. (TN - Kyung-gi Do is a populous province surrounding Seoul.)

As soon as Haneul got off the bus, he called his father, and after the phone rang 3 times, his father picked up.

"Hello?"

<Oh, hey son.>

Haneul frowned. What should have been the voice of man, came the voice of a woman through the phone.

"I'm sorry, I think I got the wrong number."

Haneul hung up and looked at his father's number again. It was correct. There was no doubt about it that the call he placed just now was correct. Since the call was made through his contact book, there was no way that the number was wrong.

'Is this an effect that's still being caused by that earthquake?'

Haneul felt that thing's should have been fine, so he called the number again.

After the phone rang twice, someone picked up the call.

<Son, what's going on right now? Why are you saying weird things all of a sudden?>

"....."

Haneul blinked.

<Son?>

"Um, excuse me.....Is this not the number of Sung Shik Kang's cell phone?"

<What? Son, what are you saying right now? If you keep saying these strange things, I'm (his mother) going to get mad. Why are you bring up your father's name right now, when he passed away 9 years ago?>

The name of my father that passed away 9 years ago?

"M.....om?"

<That's right, is something wrong?>

Haneul's face went awry.

Haneul returned back to his home.

The three of them used to live here in the past, but now he was alone and the scenery inside the house didn't feel too different from before.

Haneul's head was hurting and everything just felt like a dream.

He was sure that once he slept and woke back up, everything would be back in place.

Haneul fell asleep as if he fainted and by the time he opened his eyes and awoke, the sky outside was dark. Monsters, transforming, heroes, and.....his mother.

It was too hard to say that everything was a dream, because this "dream" was too vivid with details.

Haneul turned his computer on to search for news articles.

The Hero in Silver.....

It wasn't a dream.

Haneul tried to pull the ring off his middle finger again, but as usual, the ring didn't budge. If only it had a will of its own.....

Flutter.

A bright silver light flew out from the ring and enclosed itself around Haneul.

His head ached.

Haneul searched online, meticulously, regarding heroes and earthquakes.

Each search came with quick results.

The first earthquake phenomenon happened in the early 70s, where it simultaneously sprung up all over the world. At first, it turned out to be a strange anomaly but as time passed by, monsters started to appear. This was also around the time when humans with special powers started to awaken. These people were so strong, that they were unable to be compared with normal human beings. The government recruited them, and they were later known to be called as heroes.

All of this info was something very new to Haneul, but for the rest of the world, not knowing these details was even weirder.

Haneul looked at his ring.

“Yeah, it must be this ring. Everything seems to have changed after I put it on. I knew there was something different about it.”

The fact that the ring didn't come off, and with the incidents that happened at the terminal, the more Haneul thought about it, he realized that the world flipped upside down after he got hit with the strange dizzy feeling.

Would everything change back to what it was once I take the ring off?

That's when Haneul's messenger rang.

Minah Choi.

His eyes grew round as he saw the name and picture of the person who messaged him.

“Minah? What for.....”

The messenger continues to ring.

- Hey, Silver Hero!

- Nobody else can recognize you, but I can! Why didn't you tell me?

- Why aren't you responding back? Are you busy?

"....."

With a blank expression, Haneul looked at his log book and saw that Minah was part of his contacts.

Another situation that was different from his "other world". Minah was just someone who he said Hi to every now and then, not someone he messaged on the phone. He didn't even have her number to begin with.

- I see that your reading my messages, but you're not responding. If you continue to ignore me, I'm going to call you instead.

Call?

They were close enough to be on a calling level?

- Oh, sorry. Is there something wrong?

- I guess now you decide to respond back to my text huh? What do you mean is there something wrong? You're trying to hide this even from me? I'm just texting you to congratulate you on your awakening.

- Awakening?

- Stop trying to play with me. That Silver Armor. You used to always show off saying that when you awaken, you were going to look like that. What did you say again, Silver Knight? Yeah, that's right, Silver Knight. You seemed to have had a spectacular debut yesterday morning, in Central South, without even telling me.

She told him as if it was a matter of fact, but it was something that Haneul knew nothing about.

Minah seems to be someone who's really close to Haneul in this world.

- Even if you're someone who likes getting attention, I'm sure there are a lot of people who wouldn't like it if they knew you didn't properly register with the organization, yet still went out and fought like you did yesterday. Well, I don't know what you had in mind when you did that, but feel free to tell me everything. I'm right around the corner from your house, so come out right now.

- What??

- Don't make me wait. I'm going to get mad.

As Haneul looked at the time, it was past 7 P.M.

Minah came here just to meet him?

With a frustrated expression, Haneul threw on some clothes and walked out.

There were a lot of things running through his mind.

What type of relation did he have with Minah in this world?

'And awakening?.....Does that mean that the Haneul in this world originally didn't have the ability to transform?'

That meant that nobody in this world knew the type of powers that Haneul had in his hands.

Haneul walked with a complicated face, and decided to take things one step at a time.

"It's okay. I'm not going crazy. There's nothing wrong with me.", muttered Haneul, as if he was reassuring himself.

The place where Haneul was supposed to meet Minah at was a cafe known for its cheap prices.

Haneul was pacing back and forth outside the cafe. Minah, the girl he always looked at secretly, was meeting him one on one. His head felt like it was going to explode with so many questions, yet his heart was beating fast regardless.

As Haneul was pacing back and forth outside of the cafe, he glimpsed inside to see a girl sitting there alone.

'Minah.....'

It really was that Minah. A slender face with big eyes, she was even fashionable and super popular with all the guys. Even now, all the guys inside the cafe were secretly staring at her and admiring her.

With a firm decision, Haneul walked into the cafe.

As soon as he did, Minah lifted her head and with a smiling face, she waved her hand. All the guys that were staring at her in secret, now looked at Haneul with envy and jealousy.

