THE SKILL MAKER

BOOK 01

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EPUB CREATION BY LISA HAYES

The Skill Maker

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by

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Synopsis

Trying to earn a living everyday kept Hyun-Soo busy. However, one day when he was doing a side job of threading beads, he realized something.

-Ding!

[Bead threading skill has been created] The truth was that he was the Skill Maker.

Acknowledgement

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Prologue

"I'm sorry Hyeon Su. If only this father of yours was more capable……"

"……Ee. Please forgive this unworthy mother of yours."

"I'm sorry. Brother. Because of me……"

Kim Hyeon Su affiliated with the Hunter Training Institution.

Growth Potential A.

Dropped out due to personal reasons.

Approved.

Chapter 1 - The Village Hee Mi Se, The Remote of the Remote(1)

“Finally……”

The day I thought would never come, finally came.

Jo Bok Jo Bok

Slowly walking while looking around at the surrounding landscapes, Myeong Hu was mumbling with a heartwarming smile.

“A completely different feeling from yesterday. Being discharged truly does change everything.”

It was the street he always walked when he returned for his furlough. After being discharged though, it became a completely different feeling. Myeong Hu grinned like an idiot over this wonderful phenomenon.

“I thought I would feel frustrated……”

After being discharged, Myeong Hu thought he would feel frustrated. He thought this because his predecessors who got discharged first said so and also, he was strongly feeling that way since a few weeks ago. But now that he got discharged he didn’t feel that way

“Delightful. Really delightful.”

It wasn’t as if he didn’t feel any frustration. However, the joy of being discharged was bigger than the feeling of frustration.

“It is because of that?”

Seeukk

Myeong Hu stopped walking, turned his head and looked at the advertising screen which was located far away. On the screen, an advertisement for a game was playing.

“Oh, God…”

A knight, wearing a full body white armor, was in front of a 5 metre tall statue of a goddess, and was staring at her with an expression full of sadness.

“Please forgive me…”

The knight kept muttering as he lifted the giant sword in his hand. Then he swung the sword towards the statue of the goddess

Seuak!

The sword passed by the statue naturally as if it was splitting water. Soon a crack appeared on the statue of the goddess and started shooting out light.

Kwung!

A massive explosion, together with light, exploded out from within.

“Wow…”

Myeong Hu, while looking at the screen filled with light, was full of admiration. The scene just then which seemed like a movie scene was not a movie scene. It was an advertisement video for a game. Myeong Hu, while smiling at the unbelievable graphics, turned his gaze away from the screen and started muttering.

“The more I look this is…”

This wasn’t the first time he had seen this advertisement. It was an advertisement he had seen a countless number of times but he felt admiration every time he saw it. He couldn’t understand how such a game could come out.

Graphics which were the same as reality, virtual reality. NPC and AI which were similar to humans, if not better. With its vast storylines, it was at the level whereby only looking at the advertisements you would naturally call it the best game in history.

“I can hardly wait….4 days.”

He was looking forward to it so much. He was looking forward to it so much that he was worried how he would wait for 4 days until the opening day.

“Like it’s name, ‘The Legend’, it won’t remain a legend will it?”

Myeong Hu begin to walk faster as he anticipated the release of ‘The Legend’ 4 days later.

Different to how he had worried about it, time went by quickly.

“It’s already opening day…”

Myeong Hu smiled because of the fact that the opening day had arrived so quickly. He never expected that the 4 days he worried about would fly by so quickly. Myeong Hu, with a slightly excited expression, got out of his and walked towards the capsule.

Myeong Hu arrived in front of the capsule he bought after he was discharged, which was of the latest model, and looked at it with a satisfied smile, as he stroked it gently.

-Ppibik Ppibik!

It was at that moment.

The alarm which he had set on the opening time, had started ringing.

“It’s here!”

Myeong Hu smiled at the sound of the alarm, while opening the capsule. He then entered inside and turned on “The Legend”

[Performing iris recognition scan]

[Completed]

[Please enter your ID]

[Please enter your Password]

After confirming that it was him with the iris recognition scan,

he entered his ID and Password

Seuaak

After entering his ID and Password, the surrounding black scene, gradually started changing

“Ohhh…”

Myeong Hu blurted out his admiration at the gradually changing surrounding scenes.

“How could this be a real game…”

The surrounding backgrounds were boasting amazing graphics to the point where it couldn’t be called a game. Just like how it as shown on the advertisements, the graphics could be called reality as there were no differences from it and reality.

Seueuk

Myeong Hu lifted up his hand and looked at it. He was looking at his hand he saw in real life.

“E-Even the veins…”

You could even see the veins. Myeong Hu got goosebumps because of the craziness of even implementing veins and such details.

-No character found. Would you like to create a character?

While Myeong Hu was looking at his veins, and having goosebumps, a voice became audible.

“Yes!”

Myeong Hu, who was looking at his veins and going blank, came back to his senses because of the young female’s voice near his ear and opened his mouth and replied.

-Please enter the character’s name.

Leading on after the voice, a window appeared in front of Myeong Hu

“What should I do?”

Myeong Hu looked at the window and thought briefly.

“Should I go with S Rank ID?”

Different from other games, in ‘The Legend’ you could have overlapping character names. This meant that it didn’t matter who called themselves S Rank ID as anyone could use it.

“Nuh. S Rank ID isn’t it.”

Myeong Hu shook his head.

“There’s going to be a ton of overlaps.”

It wasn’t certain but a lot of users would use S Rank ID. S Rank ID was good but Myeong Hu wanted a name which was different from everyone else.

“Then what do I call myself…”

Myeong Hu started thinking about what character name he should use again.

“Let’s just go with my name.”

After thinking, Myeong Hu decided to use his own name and entered his character name.

-’o’ users using the character name ‘Myeong Hu’.

-Would you like to create your character as ‘Myeong Hu’?

As soon as he entered the character name, he once again heard the voice.

“Yep.”

Myeong Hu quickly replied to the voice.

-Character with the name of ‘Myeong Hu’ has been created.

Seuaak

.

With the voice saying the character had been created, in front of Myeong Hu appeared another Myeong Hu

“Ohh.Ohh.”

It looked as if he was looking through a mirror with these huge implementations and Myeong Hu once again blurt out his admiration

-Would you like to change your appearance?

“It appeared because of appearance changes.”

He was wondering why he had appeared but it was because of appearance changes. However, Myeong Hu, who had no thoughts of changing his appearance, opened his mouth and said.

“Nope”

-Appearance changes have been cancelled. We shall now proceed to the nation selection screen.

Seuaaak!

Then the Myeong Hu, who appeared for the appearance changes, disappeared and a giant screen appeared. On the screen’s left side was the world of ‘The Legend’’s huge continent and on the right side was a list of all the different nations.

“Hmm…”

Myeong Hu started checking the right hand side’s nations. During the 4 days time, after he got discharged and before the opening day, Myeong Hu had learned about ‘The Legend’. He also determined where he was going to start.

“It’s here!”

Myeong Hu found the nation he had decided on before and clicked it rapidly. Then, on the huge continent on the left hand side, a part started flashing green.

“What? What is this?”

Myeong Hu tilted his head.

“It said it was the biggest?”

.

The part which was flashing green only took up a small part of the huge continent. The problem was that the part flashing green was the land of the nation he selected. Yet the nation Myeong Hu picked was the nation with the biggest land in the whole continent according to his information.

-The nation ‘Helioka’ has been selected.

-Helioka, the number 1 in strength and land size in the continent, and can also be called the continent’s strongest nation.

Leading on a voice could be heard.

“...It’s exactly the same with my information. But this?”

He thought that perhaps the information was wrong but it wasn’t. That’s why it made it harder to understand. The nation selected, Helioka, also called the biggest nation in the continent, was just too small compared to the whole continent.

“Although there a lot of nations, there isn’t that much...”

The nations on the right side numbered quite a lot but it wasn’t that much. If you considered the selected Helioka as the nation with the biggest land then all the nations combined wouldn’t amount to the total size of the continent.

No, if the remaining nations had land, the size of Helioka, then even amounting to 10% of the continent seemed hard. Then what type of land was the remaining land?

“Maybe, wasteland?”

At the sudden thought Myeong Hu muttered in an unbelieving expression. Following the information on the homepage, although there were wastelands, each nation was in the position of reclaiming those wastelands

“Nonsense, an area this big?”

Although it was unbelievable, it had to be that way or else it couldn’t be explained. Myeong Hu laughed weakly as he kept switching back and forth from Helioka and the continent.

“The game will probably end while reclaiming the wastelands.”

Rather than wars, it seemed like it would end with just reclaiming the land.

-Would you like to start at the selected empire ‘Helioka’?

“Um…”

Myeong Hu worried briefly at the voice that asked if he would like to start.

“At least it’s still called it the biggest and strongest.”

The worrying didn’t last that long. Although the land was smaller than what he thought, the truth was that it was still the biggest and strongest nation in the continent.

“Yes”

-Proceeding to the village selection screen.

As soon as he answered, together with the voice that said it would proceed to the village selection, the continent that was on the left hand side also zoomed in until the map of the nation Helioka appeared. At the same time, the list of nations on the right hand side disappeared and numerous villages and cities appeared on a list.

“Mm…”

Myeong Hu, who had selected his starting nation as Helioka, had also chosen his starting village so he started looking for his starting village while scrolling down the list.

“Here it is.”

Soon, Myeong Hu who found his starting village, clicked it

quickly.

-Village ‘Maverlian’ has been selected.

-The village ‘Maverlian’, while being a vassal who helped build the empire, has also produced many magicians as it is the Magician of Destruction, Rivil’s, hometown

-Would you like to start at the village ‘Maverlian’?

“Wait…”

Myeong Hu, who was about to start at Maverlian, heard the description of Maverlian and contemplated for a second. No, to be exact he was looking at the list of villages and contemplating.

“Should I browse through some other places…”

The information gained during the 4 days wasn’t that much. He had selected Maverlian to play for a few months with a good foundation. However, seeing the list of villages, he felt kind of curious.

“Let’s browse around.”

Myeong Hu, who had thought of checking out other villages, cancelled the village selection in the end and started browsing through the villages.

-Village Akram has been selected

-The village Akram. A village stuck close to the nation’s capital, ‘Nexus’, and so it is at the level of development where there is no difference between it being called a village stuck to the capital or a city stuck to the capital. It’s commerce is especially developed and as one of the nation’s Seven Heroes, the Shadow Assassin Evelyn’s hometown, the Assassin Guild, ‘Thorns of Darkness’, was known to have located its headquarters here.

-Would you like to start at the village ‘Akram’

Decided to use Korean sound effects as TLing them and trying to find the right sound was too hard:

Chapter 2 - The Village Himise, The Remote of the Remote (2)

“Oho…”

After hearing the description of Akram, Myeong Hu was amazed. Akram was also a decent village to start at. No, as long it wasn’t a magic affiliated job then Akram was definitely at the level where it could be called a good village to start at.

“…Eh?”

Myeong Hu, who was browsing through the village list, soon thereafter, couldn’t help but stop.

-Village Himise has been selected.

-The village Himise, is one of the empire’s many villages. Their speciality is the hide of the bear that lives close to the village.

-Would you like to start in the village Himise

“…”

Myeong Hu, after hearing the description, had nothing to say. How was there nothing to describe to the point of having to say that the hide of the bear that inhabits the area was their speciality, no, even if that was the second description, how the description of being one of the empire’s many villages also being included didn’t make any sense. On top of that there was another problem.

“It’s really remote…”

The location of Himise that was shown on the map was too remote. The remote of the remote, it was even surrounded by mountain ranges.

“…Huh?”

As Myeong Hu was shaking his head at Himise’s incredible location selection, he let out a retort.

“Those mountain ranges are…”

The reason why Myeong Hu let out a retort was because of the mountain ranges encircling Himise. The mountain ranges surrounding Himise were too familiar.

“I-Isn’t it that?”

At the information that immediately popped into his mind, Myeong Hu made a surprised expression

“The B-Boros Mountain Ranges…”

Out of the revealed information there were a small number of hunting grounds which Myeong Hu had distinctly remembered. The mountain ranges surrounding Himise was definitely the Boros Mountain Ranges which had level 100~500 Boss rank monsters disgustingly inhabiting it.

“There’s such a village…”

It was a village that shouldn’t have existed. It was a village where if you started there you wouldn’t be able to escape. On the small chance you chose Himise as your starting village, it was a trap that would made you delete your character and start again.

“For some reason, I feel like going there.”

However, was it because of the Boros Mountain Ranges? Or was it because of the village description that can’t even fit in with ordinary descriptions. Strangely, Myeong Hu liked Himise.

Gulp

Myeong Hu swallowed his saliva. He knew he shouldn’t be doing this. If looked at rationally in a cool-headed manner, Himise was a village that should never be started at. Obviously, if Himise was chosen as the starting village then you would have to start again with a new character.

“Uh…:”

After collecting reasonable data, he was going to start at the

planned village, Maverlian. However, his heart was telling him to start at the village he should never start at, Himise.

"…"

Myeong Hu contemplated. Even as he was contemplating, he thought, without any hesitation, he should start at Maverlian but something kept tugging his heart.

,

"Somehow it feels uncomfortable."

He felt if he started at Maverlian, somehow, it would be uncomfortable. No, to be honest, being uncomfortable is being uncomfortable but he wanted the challenge. A village that was the remote of the remote, and was surrounded by the Boros Mountain Ranges, full of boss rank monsters. Starting with such unfavourable conditions would make him somewhat proud and the game would be fun to play.

"In any case… I can start again."

Anyway, while he was playing, if this feeling disappeared, then all he had to was delete his character and start again. Myeong Hu, with an expression of firm determination, eventually opened his mouth and shouted out the designated starter village keyword.

"Start!"

-Starting at the village 'Himise'

Seuaaak!

Together with the word 'start', the village selection screen disappeared. The surrounding scene turned black and his visual field started becoming darker.

*

The scene, which had just turned black, changed again after a short amount of time.

“Hmm.”

At the new scene Myeong Hu murmured to himself.

Seuk

Myeong Hu promptly checked his surroundings. Basic household furnitures such as chairs, tables and beds, were furnished around him.

“Is this an inn?”

Looking at the basic household furniture, it seemed like inn.

“No...”

However, Myeong Hu shook his head at the sudden thought. This was Himise, the remote of remote and surrounded by the Boros Mountain Ranges. There was no way an inn aiming for travellers as their business would be here.

“Then that means this is someone’s house...”

Seuk

Stopping his muttering, Myeong Hu looked at the door. If he opened the tightly closed door, he felt like he would know where he was.

“Before I leave, let’s confirm first.”

However, just then, thinking of checking his current condition, Myeong Hu opened the character window.

Name: Myeong Hu

Nationality: Helioka [Empire]

Age: 22

Level: 1

Health: 700

Mana:400

Strength: 10

Agility: 10

Stamina: 10

Intelligence: 10

Wisdom: 10

Bonus Stats: 20

The bonus stats that were given when your character was created were left undistributed.

“What do I put it into…”

At the beginning, Myeong Hu was going to play a magic affiliated job and distribute his stats accordingly. However, this was Himise not Maverlian. He couldn’t distribute his stats as it wasn’t a certainty if you get a magic affiliated job.

“I’ll check later and then distribute it.”

The bonus stats didn’t have to distributed immediately. Myeong Hu, after contemplating, decided to distribute it later and closed his character window.

Jobok Jobok

Myeong Hu, who had closed the character window, walked towards to the door.

Crreaakk!

Arriving in front of the door, Myeong Hu opened it and went outside.

“You’re awake?”

As soon as Myeong Hu opened the door and came out, he looked towards the place where he heard the voice. In that place there was an elderly man of a stocky build who felt like he had years of experience.

“It should definitely be an NPC…”

.

The old man was definitely an NPC. But he didn't feel like an NPC at all. The graphics were completely different from the previous virtual realities.

"I'm called Ga Dogu. I'm this village's Village Chief.

Soon thereafter, Ga Dogu introduced himself.

"Myeong Hu is what people call me."

Myeong Hu, who was staring blankly at Ga Dogu, came back to his senses at Ga Dogu's words and replied.

"Haha."

At Myeong Hu's reply, Ga Dogu let out a loud laugh. Then leading on he spoke.

"You have a really good name! That's that but you must be very flustered. How you're here in this place. Isn't that right?"

<Listen to the Village Chief's words>

As you opened your eyes you're in the Village Chief's room. How could this have happened? Listen to the Village Chief's reason of how this happened!

Difficulty: F

Quest Reward: Increased Intimacy with Ga Dogu

Quest Restriction: None

At the same time Ga Dogu stopped talking a Quest appeared.

"It appears in this manner."

After realising how Quests appeared, Myeong Hu nodded his head and turned his eyes to look at Ga Dogu.

"Yes, I'm curious on why i'm here."

[Quest accepted]

After finishing talking, a Quest acceptance message appeared at

the same time. Then, as if waiting for that, Ga Dogu started talking.

“Finding you could be called a miracle.”

Ga Sogu made an expression which seemed like he was reminiscing about his past experiences.

“I went into the mountain ranges over there to pick medicinal herbs late into the night but in the end I became lost. As I was lost, I started walking here and there, and while trying to do find the village I arrived at a clearing. But right in the middle of the clearing, you were there, collapsed. I walked towards you, who was collapsed in the middle of the clearing, with my hand reaching out. However, at that moment!

Ga Dogu briefly breathed in then kept on speaking.

“Out of your body gushed out a white light. Then as soon as the light disappeared you and I were at the entrance of the village. Truly an amazing thing. For me who was wandering due to being lost, it was a miracle. Afterwards, as you could guess, I took you to my home.”

Ga Dogu wh had finished speaking gave a reverberating smile towards Myeong Hu. Also, during that a lot of messages appeared.

[Quest completed]

[Intimacy with Ga Dogu has increased]

[Relationship with Ga Dogu has increased to ‘Trusted’]

“Thank you.”

Turning his eyes away from the messages, Myeong Hu bowed his head towards Ga Dogu as a thank you.

“No, if it wasn’t for you even returning to the village would have been quite difficult. Rather, I’m thankful. Well…”

Briefly stopping to look at Myeong Hu, Ga Dogu opened his mouth again to speak.

“Do you remember why you collapsed at the clearing?”

At Ga Dogu’s question, Myeong Hu hesitated then answered.

“I don’t remember anything.”

“Any memories from before? No memories at all?”

For the Village Chief, he found him at the clearing but for Myeong Hu, the start was at the Village Chief’s room. Of course he won’t remember anything.

“Yes.”

“Hm.”

At Myeong Hu’s answer of not remembering anything, Ga Dogu was briefly locked contemplation. Then after a short moment, he opened his mouth and spoke.

“If that is the case then stay at our house. In this aspect, as an outsider, this is all I can do to help.”

“No. Thank you.”

Whether it was because of Myeong Hu’s response, Ga Dogu smiled brightly. Then, as if he thought of something, opened his mouth and spoke.

“Ah, right! I’ve got to introduce the village! Can you move now?”

<Introduction to the Village>

Ga Dogu wants to introduce everyone in the village as he wants you to be able to get along. Follow Ga Dogu and wander around the village.

Difficulty: F

Quest Reward: Increased Intimacy with Ga Sogu, Himise Village map

Quest Restriction: None

At another Quest appearing, Myeong Hu smiled.

“Yes.”

[Quest accepted]

“Then let’s go!”

As soon as the quest was accepted, Ga Dogu stood up from his seat and walked out of the door. Myeong Hu, following behind Ga Dogu, hastened his steps.

Swallowing saliva or 침을 삼키었다 means that someone is extremely anxious in Korean.

Chapter 3 - The Village Himise, The Remote of the Remote (3)

<Hamuru's Disease 1>

The village's greatest hunter Hamuru has collapsed due to a disease. Ga Dogu, the Village Chief but also the village Doctor, needs to produce a special medicine to cure Hamuru's disease. For the moment, the first ingredient is the liver of a rabbit! Gather 40 Rabbit Livers and take it to Ga Dogu!

Difficulty: F

Quest Reward: Leather Armour

Quest Restriction: Myeong Hu

If rejected, fall in Intimacy with Ga Dogu and Hamuru

"Hah..."

Myeong Hu, while looking at the quest window which contained the Quest 'Hamuru's disease 1', let out a sigh. Straight after the 'Introduction to the Village' Quest had been completed, the quest appeared when a kid ran to Ga Dogu and at first he felt good as he thought it was like a true Quest.

However after catching Rabbit after Rabbit and as the Rabbit Liver never appeared, Myeong Hu felt something was strange so he went to Ga Dogu to ask him. At Myeong Hu's question of how to obtain a Rabbit Liver, Ga Dogu answered that if he caught Rabbits it came out.

At those words Myeong Hu, while shaking his head, went to catch Rabbits again. Then, after a short while later, he obtained a Rabbit Liver.

The Rabbit Liver had appeared but Myeong Hu couldn't even smile. It was because the Rabbit Liver had such an atrocious drop rate.

“Only 1 for catching 30…”

A sigh came out. He caught 30 but only 1 came out. Of course, it might come out one after another. However, the Rabbit Liver which had an atrocious drop rate of only 1 in 30, didn’t seem like it would appear continuously.

“….Hah.”

Letting out a breath once again, Myeong Hu looked at the Rabbit running in front of him. The Rabbit looked at Myeong Hu as it felt his gaze and tilted his head.

-Kyuu?

That appearance was truly cute. Myeong Hu smiled brightly at such an appearance and approached it. Then he sent his foot flying towards the Rabbit.

Pok!

-Kyuu!

The Rabbit flew in the sky. Myeong quickly rushed towards the Rabbit, which was falling back to the ground, and attacked it for the second time. Once again, the rabbit flew in the sky.

-kyuu…

The Rabbit, which had fallen to the ground, was shaking. Myeong Hu swung his sword at the shaking Rabbit.

[Level Up!]

As the Rabbit died a Level Up message appeared. Myeong Hu turned his field of vision from the message to the area around where the Rabbit died. Of course the Rabbit Liver was nowhere to be seen. Far from Rabbit Liver, not even a single item was dropped. After letting out another sigh, he opened his character window.

Name: Myeong Hu

Nationality: Helioka [Empire]

Age: 22

Level: 3

HP: 770

MP: 400

Strength: 11

Agility: 10

Stamina: 11

Intelligence: 10

Wisdom: 10

Bonus Stats: 40

“Now 3…”

After checking his character window, Myeong Hu closed it and looked around.

-Kyuu?

A distance away, a Rabbit was tilting his head.

“It’ll appear eventually…”

Jobok Jobok

Myeong Hu, while mumbling, started walking towards the Rabbit.

-Kyuu!

Rabbits started flying in the sky.

-Rabbit Hide has been acquired.

-Weight limit has been exceeded so Movement Speed has been decreased by 5%

“Do I need to go back to the Village?”

Myeong Hu checked his inventory after looking at the message.

“There’s only 11…”

He had 11 Rabbit Livers. However the amount required for the Quest was 40, so he did not have nearly enough.

Hm…”

Myeong Hu thought about whether to go or not to go back to the Village. It seemed if he kept going back and forth because of the weight in this manner, he would waste quite a lot of time. Nevertheless, the constantly decreasing movement speed and increasing weight was a problem.

“It’s not like I can’t eat it…”

There was also the solution of only eating the Rabbit Liver not the other items but that was wasteful.

“Let’s go back.”

In the end deciding to go back once, Myeong Hu started walking towards the Village. While walking towards the Village, Myeong Hu, with a satisfied smile, checked his inventory stacked full of items once more.

“It should give me a fair amount right?”

Many items were stacked. Of course, as it was japtem such as Rabbit Hides, and Rabbit Meat so the price would be low but the amount he had was huge so it should give him quite a bit.

“What do I use it for?”

Myeong Hu thought about where to use the money from his items. There was really nothing to spend it on. Rather than buying equipment, Jobs were the problem.

“Now that I think about it I’ve got to choose a Job quickly…”

Being a Magician like he first thought would be impossible. Himise didn’t have a guild or a Magic Tower to become a Magician.

“Wait…”

As he was thinking of Jobs, Myeong stopped walking at a sudden thought. Then his face started gradually stiffen.

“There’s only the Warrior Guild…”

At the suddenly appearing information, Myeong Hu’s face twisted. When he thought about it, at Himise there only existed a Warrior Guild. That meant that in Himise the only Job you could change to was to the Warrior Job.

“…”

Myeong thought briefly. If he wanted to change Jobs to another Job, he would have to go to another village. However this place was Himise, the remote of the remote and surrounded by the Boros Mountain RAnges.

“I can’t go through the mountain ranges…”

It was impossible for a Jobless Myeong Hu to go through the Boros Mountain Ranges which was infested with Boss rank monsters.

“… Let’s think about it later.”

Myeong Hu decided to think about it later and started walking towards the Village again. Of course even though he decided to think about it later, it was impossible to not think about it. Myeong Hu thought while walking.

“Is it inevitable…”

While walking towards the Village he was constantly thinking and there was only one conclusion.

“It has to be a Warrior…”

It was such a place that it had to Warrior not another Job. The answer was sealed. Myeong Hu opened his character window with an expression that contained no joy.

Name: Myeong Hu

Nationality: Helioka [Empire]

Age: 22

Level: 8

HP: 870

MP: 400

Strength: 11

Agility: 10

Stamina: 13

Intelligence: 10

Wisdom: 10

Bonus Stats: 90

As he was catching Rabbits, his Strength and Stamina increased a little. The Bonus Stats were still there. The Strength and Stamina that increased while hunting, was quite good for the Job change to Warrior.

"..."

Myeong Hu closed his character window without any words. Then Myeong Hu, who has walking in a resigned manner, arrived at the Village and quickly went towards the store.

Dililing

"Welco... Ah! It's you!"

"Hello."

Myeong Hu, who had entered the store, went towards the store owner, Pelun who had greeted him, and gave him his greetings. Then he opened his inventory and put all the Rabbit Hides in his inventory on top of the counter.

"... That's a whopping amount."

While looking at the Rabbit Hides, Pelun spoke as if he was

surprised.

“Did you come here to sell this?”

“Yes.”

At Pelun’s words, Myeong Hu replied while nodding his head. Pelun, at Myeong Hu’s words, started inspecting each of the Rabbit Hides and sorting them.

Seuk seuk seuk seuk

“There’s a lot of superior quality goods. If it’s this much…”

As Pelun stared at the Rabbit Hides sorted into 2 groups in front of him, he thought briefly and opened his mouth and spoke.

“I can give you 40 bronze for the superior quality goods and 20 bronze for the inferior quality goods.

“…!”

As Myeong Hu spoke to Pelun, he made a shocked face.

“Is Rabbit Hide this expensive?”

Even though it was of superior quality, for Rabbit Hides to be 40 bronze was too shocking.

“A hard bread is 1 bronze… Selling one superior quality Rabbit Hide is 40…”

“Will you sell it?”

Myeong Hu, who had blanked out due to the unexpected price, nodded his head at Pelun’s words.

“147 superior quality Rabbit Hide, and 86 inferior quality Rabbit hide which totals to 76 silver which is here.”

Pelun passed over a money bag to Myeong Hu. After receiving the money bag, Myeong Hu checked the money. In the money bag there was 76 shining silver

‘I haven’t even sold all of it yet…”

Myeong Hu put the money bag into his inventory and checked the remaining items. In his inventory, other than the Rabbit Liver needed for the Quest, half of it was filled with Rabbit Meat and Rabbit Gall Bladder.

Seuk

Myeong Hu took out the Rabbit Meat and Rabbit Gall Bladder.

“Mm? It’s Rabbit Meat and Gall Bladder! Are you thinking of disposing of this as well?”

Pelun, who was arranging the recently bought Rabbit Hide, looked at the Rabbit Meat and Gall Bladder that was taken out by Myeong Hu and asked.

“Yes, I want to sell this as well.”

At Myeong Hu’s words, Pelun smiled bitterly. Then with an expression that said sorry, he opened his mouth and spoke.

“I’m sorry, those things aren’t things that I’m in charge of. Will you take these things to Teren?”

“Ah….”

At Pelun’s words, Myeong Hu put the Rabbit Meat and Gall Bladders, which he had taken out, back into his inventory. Then he exited the store and entered the butcher that was opposite of it.

“Oho! You’re the lad who came with the Village Chief!”

As soon as Myeong Hu entered the butcher, he greeted the butcher owner, Teren, who was sitting down blankly.

“Yes, nice to meet you.”

As Myeong Hu gave his greetings, he went in front of Teren.

Seuk

Myeong Hu, who had arrived in front of Teren, took out the Rabbit Meat and Gall Bladders and spoke.

“I want to sell these.”

“It’s a whopping amount.”

Teren muttered while looking at the Rabbit Meat and Gall Bladders taken out by Myeong Hu. Then he got out of his seat, checked the condition of the Rabbit Meat and Gall Bladders, weighed it and then looked at Myeong Hu and spoke.

“Meat is 50 silver, Gall Bladder is 90 silver and so I can give you a total of 1 gold and 40 silver. Will you sell it?”

“…!”

.

It was an totally unexpected sum of money.

“I-I’ll sell it.”

Even though there was a huge amount, Myeong Hu didnt expect to get 1 gold and 40 silver and so replied while nodding his head.

“Hoho, here it is.”

“Good-bye.”

Teren, who seemed tot to find Myeong Hu’s reaction funny, laughed and passed the money bag. Myeong Hu received the money bag and put into his inventory. Then he gave a simple good-bye and left the butcher.

‘2 gold and 16 silver!’

The money earned from selling the Rabbit Meat, Hides and Gall Bladders was 2 gold and 16 silver. For the now Level 8 Myeong Hu, it could be called an enormous sum.

“Later, if you think you want to sell things like Meat and Gall Bladders again, come to me and i’ll give you a good price.”

Teren said to Myeong Hu who was exiting the butcher.

Suddenly

At Teren’s word Myeong Hu’s footsteps stopped. Then turned around and looked at Teren.

“…?”

Teren tilted his head at Myeong Hu who was walking out but turned around and looked at him.

“…Do you sell Rabbit Liver?”

If he didn’t mishear then Teren said if you want to sell things like Meat and Gall Bladders, come to him. Namely, he said he would buy. Buying was, in the end, for selling.

“…”

At Terens words Myeong Hu had nothing to say.

No clue why he thought eating the livers was a good idea but only wasteful… Dont ask me it was in the raws and I spent a long time checking if I was the weird one or the raw was.

잡템 was also in LMS but I can’t remember what they TLed this to so if you remember comment please:) Also means like miscellanous items or something

마탑 is the raw and I think its the shortened version of Magic Tower but leave a comment if i’m wrong

Chapter 4 - The Village Himise, The Remote of the Remote (4) – Part 1

“Do you need Rabbit Livers?”

“… Oh, Yes.

How much for one Rabbit Liver? “How much for one Rabbit Liver? “At Teren’s questioning, Myeong Hu nodded and asked.

“It’s three silver.”

“…”

When Myeong Hu heard the price, he became blank once again and stared at Teren To obtain the Rabbit Livers, how many Rabbits had he killed and how much time had he spent?

“… Whew. ”

Myeong Hu while letting out a sigh checked his inventory. For the completion of the Quest he needed 29 more livers.

“Can you give me 29 Rabbit Livers?”

Myeong Hu spoke while going towards Teren. Teren went inside while laughing at Myeong Hu’s words and brought out Rabbit Livers.

“It’s 87 silver.”

Myeong Hu took out 87 silver and gave it to Teren. Then after he put the Rabbit Liver, which he had received from Teren, into his inventory, he left the butchers.

“Come again!”

Myeong Hu checked his Quest as he heard Teren and left the butchers.

<Hamuru’s Disease 1>

The village’s greatest hunter Hamuru has collapsed due to a

disease. Ga Dogu, the Village Chief but also the village Doctor, needs to produce a special medicine to cure Hamuru's disease. For the moment, the first ingredient is the liver of a rabbit! Gather 40 Rabbit Livers and take it to Ga Dogu!

Difficulty: F

Quest reward: Leather Armor

Quest Restrictions: Myeong Hu

If rejected, fall in Intimacy with Ga Dogu and Hamuru

40 Rabbit Livers had taken up one spot of his inventory. Now all he had to do was to give it to Ga Dogu.

"Hm, should I complete it first."

Myeong Hu was thinking about whether to finish the Quest first or to visit the guild but he decided to first finish the Quest and started walking towards the Village Chief's house.

"Thank you!"

[Quest completed.]

"Ah right. This is the Leather Armor that Hamuru wanted to give as thanks."

[Leather Armor acquired.]

At the same time that the Quest was completed and the Leather Armor was given over by the Village Chief, Myeong Hu smiled in a content manner. Myeong Hu put the Leather Armor into his inventory. Then while looking at Myeong Hu, Ga Dogu spoke.

"The Rabbit Livers have been obtained... By any chance could you get me some Bear Gall Bladders?"

<Hamuru's Disease 2>

The village's greatest hunter Hamuru has collapsed due to a disease. Ga Dogu, the Village Chief but also the village Doctor, needs to produce a special medicine to cure Hamuru's disease. The

second ingredient is the gall bladder of a bear! Gather 60 Bear Gall Bladders and take it to Ga Dogu!

Difficulty: F

Quest Reward: Leather Gloves, Leather Shoes

Quest Restrictions: Myeong Hu

If rejected, fall in Intimacy with Ga Dogu and Hamuru

“Yes.”

[Quest accepted.]

Myeong Hu, who had accepted the Quest, stepped outside. Myeong Hu, who had stepped outside, was mumbling while walking towards the guild.

“The gall bladder of a bear…”

Even though he accepted the Quest thoughtlessly, if it was a Bear, there was a high chance of not being able to catch one. His level was now 8. Without appointing his Bonus Stats, he was in a situation beyond his control with fighting against Wolves so of course catching Bears would be hard.

“Will they sell it at the butchers?”

The reason he accepted the Quest without any hesitation was because of the butcher. If they sold Rabbit Livers then the butcher should definitely have Bear Gall Bladders.

“If they don’t sell it, well… It’ll take a while.

Myeong Hu, who was mumbling like that, after seeing the Warrior Guild he closed those thoughts and went inside.

“It’s leisurely…”

The inside was quite vast. Although, other than the man with imposing muscles napping at the counter, there was no one else.

“Excuse me.”

Going closer to the counter, Myeong Hu called to the man who was napping. Then the man moved slightly and stretched right away while looking at Myeong Hu.

“It’s the young man the VIllage Chief brought before.”

“Yes.”

“For what reason are you here?”

“I came because I was curious on what requirements were needed to change jobs to a Warrior.”

“Haha, so that’s why.”

The man laughed at Myeong Hu’s questions. Then the man opened his mouth and spoke.

“To become a Warrior there is no requirements, you just need to register.”

“…?”

At the man’s words Myeong Hu tilted his head. In the case of the Magician he was originally going to start off with, it required at least 50 Intelligence and 40 Wisdom. If your Intelligence and Wisdom weren’t high enough then a job change wasn’t possible.

“A Warrior is just fighting with a weapon. Of course if you go to an Advanced Job there are requirements but for a normal Warrior there are no requirements.”

At the man’s following words, Myeong Hu could only nod. At the man’s following words, Myeong Hu could only nod. Once he thought about it when you held a weapon and fought you were a Warrior.

“Will you become a Warrior?”

As he said that, the man pushed a paper towards him. With the way it shined, it must’ve been a special paper.

“To change job all you have to do is bring your hand and touch

this.”

At the man’s words Myeong thought briefly then brought his hand forward and touched the paper.

Seuakk!

[Job changed to Warrior]

Together with the Job Changed message, the paper which was spurting out bright lights, disappeared. After the paper disappeared, the man quickly checked with something on the counter and looked and Myeong and spoke.

“Your Warrior Registration has been completed.”

At the man’s words of saying that he had completed the Warrior Registration, Myeong was bewildered. He never thought that he would finish changing jobs so simply.

“Did you expect something special? Like a test?”

The man spoke as if he knew Myeong Hu’s mind and laughed uproariously.

Myeong Hu smiled at the man’s laughter and said.

“Can I see the Skill Books?”

“Ah! Of course! Now that you’re a Warrior!”

[Skill Book: Hard Body]

[Skill Book: Indomitable Will]

[Skill Book: Power Attack]

[Skill Book: Rage]

[Skill Book: Pain Endurance]

.

.

.

[Skill Book: Counterattack]

‘There’s so much…’

There were many different types of skill books. He didn’t know that a Warrior was a Job with so many skills. Of course that was a problem as well.

“Can I only see the Skill Books that I can learn at my level?”

“Ah! Sorry. Haha, here you go. ”

[Skill Book: Hard Body]

[Skill Book: Strike Down]

[Skill Book: Rage]

“…”

Myeong Hu hesitated while looking at the Skill Books that had decreased dramatically. There was definitely a lot of them but the amount of skills he could learn was now only 3.

“.. How much is it? ”

At Myeong Hu’s question of how much was it, the man smiled brightly and spoke while showing 10 fingers.

“10 silver per book.”

“Give me 3 please.”

Giving out 30 silver and obtaining the 3 Skill Books, Myeong Hu checked the Skill Information while learning the skills.

<Hard Body>

Level: 1

Mastery: 0%

Makes the body harder and raises Defence.

Effects: For 1 minute Defence +20

Mana Consumption: 50

<Strike Down>

Level: 1

Mastery: 0%

Strikes down strongly.

Effects: 130% Damage

Mana Consumption: 100

<Rage>

Level: 1

Mastery: 0%

Being surrounded by rage Attack Speed and Movement Speed increases.

Effects: For 1 minute Attack Speed, Movement Speed +10%

Mana Consumption: 100

“Mm…”

While Myeong Hu was checking the Skill Information, he couldn’t help but let out a groan. Then he left the guild and walked towards the butcher.

“…?”

“Hello.”

After entering the butcher, looking at Teren who was giving him odd looks, Meren gave him a simple greeting and went towards him.

“Could it be that in that time you got more things to sell?”

Teren asked Myeong Hu. Myeong Hu shook his head at Teren’s question and answered.

“No. Not to sell but I’ve got something I need to buy.”

“That’s how it is, haha.”

“Do you, by any chance, have any Bear Gall Bladders?”

“We do sell Bear Gall Bladders.”

At Meong Hu’s words, Teren nodded his head and answered. Myeong Hu smiled with relief at the words that said there were Bear Gall Bladders However, at one important truth that he needed to check up on, Myeong Hu kept on talking to Teren.

“By the way, how much does it cost for one?”

If it was the gall bladder of bear, it should boast quite a high price. Therefore, if he didn’t have the money to buy it, it would be a complete loss.

“10 silver for one.”

“…”

Myeong Hu, who had heard the gall bladder’s price, quietly opened his Inventory and checked the total amount of money he had.

‘ 99 silver .. ‘

It was quite a big sum to him. However it couldn’t even compare to the amount needed to buy 60 Bear Gall Bladders.

“…”

Myeong Hu looked at Teren wordlessly. Then he gave an awkward smile. Teren also gave a smile as if he understood Myeong Hu’s response.

“Goodbye.”

“Come again!”

Myeong Hu exited the butchers like that.

“Should I go try catch one…”

Myeong Hu who exited the butchers, mumbled as he walked towards the Weapon Store It seemed like it ould be tough to buy the Bear Gall Bladder at th butchers Then it was only possible to

get it by going hunting himself

“Ah right! The Leather Armor!”

Myeong Hu, who was walking towards the Weapon Store, brought up the Leather Armor he got as a Quest Reward as he opened his inventory. Then he checked the information of the Leather Armor which was taking up a spot in his inventory.

<Leather Armor [Normal]>

Physical Defense: 20

Armor made out of the leather of a bear

The options and descriptions of the Leather Armor were very simple. It was made out of bear leather and the option was perfect for beginners.

Seuuk

Myeong Hu, after equipping th Leather Armor, smiled It felt like he had become sturdier Myeong Hu smiled at the feeling of being sturdier and as soon as he saw the Weapon Store in front of him, he closed his inventory, and entered the Weapon Store.

“Hello.”

Myeong Hu, who entered the Weapon Store, first greeted the Weapon Store owner, Tilto, who had a sharp appearance.

“…”

Wordlessly with a sharp appearance, Tilto only slightly nodded at Myeong Hu’s greeting.

“I, uh, came to buy some equipment.”

“Look around.”

“Ah, yes…”

At Tilto’s words, Myeong Hu started looking around at the weapons on display.

<Sharp Sword [Normal]>

Restrictions: Strength 20

Physical Attack: 10 ~ 15

Critical Hit +5%

A sword that has a very sharp edge.

<Sharp Iron Sword [Magic]>

Restrictions: Strength 40

Physical Attack: 25 ~ 30

Strength +5 Critical Hit +5%

A sword made with hard iron, the edge seems sharp enough to cut stone.

<Ice Club [Magic]>

Restrictions: Power 60, Stamina 50

Physical Attack: 40 ~ 50

Strength +10

A club which has a cold energy running through it, it seems like it can break stone.

Myeong Hu, after looking at some items, checked his character window after looking at the Restrictions of the items.

Name: Myeong Hu

Nationality: Helioka [Empire]

Age: 22 Job: Warrior

Level: 8

HP: 870

MP: 400

Strength: 11 Agility: 10 Stamina: 13 Intelligence: 10 Wisdom: 10

Bonus Stats: 90

“…”

There were no items he could equip. He couldn’t even lift the sword with the lowest Restrictions.

“Do I have to assign my stats.”

Of course, there was the bonus stats.

“Mm…Though I am Warrior.”

Still, at the thought of Strength is to Warrior, Myeong Hu decided to partially invest in Strength for now. He thought in that way he could equip the items and raise his chances of catching a Bear by a little at least.

Name: Myeong Hu

Nationality: Helioka [Empire]

Age: 22 Job: Warrior

Level: 8

HP: 1450

MP: 400

Strength: 40 Agility: 10 Stamina: 13 Intelligence: 10 Wisdom: 10

Bonus Stats: 61

Myeong Hu, who raised his Strength until the Restriction of the Sharp Iron Sword, closed his character window, grabbed the Sharp Iron Sword and went towards Tilto.

“It’s 1 gold”

“…”

Myeong Hu who was imagining the image of himself wielding the Sharp Iron Sword, suddenly paused at Tilto’s words.

“How much did you say it was?”

“It’s 1 gold”

“…”

Myeong Hu realised he was stupid. He didn’t think of the item price.

‘… 1 silver.’

The current amount of money he had was 99 silvers and 1 silver was needed to buy the Sharp Iron Sword priced at 1 gold.

“By any chance…”

“I made the price go down from 1 gold and 10 silver to 1 gold because I saw your face.”

Myeong Hu tried his luck in cutting the price by 1 silver but he couldn’t help but shut his mouth at Tilto’s words that interrupted him.

‘Aheu.’

The situation was that he had already raised his Strength to 40 to equip the Sharp Iron Sword. However, raising his Strength became obsolete.

“…”

“…”

Myeong Hu looked at Tilto’s face Tilto maintaining a sharp appearance, was watching Myeong Hu. It did not seem like he would cut it by 1 silver.

Seuuk

Inevitably, Myeong Hu placed the Sharp Iron Sword back to its original place. Then he looked at the Sharp Sword. However, the added Strength seemed wasteful so he started looking around the Weapons Store again. Of course, he only checked the information of things that were worse externally than the Sharp Iron Sword.

<Iron Sword [Normal]>

Restrictions: Strength 30

Physical Attack: 15 ~ 20

A sword made out of iron.

<Hard Club [Magic]>

Restrictions: Strength 20

Physical Attack: 15 ~ 17

Strength +3

A club that was made out of Stone Tree which are as hard as stones.

<Hard Iron Sword [Magic]>

Restrictions: Strength 40

Physical Attack: 25 ~ 30

Strength +5

A sword that was made from very hard iron, can also be used as a very hard club.

'This is it!'

The instant he checked the information of the Hard Iron Sword, a feeling came to him. Myeong Hu went towards Tilto holding the Hard Iron Sword.

"It's 70 silvers."

Even the price was good. When comparing with the Sharp Iron Sword he had first picked, only the Critical Hit option was different but the price was different by a whole 30 silvers.

"Here it is."

After passing the money over, Myeong Hu left the Weapons Shop with the Hard Iron Sword.

Seuk Seuk Seuk

Myeong Hu, who had left the Weapons Shop, held the Hard Iron Sword in his hand and waved it around everywhere. He wasn't sure if it was because of the raised Strength, but the speed of swinging it around was fast and it gave a heavy feeling.

Grin

Myeong Hu then smiled. Then he opened the Quest window and checked it.

<Hamuru's Disease 2>

The village's greatest hunter Hamuru has collapsed due to a disease. Ga Dogu, the Village Chief but also the village Doctor, needs to produce a special medicine to cure Hamuru's disease. The second ingredient is the gall bladder of a bear! Gather 60 Bear Gall Bladders and take it to Ga Dogu!

Difficulty: F

Quest Reward: Leather Gloves, Leather Shoes

Quest Restrictions: Myeong Hu

If rejected, fall in Intimacy with Ga Dogu and Hamuru

"Gall bladders, here I come!"

Muttering like that, Myeong Hu went towards outside the village.

TL Note: Not sure if you've noticed but " " is for when people are talking and ' ' is for when it's his thoughts. Just clarifying:)

Chapter 5 - The Great Fox King and the Skillbook (1) – Part 1

Pok!

“Ughk!”

Together with dull sounds, Myeong Hu flew in the sky with a ‘Ughk’.

-Kuooong!

The brown bear, letting out a resonant roar, ran towards Myeong Hu who had flown through the sky and fallen to the ground. Myeog Hu who was watching the bear running towards him, let out a sigh.

Pok!

Then after the brown bear’s whole body exploded against him, Myeong flew in the sky for the second time.

‘Am I some kind of bird..’

Myeong Hu thought as he was flying through the sky. He had only been attacked twice yet his health of 1450 had been reduced to 500. More than half of his health had flown away with those 2 attacks.

‘It was bravado. Of course a level 8 can’t catch a bear!’

Myeong Hu that he wouldn’t be a match for the bear. Myeong Hu ran straight towards the bear with a hopeful mindset because of the stats he distributed, the new equipped weapons were decent and mostly because of the confidence gained through the rabbit massacre.

-Kuoooong!

However, it was all just bravado.

‘Let’s run away.’

Myeong Hu thought of running away. He could not experience his first death here in such a preposterous way.

Pok Hudadadak!

-Kuoooong!

As soon as Myeong Hu fell to the ground, he got up and quickly ran away in the opposite direction. The bear roared after seeing Myeong Hu, who was running towards him, run away but then he returned to his home.

“...Whew”

After seeing the bear slowly go back and not chase him, Myeong Hu let out a sigh of relief.

“For now.. Let’s catch some foxes and raise my level.”

To catch the bear he had to first raise his level. As of now and with this level, it was impossible to catch a bear. Myeong Hu, who was thinking like that, started walking towards the fox habitat after his health had fully recovered.

Jobok Jobok

“Have I arrived already?”

It didn’t seem like he had walked that far but one or two foxes could be seen as if it was the fox habitat. Myeong Hu decided on the fox, which glanced at him once then started moving somewhere else, as his first prey.

Jobok Seuak!

-Keeeng!

Myeong Hu who had gotten closer to the fox, quickly swung his sword. The sword hit the fox and the fox widened the distance between Myeong Hu while letting out a cry. Then it let out a low cry and ran towards Myeong Hu.

Seuak Seuak!

Myeong Hu couldn't dodge the unexpected scratch from the fox and suffered from the attack the way he was. However, it didn't affect his health that much, and so Myeong Hu, thinking that if it was only this much then he could relax and catch foxes, quickly raised his Hard Iron Sword and casted a skill.

"Strike Down!"

With a fast speed, the Hard Iron Sword flew towards the fox. The fox just accepted the Hard Iron Sword's attack and fell down on the spot.

"...?"

Myeong Hu, while watching the fox that died too simply, looked at the Hard Iron Sword. Even if he used a skill he didn't think that it'd die in 2 hits.

"As expected, your weapon has to be good..."

Myeong Hu, who realised the importance of equipment, browsed through the corpse of the fox, acquired items and turned his eyes to the surrounding area. In the surrounding area there were 5 foxes prowling around.

"Strike Down!"

Myeong Hu swung down his sword to the nearest fox. After the fox got cut by the sword, just like the first fox, it let out a cry, widened the distance, ran towards him and used the scratch attack.

"How dare you"

Myeong Hu took one step back and dodged the scratch attack. Then he swung the sword again and attacked the fox.

-Keng!

The fox let out a sound and fell back again. Unlike the first fox, this time the fox didn't fall over wih 2 hits.

"Oh?"

Looking at that fox Myeong Hu felt slightly surprised. However, this kind of situation happened when he was catching rabbits so Myeong Hu swung the sword and attacked.

-Keng!

However, this the fox didn't collapse this time either. Even though they were the same fox species, of course the Stamina wouldn't all be the same. Even if the first fox's health was the lowest, thinking about the fact that it died in 2 hits, no matter how high the fox's health was it should have died in 3 hits.

-Kuleung!

However, he closed the matter of the weird fox running towards him again, and swung his sword. Battling like that a numerous amount of times, it was at the 6th swing of his sword.

Flop!

[Level up!]

Together with the level up message, he fox collapsed. After the fox died, Myeong Hu tilted his head and searched the fox corpse.

-You have acquired a Large Fox Tail

-You have acquired a Large Fox Hide

After acquiring the items, he realised something. Now that he thought about it, compared to the first fox, it had a bigger build.

Seuuk

Myeong Hu looked at the remaining 4 foxes. Out of the 4, 3 had build similar to the first fox. And the remaining one was just like fox that had recently been killed and had a big build.

"3 ordinary foxes and 1 Large Fox..."

Jobok Jobok

So after muttering like that, Myeong Hu went closer to the ordinary foxes which could be cleared quickly. Then he quickly

swung his sword.

-Keng!

The fox backed off straight after being cut by the sword. However, Myeong Hu, who knew that when the fox was attacked it would go in the opposite direction from him and widen the distance, moved forward and swung his sword.

Flop!

The fox backed off like he expected and it collapsed after it got but by the sword. Myeong Hu picked up the items the fox dropped and went towards the next fox and attacked it, starting the fox hunt.

[Level up!]

-You have acquired a Large Fox Tail.

-You have acquired a Big-sized Fox Meat.

Myeong Hu, who had continued his fox hunt, stopped the hunt at the level up message while picking up the dropped items. Then he opened the character window.

Name: Myeong Hu

Nationality: Helioka [Empire]

Age: 22 Job: Warrior

Level: 11

HP: 1650

MP: 420

Strength: 45(+5) Agility: 12 Stamina: 15 Intelligence: 10 Wisdom: 11

Bonus Stats: 91

Through the fox hunt he levelled up 3 times going from level 8 to level 11 and through the hunt his Agility, Stamina, and Wisdom

had a small increase.

“Hm, it’s time to start distributing these…”

Myeong Hu muttered while looking at the Bonus Stats. If he used all the Bonus Stats, it seemed that hunting would be even easier. However, stats were something that you couldn’t distribute thoughtlessly. He didn’t want to be a character that as part this part that by distributing it wrongly.

“It’s Strength and Stamin for a Warrior… I can’t just blindly raise my stats…”

Stats were basic information so Myeong Hu knew about that. For Warriors, the most important stats were Strength and Stamina. However, he couldn’t just thoughtlessly raise his stats. Although it was the most important, however, raising just Strength and Stamina for the Job, Warrior, was also wrong.

When you go to the Advanced Jobs, there were times when you might need Wisdom. If you lacked Wisdom then there were situations where you couldn’t advance to an Advanced Job.

“But for now… Should I raise Strength. ”

His level was still only 11. It could be called very low. It seemed like it wouldn’t matter even if he invested all the Bonus Stats he had gotten until now into Strength. Anyway, there were a lot of levels until he could change into an Advanced Job. That meant that there were a lot of Bonus Stats to earn later on and if he lacked the needed stats for the Advanced Job he could supplement it with those stats.

“Let’s raise it!”

Thinking up to there, Myeong Hu invested all 91 of his Bonus Stats into Strength.

Name: Myeong Hu

Nationality: Helioka [Empire]

Age: 22 Job: Warrior

Level: 11

HP: 3470

MP: 420

Strength: 136(+5) Agility: 12 Stamina: 15 Intelligence: 10 Wisdom: 11

After investing all his Bonus Stats, Myeong Hu closed the character window and opened his inventory.

“I’ve gathered a lot…”

His inventory was full of a wide variety of item such as Fox Tails, Fox Meat and Large Fox Tails.

“I have to clean this up.”

Thinking that he had to empty his inventory once, Myeong Hu closed his inventory and walkd in the direction of the village.

“How much will I earn…”

He hadn’t gathered as many items as the time with the rabbits but it was still a lot of items. The fox items were of a higher level than the rabbits so the price for each item should be higher.

“Gotta stop at the guild and adjust my equipment.”

His level was higher there should be skills which he can now learn. Feeling deep to the bone the importance of equipment, Myeong Hu imagined buying as much equipment with his money and went towards the village with more vigor.

Arriving at the village, Myeong Hu immediately went to the store. It was to sell the items gained from the foxes.

“Oh, you came.”

“Hello.”

As soon a he entered the store, Pelun spoke as if he was waiting.

At Pelun, Myeong Hu gave a simple greeting and went towards him, taking out the items in his inventory.

“These are things I wish to sell.”

“Ho oh, let’s see, a Fox Tail, Hide. Hoh hoh, last time it was rabbits but now its foxes… What!”

Then, making a surprised expression, Pelun looked at Myeong Hu.

“Isn’t this a Large Fox Tail and Hide? Hoh hoh!”

Talking as if he was surprised, there was a smile on Pelun’s face.

“As a matter of fact, I was in a situation where I needed the Large Fox Tail and hide! That’s great!”

To Myeong Hu, they were both the same Fox Hide and Tails. If he had to find a difference it was that the sizes were different. However, Pelun kept on smiling as if that wasn’t it and started classifying them.

“There’s a lot of superior quality goods this time as well!”

Finishing the classifications, at Pelun’s words, Myeong Hu smiled. It was because having a lot of superior quality goods meant that they would sell for a greater price. While Myeong Hu was smiling, Pelun spoke after looking at the classified items and calculating the price.

“A total of 1 gold 92 silver and 40 bronze.”

With a dazed expression, Myeong Hu received the money bag from Pelun. Even though the item amount was less than the time with the rabbit, the price he got was 2 times more than that. On top of that, he still had the Fox Meat and Big-sized Fox Meat left in his inventory.

Gulp

“Good-bye!”

Myeong Hu swallowed his spit once and walked towards the door to go to the butchers. He was already anticipating how much the price of the meat would be.

“Over there, Myeong Hu!”

Myeong Hu who was just about to exit the store, stopped walking at Pelun’s words which were calling him and looked at Pelun.

“Ah, can you listen to one of my requests?”

“What kind…?”

“If you’re thinking of catching foxes again then, by any chance, could you get the Great King Fox Hide?”

-Diling!

<Great King Fox Hide>

You don’t know the situation but Pelun says he needs the Great King Fox Hide. Give the hide of the Great King Fox, the king of the foxes, to Pelun!

Difficulty: F+

Quest Reward: Increase in Intimacy with Pelun, gold reward depending on the state of the hide.

If you decline the Quest Intimacy with Pelun could fall slightly.

Chapter 6 - <A Jackpot That's Like a Jackpot, But Not, But Is – #2>

After searching, Hyun-Soo found the Hunter Net and clicked the hiring/seeking job link.

However, they made it available to members only.

'I'll register first and then take a look. I'm sure it's not limited to officially registered hunters.'

If that was the case, then his plan on trying to find a job online would all go down the drain.

Thankfully, ordinary people could register.

Hyun-Soo registered and before checking the seeking job page, he decided to look around the website.

The cursor stopped at "Recruiting Guild Members."

He clicked it, but a window popped up saying he wasn't at the required level to view it.

"Huh? I guess you have to be at a certain level in order to see this."

Well, I guess you do need to be an official hunter in order to be recruited to a guild and they probably made it so that you have to verify first.

Hyun-Soo hoped that he'll be able to see that page one day.

Hiring Grey Portal Odd Jobs (Under E rank)

Hiring a carrier with physical strength skills.

Who wants to target the portal at the Cheonggyesan Mountain with us?

In the hiring/seeking job page, there were so many posts related to jobs since it was available to all members.

It ranged from odd jobs to gathering a one-time temporary team.

Hyun-Soo clicked the link regarding the portal job. Then, he quickly sent a message to the original poster.

It was a while until he received a reply.

J S Full

"..."

They didn't even say sorry and just sent three letters, which almost made Hyun-Soo angry.

But, they were the ones hiring.

Hyun-Soo calmed himself down and sent messages to new threads.

He ended up sending a good amount.

He was sure he sent a letter as soon as it was posted, but all the replies that he received told him that it was full.

As in they didn't need more.

At least the ones that replied were nice.

Most of them didn't even reply.

As if they've hired enough people, the posts disappeared as soon as it was posted.

'Does that mean there are people like me who are watching? How can it fill up so fast?'

F and E rank made up most of the hunters and it seemed like they were desperate for work.

Knowing he wasn't any different from them, a bitter smile appeared on his face.

"Hyun-Soo, I'll add an additional two hours here."

"Cook some ramen for them."

Since I had to take care of customers in between, there were

couple of posts that I missed.

The old computer that was at home wouldn't be much help in this competitive site, so I had to read as much as I could while working.

'Shouldn't I be able to get at least one? I guess they weren't lying when they said lower ranked hunters were experiencing unemployment crisis."

It's not that there wasn't work, but there were more people than jobs, so it was definitely difficult to get hired.

Luckily, Hyun-Soo received two replies.

Whenever he sent a message, he stressed the fact that he was an E rank and it seemed to have worked.

However, when they asked for detailed stats, he told them he was part of the Assistance class. After that, they didn't reply.

"Ah....this sucks. Why is class important for carrier and odd jobs? As long as they're able to carry and apply constantly, isn't that all that matters?"

A lot of people were even applying to small jobs and what followed was competition in stats.

The hunters that made these hiring posts were picky and for some reason were requiring high stats for jobs that had no relevance.

"Guess first day was a bust."

It's been two days since he awoke as a hunter.

It's only been a day since he was officially looking for a job.

However, Soo-Hyun felt that his future wasn't looking so great.

'Who cares about SS? Can't even use it during a hunt...'

He didn't have any ideas about making skills, he continued applying, but ended not getting hired. Things weren't working out

in his favor.

There was a moment where he thought everything would work out if he awakened as a hunter, but that was long ago.

But, Hyun-Soo continuously tried to make something out of it.

However, it was now the fourth day and he was feeling frustrated.

He was filled with frustration and was getting angry.

It showed when he coldly greeted the customers.

'If this continues, nothing will happen. Frustration and impatience will only ruin it. But, it's hard to hold in this frustration. This is driving me insane.'

He felt like he was going to explode if he kept it all in.

That wasn't the best way to handle it.

Hyun-Soo thought it would be best to release all this frustration and grievance somehow.

'Was there a batting cage somewhere near the convenience store?'

He didn't think much before because he wasn't interested, but there were customers that would spend time at the batting cage before visiting the convenience store.

'I should try it before heading to my part-time job. I'm sure I'll feel better after throwing something and releasing some energy.'

They say that overworking your body is the best when trying to clear your mind.

Hyun-Soo decided to try it.

***

"Is this your first time here?"

"Yes."

The batting cage was smaller than what he imagined, but it was pretty clean.

It wasn't like the shabby cages that he saw in cartoons or TV shows.

Looking around, he noticed there were young students as well as college students.

It was a pretty inexpensive activity.

Honestly, if it was expensive, he probably would've left.

Hyun-Soo paid the fee and walked to the pitching zone. There was a machine which measured the speed of the ball.

Placing the basket filled with balls next to him, he grabbed one.

Swoosh!

His form and stance was a mess.

The speed displayed on the screen wasn't impressive either.

But, it was enough for Hyun-Soo to release his frustration.

If he just went into the mountains and threw rocks, there's a chance someone might get hit and he would end up paying a settlement.

But, it was okay to throw the balls however he wanted.

Hyun-Soo gritted his teeth and grabbed the ball tightly.

'What is it that odd jobs require good skills?'

After the first ball, he threw the second one.

'If I had that kind of knowledge, I would apply to be a hunter, not an odd job.'

Most of the balls that he threw would fly in an arc and would end up on the floor, but Hyun-Soo didn't care and continued throwing.

Suddenly, a question popped in his head, causing his hand to stop.

‘How much longer do I have to live like this…?’

He was curious about it before.

A difficult road with no end.

He’ll only end up hitting the floor if he rested or stopped.

‘If my life remains the same even after becoming a hunter, then does mean, my family, Hyun-Ah and me have to continue living like this?’

He knew that if he didn’t increase his level to C rank, it’ll be difficult for him to get hired.

But he didn’t know that he wouldn’t even be given a chance.

‘My future seems dark. How am I supposed to keep living? Being a hunter isn’t the end of it.’

Everything would remain the same.

Nothing would change even after awakening.

What’s the point? No one is willing to hire me.

Even this place had a gap between the powerful and the weak.

Those with skills are able to enter through the narrow employment door, those with connections can easily enter through while the rich are given both connections and chances.

And they also create the employment doors.

Being excited for a moment was a dumb move.

Thinking that he’ll be able to end his family’s poverty gave him hope, but it was ripped to shreds.

But, doing the same jobs he did before would’ve give him much of a future.

‘Who would hire someone that was old and had no experience whatsoever?’

He thought by awakening as a hunter, his future was set.

‘It’s painful…’

His life kept rolling downhill.

There was never a time where things worked out for the better for him.

He was able to keep his chin up because they were somewhat maintaining a living, but that reality was cold towards Hyun-Soo and his family.

It was very cold.

His frustration was contained in the ball that he threw.

From the ball that he threw, a faint light started appearing.

However, being filled with frustration and not knowing about the future, he was so close to losing control that Hyun-Soo didn’t realize this.

‘I want my family to stop suffering. I want to stop earning a living through petty change. I want to stop hearing negative comments. I also want my body to stop feeling tired.’

Those were all of Soo-Hyun’s pain.

He was tired of those pain.

In the end, he came up with a conclusion.

‘I want to live a great life.’

In that moment, he heard a sound that he’s been waiting so long to hear.

-Ring!

***

“Oh, there he is.”

“Kim Soo-Hyun?”

“Oh, hello.”

The people that were sitting near the entrance of the fast food

restaurant waved their hand at Soo-Hyun.

Hyun-Soo approached them and greeted.

“Nice to meet you. Including Kim Soo-Hyun, there’s now a total of five people. There are five carriers today, so please take care of us.”

“Please take of me as well.”

It was a skill he made at the batting cage couple of days ago.

Thanks to that skill, Hyun-Soo was able to participate in the hunt for the first time. Not writing that he was an Assistance class helped him.

It was an odd job, but being able to do a hunter job for the first time encouraged him.

The people that greeted him did instant hunts. It was a temporary group where they gathered anyone and created the offensive team as well as carriers of the party.

It was odd that just the carriers met, so when Hyun-Soo asked, the man that greeted him first displayed a bitter smile.

“It’s always like that. Is this your first time?”

“…Yes.”

The others had a similar expression as this guy.

“Then, you’ll naturally learn soon.”

“Got it.”

They seemed annoyed to answer, so Hyun-Soo didn’t ask any further.

“Anyways, seeing how it’s your first time, you must be ranked pretty high if you were able to get accepted here. Or, you have a nice class…?”

“…..?”

Assistance class were always rejected since they didn't have any offensive skills.

However, thanks to the skills he acquired at the batting cage, he was able to send a message and get hired.

The guy kept on observing Hyun-Soo as if he had something amazing up his sleeve.

"Not at all. Well, I am an E rank, but I'm part of an ordinary attack group."

The skill he acquired was an offensive skill.

Technically, he was still part of the Assistance class, but now that he had an offensive skill, he decided to cover it up by saying he was part of the offensive group.

'It wasn't wrong. I have an offensive skill, so I'm part of the offensive group, right?"

He did feel a bit bad, but when it came to making money, conscience didn't matter.

If he succeeded this hunt, he would take home 50,000 won. (Approximately $500) When comparing to how much a hunter made, it was a very small portion, but to Soo-Hyun, it was a large amount.

If he continued doing these odd jobs or got hired as a carrier, he'll be able to make just as much as someone working for a major company.

"Oh...You're an E rank. I'm jealous. I'm still a F rank, but I still have a long way to go until I'm an E rank. I'm not sure if I'll ever be one. Oh, my name is Jo Young-Jin."

Noticing the gloomy atmosphere, he quickly changed the subject by introducing himself.

Then, he extended his hand for a handshake and Hyun-Soo grabbed and shook it.

Starting with him, the others started stating their names.

Jo Young-Jin, Kim Yoon-Soo, Heo Jin-Ho, Park Jung-Hwan.

He wasn’t sure how many times he’ll call their names, but Hyun-Soo memorized their names.

“It’s almost time. Let’s get going.”

End.

Chapter 7 - <Good and Bad Things Happen At Once #1>

After looking at his watch, Jo Young-Jin led Hyun-Soo and the other members.

They arrived near the portal where they'll be hunting.

There was a trailer, which was brought by people from an agency that purchased dead bodies and energy stones acquired after hunting the monsters.

In front of the trailer, there was about 10 people standing there.

They seemed like hunters that were going to officially participate in the hunt.

Jo Young-Jin called for Hyun-Soo and the other porters and introduced them to a man that was tall, built and had short hair.

"Hello, sir. These are the porters that will participate today."

"Oh, thank you for coming. I'm sure you all know what's going on, so I don't need to go over anything, right? We'll leave in 20 minutes. Also, for those that are able to make a deal, once you get captured as an aggravator, you're free to make a deal."

"Understood! Thank you."

Following Jo Young-Jin, Hyun-Soo bowed his head.

It was a bit much, but since everyone else was doing it, he felt that he needed to do the same.

"He's very nice. He lets us make deals too."

"I agree. Some places require the deal skill, but once we go out to hunt, they won't let us make any deals. It's like they're making fun of us..."

What that man said last must've been unusual seeing the carriers talk about it.

Then, Jo Young-Jin brought his hand to his mouth.

“Hey, be careful what you say.”

For Hyun-Soo, this kind of reaction surprised him.

Sending a message without a deal skill will automatically eliminate them, but attacking is forbidden?

Despite of Hyun-Soo’s question, time continued ticking and it was time to enter through the portal.

The muscular leader clapped his hands once and got everyone’s attention.

“Hello. My name is Choi Do-Won and I’m the leader as well as the tanker. The portal we’ll be going through today is Grey and our objective is to capture the Flower Spore. I’m sure you’ve all read our plan of attack. In today’s group, there’s one tanker, one sub-tanker, six dealers, and two healers. The deals may not be so great since we don’t have a lot of dealers, so if the dealers get captured as an aggravator, provide the best deal. Make sure they don’t turn their attention to someone else and if they do, stop all the deals. We’ll be entering in five minutes so finish your preparations.”

People that were in groups of twos and threes nodded their head.

“Making a deal with a Flower Spore will be ambiguous.”

“How come?”

The participating hunters must’ve already heard what kind of monster they were targeting.

The carriers of course didn’t get this information, so Kim Yoon-Soo let out a sigh.

“Since it’s a spore, we have to spread out and unless you have a long-distance analyzation skill, it’s hard to make a deal. It’s constantly moving because of its roots, so it’s hard to really pinpoint their location…”

Hyun-Soo remembered the illustration book he saw on the

Hunter Net.

‘A Flower Spore…’

He remembered seeing it when he attended the hunter school, but it was very vague.

‘Let’s observe the situation first.’

Leveling up and money was important, but the most important thing was his life.

Hyun-Soo wasn’t planning on putting his life on the line.

‘If I just go at it, I might die, but it’ll be a problem if I got hurt. Not like I can afford to go to the hospital.’

He was going to observe the situation first and then make his move after grasping the situation.

Just observing was dangerous as well, but unless someone was going to commit suicide, it was better to lower the risk.

If he didn’t try, he wouldn’t get anything out of it.

While Hyun-Soo was thinking, the carriers were complaining about how this kind of job won’t help them increase their ranks. Then, someone with a high-pitched voice interrupted.

“Then what’s with the carriers that don’t do their jobs and only think about making deals?”

It was a guy who looked extremely angry.

After hearing the carrier’s conversation, a thin man with an angry expression looked towards them.

“Just do the job that you’re given and don’t get in the way.”

“…Understood.”

After Jo Young-Jin politely answered for the group and the man turned around.

The members of his group patted him and said, ‘Hey, go easy on

them,' but out of angry, the man pushed their hand away.

As soon as he neared the portal, Jo Young-Jin let out a deep sigh.

Hyun-Soo approached him and quietly asked.

"Who what that guy?"

"That was Kim Yoo-Han and he's an E rank healer. According to the rumors, he's the younger brother of the group's leader. On top of being a healer, he has connections. He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth."

He whispered that he was probably acting that way because of it.

In Hyun-Soo's head, the name, Kim Yoo-Han and his class stuck to his head.

'What a jerk. Are all healers like that?'

The way he treated the carriers was like a boss that was scolding their employee.

Despite of his class and rank, shouldn't he at least treat others with respect?

Was it because he had connections?

"He was probably disgusted with us. They put their life on the line during the hunt, but we don't participate in the hunt and still get experience. There are other hunters like him."

"Do you get a lot of experience points when you participate?"

"No way. You'll only gain 0.5% of experience per hunt..."

Operating the equipment that was around his wrist, Jo Young-Jin read the numbers.

"Let's see. During the last hunt, I got 0.3%. I did make a deal, but...Honestly, as a carrier, it looks bad if you offer too many deals. Just like Kim Yoo-Han, there are hunters that think that carriers have it easy because all we do is make deals."

He said carriers go through a lot and the other carriers let out a

deep sigh.

Because of what Kim Yoo-Han said, the atmosphere became tense and it remained that way until it was time to walk through the portal.

Hyun-Soo remained quiet and observed the other hunters.

'It seems like I always have to study other's expression.'

But Hyun-Soo didn't lose hope.

It was a small step now, but later on, it'll become a big step for him.

He might have to bow to the other hunters now, but he planned on raising his rank so that people wouldn't look down on him any longer.

"Ready? Once you see a Flower Spore, get into position and when I aggravate it, start attacking."

Hyun-Soo stood near the entrance along with the other carriers while listening to the leader's instructions.

'So this is what the inside of a portal looks like...'

Seeing the inside of the portal for the first time, Hyun-Soo kept on looking around.

Beyond the marsh-like walls and floors, he never imagined that there would be something beyond this large space.

The monster, Flower Spore, was at place where unknown grass and flowers grew and there were small trees in various places of the field.

It was such a peaceful location that if they weren't here to hunt monsters, it would be nice place to have a picnic.

It didn't seem like there would be any monsters in this peaceful place.

The field turned into a battlefield once a hunter sprinkled

something, causing something to move below the ground.

Crack!

“It’s coming! Get in position!”

Under Choi Do-Won’s order, the hunters got into position. Their plan was to spread out and trap the monster.

Suddenly, a rough, green vine appeared out of the ground.

Behind it, a wide flower petal appeared slowly.

It was as large as three adults with their arms spread out.

Under the flower petal, a thick, green bouquet started moving.

The Flower Spore completely crawled out of the ground and after seeing its full form, the first thing that came into Hyun-Soo’s head was how disgusting it was.

‘To think that a disgusting thing like that was living in such a peaceful place like this.’

After seeing its tentacle-like form, Hyun-Soo opened the interface.

‘Interface!’

> Flower Spore [F]

> Plant Type Monster

> Primary Location: Grey Portal

> Energy Field Status: 100%

> ??

> ??

I used it out of curiosity, and like I had assumed, something popped up.

‘What’s with all these unknown information?’

Since it wasn’t fully activated, there were several information

that was missing.

It was impossible to check its primary skills.

It only displayed its basic information.

‘Is it telling me to raise my skills level? Well, at least I’ll know the monster’s name before attacking it. It’s nice to at least see its Energy Field Status.’

“Let’s first aggravate it.”

As the tanker, Choi Do-Won ran towards it first.

The Flower Spore was a lot taller than the average male and with its disgusting form, anyone would be intimidated by it, but it seemed like the hunters didn’t feel that way.

With his sharp weapon, Choi Do-Won cut the Flower Spore’s root.

As the thick, green vine was cut, a yellow liquid seeped out of it.

Kyah!

Wiggling its green vine, the petal part turned towards Choi Do-Won to keep its guard up.

As the flower petal shrunk, it bloomed widely and shot out green powder.

But, as the flower petal shrunk, Choi Do-Won was already far away from it.

After the green powder completely dispersed, they approached the monster again and deeply struck its roots.

Kyahhhhhh!

The Flower Spore’s vines wiggled violently.

The vines that were spread out were now targeting Choi Do-Won.

“It’s aggravated! Start attacking!”

Choi Do-Won yelled out this command as he grabbed the shield that was on his back. The hunters that were spread out started attacking.

First, two attackers stood behind the Flower Spore.

Standing near the monster, they used the weapons that they brought and started attacking it.

Hyun-Soo, who was watching from afar, saw yellow liquid seeping out when the hunters attack with swords that were as large as their biceps.

'If I become a close-range attacker, I should carry extra clothes with me.'

He wasn't sure if it was their clothes or gear, but the two hunter's faces were covered in the yellow liquid.

Out of the six attackers, four of them stood their ground and started attacking.

Some shot arrows and others shot flaming arrows. There were two people that threw iced lance towards the monster.

The problem was that the monster managed to counter-attack the arrows and the lance with its vines.

While tanking, Choi Do-Won looked towards the base and shouted.

"Attack its body! Attacking its vine has no effect!"

They started attacking its body like Choi Do-Won had suggested.

"I thought they studied the attacks, but they're not doing so well."

"If they coordinate well, they should be able to capture the Flower Spore, but...they should be fine, right?"

"I'm starting to feel uneasy. They shouldn't have a problem as long as they avoid the vines, but seeing them attack the vines

instead of the body is a bit…”

The carriers that were standing near the entrance were watching the hunt and started making comments.

“Let’s move closer. We don’t need to attack the body anyways and if we just attack the vines that are slightly sticking out, we can get experience points. Let’s move a little closer.”

When a hunter attacks the monster’s energy field, the hunter acquires the same amount of energy as they attacked.

Chapter 8 - <Good and Bad Things Happen At Once #2>

That’s what the hunters meant by experience and if they receive a consistent amount, then they’ll acquire that many more skills.

The more experience you acquire, the more powerful skill one can use.

This is also known as leveling up.

Gaining a lot of experience also means that their rank is also increasing.

The carriers didn’t participate in the hunt, but they would secretly attack the monsters so that they’ll be able to raise their level.

Since they were nothing more than a carrier, they won’t be acknowledged as an official attacker and the hunters will always be hunters.

Unless you started out as a B rank with a silver spoon in your mouth, most of the hunters that didn’t have connections and money had to start from the bottom.

This meant that most of the active hunters had started from the bottom.

Because of this, considerate people like Choi Do-Won told the carriers that they could attack too.

Of course there were people like Kim Yoo-Han, a healer, who made rude remarks before entering the portal.

Knowing how difficult it was to get to this position, there were people that couldn’t stand it when others got to this position so easily.

“Hyun-Soo, if you have an offensive skill, you should use it. Since

our attacks won't reach the body, you should attack the vine over there."

"Even if our attacks did reach the body, the attackers will get angry. Attacking without any gears will only make them think that we're stealing their experience points, so it's best not to attack it."

"I see."

Among the carriers, Hyun-Soo was the youngest, so the others started giving him tips.

Since the other carriers were speaking from experience, Hyun-Soo decided to memorize their tips well.

After several failures, he was able to enter the world of the hunter.

Leaving without doing much was worse than dying.

'Is it time for me to finally use this skill?!'

Despite of awakening to his power, he was frustrated because of his future. While spending time at the batting cage, he acquired a skill.

He was moved by the possibility that this caused him to create a useful skill.

[Mighty Throw] [F]

Ability to throw the object in hand with all their might.

When it hits the target, it may cause damage.

Accuracy Rate: 48%

It seemed a bit weak, but it was fine.

The accuracy rate was a bit low, but it was fine. It meant that if he threw 10 times, then half of those throws would hit the target.

On top of that, 'it may cause damaged' was what caught his attention.

There was no way he could attack by calculating fast or by threading beads.

That's why, Mighty Throw was Hyun-Soo's first offensive skill.

To prepare for this moment, he even brought an item to throw.

After he acquired the skill, Hyun-Soo contemplated about what he should throw.

He thought about throwing a baseball, like he did at the batting cage, but he found out that baseballs were quite expensive.

In the end, Hyun-Soo decided on consumable goods.

He didn't have the luxury to spend a lot of money on consumable goods.

'I picked up all the pebbles that were in my neighborhood.'

He visited construction sites and mountains and picked up as many pebbles as he could.

He ended up placing way too many in his bag that he almost broke his back. Letting go of his greed, he ended up taking a small amount.

Since he had to work as a carrier, it would be better to carry lightly.

When observing the other carriers, he saw Jo Young-Jin creating a pinky-sized ice cube with all his might.

Seeing them use distant offensive skills, Kim Yoon-Soo and Heo Jin-Ho were probably long-distance attackers.

However, Park Jung-Hwan was a close-range attacker, so he held a small knife in his hand. He hesitantly approached the wiggling vine.

Seeing him stop midway, he was probably looking back at the base.

Then.

“Hey, what do you think you’re doing?!”

As expected.

Someone with a sharp tone called out to Park Jung-Hwan.

It’s was Kim Yoo-Han, the healer.

Healers usually stood in the back, so they were near the carriers.

Because of that, Park Jung-Hwan kept on looking back and Kim Yoo-Han noticed him approaching the vine.

“Who said you could attack? Are you insane? Don’t you know that carriers are supposed to stand behind the battlefield?!”

Knowing the carriers’ situation, the leader told them they could attack when they had the chance, but the healer was holding them back.

Hyun-Soo thought he could just ignore him, but Park Jung-Hwan thought otherwise.

He couldn’t attack the vine nor did he listen to Kim Yoo-Han because he froze in place.

Honestly, Park Jung-Hwan’s action was understandable.

Out of the close-range hunters, healers are able to use their powers to treat the wounded, but they were very rare.

Out of 100 hunters, there’s probably one that was a healer.

If there weren’t attackers, the hunt would just get longer, but if there wasn’t a healer, then they’ll mostly get annihilated.

Because of this, healers are treated very well.

Kim Yoo-Han was an E rank healer.

Truthfully, this group mostly consisted of D ranks, so his ranking wasn’t all that great.

However, his class increased his worth.

If Kim Yoo-Han started nagging here, then it would complicate

Park Jung-Hwan's current situation.

Between the healer and the carrier, it was obvious who would get the majority of the vote.

When Hyun-Soo thought about just ignoring him, Park Jung-Hwan did the opposite and froze up.

Since Hyun-Soo wasn't familiar with the hunter's world, it was possible for him to think that way.

He already gave up on becoming a hunter a long time ago.

But, without a second examination, he awakened to his power. He wasn't consistently learning about the hunters, but he somehow managed to enter the hunter's world.

The knowledge that he gained from the Hunter School was basics of the basics.

There's no way they would teach children about what the hunter's world was like.

To add on, an apprentice class's reality was harsh because they were looked down upon. That's why, in order to overcome this, that was all he concentrated on.

Hyun-Soo somewhat knew what the hunter's world was like.

However, he only concentrated on parts that was relevant to him.

He knew how the awakened hunter's skill points were distributed, but he didn't know what kind of powerful structure would be created in the real world because of it.

Since he was so focused on his current situation, it was true that it blinded him from other things.

Due to Kim Yoo-Han's sharp tone, the other carriers froze in place as well.

The atmosphere changed drastically, compared to when they

started attacking, that they all stopped talking.

But, if they just stood there because of what Kim Yoo-Han said, then they wouldn't be able to get any experience points.

Hyun-Soo thought Kim Yoo-Han had some sort of misunderstanding.

He could've thought that, despite of the leader warning them not to attack for experience points, they were going against his words.

However, the carriers all just silently stood there instead of being vocal about what the healer said.

"The leader told us that once the monster was aggravated, we could start attacking, so isn't that okay?"

Wanting to clear up any misunderstanding and relieve the tension, Hyun-Soo explained exactly what the leader told them.

He wanted to let Kim Yoo-Han know that the leader allowed them to attack and that they weren't being uncooperative.

However, it only provoked him and his face was distorted with anger.

'What's going on? The healer was the one who started this mess, but it feels like Park Jung-Hwan and I are at fault here.'

Thankfully, due to him working at various part-time jobs, he was able to sense the tense atmosphere.

Hyun-Soo quickly looked around.

'Looking at the current situation…I'm doomed.'

His assumption was right.

The healer suddenly raised his voice and started yelling.

He didn't look normal when Hyun-Soo first saw him, but his anger reached a point where it seemed like he was going crazy.

"Are you looking down on me because I'm an E rank? You're listening to the leader because he's a D rank, but not me because

I’m an E rank?”

“…Kim Yoo-Han, that’s not what I meant…”

“I think that’s what you meant!! If you guys approached the battlefield and suddenly got hurt, do you know who has to heal you guys? Me! If I can’t heal, do you know what will happen to the base? They’ll all die! So if I tell you not to do it, don’t you think you should listen to me?!”

Releasing his anger at the carriers, Kim Yoo-Han turned towards the leader and started yelling.

Sir! I don’t want to heal anymore! A lowly carrier is looking down on me, so I don’t feel like healing anymore. I’ll be leaving!”

In order for the attackers to attack, they turned the monster’s body, but once the tanker heard the commotion, he looked back.

His expression showed how ridiculous he thought this was.

Hyun-Soo felt the same way.

‘Stop the hunt? I know I’m a new hunter, but even I knew that meant death for us.’

Was there a time when monsters stopped attacking and called time-out?

Once hunters enter through the portal and the hunt begins, it doesn’t stop until one side dies.

Despite of that, Kim Yoo-Han said he was giving up, so it was normal to think that he was crazy.

He was definitely crazy.

If they had ears and they could hear just fine, any hunter would say that he was crazy.

“Kim Yoo-Han, calm down. We won’t attack the vine. We’ll move behind the battlefield.”

Park Jung-Hwan, the person that started this, tried his best to

calm him down.

Honestly, Park Jung-Hwan never had the chance to actually attack.

Long-distance attackers like Kim Yoon-Soo and Heo Jin-Ho had some kind of experience.

His mistake was that he approached the vine to attack because he was a close-range attacker.

And Kim Yoo-Han caught that act.

Park Jung-Hwan probably acknowledged the fact that all of this happened because of him and because he was caught my Kim Yoo-Han.

He froze up at first, but when Kim Yoo-Han yelled to stop the hunt, he must've realized what was going on because he tried to calm him down.

"Calm down? Does it look like I'll be able to calm down? That no-good porter was looking down on me!"

Kim Yoo-Han started at Hyun-Soo while pointing at him.

'That's not true. I just thought there was a misunderstanding, so I just explained what the leader told us!'

Hyun-Soo felt victimized.

From which part did he feel like he was being looked down upon?

In Hyun-Soo's eyes, Kim Yoo-Han looked like someone that had an odd victim mentality.

However, if he were to mention that, then they would be missing a healer and the hunt will get much more difficult.

He wasn't sure how it would turn out if he told the truth.

"Kim Yoo-Han, please calm down."

"You can't just quit in the middle of a hunt."

“We all know how important a healer is, but this is too much…”

If the leader was able to hear it, despite of being the furthest way, then the attackers between the healer and the leader probably heard the commotion.

They thought Kim Yoo-Han’s action was crazy.

Even though there were people trying to calm him down, he still yelled out to stop the hunt, causing some people to think he was being obnoxious.

After hearing another attacker’s unfriendly comment, Kim Yoo-Han became angrier.

“Kim Yoo Han, hurry up and help me heal them.”

Not being able to stand by any longer, the second healer requested for his help.

“I won’t! I won’t do it!”

Slash!

“Ack!”

Just then, Choi Do-Won, the leader and the tanker, got hit by the Flower Spore’s vine.

Thankfully, he wasn’t knocked out, but the there was a deep cut on thigh, causing red blood to flow out.

Chapter 9 - <Good and Bad Things Happen at Once #3>

With only one healer, the D rank leader was able to keep fighting by maintaining his energy, but he ended up taking the hit.

It was because Kim Yoo-Han kept on spitting crazy comments that it caused the leader to lose his concentration.

The people at the base felt uneasy after seeing the formation break up.

Since his stamina and injury couldn't be healed, Choi Do-Won couldn't aggravate the monster.

"Ack! It's looking at us."

"Tanker, aggravate it!"

"...Healer, he's dying. Please heal him!"

"I am!!"

"Sub-tank, what are you doing?!"

"What are you expecting?!"

When Choi Do-Won stopped aggravating the Flower Spore, the attackers started attacking it, causing the monster to turn their attention on the attackers.

The monster's target changed from Choi Do-Won to the attackers.

"Ack! Damn it!"

The attackers nearby got scared and stood far away from it.

The thing that the Flower Spore was looking at was the long-distance attackers because they shot flamed arrows, which caused damage to the plants.

Since long-distance attackers trained their mind more than their

body, their physical strength was no different than an ordinary human.

What would happen if the Flower Spore started attacking them?

They would either die or get an injury that would cause them to die.

Using every bit of their strength, the healer managed to heal Choi Do-Won's deep wound, allowing him to aggravate the monster again.

The close-range dealers were busy running for their lives that they didn't know what to do.

If they were to attack it, they would aggravate it, but if they didn't, then the tanker and the healer would run out of energy.

If that happened, then everyone would die.

There wasn't an attacker that could withstand the Flower Spore's attack.

There was a sub-tanker that would step in if this happened, but the sub-tanker that the leader brought was no use.

In order to gain experience the easy way, he paid the leader to allow him to participate in the hunt, but the money would be divided among the party members and the leader wouldn't get any.

Unless there was a huge change, it was possible to clear the grey portal with nine members.

However, even if the grey portal's level was low, a monster was still a monster.

Even if it was a low level portal where it was easy to capture the monster, if there was no teamwork, then it would just make it that much harder.

If there were continuous mistakes, one can really mess up even in a grey portal.

And Hyun-Soo's first hunt wasn't working out so great.

'Am I unlucky? Why isn't anything working out? This is my first hunt after I barely managed to create a skill and now, I'm about to die because of this crazy healer.'

He thought about his family back home.

His mother was working so hard at the restaurant that her hands were shriveled up.

His father worked at the apartment while hearing rude comments and being treated poorly.

And his little sister, Hyuna, couldn't even properly spread her wings because of their poor living condition.

He could see their faces.

The hunt would become a mess in five minutes.

If this continued and they decided to start running, they'll all be captured and end up dead.

While the tanker was aggravating the monster, all the vines were attacking the tanker, but once the tanker failed, no one knew where those vines would end up.

"I'll try again so quickly attack it!"

Choi Do-Won yelled.

If they quickly attacked, he might miss the chance to aggravate it, but before the monster turns its attention elsewhere, he was planning on giving it his all.

"Die! Die!"

Various attacks were performed.

Long-distance attackers use fire and ice and attacking the Flower Spore's petals.

Close-range attackers would use their most powerful attack, check the tanker and attack again.

“Why won’t it die?!”

However, the hunt was messed up from the start.

The Flower Spore still had a good amount of health left.

But, no matter how much they attacked it, it was impossible to end this in such a short period of time.

“Ack! Save me...!”

In the end, Choi Do-Won failed again.

The quick attacks that the close-range attackers performed caused the monster to turn its attention to them.

The Flower Spore started attacking them with its vines.

Noticing the attack, the attackers moved back and landed on their butts.

They heard an extremely loud roar above them.

The vines were targeting the attacker’s neck, but due to them falling down, the vines sliced the air instead.

Now, the attackers were too scared to attack the monster.

Their faces were now filled with fear.

The fear of death...

***

If the remaining hunter was a rank E or D, it wouldn’t matter if Kim Yoo-Han left.

However, the healer was a rank F and lacked the healing power when compared to the E rank hunter, Kim Yoo-Han.

“Hey you useless healer! Hurry up and heal! Heal now!”

If this continues, everyone will die.

The attackers had gone crazy and ran over to Kim Yoo-Han and grabbed him by his collar.

But.

“It-it’s not my fault. It’s all the carriers’ fault. It’s not my fault it turned out this way…”

Kim Yoo-Han was panicking, which caused him to mumble.

The confident Kim Yoo-Han disappeared.

“Hurry up and heal! Stop with the crazy talk and do it!”

“It-it’s not my fault…”

Kim Yoo-Han probably didn’t want this either. Unless he was crazy, he didn’t intend on putting everyone’s life on the line.

He just wanted to put all the blame on the annoying carriers.

But, it ended up that way.

The situation really worsened.

Screams could be heard from all over the place.

Death was creeping up on them.

As a healer, this was the first time the team treated him so poorly.

Due to the different complications, they were in a panicking state.

Despite of his cocky attitude, he didn’t have much experience and seeing death approach due to his attitude, it seemed like he wasn’t able to come to his senses.

Hyun-Soo started laughing.

As a hunter, there was definitely something special.

If that wasn’t the case, then these hardships wouldn’t happen whenever he overcame one.

‘If I knew that crazy guy was joining the hunt, I wouldn’t have been so happy when I got recruited.’

I was going to give half of my pay to my parents and half of the

half to Hyuna.

With the remaining half, I was going to take my family out to BBQ, but was that too big of a dream?

However, if he went back in time and got asked if he wanted to join, he would've still nodded his head.

But, he would stop himself from talking to the psycho.

No matter how fast one regrets it, it's already too late.

There was no need to assume that this would've made the situation better.

The important thing was.

He needed to survive.

Hyun-Soo wasn't going to die here.

Not this easily and he would be really angry if he died because of this crazy idiot.

'What should I do?'

Hyun-Soo thought hard about what to do.

In his mind, he agreed with Choi Do-Won's judgement. Ending this as soon as possible gave them a higher chance at surviving.

But, the problem was that in their current condition, the attackers couldn't perform their most powerful attack to end this as soon as possible.

While the monster turned its attention away from Choi Do-Won, the remaining healer used all of their power and healed him to the point where he could move.

Then, Choi Do-Won managed to aggravate it again.

They were walking on thin ice.

But, if this continued, then they would be placed in a much worse situation.

Even though his attacks were a lot weaker than the other hunters, Hyun-Soo decided to start attacking.

He felt the need to try in order to survive.

Hyun-Soo grabbed the pebble that was in his bag.

As soon as he got into position and was about to throw it, he noticed something odd.

‘Huh?’

It was right under the flower petal.

Because of the wide flower petals, the part where the vines and the petal met was almost hidden.

Right under the calyx, there was a faint, white light.

‘…What is that?’

Concentrating on the light, he noticed a dot that was sparkling under the calyx.

It felt like one of those games where they provided you with a step-by-step tutorial.

Then, Hyun-Soo thought about hitting that spot.

No one told him about it, but he was just following his gut instinct and it was so strong, that he decided to follow through.

It didn’t hurt to try.

With that though, Hyun-Soo tightly gripped onto the pebble.

After seeing the white light, he yelled in his head.

‘Mighty Throw!’

Fwoosh!

The pebble that Hyun-Soo threw flew at a fast rate.

Thanks to the skill, the pebble flew at a faster rate than when thrown normally.

‘Mighty Throw! Mighty Throw!”

Since the accuracy rate was only 48%, Hyun-Soo continuously threw them.

The rate was right under half, but the more he threw, the more his accuracy rate increased.

And, Hyun-Soo’s assumption was correct.

Among the pebbles that he threw, most of them hit the white light.

Kyahhh!

The Flower Spore that was attacking Choi Do-Won nonstop suddenly trembled and stopped attacking.

The stamen split in half and the monster let out a monstrous roar.

Anyone would’ve been in pain if they heard it.

“Huh? Huh?!”

Calculating a monster’s energy field was a basic move.

A hunter, that was standing far away, quickly calculated the energy level and was surprised when its energy field dropped quickly as it roared.

“Who attacked just now?”

“Isn’t the leader attacking?”

The close-range dealer that ran away first asked this and the hunter that was calculating shook his head.

“The leader is exhausted so he can’t even attack it properly.”

“Then, who is it?”

Even in their eyes, the way the vines moved was different from before.

On top of that, the energy field dropped to half.

In their eyes, the monster that scared away all the attackers just let out a strange scream and suddenly its energy field dropped.

The energy field that was protecting the monster dropped by half.

Their chance of capturing the monster would increase if they attacked now.

But, the attackers couldn't move so easily.

If the monster wasn't aggravated, Choi Do-Won wouldn't be able to help in his current condition, which meant they could lose their lives.

But the situation definitely changed.

Everyone was thinking about the worst, possible situation, but it was decreased by half due to unknown reasons.

Ignoring their reactions, Hyun-Soo, the main guy that made this possible, was busy looking at the notifications.

"Critical!"

"The accuracy rate of the Mighty Throw (F) has increased."

"Current Accuracy Rate: 64%"

'What the?'

Within moments, the accuracy rate jumped from 48% to 64%.

Thanks to the interface, he knew that the energy field decreased by half.

Also, there wasn't anyone else attacking the monster, so it was definitely because of his skill.

'Not sure what happened, but that was awesome!'

He didn't know what was going on, but he managed to decrease the energy field, so his experience point was going to increase tremendously.

Life was filled with unexpected twists and turns, but this was definitely a rollercoaster to him.

He wanted to cheer for his unexpected success, but he kept it in and grabbed another pebble.

It was because Hyun-Soo caused the most damage and the monster turned its attention to him.

‘…Damn it.’

It’s the monster that was easily aggravated despite of the hunter’s attack.

Even if it’s energy field decreased by half, there was no way it would see Hyun-Soo as a threat.

The monster turned its body around and moved menacingly.

With its snake-like vines, the monster started running towards Hyun-Soo.

<Good and Bad Things Happen at Once #3> End.

Chapter 10 - < Good and Bad Things Happen At Once #4>

His happiness only lasted momentarily.

Hyun-Soo froze in place after seeing the large vines charge at him with the intention of ripping him to pieces. The green vines that were moving really fast in front of him was weird and at the same time, scary.

'I'll die if I get hit.'

In his mind, he strongly felt the need to get out of the way.

Although his legs were shaking, he managed to roll to the side and dodge the attack.

Knowing that dodging it once wasn't the end, Hyun-Soo quickly stood up after rolling.

For the first time ever, he saw a monster up close and on top of that, the monster was trying to kill him, which caused his hands to shake.

His feet were in the same situation.

'What's the tanker doing...?'

Looking over at Choi Do-Won, he noticed his exhausted face and the healer that was trying to heal him with every ounce of energy they had left.

It looked like it would be difficult to aggravate the monster again.

Hyun-Soo gritted his teeth.

Even though his entire body was trembling with fear, he held the pebble tightly in his hand.

The fact that the energy field decreased to half all of a sudden must've affected the monster greatly because its movement wasn't as agile as before.

Thanks to that, he was able to calm down for a moment.

However, he couldn't let his guard down since the vines' attacks were dangerous.

'Damn it!'

While holding the pebble tightly in his hand, he started running. Like a whip, the vines started chasing after him.

Anyone would be able to hear the vines slicing violently through the air. The vines smashed the ground so hard that it caused countless numbers of debris to jump up in the air.

The vines were able to move freely, but when attacking long distance, it tends to stretch out in a straight line.

Hyun-Soo and the monster were pretty far away from each other.

After noticing that the vines would stretch out in a straight line, Hyun-Soo started running in odd directions.

'White dot. Where are you white dot...?'

The white do that he was able to see so clearly was now covered by the flower petal due to the monster constantly moving around.

Sweat was rolling down Hyun-Soo's back. His face was covered in sweat.

Due to his nervousness, he wasn't able to feel it.

Sweat rolled down his eyes and was hanging on the tip of his eyelash, but he didn't notice.

Looking for the white dot and running while looking behind wasn't easy.

But if he didn't do that, then he would die due to an absurd reason.

Kyahhhh!

Hyun-soo was ridiculously moving around so that he could survive, but when he had aggravated the monster.

The monster let out another roar.

“Attack!’

Choi Do-Won cut off part of the monster’s vine and was attacking its body.

When he was focusing on defense, when the monster’s attention was turned elsewhere, he took that chance to attack its weak spot.

Even though a tanker’s attack level is lower than an attacker, they still had the ability to attack the monster.

But, their skills are mostly made up of defense skills rather than offensive skills.

Seeing a part of its body cut off must’ve made it really angry because the vines that were attacking Soo-Hyun was now attacking Choi Do-Won.

It was a lot slower than before, but its attack was still dangerous.

The attackers heard Choi Do-Won yelling at them to attack, but they all had a troubled expression.

No one took the initiative to start attacking.

Hyun-Soo was the only one circling around the monster while holding a pebble since he was trying to find the white dot.

‘Even though the tanker aggravated the monster, if we don’t do anything, everything will go back to the way it was.’

The tanker’s stamina and the healer’s healing skill was at its limit.

‘That’s why, it’s our priority to kill it as soon as possible! If only I could see the white dot…’

Hyun-Soo finally found the white dot.

He was searching for it while running around the monster and moments later, between the petals, he saw the white dot.

No confirmed it for him, but Hyun-Soo knew that the white dot

was its weak point.

‘I’ll get it!’

Hyun-Soo moved the arm that held the pebble.

Moving his body with it, all of his strength was focused on his arm.

‘Mighty Throw!’

And his assumption was correct.

Kyahhhhhh!

As if it was in pain, the monster started twisting its body.

Seeing that, Hyun-Soo gulped.

‘The energy field is decreasing.’

The critical message didn’t pop up this time, but when compared to the moment when the attackers attacked, the energy field decreased at a much faster rate.

Maybe the attack wasn’t as strong as the first time, but thankfully, the monster targeted the tanker that cut off its vines.

A heavy burden was lifted off of Hyun-Soo’s shoulder and he aimed all of his pebbles on the white dot.

He didn’t know when the monster would target him again.

‘This is awesome. I can’t believe I can see the monster’s weak point.’

Every time the pebble hit the dot, the energy field decreased, causing Hyun-Soo to feel ecstatic.

Hyun-Soo was probably the only one that knew of the white dot.

If that wasn’t the case, then the attackers wouldn’t have attacked its body from all over the place since it wasn’t as effective as Hyun-Soo’s attack.

He wasn’t sure why he was able to see it all of a sudden.

But, he did have a hunch.

No matter the reason, it was true that he was able to see the white, sparkling dot.

“I think…we’ll be able to capture it.”

“…Then, do we need to attack it too?”

“I think the tanker is doing well…Whatever.”

The attackers that was standing behind started talking amongst themselves and one by one, they stood next to Hyun-Soo.

Then, they carefully started attacking.

‘Now they help after we’ve done all the work.’

Hyun-Soo thought it was sickening how they ran away to save their own lives, but he couldn’t really say much.

Anyways, he wasn’t officially participating in the hunt because he joined as a carrier, not a hunter.

“It’s going down…!”

After the attackers started attacking, or to be specific, after Hyun-Soo kept on throwing the pebbles at the white dot with all of his might, the monster went down.

The flower petals started falling off and the vines fell to the floor.

The attackers started cheering.

‘We somehow brought it down.’

He thought that they were going to die, but relief filled his body after realizing that he was going to live.

Hyun-Soo looked at the monster that he helped take down.

It was tiring and scary, but seeing it on the ground made him feel overwhelmed.

This is probably what it felt like to be proud.

He was the happiest after knowing that he was going to live.

While looking at the monster's dead body, Hyun-Soo noticed Choi Do-Won looking at him.

They briefly made eye contact.

Choi Do-Won's eyes were filled with complications.

He was certain that the energy field started decreasing once Hyun-Soo stepped in.

There was no way the tanker didn't notice this.

Things probably got complicated for him because the one that brought down the monster wasn't an attacker, but a carrier.

He seemed to have thought of something because he broke the eye contact.

"Good job everyone."

After taking in a deep breath, Choi Do-Won summoned everyone.

Excluding the crazy healer, Kim Yoo-Han, and the carriers, everyone else stood in front of Choi Do-Won.

According to the other carriers, as soon as Kim Yoo-Han saw the monster go down, he exited through the portal.

After the situation had been resolved, Hyun-Soo was filled with happiness.

It's only been a month since he's awakened as a hunter, but his head was filled with life issues.

The other attackers couldn't see the white dot.

He was sure that he was able to see the white dot because it was connected to a skill of his.

Seeing the energy field decrease the more he hit it, he knew it was the monster's weak spot.

'Interface!'

[Interface] [SS] [Inherent] [Exclusive]

Activation Status: 1.4%

As soon as he yelled out the skill name, it let out a cheerful sound and a semi-transparent window appeared in front of him.

As he looked at the skills list on the interface, he blinked his eyes and detailed information were displayed.

Hyun-Soo's eyes moved quickly as he read through it.

'It increased!'

When he first awoke, the interface's activation status was at one percent.

But now, it increased by 0.4 percent, making it 1.4%.

> Name: Kim Soo-Hyun (21)

> Rank: E

> ??

> Experience: 9%

> ??

> ??

> Acquired Skill List

[Interface] [SS]

[Skill Making] [D]

[Bead Threading] [F]

[Fast Calculation] [F]

[Mighty Throw] [F]

On top of that, his experience increased by nine percent.

By attacking the white dot, he was able to gain that experience.

Normally, when a carrier participates in a hunt, the most experience they'll receive is 0.5%.

This is based on F rank, so those that are E rank will receive less than 0.5%.

In that case, the amount of experience Hyun-Soo gained at once was amazing.

‘I wish it continued like this. Then that would be awesome.’

Now that he had an offensive skill, as long as he kept his class well-hidden, he didn’t have to get a job as a carrier or complete odd jobs.

With this amount of attack skill, he’ll be able to participate in any type of hunt.

The more experience he acquires, the faster his rank will increase and getting a job will be a lot easier.

Then, he’ll be able to make more money.

Up until now, it was his issue…no, poverty was his family’s issue and now, he’ll be able to escape it.

The saying, every cloud has a silver lining, was what popped into his head.

During that time, as the leader, Choi Do-Won cut open the Flower Spore’s body in front of everyone and acquired the Energy Stone.

‘It’s my first time seeing an Energy Stone.’

The Energy Stone that Choi Do-Won held in his hand as covered in the monster’s deep green fluid, but the part that wasn’t covered showed a transparent, grey crystal shape.

Ordinary people that didn’t have any knowledge about the hunter world would’ve thought it was a gem.

The hunters definitely knew it was an Energy Stone.

“Since we didn’t find any scrolls in the grey portal, we’ll disperse the cost of the Energy Stones.”

Even though they were a further away, he yelled in order to let everyone know.

“We’ll now begin the account transfer.”

Then, he started typing on his phone.

The weird thing was that no one said anything about Hyun-Soo.

‘Does that mean he won’t give any more than the fixed amount?’

His question was answered.

The attackers that received their share briefly looked at Hyun-Soo and walked towards the portal.

Since the carriers had to move the monster’s dead body and receive their pay afterwards, they stayed behind.

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure what to say.

‘Didn’t you see me attack the monster?’

‘Thanks to that crazy healer, we almost our lives and I’m the one that fixed the situation.’

He didn’t have the courage to say it.

On top of that, no one said anything about the healer.

He looked around.

Everyone looked tired and had a dissatisfied expression, but no one stepped up to say anything.

Since no one died during the hunt, they seemed to just want to stay quiet.

Before entering the portal, there was a rumor saying that Kim Yoo-Han was part of a high-ranked family and because of that rumor, he probably didn’t want to take any risks.

End.

Chapter 11 - <My Older Brother is a Hunter #1>

‘I’m sure he knows that I attacked. And I’m sure he knows that I’m the one that decreased the monster’s energy field.’

Despite of knowing that, he still didn’t say anything.

‘Is he…trying to act like he didn’t notice? Is it because I wasn’t an official hunter and participated as a carrier?’

As soon as he thought that, he was dispirited.

Even when they were almost done dispersing the Energy Stone between the official hunters, they felt like an idiot for hoping that he would get something.

He also expected for Choi Do-Won to say something to him.

Hyun-Soo thought that if it wasn’t for him, then they wouldn’t have been able to complete this hunt.

‘Do I get nothing? Really?’

Feeling that this was unfair, as soon as he looked at Choi Do-Won, he noticed him avoiding his gaze.

That meant that he was ashamed of it.

“Oh, Kim Soo-Hyun. You did well today. Carriers usually get paid after they leave the portal, but I”ll pay you right now.”

Thinking how absurd it was, as soon as Hyun-Soo was about to say something, they stopped him from talking.

It meant they didn’t want to hear it.

And then, he received a text that notified him of a deposit.

He received a lot more than what he was originally promised, but it wasn’t enough to satisfy Hyun-Soo.

“…..”

“.....”

Hyun-Soo just checked the text message and looked over at Choi Do-Won, but he didn’t say anything to him.

He knew.

Hyun-Soo knew.

Why Choi Do-Won was acting his way.

Why the attackers just glanced at him without saying anything as they left through the portal.

Class.

Skill.

Healer...

Hyun-Soo was just an ordinary carrier.

They felt that he wasn’t worthy enough to have a sense of justice.

None.

“Good...job, Kim Hyun-Soo. Please be careful on your way home.”

“.....”

Choi Do-Won just stood there for a while and then turned around.

As soon as he was about to exit through the portal.

“...I’m...sorry.”

“.....”

In the end, Choi Do-Won quietly apologized and then quietly disappeared.

That was probably the best he could do.

The fact that there weren’t any punishments for the hunter that messed up the hunt was really unusual.

But, no matter how unfair it was, there was nothing he could do about it.

He wanted to do something about it right now, but Hyun-Soo didn't have any power, experience or authority since he was just an ordinary carrier.

'...This won't be my last hunt anyways. Let's just be satisfied with the fact that I was able to check my potential.'

Hyun-Soo tried to make himself feel better that way.

But, he wasn't about to give up.

'I'll definitely rise up! No matter what!'

***

"You're early today."

Hyuna was supposed to be at school during this time. It's because they have an evening self-study session.

He came home, thinking that no would be there, but seeing someone greet him made him less tired and at the same time, he felt odd.

"Yeah, I wasn't feeling good today, so I decided to study at home."

Hyuna answered with a bright smile, but it felt like she was hiding something.

He didn't have any proof, but his guts told him that she was.

"...I see. Did you eat?"

"I wanted to eat with you so I waited! I made some stew. We just need to heat it up. Go wash up and sit down."

Hyun-Soo decided not to ask about it.

Since she was a smart and considerate girl, he was sure that she would tell him when she's ready.

Hyun-Soo took off the clothes that got dirty during the hunt, took a quick shower and changed into more comfortable clothes.

Before coming home, he did clean up the monster's fluid that was on his clothes and face, but he still felt uncomfortable.

He thought wearing shabby clothes to the hunt was a good decision.

If he wore decent clothes, then he would've felt bad about throwing them away.

'I can't wear this. I should throw it away.'

He lightly threw the hunting clothes next to the trash can and walked out to the living room that was connected to the kitchen. Hyuna had already set the table and was waiting for him.

"Hurry up and sit. You like Kimchi Stew, right? I even bought Spam and put it in. Try it."

"Spam? You bought it? Wasn't it expensive?"

Hyun only got 40 dollars as her allowance.

She rarely asked for more, so she was really spending 40 dollars a month.

After seeing Hyun-Soo getting surprised, Hyuna laughed sheepishly.

"It's nothing when compared to how hard you work because of me, so this is the least I could do. I still have a bit of allowance money left, so don't worry about and just enjoy he food."

Hyuna said it as if it was nothing, but Hyun-Soo felt bad.

He was pretty busy due to the part-time jobs he had, but he honestly wasn't the best older brother.

When he was younger, he was a troublemaker and when he got older, he matured, but didn't graduate college due to the fact that he always went out and got part-time jobs.

He wasn't really interested in studying and due to his situation, he couldn't go...no, it's just he didn't want to do.

In their current situation, unless Hyuna came home early from school, he wouldn't even be able to see her.

He wasn't even the nicest brother either.

Like all other guys, he felt embarrassed when trying to express with words.

Because of that, Hyun-Soo never understood why Hyuna kept saying that he was a good brother.

Rather than a good brother, he thought that maybe Hyuna saw him in a good light to make her think that way.

Spam wasn't expensive and valuable.

But, the important thing was that she probably spent a lot of her allowance money.

Hyun-Soo understood Hyuna's feeling.

"It's delicious."

"Heh heh. Glad to hear it."

Adding the spicy broth to the rice, he mixed it and when he ate it, he felt his stomach get warm.

After the awakening, he did work out to raise his stamina, but since he's been running around all day, he was really tired.

There's no way this food wouldn't taste delicious.

On top of that, his sister prepared the food.

Hyun-Soo gulped down all the food that was set before him.

He washed the dishes.

Hyuna insisted on doing it, but he couldn't let her since she cooked for him.

He then realized that this was Hyuna's characteristic.

It was highly possible that this was what she was hiding when he felt something was off.

“Okay, you’re going to drink Barley Tea, right?”

Seeing Hyuna in a nervous state, Hyun-Soo first offered a glass of water.

He wasn’t sure what she wanted to say, but looked really nervous and he wanted her to calm down.

Hyun-Soo also poured some water and sat across the same table they were sitting at during dinner.

“Hey….Hyun-Soo, I…have something I need to tell you.”

After gulping several times, Hyuna finally spoke.

“Take your time. What is it?”

Hyuna told herself that she should say it as soon as possible and spoke after looking at Hyun-Soo.

“Hyun-Soo, I…don’t want to go to college.”

“Huh?”

Hyun-Soo thought he misheard her.

However, after seeing Hyuna’s nervous face and thinking back to what she just said, he knew heard it right.

“…What do you mean? Why don’t you want to go to college?”

She had good grades and a high entrance exam score, so why didn’t she want to go to college?

Being a hunter was known to be the best job, but this was an exception.

Technically, it couldn’t be considered a job since there were those that could be a hunter and those that couldn’t.

Excluding the hunters, the jobs that put you in a good spot require a degree. On top of that, there are those that require

certain licenses and know a foreign language.

That's why, in order to get a decent job, graduating from college was a requirement But, after hearing that she didn't want to go to college, Hyun-Soo became speechless.

"Why don't you want to go to college? Is it because you're having a hard time with your studies?"

He asked because he always felt bad about not being able to send her to an after school program or even get her a tutor, but Hyuna shook her head.

"No, my homeroom teacher said that their junior is running a business and recommended a job to me."

"What? Instead of writing a college recommendation, they recommended a job to you? Your homeroom teacher did?"

Hyun-Soo had a headache after hearing that her homeroom recommended a job to a girl that had good grades.

"N-no, Hyun-Soo. It's not like that. I was just curious so I asked."

"Why would you ask something like that? I told you I would help you with your college tuition."

When Hyun-Soo said that, Hyuna's eyes became red.

Moments later, tears filled up her eyes.

"I-I just felt really bad about that...I didn't like how you, mom and dad were working so hard to send me to college....I just wanted to graduate and help around the house, rather than being a burden."

She tried her best to stay calm, but due to her sensitive personality, Hyuna ended up crying.

Seeing his sister cry made things complicated.

He was wondering what she was contemplating about, but it seemed like it was something she shouldn't have worried over.

She was too caring.

That was a problem too.

‘I wish she would be a bit more selfish and dream bigger like the other kids her age.’

Hyun-Soo experienced a similar situation when he was in school.

Ever since she was little, she was taught to be respectful.

Now, she could be a bit more selfish, but she was trying to become an adult too quickly.

The problem was that Hyuna was too young to be an adult.

Seeing Hyuna crying hard while confessing her feelings made Hyun-Soo let out a heavy sigh.

‘I wasn’t going to say anything until things became stable, but should I just say it now?’

Ever since he awoke, his life as a hunter was like a rollercoaster.

Because of that, he wanted to observe a bit more before saying anything.

However, after seeing Hyuna’s face filled with sadness and worry, he felt bad. He felt that he needed to say it in order to calm her down.

He needed to say it now.

Hyun-Soo took a deep breath and started talking.

“Hyuna, I’m wanting for you to go to college. You know how hard it is if you don’t have a college degree. I want you to live a more comfortable life. I know people don’t automatically get a job even if they do graduate, but I believe that you’ll do well.”

“But, Hyun-Soo…”

Hyuna tried to intercept, but Hyun-Soo shook his head and stopped her.

“Also, mom, dad and I don’t think of it as a sacrifice. If you do well, then our family is doing well. Were you going to ignore us if things worked out well for you?”

I asked jokingly, but she shook her small head.

“Also…”

‘This is actually making me nervous.’

Hyun-Soo took another deep breath.

“It’s not a burden at all. I can send you to do college without any issues. That’s because…I became a hunter. I have a lot of money.”

‘To be specific, I’m expecting to get a lot.’

I’m not sure when that day will be, but as long as I’ve awoken as a hunter, I’ll get paid a lot more than the part-time jobs that I did.

“Re-really? You became a hunter? You’ve awoken?”

“Yup.”

As soon as I nodded my head, Hyuna’s large eyes became larger.

<My Older Brother is a Hunter #1> End.

Chapter 12 - <My Older Brother is a Hunter #2>

Tears started dropping.

Hyuna lunged into Hyun-Soo's arms while tears rolled down her face.

"That's great. Congratulations Hyun-Soo! It's really awesome!"

Hyun-Soo patted her head while she was still in his arms.

"Seeing you cry in my arms makes me think you're still a baby."

Hyuna was always calm and never expressed her feeling because she thought it would burden other people. Seeing her cry like this in his arms surprised him.

The siblings hugged each other for a long time.

It took some time for Hyuna to calm down.

It was obvious that she had been contemplating about different things.

As she talked to Hyun-Soo, her emotions became stronger and that's probably how Hyun-Soo became a hunter.

As Hyun-Soo joked around about how a big girl like her was crying, Hyuna playfully frowned at him.

When he asked what was so good about him being a hunter, Hyuna replied with a smile by saying that he fulfilled his dream.

"...Hyun-Soo, does that mean you don't have to do part-time jobs anymore?"

"Yeah, I told you, I'm a hunter now."

"He he...that's a relief. It's great."

As soon as Hyun-Soo told her that he became a hunter, Hyuna kept on saying how great it was and smiled.

Hyuna knew that when Hyun-Soo took the proficiency test, he was placed in the superior group.

She stayed within Hyun-Soo's arms for a long time and made small comments.

It was mostly about the hunter.

The word 'hunter' became taboo within the family, but now that Hyun-Soo became one, it didn't matter anymore.

For Hyuna, when she took the first proficiency test, she didn't get accepted because she didn't have the talent, so she didn't know anything about the hunter.

As he answered all the questions that she had, it was time for them to sleep.

While they were talking, Hyuna's eyes were almost completely closed.

Since she was emotionally and physically exhausted, Hyun-Soo thought it would be best for her to sleep so he told her to go to bed.

The house became quiet as soon as Hyuna left to go to sleep.

'I feel somewhat proud...'

Even though he wasn't part of a major class, the fact that his family member was genuinely happy for him made him even happier.

The unfairness that he felt for being a subordinate slowly faded away.

A smile appeared on his face as soon as he thought about Hyuna's happy expression.

His caring younger sister was happier about him fulfilling his dream rather than it helping them improve their living condition.

It was a minor change, but this change made him really happy.

He felt a bit frustrated at the thought of trying to settle down, but

he decided to enjoy the moment.

‘I’m sure it’ll work out.’

He felt a bit uneasy about the way things ended with that crazy healer, but Hyun-Soo tried his best to ignore it.

‘Maybe I can participate in the next hunt as an attacker.’

An attacker gets paid more than a carrier.

It was a matter of whether they’ll accept a beginner, but he had a skill that was beneficial to him.

It was the bright, white dot that he saw during the battle.

The white light was definitely its weak point and for some reason, only he was able to see it and attack it.

If the others could see it as well, they would’ve attacked it as well, but Hyun-Soo was the only that was able to see it and attack it.

The result wasn’t what he expected, but he earned a lot through the hunt.

He still felt that it was unfair and gritted his teeth.

‘I’ll rise to the top. Just you wait.’

He decided to be satisfied with just that.

The problem was that even if he was satisfied, it didn’t mean that others were.

Hyun-Soo didn’t know at the time.

***

Hyun-Soo decided to tell his parents about awakening as a hunter.

Luckily, his father wasn’t required to be on duty today, so he decided to tell them in the morning after they came home from work and rested for the remainder of the night.

At first, his parents were surprised by the news and didn't know what to say. Moments later, they managed to calm down and started talking.

"Congratulations, my son..."

Hyun-Soo felt his mother's dry hands gently pat the back of his hand.

His mother cried and his father's eyes turned red.

His parents were crying tears of joy as they congratulated Hyun-Soo.

They always thought that it was their fault that Hyun-Soo didn't become a hunter and felt bad about it.

Hyun-Soo knew it as well.

He told them several times that it wasn't true, but they wouldn't accept it.

They were finally relieved from this pain.

For about 10 years, his parents carried this pain within their hearts and with the news of Hyun-Soo being a hunter, it slowly made them feel better.

Hyun-Soo gave his parents the money that he prepared for them.

"Here you go. It's the money I earned as a hunter."

Technically, he earned it as a carrier, but if he wasn't a hunter, then he wouldn't be able to enter the portal and get paid for it.

"For us?"

"Hunters earn a pretty good amount. I'm still a beginner so I've only managed to get paid this much, but once I settle down, I'll be able to get paid more. It's not much, but it's for you."

"You earned it so you should use it. We don't need it. We work and earn our own money. It seemed like hunters need a lot of money for their gear. Use it towards that."

“Yeah, it’s fine. You use it.”

Despite of their son becoming a hunter, they didn’t want to become a burden.

Going against what his parents told him, Hyun-Soo placed the envelope that contained 500,000 won in his father’s hand.

He earned 700,000 won, but before giving the money to his parents, he first gave 200,000 won to his sister, Hyuna.

At first, he wondered whether it was too much for her, but assumed that girls her age received a similar amount as their allowance.

There were probably food she wanted to eat and clothes she wanted to wear, so it was enough.

With this, he was doing his job as the older brother.

He always felt bad about how hard his parents were working and how late they would always come home. In order to support their family, he would forcefully go to work despite of how tired their body was.

“Since I became a hunter, you guys can take it easy and not work as much. As soon as I settle down, I’ll be able to earn more.”

“No, we can’t do that. We’re still young and energetic. We’re not that old that we should stop working.”

They declined his suggestion, but looked at him with a proud expression.

It’s because they didn’t want to burden him.

Knowing how they felt, Hyun-Soo didn’t say anything and just nodded his head.

‘It’s only 500 dollars for now, but when I earn a lot more, then they won’t be able to decline.’

As of right now, the most he could give them was 500 dollars.

But, once he earns a lot more and prove that they can stop working, then they'll probably agree.

"It's nothing dangerous, right?"

"Yes, it's nothing dangerous of right now."

"Okay, but always be careful. It's great that you became a hunter, but as a mother, I'm still a bit worried."

"Your mother is right. It's best to avoid any dangerous situations."

"Okay."

While they were happy and proud that he achieved his dream of becoming a hunter, they knew that it was a really dangerous job, so they couldn't help but be worried for him.

His parents looked at each other and smiled. They patted Hyun-Soo's shoulder and stood up to get ready for work.

Hyun-Soo felt how proud they were and how much they trusted him as they patted his shoulder. This made Hyun-Soo feel content.

Even as they were leaving for work, they had a big smile on their face.

After his parents left, Hyun-Soo headed to an internet café.

On the day he got hired as a carrier, he quit all the part-time and side jobs.

It would put him in a difficult situation if he got a message about a job while he was working at his part-time job or trying to fill his quota for his side job.

He felt it was only right to quit his jobs and work as a full-time hunter.

'But, the computer at home is so old…'

In order to apply for a job, he needed a fast computer or a phone, but he didn't have either.

His phone was pretty old so if he tried to do any work on it, it would slow down.

He regretted quitting his job at the internet café because in order to get a decent job, he needed decent connection for them to contact him.

He walked into a decent internet café and opened the Hunter Net at one of the computers.

Since he told Hyuna and his parents about it, he had to make more money.

He had to make enough money as soon as possible so that his parents didn't have to work so hard anymore and his sister wouldn't talk about getting a job.

'I've had enough of being poor! I'm going to start making so much money that I get tired of it!'

***

People started posting openings early in the morning.

There were also a lot of posts that filled up right away.

Hyun-Soo concentrated and carefully read through the posts that appeared.

Every time he saw the word "carrier" appear, he quickly clicked the post.

"Applying as a carrier. I'm an E rank that has an offensive skill. I'm able to assist in attacking when needed! (Additional payment is not required). Kim Hyun-Soo 000-0000-0000."

It has been over 10 minutes since he sent messages to posts that he was able to apply to.

'...This is odd.'

Hyun-Soo felt that something was off.

It was a totally different feeling from when he was first hired as a

carrier.

Most of the carriers are F ranks, so E ranks were treated differently and he even received a lot of replies.

He even got replies when he didn't have an offensive skill.

There could've been other hunters that messaged earlier than him, but it was weird that he didn't get any replies during the last 10 minutes.

'Am I just unlucky?'

Since it was still early, Hyun-Soo decided to continue looking.

However, one hour would pass and then two and eventually, he thought that it wasn't just luck.

The thought of them teaming up together and not replying to him crossed his mind.

'No way...I'm just imagining it. I'm sure I was lucky with the first one. I'm sure.'

While Hyun-Soo was thinking about this, his time had ended at the café and when he extended his time once more, he received a message.

"You have received a new message."

"Oh! Finally!"

Hyun-Soo yelled so loud that other people could hear him and quickly opened the message.

He was really nervous and felt uneasy all this time.

He yelled because he felt relived.

However, Hyun-Soo's bright face darkened and a weird expression could be seen on his face.

"Know your place."

No matter how he read it, it wasn't an approved message.

Feeling really bad about the message, he was about to ignore it, but he decided to write back instead.

“What are you talking about? Was I out of place for applying as an E rank carrier with an offensive skill?”

He wondered if they were actually looking for hunter instead of carriers, but no matter how he read it, it was insulting.

Moments later, he received a reply.

“I heard you went up against a healer when you’re nothing but a carrier. Who would hire someone like you? Stop wasting your time and apply to some manual labor jobs.”

<My Older Brother is a Hunter #2>

Chapter 13 - <A Step Back, But – #1>

"..."

He screamed at first due to being excited about receiving a reply, but now, he was at a loss for word.

That healer was the one that caused trouble, not him.

The leader, attackers and the other carriers knew.

He wasn't sure how the rumor started spreading like, but in less than 24 hours, a total stranger told him that he should know his place.

Since the healer class had the least amount of people, they built their own network. When a healer has issues with another class they always side with the people that have the same class as them.

However, since Hyun-Soo was new to this world, he failed to notice it.

It would've been great if it was specified somewhere, but seeing as how people know of these things through word of mouth, it was impossible for Hyun-Soo to know since he didn't have any connections.

On top of that, he was at a disadvantage since everyone was always siding with the healers.

It was hard to replace a healer with another class, so they didn't have a choice but to side with them.

It would've been a different story if someone died, but this was reality.

The healer himself misunderstood the situation, which made him spread rumors to other healers and those healers told other hunters around them.

They didn't exactly tell others to not hire Kim Hyun-Soo for a hunt, but once a healer dislikes a certain hunter, there's a high

chance that other hunters wouldn't hire them.

It didn't matter who was at fault.

It was common for them to not ask questions about the issue.

If a healer found out that Kim Hyun-Soo was part of the hunt, they'll most likely leave and it'll be hard to recruit another healer.

'Crazy bastard...!'

Hyun-Soo thought it was unfair.

It's because he was unaware that something like this might happen.

He realized what was going on after reading the message.

Hyun-Soo sent another message asking where he heard that kind of nonsense from, but he only got a message that said that his account was blocked.

'Is it because of what happened yesterday? Really? What happened yesterday was that healer's fault because he misunderstood.'

After receiving this one message, he understood why he wasn't getting any replies for hours.

His assumption during the first hour was right.

Hyun-Soo felt uneasy as he continued sending more messages.

This time, he sent a message as an attacker, but he wasn't getting any replies.

In order to satisfy the small number of healers, the hunters didn't take any chances.

Hyun-Soo tried sending another message to one that he already sent, but he got the same message saying that his account has been blocked.

"Damn it!"

It would become a big problem if this continued.

‘I can’t stop here!’

Hyun-Soo thought about proving his innocence by asking the carrier that he worked with, but he shook his head.

He wasn’t the one that caused trouble in the beginning.

The carriers that worked with him knew, but would they testify for him?

They were the ones that told me not to complain about it to the leader.

Would those kinds of people have the guts to tell the truth to the other hunters?

It would be a relief if they didn’t sell him out.

‘I shouldn’t expect anything from them.’

In conclusion, there wasn’t anything he could do to prove his innocence.

Even if everything he said were true, they would choose to listen to the healer than an ordinary carrier.

‘Why is my life filled with so many issues?’

If his life was really a rollercoaster, then he probably would’ve gotten sick due to the constant ups and downs.

‘Is that crazy idiot the one that’s ruining my life? I need to go up higher. I can’t let a crazy bastard like him ruin my life. No, I had no idea I had to be careful of the idiotic hunters and the monster that we were hunting.’

I have to be careful of the enemies within the group.

In the end, Hyun-Soo wasn’t able to get accepted in a hunt and ended up wasting money at the internet café.

Since he quit all of his part-time jobs, there was nothing for him to do once he got home.

‘When I make money next time, I’ll have to get a new computer.’

The money that he spent at the café was a waste and if he had a computer at home, he could use this time to continue searching for a job.

If he found a job and participated in a hunt, then he would be able to work again.

And if he worked hard during the hunt, then it might resolve all the bad rumors about him.

Hyun-Soo didn’t give up.

If he felt discouraged over something like this, then he would’ve given up on life a long time ago and probably would’ve just stayed home.

When it became night time, other family members started arriving home one by one.

Hyuna was the first one to come home, so he sent her to her room to study and two hours later, his mother came home.

“Welcome home.”

“Did you have a good day? Nothing dangerous happened?”

“Yeah, nothing dangerous happened. It hasn’t been that long since I became a hunter, so there aren’t any dangerous jobs yet.”

Hyun-Soo couldn’t tell her that he couldn’t find a job and ended up staying home.

His mother told him to be careful and handed him an item she brought home.

“What is this?”

“It’s nothing special, but there was some food left over at the restaurant so I brought it. I can’t hold a party, but I should’ve at least bought you some delicious food…”

“No, it smells really delicious!”

As soon as he removed the plate's cover that was inside a black plastic bag, a spicy smell entered his nostrils.

"I'm sorry that I can't congratulate with a grand party. Call Hyuna and eat together. I'm not feeling so well, so I'll be going to sleep early. I'm sorry. Enjoy the food, okay?"

"You're not feeling well?"

"Yeah, but I'm sure it's just my age. Don't worry and eat."

Despite of her saying that it wasn't anything serious, Hyun-Soo noticed her exhausted face.

Of course she would be tired after working and coming home late, but she seemed more exhausted than usual.

He called Hyuna and set the table, but while doing so, he couldn't help but watch his mom.

Why did he want to become a hunter?

There were a lot of reasons, but his biggest reason was money.

Then why did he want to earn money?

It was so that they can live well.

With who?

His family.

But, if his mother was sick, then his top priority of wanting to become a hunter would change.

Aside from that, his mother never said she was tired or that she wasn't feeling well, so hearing her say that made him worry even more.

"Hyun-Soo, where are you going?"

After taking a couple of bites, he stood up and Hyuna asked while eating the delicious food.

"I'm going to go check up on mom. I'm getting worried."

Hyun-Soo quietly opened the bedroom door and called his mother. Luckily, she wasn't already asleep so she sat up from her bed.

"Are you feeling really sick?"

"Did you eat a lot? Why aren't you eating more?"

His mother was more worried about how he didn't eat much than her condition and her face showed it.

"I ate a lot. Are you sure you don't have to go to the hospital?"

"Well...the restaurant has been busy lately, so I don't have time to take a break. I think it's just a minor cold, so I'm sure I'll get better after getting some rest."

He knew that his mother barely had any decent rest. Her job didn't have any holidays, so her days off was very erratic.

They did take turns taking the day off, but his mother spent that day off by working.

'Even if I told her to go to the hospital, she'll just say that it's a waste of money and that it'll be difficult for her to get time off.'

She was the type to spend money on her children, but would think of it as a waste if it were spent on her.

Hyun-Soo understood how his mother felt, but at the same time, he felt frustrated.

No matter how hard he tried to get her to go, he knew his mother wouldn't, causing him to let out a small sigh.

"Let me at least massage you. They say that if you massage the stiff areas, it'll help relieve them. Where would you like me to massage you?"

When she has a cold and her body is aching, there are times when massaging her helps out.

Since she does the same work every day, she only uses the same

muscles and the other parts of her body become stiff.

It's similar to massaging the back of the neck and shoulders when a person has a serious headache.

"It's nice to get a massage from a son that's a hunter. Be easy with the massage, okay?"

"Don't worry. I'll make sure you feel better."

Hyun-Soo looked at his mother's back.

His mother was smaller than Hyun-Soo in terms of size, but for some reason, she looked even smaller than before.

Her shoulders looked weak, her messy hair was tied back because she couldn't get it cut, and she had white hair mixed between her black hair.

'She's gotten old...'

Before getting married, she was raised in a nice environment so she didn't have to work, but once her family had some financial difficulties, she started working whenever she had the time.

Her smooth hands became dry and rough and her face made her look older than her actual age.

Hyun-Soo knew.

No matter what he said, she wasn't going to quit her job.

Normally, she's weak and calm, but when needed, she becomes stern and strong.

'I need to let her rest...'

Once he told her that he became a hunter and suggested that she take a break from work, she rejected on the spot.

If he had a lot of money now and he was going to earn a lot of money in the future, then he would've forcefully taken his mother to the hospital.

However, even if he became a hunter, he didn't have any money

and it was unclear how things would work out for him.

He was certain that if he forced her to go to the hospital and they ended up having to pay a large bill, his mother would feel burdened by it and would work twice as hard to pay it off.

First, he had to be in a steady position.

She would only quit her job if he showed that with his earning, she didn't have to work anymore.

He wasn't completely sure, but he had to at least have a steady income.

He couldn't do anything in his current situation.

Because of that crazy healer, he was currently in a difficult situation and he wasn't sure how to resolve it.

If he resolved that, he could at least get a job as a carrier.

'I wish she wouldn't get sick. She can't even take a break because of me. I wish she would remain healthy. Please stay healthy for a long time.'

He started massaging her shoulder and back and put pressure in his fingers when he was massaging her waist.

He didn't know anything about the body's blood circulation or the bones, but hearing his mother say that it felt good made him feel better.

Hyun-Soo started massaging her lightly, but he started focusing on different parts of her body.

He started doing massages that he briefly saw on TV.

He continuously massaged her head, neck and shoulders.

Those three places seemed to be in the worst condition.

Hyun-Soo put pressure in those locations with his fingers. He gave it his all while massaging his mother.

<A Step Back, But – #1> End.

Chapter 14 - <A Step Back, But – #2>

He hoped that by being a hunter, his mother would recover a bit, but in his current state, he could only wish for it.

'She fell asleep.'

Thankfully, due to his effort and wish, his mother fell asleep with a more relaxed expression.

That also meant that her body weary and exhausted, making him feel uneasy.

As soon as he told himself that he would get a job no matter what, – Ring!

"The skill, Low Level Health Recovery [F] has been created."

"…..?"

– Ring!

"You have exceeded the maximum number of Skill Slots."

"Number of Skill Slots: 5"

"Will you delete your previous skill and acquire the new one?"

"Skills Available for Deletion: Bead Threading [F] Fast Calculation [F] Mighty Throw [F]."

Hyun-Soo doubted his eyes.

It's because it wasn't possible for a skill to be made right now.

'What the…?'

He had his doubts, but without realizing it, his finger was already pressing the "Yes" button that was displayed on the semi-transparent screen.

After, the list of skills appeared again and Hyun-Soo chose the Bead Threading skill.

"Bead Threading [F] skill will be deleted."

“You have acquired the Low Level Health Recovery [F] skill.”

Hyun-Soo quickly pulled the interface window.

Semi-transparent screens appeared before him.

Among the skills that he had, he checked the skill that he just acquired.

[Low Level Health Recovery] [F]

The speed of recovery will be increased by 1.5%.

“.....”

He didn’t expect much since it was a F rank skill.

But still, since it was a recovery skill, Hyun-Soo felt encouraged.

He always wondered if skills related to healing could be created. His curiosity was answered through this skill.

Since his rank was low, he could only create E or F ranked skills, but if the skill making rank increased and he was able to create rare skills, then he could create an infinite amount of skills.

The speed of recovery was pretty slow, but Hyun-Soo still felt satisfied at the fact that a healing skill was created.

However, it was a skill that he didn’t really need.

‘I won’t even be able to call myself a healer since it only increases the healing rate and doesn’t actually heal.’

It seemed like it was a passive skill since it automatically activates without having to use the skill.

It was a healing skill, but if he were to apply as a healer for a hunt, then he would definitely get everyone killed.

It was the same thing as that crazy healer that messed up the hunt just because he misunderstood.

Then, Hyun-Soo saw his mother sleeping on the bed.

‘Since I have the ability to create skills, it’s obvious that I would get the skills, but it would’ve been better if my mother had this ability instead.’

Hyun-Soo felt a bit disappointed.

His mother needed the healthy recovery skill more than Hyun-Soo.

He was still young and no matter how exhausted he was, he would recover after a good night’s sleep.

His mother on the other hand had a weak body since she was young and since she did physical labor, there’s no way she would recover with just sleep alone.

That’s why she’s always exhausted and it shows how sick her body is.

‘I have no use for it, but if I could give it to my mom, that would be great.’

Filled with disappointed, Hyun-Soo just started at the semi-transparent screen while biting his lips.

Even if it only increased by 1.5%, he knew that it was better than his mother having nothing.

The skill was made because of his mother and yet, it was ironic how he couldn’t give it to the person that needed it.

It wasn’t like there was something he could do, so he kept on sighing and as soon as he was about to close the interface.

– Ring!

“The skill, Skill Transfer [D] has been created.”

“You have exceeded the maximum number of Skill Slots.”

“Number of Skill Slots: 5”

“Will you delete your previous skill and acquire the new one?”

“Skills Available for Deletion: Fast Calculation [F] Mighty Throw

[F] Low Level Health Recovery [F].”

‘Huh?’

He’s been surprised several times today.

He hasn’t created that many skills yet, but up until now, there hasn’t been a time where skills were created consecutively.

After he acquired Mighty Throw, he got frustrated because new skills weren’t created after that, which caused him to do useless tasks.

On top of that, it was a D rank skill.

‘Skill Transfer? No way…’

Feeling hopeful, Hyun-Soo pointed his finger towards the bright Yes button.

When he pressed the button, another notification popped up.

– Ring!

“Fast Calculation [F] skill has been deleted.”

“You have acquired the Skill Transfer [D] skill.”

Just seeing the name made his heart skip a beat.

‘Confirm!’

When he shouted confirm in his head, a semi-transparent window appeared before him.

[Skill Transfer] [D] [Inherent] [Solo]

Transfer the created skill to another person.

Depending on the skill’s rank, the transferrable skill’s rank may change.

Currently Possible Transfer Rank: F, E

Since it’s an inherent and solo skill, it’s impossible to copy.

“Wow…”

As soon as he checked the description, a high-pitched squeak escaped Hyun-Soo’s lips without him knowing.

When he saw it, there was something that he felt.

‘This is…?’

It felt as if he hit the jackpot.

When he didn’t know any better, he would be happy just from seeing the letters, SS, but would be disappointed when he realized it wasn’t anything special.

It’s only been a week since he awakened as a hunter and after getting slightly involved in the hunter’s world, he started thinking more about it.

<A Step Back, But – #2> End.

Chapter 15 - <Gold Thread – #1>

If transferring a skill really was possible, then he could definitely use it to his advantage.

If skills can be transferred to an ordinary person, then it's possible for him to transfer it to a hunter.

It was easier said than done.

He could use this to earn money.

Scrolls were sometimes found in high-leveled portals, but instead of using parchment paper, he could set a system where hunters can acquire the same power.

He wasn't sure why scrolls were often found in portals, but many scholars assumed that when the monsters that ruled the portals either died or was killed, their powers are compressed and are transformed into scrolls.

Meaning, the scrolls contain the same power that the monsters used.

However, since there are varieties of skills that are contained in the scrolls, they couldn't find proof of its origin so it has always remained a mysterious.

For those that lack in skills, finding a scroll is like winning the lottery.

Skill levels are increased the more they're used, but there are people that are either too weak to use the skills or their skills are useless.

The latter usually applied to the hybrid class.

Even if one had a powerful skill, it was better to have many useful skills since being a hunter was a dangerous job.

Usually, skills that increased an attacker's attack speed or increasing the casting skill of a magic user...

On top of that, when comparing a hunter that has one skill to another that had two skills, the hunter with two has a better chance at attacking efficiently.

They'll gain experience and know how to handle certain situations, but there are those that recruit people just so they can have more power.

That's why, depending on the power and category of the scroll, the difference in cost can vary greatly. The rarity of the scroll can change its value as well.

For that reason, Hyun-Soo thought of the Skill Maker and the Skill Transfer skills were valuable. Depending on the skills that are made, there could be endless possibilities.

Like the Low Level Health Recover y skill, if it was part of the healing category and had assist effects, then he would be able to earn a lot of money from it.

But, in order to do that, the recovery percentage had to be higher.

It was impossible for him to participate in a hunt, so he had to use the time he had.

It wouldn't hurt to try.

Hyun-Soo believed that this method would have potential.

The more he increased the creation and transfer ranks, the better chance he had.

'I sort of have an idea of what I need to do in order to create a skill...'

One the requirements that Hyun-Soo figured out was 'repetitive actions.'

When he earned the Bead Threading and Fast Calculation skill, he was constantly threading the beads and constantly calculating.

Yesterday, as he was continuously massing his mother, strangely

enough, the skill was created.

But, it seemed like something else was required within that repetitive act.

‘This is a bit vague…’

In order to obtain an offensive skill, he went to a mountain and continuously sliced a tree with a knife. But seeing as how he didn’t obtain one, it meant that doing the same act over and over wasn’t the only thing he needed to do.

While doing the same thing over and over, there was something else that needed to fulfill while doing so. That was something he hasn’t figured out yet.

It was a small hint, so it was better than no knowing anything at all.

It was better than going at it blindfolded.

Since he knew the basics, he decided to quickly put his plan into action.

“Won’t it make you tired if you keep massaging me like this?”

“It’s fine, but are you feeling better?”

“Yeah, your massages are making me feel better already.”

When his mother came home, Hyun-Soo would continuously massage her.

“The Low Level Health Recovery [F] skill has been created.”

The same skill appeared again.

Once a skill has been made, he would check the recovery percentage and would continue creating another one.

Hyun-Soo read books about massaging the body and would do them when his mother came home.

Every time the same skill appeared, and the more his massaging skill increased, the recovery percentage increased as well.

The recovery skill was now at a percentage that Hyun-Soo was satisfied with.

[Low Level Health Recovery] [F]

The health recovery rate has been increased by 7%.

Once it hit 7%, it wouldn't increase. No matter how much he studied and massaged his mother, nothing happened.

It seemed like the maximum percentage for an F rank was seven.

He transferred the first skill that he obtained to his mother and the skill he acquired after was transferred to Hyuna.

Hyun-Soo thought about making another one for himself, but his skill slots were already full.

Other than Interface, Skill Making, Skill Transfer and Mighty Throw, he had one slot left.

Interface, Skill Making and Skill Transfer were his fixed skills, so they couldn't be erased. In the end, he could only use two slots.

He thought that Mighty Throw might come in handy later, so he decided to keep it, which meant he only had one slot left. He decided it would be best to leave it empty so that he can create more skills.

'That's unfortunate...'

He felt disappointed, but he decided not to acquire the recovery skill.

Instead, he decided to put his plan into action.

It was skill selling!

If it was a skill that can increase one's recovery rate, anyone would want to have it.

There's usually a healer within the group, but if both the tanker and the attacker were in a dangerous situation, the healer tends to

focus more on the tanker than the attacker.

That's why, it would appeal to attackers that the healers often ignore or to the tankers that want to upgrade their stats.

Then, one day.

"Phew, finally..."

Hyun-Soo accessed the Hunter Net and went into the category where other hunters sold weapons and items.

He clicked 'New Post' and started typing while his hands were shaking.

After typing, erasing and editing his post several times.

He finally submitted his post.

Title: Selling Health Recovery Skill

Content: Selling health recovery skill

I'm selling a skill that increases your healthy recovery rate by 7%.

It's a passive skill and doesn't require you to use any other skills.

I prefer a fast, clean transaction.

Direct transaction, no negotiations.

Please tell me your desired price.

Thank you.

While reading the post again to make sure there weren't any errors, other people were gathering to Hyun-Soo's post.

Since a scroll was somewhat rare, there were definitely going to be people that misunderstand the post as someone selling a scroll.

There were already replies on Hyun-Soo's post.

– Is this for real?

– Really?

– You shouldn't troll in this category

– Wow, are you really selling a scroll?

– Is this real?

– If this is real, I'll buy it. Please call me. ooo-oooo-oooo

– It sounds fake. If it was real, who would sell it here?

Scrolls related to healing was rarer than other ordinary scrolls, which is probably why a lot of people were doubting about the post.

Scrolls that had a limited amount and had an effective skill were normally sold in secrecy.

Moments later, there were posts that doubted Hyun-Soo.

– This bastard is the same carrier that got kicked out recently for talking back to a healer. He's a liar.

How can a carrier acquire a scroll?

- Wow, really? It did seem like he was making it up.
- Is there proof?
- The rumor already spread between the healers and tankers.