Haneul walked up to her with a disbelieving face.

"What are you doing? Sit."

"....."

Haneul sat in front of her.

"Are you going to drink anything?"

"Ah, no, I'm okay."

"Really? Alright. Now, can you start telling me the details. Why were you hiding the fact that you awakened? No, Isn't it normal to have at least told me about it?"

Awakening.....

The existences known as heroes always go through an awakening phase, which only half of those who hold magic will go through. When the internal magic blooms and opens a path to special powers, that's when it's called an awakening.

"What, why aren't you talking? You're being weird today. With your face expression from earlier as well, what's wrong? Are you not feeling well? Is it because of your awakening?"

Minah extended her hand and placed it on top of Haneul's forehead. A shocked expression could be seen.

“Wow!! Haneul, the amount of magic in your body has skyrocketed.”, said Minah with an excited face, but Haneul didn’t hear her at all.

It was because of her action just now, that his heart was beating fast.

“I’m sorry to ask this out of nowhere but.....what exactly is our relationship?”

“What?”

Minah’s face became cold.

“What is that supposed to mean?”

“Ah, nothing, there’s no meaning behind it. It’s just.....I’m not in the right mind right now. There are a couple of things I can’t seem to remember. I, I hit my head on the scene yesterday, as I was fighting.”

“What? If that’s true, you should go to the hospital. Have you gone? You should have gotten a hero examination at least. That reminds me, it’s been told that there have been situations of people being anxious after awakening. Since it’s late tonight, let’s go get it checked tomorrow.”

Haneul was sure of it now. He and Minah weren't normal friends and could be something closer to being girlfriend/boyfriend status. Her face expression from before proved it all.

"Hey Minah."

"Don't call me like that. It sounds like we're complete strangers. You really can't tell who I am? Can you not recognize me at all? Should we try going to the hospital right now? No, we should definitely go. Let's go."

With an anxious face, Minah grabbed Haneul by the arm and tried to get him to stand up. But he didn't budge.

Going to the hospital wasn't a good idea.

If he told them that he came from a world without heroes and magic, he was sure that they would think he was crazy.

'Let's tell her the truth. If the 'me' from this world has a special relationship with her, it's better off letting her know everything.'

"I have something to tell you. It's something you need to know if we are in a serious relationship."

Chapter 1 - End.

Chapter 2

“So, were you able to confirm anything?”

The Korean Hero Organization was currently holding a conference regarding the unknown hero that appeared in Central South 2 days ago. The people participating in this conference were the president, vice president, and HR director of the Organization.

“We weren’t able to confirm anything yet. We’ve never seen a hero with that appearance until the last battle. Checking the C rank and B rank list has proved to be useless, because he doesn’t seem to be registered.”

“He’s a hero that hasn’t registered yet.....how irritating.”

It was already bad enough that he was an existence of the unknown to the organization, but what made it worse was that he went and showed a spectacular battle 2 days ago.

“Things have turned out a lot worse than I have imagined and there’s no way we can cover this up. It’s already bad enough that we released wrong information regarding the level of the earthquake, yet now that hero is known to everyone through the media. Many civilians are asking for information regarding the new hero, but we can’t tell them that he’s an unregistered, unknown being.”

On top of that, there were many complaints because, the lack of manpower at this “C level” earthquake led to many unnecessary casualties.

In order to divert the media’s focus to something else, the Organization had to figure out who the Hero in Silver was and put him/her out in the open.

“President Kim, search for him. I’m sure he’s somewhere around us. Call the colleges and have them test their students, and make sure the hospitals are also informed about this matter.”

“Yes, sir.”

President YooShik Kim pushed his glasses up.

“Also, Vice President Choi, were you able to figure out what hero ranking the Hero in Silver should be placed into?”

“Hmm, to be honest, we weren’t supplied with a good magic detector this time, so we weren’t able to get any good readings off of it. Looking at it from the situation though, my theory suggests that destroying the Type D and Type C monsters with a single punch indicates he has the strength of at least a B rank, possibly reaching up to the A rank.”

Everyone nodded as it was an important information to consider.

The messenger kept ringing.

It was a message sent by Minah.

Since the last time Haneul and Minah met, Haneul would constantly be receiving meaningless messages from Minah. As most of the conversations would start off normal but end up leading to “Let’s go to the hospital.” In all honesty though, Minah just couldn’t accept the truth.

“If it was something that could be fixed by going to the hospital, I would have definitely gone already.”

Haneul was also very frustrated.

It would be weird if he wasn’t, because the world and life he knew changed completely in a single moment.

He’s been thinking about every little detail that has happened since Thanksgiving, and that’s when he noticed it.

There was another thing that changed.

"....."

The department of heroes.

Haneul was majoring in computer engineering, yet in this world, it showed that he was majoring in the department of heroes.

'What the hell is.....'

As always, Haneul felt like he was the odd one around here. Although, it seemed like the number of students studying in college dropped, everyone majoring in the department of heroes walked around as if it was normal.

Haneul didn't go to class, and instead sat down on a bench with a blank expression. All the other students around him were conversing with each other as they were passing by.

"Hey Haneul."

He turned his head to look beside him and saw a frustrated Minah.

"Are you still not able to remember anything about me?"

"I told you everything last time."

Haneul had truthfully told Minah everything. The fact that he was no longer the Haneul that she knew from before and that in his world there were no earthquakes and heroes.

Unfortunately, Minah wasn't willing to accept it and from her point of view she had all the right not to accept it.

It's only been 2 months since Haneul was discharged from the army, but in just a couple of days, his whole life had changed.

Haneul got up from his seat.

"I'm sorry."

There was nothing he could say besides that.

Haneul went inside his classroom. He figured since he was here at school anyways, he wanted to try and see what a hero's class would entail.

They were currently studying the application of magic. The teacher was explaining the process of feeling the magic from around the world and then applying it for use, but because the class was based off of theories nobody was practicing.

At first, Haneul was barely listening to what was going on because everything seemed like a joke.

But as time went on, his attitude changed. Although, Haneul hated theory based classes. He found this class to be different. He took every word the teacher was saying seriously because it matched perfectly with his own experience.

'That feeling I get deep within me as I was fighting the monsters...so that was magic.'

Haneul could sense a feeling all around him as if he could just reach out and grab it if he wanted to.

"We'll finish up at this point today. Oh, also, if anyone has awakened recently, please make sure to register with the Organization. If you're not registered, you won't be able to gain the perks of a Hero, nor would you be able to bring out your powers to its full potential. You can also fall to the dark side and become a villain, so I hope you students take a note of what I'm saying right now."

After saying that, the teacher walked out.

As Haneul thought about how beneficial this class was to him, he walked outside. That's when Minah blocked his front, making it hard for him to take another step forward.

The students passing by were staring at the couple. Their atmosphere seemed to have changed and it was quite different from normal.

“Let’s talk.”

“Okay, Haneul, I understand. Let’s say everything you said is the truth, what can we do from here to make things back to how it used to be?”

“If I knew the answer to that, we wouldn’t be in this situation to begin with. Although you might feel shocked and annoyed right now, it’s the same for me. I was normally a computer engineering student, but in this world, I’m in a weird school learning about magic applications and what not.”

“.....Alright, alright, okay. Then let’s sit down and try to resolve this issue together.”

“Do you finally trust everything that I’ve told you?”

With that question from Haneul, Minah crinkled her eyes.

“Sorry. To be honest, I can’t believe it. In my opinion, I really think you should go get yourself checked at a hospital. You might be having a bad reaction to your magic awakening.”

“Sigh. I guess it’s normal to be thinking like that. I can’t even believe myself right now, so it’s no wonder you can’t either.”

“But, I know you’re not joking around right now, so I want to be able to help you.”

Haneul didn’t know she had such a stubborn personality. Guess it’s different when you only look at someone from afar.

“Hey Haneul, when you see recordings of yourself fighting as the Hero in Silver, you were fighting really well. Isn’t it weird that you could fight like that when you came from a world without any of this? How are you able to fight like that?”

“That’s.....”

What Minah said was correct.

Haneul knew nothing about heroes, and it’s even more awkward for him to be able to fight like he did a couple days ago if he was just a normal civilian.

“My body just moved on its own. I don’t even know myself on how I did it.”

“Hmmmm.....Don’t get mad and just listen to what I have to

say. How do you feel about us going to the hospital together?"

That again.

"I'm not saying that you're weird, but if there's a problem, I think we should get things tested even if we don't get an answer quickly."

Minah's eyes were filled with worry, and what she was saying was true.

He felt rejected, but there really was something that could be wrong with his head.

'Let's not talk about the other world or the ring, but let's at least see if there's anything wrong with me physically.'

"Alright, let's go to the hospital then."

The testing process took about 2 hours.

Both Haneul and Minah were now walking out of the hospital.

"Your magic rank seems to be at the B rank. That's surprising. It's very rare to see someone at that level right after awakening. I knew you were special after I saw your

“fights, but you’re more special than I had thought…….”

“Even if you tell me that, I don’t quite understand it.”

The test results.

Haneul had no problems physically, and was extremely healthy. Rather, the hospital was shocked after seeing his magic ranking. The previous physical exam he took had shown that he had some magic potential, but after his awakening, Haneul now grasped amazing amount of powers. His exact hero ranking was unable to be determined by the test, as the decisions are made by the Hero Organization. However, based on the amount of magic that was in the test result, he was clearly matching levels of a B ranked Hero.

“Either way, you’re now famous. The Hero everyone was curious about turns out to be at least a B rank, and you happen to be my boyfriend. My heart’s a little complicated.”

“Minah, are you also majoring to become a hero?”

“That’s right. We met in our first year of college, and you were super stubborn.”

“I was?”

“Yup, and your stubbornness is what opened my heart.”

"The more I hear about this, the more shocked I get."

"You talking in third person right now, is what's surprising," said Minah as she sighed.

"Anyways, the hospital should be contacting the Hero Organization, because the truth is that a student like you awakened and is now a hero. A little after that, you would have to register yourself. Are you going to name yourself as the Silver Knight like before?"

"S, Silver Knight....You're saying that I thought up that childish name?"

"Childish? You think so? I honestly think that's a very normal name.....Nice Silver, Genius Silver, Metallic Super Knight, these were all names that you thought up as well."

Haneul's face changed.

Aside from all the strange things that Haneul has been going through, the Haneul from this world had a horrible sense in names!

Haneul was now at home and lost in his own thoughts.

The past few days have been very confusing and there

were still a lot of unanswered questions, but one thing's for sure, he had to adapt to this new world.

He thought about many things.

Staying as his confused-self right now wouldn't change anything.

'What should I do now.'

At that moment, everything that was confusing to Haneul had disappeared and his eyes started to relax.

Let's calm down and adapt, since it's not like I can go back in time.

"A hero huh....."

Flipping through the channels on TV, one was able to see the crying families of those that died in Central South. Their faces' were full of tears, and it made Haneul very uncomfortable. He didn't even know their names or know them personally, but the fact that so many people died had made Haneul very melancholy.

Then it also showed the picture of someone who had died, that was related to Haneul.....

'.....I'm sure someone out there is crying for Black Walker right?'

The next day, Haneul left his house early in the morning. After seeing the news the night before, although late, he decided to go and visit the funeral site for those who had died.

The vicinity of the terminal was still in disarray.