Hyun-Soo now knew why he wasn't getting hired.

He assumed just from the reply he received the other day, but he didn't know the rumor spread to the tankers as well.

'Tankers and healers are the best class so of course they would know.'

Hyun-Soo was at a loss for words after reading the comments.

There were comments that questioned his motives.

However, despite of the nasty comments, he received messages from others with their desired price.

"If you really have a recovery skill scroll, I'll buy it. ooo-oooo-oooo."

"Do you have two scrolls?"

“2000.”

“1.5 million.”

There were some that just wrote their desired price and there were others that left their phone number.

It was the totally opposite situation from when he was applying for jobs.

During that time, he was so nervous that he wouldn’t get any replies.

People were still posting negative comments on the thread, but seeing his inbox fill up made Hyun-Soo happy.

‘Is this what it felt like to be on the other end?’

This is why people with skills had the advantage.

I had the power the create skills.

It was really amazing.

When I first became a hunter, I didn’t really know about it and spent my energy on useless things.

‘Now that I think about it, I guess I should thank the healer for putting me in this position. But it’s not like I was grateful towards him.’

If that guy didn’t spread weird rumors, he would’ve still been applying to carrier jobs and sending messages in the hopes that he would get hired.

He probably would’ve continued mimicking the major class without really realizing his potential skills.

He would’ve been blinded about his skills.

‘I discovered this skill thanks to the guy that I was trying to get revenge on…pretty funny.’

What that crazy healer did was a blessing in disguise.

But, he wasn't a bit thankful towards him.

When he read the nasty comments with that mindset, he didn't feel anything.

"Let's see...who should I contact?"

After reading the messages in his inbox, he replied to the person that offered the highest amount.

As soon as he sent it, he got another message from the same person.

"I want to make a deal now. If you tell me the time and location, I'll be there."

'Better for me.'

Hyun-Soo quickly sent them the time and location.

Hyun-Soo would leave the internet café without filling the entire hour, which made him think the money was a waste, but he decided to pay 1,000 won anyways.

Later, he'll be able to earn hundreds, no, thousand times more.

That's why spending this much was nothing.

Also, when he earns enough money, he was planning on purchasing a computer, so he won't need to spend money at the café.

'I won't be spending any more money here.'

After Hyun-Soo arrived at the location, he took out his phone.

A male not too far from him picked up his p hone.

The male looked around while on the phone and when he saw Hyun-Soo he approached him with an uneasy expression.

"You're really selling a scroll, right? It's not a joke?"

"If I was joking, I wouldn't even make the effort to come out here."

“Oh, sorry. Recovery scrolls are extremely hard to obtain so I came out hurriedly, but honestly, I wasn’t sure if this was real or not.”

Hyun-Soo understood.

When he researched, scrolls were extremely hard to acquire.

Excluding the ones that were pretty easy to find, most of them were rare and often pretty expensive.

A majority of the people can’t buy it because it’s not available.

‘On top of that, the one I made is a recovery skill. And it’s passive.’

<Gold Thread – #1> End.

Chapter 16 - <Golden Thread – #2>

There are scrolls that contain a recovery skill, but those were active skills.

Meaning, one can't use it if they're not a healer.

Other classes may be able to familiarize it, but being able to activate it was a different story.

It's hard to make it as effective as a healer.

If one wasn't part of the healer class, then scrolls with recovery skills were a waste.

Despite of that, there were hunters that offered a lot because they wanted to obtain the skill so that they can be prepared for the worst.

But, obtaining a skill that automatically increases the recovery rate without using a skill?

'I'll be able to make a lot of money.'

The problem was that Hyun-Soo was used to it, but the other hunters didn't know of this.

But there's was a post on Hunter Net regarding a rare scroll.

I wouldn't be able to believe it if I were in their shoes.

The nasty comments were proof.

Even the person that came out to buy it first asked if it was a joke.

"Your brought the money, right?"

'They wouldn't just run after getting it, right?'

The buyer nodded at Hyun-Soo's question.

"I'll give you half first and give you the rest after checking the item."

They were indirectly asking to show the item.

Hyun-Soo agreed to their terms.

After giving them his account number, a message saying that 10 million won was deposited popped up.

It was exactly half of 20 million won.

“I received the deposit.”

“Should we go somewhere where there aren’t a lot of people?”

They were currently standing in an open roadside. Since the station was right next to it, there were a lot of people.

The male was very impatient.

However, exchanging a scroll in an open area could be pretty dangerous, so after Hyun-Soo confirmed the deposit, the buyer suggested they move elsewhere.

It was because there could be other hunters that could recognize the scroll.

Hyun-Soo agreed.

Hyun-Soo didn’t have a scroll since he just transferred it.

What he brought was a piece paper that looked like a scroll.

‘Who cares if it isn’t a scroll? You still obtain a skill, so it’s the same thing.’

If the buyer knew, he would probably say that he was a fraud, but Hyun-Soo was confident.

“Then, let’s go to the training center. I reserved a room, so I think it would be best to go there.”

The location the buyer mentioned wasn’t that far from the station.

Moments later.

‘This…is a gym?’

Hyun-soo’s eyes widened after seeing the tall building.

The gym.

It was a hunter only training center, so only the hunters are able to use this building.

Since he said the training center, Hyun-Soo thought it was a gym.

His mouth opened wide after seeing the tall building.

It was a magnificent building.

The membership was only limited to hunters.

‘They probably won’t let you in if you don’t have money.’

He was able to find out that only those with money are able to go into the building. He was able to learn this through the various jobs he had.

He felt uneasy about entering the place, but since the buyer walked into so naturally, he didn’t have a choice but to follow.

A pretty woman was sitting at the front desk and on both sides of her, two large men that were wearing uniforms was standing next to her.

Luckily, since I followed behind the buyer, they didn’t stop me.

As soon as we got off the elevator, there was a long hallway with doors on both sides.

The buyer walked up to one of them and placed his finger on the lock.

The door opened smoothly after it read his fingerprint.

“……?”

This place required a membership, had tight security and the spaces were pretty separated, so Hyun-Soo was curious as to what the room looked like. But, seeing an empty room made him confused.

“Was this room always empty?”

I thought it was a training room.

It didn't look like a gym at all.

"Oh, it's because this room is used to practice your skills."

"Oh……."

A long-distance attacker's skills were often powerful and their range was pretty broad, so they couldn't use their skills wherever they wanted.

But entering a portal alone to train was suicide.

In order to help those attackers, this training center was built.

"You can give me the scroll now. There aren't any cameras here so there won't be any issues with security."

Hyun-Soo took out the paper that was rolled up neatly.

"Ha, finally, I have a scroll…"

After receiving the scroll, he looked up to the ceiling with a touched expression.

'It's not a real scroll though.'

Obtaining the skill wasn't a lie, but Hyun-Soo ripped out a piece paper from Hyuna's notebook and rolled it up.

Since he couldn't tell them that he was able to transfer skills, it was meant to be used as a diversion.

It would be great if he could tell the truth and sell it.

Even if it hasn't been that long since he stepped into the hunter world, he instinctively knew that he shouldn't let people know about how he's able to create skills.

If creating a skill and transferring was universal, or if only a handful of people had it, then the world would be overflowing with customized skills.

'Unless they were an idiot, I'm sure there isn't a person alive that

would leave a skill like this unused.'

There was a reason why some people paid a lot of money and purchased scrolls, while others attacked high ranked portals.

Hyun-Soo easily found out how rare his skill was.

It was possible that he was the only one in the world that had this skill.

"How do I use this?"

"Just rip it."

"Oh..... I'm nervous. Recovery skill scrolls are really hard to obtain. Wow..... I....."

With trembling hands, he ripped the piece of paper.

At the same time, Hyun-Soo used the Skill Transfer.

'Skill Transfer!'

A semi-transparent window appeared before him.

"Select the skill you would like to transfer."

"Transferrable Skills : Mighty Throw[F] / Low Rank Health Recovery[F]."

Hyun-Soo selected the Low Rank Health Recovery without any hesitation.

"Select your target."

"Target : Park Jung-Ho (C)"

Despite of the fact that this deal wasn't guaranteed, he paid a lot of money. He was a C rank hunter.

After selecting Park Jung-Ho, he opened up his Interface to check his skill list and saw that the Low Rank Health Recovery was gone.

"...Was that all? Was that enough?"

"Yup, that's it."

Since it disappeared from his list, he was sure the skill was transferred to Park Jung-Ho.

Park Jung-Ho was expecting something great to happen, but since nothing happened, he started starting at Hyun-Soo.

His face was telling me that he was going to kill me if the scroll was a fake.

'Maybe it's because he's a C rank, but he's scary.'

It seemed like Park Jung-Ho purchased scrolls before because he kept on nodding his head while being confused about Hyun-Soo's fake scroll.

"Hm, I'll deposit the rest after I check. Is that okay?"

"Yes, that's fine. How are you going to check...?"

The recovery skill wasn't a skill that could be checked with the eyes.

He didn't have the Interface skill, so Hyun-Soo wasn't sure how he was going to check.

Of course Hyun-Soo was able to check.

'Interface!'

Hyun-Soo used the Interface skill.

The target was a bit different.

He used the skill with Park Jung-Ho as his target.

He's never used it on another hunter, so he tried it as a test.

'Oh, it worked.'

►Name: Park Jung-Ho (??)

►Rank: C

►Class: ??

►??

►??

►??

►Skill List

[????][??]

[Low Health Recovery][F]

Hyun-Soo confirmed that the Low Health Recovery skill that he had was transferred to Park Jung-Ho. However, other than Park Jung-Ho's rank and the skill that he transferred, everything showed up as question marks.

'Is it because only 1.4% of the Interface has been activated?'

He somewhat had an idea regarding Skill Creation and Skill Transfer, but he had no idea regarding the other skills.

'Will it change once it increases?'

Hyun-Soo thought that if the percentage increased, something about the skill would change.

Excluding the skill that he transferred, he didn't know anything else, but being able to see another person's information through Interface was encouraging.

'Wait, then does that mean, other than humans, I can use it on other targets?'

***

Now that he looked back, he remembered seeing the information regarding the Flower Spore.

After that, he had no reason to use it so he forgot about it.

But, if he could use it like he did just now, then it'll be very useful to him.

Excluding the monsters, he could check other objects within the portal.

The portal was an unknown world so there were a lot of things that have yet to be discovered.

However, it was true that it was very useful, despite of the fact that Interface was a SS rank.

But, in the previous hunt, he was able to see the white dot, so the more it's developed, it'll be on the same level as Skill Creation.

'It's not a SS rank for no reason, right?'

But, since there was nothing he can do as of right now, he decided not to expect too much.

He's been disappointed so many times after becoming a hunter.

If he had high expectations and found it wasn't much, he'll only be disappointed.

After being lost in his thoughts for a bit, Hyun-Soo started paying attention when he saw Park Jung-Ho preparing something.

When he said he was going to check, Hyun-Soo thought maybe he had Interface too, but Park Jung-Ho's way of checking was to activate it to see if it was real.

"It'll take some time. My skill is the type that discharges, so stay behind me by sitting near the entrance."

Since he still needed to get 10 million won, Hyun-Soo listened to him.

"How will you check by using your skill?"

Recovery has to do with stamina, so he wasn't sure how it was related to using his skill.

"Once my power is at its limit, my stamina decreases as well. That's why, if I completely drain my powers and do some push-ups or squats, I'll be able to know what exhaustion feels like."

This is what Park Jung-Ho meant.

'He's going to drop his stamina to zero and compare.'

It was a terrible idea.

At one point, Hyun-Soo worked for a shipping courier, so he exactly knew what it felt like to be exhausted.

‘Even if they paid me more, I wouldn’t go back. The pay was great, but it’s way too exhausting.’

But he was doing that on purpose. Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure whether he should complement him or think of him as an idiot.

Are all C rank hunters the same?

“Wind Blast!”

Swoosh! Boom!

Rough wind was released from Park Jung-Ho’s hand.

As soon as it was released straight from his hand, the window hit the training room’s wall.

A loud sound filled the room.

But, it was interesting how the wall didn’t break.

‘Amazing.’

<Gold Thread #2> End.

Chapter 17 - <First Successful Skill Sale – #1>

Was this the skill of a C rank attacker?

The strength of his skill couldn't be compared to the skills he saw during the previous hunt.

Even though Hyun-Soo was behind him, the wind made his hair fly in different directions.

It was a white room that didn't have anything in it.

However, if this skill was used in an ordinary room, the rough wind that Park Jung-Ho used would've broken and torn the entire room.

It definitely would've created a mess.

'It would've been nice if I could use a skill like that.'

Hyun-Soo wet his lips.

The grass is greener on the other side of the fence.

'But, I had something those hunters didn't.'

It was because he had the Skill Creation skill.

Whether I really had the scroll and if I did, he acted as if he really wanted to obtain it.

He offered to pay twenty million won like it was nothing, but it was a large sum for Hyun-Soo.

'It's too bad, but...no, honestly, I didn't feel as envious and sensitive about it as before.'

Hyun-Soo looked at the unique potential his power had.

He saw it.

He was currently experiencing his potential first-hand.

Roar! Boom!

Booooom!

“Wind Blast!”

Park Jung-Ho continued using his skill.

The wind blew within the large training room.

As the wind bumped into the wall, it shattered into pieces. But, like Park Jung-Ho said, it wasn’t dangerous at all.

‘It’s refreshing.’

It was nice to watch thanks to the cool wind that blew within the room.

If Park Jung-Ho used a water or fire skill, he probably would’ve been dying because of the heat or would’ve felt frustrated because of the humidity.

“I’m almost done.”

He noticed the effectiveness of Park Jung-Ho’s skill weakening.

Moments later, Park Jung-Ho was seen sweating a lot.

If he was sweating despite of the harsh wind, that meant his stamina was decreasing.

‘How stubborn.’

He then stopped using his skill and started doing push-ups.

After exercising with whatever strength he had left, Park Jung-Ho fell to the floor and at the same time, took out a stopwatch and started timing.

“Are you timing it?”

“Yeah, it’s best to know your limits. You’ll know how much strength you can use before you completely lose your energy and how long it takes for you to recover that energy. You have to observe it objectively so that you don’t participate in hunts you can’t handle. Your body is your everything, so you should at least know that much.”

“I see……”

Hyun-Soo wasn't sure whether all C rank hunters were like him or if it was just him.

About 10 minutes passed.

While on the floor, he caught his breath while looking at the watch and then sat up.

"You were right. It feels like the recovery rate increased by 10%."

What he sold increased the recovery rate by 7%, and maybe he felt something different, but Park Jung-Ho's expression brightened.

He still looked tired and exhausted, but he seemed satisfied.

"Thank you for selling this. I didn't catch your name. Do you have a business card?"

"I don't have a business card...My name is Kim Hyun-Soo."

"Mr. Kim Hyun-Soo, my name is Park Jung-Ho and I'm a C rank attacker."

"Got it....."

He suddenly became modest.

At first, it felt like we met to make a direct transaction for a used item, but now, he acted as if he was talking to a celebrity.

'He sure changed his attitude quickly.'

He already through the Interface, but he acted like this was the first time he heard his name.

"When I saw you earlier, you didn't seem like an official because you weren't familiar about measuring your limits, so how did you get a scroll...?"

As Park Jung-Ho extended his out for a handshake, he asked Hyun-Soo.

"Oh, that, I....."

I was about to answer him without realizing it.

Thankfully, I was able to shut my mouth before revealing the truth.

“……It’s a secret.”

“Ha ha. I see. Well, I asked because I was curious, but I figured you would say that.”

Hunters with skills had a lot of benefits.

It could be rare information about a portal or an item that ordinary hunters doesn’t know or can’t have.

It could be information, an item or power.

And they never shared whatever they acquired with others.

They were a privileged class.

A hierarchical class was destroyed long ago, but the world was already creating a new class.

The fact that the privileged class didn’t share with others was common knowledge.

Park Jung-Ho probably thought that Hyun-Soo had some sort of skill or had connections with someone that had skills.

The way he just laughed it off after hearing Hyun-Soo’s answer made him think that maybe Park Jung-Ho was expecting that kind of answer.

“I’d be grateful if you could let me know about other scrolls you’re planning on selling.”

Park Jung-Ho took out a business card from his wallet and gave it to Hyun-Soo.

On the card, it had his name, his rank and that he was a long-distance attacker.

‘He doesn’t even work for a company…it’s interesting that a hunter has a business card.’

Well, promoting yourself is important these days.

It'll benefit you more if you have it.

The card was printed on a pearl-colored, specially made paper. This made Hyun-Soo want to make one as well.

'An E rank's job description wasn't that great, so what would be a good job description?'

Hyun-Soo contemplated for a bit.

'Since I can create skills...maybe Skill Maker?'

It wasn't exactly the fanciest job name.

Even though he can only make E rank and F rank skills, once he raises his skill rank, the day might come where he's able to create S rank and SS rank skills.

They always said to dream big.

'The bigger your dream, the better.'

The rank of Skill Creation was D, but Hyun-Soo had hope.

As he was about to put away the business card that Park Jung-Ho gave him, Hyun-Soo noticed that there was something written under his name.

"Team Provoke...?"

"Oh, it's the team that I'm affiliated with."

There were official attack groups and the unofficial groups.

Unlike the unofficial group that recruited anyone for a hunt, official attack groups operated like a company.

The only thing different was that their main task was hunting monsters.

Since they operated with fixed members, it was an advantage to them because they worked well together and they were also picky about who they recruited, so having skilled members was another

advantage.

However, when someone makes a mistake, it affects the group greatly, but it doesn't affect the unofficial groups so much.

Official high rank attack groups tend to hunt high ranked portals safely and at a fast rate.

There were times where skilled hunters acted on their own, but since being part of an official group had its advantages, a lot of hunters prefer joining a skilled group that had a lot of skilled people.

Depending on the group that a hunter is associated in, their safety, reward and even their status in society can change.

Between those that are hired by a medium-sized companies and those hired by large companies, the ones working at the large company tend to take more pride. This was the same concept.

After seeing Hyun-Soo being interested in the team, Park Jung-Ho's expression brightened.

At first, he looked shabby, nervous and uneasy, but after acquiring the skill, he seemed more relaxed.

"It's difficult to join an official group these days, right? I didn't know, but hunters are having a hard time getting hired."

"I agree.."

It applied to all groups.

Out of the 20 messages he sent regarding a job, he received replies from only two places.

"Our official group is great. We don't have crazy schedules and we don't talk bad about each other. We think of the members first, so even during a tough hunt, nothing bad really happens. I'm not saying this because I'm a member, but it really is a nice group."

"I see."

If they believed that people mattered, then it meant safety was important to them too.

“The group isn’t that big, but we normally hunt green portals. We’ve been preparing for blue ranks these days. You sold the scroll at the perfect time.”

“Oh, I see…….”

‘Why is he showing off all of sudden?’

Hyun-Soo was carefully listening to what he had to say, but didn’t know why this guy started showing off in the first place.

‘Not that long ago, I was struggling to find a job as a carrier and after the issue with the healer during the first hunt, I started getting nasty comments. Is that why he’s showing off? Is he rubbing salt into the wound?’

After thinking about that, I started getting angry.

However, when he realized that this guy paid him two million won, he calmed himself down and his anger melted away.

Money was important.

It was very, very important.

He started the hunting job in order to make money.

It was too late for him to get a job as a hunter, but what was important was that he was able to make money through a hunter’s skill.’

After seeing Hyun-Soo’s expression change, Park Jung-Ho quickly changed the subject.

“The issue probably occurred within an unofficial group, right? If you join an official group, you won’t experience those kinds of issues. Actually, if a crazy healer like that was part of the group, they were required to compensate for the damages. Even though we don’t currently have an opening, if you’d like, we can create a position for you.”

"……?"

He stopped listening midway, assuming that Park Jung-Ho was going to continue showing off, but suddenly doubted his hearing.

'No way…….'

"You mean……?"

He asked to make sure and Park Jung-Ho smiled.

He had a nice smile, but to Hyun-Soo, it was just another man smiling.

"What I'm saying is, you can join our group if you're interested. I'm not the leader, but…I'm friends with the leader. We can make room for you."

Depending on the skill and position, the hunting order can change, but just participating in a hunt was a big advantage.

At least he wouldn't waste time as a carrier.

Like the guy had briefly mentioned, he'll be able make a move against the healer that messed up his first hunt.

Since the group had power, they were offering to help him.

"Honestly, this training room was provided to the hunters thanks to the group. You seemed interested earlier…if you join our group, we offer everything for free."

The more I listened, the more tempting it sounded.

'I suffered when trying to find a job as a carrier and now, I'm being recruited into an official group.'

Because of that crazy healer, he wasn't able to participate in another hunt.

And that was his reality.

However, he found another route, which caused Hyun-Soo to forget about participating in a hunt.

It’s because the new route gave him the opportunity to make money too.

<First Successful Skill Sale – #1> End.

Chapter 18 - <First Successful Skill Sale – #2>

I wanted to become a hunter in order to earn money, but I can make money through this, there's really no reason for me to participate in hunts.

'But, honestly, I'm a bit tempted. It was my dream when I was younger. Maybe I still do want that. I'm not a little boy anymore, but there's a something in me that wants to hunt like some kind of heroic hunter.'

This was different from money.

He's only dreamed of obtaining a power like this when he was younger and now that he did have it, there's no way he wouldn't be tempted.

He did become a hunter in order to make money, but he remembered how he wanted to become a hunter when he was younger, and that feeling was still there.

That's why he was tempted by Park Jung-Ho's offer.

This was also a chance to get revenge on that healer.

But, Hyun-Soo was suspicious as to why Park Jung-Ho mentioned that healer.

'But, it's too good of an offer. There's usually an ulterior motive in situations like this. He sounds like one of those internet companies where they offer you money to sign some sort of agreement.'

By using money as bait, they tell potential customers to use certain products for a certain period of time. Park Jung-Ho seemed like one of those people.

"Your offer sounds great, but what's the reason for proposing it to me...?"

“It’s simple, really. You just have to give us all the scrolls that you acquire. Of course we’ll compensate you for them.”

“…There might come a time where I won’t be able to provide a scroll.”

“Of course. We’re not forcing you to obtain one. Just when you do obtain one! We ask that you sell it to us.”

He says it’s okay, but he looked like one of those lords that robbed people through taxes.

‘This doesn’t feel right.’

Well, it is odd for an official group to want to genuinely recruit Hyun-Soo.

He didn’t have any amazing and was merely a carrier.

That’s probably he was saying great things about his group…

‘Their goal is obtaining the scrolls.’

It was obvious.

He wasn’t exactly evil, but it wasn’t like he had good intentions either.

He was probably observing Hyun-Soo’s reaction.

“Thank you for the offer, but I’m not good enough to join an official group. Thank you though.”

“I’m not saying this because I’m part of it, but it’s a really great group.”

“I understand. Maybe in the future.”

When Hyun-Soo declined his offer, Park Jung-Ho had a disappointed look.

‘I’m sure he’s disappointed about not getting the scrolls.’

It was obvious.

It’d be a different story if the scroll was fake, but after checking

its authenticity manually, he probably wanted to recruit him even more.

He knew that forcefully making Hyun-Soo join the group would backfire since he already declined his offer.

Park Jung-Ho thought Hyun-Soo had some sort of skill that he was hiding, but he decided to just let him go despite of his disappointment.

“That’s too bad. I hope we do meet again very soon.”

“Ha ha……. Yeah.”

“If you happen to have another scroll you want to sell, please let me know right away.”

“Ha ha ha……. Got it.”

Hyun-Soo was surprised by how persistent he was regarding the scrolls.

‘It’s like life or death for him.’

Despite of the fact that he’s given up on recruiting Hyun-Soo, Park Jung-Ho stared at him.

After they said their good-byes in front of the grand training center, Hyun-Soo and Park Jung-Ho went their separate ways.

That’s when he was able to relax.

“If I do make a business card, I shouldn’t reveal the fact that I’m a Skill Maker.”

He only sold one scroll, but it affected him greatly.

He could tell how greedy Park Jung-Ho became after focusing just on the scroll.

Through that meeting, Hyun-Soo felt that he should keep it a secret no matter what.

All he did was sell one scroll, but Park Jung-Ho made a variety of offers. If he found out that the scroll was made by him and not

obtained from a portal, what would he do?

They might lock him up and tell him to make skills.

‘They might feed me raw octopus or fried dumpling.’ (Old Boy reference) Just thinking about it made him shudder.

Even though he wasn’t in a cold room, Hyun-Soo shivered.

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He still felt a bit uneasy, but it immediately went away as he walked into the bank.

‘Just how much is this?’

His account balance was zero.

He gave the money he earned as a carrier to his parents and Hyuna.

Other than that, there were a lot of things he had to make payments for, so his balance was always low.

“20 million won……!”

It was a large amount of money.

Even when Hyun-Soo worked two part-time jobs and also had a side job, it was an amount he could never earn.

Before receiving offers about the scroll on Hunter Net and before Park Jung-Ho deposited the money, his future looked dark.

But after checking the money with his two eyes, he had hope.

‘What should I do first?’

What do people usually do when they suddenly get a large amount of money?

It was such a large amount that he couldn’t think about what he should do for his parents and Hyuna.

There were a lot of things to do.

But this was the money he earned by selling his first skill.

Hyun-Soo wanted to commemorate.

He wanted to give his parents the money and also buy them name brand items.

He also wanted to take them out to a luxurious restaurant.

But…….

When there's suddenly a lot of money, people tend to change.

Hyun-Soo thought his family would never change like that, but he couldn't guarantee it.

It's possible that his family might not change, but those that knew about the money may bother them.

He earned 20 million won for now, but he it's possible that Hyun-Soo can earn an endless amount of money.

People would probably come up to them and ask them to invest in a company or ask them for money despite of the fact that their living situation was better. There was no guarantee that those kinds of people wouldn't bother them.

After thinking about how his family could suffer due to their kindness and not being able to lie to others so easily, Hyun-Soo contemplated on whether he should tell them about the money.

Also, Hyun-Soo knew that his parents would feel bad and say that they couldn't accept it because he worked so hard to earn it.

Hyun-Soo decided that keeping this a secret from his family was a way to protect them.

He would give it to them when the time was right.

Of course he would give them a part of the money.

'Having money is good, but when I gave them money last time, they felt bad about it. If I gave them this entire amount, they'll be shocked and might faint due to the shock. It might be better to buy them gifts so that they don't feel so bad about it.'

When he earned money during his first hunt, he gave it to his parents. He wasn't sure what to get them with the money he earned after selling a skill.

It was a happy affliction.

Maybe that's why. He air seemed refreshing and the weather was great.

'This is my path!'

His D rank skill looked weak.

Skill Creation.

When Bead Threading and Fast Calculation skills were created, he thought those skills were useful, but he didn't know those skills would make him money.

He wasn't envious of those that participated in hunts and fought monsters.

But there was something much more important to him.

This method allowed him to support his family a lot faster than participating in hunts, so there was no reason for him to return.

Hyun-Soo clenched his fist.

He felt the bankbook within his hand.

The book contained pieces of paper, so it shouldn't have felt heavy, but his fist felt heavy.

"Right, from now on, I'm the Skill Maker!"

It was the moment where the world's first Skill Maker was born.

***

A couple of days later, Hyun-Soo visited the Hunter Net.

When he visited bulletin board, he was surprised by the fact that comments were still being posted on the thread he created.

'They must not have a life.'

They were probably those that couldn't find a job and was sending messages all day. Threads were being posted nonstop.

Among those, some mentioned about the "fake" scroll that Hyun-Soo sold.

Among those, Hyun-Soo clicked on one of the threads.

[Title: Did someone buy the scroll that was being sold last time?

Content: If you bought it, show it off to the world. Since no one confirmed that they purchased it, it's probably a fraud, right? There's just too many trolls.]

The replies on there were definitely interesting.

– I told you it was a fraud.

└ 2222 Whoever fell for that is a weirdo.

– Maybe they got kidnapped and were taken to a boat. That's why they haven't returned.....

└ Wow, if that's true, then it's scary.....

└ This sounds legit...how terrifying;;

– But are there people that actually fell for it? You can just tell that it's a fraud.

└ But it's pretty interesting. A passive recovery skill lol └ I agree. They had a good imagination. But if those skills did exist, wouldn't an official group have already obtained it? There's no way it would be posted on here.

└ From what I heard, a mid-sized official group bought it.

└ Really? Who?

└ Do you have proof?

└ My friend's friend's girlfriend's younger brother is a member of that group and said someone really bought it.

└ Just how many people were involved?

To sum it up, they were saying it was a fraud.

Since so many people visited this site on a daily basis, new ideas are shared and fights occur amongst the group.

It seemed like Hyun-Soo's scroll was a hot topic.

"I think I'll make another post..."

Using a small portion of the money he earned, he purchased a computer.

He used the computer at the internet café when he was working there, but going there as a customer made him think that it was a waste of money.

'Hyuna was in need of one anyways.'

Hyun-Soo didn't know since he didn't study much, but for the students that did study, it was a necessity.

She would need it for her after school program, tutor and to listen to the online lectures that are provided by the country.

It was cheap, but he purchased one with a decent speed, so Hyuna should be able to use it without any issues.

Anyways, a smile appeared on Hyun-Soo's face after he sat in front of the brand new computer.

"Let's see. How will they react this time?"

It's possible that there might be negative comments as well as an inbox full of messages this time too.

Because that's what happened last time.

All Hyun-Soo had to do was reply to the highest bidder.

'So this is what it feels like to be the boss.'

Only those that have done it can fully use it to their advantage.

Since Hyun-Soo never experienced this before, the most trivial things made him happy.

“You really can’t tell what will happen in life. I didn’t think I would be in the position where I pick and choose who I want to reply to.”

Just a couple of weeks ago, he was getting worried over getting replies, but now, he was in a position where he was able to choose.

It was thanks to his Skill Creation.

At first, he was disappointed by the fact that the skill was a D rank, but now, he regretted for feeling that way.

<First Successful Skill Sale – #2> End.

Chapter 19 - <I'm the Skill Maker #1>

[Title: Selling Health Recovery Skill.

Content: I'm selling a skill that will increase your health recovery rate by 6.5%.

It's a passive skill, so you're not required to use a separate skill.

No inquiries. No negotiations.

Fast, clean transactions only.

Please send me your offer.

ps. This is not a fraud.]

He purposely didn't include the word, scroll.

He couldn't reveal the fact that he created the skill, so he decided to roll up a piece of paper this time too.

Without even mentioning the word scroll, most of them misunderstood it as one.

"Let's see……."

Comments were posted right away.

[I'll buy it. 5000.]

"Wow, 5,000……?"

He received messages that offered a large sum…

"Stop it you damn troll. You've been causing an issue since your last post."

There were also messages that said he was an imposter.

Without thinking much, he erased those messages right away.

He also blocked them.

Hyun-Soo picked a reasonable offer and replied.

Getting a lot of money was great, but.

Those that had a lot of money usually have high-ranked skills and after thinking about the previous meeting with Park Jung-Ho, he let Hyun-Soo go easily. However, he thought that it could become dangerous.

‘Kids are taught not to follow strangers, but I ended up following him because of the money.’

A training room that was taken care of by the guild.

It was a strong, secret room that prevented skills from escaping outside the room.

For a secret room, it was pretty big and the fact that it was part of a large building made it stand out.

Anyways, I could’ve been robbed at a place where there were barely any people.

He could’ve threatened me to tell regarding how I obtained the scroll.

I couldn’t ignore the fact that other awful situations could’ve taken place in there.

‘But how could you say no to ten million won? …No, that’s not right.’

It somehow worked out last time, but this time, it’s possible that he might meet some high-ranked crazy hunter and all because he went for the highest bidder.

Hyun-Soo couldn’t overlook that.

After working for a lot of different jobs, he had an idea of what he should look out for. It was his survival instinct.

“Let’s see…….”

There were a lot of comments on the thread that he posted.

Since the guy that created the popular thread appeared, people started posting comments.

“Huh?”

He expected the comments to be filled with either profanity or about how he was a fraud, but it was different this time.

– This is the real deal. I’m the living proof.

“Park Jung-Ho?”

There wasn’t a name, but there was only one person that purchased a skill from him.

After that comment was posted, other people started replying.

– This is the real deal. I’m the living proof.

└ Who the hell are you?

└ They probably scripted this.

└ Report it to a mod. They’re probably using different usernames.

└ But why is this one 6.5? Wasn’t it 7% last time?

└ Are you serious? How is it? Does your health really recover?

└ OP) Yeah, it’s real. It said 7%, but I feel like it’s 10%.

└ Are you part of the xx group?

└ OP) No comment.

Hyun-Soo checked his inbox to make sure.

Park Jung-Ho sent him a message.

[Mr. Kim Hyun-Soo. This is Park Jung-Ho, the guy that purchased a scroll from you.

If possible, I would like to purchase the scroll that you posted today too.

For the price, I can provide you as much as you want on top of the price I first offered.]

“Jeez……. I really don’t want to see this guy again.”

He may try to recruit him into his group again.

Hyun-Soo had a hard time convincing him that he didn't want to join after Park Jung-Ho insisted that he join his group.

"I think it'll be better to not meet with him."

Hyun-Soo was going to click out of the message, but stopped.

He did say he was part of an official group.

"From the way he talked, his group seemed to be quite skilled... it's not good to make enemies, so maybe I should gently refuse him."

An E rank healer was pretty arrogant just because he was a healer, but a high-ranked hunter was probably even more arrogant.

Hyun-Soo was starting to head in that direction, but he still had a long way to go.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I remembered after posting the thread."

He replied immediately.

"That's fine. Just sell it to me. If someone else already made an offer, I'll also pay whatever offer they made."

"Wow....."

Seeing how he was a C rank and had his own room in that building, his guild was probably rich, but he himself probably had a lot since he was making offers without any hesitation.

Because of that, Hyun-Soo didn't want to meet him even more.

'How much more is this guy going to try to tempt me? I know I'll be at a disadvantage if I fall for his tricks.'

[I'm sorry, but someone already contacted me.

Since I'm a new seller, it's hard for me to back out on a deal. I hope you'll understand. ㅠㅠ.]

“This should be enough.”

I purposely added an emoticon.

That should be enough to let him know that Hyun-Soo refused.

They should know that they’re not the only ones that are interested in the skills.

Once again, Hyun-Soo realized that it wasn’t the best idea to contact the highest bidder.

Like last time, he sold the scroll to a buyer that offered a similar price.

When he asked Hyuna to roll a piece of paper…

“What are you going to do with it?”

Was what she asked as she gently rolled the paper and tied it with a ribbon.

He felt bad about giving a scroll that his sister rolled so prettily to some random guy, but he also felt bad about seeing that guy excitedly rip the scroll.

‘I should prepare the paper next time.’

Seeing another guy touch the scroll that his sister made, made him feel uncomfortable.

The buyer that purchased the second skill sort of seemed like a loser.

He was only a D rank.

“Don’t you want to test it out?”

He was so bad that even Hyun-Soo asked him to test it.

Even if he wasn’t going to do it as detailed as Park Jung-Ho, shouldn’t he at least try to check it somehow?

“It’s fine. I feel stronger already. This was the real thing. Thank you so much! Ha ha ha!”

As soon as Hyun-Soo transferred the skill, he suddenly said he felt stronger and left excitedly.

“No, that’s…….”

The skill that he sold recovers one’s health, not give them strength.

Before he could explain, the buyer disappeared.

And Hyun-Soo’s second transaction ended just like that.

“Well, guess it doesn’t matter since it ended a lot quicker than last time.”

The important thing was that he sold it safely and quickly.

He got paid without any issues and wasn’t taken to a different location.

He was worried that this second buyer would be like Park Jung-Ho, but he was actually really carefree.

If Hyun-Soo was an imposter, he could’ve taken more from this guy.

“This isn’t going like I had planned…”

“Huh? What’s wrong?”

Hyuna asked as she walked out of her room and heard Hyun-Soo’s mumbling.

It seemed like he mumbled his thoughts without him knowing.

Hyun-Soo contemplated about which skill he should sell next.

He sold the Low Rank Healthy Recover skill the first two times.

The recovery rate was different, but it was the same skill.

But the rate was the issue.

‘How come the skills that I make aren’t consistent?’

On top of that, useless skills were created sometimes.

Despite of the fact that he acted the same way when he was making the Low Level Health Recovery skill.

Hyun-Soo wondered why there was a difference.

‘Does it change depending on what I think about in that moment?’

He couldn’t continuously act the same way since he was only human.

He would have meaningless thoughts at times.

Since his family’s condition were all different, he had to take care of that too.

‘There were too many changes to say that it was consistent.’

“It’s nothing. I was thinking about what I should have for lunch.”

Hyun-Soo interrupted his thoughts and answered Hyuna.

Creating skills was important, but his sister was more important.

After hearing his answer, a smile appeared on Hyuna’s face.

“He he, then eat with me.”

Hyuna grabbed the menu book and sat next to him.

“Is there anything you want to eat? I’ll buy.”

“With what money?”

“The money you gave me. I’ve been saving it-.”

Hyun-Soo laughed at how cute Hyuna was when she told him that she had some money left.

He only gave her 200,000 won, but she still had it.

He wanted her to go out and eat with her friends and go shopping, but he felt proud of her when she said she wanted to buy him something.

“Don’t. How can I let my little sister buy me food? I’ll pay. I have

the money. I'm a hunter, you know."

"He he, that's right. You were a hunter. Then, you're buying, right? I want Pork Hocks!"

"Yeah, yeah, I'll buy. Order it.".

Hyuna excitedly brought a phone and ordered the food.

The food arrived within 30 minutes.

Hyuna brought the food in happily.

"Hyun-Soo! Let's eat. It looks so good!"

"Yeah, let's eat. They say this is good for your skin."

"Really? Seriously?"

"Yeah, the collagen in the food helps the skin's elasticity."

"Wow...how did you know that?"

"I read different articles during work whenever I was bored."

When he worked at the internet café, he would often read articles when he had nothing else to do.

He couldn't play games since he didn't know when customers would come in and when they'll call for him.

And it wouldn't look good if the employee played games while working.

Hyuna had a surprised look when he told her this.

'Seeing her surprised like this reminds me that she's a girl too...'

He felt bad by how she never dressed up or wore make-up because she wanted to save money.

'I'll make sure to make a lot of money so that you'll be able to do whatever you want to do.'

"How's the computer? Good?"

Hyun-Soo asked Hyuna and she nodded her head while eating the

food.

“It’s really great. I always had to wait whenever I went to the computer room, but now that I don’t have to, it’s more comfortable.”

“That’s a relief. We should’ve gotten one sooner…”

“It’s fine. Just because I don’t listen to a couple of online lectures doesn’t mean my grades will drop.”

“Wow, Kim Hyuna. Are you showing off?”

When she noticed how bad Hyun-Soo felt, she lightened the mood by making a joke.

Creating a heavy mood while eating delicious food wasn’t right, so Hyun-Soo smile bitterly while playing along.

“What’s with that face? You don’t trust your smart sister?”

“Okay, okay, I got it. Eat up.”

“I am eating!”

He wasn’t sure where all of that food was going because she was so skinny.

They saved some for their parents, but the two of them managed to finish the largest plate that was on the menu While cleaning up the empty plates, Hyun-Soo asked Hyuna a question.

<I’m the Skill Maker #1> End.

Chapter 20 - <I'm the Skill Maker #2>

"You're not tired from all the studying?"

"Yeah, after you gave me a massage couple of times, I feel refreshed when I wake up in the morning."

Since this was her last year in high school, she would mostly spend her time at her desk, causing her body to be really tired.

But, her health improved thanks to the Low Level Health Recovery skill.

Since it was a passive skill, even an ordinary person like Hyuna was able to experience a recovery rate of 7%.

Of course Hyuna would never know.

"That's good. Just let me know whenever you need one. I'll massage you every time you ask."

When he made a joke, Hyuna giggled and said she would him know.

Making money by selling skills was fun, but he was relieved by the fact that his family's condition was improving.

Even his parents didn't look like they were going to pass out.

His mother has been in a good mood because the employees at the restaurant told her that she was looking better and whether she was using some sort of product.

"I'm not sure why, but they're saying that I look a bit young."

It was thanks to the skill.

When Hyuna returned to her room, Hyun-Soo was in a deep thought again.

He remembered how he obtained a skill after massaging his mother.

[Low Level Acupressure][F]

Releases muscle knots effectively.

He wasn't sure why he obtained an odd skill like this one.

'I can't sell this kind of skill...if I was able to transfer my skill to mom and Hyuna, then it means I can transfer them to ordinary people. Should I visit a masseuse and say that I'm selling it?'

Hyun-Soo shook his head after thinking that they could get famous because of the skill.

'An ordinary person wouldn't buy a scroll. Those that are wealthy do purchase them, but someone like a masseuse wouldn't have that kind of money.'

Thankfully, those odd skills weren't created very often.

The skill that was mostly created was the Low Level Health Recovery skill.

But, the recovery rate for that skill wasn't consistent.

The highest recovery rate was 7%, but there were times when it was 6% and even 5.5%, which made it random.

Hyun-Soo would repeat it so that he could make it again.

The ones that were excited were his mom, Hyuna and his dad.

"Why is our son suddenly treating us so well? I'm happy as a father, but are you okay with it?"

"Hyun-Soo, isn't being a hunter tough? I feel like I should be the one massaging you..."

His family was thankful for what Hyun-Soo was doing, but also felt bad.

When a person really suffers, they tend to be hostile, but everyone was really pure and considerate towards each other.

For different reasons, Hyun-Soo didn't tell them about the large

amount of money he had.

But he didn't forget about making enough money so that his parents didn't have to work.

Despite of that, the two still decided to work.

'They should take a break.'

When a family member becomes a hunter, people usually say that things have worked out for them.

So his parents should rest a bit, but they didn't.

'Is that what it means to be a parent?'

It's possible.

It was because his parents felt guilty towards Hyun-Soo because of the debt they had.

They did take care of the large amount of debt, but they still had some left.

His parents were extremely happy when they heard that he became a hunter because they felt that he had to give up his dream because of them.

However, they were worried that Hyun-Soo would be affected in a bad way because they say that for a hunter, their childhood is the most important period for them.

On top of that, the job of a hunter was dangerous.

'Despite of the fact that I became a hunter, they're telling me to avoid any dangerous situations so that I wouldn't get hurt.'

Using Hyuna as an excuse, they asked Hyun-Soo to look after her so that he wouldn't work at jobs that required physical labor or at a factory.

They believe that it was better for them to suffer than for their children to suffer.

But if Hyun-Soo brought a large amount of them, they'll

congratulate him for becoming a hunter, but on the other hand, they'll surely worry about him.

There weren't a lot of ways for a hunter to make money.

All they could do was hunt.

Money was great, but he was worried that they might feel guilty because their son was risking his life in order to make up for their mistakes. That's why he decided to keep it a secret for now.

'We need to pay off the rest of our debt and also buy a house...'

While others were expanding their house, Hyun-Soo's house was shrinking.

Before, they were suffering because of the debt they had to repay, but after paying back a good amount, they were having a hard time making ends meet.

Since Hyuna was a grown lady, they gave her a room and his parents used one room.

And Hyun-Soo would rest while his family was out and when they came back home, he would go out to work, so he didn't really need a room.

But they couldn't live in this small house forever.

On top of that...

'Buying a house is our dream.'

No matter how times he thought about it, he thought it was a good idea.

He couldn't buy one with the money he had now, but he made the decision to save up.

He had to think about how he was going to tell his parents.

"Jeez, nothing's easy."

Whether he was making money or not, he had things to worry about.

But, compared to before, it was an issue that made him happy.

Not long ago, he was worried about his future because there wasn't anything he could do.

He could do anything as long as he had money.

You can't buy money with happiness, but you can be happy if you have money.

If he wanted to live the lifestyle that he dreamed of, then he still had a long way to go.

Hyun-Soo thought back to the original issue.

'What should I do about the third skill?'

It would be nice if the recovery rate was consistent.

Not being able to control it at will was the flaw.

'I feel motivated...'

Even before, he thought about becoming a hunter in order to live a good life.

But now that he had a more detailed goal, he felt greedy.

'I want to make a better skill and make more money with it.'

Hyun-Soo was hungry for money.

"Anyways, let's keep trying. At least I'm able to make it. I'll keep trying. Kim Hyun-Soo. I won't lose to anyone."

***

Ha...ha ha!"

Hyun-Soo started laughing out loud.

It's because he heard a cheerful alarm and a notification popped up.

– Ding!

"Low Level Recovery [E] has been created."

As soon as he heard the alarm, he opened the Interface.

It was an E rank skill too.

This was the first E rank skill that he created.

[Low Level Recovery][E]

The basic health recovery rate will be increased by 7%.

The basic cure rate will slightly increase.

“This is pretty awesome, even though I made it.”

No matter how you look at it, it was an awesome skill.

It could be seen as praising himself, but Hyun-Soo was proud of himself.

“I’m sure I’ll be able to earn a lot with this skill.”

Others might think that it’s just an E rank skill, but he was the only one that currently knew about it.

He didn’t have more of the F rank Low Level Healthy Recovery skill to sell, but since this skill recovered one’s health and also had an additional effect, people would really want it.

This was also a passive skill. A tanker, a healer and an attacker could use it, which made it universal and very valuable.

‘A healer might not like it. They might think that they’ll become useless.’

But, it didn’t matter to Hyun-Soo.

Also, because of that crazy healer from before, he still felt suspicious about the healers as a whole.

“I wonder how much I’ll be able to sell this skill for.”

Hyun-Soo became curious as to how much people would offer after posting it on the Hunter Net.

If they were smart, people would know how much this scroll is

worth.

The recovery rate was the same as the maxed out Low Level Health Recovery skill, but it had a curing effect.

One could tell just from looking at the skill name.

Low Level Recovery.

It clearly shows that the skill doesn't recover just one's health.

'It felt a bit off when it said it recovered more than one's health, but now that I think about it, it can be used in so many different ways.'

If a bone broke or got fractured, it would be hard to expect this skill to cure it just based on the recovery rate.

In this case, they would need a healer to heal them or visit a hospital.

A tanker usually receives healing from the healer, but the problem was with the attackers.

While reading through the Hunter Net, Hyun-Soo found out that each class had their own issues.

This is one of the issues.

"Go wild attackers."

Someone said this kind of nonsense.

Their user ID was Shut the Thieves Up With a Bandage.

It's when a close-range attacker obtains a stealth skill that a thief would use and call themselves a thief, but the healer wouldn't take them seriously.

Underneath the post that the thief made, Hyun-Soo noticed the other close-range dealers commenting about their situations as well.

When calculating the ratio of major classes, there are more attackers than tankers and healers.

And among those attackers, close-range attackers tend to get hurt more than long-distance attackers.

It's because they attack the monsters at a close range and when the monster counterattacks or are attacked by their skills, in most cases, they don't have enough time to dodge it.

Compared to the long-distance attackers, they're injured more often, but the problem was that most of the healers didn't make the effort to heal them.

Especially when they counterattack, the healer gives them a look that tells them they should've dodged it.

'If the cure doesn't work, then at least the 7% will still be there to help them.'

That's probably whenever Hyun-Soo posts a skill to sell, they all message him with competitive prices.

'Just looking at it makes me happy. Is this what it feels like to create a masterpiece?'

Hyun-Soo didn't know what made a particular work a masterpiece, but thought that it was a similar feeling.

It's because Hyun-Soo put in a lot of effort into creating this new skill.

He went through a lot.

He was able to make his family feel better through the Low Level Health Recovery skill, but there was still something missing.

Since his actions were the same, similar skills kept on getting created.

He sold them because he needed money, but now that he thought about it, it wasn't exactly the best method.

'Scarcity is really important. If I keep selling it as I make it, I might end up in the same position as someone selling a Provocation skill scroll to tankers.'

That’s why, Hyun-Soo started studying. He started reading through different medical books.

Hyuna saw him suddenly reading these books,

“Hyun-Soo, are you…trying to go to medical school?”

And carefully asked.

Honestly, he didn’t understand most of the information he read, but because of the information that he was gaining, Hyun-Soo started experiencing an amazing change.

<I’m the Skill Maker #2> End.

Chapter 21 - <A New Skill #1>

‘I’ve gained a lot from making this skill. I also found out that my experience level increased whenever I made the skills.’

The first time he felt that something was different was when he was reading the medical and was trying to understand the information.

By remembering how the muscles were separated and the location of the bones, he massaged his mother.

Hyun-Soo’s massage was more of an acupressure therapy rather than an ordinary massage.

“Your massage skills are getting better and better.”

His mother complimented him as he massaged her muscles.

But Hyun-Soo was thinking about something else that he didn’t hear her.

‘Huh? What’s this?’

On his mother’s back, there were faint white dots floating around.

‘Isn’t this similar to the one that I saw on the Flower Spore?’

Hyun-Soo lightly pressed on the white dot and his mother commented by saying how good it felt and complimented him.

Hyun-Soo continued pressing on those dots.

He kept on pressing the dots rhythmically without thinking much and that’s probably why a skill wasn’t being made.

But when felt that something was off, he opened the Interface, he noticed that skill’s activation status had increased.

[Interface][SS][Inherent][Exclusive]

It provides a digital visualization of the user’s information and

the opponent that the user targets.

Depending on the user's will, it can activate.

It can't be replicated since it's an inherent, exclusive skill.

Activation Status : 1.6%

After defeating the Flower Spore, it increased by 0.4%, which put the Activation Status as 1.4%.

But after checking again, the interface increased by 0.2%, making it 1.6%.

Hyun-Soo also checked his stats.

►Name: Kim Hyun-Soo (21)

►Rank: E

►??

►Experience: 10%

►??

►??

►Current Skill List

[Interface][SS]

[Skill Creation][D]

[Skill Transfer][D]

[Mighty Throw][F]

'Wow!'

The experience level was at 9% after defeating the Flower Spore, but now it increased to 10%.

This was awesome.

His experience level increases even though he doesn't participate

in hunts.

'All I did was create skills though.'

While creating the skill, he checked the Interface many times and even tried replicating his actions until a skill that he was satisfied with was created.

'Is that why?'

He thought about the different possibilities, but he couldn't be certain.

All Hyun-Soo could do was assume.

'But, isn't it treating me too well all of a sudden?'

The world always treated him harshly and only showed the bad side of society, but now, it was the total opposite.

Since he couldn't participate in hunts because of that crazy healer, he decided to sell skills instead.

But that increased Hyun-Soo's experience.

In the end, continuously making skills raised Hyun-Soo's level.

'If someone told me this, I would've thought that they were lying.'

But this was real and it was the truth.

With Skill Creation, Skill Transfer and Interface, they were the perfect combination.

'The more I know…….'

It felt like he was digging an oilfield and the more he dug, the more oil came out.

The thought that he had failed had already been erased from his mind.

Hyun-Soo felt how powerful and amazing his skill was.

But, his skill kept on showing new things that surprised him each

time.

“In the end, I’ve created a masterpiece”

After creating the Low Level Recovery, Hyun-Soo’s experience increased to 11%.

And the Activation Status of his Interface increased to 1.8% as well.

“First, I’ll post it on Hunter Net.”

Since there was a goal he wanted to fulfill, he decided to do that first by visiting the Hunter Net.

Within minutes, the computer that he built had finished booting.

“Let’s see…….”

After logging on, Hyun-Soo clicked his tongue after seeing the large amount of messages in his inbox.

Most of them were asking him to sell his skills to them.

Out the skills that he made, Hyun-Soo sold skills related to increasing a certain stat.

Instead of erasing the skills that he continuously created, he decided to sell them slowly, one at a time instead of selling them all together.

With that method, the balance in his savings started increasing more and more.

Maybe it was because of that.

Hyun-Soo was starting to become famous on Hunter Net.

When he appeared, people reacted right away.

There wasn’t anyone on the Hunter Net that criticized Hyun-Soo.

At times, there were people that asked whether it was fake, but the other users would criticize them for their comments.

– What will you do if he doesn’t come back because of your

comment?

– Hey, we should report him, right?

– This is defamation.

└ It is.

└ ——They're doing it on purpose.

'They sure seem to be doing great even when I'm not there.'

There was someone that said that Hyun-Soo wasn't a carrier, but was actually an attacker that disguised himself as a carrier in order to recruit people into the group that he was associated with.

There were also rumors that Hyun-Soo beat the Flower Spore all by himself when he participated in his first hunt, which was more believable.

He was shocked when he first heard the story.

'What is this?'

He was dumbfounded by the story.

'But, it's not so bad.'

There wasn't anyone that didn't like compliments.

Hyun-Soo was the same.

He wasn't the timid type where he didn't like the attention.

There wasn't a man alive that didn't like being recognized for his work.

'I'm sure there are a handful of people there that criticized me in the beginning.'

When Hyun-Soo posted, they all commented with excitement.

'I was always criticized, but now they're begging for my attention. Is this why people are saying that power is a necessity?'

It was funny, but at the same time, absurd.

But on the other hand, Hyun-Soo was criticized on the Hunter Net so much before, but now, it's like he regained his honor.

It would be a lie if he said he wasn't proud of it.

Hyun-Soo started organizing the messages that he received.

If his inbox is always full, he won't be able to receive important messages when he posts a skill he wants to sell.

But something caught his eyes.

"Huh?"

"I see that you've been selling scrolls often. Do you have a Seller's License?"

"What do they mean?"

Hyun-Soo opened that message.

"I'm not sure from which guild you're reselling it from, but if you keep this up, there will be consequences. Don't go overboard. I'm not sure why you're doing such unnecessary work on this site, but it'll get difficult if you keep doing things that make you stand out."

"……Are they threatening me?"

It was like they were telling me not to get carried away.

"Are there rules for selling a scroll?"

He didn't take the time to actually look into it, so he wasn't sure, but Hyun-Soo felt that "license" wasn't something that the country provided.

"They're like a merchant that comes up to you and complains about how you're selling it at a discount price even though you're offering market price."

It's like they're mad for offering a competitive price.

He felt weird after reading the message. He felt restless and uneasy.

In the end, he thought it was absurd.

“What they’re saying is nonsense…”

Hyun-Soo erased it immediately.

The next message that caught his attention was weirder.

“Hello, Kim Hyun-Soo. I want to talk to you about the scrolls that you’re selling…”

‘How did they know my name?’

Since he was known for the Flower Spore incident, it wouldn’t be hard to find his name.

But, honestly, it’s been weeks since that incident, so there probably weren’t a lot of people that remembered his name.

Most of them probably forgot, but there are those that will do anything to find out.

‘Why does it seem like they’re the persistent type?’

Since there’s a bad vibe, erase.

But there were more messages that contained similar information.

It seemed like a lot of people sent them during the times he wasn’t on Hunter Net.

‘Hopefully they don’t find my contact and personal information.’

He wondered if he should create a new ID.

It would be best for his own safety.

Most of the messages that he received so far were asking him to sell the scrolls to them, but the messages that read today made him feel uneasy.

It was as if someone was watching him.

Hyun-Soo’s face scrunched up due to the uneasy feeling.

His goal was make a lot of money.

But it would make things complicated if there were issues now.

He didn't like competing against others, but felt that he needed to observe to see how things developed.

Things became complicated because of that psychotic healer, so he didn't want his mistake to be the reason why things became complicated.

"Let's post this first……."

He still had a long way to go until he reached his targeted goal, but with this, he'll be a bit closer.

Between paying off the debt and buying a house, if he couldn't resolve both at the same time, it's wise to resolve the issue that's more urgent.

After contemplating a bit, Hyun-Soo shook his head and quickly created a thread.

[Title : Selling Recovery Skill.

Content : It's a passive skill that increases the recovery rate by 7%.

On top of that, if you get any physical injuries, it'll raise the recovery rate a tiny bit.

No inquiries. No negotiations.

Fast, clean transactions only.

Please send me your offer.]

In order to prevent annoying comments, he posted in the same format as the other threads.

Thanks to his popularity, people were already commenting.

Whenever he posts something, there are more encouraging comments than criticism.

Thanks to the comment that the first buyer made, there were more transactions and those people would give their testimony

regarding the transaction.

– Ohhh, he's here again! The scroll seller!

– I wonder how much people are willing to offer for this.

– The scroll this guy is selling is extremely expensive, but they're worth it. There's barely any passive skills.

└ It's not that expensive. If you think about how much the other guilds are selling it for…….

└ I agree. They probably obtained a lot of scrolls, but the large guilds refuse to sell them at a cheap price. Compared to them, this guy is a total saint.

'I wonder how much they'll offer this time.'

If they were skilled enough hunters, they would know that this skill is a lot more useful than the Low Level Health Recovery skill.

Moments later.

Someone found out the small difference and commented.

– Hey guys, isn't the thread a bit different? The title is different too.

└ Now that you mention it. The word "health" isn't there.

└ The details are different too. What does it mean by "if you get any physical injuries, it'll raise the recovery rate a tiny bit?"

– Is this what I think it is?

└ I think we're thinking about the same thing;; That's a passive skill too, right?

└ Yeah, it's passive. When they mentioned recovery rate.

– From which portal can I obtain this kind of scroll from?

└ If we knew, would we be here writing comments like this?

└ Don't look down on me like that…

<A New Skill #1> End.

Chapter 22 - <A New Skill #2>

Within minutes, people are discussing about what kind of effects this scroll provided.

‘It’s going well.’

Hyun-Soo looked at the screen with a satisfied expression.

In his hand, he had the item that other people wanted and he was in the position where he’s the only one that’s able to make them.

It was a very fascinating position.

‘This is why everyone wants to be the boss.’

People continued discussing amongst themselves.

They were even talking about how much it was worth.

The hunters that used Hunter Net said that if the scroll had the effects that they assumed, then it could be worth billions.

But since the detailed effects weren’t revealed in the post, the offers weren’t that high.

But he still managed to earn three times more than the last skill he sold.

“Thank you.”

“No, I should be the on thanking you.”

When the male buyer bowed his head, Hyun-Soo did the same and thanked him.

‘I thought a wealthy attacker would buy it.’

The male buyer that purchased it looked a bit old.

He wore a suit, so he seemed more like an employee at a company rather than a hunter.

Not being able to hold in his curiosity, Hyun-Soo ended up asking him regarding the reason for this purchase. Just from the looks of

it, it didn't look like he purchased it so that he could use it during a hunt.

"Do you participate in the hunts...?"

"If you're asking if I'm a hunter, I was one before."

"Does that mean you're not one now?"

"I'm currently taking a break. I'm injured as well."

"I see....."

Injury.

It was a simple reason.

The skill that Hyun-Soo sold was a Low Level Recovery skill.

It's a passive skill that affects more than one's health.

The male buyer didn't try to use it on the spot and decided to take it with him instead.

Hyun-Soo tried to convince him not to.

The rolled up paper was a fake and what he did was transfer to the skill to the target, so if Hyun-Soo wasn't there, then it would just become an ordinary piece of paper.

Hyun-Soo quickly stopped him.

"I'm sorry, but you need to unroll the scroll while I'm here."

"Is that so?"

The man felt that something was off, but decided to listen to Hyun-Soo by ripping the paper.

The scroll he brought this time was a fake scroll that Hyun-Soo made himself.

Hyuna was disappointed when she noticed Hyun-Soo rolling the paper and didn't ask for her help.

However, as the older brother, seeing other guys rip the paper that Hyuna took the time to make made him feel uncomfortable.

Anyways, he expected an attacker that was in a hurry to meet him, but it was someone else.

‘Well, my goal was to sell it anyways.’

As long as he got the money, that’s all that mattered.

Using the Interface, he checked the male’s stats and confirmed that the Low Level Recovery skill was registered under the list.

“You’ve got some nice scrolls. Hopefully we meet again.”

With that, he felt.

Hyun-Soo didn’t think much about what he said because there were so many people that asked him to sell the scroll to them.

After completing the transaction, he immediately headed to the bank.

Checking his bankbook, he saw the amount that the man paid.

No matter how many times he looked at it, he wasn’t tired of it.

When would he get the opportunity to receive this kind of money?

After completing the deal and stopping by the bank, Hyun-Soo let out a heavy sigh.

With this transaction, he fulfilled his first goal.

‘I worked hard to reach this point.’

There were several things that worried him while selling the skills, but there was a reason to keep moving ahead.

Out of all the issues, there was one that needed to be resolved as soon as possible.

– Beep, beep, beep, beep

Hyun-Soo started dialing after taking out his cellphone.

-Riiiiiiiiing.

– Click.

After it rang a couple of times, he heard someone pick up.

– Who's this?

He heard a deep voice that belonged to an elderly.

He answered with determination.

"I would like to pay off the rest of the debt."

***

"You're a hunter? I knew Mr. Kim had a son, but I didn't you were a hunter."

"It hasn't been that long."

"Oh really? What's your class? And your rank?"

"I'm part of the Hybrid class…and I'm an E rank."

Hyun-Soo answered with a nervous look on his face.

An old man was sitting across from him.

However, he didn't seem like an old man because he had this strong energy around him.

Hyun-Soo was at a large house that was located in Hannam-Dong.

At first, he felt a bit uneasy after seeing the gloomy exterior of the house, but he walked in as if it didn't bother him.

The room that he was led to revealed an old man that was waiting for him.

"Welcome."

The old man revealed that he was the creditor that he spoke to over the phone.

'For an old man, he sure has a strong aura.'

Despite of having white hair and a face with wrinkles, he was glaring at Hyun-Soo.

His father met the old man while he was running his own

business, and for some reason, he really liked his father.

There are rumors that he ran several businesses and was also the CEO of a large company. Whichever one was true, Hyun-Soo thought it fit his image.

He felt that much of an aura from this old man.

“Right, so you want to pay the remaining amount? Your class and rank aren’t that great, but it seems like you somehow managed to come up with the money. Did you hear this from your parents?”

“No, I haven’t told my father yet. I can tell him after the debt has been paid.”

The important thing was to get rid of the weight that was holding them down.

“From what I know, you didn’t get a decent education and in that case, don’t you need that money? You need to be in a good position if you want to be a hunter.”

“If there’s something more important, I believe that putting my personal issues on hold is the best thing to do.”

There were a lot of things to do that required money.

Since he became a Skill Maker, he didn’t need to purchase gear or scrolls like the other hunters.

There was no reason for a Skill Maker to purchase a scroll.

If he continued participating in hunts, he would need to purchase basic gear, but seeing as how it was too late, Hyun-Soo thought he didn’t need to spend money because of hunts.

However, he wanted to buy a house, eat delicious food, buy a car and send his parents on a vacation...

Some might think they’re ordinary, but that’s what he wanted to do.

But, he could do those comfortably after resolving the issues that

they had.

Thinking about his relationship with his father, the old man lent money to his father with the lowest interest rate and has been waiting a long time for them to pay it back.

This old man was the one that helped them when his father's business failed and creditors came to their home asking for money.

'We could've been kicked out of our house because of the loan sharks, but he helped us.'

Because of that, his parents have done everything they could to pay him back.

His parents never explained this to him, but after observing for a couple of years, he got an idea of what was going on.

The old man wasn't some illegal loan shark, and from the family's perspective, he was their savior. However, they still had to repay the debt.

Nothing good can come out of carrying that debt.

"You're pretty daring."

"I apologize."

All he did was answer his question, but in the old man's eyes, Hyun-Soo might seem rude because of how confident he was.

"There's nothing to apologize for. I actually like you. Despite of the fact that you didn't officially learn about the hunter's world, you didn't become cocky after being one, so I like you more for that."

"Thank...you?"

"Money only brings greed. You're not part of a major class, but if you really did save up this large amount, you might become greedy. I like how you think. You're reliable. Ha ha ha."

"Ha...ha ha. Thank you."

After glaring at him, the old man suddenly laughed out loud.

Hyun-Soo wasn't sure what it was about him that the old man liked.

It was because he's always acted this way.

Of course he was proud.

He barely graduated because he didn't really study, didn't graduate college and worked part-time jobs because he couldn't get a decent job.

On top of that, he was a troublemaker at one point and made things hard for his family.

Hyun-Soo would hang out with a bad group of people and his parents would go out and look for him despite of the fact that they were exhausted after working the entire day.

"Hyun-Soo! Hey, Hyun-Soo……!"

When his mother managed to find him, he would get embarrassed by how shabby her clothes were and would run away.

His mother would call out his name, but he acted like he didn't know her.

He wasn't sure why he acted that way, but it was a pathetic past of his.

'I can't believe I've matured. That's the first time I've heard it.'

In many ways, he wasn't the best son nor the best older brother.

But the old man was complimenting him.

Despite of the fact that they were just acquaintances, he felt proud just from hearing his compliments.

It was important that he was being acknowledged.

The reason why he felt good about being the boss was because someone acknowledged his worth and thought his skills were amazing.

He felt good.

“Okay, let’s go with your plan. That is, if you feel comfortable about doing that. After seeing how much you think about your family, you’re not like the other people. I’ll go with whatever you want to do.

The old man let Hyun-Soo repay the debt that his father had.

In this neighborhood, people usually charge a fee when repaying the entire debt at once. Hyun-Soo was expecting this, but the old man didn’t ask for anything else.

‘It’s finally over with.’

Freedom.

The weight that was holding his family down was now gone.

After signing the last document, Hyun-Soo clenched his fist under the table.

The old man’s secretary processed the balance and organized the documents.

‘I want to tell them as soon as possible.’

Despite of the fact that they were repaying their debt under better terms than most, it was still a large amount and a big burden on their shoulders.

He wanted to tell his family that he paid off the debt.

Hyun-Soo expressed that he would take his leave after confirming that everything has been taken care of.

The old man nodded.

“I hope you get home safely. Let’s get something to eat later.”

“Thank you for understanding our situation. I’m really thankful about how you help my father.”

“It’s all thanks to his luck.”

The old man looked at Hyun-Soo straight in the eyes.

His keen eyes made him feel uneasy, Hyun-Soo maintained eye contact with him.

“Good bye.”

<A New Skill #2> End.

Chapter 23 - <A Favor #1>

After leaving the palace-like house, Hyun-Soo was finally able to breathe comfortably.

It was a short meeting, but it felt like he went through a lot during that short time.

'He's not some ordinary old man. But, why did he like me so much? Is it because of his relationship with my father?'

For an unknown reason, the old man showed his kindness to the person that came to pay their debt.

But it wasn't a bad feeling.

After shrugging his shoulders, Hyun-Soo looked back at the house.

'It's a nice place.'

There was a yard and it was a spacious house with privacy.

It was a two-story house, so there were a lot of rooms, and it was enough to keep his family's life private.

Hyun-Soo wanted this house.

But, it was impossible in his current situation.

He didn't have much since he used the money he saved up to pay off the debt, but he just needed to save a bit more.

"I've worked hard, but I'll have to work harder. I need to give it to my parents and Hyuna anyways."

That day, Hyun-Soo bought a large portion of Pork Hocks.

And he ate it with family while drinking soju with his parents.

When they heard that Hyun-Soo paid off all the debt, they were extremely surprised.

They asked how he knew about it and where he got the money

from, but all Hyun-Soo did was smile.

His mother cried quietly while his father stood up from his seat.

Knowing that their mother felt bad and was also proud of Hyun-Soo, Hyuna wiped away the tears.

His father came back with tears in his eyes as well.

Without saying a word, his father patted Hyun-Soo's shoulder.

That action alone said a lot.

Hyun-Soo knew what that meant.

Because they were a family.

***

After paying off the debt, Hyun-Soo felt optimistic about the future.

'Now I just have to rise to the top.'

He thought since he resolved all the issues, all he had to do was slowly rise to the top.

He made new skills, gained experience and was planning on making a lot of money.

Nothing could bring him down.

But, things don't always work out the way they want.

After paying off the debt, Hyun-Soo started working hard to create another skill, but he received a call that would cause him issues.

"I purchased a scroll from you before. There's an issue regarding the skill I obtained from the scroll. I would like to meet with you."

'Huh? How can that be?'

He confirmed that the skill was successfully transferred during the meeting.

Hyun-Soo felt weird about it, but replied with a time and place.

Things were starting to get complicated.

‘What do I do if there really is an issue?’

That meant that there’s a possibility that the skills he wants to sell from now on will have issues as well.

If it was just one skill that had an issue, then it wouldn’t matter, but he couldn’t be sure.

He knew that it was best not to meet the person he already sold a scroll to, but since they said there was an issue, he felt uneasy.

Anyways, he had to check for himself.

Hyun-Soo arrived at the spot where they promised to meet.

Since people tend to get greedier the more they have, Hyun-Soo decided to meet at a place where there were a lot of people.

Inside a café where it was filled with people, a middle aged man was sitting at a table.

Hyun-Soo suddenly stopped right when he was about to greet him.

It was because there was a woman sitting next to the man.

“Thank you for coming.”

“It’s fine, I should come if there’s an issue…but, what seems to be the problem?”

Hyun-Soo quickly used the Interface with the man as the target.

‘Interface!’

►Name: Jung Ho-Sik (??)

►Rank: B

►Class: ??

►??

►??

►??

►Skill List

[????][??]

[????][??]

[Low Level Recovery][E]

The man looked like an ordinary person, but he was actually a B rank hunter.

Hyun-Soo was now leveling up from E rank, so he was way out of his league.

But, the man bowed his head towards Hyun-Soo.

“You see…….”

Jung Ho-Sik remained silent as if he didn’t know what to say.

“It works really well.”

“Excuse me?”

“It works so well that it’s an issue.”

“……I’m sorry?”

“I tried searching the database regarding the scroll that you sold, but there weren’t any passive skills that provide this kind of effect. I thought it was a fraud because it wasn’t registered in the data, but the effects are great.”

“……Okay?”

Hyun-Soo thought he would have to refund the man, so he thought about many different situations.

But he wasn’t expecting Jung Ho-Sik to say that the skill was working well.

‘What the hell is this guy saying?’

One thing he was sure of what was Jung Ho-Sik tricked him to

bring him out.

As soon as he realized that, Hyun-Soo stood up.

He wasn't sure what his intentions were.

Since it worked so well, he might threaten Hyun-Soo to give him information regarding the scroll.

Since Ho-Sik wouldn't be able to cause a scene here, Hyun-Soo decided to quickly run out.

That's why he picked such a crowded place.

But, before he could run out, someone grabbed his wrist.

It was the woman that was sitting next to Jung Ho-Sik.

"Wait."

He wasn't sure when it happened, but the woman was now right in front of him while still grabbing his wrist.

'What is this? Why can't I move?'

Hyun-Soo tried pulling his hand, but it wouldn't budge.

'This woman, who is she?'

Hyun-Soo activated Interface while looking at the woman.

'Interface!'

►Name: Kim Yoo-Na (??)

►Rank: A

►Class: ??

►??

►??

►??

►Skill List

[????][??]

[????][??]

[????][??]

[????][??]

‘Wow!’

Despite of not being able to see the other information, there was one he could see.

‘A rank?!’

He thought she was just tagging along, but it seemed like she was the main target here.

Jung Ho-Sik stood up and tried to calm her down, but with one look from her, he sat back down.

Hyun-Soo was surprised, but he couldn’t do anything because of her rank.

Truthfully, it’s also because he couldn’t move.

“I’ll explain. Please just listen.”

“And if I decline……?”

“Then, there’s nothing I can do. If you think I’m here to harm you, I want to tell you that I’m not.”

“But you lied to me so that I would come out and meet you.”

“I’m…sorry about that. I tried every possible means to get in contact with you, but no one would help me…”

The woman said his name so naturally.

Since he never told her his name, he was certain that Jung Ho-Sik told her.

‘I even told myself to be careful about whom I sell the skill to, but…’

He sold it to someone strange.

“Then, are you the one that sent me the weird message?”

“What kind of message are you talking about?”

“You know my name and it seems like you’re here regarding the scroll and you sent me a message, so I was wondering if you were the one that sent it.”

“I did send you a message with my contact information, but…I never sent you an offensive message.”

The woman quickly gave an excuse as if she was surprised.

But she didn’t let go of Hyun-Soo’s hand.

It looked as if the girl was holding onto the guy that was trying to break up with her.

And it just so happened to take place at a crowded café.

The woman was holding onto him to hard that he couldn’t pull away.

‘Jeez…how embarrassing. Is this fun to them? Why are they looking so intently?’

Embarrassed by the crowd that were looking at them, Hyun-Soo gave up.

He didn’t even have the strength to pull away.

It looked like she wasn’t going to let him go and even though she didn’t threaten him, he thought it would be best to hear her out.

It’s obvious that he would just be in the same situation as before if he didn’t.

“Whew…I guess I’ll hear what you have to say. But, if you think about doing something fishy or threaten me, then I’ll run out of here.”

“Don’t worry. I didn’t have a way to meet with you, so I do apologize for what I did even though this is our first time meeting each other.”

As soon as Hyun-Soo and the woman both sat down, Jung Ho-Sik brought coffee for them.

“I guess apologize first would be the best thing to do. I apologize for calling you out here by lying to you.”

“…Forget it. So, why did you want to meet me? If you want me to sell more scrolls, then forget it. I’ll also decline if you want information about the scroll.”

Hyun-Soo spoke in a cold tone.

But he was honestly very nervous.

It’s because she was an A rank.

Just from looking at her, she looked like she wouldn’t be able to hold a sword, but in reality, she was an A rank.

She was a hunter that could kill most monsters.

Since there were barely any S rank hunters in the world, it’s safe to say that A rank hunters were the best.

And sitting in front of one made Hyun-Soo’s heart race like crazy.

After hearing what Hyun-Soo said, an awkward expression appeared on her face.

‘It’s pretty obvious what she wants.’

There wasn’t much to discuss to someone that sold scrolls.

The woman just kept on biting her pretty lips.

Hyun-Soo planned on declining whatever she said.

‘There’s no end to it if I get involved deeper.’

Hyun-Soo was the one that made that skills and sold them, but these people didn’t know that.

They probably thought that he found a portal that had these scrolls and went hunting to obtain them.

There were a lot of people that were greedy for scrolls, but more

people were probably more curious about where Hyun-Soo obtained the scrolls.

‘I guess I’ll listen since I agreed to. But, it won’t do much good.’

With that thought in mind, Hyun-Soo frowned and looked at the woman that seemed to be thinking about something. Whatever she was going to say, he was ready to let it go into one ear and out the other.

However, Hyun-Soo would soon realize that his assumptions were wrong.

“Please help…… my younger sister.”

“……Sister? Exactly how do you want me to help?”

“My sister…has a rare disease. she’s had Neuromuscular disease ever since she was young and always spent time at the hospital. Her dream was to become a singer, but she has a hard time breathing by herself, which made it impossible for her to fulfill her dream.”

“…….”

“I was told to prepare for the worst because she didn’t have much time to live. But, in order to let her live, she went through so many surgeries. Even a healer’s healing magic didn’t do anything. It just prevented her condition from getting worse.”

The woman’s eyes were filled with tears.

But the woman blinked, got rid of her tears and continued talking calmly.

<A Favor #1> End.

Chapter 24 - <A Favor #2>

“Thankfully, after I became a hunter, I fed her all types of rare items that I obtained from the portal. I even grind an Energy Stone and to feed it to her. But, that could only do so much. She did improve for a moment, but that was the only time. In the end, she didn’t recover. The effects didn’t last long. And my sister is slowly dying. But.”

She stopped talking looked straight at Hyun-Soo.

“You. The scroll that you’re selling. If you have it, then it’ll be a different story.”

“In what way?”

Even though he asked, Hyun-Soo already knew the answer.

‘It said that a very small amount of the curing rate will be increased when it was beyond physical injuries. Technically, a rare disease can be considered as being beyond a physical injury. That’s why, if the basic curing rate was increased, then the disease will be healed too.’

In his mind, it was definitely a reasonable story.

As if she was thinking about the same thing, she looked at Hyun-Soo with an anxious expression.

“I beg you. Please sell that scroll to me. It doesn’t matter how much it costs. I’ll pay no matter how expensive it is.”

“Oh, well…….”

“Please.”

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure what to do.

‘I told myself I would decline no matter what she said…….’

This woman was making him have second thoughts.

She was breaking down the decision he made.

It would've been different if it was for a different reason. But...

'The person that needed it just happened to be her younger sister.'

If a hunter was making an offer so that they could use it during a hunt, he would've declined right away, but the woman talked about her family and her younger sister that had a rare disease.

Hyun-Soo felt uncomfortable because he cared about his family just as much as her.

If their parents became sick, Hyuna would do everything within her power to find a cure.

If someone knew of a way, then they would do whatever it took to get that information.

But, it's not like he didn't understand her desperation in trying to find a cure.

It was a problem because he could relate.

'What should I do? It would've been easier if she was forceful about me selling it to her.'

If he helped her, it would violate the rules he set for himself, but declining it would make him feel guilty.

To him, his family was his weakness.

And this woman used that to get what she wanted.

"Whew..... This is quite difficult."

He didn't want give in, but seeing her trying to save a family member that was dying made things complicated.

"If I sell you a scroll, will that sister of yours be completely cured?"

"...That's what I'm hoping. I'm desperate so I'm trying whatever I can get my hands on. If I used the scroll that you're selling, then I believe there's a higher chance. Since it's a passive skill, an

ordinary person like my sister can use it and the recovery rate is quite high and also, it recovers injuries that are beyond physical injuries.”

Despite of the fact that there weren’t any information regarding it, she knew exactly that it was a passive skill and that it can be used on an ordinary person.

Hyuna and his parents did have one or two passive skills that he made.

Well, no one would use a passive skill on an ordinary person anyways. And on top of that, it’s a recovery skill.

Hyun-Soo was probably the first one.

Anyways, the woman probably didn’t say that while knowing about his parents, but Hyun-Soo was a bit shocked.

‘But, I’m sure this woman knows that the skill I’m selling is a scroll.’

There are rumors that scrolls can’t be used on an ordinary person because they don’t have the same energy has a hunter.

Of course no one could prove this because there were still a lot of information that haven’t been discovered yet.

“If your sister is an ordinary person, then it won’t be useful.”

The woman shook her head.

“Scholars are speculating that compared to the information that have been revealed about the scroll, there’s a lot more that haven’t been discovered. That’s why it’s a good enough reason to try. Also… it’s a passive skill, not an active skill. Even if active scrolls were used on an ordinary person, since they don’t have the energy, they can’t use it because it’s impossible to check to see if they really obtained it. But, no one knows whether they really obtained it.”

To summarize, it meant that it was impossible for ordinary

people to use active skills because of the energy, but it could be different for passive skills.

“It’s a scroll that increases the recovery rate, so he doesn’t need the energy.”

Which meant it could be possible.

‘I was going to decline by telling her that it was impossible for him to acquire it…’

She knew that trying wouldn’t hurt, so he couldn’t say anything about that.

Hyun-Soo stayed silent, so the woman looked at him with an anxious look and spoke.

“I know that there’s no guarantee that it’ll work right away. But, I just really want to try anything. And since I’ve never used a passive scroll before, I believe there’s a high chance of success. Even if it fails, I’ll deal with it.”

“……”

“If it does succeed, she’ll still have complications, but since his health will be somewhat recovered, she’ll be able to get surgery… and her chance of recovering will increase. Right now, she’s too weak so she can’t get surgery done. It’s a recovery skill and a passive skill on top of that. It’s a very rare scroll. Even if I have a lot of money, the only scrolls that I can get my hands on are scrolls that doesn’t really any effect. But I feel hopeful about your scrolls.”

“I’m begging you. Please sell that scroll to me.”

Even though she didn’t say it out loud, it felt like that’s what she was whispering to me.

‘I’m getting a headache.’

Hyun-Soo decided to leave for now.

“I’ll think about it. I don’t have any scrolls on me right now, so even if I decided to help, there’s nothing you could take with you.

I've received a lot of requests from previous buyers that asked to sell another scroll to them, but I declined. So I need some time to think."

"I hope that you do decide to help."

The woman looked disappointed, but she didn't grab Hyun-Soo again.

She had a sad expression as she bowed her head.

Her small face.

She had a rounded forehead, a sharp nose and full lips.

Just looking at her in the eyes would make one think that she was strong, but on the other hand, she was a pretty, thin woman.

Hyun-Soo felt sweat on his back when he saw her looking at him with a disappointed look.

'No matter how pretty she is, she's an A rank hunter. I'll die if I get on her bad side.'

It was a relief that she didn't decide to use her skills, but the fact that she was an A rank hunter made him feel uneasy.

On top of that, because she was physically pretty, she looked like someone that walked out of a drama and sat here. There were so many people that looked at her.

'I feel like I'm in some kind of soap opera.'

Being disappointed, the woman kept on staring at Hyun-Soo with her large eyes.

Jung Ho-Sik politely escorted the woman and helped her get in her car.

After seeing the car drive off, Hyun-Soo let out a deep sigh.

"I seriously never have a good day."

***

After he came home with mixed emotions, Hyuna stopped studying and greeted Hyun-Soo.

“You’re home.”

“Yeah, your brother is here. Aren’t you tired of studying during the weekend?”

After seeing some guy with large glasses on the screen, he asked and Hyuna smiled widely.

“Well, it’s what I have to do.”

“……”

“Anyways, you don’t look so good. Did something happen? Are you having a hard time?”

She didn’t know that there was an issue regarding the scroll, but knew he went out after thinking about something, so she carefully asked.

‘Should I ask Hyuna?’

No matter how much he thought about it, he couldn’t come up with an answer.

‘If I make one exception, then it’ll just keep adding on. The best thing to do is to not make any excuses. But, I feel like an exception is necessary for this situation…man, I’m getting a headache.’

They didn’t seem like the type to spread rumors, but he couldn’t be sure of that.

He wasn’t even sure if the story about her brother was true.

‘The best thing to do is ignore her.’

Hyun-Soo knew that as well.

But, her situation was what made things complicated.

She probably didn’t mention it on purpose, but he felt himself weakening.

‘If Hyuna or my parents were in the same situation, I probably would’ve done the same thing as her.’

I would’ve even sold my organs if it meant saving them.

After thinking about that, he did somewhat understand desperation.

Thinking about it by himself didn’t really help.

Whether he decided to help or not, they both had pros and cons.

‘If I decline, the variable will be erased. But I’ll feel guilty. If I decide to help, I won’t feel guilty, but there’s a high chance that an issue I can’t control can happen.’

Hyun-Soo ended up giving up.

Instead, he decided to ask Hyuna.

“Hyuna, let’s say you had this power. If you use that power, you can save someone that’s dying. But, if you use that power, then you can be in danger too. Would save them or let them die?”

“Hm…does that power have consequences where I’ll die instead if I use it?”

“No, nothing like that. But things can get more complicated compared to when you don’t help.”

“And if I use that power, they’ll definitely live, right?”

“The chances are high. Most likely.”

Hyuna thought about it for a second and tilted her head.

“Then…if it were me, I would help them and see. They’ll die if I don’t help. And the part about how I could be in danger is an assumption. Since it’s an assumption, I believe there’s a chance it may not happen. If you’re more careful and aware, isn’t it possible to avoid the danger?”

Hyuna was saying that helping them would be better.

“Even if something could happen to you because of it?”

“Yeah, because you can’t do anything if you’re afraid of ‘what ifs.”

Hyuna smiled after seeing Hyun-Soo deep in his thoughts.

“Is there someone that needs your help?”

“Yeah.”

“Then, help them. It might be for the better. You look as if you’ll regret it later on. If that’s the case, wouldn’t it be better to just help them and get rid of that feeling so that it won’t affect your health? Think of it as helping yourself.”

‘Regret.’

That’s another thing Hyun-Soo was contemplating about.

‘Won’t I regret it? Would I be able to ignore her desperation?’

He remembered how that woman bowed for her family and not for herself.

“That’s what I think, but I’m not sure what you think about it. Helping is the best choice, but there isn’t a law that requires you to help, so deciding based on your instinct is probably the best.”

After telling him to decide carefully, Hyuna sat down in front of the computer again.

Hyun-Soo thought carefully as he watched her.

After waking up the next morning, Hyun-Soo grabbed his phone and called.

“Is this Jung Ho-Sik? This is Kim Hyun-Soo. I would like to meet the woman that I met yesterday.”

<A Favor #2> End.

Chapter 25 - <A Fiery Attacker #1>

“Hurry up and attack it!”

Hyun-Soo’s shoulders started trembling due to the sharp scream.

But, he didn’t forget about his job.

“Mighty Throw!”

He used Mighty Throw, which was an offensive skill that still remained on his list.

With the help of the skill, the small dagger that was on the ground, Kyahhhhhhh!!

Pierced right into the white light, which was the monster’s weakness.

“Finish it!”

“Got it! Mighty Throw!”

Hyun-Soo used the skill again after hearing the order.

Roaaaaaaaar! Kyahhhhh… kyahh…!

Hyun-Soo’s weapon kept on piercing the monster’s weak point as it shined brightly.

The monster must’ve felt tortured because it started running around widly.

Boom, boom!

The grey monster had a large body and the mutant rhinoceros was getting ready to charge.

Anyone that was near it would be stomped to death!

However, the person that was tanking was skillfully dodging the monster’s attacks.

‘No matter how I look at it, it’s amazing.’

Despite of using a critical attack on its weakness, the monster

didn’t even look in his direction.

She wasn’t even a tanker.

‘She’s an amazing woman.’

She hasn’t aggravated the monster once.

It could be due to the difference in ranks, but Kim Yoo-Na looked like a goddess of war with the way she was controlling the flame.

Despite of seeing it a couple of times, he was amazed by it.

‘Besides the fact that she’s an A rank...Kim Yoo-Na. She’s an amazing woman.’

He was currently getting tutored on a one on one battle.

His goal was to increase his rank as quickly as possible.

That was it.

“Finish it!”

“Got it!”

Hyun-Soo used Mighty Throw again.

The sharp dagger pierced deeply into the white dot.

[Critical!]

Every time Hyun-Soo hit right in the center, an alarm appeared along with a cheerful sound.

As if it was in a lot of pain, the rhino roared loudly.

Before dying, the rhino performed its final widespread attack.

Kyahhhhhhh!

Grrrrr!

Every time it stomped its feet, the dust jumped up into the air.

Kim Yoo-Na stepped on the stones that was in the air with ease and flew into the air.

“Haaaa!”

With a short shout, Kim Yoo-Na attacked the mutant rhino's horn with her fist.

Her fist was enveloped in flames.

Roar!

'Mighty Throw!'

The mutant rhino couldn't endure it and finally collapsed to the ground.

The portal was filled with the sound of its heavy, big body falling to the ground.

On the fallen monster's body, the daggers that Hyun-Soo threw were pierced throughout its body.

"Whew...it took a while, but we managed to capture it."

"Its outer skin was thicker than I had imagined. The daggers didn't pierce deep enough."

"Really? You still did pretty well despite of it. You're used to it now, right?"

When Kim Yoo-Na turned around with a bright smile, the rhino's blood was smeared all over her face.

"Of...course."

She looked like a cold woman when standing still, but when she talks with a pretty smile, he should feel happy, but.

'It's not that I'm scared. I'm just creeped out and surprised whenever I see her.'

She looked like someone that would appear in a horror movie, so Hyun-Soo turned his head away and laughed awkwardly.

'Let's see...how much it increased. Interface!'

►Name: Kim Hyun-Soo (21)

►Rank: E

►Class: Skill Maker

►Experience: 97%

►??

►??

►Skill List

[Interface][SS]

[Skill Creation][D]

[Skill Transfer][D]

[Mighty Throw][E]

'Experience increased by 11%.'

After seeing how much Interface changed, Hyun-Soo smiled with satisfaction.

As he increased his experience level, Mighty Throw, which he used often, also leveled up from F to E.

Interface's activation rate was also increasing and it developed so much that he was now able to see the monster's weakness in different places all at once.

'On top of that, the class was revealed.'

A category that was marked with ?? on Interface was revealed.

It was the class.

'I thought the hunters were divided based on major and hybrid classes, but that wasn't the case.'

Hyun-Soo's class was Skill Maker.

Since Hyun-Soo made skills, it was the perfect category.

Kim Yoo-Na's class was Fiery Attacker.

It definitely wasn't divided based on the hunter's category.

‘I guess the class that Interface categorizes them in is different.’

The Interface skill still had a lot of sections that wasn’t revealed.

Hyun-Soo assumed that the more his rank and the skill’s activation level increased, the more information will be revealed.

“I’ll try measuring it now.”

“Okay.”

Kim Yoo-Na placed a simple measuring instrument on Hyun-Soo.

Beep! Beep, beep, beep!

The machine made beeping noises for the longest time and eventually displayed an alphabet on the small screen.

“You should’ve leveled up, but maybe you’re lacking a bit.”

It’s a portable machine that displays a hunter’s rank by measuring the amount of energy they have.

Even though it’s considered portable, it was a pretty large machine.

And, it was expensive too.

But, ever since they decreased the amount of functions and its size, there wasn’t much you could do with it.

‘So, that thing costs billions of dollars, right? I wondered who would buy something like that…’

Kim Yoo-Na was that kind of person.

“Since there aren’t any portals that we hunt right now, we’ll have to stop here.”

The portals are controlled by the government, so we need to get approval prior to hunting a portal.

Despite of the small land, a lot of portals open up in Korea.

However, due to procedural issues, not everyone gets approved to hunt.

‘They control the market value by limiting the amount of Energy Stones one can obtain.’

It didn’t matter.

Anyways, in order to get approved, they have to register a couple of days beforehand.

But it did seem like high-rank hunters, official groups and guilds get approved a lot faster.

She seemed worried about how slow Hyun-Soo was leveling up, causing a frown to appear on her face. But she ended up turning her attention back to the rhino.

‘She looks like she’s having fun.’

With a satisfied expression, he observed Kim Yoo-Na, who was currently dismantling a body.

‘Interface!‘

[Mutilated Rhinoceros’s Horn]

It was the horn of the Mutilated Rhinoceros.

It can’t be easily cut as it’s very firm.

Once it has been digested, it’ll provide nutrition.

Recommended Intake Method: Eat it raw.

Effects: Once digested +Stamina 3% [Maintained for two hours]

The horn had this kind of effect.

She said she went around and obtained various items for her younger sister and it seemed like she already knew what kind of effect the monster’s residue had.

At first, Hyun-Soo didn’t know why she was slaughtering the monster.

‘It’s not like she was poor like me, so why is she doing all the

work?'

Being really curious, he asked and Kim Yoo-Na answered.

'It's good for the body. It's known as health food.'

'....!'

She said she's eaten it many times and showed Hyun-Soo what she acquired.

Hyun-Soo used Interface.

'I was really surprised then. That was when I found out that it provided information about objects too. It not only displays my information, but also displays another person's, a monster's and an object's information...It wasn't an SS skill for nothing.'

Information was important.

It couldn't be stressed enough.

It can be a shortcut because you can get ahead depending on the kind of information it displays.

It's an enormous benefit if you're able to get ahead of everyone else.

After that, Hyun-Soo made it a habit to use Interface whenever he entered a portal.

'The world inside of the portal is different from the world that I live in. So it's not weird to find fantasy-like items.'

The existence of monsters was a big difference.

When compared to ordinary medicine, the items found in portals had a way better effect.

'If I didn't have Interface, I probably would've just passed by medicinal herbs and fruits that had amazing effects.'

But, he had a way of checking that information.

Moments later, the Mutilated Rhinoceros's horn was completely

cut off and was on Kim Yoo-Na's back.

"Let's get out of here."

"Okay."

"Are you heading home?"

"I should."

They'll end up spending money if they stay out.

Going home was the best decision.

"Then...take this piece of the horn that I cut off. You've worked hard today, so go home and rest. I'll let you know when I receive approval for the next hunt."

"Got it. I don't really need. It's difficult to handle it, so it'll only be baggage."

"Is that so?"

Kim Yoo-Na briefly contemplated and took back the piece of horn that she offered to Hyun-Soo.

And then.

"Ha!"

With a shout, a red flame appeared from her hand.

Holding the flame is both hands, she enveloped the horn with it and focused her energy on it.

Crack!

The horn that was within her hands were starting to break into smaller pieces.

That happened for a couple more minutes.

"Whew.. All done."

Bringing her hands together, she extended it towards Hyun-Soo.

As soon as the flame disappeared, the horn that was in her hands

changed into fine powder.

“Thank…you.”

Hyun-Soo quickly opened the bag he carried around with him and accepted the powder she offered.

“You can mix it with water, eat it with bread or mix it with rice before cooking it.”

Kim Yoo-Na even explained how to eat it.

But her method was slightly incorrect.

“It’ll provide…a better effect if you eat it raw.”

Remembering the description he read from Interface, Hyun-Soo explained it to her.

He thought about just keeping quiet, but since he acquired a nice item and she took care of the monster, he decided to tell her.

Kim Yoo-Na just nodded her head.

“I guess you can eat it that way. I’ll keep that in mind. Thank you.”

As we were leaving the portal, Kim Yoo-Na picked up the Energy Stone.

Hyun-Soo didn’t mind that she took the Energy Stone with her.

‘An Energy Stone isn’t enough payment for getting one on one training from a high-ranked hunter.’

It would be rude to take the Energy stone.

Kim Yoo-Na grinded the Energy Stone, purified it and gave it to her younger brother.

He couldn’t ask for it just to get money.

After saying their goodbyes, they exited the portal and went their separate ways.

Once the hunt has been scheduled, she said she would contact

him, so there wasn't a need to make an appointment.

"-The subway has arrived. Please wait in the safe area..."

After entering the subway that would take him home, Hyun-Soo was able to finally relax.

During the hunt, the amount of times Hyun-Soo was in charge was less than Kim Yoo-Na.

However, since the hunt was tiring for the both of them, Hyun-Soo felt kind of tired.

After sitting down, he closed his eyes.

A faint image of Kim Yoo-Na attacking the Mutilated Rhinoceros appeared.

'I made the right decision in contacting Kim Yoo-Na, now that I think about it.'

<A Fiery Attacker #1> End.

Chapter 26 - <A Fiery Attacker #2>

Hyun-Soo remembered the first time he met Kim Yoo-Na.

The time he contacted her after asking for some time to think...

They created a contract.

There was a reason why he acted the way he did when they went their separate ways.

They created a somewhat business-like relationship.

'I provided my skill and Kim Yoo-Na provided an atmosphere where I could provide my skill. It's a very fair contract.'

He couldn't hunt because the healer community looked at him in a bad light.

After obtaining 'Skill Transfer' he changed to selling skills by creating fake scrolls.

It was a way to make money.

However, he did want to hunt in order to see how strong he was and wanted to experience catharsis.

He awakened as a hunter and yet, he haven't participated in a decent hunt.

It was great that he was making money, but it was also his dream to become a hunter.

But, because of the difficulties in his life, he almost gave up on becoming one.

'But Kim Yoo-Na appeared.'

Kim Yoo-Na hoped that Hyun-Soo would sell a healing type scroll to her.

She was desperate.

And that desperation helped Hyun-Soo make up his mind.

He said he wouldn't fall for it, no matter the reason, but it got to him.

'Hyuna also convinced me to make the decision that I wouldn't regret later.'

It was true.

Family. And his sister.

Those were the keywords that Hyun-Soo couldn't just ignore.

The thing that Kim Yoo-Na wanted was a healing scroll that healed at a fast rate and that could cure a body that was getting worse.

'The problem is that that scroll was the best that I could make at that time.'

After deciding to help, he tried to make a similar scroll, but the scroll that he made was the best he could make at his current rank.

He was a bit disappointed, but thanks to that, he was able to transfer the 'Low Level Recovery' to all of his family members.

So, Hyun-Soo told Kim Yoo-Na.

In order to obtain a higher level scroll, he needs to increase his level.

'I need to increase my level in order to obtain a high-ranked scroll.'

It sounded a bit blunt, but it was the truth.

He didn't lie about it, so Hyun-Soo decided to be blunt.

'If I knew a hunter that was an A rank, I would be able to participate in hunts again even though that crazy healer blocked me from doing so…'

In the end, he was getting personally tutored by a high-ranked hunter.

He wasn't sure if portals with different ranks contained scrolls

with similar effects, but there's still a lot about portals that hasn't been revealed, so it was hard to say that it was impossible.

Hyun-Soo made up a story based on that.

Since Kim Yoo-Na didn't know about the fact that he created skills and sold them, she believed him, despite of feeling that something was off.

'I got scared that an A rank might threaten me to show them proof.'

Thankfully, Kim Yoo-Na wasn't like that.

Information about portals were valuable.

There was a reason why information about high-ranked portals were only given to high-ranked hunters and groups.

Information gave power, authority and it led to money.

The skills that Hyun-Soo sold were rare and valuable skills.

So asking information about the portal for free was considered rude or they were just looking for a fight.

'It's not like I can sell information for money though.'

It was true that he had to increase his Skill Creation in order to create a higher ranked skill.

And Hyun-Soo wasn't planning on revealing the fact that he was a Skill Maker any time soon.

'What if they lock me up somewhere after I reveal it? Who'll help financially. Hyuna has to go to college and I have to buy a house too!'

Since he didn't have any power, he might just ruin his life if he revealed it.

That's why Hyun-Soo made up the story.

Hyun-Soo was the one that was in control at the moment anyways.

Kim Yoo-Na was in a situation where she would do anything to save her younger sister.

She didn't seem like the type, but, even if she were to threaten him, then he could just leave and Hyun-Soo wouldn't lose anything.

Kim Yoo-Na was at a disadvantage here.

He knew just from the way she was asking for his help.

Hyun-Soo was her only hope.

In the end, she didn't ask any questions and just went with it.

It's because it didn't matter as long as she could save her sister.

There was another good thing that happened after contacting her.

'I've become a hunter that could officially participate in hunts.'

That's why he officially got his rank calculated not that long ago.

That was the first time he saw the machine.

It was bigger than the machine that Kim Yoo-Na brought and it provided more detailed information. There were two machines in each city.

'There's a lot of people that wants to be a hunter.'

It was hard to tell whether they were real hunters or if they were just wasting money in hopes that they couldn't become one.

Anyways, Hyun-Soo was able to register as an official hunter.

It would've taken others a long time, but maybe it was because of Kim Yoo-Na, but he was able to get it done quickly.

'It felt like a waste when I spent tens of thousands of won within 10 minutes...'

Of course, Kim Yoo-Na was the one that paid.

Even though she paid the large amount, she didn't think much of

it.

Hyun-Soo felt bad and it was as if he was indebted, but Kim Yoo-Na looked at him as if she was saying that this was nothing.

And she added this to it.

‘Hurry up and level up so that you can obtain a scroll for my sister.’

The answer was of course, yes.

With Hyun-Soo’s acknowledgement, that’s how they created the contract.

Kim Yoo-Na took really good care of him.

After hearing that it was impossible for Hyun-Soo to participate in hunts, she said, ‘Then, hunt with me.’

Which surprised Hyun-Soo.

She wasn’t just talk too.

For the first time, Hyun-Soo was able to see an A rank’s grey portal that day.

Before capturing the monster, he followed her instructions by finishing it with a final blow.

Most of the attacks were done by Kim Yoo-Na alone.

He was thankful towards her because she personally trained him and helped him see the new functions of Interface.

‘She’s a good luck charm.’

That’s what he thought, but he didn’t show it in front of her.

Even for Hyun-Soo, it was hard for him to continuously compliment a woman that looked at him with a straight face.

‘I wonder what the next hunt will be about.’

Despite of the fact that he was in her care, Hyun-Soo was excited for the next hunt.

He felt himself getting stronger little by little.

He was close to leveling up to a D rank.

‘The activation status for Interface is a bit slow, but it’s getting there, and my experience point has been increasing tremendously, so it’s that’s great.’

Maybe that’s why those that have money and power ride buses.

‘It feels good even though I’m tired physically.’

In his pocket, he had the Mutant Rhinoceros’s horn power, which was good for the body.

After thinking about giving it to his parents and Hyuna, he felt more satisfied about today’s hunt.

‘I’ll have some as well.’

The subway that Hyun-Soo was riding was nearing its destination.

**

‘Let’s see…’

Hyun-Soo looked around the new portal he entered.

‘The rhinoceros’s horn powder from last time was pretty good.’

After telling his parents that it was good for their body, they ate it happily.

His father was especially happy.

He understood just from the word, nutritious.

After seeing the powder that Hyun-Soo brought, Hyuna said…

‘This looks like the drug that you see in movies and American dramas.’

And hesitated for a bit, but took a bite after closing her eyes.

Perhaps it was better than she had thought, because he asked for more.

The downside regarding this powder is that while it increases one's health level, it wasn't permanent.

'It only lasts for two hours.'

As time passes, the effect wears off, so one would have to constantly eat it in order to maintain its effects.

'It increase one's health, but it also benefited something else.'

Thanks to that, he was able to work-out late at night.

The night air was refreshing and he enjoyed it.

The problem was that he felt a bit tired the next morning due to spending his energy the night before.

Anyways, thanks to Kim Yoo-Na, he was able to experience its effects and after confirming the information he saw on Interface, he couldn't just sit still because there was something that was still lacking.

It was true that he felt a bit uncomfortable before because they were all part of the portal.

That's why, he only checked the effects of the items that Kim Yoo-Na said was good for the body, but he never intended on eating them.

But, after eating it, Hyun-Soo's mind changed.

'I can't miss this.'

And after the uncomfortable feeling he had slowly disappeared, he suddenly thought about something.

'On top of that, I can check the information regarding the items with Interface. I shouldn't let an awesome skill like this go to waste.'

That was his first thought.

'On top of that, this...can help me make money.'

It was just an idea as of right now, but once he organizes his

thoughts, he felt that something great could come out of it.

It was another way to make money.

Hyun-Soo lived a life where he tried to make even a dollar more, so he was good at coming up with ideas that could potentially help him make money.

Instinctively, he used Interface on different parts of the portal.

“Kim Hyun-Soo. Stop getting distracted and come here.

“Oh, right.”

Hyun-Soo’s mind was elsewhere after thinking that maybe he could find an item that had an amazing effect, but followed Kim Yoo-Na after she called for him.

“According to my calculations, you should’ve leveled up previously, but seeing as how you didn’t, this hunt will most likely be the last.”

“I hope so.”

During the last hunt, his experience point as an E rank increased to 97%.

With this hunt, it’ll fill up the remaining three percent and still have some left over.

“Then, the scroll that I asked for…you can sell it to me, right?”

“It’ll be difficult to do it right away, but I’ll do my best to get it as soon as possible.”

“That would be great. Hye-Na’s condition hasn’t been great… again.”

“…I’ll get it as soon as I can.”

Seeing a woman with an arrogant impression filled with worry made him think of the painting, “Portrait of a Beauty.”

But, Hyun-Soo knew that that beauty broke the rhinoceros’s horn with her fist and attacked the monster by enveloping her

hands with fire.

Since Hyun-Soo saw it so many times, he couldn't really see Kim Yoo-Na's beauty.

Whenever she talked about her sick sister, Hyun-Soo felt his heart pounding.

The scroll that Kim Yoo-Na wanted wasn't really a scroll, but a skill that Hyun-Soo made.

'As long as it has good effects, that's all that matters, right?'

Despite of the fact that he was thinking that way, after seeing her desperately find a way to save her sister made him feel a bit guilty about lying to her.

Since he couldn't tell her the truth, he had no choice to tell a white lie.

Chapter 27 - <Level Up #1>

“Great. Let’s get started. It’s better to start sooner rather than later.”

Hyun-Soo nodded his head.

“The monster we’ll be going against is the Flower Spore.”

It sounded familiar.

‘Is this fate?’

The monster that he fought during his first hunt was the Flower Spore.

And his life as a hunter was ruined because of that monster.

But to think that he would capture a Flower Spore right when he’s about to level up.

“You said you captured on before, right?”

“Yes.”

“Then you know what to look out for. The monster may be similar, but since the rank of the portal is different, the monster will be different as well.”

“Got it. Don’t worry.”

“Right. You seem pretty used it now. I’ve met a lot of hunters, but I’m surprised by how fast you’ve grown. Why exactly are the other hunters excluding a hunter like you?”

‘I’m not sure. That’s what I would like to know.’

Kim Yoo-Na somewhat knew of Hyun-Soo’s situation, but she couldn’t understand why Hyun-Soo was forced out of the hunter’s community.

‘She might not know since she worked mostly overseas…’

Even though their relationship was created through a contract,

but there wasn't much that Hyun-Soo knew about Kim Yoo-Na.

The only thing he knew was that her sister was sick.

He didn't really want to know and it looked like Kim Yoo-Na didn't want to tell him either.

That was good enough.

This wasn't the time to think about girls.

Honestly, she felt more like a guide than a woman.

He wasn't sure when he would get the chance to talk to a beautiful woman like Kim Yoo-Na, but he didn't have the energy to focus on these feelings.

"It's coming. I'll aggravate it, so start attacking it as much as you can."

"Got it."

Although the Flower Spore was from a green portal, it probably had similar stats.

Kim Yoo-Na explained that its level might be different, but its attacks should be similar.

Boom!

Kim Yoo-Na punched the ground with her fist.

The even ground suddenly started rumbling.

The sound of the ground splitting could be heard and green vines flew out of it.

'Now!'

While the vines were stretched out and the monster was taking its place, he saw it appear on the Flower Spore's body.

While watching the flower petals blossom, Hyun-Soo saw the light.

"Mighty Throw!"

Swoosh!

The sharp dagger flew towards the bright, white dot.

Kyahhhh!

However, because of its vines, it didn't hit the white dot.

However, the dagger cut into its vine and the Flower Spore's head was focusing on Hyun-Soo.

"Haaa!"

That's when.

Kim Yoo-Na hit the Flower Spore's body with her fist.

The plant type monster was really weak against her fiery fists.

Kyaaaaaaaa!

The monster's high-pitched scream filled the entire portal.

Since they didn't have any other defense or a healer, they had to be careful whenever its vines tried to attach them.

For the monsters before, Kim Yoo-Na would aggravate them, so all he had to do was attack while dodging their attacks.

'The Flower Spore is just attacking everywhere with its vines.'

It didn't even have a wide-ranged attack, but its vines made it seem like they did.

'I have no choice.'

Hyun-Soo approached closer to the monster.

Most of the vines were attacking Kim Yoo-Na, so he approached the part where there weren't as many vines.

His eyes met with Kim Yoo-Na's.

She looked at him with a serious look as if to tell him that it wasn't a good idea.

'I wasn't planning on getting too close.'

Hyun-Soo wasn't planning on attacking it from up close, but after getting somewhat closer, he dodged the vines and looked at the white dots that were underneath the leaves.

'Huh?'

Suddenly, he saw something strange.

'What is that?'

Underneath the white, sparkling dot, there was something hanging from its roots.

Just looking at it made it seem like it was part of the vine.

'Interface!'

[Flower Spore's Pocket]

It's a pocket that contains the Flower Spore's premature spore.

The premature spore gives a weak paralysis effect.

Effect: Paralysis Effect [Duration: Three Minutes]

He was expecting this to have some sort of amazing effect like the Mutilated Rhinoceros.

With high expectations, Hyun-Soo checked by using Interface.

He was a bit disappointed when he found out that it didn't have such a great effect, but...

'No. Isn't it good if it has a paralysis effect? It is a bit weak, but it's an important item during a hunt, so it's not a big loss.'

Once he levels up, his short contract with Kim Yoo-Na will come to an end.

After that, he had to go on hunts on his own.

So, it wasn't a bad idea to take a useful item with him.

'I might have to go on hunts by myself.'

He thought it was almost impossible, but if he looked hard

enough, he might find a monster he could take care of by himself.

‘My stamina and agility increased a lot and it does feel like my body has become agile.’

He still had a long way to go until he was on the same level as Kim Yoo-Na but, when comparing to the attackers during his first hunt, he was sure that he was way better than them.

‘An opening!’

Swoosh!

The sharp dagger flew towards the white light and hit it.

[Critical!]

Hyun-Soo’s dagger started flying towards the white dots.

The critical alarm continuously rang.

Since Kim Yoo-Na was aggravating the Flower Spore, daggers were all over its body and a green residue was seeping out of it. The monster didn’t have the time to look back at Hyun-Soo.

Since he was continuously attacking it, the monster’s Energy Field was getting weaker, which made it easier for him to attack.

‘Did the tanker from before not do his job right or is Kim Yoo-Na just better?’

Kim Yoo-Na was an A rank hunter, but she was an attacker.

The man from before was a tanker.

‘Since I didn’t really like that guy, I’ll just assume he didn’t do his job right.’

Hyun-Soo came to that conclusion.

While doing so, his hands and feet were continuously moving.

He managed to dodge the vines that the monster was waving around due to the pain and whenever he saw its weak point, he didn’t forget to attack it.

‘But something is missing.’

He was continuously lowering the monster’s Energy Field, but Hyun-Soo felt that something was missing.

‘It would be nice if I had a skill I could use to finish the attack.’

If not that, he wished he had a stronger skill.

The combination of the dagger and Mighty Throw increased the attack point tremendously, but he was frustrated by the fact that he didn’t have a skill that could cause a large amount of damage with one attack.

As of right now, rather than causing a large amount of damage, he was doing a DOT damage. (Damage Over Time) Kyaaaaaaah! Kyaaaa! Kyaaaaaaah!

After attacking Kim Yoo-Na for a while, it realized that there was another attacker.

It hit the floor with its vines, but Hyun-Soo noticed its attack and managed to dodge it.

‘I’m now able to dodge its attacks so easily.’

Experiencing it first hand was the best way to get used to hunts.

Hyun-Soo studied Kim Yoo-Na’s attack methods and how she carried the battle.

He couldn’t help but feel oppressed by the monster, but he wasn’t so scared that he couldn’t attack or make mistakes.

‘When I level up, I’ll make a skill for Kim Yoo-Na and then I should try making one for myself.’

Swoosh!

Moments later, Kim Yoo-Na was in her last attack and attacked the center of the Flower Spore’s petal.

It was her final blow.

After confirming that Hyun-Soo decreased most of the Energy

Field, she performed her final attack.

When her fiery fists punched the center of the Flower Spore, the monster screamed out loud.

Kyaaaaaaah! Kyaaaa! Kyaaaaaaah!

The fire must've been really painful because it started writhing in pain.

At the same time, the vines were flailing.

Swoosh! Fwoosh!

Boom!

'Oh!'

The vines were moving all around the place.

Even though it was doing that because it was in pain, it was dangerous.

After seeing the vine flying towards him, Hyun-Soo crouched down and suddenly remembered something after seeing the petals burning.

'Oh! I need to get that!'

Swoosh!

The dagger flew a short distance and passed through after it cut the pocket.

He was now skilled enough to hit the target.

The pocket was disconnected and ended up dropping to the ground.

Hyun-Soo ran in-between the vines and managed to grab it.

"Finish it!"

"Okay! Got it! Mighty Throw!"

Fwoosh! Bam!

Hyun-Soo's dagger flew swiftly through the air.

The dagger flew towards the monster that was on fire and hit right in the center of the white, shining dot.

Kyahhhhh...! Kyaa...aaah!

The Flower Spore that was writhing in pain slowly stopped moving.

All that remained were its black ashes.

Then,

-Ding!

[Level Up!]

-Ding!

[Your rank increased to D.]

[Current Rank: D]

[The number of skill slots has been increased.]

[Available Skill Slots: Six]

-Ding!

[The skills' levels have been increased.]

["Skill Creation"[D] has been increased to "Skill Creation"[C]]

["Skill Transfer"[D] has been increased to "Skill Transfer"[C]]

["Mighty Throw"[E] has been increased to "Mighty Throw"[D]]

[The activation status for"Interface"[SS] has been increased.]

[Current Interface Activation Status: 8.7%]

Hyun-Soo was out of it due to the alarm and the notifications that were popping up.

At the same time, a strange feeling filled up his body that he couldn't explain with words.

It was as if he became a more important figure!

Hyun-Soo definitely felt his skills increasing and felt his body getting stronger.

‘I finally leveled up!’

Hyun-Soo managed to come back to his senses after being filled with excitement.

He was close to embarrassing himself in front of Kim Yoo-Na.

It was because he wanted to laugh out loud after realizing what happened.

‘Interface!’

He couldn’t stop smiling and because he couldn’t control his emotions, his fists were shaking as he called out the skill in his head.

►Name: Kim Hyun-Soo (21)

►Rank: D

►Class: Skill Maker

►Experience: 4%

►Stamina Level: 100%

►Energy Level: 100%

►Stamina: 79 Agility: 55 Power: 68 Critical Hit: 47 ?? ?? ??

►??

►Skill List

[Interface][SS]

[Skill Creation][C]

[Skill Transfer][C]

[Mighty Throw][D]

The information that was displayed on Interface changed too.

Chapter 28 - <Level Up #2>

As soon as the activation level on Interface increased, the parts that had questions marks before were now revealed.

But, it didn't completely reveal the information because there were still question marks on some parts.

"Did you level up?"

Kim Yoo-Na approached Hyun-Soo and asked.

"Yes, my rank increased."

I was overwhelmed that my voice was filled joy.

I couldn't walk on this path before.

This was the path I had to give up.

Even if he was late, knowing that he could walk on this path again made him feel touched.

"That's a relief. Congratulations."

"Thank you. It's all thanks to you."

It was true.

Getting help from a high-ranked hunter was really amazing.

After watching her, he learned what do to during combat and increased his stamina and agility.

If it wasn't for Kim Yoo-Na, he would've just stayed home and wouldn't have been able to participate in hunts.

He could've made a lot of money too.

However, there is a limit to that as well.

There was a limit on the skills he could make since his level was low.

'I'm seriously lucky. Being able to level up like this.'

He remembered the thoughts he had whenever he looked at Kim Yoo-Na.

Kim Yoo-Na spoke with a small smile on her face.

“Then, please don’t forget about the scroll.”

“A man always keeps his words.”

“Great.”

Kim Yoo-Na had a satisfied smile on her face.

Even though she was covered in dark green fluids, she still looked pretty.

“It seemed like you were collecting something from the monster a moment ago…Can I ask what it is?”

“It was the Flower Spore’s premature spore.”

“Really? This is the first time I’ve heard of something like that.”

Kim Yoo-Na’s eyes widened after hearing his answer.

She looked curious as to whether it was good for the body.

Kim Yoo-Na was really interested in items that could be obtained in portals since she had already searched for most of the items that were in the portal.

If it wasn’t for Kim Yoo-Na he wouldn’t have known about the different ways that the items and the monster’s corpse could be used.

‘I knew that different industries used a monster’s corpse, but I didn’t know it could be used directly on a person.’

An Energy Stone could be used as medicine, but a monster’s corpse was a different story..

That’s why, an ordinary hunter wouldn’t have thought about eating a monster.

But Kim Yoo-Na was different.

She looked at Hyun-Soo as if he had something she's never seen before.

"I think this has a paralyzing effect."

He already used Interface so he had detailed information about it, but Hyun-Soo said it as if he was making an assumption.

'I'm really happy that I leveled up, but I should still watch what I say.'

"That's possible. The Flower Spore bursts its pocket and paralyzes those around it. Hm. Do you think this is edible?"

'You want to eat something that could paralyze a person?'

Hyun-Soo was dumbfounded after seeing Kim Yoo-Na contemplate about whether it was edible or not.

The immunity level of a hunter increases the higher their rank is, but to eat something like this...

"...Then, try eating it."

"Oh, thank you."

He doubted that she would actually eat it, but Kim Yoo-Na immediately took the spore that Hyun-Soo handed to her.

She took out a small knife from her pocket and lightly opened the fist-sized spore.

He smelled something sweet as she cut it open.

'Huh?'

"It smells...pretty nice."

"The spores that I've smelled from other Flower Spores didn't smell like this. This is interesting."

The honey-like smell made Kim Yoo-Na tilt her head.

Every time she did that, the Flower Spore's fluid rolled down to her chin and dropped to the ground.

‘I want to wipe it off for her.’

As if she wasn’t interested in how her outer appearance looked, Kim Yoo-Na focused on the spore.

Kim Yoo-Na carefully placed her finger inside and touched the fluid.

The color of the premature spore was yellow.

She brought it up to her lips and tasted a little bit of it.

Kim Yoo-Na started murmuring and after tilting her head, she spoke.

“This is delicious. At first, it tastes just as sweet as the scent, but the paralyzing effect comes right after. It only paralyzes the area where it touched. It doesn’t last very long though.”

‘I’m sure. It only paralyzes for three minutes. It said the effects were weak too.’

The information that was displayed on Interface was similar to what Kim Yoo-Na said.

“I have an item that’s really good for the body, but because it’s so bitter and strong, ordinary people have a hard time eating it. It’s the poison from a Red Scorpion’s tail…”

“……?”

Hyun-Soo questioned his hearing for a second.

‘Poison? Did she just say poison?’

He was so shocked that his joy from leveling up disappeared immediately.

‘Doesn’t that mean she did more than just find the item that’s good for the body?’

If she knew the effects, that means she ate it herself.

A scorpion’s poison and it wasn’t just any scorpion. It was a monster.

Knowing that she had the guts to eat a monster's poison made Hyun-Soo feel dumb stuck for a moment.

'Is it similar to the elders that make alcohol out of wasps and snakes...?'

"If I purify with my skills, the deadly poison will disappear and the nutritious components will be left. The effects are twice as better as the Mutilated Rhinoceros's horn.

That meant that the health recovery skill will increase by almost 6%.

He wasn't sure how long the effects would last, but when rounded up, it would be close to 10%, so that's probably why Kim Yoo-Na said its effects were good.

"But the problem is that it still tastes bitter even after getting rid of the poison. It's so strong that it feels like you're eating poison, so I couldn't give it to Hye-Na. But, if I mixed it with this spore, then it'll smell nice, dilute the taste and since it has a paralyzing effect, it should be okay. I wonder how I should mix them."

Kim Yoo-Na was in deep thoughts while holding the spore, when suddenly, she lifted her head and looked at Hyun-Soo.

"....."

".....?"

Being embarrassed by how she was looking straight at him, Hyun-Soo was about to avert his gaze, but she suddenly spoke up.

"Sell it to me."

"No, you can just take. I've gotten a lot of help and since it doesn't seem like a rare item, you can just take it."

It hasn't even been 30 minutes since he leveled up thanks to Kim Yoo-Na's help.

Despite of the fact that their relationship was created based on a contract, it was true that she helped out a lot.

And getting money from someone like that was definitely odd.

He did need it, but it was better to give it to Kim Yoo-Na.

'On top of that, she's doing it for her sister…'

Honestly, that was the only reason.

"Thank you so much Hyun-Soo. Thanks to you, I can give this to Hye-Na. I think I'll be able to buy some time with this."

"That's a relief."

"Yes. Will you be leaving or…?"

"I'll look around some more and then leave."

"Okay. I'll be leaving first. Please contact me when you obtain the scroll."

After saying that, Kim Yoo-Na left the portal first.

'Let's see…let's look around some more.'

He wanted to look around the portal when they first entered, but because of the Flower Spore, he didn't have the chance.

He leveled up and the activation level of Interface increased too.

'Let's see what's in this portal.'

If would be great if he found something.

The more money you have, the better.

'I think I can make some money from this.'

That was the conclusion he came to.

The first target was the Flower Spore that burned to death.

'Interface!'

He wanted to see if there was something left, but after using Interface, nothing really appeared.

All it said was, "Energy Field Status: 0%" and showed that it was really dead.

The field that the Flower Spore was in was quite large.

It was a large field where there wasn’t a hill or a winding road and it didn’t have any trees either.

‘In the previous hunt, I thought it was the perfect place for a picnic.’

Hyun-Soo thought he would be able to find something, so he kept on using Interface.

But, there was nothing.

There were just ordinary, ordinary flower, ordinary, ordinary flower, etc...

‘Hm? Bright Flower?’

Hyun-Soo immediately used Interface.

[Bright Flower]

A perennial flower that grows within the portal.

When its stem is cut, a sticky fluid will flow out of it.

Recommended Intake: Eat it by crushing the flower petal and the fluid.

Effect: Increases a small amount of the health recovery rate [Duration: 30 Minutes]

Seeing as how it didn’t display a percentage, it must be a really small amount.

‘Let’s take it.’

After looking around more, he found a long grass.

‘Interface!’

[Treecreeper Grass]

A type of grass that moves around by using its root.

The thicker and stronger the root is, the older.

It's assumed that it's able to move by itself because there's energy within the root.

Recommended Intake: Boil the root and then eat it Effect: Energy recovery rate 5% [Duration: 2 Hours]

It was a really good one this time.

'Something like this existed?'

The skills and the power that hunters used weren't infinite.

If they run out of energy, they can't use their skills.

That's why, they need to use their skills carefully during a hunt, so that they're not tired in the middle of the battle.

Before, he relied on his health recovery rate to recover his energy as well.

But, after seeing the Treecreeper Grass, he understood that it wasn't impossible to use external factors when recovering.

'But a grass that moves?'

Is it the same as the Mandragora that appears in video games?

Hyun-Soo grabbed the grass's leaf and pulled it with all his might.

Flap!

"Damn it, that scared me!"

He almost lost his grip.

The root that was covered in dirt started spraying the dirt all over the place.

"For a piece of grass, you sure scared me!"

Hyun-Soo felt embarrassed after realizing that he got scared by something small, so he ended up swinging the hand that was

holding the grass to the ground.

Bam!

It trembled!

As soon as he punched the ground, the grass's roots trembled for a moment and then calmed down.

That's when Hyun-Soo was able to put it in his bag without any issues.

While putting the grass and flower that he picked into the bag that he brought, Hyun-Soo felt surprised.

'I never knew, but there are a lot of useful things.'

He noticed these things after changing his perspective.

That was Hyun-Soo's situation.

On top of that, it worked well with his skill.

He thought it was perfect.

Hyun-Soo decided to inspect the portal a bit more.

Inspecting the portal took a lot of longer than hunting the monster.

'Should I be satisfied with just the flower and the grass?'

Since he couldn't find anything else, he was about to leave the portal, but something shiny caught his eyes.

'What's that? Interface!'

While looking at the shining object, he used Interface and read the information.

[Bulb of the Flower Spore]

It's a bulb in its seed-stage and this is what transforms into a Flower Spore.

However, since it hasn't gathered enough energy, it isn't able to

evolve into one.

Effect: +Stamina 15 [Duration: 2 Hours]

“What?”

Hyun-Soo quickly dug out the bulb.

It took him a while because the bulb was as big as a human’s head.

The bulb wasn’t a gem or a rock, but it shined brightly by itself.

Chapter 29 - <Medicinal Mix #1>

‘This is the bulb of a Flower Spore? So, this transforms into a Flower Spore-like monster, right?’

There was something else that surprised him.

‘Other items had limitations and the percentage regarding the increase rate…’

The Flower Spore’s bulb was a bit different.

‘Does this mean it actually adds to the stats?’

He wanted to eat it and check, but eating it for the sake of testing seemed like a waste.

Hyun-Soo’s stamina stat showed up as 79 on the upgraded Interface.

The bulb provided 15 stamina points, which was a lot.

‘This will be quite useful.’

It wasn’t just useful, but it was amazing.

He felt good because he got more than what he expected.

‘I should think about what I should do with these.’

He happily walked out of the portal.

**

‘What should I do with these? It’s a waste to just eat them. Kim Yoo-Na said she’ll mix the spore with something else, so should I try it too?’

Bright Flower, Treecreeper Grass and Bulb of the Flower Spore were in Hyun-Soo’s hands.

After placing them on top of the table, he activated Interface and contemplated for a moment.

The effect of the Bright Flower wasn’t really useful.

It wouldn’t even be useful to his family since they all had the Low Level Recovery skill.

The Treecreeper Grass isn’t useful to ordinary humans.

It’s only useful to hunters that require energy to use their skills.

‘This is what I’m most concerned about.’

Hyun-Soo cupped his chin while looking at the shining bulb that was as big as a person’s head.

It was big, but on top of that, he didn’t know how to eat it…

‘Will it decrease the effect if I cut it?’

He managed to dig up a couple more of the other items, but he only found one bulb.

Hyun-Soo ended up grabbing a dagger after not know what to do with it.

“Whatever. I’ll just try it.’

Crunch!

Crunch!

Despite of its hard texture, it cut pretty easily.

Hyun-Soo ate a piece of it.

‘It tastes…like a coconut. It’s better than I thought.’

He assumed it would taste like grass since it was a bulb, but it was pretty aromatic and sweet that it made him want to eat more.

‘Let’s see…Interface!’

Hyun-Soo used Interface to check his stats.

►Name: Kim Hyun-Soo (21)

►Rank: D

►Class: Skill Maker

►Experience: 4%

►Stamina Level: 87%

►Energy Level: 94%

►Stamina: 80 Agility: 55 Power: 68 Critical Hit: 47 ?? ?? ??

►??

►Skill List

[Interface][SS]

[Skill Creation][C]

[Skill Transfer][C]

[Mighty Throw][D]

‘It increase. But…just by one point.’

Maybe it’s because he ate a small piece, but the bulb’s original effect wasn’t applied.

‘It’s actually better. I thought I had to eat the entire thing, but if it can be shared, then I can give some to my parents and Hyuna.’

He could get paid a lot, but he wanted to exclusively keep whatever was good.

First, he wanted to use it to its full potential and sell whatever was left later.

This was different from the skills he sold.

He could always control the skills he made and sell them.

But the natural resources inside the portal was available to everyone.

‘Since they don’t have Interface, they won’t be able to check their information and what kind of effects they have.’

He now knew.

It didn’t matter whether it was information or power. It was

about obtaining it first.

That's how you get ahead of everyone else.

Even an A rank like Kim Yoo-Na would check the effects by using her own body.

Like Kim Yoo-Na, there were probably people that are interested in the natural resources within the portal.

But whenever he saw Kim Yoo-Na's reaction to items that were good for the body, he assumed that the items within the portal weren't well-known to many.

If that's not the case, then other hunters would've already known about them.

And Kim Yoo-Na wouldn't have to make the effort of taking down a monster herself because she could just purchase them.

There were some that probably tried it.

However, there was a big difference between eating it without any knowledge and eating it while knowing what it was.

'First, it would best to make it so that they can't tell what it is.'

Hyun-Soo immediately went to the kitchen.

He brought a mortar and a chopping board and placed them on the table.

'It said to grind the Bright Flower, so let's do that first and then I'll mince the bulb. It'll be better if I could turn them into powder.'

Thump, thump, thump!

He placed the Bright Flower into the small mortar and started grinding it.

The bowl was filled with dark green juice.

Every time the sticky juice touched the pestle, it would stretch out and snap.

‘I thought it would be a bit bitter, but it doesn’t have any taste.’

After it turned into a green, sticky fluid, he poured it into a bowl.

Next was the bulb.

Crack! Crack!

Even though he cut it into small pieces, it was still pretty thick, so when he crushed it, it sounded like a piece of wood was cracking.

Since it was the seed of plant, he expected there to be some sort of moisture, but the more the crushed, the more it turned into powder.

After crushing the bulb, Hyun-Soo took out the Treecreeper Grass from his pocket.

Wiggle, wiggle!

“Oh, you scared me again! You’re an odd piece of grass.”

The world of the portal was filled with things that couldn’t be understood with common knowledge.

That’s why, even when there’s a moving grass, there no reason to be weirded out.

But, he was still surprised regardless, so as he was taking it out, Hyun-Soo was close to freaking out.

‘I threw it to the ground, but it’s still moving.’

This isn’t some horror movie…

Flutter!

Flutter!

As soon he took the grass near a pot of boiling water, it started moving more violently.

It looked as if it was doing its best to survive, so Hyun-Soo closed his eyes, threw the grass into the pot and quickly covered the lid.

‘I’m boiling a piece of grass, but it felt like I was catching a chicken.’

Hyun-Soo managed to prepare all the ingredients.

Hyun-Soo was lost in his thoughts as he looked at the ingredients.

He finished getting rid of its original form.

According to his plan, he would sort out the ingredients and put them all together.

But, Hyun-Soo got curious.

‘Should I mix them?’

He already cut and grinded them, so mixing them shouldn’t be an issue.

If there was one thing he was worried about, it was the effect.

‘It won’t blow up or anything if I mix them, right? Will it become poisonous?’

Hyun-Soo decided mix a small portion since it’ll be problematic if he mixed all of it.

The bulb turned into powder, the Treecreeper Grass was boiled and the Bright Flower became a sticky liquid.

He placed all three of them in a bowl and mixed them.

The powder melted and instantly disappeared.

The liquid enveloped the grass and made it look like a jelly.

While slowly mixing the ingredients, Hyun-Soo was reminded of something.

‘This kind of looks a red ginseng rice cake. It’s just different because this is dark green.’

Since he added ingredients that were good for the body, it’ll probably be better than ginseng.

‘It would’ve been great if I added the Mutilated Rhinoceros’ Horn powder.’

But his father already ate it all.

If he added the horn powder, he might’ve created an amazing item that could be really good for the body.

Hyun-Soo was a bit disappointed.

After noticing that there weren’t any changes to the ingredient, Hyun-Soo used Interface.

‘Let’s check. Interface!’

[Pickled Low Level Recovery Root][Normal]

The Pickled Recovery Root that was made by mixing different medicinal herbs.

Once eaten, for a certain period of time the stamina will increase in small amounts And during that time, the recovery rate of physical injuries and energy will increase in small amounts.

Due to imbalance between ingredients and inexperienced creation skills The full effects of the ingredients can’t be applied.

Effect: +Stamina 1 [Duration: 10 Minutes]

+ Energy Recovery Rate Increased by 2% [Duration: 10 Minutes]

+ Physical Injury Recovery Rate Increased by 2% [Duration: 10 Minutes]

‘Wow.’

He created something.

All he did was mix the ingredients, but he created something new.

Despite of the fact that he mixed three different ingredients, they had similar effects, but there was one thing that was different.

‘The Bright Flower’s effect increased the stamina’s recovery rate, but the Pickled Root increases the recovery rate of physical injuries. Did something change when they were mixed together?’

‘This….’

Hyun-Soo started thinking.

He carefully organized the thoughts he had when Kim Yoo-Na first told him about the effects of the natural ingredients within the portal and actually ate them to check the effects.

‘I think…I can make this and sell it.’

Mixing different ingredients will increase the effects.

He estimated the cost.

He knew he could make money with this.

Inside the portal was a rich mine.

And Hyun-Soo was the only one that could check the information.

‘Jackpot!’

Hyun-Soo looked at the pickled root.

And then.

-Ding!

“You have successfully combined resources with different effects.”

“With this success, Medicinal Mix [C] has been created.”

“……?”

Hyun-Soo doubted his ears after hearing the alarm.

‘Medicinal… What?’

[Medicinal Mix][C]

Creates a new medicine by mixing different medicinal herbs.

Depending on the type of herbs, ratio and combination, different types of herbs will be created.

Depending on the experience, the success rate will change.

Experience: 1%

It's like someone pushed me from behind.

Telling me to make money with this.

'This is awesome.'

Depending on the ingredients and the combination, he could create an endless amount of medicine..

Hyun-Soo was already thinking about how to use this.

"Man, I'm tired...."

A man with dark circles was lying on the floor.

It was Hyun-Soo.

Despite of his family being asleep, Hyun-Soo was busy using the skill.

All he had to do was use Medicinal Mix and it'll provide the results right away.

He created a whole batch of Pickled Low Level Recovery Root.

'Knowing that the effects can change depending on the ratio is pretty fun...'

He ended up staying up all night because of it.

While making them, he would eat them so that it would recover his stamina, but it didn't recover his mental fatigue.

'On top of that, the activation level for Interface increased.'

He increased Interface's activation level by 4%.

He used it so many times throughout the night to check the information of the new medicines, that the activation level

increased without him knowing.

‘I am tired, but since I was able to make this, it’s a success, right?’

Hyun-Soo looked at the small glass bottle that was sitting on top of the table.

‘Low Level Stamina Increase Potion.’

That was what the bottle contained.

The potion was a light blue color.

<Medicinal Mix #1> End.

Chapter 30 - <Medicinal Mix #2>

As the morning sun shined through the bottle, it reminded him of the blue ocean.

[Low Rank Stamina Recovery Potion][Rare]

This potion was created with different medicinal herbs.

The ratio of the rare medicinal herbs is high, which increases stamina.

Stamina will be instantly increases and will be maintained during the entire duration.

Also, during the duration, it will slightly raise the recovery rate of any abnormalities within the body.

Effect: +Stamina 12 [Duration: 2 Hours]

+ Increases recovery rate of abnormalities within the body by 0.5% [Duration: 2 Hours]

‘I’m proud.’

After checking the potion’s information, a smile appeared on Hyun-Soo’s exhausted face.

He put in over 90% of the Flower Spore’s bulb and 8% of Bright Flower.

And he included 2% of the Treecreeper’s root.

And when he used the skill, even though none of the ingredients were blue, the mixed ingredients melted and changed into a blue color.

The smell was nice too.

It smelled like junk food because it gave off a sweet smell.

‘But, it has better effects than junk food.’

He felt disappointed by the fact that he wasn't able to bring out the ingredients' natural power, but other effects were added.

If someone didn't know what a potion tasted like, they probably would've thought of this as a drink and would get curious enough to try a sip.

'Let's take a sip.'

Since it would be a waste, he dipped his finger and right when he was about to put it on his lips.

-Ding!

A familiar alarm ringed in his head.

'Huh?'

"You have discovered the recipe for Low Rank Stamina Recovery Potion (Rare)."

Will you register the recipe?

Hyun-Soo looked at the Yes/No button that displayed in front of him.

'What? Nothing appeared before?'

His eyes looked at the word, rare.

'The first one that I made was normal, right? And the one I just made was a rare. I was too focused on the effects that I didn't notice, but potions must have ranks too.'

Hyun-Soo didn't think much and pressed the "Yes" button.

"The recipe for Low Rank Stamina Recovery Potion (Rare) has been added to the Recipe Book."

'Recipe Book?'

Filled with curiosity, Hyun-Soo instantly used Interface and checked the Recipe Book.

[Medicinal Mix][C]

Creates a new medicine by mixing different medicinal herbs.

Depending on the type of herbs, ratio and combination, different types of herbs will be created.

Depending on the experience, the success rate will change.

The recipe of the medicine created through Medicinal Mix can be added to the Recipe Book.

If an ingredient for a medicine that's in the Recipe Book is available, it's possible to create it instantly without any additional steps.

Experience: 2%

► Recipes Currently Registered:

Low Rank Stamina Recovery Potion (Rare)

'The information changed a bit.'

It seemed like more was added as the skill developed more.

'It probably means that I don't have to prepare all the ingredients when I'm making the potion that's registered in the Recipe Book, right?'

Hyun-Soo felt relieved after reading the explanation.

Preparing the ingredients was pretty tough.

He never made any vegetable side dishes before, but he had to prepare the medicinal herbs.

He'll somehow do it since it's needed, but...

'But it's not like I can't do it...I should. I need to make money.'

If he thought of it as money, preparing them wasn't even work.

It was medicinal herbs to be exact.

Anyways, they were all the same to Hyun-Soo.

While looking at the clear bottle that contained the blue potion,

Hyun-Soo smiled.

It was as if he could hear the money being deposited into his account.

‘We should eat it first.’

There was still a lot of ingredients left.

The one to eat it first was him.

**

A car with an elegant design stopped on the side of the road.

The car was more transparent than a glass bead and the window of that car opened.

Right when a sleek looking car stopped on the side of the road, the people passing by had their eyes on the car.

‘Man~ I’m jealous. I want to drive a car like that.’

It was a sports car that only took three seconds to get from 0-100.

He remembered being jealous of the guys that drove expensive cars on TV.

It was impossible anyways.

He would only feel disappointed if he kept on thinking about and he tried not to look at it so that he wouldn’t feel deprived.

‘I’ll definitely buy one…huh?’

He was thinking about how he was going to buy one someday, but noticed someone stepping out of the car.

“Cough!”

That person knew him as well.

“I’m sorry. There was traffic so I was late.”

It was Kim Yoo-Na, the person he was supposed to meet today.

After stepping out of the car, Kim Yoo-Na entered the café that

Hyun-Soo was in and as soon as she approached him, the eyes that were on her were now on Hyun-Soo.

“Oh, right.”

The car that should be driven on the Autobahn was being driven within this small city.

Hyun-Soo felt about towards the car that Kim Yoo-Na drove.

‘How intimidating.’

He made it a habit to meet at the café since there were a lot of people, but their stares made him feel uncomfortable.

It felt as if he was being judged about every single thing.

He had an idea of what they were thinking despite of them not saying it.

‘I want to get out of here.’

The café wasn’t that hot, but he felt like he was sweating.

“There are a lot of people here. Do you mind if we go somewhere else…?”

Thankfully, Kim Yoo-Na made the suggestion first.

Hyun-Soo of course nodded in agreement.

Moments later, he sat in the car that he said he would buy later no matter what.

“If you haven’t eaten, I’ll take you to one of my favorite places. It’s quiet and private.”

“Okay. It doesn’t matter to me.”

He participated on hunts many times with her.

If she wanted to harm him, she could kill him in a portal where there weren’t any people.

On top of that, she was doing it for her sister..

When she suggested on going to a different place, Hyun-Soo

nodded without any hesitation.

‘I should’ve thought it through.’

Whenever he met Kim Yoo-Na, it would always be in front of a portal, so he didn’t think that meeting her would catch other peoples’ attention.

If he knew ahead of time, he would’ve changed the location.

Despite of the fact that people were looking at her, it seemed like Kim Yoo-Na didn’t really care.

‘Maybe she’s used to it. She’s pretty and she drives an amazing car, so it would be odd not to look at her.’

While thinking that, Hyun-Soo slightly turned his attention towards Kim Yoo-Na.

A round forehead, a sharp nose and plump lips.

Her long, silk-like black hair was bouncing off of her chest.

He’s only seen her covered in the monster’s bodily fluids that he just now noticed her physical features.

“Is there something you want to say?”

“Oh, you have a very nice car.”

Kim Yoo-Na asked since she felt his stare, but Hyun-Soo couldn’t say that he was looking at her, so he vaguely answered her.

After driving out of the suburb, the car slowly stopped.

Following Kim Yoo-Na, Hyun-Soo stepped out of the car.

The place they arrived at was a tile-roofed house and as soon as they entered, they were led to an annex.

Hyun-Soo’s eyes widened because the house looked like it came out from a drama.

He stopped looking around after realizing that he was embarrassing himself.

“You obtained the scroll?”

“Yes, but as I’ve informed you before, there’s a condition. I need to use it on your sister myself.”

Hyun-Soo showed the rolled up paper that he prepared earlier.

‘The paper is fake, but the skill is real.’

[Low Rank Recovery][D]

The stamina recovery rate will increase by 21%.

The recovery rate for abnormalities will be increased by 3%.

It was a D rank recovery skill that he made with extra care.

Because of that, he read many medical science related books, despite of the fact that he couldn’t really understand, and watched documentaries too.

His parents now gladly agreed to get a massage whenever Hyun-Soo asked.

It could be considered physical labor, but honestly, this was Hyun-Soo’s way of leveling up other than participating in hunts.

Thanks to that, his experience increased and the skill’s level increased as well.

“Hm, is that the scroll?”

“Yes.”

Kim Yoo-Na looked at the scroll that Hyun-Soo was holding with confusion.

She looked as if she wanted to say something, but she bit her lip and remained quiet.

“And the reason why I wanted to see you…was to give you this.”

Hyun-Soo took out the wrapped potion from his bag.

“That’s….?”

“It’s a potion that increases one’s stamina.”

“….!”

Kim Yoo-Na had a shocked look on her face.

“I’ve never heard of a potion like that.”

Hyun-Soo looked straight at her doubtful expression and spoke.

“Then try it yourself.”

Hyun-Soo pushed the glass bottle that was on top of the table towards her.

Kim Yoo-Na hesitantly grabbed the glass bottle that contained the blue liquid.

She contemplated for a bit and drank the entire bottle after removing the lid.

Gulp!

“…..!”

Her eyes widened.

“What, what is this?”

“As I’ve said before, it’s a potion that increases one’s stamina.”

“I don’t believe it.”

Kim Yoo-Na looked at Hyun-Soo as if she couldn’t believe it.

Despite of what she was saying, her eyes told a different story.

“You’ve eaten monsters before.”

“That’s…it was only because it was good for the body. When I eat it, I can slowly feel my body getting healthier and more energetic. This is just my opinion after trying it. Like a Placebo Effect? But this…it’s instantaneous. And I can definitely feel it.”

‘It’s real, not a Placebo Effect.’

Since Kim Yoo-Na didn’t have Interface, she didn’t know the

exact information.

That's why, despite of the fact that she felt the effect, she was doubtful because she thought maybe it was all in her head.

Honestly, the items that Kim Yoo-Na gave him had very little effect.

Since she was an A rank hunter, if she wasn't sensitive about her body condition, she could've not noticed it.

But, the Low Rank Stamina potion was different.

After drinking, the stat increases immediately.

It was a potion that had a time limit, but there was a way to resolve that.

'It's to constantly drink the potion.'

Despite of the fact that the potion will only be counted one time, if one were to drink it after a certain period of time, they can keep their increased stats.

'That's the core.'

Once a person experiences the effect, they usually want more.

In order to develop their stats, a hunter must participate in a lot of hunts, capture the monsters and obtain experience points.

The other hunters aren't able to find detailed information like Hyun-Soo could.

However, the hunters that had outstanding skills were aware of their limits.

It wasn't expressed in numbers, but they themselves knew their true limits.

'What would happen if they found out that there's a potion that helps overcome those limits?'

<Medicinal Mix #2> End.

Chapter 31 - <Contract #1>

‘But what if there was a potion that helped overcome those limits?’

Is there someone that wouldn’t want it?

He only created a potion related to stamina, but Hyun-Soo assumed that wouldn’t be the last.

‘There’s a high chance that I might be able to make a potion that increases one’s power or fatal attack.’

If he had the ingredients, he could make definitely make them.

The Medicinal Mix skill was there for a reason.

‘If I combine Skill Creation and Medicinal Mix, I’ll be able to make something great.’

“What exactly do you do?”

Kim Yoo-Na looked at Hyun-Soo with piercing eyes.

“Is that important?”

Hyun-Soo shrugged his shoulders.

There was a need to be careful with his words.

Kim Yoo-Na started touching the glass bottle she drank out of when Hyun-Soo didn’t answer.

“Why did you give this to me?”

“You can think of it as a present.”