The sun was bright as if that day had never happened, but the broken wreckage of cars and buildings seemed to speak of otherwise.

The funeral site was around the vicinity of the hospital.

There were many people who went to pay their respects, and the whole place was filled with tears.

After looking through several people's names, Haneul finally came across Black Walker's. There were a half a dozen people surrounding his name, and when Haneul saw the little picture that was set on top of Black Walker's name, his mind went blank.

Black Walker was dead.

Haneul's heart was overflowing with guilt, because he remembered how Black Walker said he was going to survive, yet died.

"Who are you....."

"I'm....."

He couldn't tell them that he survived that hell like situation because of Black Walker.

"This hero has helped me before."

"Thank you for making your way over here.....He was a child that loved to help those around him. I'm sure he's happier up there now."

A lady in her 50's.

She looked to be Black Walker's mother.

Haneul watched her melancholic back, and after some time passed asked, "What type of person was Black Walker? I know this isn't the right time to be asking, but it's very important to me."

"That child was....."

Chapter 2 - End.

Chapter 3

Once the sun went down and night fell, Haneul got back home and received a phone call.

«Hello, nice to meet you. My name is Seung Ji Ahn from the Hero Organization. Are you the Haneul Kang that took the health tests at the college's hospital?»

It was a call from the Hero Organization.

I knew it was going to happen eventually, but they sure work quickly.

'It's exactly as Minah predicted.'

Because of the large amount of casualties that happened from the misinformation given by the Organization, Minah told me that the Organization would be on the lookout for me. The official number of those that died in that incident was 1,500 people.

With that many casualties, if it was world *A* (where he's normally from), that would have been a large number of people dead. Unfortunately, in world *B* (where he's at now), that many people dying was a common occurrence once the earthquake hit a certain level.

- "When the massive earthquake hit us 4 years ago, there were 4 waves of monsters. Many more people died that day, and even heroes were dying left and right."

Minah messaged nonchalantly.

That's when I started to understand things a little better.

In world B, people live their lives as if they're going to die at any moment.

'So that's why everyone was so nonchalant in that gory situation. They say people are adapting animals, and I guess that's true. They just accept things as how they are and continue to live their lives normally.'

Anyways, because the Hero Organization was getting a lot of negative public opinions regarding their error, they needed to find a scapegoat which would be the unidentified Hero in Silver. That's just how the world seems to work.

'Well, at least things are a lot clearer for me since their reaction is so transparent.'

<Hello, Haneul?>

"Yes, I understand. I'll see you tomorrow."

<Thank you.>

The phone disconnected.

The organization was very clever, and Haneul felt that he needed to adapt to this world.

He was still confused with many things, but he was clear on what he needed to do.

'I have strength right now, so I need to use it for a good cause.'

The Haneul from the past would have never thought like this, but the Haneul now was able to think decisively on what he needed to do.

Although he wasn't able to recognize it himself, Haneul could feel a change inside his heart.

Whether that change came from his transport to a different world, or if it was because of the hero Black Walker, or if it was from the strength given from the silver ring, nobody knew.

But the truth was that Haneul was currently changing.

“Oh man, it’s already time.”

Haneul went outside.

The Hero Organization was located in Gangnam. Now that I think about it, the original world.....Just out of convenience, let’s separate the worlds as world *A* and world *B*. Either way, Haneul was able to find another difference with the 2 different worlds, and because there were so many differences, it was harder for Haneul to find similarities. *Anyways*, the other difference was the name of the locations.

For world *B*, the vicinity in and around Seoul up to Kyung-gi do, was considered to be a special territory. *As* for the other locations, they were separated into Second Territory, Third Territory and so forth.

It’s not exactly the same, but it felt similar to *America’s* administrative system of independence, which is why these territories were able to become closed territories.

‘This would never have happened in World *A’s* South Korea.’

The phone rang.

Haneul frowned and debated on whether he should pick up or not.

"Hello."

<Hey son, it's mom.>

"Hey mom, what'd you need?"

<I heard the good news. You were able to awaken huh? Congratulations. I heard you're already in Rank B, is that true?>

"Yeah, it just happened that way."

<That's great! Congratulations! Should I go over and make you some good food?>

She's going to come?

Haneul felt very uncomfortable.

The him from World B might think differently, but the him from world A had lost his mother 9 years ago. This was the evidence that showed that he did not belong in this world. He already recognized his mom's death, so he could just be rejecting her right now. Having to think about all this by himself was already weird.

No matter what, his mom will always be his mom.

'Why do I feel so uncomfortable with having to meet mom?'

<Hello?>

"Yes, I'm listening."

<What's going on again? You've been acting weird since yesterday.>

"No, it's nothing. Alright. Please make me something good to eat."

<Okay, see you tonight!>

After the phone disconnected and even to the point where he got off the subway, Haneul had a very uncomfortable expression.

Until just moments ago, Haneul had his mind filled with the conversations he might have at the Organization, and the type of people he might meet there, but now all he could think about was his mom.

That's when the messenger rang.

- Hey Haneul, I'm asking because I'm worried but you're

not lost are you?

It was Minah.

- There's nothing to be worried about. I told you, the basics are still the same as my world.

- Well that's a relief. I'm still worried though, since you don't seem to be stable. It would've been better if I went with you, because I've been there a couple times before.

She's been there before?

- Why did you go there? Is that a place where normal people usually go to?

- Huh? What do you mean why? Did you forget that I'm also a hero?

Minah's a hero?

How shocking.

During his conversation with Minah, he finally left the station and now stood in front of the Hero Organization's grand building.

“What reason are you here for?”

“Ah, my name is Haneul Kang and I was scheduled to come here today.”

“Ah, so you’re Haneul, we’ve been expecting you. Follow me please.”

The guide passed over a visitor’s pass with a smile.

Gulp.

Haneul was already feeling overwhelmed with just looking at the exterior of the magnificent building.

He was a normal civilian. If this was still world A, he would’ve finished his major in computer engineering and found a job within that field. This building he was in now was something he would have only seen from his drama shows he watched.

The first place they stopped by at was the 3rd floor.

With the view of what looked to be an office, Haneul couldn’t calm his heart down.

That’s when someone from inside the office appeared.

“Hahaha, you’ve finally come. Welcome, it’s nice to meet you. My name is Yoo Shik Kim, and I am the HR director for the Hero Organization.”

“Oh, hello. My name is Haneul Kang.”

If he’s the HR director, isn’t that a pretty a high position?

As the female guide put her head down and walked away, Haneul followed HR Director YooShik into the office.

As they stepped into the office, Haneul was even more anxious.

“You don’t need to be anxious. Now, in order to get things started, will you please sign a couple of basic paperwork for me please?”

“Yes, of course.”

The first document presented was the document of registering as a Hero.

Hero name.

Haneul hesitated a bit at the first blank spot.

‘Should I put my name down as the Silver Knight?’

The him from this world used that name and the other names Minah said he thought of were too horrible to even consider as Hero names.

There has been examples of hero's using their real names, but for the most part, they would create a separate persona for when they were acting as heroes. It was similar to when super stars made separate nicknames, it was so that people could remember them more easily.

A hero's income had a lot to do with their popularity level, but if you are popular and have strong skills, people will respect you more. This could be the reason why heroes try to stand out to the population by having fancy costumes or fancy names.

And there were a couple of other truths that Haneul found out after surfing the web. The heroes in this world were closer to being super stars more than anything and was completely different from what he pictured.

Many heroes would create blogs for themselves and write about the deeds that they've done. They would also schedule interviews on it and try to appeal to the people. There has also been cases where these heroes would show up as a guest on TV programs.

As stated before, heroes did this in order to raise their popularity and to make extra income on the side. One can

say that the money they got from the government was close to being non-existent, because there are many cases where hero's would make more money from doing side jobs.

'A Rank C hero relatively does the least amount of work in an earthquake situation, but there are still cases of deaths like Black Walker. Their salary is at about \$4,000 a month, but for a B rank hero who gets mobilized frequently, their salary is at about \$6,000. Seems pretty unfair. In world A, no one would want to fight and protect the people with that little amount of money, but I guess this world is like this because it's in a special situation.'

Either way, Haneul has never made that much money before so to him, it was quite a lot of money. If only the job wasn't so dangerous.

Haneul thought it was weird for a hero to have such low income when their lives were on the line, so he decided to look up a regular civilian's salary.

He was able to see how different his knowledge was when it came to money in this world and his previous world.

In this world, the value of life was very low so Life Insurance was basically non-existent. Haneul found out that even the most expensive Life Insurance was only \$20,000.

'I guess the value of life dropped because of the frequent

deaths that happened every day.'

That wasn't the only thing, this world's tax percentage was unusually high as well. It wouldn't be a lie if one said that the government took almost half of the income made. At the same time though, the society's dependence on the government is also quite high.

But for heroes, they were able to take home all of their income and no tax was taken off from it. On top of that, heroes were able to gain various benefits from public institutions.

'The South Korea in my world is so different from the one in this world.'

The name was the same, but there were way too many differences outside of that.

"What are you thinking about?"

"Oh, nothing. I zoned out for a second."

"Many people think hard when it comes to their hero name, since it's something that will stick with them for the rest of their lives."

"I'm sure that's true," responded Haneul with a short answer, and continued to write down Silver Knight.

YooShik stared at Haneul intensely.

“You have a very different image compared to what I pictured. It’s a very realistic feeling. No, I guess it’s closer to being too normal. You first appeared in front of everyone with so much splendor that I thought you would definitely love being in the lime light. Haha, any who, are you okay with the name Silver Knight? Now that I look at it, even the name is really normal.”

Normal huh.....

Haneul first thought that Silver Knight was a very embarrassing name, but that changed when he looked up other people’s names online. Silver Knight was a very normal name.

It’s quite spectacle to see when you look up the popular names on the hero list.

Mister Goldman, Perfect Revolution, Master King, Grand Kaiser, Darkman of the Night.....

How do heroes walk around with names like that when it’s so embarrassing.

“Now, let’s move on to the next test.”

The elevator stopped on the 4th floor.

“Welcome. The test you will be taking today will be.....:”

In an empty room painted with white walls, the atrophied Haneul was standing in the center, preparing for his test.

The tests consisted of testing one’s magic volume, physical, psychological, and in-depth oral interview, but Haneul had no idea what was going on.

“Ummm.....”

“Oh, please place your hand on that machine there and supply it with your magic.”

“Supply it with magic.....”

Haneul tilted his head.

‘I wonder if this will work.’

The hospital didn’t tell Haneul how to apply his magic, so he tried to remember the feeling from back when he fought the monsters.

At that moment, something warm flowed out from his

hand.

RINGG.

<Magic volume is Rank B.>

The result was out.

The person in charge of running the tests had a shocked expression.

“How outstanding. There aren’t many heroes who awaken with such strong powers right from the beginning.”

Haneu was told that some heroes live their whole lives staying within their same rank. When compared to them, Haneul was gifted.

Once the measuring was completed, Haneul proceeded to the room next door.

“Hello, it’s nice to meet you. My name is Kyung Shik Yoo and I’ll be in charge of testing your magic mastery. To start with, are you able to control your magic yet?”

“Control my magic? Is this what you’re talking about?”

At that moment, the ring on his finger emitted a bright light and magic was released.

Flutter.

The silver armor wrapped around Haneul's body in a quick second, and Kyung Shik stared at him with wide eyes.