“A present?”

“Yes.”

A frown appeared on her face due to her doubts.

However, Hyun-Soo maintained his ‘I don’t care’ expression.

‘A present is a present. Despite of the fact that I have a different

motive.'

Anyways, his primary purpose was to give it to her as a gift.

"I think it'll be good for you sister."

"…..!"

"I have two more potions."

He was able to make a total of five bottles because the bulb was the size of a human's head.

Out of the five, Hyun-Soo drank two.

It's best to use the items that were limited in numbers.

However, when he drank the second bottle, he noticed that his stats didn't increase.

'It would be nice if it could be applied again, but nothing I can do about that.'

If it were possible, he probably would've kept drinking it.

He contemplated whether he should give the remaining three to his family, but he thought of something, so he decided to give it to Kim Yoo-Na first.

"A present…I'm not simple minded to just believe that. But, I'm grateful for them."

After touching the bottle that contained the blue potion, Kim Yoo-Na pulled the bottle towards herself.

"In order to use the scroll, you said you had to be face to face with the target, right? If there's nothing else, shall we go?"

Kim Yoo-Na hurried after seeing the potion that Hyun-Soo gave her.

"Sure."

The hospital that her sister was staying at was located close to the house.

It wasn't that big, but the equipment inside looked really expensive and they had the same amount of equipment that a general hospital had.

"I'm here Hye-Na."

Kim Yoo-Na spoke as he entered a large room that had a good amount of sunlight.

A little girl that was lying on a large bed struggled to sit up.

It was Kim Hye-Na, Kim Yoo-Na's sister.

"You're here?"

She managed to move her head and when Kim Yoo-Na noticed her moving her shoulders, she quickly ran to her and placed the pillow on her back.

"Huh? Who's that?"

Hyun-Soo was a bit surprised when he saw Kim Hye-Na.

The first thought that popped into his head was.

'She's too skinny.'

She looked like she was around Hyuna's age, but her cheeks had sunken in and he could see her thin neck and wrist through the patient gown. He now understood why Kim Yoo-Na was so worried about her.

Kim Hye-Na was a girl that was either about the same age as Hyuna or younger.

'She told me she was sick, but she's really thin.'

If she looked like her sister, then she would've been a beautiful girl, but she didn't look like that at all.

Her face was so thin that she looked lifeless.

"Did you practice the harmonica? The teacher told me that you've been doing well these ways."

Kim Yoo-Na was always cold in front of Hyun-Soo, but her expression relaxed in front of her sister.

“Mhm…I run out of breath so I can’t do it for long, but they complimented me for not making a lot mistakes.”

“Good job. I want to hear it later.”

“Okay, but Yoo-Na…you haven’t introduced me to that person yet…”

Kim Hye-Na pointed at Hyun-Soo.

When both the sisters looked at Hyun-Soo, he smiled awkwardly while standing near the door.

‘This is pretty uncomfortable.’

It felt like he didn’t fit in here.

However, Hyun-Soo had to transfer the skill himself, so he made an odd excuse and followed her here.

Because of that, it was hard for him to say that he would wait outside.

“Oh, he’s a hunter that goes on hunts with me.”

“Oh…do the other crews know of him? Is he new?”

‘Crew?’

He heard an odd word.

“No, it’s only temporary.”

“I see…I was wondering why you were with someone new. You can’t even go on dates because you’re so busy with me…I thought you brought your boyfriend.”

‘Cough!’

I almost choked while breathing.

‘Boyfriend? Who? Whose?’

Kim Yoo-Na was fairly pretty.

She gave off a sophisticated, yet proud image.

It was to the point where he could feel other people look at them when they walked together.

‘But, she’s a violent woman that slaughters monsters excitedly while being covered in monster’s bodily fluid. She even broke off a monster’s horn with her fist.’

The only time he saw her happy was when she obtained items that were good for the body.

To Hyun-Soo, Kim Yoo-Na was just another person and didn’t really see her as a woman.

But there were times when he realized that she was a woman after looking at her face.

‘I like girls that are calm and gentle.’

Kim Yoo-Na’s keen eyes were looking at Hyun-Soo.

Kim Hye-Na was the one that said it, but it felt like he was being punished for it.

‘This is pretty unfair since it was just a misunderstanding. Damn it. I have a younger sister too.’

Hyun-Soo felt like he needed someone to be on his side.

“He’ll provide treatment that’ll help you.”

“Does it hurt?”

“Nope. If you keep your eyes closed, it’ll finish quickly.”

Kim Yoo-Na signaled at Hyun-Soo.

She looked like she was going to kill him if he didn’t make it quick.

“It’ll be over before you know it. It won’t hurt and you just need to have your eyes closed for a moment.”

Hyun-Soo took out of the rolled paper from his bag.

Kim Hye-Na looked at him with curiosity and closed her eyes.

“Here we go.”

Rip!

‘Skill Transfer!’

-Ding!

[Select the skill you would like to transfer]

[Transferrable Skills: Mighty Throw[D]/Low Rank Recovery[D]]

[Select the target]

[Target: Kim Yoo-Na(A)/Kim Hye-Na(-)]

Hyun-Soo immediately selected Kim Hye-Na.

She might become suspicious if he waved his hand in the air, so he used his eyes to select instead.

Moments later, the skill, Low Rank Recovery, disappeared from his list.

It was successfully transferred to Kim Hye-Na.

‘Interface!’

He still needed to confirm.

After activating Interface, he chose Kim Hye-Na as the target.

►Name: Kim Hye-Na (??)

►Rank: –

►Class: –

►Experience: –

►Stamina Level: 21%

►Energy Level: –

►Stamina: 11 Agility: 7 Power: 2 Critical Hit: – ?? ?? ??

►??

►Skill List

[Low Rank Recovery][D]

He saw Kim Hye-Na's information.

After seeing it, Hyun-Soo couldn't repress his astonishment.

'What's wrong with the stamina and power? Is it a mistake?'

She must be really sick because her stats were close to zero.

She had a bit of stamina due to Kim Yoo-Na feeding her different items, but it was still 11.

"The scroll has been applied successfully. You'll eventually be able to tell whether it's been successfully applied."

However, he couldn't tell her the truth.

It was obvious that she was sick, but there weren't going to be any surprises after using the scroll.

Hyun-Soo noticed his expression.

"...Thank you."

It was a fair deal, so there wasn't a need for her to thank him, but she genuinely bowed her head.

'It's not like I don't understand her situation.'

Anyways, Hyun-Soo was in a similar situation.

And that's probably he was able to relate to her.

That's why he agreed to her proposal.

Since he transferred the skill, Kim Hye-Na should regain the stamina she lost.

Kim Yoo-Na didn't know whether it was successfully applied, but she would be able to check later on.

The problem was that even though it recovers her stamina, if the cause of her sickness isn't completely cured, her condition could

get worse again.

The only thing they could rely on is....

'Since Low Rank Recovery increases the cure rate of abnormalities by 3%, it should eventually cure her.'

In the meantime, all Kim Hye-Na has to do is keep living with her low stats.

Whether that's possible is questionable.

'Kim Yoo-Na used different ways, so it should be fine.'

Kim Yoo-Na took out of the two potion that Hyun-Soo gave her as a gift.

"Drink this too."

"What is this?"

"It's good. You like sweet drinks. That's why I brought it."

"The doctor will get mad...."

'The Low Rank Stamina Recovery potion is a bit sweet.'

It was as sweet as junk food and the taste was sweet too.

'It tasted like roasted marshmallows.'

It had the same taste as the chewy, soft, sweet marshmallows.

Of course a little girl will like the taste.

Kim Hye-Na's eyes widened after sipping the potion.

Gulp, gulp!

The sound of her drinking the potion could be heard.

'Interface!'

Kim Hyun-Soo looked over Kim Hye-Na's information.

'Her stamina increased from 11 to 23 thanks to the potion...'

Even though it increased, it was still below average when compared to an ordinary person.

But, for Kim Hye-Na, it did increase by two folds from her previous points.

Maybe it's because of that, but Kim Hye-Na's cheeks started getting red and she didn't look so lifeless anymore.

Because her stats were so low, even though it was a low ranked potion, the effects kicked in right away.

"Yoo-Na, what is this? It's really good and I'm feeling energetic."

"Really? It's good?"

"Mhm. But you don't think the doctor will get mad? He said to be careful what I eat. You get in trouble every day because of it."

Feeding her Energy Stones was okay, but if the doctor knew that she was feeding her parts from a monster, she would definitely get in trouble.

'I won't tell her exactly what it's made out of...'

Anyways, Kim Yoo-Na managed to convince her about the potion and it helped increase her stamina.

Kim Yoo-Na wanted to be with her sister for a bit longer.

Kim Hye-Na expressed that she was tired and it could be due to the potion and the skill that was applied to her body.

She didn't have a choice but to leave.

"Thank you."

"It was a fair trade. Well...it would've been nice if I could bring more potions, but I only had two left, so that's a bit disappointing."

"I can't be selfish and make that kind of request."

Despite of what she had, she had a disappointed look.

Hyun-Soo checked the bait.

'Hm, looks good.'

Maybe it’s because of the potion, but he noticed Kim Hye-Na’s condition getting better and he was able to see this live. In many ways, he completed the task successfully.

It was his own opinion, but he felt that he passed Kim Yoo-Na’s test.

‘Her attitude towards me changed a bit.’

At the same time, Hyun-Soo was also testing Kim Yoo-Na.

‘I think I can proceed with ease.’

<Contract #1> End.

Chapter 32 - <Contract #2>

Kim Yoo-Na offered to give Hyun-Soo a ride since they were outside of the suburbs.

Since they were in a secluded area, there wasn't that many cars during the ride back home.

The way that the car moved so fast, so smoothly was amazing.

"Sports cars are pretty nice."

As soon as Hyun-Soo complimented, Kim Yoo-Na continued the conversation.

"It's a bit flashy. It's not my type of car. But, Hye-Na likes these types of cars. I'm just driving it in her place."

"There are a lot of people that wants to drive a sports car. It's cool and makes you look good."

"I prefer bikes over cars...I'm not riding it because I was told that I would get into accidents."

Hyun-Soo imagined Kim Yoo-Na wearing a tight leather jacket and pants.

But he quickly erased it from his mind.

"Don't you have enough to buy one for yourself? The scrolls that you're selling are passive scrolls in the recovery category and they're pretty rare. They're pretty exclusive too. Especially that skill. It's just my opinion, but if you showed it to a global market, you'll definitely get noticed. And the potion you gave me...it's an item that'll definitely become popular within the hunter community. High-ranked hunters and guilds will know that it's a necessity. If they find out, the entire world will find out as well."

Scrolls with a rare skill can't be purchased because they're not available.

People would definitely bid for it.

That’s what Kim Yoo-Na pointed out.

“There’s something I’m curious about. Something that I don’t understand is why you’re selling scrolls at such a small market. Is there a reason why you’re only selling it there?”

“Small?”

Hunters that are within Korea mostly use Hunter Net.

There are international forums, but in order to work at a place that uses the same language and is easily accessible, using the Korean forum was their only choice.

The community was naturally created without anyone forcing it.

Anyways, it wasn’t an international forum, so it wasn’t wrong for her to say that it was small.

“If that wasn’t the only place you were selling the scrolls, Hye-Na might’ve been better already. I’m just saying it because I felt a bit disappointed.”

What she was meant was, there was a limit to how far the information could reach because the community was small.

“You sold the scroll to Jung Ho-Sik at pretty low price. Are you… not doing it for money?”

“It’s not that.”

Am I not doing it for money?

Of course he was.

Hyun-Soo’s goal was money.

And saving up a lot of money.

Because of that, Hyun-Soo thought her comment was ridiculous.

It must’ve shown on his face, because when Kim Yoo-Na glanced at Hyun-Soo, she asked again in a confused tone.

“Then why…”

The problem was that he didn't have the power to completely control his skills.

'It's something that I've felt when I first started selling.'

Without questioning, he followed the hunter to the Hunter Training Center.

It's was a relief that the hunter let him go without any issues, but if there was...

'I don't even want to think about it.'

He might be locked up somewhere where he's forced to create skills all the time.

There was something that bothered him after that.

That's why Hyun-Soo decided to meet the buyers in an area with a lot of people.

Was he not doing it for money?

The answer was no.

If he could, he wanted to be open about it so that potential buyers could bid on it.

Anyone with common sense will know that one can make more money through that method.

But the reason why he was asking potential buyers to send him a message with a price was...

'To prevent any potential danger.'

There was some information about him floating around, but there wasn't a need to reveal more.

If more information were revealed, it can put him in danger and he wanted to prevent that.

'It's fine if I was alone, but my family isn't hunters.'

Ordinary people are the ones that get hurt the most when they

try to fight.

But what if the hunters came to them with bad intentions?

He automatically clenched his fist at the thought.

'I leveled up and am now a D rank, but I'm still lacking.'

There might be high-ranked hunters that were crazy.

During his first hunt, the crazy healer was a scary one.

People in this world would kill others for money.

It wasn't odd for others to do shady business in order to become stronger than others..

He wasn't that far from that world.

'There are already people that are jealous.'

Whenever he made a post about selling a scroll, people would send him weird messages.

When one has power, there's bound to be people that are jealous.

There was a reason why Hyun-Soo was acting timidly despite of his amazing skills.

'The reason why I gave the potions to Kim Yoo-Na first instead of posting them online is similar.'

The reason why he didn't reveal the potions right away was to make it exclusive and save his strength.

But, there was something else that Hyun-Soo was more worried about.

Selling the potion would grab people's attention, but something could happen to him.

Scrolls were often sold on the forum, so it wasn't a big deal.

However, selling potions was new, so there was a high chance that it could cause a commotion.

If one had a potion, they wouldn't have to wait for someone else

to use their skill on them.

One can break through their limit.

Who wouldn't want to become stronger?

'Kim Yoo-Na qualified in that sense.'

Hyun-Soo calculated.

The first target that he chose to give the potion to was Kim Yoo-Na.

It hasn't been that long, but Hyun-Soo has been observing her personality all along.

He somewhat grasped her personality and temper.

Men and melons are hard to know, but she wasn't the type to fake her emotions and thoughts.

Also, the biggest reason why he chose Kim Yoo-Na was...

'Kim Yoo-Na was tied down.'

It was safe to say that she was limited in what she could do.

'I'm needed for Kim Hye-Na's sickness.'

Kim Yoo-Na witnessed the effects of the potion that Hyun-Soo gifted her.

As time passes, the effects of the skill will show.

The car they were riding in arrived at a location that was near the place they met earlier.

Kim Yoo-Na noticed that Hyun-Soo was deep in his thoughts, so she didn't say anything.

After parking the car at a quiet location that was a short distance away from the main street, Kim Yoo-Na turned to Hyun-Soo.

"So...what's your answer?"

'Why aren't you showing the power that you have?'

That's what Kim Yoo-Na's question meant.

"I'm not sure. My answer will connect with what I want to say to you."

"What do you mean....?"

"Kim Yoo-Na."

Hyun-Soo turned his head and looked at Kim Yoo-Na.

Kim Yoo-Na had a suspicious look on her face.

Looking into her eyes, Hyun-Soo said what was on his mind.

"Please lend me your power."

"What...do you mean?"

"You know what I mean. Instead, I'll promise you this. I'll take responsibility and extend your little sister's life."

"……!"

Her large eyes started trembling.

It looked like she was shaken.

Kim Yoo-Na was a hunter that survived far longer than Hyun-Soo.

That's why it was impossible for her not to know what Hyun-Soo meant.

She could even assume his true intentions.

This was a gamble.

Truthfully, Hyun-Soo didn't have that many roads to walk on.

Realistically, the paths he could walk on were limited.

Selling skills was one of the roads he could walk on.

But, Hyun-Soo was getting greedy.

The more power one has, the more money they make.

The more power one has, it can ensure a greater safety.

Have more power can bring bigger happiness.

This is the reason why Hyun-Soo chose Kim Yoo-Na.

‘I offered the deal.’

All that remained was Kim Yoo-Na’s decision.

This is why Hyun-Soo gave her the potions as a gift.

And after giving Kim Hye-Na a bottle, Kim Yoo-Na saw the effects herself.

“I need some time to think.”

“That’s fine.”

Hyun-Soo respected her request..

There wasn’t a need for her to answer now.

Having her think about his offer and contemplate which would be best was better than her making a decision on the spot.

As soon as Hyun-Soo stepped out of the car, the red sports car drove off.

And a couple of days later.

Hyun-Soo received a call.

With the call, Kim Yoo-Na arrived.

After asking Hyun-Soo to meet, she sat up straight and spoke while staring at him.

“I accept.”

Before saying it, it looked like she was hesitant about it.

But after giving her answer, her rational and proud expression came back.

The A rank hunter that used her fiery fist spoke.

“But, I tend to be treat people a bit roughly, so it’s best for you to be prepared.”

**

Huff, huff!

The sound of rough breathing filled the humidified room.

‘I’m going to die.’

Hyun-Soo was catching his breath while sitting on a rotten log.

‘How is this a bit? This is just killing someone.’

But it was effective.

“You’re tired already? Stand up. You’re not planning on letting that monster go, are you?”

He tried to rest, but Kim Yoo-Na prevented him from doing so.

‘Oh jeez. Damn it! Shouldn’t she give me some time before treating me this roughly?’

It hasn’t even been five minutes since Hyun-Soo sat down, but she made it sound like he’s been acting lazy for an hour.

Hyun-Soo widened his eyes by how unfair she was being, but Kim Yoo-Na didn’t even flinch.

“I thought you could take down a monster by yourself, but it seems like you still have a long way to go. I cut of its leg so you don’t have to worry about it jumping.”

“….Okay.”

Hyun-Soo looked at the monster from a distance.

Like she had informed earlier, the monster that made Hyun-Soo panic lost its leg.

‘What’s the point? The tongue is more dangerous than its leg.’

He was currently in a green portal and was hunting a Red Spotted Toad.

There were only two participating in the hunt.

Just Kim Yoo-Na and Hyun-Soo.

But that didn’t mean that it would be the same as before.

‘No. It’s pretty similar since she’s helping me out.’

But, there was one fatal flaw.

‘The problem is that she’s putting me in danger in order to help me grow stronger.’

The day he first gave her potions.

They formed a contract.

‘I asked her to lend me her power. She’s a smart woman, so I’m sure when I said power, she understood it as me asking for more than that.’

The power that Hyun-Soo mentioned contained a variety of things.

It was her power and position as a high-ranked hunter.

‘In simple terms, I’m asking her to sponsor me.’

And another thing.

‘I asked her to help me level up. And that’s why I’m suffering right now, but.’

Because Kim Yoo-Na pressured him, Hyun-Soo raised his exhausted body.

But, he wasn’t dreading this situation.

“You can do it, right?”

“Even if I can’t, I’ll make it happen.”

“Great. Then, finish it off.”

Hyun-Soo grabbed the remaining daggers.

Splash, splash!

Whenever the muddy swamp took a step, it twined its ankle.

But, after Hyun-Soo looked down, he stomped his feet lightly.

Swoosh! Tap, tap, tap tap, tap!

His body lightly floated.

<Contract #2> End.

Chapter 33 - <Contract #>

It was a swamp that one can sink in if they just walked on it, but Hyun-Soo was running on its surface, so it didn't cause him any issues.

Creak!

"You're pretty witty for a toad."

The toad noticed Hyun-Soo and was threatening him.

In order to stay out of its sight, he tried approaching by circling around it, but after getting caught, he couldn't help but mumble in frustration.

"It was difficult because it would jump around every time I attacked..."

But not anymore.

Swoosh!

"Ha!"

Its tongue was still pretty dangerous.

When the tongue aimed for his ankle, Hyun-Soo managed to dodge it with ease.

He was actually thankful, rather than scared of the attack.

'Weakness!'

The shining light in the center of the tongue was the toad's weakness.

The arrow-like tongue seems to roll back after it's used to attack its opponent.

Hyun-Soo quickly followed behind it.

'Mighty Throw!'

Hyun-Soo used his skill while aiming at the shining, white light

that was in the center of its tongue.

However, the toad's tongue flinched for a second and dodged the attack.

"Tsk!"

So close.

He decided to try again.

Hyun-Soo changed directions after running straight towards the toad.

After running with all his might, he stepped on the toad's leg and jumped up into the air.

Kyahhh! Kyah!

It must've felt unpleasant by the fact that Hyun-Soo was on its body because it started moving around.

"Jeez! I almost fell."

But, he stabbed its body with his dagger, so he was able to hold on.

Kyah! Kyah! Kyah!

However, the toad felt pain when Hyun-Soo's dagger pierced deep into its body that it started moving around more violently.

In order to get Hyun-Soo off of them, it swung its tongue around.

If its leg were fine, it might've started jumping around.

However, when Hyun-Soo hunt was getting delayed, Kim Yoo-Na slashed it.

It was an advantage for him.

'She should just help if she was going to do that.'

After forming the new contract, she never took the lead and brought down the monster.

'Well, this is a pretty big help. If it weren't for Kim Yoo-Na, then

it would've been impossible for me to participate in portal hunts.'

As his value as the Skill Maker increases, he'll be able to participate in hunts.

But, will that hunt be a safe hunt?

'It's a large world and there are a lot of crazy people. If I participate in one of those hunts, I'm sure I would get robbed. Or even die.'

No one will know once the portal is closed.

There's a high chance that they might exclude Hyun-Soo so that they can kill him and bury him.

'I did ask Kim Yoo-Na for her help so that I can avoid those situations.'

Even though Hyun-Soo was the one that asked for her help, Kim Yoo-Na added a condition.

She wanted to train Hyun-Soo her way.

'This is a good idea, but...it's still difficult. I think I'm going to throw up.'

The toad's movement was getting more violent.

It's because Hyun-Soo kept on stabbing it with his dagger.

'Damn...I wish I had a better weapon.'

Since he only had one offensive skill, there was no need for other weapons.

'It's probably best to buy a longer sword.'

Since he was taking down the monster almost by himself, he felt the need for a weapon.

Kyah!

Boom!

Since the toad couldn't jump around, it felt like the difficulty

level dropped.

Hyun-Soo attacked the toad by stabbing it with the dagger and at the same time, was enduring the toad's violent movement.

Hyun-Soo managed to move up to the toad's neck.

Swoosh!

"Ha!"

The whip-like tongue was swinging violently in the air.

But, Hyun-Soo used the dagger that was stabbed into the toad's body, so he managed to dodge it.

Swoosh!

Using the toad's violent movement, he managed to move to the top of its head.

When Hyun-Soo landed on its head, the toad was desperately trying to get him off.

It seemed like the toad really wanted Hyun-Soo off of them because it started rolling its body on the ground.

Because it started rolling around in mud, Hyun-Soo was covered in mud as well.

'My clothes are all messed up. Hyuna caught me last time, so it's hard for me to wash it discreetly. Looks like I'll be hearing it again.'

That was the first thought he had when he became covered in mud.

Right before the toad pushed its body all the way into the mud, Hyun-Soo changed his position.

After getting off its back, he kept his distance from the toad.

The toad didn't notice that Hyun-Soo was off its back and continued rolling around.

“Finish it!”

Kim Yoo-Na screamed from a distance.

‘It’s not like I don’t want to finish it.’

Since Kim Yoo-Na was now teaching him, she wasn’t going easy on him.

Since she was a high-ranked hunter, she thought that others could do just as much as her.

They say tailor your ambitions to something, but that made Hyun-Soo want to die.

‘She did it today too. She asked me to go hunting with her, but pushed me into the portal.’

Since she was here, he wouldn’t get killed.

However, since he had to fight the monster by himself, he couldn’t help but feel pressured and exhausted.

‘It’s a relief that she at least took care of the weaker monsters. No. Is it a relief? In the end, she’s attacking while dodging the attacks. She’s definitely a high-ranked hunter.’

To not get killed by a monster’s attack, a hunter needs to be agile and dodge the attacks.

If not, it can cause serious damage.

During sticky situations, Kim Yoo-Na would intercept and help.

Despite of that, Hyun-Soo still had to take down the monster by himself.

‘That’s why I had no choice but to drink the Agility Potion.’

Before arriving at the portal, Hyun-Soo drank two types of potions.

Agility Potion and Critical Hit Potion.

He created the potions with the ingredients he found in the

portal.

‘I managed to create them since I didn’t want to die.’

In his current condition, he couldn’t follow Kim Yoo-Na’s demands, so in order to increase his stats, even just a bit, he mixed all sorts of ingredients and managed to make them.

That’s why it was possible for him to hunt like this.

It was difficult to attack the weak spot on top of its head because it was rolling on the ground.

That’s why, Hyun-Soo started running and approached the toad.

‘Just die. You stupid toad! Spit out the stone and die!’

Hyun-Soo jumped towards the toad’s mud-covered stomach.

After rolling its large body around.

Right when it was about to flip over.

Boom!

Hyun-Soo stabbed the toad’s side.

Kyah!

After feeling the pain. the toad cried out loud.

The toad’s large body stiffened as it tried to stop.

But, it was already rolling around.

Hyun-Soo put all of his strength into the dagger he was grabbing onto.

Rip—

As if a piece of fabric was being ripped, the sound lasted for a couple of seconds.

The toad’s stomach was cut open as Hyun-Soo grabbed the dagger that was stabbed into its body.

Kyahhhh!

It was disappointing that the dagger didn't reach its organs because it was too short.

But, as its skin was cut open, it revealed its muscles.

As Hyun-Soo stepped back, he saw the white dots on the cut.

'Mighty Throw!'

Fwoosh! Boom!

And the dagger that was flying towards it pierced deep within its body.

[Critical!]

It was the notification he was waiting for.

The dagger that Hyun-Soo threw pierced deep within the cut that even the hilt disappeared.

The toad started shaking in pain.

But, the more it moved around, the deeper the dagger moved into its organs.

Gurgle! Gurgle!

The toad released bloody foams from its mouth.

The tongue started moving as if it were trying to catch its prey.

But that only lasted for a moment.

It trembled.

The toad's eyes turned white and its body trembled for the last time.

'It's over.'

It's dead.

"You did well. You did take a while though. You're still inexperienced in handling the monster..."

"...But if you tell people that I took out a toad by myself at my

current level, no one will believe it.”

He was implying that he did well.

For taking down a monster by himself.

It might not be much, but Hyun-Soo felt that he had achieved something great by himself. However, Kim Yoo-Na didn’t seem to agree.

“I cut off its feet.”

“Oh, right…”

Since she had high standards, after she started teaching him, she barely complimented him.

It was hardcore.

If it weren’t for Kim Yoo-Na devoting her life to Kim Hye-Na, Hyun-Soo probably would’ve turned into a bony mummy.

‘It’s a relief that she visits Hye-Na for a couple of days.’

Hyun-Soo sometimes visited Hye-Na.

It was to give her potions.

However, the bulb from the Flower Spore isn’t always at the portal where the Flower Spore resides.

Because of that, he couldn’t make the Stamina Potion often.

Kim Yoo-Na usually took down the Flower Spore fairly quickly.

Obtaining the ingredients was much more important than Hyun-Soo’s training.

While Kim Yoo-Na was attacking the Flower Spore, Hyun-Soo would use Interface to find the bulb.

The bulb was buried in the ground and couldn’t be seen, but it was odd how Hyun-Soo was able to find it, but Kim Yoo-Na didn’t ask.

“I’ll go and see if there’s anything useful.”

“I’ll check as well. “

In order to see if there were any useful ingredients, Kim Yoo-Na walked towards the toad first.

Since Kim Yoo-Na couldn’t check the information like Hyun-Soo could, her way of checking was quite simple.

It was to eat it.

‘Honestly, I was shocked last time when she said she would try to eat the egg of the frog we took down. Just looking at it grosses me out, but she has serious guts to be able to eat it.’

After checking the frog’s egg with Interface, Hyun-Soo immediately stopped her.

Hyun-Soo activated Interface after confirming that she was far ahead.

‘Interface!’

►Name: Kim Hyun-Soo (21)

►Rank: D

►Class: Skill Maker

►Experience: 74%

►Stamina: 79 Agility: 55(+12) Power: 68 Critical Hit: 47(+12) ?? ?? ??

►Energy Level: 65%

►??

►Skill List

[Interface][SS]

[Skill Creation][C]

[Skill Transfer][C]

[Medicinal Mix][C]

‘Hm…it didn’t increase as much as I thought.’

Maybe it’s because his level increased.

Compared to when he was an E rank, the growth rate of his experience level was slower.

And the amount of experience he obtains after taking down a monster decreased as well.

‘I would like to hunt in high-ranked portals, but…’

If Kim Yoo-Na tells him to take it down by himself, just like she did today, he might die.

‘Let’s do C first. I need to get stronger.’

That way, he can obtain a safer chance.

It was important to earn money, but his reason to earn money was simple.

To have a good life.

He needed money to have a more comfortable and prosperous life.

‘But that only applies when there’s a guarantee that I’ll be safe.’

Earning money could actually put his family in danger.

‘I’m a hunter, but my family isn’t.’

If he spent all of his money by building a fortress-like house and putting guards all around the place, will his family be able to live a happy life?

Hyun-Soo was skeptical.

‘On top of that, someone might betray us.’

If he didn’t have power, no matter how much money he had, it’ll still put them in danger.

Anyways, there was only one conclusion.

‘Obtain more power. ‘

<Contract #> End.

Chapter 34 - <You'll Meet Your Enemy at a Weaponry Store #1>

He somehow managed to form a contract with Kim Yoo-Na, but there wasn't a guarantee that someone would always watch his back.

That's why he was in a hurry to become stronger.

'It'd be nice if there were some nice items in this portal. I'm hoping for a medicinal herb that increases stamina.'

But this place was a swamp filled with mud.

It was obvious that it was difficult to grow anything in this place.

'Everything that I can see with my eyes are useless...do I have to dig for it?'

Since he couldn't check inside the swamp, it was impossible to inspect it.

Hyun-Soo dug the ground with his dagger as disappointment filled within him.

'Should I change my weapon?'

The dagger was the best for throwing.

It was light, thin and sharp.

That's why it barely had air resistance and it can be thrown without using too much energy.

'But the length of it is pretty disappointing. It'd be nice if it was a bit longer.'

Maybe it's because he's gotten used to hunting or because he drank an excessive amount of potion, but his attacks were getting sharper and fatal.

However, compared to how much his skill has improved, his

attack skill didn't really increase much.

'It is pretty short. If it was longer, I could've killed it a while ago.'

Hyun-Soo looked down at the dagger that was in his hand.

If the dagger was longer when he was fighting against the toad, he could've taken it down easily instead of attack it several times.

However, it was short, which caused him to continuously attack.

'Well, I can just keep these and get a longer sword.'

If he had it, he would use it all.

On top of that, he felt that it was a necessity.

Even if he didn't purchase one right away, it was best to take a look.

"Have you looked into it?"

Kim Yoo-Na seemed to have finished searching within the portal because she came back.

"Yes, there's nothing useful here."

"Then, we should just take the Energy Stone with us."

Kim Yoo-Na mumbled in disappointment.

"I'm getting worried since I haven't been able to find any items."

It seemed like she was expecting something from the toad.

While grabbing the Energy Stone, Kim Yoo-Na looked through its organs.

Hyun-Soo stood behind and used Interface, but didn't find anything useful.

[Red Spotted Toad's Organs]

It tastes bitter and has a strong fishy smell.

Useless items with no effects kept on showing up.

“I’ll deposit today’s pay into your account. Will you be going home?”

“No, I’m thinking about looking at some weapons.”

“Oh, then you’ll be visiting the Weaponry Store. I was thinking about going there too, so let’s go together.”

Kim Yoo-Na asked Hyun-Soo about his plan as they exited the portal.

Luckily, they were headed to the same location.

‘I feel really uncomfortable getting in this car.’

The red sports car was an extremely desirable car, but riding in it made him feel uncomfortable.

On top of that, he would be in the passenger seat.

Also, the owner of the car was a beautiful, young lady.

And every time Hyun-Soo sat next to her, it felt like a drag.

‘The way people look when I get out of the car is no joke.’

He remembered the lyric of a song he heard on a commercial.

A song about how people knew without saying a word.

Hyun-Soo was experiencing that himself.

‘Does that bastard have a lot of money?’

‘Or is there something about that’s so amazing?’

‘Lucky bastard.’

That’s what he mostly felt when the guys looked at him.

‘The two of them must really love each other.’

And that’s what he felt from the ladies when they looked at them.

‘Damn it. It’s not like I have a lot of money and we’re not lovers either, so they should just mind their own business.’

There’s a lot of nosy people in this world.

That’s what Hyun-Soo felt every time he got into Kim Yoo-Na’s car.

Thankfully, when they arrived at the Weaponry Store, the car was parked in an underground garage.

There wasn’t anyone watching them, so he stepped out without any discomfort.

“What are you looking for?”

“When I fought the monster earlier, there was a limit to my attacks when I used the dagger.”

“You’re going to change to a longer sword? In that case, wouldn’t it be better to go with a lance? It’s heavier than a dagger, but it’ll definitely damage the opponent.”

Since Kim Yoo-Na had more experience in fighting monsters, she nodded her head and spoke.

“Then, do we have to change the training method…?”

“No! I’m not completely changing my weapon. I just wanted to strengthen the skills that I was lacking in.”

“The dagger is a bit weak when trying to attack with one blow. Will the lance help in taking down a monster…?

Because she was too experienced, she was getting ahead of herself..

Hyun-Soo quickly declined, knowing how Kim Yoo-Na thought when it came to training.

“No, there’s no need. I just need one mid-sized sword. Let’s get going. Why are you here though?”

If this continued, she would make him do a weapons training.

Kim Yoo-Na’s attention turned elsewhere thanks to him quickly changing the subject.

“There was something I told the Floor Manager a while ago. When they bring in a monster’s by-product that’s used as an ingredient for weapons, I asked them to bring in other parts as well.”

“By-product?”

“Since we can’t go through all the portals, we can use this method and check out the by-products that are obtained from other portals.”

“I don’t think you’ll find anything useful from there though.”

“We’ll see, but I’m sure you’ll be able to find some useful items.”

After pressing the elevator button, she turned to Hyun-Soo and smiled.

Her eyes were looking straight at him, but her mouth was smiling.

“Ha, ha ha…I don’t have that kind of ability. You have better experience than I do, so I’m sure you’ll be able to pick a good one. Ha ha ha…!”

Hyun-Soo awkwardly laughed while looking at the numbers on the elevator.

‘Damn it, did she find out about?’

Honestly, it was weird for her to not notice anything.

‘Even I would be suspicious of myself.’

Sure, he was selling scrolls that people haven’t heard of before.

That he can somehow manage to get away with.

It was a big world and it contained a lot of portals that still haven’t been targeted.

There’s also a high possibility that scrolls that haven’t been discovered could be obtained from those portals.

However, there was another issue Hyun-Soo couldn’t overlook.

‘It was dangerous to give her the potions that I made.’.

If he didn’t have this to control Kim Yoo-Na, it could’ve been a dangerous gamble.

There weren’t a lot of information regarding the portals, so it’s possible that some of them had potions.

‘But, for an E rank hunter to be in a portal…No, it’s hard for even a D rank hunter to target those portals.’

And after obtaining a scroll on top of that.

People in generally would desire a scroll that hasn’t been known to the world.

And a potion that can affect a hunter during a hunt.

It wouldn’t matter if they were separate.

‘But it’s suspicious since I showed up with both at once.’

And Hyun-Soo never spoke about the potions before.

For scrolls, he managed to make excuses since the other party had to be involved, but for the potion, he hasn’t explained anything about it.

There was no need to explain and he wasn’t planning on explaining it either.

Anyways, the one that was at a disadvantage here was Kim Yoo-Na and Hyun-Soo was the only person that could provide it to her.

‘She’s only human, so it’s understandable that she would be suspicious. It’s possible…but the issue is how much she’s suspicious of me.’

Hyun-Soo glanced at Kim Yoo-Na.

‘There’s a lot of things I can’t really tell about this woman. If people find out something, they usually try to look deeper into it, but seeing as how she isn’t, maybe she doesn’t feel the need to…”

There were a lot of things that were suspicious, but all Kim Yoo-

Na did was vaguely mention it and then not talk about it.

‘I’m not sure what her intentions are, but it doesn’t seem like she wants to cause trouble now. Well, not like she can do anything about it anyways.’

At least he’ll be fine until Kim Hye-Na has been completely recovered.

He couldn’t completely be relaxed about it.

However, if she had planned on killing him from the start, there was an easy way to do that.

No one knows regarding the world inside the portal.

Once a hunter leaves the portal after finishing the hunt, that portal closes.

If there’s a corpse, it would disappear without a trace.

‘But that won’t happen. There were a lot of chances, but those training made me feel like I was in hell. I thought I was going to die in the beginning, but now, I feel good enough to shop for weapons after finishing a hunt. I’ve improved a lot.’

Ding!

The elevator door opened.

A mid-sized sword belonged to the close-range weapon, so Hyun-Soo walked down to that section.

“……?”

“What?”

“Didn’t you say that you requested something to the Floor Manager?”

“Yes, that’s right.”

“Then why are you following me……?”

Finished products were organized by class and ingredients were

sold on the top floor.

All Kim Yoo-Na had to do was ride the elevator and get off on the top floor.

But, she got off when Hyun-Soo did and followed behind him.

“Technically, you’re a student that I’m teaching.”

He never thought of her as his teacher, but since he was training under her, she wasn’t completely wrong.

Kim Yoo-Na spoke after seeing Hyun-Soo’s confused expression.

“So, since my student is wanting to purchase a weapon, I can at least guide him.”

“Well, since you’re offering to help…why not.”

Kim Yoo-Na was probably more experienced in choosing a weapon.

Combining Mighty Throw and the dagger was Kim Yoo-Na’s idea.

Since the skill required an object to be thrown, he only thought about rocks and balls and never thought about throwing a sharp object.

“Welcome. What can I help you with?”.

When they approached a spot where the weapons were displayed, a staff approached and greeted them.

“We’re looking for a sword that’s longer than a dagger, but shorter than a longsword.”

“You’ve come to the right place. Our company’s products are well-known for its balance and sharpness that lasts for a long time. If you’d like, we also customize the items as well.”

From the different weapons that were displayed, the staff grabbed a sword.

It was a sword with a gently curved silver blade and was as long

as a forearm.

“What kind of material are you looking for? A lot of hunters these days mix a monster’s by-product with alloy. What about this one? The powder of a Mutilated Rhinoceros’s horn has been mixed, so it’s stronger than your average iron.”

As they slightly laid the sword down, the light reflected off of it, causing it to shine brightly.

Hyun-Soo discreetly looked at the price tag that was taped on the spot where the sword was taken out from.

‘What?! This is 300 million won?!’

<You’ll Meet Your Enemy at a Weaponry Store #1> End.

Chapter 35 - <You'll Meet Your Enemy at a Weaponry Store #2>

The knife costed just as much as leasing a house.

The dagger wasn't this expensive.

'Is it this pricey because of the alloy?'

While Hyun-Soo was shocked by the price, Kim Yoo-Na watched and intercepted.

"You won't be able to use that for a long time. How about that one instead?"

Kim Yoo-Na pointed towards one of the displays.

It was a sword that had a light blue glow to it.

It was long and sharp, which made it the perfect weapon for stabbing an enemy.

"You have a good eye. It was created by mixing a White Unicorn's blood. As you can see, there's a rich, blue glow, just like a unicorn's blood. It's two times, no, three times stronger than an ordinary sword. It's the most useful weapon at that level."

'Seven billion……!'

Hyun-Soo was shocked again after he glanced at the price tag.

He couldn't hear what the staff was saying.

'Why is it so expensive? It seems like they just up the price whenever they use the word, monster. But they only mixed 3% of it. But it's still seven billion…'

After checking Interface, Hyun-Soo was able to see that they only mixed a tiny bit of it, despite of how much the staff was talking about it.

If you knew how to handle metal, you would be able to get rich

through this.

‘Should I learn that too?’

But, the staff and Kim Yoo-Na were starting to have a discussion and didn’t really consider Hyun-Soo’s opinion.

They were talking about what kind of monster was mixed in, the shape, its performance and durability.

They were talking so professionally about it that Hyun-Soo couldn’t intercept.

‘I don’t care about the monsters. I just need an ordinary sword that’s like a kitchen knife.’

He thought about just going to the market.

They might not carry the length that he wanted, but.

“I think this one is pretty good.”

“That’s a good choice, sir. It’s a weapon that can be used when you become a higher-ranked hunter. High-ranked hunters sometimes look for it. The fact that it’s light is what makes it stand out.”

It was a bit longer than the forearm and the blade was slightly curved.

The blade was white and the hilt was black. The color arrangement pleased Hyun-Soo.

On top of that, it was light so he liked it even more.

Hyun-Soo used Interface.

‘Interface!’

[Blue Platypus Sword][Normal]

The sword has been coated with the Blue Platypus’s oil that’s been purified.

The fact that it will always remain clean is its strong point.

Its light weight is what makes it stand out.

The critical rate will slightly increase upon use.

After seeing the information displayed on Interface, it seemed like a pretty good weapon.

‘It would be hard for me to adapt if the sword is heavy, so it’ll be best to go with a light one.’

As soon as the staff saw Hyun-Soo showing interest in the sword, they started talking about it excitedly.

“Since the blade has been coated with the Blue Platypus’s oil, any blood or fluids from monsters will easily clean off. We’re having an event where we provide a sheath as a free gift with the sword. It’s a great item to purchase now.”

“I see. That’s pretty nice.”

He swung the sword in the air and liked how it felt in his hand.

It was so light that it didn’t really affect his wrist or arm.

He swung it a couple of times to test it out and the way it cut through the air was sharp.

“It’s very affordable as well.”

“How much is it?”

“It’s currently on sale, so it’s being sold at 1.7 billion. Isn’t it a good deal?”

“…….”

Hyun-Soo carefully put down the sword.

This one costed just as much as a house.

“…I’ll look around some more.”

“Excuse me? Even I think this is the best one.”

People use this method when they don’t plan on purchasing the

item, but Kim Yoo-Na messed that plan up for Hyun-Soo.

Her expression asked why he wasn't buying it.

'What do you mean why? It's because I can't afford it.'

As a A rank hunter, Kim Yoo-Na probably didn't understand.

No matter how you look at it, Kim Yoo-Na didn't look like the type that was short on money.

To her, 1.7 billion was nothing.

It wasn't that Hyun-Soo didn't have any money.

From all the times Kim Yoo-Na and Hyun-Soo went hunting together, he received a portion of the reward.

Kim Yoo-Na took care of attacking the portal, taking down the monster and other things.

Hyun-Soo only did what he was told to do and killed the monster according to her instructions.

'Technically, I'm benefiting more.'

Anyways, Hyun-Soo took home the money that he made.

After thinking it through, he decided to take care of the remaining amount.

Since he paid off the debt, things were looking up for his family.

I had to pay a lot in taxes, but I managed to save a lot from what I had left.

Now his goal was to buy a house.

It was important to save as much as he could so that he could buy a house.

Hyun-Soo saved up as much as he could.

But, he didn't save all the money that he had.

He spent it when he needed to.

Saving money on necessities wasn't smart saving, but just ridiculous.

It's best to spend money on things that he needed.

'But spending money on a sword that costs 1.7 billion...?'

It would be different if it was his main weapon, but it was going to be his secondary weapon.

"I'm sure there's another that'll fit me best. I'll look around more."

"Okay."

Kim Yoo-Na looked at the sword that was coated with Platypus oil in disappointment.

Hyun-Soo felt relieved that she agreed and decided to quietly move back.

It was to get away from the staff that recommended weapons that costed billions.

Maybe it's because he was in a rush.

He ended up bumping into another person that was in the store.

"What the hell!"

Hyun-Soo turned around and apologized to the person he accidentally bumped into.

"I'm sorry."

"Why don't you watch where you're going?!"

Despite of him quickly apologizing, the other person talked violently.

He was suddenly in a bad mood because of what they said.

He acknowledged the fact that he made the mistake.

When Hyun-Soo was about to apologize again.

"What's wrong? What happened?"

Their party appeared and asked what happened.

‘Their voice sounds familiar.’

It was a voice he had heard before.

Feeling odd about it, Hyun-Soo raised his head and their eyes met.

“Oh? You’re?”

Their eyes widened after noticing Hyun-Soo.

At the same time, Hyun-Soo remembered who they were.

‘Why is that crazy bastard here?’

It’s only been a couple of minutes since they’ve seen each other’s faces.

But his personality was engraved into his head.

“Look who’s here. You’re that idiotic, trashy carrier that acted out of place.”

Because he was filled with anger due to a misunderstanding, he prevented Hyun-Soo from participating in other hunts.

It was the healer, Kim Yoo-Han.

“Do you know this guy?”

“I told you before, didn’t I? He’s that porter that spoke out of place and messed up the hunt.”

“Oh! That hunt? Even that tanker said he was acting out of place.”

“Yeah. That guy is pretty skilled, but he’s slow-witted. If he had just thrown the carrier to the monster, it could’ve ended easily, but he was being dumb and kept on tanking.”

As if he couldn’t see that Hyun-Soo was standing in front of him, Kim Yoo-Han was talking to his party.

The problem was that Hyun-Soo heard everything loud and clear.

He probably spoke that way so that Hyun-Soo could hear him.

‘What are these crazy bastards blabbing about?’

It was pretty obvious who they were talking about without saying the name.

On top of that, his comment was pretty shocking.

‘Throw me to the monsters? Does he even know what he’s saying?’

He wasn’t sure if he was serious, or if he was just bluffing to make himself look good in front of the others.

‘He’s definitely bluffing.’

On top of that, he left out the part about how he made a mistake.

But, aside from the mistake, after Hyun-Soo thought about the crazy things that the healer did, he might not be bluffing.

‘Are all healers like this? The other healer was pretty normal. He must be a special case among the healers.’

With that thought, Hyun-Soo decided to ignore him.

He was no longer affected by what Kim Yoo-Han said.

Since he was being taught by Kim Yoo-Na, there was no need for him to be desperate about finding a job.

Also, Hyun-Soo was a D rank.

It was the same rank as Kim Yoo-Han, who boasted about it.

‘Ignoring the crazy bastard is the wisest thing to do.’

He didn’t want to get involved with him.

That’s why he decided to ignore him..

That’s what Hyun-Soo felt when he watched the other party members laugh along with the crazy healer.

Since he already apologized for bumping into him, Hyun-Soo decided to leave.

“I heard you got kicked out of the hunter community. Are you here to buy a weapon?”

“There are rumors that you’ve been scamming people about selling scrolls to them. It seems like you’re using that money to pretend to be a hunter. How can a carrier obtain a scroll?”

“If he is scamming, we should capture him and hand him over. It’s bad that he’s using scrolls to scam people.”

Hyun-Soo didn’t say anything, but they somehow came to an odd conclusion.

It didn’t matter whether they really thought he was a scammer or not.

It looked like they were going to cause trouble.

Kim Yoo-Han’s party were the first ones to move.

There was only one reason why a healer like him would come to the close-range weapon floor.

He followed his party.

One of them was a close-range attacker and they grabbed Hyun-Soo’s shoulder by using their hook-like hand.

No, they tried to grab him.

‘I don’t think so!’

As soon as their finger was about to grab his shoulder, Hyun-Soo quickly took a step back.

And using that foot as support, he turned his body.

Naturally, the guy’s hand grabbed the air instead of Hyun-Soo’s shoulder.

“Huh, nice trick.”

The guy had a twisted smile on his face.

He looked at his hand, then looked at Hyun-Soo’s face and a

smirk appeared.

“Let’s see if you can dodge this.”

He got into a strange position.

‘It kind of looks like a saddle stance. It looks like it’s from an old Chinese martial arts drama.’

He placed his feet at shoulder width and bent his knees. Then, he placed his arms on his upper body and touched his waist with his hand.

In that stance, he started making weird noises as if he was gathering energy.

“Haaaaaaa! Ha!”

Boom!

Then, he stomped his foot into the ground and started running towards Hyun-Soo.

When his foot stomped the ground, a loud noise filled each of the floors.

When he neared Hyun-Soo, he extended his hand towards Hyun-Soo’s stomach.

His hand looked like a hook and he put so much force into it that it looked like it could pierce through his skin.

If a stranger saw this, it wouldn’t be weird for them to see a hole in Hyun-Soo’s stomach at any moment.

But.

‘Too slow.’

His attack moved slowly in Hyun-Soo’s eyes.

It was so slow that it seemed like someone cut out each frame from a video.

His attack was so slow, that it seemed like he was saying, ‘I’ll

attack here, so dodge it!’

There’s no way he would get hit by such a slow attack.

Hyun-Soo easily dodged his attack by bending his body backward a bit.

‘He’s not playing with me, is he? Why is his attack so sloppy?’

<You’ll Meet Your Enemy at a Weaponry Store #2> End.

Chapter 36 - <You'll Meet Your Enemy at a Weaponry Store #3>

He wondered whether they had planned to make fun of him since Kim Yoo-Han and his party were pretty crazy.

'I can tell from their faces.'

However, Hyun-Soo knew that wasn't the case when he saw how red his opponent's face turned.

He was getting angry at how Hyun-Soo kept on dodging his attacks.

"Then try dodging this!"

The opponent's hands hit Hyun-Soo's upper body hard.

To be exact, he tried to hit him hard.

His hands were all over the place.

It was as if he was trying to block Hyun-Soo from dodging his attacks because he kept on punching at a fast rate.

All of his energy was focused on his fists.

Fwoosh! Swoosh! Fwoosh!

Every time he punched with his fist, his clothes started fluttering and the sound of his fist cutting through the air could be heard.

But.....

'Oh, this one is slow too.'

His punches were so predictable that he thought maybe he was doing that on purpose.

It was difficult for him to take a hit on purpose.

He was able to dodge their punches without any difficulties.

His opponent kept on approaching him and striking with his fist,

but none of them landed on Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo slightly glanced to the side.

Kim Yoo-Han was looking his way with a shocked look.

It was as if he couldn't believe what he was seeing.

After seeing his expression, a smirk appeared on Hyun-Soo's face.

He ridiculed him.

It was a mistake for him to think that Hyun-Soo was just another ordinary carrier.

"He, he, hey! What are you doing?! Stop messing around and get him!"

"Da-damn it!"

His opponent felt rushed because of Kim Yoo-Han's comment.

Swoosh!

He ran towards Hyun-Soo as if he was sliding and ended up standing next to him.

He then raised his leg above Hyun-Soo's head and brought it straight down.

He targeted Hyun-Soo's head.

'Is he dumb?'

Hyun-Soo dodged his punches.

There's no way Hyun-Soo wouldn't dodge the attack when it's slower than their punches.

'I should stop now.'

He was a bit surprised when they first attacked.

He was surprised again by how slow their attacks were and was now bored with it.

Bam!

When his opponent raised his leg above Hyun-Soo's head, Hyun-Soo managed to dodge it by taking half a step to the side.

'You're not the only one that knows how to attack!'

Since he's been dodging, it was time for him to attack.

Hyun-Soo crouched down..

And at the same time, he extended one of his leg and attacked the opponent's ankle.

Crack!

'That was a good attack!'

As he attacked his opponent, Hyun-Soo's body spinned.

His body went with the flow and he stood up and turned around.

"Ack!"

Boom!

His opponent started rolling around on the floor.

"Gah! What...did you do, you bastard?! What did you do?!"

They yelled while rolling on the floor and slowly raised their body as they groaned in pain.

"What did I do? You attacked me, so all I did was attack back."

"Did you set a trap?!"

"Ha! Don't be ridiculous. Why would I set up a trap in an ordinary shop like this?"

"If that's not it, then there's no way he could lose to some loser carrier!"

Oh jeez.

It escaped Hyun-Soo's lips without him knowing.

It wasn't because he was tired, but because his opponent wasn't understanding the situation and he felt bad for him for being

dense.

‘There’s no way a carrier would remain as a carrier forever. They must be planning on remaining in their current ranks.’

“Hey. If you’re done messing with me, why don’t you just go now? Before you’re humiliated further.”

There was no reason for Hyun-Soo to impress him, so he spoke with confidence.

‘You hear that?! You crazy healer!’

Hyun-Soo saw Kim Yoo-Han looking at him while biting his lips from behind his party.

He was expecting him to shout out crazy comments again.

However, after biting his lips for a while, Kim Yoo-Han turned away.

“Hey, hurry up and get up.”

“Shit! It’s because of you…!”

“Shut up! You lost to a carrier, so you have no room to talk!”

“What? You crazy bastard!”

‘Jeez. It’s a mess.’

They were getting along just fine, but after losing to Hyun-Soo, they were fighting each other.

They were putting the blame on each other.

Kim Yoo-Han couldn’t even talk to Hyun-Soo and was getting angry at his party.

His party seemed angry as well because they clenched their hands.

“Sir, sir! Please do not act like this here. If you cause more trouble, it’ll get in the way of our business and we’ll have no choice but to call the guards.”

The employee that went to call the manager came back.

The manager that came with the employee came in-between Hyun-Soo and Kim Yoo-Han's party and settled the situation.

'Nice timing.'

They left somewhere with anger.

Kim Yoo-Han quickly left the place while following them.

Hyun-Soo and Kim Yoo-Han's eyes met as he left.

He turned away first a moment ago, but now, he was looking at Hyun-Soo with a ferocious look.

'If he was smart, he wouldn't do anything crazy again, right? But, it ended kind of weird.'

He noticed Kim Yoo-Han's lips slightly moving.

Hyun-Soo noticed because Kim Yoo-Han was looking straight at him.

You'll get yours.

He didn't have the confidence to say it to his face and Kim Yoo-Han left through the emergency exit with a huge grudge.

Hyun-Soo felt bitter for some reason.

Maybe it's because he saw Kim Yoo-Han's face that was filled resentment.

'He can't seem to let that grudge go. I don't understand why they haven't kicked him out yet.'

He was definitely crazy for not acknowledging defeat and holding a grudge instead.

'Well, I already beat him once. Not like I can't beat him again.'

He wasn't sure what happened, but he could clearly see his opponent's attacks.

On top of that, they were slow.

That's why, if he wanted to go again, he could beat him again.

Even if he leveled up, Hyun-Soo would've leveled up too.

There was a difference in skills, so he could defeat him without any issues.

'But, that was interesting. How was I able to see all of his attacks? They were extremely slow.'

It was like slow-motion and it seemed like someone extended the video too.

Hyun-Soo was thinking for a moment and came back to his senses when he heard Kim Yoo-Na's voice.

"You did well. The hardcore training paid off."

When he turned his head, Kim Yoo-Na was standing there with a smile.

"But, who was that? It seemed like you guys knew each other from the way he was picking a fight with you."

"I got involved with him due to bad luck."

"OH yeah? He seemed like a jerk, so I guess he did some pretty nasty things before.".

A blunt comment escaped from her pretty lips.

Hyun-Soo shrugged his shoulders instead of answering.

"Okay then. If you were defeated by a jerk like him, I would've cancelled our contract and probably would've stopped training you."

"The promise towards Hye-Na can't be broken."

Hyun-Soo replied with a straight face.

'This isn't because I don't want to suffer under Kim Yoo-Na's training. If she made a promise to her sister, she should keep it.'

Hyun-Soo got goosebumps from Kim Yoo-Na's comment, but

quickly calmed down and told himself.

‘Even when Kim Yoo-Han picked a fight and his party attacked me, it wasn’t this scary.’

He suddenly felt goosebumps from her comment.

“Anyways, you did great.”

“Thank you.”

As a mentor, Kim Yoo-Na didn’t compliment very often.

The awkwardness that he felt because of the healer disappeared.

“So, which weapon are you going to buy?”

“I haven’t decided yet. They’re a bit expensive.”

Hyun-Soo told the truth after contemplating for a bit.

“The price?”

It’s only 1.7 billion.

Was what it felt like she was implying.

It was a large sum for Hyun-Soo, but for Kim Yoo-Na, who was living in a different world, that wasn’t the case.

‘Right, she’s different from me, so it’s understandable.’

Kim Yoo-Na tilted her head after pondering a bit.”

“Purchasing a good weapon will last much longer. If you purchase a cheap one, you have to change it often and in the end, you spend more money.”

“That’s true.”

“It would’ve been nice if you purchased daggers that had monster ingredients added to them. Isn’t it a hassle to purchase a new one every time the blade gets dull and breaks?”

Hyun-Soo agreed about purchasing a good weapon from the start.

But, it was hard to afford a good weapon.

He often used the daggers when attacking and after the hunt is done, he takes them back with him.

But like Kim Yoo-Na said, the blade becomes dull because of the monster's fluid and sometimes, it breaks to the point where it's impossible to take it back.

There are times where he couldn't even find it.

'A monster's skin, bone and muscles are pretty tough.'

On top of that, since the blade was made out of ordinary metal, when it touches a monster's fluid, the blade becomes weaker.

When that does happen, it gets dull and it can't be used anymore.

There's a reason why hunters spend a lot of money on weapons.

A good weapon increases the attack and within the hunters, they're usually judged through the weapons that they have.

This was a necessity.

A weapon is an investment for the future.

Hyun-Soo thought that as well.

But.

'But right now, I've been using it pretty well.'

Hyun-Soo continuously used the ordinary daggers.

Rather than spending millions, he would use the daggers until it couldn't be used anymore and when it can't be used, he would throw it away.

'But what Kim Yoo-Na said was true.'

Even if you spend little by little, later on, it all adds up.

'But, it's still too expensive to purchase it now.'

"I don't plan on changing it now, so I'll think about it later."

When Hyun-Soo changed the subject, Kim Yoo-Na placed her hand on her chin and let out a small sigh.

“You’re saying that both the dagger and the mid-sized swords are expensive.”

“That’s right.”

“Then, how about this? Your skill requires you to throw, right? How about changing the item to an intangible energy?”

“Intangible energy?”

Hyun-Soo didn’t quite understand.

“By using the energy that you have, you gather it to create a dagger. So…something similar to that would be the Wind Cutter.”

“Oh!”

Wind Cutter.

The Wind Cutter was an offensive skill and when she mentioned it, he understood what she meant.

“If it can be applied by changing the weapon, it can probably be applied even if the weapon wasn’t tangible.

What do you think? Want to give it a try?”

<You’ll Meet Your Enemy at a Weaponry Store #3> End.

Chapter 37 - <Skill Development #1>

“If it’s possible, it would be great.”

If it was possible.

He had an idea of what Kim Yoo-Na was talking about.

But, he had no idea as to what he had to do.

“Don’t worry. The issue of whether it’s possible or not is up to you, but I’ll take responsibility and train you so that it’ll increase the chance of it being possible.”

“……Excuse me?”

“Why are you surprised? You just saw the effects of my training. Those two scums looked like they were only D ranks, but despite being the same rank, you really beat those guys.”

It was true.

All of his punches and the way his legs moved looked like a slow-motion video.

He wondered why that happened…….

‘It’s the effects of the training……?’

Up till now, he’s been fighting against just monsters.

Of course he didn’t know what to expect during a one-one-one battle.

He was still having a hard time keeping up when fighting against a monster.

So he didn’t assume that his skills had improved this much.

He was really happy about the fact that he got stronger, but there was something off that stopped himself from celebrating.

‘But it was realistically too slow for it to be the effects of the training.’

It was still good though.

It ended pretty well.

He obtained a skill that others wouldn't be able to look down upon.

'Even if I did train, is it possible for it to have that much of an effect?'

Hyun-Soo understood Kim Yoo-Na's explanation, but at the same time, questioned it.

It was an interesting feeling where time slowed around him.

He could clearly see where his opponent was going to attack.

If it was really because of the training, then it was a growth that should be watched closely.

'I am growing pretty fast, but...'

If he grew this much within that short period...

Hyun-Soo looked down at his hands.

His hands clenched and released repeatedly.

'Something more powerful could be obtained with these hands.'

While Hyun-Soo was lost in his world, Kim Yoo-Na started dragging him with her.

"Then that means you'll be able to purchase a useful sword. Good. You should purchase a decent one from the ones that we saw."

"……Uh, huh?"

Kim Yoo-Na dragged him back into the store.

"Could you give me the sword with the blue blade?"

"Are you referring to the sword that contains Unicorn's blood?"

The employee's expression didn't look so great and it's probably because they witnessed how Hyun-Soo took out Kim Yoo-Han's

party.

But, as soon as Kim Yoo-Na asked them for the sword, their frown turned upside down.

“How much of the Unicorn’s blood has been mixed in? Judging by the color, it doesn’t look like a lot has been mixed with it.”

“We are very strict about what we sell here ma’am.”

The staff denied it with a straight face.

‘3% to be exact. They did mix some of it, so it’s not a complete lie.’

It did feel like a scam.

But for Hyun-Soo, since he already checked the information through Interface, he couldn’t get scammed.

When he was about to intercept.

“The color is pretty light, so it looks like it wasn’t a high-ranked monster. A sword made out of White Unicorn’s blood is known to be sturdy and sharp, but the quality of an item like that is a bit…”

“Ma’am! 500,000! I’ll give it to you for 500,000.”

A shocked expression replaced their straight face.

‘I knew it…….’

He knew they marked it high even though they only mixed 3% of the Unicorn’s blood.

He wasn’t sure how Kim Yoo-Na knew, but after figuring out the situation, Hyun-Soo decided to observe their conversation.

Despite the fact that the employee lowered the price a lot, Kim Yoo-Na didn’t seem satisfied and looked as if she was going to decline.

“I knew it was too expensive.”

“I’ll give it to you for 450,000. That’s the lowest price I can offer.

We don't usually give discounts like this...You seemed to have handled a lot of different weapons, seeing how you know the White Unicorn's trait."

"Let's do 400,000."

"....."

The employee's expression changed.

Things looked complicated since the other person knew more than they had thought.

"I have no choice. I'll give it to you for 400,000. It's really rare for someone to notice the color according to the amount that was mixed..."

The employee mumbled as if they were put in a difficult situation.

Hyun-Soo's eyes widened after watching them from the side.

There wasn't any spell involved, but with a couple of comments by Kim Yoo-Na, the staff deducted almost half from the original price.

The hunters that purchase useful weapons here are probably unaware of the fact that the items here are overpriced.

They might think it's worth it because it contains a monster's trait.

If he didn't have Interface, he might've purchased it at full price.

'The percentage was pretty weird. But it did look nice though...'

On top of that, the employee's skill was amazing.

He could've taken him up on his offer if he didn't pay attention.

They offered the sword with confidence, but once Kim Yoo-Na started nitpicking and lowering the price, they seemed to have given up.

The employee quickly packed the sword as if they wanted to get

rid of it.

“You’re giving a sheath too, right?”

“Ha ha…of course.”

The employee explained that it was made out of monster’s skin while beads of sweat were rolling down their face.

“Here you go. Thank you.”

“What are you doing? Take it.”

Instead of accepting it, she called Hyun-Soo.

“Huh?”

“It’s yours, so you should take it.”

“It’s mine?”

“We’re here to buy your weapon, not mine.”

As if she heard a funny joke, she let out a short laugh.

Hyun-Soo didn’t understand which part of their conversation was funny to her.

“But, the money……?”

After the discount, it was 400,000.

They deducted almost half since the original price was 700,000.

Even that was still a large sum for Hyun-Soo.

He thought about looking at other items because of the price, but when he came back to his senses, Hyun-Soo was holding the sword that the staff packaged for him.

“It’s a useful sword. It’s not the most amazing sword, but it’ll be useful for your level. It can also be used in different ways. It’s best to have a sword like that.”

Instead of answering his question, Kim Yoo-Na said something else.

In the end, Hyun-Soo didn't hear her answer even after reaching the parking lot.

He didn't pay, but he was holding the sword.

'What kind of situation is this?'

He thought of one hypothesis.

But there was no way that Kim Yoo-Na would help him like that.

Despite of the fact that they were helping each other, in the end, this relationship was made because of the contract.

Once they get what they want, this will come to an end.

Because of that, Hyun-Soo's suspicion only increased.

"It seems like you have a hard time catching on to situations like these. It's a gift. A gift for doing well in training."

After looking at Hyun-Soo's expression, she started laughing as if she couldn't hold it in.

The person that was forcing him to buy a weapon that was right for him, suddenly gave him a gift.

"That's...then I have to give you a gift too."

"The greatest gift a teacher can receive is when their student does well. I wasn't lying when I said it's good to have a sword like this. Attackers don't carry around a second weapon for nothing."

Kim Yoo-Na slightly glanced over at Hyun-Soo and continued talking.

"If you must, then think of it as a reward for making Hye-Na feel better."

"Thank...you."

He's never received a gift without any reason.

He's seen a lot of people where they try to get more for themselves.

The more you treat others well, the more you're considered a pushover in this world.

After becoming a hunter and selling the skills, there were some that tried to get some information from him.

'But, to think that the person that's giving me a gift for no reason is the same person that I have a contract with.'

But it wasn't a bad feeling.

Hyun-Soo smiled and nodded his head.

When Hyun-Soo nodded with a smile, Kim Yoo-Na's soft expression hardened.

Her face turned into the cold expression she normally puts on.

After driving out to the road, Kim Yoo-Na dropped Hyun-Soo on the side of the road.

"I'll see you in three days."

She disappeared with the red sports car after making plans with him.

Before Hyun-Soo completely closed the door, it drove off as if it was showing how fast it could go.

"Maybe it's a misunderstanding....."

While feeling the soft wind blow against him, Hyun-Soo tilted his head.

Before stepping out of the car, he noticed that Kim Yoo-Na's earlobes were slightly red.

***

"Ha!"

Swoosh!

Boom!

The sharp attack cut through the thick log.

While the log was cut in half, a loud sound was heard as they slipped from the attack.

“Whew…….”

Hyun-Soo was the one that used the skill and he let out a deep breath.

“Doing this successfully is really hard. There’s a lot more things to think about compared to before.”

Hyun-Soo mumbled as he took out another log.

It’s been a week since he accepted Kim Yoo-Na’s offer to use the skill in a new way.

Three days after she gave Hyun-Soo the sword, she took Hyun-Soo to an unknown place.

Kim Yoo-Na parked her car in front of a very tall and large building.

“Let’s go.”

“Where are we?”

“This is where you’ll be training from now on.”

“Excuse me……?”

“We’re changing the medium of the skill, so we can’t do it inside a portal.”

For someone that told him to go head on, it was surprisingly reasonable.

When he was selling a skill, there was a time when he followed into a hunter’s training center without knowing anything.

He was surprised by how well they built the facility.

‘This place is extreme. The facility is amazing.’

The place that Kim Yoo-Na took him to was a training center where Kim Yoo-Na used an entire floor just for herself.

There were large glass windows where it divided some of the sections.

There was a bar, refrigerator and simple tables and chairs.

Next to it, there were several monitors and complicated looking machines.

It looked like a place where one observed the training.

There were several machines that provided routine training.

There was also a long-range and a close-range dummy that automatically changed.

‘They look pretty rough for a dummy.’

It was as if they made it to look like a monster because it was large and looked like it had a bad temper.

‘There are systems that I’m seeing for the first time…this place is a lot better than the first place that I visited.’

There was a hologram that showed the monster’s attack pattern based on their traits and it was used to help the hunters train. Just having that made this place a lot better.

Hunters can perform actual attacks and although they can’t feel any of the injuries, it’s possible for the system to count the amount of attacks and its effectiveness.

Kim Yoo-Na spoke as Hyun-Soo looked around the place.

“I got some logs for you. Try cutting those first.”

<Skill Development #1> End.

Chapter 38 - <Skill Development #2>

‘……?’

Kim Yoo-Na pointed somewhere.

There were logs lined up where she pointed and it didn’t match well with the high-tech, modern room.’

“It looks like there’s more than 30 of them.”

“That’s right. I explained it to you, right? Use the same method. Whether it’ll work or not depends on your efforts. Good luck.”

With that, Kim Yoo-Na left the floor.

‘Wow…….’

He heard her explanation.

He only watched her demonstrate.

But, it was totally different from actually doing it. And there was no way Kim Yoo-Na didn’t know that.

She threw him into training this time too.

Since she did teach him, she wasn’t wrong when she said she would teach him.

The issue was that she wasn’t friendly about it.

“I did cut down one, so now I have five more to go.”

At first, he had a really hard time.

He couldn’t really concentrate and she told him to gather the energy within him and materialize it.

‘What the hell is she talking about?’

Then, Kim Yoo-Na brought in a candle and lit it.

She then told him to blow it out.

She told him that he needed to have the willpower to blow it out

since it didn't go out when he blew it or touched it.

When Hyun-Soo was having hard time...

"You're lacking the willpower to blow it out!"

Was what she yelled at him.

He thought it didn't make sense, but when the candle melted and it was about to go out, Hyun-Soo managed to blow out the small fire.

Of course Kim Yoo-Na coached him from the side.

"Think about gathering your strength and throwing it."

"Imagine yourself blowing out the candle. Instead of with your lips, imagine yourself gathering your inner strength and blowing it out."

"Imagine an invisible hand stretching out and turning it off."

He thought she was talking nonsense.

But, it actually worked.

He shaped his power into a sharp knife and when he imagined himself throwing it, it actually worked.

'But, I'm unfamiliar with this method, so it's hard for me to stay concentrated.'

If he was used to it, it would be possible for him to use without concentrating as much, but imagining his strength and then materializing it was unfamiliar and difficult.

'One little mistake and it breaks.'

On top of materializing his strength, he had to control it so that he could aim it at his target.

That was pretty difficult too.

But its power was really amazing.

Depending on Hyun-Soo's power and the image, the range of his

attack and his strength will differ.

If he always wanted it to be sharp, then all he had to do was think about it.

If he were to develop it more, he could condense the enormous amount of strength and increase its power.

‘I usually attacked monsters by piercing them, but now I’ve obtained a skill that’ll cut them. I can cut them or change it up and pierce them deep within their body. I’m sure there are other ways I can use it.’

There were many different methods.

He just needed to master its use and then develop it.

‘It’ll be quite an amazing skill.’

On top of that, what he was using was an energy that was immobile.

It was different from the skill, Wind Cutter.

It was a steady skill.

It was an attack he could use without getting caught by the enemy!

The opponent will die without even noticing the attack.

‘I’m getting too ahead of myself.’

Hyun-Soo got goosebumps after thinking about how powerful this skill was.

He felt happy with the possibility of this skill being developed into something more.

“Man, what’s the point? I’m having a hard time cutting down logs.”

Despite saying that, Hyun-Soo didn’t really feel tired.

His mind and body were feeling tired, but that actually made him

want to push more.

“How long will it take until I’m able to control it at will?”

At first, he performed attacks that were weaker than when pierced with a dagger.

But, after cutting 25 logs, his power increased tremendously compared to before.

“I want to go on a hunt.”

He needed to get used to it before going.

What if the skill gets cancelled because he loses his concentration?

He wouldn’t die since Kim Yoo-Na will be there, but he would feel really embarrassed.

‘Improving my skills is fun, but I still miss going on hunts.’

Before, he did rest for a few days after completing a hunt.

He thought of this training as an extended break.

‘It is unsatisfying since I’m not actually hitting anything.’

He wasn’t sure how he spent his days at home just making skills.

A lot of things changed compared to his previous lifestyle.

After living an intense lifestyle, the previous lifestyle he had became a blur.

‘I was satisfied with just that back then. I was able to make money off of it.’

Thanks to that, he was able to meet Kim Yoo-Na, so he didn’t regret it.

The more he practiced, the more comfortable he was at using the new skill.

When he cut the 30th log, he heard a familiar tone.

– Ring!

“You have fulfilled the Mighty Throw’s [D] condition and it will now develop into a different skill.”

“The skill, Invisible Attack [C] has been created.”

“As a reward for developing the first skill, all of your stats will be increased by two points.”

“Huh?”

The notification sound was familiar, but the information wasn’t.

‘Develop?’

Hyun-Soo raised his eyebrow at the unfamiliar word. He immediately activated Interface.

‘Interface!’

A semi-transparent window appeared before his eyes. And his new skill, Invisible Attack, was sparkling.

When he pressed it with his finger, information about the skill appeared.

[Invisible Attack][C]

It uses the user’s energy and performs an invisible attack.

Depending on the quality of the energy that’s used during that time, the attack’s range and strength may vary.

If it hits the opponent, it can cause damage.

Developed from the skill, Mighty Throw.

Accuracy Rate: 78%

“……!”

He felt proud about pushing himself to the limit.

‘No, not just proud…this is amazing!’

His eyes focused on one place.

‘Developed…….’

He’s never heard of a skill developing.

But, since the word, developed, was right in front of his eyes, he couldn’t doubt it.

‘Even when I felt like dying, it’s good that I pushed through.’

Because of its complexity, he was trying to change the medium he used for the skill, but he hit a jackpot in an unexpected place.

On top of that, the rank of the new skill was C.

‘Useful offensive skills hasn’t been created for a while and on top of that, nothing satisfied me, so I kept Might Throw, but it all worked out.’

He didn’t keep using it while expecting something like this to happen.

Out of all the skills that he created and kept, Mighty Throw was one of the useful offensive skills, so he kept it.

– Depending on how he controls his strength, the range and power will differ.

Hyun-Soo’s eyes widened as he read the information that was displayed on Interface.

That meant.

Infinite possibilities!

There was a lot of freedom within “user’s energy.”

There weren’t any restrictions.

When the user uses their strength in different forms, they’ll be able to perform a variety of attacks with just one skill.

Powerful strength.

And it includes powerful skills.

He was feeling high off of the power it gave him.

The fact that it could be developed was great, but it encouraged him because a new path opened for him.

‘I’m also one step closer to my goal.’

The reason he needed power.

Hyun-Soo was desperate to become powerful.

‘The stats!’

Thanks to the reward, his entire stats increased by two points.

Other than leveling up and drink potions, his stats never increased.

But, under the rewards, his stats increased.

‘Is it a type of reward that’s provided when I achieve a certain goal?’

Even though other people couldn’t see it, Interface could be a bit rude sometimes.

‘Interface!’

Hyun-Soo closed the previous window and brought up his information.

►Name: Kim Hyun-Soo (21)

►Rank: D

►Class: Skill Maker

►Experience Level: 74%

►Stamina Level: 65%

►Energy Level: 48%

►Stamina: 81 Agility: 57 Power: 70 Critical Hit: 49 ?? ?? ??

►??

►Skill List

[Interface][SS]

[Skill Creation][C]

[Skill Transfer][C]

[Medicinal Mix][C]

[Invisible Attack][C]

All of his stats increase by two points.

‘Good.’

He looked at the stats window with satisfaction.

There was another good thing.

Now that the skill was registered, he wouldn’t have to worry about dying during a hunt because it wasn’t working.

Before cutting all 30 logs, there were times when the attack wouldn’t work.

But now that it was registered, he felt relieved.

“She was right when she said it would be easy as long as I knew how to do it. I thought she said it without any thought.”

Kim Yoo-Na was right.

Once he was comfortable at using the skill, a creation notification popped up.

She probably didn’t know about the skill developing though…

“Let’s test it out.”

The training center had the latest machines and facilities installed.

Inside, there were rough-looking logs that didn’t match the training center at all.

Kim Yoo-Na said this was the best way to train without thinking much and prepared the logs for him.

Hyun-Soo gathered the pieces and set them up.

‘Let’s start off easy.’

His target was the one log that was in front of him.

“Invisible attack!”

As soon as he yelled out the skill, Hyun-Soo drew a detailed image in his head.

It was a dagger that was covered in thorns.

The energy materialized into the shape he imagined and flew without a sound.

Crack! Craaack!

It sounded like something was being split apart, instead of it being cut.

Hyun-Soo quickly approached the log and checked it.

It looked as if something ripped it because one side of the log was gone.

It was different from when he cut the exterior of the log.

“Wow, it actually worked.”

He knew it worked, but seeing them with his own eyes surprised him even more.

‘Since I imagined a small attack, I should imagine a bigger attack…’

Hyun-Soo couldn’t calm down.

Even a simple cut or piercing could become critical depending on the strength and region.

But, what if he attacked with something like a saw blade?

‘The attack will increase tremendously.’

He would be able to rip off the tough skin quickly.

If attacking with several swords did more harm than good, then it'll put him in a difficult situation.

Kim Yoo-Na's advice was the starting point, but the one that followed that advice was Hyun-Soo.

He placed the log down and returned to his spot.

"Invisible Attack!"

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Rattle!

Clatter! Clatter! Clatter!

He imagined a semicircle shape that had blades on it.

And he used the skill at the same time.

As soon as he yelled out the skill's name, the top portion of three logs was completely cut off.

Instead of the sound of logs being cut, an eerie sound filled the room.

Maybe it's because of the way his attack was released.

Moments later, the top portion of the log slid off, creating a loud noise when it hit the floor.

'I can attack several of them at once!'

<Skill Development #2> End.

Chapter 39 - <Skill Development #3>

‘I can attack several of them at once!’

Instead of it flying sporadically, the distance between them widened a bit, but it was still something.

“Invisible Attack! Invisible Attack!”

The training room was filled with Hyun-Soo’s voice.

He was by himself anyways..

An attack that required covertness..

But right now, he was practicing a skill that just developed.

He needed a shout of concentration until he becomes more used to the skill.

Swooosh!

Craaaack!

The sound of the log splitting apart was loud every time.

As the sawdust flew, it dispersed like a fog.

Hyun-Soo moved a bit further away and tested his new skill.

Ziiiiip!

Clack!

The last log split in half.

His energy level was really low.

‘I should stop now.’.

He was sweating a lot from using his power.

After wiping his forehead, he looked around the messy room.

‘It’s like a new way to chop wood. I could do this as a side job.’

Before, Hyun-Soo had many side jobs.

Because he was used to having so many side jobs, he thought of an idea for a side job after looking at the logs that were on the floor.

“How’s it going?”

He turned around and saw that Kim Yoo-Na was in the room.

As she walked into the room, her eyes widened as she observed the situation.

“You’ve succeeded.”

“Yes. It’s all thanks to you.”

He experienced a skill development for the first time and his stats increased as well.

Everything was working out really well.

‘I thought she was pretty rude at first when she just left me to train by myself, but.’

Her training is difficult to adapt at first and it’s hardcore, but once you adapt and get used to it, it provides a result that’s totally unexpected.

‘She wouldn’t listen if I asked her to be a little nicer.’

There’s a high chance that she’s the stubborn type.

It would be embarrassing for him to cry by himself because he’s tired when Kim Yoo-Na wasn’t complaining at all.

As an A rank hunter, her appearance and gender had some sort of connection.

‘……It’s still embarrassing.’

It wasn’t like he had any honor, but there was no need to embarrass himself.

Hyun-Soo promised himself that he wouldn’t say anything that made him look weak.

Of course it's different when he's really having a hard time.

Kim Yoo-Na had a shocked look on her face.

'Was she not expecting me to succeed?'

Kim Yoo-Na's lips were trembling as if there was something she wanted to say.

After taking a deep breath, she changed the subject.

"How's your body?"

"I'm a bit tired, but I'm okay."

"Then, I'll bring out more logs."

"...I think I should rest a bit."

He promised himself he wouldn't say anything weak, but he immediately broke his promise.

"Okay. Then, I'll push back the hunt we were supposed to go on today to tomorrow. You have time tomorrow, right?"

"Yes."

He really wanted to go on a hunt.

'My skill developed, so this is pretty good timing.'

"Go home and rest for today. Make sure your energy level is full by tomorrow so that you're in your best condition."

After saying that, Kim Yoo-Na bowed and left the training room.

'I guess she stopped by to check my condition.'

It seemed like she was planning on taking him onto a hunt if he was feeling okay.

'It's disappointing, but there's always tomorrow.'

His energy level dropped and he was pretty exhausted.

Hyun-Soo used the shower room that was provided by the training center.

As he walked out, he noticed that there were pieces of wood and dust everywhere, but it didn't bother him much since the employees here were going to clean it up.

'I used an entire floor in this large building and it also has the latest technology.'

This place was really different from the training center he visited before when he sold a skill.

'Just how powerful is this woman?'

Hyun-Soo couldn't even make an assumption about how powerful she was.

Was she able to use a place like this just because she was an A rank hunter?

'It's not my money I'm spending anyways.'

While drying his wet hair, Hyun-Soo took out his phone from the locker.

[Hyun-Soo! Bring something yummy!]

Hyuna sent him a message.

She must've felt hungry while studying because she asked him to buy food for her.

**

'Maybe I'll buy some pork hogs for her.'

He thought of pork hogs after thinking about her request and visited the nearest restaurant.

[We're closed today due to lack of ingredients.]

"Wow."

Talk about bad timing.

Hyun-Soo started thinking about what he should do.

Moments later, he visited a market and started grocery shopping.

‘Chicken, potato, green onion and what else? She likes spicy food, so some chili pepper as well.’

There were a lot of junk foods he could buy, but he wanted to feed her something healthy.

Hyun-Soo thought it would be best to make her Braised Spicy Chicken, so he bought the ingredients and returned home.

“You’re here. Where’s the food? He he, I’m hungry.”

“Yeah, I’m here. Your big brother will make you something delicious.”

Despite of the fact that there were foods she wanted to eat, things she wanted to buy and activities she wanted to do, Hyuna wouldn’t ask for them.

But, now that their situation was getting better, she started whining cutely.

She wasn’t whining like a brat.

‘She’s pretty mature for her age, but I’m glad she has this side of her.’

Hyun-Soo liked seeing that side of her.

Hyun-Soo placed the ingredients on the counter and confidently said he would cook for her.

“What? What are you going to cook?”

“Braised Spicy Chicken.”

“Wow. Wow. You are?”

“Yeah. Why?”.

Hyuna had a suspicious look on her face.

“You’re really going to cook? Wouldn’t it be better to wait for mom? Or order…?”

“They put in a lot of MSG these days. You have to be healthy in

order to study. And mom will be tired when she gets home from work. I'll cook for you."

"Oh……you're right, but……."

"Trust me. It'll be delicious."

He turned his computer on.

'I can rely on the internet even if I don't know how to make it. It'll be fine as long as I follow the steps.'

They say that the world's information is all on the internet.

Hyuna stood behind him with a worried look, but Hyun-Soo didn't notice.

'Let's see. I need to place the chicken in milk? I didn't buy milk. Oh. I guess it works with alcohol too.'

Hyun-Soo stood up and looked through the refrigerator.

Thankfully, there was still some left since his father likes to have a drink or two.

After contemplating for a bit, Hyun-Soo placed the chicken in a bowl and poured alcohol over it.

He sat in front of the computer, but missed something while reading the steps.

'I need to cut it and then pour the alcohol.'

He took out the chicken and looked for the kitchen knife.

But, he couldn't find it at all.

'Whatever.'

Hyun-Soo took out the Sword of the White Unicorn from his bag.

A sword that costed 400,000.

Interface displayed the following information.

[White Unicorn Sword][Normal]

A mid-sized sword that contains the blood of a White Unicorn.

The unicorn's blood causes the sword to produce a blue light.

Depending how much is mixed, the depth of the color is different.

Upon use, the critical rate will increase slightly.

White Unicorn Blood Percentage: 3%

'I didn't think that I would use it on a chicken first...!'

It felt a bit weird, by Hyun-Soo told himself that he was using it because he needed to.

He couldn't even use itusually properly.

He honestly wanted to try to use it, even if it was on a chicken.

'I guess it's not so bad since I can test it out.'

Hyun-Soo placed the sword on the chicken.

Clack!

The light blue blade cut through the chicken instantly.

'What?'.

It cut through so smoothly that he was surprised.

But, there was a problem.

'Why did this get cut?'

It cut the cutting board as well.

'Damn it.'

Luckily, he didn't put too much force on it, so the counter was fine.

But, he was stunned as he kept his eyes on the chicken and the cutting board.

**

He told his mother about the cutting board.

“Mom! Hyun-Soo destroyed the cutting board!”

“Huh?”

“And he made Braised Spicy Chicken.”

Hyuna smiled widely as she snitched and bragged at the same time.

“We left some for you too. Go wash up.”

“Wow, what’s the occasion?”

He always made simple side dishes, but he never made a meal like this before.

He only ate one meal a day since he was always busy and he felt like it was a waste to spend money on food.

Their situation was getting better and his mother was surprised by his cooking.

“Braised Spicy Chicken, huh? You knew how to make it? You didn’t have a hard time? You should’ve rested after coming home.”

“Mom, it’s pretty good. Try it.”

Hyuna recommended it to her mother as if she made the food.

“Okay. Thank you for the food.”

Maybe it’s because he followed the recipe from a blog, but Hyun-Soo thought it tasted pretty good.

The spicy taste added to the flavor and the moist, tender chicken was really juicy.

Even though he cut the cutting board during the process.

“Our son’s cooking skill is great. That was delicious. I always feel bad for you two since this is something I should be making.”

“It’s fine, mother. Whoever can make it should make it.”

While cleaning up, there was something that made Hyun-Soo feel

uncomfortable.

‘Mother doesn’t look so good.’

Hyuna volunteered to wash the dishes when their mother said she would do it.

Their mother started laughing when Hyuna quickly started washing the dishes.

But, her laugh seemed pretty weak too.

“Mother, are you not feeling well?”

Since he transferred a recovery skill to her, her basic recovery level increased and the possibility of healing minor injuries should’ve increased as well.

Unless she had some kind of serious illness, his mother shouldn’t be feeling so tired.

‘She’s not seriously ill, is she? I didn’t think it through. I should’ve told her to get a check-up first.’

“No, I’m okay. I’m not feeling sick.”

“Mother. We paid off our debt and we pay our rent on time, so we have some leg room compared to before. It’s not good to overlook any illness you might have. If you’re not feeling well, how about going to a hospital…”

His mother waved her hand when Hyun-Soo implied that maybe she wasn’t going to the hospital because she wanted to save money.

“It’s nothing like that, so don’t worry.”

But his mother wasn’t just exhausted.

When Hyun-Soo expressed how worried he was, his mother let out a deep sigh.

‘What’s going on?’

His mother thought for a moment and then spoke.

“You see…the store might go out of business.”

<Skill Development #3> End.

Chapter 40 - <New Face #1>

“Huh? The store?”

“Yeah, the landlord suddenly increased the rent. It seemed like he wanted to bring in a franchise…the landlord said they weren’t making a lot of money, so they were contemplating whether to close it or not.”

“Why a franchise all of a sudden?”

“They wanted to give their son the store since he graduated school, but since there’s a lot of customers at the store, they’re getting greedy.”

Hyun-Soo had an idea after hearing his mother’s explanation.

Like his mother mentioned, the location of the store was a good location.

So that’s probably why they wanted it for themselves.

‘This happens to a lot of people. But, it is pretty unfair.’

Situations where the landlord kicks out the owner of the store so that they can run the store themselves isn’t rare.

Since the landlord increases the rent to the point where the store owner can’t pay, the owner has no choice but to close it.

‘There are landlords that kick out the owner and run the same type of business.’

It also meant that the previous store owner would be losing their customers as well.

Despite the fact that landlords have a lot of money, they desire more.

And it seemed like the store that his mother was working at was in the same situation.

‘She would always come home after closing hours, so there must

be a lot of customers.'

It's possible that the landlord thought of it as a good spot to make more money.

"There are rumors that the company that your father is working for are letting people go...I'm not sure what we should do if I end up having to quit my job."

"Huh? What do you mean?"

"Huh? Oh, I was just mumbling to myself. It's nothing, really."

Hyun-Soo asked when she suddenly mentioned his father, but his mother quickly shook her head.

It seemed like she accidentally said it from overthinking.

But, Hyun-Soo already heard it.

When Hyun-Soo was about to ask more, his mother stopped him.

"It's really nothing. Don't worry. We've been in worse situations before, but we managed just fine. It's not a big deal so don't worry about it."

Her expression still looked gloomy.

When Hyuna came back after washing the dishes, his mother went to her room to rest.

"Huh? Is mom sick?"

"It's not that. She's probably tired."

"It'd be nice if mom could take a break from work."

Hyuna looked towards their mother's room with a worried expression.

"How about convincing her to quit her job? You're a hunter now. Isn't it okay for her to take a break?"

Hyun-Soo had the same thought before.

There was a time when he told his parents that they could take a

break because he became a hunter.

However, his parents refused saying that they were still young.

‘It’s not like our survival is at stake, so why are they keeping that unstable job?’

But, Hyuna thought differently.

“Hyun-Soo, that’s not it. Don’t you know our parents?”

“What? Isn’t it good for them to take a break?”

Their son was a hunter. Was it so bad to rely on him?

‘There are millions of people that would be willing to eat and play if they win the lottery. Even though this can’t be considered the same as winning the lottery, it can be considered second place, so they should be able to rest.’

“I think mom and dad feel like they’re somewhat achieving something by working. But, asking them to suddenly quit their jobs like that may be more shocking to them.”

Hyun-Soo had an idea of what Hyuna was trying to say.

‘When I was younger, there was a time that I decided to give up on becoming a hunter because of family circumstances. I’m not sure why I thought that being a hunter was the only way.’

He thought that his life wasn’t valuable enough because he didn’t become a hunter and that nothing really mattered.

He blamed it all on his family.

Because of that, Hyun-Soo made friends with the wrong people.

‘I was such a dumbass back then.’

Anyways, Hyun-Soo had an idea about what Hyuna was talking about.

They were probably working because they didn’t want to burden their children.

But, like Hyuna said, it's possible that they may feel satisfied from working and achieving something with their own two hands.

If that was the case, then asking them to quit was something I shouldn't have asked..

For different reasons, people that used to work end up staying home, and rather than feeling free, some feel lonely and empty.

In that sense, quitting wasn't the best option.

'But the jobs that they have now are too exhausting...'

They work more than 12 hours everyday and have to work night shifts every two days, so it's only natural that they would be exhausted.

Hyun-Soo was in a dilemma.

'Should I buy a store for them?'

His parents wanted to continue working.

Even if it wasn't for money, they've always worked, so it seemed like that's what they wanted to continue doing.

Asking them to rest at home might be a more difficult task for them.

But, as their children, it's only natural for them to be worried since they always look exhausted.

His mother's shop and his father's job were unstable.

Finding a different job before anything worse happens might be the better option.

'That's not a bad idea.'

Buying a store where his parents will be the owner.

It was a random idea, but he thought it was a great idea the more he thought about it.

'Even I think it's a pretty good idea. A store...since mom is a great

cook, opening a restaurant would be the best, right? Mom can work in the kitchen and dad can work at the register. She'll need helpers in the kitchen and they'll need servers too.'

He was planning it out in his head.

'If they run the business themselves, they'll be able to control the time and the hours they'll work. Not bad. But, finding a place is the issue. Getting it started is the most important, so we can start by paying monthly and slowly find a way to purchase the building.'

Hyun-Soo counted the money that was in his account.

He saved it up so that he could buy a house, but using it to buy a store wasn't so bad.

'I was going to buy a house, but I keep on using it.'

But, it was a good...no, it was a really good idea.

'No. I should save a bit more and just buy a building.'

He'll keep saving anyways.

Purchasing a building wasn't such a crazy idea.

After forming a contract with Kim Yoo-Na, he stopped creating fake scrolls and selling them.

But, he continued hunting.

And he was sure that he was going to continue.

On top of that, he obtained a new skill.

It was a C rank skill that was strong and he was able to control its power at will.

So buying a building wasn't impossible.

But, he would have to save up as much as he can.

'I'll work hard and earn a lot of money!'

Hyuna returned to her room to study and Hyun-Soo laid down in

the small living room.

Different thoughts were running through his head.

***

The next day.

Kim Yoo-Na arrived right on time.

A familiar red sports car arrived at the location they agreed to meet.

“Get in.”

‘I want to drive my own car too.’

But, it was too early to purchase a car.

Hyun-Soo just smacked his lips in disappointment.

Hyun-Soo’s desire to purchase a car increased.

Driving a sports car was every guy’s dream, but the color was a bit too much.

Swimming through a crowd of people that were looking at the sports car was pretty difficult.

‘Driving the car itself is more fun than riding in the passenger seat.’

However, even if he told her that he purchased a car, Kim Yoo-Na would still tell him to sit on the passenger side.

“Where are we going today?”

Hyun-Soo asked when he realized they were heading to the suburbs.

“We’re almost there. I registered two portals today. Is that okay?”

Even if it wasn’t okay, he was silently being pressured to say it was okay.

“Since you’re used to using the developed skill, we’ll use one so

that you can test it out and after taking a break, we'll go to the next one."

'Sounds good to me. It might be difficult, but still.'

It's because he was in a hurry to make money.

'I was always in a rush to make money, but I was going to take my time in saving up for a house. But, there's something else I need to take care of as soon as possible.'

Their jobs were unstable right now.

On top of that, there was a lot they would have to do in order to start the business.

If he really planned on purchasing a building, money would become even a bigger necessity.

People always said to dream big and for Hyun-Soo, instead of purchasing a store, he was seriously thinking about purchasing a building.

His mother was on the verge of losing her job because of the landlord, so buying a building might be the better option.

'Finding a good location is key.'

He planned on looking at a couple of locations first and then telling his mother.

Since she'll be the one running the store, she'll have to come up with things to sell.

"The other one is a request."

"A request?"

"Yes. They said it's a blue portal that didn't have much time left."

'A blue portal..!'

Hyun-Soo only hunted in green portals.

He trained in portals that had easy, weak monsters.

'But, a blue portal?'

Even though he was familiar with the new skill, Hyun-Soo was still a D rank.

Even though he only needed a couple more experience points to become a C rank, he was currently a D rank.

C and B rank hunters usually hunted in blue portals.

Hyun-Soo knew it would be useless for him to go.

"Then, will you be hunting the monster in the blue portal by yourself?"

"By myself? Why would I do it by myself when you're here?"

"Well, I'm still a D rank and I'll most likely just get in the way."

"Don't worry. That won't happen."

Kim Yoo-Na answered confidently.

"Also, we won't be the only ones hunting the monster. Even though I'm an A rank hunter and we're hunting in a blue portal, you can be in danger, so a couple of hunters will join us."

Well, it would be difficult for her to hunt a monster in a blue portal by herself even if she was an A rank hunter.

On top of that, she had to protect Hyun-Soo.

'I don't think I'll be much help in the blue portal.'

Not getting in the way would be a big help.

"I honestly wanted to decline the request, but it's a request I couldn't deny...there are some faces I don't want to see, but I thought it would be a good experience for you so I agreed to do it. You're okay with it, right? There won't be much for you to do though."

"Of course I'm okay."

It’s not everyday he gets to experience a blue portal.

What Kim Yoo-Na said was a bit odd, but since she didn’t say any more about it, Hyun-Soo just stayed quiet and looked straight ahead.

They arrived at the foot of a mountain.

<New Face #1> End.

Chapter 41 - <New Face #2>

‘Why are we hiking all of a sudden?’

Since the portal was located within the mountain, Hyun-Soo had no choice but to climb the mountain.

Before, he probably would’ve ran out of breath, but thanks to the training, this was easy.

“Let’s go in.”

“Okay.”

The two walked through the green portal.

**

A large nest was sitting on the top of the large field.

The nest was way taller than Hyun-Soo’s height.

‘I know ostriches look like that, but this one looks violent.’

A mysterious bird that was sitting inside the nest noticed that intruders were on their land, so they were staring at them.

Steel-clawed Ostrich.

He noticed it right after after seeing the geographical features and the large nest.

Kim Yoo-Na didn’t have to tell him for him to know.

He felt proud for studying.

“The Energy Field is higher than the monsters that we’ve taken down so far.”

Kim Yoo-Na calculated the monster’s Energy Field first.

“It might take that much longer.”

“If we move according to my plan, it won’t take that long. But, only if you dodge their attacks.”

Kim Yoo-Na seemed to have said it after remembering how Hyun-Soo used the skill at the training center yesterday.

‘It sounds like she trusts me, but am I supposed to thank her or not? She’ll probably throw me into it as usual.’

She never explained how it should be done.

But, it was the most effective method.

Even if someone teaches you how to manage and use your strength, it doesn’t mean you’ll be able to learn it.

One must experience it first-hand and use it until they’re familiar with it.

In that sense, Kim Yoo-Na’s training method was the proper method.

The issue was that the trainee would feel like they were dying.

If Hyun-Soo didn’t have a goal, he probably would’ve given up by now.

“Let’s get started. Like I’ve always said, the first blow is half the battle.”

“Yes, I know.”

“Good luck.”

Kim Yoo-Na stood at a moderately remote location.

It was strange that she stood outside of the ostrich’s attack range.

It was so she could step in if something happened.

Kyahhhhh!

The ostrich let out a violent cry after realizing that Hyun-Soo was approaching them.

‘They probably won’t attack right away, but if I move closer, they probably will.’

He wasn’t planning on getting that close anyways.

The skill he obtained was a long-range attack anyways.

‘But if I attack from a distance, the accuracy will decrease.’

He’ll end up using more of his strength and his power will decrease as well.

So he had to get somewhatsomewhat get close and attack it.

Kyah, Kyahhh!

The Steel-clawed Ostrich roared threateningly.

It was telling him not to come any closer.

“I get it. I won’t walk any closer, so stop crying out like that.”

Hyun-Soo stopped walking.

“I’ll be using my skill instead. Invisible Attack!”

It was the skill that he obtained after cutting down 30 logs.

‘It’s the size of a soccer ball, but shaped like a throwing knife!’

After imagining the knife, the invisible skill left Hyun-Soo.

For now, he had to call out the name of the skill in order to create the exact image, but once he masters it, he’ll be able to materialize it without having to call out the name.

His target was the ostrich’s neck.

Its neck was stretched out because it was looking at Hyun-Soo, so he thought about cutting its neck with one attack.

But, before his attack hit the white light that was on the ostrich’s neck, the ostrich ducked.

Kyah, kyah!

The ostrich cried out as if it was making fun of him.

‘This isn’t going to be easy.’

There were monsters that attacked based on instinct and others that attacked based on intellect.

The chance of that happening increases as the rank increases.

There's a reason why high-ranked portals were difficult.

"But, they're still a dumb bird."

Even though his remark looked down on all the birds in the world, Hyun-Soo didn't regret it.

'Invisible Attack! One more time!'

His first attack failed, but it was too early to be disappointed.

It would've been great if he succeeded, but it won't always work out the way he wants.

Hyun-Soo immediately used the skill twice, consecutively.

The attacks were the same shape as the first attack.

'Go!'

It quietly made its way within seconds and was targeting the opponent's neck.

Interface revealed that the ostrich's weak point was its neck.

Hyun-Soo's skill flew as if it were going to attack from both sides.

It looked a scissor was going to cut its neck.

Swish!

Ky-ky-kyahhhh!

The ostrich managed to dodge one of the attack, but not the other.

However, because it twisted its neck, it ended up cutting the feather that was on its body.

'If I attacked a little bit higher, it could've cut its neck! Damn it.'

That attack must've been painful because the ostrich started crying outloud.

Brrrrrrr! Snap!

The ostrich that was sitting in the nest finally stood up.

Hyun-Soo's attacks must've gotten it angry because the feathers on its body started rising.

It was three times larger than Hyun-Soo.

Kyahhhh!

As the ostrich screeched, it raised its extremely sharp claws.

'Huh? Wait……?'

Hyun-Soo was about to use his skill again, but his eyes widened.

"You crazy!"

The ostrich's maximum speed was 80 kilometers per hour.

This was the speed of an ordinary ostrich, but since the monster had an ostrich's characteristics, it wasn't easy.

When Hyun-Soo saw the monster take a step forward, he first rolled his body forward.

He didn't have time to think.

He could've gotten hit if he didn't dodge it.

'I knew it was fast, but this is ridiculously fast.'

Hyun-Soo stood up right away after rolling and fixed his stance.

Kyahh! Kyah!

"Okay, so you're going to attack again, huh?"

The ostrich ran way past the spot that Hyun-Soo was standing at and when it stopped, it turned around and cried out.

"Let's see who wins!"

Hyun-Soo consecutively used the skill and summoned three knives.

It's because there was a limit to the number of attacks and size that he could create at one time.

‘The shape of a shovel! One that’s as big as my upper body!’

It turned its head to look at Hyun-Soo and then turned its body.

It looked as if it was going to attack again because he saw its claws digging into the ground.

Heh.

A smile appeared on Hyun-Soo’s face when he saw it.

His smile triggered the ostrich and it started moving its feet.

The distance between them shortened.

Its strong and sharp claws were so dangerous that if it touched his body, it probably would’ve cut him in half.

If this continued, Hyun-Soo’s body will end up being cut in half.

But, Hyun-Soo’s attack got to them first.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right on the ground that the ostrich was trying to run on.

After calculating the ostrich’s steps and speed, he released his skill to the ground instead of at the ostrich.

Moments later, a deep hole appeared.

Boom!

Kyahhh!

That attack was a success.

Just like an ordinary ostrich, the Steel-clawed ostrich kept on running without looking down.

Despite of the fact that it was near a hole, it ran while focusing on Hyun-Soo that its feet fell into the hole.

“You really are a dumb bird. Maybe it attacked based on instinct.”

At first, he thought it wasn’t going to be an easy opponent, but it

revealed its characteristic from an unexpected place.

“I’m fine with it since I didn’t have to use my skills much, but isn’t this too easy?”

Because the dug a deep hole, the ostrich’s strong, long legs fell into the hole.

Because of its speed, it couldn’t endure its weight, so its legs got twisted.

The ostrich cried out violently.

It tried pulling its body out of the hole, but every time it did, it felt pain and would let out an odd cry.

The Steel-clawed Ostrich was scary because of their fast speed and the power that’s built inside of it.

But, if you take that away.

The answer was simple.

‘They’re no different from chickens and pigeons.’

All that was left was its long neck, but Hyun-Soo wasn’t planning on performing a close-range attack.

The light was still shining in the middle of the ostrich’s neck.

‘Let’s end this. Invisible Attack!’

The attack was in the shape of a stiletto and was flying towards its weak point.

Kyahhhhh! Kyah!

Flap! Flap!

When the ostrich instinctively felt the attack, it dodged it. At the same time, it started flapping its wings and tried to pull itself out of the hole.

But, there’s no way it can get out with broken legs.

‘It still managed to dodge it. Let’s see if you can dodge this.’

Hyun-Soo was testing his strength right now.

He wanted to know his limits during an actual battle and how powerful it was.

That's another reason why Kim Yoo-Na brought him here.

'It's what I wanted as well.'

Hyun-Soo thought of a long chain.

And a hook was attached at the end of it.

He was so tired that it felt like he used the skill five times at once.

'Invisible Attack!'

Like he had expected, the energy materialized into a chain hook and as it extended out, it circled and wrapped around the ostrich's neck.

Kyah?! Kyahhh?

When the ostrich couldn't move its neck, it started moving its body around.

"Hey, bird brain. You probably weren't expecting something like this, huh?"

He was a bit annoyed every time it just moved its neck to dodge his attacks.

He was satisfied now that the ostrich couldn't move its neck.

'Maintaining it is a bit difficult for me.'

It hasn't been a minute and sweat already started forming on his forehead.

It meant that it required that much energy.

It's obvious that he would get tired since he had to maintain it by using the same amount of energy.

'Let's end this.'

This was enough to test his skilltest.

The sharp hook was scratching the ostrich's weak point.

Kyahhhh, kya, kyahhh, kyahhhh!

As the Energy Field decreased, deep cuts started appearing around its neck.

Flap! Flap!

"Just die already."

The hook cut half of its neck and blood was spilling out, but the ostrich didn't stop flailing.

Hyun-Soo was getting more tired because of its violent movement..

On top of that, he was using a lot of his energy, so he was getting exhausted.

"Invisible Attack!"

But, he gathered the last of his energy and summoned a blade.

And he used that to attack the ostrich.

Swish!

The ostrich suddenly stopped moving violently.

The wind that the wings created stopped as well.

It wasn't an easy kill.

Being a monster of a green portal, it did its best to endure his attacks, but with one attack, the ostrich's neck was cut off.

Hyun-Soo was surprised by the skill's power.

At the same time, he felt all the energy disappear from his body.

The battle was finally over.

Hyun-Soo immediately thought about his experience points.

He wanted to see how manyuch points he obtained by taking this monster down.

‘Interface!’

►Name: Kim Hyun-Soo (21)

►Rank: D

►Class: Skill Maker

►Experience Level: 86%

►Stamina Level: 72%

►Energy Level: 28%

►Stamina: 81 Agility: 57 StrengthPower: 70 Critical Hit: 49 ?? ?? ??

►??

►Skill List

[Interface][SS]

[Skill Creation][C]

[Skill Transfer][C]

[Medicinal Mix][C]

[Invisible Attack][C]

His experience level increased a lot.

‘Things have been pretty slow lately, but this…’

It felt like it’s been awhile since his experience level increased this much.

If this continued, he’ll become a C rank in no time.

‘But, my energy level is pretty low. Is it too early for me to use Invisible Attack for a long period of time?’

<New Face #2> End.

Chapter 42 - <New Face #3>

Hyun-Soo turned his attention to the ostrich's corpse.

A D rank hunter killed a monster from a green portal?

That wasn't possible.

"Ha ha..... Ha! I did it."

However, the corpse of a monster with its head cut off was lying in front of Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo killed it all by himself.

After checking it twice, he started laughing.

'I thought it would be possible, but I didn't think I could actually do it.'

That meant that his developed skill was beyond powerful.

He was able to do it thanks to Interface showing him the monster's weakness.

If he didn't know its weakness, it would've taken him a long time to decrease the Energy Field.

'Since I only need to attack its weak point, I won't be wasting time or energy.'

Thanks to that, he was able to kill it within a short amount of time.

"Good job. You managed to kill it without my help."

Kim Yoo-Na approached him and extended her hand out to Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo looked at her hand momentarily and grabbed it.

Kim Yoo-Na easily pulled him up.

"It seems like the slight change in the skill was effective. You cleared it faster than I thought."

“I think it’s still beyond my power.”

If the ostrich wasn’t a bird brain, then it wouldn’t have fallen for Hyun-Soo trap and the battle might’ve lasted for a long time.

The ostrich’s characteristics help him.

“I was lucky.”

“Luck is a skill too. I honestly wasn’t expecting you to develop your skills.”

“……”

This woman. Even though she knew he wouldn’t be able to do it, she just threw him in.

Hyun-Soo was on the verge of thinking that this was ridiculous, but remembered her teaching.

‘Even though she only talked about the theory, it became a huge help…’

“The skills that the hunters use have already been engraved to their bodies, so even slightly changing it is a difficult task. It’s safe to say that it’s impossible.”

“And you asked me to do that?”

“You succeeded, didn’t you?”

Kim Yoo-Na looked at him as if she was saying that success was the only thing that mattered.

As long as the result is good, everything else is good.

Hyun-Soo thought it was absurd, but decided not to drag it any further.

“Wait. Let me measure you first.”

Beep, beep! Beep, beep, beep!

Kim Yoo-Na brought a measurement tool to measure his rank.

Hyun-Soo already knew his rank and how much experience he

needed in order to become a C rank.

But, he couldn't say anything about it.

If she asked how he knew, he wouldn't be able to answer.

"It seems like you need more experience in order to level up. I hoped that you would level up before heading to the blue portal."

"I'll just be observing when I get there anyways."

"That's true. But, they'll probably make a captious remark if you don't level up…"

'Captious remark?'

Hyun-Soo got worried about what she said, but couldn't ask because she quickly changed the subject.

"Shall we get going?"

The subject was missing, but he knew exactly what she was talking about.

Hyun-Soo felt exhausted, but he activated Interface.

She might become suspicious if he just stood there, so he started walking around the place.

"There doesn't seem to be anything useful here.".

He thought the ostrich's nest would have useful items, but there was nothing there.

He would probably step on bird poop if he approached it.

"Then, let's just take the stones. You take the stones today."

"Me?"

According to the rules, Kim Yoo-Na was supposed to take part of it.

But Kim Yoo-Na,

'It's to commemorate your hidden skill.'

Was what she said and threw the Energy Stone she took from the Steel-clawed Ostrich.

“Hye-Na will like the feathers, so I’ll take some of this.”

And then she ripped off the wings without any hesitation.

Just from looking at it, it looked more like a brown blade rather than feathers, but Kim Yoo-Na grabbed it like it was nothing.

‘How is she going to use that? Maybe decorations?’

Thinking back to it, he remembered Hyuna calling useless items cute.

‘I don’t understand. I’ll have to check it out. Interface!’

[Steel-clawed Ostrich’s Stiff Feather]

Despite of it being a feather, it’s stiff. Besides decorations, there’s no use for it.

Once in possession, Luck will slightly increase.

He thought it was a useless item, but there was an interesting description.

‘Luck…….’

It’s a category that hasn’t been revealed on Interface.

‘Is it one of the questions marks?’

He was tempted by the description, so he quietly stepped next to her and plucked a feather.

“Let’s go.”

After filling up her bag, Kim Yoo-Na walked outside of the portal.

Hyun-Soo followed behind her.

‘Looks like we need to climb down. I really hate mountains.’

However, after seeing Kim Yoo-Na climb down without complaining, he thought it was odd how as the guy, he was

complaining about it.

After climbing down, they got into the car.

“It’ll take awhile before we arrive at the spot where the blue portal is located, so leaving early is probably the best. You’re okay with that, right?”

“Yes, that’s fine.”

“Great. We need to introduce you as well.”

Kim Yoo-Na sounded like she really didn’t want to go.

“Is there a problem?”

He remembered the comment she made earlier.

“I honestly wanted to decline the request, but it’s a request I couldn’t deny…there are some faces I don’t want to see, but I thought it would be a good experience for you so I agreed to do it.”

“It’s nothing. Everything will be fine.”

Kim Yoo-Na vaguely answered.

Hyun-Soo decided not to ask any further.

Moments later, the car arrived at a construction site that looked abandoned.

“If someone treats you rudely, just ignore it.”

“Got it.”

Kim Yoo-Na’s expression hardened when she stepped out.

‘What’s going on?’

He decided not to question it and followed behind her.

And then…….

‘A blue portal……!’

The place was gloomy because the place was a mess and there was rusted steel all over the place. It seemed like it’s been awhile since

they stopped building it.

Most of the place was covered with a barricade, but the reason why Hyun-Soo was able to see inside was because one part of it was open.

And inside, a large, blue portal was shining brightly.

'It already gives off a different vibe.'

It was different from the grey and green portals that he's seen so far.

'I feel a bit more pressure from it.'

He couldn't tell if that really was the case or if it was all in his head.

Even though he was looking at it from a distance, he felt goosebumps.

Maybe it's because there wasn't much time left, but there were soldiers and and people from the Hunter National Organization.

They even installed an office-like room..

Out of them, two approached Kim Yoo-Na and asked after nodding.

"What is your position?"

"My name is Kim Yoo-Na and I'm a participant that received the request."

"Please show us your Hunter's ID."

Kim Yoo-Na displayed her ID by using a card reader that looked like a bracelet.

"Thank you. You're free to pass."

"Also, that person is my assistant. I've already registered him, so please check."

"Understood. Please provide us with your ID."

Hyun-Soo took out his ID from his bag and passed without any issues.

“Yoo-Na!”

Hyun-Soo was observing the blue portal from different sides.

Someone called out her name and ran towards her.

“Hyun-Soo, you remember what I told you, right? If there’s someone being disrespectful, just ignore them.”

“Huh? Yeah, got it.”

‘Just who is this person?’

“Yoo-Na!”

The person that called out her name was a woman that had ginger-colored hair and green eyes.

‘A foreigner?’

Hyun-Soo was shocked after seeing the foreigner, but she hugged Kim Yoo-Na and started talking in a language he couldn’t understood.

It was impossible to understand her because she was talking so fast and spoke in a high-pitched voice.

‘What is she saying? Is she the one Kim Yoo-Na didn’t want to see? But, she looks too excited to see Kim Yoo-Na.’

Hyun-Soo quickly looked at Kim Yoo-Na.

She didn’t push her away, but she didn’t hug her back either. However, her face looked like she missed her.

She tried to step away from the foreigner, but she shook her head.

“#$%&@! %&$&!”

‘I have no idea what she’s saying.’

It sounded like she was saying something, but couldn’t tell what.

He picked up a couple of words, but since she was speaking so fast, he questioned his hearing.

‘It sounds like she’s saying that she missed her. Since Kim Yoo-Na didn’t come, I came instead…is that, right?’

He wasn’t sure.

“Hyun-Soo, there’s someone I want to introduce you to.”

Kim Yoo-Na gave up on pulling herself away from her, so she spoke to Hyun-Soo while the foreigner was holding onto her.

‘She’s glaring at me.’

She looked at Hyun-Soo with a hostile expression.

“This is Katrina and she was my previous co-worker.”

“Co-worker……?”

“She’ll be participating in this hunt as well. I’ll introduce you to the other two when they arrive.”

Hyun-Soo had a lot of questions.

However, Kim Yoo-Na already looked tired, so he didn’t want to ask.

Also…….

‘That Katrina woman looks like she already doesn’t like me…’

Kim Yoo-Na said something in English, but Katrina refused to pull away.

“Yoo-Na!”

“Oh, there they are. Over here.”

‘They look tired.’

They looked like they killed a monster with their bare hands and then stayed up for four days straight.

The person that called Kim Yoo-Na was a tall, bulky, colored man with dreadlocks and the other man was a bit smaller than him, but

looked agile.

They also started talking to her with a bright smile.

Of course, Hyun-Soo didn't understand because they were talking in English.

"Hyun-Soo, this is Brad and that's Eugene. Like Katrina, they were my previous co-workers."

Kim Yoo-Na introduced them by pointing to each one.

"What do you mean previous co-workers? That makes me sad. You made that decision on your own. We don't agree though. We're waiting for you to come back. Although, we ended up coming to you because you never came."

"……?"

Hyun-Soo was surprised by how fluent Eugene was in Korean that he started staring at him.

"I'm half Korean, so I know how to speak Korean. That's another reason why I'm here. Anyway, who are you ……?"

"My…name is Kim Hyun-Soo. I'm currently working with Kim Yoo-Na. I'm also planning on participating in this hunt."

"Hm, I see. If you don't mind me asking, what's your skill level? I heard it very briefly."

"Oh, well……."

"Why are you asking that Eugene?"

Before Hyun-Soo could answer, Kim Yoo-Na stopped him after managing to pull away from Katrina.

<New Face #3> End.

Chapter 43 - <Blue Portal #1>

"What do you mean why? One of the reasons why you didn't return was because of that guy, wasn't it? Hye-Na can get treated at our base too. As a crew, it's only natural that we get worried."

"Hyun-Soo has nothing to do with this. I told you, Hye-Na was missing Korea, so we came back."

"What?"

The other two were feeling frustrated because Kim Yoo-Na and Eugene were talking in Korean.

'Her situation sounds more complicated than I thought...'

Something did happen between them.

Hyun-Soo was in a difficult situation.

It was awkward for him to ask Kim Yoo-Na personal questions since they were only acquaintances.

They had already forgotten about Hyun-Soo.

'If they were in the same team as her, I'm sure their skills are amazing.'

Hyun-Soo used Interface out of curiosity.

'Interface!'

►Name: Katrina (??)

►Rank: A

►Class: Dancing Fever

►Stamina Level: 100%

►Energy Level: 98%

►Stamina: 185 Agility: 210 Strength: 170 Critical Hit: 215 ?? ?? ??

►??

►Skill List

[??][??]

[??][??]

[??][??]

'Wow!'

Despite the fact that she was way smaller than Kim Yoo-Na, her stats were really high.

'I assumed she would have similar stats, but it's still surprising.'

She didn't seem that way at all.

One shouldn't judge a book by its cover.

However, people usually judge based on the things they're able to see.

This reminded him of when he first met Kim Yoo-Na and was surprised by how her looks and skills were so different.

'What about him?'

Hyun-Soo looked at the tall, colored man.

He seemed to have been looking at Hyun-Soo too because their eyes met.

'That scared me!'

Honestly, he was more intimidating than Katrina.

However, the bulky man with dreadlocks smiled at Hyun-Soo.

►Name: Brad (??)

►Rank: A

►Class: Iron War

►Stamina Level: 100%

►Energy Level: 100%

►Stamina: 240 Agility: 185 Strength: 228 / Critical Hit: 175 ?? ?? / ??

►??

►Skill List

[??][??]

[??][??]

'His stats and class...is he a tanker?'

He was curious, but couldn't ask since he didn't speak English.

Last one up was Eugene, the half Korean that spoke to Hyun-Soo in Korean.

'Interface!'

►Name: Eugene (??)

►Rank: A

►Class: Night Walker

►Stamina Level: 99%

►Energy Level: 99%

►Stamina: 187 Agility: 245 Strength: 210 / Critical Hit: 235 ?? ?? / ??

►??

►Skill List

[??][??]

[??][??]

[??][??]

They were all monsters.

He expected them to be strong since they were in the same team

as Kim Yoo-Na, but they were a lot stronger than what he had imagined.

‘Are all A rank hunters this strong?’

He thought Kim Yoo-Na was amazing, but since the others were just as strong, he couldn’t tell if this was normal or if they were talented hunters.

‘I haven’t met other A rank hunters, so I wouldn’t know.’

He knew there would be a difference in stats, but this was too big of a difference.

‘They wouldn’t attack me just because they don’t like me, right? I’m worried about Eugene, but I’m mostly worried about that woman named Katrina.’

Hyun-Soo felt himself cowering.

‘Damn it, I want to level up so that I can be like them too.’

While Hyun-Soo was admiring them, the four of them were still talking amongst themselves.

“I’m sure we wouldn’t have been able to see Yoo-Na unless we came to her. We called Mr. Kim and worked hard to bring you out here.”

“I thought it was right for me to leave since I couldn’t take care of the crew. Even if I’m not there, the crew will still be taken care of.”

“That’s not true Yoo-Na. And Ariel is…”

“I don’t want to talk about that here.”

“Oh, sorry.”

It looked like they were having a lovers’ quarrel.

Come back, no, just let me go. Or something along those lines.

That probably wasn’t the case, but that’s what it sounded like.

Their conversation ended awkwardly and Kim Yoo-Na didn’t

want to talk anymore, so she approached Hyun-Soo.

“I’m sorry. Did I make you wait long?”

“It’s fine. I could’ve waited longer.”

“There’s no need. It’s time to go in, so let’s get going.”

Kim Yoo-Na signaled Hyun-Soo and her old teammates that it was time to go.

Katrina approached employee that managed the portal and started talking to them.

When the staff gave the signal, the soldiers that were standing around the portal took a step back.

“Let’s go.”

Katrina, Brad and Eugene already walked through the blue space.

‘……I’m getting nervous.’

“Ha-!”

Hyun-Soo took a deep breath.

This was his first time seeing a blue portal.

Even though he was just tagging along, it made him nervous since this was his first time.

‘I can’t believe I’m going to be hunting in a blue portal…’

Kim Yoo-Na followed behind the other members.

Hyun-Soo breathed in deeply once more.

“Whew.”

And he stepped into the portal.

**

“*******?”

As soon as he walked in, he heard Katrina’s voice.

‘What is she saying?’

She was speaking so fast in English, that he couldn't understand.

"She called you a scaredy cat for being nervous about a blue portal."

Eugene translated what Katrina said.

"Oh, I see. Well……."

They might have plenty of experience, but this was his first time.

It would be odd if he wasn't nervous.

He noticed that the inside was a bit different from the grey and green portals that he's hunted in.

'A rocky cavern…?'

To be exact, there was a rectangular-shaped hole on a stone wall.

The problem was that it was pretty big.

'It's as tall as a three-story apartment.'

The owner of this blue portal was 'Gruppa.'

It was a monster that looked like a spider and enjoyed creating traps.

'I guess it's true when they said that a Gruppa drags hunters in through the traps they made.'

But, he didn't know the trap would be this big.

The monsters in the grey and green portals usually took the form of a being that he's seen before, but the monsters in the blue portal didn't exist in the real world.

Gruppa was one of them.

"*********!"

Katrina spoke again with her high-pitched voice.

"I knew this was going to happen when they mentioned Gruppa. We have to go into that dark area! Is what she said."

“Oh……I see…….”

He wasn’t really curious about what she was saying, Eugene kept on translating for him.

‘This is probably his way of being considerate, so I don’t want to tell him to stop.’

The hole in the wall created a gloomy atmosphere after thinking that it was one of its traps.

“Go in if you’re ready. Eugene take the lead and then Brad. Katrina and Hyun-Soo stay in the middle and I’ll stay in the back.”

Before walking in, Kim Yoo-Na briefly explained the plan.

She said it first in Korean for Hyun-Soo and then spoke in English.

“Yoo-Na, you’re worrying too much. I don’t know his rank, but there are four A rank hunters, so hunting a blue portal will be easy.”

Eugene, who was in the front, mumbled.

However, Kim Yoo-Na acted like she didn’t hear him and told Brad to start walking.

‘It’s creepy…there’s supposed to be traps here, but even without traps, people that get scared easily might just pass out.’

The rectangle looked as if humans created it and inside the cavern, a weird smell and damp air greeted the group.

“********.”

Katrina, who was walking next to Hyun-Soo, mumbled something.

Even though Eugene didn’t translate, Hyun-Soo knew she was complaining.

‘I wouldn’t like it either. What is this? It was never mentioned that the inside was this shabby.’

Thankfully, Kim Yoo-Na and the other teammates brought a flashlight, so it wasn't completely dark.

Eugene was in charge of checking for traps and would look back from time to time to give them a warning.

"Don't step on the green rock that's sticking out there."

"Stick to the left side."

"Don't touch anything from here to here."

Hyun-Soo and the others followed his instructions.

The traps were the issue, but since they were avoiding them, there weren't any problems.

'The bad smell and the air is the issue here.'

He wondered if they were going the right way, because the smell was getting worse the deeper they walked in.

He looked to the side and saw Katrina's scrunched up face.

"We just have to keep walking. Maybe it's because it's a blue portal, but compared to the Gruppa that appeared in the purple portal, the traps are pretty simple."

Eugene explained it to the group.

'He's pretty relaxed.'

It's probably because he was an A rank.

If Hyun-Soo was in his position, he wouldn't be able to act that calmly.

Moments later, Hyun-Soo saw something odd.

'Huh? What is that?'

A white dot was shimmering on the ground.

It was the same as when it showed the monster's weakness.

It happened to be located on the left side that Eugene suspected and changed directions.

‘Is there something there? Attack that weakness has always been effective.’

It was odd that the white dot suddenly appeared.

He was suspicious about it, so Hyun-Soo used Interface.

‘Interface!’

Information about the white dot was displayed before Hyun-Soo’s eyes.

[Gruppa’s Trap]

A thin, transparent spider web that can barely be seen with the naked eye is used as a trap.

Once it’s touched, the floor will collapse.

‘A trap?’

Hyun-Soo quickly looked at the part that the spider web was connected to.

Maybe it’s because of Interface, but the thin, transparent spider web was shining brightly.

“Hold on.”

“What?”

Eugene stopped walking after hearing Hyun-Soo’s voice.

Near his right ankle, the trap was connected along the wall and the ground.

He wasn’t sure why he was able to see it now, but they were close to stepping on it.

“If you take two more steps, there’s a trap. It’s on your right side.”

<Blue Portal #1> End.

Chapter 44 - <Blue Portal #2>

“A trap?”

“It’s connected to the wall and to the floor.”

Since he was following along, keeping quiet was the wisest thing to do.

It was best not to cause any issues.

‘But, this is different since there’s a trap.’

The other members might be able to take care of themselves since they were A rank hunters, but Hyun-Soo was a D rank hunter that was close to being a C rank.

He was the weakest member.

‘Other people might think the blue portal is easy, but not for me.’

Because of that, Hyun-Soo was nervous when he mentioned that there was a trap.

This was a different situation, but remembered the time when he caused an issue because he interfered.

Eugene observed the spot that Hyun-Soo mentioned and nodded his head.

“He’s right. I guess I wasn’t really paying attention. Sorry. And thank you for letting me know. My reputation could have been ruined because of it.”

Eugene avoided the section that Hyun-Soo told him and told the others to be careful.

“……?”

Hyun-Soo felt someone looking at him and when he looked to the side, his eyes met with Katrina’s.

Her face was scrunched up due to the smell, but her eyes were filled with curiosity.

“We’re here.”

Eugene seemed to have increased his concentration after, because he didn’t miss a single trap.

After following the path, they arrived at a large, open area..

There must’ve been a hole in the ceiling because a faint light lit up the area.

“Be careful. We don’t know when it’ll attack.”

Spiderwebs were all over the place.

White, sticky threads were everywhere.

And below the white threads, there were several bones rolling around.

“Hm…looks like someone already attempted to hunt.”

Kim Yoo-Na mumbled behind him.

Swoosh!

At the same time, they started hearing something pass by the spiderwebs from different places.

Clack, clack, clack!

Clack, clack, clack!!

“Two. No, Three……. Two……, No, I think three?”

“Shit!”

“They didn’t mention there were three of them.”

Eugene and Brad mumbled as if they were in a difficult situation.

“Hyun-Soo, stay with Katrina no matter what. It might be a bit dangerous because there are three of them.”

There were four A rank hunters.

It was a blue portal, so it should be easy for them.

‘Am I the problem?’

But, Hyun-Soo had the problem.

He tagged along just so he could watch, but it's gotten to the point where it was difficult to protect him.

But.....

'Even still, I can't just stand by and watch.'

He wasn't planning on standing there and receiving protection.

He was a hunter too.

He wasn't as skilled as the A rank hunters, but he was skilled enough to protect himself.

'It might've been a green portal, but I took down a monster all by myself!'

He might not be of much help during the hunt, but he wasn't going to just stand there and not do anything.

'If possible, I'll assist them!'

While Hyun-Soo made up his mind, Gruppas started appearing.

"Up there!"

"In the front on the left, on top on the right side!"

The Gruppas were crawling around while observing the group.

Swoosh!

Eugene was the first one to attack.

As Eugene was running a sword slipped out of his sleeve.

He held the sword with both of his hands and ran towards one of the Gruppas.

Swish!

Eugene ran fast towards the Gruppa and pierced the Gruppa's side.

And at the same, he spinned his body to the side and stood next

to Brad.

Clack! Clack! Clack!

The Gruppa that was attacked became furious and ran after Eugene, but got hit by Brad's attack.

It stopped moving for a moment as if it was stunned and then started moving violently. This time, the Gruppa attacked Brad.

Swoosh!

"Ha!"

Fwoosh!

Kim Yoo-Na released flames from her arm and burned the web that the Gruppa spit out.

A smoky smell filled the place..

The Gruppa became furious after what Kim Yoo-Na did that it made clattering sounds with its hairy front legs.

However, the other Gruppa tried not to approach them right away.

'It keeps stepping away'

It must be true when they said the monsters become smarter the higher the portal levels are because the other two just watched.

'I'm not sure if it's true, but it seems like they're purposely trying to make us tired.'

The two started distancing themselves and tried to stay away from Kim Yoo-Na.

At the same time, they released more webs and kept their guards up.

"Dancing light!"

A high-pitched voice filled the room.

It was Katrina.

“Keep your head down and close your eyes!”

Fwoosh!

Ding!

With her smooth dance moves, Katrina formed a ball of light in her hand.

And when it bursted, the room was filled with white lights.

Clack! Clack! Clack!

Clack! Clack! Clack!

The Gruppas started shaking as if they were in pain.

The light was so bright that it blinded them.

It also stunned them momentarily.

If Kim Yoo-Na didn’t yell out to him, Hyun-Soo would’ve lost his vision.

When the Gruppas stopped moving, Kim Yoo-Na ran towards the other two that were watching.

Whenever they tried to attack, they would step back and their plan was to attack the Gruppas while they were stunned.

Before that could happen, one of them regained consciousness.

Clack! Clack! Clack!

And the same Gruppa suddenly charged forward.

But to who?

Katrina was its target.

For Katrina, it seemed like the stronger her skills was, the longer the cooldown time.

By dancing, she controls the flow of the energy and uses the skill, so she quickly tried to dance again.

The issue was that the Gruppa is approaching her really fast!

‘Shit! I told myself that I wouldn’t just stand by and watch, but I didn’t think I would have to jump in so quickly!’

Hyun-Soo was the closest compared to the other members.

Hyun-Soo gritted his teeth and stood in front of Katrina.

‘Invisible Attack!’

Swoosh!

Hyun-Soo attack slightly hit the Gruppa’s hairy legs.

‘Damn it, I missed because I rushed in!’

Clack….

The Gruppa that was heading towards Katrina suddenly changed its direction and climbed to the ceiling.

“*******!”

“I have no idea what you’re saying, so let’s talk later!”

Hyun-Soo was too busy following the Gruppa that was on the ceiling.

They were the monsters that belong to the blue portal. They were too strong for Hyun-Soo to take on by himself.

Despite the fact that Invisible Attack slightly hit its legs, it seemed like the Energy Field didn’t decrease by much.

The reaction was different from the monsters that were in the green portals.

It was definitely a difficult portal…

Hyun-Soo materialized two blades so that he could use them at any moment and slowly stepped back.

“Go to Kim Yoo-Na!”

“*******! ****?”

“What are you saying? Just go. Yoo-Na. Go!”

It felt like the Gruppa would attack if he took his eyes off of it.

Something probably happened to Kim Yoo-Na because she didn't run to him.

Click. Click.

The Gruppa that was on the ceiling slowly approached him.

The Gruppa's legs were caught in the web that was on the ceiling and as the web stretched out, it ended up ripping and an odd sound filled the room.

It sounded like Katrina was running towards Kim Yoo-Na.

'Staying with Kim Yoo-Na will be a lot safer than being next to me.'

Right when Hyun-Soo thought that, the Gruppa started moving.

As its delicious food started getting further away, it was getting irritated and started crying as it opened its pincer-like mouth.

Then!

'Huh?'

Inside of its mouth was white.

'Is that its weakness?'

He wondered why the Gruppa didn't have a white dot.

There was no way he could see it since it was inside its mouth.

He was happy that he found its weakness, but Hyun-Soo had issues he had to take care of.

Clack...clack...clack...

The Gruppa started making odd sounds and it widened its mouth even more.

Slurp!

Green saliva was dripping out of its mouth.

“Oh!”

Swoosh……

Hyun-Soo instinctively threw his body to the side.

The Gruppa spit out its saliva and landed on the spot Hyun-Soo was standing in.

“You crazy…….”

Hyun-Soo looked at the same spot and he was at a loss for words.

The spit that landed on top of a hard rock was boiling.

‘I could’ve died if that thing landed on me.’

He felt relieved for dodging it before it got on him.

The weird smell that he’s been smelling from the entrance was from the Gruppa’s spit.

‘That was the source of the smell.’

Gruppa noticed that Hyun-Soo dodged its attack, so it started moving its mouth again.

Instead of going after Katrina, it decided to get rid of Hyun-Soo and he could tell because all of its eyes were set on Hyun-Soo.

Grrrrr…slurp!

He heard something boiling deep within its stomach.

After checking Kim Yoo-Na and Katrina’s location, he moved his location so that the Gruppa wouldn’t see them.

It would be really problematic if the poisonous saliva flew in their direction.

‘What can I do? Is dodging it the wisest thing to do?’

Fwoosh!

Gruppa released its saliva again.

The thick, green saliva landed on the wall this time.

The web that was on the wall melted within seconds.

There was one way.

It was attacking the inside of its mouth.

That meant he had to use his skill right when the Gruppa releases the poison.

‘……I think it might be possible.’

The problem was that it was going to be difficult to match that timing.

The Gruppa’s stomach started making odd noises again.

It meant that it was going to spit it out again.

Hyun-Soo kept on staring at its mouth.

‘When it releases the poison, that’s when I’ll use it!’

He had to use the skill before it closes its mouth.

That was the perfect opportunity.

Fwoosh!

“Now!”

As it opened its mouth, it released its green saliva.

“Huh……?”

The attack moved so slowly.

It was as if the saliva was trying to cut through thick air.

Hyun-Soo stepped to the side to dodge it and watched the Gruppa’s mouth.

He saw its mouth after it released the saliva.

A white dot.

The white dot was shining brightly.

Hyun-Soo noticed how slowly the Gruppa was closing its mouth.

‘Invisible Attack!’

It was so thin that it passed between its lips.

It was thin, but it got bigger towards the end.

He imagined a screw and maximized its strength.

In simple terms, it was a really sharp screw.

As it materialized into his desired shape, it gave off a sharp energy.

‘Go!’

Swoosh!

He heard it cutting through the air.

But, it changed as if something ruptured.

Click! Click!

When the screw entered its mouth, it started ripping the Gruppa’s mouth.

The Gruppa started twisting its body as if it felt something weird.

It fell to the floor and it exposed its stomach.

‘That’s another weakness.’

He couldn’t check since he couldn’t see the stomach, but there was a white dot on it.

But, there was no reason to attack it.

Grr, Grrr, Grrrrrr!

It sounded as if their insides were being ripped apart.

The Gruppa’s legs started shaking.

It moved its body all around the place and later, its body was torn apart.

Rip!

The Gruppa’s body flew all over the place.

“Ack!”

A green substance flew as well.

He dodged it, thinking it was poison.

When its body and the green substance flew, everything moved in slow motion.

Thankfully, he was able to dodge all of it.

“Huh……?”

Hyun-Soo blinked.

It felt like he’s been fighting the Gruppa for over 10 minutes, but when he came back to his senses, he realized there wasn’t much time left.

It’s because when he blinked, the Gruppa’s remains were already in different areas.

Within seconds, his concept of time returned.

The green substance that flew wasn’t poison, because it was just thick and sticky.

‘What? Is it dead? I’m confused.’

<Blue Portal #2> End.

Chapter 45 - <Blue Portal #3>

He targeted its weakness.

And he used a skill that maximized his attack.

So he did think that it was definitely possible, but.

'I didn't think it would actually happen. I killed a blue portal monster all on my own...?'

Hyun-Soo was at a loss for words.

But he came back to his senses and looked over at Kim Yoo-Na and Katrina.

"Ha!"

Slurp!

"Grrrrrrr!"

Boom!

When he turned his attention towards them, that's when he realized the noise was coming from their side.

'I must've been really concentrating. Is that why everything moved so slowly?'

Brad and Eugene and also Kim Yoo-Na's side were finishing up.

"Whew....."

After the monsters released a bizarre scream, the room was filled with the sound of the members catching their breaths.

The stomach of the Gruppa that Kim Yoo-Na killed had blown up as well.

Because of that, green fluids were all over her face and hair.

That's when Kim Yoo-Na and Hyun-Soo's eyes met.

'Huh?'

Kim Yoo-Na had a small smile on her face.

However, that smile disappeared seconds later.

“Wow, Yoo-Na, you really killed that Gruppa. Huh? That Gruppa looks even worse.”

The legs of the Gruppa that Eugene mentioned were twisted in odd directions and its neck was twisted as well.

Since its stomach was cut open, the cause of death was obvious.

Kim Yoo-Na’s Gruppa was killed in a more neat and efficient manner than Hyun-Soo’s. Hyun-Soo’s Gruppa was ripped to shreds, which made it difficult to identify the body.

“***** D ***? *** A? **** lie ****!”

Katrina suddenly started yelling.

Her finger was pointing at Hyun-Soo.

‘What is she saying?’

There were some portions that he understood.

‘She mentioned alphabets. Is she talking about ranks?’

She mentioned the word, ‘lie,’ so he assumed that she was saying he lied about his rank.

Hyun-Soo thought it was unfair.

A lie?

What would he gain by lying?

‘I didn’t lie.’

He never imagined that the offensive skill that he had and Interface, which pointed out the monster’s weakness, would work so well.

‘If I attacked its stomach, then I probably wouldn’t have been able to kill it like this. I was only able to kill it quickly because I attacked its weakness.’

Luck was on his side as well.

‘Well, luck is considered a skill as well.’

Hyun-Soo decided that was the case.

It’s true that his attack worked because he used it at the right time.

If he didn’t use the skill in time, then it wouldn’t have been as effective because of the Energy Field.

“Katrina, calm down.”

A short woman was jumping up and down while expressing her anger.

Even though Hyun-Soo couldn’t understand, the other two understood what she was saying and displayed mixed emotions when they looked towards Hyun-Soo.

‘I have no idea what they’re talking about.’

He decided to study English with Hyuna.

He knew basic English, like “Hi” and “Hello,” but if a sentence contained more than three words, it was difficult for him to understand.

‘The education system is faulty for making students cram information…’

What’s the point of teaching just grammar?

It was useless in real life.

That alone can’t improve one’s listening and speaking skills.

“Kim Hyun-Soo, did you really kill it by yourself?”

Eugene approached him and asked.

Eugene saw the ripped body parts all over the floor and had a slightly sick face.

“Honestly, I don’t know what happened because I wasn’t able to

focus on this side.”

“I did kill it.”

“Oh, I see.”

“……?”

He thought Eugene would say more, but he just nodded and went back to the Gruppa that he killed.

‘That’s it?’

Hyun-Soo got nervous when Eugene approached him.

He meddled again.

If Eugene said something about that, things could’ve gotten worse for Hyun-Soo.

Even if Kim Yoo-Na intercepted, getting on an A rank hunter’s bad side was bad.

However, Eugene nodded once and didn’t say anything else.

Hyun-Soo was actually confused.

“Let’s gather the Energy Stones and get out. Before our noses rot.”

With that, Eugene placed his sword into the Gruppa’s open stomach and started looking for the Energy Stone.

Kim Yoo-Na also started looking at the Gruppa’s corpse and Hyun-Soo wondered around the large room.

‘This is the problem. Where did all the Energy Stones go? And why is she following me around?’

Hyun-Soo avoided the stretched out spiderwebs and searched in spots that might have the Energy Stone.

And Katrina was following behind him.

“*******?”

“What?”

“******! *****?”

“I have no idea what you’re saying.”

“*******!”

Katrina must’ve noticed his unenthusiastic answer because she started yelling and then walked back to Kim Yoo-Na.

‘She’s a weird woman.’

She didn’t like him before, but now, she was trying to talk to him.

Hyun-Soo briefly thought about Katrina and then turned his attention to the Energy Stones.

‘Energy Stones are more important. Where did they go? There should be a lot since we’re in a blue portal.’

After searching for a bit, he saw a lump of spiderwebs hanging from the ceiling and noticed that the Energy Stones were there.

“There isn’t as much as I thought. It must’ve been split between the three.”

After exiting the portal, Eugene calculated the amount of energy within the stones, but was disappointed by the result.

“I’ll calculate the money and deposit into each account. Is that okay for you, Hyun-Soo?”

“Yes, that’s fine.”

It was dangerous to carry around cash.

‘Safest thing to do is to have them deposit it into my account.’

When he had part-time jobs, he got paid by doing direct deposit.

While Eugene was taking care of the administrative task, the staff that managed the portal stepped into the office and stepped back out moments later.

“Let’s go eat now.”

Then, Eugene added something in English.

‘I understood the word, hungry. Hungry. He must’ve suggested on going out to eat.’

The person that intercepted was Kim Yoo-Na.

“What are you thinking, Eugene? Eating together?”

“Why can’t we? Our crew can’t even eat with you?”

“As I said before, I’m not longer part of the clan…!”

Kim Yoo-Na always maintained a calm face, but she was getting angry.

He was surprised by that, by Eugene just waved his hand and interrupted her. He turned to Hyun-Soo and asked.

“Hey, Kim Hyun-Soo. Since you killed the monster, how about eating together? Aren’t you hungry? I’ve used up a lot of my energy, so I’m really hungry.”

“I am pretty hungry…”

“Great! Then let’s go eat.”

“Eugene!”

He somehow got involved in this.

Hyun-Soo answered Eugene and somehow, the situation turned for the worse and he was put in a bad situation.

‘Eating out costs a lot of money.’

A rank hunters probably won’t eat at fast food places.

Because of that, he’s never eaten with Kim Yoo-Na.

‘We’re not close and we’re just meeting because of a contract, so there’s no reason to eat with her.’

He only spent time with her within the portal.

She did give him rides, but other than that, they didn’t meet.

‘Oh, there was that one time. When we went to the weapon shop.’

Other than that, they only meet when necessary.

‘It’s better if I eat at home though.’

It’s not that he couldn’t afford to eat a meal with them.

‘If I want to buy a shop for my mom, I have to save as much as I can.’

But, there was a reason why he needed to save money as fast as could.

Even though he obtained Energy Stones from the blue portal today, he wasn’t sure how much he would get paid.

He calculated by the average cost of an Energy Stone from a blue portal.

After excluding the fees and splitting among the members, it’s quite a large amount, but the problem was.

‘I’ll need a lot more since I have to think about the location, the facility, furniture and designing the interior.’

No one would open a store where there were barely any people.

‘I have to go all out!’

After buying the shop, all that was left was a house.

He was in a hurry, so spending money on food felt like a waste to him.

However, his issue was quickly resolved.

“Don’t worry. I’ll buy the food today. Since we saw Yoo-Na and met Hyun-Soo, I’ll buy it. Okay?”

Eugene noticed Hyun-Soo thinking, so he acted on it.

Hyun-Soo stopped calculating.

“Great!”.

Eugene gave him a thumbs up after hearing his answer.

Kim Yoo-Na just shook her head.

But, she was pretty hungry because she moved a lot during the battle.

It was obvious that she was going to tag along.

Hyun-Soo knew that Eugene used him so that Kim Yoo-Na would come along, but Hyun-Soo turned a blind eye.

“Yoo-Na, I know why you’re worried.”

“Don’t say unnecessary things.”

Kim Yoo-Na warned Eugene.

‘He did help out, so it’s the least I could do. It doesn’t look like they dislike each other, but more like something happened between them.’

If he turned down the offer, Kim Yoo-Na would’ve used him as an excuse to leave.

While looking at Kim Yoo-Na’s upset and hesitant face, Hyun-Soo decided to play the middleman.

‘I wonder what they’ll eat?’

It definitely wasn’t because he was getting free food.

That definitely wasn’t it.

***

The restaurant was located in the suburbs and they served Korean table d’hote.

Inside a large, tile-roofed house that was separate from the main building, the members sat around a large table.

“I’m hungry. Let’s eat.”

‘Half of the members are foreigners, so why are we eating Korean food?’

Hyun-Soo did like it.

He enjoyed hamburgers, steaks and other western style dishes, but it was difficult for him to eat expensive Korean table d'hote.

However, Katrina, Brad and even Eugene, who was basically a foreigner.

Out of the five members, three of them were foreigners 'Wouldn't restaurants be better? No. Korean food is part of the hallyu wave, so...oh, whatever.'

As expected, Katrina had a hard time using chopsticks.

She had a hard time grabbing the stir-fried glass noodles.

Her chopsticks kept crisscrossing each other and instead of grabbing the food, she was busy picking up her chopsticks.

"Do you need a fork? Fork?"

Hyun-Soo stepped in and asked if she needed a fork.

"What?"

"Fork. The thing that looks like this. Not chopsticks, but a fork."

Hyun-Soo tried his best to pronounce the fork, but Katrina couldn't understand him and tilted her head.

Hyun-Soo formed a fork with his fingers and pretended to stab the food.

Katrina understood and after saying fork, she shook her head.

"No. *******."

"You don't need it? No fork?"

"Yeah."

It seemed like she really wanted to try using the chopsticks.

'This takes me back. Hyuna had a hard time using chopsticks when she was younger too.'

Even though she was a smart girl, it took her quite a while to get

used to them.

When he thought about Hyuna, he couldn't just sit by and watch.

Hyun-Soo grabbed the noodles she tried to eat and placed it on the plate that was sitting in front of her.

'She should stop wasting her energy and just eat. I'm pretty sure she's hungry.'

He knew she wouldn't understand, so he just placed it on her plate.

It was up to Katrina whether she was going to eat it or not.

It didn't matter if she didn't eat it.

He just did it because it reminded him of Hyuna.

"Th..... Thank you."

"You're welcome."

He expected her to ignore her, but surprisingly, she thanked him.

While eating, Hyun-Soo would look over at Katrina and help her whenever she was having trouble grabbing the food.

He would hear her quietly say thank you each time.

A variety of dishes came out and they managed to eat it all.

Brad ate the most and really quickly as well.

It was quite interesting to see a colored man with dreads eat raw crabs marinated in soy sauce and using his hands to eat braised short ribs.

"Now that we're all full, shall we start talking?"

<Blue Portal #3> End.

Chapter 46 - <Offer #1>

While drinking the traditional cinnamon punch, Eugene started talking.

On the other side of him, Brad was drinking the punch from the teakettle.

‘They’re kind of weird.’

“Kim Hyun-Soo, what’s your relationship with Yoo-Na?”

“I’m sorry?”

“Eugene!”

As soon as Eugene asked the question, Kim Yoo-Na yelled out his name and glared at him.

She was signaling him to be quiet.

If she gave Hyun-Soo that look, he would’ve immediately stayed quiet, but Eugene ignored her. Maybe it was because he was an A rank as well or that was just his personality.

“Don’t you think we have the right to know?”

“What are you talking about? Why does it matter to you guys?”

“What’s wrong, Kim Yoo-Na? How often do you think we get to see you? Do you think we’re asking because we don’t know the real reason as to why you’re staying here?”

“It’s Hye-Na…….”

“I know that’s not the only reason. Let’s talk about that later.”

Hyun-Soo just watched them talk back and forth.

‘Huh? Didn’t they use me as an excuse to talk to Kim Yoo-Na?’

It was suddenly about him.

But, the conversation was a bit weird.

‘My relationship with her…it’s just business.’

A give and take relationship.

We give each other what we need.

“I’ve been receiving a lot of help from her. I’ve been learning how to hunt and have been training as well.”

I’m not sure what you’re wanting to hear, so I prepared a generalized answer.

Was what Hyun-Soo was feeling.

‘There’s no reason to explain the details. I won’t gain anything from it anyways.’

Kim Yoo-Na didn’t try to get information out of Hyun-Soo, but he wasn’t sure about the others.

But, since they were on the same team as her, they probably weren’t all that bad, however, there was no need to explain the details.

‘The ways she’s glaring is telling me not to say anything, so I better keep my mouth shut.’

Kim Yoo-Na was wanting Hyun-Soo to not talk.

When Hyun-Soo gave a generalized answer, Eugene changed the subject.

“It hasn’t been that long since you’ve become a hunter, right? But, you’re leveling up pretty quickly.”

“It’s most likely because Kim Yoo-Na has been helping me out a lot.”

“Ha ha. We all know how great of a teacher Yoo-Na is.”

It felt like they were just going around in circles.

‘What is he trying to find out?’

It felt like he was just going around in circles instead of getting to the core of the conversation.

“It hasn’t been a year since you’ve become a hunter, but you’ve already leveled up, right?”

“…Yes. Because Kim Yoo-Na guided me.”

“But, I know Yoo-Na isn’t that nice. Shall I give you an example? Let’s say you ask her to open the cap of a bottle that hasn’t been opened yet. She’ll open it once for you. However, if you keep asking her, she’ll teach you so that your arm has enough strength to open it and will tell you to keep practicing until you can do it on your own.”

‘Wow, he’s on point.’

It was exactly like what he’s seen so far.

They must’ve spent a lot of time together.

“Then, what can you draw from that?”

“I’m not sure.”

“It’s simple. You have great potential, Hyun-Soo.”

“My…potential?”

“Yes, potential. You have the willingness to follow Yoo-Na’s ignorant methods and you have the potential strength to push you through it. We call that potential.”

Hyun-Soo somewhat understood what Eugene was saying.

And that Eugene acknowledged his value.

Eugene didn’t know Hyun-Soo was a Skill Maker.

The only thing he knew was that Kim Yoo-Na was helping him and through that, he was leveling up fast.

However, he pointed out that Kim Yoo-Na’s help didn’t play a big role.

And he pointed out that Hyun-Soo’s potential strength was the reason why he was leveling up quickly.

“But, I’m still a D rank.”

He planned on using this hunt to level up, but he was still a D rank.

He had potential strength and leveled up quickly, but in the eyes of an A rank hunter, it wasn’t an outstanding result.

Even if he was saying it to be nice, who wouldn’t feel good about getting compliments from an A rank hunter?

He was happy to hear it since he had to get stronger as soon as possible.

“Yoo-Na doesn’t really show affection. Doesn’t she look cold just from her appearance?”

“What are you trying to say, Eugene? If you’re going to say something odd, don’t.”

When her name was mentioned, Kim Yoo-Na glared at him again.

“But, once she does show it, she gives a lot of it. She has high standards since she’s greedy. The fact that she’s taking care of you means you’re a good enough person and you’re worth her time.”

“Excuse me?”

‘Kim Yoo-Na thinks I’m a good person? Why?’

It was interesting to hear that she was taking care of him.

‘I think we’re going around in circles again.’.

He probably wasn’t saying it so that they could become close friends.

Hyun-Soo looked at Eugene and then glanced over at Kim Yoo-Na.

He wasn’t sure if she was angry or embarrassed.

However, her fists looked like flames would appear at any moment.

“I’m sure you’re not saying these things just to be nice to me. Is there something that you’re wanting?”

Potential, potential power.

No matter how he looked at it, he was far from becoming an A rank.

However, there was a reason why he kept on complimenting Hyun-Soo.

‘Did she tell him about the scrolls?’

He might be trying to get information out of him, so he became slightly suspicious.

But their conversation was going towards a different direction.

When Hyun-Soo asked directly, instead of answering, Eugene spoke towards Brad and Katrina.

Since he couldn’t understand, he glanced at Kim Yoo-Na and noticed that her expression became calm again.

When Hyun-Soo finished the punch for the third time, their conversation in English was over.

Eugene suddenly raised his hand.

“I agree.”

Katrina followed as well.

“Me too.”

“Me either.”

‘What are they agreeing on?’

They were suddenly agreeing on something amongst themselves.

Everyone, excluding Kim Yoo-Na, agreed on something.

Eugene looked directly at Hyun-Soo.

“Kim Hyun-Soo. Will you work with us?”

“I’m sorry?”

“I’m asking you to join our clan.”

“Eugene. Stop..”

“Oh. It sounds like she’s really angry. I guess I’ll have to stop here.”

“……?”

‘Did I just get recruited?’

That’s what it seemed like.

However, when Kim Yoo-Na looked serious, Eugene quickly wrapped things up.

“Let’s stop talking about serious topics. Our leader will blow up. Oh, did you see it too, Hyun-Soo? When Yoo-Na explodes, there’s fire all over her body and...okay. I’ll stop. Stop glaring at me.”

When the conversation was over, everyone got up from their seats.

Hyun-Soo thought they would talk amongst themselves since they haven’t seen each other for a long time, but Eugene told him that they would get in trouble if he left, so he asked Hyun-Soo to leave with them.

When they first saw him, it felt like they weren’t exactly excited to see him.

Excluding Katrina, he couldn’t really express what he felt, but there was something there.

‘Why did their attitudes change all of a sudden?’

The things he felt earlier were gone.

He had an idea why.

‘Maybe it’s because of the monster I took down in the portal?’

That’s probably why they recruited him.

He was treated according to the skills that he showed.

It was a simple concept.

The qualification set by society and financial power didn't matter.

They decided solely on skills.

That's what they were showing.

They all became friendly towards him, but Katrina was the one that changed the most.

He thought she would never treat him nicely, but it felt like they suddenly became close.

'Is it because I gave her food?'

As they were saying their goodbyes, Katrina quietly circled around Hyun-Soo while maintaining a certain distance.

'She's like a cat.'

She had her guard up in the beginning, but now, she was like a cat that circled around him.

"Let's shake hands."

"Okay."

Before going their separate ways, Eugene extended his hand out.

When Hyun-Soo grabbed his hand, Eugene slightly bent down and whispered.

Before Hyun-Soo could react, Eugene let go and returned to his car.

While getting into Kim Yoo-Na's car, Hyun-Soo kept on thinking about what Eugene said.

'What I saw in the portal was impressive, Hyun-Soo. Please think about my offer.'

**

There was an awkward silence on the way home.

It was awkward because of Kim Yoo-Na.

Kim Yoo-Na looked like she had something to say because she kept on biting her lips and glanced at Hyun-Soo.

‘What’s wrong with her?’

It was obvious that Hyun-Soo noticed.

He was sitting right next to her.

It would be weird if he didn’t notice.

‘She looks embarrassed, or is that just me?’.

She kept on looking towards his side.

‘Why is she hesitating so much?’

However, Kim Yoo-Na didn’t say anything.

However, when the car stopped at a red light, Kim Yoo-Na looked at the rear-view mirror.

Hyun-Soo wondered what she was looking at and noticed a car.

Their eyes met.

Then, Kim Yoo-Na quickly turned her head around.

‘Jeez, she should keep her eyes on the road!’

After the car behind them honked, the car started moving again.

“Kim Yoo-Na, is there something you want to say to me?”

“Huh?!”.

Hyun-Soo decided to talk to her first since the atmosphere was so heavy, but when he did, Kim Yoo-Na was surprised.

“Or is there a problem?”

“No. It’s nothing like that.”

“Did I do something wrong?”

“No! It’s not that.”

“Then……?”

“There’s something that Eugene said that I’m suspicious about.”

“What Eugene said? About recruiting me?”

“That too, but about how I show affection. There might be a misunderstanding.”

She wasn’t looking at Hyun-Soo anymore and was looking straight ahead.

“After hunting with you, I’ve spent a lot of time with you, saw how hard you worked and your results showed that. I know that you followed my training without any complaints, so it’s obvious that I would think highly of you. Right?”

“Huh? Yeah..”

She was asking him to agree and Hyun-Soo did without knowing.

“Hye-Na is very shy, but these days, she keeps asking when you were coming to visit her, so after seeing that, I noticed that you weren’t that cold and analytical, so I’m thankful…so, what I’m trying to say is that that’s my affection and there’s no other meaning to it…I’m not exactly sure what I’m saying.”

Kim Yoo-Na seemed confused.

‘I don’t know either.’

<Offer #1> End.

Chapter 47 - <Offer #2>

It was hard to tell what the main point of the conversation was.

'Is she saying that I'm doing a good job because I get along with Hye-Na and am doing well in training?'

The conversation was heading towards a different direction.

Then, Hyun-Soo suddenly thought of something.

"If you're thinking that I'm misunderstanding your kindness for romantic feelings, you don't have to worry about that. I don't think about that at all."

I'm past that stage where I think a girl likes me because she's nice to me.

'I don't even have the time to think about dating.'

On top of that, his opponent was Kim Yoo-Na.

An A rank hunter with the class name, Fiery Attacker.

Kim Yoo-Na looked cold and haughty.

However, she had a passionate and emotional side.

On top of that, she was pretty enough to make heads turn.

Any guy would've at least imagined being in a relationship with her.

Because of that, there are times when Hyun-Soo is surprised whenever he looks at her.

'I'm not Buddha or anything...'

However, Hyun-Soo purposely didn't think about it.

He didn't have the energy to be in a relationship and his head would get complicated if he thought about it.

He tried to make this relationship strictly business, but he was only human so he couldn't help the fact that they were getting

closer.

‘I’m sure she was saying it based on our business relationship. It seems like she was really worried that I might misunderstand.’

Hyun-Soo relaxed the confused Kim Yoo-Na.

“If that’s the case, I didn’t misunderstand at all, so don’t worry.”

“Oh, well you see…”

Kim Yoo-Na was about to say something, but she released a deep sigh.

“Thank you for understanding.”

It sounded like she was disappointed.

‘I’m sure I’m imagining things.’

Hyun-Soo thought he was being delusional and didn’t think much of it.

As a human being, he did like Kim Yoo-Na.

He received a lot of help..

Even though they had a give and take relationship, everything wasn’t calculated.

The reason why Hyun-Soo kept on mentioning the contract was so that he could control himself and not overstep any boundaries.

‘Did I act too friendly without knowing? Is it because I made potions too often for Hye-Na? I guess I should hold back a little from now on.’

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure why Kim Yoo-Na let out a deep sigh and decided to watch how he acted around her.

“What do you think about what Eugene said?”

“About joining the clan?”

“Yes.”

“Well…I think it’s an undeserving offer.”

High-ranked hunters acknowledged his skills and potential.

It would be a lie if he said he wasn't proud of himself.

"I was going to take my time in telling you this, but since we're already talking about it, I'll say it now. Hyun-Soo, you never thought about going overseas?"

"……I've never thought about it."

There was a time before when Kim Yoo-Na told Hyun-Soo that she didn't understand why he didn't go overseas.

She believed that the scrolls and potions he was selling could work all over the world.

It was a recovery scroll and on top of that, it was a passive skill so she told him how amazing and rare it was.

The potions were the same case.

But, Hyun-Soo never really thought about going overseas.

'Honestly, I was too busy trying to get by, so I never thought about going somewhere far.'

In order to go overseas, he needed to know the language and also lay the groundwork..

Since he wasn't going for pleasure, there was a lot he needed to prepare.

'Even if I go, there's no guarantee that I'll have a better life.'

Also, his parents lived in Korea their whole life, so would they be able to adapt well in a new environment?

"Then, think about it starting now. Like Eugene said, you don't have to join a clan. If you're interested, then I'm willing to personally help you out. You have to broaden your horizons."

"Why's that?"

"Sorry?"

“I understand what you’re saying. But, I don’t understand why you would do that. There’s nothing I can really do for you.”

He was thankful she liked him and that she was willing to help him out, but Hyun-Soo was curious about her reason.

“Potential. And dormant power. Eugene already mentioned it, but you can get stronger if you train in a better environment with better support. The throwing skill from before, you succeeded in improving it, right?”

“Yes.”

She was referring to Invisible Attack.

“Even though I gave you advice, I was sort of gambling. Honestly, a lot of hunters try to develop their skills, but end up giving up. The more they use the skill, the more skilled they become and that strength increases as well, but on the other hand, they can only use that skill through that method.”

Hyun-Soo had an idea of what she was talking about.

‘So, improving and developing are two different things.’

“It’s theoretically possible, so a lot of hunters try. But, they end up failing. However, you succeeded.”

“You told me all I needed to do was practice.”

Did she make him cut down all of those logs even though that method could fail?

Hyun-Soo was dumbstruck.

This woman was somewhat scary.

“Yes and you’ve succeeded. You asked why I would support you, right? I’m not stupid enough to just stand by and watch a talented hunter go to waste. Giving the best treatment for the best hunter is a given.”

When he succeeded in developing his skill, he now understood

why Kim Yoo-Na had such a shocked expression when she entered the room that day.

'I guess this was what she wanted to say that day.'

"But, I'm not the only one with that kind of potential. I'm still a D rank though"

"That's true. Hm, well...you, also...oh, right! Thanks to you, Hye-Na's condition has been improving. If she gets a little bit better, they'll be able to operate on her. If you came with me, I'll feel more at ease. Even if it's for Hye-Na, I would like it if you came."

Hyun-Soo nodded his head when she mentioned Hye-Na's name.

'Even if they do operate on her, no one knows what'll happen after, so I'm probably needed.'

"And....."

Kim Yoo-Na glanced at Hyun-Soo.

"I did some research."

"What kind of research?"

The first thing popped in his head was background check.

Hyun-Soo suddenly became quiet. Kim Yoo-Na must've noticed too because she quickly continued talking.

"It's not what you think. Think of it as a check for protection. In my perspective, you were in a difficult situation back then. And I also needed some sort of information. Isn't that why you contacted me and asked me to help you?"

She was right.

That was it.

'I can't really complain about it.'

"I'm sorry if I've put you in a bad mood."

“I understand.”

“Thank you. This was what I wanted to say. While researching, I noticed that there were other people like me that were looking for you.”

“Looking…for me?”

“Yes, since I knew you, it was easy, but that didn’t seem like the case for others. They look like a large group, so in time, they’ll be able to find detailed information about you.”

“Oh.”

A chill ran up his spine.

He suddenly remembered something.

‘Those messages.’

He remembered the weird messages he received on Hunter Net when he was selling scrolls on there.

‘I didn’t really think much of those messages.’

He was sure there was a group involved because they constantly told him not to go overboard, to know his place.

‘No way……?’

“I had a weird feeling, so I did cut those connections. If I overstepped my boundaries, then I’m sorry.”

“No, I’m actually grateful.”

Once they dig deeper, they’ll eventually find out about his family.

‘If something happens to my family…I don’t have that kind of power yet.’

He was only imagining it, but it was still scary.

Thankfully, Kim Yoo-Na blocked his information.

He was able to calm down.

‘Whew…… that’s a relief.’

If she didn't do anything, then something could've happened...

"Because of that, it could be better to go overseas and work there. I heard the hunter community in Korea is small. It's hard to hide any information because of it and since they're all somewhat involved, it can be dangerous."

Kim Yoo-Na started catching her breath.

"But the place that I was in is different. There's a big difference between the pool sizes. It's like trying to find a grain of sand in the Pacific Ocean. It's the best place to hide information."

It was obvious what she was trying to say.

Get out of that small pool.

Hyun-Soo's thoughts were getting complicated after hearing her unexpected explanation.

'It's not that I didn't expect it at all, but there are people that are doing a background check on me?'

It's obvious that they didn't have good intentions.

"I'll...think about it. I don't think it's something I can decide right now."

"Okay. Try to think positively about it. I'm thankful about you helping Hye-Na and I would like to help you out."

"You deserve it, so you don't have to feel like you have to repay me."

He was telling her that she didn't have to thank him since they had a business relationship.

However, Hyun-Soo understood how she felt.

There were things he wanted to thank her for.

She wanted to give him something that went beyond the contract.

It would be a lie if he said he wasn't thankful for it.

“Yeah, the conversation was longer than I expected. We arrived quickly because of it.”

Like she mentioned, they already arrived near Hyun-Soo’s place.

“I’ll contact you once I set the schedule.”

The red Ferrari that dropped Hyun-Soo off disappeared within seconds.

Before closing the door, he noticed that her earlobes were red.

‘I’m probably imagining it.’

Hyun-Soo didn’t think much about it and turned around.

***

‘My head hurts.’

During the past few days, Hyun-Soo felt like his head was going to blow up.

After hearing that weird guys were looking for him, he started contemplating.

‘I kind of have an idea on who’s looking for me, but…’

Nine out of ten, it was a group that had money and power.

They were looking for him because of the scrolls and the group probably was related to that somehow.

With that assumption in mind, he had an idea on who it was.

‘But I don’t know the names of the people or the group name.’

His head was hurting.

If he was by himself, it wouldn’t matter how they find him.

‘As long as it’s not a group of high-ranked hunters, I shouldn’t have a problem running away.’

He received a lot of different trainings from Kim Yoo-Na.

Her methods were tough, but thanks to them, he was able to kill

a monster from a high-ranked portal all by himself.

But those guys didn't know that he improved this much.

'They probably think that I'm still a carrier.'

So if they try to attack him, Hyun-Soo will be able to counterattack.

'If they do come, I'll show them just how badly I'll beat them up.'

Chapter 48 - <Offer #>

‘If they do come, I’ll show them just how badly I’ll beat them up.’

The only problem was that they would be in a group.

On top of that, Hyun-Soo had a family.

‘It’s common sense not to mess with ordinary people, but who knows if they’ll have that common sense.’

That’s why he couldn’t expect them to appear all of a sudden.

If something happened to his family, that would be the worst-case scenario.

‘It would be better if I follow Kim Yoo-Na and go overseas…’

The problem was that his parents wouldn’t agree with going.

That day when Kim Yoo-Na and Eugene recruited him.

When he came home, his parents were there.

“You’re here?”

“You’re here, Hyun-Soo?”

Hyuna walked to the front door first and greeted him.

Behind her, his mother asked if he ate.

When he said he did, his mother said,

“You’ve been really tired lately, huh? I’ll cut some fruits, so go wash up.”

And told Hyun-Soo to go wash up.

When one becomes a hunter, their life becomes better and the people around them start to change, but his family was the same as before.

The family members gathered around the table and ate ripe apples. That’s when Hyun-Soo spoke.

“Mother, father. I have something I need to tell you.”

He told them that a talented group overseas wanted to recruit him.

“Overseas? You’re going to the US? Wow…my brother must be amazing! A group from the US recruited you.”

When he mentioned overseas, Hyuna was very interested, “You must be amazing just like Hyuna said. But, overseas. It’s unexpected…”

His parents looked a bit shocked.

“We don’t really have much to do. We can’t communicate. We’re more comfortable in Korea. We’ll stay here, so you and Hyuna should go.”

All of their acquaintances and everything that they know were all here, so going somewhere unfamiliar was difficult for them and it was understandable.

When he received Kim Yoo-Na’s offer, this was what he was worried about the most.

‘I can’t tell them that some crazy group of people are trying to cause me trouble. This is hard.’

His parents didn’t know of his situation.

He didn’t want to create unnecessary anxiety and have them worry so Hyun-Soo purposefully didn’t say anything.

They were really happy when he became a hunter, but they were worried about him doing any dangerous work.

‘It’s better not to say anything.’

Keeping his family safe was the best scenario.

It was a relief that Kim Yoo-Na blocked all the information, but he was too worried to just sit still and not do anything.

‘That’s probably why my head hurts.’

He was still contemplating on how he should resolve it.

“Do you want to go to the blue portal? Or the green one?”

Hyun-Soo was looking at Kim Yoo-Na.

Kim Yoo-Na asked as soon as she saw Hyun-Soo.

She was asking which portal he wanted to go hunting.

‘After last time, she’s giving me a choice.’

They went hunting based on Kim Yoo-Na’s decision.

“I think green portals will be good for now.”

It wasn’t that he wasn’t tempted to hunt in blue portals.

Hyun-Soo thought for a moment and decided to save the blue portals for later.

‘It’s a bit too soon.’

That was his decision based on unbiased reasons.

He wasn’t capable enough to hunt monsters on his own.

‘Last time, one Gruppa dispersed into three, but the difficulty level was pretty easy.’

The Gruppa also had a weakness.

But it didn’t mean that all monsters in the blue portal had the same weakness as the Gruppa.

‘I wouldn’t be able to hunt by myself and would need to rely on Kim Yoo-na.’

There was a reason why he wanted to hunt alone.

It was to become stronger faster than anyone else.

“Got it. Let’s do a green portal then. That’ll probably be better. You’ll be able to gain more experience at the same time.”

Kim Yoo-Na understood his decision, but he wasn’t sure whether she said that to comfort him.

‘She seems more laid-back than before…is it just my imagination?’

It was all business before, but now, it felt like they’ve gotten one step closer.

‘I’m imagining it. I don’t have proof.’

They had a business relationship anyways.

He wasn’t planning on having unnecessary thoughts.

Hyun-Soo quickly erased the thought he had and reviewed the portal they were going to hunt.

Now, whenever Hyun-Soo started the hunt, she would stand by and watch him.

Before, she would make sure she was ready to intercept in case he needed help, but now, she stood there with her arms crossed.

‘Thanks to that, I’ve learned different ways to handle emergency situations.’

Even though he obtained a powerful skill, he still lacked experience.

‘There’s quite a difference between theory and the actual battle.’

Chirp!

A Long Beak Black Hummingbird.

That was the name of the monster that Hyun-Soo was hunting.

It flaps its wing 100 times every second, which made its attacks that much more dangerous.

He thought he could endure it if he stood there without budging.

However, there wasn’t a good spot he could run to, so he ended up rolling around.

‘Jeez, how embarrassing.’

He did stand up right away, but was feeling embarrassed.

Chiiiiiiiirp-!

‘That bird brain is making fun of me.’

Its cry sounded like they were laughing, which annoyed Hyun-Soo.

‘Take this. Invisible Attack!’

Since they were really agile, the hummingbird easily dodged Hyun-Soo’s attack.

Chirp, chiiiiiiiirp!

After crying out for a second, the monster started creating a strong wind.

Swoosh……

It started off with a light wind and moments later, it evolved into a gust of wind and hit Hyun-Soo.

‘They’re playing with me.’

It seemed like they were testing him first and now, they were serious.

The monster looked down on Hyun-Soo and kept on attacking him.

‘Did you think I was going to fall again?’

Hyun-Soo gritted his teeth and ran forward.

It was in the same direction that the monster was at.

Chirp?!

The monster was surprised and was panicking when the human was running towards them instead of running away from their attacks.

‘An opening!’

The wings that created the wind was starting to slow down.

The wind became weaker as well.

‘The center is the safest spot during a storm.’

There’s a reason why the saying, Eye of the Storm, exists.

‘Invisible Attack!’

Attacking the monster up close is probably the best method since they’ll be unable to dodge it.

When the wind was weak, he used that chance and ran towards the monster.

The monster started panicking and flew up to avoid Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo summoned a long, sharp lance.

And released it towards the monster.

Chiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiirp!

The three lance that Hyun-Soo summoned pierced through the monster’s body.

‘Great, it pierced through their weak point.’

The monster’s painful cry filled the room.

Despite the fact that there were holes in their body, they continued flying higher.

They probably thought Hyun-Soo wouldn’t be able to attack them if they were too high.

A smile appeared on Hyun-Soo’s face because of it.

‘Invisible Attack!’

It was easy to bring them down if they continued flying higher.

‘Attack from above.’

Since he attacked its weak spot, their Energy Field weakened tremendously.

The monster tried to dodge the swords that were coming down from above, but they failed.

Chiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiirp!

After it cried, the monster fell to the ground.

Boom!

The bird fell after their winds were ripped.

Chi, chirp, chirp!

They tried their best to run away, but their body was a mess.

“I can’t believe this birdbrain looked down on me.”

The monster that fell to the ground because it lost its wings was no longer a threat.

Hyun-Soo released all the anger that he felt in the beginning towards the monster.

He was annoyed by how it kept on flying around and dodging his attacks.

‘This is why flying type monsters are frustrating.’

Close-range attackers probably had the hardest time.

The hummingbird made Hyun-Soo realize how different theory and actual battles were and Hyun-Soo started attacking it to release his anger.

And the result?

– Ding!

[Level Up!]

It was music to his ears.

‘Finally!’

– Ding!

“Your rank has moved up to Rank C.”

“Current Rank: C”

“Your skill slots have been increased.”

“Current Skill Slots: 7”

-Ding!

“The level of some of your skills have been increased.”

“Skill Creation [C] has been increased to Skill Creation [B].”

“Skill Transfer [C] has been increased to Skill Transfer [B].”

“The number of categories for Interface [SS] has been increased.”

“Current Interface Activation Status: 13.9%”

‘I’m finally a C rank!’

This was his second time leveling up.

Every time he leveled up, he felt an odd change in his power.

It felt like he was emerging out of a cocoon.

‘So this is why people are always wanting more power.’

He didn’t know it felt this good to have power. Even though this was his second, he felt that he was still lacking.

He was still a C rank.

Even with this, Hyun-Soo felt a strong wave of change within him.

‘The rank for Invisible Attack didn’t go up.’

It would’ve been nice if it increased to Rank B….

Hyun-Soo was slightly disappointed.

‘Let’s check my status. Interface!’

►Name: Kim Hyun-Soo (21)

►Rank: C

►Class: Skill Maker

►Experience: 7%

►Stamina Level: 100%

►Energy Level: 100%

►Stamina: 101 Agility: 77 Strength: 90 Critical Hit: 75 ?? ?? ??

►??

►Skill List

[Interface][SS]

[Skill Creation][B]

[Skill Transfer][B]

[Medicinal Mix][C]

[Invisible Attack][C]

'Wow…I feel proud.'

He was feeling satisfied just from looking at his stats window.

He was especially satisfied by the numbers of his stats.

Hyun-Soo had a hard time holding in his smile.

"Congratulations. I guess you leveled up?"

"Yes, I finally did. Thank you."

After the hunt, Kim Yoo-Na noticed how Hyun-Soo was smiling and congratulated him.

"Good job. Now that you're a C rank, shall we go to the next portal?"

"Huh? The next portal?"

"Yes. Don't you think you need to get used to your new strength as soon as possible?"

Before Hyun-Soo was done celebrating, Kim Yoo-Na made a suggestion that ruined his mood.

'She's right, but something is weird.'

"I've obtained several approvals, so this works out."

Kim Yoo-Na said testing his limits was a necessity and ended with that.

He thought the hunts would be easier since his rank and stats increased, but once again, he realized how different theory and the actual battle were.

‘This is why actual experience is important. Okay. Great. Knowing this is beneficial, but…’

He felt like he was going to die.

Even if he made a mistake during the hunt, Hyun-Soo had to resolve it on his own since Kim Yoo-Na didn’t intercept.

After making couple of mistakes and having a hard time, he was exhausted.

‘I really thought I was done for.’

When his energy was almost out and the monster wasn’t dying, he felt lightheaded.

He did manage to endure it by gathering his remaining energy and attacking the monster.

‘If not, it could’ve turned out bad.’

Hyun-Soo used every method to try to kill the monster on his own and because of that, it helped him master the skills.

‘It would be a lie if I said I wasn’t tired, but I feel good. But, Kim Yoo-Na, I hope she’s not relieving stress by torturing me.’

<Offer #> End.

Chapter 49 - <Secrets #1>

He leveled up and even felt that he became stronger.

There was no reason for him to dislike it.

“I’ll calculate today’s work and send it to you. Oh, and the payment for the blue portal, did you get it?”

“Yes.”

He didn’t get as much as he expected.

He thought they would offer three times more since there were three monsters, but that wasn’t the case.

On top of that, foreign hunters receive more.

‘Maybe that’s why. Anyways, I was pretty disappointed.’

Honestly, it was a good amount, but since there were a lot of things he had to spend it on, he couldn’t help but be disappointed.

“For the monster that you killed today, since you leveled up, I’ll give you all of it. Or, do you prefer taking the Energy Stone instead?”

“No, please deposit it to my account.”

Right now, money was more important to him.

‘Will it be possible if I add the money I received from the blue portal?’

On top of that, he hunted several of them.

‘The more there are, the better.’

When he thought about all the money that was going to come in, his tiredness went away.

“Hyun-Soo, have you thought about the offer?”

Kim Yoo-Na asked in the car while driving.

“...I did, but I haven’t made a decision yet.”

It’s only been a couple of days and she was already asking for an answer.

‘Well, making a decision as soon as possible is better. If I do end up following Kim Yoo-Na, there’s no point in buying my parents a store.’

But, he hasn’t decided at all.

He couldn’t just sit there and contemplate about it all day.

He decided to do what he could for now and decide later on.

‘It won’t be too late to decide then anyways.’

His head would start hurting every time he thought about it. It’s because there were a lot of things he had to consider.

Hyun-Soo turned on the computer when he got home.

‘Should I at least look up the market price?’

Since he couldn’t make a decision yet, he decided to at least research the cost.

‘It’s probably better to purchase the building.’

The place his mother is working at right now was under attack because of the landlord.

Because of that, Hyun-Soo wanted to purchase a building so that they wouldn’t experience something like that again.

But, the cost was more than he expected.

“Wow.”

‘How many zeroes are there?’

He looked at a random real estate website and was shocked by the price.

‘The money that Kim Yoo-Na is going to send won’t really help.’

That’s when Hyun-Soo understood why most people dreamed of being a landlord and wanted to live off of the rent that the tenants

pay.

He didn't have any interest in this before, so he just thought about buying a building...

Whenever Kim Yoo-Na suggested on hunting more than one portal, he had to welcome it.

'I need to...hunt a lot more portals from now on.'

***

"Kim Yoo-Na? Why...no, why is that person here?"

They were going to hunt a green portal today.

He had seen this woman with ginger-colored hair once.

They waved happily as if they were waiting for Kim Yoo-Na and Hyun-Soo.

They of course turned their head as soon as they saw Hyun-Soo.

"Katrina tends to act on her own."

Whew.....

Kim Yoo-Na let out a deep sigh.

Hyun-Soo was able to see her tired face.

"There's someone that takes care of me and Katrina knows them too. It seems like she found out and followed me."

Kim Yoo-Na explained that she was receiving a lot of help in Korea since she spent a lot of time overseas.

"I'll try talking to her."

When Kim Yoo-Na approached her, Katrina attached herself to her.

"********."

"******? ****!"

'I don't know what they're saying, but it seems like she's telling

Katrina to stop and Katrina is denying her request.'

That's what it seemed like.

They talked for a while.

It wasn't really a conversation since Kim Yoo-Na was trying to convince her and Katrina denied her every request.

Hyun-Soo stepped in.

"As long as she doesn't touch the monster or participate in the hunt, let's all go in."

They were wasting precious time.

'Just once should be fine.'

What's fun about going into a portal you can't participate in?

'I don't understand, but...maybe she just wants to stay with Kim Yoo-Na. She did fly here to see her.'

He was able to understand if it was just one time.

It would be a lie if he said he wasn't uncomfortable.

Since Kim Yoo-Na helped him out a lot, it was better to resolve it in a friendly manner.

Kim Yoo-Na translated what Hyun-Soo said and Katrina nodded her head.

"Okay. *******!"

"Okay. I understood that. Okay."

Katrina jumped into the portal first.

"Whew, I'm sorry Hyun-Soo. Katrina acts however she wants to..."

He already knew that.

They felt slightly exhausted as they both entered the portal.

As promised, Katrina stood next to Kim Yoo-Na and just watched.

‘I was worried that she might intercept, but it looks like she’s keeping her promise.’

He was uncomfortable by the fact that there was another person watching, but she wasn’t yelling or screaming, so that was good.

‘Anyways, a Blood Red Mole…’

As soon as he focused on the monster, his thoughts about Katrina disappeared.

As the name states, the monster digs into the ground and attacks.

Since they tend to move underground, it was difficult to sense their direction and location.

‘I’ll give it all I got for this monster.’

His hunting career was short and on top of that, he was able to kill a monster by himself that usually required a group of hunters. Because of that, he went through trial and error.

‘If there were others, I at least have back-up, but I’m by myself.’

But, he noticed that the more he fights, the more knowledge he gains about combat.

It was better than going into engineering and doing the same thing over and over again.

This method is probably the best though…

The problem was that he would get tired both physically and mentally.

Hyun-Soo decided to endure that tiredness.

Why?

If it helped them get stronger, no one would turn it down.

In the hunter world, strength was power.

And the stronger he gets, the faster he can reach the top.

‘Well, I still have a ways to go. Let’s start! Invisible Attack!’

Boom!

The heavy attack hit the ground.

He carefully calculated so that it dropped straight down from above.

Because of that, a hole appeared along with the loud boom.

‘I’m getting used to it the more I use it.’

It was small, but a crater appeared.

‘It’ll probably appear once I hit it a couple more times.’

He heard that moles tend to be cautious.

Because of that, it takes a long time and pulling the monster out is what needs to be done in the beginning.

‘They said it’ll take longer if it goes into hiding during the middle of the battle.’

The important thing was to pull it out once and continuously attack so that it can’t dig a hole for it to hide in.

Firepower combat.

Hyun-Soo briefly thought about today’s attack.

‘I hope it works out well.’

Boom!

Boom, boom!

Hyun-Soo’s skill hit the ground several more times.

A hole was made every time and the sounds of fragments falling filled the place.

Crack! Crack!

‘It’s finally out.’

Even if they were cautious, how many monsters would stand by and watch someone destroy their home?

The monsters in high-ranked portals were somewhat smart, but the portal that Hyun-Soo was currently in was a low-ranked green portal.

That's probably why the mole didn't notice his intentions and wasn't bothering to dig deeper.

As suspected..

Rumble!

The sound of the ground shaking could be heard.

At the same time, the mole jumped out of the ground.

And then.....

Kyah! Kyahhhh!

The mole jumped out from the ground.

At the same time their claw targeted Hyun-Soo's ankle.

Swoosh!

"Ah!"

Hyun-Soo was already looking towards the direction that the mole was coming from and after jumping off the ground, he landed behind the mole.

'My body got lighter after I leveled up.'

There was quite a difference between now and before leveling up.

It was obvious that his body became lighter.

He only participated in several hunts after leveling up, but Hyun-Soo knew he got stronger.

Kyah! Kyahhh!

The mole started crying and hid under the ground.

The mole was being cautious by choosing to run away since they were at a disadvantage.

“No way!”

Hyun-Soo created a long, wide rectangular board and pierced the ground with it.

This was Invisible Attack’s special transformation attack.

He created several similar shaped boards and pierced them into the ground.

The sound of digging filled the room.

“You don’t have a place to run now. What are you going to do?”

Hyun-Soo created a circular prison by piercing the boards into the ground.

He intentionally placed them at an angle so that it created a tent.

It was blocked in all directions and prevented them from digging any deeper.

“Maybe it’s because I leveled up, but I’m able to maintain the skill a lot longer.’

He wasn’t able to maintain it several attacks before, but the number increased.

‘I shouldn’t relax though.’

It seemed like there were more portals he was going to hunt in today.

That’s why he had to save his strength.

‘Okay, should I try pulling it out?’

Rumble!

The mole was moving freely under the ground.

‘All I have to do is pull them out from the ground.’

He blocked their movement and before they run away, he had to get them with his firepower.

It was a simple, yet effective attack.

There was a reason why the mole was described as being cautious.

‘If things don’t work out, they’ll immediately hide due to fear, so that’s probably why it’s difficult to kill them. Even if the firepower is weak, it’ll flail and try to run away, so attacking it is difficult.’

Trying to kill the mole with a group of people may be more ineffective than Hyun-Soo trying to kill it by himself.

‘I’ve changed a lot. I don’t really want to join a party.’

Before, he did whatever he could so that he could get included.

Now, he was beyond satisfied with not participating in one and was actually tired of it.

‘Stop with the useless thoughts! I need to get that ugly-looking monster.’

Kyahhh! Kyah!

Their long nails.

It kind of looked like a sickle.

‘And they have four of them.’

The reason why hunters lose either ankle, leg or worse, their waist, in this type of portal is because of those sharp claws.

If long range hunters or healers don’t dodge in time, they’ll die because of their claws.

The mole seemed to be feeling uneasy about coming out because they started attacking with their claws uncontrollably.

Claank! Clank!

The sound of the weapons clashing against each was loud.

They were doing everything they could to try and escape.

‘I don’t think I can attack while maintaining the skill. But if I release it, it’ll just run away. In that case…’

Hyun-Soo threw the mole into the air.

And he cancelled his attack.

<Secrets #1> End.

Chapter 50 - <Secrets #2>

Kyahhhh!

The mole let out a loud cry as it was falling to the ground.

‘Invisible Attack!’

Hyun-Soo materialized the skill into a ball and threw it towards the falling mole.

Boom!

Bam!

Kyahh!

Due to the impact of the fall as well Hyun-Soo’s attack, it screamed out loud.

Kyah…h…

Due to the shock, it lost its conscious and after he saw that, a smile appeared on Hyun-Soo’s face.

‘It worked just as I thought.’

He immediately created a skill that looked like a fang.

‘Invisible Attack! Cut it!’

And he released the attack towards the mole that was shaking on the ground.

His target was the white light that was on the mole’s eye.

Towards its weakness.

Fwoosh!

Hyun-Soo’s skill cut through the slim opening.

The sound of skin cutting and something soft exploding could be heard clearly.

At the same time, the mole screamed in pain.

Kyahh! Kyahhhhhh! Kyah!

As the mole rolled its body around violently, it tried to find a way to escape.

Instead of attacking Hyun-Soo with its long nails, it started digging instead.

Their body was halfway into the hole, but Hyun-Soo wasn't in a rush.

"Where do you think you're going?"

He created a skill that looked like a hook and hooked the mole's back.

Perhaps it's because he attacked its weakness, but his attacks were working well.

Kyahhhh! Kyah!

He didn't have any trouble maintaining one skill.

Hyun-Soo pulled out the mole using the hook that he created.

The mole tried not to get pulled and sound of them clawing the ground could be heard.

When they were thrown into the air, their flailing was useless.

He felt bad for the monster after seeing blood flow out of its eye.

'It's funny that I'm feeling bad for a monster, but...'

Hyun-Soo decided to end it quickly.

Swoosh!

Kyah...h!

Thud! Boom!

The blade that Hyun-Soo threw cut through the mole's neck.

The mole stopped moving and their cry stopped as well.

He finished them off with one attack.

Blood was spouting out of its body and its head dropped to the ground.

‘They really did become blood red, just like their name.’

Their red fur was soaked in their blood.

“Whew…”

Managing his strength became more flexible and he was stronger.

‘If I fought the mole before I leveled up, I probably wouldn’t have been able to cut its neck with one attack.’

He probably would’ve created several small knives or forcefully pierced a long spear through them.

But this time, he created a blade big enough to cut the monster’s neck with one attack.

‘Getting stronger is definitely the best. It’s always new. Exciting.’

Hyun-Soo looked at the corpse that was sitting in the puddle of their own blood.

‘Now that I think about it, this skill can be used in variety of ways. I didn’t know being able to take on different forms could be an advantage for me.’

It was a useful skill.

He was going to create a new skill because he needed a powerful one, but this skill filled his satisfaction.

‘But, having just one isn’t enough though. I should take my time with this. The more the merrier.’

Kim Yoo-Na approached him after confirming that the hunt was over.

“You’ve become faster.”

Kim Yoo-Na must’ve felt what he felt because she complimented him.

“I think I know why hunters put their lives on the line to level up.”

Power that they can use.

The strength of that power.

And regret.

He definitely felt that he’s gotten stronger compared to before.

Being a B rank and then an A rank will be even more amazing since he was pretty strong despite being a C rank.

There was a reason why people wanted to become an A rank hunter.

And people looked up to them.

“My God!”

‘Huh?’

Hyun-Soo turned to the side when he heard English.

‘Oh yeah, Katrina was here. She was so quiet that I forgot.’

Hyun-Soo was intimidated by her stare.

“*****? *****?”

‘Before she came into the portal, she turned her head every time she saw me.’

But, after he finished the hunt, she approached him and started talking to him.

Before this, when he was hunting in a blue portal, she would stay near him, but now, she actually approached him.

‘It doesn’t sound like she’s saying anything bad.’

In the current situation, the only person that’s able to understand Katrina was Kim Yoo-Na, so he looked at her.

Her expression was filled with uncertainty.

It didn’t look like she was mad, but it didn’t look like she was happy either.

‘Did I do something wrong? I don’t think so. She looked happy just a moment ago though.’

But, Kim Yoo-Na acted like nothing was wrong and translated what Katrina said.

“She asked if you really are C rank hunter.’

“Yes. I’m C rank. Okay?”

“********?”

“She said she’s curious as to how a C rank hunter is able to kill a monster by himself.”

“Just do it!”

It was an answer that reminded of a certain commercial.

‘But, I really don’t have any other answer. I honestly didn’t think I could do it, but it somehow works out.’

This was all Kim Yoo-Na’s fault…no, it was thanks to Kim Yoo-Na.

‘It took me awhile when I was a D rank, but it’s a lot shorter now.’

It was impossible to kill a monster like Kim Yoo-Na.

However, after he plans out the bigger picture and goes for it, he was able to clear it.

There’s a lot he needed to work on, but after laying down the groundwork, he wasn’t really worried about the rest.

The more effort he puts in, the stronger he’ll become.

“**********!! ****!”

After hearing his short answer, Katrina’s eyes started to shine brightly.

She was no longer distant and didn't keep her guard up anymore.

"Wow, what's wrong with her? Why is she grabbing onto my arm?'

Hyun-Soo was surprised.

Katrina would stick next to Kim Yoo-Na and chatter away, but she approached him and did the same.

'Why is she looking at me like that?'

It looked like she was expecting something.

Hyun-Soo felt uncomfortable, so he looked at Kim Yoo-Na.

Kim Yoo-Na's face was filled with uncertainty again. She looked as if she was trying to find the right words to say, but she ended up translating what Katrina said.

"She said let's go."

"Huh? Where?"

"The clan's base."

"It's hard for me to decide that now though..."

It was about that again.

'Is recruiting people to their clan their hobby or something?'

Honestly, he felt good about it.

It was a good thing.

'These high-ranked hunters are wanting to recruit me, so it makes me feel like I've become an important figure.'

However, there was still a lot of things that hadn't been resolved yet.

It was difficult to actually say something about it.

'Oh, is that why Kim Yoo-Na didn't translate right away before? Because another teammate asked me to join?'

Well, asking about the same thing does create pressure.

On top of that, he explained that he needed more time and was going to save the conversation for later.

Kim Yoo-Na talked to Katrina as if she was explaining something. But, instead of talking to Kim Yoo-Na, Katrina turned to Hyun-Soo.

“Why? Why *****?”

‘I feel like she wouldn’t understand unless I tell her.’

The way she ran towards him and grabbed his shirt while asking why reminded him of Hyuna.

Maybe that’s why.

He would’ve ignored her and moved on, but Hyun-Soo explained his situation.

“You see…”

Kim Yoo-Na kept on translating back and forth.

During the conversation, Katrina started talking as if she thought something was odd.

“Why are your parents an issue?”

“Well, they’ll be going to a place that’s far from home, so…”

“If you want, we could provide everything for you guys.”

“The language and lifestyle is different, so they weren’t interested.”

This was just his assumption, but he was sure that’s how they were feeling.

‘Honestly, no matter who it is, if they were told to go a place they’ve never been to, they’ll definitely be surprised.’

But, he couldn’t just leave his family and follow Kim Yoo-Na.

Who would protect his family?

Staying with his parents was a better choice.

When Hyun-Soo explained that, Katrina gave a simple answer.

“Then, we can protect your family.”

“Huh?”

“Hyun-Soo is saying that he’ll stay here because he’s worried about them and his family thinks it’s too burdening to move overseas, right? We can do that for him.”

Hyun-Soo was surprised when she said that they would resolve the part he was having the most trouble with.

“How?”

“The simplest way is to create an identity that has no relation to you.”

“Wow…”

“This usually applies in the US, but do you know about the Witness Protection Program? I’m sure Korea has something similar. If it’s too much and you feel too burdened by it, we can change the residence or our side can be on guard for 24 hours. There are usually problematic people that follow around talented hunters, but clans that are pretty big have done this for a long time.”

Kim Yoo-Na translated all of it.

“That actually doesn’t sound all that bad.”

Kim Yoo-Na nodded to let him know that what Katrina said was credible.

“If your parents are okay with it, it won’t be so bad to consider it. No matter which method you choose, our side is ready to support it.”

‘It’s best to go together, but if that’s not possible, then we have to go with the second-best option.’

It was interesting because the options that he was provided with were things that can only be seen in American dramas.

I thought those only applied to different situations, but both Katrina and Kim Yoo-Na looked as if this was nothing new to them.

Kim Yoo-Na looked like she was slightly ashamed for the fact that she wasn't able to think of those simple options.

'Did I live a really sheltered life or are they the weird ones?'

Anyways, another path opened up on a single path, so that was encouraging.

'The problem is whether it's realistically possible. It could be too much. But, it feels like I'm the only one that was thinking that.'

"That means we can go together now, right?"

Katrina pulled on Hyun-Soo's sleeve and asked.

"Let me think about it first."

Katrina was disappointed by his answer and was going to say something else.

However, Kim Yoo-Na intercepted.

Katrina pouted and Hyun-Soo was able to let out a sigh of relief.

***

"I'm thinking about adding one more portal next time. Is that okay?"

"...As long as I don't die."

"Don't worry. You did really well today. Last time as well."

Even though I gave her a pessimistic answer, he wasn't all that exhausted.

Despite that, Hyun-Soo was extremely tired.

It's because he was extremely tired mentally.

‘I didn’t think she would follow us to both of the portals.’

After the first portal, she asked why she couldn’t go with them, which surprised him. During the second portal, she would react to every little thing he did.

‘Maybe it’s because she’s from the US. Her reactions are pretty amazing.’

Kim Yoo-Na was a strict teacher.

She complimented him for things he did well in, but she’s normally a quiet person.

But Katrina reacted to every little thing.

‘It felt nice in the beginning and he was flattered.’

There isn’t a guy alive that wouldn’t like getting compliments from a beautiful woman.

But, that was only in the beginning.

Because he heard so much English during the hunt, it broke his concentration and his ears started hurting.

<Secrets #2> End.

Chapter 51 - <Secrets #3>

‘I think today had the most English I’ve heard in my entire life.’

It was possible since Hyun-Soo didn’t really like English.

As soon as he finished the second hunt, Katrina’s eyes started sparkling brightly.

He didn’t know why she was acting like that, but it was very flattering.

However.

‘…It’s so burdening. Ah, really burdening.’

Honestly, he wished that she would stop looking at him.

‘But I have a feeling that she’ll keep coming out with Kim Yoo-Na.’

Katrina had a pretty bubbly personality, but if there was something she didn’t like, she really didn’t like it.

At first, she completely ignored him and even disliked him, but now, she was like a puppy that followed their owners around.

‘Now that I think about it, I haven’t collected anything.’

Because Katrina came up to him right after he finished, he forgot about collecting the items.

After that, she kept on following him and he tried to quietly run away since he was burdened by her, but everything somehow ended.

‘There wasn’t anything that caught my eyes when I walked in, so this is pretty disappointing.’

It was weird to start looking for items like he did with Kim Yoo-Na before because Katrina was continuously looking at him.

‘Everything else is fine, but that’s a bit too much.’

No, other things made him uncomfortable too.

‘Well, she did provide new options, so I’ll just let it go.’

The method that Katrina offered.

If it was possible, his parents wouldn’t have to forcefully move overseas and he wouldn’t feel as bad about leaving them.

‘The problem is how much I can trust Kim Yoo-Na…’

Hyun-Soo was the one responsible for improving Hye-Na’s condition.

He somewhat had the advantage.

On top of that, Hyun-Soo witnessed her personality.

‘She’s not the type to use her family.’

For someone that cherishes their family, they understand that family is important to others as well.

Because of that, when Kim Yoo-Na asked him to help her sister, he couldn’t decline.

After they were done and were on their way back, Katrina followed them.

By looking at the side mirror, he noticed an expensive import car following behind them.

The owner of that car was of course, Katrina.

“Can’t we leave her somehow?”

“I’m sorry. She usually acts on her own…I’ll make sure to warn her again.”

For that reason, despite Hyun-Soo not saying anything, Kim Yoo-Na dropped him off at a location that was different from the usual spot.

It was near a subway station.

Katrina parked as well and was about to step out of the car, but

Hyun-Soo quickly ran inside the station.

‘Damn it, why do I have to run as if something is chasing after me?’

He thought it was unfair.

However, it’ll only be tiring if he got caught, so he blended himself in amongst the crowd.

***

“I’ll make sure to tell Katrina. I’m sorry about today.”

When he checked his phone after coming home, he noticed that he received a text from Kim Yoo-Na.

‘Really…?’

Katrina seemed like someone Kim Yoo-Na had a difficult time handling, so he wasn’t sure if she would succeed.

‘I’m sure she’ll think of something.’

Hyun-Soo didn’t think much of it.

No one knew what would happen in the future.

“Hyun-Soo, are you going hunting today?”

It was 6:30 in the morning and the sun hasn’t come up yet.

Hyun-Soo was making breakfast for Hyuna, who was getting ready to go to school.

‘There isn’t much in her lunchbox. Maybe it’s because I didn’t collect anything last time.’

Couple of days ago, Hyun-Soo started making Hyuna’s lunch since their mother was busy.

After spending time with Kim Yoo-Na, he ended up having some free time, so he started doing this and quite enjoyed it.

He would collect vegetables from the portal that were good for the body and make side dishes out it. It was pretty effective.

Her friends asked her what kind of cosmetics she used because she had nice skin and on days when she didn't get enough rest, she still had a good amount of energy.

'There isn't much left.'

Because of Katrina, Hyun-Soo ended up leaving the portal without collecting anything.

Which is why, they didn't have that many ingredients left.

'I need to get more. Anyways, it's effective and it tastes good. It's killing two birds with one stone.'

It wasn't as effective as the potions that he made, but it was better than not eating them at all.

"I don't think I'll be going today."

Hyun-Soo answered as he handed her a warm, square lunchbox.

"Is something wrong?"

Hyun-Soo usually went hunting once every couple of days, but he was still wearing his pajamas and after seeing him slowly make her lunch, Hyuna asked worriedly.

She never said it, but after he went out as a carrier, he always stayed home, which worried her a lot.

She asked carefully to avoid asking something that might bring him bad memories.

"No, it's not like that. There are a lot of people looking for me because I'm so talented. Don't you know that it's good to rest once in a while? It's called being mysterious."

"Oh, what? Anyways, if nothing's going on, then that's good. I'll be going now. Thanks for the lunch!"

When he answered half-jokingly, Hyuna giggled.

Hyun-Soo watched her leave and once she was gone, he let out a deep sigh.

‘I thought I would get a call today…’

She would’ve already called by now.

Since Kim Yoo-Na had her own life, she couldn’t be with Hyun-Soo all week.

‘She said she would talk with Katrina, but maybe things didn’t work out.’

Even though she said she would watch quietly, her presence alone was pretty uncomfortable.

Since no one knew what would happen during the hunt, he asked Kim Yoo-Na to prevent her from intercepting and she answered that she understood.

‘And she hasn’t called after that.’

Hyun-Soo decided to spend this time by logging onto Hunter Net.

‘I guess I’ll check to see what’s been going on in the community and see if there’s anything interesting on there.’

A certain colored portal opened somewhere.

The pop-up date for the portal that’s in this area is running out.

But that portal was like this.

Just reading them made it seem like they were posting useless comments, but he’s able to obtain information about areas that he’s unable to cover by himself.

‘There are hunters that make comments for that purpose.’

But, as soon as he entered, there was a post that caught his attention.

“They’re still talking about this…?”

‘What happened to that guy that used to sell scrolls?’ was the title.

It was obviously a post about Hyun-Soo.

It’s been a while since Hyun-Soo stopped selling the scrolls, but there were still people that were looking for him.

It’s been awhile since he logged in here, so after he sold the last scroll, he didn’t know what was going on.

Hyun-Soo was curious, so he clicked on the post.

Title: What happened to the person that sold scrolls?

Body: I’ve saved up money by working hard and participating in a lot of hunts, but what happened to him?

Does anyone know what happened to him?

I saved money, but I can’t buy it…

Why hasn’t he been posting…TT TT

– There are rumors that he died.

– What? That person died? How?

– I don’t know you fuckin idiot.

– Why are you cussing you bastard?!

– I heard he’s living in a mountain somewhere.

– Oh, really?

– I don’t know you fucking idiot.

– You’re the same guy as above, huh – -?

– I heard he got recruited to XX attack group.

– I heard something different. I heard that he got recruited to XX guild.

– Is this from a credible source? If he did get recruited, I’m sure the guilds are in a better situation now. The previous buyers must be jelly…

– They’re not idiots to reveal everything. Don’t you think they would increase the price though? Before this, I heard that he sold

the scrolls at an extremely low price;; – I'm not sure about that, but lately, there have been some serious conversations about this.

– What kind of conversations? Who's talking about it?

– It's something I've heard so I'll be erasing it soon. Poof, poof, poof, poof – It seemed like they wouldn't do something like that, but they did?

– What's this? I couldn't read it because it was erased;

The latest post that appeared just happened to be about him, so he was curious and was having fun reading it, but an odd expression appeared on Hyun-Soo's face.

"What's this?"

After reading a couple of fun assumptions, his eyes stopped on a comment that was erased.

'No way…'

When he refreshed, new comments appeared along with the old ones.

Since it was the latest post, people were busy leaving comments.

Title: Which one is true?

Body: The one comment that appeared two comments below this one. The guy that erased the comment they left.

The one about how he got recruited?

What exactly did they talk about?

And how did they know about it?

It's not fair that they erased just that comment T.T

Who recruited the guy that was selling the scroll?

If you're going to say, just say it. You're making everyone curious.

But isn’t the XX guild and the XX attack group rivals?

I need to know how much my scroll is worth so please respond!

– That side doesn’t like it when there are comments like this. I heard they monitor the comments, so it’s best to take down the post.

– I heard they’re just doing that for show. They’re going to fix it.

– Oh, jeez. So do all scrolls cost the same?

– You didn’t know, you fuckin idiot?

– This guy again?

– That’s the first time I’ve heard of it. Aren’t they rivals?

– I’m the user that erased the comment and I’m sorry for requesting this, but can’t you take down the post? TT TT

– It wasn’t anything bad. Are you talking in code because you’re afraid of getting caught or something?

When Hyun-Soo refreshed, that comment disappeared because they erased it.

“I don’t feel good about this…”

One can only obtain a fragment of information through the forum.

‘Everything is an assumption and there isn’t any proof, but maybe it’s because I’ve heard some things. It’s making me feel uneasy.’

It was hard to believe everything that was posted on this website.

Especially those that state that they’ve been involved with the situation, there probably weren’t that many that actually spoke the truth.

There were even people that exaggerated about Hyun-Soo and were writing it as if it was all true.

But for Hyun-Soo, it was entertaining and it was nothing more than a comedic situation.

Other than the rumors that can actually be proven, it's safe to assume that everything else on that website was false.

"Jeez, I got upset for nothing..."

However, he was still feeling uneasy about it.

'Kim Yoo-Na did say that there were people that were doing a background check on me. But, it would be hard for a person to do it by themselves...then the only thing left is a group.'

It was the guild he saw on the forum. And if it were the large attack group that was mentioned, it would fit right into the situation.

'It's better to be safe than sorry. I did get those messages before.'

For those that have a lot, regardless of how much they have, they're very sensitive about others taking advantage of them.

They would gather as much as they can and in order to save the money they have, they'll either fire their employees or cut their pay.

'It's the victims that feel frustrated about it. It's probably best to let Kim Yoo-Na know when I see her.'

Kim Yoo-Na was a strong support to him.

Thanks to her, he didn't have to be anxious all the time and didn't have act timidly about everything.

Anyways, he wasn't in the mood to look through the Hunter Net, so he closed the browser.

This isn't what's important right now.

'Since I have time, I should see which commercial area is the best.'

The options that Katrina provided.

If he could use those and keep his parents safe, they would be the best options.

Whether it's changing identities or having guards 24/7, as long as they're able to live their daily lives freely, that's all that mattered.

Honestly, Hyun-Soo wanted them to rest comfortably now.

They've worked hard all their lives, so it doesn't hurt to get support from their son and rest.

'But, I can't ask them to rest just because it would make me feel better. Anyways, as the son, I need to find a way for my parents to live a more comfortable life.'

<Secrets #3> End.

Chapter 52 - <Counterattack #1>

His main goal was to create a comfortable environment for his parents since they wanted to keep working.

In order to do that, he had to find out,

“The business district.”

Since he was saving money to provide a more luxurious life for his parents, he felt proud and accomplished.

“Okay, I’ll make sure to provide my parents a more luxurious life!”

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“Damn, it’s really cold.”

When he stepped outside, it was really windy.

It felt like the wind contained sharp pieces of ice and it was blowing in all directions.

‘Where should I go first?’

Before stepping out, there were a couple of areas he thought about.

Hyun-Soo headed towards the underground subway to go to one of those locations.

It was located in front of a college in Seoul.

When he walked out, he noticed that there were a lot of students hanging around despite the cold weather.

‘It feels like it’s been a while since I’ve come out.’

Hyun-Soo didn’t really go out much. It’s because he went hunting with Kim Yoo-Na.

‘Well, I did go out since I have to go hunting, but it’s been a while since I’ve been relaxed like this.’

It was difficult for him to be relaxed because he would always run between his part-time jobs.

After he became a hunter, he was desperate to have steady lifestyle, so he didn't have the chance to relax.

Even after meeting Kim Yoo-Na, he couldn't really relax because he was busy hunting in different portals.

Well, he came out here for a reason, so it wasn't like he was able to relax.

In order to check the area, it was best to go there.

The buildings around it and how it's placed.

The population.

How many of the same businesses are in the area.

And despite there being a lot of people, business might be slow.

And so on.

But...

'It's empty.'

It's pretty empty.

It's extremely empty.

He didn't come out to have a good time, but it was really empty.

'Since our situation improved, my thoughts have changed too. This is probably why people are saying that it's best to have a good amount of anything, including money.'

Rather than observing the place, it seemed like he was out for a walk, but Hyun-Soo was somewhat observing the area.

He looked at not only the college, but the buildings around the school.

And then, something caught his attention.

'Huh? This is...'

It was a building he's seen before.

It was a training center that was built just for the hunters.

'It's the place where I sold my first scroll.'

The building looked beautiful and it was located not too far from the school.

'We promised to meet in the city during that time too. And it wasn't that far when we decided to change locations…'

The interior of the building looked pretty luxurious so it was pretty burdening, but it's actually an expensive building.

'I wonder how much a building like this costs. Since it's meant to be used by hunters, I'm sure they make a lot of money.'

Money begets money.

The environment and the location is nice, so it was obvious why they picked this area.

In Hyun-Soo's current situation, it was difficult to purchase a building like this one.

He turned around feeling disappointed and envious, but heard someone call out.

"Oh! Excuse me!"

"…?"

"Excuse me! Kim Hyun-Soo!"

He didn't know he was being called.

He thought they called someone else, but that person called out his name.

He turned around towards the direction where the voice came from and a person that was standing in front of the training center started waving at him.

Once their eyes met, the man that was standing in front of the

entrance approached Hyun-Soo.

“You are Kim Hyun-Soo! I didn’t think I would see you here.”

“I’m sorry, but I think you have the wrong person…”

They approached him and greeted him in a friendly manner, but Hyun-Soo couldn’t think of anyone.

He had a slightly disappointed look on his face, but spoke with a smile.

“I’m Park Jung-Ho, the guy that bought a skill from you. Do you not remember me?”

‘Oh, the C rank hunter that purchased the first scroll from me.’

Once he heard his name and the word scroll, he remembered.

It was the guy that took Hyun-Soo to a training room in order to test the skill and after making himself tired, he checked to see if it worked.

‘He did lead me here, so it’s obvious I would meet him. I feel a bit uncomfortable.’

He rejected his every offer and continuously refused to sell more scrolls to him.

‘He didn’t contact me after that, so I totally forgot about him…’

Fate is a very interesting thing.

To Hyun-Soo, it was uncomfortable seeing him.

However, Jung-Ho kept on talking to Hyun-Soo as if he were glad to see him.

“Did you have something to do in the area? Oh, are you perhaps here to see me…?”

“Huh? Oh, yeah, there was something I needed to do here.”

“I see. I thought you were here to see me so I almost got excited.”

He wasn’t sure why he was being friendly towards Hyun-Soo.

He couldn’t have been satisfied by the fact that Hyun-Soo kept on rejecting his offers, but he didn’t seem to hold any grudge against him.

It’s not like they were close because all they did was meet for business reasons.

But he was acting as if they’ve known each other for 10 years.

“Why haven’t you contacted me? I was disappointed. I was really waiting for your call.”

“Ha ha, it just happened that way.”

He was implying something else.

Hyun-Soo knew Jung-Ho would catch on.

Hyun-Soo’s laughter filled the awkward atmosphere that was between them.

“If you’re here, that means you’ve at least thought about it, right? The skill changed a bit. Oh, let’s go somewhere and talk about it.”

‘No, I was just passing by.’

Jung-Ho wasn’t listening to anything he was saying because he seemed to be misunderstanding what Hyun-Soo said.

Jung-Ho suggested that they go to a café and talk and softly pushed Hyun-Soo’s arm while smiling.

‘Huh?’

But the strength that he used wasn’t so soft at all.

‘Is he trying to show off his strength?’

Park Jung-Ho doesn’t know that Hyun-Soo is currently a C rank hunter.

It seemed like Jung-Ho assumed Hyun-Soo to be an E rank, just like the information that was displayed online.

‘It’s no use.’

Hyun-Soo purposefully used his strength to push Jung-Ho.

When he used his strength, Hyun-Soo stopped moving.

Park Jung-Ho looked surprised when he realized that Hyun-Soo was enduring it.

Complicated thoughts briefly passed through this head.

With that, Jung-Ho apologized to Hyun-Soo.

“I must’ve been in a hurry. I did it without realizing…if I put you in a bad mood, then I’m sorry. But, I really do want to buy you a cup of coffee. If possible, I would like to buy you a nice meal, but you seem pressured by it, so at least let me buy you a cup of coffee.”

He tried to pressure him by using his strength, but since that didn’t work, he suddenly became humble.

Since Jung-Ho was almost begging him, Hyun-Soo didn’t know what to do.

If he refused his offer, then the relationship between them will only suffer, so.

‘There’s already a lot of weird people out there and there’s no reason to make a C rank hunter an enemy.’

On top of that, Hyun-Soo had power.

It’s the same power that allowed him to kill a monster on his own in a green portal.

It was the same power that allowed him to go against Jung-Ho’s power.

No, if he wanted to, he could take him down.

He had enough power and experience.

Anyways, Hyun-Soo decided to take up on his offer and followed Park Jung-Ho.

They walked into a popular café that was nearby.

Park Jung-Ho asked what Hyun-Soo wanted to drink and told him he would order and walked towards the counter.

“Delivery.”

Moments later, two drinks arrived.

Hyun-Soo ordered one of the most expensive menu on the list, which was the Frappucino.

‘I don’t understand why people would pay money for this kind of stuff, but it doesn’t hurt to try in cases like this.’

He purposely ordered an expensive drink.

Since Jung-Ho offered to pay, there was no reason to order a cheap drink.

Park Jung-Ho started talking once Hyun-Soo took a sip of the cold, sweet ice drink.

“It doesn’t seem like you’ve been selling scrolls these days.”

“Yeah, I’ve stopped selling them.”

“Are you having trouble hunting…?”

“No, it’s nothing like that.”

“Now that I think about it, it may be hard for you to obtain the scrolls on your own.”

Park Jung-Ho nodded as if he understood what he had just said.

‘That’s definitely not it.’

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure which part Park Jung-Ho had a misunderstanding about, but he decided to let him keep blabbering on his own.

There was no reason to give him any information.

Park Jung-Ho noticed that Hyun-Soo wasn’t showing any reaction, so he moved on and started talking about the topic he

originally wanted to talk about.

“Like I’ve informed you before, the team that I’m with is a really great team. You obtain and sell the scrolls on your own, but it seems like you’re not getting much. That’s something we can help you with.”

‘I knew it.’

Like he had expected.

It was exactly what he expected from him.

‘I guess he’s trying to see my reaction.’

He was able to subdue him before by using his strength, so he’ll be able to finish it without any issues.

“I currently don’t have any scrolls and I’m not in a hurry to sell scrolls either.”

He did need the money, but he wasn’t planning on selling scrolls anytime soon.

‘Kim Yoo-Na did tell me some things and in many ways, it’s better to refrain myself from selling them.’

But, when Park Jung-Ho heard this, his eyes widened and looked as if Hyun-Soo said something odd.

“How come? If you have useful scrolls like that, you should sell as much as you can so that more hunters can hunt safely.”

He wasn’t wrong.

It felt like Park Jung-Ho was saying he wanted to sell more scrolls to a lot more hunters at a higher price.

“If it’s that difficult, I can offer you this method as well.”

When he noticed Hyun-Soo’s disinterested expression, Park Jung-Ho smile and spoke.

“You can hand over the information about the scrolls.”

‘Does this guy think I’m an idiot?’

This was what Park Jung-Ho wanted to say from the beginning.

I’m envious about the fact that you’re selling the scrolls by yourself and getting all the money, so let’s share.

And what will he gain from it?

‘Nothing.’

He’s saying he’ll go through the process by himself, but it’s useless.

If Hyun-Soo felt that that process was difficult and painful and wanted someone’s help, it would be a different story, but that wasn’t the case.

Park Jung-Ho was basically saying that he wanted to get credit by not doing anything.

“I can give you up to one billion.”

‘He does think I’m an idiot.’

One billion?

It was a large amount to receive at one time.

However, after selling scrolls a couple of times, it was definitely possible to earn that much just from scrolls.

‘It differs whether it’s a one-time payment or a monthly installment, but still. Does this guy really think I’ll fall for it with that amount?’

If it was the Hyun-Soo from before, he would’ve been tempted by that amount and probably would’ve considered handing over the information.

‘I’m sure Kim Yoo-Na would’ve paid a good amount for the D rank recovery skill.’

The D rank recovery skill was a skill that could increase the base recovery rate up to 21%.

On top of that, it increases the healing rate by three percent.

If the hunter valued their life, they would purchase it right away without any hesitation.

‘On top of that, it’s a passive skill.’

Having a healing type skill, despite not being a healer, was a pretty big advantage.

‘And he has the guts to ask one billion for that. He’s a thief.’

“I’m not really interested…but since you offered, I’ll think about it.”

He could have rejected it right away, but Park Jung-Ho might try to talk more about it.

He couldn’t sell the skill anyways, so it’s possible that he might waste his time even more.

‘I thought I could go on a relaxing walk, but I encountered a thief.’

Hyun-Soo tried to end the conversation in order to get out of this meeting.

That’s until a guy suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

<Counterattack #1> End.

Chapter 53 - <Counterattack #2>

“Park Jung-Ho! What are you doing here?”

“Oh, hey.”

‘Huh?’

Someone suddenly approached their table and greeted Park Jung-Ho.

Park Jung-Ho greeted them with a surprised look.

They probably wanted to make it look natural, but in Hyun-Soo’s eyes, it looked like they set this up.

“I thought you were with a girl, but I guess not. Who’s this?”

“Oh…he’s, the guy that I told you about before.”

“The guy? Oh, I’ve heard a lot about you from Jung-Ho. Thanks to you, I got a lot of help last time. While the other attackers were down, Jung-Ho was the last one standing so we were able to complete the hunt. What were you guys talking about?”

The man sat down as if they were friends.

However, he sat next to Hyun-Soo, not Park Jung-Ho.

‘…What’s up with this guy?’

He managed to wrap-up their conversation and was about to get up, but his plan was ruined.

‘Interface!’

Name: Lee Jong-Chan (??)

Rank: B

Class: Knock On

Stamina Level: 99%

Energy Level: 99%

Stamina: 137 Agility: 129 Strength: 145 Critical Hit: 135 ?? ?? ??

??

Skill List

[????][??]

[????][??]

Hyun-Soo checked the man's information.

A B-ranked hunter.

Park Jung-Ho probably called him out.

"I asked Jung-Ho. If he happened to meet you again, to contact me. He tends to be soft-hearted at times. Being a nice person isn't always the best."

"I've already told Park Jung-Ho everything that I wanted to tell him."

"That's your conversation with him. You and I haven't really spoken much, right? Shall we talk?"

He spoke with a smile as if to show that he was a good guy.

However, his eyes weren't smiling, so his smile made Hyun-Soo uncomfortable.

'I should get going.'

Hyun-Soo didn't have a reason to stay here and talk with them more.

No matter what they said, Hyun-Soo was done, so he tried to stand up from his seat.

However, Lee Jong-Chan intercepted him and raised his hand.

"Oh! Over here!"

He called towards a group of people with big build that walked in.

'What the heck is going on?'

He suddenly met Park Jung-Ho and not long after, another hunter joined them. This was something he never expected to happen.

It's only been 10 minutes since he came into the coffee shop with Park Jung-Ho.

He was surprised that he was able to call this many people within that short period of time.

This probably wasn't his first time.

It's possible that he called them while ordering the drinks.

The training center that they used was near here, so it's possible.

That's probably why they were able to come here so quickly.

"Something must be going on. Let's go."

"What's going on? It looks like things are going to get ugly."

The women that were sitting at the table near Hyun-Soo started exiting the shop one by one.

"They're my friends. It's fine if they join us, right?"

Instead of answering, Hyun-Soo looked at Lee Jong-Chan.

There weren't any open seats at this table.

The group stood around them, which intimidated him.

'Ha ha.'

Hyun-Soo laughed in his head.

It seemed like Park Jung-Ho was looking down on him.

He was sure of it.

If Hyun-Soo was still an E rank and was still a carrier that was desperate to go on hunts, this would've been a bad situation for him.

However...

That wasn't the case now.

"It would've been a lot better if you just accepted Jung-Ho's offer. Shall we move to a quieter place and have a more serious conversation?"

"Ha ha, Park Jung-Ho said he wanted to talk at a quiet place so we came here."

"It'll be better to move to a quieter place for the things that we'll be talking about. Okay, let's get going. Anyways, don't think about disobeying. There won't be any trouble if you just follow us quietly."

Despite wearing a thick winter jacket, he definitely felt something on his side.

Lee Jong-Chan closed the gap between them and placed his arm around Hyun-Soo's shoulder.

'Bastard...what is he doing in public?'

He wondered whether it was a relief that he wasn't using a skill.

'Well, he is part of a group, so he's probably not that stupid to cause trouble in public.'

Hunters were only limited to using their skills within the portal and weren't allowed to use them outside of it.

Unless they had permission or a monster popped up at a random location.

If they did, then they would be severely punished for their actions.

For that reason, Lee Jong-Chan discreetly took out a knife.

It was forbidden to use skills and if a hunter used them, the general public will definitely notice it.

How much longer does he have to endure this?

Hyun-Soo questioned it in his head.

After using Interface, he noticed that the group that walked in were D and C ranks.

Lee Jong-Chan was the only one that was a B rank.

'If I can just take care of Lee Jong-Chan, then I'll be able to take down the rest easily.'

Hyun-Soo was able to hunt in a green portal by himself.

Taking down C and D rank hunters wasn't an issue.

But, there was one thing he was worried about.

'I've never fought against a group like this.'

Usually, there's only one monster in portals, so it wasn't an issue.

'It'll be difficult here...so I guess I should follow them out.'

Some of the people around them were scared, which caused them to walk out, but there were still a couple of customers.

Using a skill outside of the portal was illegal.

However, in this situation, he could say it was self-defense.

"Okay, let's head out."

While Lee Jong-Chan's arm was still wrapped around Hyun-Soo's shoulder, he stood up.

A few walked ahead while the rest and Park Jung-Ho walked behind them.

In order to go outside, they had to pass the counter.

As soon as they were about to pass the counter, Hyun-Soo quickly moved his body.

During that moment, he distanced himself from Lee Jong-Chan and the knife that he was holding could be seen.

Lee Jong-Chan quickly moved to his side.

He grabbed Hyun-Soo's shoulder even tighter.

However, it wasn't really painful.

'I managed to get some proof…'

When Hyun-Soo first walked into the shop, he checked the location of all the CCTVs that were installed inside.

Only thing that was left,

'I have to think of a place where I can take these guys down.'

If possible, doing it at a quiet location where there weren't people was the best.

Thankfully, Lee Jong-Chan led Hyun-Soo to a place that was thinking of.

'Here again?'

It was a quiet place with no people and no witnesses.

It was inside of the training center that was nearby.

It was the place that Lee Jong-Chan described.

Hyun-Soo entered a large room, which was probably a training room, and Lee Jong-Chan had a mean smile on his face.

"No one can see inside here, so no matter how much you yell out and ask people to save you, it won't be any use."

Once Lee Jong-Chan realized there weren't any witnesses, he started speaking informally.

The C and D rank hunters formed a semicircle to surround Hyun-Soo and intimidate him.

And Lee Jong-Chan stood in the center of the semicircle.

'They're acting like they're in some sort of gang.'

However, he wasn't feeling scared at all.

It's probably because he was stronger than before.

"What's with that smile? Are you amused by this situation?"

When Hyun-Soo smirked, Lee Jong-Chan yelled out of anger.

“Isn’t it obvious? You said no one can see inside or hear us.”

“Right, so just…”

“So that’s great. It all worked out.”

“…What?”

“I was honestly a bit worried. Hunters aren’t allowed to use their skills outside of portals. But since this is a training room, that rule doesn’t apply. Don’t you agree?”

“What are you blabbing about? Are you hallucinating because you’re scared?”

“I think you guys are the ones that should be scared. I understand that you guys are doing it for the money, but dragging out a citizen and threatening them makes you guys the crazy ones.”

Hyun-Soo’s comment made Lee Jong-Chan’s face turn red.

It looked like he was going to blow up at any moment.

“This loser is just blabbering on and on about something stupid. You’re mistaken if you think I’m going to go easy on you just because Jung-Ho treated you nicely.”

“I already know that. Don’t worry.”

Hyun-Soo cracked his head after hearing Lee Jong-Chan’s ridiculous comment.

Crack, crack.

The sound of his neck cracking filled the training room.

It was obvious that Lee Jong-Chan was furious by the current situation, but it was entertaining in Hyun-Soo’s eyes.

‘Their bark is worse than their bite. They think the opponent will be scared because of it.’

Even though Lee Jong-Chan was a B rank hunter, he wasn’t

nervous at all.

Rather.

‘This is great. You guys are in trouble now.’

That’s what he felt.

He did feel that things could get worse, but it was impossible to step away quietly.

There was only one way to get out of it.

‘It’s to take these guys down!’

A frown appeared on Lee Jong-Chan’s face once he noticed Hyun-Soo’s calm expression. He glanced around for a moment and suddenly ran towards Hyun-Soo.

“Ahhhhhh!”

It seemed like Lee Jong-Chan was using a skill because a faint metal-like spark enveloped his fist for a moment and then disappeared.

Fwoosh!

His fist grazed Hyun-Soo’s nose.

He was really close to being hit by his fist!

Lee Jong-Chan’s face became more red after realizing that Hyun-Soo managed to dodge his fist.

“Is dodging the only thing you’re good at?”

Lee Jong-Chan continued attacking Hyun-Soo with the same fist that had a faint metal-like spark around it.

It was a skill that was used against monsters.

It was powerful enough that with one hit, it can easily break a bone or leave a dent.

However.

‘He’s really slow.’

In Hyun-Soo's eyes, he was extremely slow.

He thought it would be different since he was a B rank, but it was the same as the C rank hunter he fought last time at the weaponry.

No, his leveled increased after that time, so it's possible that Lee Jong-Chan is worse than that C rank.

If that's not the case and this guy was faster than the C rank, it's possible that they're similar because Hyun-Soo leveled up.

"Gah! Stop moving around! You're just dodging because you're scared!"

Lee Jong-Chan yelled out of anger.

Hyun-Soo dodged one step at a time and even had the time to think while dodging.

"I'm not fast, you're just slow, so...ack!"

Fwoosh!

Bam!

Lee Jong-Chan kept on saying how great his skill was and when Hyun-Soo was about to say something, he moved his body.

A flame in the size of a baseball was on the spot that Hyun-Soo was standing in.

"You bastard! I could've gotten hit!"

The sudden fireball that came flying made Lee Jong-Chan scream.

'What a mess. I think this will end faster than I thought.'

They had no teamwork at all.

If the entire group attacked all at once, it definitely wouldn't be easy.

However, since they had no teamwork, his opponent was an easy one.

The others were about to jump into the fight, but after Lee Jong-Chan yelled at them, they took a step back.

Because of that, Lee Jong-Chan screamed at them again due to his anger.

“What are you doing? Are you just going to wait? Attack him!”

The group that was hesitating started using their skills.

But the skills that they used were pretty ridiculous.

‘Are they attacking a scarecrow or something?’

<Counterattack #2> End.

Chapter 54 - <Counterattack #3>

Most of the monsters were big.

That meant that there were a lot of spots that a hunter could attack.

However, compared to a monster, Hyun-Soo was small.

Which meant their target shrunk when compared to their usual opponent.

‘Two of them use fire. One uses water and another is holding a sword…’

Excluding the close-range hunter, the remaining were long-range hunters, but they couldn’t hit Hyun-Soo.

Swoosh!

Fwoosh, fwoosh!

The sound of skills passing by him and landing on the floor filled the training room.

‘If it was me, I would attack with the close-range hunter first and move them to a spot where a long-range hunter is prepared to attack.’

But they couldn’t do that.

He wasn’t sure whether they weren’t doing it or if they weren’t capable of doing it, but as of right now, they probably weren’t capable.

“Why isn’t it hitting him?!”

“Are you sure he’s an E rank?”

“Water Peak!”

“Fwoosh! Fwoosh!

Splash! Splash!

The skills that didn’t hit Hyun-Soo landed on the ground.

“Die!”

Swoosh!

With a shout, he used his fist to attack.

‘I’m telling you, you’re slow.’

While being attacked with a fist, the other hunters aimed the fireballs towards Hyun-Soo’s sides and behind him.

However, Hyun-Soo slightly bent his legs and just lowering himself was enough to dodge them.

Lee Jong-Chan’s fist and the fireballs were flying in the air.

And then.

‘Invisible Attack!’

Since he liked his fist so much, Hyun-Soo attacked with a fist as well.

When Hyun-Soo decided, he used his skill to form a fist. It looked like a fist that was wearing a tough glove.

And a large one at that.

After changing his stance, the fist that he created performed an uppercut.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaam!

A dull sound that seemed like skin was being ripped apart filled the training room.

“Gah!”

With a scream.

Boom!

Lee Jong-Chan’s heavy body hit the training room’s ceiling and a loud sound filled the room once he hit the ground.

‘This is how you use a fist.’

After that attack, Lee Jong-Chan couldn’t get up and continued lying on the floor.

Hyun-Soo created the largest fist he could, so after being hit with that, it’s only obvious he would stay down.

Since he got hit badly by the fist, his jaw was probably broken and it’ll be difficult for him to regain his conscious.

“Wha-sir!”

The hunters called Lee Jong-Chan after being shocked, but Lee Jong-Chan just moaned in pain.

‘I took out one.’

Hyun-Soo looked at the hunters that were standing with a blank expression after being shocked by what just happened.

The hunter’s shoulders started shaking after noticing Hyun-Soo looking at them.

“Damn bastard. This wasn’t supposed to happen!”

One of them started yelling and after gritting their teeth, they started running towards me.

It was the hunter that was wielding a sword.

“Ahhhhh!”

They yelled out some kind of skill name and after taking a couple of odd steps, they approached Hyun-Soo.

Swoosh!

Hyun-Soo heard the sound of the wind cutting.

They were targeting Hyun-Soo’s chest and the sword was attack him at a fast rate.

However, after spinning around once, Hyun-Soo turned his body and ended up in the hunter’s arms.

“Gasp!”

His eyes met with the hunter’s and they gasped.

Hyun-Soo smiled at them and after creating a heavy club, he swung it at them.

Bam!

The white dot that was located between the neck and the shoulder.

He kept on hitting that spot.

Boom!

The close-range hunter’s eyes became white and they fell on their back.

“Ack…!”

Hyun-Soo walked passed the hunter that was groaning in pain and looked at the other hunters.

‘Long-distance hunters are all that’s left.’

Taking down long-distance hunters could be a lot easier.

There was a strange tension between Hyun-Soo and the hunters.

They’ve already witnessed him taking down two hunters with one attack.

They couldn’t believe what they were seeing because they believed Hyun-Soo was the same rank as them.

‘They probably should keep up with their information.’

It meant that they were missing the information of the most important target.

Clack.

“…!”

When Hyun-Soo took a step forward, the hunters flinched and their shoulders moved up and down.

Clack.

“Gasp!”

He moved another step forward.

It felt like the tension between them tightened and it was going to snap at any moment.

A long-distance fire attacker couldn’t endure the tension and broke it.

“Ahhhhhh!”

He wasn’t sure whether he was just yelling or casting a spell, but as yelled, he threw a fireball.

The hunters beside him also used their skill.

Several fireballs and a strong water current flew at him all at once from different directions.

They were glaring at Hyun-Soo as they gathered up all of their strength and used their skills.

Hyun-Soo was now a lot closer to the hunters.

Because of that, it didn’t take a long time for the skills to reach Hyun-Soo, which made things dangerous.

However.

‘Oh!’

Hyun-Soo saw a path.

They were fast, but it was slow enough for Hyun-Soo to dodge them.

Hyun-Soo dodged the skills and jumped off the ground and ran.

He was a lot closer to the long-distance attacker.

“Wh, what the!”

‘It’s just a counterattack.’

Hyun-Soo summoned the same club that he used on the close-range hunter earlier.

‘I should finish this quickly.’

Hyun-Soo was feeling excited about using this skill because he knew that with his power, he would be able to take down a truck full of these guys.

After looking at the clock that was hanging on the wall, he knew that a lot of time had passed.

Hyun-Soo confirmed the white dots that were all over their bodies.

Among them, the largest dot was located below the abdomen, in-between the legs.

‘…I should probably avoid that place for them.’

Even if they were his enemies, he couldn’t make himself attack that spot.

It was too cruel and he felt a shiver at the thought of it.

Hyun-Soo quickly approached the hunter and instead of attacking that spot, he hit their thigh with the club.

Bam!

“Gaah!”

He attacked once this time too.

Even though Hyun-Soo didn’t hit them as hard as the last hunter, they fell to the ground.

The way their leg twisted in an odd angle made him think that their leg was broken.

‘Oh my.’

He wasn’t planning on breaking it, but he did.

Well, he didn’t really feel sorry about breaking his leg anyways.

The remaining two were frightened.

“Damn it…I came because they said he was a nobody, but he’s strong.”

He must’ve felt that it was unfair, because he was mumbling to himself with frustration.

‘I don’t have any personal gru…dge, but it’s unfortunate.’

If he doesn’t attack, they’ll attack him.

Even though the tables were turned right now, they were probably expecting the total opposite.

In that case, he didn’t really feel sorry for them.

Honestly, when a group of people come running at you, who would just stand by and let them attack?

Just enduring it wasn’t the right thing to do.

‘The more I think about it, the more it’s making me angry.’

Hyun-Soo’s fist tightened.

“Water Peak!”

“Fireball!”

When Hyun-Soo took another step, the hunters used their skills.

Their skills flew straight at Hyun-Soo, but he didn’t dodge them.

Instead.

Clank! Claaaaank—

Using the club that he made with the skill, he blocked the skills.

A couple of the skills flew back towards the hunters that used them.

Boom! Baaam!

“Ack! You crazy…!”

After realizing that Hyun-Soo hit them instead of dodging them,

they were surprised and froze up.

During that moment, Hyun-Soo approached them and hit a hunter's back using the club.

Bam!

The sound of the club hitting their back filled the room and the hunter fell to the floor.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I won't do it. If you spare me…ack!"

Since they were the last one standing, they couldn't endure the pressure and ended up kneeling on the floor and asked Hyun-Soo to spare them.

However, Hyun-Soo didn't listen and waved his club.

Bam!

The hunter used his arms to block the attack, but it ended up breaking his arms.

When Hyun-Soo knocked out the last hunter, Lee Jong-Chan, who was on the ground, regained consciousness.

"Ah, what the…damn it!"

Once he saw that all the hunters were lying on the floor, his eyes widened.

And then, he turned his head towards Park Jung-Ho, who was standing in the corner of the room.

Park Jung-Ho didn't participate in the battle and with a confused expression, he glued himself to the wall.

"Park Jung-Ho! What are you doing?!"

"Oh…I…Well…"

"Damn it, you bastard! Attack him!"

'He still hasn't come to his senses.'

Does he not realize what's going on?

As a B rank, Hyun-Soo thought he would at least have the common sense to realize what's happening.

"You, why, why are you approaching me?"

"I wonder why."

When Hyun-Soo was walking towards Lee Jong-Chan, his body flinched and his face was filled with fear.

"You, you, you...you think you'll be okay after what you did to us?!"

"That's what I wanted to say. You think you'll be safe after threatening me like that?"

"That, that's, that's our...!"

"You really don't know how to think. How you do think I obtained the scroll by myself. Huh? You think you're the only one in a clan?"

He wasn't officially part of one yet, but he did get an offer, so he was partially part of a clan.

He was just bluffing since he wasn't entirely lying, but he wasn't entirely telling the truth.

He did whatever he could in order to scare him off.

Guys like him were weak against the strong and stronger against the weak.

If he realized that there was a stronger force behind Hyun-Soo, he'll probably back down.

'And he'll probably tell the higher-ups about it too.'

That's what Hyun-Soo was aiming for.

It was to let him know that he had a strong support behind him so that they won't bother him again like they did today.

That's the reason why he followed Lee Jong-Chan and fought against the hunters.

“Th, then…!”

“Well. There’s no need for you to know more, so let’s just end it here. You realize that by kidnapping me, it’s going to cause a lot of trouble, right? Since I’ve beaten you guys, let’s call it even.”

After saying that, Hyun-Soo grabbed Lee Jong-Chan’s body.

Lee Jong-Chan looked like he had more to say, but Hyun-Soo materialized his skill and attacked the back of his head.

“Ack…!”

Lee Jong-Chan groaned again and passed out.

‘Is this the end?’

Hyun-Soo turned his attention towards Park Jung-Ho, who was still standing next to the farthest wall.

“None of them are going to die. I controlled my strength and made them lose their consciousness, so they’ll wake up in time.”

“…I understand.”

“Oh, also.”

Before walking out the door, Hyun-Soo turned towards Park Jung-Ho and spoke.

“This is a warning. If you put me in another unpleasant situation like today, things will get ugly. If something like this happens again even after I warned you…”

Boom!

“…Gasp!”

Hyun-Soo lightly waved his hand and broke a part of the wall that was near him.

“My friends and I will not just stand by and watch.”

“…I, I understand.”

Park Jung-Ho nodded his head.

If he didn’t warn them, they’ll just end up doing it again.

It’s better to really let them know or show them just how strong and powerful you really are.

Since Hyun-Soo showed them his power, they probably won’t do it again.

“Well, I should prepare some sort of safety device just in case.”

***

After exiting the training center, Hyun-Soo looked at his phone.

Kim Yoo-Na.

After searching for her name, he called her.

It rang a couple of times and then Kim Yoo-Na picked up.

“Kim Yoo-Na, I need your help for something.”

I briefly explained what just happened and Kim Yoo-Na responded.

“I’ll head over to where you are right now.”

<Counterattack #3> End.

Chapter 55 - <Preparations #1>

Kim Yoo-Na arrived quicker than he expected.

Even though Hyun-Soo took the long way home, she was standing in front of his place and waiting for him.

Under the dimly lit street lights, there were a couple of shadows, which surprised Hyun-Soo.

'No way...?'

He was afraid that someone was following him, so he purposely went to different transfer stations since there were usually a lot of people.

He thought they still followed him despite that.

There were other people besides Kim Yoo-Na in front of his house.

He thought she came by herself but there were a group of large men wearing suits.

"I brought back-up just in case. You can trust all of them and they're very skilled. So, don't worry about what happens out here."

Even though he didn't ask for it, she knew of his concern and introduced him to the people around her to calm him down.

She knew exactly what he was worried about.

"Since the situation turned out this way, if it's okay with you, I would like to meet your parents and convince them. There won't be any issues as long as I'm here, but it's better to be safe than sorry."

"Thank you."

"I'm just helping out. Let's go inside."

Hyun-Soo wanted to quickly go inside, so he thanked her quickly

and she nodded her head.

‘…I think I heard something odd.’

However, he was in a hurry to go inside, so he ignored it.

And then.

“You’re home, Hyun-Soo? …Oh my, who’s this young lady?”

Since the issue with the landlord hasn’t been resolved, his mother has been resting at home and she greeted him.

After she greeted him, her eyes widened when she noticed Kim Yoo-Na standing behind him.

“Are you home, Hyun-Soo?”

“Yes, I’m home.”

Today must’ve been his day off because his father was home as well.

“Honey, come here. We have a guest.”

“A guest?”

“Hyun-Soo brought home a young lady.”

“Really?”

His father stopped watching TV after his mother called for him.

He looked at Hyun-Soo and after seeing Kim Yoo-Na behind him, his eyes widened as well.

“Oh my, where are my manners? I didn’t invite you in. Please come inside.”

“Oh, thank you.”

‘It seems like she’s welcoming her more than me.’

Hyun-Soo felt somewhat excluded as he entered the house.

“Where’s Hyuna?”

“She should be home soon. Instead of studying at school, she’s

been listening to lectures online.”

His mother placed a table in the small living room and after asking whether Kim Yoo-Na wanted coffee, she placed a pot of water on the stove.

“She’s very lovely and pretty. Are you his friend?”

While waiting for the water to boil, she started asking Kim Yoo-Na questions.

Hyun-Soo looked at his mother while thinking how Kim Yoo-Na was going to explain to her about the hunter world and how she was going to convince her.

His mother looked at Kim Yoo-Na with a satisfied expression.

‘The atmosphere is weird. Is she misunderstanding the situation?’

That was it.

“Mother, I think there’s a misunder…”

“I apologize for not introducing myself earlier ma’am. My name is Kim Yoo-Na and I’m a hunter that’s been going on hunts with Hyun-Soo. I’ve been getting a lot of help from him.”

She was Kim Yoo-Na.

She wasn’t someone that he could easily get into a relationship with.

His mother was probably thinking that they were in some sort of a romantic relationship.

Hyun-Soo quickly started speaking in order to clear up the misunderstanding, but Kim Yoo-Na spoke first.

“Oh my, you’re a hunter?”

Hyun-Soo’s mother poured the hot water into the cup that was filled with coffee and after mixing it, she handed the cup to Kim Yoo-Na.

“Yes, ma’am. The reason why I decided to visit you is because I would like to recruit Hyun-Soo.”

Kim Yoo-Na sat up straight and after greeting his parents, she gave them her business card.

“Recruit? Hyun-Soo?”

Right when she was about to clear up the misunderstanding that his mother had, Kim Yoo-Na slightly blushed and quickly changed the subject.

When she mentioned that she was a hunter, his mother was shocked.

After greeting her, his father started watching TV again, but after hearing her talk, he turned his attention towards her again.

“Yes, Hyun-Soo has dormant skills and has potential to grow stronger. I’ve never seen a hunter that grew as fast as Hyun-Soo.”

After clearing her throat, she spoke while looking directly at his mother.

“One of the most important characteristics that a hunter should have is willingness. Hyun-Soo definitely has potential to grow, but his willingness is great as well. One can lose their life during the hunt, so having the willingness as well as concentration is important. I’ve been giving Hyun-Soo a lot of points because of that.”

She was complimenting him way too much.

“Is that so? I don’t really know much about the hunter world… there are a lot of rumors about it, but to me, it seems like a dangerous job. If he goes into a bigger place, will he be hunting in a more dangerous area?”

“That’s something you don’t have to worry about ma’am. Being part of a clan, a guild or a group in general is better than hunting alone because they have supports, so it’s safer.”

‘…I’m glad that she likes me, but it’s a bit embarrassing.’

“Is that true, Hyun-Soo?”

Even though Kim Yoo-Na explained it, his mother didn’t know anything about this world, so she was still confused.

When his mother looked at him and asked, Kim Yoo-Na remained quiet and looked down.

He felt embarrassed by her compliments, but when his mother asked, he quickly pushed that thought aside.

“I’m not sure how good the benefits are for employees working in large corporations, but you can think of it as a temporary position.”

“But, isn’t it still dangerous? Like she explained before, if the group is made up of highly skilled hunters, they’ll probably focus on dangerous hunts…”

High risk, high return.

He knew what she was worried about.

But no matter what, he’ll always be in danger.

‘No, being part of an offensive group might be more dangerous. There could be a crazy hunter in there.’

But he couldn’t tell her what happened.

His mother would definitely be shocked.

Kim Yoo-Na noticed Hyun-Soo being hesitant, so he continued her explanation.

His mother listened to her explanation and with a worried expression, she nodded her head.

“I see. I understand thanks to your explanation. So, it’s best for Hyun-Soo to join a large group, like a guild.”

“Yes, that’s right ma’am.”

Kim Yoo-Na politely answered.

“If possible, I would like to recruit Hyun-Soo into the guild that I’m in.”

His mother thought about this for a moment and asked.

“I understand. If that’s what Hyun-Soo wants, I’m not going to go against it. But, why are you telling us…the offer that Hyun-Soo received before was from you, right?”

On the day that he met her team, he mentioned it to his family.

‘As I told them about the offer, I told them about going overseas.’

However, they didn’t react very well to it.

It was unexpected.

‘It’s because I suddenly said we should move overseas.’

“I’m not sure how he explained it you, but…yes. I did make an offer before.”

“I see. Hm…I understand what you’re saying. I’m grateful that you think of Hyun-Soo that way. If Hyun-Soo believes that he needs it, then I have no reason to go against it. But, why do we have to go too…?”

She must’ve thought that it was weird how Kim Yoo-Na visited them and explained everything in detail because her son was old enough to make his own decisions.

“Ma’am, please don’t misunderstand. The reason why Hyun-Soo is having a hard time accepting our offer is because of his family.”

His mother’s expression became dark.

“We’re weighing him down…”

“No, it’s not like that. There are a lot of people that will try to take advantage of skilled hunters. It’s inevitable. Nothing much really happens in most cases, but there are evil people with evil intentions that will do anything to get them out. This happens to

many skilled hunters, including Hyun-Soo. That's why I'm asking you not to misunderstand the situation."

"Is that so?"

"Yes, I believe that it's best if all of Hyun-Soo's family moved together, but I also understand that it's not an easy choice to make. That's why, we have a service where we take care of the family members of those hunters."

"Service?"

"There are different methods, but there's an Identification Protection Program where we create a new identity and completely hide people. If you don't like that method, we can place guards to protect you 24 hours."

"It's a lot to take in..."

His mother placed her hand on her cheek while displaying a confused look.

What Kim Yoo-Na said was what Katrina mentioned before.

'Honestly, I could've mentioned it too, but...if Kim Yoo-Na says it, it sounds more official and I think it'll be more effective when convincing my parents, so it's best to do it this way.'

The person that wanted to recruit him and a representative of the clan on top of that, came all this way to convince them by providing different options.

It was pretty effective.

'Let's do that then."

The place was quiet due to his mother thinking, but his father intercepted.

"Honey?"

"Our son is saying that he can't leave because he's worried about us. Since Hyun-Soo brought her all the way here, I don't think

she’s a bad person and after hearing it, I think it’s good, so let’s do that. We should do whatever we can to help him.”

This wasn’t an easy decision.

In some ways, their entire lives would be changed because of it.

In his parent’s case, after their business failed and they had a big amount of debt, they cut ties with everyone.

When they had their own business, they knew a lot of people.

But after they closed their business, they stopped contacting them.

There wasn’t a need to contact them.

So that’s probably why he agreed without any hesitation.

His mother must’ve agreed with his thoughts because…

“Okay. It’s not like there’s anyone we know anyways. Then our Hyuna…”

“For his sister, I believe studying abroad is the best option and of course we’ll support her.”

“If Hyuna wants it, I’ll take her with me and take care of her. You know that studying abroad looks better on a resume when she gets a job. Since Hyuna is smart and does well in her studies, it’ll be better for her to get a degree overseas.”

“Even if we agreed to your suggestions, talking about Hyuna is pretty unexpected…”

In many ways, they were deciding her future.

It wasn’t easy.

There were realistic difficulties and they had to think about it.

Even they weren’t completely convinced, she calmly and politely waited.

That’s when Hyuna arrived.

<Preparations #1> End.

Chapter 56 - <Preparations #2>

“I’m home-! Oh?”

After noticing Kim Yoo-Na sitting in the living room, Hyuna stood by the door.

“Ha, ha ha ha, is that-! Hyun-Soo’s girlfriend?”

“It’s not like that so come inside.”

“Oh, really?”

Even though Hyun-Soo denied it, Hyuna walked in stiffly and awkwardly.

“I’m going to go change!”

She said it as if she was reading a book and quickly ran inside her room and exited not too long after.

Her face was filled with curiosity.

“Hello, my name is Kim Hyuna.”

“Hello, I’m Kim Yoo-Na. I’m a hunter that’s working with Hyun-Soo.”

“Wow.”

“...Stop making fun of me.”

“Okay. But, why is she here?”

Hyuna asked Hyun-Soo quietly.

However, since the house was so small, there’s no way a hunter like Kim Yoo-Na couldn’t have heard it.

“I’m here to recruit Hyun-Soo into my team.”

“Wow?”

Kim Yoo-Na started explaining it to her calmly since she was shocked by it.

After hearing her explanation, Hyuna's mouth dropped open.

"Heh, it sounds like it's from a movie. But, there isn't going to be a problem, right?"

"There won't be any issues. Our side will continuously take care of the surroundings, including your parents."

"Your father and I think it's a good idea. We'll probably have to close the restaurant and it's not good for your father to continuously work at his current age...we don't want your brother to keep worrying about us."

After hearing his father talk, his mother kept on thinking about it and finally made her decision.

"But, what do you want to do? Wouldn't it be difficult for you to go study overseas now?"

"Hm...I think I'll be fine. I'll be going with Hyun-Soo instead of by myself so it'll be better. If I get a degree overseas for the area that I want to study in, I'll have an advantage when getting a job and I can work on my language skills."

Maybe it's because she was young, but she wasn't afraid about going overseas.

Her eyes sparkled and thought of this as a good opportunity.

It seemed like she was contemplating a bit, but Kim Yoo-Na said, "If it means that we can take Hyun-Soo, this is the least we can do."

After hearing that, Hyuna kept on saying that she wanted to go.

Kim Yoo-Na received confirmation from her and after talking to his mother a bit about hunting, she stood up from her seat.

"Thank you very much for approving. I'll come visit again very soon."

"Please do. Be careful on your way home. Thank you for thinking about us."

Kim Yoo-Na calmly said good-bye and left.

***

“Is this enough?”

Kim Yoo-Na asked after Hyun-Soo walked her to a big street.

“Yes, thanks to you, I think my parents understood better than when I explained it to them. Thank you for helping my family.”

“It’s nothing. If it’s for you, this is the least I can do.”

‘…I think I heard something similar not that long ago.’

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure how to answer her.

Since Kim Yoo-Na had such a calm expression, he wondered whether he was the only one that was having odd delusions.

Because of that, Hyun-Soo decided not to add any meaning to what she said.

“Anyways, thank you.”

“We’re just helping each other out.”

Kim Yoo-Na smiled after saying that.

Even though her lips slightly went up and her eyes were slightly curved, it was definitely a smile.

‘…..’

Hyun-Soo was spacing out after seeing her small smile, but immediately came back to his senses.

“Oh, and the men that came with me today, they’ll leave the day after tomorrow if there aren’t any issues. They’re pretty skilled when it comes to being discreet, so don’t worry about them. If there aren’t any problems after that, a team of two will take turns guarding.”

Kim Yoo-Na explained while pointing around the house.

They must be good at being discreet, because he couldn’t find

them.

“Since your parents approved, I can assume that you’ve made up your mind, right?”

“Yes.”

Hyun-Soo thought a lot about his.

Hyun-Soo became powerful after becoming a hunter, but there were still restrictions.

But Kim Yoo-Na’s offer severed those restrictions and gave him the chance to go higher.

A bigger world.

A better chance.

Those were right in front of him.

Hyun-Soo wanted to see whether his skills will be useful in other countries and if they were, how far he could go with them.

‘I want my skills to be acknowledged.’

It’s a desire that all hunters had.

That desire existed within Hyun-Soo.

He wanted to be higher than most, earn a lot of money through his skills and get to a position where people won’t be able to look down on him.

‘Would anyone decline this?’

Hyun-Soo asked himself.

He couldn’t answer it. But, there was one thing he was sure of.

He wanted to give it a try.

He had the desire to try.

That desire was moving somewhere deep within his heart.

“Great.”

Kim Yoo-Na seemed satisfied by his answer, because another smile appeared on her face.

“There’s a lot that needs to be done. We’ll see each other real soon.”

***

After seeing her off, Hyun-Soo came back home.

His mother was cleaning the table with a slightly upset expression.

“Even if you two leave, we’ll be fine on our own. But, it’s still upsetting.”

After Kim Yoo-Na left, his mother mumbled to herself.

But after regaining her energy, she tapped Hyun-Soo’s shoulder.

“I’m proud of you for becoming a hunter, but I didn’t expect someone from overseas to come all this way to recruit you. I’m very proud of you. I haven’t done anything to you, but you’ve grown up into a fine gentleman.”

“Mother…”

“That young woman was very nice. Now that I think about, she could’ve seduced you and just taken you with her, but it seemed like she was really worried about us.”

It seemed like she really liked Kim Yoo-Na.

Well, there aren’t a lot of people these days that would actually visit someone’s parents and calmly explain every detail until they understand the situation.

“It’s not that we’re not worried, but since she’s offering her help and I’m sure you’ll do well, so we’ll be fine.”

After seeing the current situation, he assumed that they somewhat understood the situation, so he started talking.

“Mother, have you thought about having your own shop? I don’t

want you to try to find a new job after quitting this one. Do it with father."

"Hm? What are you talking about?"

"It's something I've thought about for quite some time. It's time that you guys work comfortably. Since your son is a hunter, you should use that to your advantage."

"No, it's fine. Don't do that. It won't happen in one day. Look at the restaurant that I worked at. I'm having problems with the landlord because of it."

"Don't worry about that. I want to buy you a building instead of borrowing a store. I'm looking at places that are located in a nice area. If it's difficult to open a restaurant, you can make a living by collecting rent."

"No, I know you don't have that much money...even if you do, you should use that for yourself."

His mother waved her hands.

This was her. Since she was busy taking care of her kids all the time, she never took the time to take care of herself.

Tears started filling his eyes, but he tried to hold it in and continued talking.

"It'll be beneficial to have a building. People prepare their retirement through this method, so people buy a building when they have enough money. Opening a restaurant in that building won't be an issue."

"But, this is so sudden..."

She spoke as if she was in a difficult situation, but her expression brightened.

His mother was feeling down at the thought of Hyun-Soo and Hyuna moving overseas, but her facial expression changed.

"Take your time in thinking about what you want to do. If

there's a specific area or building that you like, please let me know."

"Okay. I didn't think the day would come where I would be thinking about something like this. It's all thanks to my son."

His mother looked at Hyun-Soo proudly and had a bright smile on her face.

"But, Hyun-Soo. Who was that woman just now? She's really not your girlfriend?"

Hyuna was in her room and she quietly butted into the conversation.

She had a big smile on her face and it looked like she wanted to make some jokes.

"She's not my girlfriend."

"But when she called you by your name, my heart started pounding."

"Jeez, it's not like that. If you keep making fun of me like that, I'll really tickle you."

"You're really not interested? If I was a guy, I would keep looking at her and then I might start liking her and then my body..."

"Hey! Watch what you're saying!"

When Hyuna started making odd comments, his mother slapped Hyuna's back.

"Ouch! Mom, that hurts-! Don't you like her too? I feel like the roles have been switched, but it felt like she was here to get your approval for marriage."

His mother mumbled as if she was agreeing to what Hyuna said.

"Having a tough daughter-in-law is fine with me. Since the world is a dangerous place, being tough can be helpful."

"...Mother, please stop."

Hyun-Soo gave up once his mother sided with Hyuna and started making fun of him.

Kim Yoo-Na was definitely strong.

...But a bit too strong.

She killed a monster with her bare hands.

However, just from her outer appearance, Kim Yoo-Na didn't look like a close-range attacker.

"Hyun-Soo, give it a try. She looks like a pretty nice person. Okay?"

"Not okay. I don't know."

'I know I'll give it a try. But, it's different from what mother and Hyuna are thinking about.'

Business partner. Or teammates.

That was his relationship with Kim Yoo-Na.

Hyuna was right though.

Her opinion of her was that Kim Yoo-Na was nice and a good person.

'Thanks to Kim Yoo-Na, my parents were able to understand. Even though it's an issue they feel uncomfortable about, they probably trusted Kim Yoo-Na enough to believe what she said.'

It would be a lie if he said he didn't want to go.

But, there was an issue.

He was worried about his family's safety.

It couldn't be helped.

If something happened, he wouldn't be able to resolve it in time.

'Now I can relax a bit.'

Anyways, his family now understood and thanks to Katrina's suggestion, his family was now safe.

Now, it was all up to him.

Since the biggest issue was resolved, he was now able to focus on other things.

Hyuna and his mother continued making fun of Hyun-Soo and his father was busy watching the TV.

This was how his family usually spent their time together.

'It's great...'

Hyun-Soo liked his peace.

***

"Hyun-Soo, please come to this location."

A few days later.

Kim Yoo-Na contacted him.

It's been a while.

'No, I'm sure it's just me that feels that way.'

During the time they weren't talking, Hyun-Soo did a lot He continued searching for a building for his parents.

'I was honestly worried a bit at first.'

Maybe it's because he purposely didn't go to the area where he met those guys. He didn't run into any issues.

He was afraid that they might follow him home and bother him, so he always had his guard up.

'Thankfully, there weren't any issues. But I should still keep my guard up though...'

He didn't hear anything from the people that Kim Yoo-Na brought along and Hyun-Soo didn't see anyone odd or suspicious.

However, he was still worried so he helped his parents when they went to work and when they came home from work. He also helped Hyuna when she went to school.

During this, one of Kim Yoo-Na's people called Hyun-Soo and suggested that they stick with his family since they could be in danger if he stayed by their side.

Thanks to that, Hyun-Soo had a lot of time so he continued searching for the right building.

<Preparations #2> End.

Chapter 57 - <Preparations #3>

It was obvious that they were following Kim Yoo-Na's orders.

Because of that, he had to make sure that his family was safe before leaving.

Kim Yoo-Na said that she would help, but Hyun-Soo knew that his parents wouldn't just accept the offer, so there was a need for him to convince them.

'I need to show them how beneficial it is to have a son that's a hunter. I want to pay them back as much as I can since they've gone through a lot.'

He thought of this while walking to the location he promised to meet her and saw Kim Yoo-Na.

She was with her sports car, which he was used to now.

However, there was something else.

"Katrina?"

"Yeap, that's me!"

"...I'm sorry. I tried to leave her behind, but I couldn't."

Kim Yoo-Na apologized with an extremely exhausted tone.

"I'm not sure how she found out about my schedule...Hye-Na probably told her. Whew, I'm sorry."

Her facial expression showed that she was exhausted.

It was unbearable, but since she tagged along to a couple of hunts, Hyun-Soo just let it pass.

Katrina was like a little sister that was reckless.

Since Kim Yoo-Na was weak against younger siblings, she wasn't able to saying anything harsh to her.

It applied to Hyun-Soo as well.

“.....”

“.....”

The two looked at each other and after releasing a heavy sigh, they entered the car.

Since Kim Yoo-Na’s car only had two seats, Katrina followed by driving a huge sedan.

Kim Yoo-Na spoke while driving.

“Regarding your parents, I think it’s going to take some time. But, it won’t take too long. I’m planning on having people guard the place until then. Is that okay with you?”

“Yes, that’s fine with me.”

Hyun-Soo nodded his head when she suggested that they continue using the discrete hunters to keep guarding the place.

‘They’re guards that work for 24 hours.’

“The group that attacked you are attack groups that are pretty powerful within the nation. What I found out was that they’re having internal issues. They’re trying to make it so that it seems like an individual planned this instead of a leader giving the order.”

“Then, will there be any additional issues?”

“I’m not so sure about that. It’s not just that, but their powers have been split into three. There are rumors that the leaders are step-brothers and they all have different goals. I think the youngest, who’s known to be aggressive, attacked you that day.”

“I see.”

‘It somehow reminds me of a wealthy family.’

They usually appear in dramas or news and fight over power and money and the brothers reminded him of them.

‘I’m not wrong either. Hunters that are above S rank are

considered a one-man company.'

Even if they're not a S rank, groups and guilds that have high-ranked hunters can be compared to companies.

There are those that move after receiving confirmation from the business community and after growing, there are those that become a worldwide company.

'It's not weird for them to have internal issues. But, I feel uncomfortable by the fact that I was involved with one of them.'

"We've contacted the chief executive. It's going to take a while to find out what they're up to. Since they've split up, I think they're acting on their own."

But the hunters that were guarding his family were skilled, so he wasn't worried and he's never been at a disadvantage for accepting Kim Yoo-Na's suggestion.

"But, where are we going?"

He came out since she asked, but she never mentioned where they were going.

Kim Yoo-Na answered without much thought.

"Hunting of course."

***

Roaaaaaaaaaaar!

Boom!

A deer with a large body fell.

The deer cried for the last time.

The sound of their cry filled the entire portal.

"Pant, pant..."

My chest kept on going up and down as I was catching my breath.

My mouth has been dry for a while.

‘I’m…going to die…’

He finished the hunt in the third portal that he entered today.

A hunt that two hunters usually participated in.

And Hyun-Soo did three of those today.

‘It’s been awhile since I’ve done the first one and it looked like the monster was going to drop a lot of money so I attacked it like crazy…’

He was doing fine in the second hunt.

But when Kim Yoo-Na suggested that he do a third one, he felt dizzy.

No groups or guilds would participate in three hunts in one day.

‘It’s better than staying home and doing nothing, but doing three all of a sudden.’

When the two first started working together and they did three hunts, Kim Yoo-Na saw how exhausted Hyun-Soo was and after that, she tried to control the number of hunts.

But, she’s suddenly suggesting that he participate in three hunts today.

“Are you exhausted?”

“N, no. I’m fine.”

He was actually so exhausted that he wanted to die, but Hyun-Soo stood up as if he was feeling fine.

However, he couldn’t help his shoulders dropping and his legs dragging.

Hyun-Soo used Interface to check his condition.

‘Stamina level is 23%…no wonder. Man I’m tired. But, I did make a lot of money today.’

He was tired, but after thinking about the money that was going

to be in his bank, he felt a bit better.

Kim Yoo-Na complimented Hyun-Soo and approached the dead monster.

“The antlers are supposedly good for the body.”

“.....”

He thought he got used to everything related to hunting, but he still wasn’t used to Kim Yoo-Na’s sudden actions.

‘Even if she does look as gentle as a deer, but saying that it’s good for the body with a bright smile is a bit...’

Now that he thought about it, he was so focused on killing the monster, that he kept on forgetting to use Interface.

He did control himself from grabbing the items after Katrina started tagging along.

‘I should check now. Interface!’

Hyun-Soo used interface on the antler that Kim Yoo-Na was cutting with a knife.

[Khalifa’s Antler]

A soft antler that hasn’t been growing for that long.

It continuously provides a high level of heat and has the tendency to change its form.

Effect: Upon intake + Stamina 20 [Duration: 2 Hours]

Hyun-Soo slightly turned his head and looked elsewhere.

His eyes landed on a large tree that was big enough for five arms to wrap around it. The way it was lying on the floor was hideous.

‘...It can make it look like that even though it’s soft? Then what kind of monster is Khalifa’s Antler in the high-ranked portals?’

Just thinking about it made him shudder and Hyun-Soo

approached Kim Yoo-Na.

“Do you know what kind of effect this has?”

“No, but doesn’t it look like it’s effective just by looking at it? It’s an antler. I’m just taking some with me just in case.”

‘You’re probably the only person that cuts the antler with a bright expression while calling the monster’s horn antler.’

Instead of saying what was on his mind, he suggested on cutting more.

“If you’re going to take it, might as well take all of it.”

“.....!”

Kim Yoo-Na’s head shot up.

She thought for a moment and moved the knife to the root of the antler.

“Would you...like to take some too?”

“I won’t decline if you offer some.”

Kim Yoo-Na was cutting it first, so he couldn’t intercept, but she offered some to him.

He was grateful of course.

‘I could’ve missed it. I should try making something with it.’

It increases the stamina and it was rare to find an ingredient that upgrades it.

But, thanks to Kim Yoo-Na cutting it first, he was able to obtain the ingredient without Katrina being suspicious of him.

Katrina probably observed Kim Yoo-Na while working together because she kneeled beside her and watched.

‘Thankfully, this will help pay for the bodyguards.’

Kim Yoo-Na didn’t ask him to pay or ask for anything in return, but he still had to pay them back.

If possible, maintaining the give-and-take relationship is important.

He wasn't comfortable with being indebted, so if he kept on receiving, then he'll be at a disadvantage.

And.

'I'm tired of debt.'

His thoughts must've shown on his face because Katrina looked at him worriedly and after slightly smiling at him, she focused on Kim Yoo-Na cutting the antler.

Cutting the antler took more time than the actual battle.

After Hyun-Soo kept on using his skill, they were able to completely cut off the antler.

"******drink!"

"...Oh. Okay. Thanks."

As soon as she exited the portal, Katrina took out a water bottle and gave it to him.

"**********"

Katrina squatted down in front of Hyun-Soo, who was drinking the water, and said something.

"She said she wants you to grow stronger as soon as possible."

Kim Yoo-Na quickly tied the antler on the roof of her car and translated what Katrina said.

"That I agree with. That's why I increased the number of hunts."

"If I'm able to level up quickly, then it's fine with me. But, that's not as easy as I thought."

After he became a C rank, he didn't get much experience points when he hunted in a green portal by himself.

"You're right. Technically, if you hunted by yourself in a blue

portal, then you'll level up much quicker…"

"But, I'm not that skilled yet. And in our current situation, creating a large group isn't a good idea."

Because of this reason, most of the C rank hunters remain at this rank.

From here, they needed connections, power and money.

However, that didn't mean that Hyun-Soo was leveling up at a slow pace.

No, it was actually pretty fast.

Despite that, there was a reason why Kim Yoo-Na was being hard on him.

"The place that you'll be going is a team that requires strong and elite hunters. That's why the team color is important since they base it on everyone's skills."

Hyun-Soo listened to Kim Yoo-Na while holding the water bottle.

"If you do get to go to the base, then it'll be difficult for me to help you like before. It's all up to you when it comes to adapting. If I were to step in and protect you, then they'll definitely say that I'm favoring you and it'll make it harder for you to adapte. Do you understand?"

"Yes, I understand."

It's obvious that people's expectations would be high since they're surrounded by skilled hunters.

Hyun-Soo's trip to the US was almost confirmed and Kim Yoo-Na explained the next step.

'I guess she's worried that I might not adapt well when I get there.'

Well, her teammates from before were all A rank hunters.

So it's obvious that the other teammates in the US were just as

strong as them.

‘A C rank among the A rank hunters…’

<Preparations #3> End.

Chapter 58 - <NEW WORLD #1>

One that stands out in the crowd.

No, this would be considered as being the odd one in the group.

The way they ignored and didn't bother because they disliked someone was a way to take advantage of a newcomer.

'It's a world that hasn't treated me nicely anyways.'

It was a lot better now, but the life he had before was so gloomy that he couldn't see the future.

Because of that, he wasn't expecting them to accept him with open arms.

That was actually weirder for him.

"Katrina and Eugene want to scout you because they recognize your potential, but they really focus on one's skills when recruiting them into the crew."

Katrina was squatting down between Hyun-Soo and Kim Yoo-Na and when she heard her name, she tilted her head.

Kim Yoo-Na looked like she wasn't sure how to express herself, so she carefully chose her words and spoke slowly.

"The crews at the base are all skilled and nice people, but they have high self-esteem and pride, so they probably won't acknowledge you right away since your rank is low."

"Well, I wasn't really expecting them to accept me with open arms from the start."

Other than those that got lucky right after awakening to their powers, most of them obtained experience points, increased their rank and improved their skills.

'I can always raise my rank by doing hunts, but it's a way for them to find out about the other person.'

Excluding those in special situations, one's level shows the time and effort they put into increasing their rank and they're also able to assume the experiences they've gained.

'There's a possibility that they'll take advantage if they're overflowing with pride and self-esteem.'

That's when he realized why Kim Yoo-Na scheduled three hunts within one day.

Hyun-Soo didn't have much time and he had a lot to do.

The place that he'll be visiting from now on was a den that was filled with monsters. Kim Yoo-Na was trying to narrow the gap.

He was extremely exhausted, but it wasn't so bad for Hyun-Soo.

No, he would welcome it.

'I'm a guy and I can't hide behind a girl forever.'

And even though they had a business relationship, he was aware that he was really indebted to her.

A human should repay their debts.

And he had to get stronger in order to pay her back.

And he wanted to get stronger anyways.

He should be jumping for joy in situations like this.

"Okay, Hyun-Soo. You're done resting up, right? Let's go somewhere else. If we want to visit all of them, we need to shorten our resting time. No, even if you haven't recovered, shout loudly and recover."

"Okay..."

This was something he should be happy about.

Maybe...

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"It's delicious. It's like jelly."

“Don’t forget to eat it three times a day, okay?”

“Okay.”

Kim Hye-Na nodded her small head after hearing Hyun-Soo’s suggestion.

Kim Yoo-Na watched them with a pleased look.

There were times when Kim Yoo-Na would ask Hyun-Soo several times to visit Hye-Na.

From the looks of it, it seems like Hye-Na asked Kim Yoo-Na.

‘I was a bit surprised at first, but it reminded me of Hyuna when she was younger, so…’

And the way she kept on saying what he made was delicious and chewed it was cute.

“How did you make this?”

“Um…I made it with yummy ingredients. Is it not good?”

“No! It’s good, but the doctor told me to ask.”

“Tell him that it’s a secret.”

‘How dare they try to steal my idea.’

Hyun-Soo glanced over at the large container that contained medicinal herbs.

‘I should tell them to focus on storing this. The doctor might ask if they can study it. Anyways, even I think I’ve made a good one this one.’

Hyun-Soo used Interface.

[Low Rank Invigorating Rice Cake][Rare]

A low rank pound cake that’s been made with several medicinal herbs.

A good amount of a rare medicinal herb that increases one’s

stamina has been added.

Upon intake, the stamina will be increased instantly and will be maintained during the set time.

The squishy texture is what makes it special.

Effect: +Stamina 23 [Duration: 2 Hours]

Khalifa's antler added 20 points to stamina, but the rice provided 23, which was three points more.

'On top of that, it's rare. I made this and increased my experience as well.'

The skill increased, he gained a small amount of experience points and the activation level of Interface increased by a tiny bit.

Despite the fact that only 30% has been activated for Interface, it showed a good amount of information.

He couldn't imagine just how much it'll show once it reached the maximum percentage.

'Is this the power of a SS rank?'

However, leveling up was more important.

Interface was a skill he could reveal or not reveal, depending on how he felt about it.

That's why, his rank was the only indicator that can be seen objectively.

Hyun-Soo told Kim Hye-Na to eat it without getting caught by the doctor and walked out.

Kim Yoo-Na ordered the caregiver to make sure no one knows about this medicine.

"I'm always thankful, Hyun-Soo. I don't think I'll need to worry about Hye-Na for the time being. I was actually pretty worried because I'll be traveling around a lot...thank you."

“No, I should be the one thanking you. You said everything has been prepared already.”

“Yes, everything has been pretty much prepared, so you just have to let us know when.”

They’ve participated in several hunts within the past couple of days.

Kim Yoo-Na didn’t say much when she mentioned that it was going to take some time to provide protection for his parents.

But yesterday, she contacted him to say that it was ready.

Kim Hye-Na happened to have mentioned that she wanted to see Hyun-Soo, so he gave her a rice cake that he made.

Hyun-Soo wanted Kim Yoo-Na to give it to her, but Kim Yoo-Na suggested that Hyun-Soo give it to Hye-Na.

“When will be the best for you?”

“When is a good time for you, Yoo-Na?”

“Since it’s already been decided, it’s best to do it as soon as possible.”

She was right. Hyun-Soo agreed.

He was close to opening a store for his mother.

Going out and finding a place by himself was impossible since Kim Yoo-Na tagged along whenever they went hunting.

‘I do have a couple of days to rest after the hunt…’

Those couple of days pass by really quickly when he’s resting and recovering.

That’s why Hyun-Soo hired someone.

He was having a hard time finding a decent place by himself, but the person that he hired gave him a decent list not long after he hired them.

‘Money is definitely the best.’

This is how you get your money’s worth.

His work didn’t go to waste.

He’s able to compare the information that the person brought and after him going there himself to check.

Hyun-Soo chose one of those buildings.

There’s a long process after that.

Thanks to him participating in many hunts, he was able to match the minimum price.

‘Not like I was aiming to purchase one of those big buildings anyways.’

His parents needed a solution where they won’t have issues with the landlord.

It was pretty old and the building was located in the center of the main street, so Hyun-Soo was pretty satisfied with it.

He felt proud of the fact that he successfully obtained a large property.

It was also good because the agent told him that the ownership process will be completed within a couple of days.

“I’ve been wrapping things up on my end as well. As soon as I confirm that my parents have adapted well into their new shop, I think we’ll be good to go.”

“Oh, while we’re talking about your parents. I’ve thought about it and I think it would be better if they had another name. It’s better to do as much as we can to keep them safe. If they use a name from our side, they won’t be able to attack them so easily.”

Kim Yoo-Na added that she was planning on getting the documents notarized just in case they run into an issue.

She mentioned that Hyun-Soo’s parents would need it and that

she would send a lawyer that will provide legal advice.

“I understand.”

What she said made his other worries disappear completely.

Hyun-Soo nodded his head.

The day he’ll head to a bigger world.

That day was quickly approaching.

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Hyun-Soo has been pretty busy.

His family was just as busy as him.

It’s because their place was being completely changed.

First, Hyun-Soo talked to his parents regarding the building on the day they’re supposed to sign the contract.

“Huh? What are you talking about? You bought what?”

“A building.”

“You bought a building? You were serious about what you said before?”

“Of course, mother. Why would I lie about something like that?!”

I mentioned it to her before, but she must’ve not thought much about it because once he mentioned the contract, his mother was pretty surprised.

His father joined later and after hearing what Hyun-Soo said, he remained quiet.

His father looked at him with a serious look and his eyes displayed more emotions than his words.

“Didn’t you say there was something you wanted to do before, mother? Use that and open a store and work with father by hiring people. You can take it easy now.”

“Hyun-Soo…”

“Please accept it. You deserve it. And if I don’t do this at least, I’ll be worried and won’t be able to travel overseas. Once I leave, we won’t be able to see each other much. So, think of this as your son treating you for working hard and accept it.”

“I feel bad for always accepting things. You’ve paid back our debt and now a building...we don’t deserve it. We haven’t done anything for you...”

Even though his parents were embarrassed by it, Hyun-Soo shook his head.

“No, you’ve raised me to become the person that I am today. You’ve raised me well, so you should be treated well.”

His parents grabbed his hand and they felt bad and grateful at the same time.

Due to his job, his hands became rough and dry and his parents were able to really feel it.

And then.

Time had passed and after fixing all the internal issues, they were waiting for the day to open their shop.

His parents quit the previous jobs that they had and worked hard on the new shop.

Hyun-Soo was worried that maybe they’ll be even more exhausted because of this, so he told them to hire some employees.

“Don’t worry. The owners of the shop need to do all of that.”

His mother told him that it was important for her to do things herself and despite the fact that the store wasn’t open, she went to the store every day.

“Wow, your shop is seriously amazing!”

They’ll be opening the shop tomorrow.

Hyuna did follow her around, but never saw it till after it was

finished, so when she did, her mouth opened wide as she looked around.

“You’ve done well.”

“It’s nothing...oh, how silly of me. I’m starting to cry all of a sudden.”

When Hyun-Soo congratulated her for her work, his mother smiled brightly.

But something caused her to tear up, so she wiped her eyes with a handkerchief.

“Don’t worry about us. There’s nothing you’ll have to worry about.”

His father stood next to her and quietly spoke to Hyun-Soo.

“Mom, I really hope it becomes a success! Maybe you’ll appear on TV!”

Hyuna was so excited that she started jumping around the store.

“Yeah, don’t worry about us. We’ll be fine. It’s at a good location and the condition is great, so there’s no reason for it to fail. Right? I’m more worried about you two.”

“You guys do well over there. Listen to your brother, okay Hyuna?”

“Dad, you’ve said that 100 times already!”

While his parents were finishing up the shop, Hyuna was also wrapping things up at her school.

On the day she submitted her intent to leave notice.

Hyuna told Hyun-Soo that she was worried.

“I’ll do fine, right? I’ve been learning conversations in English at the academy, but it’s really hard. That’s why I’m worried.”

Despite the fact that she did well in her studies and was always on top of things, she had a serious look on her face.

Thanks to that, Hyun-Soo was able to laugh out loud, which he hasn't done in a while.

"Even I'm able to do it, so you'll be fine. We can help each other out. We need to come back home after succeeding, Kim Hyuna."

The next day. They successfully opened the store.

His mother cried again, but she smiled throughout the day.

Several congratulatory wreaths arrived at the store.

Kim Yoo-Na's name and her crew's name were written on it.

Hyun-Soo planned on staying for a week, but he extended his stay to watch his parent's store.

Thankfully, the store was doing well and there weren't any other issues.

He also made sure that the security that Kim Yoo-Na promised worked well.

Hyun-Soo was now able to relax.

'It's all done. I'm having mixed emotions.'

His parent's shop was the last thing he needed to wrap up before leaving.

Couple of days later. Hyun-Soo and Hyuna entered the plane.

Their destination was the US.

It was a larger and new world.

<NEW WORLD #1> End.

Chapter 59 - <NEW WORLD #2>

First time riding a plane.

First time going overseas.

Everything was a first.

If Kim Yoo-Na didn't come along, they could've been like lost children.

However, Kim Yoo-Na guided Hyun-Soo and Hyuna with ease.

'When I came to, I was inside a car.'

It seemed like we went to different places to get inspected and passed through different places, but everything seemed like a dream that he couldn't really remember.

"Wow...this is really interesting. Are you seeing this, Hyun-Soo?"

Hyuna glued herself to the window and looked at the scenery that passed by.

Hyun-Soo reacted the same way and Kim Yoo-Na, who was sitting in the front, giggled quietly.

Of course Hyun-Soo and Hyuna didn't hear it because they were too busy sightseeing.

They were in the car for a while and after going through the entrance that had iron bars attached to it, the car moved for a while longer.

And moments later, the car stopped.

Kim Yoo-Na turned around and spoke.

"We're here. You can leave your bags and exit the car."

"Wooooooow."

Hyuna stepped out first and exclaimed with her mouth open.

'This place...makes some wealthy people look bad.'

Hyun-Soo followed Hyuna and understood why she was so amazed by it.

A large building was built on top of a large amount of land.

The size was intimidating.

The external design was classy and the beautiful trees around it made it look luxurious.

The best part was the building that was located in the center.

“The building that you see in front of you is our base.”

It was so large that it was difficult to describe it with words.

‘This is…’

Hyun-Soo wanted to pat himself on the head for the choice that he made.

‘Contacting Kim Yoo-Na that day was the best decision. Good job, past me.’

Hyun-Soo didn’t know how privileged or how great her background was.

She didn’t really try to hide it, but he didn’t purposely ask her.

He did make an offer based on her power and skills, but he didn’t expect anything more than that.

But she offered more than what he expected.

But at the same time, he felt burdened.

‘To think that I would join a team that works in a building like this. Things definitely have worked out for me. It does feel like I joined through a connection though…’

“Yoo-Na, what’s that building over there?”

Hyuna met with Kim Yoo-Na several times while she was preparing to move overseas.

They must’ve become closer then because she was treating Kim

Yoo-Na like an older sister.

‘It’s like she got an older sister.’

Anyways, Hyun-Soo felt relieved by the fact that Hyuna was able to depend on another person.

“That’s the dorm that the crew resides in. Not everyone lives there, but we built it because some said that it was uncomfortable to go back and forth. You and Hyun-Soo will be staying there for the time being. The facilities have been built well, so you shouldn’t feel uncomfortable about staying there.”

Despite the fact that Hyuna was continuously throwing questions at her, Kim Yoo-Na answered each one with detail and without any annoyance.

Hyuna was busy looking around and exclaiming at everything.

“Let’s go in. I want you to rest since I know you’re exhausted from the long flight, but according to Katrina, most of the members are gathered. It’s rare for them to gather together like this, so it would be best to meet them even if you’re a bit tired.”

If there was nothing planned, they would either rest or train so they were usually in different places.

Hyun-Soo felt a bit nervous as he followed behind Kim Yoo-Na.

‘I don’t know why, but I’m really thirsty.’

Kim Yoo-Na mentioned that they were skilled, so their self-esteem was pretty high too.

He’ll be meeting those people soon.

‘I probably won’t get a good reaction.’

They most likely won’t welcome him and think he came due to some sort of connection.

‘That’s why Kim Yoo-Na trained me so hard.’

Unfortunately, he wasn’t able to level up to a B rank.

The more monsters that he killed and the closer he got to leveling up, the less experience points he was getting.

“Whew…”

Kim Yoo-Na heard Hyun-Soo releasing a heavy sigh and turned around.

“Are you really nervous?”

“Well, of course.”

“If it’s you, I’m sure there won’t be a problem. If you are worried, then trust my decision in picking you.”

Kim Yoo-Na lightened the mood, which wasn’t like her.

She was trying to help him calm down and thanks to her efforts, Hyun-Soo calmed himself a bit.

Beep.

Kim Yoo-Na placed the bracelet on the entrance control system and with a short mechanical sound, the door opened.

And then.

‘…Wow.’

It was as large as a meeting room and there was a large table.

In the room, there were over 10 people and some were sitting, leaning and standing.

Without having to use his Interface, he knew they were A rank hunters.

They were all glaring.

“Yoo-Na, welcome.”

He heard Korean among the Americans.

Eugene was near the wall and as he waved his hand, the heavy atmosphere lightened up.

“Everyone isn’t here, right?”

“David said he’s going to go surfing today and Ishmael is sleeping in. Brad is playing video games. The others weren’t here when I got here, so I don’t know.”

“Then, we should introduce him to the ones that are here. Hyun-Soo, this is my crew. I’ll go in order…”

Kim Yoo-Na introduced everyone’s name one by one.

When she called their names, there were some that lightly waved their hand and there were others that ignored it and didn’t even look his way.

‘I knew it. Well, I was expecting it.”

Even Hyun-Soo thought this was a pretty unwelcoming situation.

‘They might think that their class dropped and become aggressive about it.’

They might assume that it’ll affect them negatively when it comes to the group’s strength since he was part of the crew.

‘Still, I’ll make them acknowledge me.’

Kim Yoo-Na, who’s an A rank hunter, acknowledged him.

A couple of her teammates saw his skills and acknowledged him as well.

He had to do the same here.

“Hyun-Soo, greet everyone.”

“My name is Kim Hyun-Soo. I have decided to join the crew. I’m still lacking a lot, but I’ll make sure to fill up what I’m lacking so that it’ll be overflowing. Nice to meet you and I’ll be in your care.”

Kim Yoo-Na translated what Hyun-Soo said.

‘If their eyes could physically pressure me, I’m sure there would’ve been holes in me.’

Hyun-Soo’s greeting felt like he was saying, “come at me.”

‘I can’t expect my first attempt to be perfect.’

He hasn’t shown anything yet.

Eugene and Katrina, who returned before Hyun-Soo, explained everything, but since they were so prideful, they tend to judge by their own standards rather than believing someone else.

This was the same situation.

On top of that, the fact that Kim Yoo-Na scouted him herself created enemies.

That alone was enough to realize that she only returned because of Hyun-Soo.

An amazing leadership. She was beautiful with a background and she brought a hunter herself.

She had all the conditions to make anyone jealous.

‘I should probably be careful at night.’

Kim Yoo-Na introduced Hyuna as well.

Since Hyuna wasn’t a hunter, their reaction towards her wasn’t all that bad.

They lightly nodded their heads and waved their hands, which was different from how they treated Hyun-Soo.

Once her teammates assumed that they were done here, they walked out like the wind.

‘This is probably the start.’

They didn’t give him the chance to talk or get to know them.

This was the start of them taking advantage of him.

He wasn’t qualified since he joined through Kim Yoo-Na, but he had to show them that he didn’t forcefully join.

This will continue until he proves his worth and skill.

“Wow, Hyun-Soo. Everyone is cold…”

Excluding the hunters that already knew Hyun-Soo, Hyuna noticed them walking out and whispered.

It was expected.

Because Hyun-Soo didn't show anything.

Most of the crew members will continue acting this way until Hyun-Soo shows that he's on the same level as them.

"During the second semester at school, if a transfer student shows up to a class that has good chemistry, wouldn't they treat that student the same way?"

"Yeah, now that you mention it. So you're like a transfer student...people are already friends with each other, so it'll be difficult to be friends with them."

Once Hyun-Soo explained it so that Hyuna could understand, she nodded.

"Hyon-Ssoo!"

Katrina, who was standing next to Eugene with glimmering eyes, quickly stood next to Hyun-Soo.

She couldn't act that way since the other members were there, but she probably felt more comfortable once they left.

"Wercorme!"

"Huh?"

Katrina suddenly greeted him.

Her Korean was pretty bad.

However, Hyun-Soo was surprised by the fact that she was trying her best to learn Korean.

"...Hyun-Soo, I think you should hurry up and compliment her."

Hyuna noticed the glimmer in Katrina's eyes and poked his side.

"Huh? Oh...thank you. Thank you."

“You’re welcome!”

‘She wasn’t this nice to me when we were in Korea. What’s going on?’

He felt a bit relieved by the fact that there were people that welcomed him within the group of people that treated him coldly.

“Hyun-Soo, glad you’re here. I’m sorry about how they treated you. They just have really high self-esteem. Well. If you show them what you showed us, they’ll warm up to you one by one, so don’t worry about it.”

“Yeah, I’m not too worried.”

Hyun-Soo was confident about getting acknowledged.

The problem was when.

“You’re very laid-back.”

Pat, pat.

Eugene patted Hyun-Soo’s shoulder while smiling.

‘At least there are two people that welcomed me. It’s better than there being zero. No. Including that African-American hunter, it’s three.’

“Would you like to look around? I’ll guide you.”

Eugene and Katrina volunteered.

“Yoo-Na, go take care of your business. It’s been awhile since you’ve been here, so I’m sure there’s a lot you need to take care of. I’ll make sure to do a good job babysitting Hyun-Soo, so don’t worry.”

“…Hyun-Soo isn’t a baby, Eugene.”

“Within our crew, he’s still a baby. Anyways, don’t worry and go take care of things.”

Kim Yoo-Na had a worried expression.

But, Hyuna…

“Yoo-Na, it’s fine. We don’t want to waste any more of your time. Go ahead.”

Said that and she forced herself to stand up from her seat.

And then, she warned Eugene and Katrina in English.

“Okay, shall we get going? Your legs will hurt if we go through every part of this building, so we’ll show you the important places.”

It looked extremely large on the outside, but the inside was just as big.

No, it was actually bigger.

‘Just how many underground floors are there?’

“The upper floors are usually used for foreign affairs and the underground floors are used for different activities. It’s for safety reasons as well. We even installed lights so that photosynthesis can happen and it doesn’t require us to go outside.”

The building’s system was pretty similar to the training room that Kim Yoo-Na borrowed before.

This building was 10 times bigger than that training room.

The facilities and the levels were 10 times better as well.

There were professional programs and machines and there were people that handled those.

‘She said it was a small group, so I thought the base would be small too, but this is way too much.’

The more Eugene guided him, the more Hyun-Soo was confused about Kim Yoo-Na. He wasn’t sure if she thought this was small because her standards are high or if she was normal, but she wasn’t able to comprehend how great this place is because she had a petit bourgeois mentality.

‘I don’t know. Let’s just focus on adapting.’

“You’ll be assigned a personal training room. If you want to work with the other members, you can go to the center room. But, it’s best to go there later. Or you can go when me or Katrina are training.”

The next place Eugene took them to was the restaurant.

“It’s a buffet style, but if there’s a dish you want to eat, you can ask the chef since they can pretty much make anything. However, you have to order before nine, so don’t forget it. They do provide finger food at night.”

‘The restaurant looks more like a hotel banquet hall.’

It was too much to call this place a restaurant.

The place was filled with unfamiliar foods, but there were some that he saw on TV.

“Excuse me, can I eat here too?”

Hyuna was walking beside Hyun-Soo and when she asked, Eugene laughed out loud and answered.

‘It seems like his level of kindness has changed a lot, but I could be wrong.’

“Of course. You can eat here whenever you want.”

“Wow, thank you. It looks really good. But, I feel like I’m going to gain weight if I keep eating here.”

Eugene laughed after seeing Hyuna worry about something so small.

After looking around the restaurant, Eugene led them to the building where the dorms were.

Hyun-Soo didn’t see the entire building, but since Eugene said he would only show the important areas in the beginning, he was satisfied with that.

‘There’s no reason for me to visit the computer or machine room, so it doesn’t matter.’

“Since you two are siblings, you don’t mind having your rooms next to each other, right? Let’s see, where did Yoo-Na put you in?”

When Eugene asked Katrina, she answered immediately.

“705, 704.”

“Right. We’ll be making the key cards for you soon. Use the temporary keys for now.”

Eugene was looking around and after taking out the cards, he gave them to both Hyun-Soo and Hyuna.

“There are gyms in the second and third floor where you can exercise. There’s a snack bar on the fourth floor. The fifth floor is the break room. And above that are the dorms.”

‘Wow.’

When Hyun-Soo went up to the seventh floor to check the assigned rooms, he was surprised.

The building was extremely big, but there were only four rooms on each floor.

There were two rooms on both sides and a large hallway was in the center.

“Wow, Hyun-Soo. The rooms are really great. They look like hotel rooms that you see in dramas!”