He was told from the top to check Haneul very thoroughly, but it seems like he didn't need to anymore. There was no mistake that the person in front of him was the hero that showed the electrifying battles in Central South a little while ago. That brilliant silver armor, it's the Hero in Silver.

"The Hero in Silver! So, it seems like you really are the hero from Central South. It's an honor to meet you. There isn't anyone as hot of a topic as you are right now."

"It kind of just happened that way I guess."

"Well, there's no reason for us to continue with this test. You've already shown us your powers and skills through your battles. Please proceed to the next test."

Kyung Shik showed the way to the next room with a face full of smiles.

The next test was a psychological test.

Heroes had super powers and if there was a problem with them psychologically, many problems could arise. Those who weren't registered with the Organization usually turned out to be criminals.

That was the reason why the psychological test was mandatory.

All the questions were regarding justice and self sacrifice, so finding the correct answers weren't hard. Should I say it's similar to a moral test one takes at school when they're younger?

Once the test was finished, Haneul confidently waited for the test results to come out.

The results were out.

"Ummm, the result was a 72 percent. It's right on the borderline but you were able to pass."

"Huh?"

Haneul's eyes went wide from the test results.

It was a result he's never thought of. He was sure that even if he made mistakes, there would only be a couple. To

be 72%.....

.....finding the correct answers weren't easy.

Chapter 3 - End.

Chapter 4

"I'm glad we can see each other again."

Yoo Shik was calmly sitting in the middle of the white filled room.

This was clearly the HR Director from before.

"I was told this would be the last test, am I correct to think that it's going to be with you?"

"Yes, you're correct. Because I'm in charge of the whole hiring process, I never let anyone else do this portion except myself. I make decisions with my own eyes and ears. Now, let's get things started. Can you please sit in front of me?"

Yoo shik was still and acting calmly, but Haneul felt that there was something different about him at this moment.

'He's somewhat sharper.'

"Thanks to you, everyone on the internet has been on a rage, and even the top brass were excited. Thankfully, we were able to find you a lot sooner than we had hoped. Once we got a call from the hospital regarding your prowess, we decided to do some research on who you were and it seems

like you have been getting excellent grades in school.”

Excellent grades? It seems like the Haneul from world B was superior compared to the one in world A.

‘Should’ve known that the moment I found out “I” snatched the beautiful Minah for myself.’

“The psychological test seems to have been on the low side, but putting everything together, you have more than enough qualifications to become a hero.”

“Does that mean I’m registered now?”

“Yes, once you complete the final interview with us, you will formerly be registered as a hero.”

“Is it related to the interview we’re having right now?”

“Yes, of course. It’s not a simple procedure or test, but a way for us to communicate as people and to draw out the things we couldn’t find out through the normal tests.”

In other words, an in-depth test.

‘How thorough.’

Haneul nodded without emotion.

“Mr. Haneul, there’s something I’d like to ask you on a personal level.”

“Alright, go ahead.”

“I’m told that you were at the earthquake situation in Central South a little while ago, is that correct?”

“Yes, that’s correct.”

“Why were you there?”

Why

I was thinking of going down to see my family for Thanksgiving, but when I did, the whole world flipped upside down.

Haneul was thinking, he wasn’t sure why the Haneul from World B was there.

“I was thinking of meeting someone I know.”

“You ran into the battlefield when you weren’t a hero, why? and when was the exact time of when you

awakened?"

'He said this was going to be an interview, but if it's this much, it's closer to being an interrogation.'

Haneul was slowly starting to get angry.

"It was on that day. I just felt my magic powers awakening out of nowhere. Something felt like it was going to burst out from within me, and it did. What can I say after that? A hard to describe realization came over me where I felt that, with this power, I needed to save and protect the people. It's surprising but I think this is what they call the strength of justice."

"Mr. Haneul, let's stop with the bullshit there."

"You think I'm lying then?"

Haneul stared straight into Yoo Shik's eyes.

Due to his job, Yoo Shik had met many different kind of heroes and knew exactly what type of person Haneul was.

"I'm a person that has met many different types of people, and through the psychological test and conversations, I'm generally able to judge the characteristics of that person. In my opinion, you do not have the mind of a hero."

"I will not deny it."

"Hero Principle, Article 1, Heroes will fight for the government and for its people."

"I know that's what the principle says, but I don't think every hero in this world fights with that being their primary reason."

"Okay then. It seems like you're not doing it for honor, and you're pretty far off from the Principle. Is it the money then?"

I wonder.

Haneul was deep in thought from that question.

He's never made much money before besides the couple of part time jobs he had. His knowledge on money was still that of a student's, and that's why a hero's income was definitely large.

'But that's not the reason why I'm here. I figure it's something I can do, and that it's just a rule of this world.'

He was just following the natural social mechanism of being a part of the Organization, because he was a person

that as awakened and held magic powers.

“I’m just following the normal steps. I don’t believe that I got my powers by chance, and I think there’s a reason why I have it.”

“Black Walker.”

The moment that name came out of Yoo Shik’s mouth, Haneul’s calm face turned stiff.

“After some research, I found that you were the first person on scene when the C rank hero, Black Walker died. Is that related to your awakening? Because of his death you awakened, and because of guilt you fought. Does that sound reasonable?”

“.....”

Haneul didn’t answer and just continued to stare at Yoo Shik.

‘Hmm?’

Yoo Shik was able to see the fires of anger and hatred in Haneul’s eyes.

“HR Director Yoo Shik, I’m not sure on how an in-depth

interview works, but let's be honest with each other. What you want and what I want is pretty clear isn't it?"

"I'm not sure what you're talking about. There is no clarity at all with what I want and with what you want. I just want to know the truth and see if Black Walker's death was the driving force....."

Koong.

Haneul slammed his leg hard into the ground.

The ground was ringing because he reinforced his leg with magic.