“There is only basic furniture, but thank you for saying that. If there’s a piece of furniture that you want, you can place it in here and decorate it however you want. Our crew are all lazy and busy sleeping, so…even though we’ve built a nice facility, they don’t know how to use it. Oh, just letting you, when they were building this place, I supervised it.”

Eugene bragged with a smile.

‘It’s worthy enough to brag.’

Hyun-Soo hated it when guys bragged about anything, but he agreed that this was worth bragging about.

The room was two times bigger than the place that Hyun-Soo used to live in and it was decorated like one of those luxurious hotels.

The living room was separated from the kitchen.

And the layout of the bedroom.

There was even a dress room and an area where equipment can be placed.

“The bathtub is big too!”

Hyuna was used to seeing a bathtub where she wasn’t able to stretch out her legs, so when she saw the whirlpool bathtub, she exclaimed.

“We…don’t have to pay rent or anything, right?”

“Huh? Ha ha. Your jokes are pretty funny, Hyun-Soo.”

He asked because the place was so luxurious, but Eugene smiled brightly.

‘Well, it’s because it’s way better than what I had imagined.’

Too much is as bad as too little.

‘It feels like they’re indirectly pressuring me to stay on their level.’

He was feeling anxious because after looking at the facilities, that’s what it felt like they were saying.

However, despite the pressure, Hyun-Soo felt something boiling deep within him.

He had the desire to try.

The feeling of victory.

That’s what he wanted to name it.

Rather than being intimidated by the pressure it was giving off, it was a good way to motivate him.

‘I’m curious as to how far I can go up.’

That’s the reason why he followed Kim Yoo-Na and decided to go to a new and bigger world.

There isn’t a person alive who isn’t curious about how much they’ll grow and how much stronger they’ll become.

Hyun-Soo was the same.

“I like that look in your eyes. I guess you won’t be crying about how you’ve been bullied.”

“If that’s what you think, then you’re wrong.”

“Ha ha. Yeah, I have high hopes for you, Hyun-Soo. I’m sure it’ll motivate us in a good way.”

Eugene wasn’t the kindest person in the world.

He just mentioned that he was going to use Hyun-Soo for something without any hesitation.

‘There’s a reason why he’s being so kind.’

It was expected.

‘But, Kim Yoo-Na…’

Even though their relationship started with a contract, Hyun-Soo knew what Kim Yoo-Na was like.

She did things out of her own will and called it a favor to be considerate of the other person.

‘I’m not that shameless to overlook the kindness that I received.’

In this entire situation, Kim Yoo-Na’s kindness was mixed into it.

Her kindness brought him out to a bigger world.

And Hyun-Soo knew it.

“Whew…”

Hyun-Soo breathed in deeply.

Passion was filled in his eyes when he opened them.

‘This is really the start.’

<NEW WORLD #2> End.

Chapter 60 - <Unfriendly #1>

“English is too difficult. I need to get used to it before school starts.”

Hyuna visited Hyun-Soo’s room and rolled on the floor while holding a book.

‘I’m the one who’s in a hurry here. Damn it, not only English, but it’s been awhile since I’ve studied and I didn’t think I’d regret it this much.’

He didn’t really study much when he was in school.

English was the same.

He knew the alphabets and basic words, but he would never use it in a conversation or would be able to understand it when hearing it.

‘I’m trying to adapt, but this language barrier is a serious issue.’

He thought about approaching the hunters that were in the break room, but there wasn’t much he could say.

Kim Yoo-Na and Eugene were there and he thought there wouldn’t be a big issue because he understood commands and words used while hunting.

‘There’s a lot of issues.’

Kim Yoo-Na was busy, so she couldn’t always stay by his side.

Eugene often left too saying that he had his own business to take care of.

That’s why, even if he went to the Center Room often, that’s all he would do.

‘I know I need to show them my skills, but I can’t just randomly use my skills when they’re working together.’

If they don’t attack him, despite the misunderstanding, that

would be best.

“Hyun-Soo, hurry up and study. You said we should study together.”

“Oh. Yeah…”

That’s why Hyun-Soo decided study to English with Hyuna.

Thankfully, they had a tutor, but that tutor was Kim Yoo-Na and she would come late at night after she was done taking care of her business.

“Are you adapting well?”

“It’s only been two days. I’m sure I will in time.”

He was feeling rushed on the inside, but he answered with ease.

“Okay. There’s nothing harder than taking the first step. But, you managed to achieve that, so I’m sure everything will be easier now. They say that a good beginning is half the battle, right? Okay, now open the script.”

Even though she was kind, she was also strict, which made Hyun-Soo and Hyuna open their thin books quickly.

After checking that they both opened to the correct page, she played the DVD.

A fun song started playing.

Cute characters appeared and they started talking about something fun amongst themselves.

Hyun-Soo and Hyuna listened carefully and started reading the script that they had.

“This is the best method.”

This method helped them improve their listening skills within a short time.

Kim Yoo-Na suggested reading the script of a children show.

The animation was created to target children and because of that, the dialogue was easy and the pronunciation was on point.

“If you continue listening for a couple of months, you’ll start to understand. It should only take you a week to carry a simple conversation.”

Kim Yoo-Na talked boastfully.

‘It was really childish at first, but it’s actually fun.’

He wasn’t sure if it was effective since they just started, but since he’s been listening to it for two days, it was pretty fun.

Kim Yoo-Na’s English class went on like this every night.

On top of that, Hyuna came in during the afternoon and asked him to study with her, so he forcefully listened and studied with her.

“Hyun-Soo, don’t you think this is a pretty good idea? I don’t think I need to look at the script anymore.”

“I still need to look at it. There are words that I don’t know, so I need to memorize them.”

It was required, but it was pretty painful.

Hyun-Soo was on the floor and holding a list of words while his body was wriggling in pain.

Eugene opened the door and when he entered, Hyun-Soo’s eyes met his.

“Oh, sorry. The door was open…should I go?”

“No. Don’t worry about it. What brings you here?”

“Ha ha. It’s true that I wouldn’t be here unless something happened, but you’re pretty cold-hearted to ask my reason for being here right away.”

“Oh, right. So, why are you here?”

They both knew that he was here for a reason, so was there a

need to exchange greetings?

On top of that.

'It seems like he purposefully visits whenever I'm with Hyuna.'

It was probably his older brother instincts.

This hasn't happened very often, so he wasn't all that sure, but it didn't hurt to be cautious.

'It's great if that's not the case. Well, maybe I was being too sensitive about it.'

Also, Hyuna was his responsibility.

Hyuna didn't care about the tension between them because she was too focused on the DVD and was not interested in them at all.

"How about going to the Center Room?"

"……?"

"Is it because of the others?"

He didn't say it directly, but it was the same thing as him asking if Hyun-Soo was scared.

Hyun-Soo smirked without knowing.

Eugene saw Hyun-Soo's face and a confused look appeared on his face.

"I guess there are people that are curious about me."

Hyun-Soo promised that he was going to adapt as soon as possible.

However, after Eugene showed him around the building on the first day, the only place Hyun-Soo went to was the restaurant.

What will happen if the Asian hunter that Kim Yoo-Na brought only greeted on the first day and never showed their face after that?

And they were suspecting him of getting scouted through a

connection.

They'll probably be angry and frustrated at first, and then they'll get curious and as time passes, they'll probably make their move.

Like now.

He could try to be friendly with them with the excuse that he was new, but he already knew that he had negative points when it came to their level of friendliness.

On top of that, they couldn't communicate.

That's why he waited.

They're at a disadvantage, not Hyun-Soo.

"Oh...ha ha, it's not just that. Wouldn't it be better for you to exercise and train?"

"Will I be sparing when I get there?"

"Well..."

Eugene didn't finish his sentence.

'Just from his expression, it looks like they're waiting to jump on me.'

"Okay, fine. I should check it out at least once."

"Yeah? Let's go."

Eugene was being used as a messenger by the other members and reacted to Hyun-Soo's decision.

Hyun-Soo purposely wanted him to react this way and was expecting to spar with the others.

Even if he fought head-on, he was confident that he wasn't going to lose.

Kim Yoo-na and Katrina guaranteed it.

However...

"Thank you for the suggestion, but it'll be difficult to go now. As

you can imagine, I'm not in the best situation."

Hyun-Soo turned around and showed him his messy room.

There were English books, worksheets with a list of words and tests with red markings all over the room.

"Oh, um...as someone that has studied a foreign language, I understand."

"Also, I was told to wait since the security registration hasn't been completed yet. Kim Yoo-Na said she would let me know. When she does, I'll go."

He needed more time. That's why he made the excuse that he needed to study.

Eugene felt guilty about it and instead of trying to convince him, he said he would stop by next time and left.

"He's trying to call you out on purpose, right?"

As soon as Eugene left, Hyuna, who was focused on the DVD, asked.

It looked as if she wasn't interested, but she must've listened to their conversation.

"Yeah. Looks like it."

"They should just come here instead of calling you out this late at night. And on top of that, they're using Eugene."

"It's probably because they don't know me well."

"You're awesome, Hyun-Soo!"

"Wow, are you saying that because you want something to eat? Want me to bring you something?"

"Jeez, it's not like that!"

Like how Hyun-Soo was taking care of Hyuna, Hyuna was worried about Hyun-Soo too.

Even though she was pretty young, she was old enough to catch the underlying meaning.

Hyun-Soo noticed that she was being blunt and joked around.

After making a couple of blunter comments, she turned her attention back to the DVD.

Hyun-Soo sat next to Hyuna to study and started watching the DVD with her.

Hyuna was also part of the reason why Hyun-Soo didn't accept Eugene's offer right away. It's been awhile since they spent time with each other.

Hyun-Soo wanted to spend as much time as he could with his family in the future.

Much more now since they couldn't before.

He concentrated on his studies with his loving sister, but another thought popped in the back of his head.

'Right, since I came all the way here, I should leave a good impression.'

A way to leave a strong impression.

Hyun-Soo started thinking of ways to do that while studying.

***

"This is the card reader. It also works as a security key, so please have it with you."

A couple of days after Eugene visited, Kim Yoo-Na handed him something.

It was a box that was as big as a fist and had fancy wrapping around it.

Hyun-Soo opened it with the thought that it was a present, but it wasn't what he expected.

"Isn't this...a Hunter Link?"

“Yes, that’s right.”

“It’s a bit too much for it to be called a security key.”

Hunter Link.

It was a card reader that looked like a bracelet and was made just for hunters.

It’s was like a smartwatch because it had the same functions that a cellphone had.

However, since it was only made for hunters, it can only be used when it’s related to the hunter.

A hunter needs this item when they go on hunts.

That’s why it was pretty expensive.

Since it’s used by the hunters and it could break during a hunt, it was made with monster composite material.

Because of that, it felt like this already expensive item got way more expensive.

‘That’s why I didn’t even think about buying it.’

Since he had Interface, he didn’t think about it.

But.

‘I’m not sure if I’m generous or if I’m just acting like a poor person.’

“It’s a basic item that we provide, so don’t be burdened by it.”

“…Thank you.”

“Try it. I picked out the design. Do you like it?”

“Yes, it’s simple so I like it.”

The shape of the Hunter Link was similar to a bracelet.

It’s because it wasn’t burdensome and it was light.

But the Hunter Link that Kim Yoo-Na gave was similar to a

normal wristwatch.

It was actually pretty simple and didn't stand out, so he liked it.

"It actually looks good on you. I think I picked out a good one."

"Thank you for taking care of me."

He was expecting to receive one key card and didn't expect to get something like this.

Kim Yoo-Na had a small smile on her face and handed a box with pretty wrappings to Hyuna.

'Hm, I guess she got something for Hyuna too.'

Hyuna excitedly opened the present and when she saw a girly-looking bracelet, she thanked Kim Yoo-Na and hugged her.

It wasn't a Hunter Link since she wasn't a hunter, but it was an item that had somewhat similar functions.

"Thank you, Yoo-Na!"

"If you update the translation and dictionary function, it'll help you out a lot."

"This has those functions? Interesting."

"Oh, yours has it too, Hyun-Soo. But, the translation function isn't all that great yet."

And Kim Yoo-Na added that they needed to continue studying English because of it.

'She's using the same method she used when training me...'

Her method was pushing it to the limit.

There were times when he was tired, but it was effective when it came to learning.

She said the translation function wasn't all that great, but for Hyun-Soo, it was better than nothing.

'It's time to go.'

His destination was the Center Room.

They weren’t waiting for him there to welcome him with open arms.

Since there was difference between ranks, they were expecting the high-ranked hunters to take the win.

Tap, tap.

‘I don’t think that will work.’

Hyun-Soo placed his fist into the palm of his hand and breathed in deeply.

<Unfriendly #1> End.

Chapter 61 - <Unfriendly #2>

“Oh, Hyun-Soo! You really came!”

“Yeah, no way I would lie about it.”

“I thought you didn’t mean it when you said it...no, don’t misunderstand what I’m saying.”

He entered the Center Room after releasing the security with the Hunter Link.

The hunters that were inside all glared at Hyun-Soo at the same time.

Eugene was part of that crowd as well.

He waved at Hyun-Soo first and greeted him.

Hyun-Soo greeted back and as he approached Eugene, he greeted the other hunters around him.

“Hello.”

“...Hi.”

“What’s up?”

“I came because they said they wanted to see me.”

Hyun-Soo answered with a smile.

Maybe watching those DVDs were effective, because he was able to somewhat understand.

He would still stutter whenever he heard a word he didn’t know.

But, he was still confident.

The words that he actually knew were “I miss it, you, me, I’m here, so,” but the important part was that he was able to communicate.

“You look pretty confident.”

A tough-looking hunter with two scar lines on his head tilted his

head from side to side.

Every time he moved his arms, his muscles would move in a violent manner.

“You’re right. He doesn’t look intimidated at all.”

“Let’s see if he’s bluffing or if that’s his actual personality, shall we?”

That’s what Hyun-Soo wanted.

‘It’s a bit disappointing that there aren’t that many watchers here…’

Perfecting it on the first attempt is difficult.

He decided to start with one and then take care of the rest later.

“How about friend? You up for it?”

“Of course.”

That’s why he was here.

Hyun-Soo smiled again.

“Hey! Eugene. Come here and explain. This is something he needs to really understand.”

The hunter called Eugene.

“First, you can use your fist. However, you cannot use a weapon. Second, if your back lands on the ground at least twice, you lose. Also, if you’re cornered and you don’t get out within 30 seconds, you lose. Third, acknowledge your defeat. The referee will step in if they feel that one person is getting beat pretty badly. Got it?”

The hunter made the rules.

Since they were sparing, the rules were made based on that. That’s why restrictions and conditions existed based on that.

Eugene approached and translated that.

‘Hm, trying to understand more than three lines is still difficult.’

Hyun-Soo tried to his best understand what the hunter was saying, but he gave up.

“Okay.”

Once Hyun-Soo answered without any hesitation, the hunter looked at him and smiled.

The hunter had pretty dark skin, so when they smiled, their white teeth were really noticeable.

“A long-distance attacker, right? Isn’t it easy for them to back out? Jack, go easy on them.”

The other hunters were jeering from behind.

‘Now I know how much they look down on me.’

Since he hasn’t shown anything, it’s possible for them to react that way.

‘But, your opinions of me will change very soon.’

There was no guarantee that he would be able to beat the A rank hunter.

However, he can do enough so that they wouldn’t look down on him.

If he slowly worked his way up, then their opinions on him will change completely.

“Since we’ll be sparing, Eugene, you be the referee.”

“OK.”

Tap, tap.

The hunter, Jack, tapped his feet on the ground as a way of introducing himself before the spar.

It seemed like he was warming up because his fist tightened.

He had thick fingers and large hands and the veins on top of his forearms were wriggling.

He took pride as an A rank hunter.

After changing his stance to make himself look cool, he motioned his hand and provoked him.

“Come.”

‘Then I won’t decline. Invisible Attack!’

Since he couldn’t use a weapon, he used a skill with a small amount of power and created a dull shape and threw it towards Jack.

It was to test it out.

He had to use his strength, but he couldn’t use a weapon.

He needed a standard to go by in order estimate the limit.

Invisible.

It was an attack that couldn’t be seen.

However, Jack must’ve felt something because he lowered his stance and raised his arms in front of him to create a shield.

The attack was flying towards his stomach, but his arm blocked the attack and the sound of metal clashing together filled the room.

“Hm?”

Jack made a sound as if something was odd, but laughed afterwards.

“So, that was your skill. I’m not sure what kind of skill it is, but that caught me off-guard.”

“Thanks for the compliment.”

Hyun-Soo used his skill again.

He used more of his power this time.

Clank!

Jack quickly waved his arm around and he blocked the skill that

was heading towards Jack's thigh.

With a loud noise, there was a small spark.

Jack easily blocked Hyun-Soo's first attack, but he took one step back for the second one and blocked it.

'This should be enough.'

As soon as Hyun-Soo had an idea of how much of his power he needed to use, Jack started moving.

Click, clack, click, clack!

Jack extended both of his arms out and ran towards Hyun-Soo like a bull.

As soon as Hyun-Soo was right in front of him, Jack wrapped his open arms and pulled them in.

If Hyun-Soo just stood there, his arms probably could've broken his back!

But, Hyun-Soo had already stepped to the side.

'This is how fast an A rank hunter is. It's definitely different than the guys that I fought at the weaponry. That was really close. If I didn't step aside in time...'

He quickly jumped back and kept his distance.

After Jack showed off his strong and rough attack, he fixed his stance and smirked at Hyun-Soo, who dodged his attack.

It was like his expression was telling him that he was impressed.

A battle with an A rank.

He knew it wasn't going to be easy, but after actually battling him, he was worthy of being an A rank.

Just like the opponents he faced at the weaponry, his movements were slow, but not as slow as the previous opponents and it was probably because he was an A rank.

‘It’s different from what I expected, but it’s too early for me to give up.’

If he was going to give up just because things didn’t go his way, he wouldn’t have started this battle in the first place.

‘I’m actually pretty motivated.’

He already knew that it wasn’t going to be easy.

But, he was prepared.

Since there was a bit of handicap, his fighting spirit was overflowing within him.

He wondered how effective his powers were on Jack.

Even though there was a difference in rank and skill, he wondered how effective it was.

Fighting spirit. And wanting to win.

Those helped Hyun-Soo concentrate better.

‘Invisible Attack!’

They’ve exchanged one attacks.

Click, clack!

Hyun-Soo distanced himself by running and released several attacks that were as big as a fist.

Clank! Claaank! Clank!

The sound of Jack’s fist blocking Hyun-Soo’s skill filled the room.

“Your skills aren’t working on me. What are you going to do?”

Maybe it’s because he was an A rank.

Jack didn’t realize it until Hyun-Soo used his attack.

However, he knew of Hyun-Soo’s skill right before it attacked him and Hyun-Soo didn’t know how he knew. Jack was able to block it.

That's why, he purposely released several attacks so that he wouldn't be able to block them, but Jack blocked them with ease and smiled.

This was a pretty tough situation.

It meant that none of Hyun-Soo's attacks were working.

"I guess you've reached your limit."

That's what he assumed Jack's eyes were saying to him.

However, Hyun-Soo just smiled.

Jack raised his eyebrow.

Click, clack, click, clack!

Jack raised his fist and ran towards Hyun-Soo.

And then.

Swoosh!

It was as if he shortened the distance between them because his fist was right in front of Hyun-Soo's nose.

"…..!"

Hyun-Soo was surprised this time.

Despite of the slow movement, he moved so fast that Hyun-Soo missed it!

If this continues, he'll eventually get punched by Jack's fist.

However, instead of dodging, he raised his fist.

'Attacking is the best way to block it!'

It was better to have the upper hand by attacking instead of running away in order to dodge the attack.

That was the method that Hyun-Soo thought of.

"You're going to go against me with your fist? Ha ha. It'll take you more than 100 years!"

‘Is that so?’

Jack looked down on Hyun-Soo as if he was watching a child perform cute tricks.

Since he knew that Hyun-Soo was a long-distance attacker, he probably thought Hyun-Soo was going to attack with his bare fist.

However.

Bam!

“Ack!”

Jack’s body stumbled when Hyun-Soo’s fist hit his body. A small groan escaped his mouth as he gritted his teeth.

‘It worked!’

Hyun-Soo’s lips slightly went up.

He decided to give it a try after coming up with various assumptions.

That attack worked.

Of course it wasn’t an attack where he just blindly kept on attacking him.

‘So the skill is effective up to his forearms.’

He made this assumption after seeing him block the attacks with just his arms. He could’ve dodged it or blocked it with other parts of his body, but he didn’t.

And that assumption was right.

When he purposely attacked an area that wasn’t near his forearm, the attack worked.

“Weren’t you…a long-distance attacker?”

“Are there rules that say that I can only do long-distance attacks?”

“Ha ha. A weird one joined this time.”

Jack looked at the area that Hyun-Soo attacked.

It was already bruised.

“I was wondering why you were using your first, but I guess you didn’t use your bare fist. I thought it was a desperate attempt, but this is pretty…”

He used this same method before.

When a group of hunters attacked him and he when her performed an uppercut on them, he sent them flying into the roof of the training room.

He materialized the skill in the shape of a glove and enveloped it around his hand.

‘Of course I wouldn’t attack with just my bare fist.’

Since Jack belittled him and didn’t dodge, it allowed Hyun-Soo to see that his attack worked.

Hyun-Soo knew that his attack was effective when he saw the surprising expression on Jack’s face.

Hyun-Soo wanted to show off his skills.

He purposely used his fist and through that attack, he damaged Jack.

‘I’ll make sure your opinion of me changes.’

That he wasn’t some ordinary, boring hunter.

He wanted to show that to them.

There aren’t that many people who are able to naturally switch from a long-distance attacker to a close-range attacker within the same battle.

It didn’t matter whether he was a long-distance or a close-range attacker because he couldn’t use a weapon anyways.

However, he used both methods so naturally that it seemed like he used it before.

It was obvious as to why he was surprised.

A smile appeared on Hyun-Soo's face.

He was really proud about the fact that he shocked his opponent by using a method they weren't expecting.

Since it was a positive surprise and admiration, it was definitely going to change their original thoughts about him.

'And that will soon connect to me being acknowledged.'

He knew it would happen even if he didn't think too deeply about it.

A bigger smile appeared on his face when he was satisfied with the result. His desire to win was starting to be replaced by pride.

"Then I guess it's my turn to attack you!"

Jack raised his fist as soon as he finished talking.

Hyun-Soo thought he was going to charge at him again so he moved back.

Even though he managed to hit him by closing the distance, he didn't have the skill to block the attack of an A rank hunter.

"…..!"

However, even though he distanced himself, Jack was already close to him.

"Hello."

And then, he threw his large, iron-like fist towards Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo quickly crossed his arms and blocked his fist.

He enveloped his arms with his skill and hoped it would block it.

Clank!

"Grr!"

When Hyun-Soo's skill and Jack's skill clashed, a spark appeared.

‘Damn it! He’s putting everything he’s got!’

Thump, thump!

It didn’t seem like it was broken, but pain started filling his arms.

‘The pain feels like I got hurt in the stomach and the chest too.’

It seemed like Jack’s skill didn’t just strengthen his arms.

The pain spread throughout his arms, chest and stomach.

“Wow, you were able to endure my attack even though I put a lot of my strength into it? Are you really a C rank?”

Jack started shaking his fist and asked with a surprised look.

Hyun-Soo didn’t really care because a thought suddenly popped into Hyun-Soo’s head and he was busy thinking about that.

‘It would’ve been nice if I had a defensive skill.’

Hyun-Soo understood why he needed a defensive skill.

‘I need a defensive skill that can envelop my entire body.’

He released the Invisible Attack that was on his arm and massaged them.

Like the name states, Invisible Attack was an offensive skill.

However, depending on how it’s used, there were unlimited possibilities.

But, enveloping it all over his body was still too tough for him to perform.

An unfortunate event can happen where he might not be able to attack at all because he’s too focused on defending himself.

‘But, if it’s possible…’

It could become really useful when he’s hunting a monster by himself.

‘Let’s think about that later.’

Deciding on how to take down that hunter was the most important right now.

Hyun-Soo shook his painful arms and started focusing on Jack.

<Unfriendly #2> End.

Chapter 62 - <Adaptive Period #1>

“What are you going to do? Give up?”

“No way.”

“Yeah? Then I won’t hold back!”

His fist moved at a fast pace and was targeting Hyun-Soo’s chin.

It wasn’t as fast as before where his fist appeared right in front of him in a blink of an eye.

It was fast, but it was slow enough for Hyun-Soo to dodge it.

Thanks to their attack being slower than before, Hyun-Soo managed to avoid getting hit and getting embarrassed.

‘I can’t fall to the ground first.’

The opponent has to be the first one to fall at least.

Hyun-Soo’s expression suddenly turned cold.

‘A solution. What’s the most effective method?’

“I like that look!”

‘Thanks for the compliment, but take this!’

Hyun-Soo called out Invisible Attack and materialized it.

‘A really thick hook!’

He created a thick hook on purpose so that it wouldn’t disappear when it collides with Jack’s fist.

And he immediately threw it towards Jack.

“I told you, your long-distance attacks won’t work!”

Jack noticed Hyun-Soo’s attack and tried to block it with his fist right away.

However, Hyun-Soo didn’t use the attack just to make it collide with Jack’s fist.

“Huh?”

‘Okay!’

The thick hook was flying towards Jack’s wrist, not his stomach.

Clank!

It’s probably because the hook was thick, but his skill hooked onto Jack’s wrist and pulled back.

“H-huh?”

Tap, tap, tap!

Boom!

He was suddenly pulled back, which caused him to lose his balance, but as he started flailing his arms, he regained his balance.

‘That’s not all!’

Hyun-Soo threw a skill he prepared while Jack was losing his balance.

The skill flew towards Jack’s ankle.

Jack managed to regain his balance but his mind was all over the place during that brief moment.

And during that time, he gave Hyun-Soo a chance.

‘Hook and pull!’

His upper body was pushed back while his lower body was pulled forward.

Hyun-Soo’s eyes looked at Jack’s body, which was falling back.

“Huh?!”

Boom!

He might’ve been able to regain his balance right away, but Hyun-Soo targeted that moment and succeeded in the attack that came after.

The sound of his heavy body hitting the floor filled the room.

“Woah…he fell.”

A voice filled with a bit of confusion broke the silence.

It was Eugene, who was forced to be the referee.

“His back didn’t touch the floor, but should this be counted as one…?”

He didn’t fall because Hyun-Soo used a reasonable skill.

It was more of a convenient skill.

But the monsters didn’t exactly fight fair and square.

‘Using the chance that you’re given is a skill too.’

Jack also had a surprised look on his face, but he wasn’t angry about the fact that he was attacked by an absurd skill.

A C rank hunter beat an A rank hunter.

If they were to fight using everything that they had, then Hyun-Soo would definitely lose.

But, that didn’t apply here.

‘Ha…ha ha. I really did it.’

He wanted to teach him a lesson, but realistically, his chances weren’t very high.

‘But I did it.’

“Then, we’ll count that as Hyun-Soo getting a point. Are you going to continue?”

“Forget it. This is enough for me to confirm it.”

Jack extended his arm out towards Hyun-Soo.

“What are you doing? Pull him up.”

“Oh, right.”

‘Is it over?’

He thought he would have to keep fighting until the end, but it finished sooner than he expected.

‘Wasn’t he trying to beat me up?’

But Jack said he wanted to stop here and didn’t continue the fight.

The fist that put his arm in pain opened and grabbed Hyun-Soo’s hand.

Hyun-Soo pulled his hand and helped Jack stand up.

“You were pretty good. They said Yoo-Na brought you here, but you’re not totally useless.”

Jack looked at Hyun-Soo and said it.

Jack was no longer looking down on Hyun-Soo.

“You too.”

When Hyun-Soo responded, Jack smiled and returned to where he was standing earlier.

“I knew I had an eye for talent. Good job. I’m sure you sweated quite a bit. Do you want me to tell you where the shower room is located? There’s a sauna too. It’s pretty awesome.”

Hyun-Soo’s eyes lit up when Eugene mentioned sauna.

He felt an odd pain on his arms and upper body.

‘I don’t know what kind of skill it was, but the pain is still there.’

But if he sat in a tub of hot water and released some sweat, then the pain will most likely go away.

Hyun-Soo followed behind Eugene.

“What? You’re ending it already?”

The other hunters that were watching asked in a startled tone.

“I’ve checked his skills, so there’s no need to continue.”

“But, still…”

“It’s tiring.”

“You ended it because you aren’t in a good condition today, right? He was just lucky, right?”

‘Jeez, I’m sure it’ll put him in a bad mood since he can hear it…’

Hyun-Soo didn’t leave the room yet, but the others started talking amongst themselves.

“I was honestly going to beat him up real good at first, but he’s pretty promising. After checking, he’s pretty skilled, so there’s no need to continue the fight. If he came here by completely relying on Yoo-Na, then I would’ve beaten him up, but that wasn’t it.”

“But still, our plan…”

“He’s not bad. No, something amazing will come out of him if he’s taken care of.”

“Aren’t you complimenting him too much? You’re so optimistic. Well, if you think that way, then it must be true. But I’m not sure if the others will think of him the way you think of him.”

Since Eugene didn’t translate, Hyun-Soo couldn’t understand the long sentences.

However, Hyun-Soo made an assumption through the few words that he was able to pick up.

‘It sounds like a compliment.’

It didn’t seem all that bad.

‘I guess I got acknowledged.’

This was his first step in adapting, which Hyun-Soo was expecting.

***

Invisible Attack.

It was a C rank’s developed skill.

Hyun-Soo hunted quite a lot of monsters through this.

‘It’s an amazing skill.’

He was able to feely control its damage, range and use.

It was a well-rounded skill.

On top of that.

‘I won a round against an A rank hunter.’

It was a surprise attack, but he made Jack fall on the ground first.

It would’ve been great if his back landed on the ground, but making him fall on the floor was a pretty big improvement in his opinion.

‘Even though it was a surprise attack, if I didn’t have Invisible Attack, then I wouldn’t have succeeded.’

He was pretty surprised by its power and use.

What would happen if it became an A or S rank?

He didn’t know how it would develop.

Raising its rank was a pretty big achievement, but what would happen if it evolved again and that skill leveled up?

‘I might end up having a really strong skill.’

Invisible Attack could be used in many different ways, so it couldn’t be categorized as an offense skill.

Its use depended all on Hyun-Soo.

Depending on how he used it, the skill changed.

‘I just don’t know how to fulfill the requirement for developing the skill.’

Anyways, it was enough for now.

It wasn’t that he didn’t want a stronger skill.

It was obvious that he wanted a much stronger skill.

But the skill in its current state was more than enough for now.

***

“Hyon-Sso! Hyo-Na!”

“Oh. Hey.”

As soon as he entered the cafeteria, Katrina stood up and waved towards Hyun-Soo and Hyuna.

“I heard something fun happened while I wasn’t around.”

“Yeah.”

“Hurry up and tell me.”

“You already heard it from Eugene.”

“It’s different when hearing it from someone that actually experienced it!”

“It’s difficult to say it in English. I’m tired. I don’t want to.”

How was he supposed to explain all of it?

‘It might overwork my brain.’

Maybe it’s because he listened to English audios every day after arriving at the base.

He was able to somewhat understand in English, but he still had a hard time speaking.

If the sentences started getting long, then he would pick out words that he recognized.

Because of that, Hyun-Soo’s sentences were getting shorter and shorter.

‘As long as they understand.’

However, Hyuna was improving her English at a fast rate.

She was able to use high-quality vocabulary because of it.

Thanks to that, she became really good friends with Katrina.

“That’s mean. Then I won’t tell you either.”

She was very cold towards him when they first met, but now she was treating him like he was her friend.

‘There are times when I’m unable to understand since she starts sulking at odd parts…’

It was very comforting for him to have someone that greeted him first when he was surrounded by people that treated him coldly.

‘I guess they’ve heard the news seeing as how the atmosphere changed.’

After filling his plate with baked beans and sausage, I quietly glanced around.

Since it was past lunch time, there weren’t that many people in the cafeteria.

The few that were there glanced over at him briefly and then turned their heads back.

‘They’re not openly showing signs of disgust like they did the first time. Hm…’

It was the same type of disgust one would give when someone desires something that doesn’t belong to them.

The hunters had the same look on their faces and Hyun-Soo clearly remembered them.

‘But it decreased after the fight.’

After the fight, there were rumors that Hyun-Soo successfully passed the test.

Katrina was the one that started it.

She started speaking English really fast and Hyuna tried her best to translate it.

That’s when it happened.

Their eyes towards Hyun-Soo softened.

‘They’re still pretty unfriendly towards me though…’

Maybe it’s because he proved his skill.

The other hunter’s unfriendliness wasn’t as intense or violent as he thought.

But they chose to ignore him.

Even though their unfriendliness died down after the fight, it didn’t mean they started being friendly towards him.

‘Of course there are exceptions.’

Eugene and Katrina were the exceptions.

Brad and Jack tend to greet Hyun-Soo when he greeted them first.

But others ignored him.

They purposely did that, so he knew they were still being unfriendly towards him.

Right when he placed a crispy piece of bacon on his plate and turned around.

Gasp!

Their eyes met again.

The way they turned their heads was noticeable.

‘Jeez, this is…’

A bitter smile appeared on Hyun-Soo’s face.

But he acted like he didn’t see them and after turning his head, he walked back to his seat.

“Hyun-Soo, you brought the same type of food again? You have to eat vegetables too.”

“How can I use my strength just from eating pieces of grass? Go easy on me.”

“I told you that tasty foods aren’t good for your body. I thought

you said you had to take care of your body!”

After saying that, Hyuna grabbed the salad that was on her plate and placed it on Hyun-Soo’s.

Hyun-Soo quietly ate the vegetables that his worrying sister gave him.

“Hey, Katrina. What was the thing you wanted say earlier?”

“I’m not telling.”

“Jeez. Don’t be like that…”

‘They’re so similar.’

Even though Hyuna was younger, their mental age seemed similar.

After Hyuna asked a couple of times, Katrina gave up and started talking.

“Since Yoo-Na is back, we’re going to officially go on a hunt. While she was in Korea, we only took care of requests, so we decided to go on one.”

“I’m the one that made that request.”

Eugene raised his hand.

“And one more thing. I recommended that you be included.”

“Me?”

<Adaptive Period #1> End.

Chapter 63 - <Adaptive Period #2>

“Yoo-Na agreed as well. She said it’ll be a good experience.”

He was puzzled by the sudden suggestion.

“There’s no reason to think deep into it. Official hunts are warm-ups and help hunters keep in touch with their skills. It also helps the members work on their teamwork. But it doesn’t mean that we go hunt some easy monsters.”

“Is it like a type of practice?”

“It’s similar. Since you don’t know how we go on hunts, Yoo-Na suggested that you go so that you can see for yourself and slowly get used to it. Before the test, it’s best to see how we work and watching us from time to time will be good for you. I made the request, but Yoo-Na approved it.”

Hyun-Soo thought about Kim Yoo-Na, who’s been pretty busy these days.

Even though she visited them every night, she couldn’t erase the exhaustion from her face despite her being an A rank.

‘Hunters aren’t invincible. There’s a lot we need to think about.’

On top of that, since it hasn’t been that long since she came here, it seemed like she visited Hye-Na whenever she could.

Thanks to the rice cake that Hyun-Soo gave her, it seemed like there wasn’t a big issue with her stamina, but it was obvious that she was exercising caution in case the flight affected her.

‘It might be difficult to go hunting for the time being so I used all the roots that I obtained in making the rice cake, but…’

Even if there was a lot, they’ll run out someday.

However, he was given the opportunity to enter a portal.

It was the perfect timing.

“You’ll go, right?”

“Of course I’ll go.”

It would be stupid to pass an offer like this.

“Hyun-Soo, they’re looking at you again.”

Hyuna leaned in and quietly whispered.

Hyun-Soo acted like he was eating and he raised his eyes and glanced towards the hunters he saw earlier.

‘We already made eye contact three times just within this cafeteria. Am I that interesting? If I am, they should just come up to me and talk.’

But if Hyun-Soo approached them first, then the hunters would leave.

It was like they were telling him that they didn’t want him to approach them.

‘But they keep looking at me. I’m confused.’

But he was able to at least change their opinions about him.

That fight was worth it.

That was what Hyun-Soo wanted.

He couldn’t be satisfied with just that.

All he had to do was keep working his way up until they acknowledged him.

He was on the right track.

A lowly C rank seduced their goddess and joined by having connections.

But that C rank won a point against an A rank even though it wasn’t an official fight.

‘That hunter named Jack seems to have a good opinion of me.’

It was difficult to ignore an evaluation from a member he

actually fought against.

It was up to Hyun-Soo on how he was going to act upon it so that it was beneficial to him.

There was definitely something different, but it was kind of odd.

This was what Hyun-Soo experienced.

Case One.

Lunch.

Hyun-Soo visited the cafeteria to eat lunch.

He looked forward to this time because all the food that they served were really delicious.

But after he placed his food on his plate and sat down, everyone stood up from their seats.

Of course there were some that fought against it.

“Hey, I’m not done eating…”

“Stop talking and come here!”

“Ahh! Ear, don’t grab my ear!”

Rumbleeeeee.

“….”

Case Two.

Hyun-Soo was getting a headache while studying English, so he decided to step outside to get some fresh air.

He was walking while looking at the buildings he still wasn’t used to…

“Hey, rookie. Let’s have a talk…gah!”

Boom!

Thud.

“Why is this guy lying down here?”

Drag.

“.....”

Case Three.

Intelligence Room.

Hyun-Soo visited that room to get information regarding the portal and the monster.

But as soon as he walked in.

Rumbleeeee.

“Huh? I’m not done searching yet.”

“Shut up and come here!”

“If I don’t submit this to the team leader by today, I...Oof!”

Drag.

“.....”

And there were other situations...

After that, he felt many people glance over at him.

When Hyun-Soo looked back at them, they acted like they didn’t do anything, didn’t look at him or were ignoring him.

Among them, there were those that wanted to approach him and talk to him.

But thanks to those incidents, the way they looked at him changed.

At least they didn’t look at him with disgust.

Instead, they would find him interesting everytime Hyun-Soo did something.

And when their eyes meet, they would turn their heads and ignore him.

‘They’re acting like kids that have a crush on someone...’

It’s not that he wasn’t bothered, but after thinking that it was a process of him adapting to this place, it was bearable.

“Forget it. It looks like they’re having a hard time approaching me because I’m so awesome.”

“What are you saying? You’ve become too full of yourself all of a sudden.”

Hyuna jokingly nudged his side with her arm with a smile.

“What, what?”

Since Katrina didn’t understand Korean, she asked Hyuna what they were talking about and Hyuna gave her a short answer.

Eugene was beside them as well.

After hearing her answer, Katrina suddenly became angry.

“I told you that it worked. I don’t understand why you guys didn’t believe me.”

One should look at people objectively, but because everyone was so prideful, they couldn’t act that way.

Eugene smiled after hearing that.

“Hey, I don’t really think you have the right to say that.”

“Wh-what do you mean?!”

Katrina’s cheeks turned red.

“Weren’t you even worse? The one that got really annoyed when they saw Hyun-Soo…”

“N-no! I might’ve acted that way then, but not anymore!”

“Then I’m sure those guys are the same. Don’t be like that. He needs time to adapt.”

Eugene tried to make Katrina feel better.

‘I feel like he’s saying it to me.’

His opponent was Katrina, but he was saying it to Hyun-Soo.

Well, Eugene was in a difficult position.

‘I’m sure he’ll feel that way since he’s stuck between team members he’s known for a long time and me, the new member.’

But Eugene said this was the time to adapt.

It applied to Hyun-Soo as well as to Eugene’s teammates.

“I’m going to go get a drink!”

Katrina’s entire face turned red as she stood up from her seat.

“Eugene, stop making fun of her.”

“Why? It’s fun.”

‘…He’s not really the nicest person.’

“Anyways, just keep that in mind, Hyun-Soo. There’s nothing you need to prepare, but maybe bring a strong mentality?”

“Ha ha, don’t worry about that.”

There was a hidden meaning.

However, Hyun-Soo tried not to think too much into it.

It would actually be weird if they suddenly welcomed him and acknowledged him as one of them.

If he lowered his expectations, he wouldn’t be disappointed.

‘I’m actually motivated now, so this is good.’

Hyun-Soo’s mindset naturally became stronger thanks to it.

‘Things are changing little by little. Let’s see how things go this time.’

A calm smile appeared on Hyun-Soo’s face as he thought about it.

***

After Eugene informed him about the official hunt.

Kim Yoo-Na visited him that night to teach him English and notified him of the location that they’ll be meeting in.

And Hyun-Soo was at the location at the time they promised to meet.

‘They’re pretty cold…’

As expected.

The hunters that were here were treating him coldly.

They were treating him like he wasn’t there and weren’t even looking in his general direction.

Eugene, Katrina and Brad were sitting next to him and they were the only ones that acknowledged his existence.

‘I thought it got better, but it’s the same.’

He licked his lips.

Hyun-Soo briefly glanced at the hunters that were here.

And among them, he found someone that caught his attention.

‘I was told that not everyone was going at once and that we would be split up into groups. It seems like I’ve been assigned to their group.’

Hyun-Soo saw a group of three hunters.

Marcus, Denver and Melody.

These three hunters ignored Hyun-Soo the most.

And among the three, Marcus was the one that really didn’t like him.

‘Even the hunters that were in the same room with me would suddenly stand up from their seats when they saw one of them walk in.’

Those three, especially Marcus, probably had a leading role and the hunters were probably trying to avoid causing any issues.

The same was happening now.

All the hunters, but one, ignored Hyun-Soo.

Marcus was the only one that was looking at him.

But it was difficult to look at him with a friendly expression, even if it was an act.

‘It’s difficult to ignore him too.’

Kim Yoo-Na opened the door and walked in.

When she walked in, everyone turned their attention towards her.

Hyun-Soo ignored Marcus until the end and looked at Kim Yoo-Na.

“I’m sure you all know through the announcement, we’ll be going on an official hunt today. As the head, I’ve been absent for a while and I want to thank you for calling me back. I heard you took care of requests while I was away.”

Kim Yoo-Na portrayed a charismatic and strict personality towards the members, just like when she was in the portal with him.

After their location changed, there wasn’t an opportunity for him to go to a portal with just Kim Yoo-Na.

Because of that, he felt glad seeing this side of her again.

Hyun-Soo found it interesting how fast Kim Yoo-Na’s personality changed compared to when it was just them two.

“For our first official hunt, we’ll be going into a blue portal, which contains a Moonlight Monster Bird. Please don’t forget to take your infrared goggles. Since we’ve hunted his monster many times, I’m sure you all know that it’s an air type monster and the only light we’re given is the moonlight.”

The hunters nodded their heads.

After seeing that, Kim Yoo-Na displayed a charming smile on her face.

“Finally…let’s have fun and make sure no one gets hurt.”

Hoo-ha!

Yeah!

The hunters cheered at her last statement.

The cold atmosphere that was created because of Hyun-Soo suddenly turned bright because of Kim Yoo-Na.

The reason was simple.

‘She was the pivotal figure.’

Kim Yoo-Na was the center of this clan.

She tried to resign because of her sister, but after seeing how there were people that tried bring her back, she played an important role.

She was popular.

And had amazing skills.

She looked cold and serious, but she was warm towards those she cared about.

She was beautiful on top of that.

Hyun-Soo felt like he saw another side of Kim Yoo-Na.

“Are other groups and guilds like this?”

<Adaptive Period #2> End.

Chapter 64 - <Levshila #1>

Hyun-Soo asked Eugene who was sitting next to him.

No matter how he thought about it, the weight that the official hunt carried felt light.

‘They said it was simple but I didn’t think it would feel like going on a group picnic. No, that has too much freedom…maybe like a company pep rally?’

Before, Eugene explained it like it was nothing and it really seemed that way.

“I’m not sure. It’s a possibility. I heard that according to the ranks, hierarchical order and discipline is very important. We’re an interesting case.”

“But this is pretty good. We don’t really like having a linear relationship. Yoo-Na said that having a strained relationship will destroy the unity during a hunt.”

Katrina intercepted when she heard Hyun-Soo talk.

“Jeez woman. Talk slowly. If you keep talking fast like that, I have to keep moving around.”

“What?”

Lately, Hyun-Soo has been using English to get used to the language.

Hyuna was way more fluent than Hyun-Soo and she nagged at him several times about how he needed more help than her.

Because of that.

He was able to speak more smoothly compared to when he didn’t know what to say.

However, when someone spoke fast or he heard long sentences, his head would feel complicated and look at Eugene to translate for

him.

“Yoo-Na isn’t looking this way.”

“You’re right. She at least makes eye contact. I wonder if she’s mad.”

Like Katrina and Eugene mentioned, Kim Yoo-Na didn’t look at Hyun-Soo.

She was probably doing it on purpose.

It looked like she was ignoring him like the others, but the reason for it was different.

What did she say before?

‘I think she apologized saying that it might be harder for me to adapt because of her.’

One of those nights.

There was a time when Kim Yoo-Na was being hesitant after he was done with the English lessons.

She felt sorry about the expectations that Hyun-Soo was experiencing, the jealousy and envy.

Kim Yoo-Na also knew that people had high expectations of him because she brought Hyun-Soo with her.

They didn’t exactly say it, but since Hyun-Soo worked many part-time jobs, it was easy to catch on.

‘All I have to do is quietly show my worth…’

It didn’t matter that someone was feeling sorry or how others were feeling about him.

Hyun-Soo already showed his skills.

His opponent was surprised and even acknowledged him.

There’s a possibility that she wasn’t looking towards him in order to prolong that.

She acted that way so that it wouldn't create an unnecessary weak point for him.

The more he got to know her, the more he thought that he made the right choice in working with her.

It's difficult to find someone that had character, knowledge and was trustworthy.

"Hyon-Ssoo, let's go get the items."

Katrina stood up first and called out to Hyun-Soo.

She took the lead after telling him they needed to get the necessary gear for the hunt.

Hyun-Soo followed behind and pushed away his worries.

'Great.'

The thoughts he had up until now.

It was time to implement them.

***

"Attack!"

Growl!

"Ha!"

Something fell from the sky like a lightning and flashed.

Flutter!

The monster had impressive blue feathers and when lightning struck down, it let out a faint cry.

However, everyone within the portal knew that the monster was just making a fuss.

Marcus was the one that used the attack and he kicked the ground.

'This monster seems more powerful than the monster that I hunted in the green portal.'

The monster that he hunted before was pretty smart, but this monster was smarter.

As a monster, they would provoke the humans and would even fake their attacks.

Hyun-Soo was getting frustrated just looking at them.

'But it's moving along without any issues.'

"Leave the tail alone!"

"People that have their skills ready, get in position!"

There would be random commands and everyone would move according to those commands.

The thing that made Hyun-Soo really exclaim was.

'Everyone is calm.'

It was their response.

Even during unforeseen situations, they would remain calm and handle the situation honorably.

They could've been shocked by it, but no one was and it was as if they calculated these unforeseen situations.

Flaaaaaap!

Flap!

The monster looked like it was going to curl up because it folded its wings, but they spread their wings out again and at the same time, they spun their body and feathers started flying in all directions.

The feathers were as sharp as a knife and were flying like sand.

But the hunters didn't look flustered and quickly gathered to one place.

No one told them where to gather, but they naturally headed to one area.

The tank held a giant shield and was enduring it.

Clank!

The tank's body was pushed back a bit because of the feathers, but thanks to the Heal Shower, they were able to endure it.

"Water Pick!"

"Wind Spear!"

"Blaze Cut!"

After throwing its feathers, the monster briefly took a break and during that short time, they started using their skills.

Flash!

Since the moon was the only source of light, various lights started flashing in the sky.

Swoosh!

But the monster flew higher as if it was mocking them.

Their skills barely grazed the monster's toe.

Chirp!

The monster chirped as if it was making fun of them.

And then.

"Lightning Pole!"

Crash!

Flash!

A bright light flashed right above the bird that flew high into the sky.

Zaaaaaap!

Kyaaaaaaaaaah!

And at the same time, the sound of electricity shocking the bird filled the air.

The bird cried in fear right after.

“Energy field has been exhausted.”

“Preparing ground assault.”

The monster was falling after it got hit by the lightning and during that time, the close-range attackers grouped up.

Boom!

And as soon as the monster hit the ground.

“Ha!”

“Die bird brain!”

The attackers used their skills.

They kept on attacking the monster and didn’t even give them a chance to regain their consciousness.

During that time, the tank blew up the bird’s eyes.

Kyaaaaaaaaaaah!

The monster bird screamed in pain.

The insides of their mouth became a target when they opened their mouth to release a scream.

Their tongue was cut off and ice and fire filled their intestines.

It was a violent massacre.

Hyun-Soo was in awe.

Everyone was working hard beating up the bird.

But one of them turned around and looked towards him.

‘Hm?’

Hyun-Soo squinted and looked to see who it was.

‘Marcus?’

He wasn’t expecting it to be him.

After noticing that Hyun-Soo was looking at him, Marcus nodded his head.

It was as if he was asking Hyun-Soo if he saw what he did.

Since he was far away and couldn't really see him, Hyun-Soo wasn't sure if that was what he really meant.

'...He's acting pretty cute.'

A smirk appeared on Hyun-Soo's face as he was at a loss for words and felt ridiculous.

He knew what Marcus's actions meant.

Marcus was showing how annoyed he was by the fact that a low-ranked hunter like Hyun-Soo rolled into a clan that was filled with skillful hunters.

And at the same time, he implied that Hyun-Soo wouldn't be able to catch up.

'I do want to go up there and attack.'

Hyun-Soo experienced many difficult hunts and he was disappointed by the current situation.

He was itching to jump into the hunt right now.

He wanted to join that group that was throwing their skills and wanted to fight with them.

The hunt looked exhilarating and the way it was flowing made Hyun-Soo's blood boil as he watched.

'How disappointing.'

But all he could do was watch.

The hunters within the clan didn't know about Hyun-Soo's skills yet.

They could only assume based on the battle they previously saw.

However, since he didn't do an official test, they could only

assume.

And if a newbie like him intercepted?

It was past being rash and it was rude.

Shake.

Hyun-Soo shook his head.

'I don't have a choice but to wait a little.'

The members within the clan were A rank hunters.

It was really a world filled with elites, just like Kim Yoo-Na had mentioned.

'The groups in Korea can't be compared to these guys.'

Those guys swarmed in all together just to beat one low-ranked hunter, but the only things these guys did was act unfriendly towards him and showed off their skills.

The way Marcus showed himself off made a big impact.

It was funny, but on the other hand, it was proof that not everyone in Kim Yoo-Na's group was bad.

Chiiiirp...chirp...

The monster let out a sad cry as it was dying.

It meant that the hunt was ending.

He understood why Kim Yoo-Na and Eugene emphasized to have fun and to take it easy.

It was understandable how they finished it so easily since they had pretty good teamwork.

'I forgot to use Interface because I was busy watching.'

He would usually use Interface as soon as he walks into a portal, but this was his second blue portal and since this was his first time watching an official hunt, he forgot.

And his desire to join the hunt also made him forget.

Hyun-Soo stood up from his seat after calming his racing heart.

‘Okay…let’s see what’s inside a blue portal.’

It would be great if there was something nice.

Hyun-Soo hoped to obtain something useful as he used the skill on various areas.

‘I feel like there’s something here. I guess I’ll walk around a bit more.’

He glanced towards where the hunters were and they were cutting the monster apart.

They seemed pretty laid-back.

The area was filled with moonlight and Hyun-Soo slowly looked around.

And.

“Huh?”

Below the flat ground, there was a field of flowers that was shining underneath the moonlight.

The flower petals were giving off a silver light and small lights were dancing in the center of the flowers.

Just from looking, he knew it wasn’t an ordinary flower.

Hyun-Soo activated Interface and approached the flowers.

[Moonlight Levshila]

A flower that only grows where the moonlight is strong.

It’s special because of its silver petals and blue stem and leaf.

The appearance looks similar to a Nefshila, making it confusing, but it can be differentiated by the light that appears through the corolla that collects light from the moon.

Effects: Upon intake +Stamina 40 [Duration: 30 Minutes]

The stamina recovery rate will increase slightly. [Duration: 30 Minutes]

Hyun-Soo hoped that he would find something good since it was a blue portal and while using Interface, Hyun-Soo stopped walking.

'It increases Stamina by 40 points? And it increases the stamina recovery rate?'

He questioned whether he read it right.

Hyun-Soo doubted his eyes.

But no matter how many times he looked at the Interface, the number 40 didn't change.

It was double the amount when compared to the horn he obtained before.

He thought he got something good during that time...

Hyun-Soo's eyes widened.

<Levshila #1> End.

Chapter 65 - <Levshila #2>

Hyun-Soo's eyes widened.

'Only in the blue portal.'

He was able to obtain a really good item with one try.

'Katrina and Eugene's stamina was definitely about 190. And Brad's was a bit higher than that.'

On average, A ranked hunters' stamina was about 200 and with that, it was about 20%.

After calculating that, it actually didn't seem that much.

But.

'It's good for Kim Hye-Na.'

Before coming here, she survived on the rice cakes that he made out of the horns.

If there weren't a lot, it would've caused a big issue.

But thankfully, he had a lot and it was delicious, so Hye-Na ate it on a daily basis since she didn't feel disgusted by them.

'I've been thinking about what I should do after that runs out, but I happened to get a good item.'

And the ingredient was two times better.

However, the duration was only 30 minutes.

'It would be nice if I'm able to extend the duration somehow.'

The reason why he mixed it with other ingredients was not only to hide the original ingredient, but it was mainly to bring out the effects of each ingredient as much as possible.

He would mix them several times, boil them, grind them, and steam them to find the best ratio and method.

He would sometimes find interesting ways to mix them and find

interesting effects that he wasn't expecting.

By doing that, he's able to create an item like the rice cake where it increases the effects of the original ingredient.

'I need to find an ingredient that extends the duration.'

First, Hyun-Soo decided to take the flowers.

It's best to take a lot especially when it's a good ingredient.

He needed some anyways in order to come up with a recipe and test them out, so taking as much as he could was the best thing to do.

There were infinite possibilities.

Hyun-Soo made a simple decision in his head and started plucking the flowers.

Pluck, pluck, pluck!

He plucked without thinking.

"Hyon-Ssoo, what are you doing?"

Hyun-Soo told himself that he would take all of them with him and while plucking them without thinking, his head quickly turned when he heard a voice.

"Hyon-Ssoo, do you like flowers?"

Katrina approached him and asked him with a curious expression while pointing to the flowers.

"Oh....yeah."

Hyun-Soo answered vaguely since he couldn't tell her that this flower increased the stamina by 40 points.

"It's pretty. The petals are silver. So something like this exists inside a portal. Interesting."

It seemed like Katrina wasn't interested before this and exclaimed as if she was seeing this for the first time.

She probably hunted in blue portals a lot more than Hyun-Soo though.

“Are you going to plant it on a flowerbed? It’ll be pretty if you plant them at the entrance.”

“.....!”

Katrina crouched down next to Hyun-Soo and mumbled as she looked at them.

After hearing that, Hyun-Soo felt like the thunder he saw a moment ago appeared inside his head.

‘Planting this?’

He only thought about taking them and didn’t think about actually planting them.

A change in his idea.

‘If I can plant them and raise them...then I won’t have to worry about the flower running out when making the potion.’

If that was possible, then it meant that he’ll be able to obtain the ingredients without any issues.

Hyun-Soo naturally became more careful when plucking the roots.

Because of that, he became slower.

There was still a lot he needed to pluck.

However, he was just tagging along, so he couldn’t make the other hunters wait.

He completely forgot about it when he was plucking the flowers, but he was just tagging along with the other hunters.

“Do we have to leave now?”

There was still a lot he had to pluck.

“Nope. It’s an official hunt anyways.”

And then, she looked as if she wanted to help and started digging the ground.

“I asked you to see what Hyun-Soo was doing. What are you doing?”

“Hyon-Ssoo said he wants to plant these flowers. So I’m helping.”

His plan had changed to him wanting to decorate the base by planting the flowers.

But he didn’t bother correcting it.

If they were misunderstanding, then it was better to leave it that way.

Even though he had a different reason, there was no reason to step forward and tell them the truth.

“That’s weird. Yoo-Na would sometimes take things she finds in portals too.”

Eugene mumbled as he watched Hyun-Soo plucking the flowers.

He knew what Eugene meant even without him describing it.

It’s because Kim Yoo-Na was the one that introduced him to this new world.

“I was wondering what you were working hard on out here. Take your time. We’re pretty used to it.”

After hearing that, Hyun-Soo looked towards where the hunters were.

They were kind of far from him, but they were comfortably sitting around.

A few of them tilted their heads out of curiosity, but didn’t bother approaching him.

“Everyone is really curious, but they refuse to approach you because of their pride. Some of them are saying that you’re doing

the same thing as Yoo-Na and are whispering amongst themselves.”

Even though Hyun-Soo didn’t ask, Eugene crouched next to Katrina and started plucking the flowers while explaining.

Hyun-Soo was suspicious.

‘…..Why are they doing this?’

He said they were used to it because of Kim Yoo-Na and it didn’t seem like he was lying.

Since they naturally approached him and helped, it didn’t take him that long to finish.

Crack!

When he straightened his stiff back, he heard his bones cracking.

Hyun-Soo felt proud when he looked at the flowers.

‘But, how am I going to take all of them?’

It was great that he was able to pluck them, but when he plucked out all of them, a realistic issue appeared.

Even if they were just flowers, the amount that he plucked was so much that one man alone wouldn’t be able to hold all of them.

He was sure that it was going to be heavy.

“That’s quite a lot of flowers. It’s used to put in a monster’s byproduct, but do you need the plastic bag?”

Was he going to have to take off his shirt and carry the flowers on there?

But that wasn’t going to be enough, so maybe his pants too…no. Taking his pants off would be too much.

Hyun-Soo was thinking of ways to resolve this when Eugene offered a solution.

Eugene brought plastic bags as well as a cart.

He must've really experienced something similar because he knew what he was doing.

"We should be careful when packing them. The petals will go bad."

Eugene sounded more worried about the flowers than Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo was thinking that it didn't really matter because he was going to use them when mixing with other ingredients.

Regardless, Eugene was serious.

Very serious.

"It would be perfect if we had paper..."

After mumbling that, Eugene and Katrina started packing them into the plastic bags.

Then, he said they needed to be careful when moving the flowers, so after placing them in the cart, he carefully started pushing it.

'Huh...?'

They took the flowers from Hyun-Soo and he followed behind them.

At the front, Katrina and Eugene were discussing where it would be best to plant the flowers at.

'I have to test it to see if I'm able to grow them after planting it, so it would be best to give them some. I'm sure it'll be okay to give them some since I have a lot.'

"Eugene, what is that?"

"What were you digging for?"

They didn't really look over at Hyun-Soo when he was plucking them, but when Eugene neared them, they gathered and started asking one by one.

'I guess they were curious.'

Marcus was watching the hunters as they approached Eugene and asked him questions instead of asking Hyun-Soo.

“Oh. Flower.”

“There are flowers in portals?”

“Is it like a weed?”

“Go take a look for yourself, you idiots.”

After vaguely answering their questions, Eugene waved his hand in annoyance.

The hunters became embarrassed and awkwardly looked around the plastic bags since their questions weren’t answered.

“Let’s finish up and leave.”

Once Kim Yoo-Na spoke up, their chatting stopped.

Everyone was holding a plastic bag that contained a part of the monster.

Some were pushing carts and others were holding them with their hands.

Hyun-Soo somehow ended up pulling a cart himself.

Clap, clap!

“Good job everyone. I heard you guys haven’t been on an official hunt, but you guys are still the same.”

Kim Yoo-Na clapped her hands and caught everyone’s attention.

She concluded it as the official hunt being done.

The hunters showed their respect for a moment and after hearing that, they acted freely.

“Well, there’s no way someone would get hurt from a hunt like this. We’re still skillful hunters even if you’re not here, Yoo-Na.”

“Yeah, that’s right. So, we’re partying today, right? We always did.”

“It’s been awhile since we’ve had a party!”

Chatter.

After a pep rally, there’s usually an after party.

A couple of the hunters started shouting, “party!”

‘They’re pretty cheerful.’

He didn’t have that many memories where he had fun with people his age.

When he was in school, he would hang out with the delinquents at school, but he couldn’t really say that he had fun.

“Hyun-Soo, you have to come. Okay?”

“Excuse me?”

“You weren’t thinking about not attending, were you?”

“Hyon-Ssoo, you have to come. All the hunters that went into the portal together are considered fellow soldiers!”

With a serious expression, Katrina said that all soldiers had to eat delicious food together.

He didn’t know there was going to be an after party, so he was being indecisive about whether to attend or not, but he nodded.

“Great! Now I’ll be able to eat some authentic Korean food!”

“…Huh?”

“We usually cook the food on days like this. Yoo-Na cooked before, but honestly…hm…I feel bad for saying this, but…it wasn’t good. I’m not confident when it comes to Korean food too.”

Eugene added that the Bibimbap he ate at a Korean restaurant was really good.

That meant.

‘Is he asking me to make the Bibimbap?’

He was suddenly given the responsibility to cook.

‘I acquired items from the portal and now I have to cook? I feel like everything is so random.’

Before he could refuse, Hyun-Soo was given the task to cook and since he couldn’t refuse, he just smiled awkwardly.

‘Bibimbap is pretty easy to make as long as I have the ingredients, but…wait. Ingredients?’

Hyun-Soo looked at the car that Eugene was pulling.

To be exact, he was looking at the flowers.

‘I might get a nice item if I do it right…’

Something popped up in his head.

‘It’s perfect since there’s a lot.’

There was a need to bring in those hunters that were testing the waters to see whether they should approach him or not.

‘Delicious food is the best way to bring people together.’

There probably aren’t a lot of people that would refuse delicious food.

‘This is a good idea.’

He would’ve refused if it was a difficult dish.

The dish that Eugene ordered was a basic dish.

He wasn’t sure how Kim Yoo-Na messed this up to make Eugene talk like that.

But, Bibimbap was a dish that anyone could make.

There were times when him and Hyuna would throw in ingredients into a bowl and mix them up, so he didn’t really think it was difficult.

There was a need to leave a good impression.

He didn’t expect a chance to suddenly appear in front of him.

‘I didn’t think about it, but maybe I got lucky?’

It was an opportunity that came from an unexpected place.

But, it was hard to see how this situation would turn out.

Hyun-Soo didn’t miss this chance.

<Levshila #2> End.

Chapter 66 - <Levshila #3>

When they returned to the base, they said they were going to wash up and left somewhere.

‘I heard the sauna is really nice, so maybe they went there?’

The staff came out and started taking the plastic bags that the hunters were carrying.

They were trying to take the flower as well, so Hyun-Soo quickly intercepted.

Eugene and Katrina left as well, so Hyun-Soo was the only one there.

He pulled the cart that had the flowers and moved it near the dorm.

Rip.

When he arrived at the dorm, he opened the bag and saw the flowers sitting in there.

‘Thankfully, they’re still in good condition.’

But the ones that were sitting on the bottom were bent and pressed.

Hyun-Soo separated the flowers based on the condition. A little over 30% of the flowers weren’t in the best condition.

‘It’s unfortunate that they turned out this way, but if they don’t grow, then I can just pluck them and use it.’

He decided to plant the good ones in the garden.

It was disappointing, but it’s not like he was going to throw them away, so he felt better about it.

‘What would be the best way to eat this?’

Even though it was a little over 30% of the entire flower, there was still a lot.

There was so much that a large sink wouldn't be enough to hold the flowers.

Hyun-Soo took out a portion and started cleaning them up.

He got rid of the dirt on the flowers and washed them.

He didn't have that much time until he had to prepare the food, so he couldn't analyze the flower.

That's when Hyun-Soo thought about how this should be eaten so that there won't be any suspicion.

Chew, chew.

He ripped the petal of the flower and tried chewing it.

'Hm...it smells nice, but the taste is whatever. It's like chewing grass.'

Next was the stem and leaf.

It was totally different than the plants in the real world and the blue stem and leaves were tougher than he expected.

His jaw was starting to hurt.

'Maybe there's a lot of fiber? It's too tough to eat it raw.'

The petal was too eye-catching, so it was impossible.

The stem and the leaves didn't have the greatest texture, so using them raw wouldn't be a good idea.

'The root...I should try making tea with it and see how it tastes. It would be good to dry the petals and try making tea with it too.'

The flower had thick roots and instead of throwing them away, he gathered them in one spot.

People tend to slightly boil plants and eat them.

Hyun-Soo thought of an idea through that and decided to try boiling the flower.

Boil, boil!

The water in the pot was boiling.

Hyun-Soo placed the stem and leaf that he cleaned into the pot.

'Huh?'

As it started cooking, the color started changing to a light brown color.

It seems like the color changes when it gets cooked.

'That's a relief.'

He wondered how he would explain the blue color of the flower, but it was a relief that the color changed.

Just from one look, it looked like other ordinary plants.

'If it looks ordinary, then they won't ask what the original color was.'

It's going to be mixed in with red chili paste anyways, so as long as it wasn't the blue color, it would be fine.

As Hyun-Soo was feeling proud, he used his chopsticks to grab the plants and then ate it.

'It's gotten much more tender. The texture isn't so bad when chewing it.'

Since the color changed, he could say it's similar to fernbrake.

It was kind of crunchy, but was aromatic.

It was similar to mugwort.

He was worried that it would change for the worse, but he made the right decision to boil it.

'Let's see how much of my stamina has been increased.'

Hyun-Soo used Interface.

Excluding the roots, he ate the entire flower, so he was checking its effects.

'Oh.'

When he checked, it increased by 37 points.

‘Is it because I didn’t eat the roots? It’s supposed to give me a total of 40 points.’

If he excludes the petals, then it’ll drop more.

It was unfortunate, but Hyun-Soo had to get rid of the petals so that he wouldn’t get caught.

He tried boiling the petals too, but the color remained the same.

It would’ve been nice if the color changed, but since the shiny silver color remained, he gave up on putting that in.

Boil, boil!

Hyun-Soo put aside the roots and petals and boiled the remaining parts.

‘Hunters that didn’t join the hunt will be there as well. Taking two to three handfuls of the ingredients should be enough.’

He looked at the clock and noticed that a lot of time had passed.

Hyun-Soo quickly cleaned the remaining flowers and boiled them to finish his preparations.

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“Hyon-Ssoo! You’re making Bibimbap, right?”

“Y-yeah. Are you okay with spicy food?”

“Yeah, thanks to Yoo-Na, I’m able to eat some. Fire Chicken and Spicy Ribs are delicious.”

Katrina greeted Hyun-Soo in the cafeteria and licked her lips as she named the dishes she liked.

He asked where she ate them and she replied by saying that she ate them at a Korean restaurant in Manhattan.

‘I should adjust the amount of the chili paste.’

There’s a high chance that the Korean restaurant in Manhattan

adjusted the level of the spice so that the locals would be able to eat it.

Using that as a reference, Hyun-Soo entered the kitchen.

The restaurant staff went home for the day after preparing the basics before the hunters came.

Because of that, the inside was completely empty.

The hunters were the only ones there.

In order to cook the food, the hunters came into the kitchen and after glancing over at Hyun-Soo, they focused on their own task.

“Since you’re still new, I’ll help.”

“Okay, then tell me where the ingredients are.”

Katrina dragged Hyun-Soo throughout the kitchen and told him where everything was.

The location of the plates, various seasoning and sauces, dry ingredients, and the ones that were in the refrigerator.

He had an idea of where everything was.

Lastly, Katrina warned Hyun-Soo.

“After using them, you must put them back. If not, the chefs will get really mad.”

She asked if he needed help with anything else, but Hyun-Soo asked Katrina to leave.

He wouldn’t be able to think if she stayed beside him and she could ask him about the flower when she sees the ingredients that he boiled.

‘They have almost all the basic ingredients. Did Eugene request it?’

Hunters weren’t professional cooks.

Because of that, the kitchen staff had already prepared the

ingredients ahead of time.

The ingredients for the Bibimbap were prepared on one side of the refrigerator.

He felt weird when he saw ingredients for a Korean dish in a foreign country.

But that only lasted for a moment.

Hyun-Soo took out the ingredients and tasted them all.

'Maybe it's because they're chefs. They're perfect. Tastes good too.'

He just had to adjust the amount of the vegetables, rice and the sauce.

It felt like he was taking the easy way out, but what of it?

There was one thing that was going to make this even better.

'There's a reason why the saying, if treated well, a miscreant will shape up, exists.'

Hyun-Soo placed the prepared ingredients inside a large bowl.

It would be nice to decorate it like the restaurants do, but he had to hide the flower.

'And Bibimbap is the best when they're already mixed up.'

Even though they didn't have a large, brass bowl, there was a large bowl, so it didn't matter.

Hyun-Soo put a little bit more salt to adjust the taste and quickly placed the flowers that he brought into the bowl.

Thankfully, the colors changed while they were being boiled, so they blended well with the other ingredients.

He wore plastic gloves and started mixing the ingredients, but he felt something from behind.

"....?"

When he turned his head back, he noticed two hunters were looking at him with interest.

When their eyes met, Hyun-Soo smiled and they smiled back.

‘Wow. That’s a good start.’

People usually get close when eating food together.

Even though they haven’t started eating yet, Hyun-Soo was feeling good.

He scooped out the rice and while it was cooling down, he cooked some eggs and cut them up.

There was some ground beef, so after adding sesame oil, salt, soy sauce, pepper and sugar, he cooked it.

Sizzle, sizzle!

The beef sounded and smelled good.

The smell of marinated beef smelled delicious that this would’ve been enough for them to eat.

‘The red chili sauce is the main ingredient.’

Just putting in the red chili paste that they sell in markets would make him look bad.

‘Add red pepper flakes into the paste and sugar…where’s the green onion? Oh, here it is. Chop that up…and I need to mince the garlic. Add some sesame and lastly, add sesame oil…!’

And he finished making a spicy, sweet and aromatic chili sauce.

Hyun-Soo dipped his pinky into the sauce and tasted it.

‘Yum, okay. This is delicious.’

No matter how he thought about it, Kim Yoo-Na probably didn’t make the chili sauce like this.

‘Half of the container was empty, so I’m assuming that she used all of that.’

They even had an expensive looking sesame oil and seeing as how the bottle was half empty, she probably poured it all in.

‘That would definitely not taste good.’

It would be spicy, salty and greasy.

After seeing the remaining ingredients, he had an idea of what happened.

Hyun-Soo placed the rice, beef and sesame oil into one bowl and mixed them up.

And then, he took out another bowl neatly placed them inside.

‘Since it’ll be a buffet style, I’m sure they’ll take whatever they want.’

Because of that, he purposely mixed them together.

If he placed the sauce in a separate bowl, they wouldn’t know how much to put in it.

In the bowl that had all the ingredients, he placed the egg on top and sprinkled some sesame on it.

‘Done.’

Even though he made it, it looked extremely appetizing.

The rice and vegetables were mixed well with the sauce and the spicy smell was aromatic.

Hyun-Soo ate from the bowl that still had some food left.

‘This isn’t all that spicy, so it should be okay.’

If Katrina was here, he would ask her to try it.

But he asked her to leave because of the flower, so he was a bit disappointed.

He glanced over at where the other hunters were and they looked busy cooking their own dish.

One hunter applied sauce on a large piece of meat, placed it in the

oven and applied the sauce again after taking it out. There was another hunter that placed a fish inside a pie and was decorating it.

He expected there to be more odd dishes, but most of them were homemade dishes.

Well, they were hunters, not cooks.

‘It’s a relief that my Bibimbap doesn’t look shabby.’

Hyun-Soo felt relieved after seeing the fish pie and assumed that his dish would be way better.

‘Anyways, I put in a lot of the flower, so maybe…’

The ratio of the flower and the other ingredients were about 1:1.

He put in a lot.

Thankfully, the texture and the taste was good, so it mixed well with the other ingredients.

He cut them up so that it was easier to eat, so no one would know how much of the flower was actually used in the dish.

‘I should check. Interface!’

[Levshila Bibimbap][Normal]

A Bibimbap that contains Levshila, a flower that only grows where the moonlight is shining the strongest.

It contains a lot of Levshila stem and leaves.

Effect: Upon intake +Stamina 30 [Duration: 30 Minutes]

The stamina recovery rate will increase a little bit. [Duration: 30 Minutes]

He was curious so he used Interface, but there really was information about it.

There was even a rank.

However, since the root and petals weren’t included, the stamina

points decreased.

‘Will this…have the same effect when creating a medicine?’

He thought he could only create potions and medicine, so this was unexpected.

Now that he thought about it, this Bibimbap could be considered a food that provided a buffing effect.

However, he didn’t intentionally make this and it would be hard to consume this during a battle.

Hyun-Soo didn’t have any issues making it and with him in the lead, the other hunters were finishing up their dish as well.

<Levshila #3> End.

Chapter 67 - <Test #1>

On a large table inside the cafeteria, there were a variety of dishes.

“Looks delicious.”

“You better cook next time. It was tiring.”

“The country will be at a loss if you pass out from my cooking.”

Everyone complimented each other and thanked the hunters that cooked the food.

“Oh, what is this? It’s the first time I’m seeing it.”

“That’s, that person’s.”

“That person?”

“You know…”

“Oh…”

The few hunters that saw Hyun-Soo’s dish showed their interest.

When they found out that Hyun-Soo made it, they hesitated.

But, they couldn’t ignore the fact that the dish gave off an aromatic smell and looked appetizing.

‘It’s probably not as good as an actual buffet, but this isn’t bad.’

It was time to eat and everyone started putting food on their plates.

It’s been awhile since they had the party, so they were enjoying themselves.

Since they’ve worked with each other for a long time, taking a break didn’t have much effect and since it was an official hunt instead of a request, they didn’t use all of their power.

The sound of the hunters chattering filled the cafeteria.

‘Looks good.’

He hasn’t been to a guild in Korea, but just from reading the comments on Hunter Net, there’s no way the atmosphere would be like this.

It’ll most likely have a tense atmosphere.

And ranks.

They’ll classify the hunters according to their ranks.

However, those things didn’t really exist here.

“This is really delicious. This is better than the Bibimbap that I ate in Korea.”

“You’re right! It’s really good.”

“Eat a lot. Have seconds.”

If they didn’t eat it, then there will most likely be a lot of food left over.

The atmosphere was good, but there was a problem.

‘Why aren’t they eating what I made?’

He made it so that it would be appetizing to the non-Korean hunters here, but Eugene and Katrina were the only ones that were eating it.

Did they exchange smiles just to make fun of him for this?

‘I did succeed in making it taste good. Even Katrina said that it tastes good.’

“If I knew this was going to happen, I wouldn’t have made so much.”

“How come?”

It’s fine if there were leftovers, but the flower that he put in was a waste.

‘I put so much in there.’

Since the effect couldn’t be applied multiple times, no matter

how many times they ate it, it'll raise their stamina by 30 points once.

"I think there will be some left."

"You think there will be leftovers for a dish this good? If there are, can I take them?"

"I object. I'm going to take some too!"

"Hey, you don't even like this all that much."

"What? I know a delicious food when I taste one."

His uncomfortable feeling went away when they were eating a lot of it and on top of that, were fighting with each other about who's going to take the leftovers.

'This is probably how moms…no, that's a bit of a stretch.'

"It's totally different from what Yoo-Na made. That one was really greasy and salty, but this is really aromatic and it's spicy enough to make it taste even better. Maybe that's why I keep eating it."

Eugene mumbled saying that the dish that Kim Yoo-Na made almost made him throw up.

The amount of chili paste and sesame oil was perfect.

'Yeah, eat lots of it.'

He was relieved that at least one person was enjoying it.

Right when he thought that it would be a good idea to take the leftovers to Hyuna.

The person next to Eugene quietly stood up.

And when they returned, the Bibimbap that Hyun-Soo made was on their plate.

"The food did nothing wrong."

They said it as if they were mumbling to themselves and after

mixing the ingredients, they scooped it up with their spoon and ate it.

Moments later, they had finished the Bibimbap that they brought.

The same hunter stood up again.

This time, the hunter across from them accompanied them.

They both scooped the food onto their plates.

“It’s wrong to discriminate against food.”

“It’s a sin to not eat delicious food.”

They mumbled those comments to themselves and started eating it.

It must’ve been a bit spicy because they started sweating, but they brought more to eat.

It started with them and one by one, the other hunters started eating the food as well.

‘Ha ha, I didn’t think A rank hunters had this kind of side to them.’

Delicious food is preferred by everyone.

It slightly started turning into the situation that Hyun-Soo was aiming for.

‘I feel proud. So this is how a mom feels…no. Let’s not get ahead of ourselves.’

Hyun-Soo happily looked at the hunters that were enjoying the Bibimbap.

And then, his eyes met Marcus’s, who was sitting a bit far from where he was sitting.

Marcus had an extremely unimpressed look on his face.

Everything that Hyun-Soo did was unimpressive to him, so he

probably didn't like this situation either.

But, something weird caught Hyun-Soo's eyes.

'...What the?'

The food that was on his plate caught his attention.

It was red because of the chili sauce, which meant that he ate the Bibimbap.

The frown on his face implied that he was extremely annoyed, but he scooped up the food and finished it within seconds.

"Oh, Marcus. You're not going to eat more?"

When Marcus stood up, the hunter next to him asked.

"I'm going to go up and rest first."

The other hunters didn't bother to convince him to stay after hearing his answer.

After seeing Marcus leave the cafeteria first, Eugene smiled.

"He's embarrassed right now."

"Huh?"

"It seemed like he ate it to make a nasty comment, but since it was delicious to him too, he couldn't say anything...well, something like that."

"...Marcus may have high self-esteem, but he's not a bad guy."

The hunter that said that the food did nothing wrong started talking again.

"It's really different from the food that Yoo-Na made. Eugene kept on saying how delicious it was, but what Yoo-Na made was really...really..."

"It just can't be described with words...hm..."

Their expressions became really sad.

"The ingredients look similar, so what's different?"

“The amount of sauce is the important part. Yoo-Na failed to calculate the ratio…”

“Then, can you inform Yoo-Na regarding the ratio?”

“No, just don’t ask her to make the food. We have to live long because we’re not only resources to the US, but to the world.”

Hyun-Soo naturally involved himself in the conversation that the hunters had.

“I really wanted to throw up during that time, but what you made puts me in a good mood.”

“You too? I feel like my body got slightly lighter.”

“Maybe because it’s a vegetarian dish?”

“No, there’s meat here. Isn’t it because it’s an authentic Korean food?”

Hyun-Soo knew why the hunters were in a good mood and why their bodies felt lighter, so he didn’t answer.

He just smiled and the conversation ended.

They smiled at each other and raised their thumbs.

‘Is this what they mean when they know how the other person is feeling without saying anything?”

He wasn’t sure how people like them were able to ignore him all this time.

“It’s been awhile since I’ve eaten this much. I’m overflowing with energy.”

One hunter said that while cleaning up.

The hunter across from them replied.

“You’re right. I always feel tired whenever we return from a portal, but I feel light today.”

“I should probably exercise.”

“I should call my girlfriend…”

As Hyun-Soo expected, the effects were working well.

Everyone stated that they felt like they were overflowing with energy and thought that it was because they ate delicious food and didn’t say more after that.

‘I should get some bones from a monster later and cook some broth. It would be nice if they were similar to a cow…or maybe a Minotaurus.’

Broth made from the bones of a giant monster.

He was able to taste it just from thinking about it.

Hyun-Soo quickly pushed away the idea that he thought of.

He might even be able to sell it to ordinary people by stating that it was a healthy dish.

It was unfortunate, but he had to push it back.

But the fact that he found different possibilities didn’t make it seem so bad.

‘I didn’t know food could be categorized into medicine.’

Long ago, people said that delicious food were like herbal tonics and that seemed to be true.

‘Right now, I need to focus on making a new potion.’

In order to create a decent recipe, he needed to undergo trial and error.

He can’t obtain the best recipe by not doing anything.

His main task was to bring out the maximum effects of the ingredients and increase it.

Especially since.

‘If I can increase the duration of Levshila, then it’ll be great…’

It was a bit unfortunate that he couldn’t mix it with other

medicinal herbs because he didn't have them.

However, depending on how they're taken care and the process, there can be slight changes to the effects and researching that was worth it.

It wouldn't be so bad to eat it raw, but.

'Then everyone will eventually know that this plant has that kind of effect.'

That's why growing them was necessary.

"Hyon-Ssoo! Let's plant the flowers before they go bad!"

"H-huh?"

"I feel so energetic that I'll probably be able to plant all of them!"

The effects of the Bibimbap came from a place that he wasn't expecting.

After she finished eating, she randomly appeared and asked Hyun-Soo to plant the flowers.

Hyun-Soo had no choice but to go back to the dorm and bring back a portion of the flowers to the front of the building.

Because of that, he had to push back his plan on creating a potion.

He wasn't sure how things ended this way after eating, but Hyun-Soo crouched next to Katrina who was having fun and carefully planted the flowers one at a time.

'It's been digging all day for me. Jeez. Well, since I'm already doing it, it would be nice if they didn't die. If things go well, then I'll be able to create an infinite amount of potions.'

He was mentally tired because he was focused on the flower and he was physically tired because he was planting the flowers.

'Going hunting is way better.'

Why did he suddenly think of the time when him and Kim Yoo-

Na went on hunts together?

It was actually fun back then.

He felt a sense of accomplishment whenever he killed monsters after trying multiple times.

Thanks to Katrina being annoying, after they finished planting the flowers, Hyun-Soo returned to his dorm and collapsed on the floor.

The pain on his neck, shoulders and back was intense because he was crouching the entire time he was planting the flowers.

'My back is the most important...!'

He missed the massaging skill that he erased.

If he passed it to Hyuna, he could've exchanged allowance money for a massage.

However, since Hyuna wasn't a hunter, she couldn't use the skill since she didn't have the energy for it.

It was funny how his body wasn't tired because of the hunt.

'Everyone will laugh at me if I tell them that I injured my back from planting flowers.'

But, Hyun-Soo didn't have a displeased look on his face, despite the thought.

Even though his body was tired, in the end, he succeeded in completing his plan.

Especially, Marcus's annoyed face.

Seeing his expression earlier was satisfying.

After seeing that, Hyun-Soo knew that he himself had a long way to go until he became a man of character.

'What's wrong with saying that it was satisfying?'

There was one last thing he had to do.

‘There’s just one last blow left.’

And the next day.

Kim Yoo-Na visited.

<Test #1> End.

Chapter 68 - <Test #2>

Kim Yoo-Na visited them last at night to help them with their English lessons and complimented them about how much they've improved within a short amount of time.

In Hyun-Soo's eyes, Hyuna did improve a lot.

Maybe it's because she's still a student.

On the other hand, Hyun-Soo couldn't say the same about himself, but hearing her compliment made him feel good.

People tend to want to do better when they hear compliments.

"Hyun-Soo."

Kim Yoo-Na said his name.

Even though Hyuna returned to her room, she stayed and started talking to him.

"This is something I'm going to be saying at the meeting the day after tomorrow, but I think it'll be better if you know ahead of time. Your test will take place during the second official hunt."

"Are you allowed to do that?

"No one is against it, so it's fine. If you don't want to, then you don't have to do the test..."

Kim Yoo-Na's voice became quieter.

The test was like a qualification test to see if he's worthy enough to join the crew.

When Kim Yoo-Na recruited him, she didn't mention a test, but Hyun-Soo assumed there would be something like this.

'This is the least I can do since I'm the only C rank in a crew full of A rank hunters and they probably think I was able to join through some kind of connection.'

In her point of view, she could think that Hyun-Soo doesn't need

to do a test since she already acknowledged his skills and potential.

However.

‘The problem is that the other hunters have their doubts about me.’

In that case, it was better to show them once and for all.

Hyun-Soo felt better about doing that and they’ll acknowledge him.

“No, I should take the test. If I do, then everyone will accept me.”

Kim Yoo-Na mentioned that he didn’t have to take the test if he didn’t have to, but that was nonsense.

If I refused to take the test now, then all the work that he put in to try to fit in will definitely crumble down.

“It’s something I eventually had to do. Thank you for worrying about me, but you don’t have to worry about that. Actually, since there’s a plan, I feel a lot better.”

Thanks to her, he didn’t have to think about other things and just had to focus on the test.

No more cheap tricks.

Well, he wasn’t sure if he could call them cheap tricks.

‘Except one.’

Hyun-Soo thought about the flowers that he hung around the room so that they weren’t noticeable.

Hyun-Soo first thought about how he should dry them.

His willingness to figuring it out was the same as the time when he wanted to do something with them in their original condition.

‘People did say that boiling a red ginseng is the best way to eat it.’

He heard from somewhere that eating it raw was good, but boiling the ingredient for a long time improves the absorption and

effects.

He was also in a rush to find a way to store them appropriately.

Since he completely removed the roots, they probably won't wither like a bouquet of flowers, but he'll really regret it if a rare medicine goes bad.

In order to test it out, he placed the flowers in the freezer, refrigerator, the bathroom and the balcony.

"It's a relief that you think that way. Your test will be taken place in the blue portal. You won't be hunting alone like before and will be hunting with the other members. Your attacks, handling issues and understanding the situation is what you'll be tested on, so it won't be that difficult. It's something you've done many times in the previous hunts."

She also added that being able to work with the other hunters is an important element when going on a hunt, so that was another thing he was going to be tested on.

"There were some members that suggested that we go to a green portal because of your rank, but...blue. You can do it, right?"

"Of course."

He didn't have to do it by himself, but with others.

It would've been a different story if he had to complete it by himself.

'I've done it once before.'

When compared to the monster in the green portal, there was a lot more things he had to think about, but it was actually a relief.

The more tired he was, the more he felt accomplished once he kills the monster.

Even though there were limitations and conditions, as long as fulfilled them, then they'll think more highly of him.

“Great.”

Kim Yoo-Na had a satisfied smile on her face once she heard Hyun-Soo’s confident reply.

And the morning of the test.

Hyun-Soo received information regarding the date of the test and information related to it.

It was exactly what Kim Yoo-Na said.

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“Hyun-Soo, when do you have to finish this by?”

Hyuna asked after saying that she remembered the time when he had a part-time and he had to thread beads.

When he first started, Hyuna happened to see him threading beads after entering his room and she had an extremely shocked expression.

She thought he would be done with part-time jobs, but was worried and asked why he was doing it.

Hyuna looked like she was thinking for a bit and then moments later.

“Hyun-Soo, do you need money…because of me?”

She carefully asked him and despite of his eyes feeling tired and his neck becoming stiff, he started laughing out loud and continued laughing.

“I was worried…so why are you laughing?”

With a pout on her face, Hyuna sat next to Hyun-Soo and started helping him.

“I’m almost done.”

“That’s what you said moments ago.”

“I’m serious. I used all the ingredients that I prepared.”

Hyun-Soo was currently making rice ball cakes.

His test was coming up soon, so why was he making rice ball cakes?

Many probably would've asked the same question, but this work was extremely important.

What Hyun-Soo made was.

[Sweet Levshila Rice Ball Cake][Normal]

A rice ball cake that's been made out of sweet rice and Levshila, a flower that only grows in area that receives a lot of moonlight.

It can be eaten with one bite and it's sweet and chewy.

It has an addicting taste, so it's hard to stop eating it.

There's a lot of Levshila powder within the rice cake.

The recommended intake period is short.

Recommended Intake Period: Within three days.

Effect: Upon intake +Stamina 42 [Duration: 30 Minutes]

The stamina recovery rate will increase a little. [Duration: 30 Minutes]

It's because this rice cake provided this kind of effect.

The flower didn't taste good when eaten just by itself, so it was important to add sugar to it.

He boiled the flower and added sugar to the same water.

'I wanted to make it sweet, so I added sugar to the boiling water and to the ingredient, but I didn't think it would turn out like this.'

Anyways, the result was good, so it was fine.

Thanks to that, the effect increased.

It was a small increase, but it was encouraging to know that it did

when he only used basic ingredients and didn't add any other medicinal ingredients.

If he did, then the effects will most likely improve.

'This is pretty good even though it's my first time.'

On top of that, it tasted better.

He honestly wanted to make candy out of it, but since there was an issue in making it, he quickly dismissed the thought.

And he couldn't make a drink out of it since he didn't have a bottle to keep it in.

It would be difficult for him to get a lot of small, glass bottles in a short period of time.

If he asked Kim Yoo-Na or Eugene, then they would definitely be able to get it, but Hyun-Soo decided to find ways without asking others for help.

'That's why I made these.'

Making it was simple.

He mixed sweet rice and Levshila powder and after carefully pouring hot winter, he made the dough.

He then made them into a round shape and boiled them.

He could add garnishes to it, but Hyun-Soo placed the Levshila powder and sugar into a blender and grinded them. He then coated the rice cake in the finely grinded ingredient.

Because he coated the rice cakes, they didn't stick to each other.

"But, this is really good. I keep eating it. This is pretty addicting."

Hyuna ate the ones that weren't made well and commented on them.

He did as well.

An addicting taste that will make it difficult to stop.

The information displayed on Interface acknowledged that it was so delicious that it would be hard to stop eating them.

“Take some with you and eat it when you’re tired or studying. But, don’t save them too long. They’ll go bad.”

“Okay!”

While making the rice cake, there was something else that Hyun-Soo was targeting.

It was lowering the mental barrier.

It was a barrier about himself and it was a barrier about the miracle drug that he’ll be passing out soon.

If he gave the potion to someone, who would accept it without doubting it?

However.

‘People usually eat rice cakes for snacks, so they probably won’t suspect me.’

On top of that, Hyun-Soo already made Korean food for them and showed them a whole new world.

The effect of the flower was also added, so Hyun-Soo’s Bibimbap probably left a deep impression deep within the hunters.

And what would happen if he provided a Korean snack?

‘No suspicions. On top of the taste, if they see the effects of it, it’ll surely win them over!’

It may even leave a really good impression.

They might find it odd when he tells them to eat them one at a time during the hunt, but it’s not like the hunt would place them in a life or death situation.

Official hunts were like pep rallies anyways.

Since the hunts usually had a laid-back atmosphere, it wouldn’t odd to bring a snack.

‘Jeez, this is tiring though. I feel like my hands are going to break.’

Since Hyun-Soo’s test will take place during the second hunt, most of the hunters will be attending, unlike the first hunt where only a portion of the members attended.

Hyun-Soo wanted to give the rice cakes to everyone.

It kind of felt like a bribe, but Hyun-Soo felt that creating a better image and increasing his worth was more important.

There could be people that might think the effects of the rice cake was all in their heads, just like the Bibimbap.

However, a few that were sensitive to it will feel that something really did change and that it wasn’t all in their heads.

Not once, but twice.

There are some that will think that the first time was coincidental, but not the second time.

‘If that happens, then I’m sure they’ll become cautious around me.’

If they become cautious about the things that Hyun-Soo made, then they’ll eventually come up with some sort of hypothesis.

And those that kept on eating the food that Hyun-Soo made will eventually catch on, even if they’re slower than others.

If that happens, then all the attention will be on Hyun-Soo and his worth may increase.

‘That’s exactly what I want.’

Honestly, he didn’t plan on doing it this way.

‘At first, I thought it was best to hide it, but…’

But, he spent time with Kim Yoo-Na, saw the hunters that were in her clan and experienced how they felt towards him.

Their pride was pretty cheesy, but no matter where he went, he

would probably experience the same thing.

Just a few of the hunters here didn't like Hyun-Soo.

It was only half-hearted and the pride that they had was pretty innocent.

'It's because I haven't really shown them anything.'

Skill. And worth.

If he really showed it to them, then this minor dissatisfaction and pride will go away in an instant.

'And if I have to reveal it eventually…'

He can't hide it on his own for the rest of his life anyways.

A power that'll be revealed eventually.

Even if Hyun-Soo wanted to hide it, if he keeps on using it, it'll be revealed one way or another.

In that case, it's not a bad idea to become friends with them.

They'll definitely be strong and loyal allies.

'My decision is right.'

<Test #2> End.

Chapter 69 - <Test #3>

Hyun-Soo had his own worries and problems.

When thinking about his situation and taking into consideration of other things, all he did was pick the best choice.

“Hyun-Soo, I’m sleepy.”

“Okay. Go to sleep. I’ll do the rest.”

“No, I’ll help you finish. But cook me something yummy when we get back.”

Even Hyuna’s eyes were half closed, she continued helping him while whining.

“Okay, fine. What would you like?”

“Spicy Chicken Stew. A spicy one. I keep thinking about that before going to sleep.”

“Yes, ma’am. Since you helped out, I’ll make it really good and serve it to you.”

“Yes! Then, I’m not going to eat and wait for you, okay?”

“Okay, okay. Anyways, I thought we would’ve been done by now, but we haven’t finished yet.”

Whew.

The sibling let out a sigh at the same time.

One step forward towards Hyun-Soo’s plan.

In order to do that, he had to escape from this rice ball cake making hell.

***

Munch, munch.

Hyun-Soo stayed up all night making and packaging the rice ball cake and he opened one of them and ate it.

‘I didn’t know packaging these would take this long.’

There weren’t any bottles or containers.

He just small, plastic bags.

He mentioned how important packaging was, so using her high school girl senses, she worked on the packaging.

“You can’t put in several of these at once!”

“It’s better to put a few in and then wrapping them. It’s easier to eat and store.”

“You can’t slack off! The packaging is important when it comes to gifts!”

“It’s a Korean snack, so wouldn’t they like it more if the packaging was Korean-like as well?”

Then, she brought a scissor and thread and somehow packaged it to look like a pretty lucky bag.

‘Wow. Kim Hyuna, you’re pretty amazing.’

Hyun-Soo exclaimed to himself.

He didn’t know that would lead him to packaging hell though…

After escaping the rice ball cake making hell, packaging hell was what came next.

Hyuna instructed him to fold and tie in a certain way and he did that for several of hours.

‘I thought I would be able to sleep after I finish.’

There was a surprise.

In the end, he had to sleep late, but he managed to finish packing under Hyuna’s instructions.

‘The packaging isn’t even that important. All that matters is that they enjoy the rice ball cakes.’

Despite of thinking that way, Hyuna didn’t budge on her

decision.

“There’s a girl with full makeup and a girl with no make-up. Who are you attracted to the most?”

“.....”

Hyuna giggled because of the unexpected question.

“See, that’s the importance of packaging.”

“Hyun-Soo tried to come up with an excuse.

“I mean, a person’s outer appearance isn’t the most important thing, but in common situations...you know, kids tend to be attracted to people that are prettier and it’s based on instincts...”

There are women that are pretty even without makeup.

Someone passed over Hyun-Soo’s head in a blink of an eye.

“I don’t need your excuses. I’m just saying. So stop complaining and help out.”

“Yes, Ms. Kim.”

Hyuna didn’t care about his excuse and in the end, Hyun-Soo had to keep working on the packaging until the very last rice ball cake.

But, through this, there was another thing that he gained.

‘It already went up to 17%.’

It was the activation rate of Interface.

In order to create the best rice ball cake, he tried different methods and since he used Interface every time, it showed that the rate increased.

While he was looking at the increased rate with satisfaction, another thought popped into his head.

Despite of the low rate, it was a skill that he needed, so if all of its functions were activated, what kind of world will it show him?

“.....”

Hyun-Soo was deep within his thoughts that his smile disappeared.

He imagined something that didn't make sense.

Anyways, he earned it and he was exhausted.

Since his physical condition was good, it was his mentality that was exhausted.

Crack.

Hyun-Soo stretched his stiff shoulder and ate another rice ball cake.

The sweet rice ball cake helped relieve his exhaustion.

He managed to get two hours of sleep, so he didn't stay up all night.

Thanks to Hyuna's skills, he was able to sleep that much.

Yawn.

'I'm sleepy...'

Hyun-Soo let out a long yawn.

It was a natural thing he couldn't contain.

"A fly is going to enter your mouth, Hyun-Soo."

"Oh, you're here."

"Yes, Hyun-Soo. You're here early. You didn't have to be here so early. Are you nervous?"

"I have no reason to be nervous. I just need to do my best."

"Great. I like that thought. Well, we did go hunting together once long ago. When I think about that, I was worried for nothing. You were at a higher level than those guys and there are several people participating, so it should be fine."

In order to wake himself up, he came outside to sit down and Eugene spoke to him when he found him.

‘Great. I should give it to him now.’

He was the perfect person to test out the taste first.

Since he was already here, Hyun-Soo decided to check Eugene’s reaction.

“What is this? Is it for me? You’re not bribing, are you? It won’t work unfortunately.”

When Hyun-Soo handed him a plastic bag that contained small packages filled with rice cakes, Eugene made a fuss and took one out.

“Try it.”

When Hyun-Soo told him to eat it, Eugene immediately opened it and ate one.

And then, he exclaimed, which was very American-like.

“Wow. It’s delicious! I know what this is. Rice cake! Wait, is it? It’s chewier and has more texture to it.”

“It’s called a rice ball cake. I heard people in the US don’t like soft food, so I made it a bit hard. How is it? Is it okay?”

“It’s good. It’s a relief that you’ve been recruited, Hyun-Soo. I want to compliment the me in the past.”

Eugene excitedly expressed his opinion.

Since his opinion wasn’t bad, Hyun-Soo felt relieved.

‘If he said they were bad, then all the work would’ve been a waste and my plan would be ruined.’

Thankfully, Eugene liked it, so the others probably would have similar opinions about it.

“You’re going to give that to the members, right? Do you want me to give it to them instead?”

“I was actually going to ask you, so I’d be grateful if you did. Please tell them that it will taste more delicious if they eat it when

they’re low on stamina or when they’re tired.”

He couldn’t really tell them to eat it during the hunt.

It will sound odd no matter how it’s said.

“You know, I keep wanting to eat it. I’m sure I’ll think about it during the hunt.”

“Then, eat it.”

‘And it’ll be great if you told people about the effects.’

Hyun-Soo was disappointed by the fact that he couldn’t tell them.

Even though he made the decision to somewhat reveal it, it was still too early to explain everything.

If he handed the rice ball cakes to them, then some of them will definitely refuse it, so when Eugene offered, Hyun-Soo accepted without any hesitation.

Thanks to that.

Today was the day of the second hunt and those that were participating and those that were watching all carried a small bag.

‘It’s a good reaction.’

Thankfully, his plan wasn’t going to be ruined from the beginning.

Some of them tried to continuously eat it, so Eugene stopped them from doing so.

“I told you that it’ll taste better when you’re tired. Don’t eat it now!”

“Jeez. How could you give us this and tell us not to eat it? That guy is scarier than I thought.”

Hyun-Soo heard them whining positively, but they had negative reactions.

Even Marcus ate one and after, quietly kept it for himself.

It was now time for his test.

Kim Yoo-Na appeared right on time and spoke shortly.

“Let’s have fun this time too. Let’s get going.”

**

‘I’m nervous.’

He told Eugene that he wasn’t nervous at all, but Hyun-Soo was a bit nervous.

He wasn’t nervous before this, but after doing an identity check and going through confirmation procedures, he entered the blue portal and his heart started pounding.

‘Is it because this is going to be my official debut?’

Debut wasn’t exactly the right word for this, but since the context was similar, he decided to leave it at that.

“Hyon-Ssoo, are you scared?”

Katrina was beside him and she asked.

“No, not really.”

He wasn’t scared. Just a bit nervous.

He was going to go on a hunt while being watched by the A rank hunters.

And he’ll be acknowledged.

It was a simple diagram, but Hyun-Soo’s desire was contained in it.

‘If someone told the Hyun-Soo from a couple of years ago, I probably wouldn’t have believed it.’

He was looking forward to this kind of situation when he was helpless and lost.

He was expecting this when he was busy looking for jobs because

he couldn’t get acknowledged as a hunter.

He was looking at a much bigger picture.

He was sure that this moment will leave a big mark in his picture.

‘I should think about this when everything is over.’

Hyun-Soo looked at the plant that had some sort of bump all over them.

The monster they had to hunt today was the Blasting Spore.

‘They’re a picky one.’

The members couldn’t be too spread out, but they couldn’t be too close to it and that’s why the Blasting Spore was dangerous.

They marked their territory and the hunters that step into their territory will be considered food.

They could be considered a man-eating plant.

The Blasting Spore is vicious because when a prey enters their territory and if they feel like that the prey is going to try to run away, they’ll extend their roots and attack them so that they can capture the pretty.

The problem was that their territory was pretty wide, so even long-distance attackers had no choice but to attack within their territory. In this case, if the hunters spread out, then the long-distance attackers that are the furthest would continue attacking the monster.

That’s why, it was better to spread out around the monster to prevent wasting skills.

However, there are instances when hunters would attack randomly.

‘If we stay together, then the monster will attack us, so we have to be careful about that.’

No matter how you look at it, they were picky.

Just because the color of the portal was the same, it didn't mean the level of the monsters were all the same.

The Blasting Spore was considered a high-ranking monster.

"Don't worry too much. I'll save you if it gets dangerous."

'Please don't.'

Katrina tightened her fist and spoke with a determined tone.

Hyun-Soo was in a difficult situation where he couldn't laugh or cry.

'I'm pretty sure I saved her before.'

Well, he was a bit lacking to say that he saved her, but still.

"Tankers will enter first. To your positions!"

In order to prepare for the explosions, Brad held up a large Kite Shield and slowly entered the monster's territory.

On the Blasting Spore's head, a large amount of their spores were hanging from it and as they were moving, the sound of the spores hitting each other could be heard.

Their slow movements probably helped them determine whether the opponent was food or not.

And Brad attacked the Blasting Spore's vine.

The sound of friction became so strong that it couldn't be compared to anything else.

The Blasting Spore attacked Brad as if they were some annoying prey that they didn't want to deal with.

Every time they moved their head, a large amount of explosive spores fell towards Brad.

Brad blocked them with his shield and aimed it so that it would fall behind him.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

When the spores landed on the ground, they started exploding.

Brad smoothly moved away from the spores, so he wasn't really affected by the explosions.

He continued doing that and as Kim Yoo-Na was watching, she commanded the other hunters.

"The tanker is now in position. Attackers move in."

Close-range attackers, long-distance attackers and the healers got into position.

It was the start of the official hunt.

<Test #3> End.

Chapter 70 - <Acknowledgement #1>

It was safe.

The hunt was going along so smoothly, that that's what he thought of.

The Blasting Spore was an extremely picky monster, so it was weird that things were going along smoothly.

Hyun-Soo was currently participating as a close-range attacker.

The reason was simple.

It's because the Invisible Attack was invisible.

That was the best advantage, but currently, it was a bit disappointing.

It's because it was difficult to show a visible effect since that was the skill's specialty.

He could be a long-distance attacker and attack from afar, but he had to show his skill now.

Since he was doing the test, wouldn't it be much better if he could actually show them his skill?

For that reason, when Hyun-Soo was willing to become a close-range attacker instead of a long-distance attacker, Eugene and a couple of other hunters were confused, but didn't say anything.

It's because they knew he wouldn't bluff or life about his skills.

Zap!

He felt a heavy shock from the White Unicorn's sword, which costed $400,000 at the weaponry.

'The recoil is still pretty strong.'

While attacking, Hyun-Soo concentrated really hard to find the Blasting Spore's weakness.

This was the place where he had to prove with worth and skills.

Even though his rank was low, he wanted to show that his rank wasn't everything.

'But, why can't I see its weakness?'

It's possible that the activation rate of Interface is too low for it to display the weakness of monsters in the blue portal.

But still...

'When I was hunting the spider monster, I definitely saw their weakness.'

Despite of that, the Blasting Spore's energy field was decreasing.

Crack.

He heard something from above.

Hyun-Soo instinctively looked up.

Due to the battle, the spores that were hanging were moving around violently and hitting each other, but that wasn't where the sound was coming from.

It sounded like something was being cut off.

Crack!

Swoosh!

No one had to say it.

As soon as Hyun-Soo caught on, the other hunters were already prepared to dodge it.

Crack.

When this sound is made three times, that was a sign saying that the spores were going to be released.

As soon as they heard it for the third time, the spores fell like an aerial bombing at the same time.

The tanker got into position and made sure the spores behind

them, which was on the other side of the close-range attackers, but the more ground the spores cover, the more likely the spores will be released.

That's why the close-range attackers had to dodge.

When Hyun-Soo was about to move back, the other close-range attackers did the same and were catching their breaths.

Pant, pant!

Gasp, gasp!

Since they moved aggressively, their chests were moving up and down faster.

But no one looked tired or exhausted.

It was the same for Hyun-Soo.

His eyes met with one of the hunter's.

Smile.

Even though they didn't exchange any words, the smile was enough to understand each other.

'It's fun.'

Hunting by himself under Kim Yoo-Na's lead wasn't that bad as well.

It was intense and there was some thrill!

It was also dangerous because if he didn't kill them, then he would get killed.

Those senses were so amazing that he didn't want to lose any of them.

However, this place would provide him a sense of fun that he hasn't experienced before.

"Whew..."

Hyun-Soo released a sigh out of joy.

‘This is how a hunt should be!’

It was a monster he wouldn’t be able to take down himself, so he was with his fellow hunters, who would watch his back, and they would take down the monster with him.

The feeling of sharing the same experience and time!

A sense of shock he’s able to feel through his hands!

It was as if that awoke every cell within his body and provided him life and energy.

It was a feeling he wouldn’t be able to feel with those groups in Korea.

Crack...! Crack...!

He heard it for the third time.

Boom! Boom!

Boom...!

A lot of spores were falling on top of Brad’s Kite Shield nonstop.

Brad lowered his body and made sure they fell behind him.

And at the same time.

Booooooooooom!

Bam!

Bam! Bam!

All the spores blew up at the same time.

Most of them were pushed behind him, but those that weren’t near his shield blew up around Brad.

“.....!”

Hyun-Soo was nervous, but Brad wasn’t badly injured despite of the spores blowing up around him.

A faint green energy was being poured around his body.

It was a skill known as Heal Shower.

Thanks to that, Brad was able to endure the explosions without getting injured badly.

‘It looks like it’s time to go back in again.’

Going back in at the right time was much harder than backing out.

The Blasting Spore tends to act violently once the spores are released.

That meant that they turned their attention towards the other hunters that were getting ready to attack them.

That’s why, the hunters had to be cautious until the monster was paying attention to the tanker.

But…

‘Uh? Huh?’

While Hyun-Soo was looking back and forth between Brad and the Blasting Spore, he saw something odd.

If he didn’t lower his head a bit, then he probably wouldn’t have noticed it because he would’ve been too busy looking at the monster.

‘It was just an ordinary ground a moment ago, but the color changed.’

And it was a color that made him feel bad.

Not too far from him, a dull dark red color was covering the ground.

Just looking at it made him feel unpleasant.

Hyun-Soo instinctively avoided that part and backed away.

There was no need to think more about it because as soon as he felt unpleasant, he kept his distance.

And then.

Crack!

“.....!”

The monster’s root shot out all of a sudden.

It was the same roots that made fast movements and attacks an important element since they didn’t know when and where they would appear.

‘The distance is pretty close for those roots to shoot out.’

It was as if everything that they did up until now was a fake and monster was trying to catch them off-guard.

And it just so happens that the roots shot out in the spot that Hyun-Soo was standing in.

If he didn’t dodge it, something bad definitely would’ve happened to him.

‘I could’ve almost died!’

It was a relief that he avoided it as soon as she saw the dark red color.

Before his head told him what to do, his body moved back first.

That saved Hyun-Soo’s life.

Thanks to that, he avoided dying a pointless death during the test.

Whew.

During that time, he was given a short break and Hyun-Soo was able to let out a sigh of relief.

But just because he avoided the attack, he wasn’t in the position to just stand by and watch.

It was an odd situation since the roots popped out near the close-range attackers, but Hyun-Soo quickly made a decision.

Hyun-Soo held his sword up and aimed it towards the roots that shot out from the ground.

‘It’s over there.’

A faint, white dot that was shining.

He thought there was an issue with Interface since he couldn’t see it, but now his doubts disappeared all at once.

Hyun-Soo enveloped the sword with Invisible Attack.

It was to increase the sword’s offensive and cutting strength by adding the skill onto it.

“Ha!”

Slither!

The Blasting Spore was using their roots to feel around them for their prey and he approached them while avoiding the roots.

One tiny mistake may cause the roots to grab him and put him in danger.

The most difficult part was that their roots didn’t move in a certain pattern.

The only way he can avoid them is to rely on his senses, sight and quick movements.

Slither.

Is it because they’re able to sense the hunter’s movement around them?

The roots created a spiral and was closing in so that they could try to capture Hyun-Soo.

If he grazed against the fast-moving roots, then it’ll cause a lot of damage.

Hyun-Soo avoided those roots and looked at the tips that were trying to find him.

A smile appeared on Hyun-Soo's face when he saw the tips of those that were trying to grab him.

'You want to eat me? Thanks!'

Thanks to that, it got easier for him to attack.

The part that he was looking at was a section that was away from the tips.

The white dot was the young Blasting Spore's weakness.

Swoosh!

Swish!

The sword had many layers of Invisible Attack and it cut the white dot.

'Damn!'

He expected it to cut with one attack, but it didn't.

But, after waving the sword once, he spun and cut the white dot deeper.

"…..!"

Swoosh!

He heard the sound of something being cut off instead of the sound of spores hitting each other.

Boom!

He also heard something heavy fall on the ground.

And.

Crack! Crack!

"Watch out!"

Someone behind Hyun-Soo yelled out and at the same time, the root that he cut off grazed right over his head.

The monster was either trying to hold on despite of the pain or

they were being stubborn and was trying to get revenge one way or another.

There weren't any patterns, so it was impossible to assume.

It even seemed like their movement gotten faster by a couple of levels.

It was so dangerous that even if Hyun-Soo managed to come out of it, he would come out with injuries all over his body.

However.

The roots were flying above his head.

Fwoosh!

He slightly ducked his head and dodged it.

Next was the left leg.

Swoosh!

He slightly raised his leg as he was running.

They used that moment and targeted his right leg, but after he jumped, he twisted his body and escaped it.

After that, the Blasting Spore started attacking from all directions, but he dodged them all as they brushed by him.

"Wow! Did you see that?"

"Is he really a C rank? His movements are crazy...!"

'Just now...'

Even after he escaped, he felt puzzled for a moment and looked at the body that was holding the sword.

But he couldn't think for a long time.

A moment later, the Blasting Spore's roots shot up from the ground sporadically.

Craaaaaack!

“Wow.....”

He heard someone exclaim.

It was different from how they previous attacked.

But no one was confused or became scared.

Hyun-Soo immediately targeted the one nearest to him and threw his body towards it.

He had to focus on his attacks right now. He could think later.

‘I was wondering why there weren’t any weakness on its body. They’re all towards the roots.’

Because of that, no matter how hard he tried to find it, he couldn’t find the white dot on their body.

He wasn’t sure why, but the Blasting Spore was extremely enraged, so it kept on releasing the exploding spores.

Hyun-Soo could tell from their movements that they were no longer finding food to eat. They just wanted to get rid of the enemies that was invading their territory.

They must’ve figured out that the hunters weren’t food anymore.

Fwoosh!

He heard something cutting through the air.

It started moving slower.

Some sort of white object was floating in the air.

‘Again!’

The feeling that he had after he cut off their weakness and escaped the roots that were moving violently.

He felt that same feeling.

The white object didn’t stay in one place.

When it appeared, it disappeared, then it appeared and the moment Hyun-Soo dodged, it appeared again.

His target was the white dot that was shining.

He kept on avoiding the object and swung his sword.

Swoosh!

It rode up the fingers that was holding the sword, to his palm, to his wrist and as it rode up his arm, a heavy feeling was passed to him.

It was different from the time he cut off the root.

Moments ago, he was sure he cut off the root with one attack.

But the feeling that he had now made him question whether he even cut half of the root.

He turned around and swung his sword again.

Swoosh!

Boom!

That's when he heard something heavy hit the floor.

"Pant, pant, pant!"

"Hey! Are you okay?"

'Huh?'

Hyun-Soo escaped the roots that were moving around violently due to the pain and he noticed that his hands were shaking.

Their question sounded muffled for a moment and later realized what they were saying.

'What's wrong with my body?'

His hands weren't the only body part that was shaking.

His arms, legs and his entire body was slightly shaking.

The muscles in his entire body was screaming.

His eyes felt stiff and they were stinging as if he were cutting onions.

If this continued, then it’ll be too difficult for him keep participating in the hunt.

‘Why am I feeling like this all of a sudden?’

It’s not like he got hit by the monster or had a serious injury.

Then why was his body in such a bad condition?

Fwoosh!

While Hyun-Soo was supporting his body, a faint green light fell down on him.

‘Heal!’

It seems like a healer used a recovery skill on Hyun-Soo.

That’s when he managed to escape from the exhausted condition he was just in.

Whew.

Passing out during the hunt would’ve been embarrassing and he managed to avoid it.

Hyun-Soo started collecting his breath due to the dizziness he felt and that’s when someone made an encouraging comment.

<Acknowledgement #1> End.

Chapter 71 - <Acknowledgement #2>

“Good eye, newbie!”

“Huh?”

When he heard that, Hyun-Soo started looking around.

Because his body was feeling off all of a sudden, he missed everything that happened within that short period of time.

Hyun-Soo saw how the other hunters started moving.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Splat!

The sound of vines being cut and remains falling to the ground filled the area.

‘Huh?’

But the parts that were being cut off were the same parts that Hyun-Soo was attacking, which was the monster’s weakness. It felt really odd.

‘So that’s what they meant earlier.’

As A ranked hunters, they had a lot of experience with hunting in portals, so they noticed how Hyun-Soo was attacking the same area twice.

Since they were continuously checking the Energy Field, when Hyun-Soo successfully attacked, they confirmed that the field decreased a lot and decided to go along with it.

‘That’s why they’re A rank hunters…’

They weren’t surprised by the unexpected situation and instead, calmly analyzed the situation.

When thinking about how they analyzed Hyun-Soo’s actions, despite of him still lacking a lot, there was definitely a difference between the rank.

“Let’s finish it!”

Originally, while the long-distance attackers are attacking the roots and part of the body, the close-range attackers would attack most of the body.

But now they’ve switched.

The close-range attackers took care of the roots while the long-distance attackers took care of the body.

No one suggested on doing this, but they naturally switched the attacking points.

And results showed.

There weren’t that many spores left and due to the pain, the Blasting Spore’s movement slowed down.

In order to make sure that the hunt was over, a hunter pierced the monster’s body with a sharp ice lance.

Fwoosh!

Crack!

It sounded like a piece of fabric was being torn apart and the monster’s body fell forward.

If they were alive, they would’ve reacted to it in some way.

‘It’s done.’

The Blasting Spore didn’t have any reaction.

They were completely dead.

“Good job.”

“Well done.”

“This one was kind of different.”

“You’re right. But, it was still fun, right?”

Once the hunt was officially over, the hunters started talking amongst themselves.

‘So this is how my first hunt ended.’

Sigh.

He let out a long sigh, but it was difficult to tell whether it was a sigh of relief.

Someone complimented him for his hard work and raised their hand towards him.

Hyun-Soo followed and raised his hand up as well and they high-fived him.

Hyun-Soo was confused by their action, which made them laugh.

“Hey, newbie. Congratulations on your debut!”

With that, the others started complimenting him.

They thought he would’ve frozen on the spot, but they were wrong.

They acknowledged him for having guts.

They noticed that Hyun-Soo was quick on his feet and was witty.

They all made friendly comments.

Hyun-Soo was surprised and just nodded his head as he heard them.

Thump.

Thump, thump.

As Hyun-Soo was standing there with a blank expression, his heart started beating rapidly.

A feeling that he did it.

A sense of accomplishment.

Those were the feelings that filled within him as his heart raced.

On top of that, the hunters started acting differently.

Up to this point, it was a process to have them treat him fairly,

but with the completion of this hunt, that process was completely gone.

The awkward feeling completely went away.

It felt like they acknowledged him by saying that this was enough to accept him into the group.

“Why are you spacing out like that?”

Someone lightly tapped his shoulder.

“It’s just hard for me to believe.”

They say that people tend to space out when they’re overflowing with joy.

It felt like he became dumb because the senses that allowed him to feel reached its limits.

“Ha ha. This isn’t your first time hunting a green portal monster, so why are you acting like that?”

“Because there’s an issue. It felt like I made a mistake towards the end.”

“A mistake?”

Eugene asked out of confusion.

“My body suddenly…”

If the hunt didn’t end there, then it could’ve turned into a huge mistake.

Thankfully, the healer casted a healing spell and the hunt ended, so it was a relief.

“It sounds like you’ve reached the limits of your power. That happens to us too from time to time. But if you keep hunting, you’ll get an idea of your limits. And there are healers during emergencies. That’s what teammates are for.”

Eugene comforted Hyun-Soo by saying that it’ll naturally resolve itself once he gains more experience.

“Don’t worry too much. You’ll have to go through an internal meeting, but in the current situation, I think it’ll work out just fine. Don’t you think the others changed a bit?”

“I do agree with you.”

Even the ones that hesitated because of their pride confirmed that Hyun-Soo wasn’t such a terrible hunter that will ruin the clan’s honor.

The mental barrier disappeared as well.

Even though he wasn’t an A rank, he showed everyone that he had potential.

Of course this was just a test and the level of the hunt was lower than their usual hunt.

But even when taking those things into consideration.

‘The potential I saw then, it was real.’

Eugene believed that he understood Kim Yoo-Na’s reason for enforcing it, despite of knowing that the members were against it.

Eugene was one of the members that helped with that and he was satisfied with his hunch and eye for talent.

A C rank hunter that didn’t know their place and was mooching off of Kim Yoo-Na.

That was how everyone looked at Hyun-Soo when he was first introduced to the clan.

Even though Eugene, Katrina and even Brad witnessed his power despite of being a C rank, they understood why the other members were distancing themselves from Hyun-Soo, so they did their best to mediate.

It was a lie to say that it wasn’t bothersome.

But despite of that, Eugene looked forward to the day when everyone would acknowledge the shining gemstone that he saw.

He wasn’t sure how Hyun-Soo was going to grow from today on, but witnessing it himself was going to be pretty fun.

Once the actual hunt was over, the crew’s reaction changed a bit.

Even though Hyun-Soo wasn’t an A rank, they gave him a lot of points for working well with them.

He thought that as long as he wasn’t a burden and they didn’t have to come rescue him, it would be fine, but Hyun-Soo was able to fight beside them without any issues.

Even though he was in a groggy state because he used up his powers without knowing his limits, that actually worked in his favor.

‘It would be a problem if it happened often though…’

That was something he would have to get used to by sensing his limits.

Eugene and the other hunters took that as him giving it his all during the hunt.

It was better than him not doing his part.

‘And even though he’s a C rank hunter, he did his part, which made it seem like he wasn’t a C rank.’

When they were hunting in a blue portal in Korea, he didn’t show all of his powers.

Hyun-Soo had the skill and potential that Eugene desired back then, but now, he’s grown even stronger.

Even though the Gruppa and the Blasting Spore belonged in the same colored portal, there was a big difference in the level between the two monsters.

With that thought in mind, Eugene looked at Hyun-Soo with a satisfied expression, but Hyun-Soo felt something odd.

It was definitely a compliment, but he wasn’t sure why Eugene

was looking at him like that.

“That’s why you should push your worries away and rest. Since you just debuted, we won’t ask you to wrap up things here, so you can go out first and rest. Oh yeah, I’m sure you’re tired, so I’ll take you out of the party preparations.”

“That’s good to hear.”

Eugene was being thoughtful by telling Hyun-Soo that he didn’t have to join the party preparations.

Even though it felt like he was fishing for compliments, Hyun-Soo honestly felt relieved about it.

‘My overall condition hasn’t recovered yet.’

His stamina has gotten better after he got healed, but he still had a long way to go until his energy level recovered.

It felt like he went over his limits.

‘This is how it must feel to be burned out.’

“Good job everyone. Let’s wrap things up here quickly and go rest.”

Kim Yoo-Na announced the official completion of the hunt.

The hunters started wrapping up one by one.

He felt bad about just standing there, so he approached them to help, but a couple of the hunters told him to rest and declined his help.

They strongly expressed that he needed to rest, so there was nothing he could do.

‘Right. I have the rice ball cake.’

During the hunt, Hyun-Soo didn’t have the time to think about something else and it was only after the hunt that he remembered the rice ball cake.

He himself said that it was better to eat it when one’s tired.

‘They say that one can’t scratch their own back.’

It described the currently situation perfectly.

Hyun-Soo took out the rice ball cake from his pocket and poured it all into his mouth.

Chew, chew.

Since he was chewing all of them at once, the effects of the sweetness and the Levshila powder started spreading throughout his body.

‘It’d be nice if the effects repeated or overlapped.’

The fact that it didn’t was unfortunate.

Hyun-Soo pushed that thought away and took out another package.

Besides the fact that it increased the stats, he felt better by eating something sweet.

“So that’s why it should be eaten when you’re tired.”

The hunters that finished wrapping up saw Hyun-Soo eating the rice ball cake, so they quietly approached him and one by one, they unwrapped the bag.

Even though no one asked, they commented on it.

“You’re right. It was delicious before, but it tastes even better now. It even feels like the tiredness in my body is fading away. Hey, do you have more?”

Hyun-Soo took out the rice ball cake without replying.

So people do become close over food.

The mental barrier was decreasing and they were becoming more friendly.

On top of that, they had food to eat.

Even though there were packages that contained the monster’s

body parts, it felt like they were in some sort of café.

“You’re Hyon-Ssoo, right? I heard Katrina call your name out a lot. I’m David. I know my introduction is late, but I hope you’ll still accept it.”

“I’m Ismael. Are you really a C rank?”

That didn’t seem like the case.

Ismael asked while eating the rice ball cake.

“I am.”

For now.

There was a word that he omitted, but he wasn’t lying.

Hyun-Soo nervously answered, but they just nodded in acknowledgement.

They weren’t hostile towards him like before.

‘Why are they acting more friendly when I’m only a C rank?’

They only asked once to confirm, but after that, it was as if they didn’t care about his rank anymore.

‘….!’

That’s when Hyun-Soo realized it.

The fact that he was accepted into the clan.

And the fact that he was acknowledged.

***

“From the meeting, everyone approved, so I’ll introduce him again. His name is Kim Hyun-Soo and he’s now officially part of our clan.”

Cough.

Hyun-Soo coughed due to nervousness.

Whew.

After letting out a long sigh, he walked up to Kim Yoo-Na.

Click, clack.

Everyone's eyes were on him.

Before, they were disinterested and made him an outcast, but now, it was different.

"Nice to meet you. I'll officially introduce myself. My name is Kim Hyun-Soo and I'm a C rank hunter that has officially joined the clan. I hope you'll take care of me."

After he finished his introduction, people started reacting.

The atmosphere was definitely different from before.

All the bad feeling they had towards him disappeared after he showed his skill in the portal.

It wasn't the most perfect hunt, but when considering his rank, they probably would've given him more points because of that.

'So this is what it's like.'

Hyun-Soo was able to feel it.

He understood the reason why people try to put themselves out there to get acknowledged by others.

Being a part of the group that acknowledged you provided a sense of pride and satisfaction.

'Same group. Different feeling.'

<Acknowledgement #2>

Chapter 72 - <B Rank Hunter #1>

A few days after he successfully completed the test.

Hyun-Soo stood on the same spot that he stood on the first time arrived at the clan's base.

And he introduced himself again, but this time, he was at different position.

"It's been awhile since we have a new member, so please treat him well. Hyun-Soo, you can go in now."

"Okay."

As he walked back, he slightly turned his heads and his eyes met Kim Yoo-Na's.

'Now she looks at me.'

Kim Yoo-Na had small smile on her face as she watched him walk back, but when her eyes met his, her smile disappeared.

Other than private meetings, Kim Yoo-Na would purposely not look at him, but now, she looked at him without holding back.

It was like a sign.

It was a sign saying that they wouldn't undervalue Hyun-Soo's worth just because he had a connection with Kim Yoo-Na.

This is the kind of benefit that he got once a majority of the members acknowledged him.

'I was pretty disappointed.'

He knew the reason and he understood them.

That's why he was thankful, but on the other hand, he felt bad.

Despite of that, he was a bit disappointed, so he felt even more bad towards her.

After that, Kim Yoo-Na briefly announced the clan's schedule.

When she told them that they haven't received any requests, a group of them expressed their disappointment.

When the meeting was over, most of them stood up and went about their own business.

"I just don't understand!"

Hyun-Soo heard someone's angry voice.

He was about to ignore it, but because of the conversation they were having, Hyun-Soo stopped walking.

'The voice belongs to?'

"I don't understand why all of you are treating him so nicely based on one measly test."

'Marcus?'

They were definitely talking about Hyun-Soo.

There was no guarantee that the other person would like everything about him.

There were always going to be likes and dislikes.

It would be a lie if he said he didn't care, but saying that everyone had to like him was an unrealistic idea.

Right when Hyun-Soo was about to overlook it.

"Hey, you've got it all wrong."

He heard another familiar voice.

'It's Eugene.'

"You liked him from the start anyways. You're biased so I don't need to hear your opinion."

"No, you do need to listen to it. Do you think me and the rest of the members are blind or something?"

"So what? He's just a C rank."

"Right, he is just a C rank. But do you know how long it takes for

an E rank to become a C rank?”

When Eugene asked for a specific timeframe, Marcus didn’t answer.

It’s probably because he had no idea.

“It’s six months. No, not even. A few months at least.”

“…If Yoo-Na was personally training him, then isn’t it obvious?”

Tsk, tsk.

He heard something clicking their tongue.

It was obvious who it was.

It was probably Eugene clicked his tongue because he thought Marcus was being pathetic.

“You don’t know anything about Yoo-Na. I’m pretty sure you know that Yoo-Na doesn’t use the gentle and nice approach. And if he was someone like that, would she even bring him here? Yoo-Na’s standards are just as high as yours.”

“…..”

Marcus didn’t answer again.

Kim Yoo-Na’s high standards. Hyun-Soo agreed with that as well.

On top of that, she trains people really hard.

It was such an intense method that she probably wouldn’t feel a thing even if she threw someone off the cliff.

“Yoo-Na did train him, but he leveled up through his own efforts. I’m pretty sure you know it too. You have ears and aren’t an idiot.”

“…..”

“Since you have eyes, I’m sure you watched the test in the recent official hunt live with your own eyes.”

Eugene’s annoyed voice filled between them.

Hyun-Soo was a bit embarrassed, but was feeling proud as well.

Besides Kim Yoo-Na, Eugene was the hunter that actually saw him up close and acknowledged his efforts.

Not just the current Hyun-Soo, but the Hyun-Soo in the past as well.

'I'm really thankful, but I should leave.'

He ended up hearing most of their conversation, but he felt that it was wrong to stay there.

Their conversation was coming to an end.

In order to avoid any awkward situations, Hyun-Soo was going to leave, but he felt someone's presence.

"Marcus, I understand why you have so much pride, but try looking at it without thinking about the ranks. The skilled hunter that you like so much will be standing right there."

With a wall between them, the footsteps stopped.

"Don't think that I'm taking sides. From what I know, you're not a petty, close-minded person. That's why I'm letting you know. You came to this place in order to be acknowledged with your skills alone, right?"

With that last comment, Eugene walked out.

It was obvious that Eugene and Hyun-Soo would bump into each other.

"…..!"

Eugene looked surprised for a moment, but smiled not long after and pointed his finger behind him.

His lips started moving.

This was what he said.

'Do your best.'

His best? What was he talking about?!

Just what was he telling him to do with the guy that despised him?

Before Hyun-Soo was ready to do anything, Eugene told him to do his best.

‘Ugh. I don’t like this. This kind of situation.’

It felt like background music started playing and the phrase, ‘A wild Marcus has appeared!’ popped out.

“.....!”

Marcus was surprised when he walked out of the resting room and saw Hyun-Soo.

“What the? Were you eavesdropping? You sure have a horrible hobby.”

“I wasn’t planning to, but I did I the end, so I’m sorry about that.”

Marcus was acting sensitive, but when Hyun-Soo apologized so easily, he loosened up a bit and looked at Hyun-Soo.

He didn’t seem like someone that enjoyed talking bad about him and the negative feelings that he had towards Hyun-Soo couldn’t be seen in his eyes.

“.....”

Marcus kept on opening and closing his mouth as if he had something to say, but in the end, gave up and remained quiet.

This situation was extremely awkward and painful for Hyun-Soo, but he stood there as if there was nothing wrong.

He instinctively felt that nothing would come out of it if he backed out.

Marcus turned around after looking at Hyun-Soo for a bit.

And then he quietly mumbled something.

Because he spoke so quietly, Hyun-Soo questioned whether he

heard it right and kept on looking at the spot that Marcus was standing in.

‘…But I still haven’t completely acknowledged you.’

There was a but in the beginning.

What was the meaning of that word?

‘Was he trying to say that despite of me doing well, I’m still not prepared?’

If his assumption was correct, then the conversation he heard between Eugene was something he didn’t have to worry about.

It could be an issue with his pride and stubborn personality, like Eugene had mentioned.

‘At least he’s not a bad person.’

He already knew that, but.

There wasn’t a completely evil person in this clan.

Maybe it’s because they’re in the same clan as Kim Yoo-Na.

‘Oh. I’m sure Hyuna is waiting.’

He knew that Hyuna would be waiting for him after ordering some late night snacks.

He pushed aside the slightly awkward and embarrassing feeling and quickly walked towards the dorm.

***

After being accepted into the clan, the biggest change was the members making requests.

The clan members were making requests about food.

He was thankful for their interest, but Hyun-Soo was honestly in pain.

He only made enough so that he was full, but the members were expecting him to make a dish that was delicious and pleasing to the

eyes and that was difficult for him.

‘The Bibimbap was the only dish I was able to make…’

After eating Bibimbap about eight times, they stopped requesting for it, which was a relief for him.

It was a bit unfortunate, but they started asking him for a different dish.

After telling that Jjambbong, a Korean spicy seafood noodle, was a popular dish these days, he bought instant noodles and cooked it for them, so they stopped demanding for the time being.

Of course Kim Yoo-Na is the one that provided the ingredients.

‘Even though I didn’t put in any Levshila, they seemed to enjoy the food, which I’m thankful for, but…it feels like I’ve become a kitchen maid.’

If he cooked based on what the members wanted and the original recipe, then he wouldn’t have any Levshila left.

‘The ones that I’ve planted in the garden have all died, so I don’t have much left.’

Despite of his back and neck being in pain, he planted the flowers in the garden and they were lively during the first few days.

But later, the color turned to black then they fell to the ground and died.

“Hyon-Ssoo! The flowers died! What should we do?!”

He remembered how Katrina screamed.

Honestly, he wanted to scream more than her.

‘My hard work! My potion factory dream! My money!’

But he somehow managed to hold back what he wanted to say to prevent humiliating himself.

There wasn’t a guarantee that he would find an item as rare as a Levshila.

That's why he plucked the flowers without holding back during that time...

'I'll just have to do some research with the flowers that I have left.'

The rice ball cake was good, but the only issue was that it didn't last very long.

Just from one look at the shape and ingredients, one can tell that it provided an effect and Hyun-Soo gritted his teeth while trying to think of an item that killed two birds with one stone.

'I guess I have no choice. Time to take out my trump card.'

Hyun-Soo's trump card was Japchae, which was a Korean glass noodle stir fry.

Noodles, soy sauce, sesame oil and sugar.

With a bit of meat and a variety of vegetables, he'll be able to make an addicting Japchae.

It took a long time at first since he had to soak the noodles for a long time and it was difficult since he was cooking for foreigners, but after figuring it out, people responded positively.

Slurp!

Slurp! Sluuuurp!

Chew, chew!

He made the first batch as a test and within five minutes, the dish became clean.

After serving the dish, it became quiet.

He wasn't sure how long that peace was going to last.

It was good that they weren't holding back, but this was a bit much.

It came to a point where Hyun-Soo wanted to suggest that they eat out.

Anyways, it's probably thanks to the Japchae.

A small smile appeared on Hyun-Soo's face as the hunters gave him a thumbs up and told him that the Korean spaghetti was delicious.

'Thankfully, they've become accustomed to the taste, so I'll be able to perform many tests.'

Everyone will eat it and say how good it is.

Their body became stronger and were sensitive about the changes that happened to their body.

They were great test...no, great teammates.

'It's not like I'm going to poison them, so it's beneficial to both sides.'

Hyun-Soo decided to think that it was good for everyone.

Anyways, thanks to the Japchae that he made, he was able to enjoy the quiet in the Center Room.

It was nice to train in his own training room, but since he had to work with other hunters, Hyun-Soo visited the Center Room whenever he got the chance.

The other hunters read his mind and allowed him to watch.

The best way to work on their teamwork was to actually try, but as of right now, it was a bit too much.

It wasn't impossible for the other hunters to work with Hyun-Soo, but that couldn't be considered as practice.

Because of that, all he could do now was watch the other hunters.

He wasn't sure how helpful it was going to be just by watching.

However, since the other hunters knew each other well, there was a need for Hyun-Soo to work that much harder so that he can catch up.

'But the problem is that the more that I watch, the more I just

watch them without analyzing or studying.'

Since their rank was high and their power was different from his, it was fun to watch.

'That's the power of A rank hunters' was what he thought as he watched their impressive skills.

Name: Kim Hyun-Soo (21)

Rank: C

Class: Skill Maker

Experience: 98%

Stamina Level: 89%

Energy Level: 100%

Stamina: 101 Agility: 77 Strength: 90 Critical Hit: 75 ?? ?? ??

??

Skill List

[Interface][SS]

[Skill Creation][B]

[Skill Transfer][B]

[Medicinal Mix][C]

[Invisible Attack][C]

His eyes stopped at experience.

'I'm 2% short. So this is what it feels like when something is missing.'

A phrase that he once saw before popped into his head.

<B Rank Hunter #1>

Chapter 73 - <B Rank Hunter #2>

There are times when his experience level increases a little bit when he uses Interface and Medicinal Mix often.

He saw it increase one time when he didn't go on any hunts and made skills while staying home all day.

'I should try both just in case.'

Becoming a B rank was his current goal, but he wasn't sure how much experience he'll receive by using those skills.

He would level up right away if he went on a hunt, but since he couldn't go on a hunt right now, if there was a way to increase his experience, he was willing to try it.

'Creating a new potion is probably the best.'

Whenever he creates a new recipe, he ends up concentrating on that alone that he uses up all of his energy.

Swoooooosh!

Clash!

While Hyun-Soo was creating a plan to increase his rank to B, the other hunters were practicing in the Center Room.

'This is just like an action movie...huh? What's that?'

While Hyun-Soo was thinking that he was watching a 4D movie, a hunter was testing out a skill and Hyun-Soo saw a faint purple light emitting from their body.

But when Hyun-Soo thought it was odd and tried to check again, it had already disappeared.

'...Was I seeing things?'

It happened so suddenly that it was hard to confirm it.

Hyun-Soo thought that maybe he saw an afterimage of the skill and didn't think about it any longer.

***

Maybe it's because he felt relieved after overcoming a critical moment, but despite of him wanting to raise his experience, Hyun-Soo was laid-back.

But that moment ended when Kim Yoo-Na made a comment a couple of days ago while visiting.

'I have no time to rest. Guess I don't have a choice. She said it's because of Hye-Na after all.'

Family.

To Hyun-Soo, they were his weakness, and at the same time, they were a gem that he treasured the most.

Since Hyun-Soo felt that way, he understood how other people felt.

Even though he passed the test, he wasn't very fluent in English.

It hasn't been that long since he came here, so it was obvious that he wouldn't know much.

But...

'Since I'm always surrounded by people that speak English, I'll end up improving even if I didn't want to, but I'm not sure if that's a good thing.'

The fact that he was improving little by little was a good thing.

Kim Yoo-Na's assistance was included in there.

Her assistance was more like a hardcore teaching, but still, it was pretty effective.

For Hyun-Soo, he had to see the clan members every day, despite of whether he liked them or not, but for Hyuna, that wasn't the case.

She attended a language school in the afternoon, which the clan supported, but that only occurred in the afternoon.

That's why, their late, discreet meeting, no, their study session continued.

It was during that time that he was able to hear about Kim Hye-Na's well-being.

"I'm sorry, but would it be okay if I sent Eugene in my place?"

"Eugene?"

"Yes, since he's fluent in English, he'll be a good teacher as well."

He already knew that Eugene was fluent in both English and Korean.

But Hyun-Soo couldn't easily agree to it.

"Yoo-Na, did you keep visiting us even though you were busy? If that's the case, then I'm sorry. I didn't know."

Hyuna caught on faster than Hyun-Soo and she analyzed the situation.

"No. That's not it. I have personal things I need to take care of..."

Hyuna asked when Kim Yoo-Na didn't finish her sentence.

"What's wrong? Is it something we can help you with?"

Hyuna considered Kim Yoo-Na as an older sister.

There was something she said at point.

That it felt like she really got an older sister.

She treated Kim Yoo-Na the same way she treated Hyun-Soo.

Because of that, it was obvious that Hyuna would pour out her heart towards Kim Yoo-Na.

When Hyuna felt that something happened to Kim Yoo-Na, a worried expression appeared on her face and she asked if there was anything she could do to help.

"Thanks for offering. Hye-Na's surgery has been scheduled, but her condition hasn't been stable, so the decision to proceed with

the surgery can't be decided until the day of the surgery."

Kim Yoo-Na didn't say exactly what kind of surgery it was, but it was probably necessary in order to Hye-Na to get better.

A surgery.

Hyun-Soo was shocked by the fact that someone as small as Kim Hye-Na had to go through something as big as a surgery.

Her condition hasn't been stable?

"Because of that, I want to make sure she's in her best condition before the surgery, so I'll probably be a bit busy. I probably won't be able to really help you two since I'll be filled with anxiety and that's discourteous. That's why I think it'll be better if Eugene helped you two for the time being."

Since nothing has been decided and she had to watch Hye-Na's health, she felt bad and her eyes lowered to the floor.

Before coming here, Hyun-Soo made a large amount of the rice cake.

But that wasn't going to last forever.

In her current condition, it was only natural that she would consume a lot more.

The fact that her condition was unstable could be due to the rice cakes because once consumed, the effects of the rice cake will improve her condition, but once the effects wears off, then her condition will worsen.

"Yoo-Na, I heard that your sister was sick. I hope she recovers soon. Then she can play with me!"

"Hye-Na doesn't have any friends...if you did that, I'm sure she would love it."

She smiled, but it was bitter.

"Is there nothing we can do to help?"

Hyun-Soo asked.

She quietly looked at Hyun-Soo for a moment.

Then a small smile appeared on her face and she shook her head.

‘It’s all thanks to you that we were able to come this far.’

Yoo-Na said that they were able to move on to the next step thanks to Hyun-Soo and she bowed while thanking him.

Her comment sounded hopeful, but…

‘Kim Yoo-Na and I both know that things aren’t looking too good.’

Because of that, Kim Yoo-Na didn’t want Hyun-Soo to get involved, so that’s why she made that comment.

He made a promise to Kim Yoo-Na.

That he would take responsibility and extend her sister’s time.

He didn’t say that he would fully recover her health.

No, he couldn’t.

If he were to say that, it would feel like he was exceeding his power.

Body abnormalities recovery rate increased.

That was the only option.

If he could raise the figure of that option.

Then he wouldn’t really think that he was exceeding his power.

After Kim Yoo-Na left, Hyun-Soo was deep in his thoughts.

What did he have to do?

He found the answer to that question fairly quickly.

It was time to run the drug factory that he put on hold due to the lack of ingredients.

***

He didn’t have any other ingredients.

The only ingredient that he had was the flower.

Even though the ones in the garden were dead, he saved some on the side so he had a good amount.

‘Glad I didn’t use it in the Bibimbap.’

To those foodies, it didn’t matter if there were herbs in it because they ate a lot and complimented on how good it was.

It was a relief that they liked it, but having too much was never a good thing.

‘I do have the ingredient.’

Even if he used the flower in different ways, it would still provide the same effect and duration.

He was able to confirm it while making Bibimbap and testing it in different ways.

‘I think growing the flower and just giving it to her will be enough…’

Just the effect of the flower alone was more than enough for Kim Hye-Na.

However, since felt that there was something a bit lacking just from that alone.

‘The 30-minute duration isn’t enough.’

It seemed like his standards increased because the 30-minute duration wasn’t good enough for him.

If the potion is supposed to be used to increase the stat, shouldn’t the duration be at least one hour?

Hyun-Soo suddenly remembered an ingredient that he had forgotten about.

To be exact, it wasn’t an ingredient.

But he did hear from somewhere that it can be used as an ingredient.

‘Energy Stone.’

It was the same Energy Stone that he received from Kim Yoo-Na during his first hunt, saying that it was a souvenir.

He did take it since she said it was a souvenir, but since it was difficult to sell it, he really did end up keeping it as a souvenir.

If others found out that he had an Energy Stone, then they’ll desire it, so he would keep it inside a box and take it when he could.

‘I just thought of it now.’

Kim Yoo-Na used it the same way before.

That she grinded the Energy Stone and fed it to Kim Hye-Na because of her health.

‘How did she say it affected Hye-Na?’

It was a couple of months ago, so his memory was a bit hazy, but remembered her saying that it wasn’t all that bad.

Anyways, as soon as he thought of the ingredient that he had forgotten about, Hyun-Soo immediately started working.

He looked through his belongings and found the Energy Stone.

The Energy Stone gave off a beautiful green light and as he looked at it, his heart ached.

It was true that he agreed to help, but he felt sad after thinking that he had to grind this and use it as an ingredient.

‘Out of all the medicines that I’ve created, this one is probably going to be the most expensive one.’

The green Energy Stone was worth at least a million.

Hyun-Soo’s hand started shaking.

How long has he lived a life where he would be shaken up just from a small amount of money?

But now, he was about to break an item that was worth millions with his own hands, so it was only natural that his hands would shake.

Gulp.

Kim Yoo-Na has done so much for his family.

From his parent's safety to their settlement...

Even though Hyun-Soo bought the building on his own, they were living at a safe location that Kim Yoo-Na provided.

'Since I don't have two bodies, I need her help. If it weren't for her, then I wouldn't even be alive.'

With that thought, Hyun-Soo calmed himself.

Despite of calming himself down, he couldn't help the fact that he would shake when there's money involved.

Shake, shake.

Hyun-Soo was holding the bowl that had the Energy Stone in it and his hands were shaking.

Whew.

He released a long sigh.

He had to focus now.

He coated the bowl with a thin layer of Invisible Attack and created a small, bulky club.

Hyun-Soo created something similar to a stone mortar with his skill.

When he added his skill and used his strength to grind the Energy Stone, an unpleasant sound filled the room.

***

“Hyun-Soo. Hyun-Soo!”

He faintly heard Hyuna’s voice from somewhere.

“Hyun-Soo! Wake up! It’s already lunch time!”

“Oh, huh?”

Hyun-Soo was sleeping deeply on the sofa and quickly woke up when he heard that it was lunch time.

“Hyun-Soo, did something happen? You’ve been staying in your room for two days. And what are those in the kitchen?”

Hyuna clicked her tongue when she saw the messy kitchen filled with bowls and unknown items.

During the past few days, he’s been staying in his room to try to come up with a new recipe, but since he hasn’t been coming out, Hyuna must’ve been worried and decided to visit him.

“Oh, don’t touch that.”

It looked like a mess, but he placed them that way for a reason.

‘This is what it means to have order within chaos.’

As he had ridiculous thoughts with a blank mind, he rubbed his face with his hand.

Yawn.

A long yawn was released from his mouth.

“Are you getting enough sleep? Have you been eating?”

During the past 48 hours, he maybe slept for almost five hours.

If Hyuna didn’t come in just now, he probably would’ve continued sleeping and caught up on the sleep that he’s been lacking.

And that was something that Hyun-Soo didn’t want.

‘That’s my sister alright.’

It was admirable how she came in at the right time and woke up

her older brother.

Of course Hyuna didn’t know about this and was just surprised by his current condition.

But his hard work paid off.

No, it’s more like he gained more than what he expected.

Hyun-Soo couldn’t hold back the smile that naturally appeared on his face.

‘I’m a B rank now!’

<B Rank Hunter #2>

Chapter 74 - <B Rank Hunter #3>

Before falling into a deep sleep, Hyun-Soo heard a familiar alarm.

After succeeding in creating a wonder medicine and leveling up to a B rank, his nervousness died down, causing him to fall asleep.

'Interface!'

Hyun-Soo checked his own stats.

Name: Kim Hyun-Soo (21)

Rank: B

Class: Skill Maker

Experience: 0%

Stamina Level: 98%

Energy Level: 100%

Stamina: 121 Agility: 109 Strength: 120 Critical Hit: 112 ?? ?? ??

??

Skill List

[Interface][SS]

[Skill Creation][A]

[Skill Transfer][A]

[Medicinal Mix][B]

[Invisible Attack][B]

Just seeing the letter, B, next to the rank was really satisfying to him.

"Hyun-Soo! You're not falling asleep again, are you?"

Hyuna asked while he was happily looking at the stats window.

Hyuna looked at him worriedly when she noticed that Hyun-Soo

wasn't answering her properly.

"Don't worry. It's nothing. I need to do my part of the work, you know."

Hyun-Soo told Hyuna not to worry.

However, Hyuna looked like she didn't believe him, so he stood up from his seat, washed up and walked out.

That's when Hyuna felt a bit relieved and left the room after saying she was leaving for language school.

"Bye Hyun-Soo!"

"See you later. Let's eat something delicious tonight. I'm going to try Braised Short Rib."

Hyuna's eyes widened at Hyun-Soo's comment.

"Hyun-Soo, there's really nothing going on, right?"

"No, I'm just in a good mood, that's all. There's nothing for you to worry about."

It was hard to tell who was the older one.

Well, he has been acting weird the past two days, so it's only natural she would act that way.

As soon as Hyuna left, Hyun-Soo jumped onto the bed.

He saw two tables when he opened the door and the potions that gave off a shiny, silver-blue color caught Hyun-Soo's attention.

That was it.

That was the item that he was working so hard on and it's the item that helped him level up.

As soon as he succeeded in creating that potion, he leveled up.

'Who knew it would be so complex?'

Handling the Energy Stone was much harder than he expected.

He didn't think much of it because Kim Yoo-Na told him that she

fed it to her sister by simply grinding it.

However, the effects of the Energy Stone didn't simply change based on the amount it was used.

The effects changed a lot depending on how it's mixed with other ingredients, the process that's used to dissolve it, the ratio, etc.

It was so difficult that it belonged in the top three items that was difficult to handle.

He went through a lot.

There was a reason why he only got five hours of sleep during the past two days.

Since he did so much, it was only natural that his experience would increase by two percent.

Patience is a virtue.

Ding!

[Level Up!]

He got goosebumps as soon as he heard it.

Ding!

[Your rank has increased to B.]

[Current Rank: B]

[With this rank increase, the number of skill slots has been increased.]

[Available Skill Slots: 8]

Ding!

[With this rank increase, the skill levels has been increased.]

[Skill Creation [B] has been increased to Skill Creation [A].]

[Skill Transfer [B] has been increased to Skill Transfer [A].]

[Medicinal Mix [C] has been increased to Medicinal Mix [B].]

[Invisible Attack [C] has been increased to Invisible Attack [B].]

[The activation level of Interface [SS] has been slightly increased.]

[Current Interface Activation Level: 21%]

The things he felt as he leveled up was amazing.

He didn't even have the time to feel those addicting feelings.

After checking that the recipe was a success and hearing the sound of him leveling up, he knocked out.

Maybe that's why.

Because he felt that joy pretty late, the smile on his face didn't disappear.

'It's magnificent.'

The ranks of all of his skills increased.

Of course Interface has been excluded since its rank was SS.

'Skill Creation and Skill Transfer are now A rank. Since I haven't been making fake scrolls these days, it doesn't really matter if it levels up. It's a bit disappointing.'

The skill that he was most happy about was Invisible Attack.

It was a good skill, but when it comes to managing it, there were some things he felt was lacking, so he was excited to see how it changed with this level up.

And.

'My masterpiece!'

Hyun-Soo quickly got up from his bed and approached the messy kitchen.

The sunlight made the bright silver-blue potion shine even brighter.

[Outstanding Stamina Recovery Potion]

That was the name of his masterpiece.

After checking the effects, he passed out, so he just skimmed over the information.

Even though he didn't thoroughly read it, from what he saw, Hyun-Soo felt an awesome energy from the potion.

'Interface!'

He immediately decided to check it.

[Outstanding Stamina Recovery Potion][Unique]

A stamina recovery potion made from several different ingredients.

The ratio of the rare ingredients used is very high.

An ingredient that provides a lot of energy is included, which increases its effects.

A sincere wish and hope has been included.

Upon intake, stamina will be increased and it will be maintained during the entire duration.

And during the duration, the recovery rate for body abnormalities will increase by a small amount.

Effect: + Stamina 70 [Duration: 5 Hours]

+ Body Abnormalities Recovery Rate increased by 2% [Duration: 5 Hours]

+ The recovery rate of stamina will be increased by a small amount [Duration: 5 Hours]

'Awesome.'

No other words could describe how Hyun-Soo felt about this.

This was the first time he saw an item with three effects.

On top of that...

‘A unique rank!’

Because of this, it was recorded on the recipe as well.

Since it was a unique ranked item, the effects were outstanding as well.

He’s made a lot of potions, but this was the first time he made one that had this much of an effect with a really long duration.

‘Will I be able to make another one like this?’

Since the rank for Medicinal Mix went up, he had high expectations, but he believed that his luck played a big part for this potion.

He made a lot of potions and a few of them were rare, but since this was unique, it was surprising.

‘That’s why it’s more rare.’

Hyun-Soo looked at the name of the potion in his recipe book.

‘At least I won’t starve to death if I ever quit being a hunter.’

There might be an issue with obtaining the ingredient and that’s why he even thought the potion he made this time was amazing.

If the stamina was 70, it was the same stamina level as a D rank or a F rank.

If those hunters drank this, then their stamina level would be similar to a C or a B rank hunter.

If people knew about this potion, then this potion will definitely be a required item, just like the scroll.

‘Well, this one belongs to Kim Hye-Na.’

He was now skilled and obtained friendly forces as well.

His biggest weakness was his family, but the issue that involved them has been resolved.

There weren’t any other issues that could bring him down.

If he wanted, he could reveal everything.

But there was still a lot going through Hyun-Soo's head.

It wasn't that he didn't want the honor of being the only one to create potions and get rich my doing it.

He wasn't planning on hiding it forever.

That's why he discreetly made the Bibimbap and the rice ball cake.

'It's complicated...'

Hyun-Soo decided to organize his thoughts and then take care of some business.

'She said saw was going to visit Hye-Na's hospital today.'

That's why he worked so hard to try to make it on time.

This wasn't the last time she was going to visit Hye-Na, but it's better to give it to her as soon as possible.

After becoming a B rank, the atmosphere and his feeling overall felt different.

'How nice.'

He wanted to go on a hunt as soon as possible and test out his new power.

However, before doing this, there was an issue that was waiting for him to resolve.

'I should hurry and give it to her since I made it for Hye-Na.'

Hyun-Soo stood up to go find Kim Yoo-Na.

"What the?"

Who's that thief-looking person?

After wearing his clothes and preparing to go out, he happened to look at the mirror and was surprised by what he saw.

'So this is why Hyuna was worried about me.'

Seeing as how she was nagging at him, he must've looked odd to her as well.

Hyun-Soo cleaned himself up and finished getting ready.

After shaving, he walked out of the dorm.

Since it was in the middle of the afternoon, the sun blinded him.

'She's probably at the cafeteria.'

As soon as she thought about the cafeteria, his stomach started rumbling loudly.

He did recover his energy by eating the frozen rice ball cake that was in the freezer, but that probably wasn't enough.

'Anyways, I hope Hye-Na becomes healthier with this.'

A unique rank stamina recovery potion.

After thinking about the time and effort that he put in and the skill that he used to make this happen, it made this potion so rare that he couldn't be a price on it.

However.

'There's no guarantee that she'll be completely recovered.'

Kim Hye-Na's sickness was a rare one.

Hyun-Soo barely knew anything about it, but he knew that it was difficult to cure it.

Completely recovering her was out of his power.

However, with this potion, Kim Hye-Na will have similar stamina to an ordinary person, even if it was only for five hours.

Since he used up the remaining Levshila, he made a large batch so she'll be able to drink it several times.

Even though he made a lot, it wasn't enough for her to drink it for an entire month.

But, it was still helpful.

‘Wait.’

Stop.

Hyun-Soo suddenly thought about something, which made him stop.

He suddenly had a good idea that he had forgotten about.

‘Now that I think of it, the Skill Creation rank increased too, right?’

Even though he made a lot of money, he placed his fake scroll selling business behind him when it didn’t end so well.

Because of that, it was true that he didn’t take any interest in the Skill Creation skill lately.

Hyun-Soo was overlooking it.

‘I’m a Skill Maker.’

It was the name that he had next to the class name.

Skill Maker.

The Invisible Attack made it possible for him to solo hunt in most of the low-ranked portals and he was able to obtain it because Skill Creation helped develop it.

‘Right, so this is why everyone looks for the originator.’

It’s like those restaurants that put the word, original, on their sign.

It probably wasn’t the best comparison, but it was enough to express Hyun-Soo’s thoughts.

It was an issue he had to think about with a beginner’s mind.

‘My rank increased, so shouldn’t I create another another skill? If I give her a more effective skill, wouldn’t she get better effects when she drinks a potion?’

Creating and improving the skill wasn’t easy, but it wasn’t such a

bad idea.

However.

'...But I'll have to work my butt off again.'

That was the only problem that he had.

He felt tired just thinking about it, but he decided to go about it one step at a time.

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'She's here!'

Bow.

Kim Yoo-Na noticed Hyun-Soo and slightly nodded at him.

Thankfully, she was here because it was lunch time.

If she wasn't here, then he would have to continue searching for her.

Hyun-Soo placed the food that'll fill his empty stomach on a plate and sat across Kim Yoo-Na.

"Hyun-Soo, are you sick...?"

"No, I'm fine."

Hyun-Soo rubbed his cheeks with his hands.

He washed up because he wasn't looking so great, but it seemed like that didn't help.

"Will you be visiting Hye-Na today?"

"Yes, I haven't been able to visit her often like when I was in Korea, so she seemed pretty bored...and since her surgery has been scheduled, I'm worried."

As the person that's in charge of a clan and also as someone's older sister, she was contemplating a lot, which caused her to display a troubled look on her face.

"I'm sorry."

“For what?”

“This.”

It seemed like she was pressuring him with Hye-Na.

She quietly mumbled.

If it was like before, she probably would’ve mumbled so that he wouldn’t hear her.

However, after becoming a B rank, he was able to catch her mumble, which was similar to her breathing.

“I told you that you needed to play in a bigger pool, but you’re tied down like this.”

“Tied down? I went on a hunt not that long ago.”

The Blasting Spore.

Of course it was different compared to when he was in Korea and would go on hunts often.

“And people need to take breaks in-between. I’m pretty satisfied right now.”

He said it because Kim Yoo-Na seemed to feel really bad about it, but this was how Hyun-Soo honestly felt.

After he became a hunter, he climbed up without taking a break.

He felt nervous about how he use the power that he finally had in his hands.

He wanted to make money somehow and escape poverty.

And after meeting Kim Yoo-Na.

He felt like he was physically suffocating.

‘She was that tough of a trainer.’

Thinking about it, he thought that he endured it pretty well.

That’s why, taking a break like this wasn’t so bad.

‘Honestly, this isn’t really a break.’

The first round of adapting into the clan was complete and it was now time for the second round.

Anyways, Hyun-Soo understood why Kim Yoo-Na left the clan and went to to Korea.

Of course the other members that thought of Kim Yoo-Na couldn’t accept it.

It seemed like she was burdened by the fact that everyone’s schedule was pushed back due to her personal issues.

After seeing her treat Eugene and Katrina coldly in Korea, he was sure that she wasn’t planning on returning.

However.

‘She ended up returning.’

Now that he thought about it, she took back the position that she left.

‘…Was it because of me?’

Hyun-Soo was surprised by the odd thought that he had that he immediately erased it from his mind.

Instead, he decided to talk about the original topic.

Luckily, the large cafeteria was quiet and the hunters were all spread out.

“There’s something I want to give you.”

<B Rank Hunter #3> End.

Chapter 75 - <It Works #1>

“.....What is it?”

“It’s similar to the item I gave you before.”

“....!”

Kim Yoo-Na has a complicated look.

“Did you happen to become like that because...”

“...It’s not like that.”

‘Just how messed up do I look? I cleaned myself up before coming here.’

Hyun-Soo took out the package that contained the potion and pushed it towards Kim Yoo-Na.

Kim Yoo-Na accepted it with trembling hands.

“The duration will be a lot longer than before. The minimum dose is the same as before, so it’s better to divide it.”

How often Hye-Na takes the potion was up to Kim Yoo-Na. She’ll probably feed it to her based on the hospital’s schedule.

“And the effects are really good, so it’s better to feed her a moderate amount so that no one gets suspicious.”

Doctors will most likely get suspicious if someone as sick as Kim Hye-Na suddenly recovered as fast as a normal person would.

“Don’t worry about that. I’ll make sure it doesn’t trouble you.”

She hesitated as she kept on touching the shopping bag.

And moments later, she spoke. Her voice cracked a bit towards the end.

“Hyun-Soo, thank you so much. It seems like I’m always indebted to you.”

He was in the same position anyways.

Between the help she was providing him and the help she was receiving for Hye-Na, it was obvious which side meant more to her.

Rattle.

Kim Yoo-Na looked like she was in a hurry because she quickly said her good-bye and stood up from her seat.

As her chair was pushed back, he heard a small sound.

'It was worth it.'

Her face showed just how happy she was. It was worth staying up for two days and trying to create a new recipe.

These days, there are people that take what's theirs and not offer anything in return despite of the other person putting in all of their time and effort.

There's even a saying that they're paid with their passion.

However, in many ways, Kim Yoo-Na had a lot more than Hyun-Soo, but she didn't take any of his help for granted.

In that sense, he was lucky.

"I just saw Yoo-Na leave. Did you fight with her or something?"

A hunter that Hyun-Soo spoke to not long ago sat in the same chair that Yoo-Na sat in and asked.

His name was something like David.

"No way. It's nothing like that."

After Hyun-Soo passed the test, David talked to him pretty often.

Before, he wouldn't say a word and just ignored him.

David...

"I know what's going on, you know. After Yoo-Na, Marcus has the authority to say what's on his mind out of all of us. But since we base it on skills, after you showed your skills last time, we

decided not to care about what he thinks.”

Said it without any hesitation.

The fact that he wasn’t hesitating at all was the problem.

“Out of all the times that I’ve hunted with Yoo-Na, there were only two instances where I’ve seen her expression change so often. The situation with her sister and when you came in.”

“I don’t understand what you’re saying. How did her expression change?”

“You think she’s been maintaining the same expression? Oh, that’s more surprising actually.”

Hyun-Soo felt a bit annoyed by the fact that David was misunderstanding Hyun-Soo’s reply.

“Forget about Yoo-Na’s expression. What’s wrong with yours? Did something happen?”

“Do I really look that weird?”

This was the third time he was hearing it, so he rubbed his cheeks with his hands.

He stayed up for two days, but it wasn’t like he wasn’t sleeping during those two days.

Even though it was only for five hours, he slept and ate the frozen rice ball cakes.

‘There’s no way it would be that noticeable.’

Hyun-Soo felt suspicious, so he kept on rubbing his cheeks.

“Yeah, your eyes look like a panda’s and the color of your face looks bluish. I’m sure a homeless person that’s been homeless for 10 years looks better than you.”

“.....”

Hyun-Soo couldn’t say anything after hearing his blunt answer.

Did I really look that bad…?

“Well, if that’s not the case, then it’s fine. It’s just a feeling that I had. Since hunters are humans, they have off days too. Anyways, if you’re done eating, come with me to the Center Room.”

“Why?”

“You have nothing to do. Come and watch me. I’m bored to death since I’m training by myself.”

“That’s not true. I have a lot to do.”

Since Skill Creation was now an A rank, he had to research to see how recovery skills should be made and he wanted to give himself a break since he only got five hours of sleep.

Hyun-Soo told David that he was busy, but…

“You should come to the Center Room and see how the other hunters use their skills. You can’t start being lazy already just because you passed the test!”

Hyun-Soo ended up being dragged by David.

He wasn’t wrong.

They pursue a small group of elite hunters.

On top of that, since people command the skills, it’s difficult for a skill to be used with the same amount of power and form every time. Because of that, it was important to see the member’s skills as much as possible.

They naturally pursued that kind of lifestyle.

Hyun-Soo had to live that kind of lifestyle as well.

Because of that.

Emotionally, he didn’t want to go, but when thinking rationally, David’s persuasion got to him.

And so.

Hyun-Soo was somewhat forced to go to the Center room and arrived not long after.

“Oh, someone’s here.”

David walked in after opening the door and spoke in a surprised tone.

“Ismael! You were here too?”

“Yeah and you’re here with the rookie. Are you guys going to spar or something?”

“No, I brought him here as a witness for the historical moment that’s about to happen. It’ll be a big leap forward for humankind, but it’ll be a small step for me.”

“You still haven’t given up?”

A frown appeared on Ismael’s face because of David’s random reply.

“Even if you were the one that was able to mix two elements, it’s impossible to do that now. Working on your main skill will be more helpful when advancing.”

Tsk, tsk.

Ismael clicked his tongue.

“Well, how do you know that? You won’t know until you try!”

“Having two types of power without the use of a scroll is amazing, so just stop there. How many years has it been already? Don’t give the rookie weird ideas by wasting your energy on useless things.”

“It’s fine if you don’t want to encourage me, but don’t talk bad about it.”

“How many years have you wasted with that courage of yours? Whew…fine, fine. I’ll just get frustrated from watching, so I’ll be leaving first.”

David had a smile on his face, but Ismael kept on sighing.

Hyun-Soo quietly watched the two argue from the entrance.

He understood what was going on.

‘So…David is trying to evolve his skill, right?’

Maybe not evolve, but David was trying to improve his skill.

‘I heard that’s a difficult thing to do.’

He remembered the time when Kim Yoo-Na suggested him to use his skill by condensing his energy instead of using a weapon that consumed his energy.

Hyun-Soo listened to her suggestion and was able to successfully develop his skill.

Of course he was only able to succeed because of the hardcore training.

And.

‘Kim Yoo-Na was extremely surprised. She said it was almost impossible, but I succeeded.’

What did she say during that time?

“Honestly, a lot of hunters tried to develop their skills, but end up failing. The more you’re used to the skill, the more skilled you are at it and that strength becomes stronger, but in a way, the hunter is only able to use that skill in that one way.”

Right.

A lot of hunters tried, but ended up failing.

There were some that succeeded, but there were more that failed.

That’s why when she saw Hyun-Soo evolve his skill into a new one, she gave him high points for his potential.

‘It was more like evolving the skill rather than developing it to be honest.’

Kim Yoo-Na didn’t know and only knew that Hyun-Soo achieved something difficult.

The level of evolving a skill and improving it are different.

Ismael waved at Hyun-Soo as well and after he left, the Center Room became quiet.

David smiled in embarrassment and waved his hand.

“You understand what I mean when I told you that I was bored of doing it by myself, right?”

Nod, nod.

Even if he didn’t explain in detail, it was enough to understand just from the short conversation he had with Ismael.

“They all encouraged me at first, but they must’ve lost hope since several years have passed. They recommended that I give up because they felt bad for me.”

“I see.”

To them, it was probably an impossible task.

“The other guys have seen it plenty of times, but it’s your first time seeing it, right? That’s why you should quietly watch and get rid of this boredom.”

In short, Hyun-Soo was there to help David with his boredom.

David brought out a heavy fan.

He dragged out several of them and turned on all of them at once.

Swoosh.

The blades started spinning slowly and as they made mechanical sounds, they created a strong wind.

David didn’t stand in front of the wind.

Instead, he stood behind the fans.

There was nothing in front of the fans.

‘What is he trying to do?’

Hyun-Soo looked at David with a confused expression.

In order to avoid the strong wind, they went on the opposite side of where the fan was facing and sat on a chair that was placed in the corner.

“Watch carefully!”

David glanced over at Hyun-Soo and breathed in deeply.

Their shoulders started shaking.

And small flames appeared around him.

The small fires moved amongst themselves violently and started getting bigger.

The fires looked like a long stick and then turned into a large arrow, making it look like a lance.

‘So it’s true.’

The fire skill was definitely different from the low-ranked hunters since they were only able to form a fireball with their skill that was as big as a fist!

There was a reason why Ismael said that focusing on the main skill will be more helpful.

If an A ranked hunter was able to form a shape that big, then the power was probably that much powerful.

However, David looked like he wasn’t going to use his skill anytime soon.

Fwoosh.

The large fire arrow went up in flames and broken down everything that was around it.

‘What is he trying to do exactly?’

Hyun-Soo didn’t have any idea as to what David was trying to do

with that large fire arrow and the wind created by the fan.

And then.

David raised his hand.

The fire arrow kept on burning and then the fire dug into the wind that the fan was creating.

Swoosh.

“Ahhh!”

As the fire arrow dug into the wind, the fire started spitting in different directions.

It looked as if it wanted to change its shape and moments later, the fire started burning up as if it was going to devour the wind.

At the same time, Hyun-Soo saw a faint plum-colored wave emitting out of David.

The color of the wave was purple and it was also plum, but it didn’t really give off a good feeling.

While Hyun-Soo squinted his eyes took look at the odd sight.

‘…It turned off?’

It turned off like a candle as it made a swoosh sound and it disappeared within the wind without a trace.

Hyun-Soo was puzzled so he looked at David.

The plum wave that he saw from David completely disappeared.

What was that just now?

“Oh, looks like I failed again. I had a good feeling about this one too.”

David turned around and his forehead was covered in sweat.

‘I thought he was just standing there since I’m only able to see his back.’

During that short time, it seemed like he put in a lot of effort, but

Hyun-Soo was unfamiliar with that type of effort.

Plop!

Gulp, gulp!

With shaky legs, David grabbed some water and as he sat on the floor, he all the water at once.

“I feel a lot better. Whew, but did you see it? It was only for a moment, but it slightly changed from the arrow shape, right?”

<It Works #1> End.

Chapter 76 - <It Works #2>

If he's talking about the large arrow-shaped fire that suddenly fattened up, then he saw it.

He also saw the fire's small movement when it was trying to change its form.

However, to say that it changed into a different form was an exaggeration.

But he said the form changed a bit.

"But I have a good feeling. There have been new changes within the clan, so I should follow that change and improve my skill."

"How are you trying to improve it?"

Hyun-Soo didn't have any idea as to how he was trying to cut through the wind with the fire arrow.

When Hyun-Soo asked, David raised a finger.

"I have two skills and one of them is the Flame Arrow, which you just saw, and the other is a wind element skill."

When he said that his other skill was a wind element skill, he raised another finger on his other hand.

"I think Robin Hood influenced the Flame Arrow a lot because I liked Robin Hood a lot when I was younger. Don't you think it looks pretty good?"

"Yeah, sure."

"What's with that reaction? Anyways, I have two different powers that are polar opposites of each other. Isn't that amazing? This kind of case is...extremely rare."

David spoke as if he was bragging about himself.

"But the problem is that I have to use them separately. Well, having an A rank Flame Arrow is more than enough, but then a

thought popped into my head.”

“What kind of thought?”

When Hyun-Soo asked, David started shaking the two fingers that he raised.

“A thought that maybe…if I were to mix these two skills together, then it might be even more powerful.”

“Mixing the two skills?”

“Yeah, when fire and wind meet, it becomes stronger. Think about a large fire tornado being shot down. Don’t you think it’ll be a lot stronger than the Fire Arrow? I even thought of a name. Flame Storm! Isn’t it cool?”

“Oh…yeah.”

“All I have to do is blend these two skills together. It’s definitely possible theoretically.”

David locked the two fingers that he was shaking.

Like he mentioned, theoretically, it was possible.

But the problem was that a theory was just a theory.

“But it’s not easy. Despite of doing an imaginary training in my head, it’s not going the way I want it to.”

And that’s why he used the fan to create the wind and practiced by mixing the fire into the wind.

“I keep struggling because I’ve been using my strength by using a different method.”

David released a sigh after saying that he shouldn’t have watched Robin Hood.

There was another question that Hyun-Soo wanted to ask.

The purple light that emitted out of his body.

He remembered briefly seeing it before.

Back then, the color was much lighter and because it disappeared right away, he assumed it was his imagination…

“David, can you create a Flame Arrow right now?”

“Why? Did you think of something that can help me?”

“No, it’s not that…”

“Well, okay. I did drag you here so that you could get familiar with the other members’ skills. At least get familiar with mine. And if you come up with an idea, that’s even better.”

David created an arrow made out of fire.

It was smaller than the previous one, but despite of its small size, it was burning fiercely.

‘Not there.’

The purple light that emitted out of David’s body wasn’t there.

“It would be a lot better if I showed it to during an actual fight, but since I used up most of my energy just now, it’s not as strong as the previous one. I thought I would actually succeed this time.”

The small Flame Arrow disappeared and David let out a sigh.

“Everyone told me that I was wasting my time, so I gave up for a while, but after seeing you fight the spore, I became motivated. And I thought it would work…”

“That’s not possible. It’s not like I bring luck or anything.”

If he succeeded something just from looking at a person, then he should be in Las Vegas, not here.

If not that, he should be displayed at a museum or something.

“I’m just saying. You should you had something to do earlier, right? You should go. I need to rest.”

For someone that dragged him here, the way David was throwing him out now made Hyun-Soo think he was being absurd.

The personality of the members was way too distinct.

“Bye!”

Hyun-Soo slightly nodded his head when David said good-bye.

After leaving the Center Room, Hyun-Soo headed to the training room that was assigned to him.

There was something he wanted to check.

‘Kim Yoo-Na said improving a skill was difficult. It was true.”

After hearing that an A ranked hunter failed so many times made him feel weird.

It’s because he succeeded in doing that.

And at the same time, he felt a little bit of betrayal when Kim Yoo-Na suggested the atrocious method.

It was okay since he succeeded, but if he didn’t…

‘Kim Yoo-Na’s method is literally letting you hang on the edge of a cliff. No, it’s not even one of those ordinary cliffs. It’s like she just threw you from the top of Mount Everest.’

He understood why she was surprised during that time and how surprised she was by it.

That’s probably the reason why she told Hyun-Soo that he needed to play in a bigger pool.

‘Anyways, that purple light. What was that?’

Is it because he leveled up?

Or is it because the activation rate of Interface increased?

He was sure that the purple light was somehow connected to Interface.

But the problem was that he wasn’t sure how it was connected.

‘It seems like it’s revealing something. It’s somewhat of an unfriendly skill.’

But it was a necessary skill.

It was Interface.

‘I’m still lacking a bit to completely use a SS ranked skill.’

Will it be different when I become a SS rank hunter?

It seemed like things would be different once the activation rate is at 100%, but he barely managed fill it to a little over 20%.

But despite of it, the skill made it possible for him to do things that others weren’t able to do.

‘Purple…’

It wasn’t the most pleasant color.

The faint light gave off a melancholy and a sickly feeling.

He definitely couldn’t say anything positive about it.

It was his own assumptions, but he decided to trust it.

‘I should test it to see if I can see it too.”

He wasn’t what kind of conditions had to be met for that light to show, so he decided to test it on himself.

But for the longest time, no matter what he did, the faint light that he saw from David didn’t appear.

He was too focused on the new phenomenon that a lot of time passed and he ended up walking back to his dorm late at night.

“Hyun-Soo! Where did you go? I told you to rest!”

“To train…?”

“You need to take care of yourself before you train! If mom knew, she would’ve been upset. Hurry up and rest!”

Hyun-Soo was going to research on the skill he was going to give to Kim Hye-Na once he got back, but Hyuna caught him.

Hyuna was worried even as she was leaving, so when Hyun-Soo arrived late instead of resting, a stern expression appeared on her

face.

Yoo-Na wasn't here today, so they would be skipping today's lesion, but because of Hyuna, he had no choice but to stay in bed.

'Man, I have a lot of things to do too.'

That's the thought that he had, but his mind turned off as soon as he fell into a deep slumber.

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"Wake up Hyun-Soo!"

"Oh, huh?"

"It looks like you really slept well. Good job."

For two days straight, Hyun-Soo woke up in the middle of the afternoon, so with a slightly dazed look, he looked at the clock.

'Wow. Did I sleep for more than 12 hours?'

According to Interface, there was nothing wrong with his stamina, but since he stayed up for two days to create the potion, he must've been really tired mentally.

Hyuna said she was off to language school and after seeing her off, Hyun-Soo ate a light meal at the cafeteria.

And then he immediately headed to the Center Room.

"I heard David really embarrassed himself yesterday."

When Hyun-Soo entered the room, a couple of the hunters that were there started talking to him.

"I like everything about David, but the fact that he can't give up on that dream of his is unfortunate."

"So what? A man is a little boy that lives his whole life by dreaming. It's a healthy dream, so it's not bad to dream about it."

Since they were open with each other, they all commented on what happened yesterday.

It sounded like they were scolding him, but at the same time, they were protecting him.

They complimented David so that Hyun-Soo wouldn't think badly of him.

But Hyun-Soo was focused on something else.

'These people have the mindset that changing a skill is impossible.'

They say that it's a dream, but it was their way of saying that it was something he wouldn't be able to fulfill.

'They'll definitely flip if they find out that I evolved a skill.'

However, it seemed like Kim Yoo-Na didn't say anything because the hunters didn't have much of a reaction when they were talking in front of Hyun-Soo.

"Since the rookie is here, let's stop resting and resume our training!"

The hunters started standing up one by one.

They activated a 3D projector and began the realistic training.

While watching the hunters, Hyun-Soo found something that caught his attention.

'That's?'

Each of the hunters used their skills and something was emitting out of their bodies.

It was a faint light that he could have overlooked.

'No way.'

Hyun-Soo felt something odd since yesterday and as soon as he saw it, he focused all of his senses on it.

When he started concentrating, that light started becoming darker as if it was responding to Hyun-Soo.

A faint and light blue light enveloped the hunters' bodies.

'The color is different!'

The color from yesterday was a purple or a bitter plum color, but the color he was seeing now was a refreshing blue color.

'Huh...?'

But he noticed that the blue light was moving at a fast pace around the hunters' bodies. Because of that, he mistook it as the light floating around them.

There was a blue shine in areas where the light passed and in areas where it didn't pass, there was a slight afterimage, making it look like it was floating there.

"Are you able to see that?"

"See what?"

Hyun-Soo asked a hunter that was sitting down and wasn't participating in the training.

"The moving blue light."

"...? There's no blue light."

The A rank hunter's physical condition was a lot better than Hyun-Soo.

But a hunter like that isn't able to see what Hyun-Soo was seeing?

'So I'm the only one that's able to see it.'

He assumed that was the case, and it was true.

Hyun-Soo focused on the blue dot that was moving along with the hunter's body.

The more he focused his eyes, there was something that Hyun-Soo found out.

'That blue light seems to be moving on a fixed path like some sort

of electric circuit.'

The flow and the movement varied depending on the hunter.

Some moved at a fast pace and because the path was extremely complicated, he thought it was moving a random path at first.

And since all the hunters were different, he was more convinced that it was moving at an irregular path.

But after watching for a bit, Hyun-Soo found out that wasn't the case.

And then, a thought popped into his head.

'Is that...the flow of energy that the hunters are managing...?'

That was his first assumption.

If that blue light really was the flow of energy that the hunters were using...

'In that case, the plum light, the light that looked purple was...'

<It Works #2> End.

Chapter 77 - <It Works #3>

‘Then the plum, purple light I saw, that light is…’

It could be the energy that wasn’t flowing smoothly.

A lot of time had passed since the Hunters and the portals appeared.

Despite of that, there were still many things that haven’t been proven scientifically.

Hyun-Soo wasn’t able to completely figure out everything that he was seeing with his own eyes.

However.

‘I can make assumptions all I want.’

Out of all the things that happened from the beginning up until now, how many were realistically possible?

Even the famous Mikhail said it too.

That reality was a fantasy.

He leveled up and the activation rate of Interface increased too.

That’s why it wasn’t so bad to look at it that way.

‘The more I know, the more amazing the skill is.’

Even though the activation rate hasn’t reached the half point, if it continuously increased, then it’ll be developed more.

Blink, blink.

After looking at the faint blue light that was circling around the body, his eyes felt dry and was starting to hurt, causing him to close them.

He’s been looking at those light that was around the hunters for 20-30 minutes.

It wasn’t that long.

‘Is this my limit?’

Since the activation rate was low, it felt like the amount of time he could use the skill was short too.

Roaaaaaar!

Fwoosh!

The hunters used their skills to attack the monster that the hologram was displaying.

The skills that the hunters were using just happened to be fire and wind elements.

They were pouring out their skills as if to show that their skill was better than the other.

“They’re sure trying hard.”

The hunter that was sitting next to him mumbled to himself.

When Hyun-Soo looked at them, they smiled and explained.

“You can’t see it? Since we have a new member, they’re trying to show that they’re the better hunter. They really don’t like losing.”

You think you’re all that? I’m skill too.

That’s what this hunter was basically saying.

Thanks to that, Hyun-Soo was enjoying the show.

He wasn’t sure what kind of pairing this was, but the two hunters were using the skills that Hyun-Soo was focusing on.

Fwoosh!

Swoosh!

The rain of fire came down like bombs.

And the compressed air that whirled around it blew up.

That’s when the skills are synced with each other and for a moment, the explosion and the fire became stronger, but then became weak again.

‘Did they do that on purpose?’

They were hunters that worked together for a long time.

That’s why there’s no way they wouldn’t know what kind of effects their skills had.

But it didn’t seem like they were using it by targeting the additional effects.

‘Even if it’s for a moment, when the skills are mixed, they become stronger.’

Wind and fire.

If a skill was created that involved those two elements, what would happen?

Especially for someone like David who had both of those elements, there’s no way he wouldn’t desire it.

‘Not bad. No, it’s really great actually. But under the condition that it’s actually possible.’

The other hunters were pretty much done with their training.

Even though it was called training, they were actually showing off their skills and thanks to that, Hyun-Soo was able to really observe the A rank hunters’ skills.

They deserve that rank.

Watch them with his own eyes was better than watching a simulation.

The impact between watching them here and through the internet was definitely different.

Instinct was definitely the best.

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‘I feel like it would be possible.’

Hyun-Soo was in his personal training room and was thinking.

Skill combination.

Mixing two totally different elemental skills and creating a synergy effect.

Hyun-Soo wanted to give it a try, so he immediately closed his eyes and thought about the blue light he saw in the Center Room.

'How did it flow again? Was it like this?'

After closing his eyes, he drew and imaginary light.

He didn't really know a lot about the light.

But when it came to imagining the blue light and how they moved, he didn't have a problem.

He slowly tapped into his memory.

'It would've been nice if I could see them longer.'

He was disappointed by the fact that there was a limit, causing him to lick his lips.

He couldn't completely act out the complicated flow of the blue light.

It was a short time and there was only so much he could do just from his memories alone.

But he was able to get a general idea.

'From there, it moved like this and then from here, like this...'

Honestly, he didn't think it would suddenly work just from doing this.

However, he was trying it because he got the feeling that it may be possible.

But...

Fwoosh!

".....!"

Fire appeared.

Even though it was the size of a small fingernail, the fire did appear.

Using his memory, Hyun-Soo drew the path and moved the energy according to that path.

He wasn't sure if the energy actually moved, but like when he obtained Invisible Attack, he gathered the energy and assumed that it was moving according to the path within his body.

He repeated this several of times.

'Hm, guess it was just my imagination. It seems like it would work if I just following that path...'

But not too long after having that thought, the fire appeared again.

Fwoosh.

Hyun-Soo was shocked, which caused him to stop thinking about the energy's movement and that's when the fire disappeared.

'I wasn't imagining it, right? Let's, let's try again.'

Hyun-Soo thought about what just happened and concentrated after closing his eyes.

The more he repeated it, the more he felt his fingertips getting hotter.

And then.

".....!"

Fwoosh!

"Woah...!"

There was a reason why he felt so strong about this being possible!

'Should I try something else now?'

It was too early to celebrate.

His goal was to mix two different skills.

Since he succeeded in creating the fire, it wasn't too hard to create wind.

And once again, laughter escaped from Hyun-Soo's mouth.

"Ha, ha ha!"

The fire was the size of a fingernail and the wind was weaker than the breath that came out from his mouth.

If he were to only look at the results, he felt that it was poorly done.

However, if people knew about Hyun-Soo and knew a little bit about a hunter, then they wouldn't be able to contain their astonishment.

People that knew Hyun-Soo would be shocked by the fact that Hyun-Soo discovered a new attribute and if they knew a bit about the hunter, they would be shocked by the fact that after he awakened as a hunter, he was able to use a totally different elemental skill without the use of a scroll.

To be honest, many would've already been shocked by the fact that he was able to do this not too long after he awakened as a hunter.

'How do I combine these two?'

Hyun-Soo called out wind and fire in both of his hands and was deep into his thoughts.

'It would be nice if I could just simply combine them.'

But if it was that easy, then the other hunters wouldn't work so hard to obtain a scroll.

No matter how hard he thought about it, he couldn't think of any ideas.

He was somehow able to succeed in creating the fire and wind by

following the flow of the blue energy, but combining those two was an unfamiliar area for him.

'Do I need to look at the characteristics of the two? No, there's no guarantee that I would get anything out of that.'

Whatever.

After looking at the fire and the wind that was on the palm of his hands, he joined his hands together.

'I'm sure something will happen.'

Just maintaining it so that it doesn't die out was hard already, but since he was trying to figure out a new method, it felt like his head was going to blow up, which made him want to give up.

Will doing this combine these two?

Despite of having that thought, it was worth a try.

He didn't have any other ideas.

'If it doesn't work, then it doesn't work.'

His thoughts were different compared to when he first started.

It might be an immature thought, but he first started this to challenge himself.

A challenge to his how far he can push his limits with the skill that he had.

Since it was a challenge that didn't have a winner or a loser, succeeding halfway was good enough for him.

'I do want to see the movement of the blue dot more.'

What would it be like if he could obtain the skill of another person?

A skill that allows him to obtain the skill of another no matter how powerful it was.

Hyun-Soo thought about the blue dot that was floating around

the hunters' bodies.

It was obvious what he was thinking about.

'The ability to copy the skill of another!'

There were definitely limits and there was no way for him to know how far he could go.

For Hyun-Soo, who wants to become stronger, the idea of being able to copy the skill of another made him feel excited.

Is there a hunter alive who would deny this kind of power?

Hyun-Soo assumed that there wasn't a hunter that would refuse.

'It's possible to evolve a skill...'

That meant that it didn't stop at copying and he would be able to evolve the skill one step further.

He could go past being a copycat and evolve the skill even further.

He wanted to remake it into a stronger and more destructive skill.

After Hyun-Soo found out that he was able to use their power after seeing the hunters' blue energy, he felt a part of him getting excited.

That's why unifying the skills was pushed back.

And he couldn't help the fact that he was leaning more towards the idea that had a higher success rate.

Even though he couldn't remember all the complicated movements and because it was shortened, it caused the power of the skill to weaken as well, but.

'Even just with that...'

Most hunters that hear this will seriously question their hearing.

He was able to get a taste of another hunter's skill, even if it was

for a short time.

But, the more his skill improves, the longer the time will be and he'll be able to cover more areas.

While thinking about that, Hyun-Soo heard a familiar sound.

-Ding!

[The skill, Tiny Fire Storm [F] has been created.]

[You have successfully unified two skills with different elements.]

[The reward for unifying the first skill will be an increase of the stats by five points.]

"…..?"

It was a familiar sound.

But, he shouldn't be hearing this sound right now.

With a confused look on his face, he called out Interface.

He did hear it with his own ears, but he was confused whether it was real or not.

And after checking on Interface.

'…It really happened.'

[Tiny Fire Storm][F]

A storm is created when fire and wind meets.

But the downside is that it's really small.

He was able to check through Interface.

That meant that he wasn't hearing things or it was his imagination…..

'How in the world was this created?'

He honestly didn't know.

All he did was place his hands together and rub it against them.

And then a skill was created.

Hyun-Soo was confused because the skill was created so easily.

It seemed like he got lucky with this skill, so he was confused, but with this, his assumption was on the right track.

It was copying the skill of another and evolving it further!

As of right now, since there was a limit to his skill, the two skills that he unified were simplified versions, so the rank and the explanation were simple as well.

If he's able to really find out the flow of the energy and remember the flow...

Gulp!

'Would...anyone believe me even if I told them?'

He voted that no one would believe him.

But the event that no one would believe actually happened to Hyun-Soo.

From the portals to the hunters, there were a lot more things that couldn't be proven scientifically.

So in an unscientific world, what difference would it make if a scoop of unreasonable matter was added?

There wasn't an exact mechanism or a theoretical method.

The important thing was that it worked.

Potential.

And the result that he'll obtain through that potential. That was fulfilled on the palm of Hyun-Soo's hand.

"Tiny Fire Storm!"

Hyun-Soo decided to test out the final product of his effort.

Fwoosh!

As soon as he yelled out the skill name, a skill that was the size of two fingers, appeared cutely and confidently promoted themselves.

<It Works #3>

Chapter 78 - <It Works #4>

Even though it was small, the tiny fire pillar was whirling around like a storm.

This was the result of mixing fire and wind together.

Hyun-Soo smirked after the skill create a weak vortex.

‘Will it become bigger once it levels up?’

It wasn’t like the other skills where the skill became smaller because he compressed it.

This was probably the strongest the skill could output.

He put in a little more energy to test it out, but it got twice as big.

That’s probably why the skill was described as tiny.

‘The result is a bit different from what David was thinking.’

He wanted to break the form of the Flame Arrow and have it mixed with the wind.

But, he wanted to master the attack method of the Flame Arrow.

‘If it was made through that method, then I would’ve discreetly used Skill Transfer. Wait, that’s not a bad idea.’

But the fact that the Tiny Fire Storm’s rank as F was what stopped him.

Hyun-Soo was thinking while moving the fire pillar within this hand and while deep in his thoughts, the training room’s door opened wide.

“Hey, Hyon-Ssoo! What were you doing that you didn’t hear the call? There’s something…hm?”

The person that criticized Hyun-Soo without any hesitation was none other than David.

Speak of the devil. David froze right on the spot while talking.

His eyes were fixed on Hyun-Soo's hand.

'Oops!'

Hyun-Soo quickly cancelled the skill that was in his hand.

But David had already seen it.

Right when he thought that he was in trouble, David intercepted.

Swoosh.

"I beg you, please help me!"

"Gah!"

David grabbed onto one of Hyun-Soo's leg.

'Wha-what's going on...?'

"Hyon-Ssoo, I won't ask any questions, so please help me. Please? Please? Please!"

A man with a large frame was holding onto his leg and was begging him without questioning him about it.

"H-hey...let go of my leg first and then we'll talk."

"NO! Unless you say that you're going to help me first, I'm never going to let go!"

The way David's large eyes rolled around and blinked reminded Hyun-Soo of a scared deer.

Desperation filled his eyes.

Hyun-Soo felt burdened by it, so he tried to pull his leg out, but.

David was desperate, so he wasn't planning on letting go.

"Let go of me first and..."

Shake, shake!

David stuck by him while begging as if to let him know that he wasn't going to let go even if he died.

Squabbling, yelling...

The situation was becoming more intense.

‘Someone please save me…’

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“Okay, but don’t expect too much.”

David already knew how difficult it was to change or improve a skill anyways.

There’s was no guarantee that he had the potential to achieve it even with Hyun-Soo’s help.

But the way he grabbed onto Hyun-Soo’s leg made him realize how desperate David was.

“Okay, I understand. But just knowing that it was possible for you gave me hope.”

“In that case, that’s a relief. But really, don’t expect much. You already know that this isn’t based on you learning or me teaching, right?”

“Of course. But it’s better than me continuously wasting time by myself. So…you’re going to help me, right?”

“Yeah, yeah. I’ll help you, so stop making that expression.”

No matter how big his eyes were, continuously looking at those desperate eyes made it impossible for him to decline.

Hyun-Soo was worried that David was going to grab him again, so he slightly moved his body back.

Thankfully, he didn’t.

“Oh, about the other members…”

“I know! It’s a secret!”

Before Hyun-Soo could finish, David first acted like he was zipping up his mouth.

As a joke, if Hyun-Soo asked him to act like he died, he just might

really die.

“Thank you so much! Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

“What are you thankful about?”

“You’ve shown me potential. I’m not sure how you managed to control both fire and wind and I won’t even be curious about it, but since you showed me that it’s possible, it means that there’s still hope for me. That’s what’s important!”

David was talking passionately so that he could get Hyun-Soo’s help.

But Hyun-Soo felt a little bad while he was listening to this.

‘I hope I didn’t give him false hope. Honestly, if he failed even after trying for several years, then it could really be an impossible task for David…whatever. I can just transfer the skill and tell him that he succeeded all thanks to his hard work.’

The issue was whether David would be pleased with a F rank skill that was as big as a finger.

It seemed like this was more about his pride than the actual challenge, so when he finds out that he succeeded, then he might be pleased no matter what kind of skill he obtained.

David aggressively suggested that they research about the skill, but Hyun-Soo barely managed to calm him down and send him out of the room.

There was nothing he could do at the moment.

Whew.

His personal training room finally became quiet and Hyun-Soo’s sigh was the only sound that filled the room.

“I can’t seem to catch a break.”

It might be his fate that he became busy after he came here.

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“Hyon-Ssoo, did something happen between you and David?”

“…No?”

“He has a blank expression every time he looks at you and it puts me in a bad mood.”

“You’re right. I was curious about that too.”

It was lunchtime and the members were in the cafeteria talking in different areas of the room.

As soon as Katrina and Eugene saw Hyun-Soo, they dragged him to his table, so he had no choice but to eat next to her.

He could feel them staring at him.

‘So much for keeping the secret.’

It was written all over his face.

It was so obvious that Katrina came up to Hyun-Soo and asked if anything happened between him and David.

When their eyes met, he waved his hand in the air.

‘Jeez…’

If Katrina noticed it, that meant that the other hunters noticed it as well.

It was difficult not to notice if you have eyes, ears and a brain.

“He has such a wide smile on his face.”

“Oh, I’m really scared of the Joker.”

When Eugene made that comment, Katrina must’ve pictured the Joker because a frown appeared on her face.

“But is there something going on between you and David? He has a great personality, but he isn’t the type to have his mouth wide open and act silly like that.”

“No. Nothing is going on.”

“Really? Well, there hasn’t been any hunts that’s been scheduled,

so I guess not much can happen. But it's weird. He seemed really down the past couple of days."

"You're right. The other members were saying that he was doing something useless. Maybe it worked out?"

"If that's the case, then he would've announced it to everyone already."

Eugene kept on looking at Hyun-Soo and David while saying, "hm."

For some reason, Hyun-Soo was feeling more and more uncomfortable.

'They're catching on fast.'

They were pretty skilled when it came to reading the situation and putting that together with fragments of information that they had.

Afterwards, Eugene didn't say much about that.

Thankfully, they switched the topic.

"Is Yoo-Na doing okay? The doctor over there wasn't that great."

After using the fork to eat the meatball, she brought up the name that he hasn't heard during the past couple of days.

"Why? They're a skilled doctor. They were Dr. Kip's student and learned directly from them. Now that I think about it, you don't like Dr. Hall, right?"

"That's not it...they're going overboard and flirting with Yoo-Na."

"It's called kindness, not flirting. You tend to dislike the people that try to become close to Yoo-Na. I told you, you can't act like that."

Eugene spoke like a strict older brother and persuaded her.

'Oh, is that why she acted like that the first time we met?'

When Hyun-Soo first met Katrina, he remembered how she disliked him for no reason.

“No, it’s not like that.”

“Okay.”

“It’s not!”

“Okay, okay. Let’s just say that’s true.”

“Hey!”

His took back the comment about Eugene being a strict older brother.

‘In moments like this, it makes me think that they’re on the same level.’

After he finished eating, David quickly approached Hyun-Soo after checking up on him.

The two headed towards Hyun-Soo’s personal training room while Katrina and Eugene were looking at them with suspiciously.

“Hey, can you show it to me again? I couldn’t go to sleep last night because I kept on thinking about it.”

With a tired expression, David carefully made a request.

Hyun-Soo was going to complain to him by saying that there was no point in keeping this a secret any longer, but he just let out a sigh.

‘He probably won’t understand anything in his current state.’

When a person falls for one thing, they’re like a horse that’s running wild.

They were like a racing horse that ran straight with blinders on.

But he didn’t have a problem with that.

There weren’t that many people in this world that was as passionate as him.

And despite of the others saying that he's wrong, he managed to endure it and continuously try it.

'There's a saying...the petit bourgeois scoff at challengers.

"Tiny Fire Storm!"

When he used the skill, a small fire whirlpool appeared on the palm of his hand.

"Ohhhhhh!"

It was obvious that David was happy.

"But does it really help just from looking?"

"Yes, because you'll be able to draw a better image in your head."

"But, it'll be different from what David imagined."

"Hm...that is true. But it's better than me turning on the giant fan and then using the Flame Arrow, so it's fine."

David must've remembered the times when he tried to mix the fire skill into the wind that was created by the fan and failed miserably, because he started mumbling sadly to himself.

"I did say that I would help, but...I'm not sure this alone will help you."

"It will. It'll help. It'll work, so don't say that you change your mind."

"Yeah, yeah. I won't."

But it seemed like just showing the skill wouldn't help at all the more he thought about it.

Hyun-Soo thought about moving the focal point a bit.

"Are you able to use the fire skill and the wind skill at the same time? It's simple if you do it like this."

Hyun-Soo created a small fire and a wind that was blowing gently in both of his hands.

After seeing this, David's mouth opened wide.

"Hey, rookie. I know I said that I would keep it a secret and even zipped my lips, but you know not to show this kind of power so openly, right?"

David then started complaining about how easily Hyun-Soo used the skill and that he was discouraged by it.

"Why are you still a C rank when you have a skill like that? It's a different story if you're an A rank."

"Oh, I'm a B rank."

"Right, a B rank...what?! You're a B rank?! You're not a C rank?! Did you level up when you hunted the Blasting Spore?"

"Yeah, well...something like that."

That wasn't true.

He leveled up after working hard to make the potion that he wanted to give to Kim Yoo-Na.

However, he wouldn't be able to answer him if David asked where he got the experience from to level up, so he vaguely answered.

"I don't think so! We shouldn't be standing here like this. Let's go check it out now!"

He quickly brought a small measurement reader and measured Hyun-Soo's rank.

When the reader said that Hyun-Soo was a B rank, a shocked expression appeared on David's face.

There was a huge difference between hearing it and seeing it with his own eyes.

"I told you."

Hyun-Soo felt embarrassed, so he grabbed the reader from David's hand and put it back.

“How are you able to level up so fast? It’s really surprising!”

Despite of him asking for Hyun-Soo’s help for the longest time, he pushed it back. After thinking how interesting this situation was, he came back to his senses.

“Oh, but that’s not what’s important right now. I was so shocked that I almost lost it. Where were we?”

“Yeah, yeah. Let’s focus again. Are you saying that it’s impossible to use two skills at the same time?”

“Of course. If it’s generally impossible, then isn’t it obvious?”

No, it’s possible for me.

<It Works #4> End.

Chapter 79 - <Genius? #1>

No, it’s possible for me.

Hyun-Soo didn’t have the courage to say it out loud.

It’s because it even sounded cocky to him.

“If it was possible, then I wouldn’t have turned on that fan and made a big fuss.”

“Didn’t you use it to concentrate so that you can create an image of it?”

“There’s that too. But it’s really rare for people to use two different skills at the same time.”

“I see.”

He now understood why David was so shocked when Hyun-Soo created fire and wind.

Despite of the fact that it was small and weak.

‘But still, if it’s rare, that means there are people that are able to do it.’

Hyun-Soo told David to try to use two different at the same time.

There was something he needed to check.

“I told you, it doesn’t work.”

Even though he was complaining, he tried it.

Fwoosh.

The moment David used the skill, Hyun-Soo focused on his body.

‘...I knew it!’

As soon as David used the skill a blue light started floating and even though it was faint, he saw it moving around.

“Ha....!”

A frown appeared on David's face.

'Huh?'

Suddenly, a purple light appeared from a different side.

That light enveloped the blue lights and it turned darker as it floated around "I can't. I tried to use an additional skill, but...it's impossible."

Moments later, David announced that he gave up while catching his breath.

At the same time, the colors that was emitted from his body completely disappeared.

'It would've been nice if this skill lasted a bit longer...'

Even though he saw it for a short period of time, his eyes started burning as if they were on fire.

David wasn't able to endure it as well, but it was still unfortunate.

But he still obtained something within that short period.

The purple light probably appeared when the flow of the energy wasn't smooth or the skill was used inappropriately.

The blue light was the opposite of that.

'When David first used the skill, it was a blue light. But when he tried to use another skill, the purple light appeared. Then that means it's being clashed somewhere...'

The problem was that he didn't know the exact reason.

He also didn't know how to resolve it.

The Interface just showed it.

'I think using the Skill Transfer is the best thing to do. It'll be comfortable for both me and David. It's hitting two birds with one stone.'

If it was possible for him to use two skills at once, then he would've tried to help, but from the looks of it, that looked impossible.

When Hyun-Soo was about to tell him to give up.

"No, no. I'm never going to give up, so don't tell me to give up."

David said it first, so Hyun-Soo couldn't say it.

"I'm going to make it happen somehow."

He quietly promised himself that he would as he clenched his fist.

And as he rolled his eyes, he looked at Hyun-Soo.

"But, you know. I've been thinking about it. Are you…a genius?"

"…Excuse me?"

His mind went blank when he heard a word that he wasn't expecting at all.

And then, he started laughing out loud.

"Pwahaha! David, what are you saying?"

Genius? Was that the name of some dog?

It was a word that didn't fit him at all.

It's been a while since Hyun-Soo laughed out loud like this and it was thanks to this random conversation.

Half of his laugh was because he thought it was absurd.

However, David was the feeling the opposite and had a serious look on his face.

"I'm serious. Really. I think you really are a genius."

He ranked up within a short period of time and he used an element that he's never used before within a short period of time as well.

He was saying how everything was interesting and spoke as his spit landed on Hyun-Soo.

“I’ll help you even if you don’t compliment me. I said I’ll help. I even promised not that long ago, so why are you acting like this?”

Hyun-Soo explained how he started cringing and couldn’t take it anymore, but David was still being serious.

“No. I’m speaking the truth. I thought about it and no other word can describe you better than that.”

There are a lot of words.

There was a way. He just couldn’t say it.

If he told him, it would be the same thing as revealing everything about himself, so there was no way he would say it.

Even though their conversation got sidetracked, they managed to get back on topic.

The conversation about Hyun-Soo being a genius was a side conversation.

Hyun-Soo thought back to the purple light that was released from David’s body when he tried to use a second skill.

There must’ve been some sort of collision or something blocking it to make that color appear.

“David, try use the skill one after the other. Don’t try to use them together.”

“I’m telling you, you are a genius…”

“Yeah, yeah. Hurry up and try it.”

When vaguely answered and nodded his head, David started grumbling.

He used the two different skills one after the other.

Even though Hyun-Soo’s eyes were tired, he found out something during that short period of time.

Blue light was released from both skills and it flowed past his stomach.

‘There must be a common passageway or something. It’s obvious that they would collide since both skills are wanting to use that passageway.’

He managed to find the main issue.

Even though it was just a hypothesis, it had the highest possibility.

In order to check that hypothesis, David had to fix one of those skills.

‘But that’s a difficult thing to do.’

It wasn’t impossible, but a lot of people did fail.

‘Then he has to find a method where he’s able to use both skills without the passageways colliding against each other…oh, that should work.’

“This helps?”

David asked while alternating between two skills.

Hyun-Soo already saw everything that he needed to see, so it didn’t matter if David stopped, but he didn’t say anything and let David continue.

It was his punishment for making Hyun-Soo cringe because of his embarrassing comments.

“How long do I have to do this for?”

“You can stop.”

“Whew.”

David wiped off the sweat that was on his nose and let out a sigh.

After a few minutes, Hyun-Soo requested David to use the skill again.

“Are you mad at me about something?”

David carefully asked.

However, there actually was something he was thinking about, so he needed David to use his skill.

“No, it’s nothing like that. While using the skill, when I tell you to stop, stop for a moment. Okay?”

“…..? Okay.”

Throb, throb.

His head had already overloaded, so on top of that, his eyes started throbbing.

‘Did I use it too much?’

It was an incomplete skill that’s been activated not that long ago.

Even though he knew that there was a time limit, he thought it would be okay to use it if he split it up, but he was at his limit.

‘But it’s better than hearing something weird like genius.’

He felt goosebumps all over his body the more he heard it.

“Ha!”

David used the skill.

“Stop!”

After checking the blue light, Hyun-Soo yelled at David to stop.

‘It’s just like I thought.’

Even though he stopped managing the use of the skill in the middle of it, the flow didn’t stop immediately.

It’s like it was fading out because from the point that it stopped flowing, it would disappear after flowing for a bit.

“This time, when I tell you to stop, stop using the skill and then use the skill again after two seconds.”

“What exactly are you trying to do? I’ll do it since you asked, but…”

“Just try it.”

His head was hurting even more. He wanted to confirm it as soon as possible and then rest.

He could do this the next time they met, but he would feel more comfortable after checking it.

It was like not washing your hands after using the bathroom and he didn't like that feeling.

"Haaa!"

Once David started using his skill, a group of blue light started moving.

"Stop!"

He stopped using the skill after Hyun-Soo shouted.

The blue lights started becoming faint, but recovered their brightness and continued moving according to the passageway.

It was just like he thought.

'Using that should work.'

"Use the first skill, then stop and then use the second skill, then stop and then use the first skill again. Repeat this process."

By doing that, the skills will be cutoff for a short period and as it connects, it won't collide with the other skill's passageway.

That's the idea that Hyun-Soo had.

After checking to see how the flow of the skill energy moved, he came up with that hypothesis, so it wasn't such an absurd thought.

"What exactly are you trying to do? Can't you tell me?"

"Just try it first."

While rubbing his throbbing eyes, he started waving his hand.

It was his way of saying to try it.

'...How did it become like this?'

He was telling an A rank hunter what to do and treated him as if

he was annoyed.

Hyun-Soo behaved that way because his condition was getting worse, but it felt weird.

Before, he had to bow and show respect even to D rank hunters.

The A rank hunter listened to Hyun-Soo's advice and tried their best and the group of blue lights continuously moved around him.

At times, there were parts where it would change to purple, but that was because David missed the timing.

'The purple light won't show once he gets used to it.'

Another one of his assumption was correct.

Even though his eyes were hurting and his head was throbbing, a bright smile appeared on Hyun-Soo's face.

It was really an incredible skill.

It was so incredible that he couldn't put a price on it.

Who would be able to come up with this method where it allows the user to use two skills at the same time?

'It's impossible as of right now, but after seeing the flow, as long as he gets enough practice, then it'll be possible for him to use two.'

"Oh...oh?"

David himself must've felt that something was different.

"This...?"

Hyun-Soo knew without him saying it.

It's because his eyes were filled with hope and was gleaming.

"Practice. That's all you need to do. Practice. Got it?"

Hyun-Soo emphasized the word, practice.

The more he uses it, the better they'll work together and his dream of using two skills at the same time won't be a dream

anymore.

To be exact, he was using the skill while switching between them.

If he practiced to the point where there wasn't a gap between the two skills, then couldn't it be considered as using two skills at the same time?

'The problem is what happens after...'

Because Hyun-Soo's assumption was correct, he was able to figure out a way to use two skills at once, but...

'I think that's the limit.'

But using two skills at once was an incredible achievement.

It meant that the number of skills he could use increased and the strength of his power increased as well.

But improving a skill was a different issue.

'There isn't a way for me to help him with that. Oh, there is one.

Skill Transfer.

If he transferred the small fire whirlwind, then things would get easier.

He did think about doing this before.

'Hiding a skill is a pretty difficult task.'

Anyways, Hyun-Soo had pessimistic thoughts about David improving his skill.

Of course depending on how David progresses, his wish may or may not come true.

At the end of the day, Hyun-Soo did everything he could.

"Amazing..."

Hyun-Soo gave him the clue that he needed and even nicely informed him that he needed to practice.

He thought that David would start practicing right away since he was so obsessed with it, but David looked at Hyun-Soo as if he was seeing a god because there was a gleam in his eyes.

‘Why is he acting like this?’

Hyun-Soo felt uncomfortable, so he gave an excuse that his head was hurting and when he was about to stand up.

“How in the world did you think of this? I told you, you’re really a genius!”

David stuck by Hyun-Soo as his movements became bigger.

<Genius? #1> End.

Chapter 80 - <Genius? #2>

“Ack...!”

“What do they say in these types of situation? Lucky? Right. They say lucky!”

Hyun-Soo pushed away David because he was burdening him with his approach.

He normally made big gestures, but because he was excited, they became bigger.

“Let’s talk after you’ve succeeded.”

“But I already feel like I’ve succeeded. It feels totally different from before!”

“Yeah, yeah. But let’s talk after you’ve accomplished it. I need to rest...”

His head and eyes were already hurting and on top of that, he was starting to get exhausted mentally.

Since he’s helped him enough, he decided to rest up a bit, but David started talking faster.

“I’ve been thinking.”

“.....?”

“I don’t think you know yourself that well. That’s not good.”

“...Excuse me?”

“I need to take care of you.”

“.....?”

Hyun-Soo was suddenly filled with questions.

What did I hear just now?

Some dark-skinned guy said something odd like taking care of me. Did I hear it right?

Was the headache making me imagine things?

“There’s nothing more dangerous than a genius that isn’t aware of themselves.”

David was extremely serious.

Hyun-Soo barely managed to stop himself from cringing.

He was already in a groggy state.

“Right, don’t worry. I’ll help.”

“What? No, that’s not it. What are you saying?”

“So this is why Yoo-Na recruited you. That’s our leader for ya. She has an eye for talent.”

“.....”

‘This guy isn’t listening to a word that I’m saying!’

Besides the fact that he was cringing on the inside, he didn’t have any idea on how to deal with their absurd thought.

Didn’t he call me a genius because he had nothing else to say to me?

If he stayed longer, he knew David would say more absurd things.

Hyun-Soo exited the training room without looking back.

It was Hyun-Soo’s personal training room, but in the current situation, it was better for him to leave.

Once he returned to the dorm, he lied down on top of the bed.

‘This skill. Everything is great, but the side effect is really bad since it’s short and there’s a limit to how much I can use it.’

It would be better if he could increase the activation rate of Interface even just a little bit, but.

‘Kim Yoo-Na has to return soon so that I can go hunting.’

The clan was currently on hiatus because the leader was absent.

‘That’s unfortunate…’

He knew the reason why, but he felt disappointed by the fact that he couldn’t grow the skill that he recently obtained.

And at the same time, he was feeling sleeping.

Hyun-Soo fell into a deep slumber.

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See Through was a skill that used a lot of one’s mentality, stamina and energy.

It was a name he randomly chose, but Hyun-Soo thought it was a fitting name.

Because he abused the skill, Hyun-Soo remained asleep from early evening to late morning the next day and someone woke him up.

“Hyun-Soo! Wake up. A guy named David is waiting outside.”

“…Who?”

“He said his name was David.”

He thought he misheard it, but he heard it correctly.

This was the price he had to pay for being nosy.

He fell into his own trap.

Whew…

A deep sigh was the only thing that came out of his mouth.

Hyun-Soo did the bare minimum when washing up and when he walked out, he saw David waiting for him.

While walking towards the cafeteria, Hyun-Soo noticed the dark circles on David’s eyes and asked.

“Did you sleep at all?”

The dark circles were so bad that it would scare away the grim reaper.

He was sure that David didn't sleep at all.

"No...but thanks to that, I succeeded."

Hyun-Soo did tell him to practice, but to think he achieved it within a day.

That's an A ranked hunter for you.

It was thanks to his perseverance.

"Then can't you use that as the base and move on to the next step? You probably don't need me anymore."

"No! Don't talk like that. I have to show it to you first. It would've been impossible if it weren't for you."

David was more respectful towards the person that helped him than Hyun-Soo had originally thought.

But Hyun-Soo wasn't very comfortable by it.

David's face looked like an electric display board.

He did the same thing yesterday where he was staring at Hyun-Soo the entire time and was gaining attention from the other members...

'He's doing it again today.'

His face looked exhausted, but he had a bright expression on his face.

People would notice that something happened.

On top of that, Hyun-Soo was right next to him, which gave off the feeling that he was involved in all of this somehow.

"The food is really delicious today. Don't you think so, Hyon-Ssoo?"

"Yeah. Yeah. You're right..."

Everyone must have been trying to listen in because the expression of those around them changed.

It looked as if they were understanding what was going on.

‘No way…’

Hyun-Soo thought it couldn’t be true, but his feelings confirmed it.

Everyone found out.

David did keep his promise.

Because he didn’t say it himself.

But his face and actions were like a display board, so even though he swore not to say anything, it was useless.

He didn’t expect something like this.

***

In the end, David showed Hyun-Soo that he did succeed.

“How was it? Awesome, right? Hahaha!”

After activating both skills in his hands at the same time, he smiled proudly.

“You’re probably the first one to come up with this kind of method!”

David then made another embarrassing comment by saying that people that are able to come up with this kind of method are considered geniuses.

The method that Hyun-Soo thought of was like the Egg of Columbus.

It’s easy after someone finds the method, but until someone finds it, it seems impossible.

After using both of the skills, David sat across from Hyun-Soo with a cheerful smile.

“I thought of something while practicing all night.”

“…..?”

“I think one of our members will become a S rank like Mikhail.”

S rank.

It was Hyun-Soo’s goal as well.

It’s probably the goal of every hunter.

But it’s really difficult to achieve it and it’s very rare for people to actually achieve it.

“Up til now, the person that will become a S rank the fastest is probably Yoo-Na. But I changed my mind.”

David crossed his leg after sitting across from Hyun-Soo and the pointed his finger at him.

“I think you’ll be the one.”

“Me? I just became a B rank. The other A rank will start laughing if they heard this.”

“No way, I’m being serious. I have a hunch that you’ll be the one.”

“Oh, right…”

Mikhail was a pretty famous hunter because of his rank, but there was another reason why he became famous.

It’s because of his SS rank skill, Phoenix.

Hyun-Soo did have a SS rank skill like him.

It wasn’t an offensive skill like the Phoenix, but it was an efficient skill which made it amazing.

It was Interface.

He was able to see things that others couldn’t see and it provided him detailed information.

And it’s because of Interface that David kept calling him a genius and making Hyun-Soo feel embarrassed.

“I have no choice, Hyon-Ssoo. You really need me.”

David looked at Hyun-Soo as if he was some baby that was abandoned inside a well.

Wait, I'm a grown adult so I don't need him to look after me.

Then what he said yesterday was something I didn't imagine?

He remembered seeing on TV that western culture strongly supported individualism, but David was really nosy.

David didn't know what Hyun-Soo was thinking.

"If you didn't meet Yoo-Na, then others would've tried to suck everything out of you."

And gave an advice out of concern.

"You didn't hear about the aliens that are locked up beneath the FBI headquarter? The aliens came to look around and after getting captured, they created cars, computers, smartphones and other items."

So what he's trying to say is that those that are above average should be careful.

Since David was speaking with such a serious tone, Hyun-Soo questioned whether he was sane or not.

Can a person be considered normal if they believe an absurd statement like that?

"You're worse than my younger sibling. They're around your age and they keep asking me to bring them an Energy Stone. They want to become a hunter or something. You can supposedly become a hunter by eating it. They still believe in that baseless rumor. If they awaken, they'll probably become a better hunter than me."

David talked about how they didn't know about the world and was moaning about it.

But what he didn't know was that Hyun-Soo had already categorized him into the "kind of odd people" category.

What both of them didn't know was that they were clicking their tongues towards each other.

***

"Look at this guys! Haha!"

One hunter held two different skills in their hands and threw it towards the monster that was created by the projector.

The one that was laughing out loud was David.

Since he had made it so obvious all this time, the other members already knew, but they were surprised when they actually saw him use two different skills.

Even though they didn't fuse like David had wanted, this was enough for him to be satisfied.

'It's fine that they're surprised, but why are they looking at me...?'

David dragged Hyun-Soo into the Center Room after saying that he was going to show the others, so Hyun-Soo was now in the Center Room with his hand on his chin and watching David.

He knew that David practiced several of years to try to achieve this.

Even the other hunters told him that it was an impossible task.

Since he didn't make any progress during the past couple of years, it was fine that he was excited by the fact that he was now one step closer to his goal.

Right, it was fine up to that point.

The other hunters went to the Center Room with low expectations and after seeing what he could do, one of the hunters approached Hyun-Soo.

They had already assumed that Hyun-Soo was the base of David's skill development.

On top of that, David showed off his skill and confirmed that he succeeded.

The result was obvious.

“Hey, there’s a skill that I’m using…”

“No, take a look at mine first. There’s something I’ve been feeling while using the skill…”

“There’s a skill that I obtained by using a scroll…”

It suddenly felt like he was in a counseling room.

Hyun-Soo took a step back because he was surprised.

“Hey! What are you guys doing?!”

Someone saved Hyun-Soo.

It was David. After showing off his skill, he noticed that no one was around to watch him.

After noticing that he were crowding around Hyun-Soo, David ran towards them.

“You have a problem?”

“Are we not allowed to talk to our own member?”

“Hey, you shouldn’t lie like that. Don’t ask Hyon-Ssoo for favors like that. No, no.”

He shook his head with a stern face and crossed his arms.

Shoo, shoo.

He looked like he was shooing away dogs.

The members became furious when they noticed that David was looking at them while standing next to Hyun-Soo like a gatekeeper.

“Oh, really? I wanted to get some help too. So what?! You got help too, so why can’t we?!”

“Seriously. What’s with this guy? What a jerk. He got help too, so he shouldn’t be acting like this.”

Because of this, they were able to confirm that Hyun-Soo did coach David and helped him with his skill.

It was funny trying to keep this a secret when everyone knew already.

Despite of that, they weren't asking a lot of questions about it.

All they asked was whether Hyun-Soo could help them too.

He was planning on revealing parts of it later on anyways.

The fact that he made the rice ball cakes and the dish with medicinal herb.

Even if he added more onto this, there wouldn't be that big of a difference compared to before.

But he had one question.

<Genius #2> End.

Chapter 81 - <Genius #3>

It was.

‘Why is everyone acting so friendly?’

It was the attitude of the other members.

Not that long ago, Hyun-Soo was a low-ranking hunter that was treated coldly by everyone.

On top of that, no one knew that Hyun-Soo was currently a B rank other than David.

That’s why in their eyes, Hyun-Soo should be seen as a C rank newbie that just joined the clan.

‘Despite of that, I don’t know whether to think that they’re open-minded for asking me for advice or that their willingness to benefit from this was great.’

No matter what the reason was, the fact that they had to show respect towards Hyun-Soo applied for both sides.

It could probably hurt their pride.

“Don’t you guys have any self-esteem? Why are you guys coming up to him all of a sudden?”

“There isn’t a reason for us not to.”

“Right, after looking at you, it made me realize that even a scroll couldn’t help you with that, so what does having self-esteem have to do with getting stronger?”

Hyun-Soo decided to step in.

“First…I’m not sure whether it’ll work or not. And I don’t know how long it will take. The important thing is that, during this process, the skill can be copied.”

The hunters were all shocked by Hyun-Soo’s information.

“My assumption was correct. You’re a Hidden class.”

“You’re right. Since he mentioned copying a skill, is he a copycat?”

“ I guess he’s trying to find a way after copying the skill.”

Hidden Class.

Unfamiliar words popped up.

“Hidden Class…?”

Hyun-Soo asked after hearing those words for the first time and a hunter replied.

“This is something that we came up with, but when a person has a rare class aside from their main class, we call that a Hidden Class.”

Like in a game, when a person has another class on top of a class that everyone has, they called that a Hidden Class.

“Anyways, since it’s a Hidden Class, we won’t ask any more questions, so don’t worry. It’s an unwritten rule among us, so unless you talk about it first, we won’t ask. We won’t bombard you with questions, so don’t worry.”

They said that it’s rare for someone to have a power on top of the power that everyone else has.

It’s not smart to reveal your cheats within a game and then use it.

Other people won’t take it if used discreetly.

The hunters reassured Hyun-Soo by saying that they won’t talk about this elsewhere.

“And honestly, we’ve met all types of different people, so we don’t get surprised easily.”

“Right, there’s Katrina and Ariel…”

“Hey. Watch what you’re saying.”

“Oh. Sorry. You didn’t hear it from me.”

When one of the hunters stated a name, they got scolded and immediately shut their mouth as if they made a mistake.

To Hyun-Soo, that name sounded familiar.

He heard it from somewhere...

“Well, anyways. If you need it, then copying is fine. But, is it possible to copy it just by looking at it?”

“In that case, then scrolls are unnecessary.”

They were talking amongst themselves saying that he was a Hidden Class.

‘Do I need to thank them for misunderstanding...?’

They got pretty close to the truth, but headed in a totally different direction, which caused the misunderstanding.

But Hyun-Soo didn’t feel that there was a need to resolve it.

It was actually better for them to misunderstand.

“Ah. See, Hyon-Ssoo? Wasn’t I right? It ended up like this because I stepped in, so what would’ve happened if I didn’t?”

“Yeah, sure...”

Even though Hyun-Soo accepted their request, it wasn’t because he felt the need to volunteer for it.

‘I want to familiarize the skills more.’

A ranked hunters had a lot of amazing skills.

Even if Hyun-Soo did create a skill by himself, it was difficult to do when making it from nothing.

That’s why this was somewhat of a shortcut to skip all that.

‘Imitation teaches creation.’

And while doing that, he can resolve the requests that the hunters made.

‘Basically...it’s an upgrade system.’

If he continues to use that upgrade system, then he'll become more familiar when using it during battle and will become more skilled.

So for Hyun-Soo, he had nothing to lose.

No, it benefited him more.

With their permission, he's able to familiarize the skills of A rank hunters.

Both sides win with this.

Just like that, an unofficial contract was made between Hyun-Soo and the hunters.

Except one, who thought that maybe Hyun-Soo was being used.

***

Strengthening the skills of the other hunters.

Even though David was really worried, it was a good thing for Hyun-Soo.

Because he could openly use them to test out different things.

On top of that, they told him that he could use the skill that he copied, so it was beneficial.

"Whew..."

Hyun-Soo used his hand to rub his stiff eyes.

If there's one thing that he obtained during this time was the duration of his skill.

Before, he was able to use it for a minute or two, but through training, the duration extended by three minutes.

His body felt like he had been using it for about five minutes, but when he timed it after using a timer, that wasn't it.

And there was one more thing that he obtained.

It was.

[Blade Fist][B]

It was a sub-skill of Invisible Attack.

By using the user's energy, a light element blade will be created on the back of their hand.

With this skill, it was create an optical illusion, which allows the user to attack their opponent.

Depending on the amount of energy that's used during the attack, the number of blades, the size, and the strength will differ.

Critical Hit Percentage: 40%

It was a new offensive skill.

'Helping a close-range attacker helped a lot, huh?"

Out of the three hunters that asked Hyun-Soo to strengthen their skill, one of them used daggers with both hands.

'It's been a while since the rank increased, but the skill's power isn't any different from the previous rank. This is problematic.'

In simple terms, the skill didn't match with the rank.

'There's a purple light coming from their shoulder, so that means there's an issue with the flow there...'

Hyun-Soo approached that hunter and poked their shoulder with his finger.

He was going to ask whether they felt something there when they used the skill.

Hyun-Soo assumed that they would be able to feel something within themselves whenever the purple light appeared.

But.

"Huh?"

On the area that Hyun-Soo poked, the purple flowing light became faint and then dark again.

“What?”

“Hold on a sec.”

“.....”

Poke, poke.

He poke different spots where it was releasing the dark purple light.

Again, the light became faint and then dark again.

This time, Hyun-Soo focused his energy on his fingertip as if he was gathering all the energy.

It was like when he uses Invisible Attack, but since he didn’t need to attack them, he got rid of the offensive part of it.

“Hey! What are you doing? It hurts!”

When the finger that was filled with energy poked the dark purple light, the hunter was surprised due to the pain.

‘Hey, stay still.”

You’re ruining my concentration!

When the hunter saw Hyun-Soo’s extremely focused face, he remained quiet.

Hyun-Soo mind was solely focused on the current situation.

The time allowed to use See Through wasn’t that long.

Hyun-Soo widened his stiff eyes.

‘The color is becoming faint...?’

When he poked the purple light with his energy-filled finger, the purple light didn’t become dark again.

The more he poked it, the more faint it became and...

‘It worked!’

The purple light completely disappeared.

He decided to focused his energy on all of his fingers and massaged the shoulder that was filled with the purple light.

“Ah! Ack!”

The hunter tried their best to endure Hyun-Soo’s sudden remark, even though they felt intimidated, but they couldn’t hold in the moan that was caused by the pain they felt.

The duration of See Through was going to end soon.

Hyun-Soo confirmed that the purple light was completely gone now.

“Try using your skill again.”

“What?”

“Hurry!”

“O-okay.”

The hunter wasn’t sure what Hyun-Soo was trying to do, but they used their skill again because of Hyun-Soo’s aggressive spirit.

Hooooo.

With the hunter as the center, blue lights started stretching out.

The small sound could only be heard by Hyun-Soo and the blue dots moved around at a fast pace.

And then.

‘I knew it!’

His assumption was correct.

The purple light was completely gone from one of their shoulders and the blue light started moving around naturally.

After checking that, his time to use See Through was over.

“What did you do just now? It was pretty painful.”

“Who knows? Don’t think too much about it. I don’t think it’s anything bad.”

“.....?”

With a confused look, the hunter wanted to ask more questions, but when he saw how tired Hyun-Soo was, he left the training room.

‘What did I do? That’s what I’d like to know.’

Is this another skill from Interface?

After becoming a B rank, Hyun-Soo experienced many interesting skills that he hasn’t experienced before.

See Through was one of them.

Who knew it was possible to resolve the flow of the purple light while using it?

‘Is there a limit to this skill?’

The activation rate of Interface is currently 24%.

It increased a bit due to him using Interface’s new skill in many different ways.

Maybe that’s why.

Hyun-Soo looked down at his hands.

‘I can be sure of it if I use it again.’

***

The skill of the hunter that received Hyun-Soo’s help was stronger than before.

The Center Room calculated the DPS (Damage per Second) of the skill and he confirmed that it increased a lot.

It was as if he reorganized the chaotic flow.

Or he created a new passageway.

Whatever it was, he resolved it.

After looking at his training results, he ran to Hyun-Soo and grabbed his hands.

Hyun-Soo was in the cafeteria eating his food and he managed to push him away after being surprised, but the hunter grabbed his hands and mumbled.

“Is it the mysteries of the East…?”

“…What are you talking about?”

“Well, after you touched my shoulder with these hands, my DPS shot up. Is it some sort of Eastern medical technique?”

“Stop saying weird things and let go of my hands.”

When a frown appeared on Hyun-Soo’s face, the hunter sheepishly let go of his hands.

“What is it?”

“What about the rookie’s hands?”

The other hunters that were in the room asked about Hyun-Soo’s hand, but the hunter vaguely answered and didn’t say anything else.

It was because Hyun-Soo asked him to keep it a secret.

He ignored the other hunters and went to the Center Room with the hunter that grabbed his hands.

And then.

Fwoosh!

Crack!

He witnessed the skill with his own eyes.

“How is it?”

“It’s definitely different from before.”

“It’s not just different. You’re really amazing. Your hands are the hands of god!”

Instead of using the projector, the hunter brought an actual piece of concrete to show his skill.

And when he showed the concrete being sliced like a piece of tofu, he proved the skill's power.

"Before, I would have to use the skill twice to split it apart, but now...look! This beautiful and artistic skill cut it with one attack!"

"Yeah, yeah."

He was thankful that the hunter thought Hyun-Soo was amazing, but the way he was fussing over it was something he couldn't handle.

Hyun-Soo looked at the pieces of concrete that the hunter demonstrated on.

'I knew it...'

It was pretty good.

With this, he could be considered an officer for a one-man army.

But the high-ranked hunters were already being treated as officers.

A few days later, Hyun-Soo managed to avoid the new hunter that was treating him like a savior and escaped to his training room.

He was saying things like the hands of god and medicinal technique from the East.

If this keeps up, he'll end up being called Heo Jun. (T/N: A court physician during the Joseon Dynasty.) Hyun-Soo still wasn't used to the hunters' big gestures and the way they expressed their feelings, so he didn't really leave his training room.

After thinking about his experience with David, he made sure to lock the door.

There was another reason why Hyun-Soo stayed in his training room.

<Genius #3> End.

Chapter 82 - <Uninvited Guest #1>

It was.

‘It’s definitely better to experience it myself.’

After helping the new hunters strengthen their skills, Hyun-Soo obtained their skills.

And he focused on one skill that he was really compatible with.

It was the close-range attacker’s skill that cut the piece of concrete into two.

‘I don’t need a weapon.’

The form of Invisible Attack was different every time, so it didn’t matter whether he had weapon or not.

Hyun-Soo was thinking about how he should use this.

And another thing.

‘If I do this…’

His speciality, skill recreation.

When thinking about efficiency, rather than using the skill several of times, it’s better to create multiple skills at once.

Out of the three hunters, one had a skill that created an optical illusion.

Hyun-Soo was inspired by that.

‘It may look like an illusion, but if the fake was a fake and everything was real?’

It’ll help point out the opponent’s weakness when they think it’s a fake.

There wasn’t a special reason as to why Hyun-Soo was suddenly interested in close-range skills.

He was now part of a clan.

He didn’t have to work as hard as before where he was by himself and he had to do everything within his power to survive.

And if he were to pick and choose the skills, then he was the type to focus more on the damaging skills.

With Invisible Skill, he created many different shapes with it.

Since it was developed from Mighty Throw, its original type is a long-range attack.

But since the skill enveloped his fist like a glove, he enjoyed the feeling of hitting his enemy, so he used it as a close-range skill as well.

Rather than attack from a distance, attacking the enemy up close was a lot more exciting.

On top of that, it felt good seeing the skill with his own eyes after using it.

There was a certain satisfaction after the hunt was over.

That was the only difference.

‘How should I make it…?’

If he used the hints that he obtained from the hunters’ skills and mixed it together, he would definitely be able to come up with an amazing skill.

Hyun-Soo forgot about the time and for few days, he researched the skill and practiced continuously.

And then.

Ding!

[Invisible Attack [B] is now stronger because the condition has been fulfilled.]

[Invisible Attack [B] will be divided for becoming stronger.]

Ding!

[The skill, Blade Fist [B], has been created.]

This was the result.

'.....!'

He didn't think a skill would be made.

But getting stronger?

And what's getting divided?

But Hyun-Soo's instincts kicked in.

That his attempt worked.

In the end, Hyun-Soo didn't do anything that put him at a disadvantage.

He actually obtained a skill that was based off the A rank skills.

'I should stop for today.'

He achieved his goal and it didn't matter that his head was hurting and that his eyes were feeling stiff.

But he tried his best to keep using it if it was possible.

'I'm curious about the skills that the other A rank hunters have too.'

They say that you never stop learning.

That applied to Hyun-Soo as well.

'The more I use, the more developed it'll be.'

The more developed it is, other functions will appear as well.

The activation rate of Hyun-Soo's Interface was 24%.

His current goal was 30%.

'1/4th of it has already been activated, so if it increased to 1/3rd, what would happen?'

His curiosity excited him.

"Hey, Super Rookie. Want to go outside and warm-up a bit?

People need to be in the sun once in a while, you know. Everyone is out, so it's pretty quiet. Let's go outside and exercise a bit."

Within the entire building, there were lights installed that played the role of the sunlight, but David and the others asked to have a change in scenery.

A frown appeared on Hyun-Soo's face when he heard David.

'My name was changed into something weird again.'

Before Hyun-Soo shuddered with repulsion after hearing the word, genius.

After that, David and the other three hunters stopped calling Hyun-Soo by that word.

However, after the purple light disappeared from them, they called him a monster with an intimidated look.

"The Hidden Class must consist of only monsters that are above average."

That was the gist of it.

They must've been shocked when Hyun-Soo copied their skills, developed it and easily resolved the issues they had for a long time.

"Do you think he's some sort of an amazing buffer or something?"

"Now that I think about it, the food that he made us before was pretty interesting..."

"I'm telling you. He's a genius."

They were discussing whether the power they had was too great and were talking about useless things while Hyun-Soo was standing right in front of them.

But asking for detailed information from each other was considered rude.

There was an unwritten law that unless the person talks about it

first, others can't ask questions about it.

Because of that rule, the others weren't bombarding him with questions.

But his name changed based on their thoughts and flow of the situation.

Genius was a name that made him cringe.

Next was God's Hand.

And then Monster because his skill was like a monster.

But Monster sounded dreary and pessimistic, so they agreed to add the word, super, in front of the first name.

They made that agreement recently.

David aggressively told them to go with genius since everything could be described with that one word, but the others didn't agree.

The others went with God's Hand.

Hyun-Soo's actions made them think that it was some sort of Asian acupuncture technique or moxibustion and made odd assumptions.

Of course Hyun-Soo's thoughts weren't included in any of this at all.

"I'll go out if you stop calling me Super Rookie."

"Why? Doesn't it sound nice? It's just a nickname."

Nonsense.

Hyun-Soo gave up and ended up following them outside. It's because his body was feeling stiff from being inside.

Anyways, the nickname started from a small group and now, the other members were using it as well.

After hearing the rumors, they all said something to Hyun-Soo. Half was because they were impressed and the other half as a joke.

Hyun-Soo felt troubled.

He felt extremely embarrassed every time he heard someone call him that.

“Yoo-Na needs to come back soon so that we can start getting requests.”

“Eugene looked really stressed out. He said there’s too many requests.”

“But Yoo-Na needs to be here in order to decide. Our leader has a talent for seeing things others can’t see.”

There were people that helped out with office duties, but Yoo-Na was the one that made the final decision.

Since Yoo-Na wasn’t here, everything had been stopped.

Even though the members were pretty bored, they weren’t dissatisfied about it.

‘Kim Yoo-Na does have a talent for pulling people in.’

The members’ trust in Kim Yoo-Na was very deep.

It was more than the trust that Hyun-Soo had towards her.

“Being outside is a lot better. People need to see the sun once in a while.”

Others might think that he’s been staying in his room for a long time.

Even though they were a strong A rank hunter.

“How about basketball?”

One hunter suggested that they do a 3 vs. 3 and the losing team pays for the late night snacks.

“I’m in!”

“Me too. How do we split up the teams?”

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure if he should be thankful by the fact that

they were being friendly to him or be mad at the fact that they weren't feeling uncomfortable around him at all.

'Huh...?'

You guys do that, I'm going to get some sun.

With that in mind, Hyun-Soo crouched down and was enjoying the sunlight, but something caught his attention.

Large, black cars were coming in through the entrance.

"...What's that?"

The others saw what Hyun-Soo saw and one by one, they stopped doing what they were doing. They stared at the cars as they wiped the dust off of them.

"Is it Yoo-Na...?"

One hunter asked as they watched the cars drive in one after the other.

"No, you already know what kind of car she drives."

Everyone must be familiar with the red sports car that she drives because the other hunter nodded in agreement.

"They could be from Yoo-Na's family."

'Family?'

One word caught Hyun-Soo's attention.

Swoosh.

Bam!

But the person that stepped out of the car wasn't Yoo-Na or anyone that was related to her.

"Hello everyone. Is this the FE clan that's being called as the Clan of Blood and Iron? Are you hunters that's part of this clan?"

When the driver opened the rear door, a man wearing a luxurious suit stepped out.

Men wearing suits stepped out from the other cars and followed behind him.

“Yes, but…?”

One hunter stepped in and replied.

“Pardon my manners. I’m this kind of person and I’m here because I have an appointment.”

“Appointment…?”

The attendant that was beside him handed them a business card instead.

It was a simple business that didn’t have any company name or position. A name was just written in gold.

“Hamilton G. Gracovich…?”

The hunter that received the card glanced at the other hunter.

The same hunter quickly ran inside the building.

“Oh my, it’s best not to do anything foolish.”

Hamilton shook his head as if he was genuinely disappointed.

“With who exactly do you have an appointment with? Currently, the clan isn’t handling any outside business.”

“That’s actually none of your business. The important thing is that I made the appointment.”

The hunters felt something odd from that because a frown appeared on their faces.

An odd tension could be felt between the two.

The looks that they exchanged wasn’t friendly.

If someone suddenly caused a fire, it wouldn’t be weird if they started fighting.

“I won’t cause any trouble. I only need to see one person.”

“In that case, why don’t you make an official appointment with

them and come back? But I'm not sure they'll even approve your request."

The member stood his ground and spoke as if to stop them right here, right now.

"Well...I didn't think you'd let me pass that easily anyways."

As soon as Hamilton stopped talking, the men wearing black suits stepped forward.

Crack.

They were making threatening gestures by cracking their hands and neck.

"Ha! So what you're saying is that we're you're opponent and you want to fight us?"

"I wasn't planning on doing this at all, but if it's necessary, then I have no choice."

The way he said it and that smile of his was really gentle.

When looking at just Hamilton, the hunters looked like the attackers.

But Hamilton was the one that suddenly barged in here and threatened them.

"I should quickly finish everything here and go find them myself before I get annoyed. They won't even show their face despite of me requesting several of times, so I should go find them."

"What?! What the hell are you saying?"

"I'm sorry that you think that way. Unfortunately, I'll have to attack you all."

Fwoosh!

When Hamilton stopped talking, a bulky body moved in very quickly.

Their first opponent was none other than...

‘Why me?!’

<Uninvited Guest #1> End.

Chapter 83 - <Uninvited Guest #2>

Their first opponent was none other than…

‘Why me?!’

It was Hyun-Soo.

He barely dodged their strong kick that was filled with energy.

Thanks to the trainings he did to improve his reflexes, his body moved back, and if it weren’t for that, then their foot would’ve kicked his temple.

Even though a hunter’s body has been trained more than an ordinary person’s body, if one of their vital points were suddenly attacked, then it’s obvious that they would die.

Hyun-Soo just barely managed to avoid death and his chest started breathing deeply.

“Hey, are you okay?”

“…I’m fine.”

“I know it’s been too quiet lately, but a guy like this just barges in and it’s really rude!”

With that statement, a fight broke out.

Hamilton stepped behind the group and the men in the black suit charged with skills and weapons in their hands.

At first, they looked like ordinary guards, but they were hunters because they attacked the other hunters without any hesitation.

Swoosh!

One of the men in a suit quickly dashed and used their sword to attack a hunter’s neck.

But hunter managed to dodge it by twirling their body and performed a counterattack.

Another man in a suit crouched and used their fist to attack the same hunter.

Another hunter used their elbow to stop their attack.

“Ack...!”

It was a messy fight.

Even though it was easy to differentiate them, it was difficult to see who was attacking who because everyone was busy attacking and defending at the same time.

Click, clack.

Hamilton, who was standing behind the crowd, suddenly started moving.

He was heading towards the entrance of the building.

Hyun-Soo was the one that saw it.

“Oh no you don’t...!”

After creating a long spear, Hyun-Soo threw it towards Hamilton.

However.

Clang!

“.....!”

A person suddenly appeared as if they were created from thin air and blocked his attack.

“You’re really bothersome.”

When Hamilton waved his hand, the guard that suddenly appeared charged towards Hyun-Soo.

“Ack!”

Clank!

The sword hit Hyun-Soo’s arm and created a loud metallic sound.

Hyun-Soo was pushed back due to the shock.

It was so strong that Hyun-Soo's arm could've been cut off if he didn't use his instincts to use his skill.

"Finish him quickly."

Hamilton looked at Hyun-Soo as if he was an annoyance and commanded his guard.

The guard slightly nodded their head.

And they approached Hyun-Soo as if they were sliding.

"…..!"

His opponent was now behind him and he attacked Hyun-Soo's vital point.

However.

"Ha!"

His view was slowing down.

His opponent's movement looked like an afterimage as it looked blurry.

It was a supernatural world where even the sound was being stretched out.

'Blade Fist!'

The opponent's movement was so fast, that the eyes couldn't keep up.

But that didn't matter.

The supernatural feeling that occurred all of a sudden already read the afterimage of them.

Claaaaaaank!

The metallic sound that was created was a lot louder than before.

A spark was created between the opponent's sword and Hyun-Soo's fist.

From afar, it looked as if they were exchanging attacks.

But that wasn't the case.

"Grr....!"

The opponent's side was injured and red blood started flowing out of it.

Because there were several blades, when they shined, it must've confused them.

It looked as if they instinctively dodged the blades because they assumed it was an illusion, but they were actual blades.

Heh.

A smile appeared on Hyun-Soo's face.

This was the first time he used the Blade Fist.

'I guess they're annoyed.'

Even though they displayed a straight through the entire fight, the emotions they felt within them was something they couldn't hide.

They were nothing more than a puppet that Hamilton controlled, but Hyun-Soo felt the spirit within them changing.

"Wow."

Hamilton was standing behind his opponent and Hyun-Soo could clearly see their upset face.

Hyun-Soo responded to his expression by glancing at him and turned his attention back to his opponent.

It's because his opponent changed his stance after putting pressure on the wound.

Swoosh!

".....!"

His opponent disappeared.

And appeared within seconds.

The issue was that they didn't appear in one place. They appeared in several different places in short intervals.

The places they appeared in were inconsistent and when they reappeared, they closed the gap between them and Hyun-Soo.

'Where are they?'

It must've been a skill of theirs because Hyun-Soo couldn't even catch them when his view was slowing down.

'.....!'

But, moments later, Hyun-Soo noticed an afterimage appearing.

Their movement was stretched out and it was different from when before.

The opponent appeared for a moment and then immediately disappeared.

That annoyed Hyun-Soo.

As soon as he confirmed it, Hyun-Soo instinctively moved his body back.

And then...

".....!"

In the same area where he saw the afterimage.

The opponent appeared in that same spot and a frown appeared on their face as if there was some sort of issue.

If he didn't dodge it, then his side would've gotten hurt pretty badly.

'No way...'

A thought popped into Hyun-Soo's head, but it disappeared.

It's because his opponent charged towards him again.

'They're purposely targeting my side.'

The fact that Hyun-Soo landed an attack must've hurt their pride because they wouldn't stop attacking that area.

Blocking a blade that was swiftly approaching his waist was difficult.

Hyun-Soo backed away several of times and dodged their attack.

His opponent must've thought that they had the upper hand because their attacks became stronger.

However...

Heh!

That's exactly what Hyun-Soo wanted.

Once his vision increased, his opponent's movement slowed like like a slow-motion video.

As their attack became stronger, their actions became bigger as well, which revealed their weak points.

Grab!

Hyun-Soo reached out and grabbed his opponent's arm.

And by using that as the support, he used his other hand punched their waist.

Repeating the attack is the best way to maximize it.

It's attacking the same spot over and over again.

It was cheap, but effective!

The Blade Fist had already been applied on Hyun-Soo's fist.

As the light reflected off the metallic blade, Hyun-Soo was about to attack again, but!

Swoosh!

His opponent's sword blocked Hyun-Soo's fist.

But...

‘That’s the fake one and this is the real one!’

The group of illusions that was seen was no different from the actual attack, but it depended on how he went about it.

In simple terms.

‘They might attack a fake one out of these!’

At first, his opponent ignored it, thinking that the afterimage was nothing more than an illusion, but they found out that those illusions were actual attacks.

After realizing that, his opponent did their best to block every blade.

But what if Hyun-Soo displayed an actual illusion and attacked after the opponent blocked the illusion?

That was a trick that could put him at an advantage.

On top of that, he could control it freely.

An attack that completely broke the opponent’s prediction.

That’s what the Blade Fist was.

Punch!

“Ack!”

In the end, Hyun-Soo’s opponent’s waist was wide open and after attacking it, they let out a groan and rolled on the ground.

“Gah…!”

His opponent tried to stand up by using the sword as a support.

But it must’ve been really painful because they couldn’t really move.

It’s because when Hyun-Soo attacked their waist, he poured out all of his energy and extended the length of the blade.

If this happened to an ordinary person, they probably would’ve died already.

However, because his opponent was a hunter, they glared at Hyun-Soo with hatred despite of blood flowing out of their body.

Step.

Hyun-Soo injured him to the point where he wouldn't be able to move, but if he left them alone, they might come charging towards him again.

That's why, it was best to disarm them while they were down.

Hyun-Soo took a step forward to finish it.

Clap, clap!

He heard a light clap.

"Amazing. Simply amazing."

"…..?"

The voice belonged to Hamilton, who was quickly trying to resolve this.

Hamilton had been watching the entire time with his arms crossed and as he clapped, the tense atmosphere disappeared.

"I came here to see the fortune teller, but I found a new gemstone."

'Fortune teller?'

As soon as he heard that word, a person popped into his head.

He didn't know the reason, but they were a Hidden Class that everyone was keeping quiet about.

It was Ariel.

But Hyun-Soo didn't know why her name was being mentioned here.

"How about it? Would you like to go with me? I'll fulfill whatever your heart desires. Wealth, honor, power, women…just say what you want. My instincts are strongly telling me that I

shouldn’t let go of someone as skilled as you.”

Hyun-Soo thought he was being ridiculous.

How could he say something like that when he just brutally beat one of his men?

When Hyun-Soo didn’t say anything, Hamilton took it as him declining his offer and released a disappointed sigh.

“It amazes how this clan has so many things that I want. Well… I’m not sure if I should say that I’m envious of it or desire it. Since I’m being greedy, I should probably say that I desire it, right?”

“It doesn’t matter if you want it. There’s nothing we can give you, Mr. Gracovich.”

“Kim Yoo-Na…?”

He heard a voice that hasn’t heard in the longest time.

Her eyes were cold.

Cold words escaped her red lips.

A cool and proud stance.

When he turned his head, he saw a woman standing in front of a group.

“My, my. I didn’t think you’d return so quickly. I heard that you had an emergency business to attend to. You must be more capable that I thought.”

Hamilton spoke to Kim Yoo-Na with a smile.

But a cold reply was what he got.

“I’m sure I sent a reply saying that I decline, Mr. Gracovich.”

“I haven’t received that reply actually.”

“Then I’ll tell you again. I’ll decline your offer.”

“Do you know about the price that I’m willing to pay…?”

“That kind of money and power is something that I can obtain on

my own, so don't worry about that."

After hearing Kim Yoo-Na's cold response, the smile disappeared from Hamilton's face.

"That snobbish attitude will only get you in trouble. I don't think letting me meet one measly hunter is such an amazing thing that you need to be snobbish about it."

"I will officially protest regarding your rude behavior here. You must take responsibility for your actions. Don't worry about my snobbish attitude and worry about yours. You won't be able to cover this simply with money."

A frown appeared on Hamilton's face.

The group of men that he brought have already been taken care of.

On top of that, his guard was badly injured because of Hyun-Soo.

There was nothing else he could other than leave the place.

'Kim Yoo-Na is the one making the decisions.'

And then Kim Yoo-Na appeared.

She must've tried to get here as quickly as possible because faint smoke was still coming out from her red sports car.

"For someone that considers manners as being important, you barge into someone else's clan and cause trouble. Pretty ironic, don't you think?"

"Ha ha. The things that I prepared for you must've been small and weak. I'll make sure to bring more presents next time. Then I'm sure you'll be satisfied with it too."

That meant that the appointment he mentioned earlier was a lie.

Or it was an appointment that he decided on his own.

Kim Yoo-Na coldly answered Hamilton's comment.

"There won't be a next time."

Fwoosh!

Within moments, fire enveloped Kim Yoo-Na's fist.

Hamilton was slightly surprised and smiled to hide it, but he didn't look calm at all.

"We'll just have to see, won't we? Since my offer has been declined, I'll take my leave now."

When Hamilton mentioned that he was leaving, the hunters and his men started backing out.

The hunters didn't forget to keep their eyes on them and kept on glaring at Hamilton's men.

"Don't forget. There won't be a next time."

No next time.

Kim Yoo-Na had a stern expression as she gave that command.

Hamilton, who was the only one in perfect condition, stepped inside the car.

Just like when they entered here, they quickly left the clan base.

<Uninvited Guest #2> End.

Chapter 84 - <Ariel #1>

“I have a feeling that he’s holding a grudge against us.”

Someone spoke as they recalled how Hamilton acted politely until the end.

Like they mentioned, Hamilton’s actions were clear.

Since I’m not powerful enough, I’ll come back later.

In simple terms, if he had enough power, then the situation would’ve ended differently.

If Kim Yoo-Na didn’t appear and he had more men with him, then he wouldn’t have given up that easily.

In order to fulfill his desire, he was willing to come back.

He felt that will from Hamilton.

‘What kind of skill does Ariel have exactly…?’

What kind of skill and position was she in that he would barge in here and use his men to meet with her?

How powerful was she that Kim Yoo-Na and the other crews were keeping quiet about her and trying to hide her?

He had a lot of questions, but now wasn’t the time to ask.

Hyun-Soo decided to ask at the right time.

“Whew, at least I was able to warm-up.”

“You’re right. It was way better than playing basketball.”

Once a hunter spoke while catching their breaths, another hunter added to the conversation.

They were right.

It was an intense warm-up that it couldn’t be compared to basketball.

The excitement they felt just now must’ve not died down because

their shoulders and chest continuously moved up and down.

“Yoo-Na! That was great timing.”

A person went up to Kim Yoo-Na and showed the palm of their hand.

Clap!

The sound of hands hitting each other filled the room.

“How did you manage to come at the right time? Thanks to you, the issue didn’t get bigger.”

Many of the clan members weren’t at the base today.

Even though a couple of them were here, if Hamilton brought a lot more men, the situation could’ve gotten a lot worse.

“I was going to come back yesterday, but something came up…I got a call from Eugene while I was finishing up so I rushed over here.”

The task she had to finish. A bitter smile appeared on her face when she mentioned that he couldn’t finish whatever she had to take care of.

“Should you go back then?”

“No, I managed to finish the things I needed to take care of, so it’s fine.”

“Jeez, leader…it’s problematic when you’re too capable, you know. There’s too many people that asks for your help.”

Right, right.

The others nodded in agreement even though they said it as a joke.

With an embarrassed expression, Kim Yoo-Na told them to stop, but her eyes were still cold. However, it was intimidating at all.

“Hey, rookie. You’re amazing. Really super, super. Is that why you’re a Super Rookie? If we stay like this, he’ll most likely surpass

us. I'm suddenly feeling worried."

Their target must've changed from Kim Yoo-Na to Hyun-Soo because they suddenly said an embarrassing nickname.

"Super Rookie?"

A confused look appeared on Kim Yoo-Na's face since this was the first time she was hearing it.

Hyun-Soo was going to tell her that it was nothing special, but the others were faster.

"Yoo-Na, the rookie that you recruited is like a monster."

"Just now, I think he performed a major counterattack. The guy that went up against the rookie, he's a guard, right? If they're a Shadow Guard, then I'm sure he hired someone that's stronger than the average hunter."

The members assumed that the ranks of the men in the suit and the guard were A and B.

Since they went up against the A rank hunters, it would make sense that they would be in those ranks.

However, since the enemy had more people, they were probably B ranks.

But the guard was different.

The Shadow Guard also stayed close and it's obvious that they were way more skilled than ordinary guards.

That's why it's safe to assume that they're an A rank.

And a B rank going up against them?

Kim Yoo-Na smiled.

"You think I would've recruited anyone to the clan? He's the one responsible for putting me back in this position."

The other hunters were the ones that were shocked by Kim Yoo-Na's reaction.

Her usual expression was cold and stern.

But when she smiled, all of their attention was on her within seconds.

They didn't know she would react that way so after they stuttered, they laughed out loud.

"Hahaha! Is that so? So you already knew. So that's the reason why you didn't take part in it at all in the beginning!"

No matter what the truth was, Kim Yoo-Na had a small smile on her face.

She didn't say very much and it was as if she was indirectly saying that she didn't care what the others thought about her.

'Does Kim Yoo-Na really know everything?'

And obvious question popped into Yoo-Na's head.

Now that he thought about it, Kim Yoo-Na didn't ask anything since the beginning.

It's a good enough reason to think that it's weird...

'Is she acting like she doesn't know despite of knowing it?'

That was a possibility.

How much did she know?

Or maybe she really does know everything and is acting like she doesn't know.

Even though he didn't know the truth, he wasn't worried.

Was it because she was a really reliable person...?

"That's true. Yoo-Na isn't really the type to favor anyone. Our leader can be extremely straightforward at times."

"What do you mean at times? She doesn't hide it."

"....."

While they were joking around, Hyun-Soo stayed quiet and acted

like he was interested in something else.

It's because he felt that the situation would only get worse if he said the wrong thing.

Hyun-Soo felt extremely embarrassed for some reason.

More than before.

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Not long after, the staff came out of the building.

A few of them cleaned up the mess that was made from the unexpected fight and others made a request to the hunters that were involved in the fight.

"It's for data collecting purposes. Think of it as a journal."

Of course Hyun-Soo was included as well.

Hyun-Soo was confused since he didn't know what was going on, so Kim Yoo-Na explained.

"It's his first time, so of course he doesn't know. Go explain it to him!"

"That's right, Yoo-Na. It's better for the leader to help if possible."

"On top of that, it looks like he has questions. Well, you see, about our clan name..."

A smile appeared on Kim Yoo-Na's face as the hunters were mischievously joking around and laughing.

Even though it was a smile, it was different from before.

Her eyes weren't smile, but the forced smile on her face was a cold smile.

"I understand that you're having fun, but do it moderately. If you're so free that you have time to joke around, sparring wouldn't be such a bad idea since it's been a while."

“Oh, wow, look at the time. I should go write it before I forget. I’ll see you later! See you at dinner!”

“Rookie! Good work!”

The effect was amazing!

The hunters were scared that they ran away.

Because of that, Hyun-Soo was left along with her.

Hyun-Soo was nervous for a moment but relaxed when Kim Yoo-Na just helped out with writing the report.

“You said that they looked like they just appeared out of thin air, right?”

“Yes.”

“Hm, not that long ago, there wasn’t a person that had this kind of characteristic.”

She wrote them down as “New Mercenary Soldier” and was deep in her thoughts.

“There’s a high possibility he hired them to prepare for this. It looked like they barged in without much thought, but if you and the others weren’t outside when it happened, the situation would’ve turned out differently.”

Next to the “New Mercenary Soldier” description, the word, intention, was added.

“I’m sure Gracovich was behind this. Thanks to him, things could’ve gotten worse…”

Kim Yoo-Na drew an “x” on top of the new soldier.

“I’m sure he was saving for it, but thanks to that, things worked out.”

There was a huge difference between experiencing it while knowing and experiencing without know anything about it.

Kim Yoo-Na was tapping on the paper with the pen while

pointing that out.

“There’s something I’m curious about.”

There was one thing that popped into his head.

It was the clan name that Gracovich mentioned.

Up til now, Kim Yoo-Na and the other members never properly said the clan’s name.

All they said were our clan, my clan and were vague about the clan name.

Honestly, Hyun-Soo ignored it because the name wasn’t all that important, but someone mentioned the name.

On top of that, it was a grand name. It was called the Clan of Blood and Iron.

“What is it?”

“About the clan name…what’s the exact name?”

It didn’t make sense that the clan members didn’t know when an outsider knew it.

Hyun-Soo blamed himself for being uninterested.

It wasn’t a hard task, so he thought he would get a reply immediately, but Kim Yoo-Na actually hesitated.

It looked like her face turned red.

“Are you referring to the clan name?”

“Yes. I heard it being called FE. Is that short for something? Was it made based on the element symbol?”

Fe was the symbol for iron.

Gracovich did mention blood and iron, so it was pretty convincing.

But that probably wasn’t the answer because Kim Yoo-Na slightly shook her head.

“That…”

The way she hesitated wasn’t like her.

Hyun-Soo patiently waited for her answer.

‘Why is she hesitating like this?’

When he was starting to feel strange, Kim Yoo-Na finally opened her mouth.

“…It’s short for Fiery Empress.”

With a really red face, she spoke extremely quietly.

This was the first time he was seeing her like this after they’ve met. He wasn’t exactly sure what she was embarrassed about.

However, when he kept on thinking about the words that Kim Yoo-Na mentioned, he got an idea as to why she wanted to hide under a rock.

“Fiery Empress, huh?’

Just from the name, he had an idea where it came from.

Was it really Kim Yoo-Na that gave that narcissistic-like name?

‘No way.’

Her face was so red that it looked like it was going to blow up and just from that, he could easily tell that she didn’t.

He was sure that the members aggressively voted for that name.

And he had an idea why Kim Yoo-Na didn’t mention the clan’s name all this time.

‘Right…to say it with her own mouth is quite…it’s…’

Let’s protect her rights.

Along with her pride, mentality and health.

Hyun-Soo looked at her with pity without knowing and when Kim Yoo-Na noticed, she coughed.

And she quickly tried to change the subject.

She must've been embarrassed because after coughing a few times, Kim Yoo-Na took a deep breath.

She calmed herself and then spoke.

"When analyzing the information that you provided, the guard really must be an A rank...there's a high chance that they're very capable. I'll have to check the database regarding this."

After mentioning Gracovich's name, Kim Yoo-Na mentioned that they seemed to be updating the database too often lately and released a deep sigh.

"But. How was it?"

"...About what?"

"This person. They fought against you. And you took an overwhelming victory."

It was true that he left a deep injury on their waist.

However, since they were an A rank, if Kim Yoo-Na didn't step in, it was difficult to predict how the battle would turn out.

The difference in rank couldn't be ignored.

'But, I have an odd feeling that I wouldn't have lost.'

Whenever he blocked their attack and the more aggressive his opponent was, something within him started wriggling.

Having the heart to win.

And pleasure.

If he were to give a name, that would be it.

"You weren't scared even though your opponent was an A rank?"

"No, I wasn't."

He recalled being happy by the fact that a good sandbag appeared since he had a new skill he wanted to test out.

‘Now that I think about it, it’s a bit of a crazy thought though…’

But it was true.

And he was able to take them down just from using Blade Fist alone.

Within that moment, he couldn’t see anything else.

He felt the shock from the collision through his arms and it caused his heart to beat so fast that it felt like it was going to jump out of his chest.

“You’ve really grown. What a relief. That you’re showing positive results through this place.”

Kim Yoo-Na finished writing the report based on Hyun-Soo’s information and after gathering the paper, she closed the notebook.

“Yes, I’m also thankful about it.”

If he remained in Korea, would he have been able to grow this much?

‘No.’

Hyun-Soo was extremely pessimistic about that.

He was sure that he would’ve lived on hiding without getting the chance to really show his power.

It would be different from how he interacted with the members here.

Of course there were probably groups that were as good as this one.

However, after he awakened as a hunter, the things that Hyun-Soo experienced within that short period of time…

‘It was a nightmare.’

It was such a nightmare that he couldn’t be positive about it no matter how hard he tried.

‘Just thinking about it again makes me feel unpleasant.’

Hyun-Soo quickly erased the unpleasant thought that was filling his head.

He suddenly remembered the question that he had forgotten.

Gracovich was looking for someone.

That’s the reason why they invaded.

That person’s name was…

“Who’s Ariel?”

<Ariel #1> End.

Chapter 85 - <Ariel #2>

The hunters mentioned that Ariel was a Hidden Class.

It was also a name they were keeping quiet about and tried to avoid.

Also...

'They're also the reason why Gracovich barged in here.'

Before he was recruited by Kim Yoo-Na and flew over here, he remembered hearing her name.

It was probably similar back then too.

They were trying to avoid mentioning their name and keep them hidden.

He wasn't going try to find out the thing they were hiding.

Because Hyun-Soo had secrets that he couldn't tell others as well.

Since information about himself was important, there wasn't a need to dig up another person's information.

'But this situation is a bit different.'

Someone actually used force to try to get to them.

He was unwillingly deeply involved in it too.

If Hyun-Soo lacked the power, then his waist could've been opened wide and he couldn't lost a large amount of blood.

'That's why I have the right to ask.'

He was unexpectedly attacked by weird guys.

He was directly involved in that attack.

So asking should...be okay, right?

"Ariel is..."

Kim Yoo-Na was the straightforward type, so she would say no

without any hesitation, but she seemed to be hesitating about this.

It looked like she was contemplating about it because it could be an issue if Hyun-Soo didn't ask about it despite of how the situation turned out.

"Only a few know about her. Those few call her by her nickname instead of her real name."

Hyun-Soo recalled the name that Gracovich used when he said that he had to meet her no matter what.

He thought it was odd because as soon as he heard that name, he connected it with Ariel.

'What was the name again?'

Before Hyun-Soo could remember it, Kim Yoo-Na's calm voice said the answer.

"Fortune Teller…that's her nickname."

"Then…"

"Yes, you're able to make an association based on her name, right? She's very different from your ordinary hunters. Kind of like you, Hyun-Soo."

"….."

When he heard the last sentence, it made his heart drop.

How much did she know?

But she didn't say anything else about Hyun-Soo after that.

"Rather than me explaining it or telling you a story, it's better to meet her. It's hard to describe her with just words alone. How about it Hyun-Soo? What do you think?"

"What do you mean?"

He asked with a doubtful heart.

She didn't even show her face to a powerful person like

Gracovich and eventually made him turn back.

And she wants him to meet a person like that?

A small smile appeared on Kim Yoo-Na's face when she noticed Hyun-Soo's confused expression.

"Of course I'm talking about meeting Ariel. She recently came back."

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"Where are we going?"

"To where she is."

"She's in…a place like this?"

"Yeah, interesting isn't it?"

That was true.

Hyun-Soo left the base and was standing in the middle of downtown where buildings were standing tall all around him.

It was such a busy place that he would've never thought or even imagined that such an important figure would be living here.

Different types of people were busily moving around, causing everyone to move at a fast pace.

Despite of that, it seemed like Kim Yoo-Na didn't care because she was heading towards somewhere.

"Would you like some coffee, Hyun-Soo?"

"Oh, sure."

In a moment of bewilderment, Hyun-Soo answered her and after she grabbed the coffee from a small food truck, he accepted it in the same state.

Along with the coffee, Kim Yoo-Na ordered some food and walked through the sea of people again.

And they arrived at a penthouse that was located in a tall

building.

Hyun-Soo's eyes because this was his first time seeing such a spacious penthouse.

"Wait here. I think she's sleeping. It hasn't been that long since she returned from her vacation. I think she has jetlag. Wait here. I'll go wake her up."

"Can you do that?"

The owner of the house was sleeping and the guest was waking them up.

In Hyun-Soo's mind, it didn't make sense, but this must happen to her everyday because she nodded without any hesitation.

"Yeah, she might already know."

Right. Fortune Teller, the one that can see into the future.

He wasn't sure if they were able to predict something like that, but since Kim Yoo-Na said it, he thought that was the case.

And moments later.

Kim Yoo-Na walked out with a woman with messy brown hair and freckles on her face.

Yawn.

The brown-haired woman, Ariel, must've been really sleepy because she yawned without hesitation.

"That's why I told you that it would've been better if you brought him here in the beginning. Then you wouldn't have to wake me up."

Ariel spoke with a tired face while rubbing her eyes.

"Having him meet you face-to-face is like double-edged sword."

"There are a lot of people making a fuss for not being able to see me, you know."

Ariel quietly talked back to Kim Yoo-Na when she calmly replied to her.

“And they don’t seem like the type that would be affected from hearing some bad comments, so what are you worried about? Anyways, good thing you brought them. What’s your name?”

Ariel’s question was for Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo was quietly listening to their conversation without knowing the context and came back to his senses when Ariel asked him a question.

“My name is Kim Hyun-Soo.”

“Right. You had that kind of name. Hyun-Soo. What kind of job do you think I have?”

“I heard that you’re a fortune teller…”

“Yes, that’s right. But I see something else instead of someone’s fortune.”

“….?”

Arield smiled like a cat.

“After seeing you, there’s a lot of things I want to say. Well, shall the two of us talk in private? Oh, I’ll be the one doing all the talking, to be exact, but I assume it’ll be a very beneficial and worthwhile. You won’t regret it, so what do you want to do?”

“I’ll…listen?”

At the end of the chaotic conversation, one thing that Hyun-Soo understood was that he had to agree when she asked.

When he glanced over at Kim Yoo-Na, she was silently sitting and watching them.

Kim Yoo-Na stayed still and her silence could be considered as her consenting it.

Hyun-Soo saw Ariel jump up and after seeing her enter a room

that was covered in mirrors, he followed her.

“It doesn’t look like the room of a fortune teller, huh?”

When thinking about your ordinary fortune teller, many tend to have a fixed idea about them.

For example, many use purple velvet fabric, a crystal ball, tarot cards, a staff and etc.

He didn’t see any of those.

It wasn’t dark and it didn’t give off that scary feeling either.

On one side, an entire wall was a window and as the sunlight shined through the curtains, it lit up the room.

‘Just from the atmosphere alone, I feel like I came to a greenhouse or some sort of flower garden.’

There were pots of beautiful flowers placed in different parts of the room and there was a small tree where its vines were twisted.

Just from one look, it looked like the room of a healthy, ordinary person.

“I dream. What do you think I see in the dreams?”

“…I’m not sure.”

When Hyun-Soo vaguely answered, Ariel started laughing.

“The answer that most people give is the future. You didn’t come here without being informed, right?”

Hyun-Soo nodded his head.

Just from the nickname alone, a lot of things have been assumed.

“Then, I’ll tell you about a dream. There’s something I wanted to tell you whenever you came.”

“To me?”

“Yes, but it might be a bit vague. It might be a pie in the sky for you. But, there’s no harm in hearing it, so listen closely.”

There’s a lot of people that won’t be able to hear my dream even if they paid a lot of money for it.

After saying that, Ariel slowly opened her mouth.

***

“Did you have a nice talk?”

When Hyun-Soo exited the sunroom-like room, Kim Yoo-Na asked.

“I’m not sure. Should I call it a conversation…or a foresight?”

He definitely did hear something, but like Ariel had stated, it was abstract.

When Hyun-Soo answered with a confused expression, Yoo-Na nodded as if she understood.

“Well, Ariel’s stories have parts that are symbolic.”

“I heard that she could see the future, but that doesn’t seem to be the case.”

She did mention that it could be a pie in the sky, but she went overboard.

He knew that there were a lot of people that wanted to meet her, but he just couldn’t understand why.

The things that she said were so absurd to Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo recalled what Ariel said.

“You’re going to become a king.”

“A crown is shining on top of your head. It’s a radiant crown that no other can approach.”

There’s a crown on top of my head?

When he heard that, Hyun-Soo instinctively touched the top of his head.

Of course he couldn’t feel anything.

“But, that doesn’t always mean that it’s a good thing. A diamond is considered the most radiant, sturdy and beautiful gem in the world. But do you know how a diamond is made?”

“I’m not sure…”

“It has to endure an immense amount of pressure and heat. And that’s how Carbon is reborn into a beautiful diamond. And it has to go through countless of retouches. A lot of its sides needs to be cut so that it can be the most radiant diamond it can be.”

Hyun-Soo didn’t know why she suddenly brought up the diamond-making process.

So if he were to put together the information that Ariel told him…

“Does that mean that I’ll experience hardships and suffering?”

“It’s odd how this world doesn’t give things to you easily. There are times when you obtain something, you have to give something up.”

There’s a price for everything.

It was the law of the world that Hyun-Soo already knew.

“It’s not just limited to you. There’s a possibility that it can be, but it can be applied to everyone. There’s a lot of things involved. A lot of things are crumbling. There’s nothing that’s maintaining its shape. But one, if we were to exclude your crown.”

A lot of things were crumbling.

He wasn’t sure exactly what that meant.

It could mean the collapse of an already existing system or it could mean a disruption of a certain order.

If not that, then it could mean the collapse of an actual object.

But Ariel said that it doesn’t always mean that it’s something bad.

“The future isn’t set. At least, that’s what I believe. It might be weird to hear this from someone that can see the future, but…I can’t see the entire future and am only seeing parts of it.”

It meant that nothing was clear and distinct.

Ariel added that she could’ve seen a transitional period of something new that was going to come into this world or it could mean a period of change.

It was up to Hyun-Soo to decide whether the end of that change was good or bad.

Hyun-Soo looked at her with a confused look and Ariel apologized about it being vague.

He expected her to interpret it more for him, but she said that she was done talking and gave him an order that he could exit the room.

But right before Hyun-Soo exited the room, Ariel spoke.

“You’re the only one that has the full color. Depending on how you handle it, all the interpretations may differ. I’m getting curious as to what kind of gem you’ll turn out to be based on how you’re disciplined.”

Just like the other fortune tellers, the things that Ariel said weren’t clear and very vague.

Like a blind person touching an elephant’s leg, the things that she said were confusing.

Because she said a lot of vague comments, not a lot of them stuck with him.

‘King, crown, change, hardship.’

He thought she would be clear since she mentioned the future, but he had a lot questions.

‘There aren’t any kings in this world, so what did she mean when she said that I would be king?’

<Ariel #2> End.

Chapter 86 - <Colorful Portal #1>

It sounded like it was a good thing when she said Hyun-Soo was wearing a crown that no one else could have, but no matter how much he thought about it, it didn't go well with his current self.

'Does that mean things will get better from now on?'

What Ariel said had a similar feel to when his mother inquired about his future to a fortune teller.

Now that he thought about it, it was pretty similar.

She said something like his suffering will bring him even more luck.

Because of that, Hyun-Soo became a bit blunt.

Despite the fact that a lot of different people try to meet with her, the information that she provided wasn't up to his expectations.

Like most people these days, Hyun-Soo also had a pessimistic opinion about superstition, so it's possible that he felt that way even more.

"From the things that she had said, there were some vague areas. Ariel can only see a glimpse into the future."

Kim Yoo-Na agreed with him by saying that she completely understood him.

But she didn't stop there.

"But it's weird how her predictions are usually right. Especially the predictions that happen in the near future or are about simple things, they're usually detailed. On the other hand, for events that happen far off into the future, they're vague and more symbolic. I think that might be your case Hyun-Soo..."

"Really?"

"On top of that, she sometimes explains it vaguely on purpose.

Humans tend to focus on that one thing when they're told that it's fixed into their life. Ariel refers to the uncertainty as 'hope for the future."

Kim Yoo-Na explained that it's the key point in separating the future that's not fixed.

Hyun-Soo was confused by all of this, which caused his head to hurt.

'Damn it. Who said it would be good to know the future?'

She said it was different for events that will happen in the near future, but everything that Hyun-Soo heard was vague.

He thought about telling her everything and discussing it with her, but Ariel told him that predictions that are related to him should be kept to himself, so he couldn't ask.

Predictions could be interpreted differently depending on the point of view.

But still, Hyun-Soo somewhat had an idea as to why she spoke so vaguely about it.

'Is she trying to make me think about the different directions?'

If she spoke with a conclusion, then that prediction would become reality.

Because it wouldn't give an opening to other interpretations.

It's possible that he might not prepare or work hard for it after thinking that it's been set in stone.

It was probably to put him on guard for that.

'They did say that the future can be changed.'

It may be a guide, but he knew that it wasn't the perfect answer.

It's to make him contemplate and think more so that he can make the best choice.

Even though she sees into the future and predicts their destiny,

Ariel explains it in a way so that the listener won't completely submit to it.

'Something about it is ironic, but...it could be because I heard it from a fortune teller.'

Repulsion about a set path.

He dreamed about changing the future since he knew about the future.

It was a sort of challenge.

When he thought about it that way, Hyun-Soo felt like he could understand Ariel a little more.

'I should take my time and think about this.'

The prediction that Ariel made.

What did it mean?

But there wasn't anyone that could tell him the answer since the actual answer didn't exist.

While looking at a blank answer sheet, Hyun-Soo realized that there was one thing he needed to take care of.

"Yoo-Na! It's your turn. Come in!"

Ariel's voice brought Hyun-Soo back to his senses.

Kim Yoo-Na disappeared into the transparent door.

It seemed like she came to introduce him and to hear predictions about herself.

Kim Yoo-Na came out moments later.

She had a complicated look on her face.

"Like always, you just need to make the decision. I only provided you with a guideline, but that doesn't mean it's the answer."

Ariel came out with her and spoke with a smile.

Her and Kim Yoo-Na had two different expressions.

‘It seems like she’s a difficult person to understand.’

Ariel reminded him of a Sphinx that gave a riddle and was having fun watching people trying to solve it.

It seemed like she worked on her own seeing as how she didn’t live at the base, but was part of the clan.

And it seemed like she had a deeper relationship with Kim Yoo-Na, the clan’s leader.

It’s possible since her hidden class was a fortune teller and there was no reason for her to actually participate in the hunts.

She was more like an advisor.

“Let’s see…this will be the fee. I saw it a couple of days ago in a dream. I was eating this.”

Ariel grabbed the coffee and food that Kim Yoo-Na bought and displayed a satisfied smile.

“I’ve only been eating greens, so you have no idea how much I’ve missed this. Have you tried it Hyun-Soo? It’s really delicious.”

“Enjoy.”

He couldn’t ask to share after seeing how happy she was for getting the food.

They spent more time talking and eating with each other afterwards.

Hyun-Soo mostly listened and Ariel was the one that did most of the talking.

Kim Yoo-Na just went with the flow and made comments here and there.

“Have your questions regarding Ariel been answered?”

Kim Yoo-Na asked on their way back.

“They have been, but I’ve got an even bigger headache. I’m not sure if I should believe her or not.”

When he replied after thinking about what Ariel told him, Kim Yoo-Na let out a short laugh.

“You might not believe it, but she’s a very valuable member. There probably isn’t another person like her in this entire world.”

Hyun-Soo agreed with that.

Because Interface displayed that as well.

Class name was Fortune Teller.

Her nickname was the same.

“But how did Ariel end up joining the clan?”

“Before establishing the clan, she came to find me. And she made a lot of offers. Her suggestions were included when we created the clan. She could be considered as the first member.”

Hyun-Soo was a bit surprised.

He didn’t expect Ariel to be involved in the establishment of the clan.

And she came to Kim Yoo-Na first.

‘…Did she see into the future back then too?’

“I don’t know how far into the future she’s able to see. But there are times when I think that maybe she knows everything. She told me something before I went to Korea and in the end, she was right.”

It felt like I was on top of Buddah’s palm.

Kim Yoo-Na added that comment.

He somehow understood that feeling

Hyun-Soo nodded his head in agreement.

“I think it’ll be busy soon.”

“Is that Ariel’s prediction as well?”

“Yes and no. It’s time for us to start being active again anyways. I

honestly have a feeling that maybe it's a bit late."

Kim Yoo-Na said that she was going to ask everyone to gather soon.

The day after tomorrow.

That was the day she decided.

And a couple days later.

It was the day of the gathering.

***

"A new colored portal?"

There was a green light in the clan's activity.

All the clan members gladly welcomed it.

Even though everyone focused on improving themselves and took care of their own tasks, they were all hunters.

Excluding one small portion of the group, everyone was waiting to go on a hunt.

They were excited the moment Kim Yoo-Na asked them to gather and on the day of, they couldn't contain their excitement.

And there was something else.

Kim Yoo-Na had another bit of news.

"That's right. I've been told that a part of the requests that we recently received are new colored portals. According to the investigation group that entered first, they said the inside of it is something that we've never seen before."

"I did hear rumors about it, but...I guess it was true."

After listening to Kim Yoo-Na, one of the members mumbled.

"I heard that the information is under regulation because it can cause chaos once it's been revealed, but since we received a request for it, we can assume that it's real."

“Even though we’re hunters, there aren’t that many that know the details about the portals. Have they found portals that’ve never been discovered before?”

“It’s a possibility. What I know for sure is that they’re different from the ones that we’ve seen. I’ve prepared documents related to this, so please check it.”

The staff that were next to Kim Yoo-Na started handing out the documents to the members that were in the room.

It looked like a report and it contained general information about the portal, assumptions and the possibility of those assumptions being correct.

‘I haven’t heard of or seen a portal that had different colors mixed together.’

Hyun-Soo started thinking while carefully reading the report.

Blue, green and purple were mixed and there was a vortex in the portal. A picture of it was printed on the report.

‘What’s this?’

Why did a portal like this appear?

It looked like an ice cream that had different colors mixed into it, so it looked pretty, but in reality, it was a portal.

And who knows what kind of dangerous opponent was on the other side.

He knew that it wasn’t as sweet as it looked.

There’s probably a strong, poisonous plant or animal.

‘On top of that, these doors.’

The same looking doors were lined up next to each other and Hyun-Soo’s eyes stopped on the information that was written there.

‘Am I supposed to choose?’

On the report, it said that the investigation team couldn't enter and came back.

They retreated due to the lack of preparations and a second investigation had been planned.

But for some reason, that second team abandoned it.

And the request to attack that portal was given to this clan.

'There's nothing scarier than the unknown.'

A clan that was solely made up of talented hunters.

The ones that resolved the portals that other guilds and groups failed to resolve.

That's what made this clan have potential and it's how the world saw this clan.

That's why it was obvious as to why the clan would get requests like this.

"Now that I look at it, it's pretty unique. It looks like something you see at an ice cream shop. Anyways, I think it'll be fun."

"I agree. It's the first request we got after Yoo-Na came back, so we should go all out."

They all closed the report and spoke as if they weren't bothered by it.

Someone else spoke out in agreement.

"What do we get for this? I'm sure they offered something with a request like this. I think it'll be fun too, but I'm a bit bothered by the fact that the second team failed."

"You're right. Or they could've investigated, but are saying that they failed. But, it's a challenge that's worth trying. If we succeed, then the value of our clan will only rise."

"But we need to consider the failure rate too. We don't know what's behind the door or what kind of layout it has."

“The guys that investigated it are the problem. If only they did their jobs correctly. Jeez.”

Someone complained about how the people in the investigation group weren’t doing their jobs properly.

But when Kim Yoo-Na calmly continued talking, the atmosphere changed again.

<Colorful Portal #1> End.

Chapter 87 - <Colorful Portal #2>

“The land that’s connected to the clan’s land. They said they’ll arrange the deal there. And they promised three times more than the original pay.”

“Finally!”

“An arrangement isn’t enough! Tell them to give us a definite answer!”

“The government must be worn out. Seeing as how they’re using that as bait.”

Everyone’s excited voice filled the room within seconds.

“What about the land? What do you mean?”

While everyone was talking about different things, when someone mentioned the land, they all focused on that.

Hyun-Soo was confused by how things suddenly turned positive, so he asked David who was beside him.

“Not sure if I should call it the clan’s grudge, but…you know that we have a forest in the back, right? That’s a private land and the owner is a stubborn elder and their relationship with Yoo-Na isn’t that great. They said they’re never going to sell and they’re planning on writing it on their will to not sell it.”

“But?”

“It’s the best place for building a airstrip. The plan was postponed, but if we accomplish it this time, then we don’t have to drive out far. That’s why everyone is getting worked up about it.”

“……”

Hyun-Soo’s mind became blank at the word, airstrip.

‘I forgot about it for a moment.’

The truth that they were all born with a silver spoon.

No, silver spoon isn't enough to described them.

Diamond shovel…no, maybe a bulldozer?

It was a truth he briefly forgot because everyone was acting carefree.

Hyun-Soo was at a loss for words for a brief moment because of the truth that was beyond his imagination, but David whisphered.

"I'm sure it'll be easier for you when you go back home too. Well, we have been pretty frugal all this time. At our level, we should have our own private jet. There aren't any big issues thanks to the help we're getting from Yoo-Na's, but we do feel uneasy."

"……."

And if they could escape that uncomfortable feeling, they would like it.

Everyone right now was for accepting that request.

Even though there were other requests that were behind, the members were already set on the new portal.

The new portal had uncertain information and unpredictable things.

He could tell just from looking at the reports.

There was missing information all over the report.

'You don't have to think much to know that this is dangerous…'

But the members already made up their minds and none of them seemed hesitant about it.

In simple terms, it was proof that they had the confidence because they had the skills.

They had the confidence and trust that could help them overcome any difficulties and emergencies.

Their attitudes showed that.

“What did Ariel say?”

Eugene asked, who had been quiet all this time.

‘Now that I think about it…’

Hyun-Soo recalled when he met Ariel a couple days ago.

She said everything was changing.

He suddenly remembered how she said even though nothing was maintaining its form, everything was being mixed.

‘No way…’

Did she predict this situation?

And it was odd how there were parts that matched with what she said.

The future that lost its form and was being mixed.

A new form of the portal where different colors were mixed.

When that thought came into mind, he couldn’t help but keep thinking about it.

“Ariel…”

When Kim Yoo-Na spoke, everyone looked at her.

They were curious as to what she was going to say next.

Through that, Hyun-Soo was able to read everyone’s trust in Ariel.

“I’m sure you all knew that I would say something like this. Do you think there’s an answer?”

A smile in the shape of an arc appeared on her face.

“Great. Then it’s settled!”

“If Ariel didn’t say much, then it means that we won’t fail.”

In any case, even though there wasn’t a definite answer, that was more than enough to be the answer.

Unanimous agreement.

After the confirmation, the only issue was the procedure.

Like, who was going to attack. What kind of preparations were needed.

Even though it was confirmed, there was a need to investigate the portal more.

There wasn't a need to do anything dangerous.

They were trying to attack it, not go about it blindly by putting their life on the line.

And they decided on the request.

***

The clan was split into two.

One was the advance party and the other was the support group.

Since it was a new portal, it was better to be safe than sorry.

They would really fail if they all went into together and became isolated.

"Are you nervous, Hyon-Ssoo?"

Katrina was in the advance party with Hyun-Soo and she asked after sitting next to him.

Hyun-Soo, who was also sitting down, nodded his head.

It was true that he was nervous.

But it wasn't because he was scared or worried.

Actually.

'I'm getting excited for some reason.'

It was a good nervousness where every one of the cells in his body was being awakened.

"What about you?"

“I’m okay. We’re going together!”

This is how Hyun-Soo interpreted her reply.

‘It doesn’t make sense that an A ranked hunter like me would be nervous when a B ranked hunter is going!’

“Hm…I see. Yeah, let’s do our best.”

Even though Katrina was like a younger sister and looked young, she was an A rank.

Anyways, she was a bit more skilled than Hyun-Soo.

‘It was stupid of me to ask.’

Even though their pride disappeared, people would say that the question wasn’t worth asking an A rank.

Of course no was like that anymore…

‘No. There is one.’

The person that showed the most pride when he first joined the clan.

Marcus was also part of the group.

After Hyun-Soo was acknowledged by the members, he didn’t really do much.

But that didn’t mean he was acting friendly.

‘I am a bit worried.’

Since it was a new challenge, he didn’t want there to be any unnecessary issues.

“Good luck.”

When they finished preparing for the attack, the leader of the unit that was guarding around the portal greeted them.

The crews lightly nodded at their greeting.

The portal with a variety of colors.

A light nervousness was flowing around them.

And then.

Step!

Hyun-Soo took a step into the portal.

***

“It’s a door.”

“Definitely a door.”

“It’s really a door…….”

The members commented on the sight that was displayed before them.

“The investigation guys. It seems like they at least came in here.”

“It’s the first thing you see after you enter, so no point in talking about whether they came in or not.”

In an empty, white space, there were three doors.

“Maybe there’s a monster behind each door. And there were exactly three colors mixed together. Green, blue and purple. The numbers fit in as well.”

“You think it’s possible for there to be more portals inside a portal?”

“Isn’t it possible? A part of the investigation team couldn’t return, so it might be.”

Due to the clan’s strong demand, the government dispatched the investigation team again.

They were forced to end the second investigation.

It was absurd that they only did the second investigation due to the clan demanding it, when they should’ve done it on their own. If it weren’t for that strong demand, there wouldn’t be a second investigation.

And during that second investigation. A part of the group went missing.

It’s when they separated and went into the first and third room.

They started the investigation with the thought that they would come back after going in, but since they didn’t come back, they wrote that they had to stop.

It was obvious why the members clicked their tongues after reading that.

‘What were they expecting them to reveal with this? All they did was run away.’

But there was something they earned.

The first and the third door were excluded from the choices.

“We’ll keep going. We’ll go to the second door like we originally planned.

One of the members said it while spinning a red card that was supposedly a mysterious oriental painting.

‘The middle door…?’

Hyun-Soo looked at the second door that was in the middle.

‘Will Interface work?’

A skill that displayed information about the target the user pointed.

On top of that, it was a scary skill that seemed to always reveal new things and Hyun-Soo remembered it.

‘It won’t hurt to try…maybe I should try? Interface!’

He was unsure whether it would work on something like this, but activated Interface anyways.

The result was surprising.

[Closed Door][1/7]

A door that leads to somewhere.

It’s tightly closed.

One of the three doors will lead to the right path.

Place a hand on the door and it will automatically open.

There’s only one path, so choose carefully.

Interface didn’t display a lot of information.

There was an odd mark that said 1/7 and a vague explanation saying that it was closed.

But Hyun-Soo was surprised about something else.

‘It’s shining…in blue.’

A bright clear blue light was softly floating around the middle door.

‘Then…’

He used Interface on the two doors that was beside it.

‘They’re red.’

Just from the way it looked, he didn’t want to approach it.

On top of that, out of the three doors, two were red and one was blue.

No matter how he looked at it, the answer was obvious.

‘The middle one is the answer.’

The investigation team was really unlucky because they happened to choose the first and third one.

Hyun-Soo felt relieved by the fact that he was able to check which door was the right one through Interface.

It was better than going into it blindly.

Cheat keys were made to be used.

‘But, what does 1/7 mean?’

Does that mean there are six more doors like this one?

That’s what he assumed, but he couldn’t confirm it.

“We’ll enter in one minute. Get to your position.”

Kim Yoo-Na commanded while standing in front of the second door.

The tanks stood in the front while holding their shields. Healers and long-distance attackers stood in the center. Close-ranger attackers stood on both sides and in the back.

Since Hyun-Soo was a close-range attacker, he was placed in the back.

“Let’s go.”

Following her command, Brad, who was a tanker, placed his hand on the door.

Before Brad placed his hand on the door, the door opened on its own as if it didn’t weigh anything.

And at the same time, the world strangely turned upside down.

“……!”

It felt like he was riding a rollercoaster.

The top and bottom were switched and as the world became distorted, it became normal moments later.

“It feels like leaping through space rather than entering a door.”

One hunter spoke while feeling nauseous.

Hyun-Soo agreed.

Most of the hunters were experienced, and they calmly dealt with unexpected situations like this.

But since they were humans too, there were some that became nauseous.

“I feel like throwing up…”

One of them was Katrina.

“I’m doing a condition check. No one has any issues, right?”

After Kim Yoo-Na’s checked the group’s condition, she signaled Brad.

After confirming that there won’t be any unexpected attacks, they changed the formation a bit.

“I don’t think there are any traps. Nothing is happening.”

<Colorful Portal #2> End.

Chapter 88 - <Colorful Portal #3>

Eugene, who was originally in the back with Hyun-Soo, stepped up and moved forward with Brad while putting his guard up for any potential danger.

But moments later, he said there wasn't anything dangerous and expressed that it was odd.

"There's nothing. There aren't any walls or floors and it feels like I'm floating in a white space."

"There aren't any monsters?"

"From what I've seen so far, there's nothing. But there is something up ahead over there. It's too far, so I wasn't able to check it."

The hunters thought about the efforts they had to put in while listening to Eugene and Brad's conversation.

The door they walked through disappeared without a trace after they walked in.

They were just standing in a white space.

"Then, walking towards it would be the right thing to do."