The 2 heroes who were waiting outside, rushed into the office.

"Ah, it's okay. There's nothing wrong so you guys can go back outside."

The two heroes walked out and closed the door behind them.

"I apologize if I made you uncomfortable."

"Yes, you've made me very uncomfortable. I don't think an employee of the Organization should have the right to

lightly say the name of a Hero that died in the line of duty. Don't you think so HR Director Yoo Shik?"

It was a very threatening and emotional confrontation, but YooShik was satisfied. One can see the thoughts and motives of a person through their emotions.

'Black Walker huh.'

"I apologize. I've overstepped my boundary. Then let's try flipping the conversation around. I'm not completely sure yet on what you want, but I think I got the gist of it. Now, I'm curious as to what you mean when you say it's clear on what I want."

"Are we being pretentious now? I'm not the one sitting on top of fire, it's you guys. I don't think it's good for you guys to be getting hit on so hard by the media."

Haneul came out from the building.

"What's the point of talking in circles. Are they just going to keep poking around with questions like that?"

At first, Haneul's body would freeze because it was his first time going into a grand building like that, but no matter how grand the building was, what lived there were humans.

And those humans wanted Haneul right now.

To be exact, they wanted his name.

The level of the Organization and a hero has always been the same. There has never been a case where one was above the other.

Haneul's footsteps on his way back home were very light. Yoo Shik had told him that a formal notification would be out within 24 hours, however the Organization has no other choice.

Technically, Haneul has already become a part of the Organization.

'I got angrier than I imagined.'

Black Walker was a bigger part of Haneul than he had thought.

On another note, while Haneul was on his way back home, Yoo Shik was thinking about the conversation he just had with Haneul.

'I thought he was just a little punk, but he's much more presumptuous than I thought.'

Haneul was a very wise person and he knew exactly where his standing was in the current situation.

'I was hoping he'd be a spoiled brat that liked going on a rampage, but that isn't the case. He seems to have some justice in him.....Any who, I'll keep watching over him.'

Yoo Shik walked towards Kyung Shik, the person in charge of testing Haneuls' magic.

"Department Chief Yoo, Were you able to grasp his powers through the test?"

"Yes, I captured his magic value from when he used his powers but....."

"Was there a problem?"

"I think the level is a little off. The potential value isn't coming out."

Yoo Shik walked towards the computer with a shocked expression in order to verify Kyung Shik's words. 6 cameras were operating from different spots as they captured Haneul releasing his magic.

With this they were able to tell the origin of the magic

activating and see the potential value of its powers, but for Haneul, it came out as unknown.

“How can you not even do your job correctly?”

Yoo Shik frowned and vented. He was thinking that this error occurred because the Department Chief wasn't being attentive to his job.

“Alright, let's put his potential value aside for now and move onto his actual magic value. An overall rank should have been given right?”

The results came out after some time passed, but this made Yoo Shik's face frown with confusion.

“Is there something wrong with this?”

“N, No.”

“Then what's the error rate for the result?”

“That is.....only 0.5 percent.”

The mark floating on the screen, A Rank.

It was completely different from everyone's thoughts,

because everyone believed Haneul was at most a B rank from the videos they watched.

Of course, a person's eyes aren't exact and there would definitely be errors, but not to this extent.

It was out of the ordinary for a hero's first test after awakening to be this high.

'How exactly did he awaken in order for his magic to be A Rank? If it's this high, I'm not surprised to see that the computer couldn't read his potential value,' thought Yoo Shik.

Although, magic rank and value can't determine everything about a hero, it was an undeniable fact that it was a hero's base indicator.

"Haneul Kang, you're not the average Joe I see."

"Umm, HR Director. Look at this. There's something here that's hard to overlook."

"What do you mean?"

"There's a part here that we over looked thinking it wasn't that big of a deal, but it has to do with his transformation process."

Transformation process?

What's so special about that.....

Yoo Shik looked at the screen and made a strange expression.

"This is.....It's not the usual Cracker Weapon. It's even greater. Have you checked the registered inventory yet?"

"I have, but I have yet to find anything regarding this Cracker Weapon."

Yoo Shik's interest grew even thicker.

"Don't tell anybody else for now. Understand?"

"Yes, understood."

'What is its true identity I wonder?'

Yoo Shik was so excited that he couldn't maintain his calm composure.

Chapter 4 - End.

Chapter 5

As Haneul returned home and felt warmth within his house, he froze.

“Good Job. You must have just gotten home.”

“M.....other?”

“Mother? You shameful! Son, just call me how you normally would. Why are you being like this all of the sudden.”

Haneul’s mind went blank as he saw his mother’s figure receding back into the kitchen. He forgot that he asked his mother to make him something delicious for dinner tonight.

“What are you doing not coming in?”

Haneul walked in.

He changed his clothes and sat there with a stunned expression. He could hear a tong tong sound coming from the cutting board, as well as the bubbling sound from his mother’s soup.

‘It’s mom’s sound.’

It was the sound his mother made before she passed away 9 years ago.

She still looked the same as she did back then, which made Haneul confused.

However, Haneul shook his head.

'This is definitely different from the world that I used to live in, however mom.....will always be mom.'

"Come eat."

As soon as Haneul walked into the dining room, he could see a myriad of different kinds of food. There was Soybean Paste Soup, Rolled Omelet, Stir-Fried Anchovies, etc.

"Thank.....you for the food."

"You're welcome, eat a lot."

As Haneul was eating away, he suddenly started to choke up.

"What's wrong?"

“Nothing, it just went down the wrong tube....”

“Here, drink some water while you eat.”

“Okay....”

After Haneul quickly finished one bowl of rice, he started to take glimpses of his mom. She was infallibly Haneul’s mom.

‘My father passed away in this life huh.’

“Umm, mother.”