The hunters started walking towards the place that Eugene mentioned.

Since there was nothing within this space, it was hard to tell how far they walked.

'Interface isn't getting anything either.'

Hyun-Soo thought he would be able to get something, but he got nothing.

"...It's another door."

"You're right. And this time, there's five."

When the hunters were able to confirm what it was that Eugene

saw, they all started groaning.

It’s because there was another door.

On top of that, there were two more than the first time.

“I didn’t hear anything about this…”

“Of course. The ones that were supposed to tell us ran away since they couldn’t enter the first door.”

“This is unexpected. What should we do? Do we need to go back? We didn’t prepare for something like this.”

Before accepting the request, they all worked together and thought about the possible situations that could occur and researched different options.

However, since it was a new portal and they weren’t given a lot of information, there was a limit to how much they could prepare for it.

But despite that, they ran a lot of different simulations and prepared for it.

But they didn’t know that something unexpected would appear like this.

During this time, Hyun-Soo realized that one of his assumptions were correct.

But he wasn’t happy about getting the correct answer.

‘I didn’t think there would actually be seven doors.’

This is the information that Interface provided regarding the second doors.

[Closed Door][2/7]

A door that leads somewhere.

It’s closed tightly.

There’s only one door that will lead to the right path.

The door will automatically open when a hand is placed on the door.

There's only one path, so choose carefully.

1/7 was now showing up as 2/7.

The reason for that change was obvious.

Six more from now on...no, it means there are five more gateways.

'It's a maze.'

It's a maze made up of doors.

It was a type of maze that made it difficult to find a way out once you enter the wrong door.

'First there were three doors. Then five. Since there are seven gateways, I'm assuming the number of doors will increase.'

As the number of doors increases, the choices increases as well.

And among them, there's probably only one answer.

However, as the number of choices increases, the percentage of choosing the correct answer gets closer to zero.

He had an idea as to why the investigation team gave up.

Of course that didn't mean he sympathized.

Because he had a cheat that told him the answer.

"If there are five doors, then we won't know how long it'll take. The door we came through already disappeared and we don't even know how to go back out."

"Won't we be able to get out once we've completely cleared this portal?"

"But, we don't have enough information to do that. Actually, there are a lot more unexpected things now."

All the hunters looked stressed out.

Kim Yoo-Na probably didn't expect there to be another door inside a portal because her expression didn't look so great.

'Let's see the correct choice...it's the fourth door.'

The Interface was nice enough to tell him the correct answer.

The first, second, third and the fifth door were red and the fourth door was the only one that had a blue light flowing around it.

'I found the answer.'

Only thing left is to move forward.

It was difficult to tell what was beyond the door, but moving forward was their priority.

The others hunters were discussing amongst themselves about what to do.

Everyone knew that going to inspect it and coming back was impossible, so they needed to be more cautious about it.

Which door were they going to walk through?

If that door wasn't the correct one, what were they going to do?

How about clearing each door?

And etc.

There were a lot of different ideas.

Hyun-Soo quietly raised his hand within the group.

"Hey, you don't have to raise your hand like you do in school."

Someone quietly told him that he just needed to speak up.

"What about going for the fourth door?"

"The fourth door?"

When Hyun-Soo specifically pointed out the fourth door, all the

hunters looked confused.

Hyun-Soo felt a bit nervous after saying it.

If someone happened to ask why he chose the fourth door, he wouldn't have an answer.

He couldn't say...I have a SS rank skill called Interface and that skill told me.

"We do have to enter one of them though. And there's no point in continuously contemplating over which door we should go through..."

"You're right. We won't know until we try!"

Surprisingly, they didn't ask Hyun-Soo for the reason.

Hyun-Soo was actually more confused because they just accepted his suggestion.

"Let's go back to our positions. Try not to get sick."

The members stood in front of the door after Eugene spoke.

Brad, who was in the front, placed his hand on the door.

Just like the first time, their surrounding became distorted and it felt like the world was being mixed into one.

And then.....

"What kind...of place is this?"

"I think the door is the opponent we're supposed to fight."

A white space appeared once again.

And seven doors were the only things that were in that space.

'3/7 closed doors.....'

1/7 had three doors. 2/7 had five doors. 3/7 has seven doors.

Hyun-Soo's assumption of the doors increasing by two as they passed through the gateway was correct.

‘If this happens all the way up to the seventh gateway, what’s the percentage of someone choosing the correct door and clearing this portal?’

Just from estimating it, it was well over 1/10000.

It might not seem much, but if Hyun-Soo wasn’t there, then they would have to repeat this process several times until they find the right path.

And there wasn’t a guarantee that the other doors were as peaceful as this one.

If monsters existed and if it had a difficult layout, then finding the right path was hard enough.

And if they had to repeat this 100, 1,000, 10,000 times, who would be able to endure it?

Even if they were strong A rank hunters and had an above average body, would they be able to endure it for that long?

And also not having enough food and water.

‘It’s definitely an odd portal. Just trying to find the right path can be a big risk since there’s limited information.’

“It feels like everything we’ve done has been in vain because there’s nothing. I didn’t think we would just be walking through a door…”

“It was the investigation team’s job to find out things like this.”

“But there’s no guarantee that other doors are like this too, right?”

“You’re right. The Super Rookie might’ve been super and actually chose the correct door.”

“Then, it would be best to leave it to them this time too.”

The members were talking amongst themselves.

Then one of them made an assumption.

“The rookie met with Ariel a few days ago. Do you think he heard something from her?”

But the other hunters that met with Ariel immediately shook their head and said that wasn’t the case.

“No way. There’s no way Ariel would talk in details like that. She was even vague about my break-up with my girlfriend and described it as a ‘bare tree.”

Generally, trees need to bear fruit, but since it couldn’t, it became a lonely, bare tree. That represented their break-up with their girlfriend.

‘So I’m not the only one that heard absurd things from her’

Hyun-Soo felt relieved once he confirmed that he wasn’t the only that heard vague information from her.

“Then did they get a skill or something? The rookie is a Hidden Class too. There might be something that only the Hidden Classes have.”

They must’ve thought the idea was funny because they sheepishly laughed.

But they must’ve believed what they said, because they quietly glanced over at Hyun-Soo.

‘The fourth door is the correct one this time too.’

Besides the fourth door, all the other doors were red.

He was curious as to what was behind it, but there wasn’t a need to go on a risky adventure.

When hunting a monster, they finish them off quickly after finding their weakness and since he found the answer, there wasn’t a need delay it.

“Which one are you going to choose this time?”

Katrina asked Hyun-Soo.

She must've heard what the other members said because it looked like she had high expectations.

"I think choosing the fourth one again will be good."

"Great. We'll go through the fourth door again."

The members that were standing in front of the seven doors all moved towards the fourth door.

But, there was someone that stopped them.

"Wait."

It was Marcus, the hunter that was in the same group.

He didn't hide the fact that he was displeased and pointed at Hyun-Soo.

"Why are you following him without questioning him?"

Marcus spoke up asking why they were listening to Hyun-Soo when he didn't have any proof that he was choosing the correct door.

"He might've been lucky the first time, but expecting him to get it right the second time is too much. There's a need to approach this more carefully starting now."

"Carefully? How? Are you saying we should send a few of the members first?"

"That may be impossible, but we should run a simulation and..."

"Marcus, we don't have any information regarding this portal. It's not that I don't understand your concern, but we have to open a door in any way we can. No one knows what's behind the door. And you're suggesting that we do nothing so that we can prepare for it? It's better to deal with it as soon as the door is opened. We're not a weak clan, you know."

"I...partially agree with that. But I think there's a need for us to be cautious when choosing a door."

In short, he was saying that he didn’t trust Hyun-Soo’s decision.

Even though the conversation dragged on, Marcus’s point was obvious.

His attitude towards Hyun-Soo was different from when he was full of pride.

A lot happened since then and his opinion towards Hyun-Soo probably changed.

But it seemed like a part of him was still suspicious of Hyun-Soo.

‘Well…it’s possible for him to feel that way about this.’

It’s interesting how the members followed Hyun-Soo without any hesitation.

They couldn’t be following Hyun-Soo since they had to open a door anyways, but it was interesting how they had high expectations during the second time.

‘Even though I can’t explain why, I have the correct answer, so just follow along quietly.’

Hyun-Soo didn’t want to experience any problems because of this nonsense, so he took a step forward and looked into Marcus’s eyes.

<Colorful Portal #3> End

Chapter 89 - <What Was Gained? #1>

“Then, let’s go. If I’m wrong, then I won’t step up like I did before and give suggestions.”

“Wow…isn’t that just you saying that if you’re wrong, then you’re wrong? You should take responsibility for…”

“If that’s not enough, then I’ll put down everything that I have. I’m not the type to play around with money.”

“Oh, you’re right. Hyun-Soo really likes money.”

Eugene mumbled after hearing what Hyun-Soo said.

He wasn’t sure if Eugene was trying to help or if he said it without thinking, but it seemed to have affected Marcus.

“…Are you all agreeing with what that noob is saying?”

Marcus looked around after asking and the members were nodding their heads.

Marcus had a dejected look, but when the majority supported Hyun-Soo, he looked like he had no choice but to give up.

“Okay, then let’s do as he says and go for the fourth door. The person that made the decision should take responsibility for it. But I’m not sure if the noob is capable enough to take responsibility.”

“You don’t have to worry about unnecessary things like that.”

After the commotion died down, they stood in front of the fourth door.

They stood in their usual spots and endured the odd feeling they felt during the last three gateways.

And they were able to see it.

Nine doors were standing far from where they were.

***

‘6/7…do we just need to go through one more to finish this?’

What’s at the end? That’s what Hyun-Soo was curious about the most.

While they were going through the sixth gateway, the members acted like they were on a field trip.

It was understandable because before they went through the sixth gateway, they didn’t see any monsters.

Walking through a white space for a long time really affected the mind.

But everyone was talking about different things, so not many people looked tired.

“Why are there only doors though? Are all mixed colored portals like this?”

“This might be happening because we entered while the portal was transformed. Once the transformation is complete, maybe the space behind the portal is filled. Not a white space like this.”

“But, I haven’t heard of a portal being transformed.”

“But the colors are being mixed. We saw it too.”

One person’s curiosity became the main topic because everyone was starting to talk about it.

“When it’s all mixed together…which color will it become?”

“There were blue, green and purple, so…maybe gray? Or orange?”

“But, it’s really weird. I hope nothing serious happens. We don’t know how the world will change again…”

When one mumbled their worries, another commented on it.

“We might be a part of history.”

They said it in a really serious tone.

“On top of that, if we succeed, we’ll be the first official clan to clear it. If that happens, then our names will surely go down in history.”

“Wow, having my name appear in a book is actually my dream! That’s why my dream was working for NASA. But I failed in science so I had to give up.”

David reacted to the word, history, and when he expressed his excitement, everyone just shook their heads.

This was possible because everyone was close to each other.

‘7/7. It’s finally the last door.’

Interface also displayed that it was the last door.

[Closed Door][7/7]

The last door that leads somewhere.

It’s closed tightly.

One out of the 15 doors will lead to the right path.

Place a hand on the door and it will automatically open.

There’s only one path, so choose carefully.

Before, the description, last door, wasn’t there but it was clearly there now.

“Which one this time?”

The members naturally let Hyun-Soo decide now.

No one was against it.

After Hyun-Soo found the correct door, Marcus didn’t say much and just followed.

The members could see that he was quietly trusting Hyun-Soo.

“The 11th door will be good.”

Finally, the last gateway.

“It’ll be better to prepare ourselves this time just in case.”

“Really? Everyone heard it, right? Be on your guard. We’ll be moving ahead.”

This was the seventh time they felt the odd feeling, but they must’ve been used to it now because they were able to endure it just fine.

It didn’t affect their posture and no one groaned.

Their faces turning white was something they couldn’t control.

The first thing Hyun-Soo did was put his guard up.

The last gateway..

No one knew what was behind it.

Thanks to Hyun-Soo’s warning, everyone became more serious and sharp as they looked around their surrounding.

The level of their nervousness was like a tight bowstring that was pulled back all the way.

‘Something’s different!’

They were in a white room this time too.

However, it was so white that they couldn’t really see each other.

A hazy fog filled the entire room.

“Let’s try to get a clear view.”

A low voice commanded the members.

And the members that used the wind element used their skills.

Fwoosh.

With them in the center, a weak wind slowly started raging.

As the wind blew, the thick fog that was like smoke slowly became faint.

Their surrounding became a bit better.

Compared to when they couldn’t see their bodies, it got a lot better.

“How about using the skill to widen the area?”

No one knew what was here, so there was a need to be careful when using a skill that affected the area.

But in the current situation, they couldn’t check anything.

There was only one method. They didn’t have a choice.

Hyun-Soo and the members were all nervous.

Thump, thump!

The sound of the heart pounding was loud and it was due to the nervousness.

It felt like his heart was moved to ears because the sound of the heart beating was extremely noisy.

“Whew…….”

He heard someone quietly releasing a nervous sigh.

It probably came out without them knowing.

But, he didn’t have the energy to complain and most of the members probably felt the same way.

This was a portal that they’ve never experienced before.

And it looked like something was trying to appear within the portal.

“Use your skill in 10 seconds.”

The low voice started counting down quietly.

And when 10 became one.

Boom!

Swoosh!

Wind element skills were released.

Their hair and clothes were blown violently due to the wind.

The wind probably affected their eyes as well, but no one had them closed.

They just stared into the hazy space.-

The thick fog that made them unable to see was starting to disappear.

What kind of monster will appear in the new portal?

They were nervous at first. And then excitement came afterwards.

Hyun-Soo tightened his fist.

He kept his body in a tense state so that he could use his skill as soon as possible.

And then.

“Hm?”

“Huh?”

“?”

The sound of confusion could be heard from the members.

It was understandable.

“……There’s nothing there.”

Behind the fog, there wasn’t any living thing.

What they expected was a monster.

No matter what kind of form or type of monster it was, they were expecting a monster that was strong enough to control the fog.

However…….

“Is there really nothing here?”

Someone mumbled quietly. They sounded like they were spacing out.

Their expectation made them feel nervous and excited at the same time, but those feelings soon disappeared.

The atmosphere felt like there would be something behind the fog, but nothing appeared.

“…Let’s try using the skill to expand the area, just in case.”

Kim Yoo-Na must’ve not expected this either because she looked a bit shaken up.

She expected something to jump out, but nothing happened.

Up to the sixth gateway, everything was the same and that was fine, but this place was filled with fog and there was nothing here.

But she calmly commanded the members.

“There’s nothing here that we can assume to be a monster.”

“It’s the same on this side.”

“And the possibility of it being a trap?”

“Eugene checked and he said it’s zero.”

Sigh…….

Kim Yoo-Na released a sigh.

He didn’t know if it was a sigh of relief or if it was because of a different reason.

“It is weird. It’s as if that portal was the only different one because the atmosphere was different…”

After the fog disappeared, it became the same as the previous gateways.

And from somewhere, they started seeing green grass.

It slowly started drawing a slope and as small hills started popping up, and a variety of plants that you would see in the spring started growing.

There wasn’t any sun in this hazy space, so no one knew how

they were growing.

But that was possible inside a portal.

Thinking logically inside a portal was something that should be avoided.

And beyond that small hill, there was a nest that was partially built and behind it, there was a group of light that was floating around.

No matter where they looked, there weren't any monsters.

"Is there really nothing here? I feel like there would be something...it's different from all the other gateways."

"Wouldn't there be a monster since there's a nest over there?"

Hyun-Soo felt the same when the hunters were filled with anxiety and then it disappeared.

But Hyun-Soo was fast at grasping the situation.

'Interface!'

[Incomplete Empty Nest]

An empty nest that's incomplete.

An owner for it has not been decided yet.

It will be completed once an owner has been decided.

As soon as he saw the nest, Hyun-Soo used his skill.

And the information displayed was clear.

And then.

"No, there doesn't seem to be one."

This portal doesn't have an owner.

And it made sense that there was nothing in the gateways that they walked through.

He didn’t know what was behind the other doors, but it was extremely odd how there was nothing behind the correct doors.

He didn’t know why those doors existed and how it was possible to enter the portals, but...

Hyun-Soo made an assumption.

‘We might have entered while the portal was being transformed.’

And because of that, many things were incomplete.

The fact that the nest didn’t have an owner helped Hyun-Soo make that assumption.

It might’ve been blind luck, but the statement that a member made earlier was probably the best assumption.

‘Of course it’s only an assumption.’

When Hyun-Soo concluded that there weren’t any monsters, David asked in a confused tone.

“How do you know?”

He found out by using Interface, but he couldn’t answer it like that.

Instead, Hyun-Soo made up a believable reason.

<What Was Gained? #1> End.

Chapter 90 - <What Was Gained? #2>

“If a monster really did exist, then they probably wouldn’t leave the nest unfinished. And the plants around them are too fresh. The size of the nest is big, so I’m sure the monster is just as big and there’s a chance that they damaged their surroundings. But look.”

Hyun-Soo pointed at the fresh plants that were around the nest.

They weren’t harmed in any way and were overgrown.

If something did exist here and were using the nest, they wouldn’t have left without finishing the nest and the plants around the nest would’ve probably been damaged.

If it was a monster with wings and dug the ground with their claws, there was a high chance for those plants to grow in different directions.

“That makes sense. If the plants are alive, then there should at least be some sort of secretion or discharge, but it’s really clean.”

“There isn’t a monster alive that would stay calm when there are intruders. Despite us using a lot of our skills, nothing showed up, so this place must be empty.”

The hunters used many different skills in case the monster was hiding somewhere, but since nothing appeared, they felt relieved.

After acknowledging the fact that there weren’t any monsters, the hunters were able to think rationally and take in their surrounding.

“There aren’t any doors, so I’m assuming this is the last stage. How do we get out though?”

The way they walked through several doors reminded Hyun-Soo of a Matryoshka doll. Since this kind of portal was new for the hunters, they were having trouble.

“The thing behind the nest. Maybe that’s the exit. It looks similar

to the portal entrance.”

There was a wavering light behind the nest and it really was an exit.

[Exit]

An exit that lets you leave the portal.

The explanation was simple.

‘Of course there wouldn’t be any other explanation at an exit.’

“Wow…so this place really doesn’t have anything. It’s like opening a fortune and noticing that there’s nothing inside.”

“Well, the color was unusual from the beginning, so it’s possible.”

“It’s unfortunate because it feels like we’re at a dead end.”

The hunters expressed their disappointment.

It was understandable.

All this time, they gave everything they had when attacking this new portal and even prepared a lot for it.

But there was a surprise. There was nothing here.

Their prepared and were anxious about this, but it was all for nothing.

Hyun-Soo also felt the same way.

Once the anxiety disappeared, he noticed his surroundings.

Maybe it’s because he felt relieved.

Hyun-Soo used Interface on different areas.

It was a habit of his to use the skill.

“Wait!”

The hunters, who were getting ready to go out, stopped when

they heard Hyun-Soo's voice.

"We brought the bags, right?"

"Of course we did."

"Then, can I use all the bags that we brought?"

"You want to use the bags? For what? There's nothing to take."

Their reaction said, "There aren't any monsters here, so why do you need it?"

The members looked at Hyun-Soo with a confused look.

Kim Yoo-Na was the only person that caught on.

After smiling at them, Hyun-Soo pointed to the plants with his eyes.

"What are you talking about? There's a lot to take here."

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"Having fun?"

"Of course."

When Hyun-Soo was asked that question, he answered without any hesitation.

"Interesting. I think you're worse than Yoo-Na."

Katrina looked at the excited Hyun-Soo and clicked her tongue.

Most of the bags that they brought were already filled up.

There wasn't a reason for him to not be excited.

'I didn't think I would find a field of Levshila.'

The moon wasn't present, so he wasn't sure how they were able to grow here, but this was like a gold mine for Hyun-Soo.

It was obvious that he was excited about picking them out.

The members looked at him oddly when Hyun-Soo grabbed the bag from them and excitedly picked the flowers. But they stood on

the side and helped Hyun-Soo.

“It’s unfortunate that we didn’t kill any monsters, so might as well do this.”

“Who knows? Maybe a monster will appear if we keep digging.”

Everyone was excited about this mysterious request, but since it ended like this, they started picking the flowers while mumbling.

“Might as well do this” was what everyone said.

That meant that they were extremely disappointed about what happened.

But Hyun-Soo was so excited that he forgot all about it.

And the results.

Hyun-Soo was the only one that was smiling brightly.

‘Since we picked a lot, I should make Bibimbap for them again.’

Even though everyone was tired, if they ate the Bibimbap that had Levshila in it, they would immediately get their energy back.

There was one more thing he gained.

‘I did pick all of them since something was off…’

This plant had fruits hanging and they looked like blue pills.

There was only a handful of them and because the fruit and the leaves were shining softly, it looked like an extremely rare plant.

Since the Levshila covered them, he almost overlooked them.

But since they picked out all of the Levshila, he was able to find it.

And of course, Hyun-Soo used Interface.

[????]

????

Effect: ????

‘……Huh?’

The information that was displayed was odd.

‘Why’re there only question marks?’

Hyun-Soo kept on using Interface, but the result was the same.

After contemplating for a bit, Hyun-Soo decided to take it with him.

Even though he didn’t know what it was, he decided to take it anyways and find out later.

His instincts told him that it was a pretty good ingredient.

Since the plant only had one root, he made sure to carefully dig around it and he wrapped the leaves and the fruits so that they wouldn’t get damaged.

They were probably safely sitting between the pile of Levshila.

Maybe that’s why.

“Hmm……hm…….”

Hyun-Soo was quietly humming to himself and didn’t notice that Katrina was looking at him curiously.

His head was filled with many different recipes that he didn’t notice her stare.

***

“Good job everyone. I’m sure all of you are tired because of this new portal, so go rest.”

After arriving at the base, Kim Yoo-Na announced the completion of the portal and told everyone to rest.

It was an official completion of the request.

The members dispersed and Hyun-Soo returned to his dorn.

Since there were several large bags, a few of the members helped him move them.

“Hey, rookie. What are you going to do with this?”

Ismael, one of the members that was helping, asked.

In the portal, Ismael was the one that complained the most about how nothing happened and that they wasted their time, but was one of the members that worked the hardest when they were picking the plants.

After working hard to pick the flowers, that’s when Ismael became curious, so he lightly touched the bags while on their way to Hyun-Soo’s dorm.

In the end, he couldn’t contain his curiosity so he asked Hyun-Soo.

“Different things.”

“What exactly are those things?”

“The first thing that I thought of was Bibimbap.”

“Oh!”

When Hyun-Soo told him that he was going to make Bibimbap with the Levshila, Ismael’s eyes sparkled.

“Are you bringing it to the after party tonight?”

“Possibly”

“Then I should let the members know! The guys that are in relationships are going to be busy.”

“……?”

After making a confusing comment, Ismael and the others left while laughing.

And Hyun-Soo began preparing the ingredients.

“Seriously, what is this?”

While he was working on the Levshila, his eyes landed on the plant that he placed on the table first.

He brought dirt from the portal and placed it in a cup along with the plant.

“Just from looking at it, I know this plant contains something. Why won’t it display anything?”

Hyun-Soo felt awkward because this never happened before.”

Is it because the activation rate is too low?

Gulp.

Hyun-Soo gulped without realizing it. He started salivating as he looked at the fruit.

Maybe it’s all in my head.

It felt like the fruit was sparkling in order to convince Hyun-Soo to eat them.

Even if he was being delusional, he couldn’t help but keep looking at the plant.

He stopped working on the Levshila because his mind was filled with that mysterious plant.

“Why……?”

He never thought that he was gluttonous.

But Hyun-Soo kept on thinking that he had to eat the fruit.

‘I don’t have any information on it and I could get sick from eating it. So stop wanting to eat it!’

Hyun-Soo thought to himself really hard, but he continued salivating and now his hand was moving towards the fruit.

“…….”

In the end, the blue fruit was in his hand.

After looking at it for a brief moment, he stopped thinking and threw it into his mouth.

It was like he unconsciously did it.

Chew, chew.

He didn't know what it was, but since it was a fruit, he thought he wouldn't die.

He wanted to eat it really badly, so he couldn't hold himself back.

With that thought in mind, he chewed the juicy cover.

"The way it's fresh and sweet reminds me of a blueberry. Is it a type of berry? It doesn't taste bad either."

It reminded him of a fruit that he rarely ate.

The sweet and sour taste was good.

However, despite having a strong desire to eat it, it didn't really have a special taste.

He thought that maybe he would be able to obtain some information while eating it, but that didn't happen.

After having high expectations and finding out there was nothing special, he was going to swallow it, but.

"Ack!"

His neck felt like it was tightening up, so Hyun-Soo instinctively started coughing.

It felt like an invisible hand was choking him.

"Gah!"

Due to the burning pain he was feeling, Hyun-Soo's body curled up like a shrimp.

'I-I need to breathe!'

Hyun-Soo quickly opened his mouth to breathe in some air, but the pain he felt in his throat started climbing down and it made it more difficult for him to breathe.

'Damn it, no way…….'

Hyun-Soo's sight started becoming blurry.

He was passing out.

Hyun-Soo tried his best to cough and get some air, but the pain was moving too fast.

Of course he couldn't hear the sound that ringed in his head.

Ding!

["????" was consumed.]

["????'s" qualification will be tested.]

[Progress : 7%]

.

.

.

[Progress : 100%]

["????'s" conditions have been met.]

["????'s" conditions have been met, so the skill will be created.]

***

"Gah……!"

It felt like someone beat him all over his body.

Hyun-Soo noticed the way he was lying on the floor and after raising his painful body, he sat up.

His head kept on ringing and after holding his head with one hand, he looked around.

"What just happened……?"

After losing his mind, his mind became blank.

It's not like something invaded him or started beating his body.

The Levshila he stopped working on.

The chair that Hyun-Soo fell out of.

Everything was the same.

There weren’t any traces of trespassers.

But his eyes were fixed to one place.

<What Was Gained? #2> End.

Chapter 91 - <What Was Gained? #3>

“……!”

Right.

That’s it.

After eating the fruit that was hanging from the plant, he couldn’t breathe and felt an intense pain.

Because he had a hard time breathing and was in pain, he fell out of the chair and fainted.

‘……I thought I was going to die.’

He managed to survive.

But it felt like someone punched him repeatedly all over his body, so Hyun-Soo grabbed a handful of Levshila and shoved it into his mouth.

Chew, chew.

Gulp.

Even though eating a lot didn’t stack the effects, it calmed him down mentally.

Hyun-Soo grabbed another handful and ate the plant.

“Whew…….”

Since he ate a medicinal herb, it felt like he was getting better.

‘What just happened to me?’

He ate the fruit of a plant he didn’t have any information on.

And right after, he felt an intense amount of pain.

‘……That fruit was the issue.’

Thinking about it now, he wasn’t sure why he wanted to eat that fruit really badly.

He remembered telling himself that he was going to look into it more and the way he ate it without hesitation wasn't like him at all.

He couldn't help but think that maybe he was possessed.

Other than the fact that he was in a lot of pain and lost consciousness, nothing changed.

Hyun-Soo looked at himself to see if there was anything wrong with him.

He slowly poked his abdomen and chest to see if they were infected, but he didn't feel any pain.

Because of the Levshila, after the pain disappeared, his body felt really light.

'Something is definitely weird.'

Since his physical condition changed all of a sudden, he couldn't help but be worried.

Since he was a hunter, most illnesses were cured on their own, so it wasn't a big problem, but since his body was an asset, he was thinking about going to a hospital.

"……?"

His eyes saw something odd.

Hyun-Soo was about to activate Interface and look at his stats.

He wanted to look his stamina since his body felt odd.

And then he saw something he hasn't seen before.

"What's this?"

Hyun-Soo's eyes were fixed on the list of skills.

Interface displayed Skill Creation, Skill Transfer, Medicinal Mix, Invisible Attack and Blade Fist.

Those are skills that he's seen before.

But at the end, there was something he's never seen before.

'What is that??'

►Name : Kim Hyun-Soo (21)

►Rank : B

►Class : Skill Maker

►Experience : 3%

►Stamina Level : 97%

►Energy Level : 100%

►Stamina : 126 Agility : 114 Strength : 125 Critical Hit : 117 ?? ?? ??

►??

►Skill List

Interface[SS]

Skill Creation[A]

Skill Transfer[A]

Medicinal Mix[B]

Invisible Attack[B]

└ Blade Fist[B]

????[????]

Hyun-Soo looked at Interface as if he couldn't believe what he was seeing.

He earned a new skill and he didn't know about it?

And it was a skill filled with question marks.

He used Interface again to find more information, but the information displayed was filled with question marks.

Hyun-Soo was stunned.

“Well this is rude.”

It was information about himself.

Shouldn’t it at least display all the information about himself?

Even though he thought that way, he had already given up.

‘Stupid activation rate.’

He strongly felt that this was happening because the activation rate was only at 24%.

The more he raised the rate, the more information it’ll display.

‘Also, I only have eight skill slots and that unknown skill just filled the sixth slot.’

He didn’t have a lot of slots left.

When his rank increased to B, the skill slots increased to eight and because that unknown skill took the sixth slot, he only had two slots left.

Since the Blade Fist was Invisible Attack’s sub-skill, it didn’t fill one of the slots.

It was a relief.

If that took up a slot, then he would only have one left.

‘I don’t know what it is, so I can’t even erase it.’

He wasn’t sure if he could even erase a skill that was filled with question marks.

Hyun-Soo had a headache, but thinking about it wasn’t going to solve it.

So he decided to go with the second-best solution.

He decided to hand over his problem to his future self.

After deciding to think about it later, he looked at the clock.

The clock showed that it was already midnight.

"……?!"

Hyun-Soo was surprised, so he looked at the Hunter Link.

He thought the time was wrong, but the same time was displayed on the Hunter Link.

Three missed calls. Two messages.

He received them while he was passed out.

"Hyun-Soo! You're not picking up. Are you sleeping because you're tired?"

The first message was from Katrina.

"I guess you're really tired. Rest up and I'll see you tomorrow."

The second one was from Kim Yoo-Na.

They must've thought that he fell asleep due to exhaustion because he didn't come to dinner at all.

"Whew……."

After letting out a deep sigh, Hyun-Soo looked at the Levshilas that he was working on.

It looked like he would have to use them next time.

***

"It's so good. I'm sure you would've succeeded as a chef if you didn't become a hunter."

"You're probably just thinking that it's a little bit more delicious than the others."

David raised both of his thumbs and complemented Hyun-Soo's Bibimbap again, but Hyun-Soo said it wasn't anything special.

Bibimbap was a fairly simple dish, so hearing David talk about him being a chef made him feel embarrassed.

It was delicious though.

'Because I put in a lot of Levshilas.'

The Levshila was a bit bitter, but it was rich in flavor, so Levshila was the best ingredient for the Bibimbap.

The combination was great and if the score of an ordinary Bibimbap was a five, then it jumped to 10 with the addition of the Levshila.

It was also an amazing ingredient because it increased one's stamina.

It was delicious in many ways.

On top of that, the Bibimbap that everyone has been eating all this time was made by Kim Yoo-Na.

It was obvious that people would compare it since Kim Yoo-Na wasn't a talented cook.

"I heard that some politician is going to come. Did you hear about it?"

"I did."

"This is troublesome. Even though the rookie made us a dish that gave us strength, we're tied down because of this peddler."

Hyun-Soo was appalled by how David had the guts to call the politician a peddler without any hesitation.

It didn't matter who the politician was because that position gave them power, but David called them a peddler.

They said something about meeting their girlfriend?

'Then it's understandable as to why he's mad.'

But there was something that David said that caught Hyun-Soo's attention.

What did he say?

It was.....

'A food that gave him strength?'

It’s possible that he was just being nice.

Or it could be his way of expressing his gratitude.

“You’re saying that it’s delicious, right?”

“Are you trying to make me say it twice?”

“It’s fine.”

Hyun-Soo acted like he didn’t know what David really wanted and let it go.

The reason for Hyun-Soo making that Bibimbap was simple.

At first, it was to test out the ingredient.

He also wanted to show something to those arrogant hunters.

He was secretly increasing his worth.

And by increasing his worth, he wanted to be an important member within the clan.

He wanted to show the clan some of his power.

He wasn’t thinking about showing all of his power.

He would show some of it and let them make assumptions afterwards.

That was enough.

Unless they were dumb, there’s no way they wouldn’t recognize Hyun-Soo’s worth.

That’s why, as long as he was part of the clan, he could use it as his shield as much as he wanted.

David’s comment meant that he caught on to some of Hyun-Soo’s powers.

If that wasn’t the case, then it meant that he definitely knew what kind of effects the Bibimbap had.

Hyun-Soo was satisfied with just that.

***

“Thank you for informing me on the clan’s activities. The clan really is amazing.”

He was the politician of the city where the new portal appeared and they came to thank the clan.

The members didn’t know why they had to meet someone like them.

There were rumors that the politicians strongly requested them to take care of it.

And that they wanted to see the heroes that saved the citizens from an unknown danger.

‘I think they just wanted to see what kind of people were in the clan.’

He couldn’t help but think they had other intentions.

‘They must think of hunters as some sort of valuable gem.’

Power and authority were usually paired up together.

And if they were wealthy, then they had everything.

High-ranked hunters were known to be a one-man company that brought in a lot of money.

And their individuals skills were weapons.

If one had military power and wealth, then they would naturally obtain authority.

‘Are they trying to recruit soldiers?’

He couldn’t tell what those powerful figures were thinking.

“The new portal was temporary and we decided to name it ‘Colorful Portal.”

The hunters there were half forced to join and they must’ve felt burdened by their annoyed looks, because the politician coughed

and continued talking.

“This is confidential, but I’ll tell you anyways. This isn’t the first time that a colorful portal was discovered. Like the request that we sent you, the colorful portals appeared at the same time. Talented hunters were sent in to clear those portals. But…there hasn’t been one team that came back.”

It was obvious what the politician was trying to do.

Only one person managed to survive.

“Even though a lot of talented hunters went in, no one came back. That means…”

They failed.

All of them.

But one.

The politician continued talking after mentioning the one person that survived.

“The survivor is a hunter and they were able to teleport a short distance. I’m not sure how they escaped the portal, but other than the heroes here, they’re the only ones that survived. Unfortunately…they’re not in any condition to talk.”

“Are they badly hurt?”

“No. Well, I guess you can say that they’re injured. Yes, it’s a serious injury. A psychological injury.”

The politician displayed a bitter smile when they mentioned that the survivor’s head was a blank slate and all they did was stare at the sky with a blank expression.

“We brought in well-known psychiatrist specialists to try and heal them, but they failed. In the end, we couldn’t find out anything.”

“……”

Everyone was shocked by the unexpected result.

Hyun-Soo somewhat expected this when the politician mentioned that this clan was the only group that safely returned from the colorful portal.

But on one hand, he thought maybe they were still hunting since they haven’t returned yet.

But after hearing about the only survivor, that assumption became irrelevant.

<What Was Gained? #3> End.

Chapter 92 - <A Repayment Date #1>

“You might be confused since you didn’t know this kind of portal existed. But since it’s confidential, there was a need to control the information. I think they might’ve taken it too far, but that’s just my personal opinion.”

Rumors about the colorful portal would spread fast and then disappear quickly.

There were members that briefly heard about it.

“Anyways, all of you are the first and only hunters to clear the colorful portal, so I visited to show my respect to the amazing hunters and to thank you all for saving innocent lives.”

It was an extremely grand and embarrassing greeting.

When the politician mentioned that they wanted to thank the hunters, they stood up and bowed.

The members felt stiff due to this uncomfortable meeting, so when the politician bowed, they were shocked, so they stood up from their seats as well and bowed. It was a funny sight.

“We carry-out the request after getting paid. We received additional payments for this request and hunt, so there’s no need for you to thank us like this. Clearing the colorful portal was all business. We didn’t volunteer for this because of our moral principles.”

After the chaos calmed down, Kim Yoo-Na’s calm voice filled the room.

“You’re correct. But despite knowing there would be unknown danger, you took the request and I believe it’s only right that we thank you for it.”

The politician continuously portrayed them as heroes and kept praising them.

‘Did he really only come here to compliment us? I know they’re trying to memorize our faces…I heard that politicians are usually busy, but this one doesn’t seem like it.’

“…Thank you for the compliment. I can’t help but think that that’s not the only reason why you came here though.”

“Haha. I guess I was too obvious. It’s true that I came here to thank you for what you did. And…could I ask you for a favor?”

The politician went through that long introduction just to ask them for a favor.

“What kind of favor?”

“It’s a bit embarrassing to ask this, but…if you’re okay with it, would you mind sharing the information that you obtained regarding the colorful portal that you cleared?”

“Inform…ation?”

They had a database that summarized the types of portals and information about the monsters that appeared in those portals.

Brief information about how it was attacked was also included.

But detailed information on how to attack the monster and about the portal was kept confidential between the guilds and attack groups.

Information provided money and power.

The more information a group had, the more resources they’ll obtain and that gives them power and authority.

In this kind of situation, the information was so valuable that no one would be able to put a price on it.

They experienced much trial and error before entering the portal because there wasn’t enough information.

But this politician is asking them to share that information?

‘Crazy.’

Hyun-Soo decided.

And then thought about it.

All politicians were shameless.

‘I was wondering why they came…….’

Meeting them was a side task. They had a different goal.

They completed the request the moment they cleared it, but they came here asking for information.

“Of course I realize that information is an asset to the clan. I also realize that making this kind of request is rude of me. But, miss. A lot of lives have been lost. Many skilled hunters that protected this land were sacrificed while attacking this kind of portal. I understand that the methods of attacking the portal are confidential, but please think about the skilled hunters that may lose their lives and the innocent people that may die every time a colorful portal pops up.”

The way the politician explained was cunning.

‘They’re asking for help so that more people don’t die.’

It was reasonable and difficult to refuse.

If this continues, they’ll be forced to provide them with information.

But was this politician really requesting for information in order to save the lives of the hunters and innocent people?

‘There’s no way.’

Hyun-Soo voted no.

That was probably one of the reasons.

However, they probably had a different reason for requesting the information.

If they took this kind of information with them, they would be acknowledged for contributing to the public and completing their

task.

The politician said it.

That they saved the human race by attacking the colorful portal.

It was an exaggerated expression, but they weren't wrong.

If ordinary portals popped up too, then it would be too dangerous.

The gray portal had the weakest monsters, but they were dangerous to ordinary people.

What would happen if they didn't attack the colorful portal because they didn't know what was behind it?

If it popped up before it was cleared...

'It would've been awful.'

In the recent portal that they cleared, other than going through the correct door, they didn't know what was within it.

If one high-ranked hunter escaped with nothing in their heads, it wasn't impossible to make an assumption on what happened.

So when the politician said that they saved the human race, they weren't completely wrong.

It was a bit exaggerated though.

Anyways, if the politician were to return with the information that could save the human race...

'They'll probably have a more secure position as a politician and will benefit in many ways.'

He didn't really know much about the political world.

But Hyun-Soo had a vague idea on how these types of people acted.

They'll never do anything that put them at a disadvantage and will use their power to increase their benefits.

“I understand what you’re saying. But it’s difficult for me to give you an answer right now. It’s not something I can decide on my own and I have to discuss it with the other members.”

“I see. I ask that you think positively about this. I’m not looking down on the powers that the hunters have, but wouldn’t it benefit the hunters if the country is well-maintained?”

A warm smile appeared on the politician’s face as they expressed their disappointment.

“I also prepared something to help you make your decision…”

The politician signaled their secretary and after grabbing a thin envelope from them, they handed it to Kim Yoo-Na.

“Please check.”

“……!”

Kim Yoo-Na’s expression completely changed when she checked inside the envelope.

Others may think her expression hasn’t changed a bit, but since the members knew her for a long time, it was obvious that it was a big change.

Her expression turned cold and after checking inside the envelope, she looked back at the politician.

“I’ll act like I didn’t see it. And regarding the information, I’ll discuss with the members and decide. Since you said it’ll benefit the public, if we do decide to share it, we’ll share it based on that request, so we won’t personally contact you regarding it.”

This time, the politician’s expression changed.

Since they were an experienced politician, they displayed their warm smile again and laughed.

“I would appreciate it. Anyways, I hope to hear some good news.”

Even though Kim Yoo-Na clearly stated that she wouldn’t contact

them, the politician said they would be waiting. Their intention was clear.

But both Kim Yoo-Na and the politician acted like they didn't notice.

***

After the politician left, the members gathered around Kim Yoo-Na.

"Yoo-Na, did something happen?"

"That politician guy. I had a bad feeling about them and I was right."

The members were busy asking her questions and also talking badly about the politician.

Because of their position as a politician, they made the members stand around in the room, made useless threats and in the end, provoked their leader.

There was a reason why they didn't like them.

"That politician. They're really dirty. They were threatening by using people's lives, right? They said it as if it was going to be our responsibility if innocent lives were lost just because we didn't share our information!"

There weren't any laws or policies that said that they had to share their information.

They probably wouldn't share it even if they were offered money and valuable items, but this politician threatened them.

Some of the members were extremely mad.

After they completed the request they received, they were suddenly labeled as potential murderers.

"What are you going to do about the information? Do we have to share it?"

“Honestly, we don’t even have information to share. All we did was walk through doors.”

“And thanks to the rookie, we were able to walk through the correct doors. If the correct doors weren’t chosen, it wouldn’t really be helpful, right?”

“It’s better than nothing. At least nothing came out from the correct doors, so they’ll be able to tell the difference between the real and fake doors. But this…shouldn’t the rookie decide it? All we did was follow him.”

Jack, who was in the same group, started talking after David.

“……? Why are you looking at me?”

Hyun-Soo was surprised because everyone suddenly looked at him.

“He’s a blessing.”

“Yup, definitely a blessing.”

“Our leader is pretty amazing. She keeps bringing these rare creatures from somewhere…”

Hyun-Soo was suddenly called a blessing and looked at them with a confused look.

He didn’t understand what the point of this conversation was.

Katrina, who was beside Hyun-Soo, giggled as she looked at his expression.

“Hyon-Ssoo heard it too. All the other teams failed. The request wasn’t made to just any guilds or groups. You can tell since we received the request. But they failed and we succeeded. Do you know why?”

Katrina asked as if she was asking a question, but the answer was already there.

‘Is it…me?’

Katrina nodded as if she knew what Hyun-Soo was thinking.

“I’m not the only one that thinks that. It might’ve been a coincidence the first time, but if it happens seven times in a row, then that’s skills. And we returned safely thanks to Hyon-Ssoo’s skill. That’s why you’re a blessing!”

“You’re right. A lot changed after the rookie joined.”

The other members agreed with Katrina and all of them nodded their heads in agreement.

“I’m confident that I won’t be surprised by the rookie’s actions any more.”

“You too? I feel the same.”

“…….”

Hyun-Soo didn’t know what he did in order to make them react that way.

All he did was make medicine for the members, strengthened their skills and guided them when they were in the colorful portal.

‘…I guess it’s natural for them to react like that.’

When thinking about all the things that he did, he did do some interesting things.

“Anyways, he’s a blessing. His nickname should be lucky. The food that we ate yesterday wasn’t an ordinary dish. Well thanks to that, I was able to meet Halle yesterday.”

“No one cares about your personal life, so shut up.”

David yelled at Ismael when he mentioned that he met his girlfriend.

And then Ismael made fun of David by calling him single.

Thanks to that, all the attention that was on Hyun-Soo slowly disappeared.

<A Repayment Date #1> End.

Chapter 93 - <A Rewarding Date #2>

‘It worked out smoother than I thought.’

Honestly, he was nervous for a moment.

Since the hunters were quick to catch on, he knew that they knew something.

But they were courteous and didn’t ask questions.

However, they indirectly touched on Hyun-Soo’s skills and revealed that they were onto something.

But they immediately stopped mentioning it.

It was the same thing as them saying, “We already know everything, but we won’t bother you about it, so don’t worry.”

It was a silent acceptance.

On top of that…

‘They have Ariel, who’s able to see the future.’

Also known as a fortune teller.

The one that’s able to see the future.

And the members all agreed to protect her.

Just from that, Hyun-Soo knew they were trustworthy.

Hyun-Soo was once again content with his judgement.

***

The clan decided to share the information regarding the colorful portal.

It seemed like the politician that visited expressed that they would reward them for sharing the information, but according to Kim Yoo-Na, she declared that she wouldn’t hand over the information to them.

Instead, she decided to reveal it to other groups and guilds.

The government focuses on the high-ranked groups and guilds because they're skilled enough to receive their request.

By sharing the clan's information, they would be able to protect their reputation and contribute in saving innocent lives, which the politician emphasized on.

'Honestly, there's not much to share.'

There weren't any tactics they could share.

Without Hyun-Soo, they wouldn't be able to clear the portal like they did with the other portals.

However, this was what saving lives meant.

No matter how great the offer was, they weren't going to accept requests related to colorful portals.

There was something that sly politician needed to obtain from Kim Yoo-Na, so they provided her with a lot of information, but would that same politician make requests to other groups while providing correct information?

Excluding the FE clan, there was only one survivor and the failure rate was 99.9%.

'There's no way. If that were the case, no hunter alive would accept the request.'

Even if there were hunters that accepted, the politician would have to give them a big reward for the danger they'll be facing.

It was a simple prediction.

Anyone could come up with that prediction.

That's why Kim Yoo-Na provided the information to the hunters that were skilled enough accept the request.

To be careful since it was dangerous.

Despite the warning, some will accept the request and others will contemplate regarding it.

Anyways, it was enough to gain interest from the public.

The politician might become angry because of it, but that wasn't Hyun-Soo's problem.

Before making that decision, Kim Yoo-Na visited Hyun-Soo.

She carefully expressed her thoughts and asked Hyun-Soo.

"Is that okay, Hyun-Soo?"

"It doesn't matter to me."

Hyun-Soo had an idea as to why Kim Yoo-Na asked, but decided to act like he didn't know.

But Kim Yoo-Na while looking straight into his eyes.

"If you weren't there, we would've failed in attacking the portal. No, we could've even died..."

"The only thing that I did was pick a door..."

"I don't plan on asking you for the details, so don't worry. But the fact that we were able to succeed because of you is true. There are clans that were able to escape after running around inside the portal."

After saying that, Kim Yoo-Na said that she will reward him.

After hearing the reward, Hyun-Soo's mind became blank.

It's because the rewards that she offered were things that were beyond what he expected.

Hyun-Soo managed to buy a building after saving up, but he couldn't compare himself to Kim Yoo-Na since she was born with a silver spoon.

It would've been a different story if the colorful portal was extremely difficult.

And even though he was the only one able to do it, all he did was pick the doors.

He wasn't thinking about belittling his skill, but the rewards that she offered were too much compared to what he did, so Hyun-Soo calmly spoke while looking at Kim Yoo-Na.

"I'm just doing my job. I am a member of this clan afterall."

He indirectly refused by saying that he was just doing his job as a member.

'……I see.'

Kim Yoo-Na seemed down after hearing Hyun-Soo's answer.

"Well, okay then. We'll talk about this again later."

It meant that Kim Yoo-Na wasn't going to give up until Hyun-Soo agreed.

Hyun-Soo didn't know "later" would come this quickly.

If he did, then he would've grabbed Kim Yoo-Na and declined at least three times.

***

"……Where are we going?"

Hyun-Soo didn't know why Kim Yoo-Na was dragging him out.

They weren't going to train or go hunting.

Kim Yoo-Na visited his dorm and the only thing she said was to follow her.

After getting inside the red car, Hyun-Soo kept on asking.

"There's a place I need you to go with me."

"Again, where exactly is……."

"You'll know once you're there, so please be patient."

He knew this even when he trained with her, but she wasn't the type to explain things nicely.

Hyun-Soo didn't have anything to say afterwards and the car was quickly heading somewhere.

“This is……”

They arrived at a place that had a lot of buildings and people.

There were so many people that Hyun-Soo wondered if cars would be able to pass through here.

After passing by extremely tall buildings, Kim Yoo-Na stopped the car.

And after making a call, a person appeared and drove away with Kim Yoo-Na’s car.

“I was thinking about going sightseeing, but we arrived later than I expected. Unfortunately, we’ll have to go sightseeing another time. We’re late, so let’s go in.”

Kim Yoo-Na guided Hyun-Soo into an elegant-looking building.

“Hyun-Soo!”

“Hyuna? Why are you here?”

“Yoo-Na asked me to help you pick out some clothes, so I came. I came after finishing cram school!’

“Clothes? What kind of clothes?”

His clothes were fine, so what kind of clothes were they talking about?

Hyuna laughed at Hyun-Soo’s expression and made fun of him.

“I told you it was a good idea to drag him out without saying anything. If you told him that you were taking him to a mall, he would’ve refused.”

A faint smile appeared on Kim Yoo-Na’s face.

‘Clothes? Mall? You go to the mall to buy clothes?’

Hyun-Soo bought clothes that were either sold in open markets or were on sale, so the mall was an unfamiliar place for Hyun-Soo.

He didn’t know this luxurious-looking building was a mall.

“It won’t be that complicated. I can ask someone to bring them for us, but…there’s a restaurant nearby and we can go sightseeing to get some fresh air, so don’t be too burdened by it.”

They were guided to a luxurious lounge.

The sofa was so big and soft that they would be able to lie down on it. Moments later, the workers there started bringing out hangers that had a lot of clothes hanging from them.

A part of it was accessories and another part was either dress shoes or neckties.

While Hyun-Soo was looking at the clothes, Hyuna was eating and drinking the food and tea that the staff were serving.

And the two women’s shopping…no, the dress up game began.

“I don’t think you look good in that.”

“Tight-fitting clothes are popular these days, but I think loose-fitting clothes look better on you.”

“Don’t you think a deep blue color would look better, Yoo-Na?”

“That looks good and the light gray striped one that we saw earlier doesn’t look too bad either.”

While Hyuna and Kim Yoo-Na were talking, Hyun-Soo was trying on new clothes.

He even questioned why he was here doing this.

“The necktie…….”

“The shoes…….”

“Diamond would be better for the pin, right?”

“Isn’t that expensive?”

Hyun-Soo was shocked by what he heard, so when he asked Kim Yoo-Na, she shook her head.

“It’s not that big, so it’s not really expensive.”

Something didn't feel right, but since she said it wasn't, then it probably wasn't expensive.

'Right. I'm not sure how much it is, but since I was able to buy a building, I should be able to purchase a tiny gem.'

He never heard of the brands that he was trying on and since they didn't have any tags on them, he couldn't check the price.

"Clothes definitely make a difference. You look much better in those, Hyun-Soo."

"Hyuna, you shouldn't talk like that to your brother. I was good-looking ever since I was born."

"Nope. Men need to wear suits. You have very good taste, Yoo-Na."

When Hyun-Soo wore the outfit that Kim Yoo-Na put together, Hyuna's mouth dropped and she exclaimed.

Hyun-Soo also thought the same way when he looked at himself in the mirror.

Since this was his first wearing this, he did feel a bit uncomfortable since his movements were limited.

But when Hyuna complimented him and Kim Yoo-Na looked at him with a smile, the uncomfortable feeling he felt became insignificant.

"Great. I think we should go with this. Now, it's time for Hyuna to change."

"What? Me too?"

Hyuna looked at Kim Yoo-Na with a confused look.

And moments later.

Hyuna wore clothes that were just as elegant as Hyun-Soo's and she enjoyed looking at herself in the mirror.

"This is how Cinderella must've felt."

After wrapping up the clothes that Hyun-Soo and Hyuna were previously wearing, she asked one of the staff to place it in her car.

“Let’s go.”

“To where?”

“To eat some delicious food.”

Kim Yoo-Na handed Hyuna a note and asked her to give it to the driver.

“Oh…I can go too?”

“Of course.”

“I’ll head back…”

“Why? I’ve already made reservations. Do you not like the clothes?”

“No! No. It’s nothing like that. Um, that’s not what I meant. Um…so that’s why you bought my clothes as well. What should I do?”

Hyuna looked like she was at a loss.

She ended up nodding her head and decided to tag along.

After getting in the car that a staff brought out for them, they stopped in front of an antique-looking building.

“Let’s go. This place serves really good food.”

Hyun-Soo stopped after seeing the luxurious interior design.

Hyuna reacted the same way.

It felt like they were walking into a noble’s house and not a restaurant.

It was way fancier than the expensive Korean restaurant they went to before Hyun-Soo joined the clan.

“Wow…….”

After sitting at their table, Hyuna looked around and exclaimed.

Kim Yoo-Na smiled as she watched Hyuna.

The food fit well with this elegant place.

Hyun-Soo was scared that he might experience indigestion.

On top of that, the servers were wearing expensive clothes and sometimes when they served, they would feed it to them.

It reminded him of the old women that made fried rice at bbq restaurants, but the atmosphere was totally different.

He didn't know there would be this big of a difference between the servers "It's really delicious."

Hyuna was satisfied with the taste and the presentation of the food.

Hyun-Soo felt the same.

Even though it was his first time trying the food, the flavor was so rich, that he didn't want to finish his food.

"Yoo-Na? Is that you?"

Right when they were finishing their food.

He heard the voice of a middle-aged man.

The man was good-looking and he happily greeted Yoo-Na.

"Mr. Herhim, how have you been?"

"It's surprising to see you here. Oh my, it seems like I've interrupted your meal."

"It's fine. If it's okay with you, would it be okay if I introduce you to my friends?"

"Of course. Since they're with you, it's an honor for me to meet them."

Hyun-Soo questioned his hearing when he heard the man's name.

'Herhim? He's Herhim?'

<A Rewarding Date #2> End.

Chapter 94 - <A Rewarding Date #3>

Who was Herhim?

He was like a living legend within the hunter world.

Mikhail, the Phoenix user, was currently the most famous hunter, but Herhim was the most famous before them.

At the hunter training school, Herhim's name was mentioned during history class.

Even though it's been a while since he retired from attacking the portals, as a veteran, he played an important role.

And he was right in front of Hyun-Soo.

"Say hi, Hyun-Soo. This is Mr. Herhim. I'm sure you already know him without me explaining, right?"

"Of course. It's an honor to meet you, Mr. Herhim."

"Mr. Herhim. This is Kim Hyun-Soo and he's a member of the clan. This is Hyuna and she's Hyun-Soo's younger sister."

"It's nice to meet you, Mr. Kim. And lady."

The man that had a mix of grey and blonde hair greeted them.

He was pretty old, but because he was a hunter, he looked a lot younger.

Herhim agreed to join Kim Yoo-Na and the others temporarily.

"I heard what happened. Your clan was the first one to clear the colorful portal, right?"

"Yes, and I've passed along the information to some of the groups."

"Making a decision for something like that isn't easy, but you did well. It's more important to look ahead than look at the benefits that's in front of you."

“Yes. Oh yeah, Hyun-Soo had the most important role when we attacked the portal.”

“Oh~ I knew someone was involved when I read the report. With a probability of hundreds of thousands to one, I was curious about the one who was able to find the correct answer.”

Herhim’s blue eyes were filled with curiosity as he looked at Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo felt himself straightening his back.

Herhim’s eyes looked like they could see into one’s soul and after looking at Hyun-Soo, he started laughing.

“Meeting a talented person is always fun. When you have the chance, please visit my place. I have high-quality wine, so we can all drink some. It’s very rare for Yoo-Na to compliment someone like this. As you know, Yoo-Na gets embarrassed very easily.”

“Mr. Herhim! What are you talking about?!”

“Haha. See what I mean? She’s not like the girls that you see these days.”

To Hyun-Soo, she seemed more shocked than embarrassed because of what Herhim said.

But for Herhim, he must’ve felt that she was feeble and reserved, despite the fact that she was able to take down monsters while swinging her fiery hands.

“I’m sorry that I interrupted your meal. The conversation went on longer than I expected. Please come visit when you have the time. You come too, Yoo-Na.”

When Herhim left, Kim Yoo-Na smiled.

“What a relief. We were lucky.”

“Lucky?”

“Yes, Mr. Herhim is a regular here. I didn’t purposely plan this,

but we coincidentally met. That's good. It really does seem like luck is on your side."

Kim Yoo-Na quietly explained that the brief meeting with Mr. Herhim will benefit him in the future.

She also added that if they purposely went to go meet him, others will notice, so making this meeting look coincidental was the best way to meet him.

What she's trying to say is.

She said she didn't plan for this, but she actually did.

With the intent of introducing Hyun-Soo to the famous, Herhim.

If that wasn't the case, then there was no need for her to make this situation seem like a coincidence since she already knew Herhim.

'Is this...her way of paying me back?'

Up until now, Hyun-Soo refused everything that Kim Yoo-Ana offered.

He would accept them if they were small, but the things that she offered were too much and burdening, so he refused...

'...Despite that, she prepared this.'

Whenever he refused, she would always say "Let's talk again later," but he didn't think it would turn out like this.

Hyun-Soo's assumption must've been correct because Kim Yoo-Na had a bright smile on her face.

"Mr. Herhim is a pretty picky person, but he must've liked you. It's a relief."

"Why are you doing all of this for me?"

He was curious.

Is there a person alive that would go this far when the recipient refused to accept it?

These days, you have to look out to yourself.

So Kim Yoo-Na could've used Hyun-Soo's refusal as a reason to keep those rewards to herself.

Hyun-Soo said he was okay and no one would say anything bad to Kim Yoo-Na about it anyways.

But she didn't do that.

She bought him clothes, took him to a high-class restaurant and introduced him to a legend in the hunter world.

When she asked him to follow her, that's when her repayment started.

"....."

Hyun-Soo looked at the clothes that he was wearing and the food that he enjoyed eating.

And then he turned to Kim Yoo-Na.

"Hyuna..."

Kim Yoo-Na looked away awkwardly.

It looked like her ears turned red.

It could be because of the reddish light.

"....?"

"She said you'll feel too burdened if I gave you a yacht or land and recommended buying you food."

Hyun-Soo looked at Hyuna with a "Really?" look.

But Hyuna was making weird expressions, so he couldn't really read her.

Hyuna probably told Kim Yoo-Na that all she had to do was buy him food.

But who knew that the conversation would turn out like this.

Hyuna was surprised by how much Kim Yoo-Na spent.

“But, I don’t think this is enough…and since you would be burdened by monetary items, I thought about what I could do. Are you…mad?”

Kim Yoo-Na carefully glanced at Hyun-Soo.

After hearing that, Hyun-Soo felt like he was the bad guy.

All of this happened because he refused her offers.

“No. I’m thankful. The food was great and it was surprising to see the person that I’ve read about in books.”

“That’s a relief.”

Hyuna watched the two and mumbled after letting out a sigh.

“I expected it, but I guess he really doesn’t understand…”

“About what?”

Even though she mumbled it, it was loud enough for a high-ranking hunter to hear it.

When Hyun-Soo asked, Hyuna shook her head and said it was nothing.

“Um, it’s nothing. It’s something you shouldn’t hear.”

“……?”

***

“Hey, rookie! I heard you went out with the leader.”

“Was it a date?”

“If you say yes, I’ll kill you.”

“All she did was buy me food.”

Even though they were smiling, their eyes looked deadly, so Hyun-Soo quickly told them the truth.

When Hyun-Soo denied it, the members looked like they suddenly lost their energy.

All but one of them.

One of them had a bright smile on their face.

“Hey, pay up already.”

“……?”

When Eugene spoke, everyone took out money with an unsatisfied expression and handed it to Eugene.

“Did you guys make a bet?”

“Don’t worry about it. They’re always like that.”

But Eugene said this bet was pretty fun and laughed while waving the money.

Eugene made fun of them because even though they made a bet that it was a date, they were secretly hoping that it wasn’t.

“Here’s your share.”

“My share…?”

Eugene grabbed half of his earnings and gave it to Hyun-Soo.

The members that lost money were depressed for a moment, but felt good when Hyun-Soo confirmed that it wasn’t a date and after talking amongst themselves, they walked outside.

“They’re really excited.”

These days, everyone seemed pretty happy.

He felt the same when Kim Yoo-Na dragged him out and he turned into Cinderella.

The reason.

“We finally took that elder’s land! Hahaha!”

The fight went on for a long time and they finally won.

‘I think they’re happier about making them miserable than taking the actual land.’

As long as they're happy.

Because of this happy atmosphere, the members felt joy even in the smallest things.

And making a bet about Hyun-Soo's outing was part of it.

"Let's go make some money."

"Right. We need to build an airstrip and a control tower."

They had more than enough to build a control tower, but they asked Kim Yoo-Na if they had any requests.

Like a skilled trainer, Kim Yoo-Na calmed them down by saying that she would go get one if they behave.

The joyful atmosphere was maintained for a few days.

And it looked like it would stay that way for a while.

But one day.

While training in the center room, one of the hunters spoke as if they thought about something.

"Oh, I heard we'll be getting the reward for the last request soon. I heard it from the data processing room before coming here, so the news is pretty new. It's possible that we got it already. It'll be a short break before the next request, so why not go somewhere with your sister?"

They recommended that Hyun-Soo rest when he had the chance.

But the person that recommended it trained really hard, so what they said wasn't credible.

That wasn't the important part.

There was something else that caught Hyun-Soo's attention.

'Reward?'

After the training, Hyun-Soo immediately headed back to the dorm.

When receiving money, one must be pious and make sure their body and soul are calm.

“Whew…….”

After taking a deep breath, Hyun-Soo checked his bank account.

And then.

“……Oh!”

He almost stopped breathing.

Hyun-Soo completed the request regarding the colorful portal.

It wasn’t a hunt where they simply took down a monster and obtained Energy Stones.

So he thought that his share was going to be different from before, but…

‘How many zeroes are there?’

It was a large amount.

They must’ve given the clan a bonus for completing the request and to pay back for the expenses, so the clan probably got a lot more than what was originally offered.

But still, he should’ve been given a warning for an amount like this.

“What…do I do with this?”

People say that you suddenly lose grip of reality when you obtain a large amount of money.

Hyun-Soo thought about one thing after coming back to his senses.

His parents.

When he looked at the clock, he noticed that it was morning in Korea.

– Ring.

Even though it was an international call, Hyun-Soo didn't mind since he had a lot of money.

Click!

– "Hello?"

"Mom?"

– "Hyun-Soo? Is that you, Hyun-Soo?"

"Yes, it's me. How are you?"

– "We're doing just fine. What about you? Are you okay? You're not doing anything dangerous, right?"

It's been a while since his mother heard Hyun-Soo's voice, so she was really happy.

Since so many things happened when he came, he wasn't able to call often, so he felt a bit bad about that.

Hyun-Soo's mother asked about his well-being, his life within the clan and if he was getting along with the other members.

Even though Hyuna called often and told his mother the things that happened, she was probably still worried.

After answering her questions, she must've felt relieved because she asked why he called.

– "Is something the matter? Why did you call?"

<A Rewarding Date #3> End.

Chapter 95 - <Karazhan #1>

"What do you mean? I called because I wanted to. How's the shop?"

– "It's great. I think people know about our store now. The number of customers are increasing every day."

"Nothing dangerous happened, right?"

– "Of course. The young lady from before helped out so much, so nothing dangerous happened."

"It's nothing special, but I just got my first pay from my new job, so I wanted to send it to you. They're not long johns, but I hope you'll accept it."

– "No, there's no need to send it. You should use it since Hyuna is there with you as well."

"It seems like you're not spending much of the money that you're earning from the store, so use the money that I'm sending you and go eat something nice with father."

– "Jeez. We do run a restaurant, you know."

Even though she lightly criticized him, she didn't refuse.

The money that Hyun-Soo was sending wasn't what made her happy. She felt proud that he hasn't forgotten about them and was taking care of them even though they were in separate countries.

After they finished talking on the phone, Hyun-Soo sent a part of the money that he received to his mother.

It was still a large amount.

'I'm sure she'll be surprised'

He didn't have to see it to know.

When he imagined the expression on her face, a part of him felt proud.

‘I hope they build a airstrip soon.’

Once it’s there, he’ll be able to fly to Korea and give it to them himself.

They recently decided where it will be placed and the design for it, so he felt disappointed.

***

A few days after they cleared the colorful portal.

The members were asked to gather.

“We got a request.”

Kim Yoo-Na slowly spoke while looking at the members that were in the large meeting room.

And then.

“Finally!”

“It seems too soon to say finally, but it does feel like it’s been a long time.”

“We need money. Money!”

“I approve no matter what!”

The members all reacted excitedly.

Kim Yoo-Na calmly spoke despite their excitement.

“But please make the decision after hearing about the request.”

“What kind of request is it?”

“It’s a colorful portal.”

Everyone became stiff all of a sudden.

“That’s…not the same one as before, right?”

The colorful portal they entered without any information.

If Hyun-Soo wasn’t there, they would’ve gone through a lot of doors and would have starved to death from not being able to find

the exit.

There were a lot of choices and none of them guaranteed that it was an exit.

All of their faces turned dark when they remembered their experience with the previous request.

“If it’s the same as before, then it’s better to decline…”

“If we agree to go, then I’ll go, but I’m not really interested…”

Even though they didn’t express it during the hunt, it seemed like they felt really troubled back then.

“It’s a different kind.”

The staff that was beside Kim Yoo-Na handed out the report.

“It’s an ordinary portal? There aren’t any monsters here either?”

One of the members that read the report asked with a confused tone.

“As you can see, there were three research teams and all of them provided the same result. There aren’t any monsters and it has a very relaxing scenery. It doesn’t have doors or traps. Also, the portal doesn’t have an owner.”

“There aren’t any monsters, traps or issues…then why did we receive this request?”

“The problem is that the portal isn’t disappearing. If the teams’ information is correct, then it can be considered as being cleared, but since it’s still there, they submitted the request since they felt odd about it.”

It looked like it didn’t have any problems, but they didn’t feel good about leaving it there, so they submitted the request.

“As of right now, we’re the only clan that has cleared a colorful portal. I think that’s why they want us to take a look.”

“If we clear this one, does that mean we would be clearing two in

a row?”

“We’ll become the maestro of colorful portals. Not bad.”

They must’ve been inspired because they were starting to take interest.

If they clear this colorful portal, the clan will be more well-known.

It was extremely rare that they were the only clan that cleared the colorful portal and that position can’t be compared with anything else.

The members were proud of being a part of this clan, so it was only natural for them to think positively about this.

“Even though we didn’t have any information last time, we still went in, but that’s not the case for this one. There probably won’t be any issues, right?”

“If a portal doesn’t have an owner, they’re automatically closed. Is it because it’s a colorful portal? We just need to explore it thoroughly.”

They were worried at first, but now they all wanted to go for it.

‘A new colorful portal.’

Hyun-Soo had high expectations as well.

In the last portal, he found a plant that was filled with question marks while picking the Levshilas.

He earned a new skill through that plant.

He didn’t know he could obtain a skill through that method, but it was sitting in the list of skills.

‘I still haven’t figured out what it is though…’

But he had a feeling that it wasn’t a useless skill, so he secretly raised his expectation.

Anyways, since he obtained it from the colorful portal, he

couldn’t help but have high expectations this time too.

He even obtained a lot of Levshila, a plant that only grew under the moonlight.

Since the portal was mixed with different colors, he was really curious as to what was behind it.

***

“It’s like a marshmallow.”

Katrina marveled at it and commented that the colors reminded her of marshmallows.

Katrina was in the same group this time too.

The group remained the same as last time to be exact.

Which meant.

‘I’m in the same group with Marcus.’

But after witnessing how Hyun-Soo picked the correct doors last time, he took a step back.

He didn’t really pick it since he used Interface.

Everyone must’ve caught on to the fact that Hyun-Soo had something special.

Some even made odd assumptions about how Ariel told him about it beforehand.

“Good luck!”

The first group entered into the portal after everyone bid them good luck.

Chirp, chirp.

Trickle, trickle, trickle.

“It really is like a vacation spot.”

Green grass filled the entire area and there were small hills everywhere.

On one side, there was a small stream and a shallow pond.

Small birds were flying over the trees of different sizes.

“All you need is a chair to enjoy the scenery.”

Someone mumbled that you can see this kind of scenery at some vacation home.

Everyone must’ve agreed because they commented that it looked relaxing.

“We came to clear the portal, but it feels like we’re on vacation.”

“You’re right. We won’t run into any danger like last time, so should we enjoy the food that we brought before we clear it?”

Everyone was nervous because it was a colorful portal, but the scenery looked so relaxing.

The members started to relax.

Their reaction was definitely different from last time.

Their speech, actions and expression looked more relaxed.

Kim Yoo-Na usually remains level-headed during official occasions, but she looked a bit relieved.

But one person.

That one person wasn’t able to enjoy this moment.

‘……What the?’

It was Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo couldn’t understand why they were acting that way.

The scenery is peaceful and relaxing?

They feel like they came to a vacation spot?

Well, it was understandable.

Because that’s what the outer appearance looked like.

‘Am I…the only one that’s seeing this?’

Hyun-Soo saw two different views.

Like a glitchy hologram, the scenery that was displayed was as warm and beautiful as a picture…

‘This view looks like we entered a grave. I guess they can’t see it.’

The other view looked like the inside of a dark and wet grave.

The two were mixed together.

But he was able to tell which was the real one.

‘Interface.’

He used Interface to make sure.

[Karazhan’s Illusion]

An illusion created by Karazhan.

Because it was that obvious.

And at the same time, Hyun-Soo was able to figure out another truth.

‘Karazhan……?’

This portal did have an owner.

The vacation spot illusion that everyone was seeing was created by the owner.

But none of the members noticed it.

“Hey, rookie. What are you doing there? Did you find out something odd?”

Since Hyun-Soo cleared the last portal by himself, the members turned their attention to him since he was standing still.

He must’ve figured something out again.

“I did, but…….”

“What is it?”

“Um, I’m not really sure of it yet.”

He didn’t know how to explain this.

The fact that the grass they were standing on was actually broken slabs of stone that were covered in moss.

And the beautiful, small spring they were praising was actually filled with a weird liquid that had a rotting smell.

He was curious as to how they would take it since the appearance was different.

He watched Katrina skip towards the spring and and scoop the water with her hands.

The way she was playing with the clear spring water looked like a picture.

But Hyun-Soo also saw the odd liquid that was emitting a foul smell, flow out of Katrina’s hands.

Illusion.

A hallucination.

It looks like something’s there, but it actually isn’t.

They call this an illusion.

And the members were stuck in this illusion and couldn’t get out.

‘Wait. Does that mean the research team just saw an illusion as well?’

Hyun-Soo remembered their report saying that they only saw a peaceful scenery.

Three teams reported the same thing.

They must’ve seen the same illusion as the members and exited.

‘No wonder why the portal couldn’t be cleared.’

The monster of the portal was alive and living, so it would be weird if the portal was cleared.

Karazhan, the portal's owner, must create an illusion and make the hunters go blind while hiding behind the hallucination.

And they make them leave by letting them think that there's nothing here.

'But why?'

When he thought about that, another question popped up.

There isn't a monster alive that enjoys others invading their space.

And if they were hunters that were trying to destroy their space, they really wouldn't like it.

They're staying still even though we're invading their entire space?

'That's weird.'

Is the monster not attacking because they're an advocate of peace?

That doesn't make sense.

There had to be a reason.

While thinking about different possibilities, Hyun-Soo felt someone looking at him.

It was a dark and shady feeling.

He didn't like this feeling, so he turned his attention to where the stare was coming from.

"……!"

Beyond a messy wall that was covered in an unknown fluid, his eyes saw a pair of eyes that looked like black glass beads.

Wall.

In the illusion, it was behind a tree.

There was something there.

Hyun-Soo’s instincts told him that that was Karazhan.

Karazhan’s large, black eyes were shaking.

It was as if they were surprised by the fact that Hyun-Soo was able to see them.

“Hey, rookie. Is there really something there?”

David asked after watching Hyun-Soo and noticing how shocked he was.

And.

Crack.

Crack.

Crackkkkk!

He heard the sound of something cracking.

<Karazhan #1> End.

Chapter 96 - <Karazhan #2>

Clank!

The sound of something shattering filled the place.

“Wh-what’s that?!”

The hunters felt something odd, so they quickly put their guard up.

However…….

“Wait…… What is…….”

“My head……!”

Thud!

Thud!

One by one, the hunters grabbed their heads and stumbled.

They did their best to endure it, but it was too much and they became unconscious.

The members tried to wake up by harming themselves, but in the end, they became unconscious.

Hyun-Soo was going to approach him, but he suddenly felt a really bad headache.

“Ack!”

Once Hyun-Soo realized that it was an illusion, the illusion shattered and it revealed reality.

After that, the members fell one by one as if they were attacked.

Hyun-Soo was sure that Karazhan, the owner of this portal, was doing this.

Hyun-Soo shook his head.

But it was useless.

His vision became blurry.

***

‘…… What happened?’

The bad headache he felt earlier disappeared.

Hyun-Soo had a blank expression while blinking his eyes.

“Hey, what are you doing? Spacing out?”

“He’s always like that.”

Someone patted their shoulder.

“Why…are you guys here?”

Their young faces were dirty.

Hyun-Soo recalled them despite his memories being hazy.

“Why? We’re here because we are, damn it. This is the best place to play hooky. Where else would we go?”

“Hooky?”

Hyun-Soo looked down at his body.

It was the uniform he wore when he was younger.

He saw a uniform that had been shortened to match the trend during that time.

“Why am I wearing a uniform?”

It’s already been several years since he graduated.

And the people in front of him were the bad students he would hang with at school.

But after he matured, he distanced himself from them.

At first, Hyun-Soo thought they came to where he was.

But that wasn’t it.

If his assumption was correct, then he was actually back in time.

‘What’s going on? Am I dreaming? I’m sure I became a hunter. And…’

“Hey, what are you doing?! Bring some money later so that we can go to the LAN center.”

“Damn it, you’re trying to make us level up your character, aren’t you?”

“Damn right. What’s wrong with that? I pay for you bastards, so what’s wrong with that?”

“It’s not even your money. You stole it.”

“You’re right.”

As Hyun-Soo watched them laugh amongst themselves, there was one thing he recalled.

‘I know…….’

When he was hanging out with them, he coincidentally met his mother.

During that time, he barely went home, so when his mother recognized him, she constantly called out his name.

And Hyun-Soo……

‘I ignored her.’

An immature past.

He was filled with annoyance during that time.

Thinking about it now, it was a really immature move.

He didn’t know why he felt that things were unfair and was annoyed about everything.

Anyways, Hyun-Soo ignored his mother and that moment was a painful memory to him.

But that memory was being replayed.

It was trying to show him that painful moment again.

‘It’s weird.’

Hyun-Soo felt something odd and it was something he couldn’t express with words.

When he opened his eyes again, he thought that this moment was reality.

Everything was exactly the same as how he remembered, so he questioned whether the events about him being a hunter were nothing more than an empty dream.

But the timing was extremely off for him to think like that.

It was as if someone was trying to pull out that pain and hurt him.

‘Wait. I was at the portal…….’

He had seen something.

Something that gave him a bad vibe.

‘And I’m sure…….’

His eyes met theirs.

And at the same time, the world split and he lost consciousness.

He started remembering the hazy moments.

Why he suddenly became unconscious.

What he saw before he became unconscious.

And what he had to do.

“Interface.”

Hyun-Soo’s spoke quietly.

The guys beside him had a confused look and asked what was going on.

But they were nothing more than an illusion It wasn’t just them. Everything was an illusion.

[Illusion of the Past]

An illusion created by Karazhan.

They bring out the target's pain and make them reveal their weak point.

It will keep playing if the target is unable to escape it.

After Hyun-Soo finished reading the information.

Shatter!

The world shattered again.

And then.

"Hyun-Soo……. Can't you come home……? Mom is waiting. Please……?"

This time, it was Hyuna. Her eyes were filled with tears.

His little sister looked a lot younger.

He made his little sister cry.

'I was really a piece of shit back then.'

After judging his past self without any hesitation, Hyun-Soo used Interface.

And the world shattered again.

A lot of illusions appeared in front of Hyun-Soo's eyes.

"Damn it, do your job right! You expect to get paid by working like this?! I hired you despite you being young and this is how you repay me?"

From the owner that didn't even treat the part-timers as human beings to…

"Hyun-Soo, I'm sorry……."

His father apologizing to him after Hyun-Soo had to drop out of the Hunter Training School.

Once Hyun-Soo realized that they were all an illusion, they shattered one by one.

It seemed like Karazhan was trying to make Hyun-Soo hallucinate again, but...

“Stop wasting your energy and come out.”

Hyun-Soo smirked.

The illusions stopped appearing.

However, a one-eyed monster appeared behind a wet and dirty wall.

►Karazhan [Currently Developing]

►Psychological Monster

►Place of Major Appearance : ?

►Energy Field Status : 80%

►Peculiarity : Evolving/Hatching

►??

‘Evolving?’

The first thing that caught his eyes was the monster’s rank.

He assumed that the portal had different colors because it was in the transformation stage.

And it was as if the monster’s rank was proof to show that his assumption was correct.

‘What the hell is going on?’

Hyun-Soo had a headache.

But the monster in front of him was more important.

While tightening his fist, Hyun-Soo looked at Karazhan.

Unlike the power that they had, they actually looked pretty cute.

Their form was similar to a human's, but they had wings and their eye didn't have a white layer and was all black.

The black smoke around them was probably poison because it had a foul smell.

Flap, flap.

The sound of Karazhan flapping their wings filled the room.

Hyun-Soo carefully glanced behind him.

The members fainted due to the pain.

They must've experienced the same type of illusion that Hyun-Soo experienced.

"How long are you just going to watch?"

He wasn't sure if Karazhan understood, but Hyun-Soo provoked them.

He managed to break them by using Interface, but he wasn't sure if that would work for the others.

Instead, he chose a method that would definitely end it.

It was……

'Getting rid of the source is the surest way to end it.'

Killing Karazhan.

Hyun-Soo didn't really have an advantage.

He didn't really know Karazhan's power and whether he could kill them by himself.

But that didn't mean he shouldn't do anything.

'Reminds me of the old days.'

He recalled the time when Kim Yoo-Na trained him really hard.

He hunted by himself and increased his experience by constantly training his body.

But she wasn't here right now.

Glance.

He saw Kim Yoo-Na lying on the ground.

Grip.

Hyun-Soo tightened his fist.

Neiiigh, neiiiiigh!

After Karazhan released a cry that was similar to a horse's, they raised their hand.

The black smoke gathered within Karazhan's hand.

Hyun-Soo wasn't the type to stand by and watch.

"What are you saying? Just shut up and take this!"

Invisible Attack was shaped into a nail and Hyun-Soo threw it at Karazhan as he shouted.

As the nail violently spun in the air, it tore the black smoke into pieces.

"Tsk!"

It would've been nice if it tore Karazhan's body as well, but as the nail destroyed the black smoke, it disappeared.

Neiiiiiiigh!

'That smoke is really troublesome.'

It must've played the role of a shield, because it blocked every one of Hyun-Soo's attacks.

Despite the fact that the white light was shining, he couldn't hit it, so his attack failed every time.

While Hyun-Soo was struggling, Karazhan, who had been hiding all this time, counterattacked.

Karazhan must've noticed that Hyun-Soo couldn't beat them, because a smirk appeared on their face.

Ne…iiiiiigh!

Bam!

Right when Karazhan's eye was about to turn red.

Black smoke started spreading in every direction.

The lump of smoke spread in all direction as if it exploded.

And.

Hyun-Soo's view started slowing down.

He saw the traces of the lump of smoke that spread in all directions.

Hyun-Soo dodged the lump of smoke that flew towards him really fast.

Sizzle!

When the lump of smoke dropped on the ground, it burned the ground as it released a smoky odor.

After seeing that, Hyun-Soo's body became more alert.

However, it was impossible to dodge every lump of smoke that was raining down on him.

'Damn it……!'

There's a limit to how much a person can move.

He did dodge them, but right when another lump of smoke was close to attacking him!

A faint light was flowing around Hyun-Soo's body.

"……!"

The faint light enveloped Hyun-Soo's body and when Karazhan's smoke hit it, the light didn't disappear.

It was obvious that their attack wouldn't work.

The faint light slowly disappeared moments later.

‘What was that?’

Hyun-Soo had a confused look since he didn’t know why that light appeared.

Hyun-Soo thought the smoke was going to hit him, but something blocked it for him.

He wanted to find out what that was, but now wasn’t the time.

Neiiiiigh?

Karazhan tilted their head in confusion.

Being able to read a monster’s expression was weird.

This was the first time he encountered a human-like monster, so it was really weird for him.

It felt like he was fighting against a person, not a monster.

“I don’t know what that was, but there’s one thing I’m sure of.”

That Karazhan’s attack wasn’t going to work now!

The smoke gathered together and rained down again.

Fwoosh!

The faint light appeared again and blocked the smoke.

“Haha!”

Hyun-Soo suddenly started laughing.

He didn’t know what it was, but it was amazing.

He should’ve been more serious, but there was a reason as to why he started laughing.

The situation was pretty obvious.

That Karazhan’s power was now useless and all Hyun-Soo had to do was take them down!

Stomp, stomp!

Karazhan must’ve given up on using the lump of poisonous black

smoke, because they started moving.

They had human hands and the nails extended out like a hook. It was a really bizarre scene.

Karazhan started charging towards Hyun-Soo while raising their scythe-like hand.

Kyahhhhhh!

The way they charged towards Hyun-Soo while releasing a shriek was extremely grotesque.

Even though they weren't a fairy, Karazhan's outer appearance looked like one.

Karazhan used their wings to charge towards Hyun-Soo at a fast pace and Hyun-Soo barely managed to dodge their attack.

Swoosh!

Even though Hyun-Soo's view moved in slow motion, Karazhan's movement was a bit faster than Hyun-Soo's view.

'Huh?'

<Karazhan #2> End.

Chapter 97 - <Karazhan #3>

The silver light didn't appear this time.

Because of that, Karazhan's attack slightly cut the hem of Hyun-Soo's clothes.

'What the?'

Did he imagine the silver light he saw just now?

But the light actually blocked Karazhan's attack.

"Damn, whatever. I'll think about it later!'

Hyun-Soo stopped thinking about the problem and focused on the situation that was occuring before him.

It's because Karazhan was now attacking aggressively, which was different from when they first fought.

At first, they attacked without moving a muscle, but now, they were aggressively throwing themselves towards Hyun-Soo.

It's probably because they realized that standing still didn't affect him.

'But just suddenly attacking like this is really unexpected!'

Even though they looked like a fairy, their actions reminded him of a horror film.

Thanks to his views slowing down the opponent's movements, he managed to dodge their attacks.

Kyahhhhh!

Hyun-Soo used his skill while dodging, but Karazhan used their wings and flew up to dodge it.

While dodging, they released an odd cry.

It sounded like they were looking down on him.

"Huh..... "

Were they looking down on him just because they had wings?

Because they were able to freely control their wings, Hyun-Soo couldn't really land any attacks.

The smoke would protect their weakness and when Hyun-Soo counterattacked when Karazhan attacked, they would just fly away.

They were really like an annoying fly.

'Wait.'

While gritting his teeth due to the annoyance Hyun-Soo was feeling, something popped into his head.

'In order to catch a fly like them...right, a fly swatter!'

A fly swatter was the perfect tool when trying to catch a fly.

While thinking about this, Hyun-Soo created a large net.

Hyun-Soo tried to make it as big as his power allowed.

He stitched them as close as he could so that they couldn't escape.

It started off as a fly swatter, but it got upgraded to a large net.

Smirk.

A smile appeared on Hyun-Soo's face when he reached his limit.

Kyahhh?

Karazhan, who was using their thin wings to stay up in the air, tilted their head in confusion after making fun of Hyun-Soo.

But after flying around once, they charged towards Hyun-Soo.

And.....

Flap!

Kyahhhh!

Karazhan felt something odd when they got closer, so they tried to pull away, but Hyun-Soo was faster.

The net that Hyun-Soo made enveloped Karazhan.

After confirming that Karazhan was trapped inside the net, Hyun-Soo condensed his power.

Kyahhhhh!

When Hyun-Soo's power tightened Karazhan's entire body, Karazhan started screaming.

Karazhan moved violently to try to escape.

But even after getting caught by Hyun-Soo, the black smoke disappeared, so Karazhan had no way of escaping.

"Whew……."

He finally caught them.

Since Hyun-Soo tied their wings together, Karazhan couldn't fly away.

Kyahhhh……

After realizing that they were surrounded by the enemy, Karazhan cried sadly.

Karazhan's eyes met with Hyun-Soo's.

And Hyun-Soo was surprised for a moment.

There was some sort of transparent liquid on their eyes and it reminded him of tears.

'…….'

A human-shaped monster was looking at Hyun-Soo with tears in its eyes, making it extremely awkward and weird.

Like mentioned earlier, Hyun-Soo felt that he was going up against a human, not a monster.

On top of that…….

Kyahhhh…….

Their pitiful cry sounded like they were asking Hyun-Soo to go

easy on them.

Karazhan looked at Hyun-Soo, then looked elsewhere and when they looked back at Hyun-Soo, they chattered in a language Hyun-Soo couldn't understand.

Hyun-Soo felt ridiculous and absurd.

But he couldn't go easy on them.

Hyun-Soo shook his head and got rid of the hesitant feeling inside him.

"I almost fell for it."

Maybe it's because Karazhan specializes in illusions.

Since they were a monster that was part of the psychological type, they were talented in manipulating the mind.

Because of that, they were probably able to plant ideas into their opponent's mind.

A psychological type monster that Hyun-Soo has never encountered before.

In some ways, it was the most dangerous skill than any other skills.

If Karazhan used absurd illusions like they did in the beginning, Hyun-Soo could easily notice by using Interface.

But what if it was a type of skill that slowly creeped up?

'I don't even want to think about it.'

Karazhan must've given up entirely because they looked like they were out of energy.

It happened right after Hyun-Soo shook off the thoughts in his head.

But that could've been another illusion.

As soon as Hyun-Soo saw Karazhan, he started feeling a bit bad

for them.

But instead of falling for it, Hyun-Soo chose to...

Swoosh!

He slashed the white light, which was Karazhan's weak point.

Drop!

With one attack, their small head fell off and rolled on the ground.

And at the same time.

Fwoosh!

A big light flashed.

Hyun-Soo instinctively closed his eyes and got into a defense position.

Since Karazhan was an interesting monster, they could've done something even as they were dying.

However, that light flew somewhere and then it slowly disappeared.

'What was that?'

Other than the fact that the light suddenly flashed, nothing else happened.

Hyun-Soo wiped off the fluids on his face with his hand while feeling uneasy.

"Ugh, something feels off."

Maybe it's because he felt bad for Karazhan.

Even though he knew he shouldn't be, it affected him a lot mentally.

And since they had a small body, he didn't expect their head to be cut off with one attack.

"It was easier than I thought."

Hyun-Soo mumbled while cutting Karazhan's body.

The battle would've been a lot more difficult if the weird, silver light didn't appear at all.

It was difficult to block attacks that were coming from all directions.

The poison pierced through the stone floor, so Hyun-Soo's body definitely wasn't safe.

The owner of the colorful portal.

Their skill was powerful enough to make A ranked hunters delusional.

On top of that, they were a psychological type monster.

They weren't an easy monster to fight against.

It's just that Karazhan was unlucky.

The others, as well as Hyun-Soo, never imagined that they would come here to hunt.

Since Hyun-Soo was able to use Interface to detect the illusion, Karazhan was at a disadvantage.

"Where isn't there an Energy Stone?"

Hyun-Soo mumbled as he cut open their body from head to toe.

He looked through every part of their body and didn't find an Energy Stone.

'Is it because they were still developing?'

He's never killed a monster that was still in development.

No, this was a special case since it was a colorful that appeared.

So the fact that there weren't any Energy Stones was possible.

"In that case, I did all that fighting for nothing..."

His efforts in the first colorful portal went down the drain.

No matter how much he looked for it, it wasn't there.

Since there wasn't an owner in the previous colorful portal, it made sense that they didn't get anything, but this time, Hyun-Soo took down a monster and yet, he didn't get anything in return.

"Did it fall somewhere?"

Hyun-Soo walked around because he felt disappointed.

He thought that maybe he missed it, so he looked around Karazhan.

"Huh?"

And then, he discovered a wall with a small hole that's been slightly covered.

It was skillfully hidden, but it wasn't difficult to notice.

But he didn't remember seeing it during the fight.

He slowly went through his memories and recalled one thing.

'Karazhan was very defensive in the beginning.'

They stayed in one area and kept on attacking.

And when it didn't work, they charged towards Hyun-Soo.

'And before they died, they kept on looking towards...'

The area where the hole was.

'Were...they trying to protect that area?'

After considering the different situations, that was the answer he got.

On top of that, when Karazhan died, the light that appeared disappeared towards that direction.

'What's over there anyways?'

Hyun-Soo carefully walked towards the hole.

Something could pop out, so he enveloped himself with skills just

in case.

Step.

He carefully pushed away the dead vines at the entrance and looked inside.

Thankfully, there wasn't another monster.

Instead, there was something he never expected.

"What...is this?"

If he wasn't imagining, then the thing that Hyun-Soo saw was probably an...

"Egg?"

It was probably Karazhan's egg.

It was a purple that was as big as a fist and gold geometric patterns were all over the egg.

The egg's appearance made it easy to differentiate between the pebbles and stones.

The complicated looking patterns was smooth and shining as well.

Hyun-Soo was curious, so he carefully placed a finger on it.

Thump!

"……!"

He could've imagined it, but he felt a slight vibration, almost like heart beating.

On top of that…….

"It's warm……?"

In the beginning, Karazhan stayed in the same spot and didn't move.

And after Hyun-Soo caught them, they looked at him sadly.

And the light disappeared at that very spot.

When considering all of this, he easily came to a conclusion.

“Were they trying to protect this egg?”

When thinking about it, there was a part in the report that he ignored.

It said that it was in an incubation period.

Because of the unexpected information about them being in development, Hyun-Soo didn’t look deeply into the other parts of the report...

‘I shouldn’t have overlooked it like that.’

If he looked at the details more, then he could’ve realized why Karazhan acted the way they did.

Well, he would still have to kill the monster in the end anyways.

Inside the portal, you either kill or get killed.

Hyun-Soo looked down at Karazhan’s egg momentarily.

Hyun-Soo was contemplating on what he should do with the egg.

Was he going to take it?

Or was he going to destroy it?

He thought destroying it was the right thing to do since it was a monster’s egg, but...

‘We’ve taken a monster’s corpse and items we obtained inside the portal, so I should be able to take this egg with me, right?’

Because of that thought, he gently held the egg.

On top of that.....

Thump.....thump.....

Even though he told himself that it was impossible, it felt like the heartbeat was coming from the egg.

It wasn’t really possible, but the portal itself was a fantastic part of reality.

“I should check it first.”

Hyun-Soo used Interface to get information on the egg that was on his hands.

[Incubating Egg]

Karazhan’s egg is currently in incubation.

In order to make it hatch, one needs to pay close attention and gently take care of it.

Time Remaining Until Hatch : 24 Days

It was definitely Karazhan’s egg.

And there was one information that caught his attention.

The time remaining until it hatched.

“24 days…….”

This could be considered a short time or a long time.

On top of that, they needed to be taken care of very carefully.

For Hyun-Soo, this was burdening because he wasn’t the gentle type at all.

He could’ve broken it and act like nothing happened, but he couldn’t get himself to do that.

But his instincts was calling out to him.

That he was going to regret it if he just left it!

‘Whatever. I’ll take it with me for now.’

If an issue arises, then he could break it then.

Hyun-Soo made his decision and he carefully placed the egg in his pocket.

After checking through Interface that there wasn’t anything useful here, Hyun-Soo walked towards the members.

Since he killed the culprit that caused the illusion, they’ll be able to wake up soon.

<Karazhan #3> End.

Chapter 98 - <Black Market #1>

“H-huh……?”

As expected.

The members that were on the ground started coming back to their senses.

They didn’t know what happened, so they looked around with a blank expression.

And when they found Hyun-Soo standing tall before them, they realized that they came back to reality, so they released a sigh of relief.

Some released their anger by using profanity while hitting a wall and others stretched out on the ground knowing that they were safe.

A a few started crying.

“Ahhhhhh. It was really scary! Hiccup!”

Katrina was one of them and when she found Hyun-Soo after looking around, she started crying and ran towards him.

Hyun-Soo felt some sort of burdened, so when he slightly moved his body, she cried even harder.

‘I have that egg in my pocket.’

It felt like he made a kid cry, so when he patted Katrina’s head, she stopped crying for a moment and then started crying again.

They mentioned books, studying, failing, so they probably had a traumatic experience related to those things.

While Hyun-Soo was calming down Katrina, the members overcame the remaining illusions.

“Damn it, I didn’t realize it was an illusion.”

Eugene spoke while massaging his temple.

“On top of that, it felt like I was stuck in another illusion within that illusion! It’s an experience I never want to experience again.”

“How did we come back to reality though?”

When one person asked, the rest naturally turned their attention to Hyun-Soo.

“I cleared the portal.”

That meant that he killed the monster that owned this portal.

“What?”

“Really?”

The hunters all looked surprised when they heard that.

They didn’t realize that there was a monster and on top of that, they were helpless against the monster’s skill.

But the new member, Hyun-Soo, detected the illusion by himself and even cleared it.

In the members’ eyes, Hyun-Soo took the necessary steps.

“Where’s the monster that you killed?”

They just came back to their senses and the hunt was already over.

The members wanted to see the monster that Hyun-Soo killed.

Hyun-Soo led them to where Karazhan’s corpse was.

“A psychological monster…”

“There are theories that says that they could exist, but who knew one would actually appear…and on top of that, at a place like this.”

David massaged his head, most likely because of a headache.

When the members confirmed that a psychological monster existed and that they were helpless against the monster’s skill, the members had mixed feelings.

“First, let’s take the corpse with us. Hyun-Soo, when we return

to the base, please stop by my personal room.”

“Understood.”

After the members placed Karazhan’s corpse inside a plastic bag, they exited the portal.

As soon as they exited, the staff that were waiting started asking a lot of questions.

But Kim Yoo-Na refused to answer their questions and calmed them down.

They were probably extremely curious, but there weren’t any information she could share with them right now.

The members didn’t really know much anyways.

Hyun-Soo was the only one that had a lot of information.

After returning to the base, Hyun-Soo met with Kim Yoo-Na.

***

“Thanks for letting me know. You really helped out a lot.”

“I only did what I thought was right.”

“That’s not true. If it weren’t for you, our clan would’ve died inside that portal. If the first group doesn’t come back, the second group will enter and after experiencing the same thing that we did, the monster will kill them”

When Hyun-Soo informed everything he knew, Kim Yoo-Na thanked him.

It was easy to assume that it was a corpse, but when informing her about the appearance, size and distinct features, a lot of time had already passed.

“This situation is so serious that it could cause an issue. I can’t even imagine how big of an issue it will be.”

Kim Yoo-Na looked straight at Hyun-Soo after mumbling.

“I really don’t know how to pay you back for this. I’m already having a hard time paying you back for the things I got…”

With a troubled look, Kim Yoo-Na stopped talking midway.

Like she mentioned, if Hyun-Soo wasn’t with them, they would’ve failed the hunt.

Like the guilds and groups that didn’t return, their clan could’ve disappeared after being labeled as a failed clan.

‘But we succeeded.’

They succeeded twice in a row.

They didn’t know how big of an effect this success was going to bring them.

But there was one thing they knew.

The clan now had a lot of power.

A power called information.

People only made theories about psychological type monsters and since the clan now had information that no other clans had, they had the advantage.

This was all possible because Hyun-Soo was there.

“I’ll gladly take the credit for all I’ve done, but it’s really fine. I didn’t do it because I expected something in return. Actually, you trying to reward for everything that I’ve is more burdensome. I just did the right thing as a member of this clan, so giving me a reward makes me feel like an outsider.”

“…That wasn’t my intention. If you felt that way, then it’s my fault. I’m sorry.”

Even though she apologized, Hyun-Soo had an idea why Kim Yoo-Na was acting that way.

She felt indebted.

It was the same thing he felt towards Kim Yoo-Na a long time

ago.

Kim Yoo-Na was feeling the same thing towards Hyun-Soo.

It's because she clearly knew that Hyun-Soo's actions affected the clan greatly.

On top of that, she felt emotionally indebted towards him when it came to Hye-Na.

If he just left things the way they are now, she might try to pull the Cinderella plan again.

'It was so embarrassing'

Hyun-Soo remembered the embarrassment he felt then, so he decided to end things here.

"There's no need to apologize. Hm...then can you allow me to take one thing?"

"What is it?"

"This."

Hyun-Soo took out the egg from his pocket.

He forget about it since he was focused on sharing information about Karazhan, but he remembered it at the right moment.

"What is that? An egg?"

"Yes, I think it's Karazhan's egg."

Hyun-Soo knew it belonged to Karazhan, but if he confirmed that it was, then she could become suspicious, so he answered vaguely.

"Oh wow...this is the first time I've heard a monster leaving their offspring."

Kim Yoo-Na expressed her surprise as she looked at the small, purple egg with gold patterns on it.

"Is this...alive?"

"Touch it. It's warm."

"……!"

After Kim Yoo-Na carefully took the egg from Hyun-Soo, she admired it.

"I've been surprised many times already."

"The colorful portal itself is pretty surprising. It wouldn't be weird if more surprising things happened on top of that."

The portal itself was already surprising.

Normally, colorful portals aren't supposed to exist.

If that was true, then portals and the existence of hunters wasn't a normal thing.

"Can you make it hatch?"

"Yeah, probably. I'm thinking about trying."

"If you need anything, just let me know. I'll support in any way that I can."

Kim Yoo-Na promised to help in any possible. It seemed like she was thinking about the possible outcomes after it hatches.

"An incubator would be nice."

"I'll have it prepared for you right away."

Kim Yoo-Na quickly added more information on the report she created and then nodded her head.

She gladly agreed to him keeping the egg.

She could've asked to hand it over to the clan, but she didn't hesitate in her decision.

But she must've felt excited about it, because she offered to do some research to see if something similar happened before.

There was a very small chance, but Kim Yoo-Na looked pretty excited.

***

As soon as Hyun-Soo returned to the dorm, the first thing he did was wrap the egg with a blanket. He then placed it in a warm area.

‘I hope the incubator comes soon.’

It showed on Interface as well.

That he needed to be careful and gently take care of it.

On top of that, he had to be cautious when holding it.

‘…I kept it in my pocket all this time, but it should be fine, right?’

He used Interface to check and luckily, there wasn’t anything different.

It was night and Hyuna visited after attending her afterschool program.

The egg was the first thing she discovered as soon as she walked in, so she started observing it with interest.

“This is a monster’s egg? It’s so pretty though.”

“Insects and animals that are poisonous look pretty too.”

“Yeah, but they’re a monster.”

“It’s the same when it comes to being dangerous towards humans.”

When Hyun-Soo said they were all the same, Hyuna shook her head.

“You lack emotion, Hyun-Soo.”

“…What’s the point in being emotional towards a monster?”

He almost got killed by a monster that played with human emotions.

Since it wasn’t a good experience, Hyun-Soo spoke bluntly.

“No one is bad right when they’re born. Even though they’re a monster, don’t you think things will be different based on how they’re raised and treated?”

She was referring to wild beasts that were raised by humans.

“I don’t know.”

When Hyun-Soo didn’t show any reaction, Hyuna said, “Maybe not, but still!”

“I heard you’re trying to hatch it. Then we should hope for the best. Who know? If we tell them that they’re nice and kind everyday, they might really hatch with a nice personality. There’s a reason why moms believe prenatal education is important.”

“Then why don’t you come over and take care of it?”

“Really? Can I?”

Since Hyun-Soo wasn’t the gentle type, he welcomed it.

Hyuna smiled brightly when Hyun-Soo gave her permission.

If Kim Yoo-Na brings the incubator and Hyuna takes care of the egg, then 24 days will definitely pass by really fast.

Hyuna poked his side while Hyun-Soo was thinking about what a relief it was.

“But you have to take care of it too. It’s your responsibility since you brought it!”

“Can’t you take care of it?”

“Nope. When an animal hatches, the first figure they see is engraved into their mind. Since you brought it, you’re the owner.”

Hyuna lectured him after telling him about the duck that saw a human right when they hatched and how the duck started following the human, thinking that it was their mother.

“I got it.”

He wasn’t sure if it was true, but Hyun-Soo nodded his head because he felt pressured by Hyuna.

Hyuna created a temporary incubator by placing every lamp on top of the egg. She already started taking care of the egg.

But Hyuna’s shabby incubator was soon replaced by an incubator that a staff brought.

“I hope it grows up without any issues.”

Hyuna mumbled while looking at Karazhan’s egg that was neatly placed inside the incubator.

“Me too.”

Hyun-Soo agreed with her.

He was looking forward to the thing that was going to come out of the egg.

24 days.

The days left until it hatched.

<Black Market #1> End.

Chapter 99 - <Black Market #2>

“Who are they?”

“It’s under construction. Hopefully it gets done soon.”

“What is it?”

‘The airstrip.”

“…They’re really building one?”

“Of course. We don’t lie, my friend.”

He assumed that’s what it was, but after seeing them actually work on the airstrip, Hyun-Soo was dumbfounded.

On top of that, it was huge!

“They’re just making adjustments since they just started, but the airstrip is going to be built not too far from here, so there’s no need to worry.”

Kim Yoo-Na told Hyun-Soo that things were going to quiet down.

Kim Yoo-Na’s face was filled with exhaustion.

It’s because she’s been busy running around and taking care of things.

“I don’t understand why they’re controlling the information. No, I do know, but I don’t understand it. How can they do that?”

“Once you’re crazy over money and power, that’s what you become.”

Eugene answered after hearing her ridiculous comment.

“What’s wrong?”

“Oh, there’s an issue with one of the jobs that Yoo-Na did.”

Eugene quietly told Hyun-Soo that the higher-ups must’ve lost their minds.

“Why are you controlling the information? You shouldn’t be

thinking about the benefits. Lives are at stake here. First you threaten us with innocent lives and now you want to control the information? This doesn't make sense."

Hyun-Soo felt energy being released from Kim Yoo-Na as she spoke.

Her eyes were burning. And…her fist was actually on fire.

And then she looked at Hyun-Soo for an answer.

You agree too, right?

Hyun-Soo unconsciously nodded.

It wasn't because he was intimidated by her. At least, that's what he wanted to think.

"Woah, Yoo-Na. Calm down."

"…Oh jeez. I guess you're really upset."

Kim Yoo-Na cleared her throat when Eugene asked her to calm down.

"It was really upsetting when the information regarding the first colorful portal was revealed."

But why?

Even though Hyun-Soo was curious, at the same time, he knew why.

'Those who have money and power are all the same.'

On top of that, they wanted to reveal the information regarding the second portal.

And during that process, Kim Yoo-Na was feeling really upset.

Kim Yoo-Na tried to remain calm, but since she was really upset, it was obvious as to how things went.

"So, what did you do?"

Eugene asked her.

“Nothing. I just left.”

“But, what about the information? It seems like they’re trying to control the hunters as well by the way they’re trying to control the information. They’re the types that feels relieved once they have the control. They work in an office, so what would they know?”

The way Eugene mumbled made it seem like he had a grudge against them.

“I’m going to release the information.”

“How?”

Kim Yoo-Na gave a short answer when Eugene complained about how they would use everything within their power to gain control and would even cheat their way to obtain it.

“The black market.”

“Wow, you’re being serious.”

“If we can’t use the official method, then we have no choice but to use the unofficial method.”

Hyun-Soo questioned his hearing when he heard their conversation.

Black market.

He heard of that place before.

He saw it on Hunter Net when he was reading the trends and issues.

But it was only a rumor that floated around the site like some ghost story.

‘I’ve heard people say that it exists, but I haven’t heard anyone say that they’ve actually been there.’

Even those that wrote posts about their experience ended up getting reactions from the readers because it was false.

The comments mostly said, “Go to sleep” or “What’s the phone

number to the nearest mental hospital?”

But there was one information that he remembered. It wasn’t a place that anyone could enter.

Of course, the readers reacted the same way.

That they were making things up and that they were writing up a story just to get some attention.

‘But a place like that really exists?’

After seeing how Eugene and Kim Yoo-Na acted, it probably did exist.

They had no reason to make this up, so it was more reason to believe them.

Hyun-Soo couldn’t contain his curiosity, so he asked.

“Um, does the black market really exist?”

“Yes, of course.”

It seemed like Eugene’s nod was saying, “We said we’re going to use it because it exists.”

“What kind of place is it?”

“You can say that it’s a place that pretty much has everything.”

A vague answer came back when Hyun-Soo asked a broad question.

When Hyun-Soo stood there with a confused look, Eugene contemplated for a moment.

Eugene wanted to give a detailed explanation, but instead, he clapped his hands as if he thought of a good idea.

“Oh, you should visit there!”

Kim Yoo-Na added onto his suggestion.

“You’re right. That’s a good idea. There was something I needed to do for you anyways, so we can go together. Why didn’t I think of

that?”

“For me?”

“Yes. Wouldn’t it be better to have some information regarding that egg? To see if there were any similar cases and if there are any special methods when hatching the egg. Even if it’s not in the database, there might be information there.”

Even though it was Hyun-Soo’s egg, Kim Yoo-Na looked interested.

When checking with Interface, he could only confirm the information that was displayed.

Like Kim Yoo-Na mentioned, if they can get information from the black market, that wouldn’t be so bad.

On top of that…

‘I want to see!’

Since it’s been confirmed that the black market existed, he became really curious.

The name itself was the Black Market.

He imagined it being similar to the ones that appeared in those old Hong Kong noir films.

Once Hyun-Soo agreed, they came up with a plan.

“It won’t be good to go in a big group, so let’s make the group small. I’ll make note that you’ll be going too, Hyun-Soo.”

And with that, their trip to the black market has been decided.

Since they had to make preparations, they decided to leave a few days later.

Since he had high expectations.

Time passed by fast and they were now on their way to the black market.

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“……It’s clean.”

It’s clean.

On top of that, it looked fancy.

Hyun-Soo blinked his eyes several times when he saw the large, luxurious-looking building.

“Haha. Were you expecting something else because of the name?”

Eugene laughed when he saw Hyun-Soo’s reaction.

“Well, the name doesn’t exactly match with the building. People that come here for the first time usually have the same reaction.”

“I see…….”

It was understandable.

Hyun-Soo imagined a dark and shabby market that you can only find if you go through a dark alleyway.

“Stop making fun of him and put this on. You too, Hyun-Soo.”

The item that Kim Yoo-Na handed over was a nameplate.

This was probably what they were preparing.

‘I guess it’s not open to everyone. The procedure is complicated.’

Hyun-Soo wore the nameplate that Kim Yoo-Na gave him.

Eugene and also Katrina, who complained about leaving her behind, wore the nameplate.

“Nameplates, please.”

At the entrance, the staff and guards checked the nameplates.

After that, they passed through a security check that was similar to the ones at an airport.

After passing a rectangular-shaped security desk, another staff

approached to do a body search.

'They're not messing around.'

Hyun-Soo quickly used Interface on the staff and became anxious when he checked their ranks.

They were all A ranks.

The black market was pretty famous and he could feel it from the entrance.

After everyone passed through security, they found the one elevator that existed in the building.

"The black market is located at the very top."

Kim Yoo-Na explained that the other floors were only important when they needed it.

– Ding!

When the elevator arrived, what Kim Yoo-Na said was true.

There were only three buttons they could choose from.

But there was only one button that has been activated.

When she pressed that button, the elevator moved to that floor.

When they stepped out, there was another security check.

They had to go through security again and after that, a fancy-looking door appeared.

When they stood in front of the door, the staff opened the door.

They were also A ranks.

"……!"

"What do you think? Is it similar to what you imagined?"

The room didn't have the modern and luxurious details.

It's like…….

"I feel like I went back to the Middle Ages."

He didn't know much about that time period, but he did see them in movies that appeared on TV and that's what this placed reminded him of.

"The owner has an interesting taste. People that come here for the first time are surprised twice. First is when they see the building and second when they step inside."

It was decorated in a way that didn't fit with the design of the building, which made it confusing.

Like, they were trying to be neat, but they were at their limit.

Something was really off.

"What are those?"

Hyun-Soo asked after seeing balls of paper stuck to one side of the wall.

On top of the one wall that was filled with paper, there were piles of paper in different areas.

"That? It's a type of database."

"……That?"

"Yes, the owner likes old-fashioned methods…"

Eugene added that they were a very interesting person.

Hyun-soo continued looking around.

There were a lot of interesting things here.

From a monster's corpse to rare scrolls to odd items.

They probably obtained it from a portal.

Hyun-Soo looked around as he followed behind Kim Yoo-Na.

There were a lot of items he was seeing for the first time.

'Wow…the guy that wrote on the forum wasn't a total liar.'

It was like a general store that had everything.

This black market was like the general store for hunters.

There were probably a lot of items here that can't be easily obtained elsewhere.

Meaning, they were rare and expensive.

After looking around, they arrived at another door.

This door was fancier than the first door they walked through.

"Eugene, wait outside with Katrina."

"Okay, go on ahead. I'll look around with Katrina."

"Me too! Can't I come with you?"

"Nope. Let's go look around."

Even though Katrina begged to go with them, Eugene coldly refused and dragged her somewhere.

Katrina's disappointed face soon disappeared within the crowd.

"Your appointment is ready."

When the staff at the door notified them, they confirmed it.

And moments later, they were guided into the room.

"Huh?"

A desk was placed in the center of the large room and a person was sitting on it.

They looked familiar to Hyun-Soo.

'……No way.'

After thinking for a bit, Hyun-Soo recalled someone.

It was the same person he thought of.

"Hello, Mr. Herhim."

"Nice to see you again, Yoo-Na. It hasn't been that long since we last saw each other."

Not that long ago, Kim Yoo-Na kidnapped him and they ended up

meeting at a restaurant.

And during that time, Hyun-Soo was introduced to a middle-aged man.

Hyun-Soo questioned his hearing when he was told that the man was Herhim.

But, if he's here, that means...

"That gentleman looks familiar. Is it the same man I saw at the restaurant? I remember him as Mr. Kim."

"Yes, you're right. It's an honor to meet you again, Mr. Herhim."

"Nonsense. I'm very happy to see you again."

Hyun-Soo somehow managed to greet him.

He now understood why Kim Yoo-Na said it would be beneficial to know him.

She didn't introduce him just because he was famous.

Herhim probably is...

<Black Market #2> End.

Chapter 100 - <The Black Market #3>

Herhim is probably…….

‘The owner of this black market.’

Or has a position that’s equivalent.

It was obvious that the rumors within the black market couldn’t be easily ignored.

‘Did she predict this?’

He couldn’t help but think that because she introduced Hyun-Soo to Herhim for his future.

Herhim looked back and forth between Hyun-Soo and Kim Yoo-Na and smiled.

He nodded his head and mumbled, “It’s nice to be young.”

“Okay, so what’s going on? I’m sure you’re not here to tell me some good news.”

“…I’m not sure what kind of misunderstanding you have, but please stop. The reason I’m here is because I wanted to sell information.”

“Sell information? What kind?”

“I’m sure you already know.”

When Kim Yoo-Na replied, Herhim’s expression changed.

“You’re right, I do. And also the reason why you’re wanting to sell that information to us.”

“Then I’m sure this conversation will end soon. I’ll sell the information and you can pay me by releasing the information to others.”

“That’s doesn’t seem very beneficial to us. What would we gain from it?”

Herhim asked after interlocking his fingers.

The nice, middle-aged man turned into a strict dealer.

It was totally different from when he asked Kim Yoo-Na about her well-being.

A seller and a dealer were the only ones in the room.

“You’ll be the exclusive source.”

“Oh. Does that mean you’ll be releasing all future information regarding the colorful portals through us?”

“That’s right.”

“Hm, that’s not a bad deal.”

“We both win. It’s good for us and you benefit from this, Mr. Herhim.”

When Kim Yoo-Na spoke with a smile, Herhim nodded his head.

“You’re definitely a clever one. You thought about including the black market into all of this. That’s why your grandfather won’t let you go.”

“...I’ll pretend I didn’t hear that.”

“Oh, that was my mistake. I believe we have a deal.”

Kim Yoo-Na took out the documents that was in her bag.

Herhim took the thick contract and looked over the information.

After skimming through it, Herhim displayed a satisfied smile and extended his hand out towards her.

They shook each other’s hands.

The agreement was made based on trust.

“Hm? Is there something else?”

Kim Yoo-Na didn’t leave despite of the fact that their meeting was over, so Herhim stopped organizing the documents and asked.

“We’re looking for information and if you have something related to it, we would like to purchase it.”

“Oh, I did hear that you found something interesting. Guess the rumors were true.”

When Kim Yoo-Na mentioned it, Herhim immediately knew what it was regarding and that surprised Hyun-Soo.

It was clear that it was an interesting item.

“Hm? Please don’t ask how I know. That’s our job.”

Prior to her asking, he said he wasn’t sure if the rumors were true and Herhim reassured that there wasn’t a spy within the clan.

He even explained that he gathered the information elsewhere and put them together.

“I’m usually not this nice, but since it’s Yoo-Na. Hm.”

Herhim mumbled as if he was making an excuse.

“Unfortunately, I don’t have the information you want, Yoo-Na. It’s our first time encountering that type of information. Since the colorful portals appeared, isn’t it natural for new things to appear? There’s always a first for everything and you guys experienced it.”

Kim Yoo-Na looked disappointed.

Hyun-Soo was the owner of the egg, but Kim Yoo-Na was the one that was really disappointed.

“If you’re curious, I’ll find out myself and let you two know.”

“……How?”

“It’s simple. You just have to sell it to me. I’ll pay you any amount you want.”

It sounded like a joke, but his face looked serious.

‘He’s serious.’

Well, this is the black market.

When thinking about the items that they had, there's no way they wouldn't be interested in items that was obtained from the colorful portals.

"I'm afraid I can't do that, Mr. Herhim."

Karazhan's egg was Hyun-Soo's.

That's why, instead of letting Kim Yoo-Na decline, it was better for him to say it.

Hyun-Soo displayed a warm smile while looking straight at Herhim.

"Many people withdrew their decision after I offered them what they wanted. What is it that you want? Money? Power? Tell me what you want. If you give me the egg, I'll offer you an equivalent amount."

Hyun-Soo felt like he was being tempted by the devil.

But Hyun-Soo countered with a question.

"Why do you want it that badly? You don't know anything for sure and are only making assumptions."

He was implying that it could not be worth anything.

After hearing his question, Herhim smiled childishly.

"A collector that wants to collect items that others can't have. That's me. It can't be helped even if you think it's foolish. That's what I want."

Hyun-Soo smiled at Herhim when he mentioned that the collector is the one that decides the worth of an item.

"Then, Mr. Herhim. Rather than giving you a mysterious item, I'll give you something better and not as mysterious. You won't regret it."

"Oh? What is that?"

Hyun-Soo took out a small, glass bottle from his bag.

The bottle contained a unique potion that emitted a bright, silver light that was shining elegantly.

It was the same recovery potion he gave to Kim Yoo-Na before.

The same potion that help Kim Hye-Na with her surgery.

'It's also my masterpiece.'

The potion increases one's stamina and the recovery of both the stamina and physical abnormalities. It's a potion that has amazing effects.

"What...is this?"

"You can check it yourself."

Herhim carefully took the potion that Hyun-Soo handed him.

He checked while shaking the bottle and after removing the cap, he carefully sniffed the potion.

As soon as he opened the bottle, an elegant flower scent filled the room.

"I'm assuming you drink this?"

"That's right."

"And it's not poison?"

"Mr. Herhim. I'll show you that it isn't."

Because of his position, when Mr. Herhim started getting suspicious, Kim Yoo-Na stepped up to prove that Hyun-Soo was telling the truth.

After contemplating for a bit, Herhim drank the silver potion.

And then.

"……!"

His eyes widened.

Herhim suddenly stood up and started moving his body.

It looked like he was warming up, but his movements was about the same as when he was a hunter and even in Hyun-Soo's eyes, Herhim was moving fast.

"Whew! That's surprising. To think an item like this actually existed!"

He moved so fast, that smoke started rising up from his shoulders and instead of going back to this seat, he approached Hyun-Soo.

"Where did you find this? No. I almost made a mistake. Are there more of this? I'm also wondering if this can be continuously supplied."

"I can't guarantee that it can be continuously supplied."

"Oh, then I'll assume that you have more and you can provide them. But since you're saying it's impossible, I guess there's limited inventory. That's actually better. If the item is rare...haha. Just thinking about it is giving me ideas. Good, good."

Herhim became extremely excited as he grabbed Hyun-Soo's hand.

And then he aggressively shook his hand.

"Don't forget about giving it to me. I won't return it. How do you want to set up the contract? And you're exclusively contracting with us, right?"

Hyun-Soo nodded with a big smile.

It changed from bargaining over the egg to creating a contract regarding supplying potions.

Honestly, this was what Hyun-Soo wanted.

As soon as he found out that Herhim was the owner of this black market, he was thinking about it.

What if the potions were sold here?

He had thought about how well the potions would sell even

before coming here.

Even Kim Yoo-Na didn't mention it.

If it was released to the world, it could cause chaos.

But there were several issues that got in the way.

Release the potion.

But he doesn't want the world to know who made it.

There was no need for him to gain all that attention.

That's what Hyun-Soo's instincts told him.

If he were to reveal the potion, this would be the best place.

Strict identity protection.

And a huge distribution network.

This black market didn't lack anything.

"There's a reason why Yoo-Na introduced you to me."

"I also agree."

No one knew how far ahead she planned it.

She just looked at them both with a small smile on her face.

***

"I'm surprised not many people know about this place."

"It's definitely not a popular place. But from what I know, a good handful of hunters know about this place. The black market is limited to a few people."

That was true.

If that wasn't the case, then there's no way this floor would be overflowing with items.

Hyun-Soo recalled the extremely rare items that he saw.

They had expensive monster corpses that were used on weapons, extremely expensive scrolls and interesting items.

If the hunters knew about the black market, they would definitely rush over here and try to purchase at least one of the items.

And as they upload it on the internet, more rumors will float around.

“It’s not a place where anyone can come in.”

They won’t let you in just because you have a lot of money and power.

Aside from a small group of hunters, they don’t make deals with individuals and will only work with a group or organization or those with certain qualifications.

“And they have an implicit rule of not saying anything about this place. Since it’s the place the government can’t reach, they acknowledge and respect the power that the black market has.”

The black market was basically the hunters’ space.

Since it’s by the hunters, for the hunters and hunters only, this place isn’t affected by any outside force.

That’s why everyone respected this place and didn’t say a word about it.

‘Is that why not many people know about the black market?’

In Korea, not many people know about the black market and its branches all over the world.

Of course it’s because they don’t make deals with individuals.

But Hyun-Soo thought of a different reason.

If it’s the black market’s intention to keep quiet, then there’s a high chance that the large groups and organizations only kept quiet so that they could benefit from it.

‘Well, we left anyways.’

<The Black Market #3> End.

Chapter 101 - <Awakening #1>

“I heard you had a good talk. The owner was extremely satisfied. It’s very rare for someone to catch his attention. You’re definitely the Super Rookie.”

“...Please stop with that embarrassing nickname. But, how did you know things worked out well?”

Inside the car on the way back.

Eugene, who was driving, spoke to Hyun-Soo as if he remembered it.

Eugene go inside with him, but he vaguely knew about the things that happened inside.

“He has a pretty nasty personality, so it’s easy to tell. You can tell by the merchants that greet us or the posture of his staff.”

Now that he mentioned it, compared to when they entered, the staff were a lot more courteous when they exited.

“No matter how great the person is, if they’re not up to their standards, then they won’t let them in...the reason why they’re arrogant is because of the owner.”

According to some rumors, world-famous guilds brought items to them and they refused the guild by saying that the items weren’t that great.

But Hyun-Soo was being escorted by A ranked staffs when he was leaving the building.

He wasn’t really comfortable when guards with large builds were following them around, but according to Eugene, that was the best treatment one can receive.

A satisfied smile appeared on Hyun-Soo’s face.

***

‘…What’s with the activation rate?’

Hyun-Soo activated Interface to start making the potion since he had a place to sell now, but his eyes widened when an unexpected number was displayed on the screen.

Activation Status : 30%

At first, he thought he was imagining it.

But when he checked again, it was at 30%. It was at 24% last time, so it must’ve increased.

‘What the……?’

He had an idea.

‘Was it because I looked all around the place?’

The black market.

Since there were a lot of items he was seeing for the first time, he used Interface often.

It’s because he couldn’t suppress his curiosity.

But that must’ve increased Interface’s activation rate.

It was worth using Interface on all of those items.

‘Great.’

The trip to the black market not only give him the opportunity to sell the potions, but it also increased Interface’s activation rate.

He gained a lot from this one trip.

If he didn’t go, he would’ve felt extremely disappointed.

He was feeling annoyed by how slow the activation rate was increasing, but since the items at the black market helped it increase a lot, he felt that he needed to thank the items that were there.

While looking at Interface with a satisfied expression, something caught Hyun-Soo’s attention.

‘Huh?’

A skill suddenly appeared after he ate the fruit that he obtained from the colorful portal.

From the list of skills, the one with question marks was revealed.

“Lahatlan?”

After quickly checking the name, he checked the skill’s information.

[Lahatlan][S]

A legendary weapon that has a difficult time finding its owner.

A lot of things are a mystery.

According to rumors, if Lahatlan acknowledges the wielder, there aren’t any weapons that can go against it.

– It has the power to maintain its original form, so it’s able to willingly protect the wielder.

– Since it hasn’t been completely absorbed yet, it cannot use all of its powers.

– Cannot replicate or transfer.

Absorption Rate : 12%

“……!”

Hyun-Soo didn’t see the rank because he only confirmed the name and he even questioned whether he was reading the information correctly.

‘S? S Rank?’

On top of that, Lahatlan’s skills were amazing.

Protection.

A weapon that can willingly protect the wielder.

In some ways, it’s a defense skill that has a will of its own.

Hyun-Soo suddenly recalled something.

‘That time……!’

The time when he was unable to dodge Karazhan’s skill!

His body released a faint, silver light and enveloped him.

‘And I didn’t get hurt during that time.’

The silver light made it seem like he was wearing a thin piece of clothing and it blocked all of Karazhan’s attacks.

Thanks to that, he was able to Kill Karazhan and clear the portal.

And he didn’t expect to obtain an egg.

‘It’s awesome.’

Even though he didn’t know what it was, after seeing the silver shield, he had a feeling that things were going to work out.

That feeling was so strong that he started laughing during the battle.

He was able to feel the same thing he felt back then.

He barely managed to control the big smile on his face.

One question popped in his head.

‘Was the thing that I ate not a fruit?’

Even though it looked like a fruit, it’s possible that it wasn’t a fruit.

When he used Interface back then, it was filled with question marks.

It looked like grass and fruit, but he had no idea.

There was another thing he was suspicious about.

‘I was in extreme pain after I ate it.’

He thought he was in pretty good shape, but his body experienced intense pain.

Hyun-Soo assumed that it was Lahatlan's test before they acknowledge him.

Even Interface said the skill was filled with mystery, so as of right now, finding more information was difficult.

One thing he was sure of was that he wouldn't die.

At least he won't die horribly by a knife that was flying from far away.

He did feel that he needed a defense skill.

He felt this when he trained with Kim Yoo-Na and he felt that he needed it even more now since he participated in hunts as a close-range attacker.

Going up against Karazhan was dangerous.

He was thinking about creating a useful skill when he had a bit more time.

He would use the tanks within the clan to get his idea.

He would watch the flow of their skill and create a skill by putting together different ideas.

'But, I got something better. On top of that, it's a S Rank skill!'

Skill Creation was an all-around skill that was able to create any type of skills.

The only downside was that it can only create skills with levels that were lower than Skill Creation.

The current rank of Skill Creation was A.

Which meant that he can only create B Rank skills.

But the skill that was created was an S Rank skill.

'...It's a bit odd, but it's great.'

For a moment, Hyun-Soo thought that maybe Lahatlan's existence and his Skill Creation were activated and it somehow

created that skill.

There was another reason he welcomed Lahatlan.

‘That feeling during a hunt!’

The satisfying feeling when his fists hit the monster!

And the more he moves his body during the attack, the deeper he falls into the battle!

As he feels the adrenaline spread throughout his body, he feels joy!

When talking about hunting preference, Hyun-Soo prefers to be a close-range attacker.

And because of that, he needed a safety device.

It’s common sense that close-range attackers are more at risk than long-range attackers.

But that didn’t mean that he was going to neglect his other skills.

Since he had a skill that gave him the ability to create various skills, he shouldn’t be tied to just one skill.

‘I should use them as much as possible.’

Maybe that’s why.

Since he was involved in so many things, having two bodies wasn’t enough to handle them.

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“I feel like I’ve become an old man that just makes potions.”

“Me too. But, Hyun-Soo. Do the other hunters do this as well?”

Hyuna, who was helping Hyun-Soo clean the Levshila and create the potion, became suspicious and asked.

“No way. It may be hard to believe, but I’m making this because your older brother is awesome.”

“But, this is so boring.”

He could just use the Levshila and create a potion, but since he had to make several of them, there were a lot steps they had to repeat.

“Honestly, I’m a bit bored too. It’s a nice day, so I want to go hunting…”

“Oh yeah. You guys haven’t been going anywhere these days. Is it slow these days?”

“It somehow became that way.”

Despite of him obtaining a S Rank defense skill, there was a reason why he’s been stuck in his dorm making potions.

Of course he was stocking up on the potions that he was going to give to the black market, but…

“The adults have their reason.”

“What the heck? If you don’t want to tell me, then don’t.”

“I’m being serious…….”

“Hmph! You can do it by yourself! I’m going to go look at the egg!”

Hyuna thought Hyun-Soo vaguely answered because he didn’t want to say, so she stopped helping him and headed towards the living room.

But what Hyun-Soo said was true.

After Kim Yoo-Na refused to hand over the information to the government, they kept on acting stingy.

Even though the clan received requests, the government didn’t give permission to go hunts, it was impossible to go on hunts.

They would give ridiculous excuses such as their computer giving errors and would refuse to give permission.

‘I’m sure it’s their way of pressuring us.’

It was their way of warning the clan that if they didn’t listen,

then they'll experience worse disadvantages.

They'll probably include that it's a shameful act.

It was probably easy for them to find out about Kim Yoo-Na selling the information to the black market and releasing the information through them.

The members all had a bitter smile and said being too successful can be an issue.

Because of that, the clan obtained an unexpected vacation.

But Hyun-Soo was busy creating a better potion.

"When will this hatch?"

Hyuna asked after looking at the egg that was inside the incubator.

Hyuna was so fascinated by the egg that she would visit Hyun-Soo every day and check on the egg at least once a day.

In many ways, she was more enthusiastic than Hyun-Soo.

"I think it's supposed to hatch today."

He used Interface on the egg yesterday and noticed it saying that it would hatch the next day.

The time left until it hatched was zero.

Which meant that it was going to hatch today.

"Shouldn't we prepare something? It would've been nice if we had some powdered formula."

"Oh jeez. You don't even know what's inside it."

In the worst case scenario, a monster will hatch out of it.

Even though a portal didn't pop up, it could be a unique monster that appeared outside of the portal.

'Since it's Karazhan's egg, I'm sure Karazhan will hatch out of it, but...'

But there was a reason why Hyun-Soo decided to take the egg with him.

He was definitely curious, but he recalled the story of the “Werewolf Boy.”

Even though the boy was a human, he acted like a wolf because he grew up with wolves.

Wouldn’t he be able to do the opposite with this egg?

‘Only if I could train a monster…….’

If it was possible, then it could be an exciting thing.

Anyways, because of that, Hyun-Soo was excited about the egg hatching.

He even used Interface once in a while to see if it was still alive.

Sometimes, he injected energy into it to see its reaction.

It could’ve been his imagination, but when he injected the energy, he felt that the egg became glossier.

What exactly was inside the egg?

His instincts told him that it contained something so great, that he would regret it if he missed it. Was it really something that great?

Hyun-Soo became curious.

<Awakening #1> End.

Chapter 102 - <Awakening #2>

“Hyun-Soo!”

Hyuna’s voice brought Hyun-Soo back to reality.

The ratio to create the potion was pretty complicated, so that’s why he was mentally exhausted.

On top of that, Hyun-Soo was trying something new, so he used up a lot of his energy.

“What?”

“Come over here!”

Since Hyuna was making such a big deal, Hyun-Soo drowsily walked to where she was.

And when he looked at the thing that Hyuna was pointing at, his eyes shot open.

“Look at this. There’s a crack, right?”

Like Hyuna had mentioned, there was a slight crack on the egg that was sitting below the red light.

“You’re right. I think it’s trying to hatch.”

His brain was now completely awake.

Crack—

Crack!

“Did you hear that?”

“I did. I think it’s starting.”

“We can’t help it, right?”

“I think it said we couldn’t.”

He read somewhere that they need to crack the shell on their own.

That we shouldn't help even if we felt bad.

That would actually affect them in a bad way.

Crack!

Crack! Crack! Crack!

The sound of the shell cracking and then stopping repeated several times.

Hyun-Soo and Hyuna waited patiently.

Even though it was a different species, they learned the process of an egg hatching, so they knew that it took awhile for an egg to fully hatch.

"Wow, I'm getting nervous. The baby inside. I'm sure it'll be cute, right? The gold pattern on the egg was shining brightly."

"I'm...not really sure."

Was Karazhan pretty?

Hyun-Soo tried to recall his memory.

Karazhan had a small body with dragonfly wings.

Some may think that Karazhan's big, black eyes are pretty.

However.

'I was busy trying to kill it, so I didn't have the time to think about that kind of stuff.'

But Hyun-Soo didn't want to hurt his sister's feelings, so he decided not to talk about the details.

Hyuna was nervous about the new life that was going to hatch, but Hyun-Soo was nervous about something else.

If the thing inside the egg was the same as the other monsters, then he would have to kill it.

And since Hyuna was here, he couldn't put his guard down.

If he was by himself, Lahatlan could assist him, but Hyuna was

an ordinary human.

On top of that, she was his precious little sister.

‘I do want to tell her to go to her room, but…’

Hyuna had been visiting his room every day for several weeks because she was curious about the egg and asking her to go back to her room right when it was about to hatch was cruel.

‘If something happens, I’ll have to protect her.’

He wondered whether Hyuna knew how he felt.

He wasn’t going to just tell her though.

Crack……crack!

The sound of the shell cracking.

Crack……!

The cracking sound became louder.

When a very small hole appeared, they started it cracking it faster.

Crack!

Crack!

The hole became bigger.

“It’s so small……!”

Hyuna’s eyes sparkled when she saw a small finger through the small hole.

“You can do it! You’re almost there!”

She tightened her fist as she cheered them on.

Hyun-Soo also waited for them completely hatch.

He can then decide on what he needs to do.

After swinging their small hand outside of the hole, they pulled it back in.

After, a small foot popped out of the hole.

Using their small foot, they kicked the shell and tried to create a bigger hole.

But after it failed, it pulled its foot back inside.

Crack!

Crack!

Then they started kicking it from the inside, causing more cracks to appear.

And then.

Crack!

“……!”

The shell completely broke and moments later, a small thing popped out of it.

“Oh my……!”

On the spot where the shell broke, it revealed a very small fairy.

That’s the only description Hyun-Soo could come up with.

It definitely hatched from Karazhan’s egg, but they looked totally different.

The dragonfly-like wings looked weak and they were covered in the fluid that was inside the egg.

Ah-choo!

The figure that hatched out of the egg sneezed and then took a deep breath.

“Wow…….”

Hyuna kept admiring the fairy.

After taking a deep breath, the fairy slowly opened their eyes.

Hyun-Soo and Hyuna quietly watched.

And.

“Kkyu……?”

“……!”

Their eyes met.

They looked straight into each other’s eyes.

The fairy blinked and then tilted their head.

Once, twice, three times.

The more they blinked, the more their eyes looked alive.

“Kkyuuu……!”

The fairy tried to get closer to Hyun-Soo.

Despite of the fact that they were covered in the egg’s liquid, they did their best to move.

“Oh my gosh. It’s so cute. Try reaching out with your finger, Hyun-Soo.”

“Oh, yeah…….”

Since Hyun-Soo didn’t have experience with small and cute things, he listened to Hyuna and carefully extended his finger out.

Slap!

If he were to describe their action using sound, that’s the sound it would’ve made.

When Hyun-Soo extended his finger, the fairy stuck onto his finger like a piece of gum.

The fairy moved their arms and tightly hugged his finger.

“Oh wow…it must think that you’re its mother!”

“H-huh? Mother?”

Not father?

He questioned it for a moment, but it did seem like the fairy

acknowledged Hyun-Soo as a friendly ally.

When the fairy reached the palm of Hyun-Soo's hand, they must've felt relieved because they changed into fetal position.

"……Is it sleeping?"

Despite of their cute appearance and actions, Hyun-Soo didn't put his guard down.

He thought that this could be another trick.

Hyun-Soo thought the fairy was going to attack the palm of his hand first, but…

"I think so…? I think they're tired from cracking the egg."

The fairy fell asleep.

Hyun-Soo felt like he was the bad guy for being doubtful.

Hyun-Soo felt amazed and at a loss at the same time when he saw the newborn fairy sleeping on the palm of his hand.

He also felt relieved.

At least he didn't have to kill it right away.

***

"I'm pretty sure it thinks you're its mother."

Hyuna mumbled as she looked the fairy that was attached to Hyun-Soo.

She tried many times to get the fairy to come to her, but she failed each time.

"I want to see it from up close too……."

Hyuna was weak against cute things, so she was pretty disappointed.

Hyun-Soo was actually a bit annoyed.

Since the fairy followed him wherever he went, he couldn't help but focus on them.

Excluding its sleeping time, the fairy refused to leave Hyun-Soo, so he wasn't able to visit the Center Room during the past few days.

Hyun-Soo tried leaving without saying a word, but...

"Hyun-Soo! They just hatched. Where are you thinking about taking them? You have to be careful since they're still a baby!"

Was what Hyuna said, so he quietly gave up.

'This fairy is technically a monster though...'

Hyun-Soo mentioned it to try and convince her and that it wouldn't matter, but...

"I may not know much since I'm not a hunter, but I know this much. Do you see this fairy as a dangerous monster?"

Was what Hyuna replied with and Hyun-Soo ended up staying quiet.

It's because this fairy's appearance and actions was the opposite of a monster's.

Karazhan wasn't this small and cute from what he remembered...

The fairy acted more like a desperate, sad baby duck that was following their mother than a monster.

'I'm sure I saw Karazhan when I checked through Interface...'

Hyun-Soo recalled the information he saw on Interface.

The fairy was weaker than the monster he killed in the portal.

It can't be helped since the fairy just hatched.

And there was one thing that caught his attention.

An interesting description.

'It's dependent on me.'

When the alarm notifying that the fairy hatched out of the egg, it had a description saying that it was dependent on Hyun-Soo.

After seeing several notifications a few days ago, Hyun-Soo checked Interface.

And he was really surprised by the description.

Dependent?

Does that mean a hunter can raise them and then it belongs to them?

The monsters that Hyun-Soo encountered so far were his enemies and had to be killed, so when he saw that description, he questioned his values for a moment.

'I would be lying if I said I didn't have any expectations.'

He had the same though ever since he brought the egg with him.

The environment can change a person, so will it have the same effect on the monster?

So he couldn't say that he didn't have any expectations.

However, he did predict that it would take some time before the egg hatched.

They did have to follow their natural instincts afterall.

'I don't think I need to worry.'

The word, dependent, was what helped him get rid of the anxiety he was feeling.

And the pressure to get rid of it if it became a threat disappeared as well.

Getting rid of the fairy wasn't difficult. He didn't want to see Hyuna cry because of the fairy.

"But, Hyun-Soo. Don't you think we should come up with a name? It's weird to keep calling them a fairy."

Hyuna, who was still feeling disappointed, asked Hyun-Soo while looking at the fairy that was attached to him.

“We can just come up with any…okay, fine. I’ll try thinking of a nice name.”

In the end, the fairy was still a monster.

Even though they were cute and didn’t act like the monsters he encountered in the past, he didn’t think it was necessary to give them a name.

But Hyuna had a different opinion and said it was necessary.

“Tinkerbell?”

“……Hyun-Soo..”

He came up with that name after thinking long and hard, but Hyuna reacted coldly.

“It’s probably best if you named it.”

“Okay. I’m going to think of a pretty name! Oh, Hyun-Soo. You are feeding the fairy, right?”

“Feeding? No……?”

“What? You’ve been letting them starve?”

When Hyun-Soo saw Hyuna’s glaring eyes, he quickly denied it and shook his head.

“No, it’s because they’re a monster. They don’t eat human food.”

“Then, what do they eat?”

“I’m not sure, but the fairy has been consuming my energy.”

“Your energy?”

“Yeah.”

Hyun-Soo recalled the time when the fairy first consumed his energy.

Other than the fact that the egg hatched and that the fairy was following him around everywhere, life was still the same for Hyun-Soo.

Expectation and excitement towards the egg only lasted for a moment.

He started working on the potion again and tried many different things.

While working on it.

The fairy woke up and flew over to Hyun-Soo to grab his finger.

Hyun-Soo was testing to see what would happen if a small amount of a hunter's energy was mixed into the potion.

'Huh?'

When the fairy got close to Hyun-Soo's finger, it suddenly bit it!

Of course he didn't feel any pain.

He was just surprised.

However, there was another surprise after that.

-Ding!

[Karazhan has consumed the user's energy.]

-Ding!

[Karazhan belongs to the user.]

'What?'

<Awakening #2> End.

Chapter 103 - <Awakening #3>

Hyun-Soo quickly checked Interface.

And he found some interesting information regarding the fairy.

The fact that the word, dependent, was written on there.

And there was another thing he realized.

The fairy that hatched from Karazhan's egg consumes a hunter's energy.

He wasn't sure if the fairy only consumed the energy or consumed other things as well, but whenever Hyun-Soo gathered his energy to create a potion, the fairy would approach him and stick out their lips.

Maybe that's why the fairy looks bigger.

"So feeding you isn't my top priority right now. That's a relief."

He wasn't sure if that was a good thing though.

But thanks to the fairy, Hyun-soo decided to take a break from making the potions.

Kyuuu.....

The fairy sounded like it was falling asleep as it tossed and turned.

It fell asleep on Hyun-Soo's shoulder.

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It's been a while since Hyun-Soo visited the clan's main building.

The fairy, no, Riri, tagged along.

Hyuna came up with that name.

It was a short name that was easy to pronounce and memorize.

After Hyun-Soo made a request, Hyuna looked through a biographical dictionary and found a pretty name.

Thanks to her, he heard all sorts of names.

But the one they went for was Riri.

The name is from the word, fairy, and they turned it into a Korean name.

Hyuna explained that she wrote it as a joke and was disappointed when Hyun-Soo decided to go with that one, but it was easy to pronounce.

Giving it a simple and easy name was the best.

After consuming Hyun-Soo's energy several of times, Riri was now the size of a fingernail and never left Hyun-Soo's shoulder.

When he tried to leave Riri, it started crying.

Maybe it's because of Karazhan's characteristics.

Whenever Riri cried, his head would start hurting.

"Hey, long time no see. I thought you went somewhere far since I haven't seen you around."

"I rested and also have been working on some stuff."

"Right. This is the best time to take care of personal errands. A few of our members went on vacation. They're way too easy-going."

David, the one that greeted Hyun-Soo first, released a deep sigh.

"What? Something wrong?"

"There's always something wrong. This is the first time we haven't received a hunting permission...huh? What's that on your shoulder? A doll?"

He mentioned that he saw a celebrity wearing a doll on their shoulder on the internet and asked if Hyun-Soo was doing the same thing.

"No way. It's not a doll. It's alive. Riri, come here."

Since Riri followed him everywhere, it was only a matter of time before the members saw it.

‘Not like I was going to hide it anyways.’

Hyun-Soo was going to train it after it hatched, so Hyun-Soo planned on revealing it to the others.

“Oh……!”

When Hyun-Soo called, Riri’s colorful, transparent dragonfly-like wings started flapping and and Riri landed on the palm of Hyun-Soo’s hand.

David’s eyes grew so big that it looked like they were going to pop out.

“Is this, really, is it, really?”

David must’ve been really surprised because he asking with words.

“Yes, it’s a monster. But since it’s dependent on me, it’s not dangerous.”

“Oh, God. Wow! Did you tame it?”

“Hm…it’s a similar concept.”

Technically, he didn’t tame it.

Riri just belongs to Hyun-Soo.

But since it wasn’t completely off, Hyun-Soo replied by saying that it was a similar concept.

“Man! Oh jeez! Can I see it?”

Kyuu!

Before Hyun-Soo could reply to David’s request, Riri replied.

Riri released a dissatisfied cry and then turned the other way.

“Oh wow!”

David kept on exclaiming.

Even though he was rejected, he looked at Riri with interest and kept on walking around Hyun-Soo's hand.

"This is a dramatic change. Our clan is probably the only clan that completely tamed a monster!"

David spoke with excitement.

"I heard that there's a hunter in a hybrid clan that are able to tame a monster, but I heard it only takes them a few minutes. Even though they call it taming, it's wrong. They're just putting the monster in a daze."

Even though that hunter received harsh criticism, David explained that there was a time when taming was really popular.

"But no one succeeded. Hunters with similar skills tried, but they all failed. After that, many said that monster taming was nonsense, but…jeez, man. A tamed monster is right in front of my eyes!"

The excited David carefully extended his hand out towards Riri.

But Riri arrogantly extended their wings out and flew towards Hyun-Soo's shoulder.

Disappointment and attachment filled David's eyes.

"Anyways, Hyun-Soo. You're really amazing. You achieved something that no one else has. You're definitely our clan's treasure! Let's go in. We have to let the other members know about this happy news. You came here to let everyone know, right?"

"I was just lucky. I don't even have a taming skill. And I came here because Yoo-Na called me."

"Oh……."

Disappointment filled David's face.

Hyun-Soo wasn't sure whether David was disappointed by the fact that Hyun-Soo successfully tamed the monster despite of not having the skill for it or not being able to meet the other members because Kim Yoo-Na called him.