“I told you not to call me that.”

“M.....om.”

“Yes, what?”

“Do you by any chance remember how father passed away?”

His mother’s hands, which were washing dishes, abruptly stopped moving.

“Why are you suddenly bringing all of this up?”

“Do you remember the earthquake that happened not too long ago in Central South? I hit my head during an accident there and can’t seem to recall most of my memories.”

“What? Why are you telling me this now?”

Haneul’s mom walked up to him with a worried expression, and started to look over his head.

“Did you go to the hospital?”

“Yes, don’t worry. You won’t find any scars. I’m just a little confused. Please tell me, how did father pass away? I can’t seem to remember.”

The next day, Haneul headed towards his school.

Because he had to commute to school, Haneul had to leave an hour before it started.

He was now on the train, trying to recollect his thoughts from the conversation he had with his mom the night before.

‘It was the same.’

The day that his father passed away in World B, was the

same as the day his mother passed away in World A. The reason was the same as well. Traffic accident. Haneul being a hero showed evidence to the difference between World A and World B, but the biggest for him was his mom and dad.

"I have no idea how things are being played out right now."

Haneul got off the train, got on his bike, and starting climbing uphill. The strange thing was, he wasn't feeling tired in the slightest way. This hill was sharp to the point where he would normally be gasping for air, or would have to get off and climb up while carrying the bike, but not today.

He felt free.

Finally, after getting to the top of the hill, Haneul was now in front of the school.

'What's this? Is my stamina amazing in World B?'

As much as a hero school is needed in order to raise a hero, one's stamina must also be up to par.

"Today, in Comprehensive Response System, we will be taking a practical exam for the different techniques needed for the various TYPES of monsters."

An obstinate looking, old professor.

When I used to major in computer science, there was that one teacher that everyone hated in their first year. With the alias of Psycho Doctor, he was an old professor with a head filled with grey hair. He had that alias because his voice was raspy, always made it his goal to give the lowest possible grade, and had the most evil laugh in the world.

At least that's what he did in World A. In World B, it seems like he's in charge of this eccentric class called Comprehensive Response System, and just as eccentric as the name is, the experiments and experience seems just as eccentric.

"KYAAAAAKKKKKK!!!"

It was the sound of a giant monster that was caged in.

It was the same Type D Reptile that was going around destroying things in Central South not too long ago.

"As everyone already knows, the alias we give these monsters is Reptile because they're similar to the lizard. The monster's form could have a limitless amount of differences, but we only look at their size as well as their attack power. Let's discuss the Hero Organization's current classification for these monsters."

The psycho doctor pointed towards the back where Haneul was sitting.

As soon as he did that, everyone looked back at him.

Everyone's eyes were sparkling. Nobody was saying anything, but everyone already knew. The results from the school hospital spread out to all the students, because they loved gossiping about people awakening.

"That is.....a Type D Reptile. Any of those that are similar in height to a human, up to 2 meters, falls into that category."

"Wonderful. That is correct. We will be taking a practical exam on the weaknesses and techniques needed to handle these Type D Reptiles. We'll do this in order. Everyone gathered here today received excellent grades last semester, and also have the most stable and excellent magic in the school. I feel that this Type D would be easy to get rid of for everyone in here."

Even if that's the case, is it okay to use a real monster like this in class? Although that's what Haneul was thinking, it seems to be a normal occurrence at the school.

Everyone got in line as if it wasn't anything new, and continued to talk to each other on the techniques needed to handle the monster.

“Now, let’s start.”

These students were on a higher level than Haneul thought.

He figured that everyone here had the capabilities to be in the Murray’s Heroes list.

The problem was, Haneul didn’t know the weaknesses or features of the Type D Reptiles.

In the midst of the chained monster’s loud grunts, students were going up with different weapons and overpowering the monster with sharp movements.

Haneul was completely focused on watching the other students.

When it was finally his turn, everyone got quiet and watched him attentively.

‘This is very uncomfortable. Since when have I ever been in this type of situation.....’

“Now, hurry and try it.”

Haneul reluctantly picked up a sword and did the exact same thing the 3rd student before him did.

While the Psycho Doctor could visibly be seen getting disappointed, Haneul tried to go back to his seat after putting away the weapon.

“What the, there’s rumor going around saying he’s the Hero in Silver, but I guess he’s not? He doesn’t even know how to take care of a Type D Reptile.”

Haneul quickly spun his head.

Someone definitely said some nasty things just now, but it got quiet again as if nothing was ever said.

‘Oh ho, look at these guys?’

A fire was lit inside Haneul.

He turned back around.

“Professor, can I destroy that thing?”

“Why are you suddenly.....”

“From my understanding, that monster is in the care of the Organization, correct? It shouldn’t be easy for a normal public institution to be able to get their hands on one.”

“Th, that’s right but…….”

At that moment, Haneul walked up to the Type D Reptile. The captured monster opened its mouth to show a bunch of its teeth missing. Not only that, they shot muscle relaxants into its system, so its movements were even slow.

If compared to the real Type D Reptile, it was incomparably weak.

There was a glint of light in Haneul’s eyes.

“Hold on, If you get that close to it, it’ll be dang……!”

Booomm!

Flesh exploded and scattered everywhere.

A huge hole could be seen in the torso of the monster as it fell to the floor to breathe its last breath.

It was finished in one blow.

Everyone turned pale with surprise.

No one was able to see what Haneul did, not even the

professor.

'Just as I thought.'

There was a difference in the amount of magic energy that could be released, but the way to release it wasn't too different. Even without the armor on, Haneul was able to employ a certain amount of his powers.

Haneul turned his head. His face was brindled with blood.

"I'm sorry. I think these students wanted an extreme practical experience, Professor Sung Hwan Yoo."

Chapter 5 - End.

Volume 2 – End.

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