“I’ll head to the Center Room once I’m done talking with Kim Yoo-Na.”

“Oh! Really?”

He must’ve been disappointed by the latter.

Surprisingly, David didn’t hold him up and let Hyun-Soo go.

“Whew…….”

Kyuuu?

Hyun-Soo released a deep sigh when he was far from David.

Riri let out a cry when they realized something was wrong.

‘So Riri is that amazing, huh?’

Hyun-Soo didn’t know what kind of skills Riri had or what they could do.

He could only assume that Riri had similar skills to Karazhan since they hatched from Karazhan’s egg.

But Hyun-Soo didn’t know every detail about Karazhan, so they probably had skills that Hyun-Soo was unaware of.

‘I should take my time and find out.’

The fact that Riri was a tamed monster was a good enough reason to gain a lot of attention.

Like how David reacted.

It was understandable.

Even though hunters failed to tame monsters in the past, this was proof that it was possible.

Riri’s existence was proof of that.

When he saw Riri sitting on his right shoulder, it felt a bit heavier for some reason.

Knock, knock.

Hyun-Soo knocked when he arrived at Kim Yoo-Na's private room.

"Come in."

Kim Yoo-Na greeted Hyun-Soo with a small smile.

"I'm sorry for calling you here when you're resting. Mr. Herhim called. About selling the first batch…am I seeing things?"

"If you're talking about the fairy that's sitting on my shoulder, then you're not hallucinating."

"Is that, really……?"

"Yes, that's right."

"So it hatched!"

Kim Yoo-Na became excited when she saw Riri sitting on his shoulder.

Kim Yoo-Na was interested in the egg just as much as Hyuna.

She even provided an incubator.

"It's pretty similar to the monster that we brought from the portal. Is the size different…?"

After Hyun-Soo cut Karazhan's corpse, the clan took it so that they could study it.

Since it's the monster they obtained from the first colorful portal, they wanted to study it to see if they were different from other ordinary monsters.

They tried to put everything back together so that they could see its original form and Kim Yoo-Na must've seen it.

"It hasn't been that long since they hatched, so I'm not sure how big it'll grow. I'm going to find ways to use them once they're big enough."

"Using them…if that is possible, it'll have a big impact on the hunter world. Now that I think about, the monster from the

colorful portal manipulates the mind, right? Everyone was happy about being able to prove their hypothesis with the monster and I'm sure they'll do whatever they can to obtain that fairy. Be careful so that they don't take it from you."

Kim Yoo-Na explained with a smile that they would want it even more since Riri was alive.

And.

"Um……."

Kim Yoo-Na was always straightforward when she spoke, so it was odd that she was being hesitant.

And then she asked him a question.

"Um…if it's okay…can I see the fairy from up close?"

"Sure. Riri, come here."

Riri flew towards Hyun-Soo's hand when he called.

"Did you name it Riri? It fits well. It's cute."

Kim Yoo-Na carefully approached and looked at Riri.

Kim Yoo-Na's white cheeks started turning red.

That was the expression that people usually displayed after seeing something that's really cute and loveable.

'…It's the first time I'm seeing her act like that..'

This was the first time he realized that Kim Yoo-Na was weak against cute things.

She was looking at Riri with excitement and when she realized that Hyun-Soo was looking at her, she changed her expression.

She tried to put on her usual cold expression, but failed because of her blushing face.

"Ahem. The reason why I contacted you is because Mr. Herhim called. He said he already got a group of customers. He said he's

planning on selling the potions as soon as they're ready."

"Already?"

"He gets fired up once he sets his mind on something."

Something happened within the black market and thanks to that event, he created the black market in an instant.

It's just a rumor, but Kim Yoo-Na said it's most likely true when considering Herhim's personality.

"It seems like they're going to hold an auction. Since it's their first time, it'll be a blind auction and they're not going to set a limit. It seems like they've already finished the preparations. They plan on starting as soon as they receive the potion. Fast, right?"

Hyun-Soo was shocked when he heard how Herhim was planning on selling the potion and Kim Yoo-Na nodded as if she understood how he felt.

"It's not much, but there are some that are finished."

He used the recipe that was already registered and made a few.

Right now, Hyun-Soo was focusing on a better and more valuable potion.

Creating a large amount of the same potion wasn't bad, but Hyun-Soo had a different plan.

So instead of creating the same potion over and over again, he focused on creating a better potion.

"Is that so? That's a relief. Honestly, Mr. Herhim wouldn't stop bothering me. He kept on telling me that everything was ready to go, but one thing was missing. He kept on pushing me to give him the potion. Of course he said it in a much nicer tone, but that's basically what he said."

"You should've told me."

He said that because he felt bad about Kim Yoo-Na being involved

in all of this, but she just smiled.

In many ways, Kim Yoo-Na was trying to making things convenient for him.

Hyun-Soo knew that the leaders of the other groups wouldn't help out a single member like this.

Hyun-Soo suddenly thought of something.

"Don't you want a potion?"

"Want?"

"You can even make it so that it's only available to the clan members."

Hyun-Soo wasn't sure if it was possible, but leaders of a group usually make the impossible possible.

But Kim Yoo-Na wasn't like that at all.

She even introduced Mr. Herhim to Hyun-Soo and even got involved in the whole potion business.

To Hyun-Soo, it was extremely beneficial, but in some ways, he felt odd because she was being selfless.

"Why should I do that?"

<Awakening #3> End.

Chapter 104 - <Trap #1>

“……Excuse me?”

“Is there a reason to pressure you in making those potions? Before you joined, all the members were already above average hunters that received attention wherever they went.”

It meant that there was no reason to make the potions exclusive.

‘Well, someone is overflowing with confidence.’

Even if other hunters increased their stats by using a potion, Kim Yoo-Na was confident that the members would still win.

She was definitely worthy enough to be the clan’s leader.

She was confident that they would rule over even without using those tricks.

And her dignity.

Hyun-Soo felt that Kim Yoo-Na was able to become this confident and have pride because she didn’t question her skills.

‘I knew it.’

He had a keen eye.

The more he spent time with her, the more he admired her.

The confidence that a strong hunter displayed was really beautiful.

“I see. I guess there was no point in asking.”

“It’s fine. I understand why you would ask. But, I am a bit sad though. Did I do something to make you not trust me?”

“No, it’s not that. You already know all the things that I went through…”

“Oh, right. You did. Right.”

Hyun-Soo was surprised, so he tried to come up with an excuse.

It felt like sweat was rolling down his body.

Hearing a beautiful woman sorrowfully express how sad she was wasn't good for anyone's heart.

Hyun-Soo felt like it was his fault.

When he mentioned the past events, Kim Yoo-Na must've understood because a small smile appeared on her face.

'……She's not doing it on purpose, right?'

Hyun-Soo was confused by how quickly the conversation changed.

"Are you free this afternoon?"

"H-huh? Well, I don't have any plans."

"Then, do you want to go to the black market together? As you know from Mr. Herhim's personality…it's better to go as soon as possible."

Hyun-Soo felt a bit disappointed because there were some potions that were incomplete, but he nodded his head.

"Then let's meet at the entrance in an hour."

"Okay."

When Hyun-Soo stood up, Riri, who was playing on his shoulder, slid off so they started flapping their wings.

Kim Yoo-Na's eyes naturally turned to Riri.

"It's…Riri, right? When you do something with Riri, please call me too. I think it'll be good research material."

Kim Yoo-Na's eyes were filled with excitement and expectation when she made that request.

Even though she said it was for research material, it looked like she was trying to fill her personal greed.

She reminded him of Hyuna.

It didn’t really fit well with Kim Yoo-Na, but Hyun-Soo thought it was pretty cute.

Maybe that’s why.

“Ha ha, okay.”

He laughed.

He felt Kim Yoo-Na looking at him with disappointment as he left the room.

‘I guess Riri must be really cute.’

Honestly, Riri was pretty cute.

But since Hyun-Soo was a guy, it was hard to understand why Hyuna and Kim Yoo-Na were desperately trying to look at Riri.

‘Is it because they both like cute things?’

Hyun-Soo assumed it’s because of Riri’s appearance and returned to his dorm to grab the potions.

Other than Hyuna and Kim Yoo-Na, Hyun-Soo never imagined there would be others that would react the same way.

***

“Welcome. So, you brought the potion, right?”

After they passed the security check, they were led to the most private in the black market and Herhim welcome Hyun-Soo with open arms.

Like the first time, Herhim walked towards him with a warm smile.

But Kim Yoo-Na already informed Hyun-Soo about Herhim’s personality, so Hyun-Soo smiled awkwardly and handed the shopping bag he brought with him.

“Oh my! Precious items shouldn’t be placed in a bag like this. I’ll provide you with a bag next time.”

Herhim was extremely shocked when he saw the shopping bag.

“Did Yoo-Na tell you?”

“Yes.”

“Great. That makes things a lot easier. We’re going to auction it first so that we can promote it as well. I’ll make sure to give you a big share. After we deduct the processing fee, we’ll give you the rest. If you want, we can give you that amount in cash. And in the future, we’ll do whatever you ask, as long as it’s possible. But.”

Hyun-Soo didn’t know much about this world, so to him, it sounded like a good deal.

However, Herhim wasn’t finished.

“I want you to sell only through us.”

“Didn’t we already agree to do that?”

“Ha ha ha! You’re right. We did. I just wanted to make sure. I look forward to…huh?”

Hyun-Soo was nervous about what he was going to say, but released a sigh of relief when Herhim said something he already knew.

But Herhim’s smiling face turned into a serious one.

Hyun-Soo felt overpowered by his stern expression.

Hyun-Soo knew what it was regarding, so his body became stiff.

Herhim probably wouldn’t do this, but Hyun-Soo thought that maybe Herhim would try to backstab him after getting Hyun-Soo to put down his guard. That thought made Hyun-Soo nervous.

“What is that?!”

Herhim yelled.

“The thing on your head! That! Am I hallucinating?”

“This?”

“Yes! You can see it too, right? That means it’s actually there. What exactly is that?!”

He remembered putting Riri into his coat pocket, but it must’ve flew out and went to the top of his head.

The well-mannered gentleman quickly stood up and after running up to Hyun-Soo, he yelled because he couldn’t contain his excitement.

Hyun-Soo almost fell, but after calmly stepping back, he extended his hand out.

Riri’s wings gently fluttered and flew in front of Hyun-Soo.

“Gasp. Pant……!”

His heart……!

Herhim jokingly grabbed his chest.

It meant that he was that shocked to see Riri.

“That…what is that?”

“Mr. Herhim. We came here to talk about selling the potion.”

Kim Yoo-Na intercepted when she noticed Herhim’s hand shaking like someone that was experiencing drug withdrawal.

Kim Yoo-Na must’ve felt embarrassed because her cheeks became red and she knew she reacted the same way as him.

But Herhim reacted more aggressively.

“I’ll exclude two, no three percent of the processing fee. How about it?”

When he gave a specific amount, Kim Yoo-Na looked at Hyun-Soo and waited for him to make a decision.

‘There’s nothing for me to hide.’

He was going to show it off anyways.

On top of that, a lot more people were going to see Riri as time

passes.

And that'll raise Hyun-Soo's and the clan's value.

"It's a monster."

"Monster! Is it from the colorful portal? No. I heard the corpse was taken to the research lab."

Even though they didn't tell him, Herhim already had the information and he mumbled as if something was wrong.

"That's correct. The fairy is from the colorful portal. It was in an egg when I found it and then it hatched."

"Tell me the details."

"There isn't much to say, but..."

"One million!"

"Where should I start?"

***

Hyun-Soo was going to tell him anyways, but after stalling for a bit, he earned one million won.

'It's really easy to make money.'

He never imagined this happening.

Herhim agreed to categorize the information into the special category and not reveal it to anyone.

Hyun-Soo asked why he was gathering information he wasn't going to sell and Herhim said.

"There's nothing more pleasing than satisfying my curiosity."

After telling him about Riri, they finished talking about selling the potion and how they were going to share the money.

After talking about the official duties, they started talking about more private matters.

"Right, I heard. You're not getting approval?"

“Yes and according to them, there’s an issue in management, so that’s why it’s being delayed.”

“Bullshit.”

“That kind of language is…but I agree.”

“Is it because we got involved?”

“That’s probably part of it. But it’s probably because they’re disgusted by us.”

Herhim clicked his tongue.

“Did you know that the number of portal hunts are decreasing?”

“The number of hunts are decreasing?”

“That’s right. The number of approval have decreased significantly. Because of that, the portals that are closer to their pop-up time aren’t being taken care of, so it has become a big headache.”

“Why is that?”

Kim Yoo-Na was confused.

Hyun-Soo was also curious.

Other groups and guilds were probably getting approvals, but after listening to what Herhim said, the hunters refused.

“The reason is simple. It’s because of the colorful portal.”

“Aren’t ordinary portals and colorful portals different? Why are they avoiding the ordinary portals?”

Hyun-Soo had an idea why.

“Are they getting more scared of the colorful portal?”

Herhim nodded his head after being surprised by what Hyun-Soo said.

“You’re right. That’s the answer. Since there aren’t a lot of information regarding the colorful portal, everyone is trying to be

careful. Not that long ago, two very famous groups entered and didn't come back, so it impacted heavily amongst the hunters."

"Did they receive the request?"

"No, they didn't. They said they were confident so they volunteered."

Kim Yoo-Na's clan was the only clan that succeeded in hunting the colorful portal.

Even though the information about the colorful portal was revealed through the black market, it wasn't that effective.

The colorful portal always changed.

It was different from the ordinary portal that had a majority of things set in place.

It meant that there was no information about what was inside or how they should hunt.

Everyone failed to attack the colorful portal before, but it was different now.

But one.

There was one clan that cleared it.

The two clans that failed to clear the colorful portal probably felt like they were in danger after hearing about the one clan that succeeded.

If they don't go for it now, they'll be left behind.

That feeling drove the two groups to their death.

High risk, high return.

The more dangerous it is, the more profit one earns.

They knew it was dangerous, but if they clear it, they knew they would receive a big reward so they put their life on the line for that reward.

“When considering the rank, the group was pretty high up there. But in the end, they failed. Because of that, things got out of hand.”

Majority of the hunters knew of the colorful portal’s existence because of the information that was revealed.

It’s all thanks to Kim Yoo-Na. She revealed that information to warn the other hunters to not throw their life away because of the reward.

But they didn’t realize how dangerous it really was.

They knew other groups failed in the past, but since a clan succeeded in clearing it, they believed that the past groups that failed were just unlucky.

Because of that, when the hunters found out that the two, confident groups failed, they became more anxious.

“If they succeeded, things would be the total opposite.”

<Trap #1> End.

Chapter 105 - <Trap #2>

“You’re right, but the fact that two groups failed is pretty serious. People are scared because they don’t know how the ordinary portals will suddenly change.”

“I think the chance of a portal changing during a hunt is very slim.”

“That’s what I think too, but when they’re affected by the issue, people stop making rational judgements. Who would’ve thought that a colorful portal would appear? We still don’t know how the portal appeared. So I understand the fear that they have of the ordinary portals possibly changing.”

“So I dug my own hole.”

“Right. Since they’re not letting the only clan that cleared the colorful portal go on hunts. It’s a very stupid act.”

Herhim spoke bitterly with a caring expression.

“This isn’t the first time they’ve done something stupid, but this is really dumb. Why would they think about putting restrictions now of all times? These petty people don’t care about what’s important as long as it’s beneficial for them.”

“Yeah, I don’t really feel good about doing the things they were asking me to do.”

“Hang in there. Even though they’re dumb, if they have a brain, they won’t do the same dumb thing again.”

Herhim called the high-ranking officials dumb without any hesitation.

From the way he talked about them, it seemed like he personally experienced it before.

“Big. In order to change the current situation, we need something big. Something so big that it’ll change everyone’s

minds.”

If they don’t do anything, things were going to remain this way.

The number of portals will increase and they’ll probably try to take care of it, but it’ll be impossible for them take care of the same number of portals that the hunters cleared.

“That will be us.”

Hyun-Soo spoke after doing some simple calculations and Herhim exclaimed at his statement.

“You’re right. I believe you guys will succeed in changing the current situation.”

“Then we should be able to get those approvals soon.”

“Right. That’s it. I’m sure there a few that are still calculating all of this. It won’t be easy. There’s always complicated calculations in places where there’s money. But there is a need to change the situation, so I’m sure those approvals will come though. Of course I’ll try to help in any way that I can.”

Anyways, the black market was part of the reason why the high-ranking officers were on edge.

Herhim must’ve felt responsible because he said he would help.

“Anyways…Hyun-Soo, are you planning on selling that little one?”

After Kim Yoo-Na checked the time, she informed Herhim that it was time for them to go and Herhim had a disappointed look on his face.

And then he quietly asked Hyun-Soo to sell Riri to him.

“Well, I’m not really planning on selling Riri.”

“Please sell it to me. I’ll make sure to pay you a large amount.”

“Ha ha. Even if I decide to, Riri won’t like it.”

Hyun-Soo nodded towards Riri, who was on his shoulder, and

Herhim noticed Riri putting their guard up.

Ever since Herhim expressed that he wanted Riri, Riri had their guard up.

Kyuuuu.

As expected.

Riri made a threatening cry.

But Riri still sounded cute though.

'I think Riri actually understands...?'

It seemed like Riri was acting a certain way because they understood.

Of course, that was only an assumption.

'I should do some tests.'

There were a lot of things he had to do with Riri.

When Riri refused Herhim, he changed his target and made the offer to Hyun-Soo.

"How about you work for me? Honestly, I want you too. How about it? I'll make sure to treat you way better than Yoo-Na."

"Mr. Herhim, there's going to be an issue if you take our rookie."

Herhim's eyes were filled with disappointment and greed as he looked at Hyun-Soo.

But Herhim was an expert at handling these types of situations.

"Ha ha. If I obtain something similar someday, I'll sell it to the black market."

"What? You're an amazing person. You're the type to just pour out the really valuable items!"

He wanted to maintain this relationship.

Baiting him like this won't cause any harm.

He also used the word, someday, so Hyun-Soo can use that as a way to defend himself.

‘I can just tell him that I couldn’t obtain it.’

Hyun-Soo did want to get it for him if it was possible, but he couldn’t make it out of thin air.

Hyun-Soo turned his back towards the disappointed Herhim and walked out.

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure if Herhim was disappointed about Riri or about himself.

“…You’re not really thinking about going, are you?”

On the way back.

Kim Yoo-Na glanced over at Hyun-Soo while driving.

She looked pretty nervous.

She was worried that Hyun-Soo was going to accept Herhim’s offer.

Hyun-Soo wanted to laugh because he felt that vibe from her.

It was refreshing.

Before, it felt like he was indebted to her, but now it felt like they were on the same level.

‘Does that mean I’ve grown a lot?’

An important figure in a hidden world wanted him and there was someone that was on alert due to that situation.

And it was a smart and beautiful woman.

Hyun-Soo realized that he’s grown a lot after meeting Herhim and talking with Kim Yoo-Na.

Knowing that you’ve grown was hard to tell on your own.

But from the way he was being treated, it felt like his growth was being reflected on a mirror.

“Hyun-Soo, please answer.”

Kim Yoo-Na became nervous when Hyun-Soo just laughed without answering, so she asked again.

“I’m not going. Don’t worry. I’m a pretty loyal person, you know.”

Kim Yoo-Na helped him grow.

And Hyun-Soo knew how to be thankful, loyal and about give and take.

That’s when the atmosphere within the car lightened up.

A smile was still on Hyun-Soo’s face.

***

The clan was noisy.

“Two with camouflage skills and one with an explosive skill.”

“This is ridiculous. They just keep coming back.”

It’s because of the weird guests that keeps visiting the clan.

“Why are they here anyways? Do we look that weak?”

To be exact, they weren’t guests. They were more like thieves.

“It’s more like they were desperate, I think. They look flashy on the outside, but they were doing shameful acts all along. How disappointing.”

David and Ismael clicked their tongues as they watched the hunters being handed to the security team.

“What happened?”

Hyun-Soo was confused by the noise since he had just left the dorm.

The chaotic atmosphere was unfamiliar to him since he spent most of his time in the personal training room and his drom.

“Oh, you probably don’t know since you never leave your

personal room. I'm not sure if I should call them thieves or spies, but they keep invading our clan."

"Really?"

"It seemed like they were targeting the intelligence center. It's obvious."

"They didn't take anything?"

"No way. Our security system is pretty amazing. They didn't even get near the intelligence center and got caught at the entrance. But they're starting to invade more often and their methods have become more aggressive."

Ismael shook his head saying that it was getting annoying because people were coming from different places.

'I guess they're worn out.'

That's what he thought of as soon as he heard it.

Hyun-Soo also recalled seeing a bitter smile.

'What's so good about having wealth and honor?'

Having the advantage and getting ahead of everyone.

And they'll receive glory and a high-ranking position. Treasures as well.

Anyone would want it.

Unless they turned their backs to it, it was something everyone desired.

But it's only valuable when those are achieved by themselves.

Hyun-Soo quietly shook his head when he saw the acts of these famous groups.

Kyuuuu.

Was it because Hyun-Soo shook his head?

While sitting inside his hood, Riri peeked out.

“Riri! You’re here too! You’re cute today too, Riri. Aren’t you hungry? Want some of my energy?”

Riri was now gaining the attention of everyone within the clan.

When Hyun-Soo first introduced Riri, everyone literally flipped out.

A few spaced out while others grabbed their hearts.

They didn’t even have a heart disease, but were saying that they were getting a heart attack.

Even the high and mighty Marcus was shocked by Riri that he had a stunned look on his face.

Eugene said this was his first time seeing Marcus act like this and even laughed about it.

After that, Marcus became less suspicious of Hyun-Soo.

Before, Marcus tried not to cross paths with him, but now, he wasn’t purposely trying to avoid him.

He actually even tried to get close to Hyun-Soo.

After seeing that, Katrina said that Riri was amazing for being able to change Marcus.

‘No one really cared even I told them that Riri was a monster.’

He wasn’t sure if everyone was bold or just didn’t care, but no one seemed bothered at all by Riri.

They were actually overflowing with curiosity.

He had a general idea based on Hyuna and Kim Yoo-Na’s reaction, but he didn’t expect them to react this much.

They didn’t approach him like Herhim did and just thought Riri was cute.

They mentioned about it being an oasis or something.

“Eat mine, not his. I’m sure mine is more delicious.”

“That’s nonsense. Mine is more delicious.”

“Have you tried it? Have you? I’m sure mine is more delicious!”

Ismael and David started arguing about who’s energy Riri should consume.

“Give Riri both of yours.”

Hyun-Soo’s decision made them quiet down.

David and Ismael looked at Hyun-Soo as if they were looking at Solomon.

“Riri, eat a lot. But don’t eat too much.”

Hyun-Soo lightly tapped Riri with his finger.

Riri followed Ismael and David towards the Center Room by flying.

Consuming energy was one of Riri’s skills.

It was also Riri’s main meal.

It meant Riri ate a lot since the skills were made out of energy.

Skills with destructive power required that much more energy, so it required the user to consume that much more, but Hyun-Soo did confirm that Riri was consuming the hunter’s skill.

He found out when the members were training in the Center Room.

Riri consumed a fireball that was flying at a fast pace and instead of being shocked by whether Riri got hit or not, they were shocked about something else.

‘Karazhan wasn’t like that at all…’

The more energy Riri consumed, the more it grew, but after a certain point, Riri stopped growing.

It seemed like Riri could grow more, so it was odd that they stopped.

The cafeteria was filled with the chaotic atmosphere too.

“Hyon-Ssoo!”

Katrina, who was inside the cafeteria, raised her hand and called Hyun-Soo.

When Hyun-Soo approached and sat down, Eugene greeted him too.

“You’re here, Hyun-Soo. Nice timing.”

“Timing?”

“Yes, I have some news. I have good news and bad news. Which one do you want to hear first?”

<Trap #2> End.

Chapter 106 - <Trap #3>

"...Tell me the good news first."

When Hyun-Soo replied, Eugene held up two fingers and then folded one.

"Okay. The good news is that, we received approval to go hunting."

Was that good news?

Hyun-Soo was a bit confused, but he decided that it wasn't so bad since they'll be able to go into the portal again.

"And the bad news?"

Eugene folded his second finger.

"The bad news is that, there's something fishy about that approval."

"Fishy? How?"

"Nothing has been revealed about it. But they've been giving us a hard time, so the portal that they approved, probably isn't an ordinary one. On top of that, it's not the one that we requested. We submitted an exchange request, but they told us that they would cancel the approval if we didn't want it."

And it's been a long time since they went hunting.

Eugene added.

In order to remain active, there was a need for them to go on hunts.

So, unless they find something that's really off, they'll most likely go hunt the portal that they got approval for.

"It's highly unlikely that they would joke around with a portal, but...we can't put our guard down."

"I see."

“Yoo-Na is going to tell everyone to gather later tonight. We’ll be going on that hunt soon since it’s been a long time. Something feels off, but it feels good that we’re going hunting.”

Katrina, who was sitting next to him, nodded her head in agreement.

Like Eugene mentioned, Kim Yoo-Na asked everyone to gather.

She explained the current situation and asked for everyone’s opinions.

The members all agreed to hunt.

Everyone felt that something was off, but they were all confident that nothing serious would happen.

‘It’s not a colorful anyways. What could go wrong?’

***

Be careful what you say.

‘Damn it.’

Trap.

That was the best word he could think of to describe the situation.

“……What should we do?”

“Maybe we should wait for the second group?”

“There’s a good chance that all of us may drown before they arrive.”

“I don’t like drowning. It won’t be a beautiful death.”

The members were trapped, so they were all making serious comments.

And when someone made a funny comment, the tense atmosphere disappeared.

“If we use a skill to create a hole, this whole place will probably

crumble…”

“The path that we entered from is too deep, so it’s impossible for us to individually go out that way.”

After the situation suddenly changed, Eugene was the first one to search the inside.

“So, we’re fucked.”

***

Before the clan was isolated.

This happened.

“I don’t like the water.”

“Same here. Wearing a wetsuit is really difficult.”

The terrain was difficult to begin with.

They purposely placed a monster at an area that was difficult to reach without tools and the members knew why.

‘They’re not going to go easy on us. Are they saying, screw you…?’

At first, Hyun-Soo thought the higher-ups just had a nasty temper.

The clan expected something like this to happen because the clan prevented the higher-ups from gaining more power.

That’s why everyone packed their wetsuits while complaining.

A place where a high cliff and the ocean met.

The moment they jumped into the blue hole-like ocean, they swam towards a tunnel that was like a cavern.

The cavern was pointing upwards at an angle, but at the end, there was a large cavern.

They never expected a large cavern to be located under the sea and there were even puddles of water in various areas.

And thankfully, the monster was inside the cavern, not under the water.

‘The hunt itself is pretty easy.’

The Energy Field wasn’t at the normal level and maybe that’s why.

The hunt wasn’t that difficult.

It was actually to easy, that it was boring.

‘Coming in here was difficult, but this isn’t that bad.’

When thinking about how they delayed the approval and gave an approval for a portal they didn’t request for, it wasn’t all that bad.

The members must’ve thought the same way, because they didn’t react badly.

Other than the fact that they jumped into the ocean, swam through a crooked pathway and entered an odd cavern, things were normal.

Killing the monster was pretty too.

But the normal situation suddenly turned chaotic.

They suddenly heard a loud explosion.

The members that were dismembering the monster’s body instinctively turned their heads towards the source of the sound.

The explosion must’ve happened outside because it sounded far.

However.

Rumble……!

Maybe it’s because of the explosion.

Rocks from the cavern’s ceiling started falling.

“I think I heard it from the entrance.”

“Check to see what it is.”

One of the members quickly headed towards the entrance.

They swam without wearing a wetsuit.

It would be a big problem if the explosion affected the tunnel they entered through.

And then.

Booooooom!

They heard another loud explosion.

The explosion was so big, they could hardly stand still.

“Denver! Get out of there! Now!”

Splash! Splash!

A part of the cavern was crumbling down.

Near the entrance, there was a puddle of water and as large rocks started falling, the water started splashing violently.

If Denver didn’t stop, he would’ve gotten hurt pretty badly.

“What’s…happening?”

Due to the unexpected situation, everyone remained quiet.

It seemed like everyone was trying to find out what was happening.

“There shouldn’t be any explosions in this area, right?”

“There aren’t any active volcanoes around here and there probably isn’t a different monster. It’s an ordinary portal, not a colorful one, so there’s no way there would be two different types of monsters here.”

“An earthquake…that sound…doesn’t it seem like someone created it?”

“It went off almost back to back. It’s definitely not a natural phenomena.”

The members spoke after thinking about the situation and

started putting their theories together.

The theory that they fell for a trap.

After mentioning that, everyone started focusing on that theory.

“Now that I think about it, the Energy Field’s range was a bit odd. But, it has happened before, so I didn’t think too much about it…”

“Isn’t it weird that they gave us the one with crappy geographical features? If you think about it, it’s the perfect place to get cut off and die. On top of that, if you fail at escaping, the proof will disappear with the portal.”

“Then…are you saying they purposely gave us this place and used explosions? Seriously?”

A shocked expression appeared on Katrina’s face when she heard members’ conversation.

Her pale face soon turned blue.

The other hunters reacted the same way.

There were some that thought that the theory was absurd.

It was chaotic because some were in denial and others were mad about what was happening.

It’s because no one thought they would intentionally try to kill the members.

There were a lot of different opinions, but there was only one result.

Eugene’s comment about their situation.

***

“None of our tools are in decent condition.”

As rocks fell due to the explosion, the oxygen cylinders they used stopped working.

“Um, is this place starting to fill up with water or am I wrong?”

When someone quietly mentioned it, everyone looked at the ground.

Excluding the deep puddle, the ground wasn’t wet at all.

Splash, splash.

But now, every time they moved, they were able to hear small splashing sounds.

“Oh jeez. Another issue. I guess we’re really going to drown.”

“If we escape, I’m going to kill the jerk that caused all this.”

“You think the politicians did this?”

“It’s a possibility, but it’s also possible that it’s not them. Even if they’re dumb, it’s obvious that they would be the first suspects, so would they do something that crazy? It’s possible that someone intercepted.”

“We did make a lot of enemies recently.”

Even though they weren’t trying to, they were gaining a lot of attention.

Envy, jealousy and hatred followed behind admiration, awe and praise.

Where there’s light, there’s shadow.

“Whoever it is, I won’t go easy on them.”

“You’re right. I’m going to tie them to some weights and throw them into the ocean. They need to suffer too.”

The members stopped complaining when Kim Yoo-Na spoke.

“I understand that we’re in a really bad situation right now. But, we shouldn’t just stand around and do nothing, right? Let’s find a solution. Where there’s a will, there’s a way.”

Kim Yoo-Na calmed everyone down and as her eyes met with

another's, she spoke with determination.

The members almost lost all hope because they were about to die from someone's trap and not during a battle. But when Kim Yoo-Na spoke, their eyes lit up again.

"Right, we can't give up without trying. The airstrip hasn't been finished yet."

The members that were complaining stretched and started searching around the room.

To see if there was a way they could escape and how dangerous the current situation was.

But the result wasn't all that great.

They couldn't create a hole with their skills because the cavern was located too deep into cliff.

And they couldn't ignore the possibility of getting crushed to death if they used their skills wrong and the cavern ended up crumbling down.

During that time, water was seeping in from another area and was filling the ground.

They were in a desperate situation.

"Damn it, there's no way out."

The members were motivated by Kim Yoo-Na, but the more they searched, the more hopeless they felt.

It's because they really couldn't find a way out.

But then.

"Wouldn't we be able to escape through here?"

Hyun-Soo pointed at an area.

Hyun-Soo pointed at the deep puddle.

"Isn't that just a puddle?"

Someone questioned.

“Possibly, but I think it might be connected to somewhere. Isn’t it more odd that there’s a puddle in this kind of place? I think there’s a high chance that this puddle will lead to another area just like the passageway from earlier.”

When Hyun-Soo calmly explained, Eugene nodded his head.

“That’s a possibility. But, there’s no guarantee that it’s an exit.”

“If there’s a puddle, it means the water entered there and if we can just get to the surface of the water, then it’s only a matter of time until we exit the portal.”

“You seem pretty confident. Whenever you act confident, I always get the feeling that I can trust you.”

“……Thank you?”

Hyun-Soo replied in a confused tone.

There was a reason why Hyun-Soo pointed at the puddle.

It was the Interface.

While the other hunters were searching, Hyun-Soo was searching as well.

But, Hyun-Soo was using Interface.

‘There’s a 70% chance that area will collapse soon. We shouldn’t use a skill there. The ceiling looks to be in decent condition. But, we can’t relax. The walls seem pretty thick too…is there really no way for us to escape? Are we really just going to die like this?’

When Hyun-Soo was about to smirk.

There was something that caught his attention.

<Trap #3> End.

Chapter 107 - <Time to Hunt #1>

His eyes looked at the deep pool of water.

He instinctively used Interface and during that moment, he almost cheered.

‘A passageway that leads outside!’

However, the issue was that it was a long passageway.

And, they would have to swim for at least 10 minutes.

On top of that, if they get lost, there’s a chance that it’ll be more than 10 minutes.

‘But it’s still a passageway!’

That was the only available exit.

Even though there was an exit, the method was almost impossible.

However.

‘Make the impossible possible.’

Who was he?

A Skill Maker that was able to make any type of skills.

The members should be thankful that Hyun-Soo was with them.

After finding a way out, Hyun-Soo hinted to the members by pointing at the pool of water.

Frustration can be a scary thing because negative thoughts can make the possible impossible.

Hyun-Soo stepped in before the members became frustrated and pessimistic.

“But, when thinking about how we got in, it probably won’t be easy going out. We used an oxygen tank when coming in. Even if our bodies were stronger than most people, holding our breaths

under the water for more than five minutes is impossible...do you think it will work?”

The members all looked at Hyun-Soo.

Kim Yoo-Na was also waiting for him to reply.

“It’s possible. However...I need some time.”

Oh my...!

Oh god.

Whew……!

Everyone started exclaiming when they heard his reply.

They were relieved from the pressure and frustration they were feeling.

When Hyun-Soo mentioned that he needed time, the members dispersed and searched the cavern.

They didn’t want to pressure Hyun-Soo and they were trying to see if there were other ways they could escape.

“Hyun-Soo.”

Someone called out his name.

It was Kim Yoo-Na.

“Yes.”

“……I trust you.”

Kim Yoo-Na’s eyes were on him.

“Yes, trust me.”

Because he won’t disappoint them.

Kim Yoo-Na lightly nodded her head.

“Whew…….”

Hyun-Soo took a deep breath while looking at the deep pool.

It was ironic that they had to go in in order to survive.

It was really dangerous and because there were a lot of constraints, it even made the talented hunters feel powerless.

Among the members, Hyun-Soo was the weakest.

But right now, he was their only hope and they had high expectations.

***

Will he be able to succeed?

They wished for his success, however, they couldn’t ignore the realistic issues.

But their doubts and worries soon disappeared.

“Let’s go now.”

After Hyun-Soo went in and out of the water several times, he talked to the members.

“Will we be okay without the oxygen tanks?”

“Yes, I made it so that it’ll work out.”

“What did you do……?”

“Let’s go. Staying here is dangerous.”

The water was now up to their calves.

Like Hyun-Soo mentioned, they couldn’t more waste time.

After Eugene asked, he contemplated with a doubtful expression.

Even though he trusted Hyun-Soo, it was impossible for him to confirm what Hyun-Soo did, so he was a bit worried.

[Underwater Breathing][F]

Gives one the ability to breathe underwater.

It will only work underwater.

He created the skill by holding his breath and mentally training

his mind several times.

And Hyun-Soo got the skill he wanted.

Even though it was a F rank skill, it was just as powerful as a S rank skill right now.

However, since Hyun-Soo didn't explain this to the members, to them, it looked like all Hyun-Soo did was go in and out of the water.

"Let's go."

Kim Yoo-Na was the one that got rid of all of their doubts.

She approached the pool and jumped in. Her energetic steps even surprised Hyun-Soo.

When Kim Yoo-Na slowly disappeared into the water, Eugene smiled.

He followed behind her and jumped into the pool as well.

And one by one, the members headed into the pool.

"Hyon-Ssoo, it-it's going to be okay, right?"

Katrina had complained about how she didn't like the water and as the last one in the cavern, she asked Hyun-Soo.

"It's fine. Just trust me. The other members haven't turned back.'

"Hm...okay. I trust you, Hyon-Ssoo."

Katrina carefully jumped into the pool.

Once they were able to overcome their breathing limit, things worked out smoothly.

The path was longer, narrower and more twisted than the previous passageway they swam through, but the hunters were able to move faster because they didn't have to carry heavy equipments and because of Hyun-Soo's skill.

And then.

Fwoosh!

“Cough!”

“Cough!”

“Pant!”

They were able to reach the surface of the water safely.

“They did use those explosives intentionally.”

Someone mumbled while floating on the water.

Before entering the cavern, the cliff looked sturdy, but now, a part of the cliff was destroyed.

This wasn’t done by an earthquake.

Grr!

Someone was grinding their teeth.

Revenge.

Everyone else probably had the same thought.

The members came to the conclusion that someone intentionally installed the explosives.

The explosion was very unnatural, so they couldn’t help but think that.

Once they expressed their opinions, others started pointing out other suspicious situations.

“That explains why the monster’s Energy Field was decreasing at an odd rate.”

It’s possible that the enemy encountered the monster while installing the explosives and fought against them.

And during that process, the monster’s Energy Field decreased.

“But, who are the guys that caused all this?”

***

A few days passed.

They submitted a protest to the authorities that approved the hunt.

Hyun-Soo thought the protest was weak, but the members told him not to worry and that this is how they do it in the beginning.

Justification was the important part.

A way to stop them if they decide to act recklessly.

And the written protest will provide that.

“Yoo-Na submitted a request to Mr. Herhim and we’re investigating this on our own, so we’ll soon find out what happened. First, let’s deal with the guy that we know is guilty.”

A big smile appeared on Jack’s face and when the members remembered receiving an official document in the morning, a smile appeared on their faces as well.

They all had a bloodthirsty smile.

“What did they say? An administrative error? And they’re saying they didn’t know?”

“They’re just making up excuses. They’re just turning a blind eye.”

The reply they received was ridiculous.

This was the summary of the letter.

They didn’t know.

There was an administrative error.

Maybe the members encountered fugitives that entered the portal illegally.

Anyways, we’re not at fault, so we hope there isn’t a misunderstanding.

‘Are they serious?’

They were avoiding the issue and even blamed others.

It was so ridiculous that someone with low blood pressure will end up with high blood pressure.

The last part was even funnier.

“They want to meet because of a misunderstanding and to better our relationship? Are they joking?”

Since things will become complicated once the relationship becomes worse, this was their method of trying to make things better.

Kim Yoo-Na’s clan was the only clan that managed to clear the colorful portal.

The government will be in a bad position if they go against a clan that was rising up.

They’ll lose a lot if talented hunters decided not to work with them.

The hunters moving to another country will be the worst case scenario.

So, they’re trying to work things out somehow…

‘Who’s behind all of this?’

It was ridiculous.

They were being aggressive in the beginning and now they want to meet to make peace.

Whoever it was, their empathy was lacking.

“I’m getting mad the more I think about it. Are we shit to them or something? Calling us whenever they want. What gives them the right to do that?!”

To make things worse, they didn’t even try considering the other party in the letter.

The answer is already there and they expected the clan to follow.

That was their attitude.

It's obvious that their attitude would annoy the members.

"When is it?"

"In two days."

"So soon? I thought they would make us wait forever."

"They're probably in a rush too. Their the ones behind it and since things didn't work out the way they planned, they need to deal with it."

Their plan on trying to bring the clan down failed.

In fact, a fire was burning deep inside them.

"Great. Let's take those guys down."

It was time to hunt.

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"Fancy."

A building that looked similar to the clan's was standing tall.

"It's because of their status."

When Hyun-Soo displayed an annoyed expression, Eugene replied.

The clan was well-known because the small group of elite hunters, but it seemed like they really wanted to make themselves known.

On top of that, a high-ranking figure personally invited them to their home.

Even though they said they wanted to sort out the misunderstanding and improve their relationship, the members didn't want to do that at all.

"How unfortunate. It's such a nice place too..."

It’s going to break down soon.

That was what they really meant.

And they didn’t feel bad at all.

They just said it to be nice.

“Welcome. I hope you didn’t have a hard time…”

“No, we got here just fine thanks to you.”

Kim Yoo-Na, who was wearing an elegant outfit, greeted the assistant with a smile.

Kim Yoo-Na wasn’t the only one that was dressed nicely.

Everyone dressed casually at the base, but today, everyone wore suits.

They at least had to look good on the outside.

“Please come in. We have been waiting.”

“Okay.”

Kim Yoo-Na followed the assistant inside.

And the members followed behind her.

As soon as they walked in, Eugene slightly turned his head back.

Wink!

He winked and then turned his head back as if nothing happened.

But the members behind him all saw it.

It was a sign to slowly begin the operation.

“Oh my!”

Brad was the first one to make a move.

Brad acted like he tripped and hit the entrance with his shoulder.

He did it intentionally, but made it look like a mistake.

Swoosh……!

The size of the door grew within seconds.

It’s because the wall next to the door broke when Brad hit the entrance.

“What’s goi…… Woah!”

The assistant that was leading Kim Yoo-Na looked back when they heard a loud sound and was shocked by the sight.

“Oh my, I’m sorry. I almost fell and…what should we do about this?”

Brad sounded so awkward that it sounded like he was reading from a book, but because of the damage, the assistant didn’t notice.

During this time, the members looked at each and smiled.

<Time to Hunt #1> End.

Chapter 108 - <Time to Hunt #2>

But moments later, the members changed to hunters that was worried about the trouble their fellow member caused.

“I apologize for the trouble. If you file a claim to our clan, we’ll pay for the damages.”

“...No, it’s fine. It was a mistake, so there’s no need.”

The assistant started breaking out in cold sweat and when the members entered the room they were led to, the person that called them was waiting for them there.

“Welcome. It’s nice to meet you.”

“Thank you for the invitation.”

“It’s nothing. Thank you for accepting the invitation. Since this isn’t an official meeting, I would like it if we spoke comfortably and instead of addressing me by my position, please call me Ronald.”

“Thank you for the warm welcome, Mr. Ronald.”

Kim Yoo-Na spoke as the clan’s representative.

“Have a seat everyone.”

Right when everyone was going to sit down.

Crack!

“Oh! My mistake!”

One of the members “accidentally” broke a chair.

The top portion of the chair broke into many pieces and fell to the floor.

“...I’ll ask them to bring another chair.”

It looked like Ronald’s expression changed a bit, but he quickly hid it.

The meal was boring.

Ronald spoke to Kim Yoo-Na most of the time and the conversation wasn't any different from the information that was on the letter.

The only difference was that Ronald was more gentle about it.

'This is making me more nervous than a hunt.'

Kim Yoo-Na and Ronald were both smiling, but that wasn't how they were actually feeling.

Even though they were smiling, they were looking for an opportunity to attack from behind.

It seemed like they were hunting with their mouth.

They came to hunt, but the monster wasn't letting the hunters catch them easily.

The members discreetly looking at each other.

One of the members looked like they were going to sneeze.

"Ah…ah…ah…achoo!"

Claaaaaaash!

And at the same time, the windows on the other side broke.

The guards that were standing around the building looked inside with a shocked expression.

"Oh, wow. I'm sorry. I have a cold. I wasn't expecting that sneeze, so I couldn't stop myself. I'm sorry."

The member that sneezed quickly stood up and bowed.

It was awkward because he couldn't hide his emotion.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Ronald. The members keep causing trouble."

Clank!

While Kim Yoo-Na was apologizing, they heard the sound of a plate breaking.

Ronald instinctively looked over and then his eyes widened.

It's because a dinner knife, which wasn't a dangerous weapon, was stabbed deep into the table.

The problem was that the table was made out of marble.

"I'm sorry. My hands slipped."

Ronald's face turned so white that he looked pathetic.

But Ronald managed to maintain a poker face.

They continued the conversation.

If it weren't for the members that caused trouble.

Excluding Ronald, the assistant, guards and the employees all looked really shocked.

They somehow managed to finish their meal and conversation.

It was really short and long at the same time.

During that time, one wall of Ronald's home was completely broken and a part of the garden was damaged.

Of course they were all "mistakes."

Before leaving, Kim Yoo-Na took out a small glass bottle from her purse.

"Mr. Ronald, I'm sure you're really shocked because of the members. As the leader, I apologize."

"……What's this?"

Ronald asked as he grabbed the bottle.

But he must've known what it was because the hand that was holding the bottle was shaking.

"I'm sure you know. I'm sure you're really shocked, so I hope this will help you calm down."

"Ahem, thank you."

Ronald's face looked thin by the time they finished eating, but when received the potion, he looked well again.

It was the attitude of someone that knew exactly what is was.

If he didn't know, he wouldn't quickly hide the bottle in his inner pocket.

"And, please send the repair costs to the clan. If you don't, I won't feel good about it. If you'd like, I can send you something else instead."

"Something else……?"

"The same item that you placed in your pocket."

"Gasp! Ahem! That would be great. I thought this place wasn't good enough to bring remarkable hunters, so thank you for understanding."

The potion that Kim Yoo-Na gave was highly effective.

Ronald was trying to remain calm because of his status, but the bottle ruined all of that.

He even laughed about the members' mistakes and blamed it on the items that broke.

"I wish you all the best."

Kim Yoo-Na finished the conversation with a soft smile.

Ronald had a smirk on his face, but he said his goodbye with a smile.

"Ahem……! Ahem……!"

"Hey, just laugh. It's just us now anyways."

Someone was holding in their laughter and another member told them not to.

And the sound of their laughter filled the car.

"Hahahaha! It was hilarious! Did you see his expression? He had a

stink face!”

“I don’t really like associating with people like him, but it wasn’t so bad this time.”

Everyone started talking about the meeting.

Moments ago, the members were well-mannered and well-dressed, but now, they were laughing like mischievous children.

“It worked, right?”

“Of course. He looked so out of it.”

Hyun-Soo smiled while recalling Ronald’s expression before they left.

But they didn’t use any special methods.

All they did was break half of the house and make them feel threatened while eating.

Kim Yoo-Na handing him the potion was the finale.

He even begged her to sell the potion to him and offered to pay twice as much as what the black market was paying.

Everyone knew.

Everyone that was at the top had similar skills.

That’s why, if there was even a small difference, it will break the balance.

A chance to get ahead of everyone else!

The potion not only increases one’s stats, but it also gave the chance to get ahead of someone.

That’s why everyone was desperate to get one.

And Kim Yoo-Na gave one to Ronald.

And she even said it was possible to get more without any hesitation.

He probably realized then how wealthy the clan was.

That was what Hyun-Soo wanted.

“What’s wrong?”

Eugene, who sitting across from him, asked.

“Hm, it just seems like our methods were too ordinary.”

“Haha. I guess you were expecting blood to splatter everywhere.”

“Not really, but…well, something similar.”

Before the members, Ronald looked as if he wanted to kill one of the members.

“It was pretty simple, huh? And it looked like we were just showing off our strength. It may seem like an ordinary method, but it’s the best method to use.”

Eugene added that if they really did use their skills, then things would get even more complicated and tiring.

It would be nice to get revenge, but making the entire world their enemy was a foolish thing to do.

“People that have a desk job tend to not know who they’re going up against. They either hear it from others or read about it from the reports they receive. They never really meet face-to-face like this.”

So they’re indirectly showing it.

High-ranking figures rarely get the chance to see how strong hunters are.

They just sit at their desks and read the reports that the lowly employees give them. They’re probably not interested in the type of skills that the hunters have or what they’re able to accomplish.

One can’t understand the full experience if they don’t experience it for themselves.

Hunters are nothing more than a weapon and are treated like chess pieces.

“You saw it too, Hyun-Soo. His face turned white every time we made a mistake. Since they’ve never experienced it themselves, I’m sure they were extremely shocked. Didn’t it feel good to watch? It was pretty satisfying.”

“Well…I did see that too.”

Honestly, Hyun-Soo felt satisfied too.

He felt the same way as Eugene.

When would they get the chance to show off their strengths to someone like him?

Regardless of their status, the members were really able to show off their strength to Ronald.

“But, you don’t think he’ll hold a grudge against us because of this?”

“He’s probably out of it right now, but once he calms down, he’ll probably think that we’re a disgrace. But people usually become more cautious when it’s related to their safety and since he witnessed our strength, he probably won’t act rashly.”

Ronald will probably be out of it for a while.

“He probably won’t hold a grudge against us. He’ll be more cautious and try to protect himself. Backstabbing after inviting us? That means he’s intentionally trying to make us his enemy.”

“Right. That’s why it’s really satisfying. We probably hurt his pride and since he can’t cover that up, I’m sure he’s irritated.”

Katrina commented.

“So, we have no reason to worry?”

“That’s right. We just need to enjoy this.”

Yeah.

In order to receive more of the potion, Ronald probably won’t act rashly.

No one knew whether he would use it for himself or use it as bait towards other hunters, but Ronald probably knew that he would benefit from it.

‘He now has absolute power.’

Hyun-Soo gave Kim Yoo-Na a few bottles before visiting and they came in handy.

The last method.

Hyun-Soo prepared it and Kim Yoo-Na executed it.

***

A few days later, Hyun-Soo heard something.

“You found out who it was?”

“Yes.”

During the past few days, strangers in black cars were visiting the clan and they were actually visiting because of Kim Yoo-Na’s request.

“Where are they?”

“Unfortunately, it’s not just one place.”

“Oh…….”

It was just an assumption, but Hyun-Soo didn’t expect it to be true.

That meant that they had to face more than one guilds.

“What are you planning on doing?”

“Some are saying we should catch them and others are saying we should wait. Since it’s an issue, it’s complicated for everyone. On top of that, it’s more than one person, so…what do you think we should do, Hyun-Soo?”

Kim Yoo-Na’s large eyes were focused on Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo looked into her eyes and carefully opened his mouth.

“Personally…I think getting back at them right now is a bit dangerous.”

“How come? They were trying to bury us. Aren’t you mad?”

The way she asked sounded like she was trying to provoke him.

“Of course I am. But, we’re not going up against one person, so right now, it’s better to rest up.”

Going up against them just because they were angry was a foolish thing to do.

Their opponent was a guild that was known all over the world.

And it wasn’t just one guild.

If they acted based on their emotions, they would lose.

Even though they were angry, they lacked power.

“On top of that, our clan is currently growing. If we get caught in a scandal right now, then it’ll damage us pretty badly. The opponent is trying their best to pull us out, so we shouldn’t show them any of our weakness.”

They had to save up their strength.

That’s what Hyun-Soo believed.

“It’s never too late to get revenge.”

<Time to Hunt #2> End.

Chapter 109 - <Time to Hunt #3>

“It’s never too late for revenge.”

“I see…….”

Kim Yoo-Na smiled after hearing Hyun-Soo’s comment.

“You and I think alike. We can get revenge using the same method, but that’ll make us the same as them. We also need to grow our powers a bit more.”

She didn’t stop there.

“But, we shouldn’t just sit here and do nothing, right? They came all this way, so if we don’t do anything, they might look down on us.”

“Oh, I agree. It’ll be a disappointment if we don’t do anything. We should find other ways to pay them back. Violence isn’t always the answer.”

Their eyes met.

Even though they couldn’t pay them back the same way, there were other methods.

“Then, I should increase the number of hunts. And target the colorful portals.”

“That’s a good idea. Showing off our power…I’m sure they’ll get angry. I guess the training will become harder.”

“Do you have another idea, Hyun-Soo?”

An idea suddenly popped into his head and it caused him to smile.

“Yeah, if my assumptions are correct, then my idea will definitely hit them hard.”

A method that’ll keep them on edge.

***

“You’re here by yourself today?”

“Yes. I can’t ask her to come with me for my personal business.”

Hyun-Soo was now used to the black market and in the deepest part of the room, he greeted Herhim.

Like he stated, Kim Yoo-Na was really busy these days.

Her younger sister was getting better and she had been full of energy.

The conversation they had before could also be the reason.

‘I think she mentioned clearing a colorful portal so that it’ll annoy our enemy.’

She was working so hard that the other members that were inspired by her worked hard on their training even though it wasn’t their normal training time.

They used the reports that Hyun-Soo created and even did simulations to try and find ways to defeat the monster that was in the colorful portal.

There was a big difference between having experience and having no experience, so once the members understand and know what to do, they’ll adapt quickly to the colorful portal.

“Okay, so what brings you here?”

“It’s regarding the potion.”

“Oh, did you make more? A lot of people were asking for them, so I’ve been in a tight situation.”

Herhim laughed out loud after saying that he hasn’t been this busy in a while.

‘Of course. But, Mr. Herhim.”

“Hm? What is it?”

Herhim asked, but his expression was telling Hyun-Soo to give him the potion.

“I know you have full control over the sales of the potion, but I still wanted to ask. How much power do I have when it comes to sales?”

Like Hyun-Soo stated, he let Herhim take responsibility for selling the potion.

Since it was being sold through the black market, it was better to let Herhim take care of it.

But that didn’t mean that Hyun-Soo couldn’t be involved in it at all.

That’s why he asked.

About how much he can involve himself.

“Hm, well, depending on my reply, the potions that you have will either land on my hand or remain with you, right?”

“I don’t want to make that kind of deal with you, Mr. Herhim, but depending on the situation and time, it can change. Personally, I really hope that doesn’t happen.”

When Herhim asked if Hyun-Soo was threatening him, Hyun-Soo just displayed an ambiguous expression.

Mr. Herhim looked like a great person, but when his face turns serious, it felt like he was turning into the hunter he used to be.

When Herhim erased the smile on his face, it did seem like he would make his opponent’s knees weak.

But Hyun-Soo just stood there and looked at him with a smile.

Mentally, there was no reason for him to feel intimidated.

In case of an emergency, he did have a way to defend against a S Rank.

He no longer needed to think about his body whenever he faced a stronger opponent.

Herhim broke the silence first.

“You’re no fun, young man. It’s good manners to shudder in fear in this kind of situation.”

“Ha ha. Maybe I should’ve done that.”

“I made this place look like the black markets you see in old Hong Kong movies for a reason. You need to play hard to get once in a while in a place like this. Jeez, we’re just not in sync.”

“I’ll make sure to do that next time.”

“Forget it. I was just testing it out.”

Herhim expressed his disappointment.

“Right, so who should I exclude?”

“You are fast.”

“Yoo-Na asked someone to investigate. It’s pretty obvious if you look more deeply into it…”

“Then this conversation will be short since you already know. Please exclude everyone that’s involved with them.”

“Everyone?”

“Everyone.”

“You know that they’ll try to resist, right?”

“You’re picky about who you sell the potions to anyways.”

“You’re right about that. But, you know…you’re starting to act like Yoo-Na. I’ve been trying to remain mysterious, but you know so much about me.”

Ha ha. Hyun-Soo released an awkward laugh.

“I’m sure it’s burdening for you to permanently ban them, so five times. Please stop selling five times.”

“…I’m sure it’ll be agonizing.”

It was equivalent to going hunting five times.

One hunt can be important especially when the hunter and the

opponent's skill level are the same, but one side is able to somehow increase their power, even if it's a little bit.

That small bit can stack up and eventually make a big difference.

The potion that Hyun-Soo was selling provided the user the power to overcome their limit.

With that, the user will be able to hunt a monster that's one level higher.

"Yes and that's why I'm asking you to put a purchase restriction."

"But five times...you definitely have a cruel side."

"It's a tough world to live if you live nicely."

There was no need to be nice to the enemies.

Since they had to pause on getting revenge, they had to find other ways to pay them back.

Like this.

"Okay. Fine. Five times. You have my word."

"Yes and please prevent others from buying it for them. And please make sure that people aren't reselling it.

"I'll have to put a condition during the auction. Like kicking them out if they resell it."

"That would be great."

They'll probably have to watch their rival and enemies purchase the potion and get a bit ahead of them.

It'll affect their fame and placement that they've been working so hard to maintain.

Or, it'll help plant that fear into their heads.

And make them fall into despair.

That was Hyun-Soo's plan on getting revenge.

***

The members must've been really angry about not getting permission to hunt because they cleared a lot of portals really fast.

Hyun-Soo wasn't sure whether breaking the furnitures that day worked, but the hunt request they've been dragging on for a long time finally got resolved.

Before, they said they couldn't approve it due to errors and issues, but now, they gave the clan a free pass.

In order to make up for the times that they lost, they filled their schedule with a variety of hunts.

Thankfully, during the time when the other hunters didn't want to go on hunts, Kim Yoo-Na appeared and the government gave her all of it.

"How many so far?"

"Seven……."

"Seven within two weeks…that must be the reason why my body is aching."

The members and Kim Yoo-Na had been continuously hunting.

They enjoyed going on difficult hunts and challenging themselves to become stronger, so as a team, they were in sync.

It meant that they went hunting every other day.

They had fun during the hunt, but it sounded like they were starting to feel tired.

'They're monsters…….'

On top of the physical exhaustion, they had to deal with mental exhaustion as well.

After going on a hunt, they need to rest for a few days in order to regain the energy they used and recover their physical energy…

But Kim Yoo-Na's troops didn't stop.

She wanted to get revenge by taking on more hunts and putting the rival on edge.

‘Kim Yoo-Na’s revenge is going well, so mine should be okay too, right?’

Hyun-Soo recalled the message he received from Mr. Herhim a few days ago.

Herhim notified the parties involved five times about the auction restrictions.

It proceeded very smoothly.

Of course there were some that resisted and was temporarily banned from entering.

What did they say?

‘Do you know who I am or something like that.’

He would usually hear that in the soap operas that his mother watched sometimes and since Mr. Herhim said it in his refined accent, it was hilarious.

Since he hasn’t done five auctions yet, Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure what would happen, but for now, he was satisfied.

‘I hope things get better from now on.’

“…They’re trying to cooperate that way, so what do you guys think?”

‘Hm?’

Hyun-Soo missed what Kim Yoo-Na said because he was thinking about something else.

He was in the meeting room with the other members.

It’s because Kim Yoo-Na asked them to gather here.

It’s because she wasn’t done with her revenge.

Which meant, they were trying to schedule a hunt.

“What did she ask just now?”

“Oh. She asked about hunting a colorful portal.”

Kim Yoo-Na has been focusing on the colorful portal lately.

‘It’s hard to put them on edge with ordinary portals.’

It felt like he was able to hear Kim Yoo-Na’s inner thoughts.

“Jeez, purple ones are difficult too. We’re in a tight situation since Yoo-Na is only focusing on the colorful portal.”

A purple portal is currently the most difficult one.

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure if it was a good thing or a bad thing for the human race, but there weren’t that many.

Because of that, many compete against each other in order to get approval for the purple portal.

“But if we change our focus on the colorful portal, it’ll definitely have a huge effect.”

“Isn’t that the reason why she wants to hunt the colorful portal?”

The members whispered amongst themselves.

If that was true, then it was understandable as to why she was focusing on the colorful portal.

And in order to wear out the opponent, choosing the colorful portal was the right thing to do.

They were the only clan that succeeded in the hunt anyways.

“She probably wants to keep going since we have a goal. I think it’s the right thing to do.”

“You’re right. Honestly, we’ve been evaluated too poorly despite of our talented skills. I don’t really appreciate that.”

An ordinary portal was known as the red ocean.

But this new colorful portal was…

‘The blue ocean.’

Humans may call it a disaster, but when looking at it from a different perspective, one will know.

This was a chance to leap forward.

‘On top of that, I’m here, so what can go wrong?’

<Time to Hunt #3> End.

Chapter 110 - <Riri's Skill #1>

This clan cleared two colorful portals.

But there was no guarantee that he'll be able to cover 100% of the situation.

But Hyun-Soo took pride in the fact that he'll be able to back them up.

'And it's not like I'm by myself either.'

Even amongst the A Rank hunters, they were on different levels.

Even if they wielded the same weapon, there could be a huge difference in power and performance based on who's using it.

Because of that, Hyun-Soo was able to trust the members since they were that talented.

They were able to adapt during battle and had the ability to obtain information at a fast rate.

They were also swift.

On top of that, the experience they built up until now was different from ordinary hunters.

If they're given the chance to analyze the opponent's patterns, they're able to adapt to it right away.

'I guess it's safe to say that I'm destined to be here.'

Hyun-Soo and the clan were all in the same boat.

Hyun-Soo decided to help the clan rise to the top.

"I think we should think about the colorful portal a bit more..."

"Danger comes with the territory when you're the first."

"You're right. They said they had a lot of information this time, right?"

"Yeah. So, isn't that a good enough reason for us to go for it?"

Hyun-Soo noticed that Kim Yoo-Na used the word, cooperate.

He assumed that's what they were talking about while he was thinking about something else.

'Cooperate...? Does that mean joining with another guild? Since they mentioned information, is like exchanging data? Anyways, we're in a better situation.'

Hyun-Soo slowly started understanding the conversation they had.

"You're right. It sounds like a pretty good condition."

"Hm? Rookie, what do you think?"

David, who was talking with the other members, happily asked Hyun-Soo.

"Yeah, I think the condition is pretty good. I also like the fact that we have fans."

"Huh? Fans?"

"Don't you like it? They watch us live when we go hunt a colorful portal and after we clear it, they spread that news to other people. Just clearing it is pretty amazing, but it's not enough to shut those that talk badly about us."

It meant that the fans helped the clan fill that gap so that it impacts them.

Hyun-Soo was purposely aiming for rumors.

"Oh.....that's pretty....."

"Good."

The members that heard Hyun-Soo all looked as if they realized something.

They felt a bit embarrassed by the fact that they weren't able to think that far ahead.

But their eyes sparkled once they acknowledged it in their heads.

“Do you happen to be interested in politics?”

“What? No.”

“I think you’ll do great if you went into that field.”

“……I’ll take that as a compliment?”

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure if it was a compliment or not, so he didn’t think too much into it.

Hyun-Soo’s comment was the trigger that made the members agree to the plan.

Some of the crews were worried about how well the cooperation will work out, if they won’t lose their power and what they should do about the reports after they’re done with the hunt.

But after hearing what Hyun-Soo said, they reacted the same way as David and looked at Hyun-Soo.

‘Changing one’s perspective is always needed.’

Revealing it can become one’s strength instead of hiding it.

And through that, the clan can create a big difference so that the enemy can’t even touch them.

That could possibly help Kim Yoo-Na’s revenge go in the right direction.

There wasn’t much of a reason as to why he called the clans’ enemy fans.

‘There’s no way they’re ordinary people.’

Consulting was something that Hyun-Soo had thrown away a long time ago.

If they visited to get consultation, then there’s no way they would be able to clear the colorful portal at their level.

On top of that, he wasn’t confident enough to do it.

Those guilds were going to eventually fail anyways.

Hyun-Soo knew the other guilds would get hurt by his thoughts, but he didn't really care.

"Okay. Then everyone agrees, right?"

Kim Yoo-Na gave the members a moment to decide and when it looked like everyone made their decision, she asked.

Of course everyone agreed.

Once it's been decided, things moved along pretty quickly.

The time and place, the guilds they were going to work with, the reports, etc.

Kim Yoo-Na asked one last time after providing all the important information.

"Any questions or concerns? Please share your thoughts."

Hyun-Soo decided to ask before they dispersed.

"Yes, Hyun-Soo?"

He raised his hand.

"Can Riri participate too?"

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Riri.

The fairy that became the clan's mascot.

No, it was a monster to be exact.

'I think everyone forgot about that fact though.'

But Riri had a cute face, acted cutely and had a cute cry that the members couldn't resist.

In many ways, it did seem like the members forgot that Riri was a monster.

When Hyun-Soo asked if Riri could participate.

The members reacted enthusiastically.

Riri's cuteness wasn't the only reason. They were interested because it was related to the hunt.

Anyways, it was decided at the meeting that Riri could come along.

"Hey, hey, hey, look at this cutie. Riri is eating a strawberry."

Kyuuuu.

Riri was eating a strawberry that was half the size of its body and the members were all watching.

Everyone came to the cafeteria to eat, but they were busy watching Riri.

'Riri is cute…but is it that cute?'

Hyun-Soo had eyes and ears, so he did think that Riri was cute.

But when sees the members and his sister's reaction, he gets surprised by how enthusiastically they're reacting to Riri.

On top of that, Kim Yoo-Na acts nervously as her cheeks turn red.

"Riri should be able to enter without any issues, right?"

"Should we check real quick by going into a green or gray portal?"

The biggest concern that the members had wasn't whether they could clear the colorful portal or if they'll be able to get along with the guild.

"It'll be a big problem if Riri can't enter."

It was about whether Riri could enter the portal or not.

Can a monster enter a portal where another monster already exists?

No one was able to answer that.

There has been cases where more than one monsters existed within one portal, but Hyun-Soo never heard of monsters exiting

one portal and entering another where a monster already exists.

“A lot of crazy things happen in the world, so we might learn something new.”

Ismael said it was too early to get frustrated about it and spoke in a serious manner.

“It’ll be a big problem if Riri can’t go in…Riri…”

They kept on saying Riri’s name as if they had a withdrawal symptom.

Up till now, Riri has never participated in a hunt with Hyun-Soo.

It’s only been a few months since Riri hatched, so Hyun-Soo felt uncomfortable about taking Riri to a dangerous place.

He wasn’t sure if the concept of a baby even existed in monsters.

And honestly…

‘It’s too hectic.’

Riri only followed Hyun-Soo.

So, Hyun-Soo had to take care of Riri and honestly, it was tiring and a lot of work.

When Hyuna heard that, she attacked him and complained about how ungrateful he was.

He didn’t really understand her complaint.

‘Well, I’m sure it’ll work out one way or another.’

That was Hyun-Soo’s honest thought.

But it was something he could just ignore.

Of course it would be an issue if Riri wasn’t able to enter, but if something were to happen because of it, that would be a problem.

It basically meant that Riri’s cuteness wasn’t the only reason for them wanting to take the monster into the portal.

Well…from the way they acted, it didn’t seem like that at all.

But, when it was necessary, they remained serious.

Riri consumed condensed energy.

This was the beginning of their plan.

It all started with someone's comment.

"Riri is able to consume our skills, so wouldn't it be awesome if it could consume a monster's skill too?"

It was a simple thought, but it led to an amazing result.

It was Riri's shield.

Even though Riri couldn't be the shield, but if it were able to block a monster's skill at least once, then it was worth trying.

Whether it will work or not will depend on the monster's skill.

Anyways, it was a good idea.

In colorful portals, being cautious isn't enough to clear.

So, blocking a monster's attack can be considered a huge strength.

It meant that it gave them precious time to analyze the monster's attack patterns.

Obviously, that one chance was more than enough for these skilled hunters to understand what they had to do.

Of course Riri still needed to be trained, but the possibility was endless.

Everyone was excited about training Riri.

So, Hyun-Soo understood why everyone was so worked up about it.

"Riri should be able to go in, right?"

"I'm sure Riri will be able to. If not, it'll be a big problem."

"Yeah, we should tell Yoo-Na and at least try going into a green portal."

Kyuuuuu?

Riri tiled its head once it realized that everyone was looking at them.

Sigh.

The sound of people breathing in could be heard.

And then.

“Riri’s debut has to be grand.”

We need to let the world know about Riri’s cuteness and brag about the fact that we’re the only clan that has this cutie!

The members desperately wanted that and Hyun-Soo felt it from the way they sighed.

They were talking about coming up with a plan, but now, they were talking about a totally different topic.

“.....”

Hyun-Soo believed that that was their true intention.

***

Team Xeon.

That was the name of the guild that bowed to Kim Yoo-Na.

When looking at the guild’s rank, they were easily within the top 20.

“.....”

The members didn’t look too happy to see Team Xeon.

This was their third time seeing each other and it was the day of the hunt, but they didn’t seem too pleased.

If an outsider looked, they probably would’ve thought that the two groups met to fight.

There was a reason why the friendly members expressed their discomfort towards them.

“Same as always.”

It was their attitude.

Brad, who rarely said anything, expressed his opinion, and from that, Hyun-Soo knew they were a mess.

Their first meeting was really bad.

Since the colorful portal was known to be dangerous, the two groups agreed to meet before going in.

And below was the review that someone left after the meeting.

“It’s not like we’re desperate to enter the portal with them.”

Someone also commented that their cockiness shot through the roof.

The second meeting wasn’t any different, but it was somewhat better than the first.

And this was their third meeting.

‘Will it be okay to go in with them?’

Hyun-Soo was now questioning it.

Since they’re pretty well-known worldwide, there wasn’t a need to question their skills.

The guild revolved around a small number of hunters and the others were just ordinary members.

They were alright when looking at the average, but when looking at them individually, they weren’t anything special.

On top of that, there was one person that made everyone uncomfortable.

“Yoo-Na! Thank you for coming. Let’s do well on the hunt today.”

It was the guild leader and they approached Yoo-Na with a bright smile.

<Riri's Skill #1> End.

Chapter 111 - <Riri's Skill #2>

The leader was one of the few skilled hunter in the guild.

'Isn't it the guild leader's job to help the members increase their experience?'.

It can be pretty dangerous if the guild only focuses on a few of the members.

What if something happens to that hunter during the hunt?

If a majority of the hunters were just supporting, can that really be considered as hunting?

Guild leaders should be like Kim Yoo-Na and consider each of the members' skills important.

And that's what the leader of Team Xeon lacked.

Hyun-Soo considered that to be the reason why he didn't like their leader so much.

"He's here again...tsk, tsk. He just doesn't know when to quit."

"He should choose his opponent carefully. Yoo-Na isn't even talking to him, but he's acting all friendly."

"What's with that attitude? They're the ones getting our help, but they're acting as if we're hunting together."

The big hunters gathered together and quietly complained.

It was like seeing those middle-aged women in the markets.

'I didn't think I would experience the traditional Korean market atmosphere in the US...'

Katrina, who didn't know anything about the conversation they were having, intercepted.

"What? Isn't he supposed to talk to Yoo-Na since he's the leader?"

“Hey. Kids don’t need to get involved. Shh. Go away.”

“Who are you calling a kid? I’m old enough!”

“How tall are you?”

“…You’re mean. I’m not talking to you. I’m leaving.”

Katrina was simply asking why it was odd for two leaders to talk to each other, but the members just ignored her.

When Katrina got attacked because of her height, she pouted and ran to Eugene.

The members didn’t really have any issues hunting a colorful portal.

The hunt itself involved a lot of social and political reasoning.

However, since they were only human, it was difficult for them to treat the other guild nicely.

“Hey, rookie. As the Super Rookie, hurry up and go save the princess.”

“……Princess?”

“Yeah, the Snow White over there.”

Their finger was pointing at Kim Yoo-Na.

“……”

Kim Yoo-Na really was like Snow White.

She had black hair with fair skin. And she was beautiful too.

If Snow White lived in the present, she probably would’ve looked like Kim Yoo-Na.

However.

‘Snow White that kills a monster with her bare hands…’

It didn’t match at all.

“Oh, they’re finally calling us. It’s time, my friends. Let us defeat

that villain.”

After the leaders talked briefly, it was time to check the number of participants and their conditions.

The members stood up as if they were preparing for war.

They definitely weren’t nervous at all.

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure if it was because they were confident in their skills or if there was something else.

‘…Now that I think about it, there is something.’

Hyun-Soo recalled Riri, who was rolled up in his pocket.

The members promised to take Riri on this hunt and Hyun-Soo saw their determination.

The members dragged Hyun-Soo to the portal to test it out.

Thankfully, Riri was able to enter the portal, so a lot of the members felt relieved.

However, Riri couldn’t consume as well as they had expected.

Because of that, most of Hyun-Soo’s time was spent on going to other portals because the members forced him.

‘I was able to obtain ingredients for the potion thanks to that, but.’

He was pretty tired.

It was a green portal, so the hunt wasn’t difficult.

Hyun-Soo was mentally tired.

“Why are you only staying with the rookie?! I’m the one that explained it, Riri!”

“Sigh. It would be nice if Riri cutely asked me for compliments…”

“I have hands…shoulders…and a head too…”

“Hey. You’ll die if you don’t have ahead.”

Whenever Riri learned something new, she would fly to Hyun-Soo and ask for compliments.

Riri was like a puppy.

The way Riri asked for compliments was extremely cute and lovable.

The problem as that she only asked Hyun-Soo.

‘Man, I’m tired.’

Hyun-Soo felt tired when these grown men were expressing their jealousy towards him.

It happened every time during Riri’s training.

The members in the clan were now saying how they wanted a daughter like Riri.

But the members that said it weren’t married.

“Riri.”

Hyun-Soo lightly tapped his pocket.

Kyuuu?

Riri looked outside the pocket when she felt Hyun-Soo’s tap.

Riri tilted her head once and flew around Hyun-Soo after spreading out her wings.

Since both groups were near Kim Yoo-Na, the members of Xeon saw her too.

“Gasp! What is that?”

“Fairy? Is it a fairy?”

“Why is a fairy over there?”

The members of Xeon must’ve been surprised because they were talking about Riri.

Thanks to that, the members’ pride shot up.

They all had a satisfied expression and it was as if Riri was their own daughter.

Look at my big and awesome…no, small and cute Riri!

Be jealous!

Even though they didn't say it, it was obvious as to what they were thinking.

'We definitely got their attention.'

It seemed like it happened all of a sudden, but this was actually part of their plan.

The purpose of this hunt was to show Xeon that they were on a different class than them.

That's why, the more they were surprised and shocked, the better it was for them.

Kyuuuu—

Riri flew higher and after spinning around once, she sat on Hyun-Soo's shoulder.

A lot of eyes followed Rir's movement.

Leon, the leader of the Team Xeon, followed as well.

The way Leon looked at Hyun-Soo was different from when he was talking to Kim Yoo-Na.

Smirk.

When Hyun-Soo felt Leon's eyes on him, a smirk appeared on his face.

He didn't do it on purpose, but a frown appeared on Leon's face when he saw it.

"Yoo-Na, what is that?"

"It's a monster that a member is raising."

When Kim Yoo-Na replied, the members of Xeon started talking

amongst themselves.

“It’s a monster? Then, isn’t it dangerous?”

“She told you that I’m raising the monster. She’s not dangerous. At least not to her allies.”

When Leon asked, Hyun-Soo stepped forward and answered for Kim Yoo-Na.

Leon still had a frown on his face.

“I asked Yoo-Na.”

“Oh, really? You kept on looking at me, so I thought you were talking to me.”

Hyun-Soo shrugged and then took a step back.

Leon was still looking at Hyun-Soo, but Hyun-Soo didn’t care and let Riri fly again.

Riri understood what Hyun-Soo wanted, so she spun around Team Xeon.

Tap, tap!

“……?!”

Someone hit his back while he was watching Riri fly around Team Xeon.

He slightly turned his head and saw that it was the members.

He followed their eyes and looked down and noticed that all of them had their thumbs up.

Thumbs up.

It seemed like they were complimenting him, but he didn’t know why.

‘…It’s difficult to understand them sometimes.’

A war of nerves took place during the last minute check-up and that war ended when they announced that they would be moving

on soon.

Riri returned to Hyun-Soo's shoulder and then flapped her wings.

And then.

"We're here."

The third colorful portal appeared before them.

***

The creaking wooden floors created an unpleasant sound.

When they entered the portal, they ended up inside a wooden building.

At first, they didn't know they were inside a building.

There were a few things they noticed, but overall, they couldn't really see much.

"Maybe it's because it's a colorful portal, but it feels like they haven't finished building this place."

There was a floor and ceiling, but no walls.

And there were stairs, but there wasn't anything to support those stairs.

The stairs were just floating in the air.

Would it break if someone walked on it?

"We need to go up there. According to the report, there shouldn't be any problem going up a level. But still, don't let your guard down."

Everyone knew about that.

The team explored the first floor and after going up to the second floor, they discovered a set of stairs that led to the third floor and then returned.

'They should do better than that.'

Hyun-Soo couldn't help but feel that way, but he decided to try to understand them.

Since there were a lot of limits, there was definitely going to be flaws in the report.

They enter the portal without any information and on top of that, they don't make any plans prior to entering.

They usually look around and create a general report, so of course the report would be lacking a lot of information.

The first floor was worn out, but the second floor was worse.

After walking up the old, shabby stairs, it revealed a sight that was worse than the first floor.

Weird wooden models were lying in different areas.

It seemed like someone was creating a wooden doll, but messed up while making it.

They were falling apart and looking at them didn't make them feel very good.

"Riri."

Riri flapped her wings and appeared in front of Hyun-Soo.

"Can you check the floor above? If it's dangerous, come right back."

Kyuuu!

Riri followed the stairs and flew up to the third floor.

When Hyun-Soo slightly turned his head back, he saw that Leon had a shocked look on his face.

'Yeah, I'm sure you guys will never experience this again. Take a good look and make sure to tell your friends.'

Riri returned moments later.

Riri started explaining about the situation on the third floor.

"……?"

The problem was that he couldn't understand.

Kyuuuuu!

Even though he couldn't understand, he was able to make an assumption based on her body language and the way she flapped her wings.

'I guess there aren't any issues or monsters, so it's probably not dangerous.'

Kyuuuu?

"Oh, right. So you're saying that it's not that dangerous, right?"

Riri nodded her head.

"Let's head upstairs. She said it's not dangerous. But, we should still be cautious."

After Hyun-Soo translated Riri's movements, Kim Yoo-Na, who was watching her surroundings, nodded her head.

And then she ordered the group to move.

"Wow…I guess it's possible to use it that way."

Leon admired Riri because she was better than any other exploration devices.

Kyuuuuu—

Riri flew in a circle as if to show off.

It was like she was saying, "I did well, right?"

The way she acted was cute and praiseworthy, and it made Hyun-Soo smile.

"There aren't any traps."

"There's nothing hidden here either."

The third and second floor were pretty much the same.

Just a shabby floor, ceiling and stairs.

Riri took the lead this time too.

They were only given information about the first and second floor.

That’s why they had to be extra cautious.

Kyuuuu!

Riri used her body and wings again.

That happened several more times.

It’s because every time they walked up, the same style floor appeared before them.

Every time that happened, they became even more envious of Riri.

<Riri’s Skill #2> End.

Chapter 112 - <Riri's Skill #3>

They were also envious of Hyun-Soo because Riri would sit on Hyun-Soo's shoulder.

Hyun-Soo felt proud.

However, all of them didn't feel the same way.

'……Is it just me?'

Leon, the leader of Team Xeon, gave off a different vibe.

Hyun-Soo wasn't sure if he felt that way because his first impression of them wasn't great or if it was because Leon really was looking at him with disgust.

But when he first awakened as a hunter, he met a lot of people with horrible personalities, so this was nothing to him.

"Um……."

Some of the members from Xeon looked like they wanted to ask questions.

"……."

Before Hyun-Soo could answer, the members kept their mouths shut due to the glares they were receiving from others.

Team Xeon must have a strict system because when Leon started walking without saying anything, the members quietly followed behind him.

Team Xeon was following behind, but most of the members wasn't feeling great about this.

'Can't believe we're asking for their help…'

It wasn't even teamwork. They were basically carrying Team Xeon.

Both sides knew that that was the truth.

Team Xeon knew that they weren't skilled enough to hunt a colorful portal.

Because the guilds that were stronger than them failed at clearing the portal.

They probably never thought about going in by themselves and clearing it.

Coaching? Giving advice?

That only helps when you're slightly lacking, but it's useless when you have nothing to start with.

Kyuuuuu!

Riri flew up to the sixth floor, but quickly came back.

It was different from the other floors that she explored.

"What is it? What is she saying?"

Riri came back as soon as she flew up and the members asked when they noticed the way she was acting.

"Is there something up there?"

Kyuuuu!

"Something dangerous? Is there a monster?"

Kyuuuuu!

Riri nodded her head and created a large circle.

"Is the monster round?"

Riri nodded again and this time, she flapped her arms and legs.

"I guess the monster has a lot of arms and legs."

Kyuuuu!

"You heard it, right? Let's prepare for battle."

Kim Yoo-Na, who was also watching Riri, clapped her hands to get their attention.

‘It would be nice if I can actually understand her.’

Then he would be able to obtain more detailed information.

Hyun-Soo looked at Riri with disappointment, but Riri tilted her head in confusion.

‘Maybe I should teach her Korean since she’s pretty smart.’

Teaching a monster a language?

Ordinary people would definitely lose their minds if they heard this.

Interacting with a monster is interesting enough that it would grab the attention of people all over the world.

Creak, creak.

The stairs that led to the seventh floor made unpleasant sounds.

The sound of people walking on these wooden floors filled the room.

Moments later.

La la la la la.

‘Music?’

A quiet hum could be heard despite the creaking sound.

The members that were in the front must’ve heard it too, because they stopped walking.

“This…….”

“……I think this is it.”

The members exchanged glances. They carefully took a step forward.

When Kim Yoo-Na gave the signal, the members nodded.

It was a sign to get into the formation they prepared as soon as they walk up.

Before entering, Brad raised his hand. Three of his fingers were stretched out.

Brad slowly folded them one by one.

It was a countdown.

Three, two, one!

As soon as he folded his last finger, the members ran up the stairs.

And then.

Kyahhhhhh!

“Ack!”

“Ah!”

The hunters almost lost their balance when they heard a loud screech.

Because of that, it took them a while to get into formation.

During that time, a silver light flashed. It was a sudden attack.

Luckily, Lahatlan shielded Hyun-Soo, but not for the other hunters.

Hyun-Soo was supposed to take his place and use Lahatlan, but…

“Riri!”

Hyun-Soo called Riri.

Riri was in front of the group, but when she heard Hyun-Soo, she flew up.

Swoosh.

The silver light disappeared as if it shot into the hunters.

It’s because Riri consumed it all.

Kyuuuuu.

Riri released a long sigh.

During that time, the members and Team Xeon came back to their senses.

They had lost it because the short and loud screech messed them up mentally.

“To your places!”

Even though they were in danger for a brief moment, they quickly adjusted.

The members stood in formation and glared at the monster.

“……Wow.”

The monster was so bizarre, that they couldn’t help but exclaim.

It had a circular body and it had over 20 slender legs.

It was exactly like how Riri expressed it.

But the level of grotesqueness was extreme.

The monster’s entire body reminded Hyun-Soo of the make-up that’s used in the Beijing opera.

The monster was hugging a pile of wood.

They reminded him of the wooden models he saw on the other floors.

Oddly-shaped wooden models were lying on the floor in each of the levels.

It looked like a wooden doll, but it looked really rough, so Hyun-Soo didn’t think it could be a doll.

But.

“Oh, shit.”

The wooden models that the human spider was hugging started moving.

The monster moved its legs and controlled the silver thread.

Creak, creak.

It moved awkwardly at first, but.

La la la la la la.

The moment the models heard the spider singing, the awkward movements disappeared.

Even though we had a tank, beating 20 attackers at once was impossible.

However, close-range attackers circled around them and long distance attackers and healers stood behind them, so the damage wasn't so bad.

Even though the close-range attackers weren't as strong as the tanks, they were able to protect themselves.

However, there are times when things don't go as planned.

On top of that, they were inside a colorful portal.

It was difficult to predict the situation here.

Swoosh!

"Ack!"

One healer started bleeding and fainted.

Another healer quickly ran to their side and activated a healing skill.

"Wha, what happened?!"

The attacker was the one that yelled out the question.

That attacker wasn't the human spider and it wasn't one of the models the spider was controlling.

"Denver? What are you doing?!"

"No, I didn't mean to...ack!"

"Move!"

Denver charged towards the nearby members with a shocked expression and started attacking with his sword.

Clank!

Thankfully, Brad intercepted and blocked his attack.

He was able to prevent them from killing each other.

Everyone was surprised by this unexpected situation.

It's because they didn't expect an ally to attack them all of a sudden.

On top of that, Denver himself didn't know why he was acting that way.

"Ack! Please stop! Stop it!"

He tried to move his body, but he couldn't because it felt like someone was controlling him.

'Wait, control?'

Hyun-Soo quickly used Interface.

'Thread?'

He was able to see the thread that was connected to Denver.

The thread that was connected to the models was connect to Denver as well.

"Try using any cutting skills around Denver!"

He yelled as soon as he checked and the members immediately used their skills.

Different skills cut the air near Denver.

Flop!

"Ahhhhhh....."

Denver prepared to run, but he ended up falling to the ground.

It seemed like his body was out of energy because he couldn't move.

A few of the members carried Denver and moved him to the back.

“Make sure the monster’s thread doesn’t touch you. It can control you once it touches you.”

Hyun-Soo recalled the information he saw on Interface.

The monster’s name was the Puppeteer.

Like Karazhan, Interface didn’t show the monster’s rank and only said that it was currently evolving.

Control was listed as one of its attributes, so the monster probably used threads to control the body.

Thanks to Hyun-Soo’s information, the members became even more cautious.

They couldn’t really make a move.

20 wooden models were in front of the Puppeteer.

The Puppeteer’s attacks itself couldn’t be ignored.

The silver thread was actually made out of metal, so the threads can be used to attack.

‘On top of that they’re able to control the body, so we have to be careful.’

This was definitely a colorful portal.

The nickname, impregnable, was fitting.

If a different guild entered this portal, the Puppeteer would’ve controlled all of them and that’s how the hunt would’ve ended.

They wouldn’t know why their member was attacking and they would’ve suffered greatly because of it.

On top of that, the worse situation would be…….

‘Killing that member.’

Even though they didn’t know the reason, the easiest way to resolve the issue would be to kill them.

However, it wouldn’t end there and the same situation will

repeat itself…

‘Annihilation.’

Nothing more, nothing less.

They might be able to resolve it in the beginning by killing the killer, but the number of hunters will decrease and in the end, the clan will suffer from a counterattack.

Or, the Puppeteer might attack and kill all of them.

‘In that sense, we’re off to a good start.’

Whew…….

After analyzing the situation, Hyun-Soo realized that they managed to overcome a big issue.

Was it because of that?

A deep sigh was released.

Kyuuuu?

Riri tilted her head in confusion.

***

“I said move!”

The members of Team Xeon flinched when they heard yelling.

They tried to discreetly join the group, but Marcus noticed them.

Going against the Puppeteer was extremely complicated, but that didn’t last long.

Knowing the monster’s attack pattern was the most important task.

Once they understand the pattern, they’re able to naturally understand the monster’s skills and movements.

Since it wasn’t a machine, it didn’t have a routine.

However, during dangerous situations or when there’s a big

attack, people usually use the most familiar and most used skill.

It’s only natural to react that way.

Monsters weren’t any different.

“Haa!”

The puppeteer opened its mouth to release a sound wave attack, but it twisted its body when attacks entered the body.

With that, the wooden models’ movements became twisted as well.

After that, the Puppeteer didn’t use the sound wave attack.

The wooden models kept on attacking.

Every time that happened, the long distance attackers stepped up and cut the threads that was between the Puppeteer and the models.

But the Puppeteer released more threads.

“Damn it, we can’t get near it.”

Even though the models attacked, it was also the Puppeteer’s way of defending.

The close-range attackers couldn’t keep playing the sub-tank role and block the models’ attacks.

Thankfully, after Denver was released, no one was controlled by the Puppeteer.

It’s because the long range attackers cleaned up the areas near the members.

They had to attack and clean up the area.

‘It’s chaotic.’

Hyun-Soo, who was using Invisible Attack, was getting a headache.

There were a lot of things they had to focus on.

If this continues, there's a high chance that they'll be the first ones to get tired.

But during that time, the members of Team Xeon must've thought that this was an easy hunt, because they slowly started approaching the members.

Because of that, Marcus's yelling filled the room once again.

<Riri's Skill #3> End.

Chapter 113 - < Power Expansion Preparations #1> End.

What would happen if the Puppeteer controlled them?

Then they would become the enemy.

“You guys are no help, so stay behind!”

The members became really annoyed because the members of Team Xeon only got in the way.

A member angrily asked why they had to babysit when it was hard enough going up against a monster they’ve seen for the first time.

Marcus was the one that said it.

His pride was just as high as the level of his skill.

He was one of the members that didn’t really like the collaboration.

He did acknowledge the need for it, so he followed Kim Yoo-Na, but once he realized how unhelpful they were, he released his anger.

‘Weakness…where’s the weakness…’

Hyun-Soo quickly moved his eyes to find the Puppeteer’s weakness.

But he couldn’t find the white dot anywhere.

‘Damn it, I need to make the monster move somehow…’

The Puppeteer stayed in one place as if it was glued to that spot.

‘What to do?’

Hyun-Soo quickly tried to think of something.

The more time passes, the more they’re at a disadvantage.

On top of that, they had to babysit.

And then.

Kim Yoo-Na gave her orders.

“Long distance attackers, focus on the monster. You don’t have to divert its attention. The close-range attackers will deal with the wooden models. If possible, use your strongest skill and attack quickly.”

No one knew when they would become a puppet.

On top of that, if they don’t cut the thread on the models, more will appear.

Because of that, the long distance attackers couldn’t really do much.

Everyone knew they wouldn’t benefit anything from dragging the hunt too long.

Kim Yoo-Na was gambling.

But the members pushed aside their doubts and followed her instructions.

While the models were attacking the close-range attackers…

Boom!

Swoosh!

Variety of skills were used on the Puppeteer.

And.

“Huh?”

The wooden models were taken somewhere.

It was near the Puppeteer’s body.

The wooden models were taking the hit for the Puppeteer.

‘I think we can ignore everything else and attack just the Puppeteer.’

That thought suddenly popped into Hyun-Soo's head.

Everyone must've thought the same thing because they were preparing to use their skills again.

But that thought was soon destroyed.

Kyahhhhhhhh!

Boooom!

After the Puppeteer endured the attacks, it screamed as its eyes turned red.

And at the same time, the floor started breaking.

"Ack?!"

The hunters started losing their balance because of the floor.

Darkness was below the floor.

They remembered walking up to the seventh floor, but they disappeared.

'Damn it!'

The worn out wooden floor wasn't stable.

Who knew things would turn out like this?!

Hyun-Soo quickly looked towards the Puppeteer.

The human spider had a big smile.

The monster was having fun watching the hunters fall into the deep hole.

The floor where the Puppeteer was standing was fine.

Hyun-Soo noticed it.

'That damn bug!'

He started attacking without knowing.

He threw several large hooks towards the monster and as wrapped around them and landed on the floor, Hyun-Soo was able

to pull the monster down.

Kyahhhhh!

The Puppeteer's heavy body fell, but it started spinning in midair.

It was trying to support its body by using the silver threads.

Every time that happened, Hyun-Soo used his skills to try to pull the monster down.

Kyahhhh!

Since it failed so many times, the Puppeteer glared at Hyun-Soo.

The monster knew.

It would be dragged down as well if Hyun-Soo wasn't killed.

Even though each floor was pretty high, falling from the seventh to the first floor didn't take that long.

For some reason, it seemed like they would end up falling deeper into the darkness.

But no matter how deep it is, they'll end up landing on the ground.

If they fall from here, they'll end up...

That thought made Hyun-Soo impatient.

'Weakness!'

Hyun-Soo thought making the monster move was the right thing to do.

There was a white light on the tail that was creating the thread.

He had to attack that.

But the Puppeteer was trying its best to hide it.

'Damn it!'

Hyun-Soo looked at the members that were falling.

Since there weren't any walls, they couldn't pierce the wall with their weapons and endure it.

He didn't have time to just stand there.

Hyun-Soo's vision started slowing down.

The Puppeteer's mouth was moving in slow motion as it screamed.

He condensed his skill and started walking.

Hyun-Soo gained momentum and he was able to get on the Puppeteer's body.

Kyahhhhh!

The Puppeteer violently moved its body to make Hyun-Soo fall.

The monster's slender legs started attacking Hyun-Soo's back, but Hyun-Soo had Lahatlan's protection.

Crack!

Kyahhhhhh!

The white dot was his target.

It was the Puppeteer's weakness.

Hyun-Soo's fist landed on the monster's slim legs and broke them.

Crack!

Crack!

Craaack!

Everytime Hyun-Soo's fist landed on the monster's legs, it screamed.

The fear of death usually reveals a person's limitations.

Hyun-Soo was using one skill after another and things were still moving slow for him.

There were more screams and as Hyun-Soo was attacking the monster's weakness, fluids and body remains were flying all over the place.

Squish!

Hyun-Soo pulled out whatever was in his hand.

A weird, green-colored thing was in his hand.

The monster's body started twitching.

Hyun-Soo poured out his skill inside the monster's body.

His fist was enveloped with Blade Fist.

He created a rod with Invisible Attack and pierced the monster's body.

Kya..... Kyahhh.....

The Puppeteer's body trembled intermittently and then completely stopped moving.

The monster's thin legs stopped moving as well.

Hyun-Soo looked at his hand with a blank expression.

An odd-colored fluid covered his hand.

It's because the Puppeteer's organs smeared on his hand.

'What is this? Why is my hand.....?'

Hyun-Soo looked around after looking at his hand with a blank expression.

People were falling.

Within the darkness underneath the ground, a light appeared.

'People.....fall , light.....'

One thought popped into his head after analyzing his surrounding.

'Fall!'

That one word helped him come back to his senses.

He forgot about what was happening because it was so chaotic, but he quickly came back to his senses.

A light within this darkness?

There was a good chance that they were done with this area.

If they don't do something quickly, they'll be dead meat.

'Damn it, damn it!'

That's probably the reason why two high-ranking guilds started falling apart.

Ordinary groups would've died even before coming here.

Hyun-Soo already counted three areas.

And this was the last area where they could all die.

If there was water underneath here, that would be the best situation.

But life wasn't that easy.

'Damn it!'

Hyun-Soo cursed so many times already.

He was running out of time and being impatient only made him blank out.

Riri's wings.

He could create a skill that gave him the ability to fly.

But he didn't have time like he did back at the cavern.

And there were over 20 people.

Everyone would die even before Hyun-Soo finished transferring the skill to everyone.

Fwoosh!

'Wind?'

Hyun-Soo felt wind blowing against his cheeks.

Hunters that controlled the wind element started throwing their attacks towards the floor.

They were trying to prevent the floor from falling apart even more.

‘Right, cushion!’

The thought suddenly popped into his head.

Hyun-Soo quickly took action.

He didn’t have time to be picky.

The floor was still falling apart.

‘Invisible Attack, maximum output! And mix it wind the wind!’

Even though the skill wasn’t his, Hyun-Soo knew how to control the wind.

He studied the skill while helping David with his skill.

Hyun-Soo added the wind element to his Invisible Attack.

And he made it as big as possible.

Even though it took up most of his energy and his eyes became blurry, surviving this moment was the most important.

He added as much wind as he could.

A large wind balloon was created where the light was.

Will it work?

‘Work!’

The floor was disappearing by the minute.

Hyun-Soo believed in his skill.

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“Blehhhh!”

The sound of people throwing up filled the room.

“Jeez. Tsk, tsk, tsk…….”

“You guys are weak…….”

The members were all fine. It was the members of Team Xeon that were throwing up in the corner of the room.

Katrina, however, looked a bit exhausted.

Of course the members weren’t completely fine at first.

Hyun-Soo chuckled when they acted like they were fine after they regained consciousness.

Even though the members of Team Xeon were vomiting their guts out, all of them were in one piece.

Hyun-Soo’s gamble worked really well.

‘It was scary.’

Hyun-Soo closed his eyes as he recalled the last moment.

He did create a large wind balloon.

‘……I didn’t know it was going to be invisible.’

The others must’ve not been able to see it, because they were shocked.

Right when they landed on the ground.

The hunters jumped as if they bounced off a trampoline and after they realized what happened, they had a hard time standing up.

It’s because they were still shaken up.

After looking around, they couldn’t believe what happened, so they checked their bodies.

Their hands were shaking as they were checking.

“Am I seeing things because I’m dead? Did my mind put a filter because the sight was so gruesome?”

“I can’t believe I died with these guys and not with my diva. How depressing.”

“Hey, I guess there’s not much going on in heaven. Is it because the angels haven’t come down to pick us up?”

The members made weird comments with a straight face.

They were all under the assumption that they were dead, so even Hyun-Soo asked himself whether he died too.

“I don’t believe in the afterlife.”

Brad spoke as he slightly raised his hand.

Katrina started crying.

She cried about how there were a lot of places she wanted to go and was sad that she couldn’t anymore.

“I, sniffle, haven’t, sniffle, been, sniffle, to, sniffle, Disneyland, sniffle, yet. I wanted to go...!”

“Hey, you’re a ghost now so you can fly there. I’m sure you don’t have to wait in line. Because you’re dead.”

“Ahhhhh!”

“David, you call that comforting?”

In Hyun-Soo’s eyes, there was something wrong with all of them.

And then.

“Excuse me. We’re still alive.”

Everyone looked confused.

Their faces said, “We fell from way up there, so how are we still alive?”

“It’s true. I used a skill that decreased the amount of damage and absorbed the impact...”

“Stop lying.”

“Rookie, we’re all going to heaven, so you need to give up that false hope.”

“It’s true”

“Oh yeah? If it’s true, then we should bleed.”

The hunter that said that used his weapon and cut his arm.

Fwoosh!

And of course, blood shot out of it.

“What the hell?!”

The healer was shocked and they immediately cured the cut, but the members still looked pretty shocked.

After that, everyone ran to Hyun-Soo and hugged him to express their appreciation.

They must’ve been really embarrassed because they acted like they were dead when they were actually alive.

< Power Expansion Preparations #1> End.

Chapter 114 - <Power Expansion Preparation #2>

Excluding Hyun-Soo, everyone was in the same situation, so they promised to keep quiet about this.

“We need make sure Team Xeon keeps their mouths shut too!”

One person urged that they get rid of the evidence.

Blehhhhh!

Team Xeon was busy vomiting, so they didn’t really have to worry.

However, the more important members of the guild looked at Hyun-Soo oddly.

Hyun-Soo felt their stares and put on a big smile while looking back at them.

There was no reason to avoid them.

He actually wanted them to see, judge and think about it.

The floor that shined brightly was actually the first floor.

“Is it because it’s a colorful portal? Nothing is easy.”

No one had any idea as to what kind of space they were in.

Once they realized that they landed on the first floor without dying, they released a sigh of relief.

If something went wrong, the first floor would’ve be covered in blood.

The hunters that come in after won’t have any idea as to what happened and how they ended up dying this way.

“Tsk, tsk. How much longer are you guys going to keep vomiting?”

“Should we dismember while waiting?”

“Yeah.”

They were supposed to dismember the monster with Team Xeon.

Kim Yoo-Na’s clan did all the hunting and the only thing Team Xeon did was get in the way.

But, they did participate so that they could guide Team Xeon during the hunt.

That’s why it’s better for both sides to observe and see how the situation works out.

However…….

Blahhhhhhh!

Brad looked over at Team Xeon and then shook his head.

A few talented members of Xeon noticed and approached the group.

Leon was in that group.

“The outside looks fine, but it looks like the internal organs have been damaged.”

“It seems like the internal organs were the monster’s weakness.”

“Despite of that, the monster hasn’t been affected that much. We should try running a simulation.”

The members were contemplating on whether to dismember the body, but decided not to and took the whole body.

Dismembering the monster would make it easier to move, but it was a waste.

There wasn’t a monster in the first colorful portal, and Karazhan, who was in the second portal, was destroyed..

That’s why, even though the internal organs have been damaged, the Puppeteer’s body was in pretty good condition.

“Then, I guess we’ll just take it as is.”

They also decided not to dismember it for research purposes.

The second corpse of a monster they obtained from a colorful portal.

It'll be a valuable sample.

Team Xeon quietly approached, but didn't say anything.

They didn't do anything to earn it.

They finished negotiating in the beginning anyways.

'They were right when they said that Team Xeon was going to act like that.'

All the members knew that Team Xeon purposely showed respect towards Kim Yoo-Na.

However, just after two meetings, the way the members and Leon acted made them look suspicious.

'But this hunt confirmed it.'

That Team Xeon was now under Kim Yoo-Na's clan.

They were famous within the hunter world, but now, they were starting to become well-known in society.

And now, they could be considered as specialists.

But, they still needed more time in order for others to acknowledge them as being the best.

Leon, the leader of the clan, stooped down to get here.

'I can't tell if he's smart or if he's just skilled at getting things he wants. Oh, he could be quick-witted.'

Kim Yoo-Na's clan was big.

The clan will only get bigger and that meant that the clan will receive a lot of attention.

Hyun-Soo didn't have Ariel's ability, but that's what his gut told him.

So, he understood why Xeon was acting that way.

They observe the clans to see which one is growing and becoming the best and stick with the clan that has a better chance.

The clan was well-known all over the world and the reason why they begged her to take them in is because…

'They're trying to survive by using Kim Yoo-Na.'

Their plan was obvious.

The powerful clans were wiped out because of the colorful portal.

Will the popular guilds and groups be able to maintain their fame?

Hyun-Soo's answer was no.

'It would make sense if it was impossible for everyone, but we already cleared three portals.'

The more a person succeeds, the more the others are affected by it.

'Because of that, we have more people keeping us in check.'

Something big was going to happen soon.

And Xeon teamed up with Kim Yoo-Na's clan.

It was a change they needed to make in order to survive.

This can be considered as the clan's first alliance.

Kim Yoo-Na must've felt that she needed them, so that's why she accepted.

She could've come to the realization about the necessity and importance of power.

'Well…okay, fine. Everything is fine, but why do I feel like something is off? I'm getting a feeling that that's not the only thing they're after.'

Ismael and David must've also felt the same, because they quietly

approached him.

They stood next to Hyun-Soo.

They whispered as if they were discreetly making a drug deal.

“Hey, rookie. We shouldn’t just stand around like this.”

“You’re right. We shouldn’t just stand still like this. We have to be cautious!”

“……What are you saying?”

“Can’t you tell? It’s time for your second hunt to begin.”

“Huh? But it’s already been cl…”

“No, no. Why are you so dense? I’m talking about over there.”

Hyun-Soo looked where Ismael’s finger was pointing at.

It was Kim Yoo-Na and Leon.

“Hey, rookie. Can you see?”

“If you’re talking about Yoo-Na, I can see her.”

“Do you see the sardine next to her?”

“Sardine?”

“Yeah, he smells fishy.”

He didn’t even know what a sardine looked like.

They usually say ridiculous things like this, so Hyun-Soo didn’t really say much.

But, it was odd that he couldn’t stop looking at Kim Yoo-Na.

“You see, a long time ago…that guy acted out of place and…”

“Doesn’t he look unpleasant? But that guy…!”

It was obvious as to why they were telling Hyun-Soo this.

They were using metaphors to reveal something to Hyun-Soo.

They were telling him to catch onto what they were talking

about.

'I'm sure they'll complain if I don't ask…'

Even the middle-aged housewives wouldn't be as annoying as them.

Hyun-Soo asked to keep them quiet.

"What happened between them?"

David and Ismael replied right away.

"I heard that when Yoo-Na was an active hunter, that fishy guy asked her out on a date."

"Really? I heard that it was just a crush. But he was so obvious about it that everyone knew."

And their faces were telling Hyun-Soo to ask them more.

Hyun-Soo felt overwhelmed, so he asked.

"A-and then?"

"Isn't it obvious? Yoo-Na rejected him. Our Yoo-Na is pretty prideful. She said she didn't want to and that now wasn't a good time, so she coldly rejected him."

"The people watching were embarrassed for him because she was so cold."

"But that's when the problem started."

"……Problem?"

"That sardine had a grudge against her, so he created a guild."

"……Excuse me?"

Anyone was able to create a guild, right?

Of course they needed power, wealth and supporting members in order to get approval.

"Wait. Just wait. Don't you think that's just an assumption? It could seem that way because of the timing."

Creating a guild because he got rejected once by a girl?

That just seems overdramatic.

He asked because it sounded absurd, but their replies were ridiculous.

“No way. He’s so petty, that he put others in the same situation. That was when the clan was established!”

“And do you know what he said after he created the guild before us?”

“N-no”

“To join his guild!”

They both said the last part at the same time.

If what they said was true, then it was understandable as to why they didn’t like him and his clan.

“He joined another large group because Yoo-Na rejected. And they were able to grow because of that. Since Yoo-Na wanted a small group, our level of awareness was...just a little!...behind theirs. But we were more talented than them!”

“Oh, I see.....”

“But that same guy came back and is acting like nothing happened between them.”

David placed his hand on Hyun-Soo’s shoulder.

“What do you think?”

“.....About what?”

He did have an assumption.

That they were bitter towards the leader of Team Xeon.

“That...he’s a bad guy?”

According to the members, he was a bad guy.

He was more petty than bad.

He left because he couldn't be in the same room with the girl that rejected him, but he came back, so that would make him petty.

'Only if what they said were true.'

Like any members of a clan, they leaned more towards Kim Yoo-Na.

So he couldn't exclude the fact that they had biased opinions.

Even though Hyun-Soo felt that something was off with Leon.

"Yeah, he's a bad guy. That's why, it's time for you to go in, rookie."

"So go over there and destroy that petty sardine."

"……Excuse me?"

"You heard me. Can't you tell? That guy is using the alliance as an excuse and is trying to make his move on Yoo-Na!"

Hyun-Soo glanced over at Kim Yoo-Na and Leon.

They were talking, but it didn't seem like they were talking about the things that David and Ismael were worried about.

"I don't think……?"

"Oh, jeez. You're so dense. Just go. Bring her here. That's your mission."

Hyun-Soo thought it was absurd how they spoke to him as if they were giving him orders.

"Then why did you tell Kim Yoo-Na not to agree on the alliance?"

It was obvious that they didn't like Leon.

Despite of that, they accepted the offer, but it seemed like they left their personal thoughts out of it….

"Heh heh…honestly, we agreed because we want to see him struggle."

……Or not.

Anyways, Hyun-Soo approached Kim Yoo-Na because the two pushed him.

“Oh, Hyun-Soo.”

Kim Yoo-Na greeted when she noticed Hyun-Soo approaching her.

<Power Expansion Preparation #2> End.

Chapter 115 - <Power Expansion Preparations #3>

"I'm glad you're here. We were discussing about how much information we should reveal regarding the colorful portal."

Kim Yoo-Na greeted him warmly because Hyun-Soo contributed a lot during this hunt.

However, Leon didn't know the reason, so he felt displeased.

"Technically, we only participated, so we need Xeon's agreement."

"What is Team Xeon suggesting?"

Leon looked a bit uncomfortable, but he replied.

"There's...really no need to reveal it."

"Then, Yoo-Na is on the side of wanting to reveal it."

Since they've been through a lot, it's understandable that they would suggest that.

On top of that, he probably felt that there wasn't a need for Yoo-Na to have control over the information.

Hyun-Soo agreed with that.

'Even if we reveal it, there's a lot of people that won't be able to use it anyways, so it's better to boast about it a little'

Another reason was to annoy the higher-ups.

There was no reason to give them more power when they were trying to control the hunters for their own selfish gain.

'Our life is on the line as well.'

Many lost their lives because they didn't have enough information.

Of course some would still die even if they had the information.

Just in this portal, they managed to avoid death four times thanks to Hyun-Soo.

No one knew how things would turn out.

However, if another hunter decided to hunt in this portal and they were given information about it, wouldn't their chance of survival increase?

Hyun-Soo agreed with Kim Yoo-Na.

"I also agree with Kim Yoo-Na suggestion."

A frown appeared on Leon's face.

And he glared at Hyun-Soo.

If his glare had a physical form, it would be a knife and that knife would probably stab Hyun-Soo several times.

But his expression changed because of Kim Yoo-Na.

'Oh……?'

He suddenly started understanding what David and Ismael said.

"But, Yoo-Na. Think carefully. This could be our strength. Don't you think that having power is important? This could be that power. Think carefully."

Leon ignored Hyun-Soo and started persuading Kim Yoo-Na again.

The conversation turned into him trying to persuade her.

Hyun-Soo now understood why Ismael and David asked him to pull Yoo-Na away from Leon.

"Hm, I see. You're right about that. What do you think, Hyun-Soo?"

A frown appeared on Leon's face when Kim Yoo-Na asked Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo looked straight at Leon and spoke.

“You can’t call that power. If we succeeded in clearing another colorful portal, that small power won’t have much of an effect, so I think it’s better not to stock up on them.”

Under the condition that they clear another colorful portal.

They won’t be able to get much out of this small information.

Team Xeon lacked the power to clear the portal by themselves while Kim Yoo-Na’s clan could clear it many times.

And Leon wanted to gain power over one data when they’ll be able to gain plenty. Hyun-Soo had a hunch of how powerful Leon was.

Maybe Leon what Hyun-Soo was implying.

Now Leon looked really mad.

“This isn’t something we should be discussing with a member.”

It was obvious that he wanted Hyun-Soo to go away.

“Leon, my clan makes decisions based on everyone’s opinions. And Hyun-Soo’s opinion is more important.”

“More important…? How come?”

“That’s something you don’t need to know.”

‘Wow.’

Hyun-Soo couldn’t hide his surprise when he heard her reply.

Kim Yoo-Na wanted to protect Hyun-Soo’s secret and didn’t want to reveal the clan’s primary power.

The issue was that she rejected without any hesitation.

“I-I see. I guess I overstepped my boundary.”

Hyun-Soo felt bad because he was a leader of a clan, but he couldn’t do anything in front of Kim Yoo-Na.

Leon was attacking Hyun-Soo, but Kim Yoo-Na was the one that put him in his place, not Hyun-Soo.

He was probably doing that to look good.

Leon was now beyond mad.

Kim Yoo-Na noticed that Leon tried to keep calm, but he wasn't able to hide his anger.

"Yes, that's right."

On top of that, Kim Yoo-Na was straightforward.

It didn't seem like she felt sorry for him because she spoke very calmly.

But that wasn't the case for people that were listening.

'Wow…….'

Hyun-Soo kind of felt sorry for Leon.

Kim Yoo-Na must've reacted that way because of how Leon was acting before.

Since she was there with the members and not by herself, it was understandable as to why she was watching over the members.

'Tsk, tsk. Looks like you just revealed your weak point.'

And he's trying to team up with Kim Yoo-Na again.

Is he just brave or shameless?

Team Xeon was one of the well-known guilds and Hyun-Soo started question whether a clan has to be shameless in order to become bigger.

"I think it'll be good to reveal the information."

"No, Yoo-Na. Don't you think it'll be better to think about it again? This is our chance."

They've had that chance many times.

That's why they weren't hesitant about revealing the data.

Kim Yoo-Na looked like she was contemplating for a bit.

“Then, let’s not reveal it.”

Was her answer.

A bright smile finally appeared on Leon’s face, but.

“But, we’ll reveal it starting from the next hunt.”

A frown appeared on his face again.

That meant.

‘There’s a chance that this alliance will break.’

The reason for her deciding to reveal the data starting from the next hunt was simple.

Do what you want this time.

Because there won’t be a next time for you.

They had different opinions, so there was no reason to stick together.

The alliance was formed today, so it’ll be a problem if things go wrong already.

And that alliance is leaning more on one side anyways.

‘Breaking the alliance may be better than having him as an ally.’

Hyun-Soo thought deeply.

Kim Yoo-Na’s clan will become the best.

Because he was going to make it the best.

But he didn’t like having a fishy guy like him in the group.

On top of that, as time passes, Leon will definitely take more control.

It was obvious that he had the better future.

Those that have discerning eyes will be able to read the flow and do something about it.

‘We have nothing to lose.’

He was worried about the alliance breaking up because he got involved.

But Hyun-Soo soon realized that there was no need to worry about that.

Was it because Hyun-Soo looked more relaxed?

Or was it because he understood his place after what Kim Yoo-Na said?

Leon looked like he was about to bite his lips, but a soft smile appeared on his face.

But Hyun-Soo's eyes were fixed on Leon's fist.

"I think your suggestion is a lot better. Let's do that. We'll keep getting more of these data anyways, right?"

"I'm sure. So, are we done? Let's get the corpse and luggage we brought and leave. We'll be heading to our base, so make sure to follow us."

Kim Yoo-Na gave a small nod.

Kim Yoo-Na walked away from Leon, just like David and Ismael had hoped.

Since Kim Yoo-Na wasn't there, there was no need for Hyun-Soo to stay there.

Right when Hyun-Soo was about leave, he heard Leon's whisper.

"...Don't think it's going to end like this."

"Did you even start something? I can't really tell."

"Haha, you're funny."

"Really? Well, I guess it's a relief since you thin it's funny. I'll be taking my leave."

Leon continued glaring at Hyun-Soo with a smile.

But his eyes were different.

‘There’s no need to be afraid of someone like him.’

Hyun-Soo just smirked.

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“I’m overloaded with work because of you guys.”

Herhim called a few days ago.

Even though he was old, many considered Herhim as a legendary hunter.

He was just exaggerating so that others would hear his complaint.

Hyun-Soo had no choice but to visit the black market.

Herhim asked him to come with Kim Yoo-Na.

Thanks to that, Hyun-Soo rode in Kim Yoo-Na’s red sports car.

Hyun-Soo was now used to greeting the people there and when entered the deepest part, Herhim greeted them.

“Welcome. The two hottest people are here in my office!”

Herhim opened his arms while greeting them.

Hyun-Soo felt like he needed to run to Herhim and give him a hug.

In American movies, the characters do that when they haven’t seen each other for a long time.

Hyun-Soo kind of wanted to do that.

“Mr. Herhim, why did you want to see us?”

Kim Yoo-Na must’ve felt the same way because she lightly pushed Herhim’s arm.

“You youngs ones aren’t romantic at all.”

“I’m sure you didn’t call us just to complain.”

“Amd I not supposed to?”

“……Mr. Herhim.”

Kim Yoo-Na quietly said his name.

Herhim coughed and motioned them to take a seat.

“Since you’re here, let’s take our time. If it weren’t for you guys, I wouldn’t have time to rest. You guys are 80% of the reason why I’m so busy, so let me complain.”

Kim Yoo-Na thought it was absurd, but decided to listen.

Hyun-Soo suddenly became the culprit, so he quietly sat down.

“You didn’t bring it with you today?”

Even though the subject was missing, Hyun-Soo knew what Herhim was talking about.

“Riri, come out.”

Riri grew a little after consuming the monster’s skill.

Her physical form didn’t change, but it was easy to tell by how she acted.

Before, she was like an innocent child that was just born into world, but now, she knew what she liked and disliked.

Kyuuuuuu.

Riri, who was inside Hyun-Soo’s hood, released a small cry.

She was being more cautious than usual, which meant that she wasn’t going to leave Hyun-Soo’s hood.

“Riri?”

When Hyun-Soo called her name again, she flew out with an unsatisfied look on her face.

After spinning around Hyun-Soo once, she carefully sat on top of Hyun-Soo’s hand.

“Oh! So you did bring it. Great!”

It was obvious that Herhim liked it.

Herhim liked interesting things, so Riri was a monster that Herhim really wanted to have for himself.

“There was something I wanted to give Riri.”

Herhim looked through his desk drawer after saying that.

Moments later, he took out…

‘Energy Stone?’

It was an Energy Stone that had a green light.

Kyuuuuu?

“It’s a present for you.”

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure if Herhim was really rich or if he was really obsessed with Riri.

The Energy Stone was worth over a million dollars and if it wasn’t for Herhim, Hyun-Soo wouldn’t have believed that it was a real Energy Stone.

“Is it okay…to give that away?”

<Power Expansion Preparations #3> End.

Chapter 116 - <It's Delicious and Good for the Body #1>

"Is it okay…to give that away?"

"Why? Other than the Energy Stones that are lawfully traded, most of them come through here."

That's why it's okay to give one or two.

Riri looked like she was contemplating.

She didn't want to go, but it was difficult for her to ignore the Energy Stone.

'Riri consumes energy. So, it's obvious that she wants the Energy Stone, but…it is really okay? To use the Energy Stone that way?'

He used Energy Stones in his potion as well, but this was different.

Reworking the potion by using Energy Stones sounded a lot better.

But he was just giving it to Riri.

Kyuuuuu……

For some reason, Riri felt uncomfortable around Herhim.

No. He knew the reason why.

'No one would feel comfortable if they felt threatened personally.'

However, Riri couldn't overcome the temptation and approached Herhim.

Carefully. Slowly.

She inspected around Herhim while flying and ended up landing on Herhim's hand.

She grabbed the Energy Stone and quickly flew to Hyun-Soo.

Tsk.

Herhim was disappointed.

It was similar to predator losing its prey.

Kyuuuuu, kyuuuuu!

Riri released a happy cry.

She hugged the Energy Stone and flew back into Hyun-Soo's hood.

That was like Riri's base.

"How cute."

"Right?"

Hyun-Soo agreed.

"I'm sure you didn't call us to see Riri, right?"

Herhim's face turned serious when Kim Yoo-Na spoke calmly.

"What are you talking about? That's definitely not it."

But they didn't believe him.

After coughing a few times, Herhim spoke..

"It's amazing that a cute monster like Riri was able to block a monster's attack. I really want it. I can't help it."

Herhim looked at Hyun-Soo, no, specifically his hood with a disappointed expression.

Hyun-Soo understood why, but he got an odd feeling from him.

"Are there rumors about it already?"

They haven't handed over the data regarding the recent portal to the black market yet.

They were currently researching, so once they have enough information, they were planning on selecting the information.

And out of the selected data, they were going to hand it to the

black market.

“There aren’t any details about it. But it won’t be hard to make an assumption based on the rumors that’s been spreading around. There are a lot of people in this world that likes to gossip.”

It seems like he somewhat refrained them from spreading more rumors, but that rumor will eventually spread everywhere.

“You guys have been the center of attention because you guys cleared another portal. And since another guild joined your clan, the rumors started spreading even faster.”

“Well, it’s what we wanted. And I brought Riri to the hunt for that reason.”

“You did that on purpose?”

There was a lot of meaning behind what Hyun-Soo said.

Kim Yoo-Na focused on having a small group, but she agreed to the alliance.

And during that time, Hyun-Soo revealed Riri.

And they punished the people that tried to attack the clan.

And lastly, they cleared a colorful portal.

Everything happened at the right place, at the right time.

As everything fell into place, they were able to draw one conclusion.

The decision to expand their power.

“Yes.”

Kim Yoo-Na answered.

Hyun-Soo and Kim Yoo-Na both had similar thoughts.

She wouldn’t be able to answer like that if they hadn’t agreed.

“I see.”

Even though it sounded like an ordinary conversation, Herhim

understood what they were saying and nodded his head.

“Wouldn’t it be dangerous to reveal it now?”

“It could be. But, is there really a need to do that?”

Revealing it slowly wasn’t a bad idea.

But there was a big flaw in that plan.

It took a long time to reach their goal.

‘Even if it helps us progress further, there’s no need to kneel for a long time.’

Hyun-Soo had already experienced a similar situation.

Also.

“These low-level hunters are getting in the way and it’s annoying. Won’t it help if we show them how much stronger we are? They’ll probably realize that they shouldn’t mess with us.”

“Ha ha. I didn’t think you were the type to hold a grudge.”

A trap that almost buried them alive.

Herhim was talking about that moment.

A smirk appeared on Hyun-Soo’s face.

“It’ll make me sad if you describe me like that. I think it’s better to say that I’m just finishing the job.”

It may be difficult to pull out the root of the problem at first, but all they had to do was keep working at it until it’s possible.

“Your position in the hunter world recently went up a lot. A lot of people have been talking about you guys.”

They hunted three colorful portals.

And they cleared all three of them.

It would be weird if people didn’t talk about them.

“You guys are like hot potato. You’re too big to be swallowed and

you're too good to let go. And thanks to the recent hunt, you guys are even more valuable."

"How much more valuable are we? Are we number one in the world?"

Hyun-Soo asked half jokingly.

He was past the age of asking for ranking, but it always felt good to be in first place.

"It's an unofficial ranking, but I heard that you're in the top three."

"Oh……?"

It was difficult to rank hunter groups.

But they're able to calculate it based on the members' skills, the clan's achievements, the results, how influential they are and many other things.

Even though that wasn't the exact guide, a lot of people believed that the calculations were based on those.

Even though it was unofficial, they were in the top three.

It meant that Hyun-Soo's achievement was that great.

But Hyun-Soo felt like he still lacking.

'I want to get a bit stronger. I want to go up a bit higher. So that everyone can see!'

Hyun-Soo was suddenly feeling thirsty.

Water wasn't going to help with his thirst.

"I'm sure you'll get really busy. And I'll become more busy."

They knew the reason why.

"The structure of the hunter world is changing. You can say that powers are being split. Who do you think is in the middle of all of this?"

“Us.”

“Right. I’m sure there are a lot of people that wants to work with you.”

“I guess we have to pick out all the fakes from that group. And we have to get rid of those that may betray us. I guess we’re going to get really busy.”

“Right, right. Since we’re on the same side, we’re going to be busy too. I’m busy right now, but I’ll get even busier. I’ve been lacking the strength lately.”

This strong, healthy hunter was complaining about lacking strength.

Kim Yoo-Na was also collecting data.

But the black market’s data was a lot more detailed.

The more people try to obtain that data, the more popular the black market will become.

“How’s the research going for the byproduct that was found in the colorful portal?”

“Yes. We’re taking our time in the research. It’s a rare sample, so we’re being careful with it.”

“If you find something, be sure to tell me first. Being the first one to know is the best. And I’ll make sure that I’m the only one that knows it.”

Kim Yoo-Na smiled instead of replying.

Hyun-Soo wasn’t sure if she was agreeing or not.

“Ahem, ahem. Others are acting like they’ve found gold and are making a big deal out of it. If you guys reveal the data, they’ll make an even bigger deal out of it. Even if it’s dangerous, there are those that will do anything for money.”

There has been a lot of people that think of the colorful portal as

the new oilfield.

Those people don't think about the danger involved and only care about the benefits.

At this place, people that aren't hunters are able to obtain hunters' data really fast.

It was the national government.

"But thanks to Yoo-Na, people in the hunter world have been notified of that danger, but some are still questioning it."

As Herhim mentioned, they were still working on information control.

Even though the data is forcefully revealed to the hunters, those that aren't hunters don't know about the colorful portal yet.

That was the thing that Kim Yoo-Na was contemplating about.

'It's not an easy decision.'

Hyun-Soo understood what she was going through.

Everyone had a fear of the unknown.

Ordinary people were afraid of ordinary portals.

But what would happen if they found out that there wasn't any information on the colorful portal.

Kim Yoo-Na wondered how much more fear was going to be inflicted on people based on this.

"There are people that make absurd assumptions because it doesn't involve them. It's hard to tell when they'll make the next move and that's the problem. The situation may become dangerous and that's what I'm worried about."

Herhim spoke with a serious expression.

"What are you saying?"

"Even though official results about the research hasn't been

released yet, many have been making assumptions already. For example, what's the Energy Stone from a colorful portal like... something like that. That's just based on simple calculations, but when thinking about other situations..."

Herhim stopped talking and he started rolling his eyes as if he was calculating.

"There's a high chance that they'll really start pushing for the colorful portal."

Information about the Energy Stone from a colorful portal hasn't been revealed yet.

Since it was a rare sample, they were carefully researching it.

'Karazhan didn't even have any Energy Stones.'

"I heard that there aren't a lot of colorful portals."

"Right. But it's true that they've been appearing."

"If they had a brain, they probably wouldn't enter a place that may get them killed."

"Humans aren't animals that act on reason alone."

Herhim displayed a bitter smile.

Hyun-Soo agreed.

The groups that died proved that.

The groups gained confidence after seeing Kim Yoo-Na's clan succeeded, but after going in...they died.

"People have been avoiding hunts, so I don't think you need to worry too much about that."

"Yeah, you're right. Now that I think about it, you guys have an advantage now. It's not all that bad."

Herhim lightly hit the table as if he now realized something.

"Anyways, you guys are the only clan that managed to clear the

colorful portal.”

<It’s Delicious and Good for the Body #1> End.

Chapter 117 - <It's Delicious and Good for the Body #2>

"Anyways, you guys are the only clan that managed to clear the colorful portal."

Kim Yoo-Na looked over at Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo also looked at Kim Yoo-Na when he felt her looking at him.

An odd feeling that he couldn't quite describe enveloped him.

"More people will try to work with you guys and I'll get even busier...hm...and now we're back to where we started."

"Stop complaining, Mr. Herhim. I have a hard time believing that you get tired."

Was that a good thing?

When Herhim intercepted, the odd feeling that he felt between him and Kim Yoo-Na completely disappeared.

After that, they made small talk.

Kim Yoo-Na made a "That's understandable" face and listened to Herhim.

And then, Herhim focused all of his attention on Riri.

'I'm sure he told me to come because he wanted to see Riri.'

Herhim stated a different reason, but Hyun-Soo was sure that Riri was the reason.

After they finished talking, Herhim approached Hyun-Soo while him and Kim Yoo-Na were getting up.

He looked inside Hyun-Soo's hood with a disappointed look and then spoke to him.

"Jeez, these rumors. It looks like you did that on purpose, so

would it be okay if I help you out?”

“That’ll be great.”

If Herhim gets involved, things will work faster. A more detailed rumor will spread.

This was exactly what Hyun-Soo wanted.

A large treasure will definitely attract moths.

But it was hard to tell whether they were an ally or a foe.

One thing he was sure of was that those moths couldn’t become allies.

He would gladly welcome them with open arms if he could filter out the foes.

On top of that, he’ll be able to see who’s side they were on.

“Then, leave it to me. I won’t let you down.”

Herhim extended his hand out.

Hyun-Soo smiled while shaking his hand.

He smiled brightly.

***

Being the only clan to clear the colorful portal was an amazing thing.

In many ways, things have become chaotic inside and outside of the clan.

“Ack, there’s too many. I really don’t like this.”

The members complained while imagining a quiet life.

“It’s uncomfortable…….”

Another member complained while the cafeteria was being invaded.

“I feel like a caged animal at a zoo.”

Just from her looks, Katrina looked younger than 20-years-old, but she put her head down and released a sigh.

“There’s nothing we can do. This is the price that we have to pay for becoming famous, so just endure a bit longer.”

Eugene comforted the members that escaped to the Center Room to get away from the guests.

They had no choice but to reveal a section of the base.

It seemed like the members didn’t even like that because they didn’t look that happy.

“Endure it?”

Katrina stood up as if she was asking how she was supposed to endure it.

“What are you going to do if you don’t?”

“We need to build a different space for them! Our base is precious! We have to protect it!”

Katrina blurted it out out of anger, but someone else agreed.

“Oh, that’s a good idea. We have some land left anyways.”

“Right. We have the land we took from that old man.”

They had a really big land.

They were using part of the land as an airstrip, but it was pretty far from the base.

Everyone’s eyes widened when they recalled the empty land between the airstrip and the base.

“Do you think Yoo-Na will agree?”

“I don’t know. Let’s just try it.”

“Yeah, our mental health is important! Maintaining a good condition is the most important and we can’t do that with all these people.”

And moments later, the discussion to build a new building was over.

Hyun-Soo slightly lost his sense of reality while watching them.

‘They’re just showing off their money…….’

That’s what it sounded like from his point of view.

Honestly, there were a lot of people.

There were people trying to make a good impression and guilds that came to propose an alliance.

It did feel like the number of visitors increased.

But if that was the level of their strength, then it wasn’t all that bad.

‘Yeah, this is a pretty bourgeois clan.’

A ranked hunters were equivalent to a one-man company.

The amount they spent was well over the amount that Hyun-Soo assumed.

Hyun-Soo was almost the same level as them, but it was still difficult for him to take it in.

Hyun-Soo has been saving up by selling potions and from the reward money the clan received through the hunts, but he still had a long way to go.

“If we start now, when will it finish?”

“I don’t know. The more money we spend, the faster it’ll finish.”

“Then we won’t have to endure this situation for much longer.”

It was obvious that they were going to spend money without any hesitation. The rich were on a different level.

“I hope they finish the airstrip soon. No matter how much money we spend, there are limitations with that one, so…”

Hyun-Soo didn’t know that they’ve been wanting this for a long

time.

The airstrip was still under construction.

He's seen them display a satisfied smile whenever they heard that the airstrip was coming along fine.

"I'm sure thing swill become comfortable once it's finished."

"Of course. Once we have an alliance, they'll be visiting often and it's a hassle for them to constantly be at the airport. It'll be better if they just fly out from here."

The members looked proud.

They were now looking at Hyun-Soo.

They were able to obtain the land for the airstrip because of Hyun-Soo.

If Hyun-Soo didn't guide them through the seven doors, they probably would've still been stuck in that maze.

"Hyon-Ssoo, hide well, okay?"

"Yeah, yeah."

"We can't let someone steal the clan's lucky charm, so hide well."

Katrina patted his shoulder as if she was comforting a child.

Hyun-Soo thought she was being ridiculous, but just let it go.

She probably just as annoyed as the others about the guests.

'I think Mr. Herhim involvement worked out really well.'

He didn't know why, but there were people that asked for Hyun-Soo.

Why?

Hyun-Soo was curious, but before he could find out, the members kidnapped him and dragged him to the Center Room.

'Maybe the information was leaked elsewhere...'

If it wasn't the black market, then there was only one other place.

Clan Xeon.

'Hm…….'

Hyun-Soo thought for a moment.

He predicted on how things were going to turn out.

After making a few predictions, Hyun-Soo carefully reviewed those predictions.

'Not bad.'

Having leaked information was a part of his plan.

In the end, this was proof that things were working out like he had planned.

"It would be nice if the building was finished on the same day the guests arrives."

"I think that'll be hard, but…let's use more money."

"Yeah, let's do that."

The quiet base was now filled with people and the members were annoyed by that.

But in a few days, people that received official invitations were going to visit the base.

It was like a press conference to reveal the information, but it was technically an invitation.

There was a good chance that everyone was coming for different reasons, so they'll probably stay for more than two days.

There was a reason the members were reacting this way.

The base was big and grandeur and the space inside was spacious as well.

There was plenty of room for the guests.

But they didn't like the fact that outsiders were invading their comfort zone.

'Well...it's not that I can't understand them. They're not just ordinary guests. They're like hyenas that's trying to gain something from the visit.'

There probably weren't going to be a lot of guests that visits just for information.

The clan used to be a small group and was hidden from the others.

There were several people that wanted the clan's power.

'I wonder.'

Hyun-Soo was already excited.

***

Kyuuuu.

Riri flew up. She must've been having fun because she sounded happy.

The reason was simple.

"Is that……?"

"Oh my. It was true."

"I heard about it, but didn't think it was true……."

It's because most of the people were looking at Riri.

'I think she actually enjoys the attention.'

Is it because she's still young?

She was like a child that wanted attention and compliments.

It's only been a few months since she hatched out of the egg.

'But do monsters have the same growth rate as humans?'

It didn't seem that way, but since he didn't know anything, he

couldn’t say anything.

That’s probably why Riri was being treated with importance.

Because they’ll be able to research the monsters more deeply.

But to Hyun-Soo, Riri was an annoying being that never left his side.

Kyuuuuu.

Riri caught the attention of the guests as she flew around the base.

At first, she refused to leave Hyun-Soo’s side, but now, she was really enjoying it.

“Cute…….”

“I want to raise one too.”

A small smile appeared on Hyun-Soo face when he saw their reaction.

It was what he wanted.

Riri was a one of a kind in the entire world. Of course there were going to be a lot of people that wanted her.

Hiding a rare treasure wasn’t a bad idea, but revealing it to everyone was a good method too.

A lot of people will look and because of that, they won’t be able to act carelessly.

‘I can filter out the enemies.’

Riri was the only monster in the world that has been trained.

Everyone would be envious.

But that didn’t mean that they were going to act fairly to get her.

‘I’ll know if I keep an eye out.’

Hunters from all over the world gathered to get information.

There were a lot of people that Hyun-Soo was concerned about.

There were high-ranked hunters that were invited based on their personal success, but most of them were from guilds or groups.

Hyun-Soo watched them closely.

Kyuuuuuu, kyuuuu!

Riri flew as if she was going to approach the hunters, but just flew past them.

Of course everyone was going to look at Riri.

Hyun-Soo just stood still and watched them.

***

“I don’t like that there’s too many people…”

“Ugh, I think I’m going to vomit.”

The same conversation from a few days ago came up again.

The construction that they poured their money into had its limitations, so it hasn’t been finished.

However, the construction was almost done. It was a culture shock to Hyun-Soo.

But the members next to him were actually complaining about it.

“Why is it taking 12 days to finish it?”

Katrina mumbled while making a crying face.

Out of all the members that put their money into this construction, Katrina paid the most.

Since the FE Clan was a small, hidden clan, not many people knew about the members, so the hunters assumed that Katrina was a local.

They must’ve thought she was cute because she was standing between guys with large frames.

But Katrina was busy complaining and running away from the

guests.

“Oh, Hyon-Ssoo, have you heard?”

<It’s Delicious and Good for the Body #2> End.

Chapter 118 - <It's Delicious and Good for the Body #3>

"About what?"

"A lot of the guests are getting lost at night."

"Oh, you're referring to the guests that are getting lost in front of the restricted area, right?"

"Yeah and they said there's a lost child that keeps visiting the supply room."

"I wonder why. This place isn't that difficult to navigate around."

"I know, it's weird, right? Or maybe it's because I've gotten used to this place and it's really easy to get lost."

"I don't think so…"

A smile appeared on Hyun-Soo's face as he watched Katrina think seriously about it.

He already heard it from Kim Yoo-Na, but he was able to confirm the current situation again through Katrina.

'They feel provoked.'

Things were going like he had planned.

Letting Riri fly every time they ate was effective.

Hyun-Soo wanted to provoke the hunters. He wanted to raise their expectations and imagination through Riri.

It was up to them to choose.

And through that, he'll be able to filter them out.

'Should I provoke them a bit more?'

Hyun-Soo recalled the ingredients that were sitting in his dorm.

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‘Offering food is considered a friendly gesture all over the world.’

There’s a reason why people become closer through food.

But right now, he wanted to lower their guards, not become friends with them.

Hyun-Soo had other plans for those ingredients.

He could’ve used them to sell it to the black market, but he had bigger plans.

A plan that’ll give him enough power so that others won’t look down on him.

The highest place where he’ll shine the brightest.

Everyone probably thought about it at least once in their lifetime.

But end up in frustration because of reality.

Hyun-Soo felt that way at one point in his life.

But it was different now.

He had a power that others couldn’t replace or even imitate.

So it’s only natural for him to want something bigger.

‘I do need to stock up on the potions, but…I do need something to provoke them, so I’ll just use it.’

He was going to create two batches of potions. One batch was going to be based on effectiveness and the other was going to be benefits.

But there was a more urgent matter than that.

He can always get more ingredients.

‘What should I make?’

He heard a while back that they liked Bulgogi (Marinated Beef).

Foreigners supposedly liked it because the soy sauce base dish was sweet.

He recalled Hyuna mentioning that to him.

He heard that Korean restaurants that serve Galbi (Marinated Ribs) and Bulgogi do really well.

There has been students that introduced Korean food to their foreigner friends and they reacted well to the food .

‘Great. I should try a meat dish.’

Bulgogi and Galbi were difficult to make.

The sauce itself required a lot of ingredients, but that wasn’t the only problem.

He needed time to make the meat as tender as possible and marinate the meat afterward.

Basically, it was a lot of work.

‘Well, I need something that will create a huge impact, so I should make it.’

It seemed like he wanted to suffer.

Why was he doing so much?

‘Whew.’

Who said it?

Only hard-working people can take the best position.

A beautiful swan may look like they’re just floating on the water, but they’re actually paddling like crazy underneath the water.

That’s why he had to endure it despite of it being a tiresome task.

‘It would be nice if I had a monster’s meat…’

He decided to make a suggestion to hunt a portal with a monster that looked similar to a cow or pig.

Right now, he had no choice but to use ordinary beef and pork.

But, he decided to mix a potion into the sauce.

‘I just need to let it sit for a while. I can serve it for dinner, so I have enough time.’

He may have enough time until dinner, but he had to move fast if he wanted the potion to be marinated into the meat.

Since there was a lot of people, he needed to prepare a lot of ingredients.

He needed to take the other members with him.

Hyun-Soo left the building with that thought and saw someone he knew.

“Hyon-Ssoo! I heard you’re making something yummy!”

He wasn’t sure how she heard about that, but Katrina was waiting for him.

Eugene was with her.

“I want to go too. If you’re going shopping, take me too. There’s a lot of things I want to buy too.”

“I’m not going for fun. I won’t be gone long.”

“Yeah, I know.”

She replied right away.

But Hyun-Soo knew about Katrina’s past records.

Her love for shopping couldn’t be described with words.

She was surprised when she first visited the black market and she kept on looking around until Kim Yoo-Na couldn’t endure it and forced her to leave.

“Ha ha, don’t worry. I’ll make sure to keep her under control.”

“……I’ll leave her to you, Eugene.”

“Yeah, don’t worry. You’re making it for tonight’s dinner, right? You have enough time, but seeing as how you’re rushing, I guess

you have a lot to do.”

“Yeah, I’m thinking about making Galbi and Bulgogi.”

Hyun-Soo thought Eugene’s eyes widened.

“Then we shouldn’t spend a lot of time shopping. We have to eat those yummy food. I really like your cooking, Hyun-Soo.”

Right.

Eugene ate a lot when Hyun-Soo made Bibimbap.

Before Hyun-Soo came, the clan has never eaten decent Korean food.

‘They have a lot of money, so why don’t they just eat out?’

There were a lot of hunters that refused to eat out because they were trying to be healthy and Eugene might be one of them.

Anyways, Hyun-Soo took the two helpers and headed to the market.

Eugene guided him to the Korean market after saying that it would be best to shop there since he was making Korean food.

And they managed to finish really quickly.

“I want to eat snacks!”

“No, wait.”

“Hmph…….”

Grocery shopping ended quickly thanks to Eugene’s strictness.

Hyun-Soo started preparing as soon as he returned.

Since the food required a lot of preparations, he needed to start as soon as possible.

Eugene wished him good luck in a serious tone and left.

He was devoting himself to the Galbi and Bulgogi.

“Let’s see…….”

He first placed the meat in cold water. It was to wash away the blood.

Hyun-Soo decided to make the sauce during that time.

And the potion he was going to include in the sauce.

The food tastes better the longer it sits in the sauce, so he hurriedly started working on it, but he also rushed because he needed time to create a potion that wouldn't affect the taste of the sauce.

Slice.

Tap, tap, tap.

He was grinding the asian pear and onion.

He added soy sauce, starch syrup, minced garlic and chopped green onion.

He also added rice wine, ginger juice after grinding it, sesame oil and ground pepper.

He dipped his finger and tasted the sauce.

"Hm...not bad."

It couldn't be compared to the sauce his mother made, but it was close enough.

He decided to let it sit for a while.

Next was the potion.

Hyun-Soo put all the ingredients he had into the blender.

Since he had experience, he knew what kind of benefits the potion was going to have based on the amount he put in.

And then.

-Ding!

[You have discovered the recipe for the "Low Rank Random Potion"(Rare)]

[Would you like to register the recipe?]

-Ding!

[The recipe for the “Low Rank Random Potion”(Rare) has been added.]

It was an unexpected notification.

‘A rare rank?’

He just placed them into the blender thinking it would be okay as long as it had some sort of effect…

‘Rare……? And random?’

Hyun-Soo immediately checked.

Low Rank Random Potion[Rare]

A potions that’s been created with a variety of ingredients.

Even though it wasn’t created with detail, the effects aren’t that bad.

When consumed, it will be affected randomly.

Effects: The user will receive a random benefit.

The Type of Effectiveness: +Stamina 30 [Duration: One Hour]

A Small Increase in Physical Stats [Duration : 30 Minutes]

Strengthen Visibility [Duration: 20 Minutes]

One of those.

“Oh…….”

It wasn’t that bad since he randomly put them all together.

It would be better if all of those benefits were included in this one potion.

That probably happened because different ingredients were mixed into one.

And the benefits were random.

“This is the first I’m seeing this type.”

He did have one fruit that increased one’s visibility.

When consumed, that’s all it did.

But when mixed together, “Strengthen Visibility” appeared.

‘Is it because the Medicinal Mix skill increased up to 25%’

The skill continuously increased since he’s been creating a lot of potions.

There was a good chance the Medicinal Mix skill helped him create a pretty good potion.

“It tastes pretty good too, so I think it’ll be good.”

It would be a problem if he made a potion that tasted like burnt marshmellow, which he has done before.

It’s because it’ll taste weird if it was mixed with the food.

Right when he was about mix the potion into the sauce.

He saw Riri.

He saw her actions to be exact.

Crunch, crunch!

Riri was eating the asian pear that was left over.

But, she wasn’t just eating it. She was repeatedly behaving a certain way before eating it.

A small light appeared on the palm of her hand and she placed that light on the pear.

She then bit into the pear and ate it.

“Riri?”

Riri flew to him when Hyun-Soo called her name.

She felt awkward for not being with him outside of the dorm, so

she was happy when he called her.

“What did you just do?”

Kyuuuu?

“You did something to the pear and then ate it.”

Riri made a light appear on her hand.

“Yeah, what’s that?”

When Hyun-Soo asked, Riri looked like she was contemplating.

And then, she used her body to explain.

Of course Hyun-Soo didn’t understand any of it.

Hyun-Soo gave up and asked another question.

“Is it better to eat it that way? Does it taste better?”

The answer this time was easy.

Riri nodded her head.

‘Riri usually consumed energy. That was her main meal and… wait. Was that light just now energy?’

That thought suddenly popped into his head.

“Did you just put energy into the pear?”

Since energy was her main meal, it’s possible that she was putting energy into the pear before eating it.

Kind of like how people spread jam on their bread.

Kyuuu!

Nod, nod!

Riri nodded in agreement.

Another thought popped into Hyun-Soo’s head.

‘Wait. What will happen if I mix the energy into the sauce instead of the potion?’

What would happen if they consumed another person’s energy?

Up till now, Hyun-Soo has been researching the effects when mixing energy into a potion.

But, that only worked when the other ingredients have been purified.

Hyun-Soo has never tried including the energy itself without the use of other medicinal herbs.

‘Should I try?’

Hyun-Soo was now extremely curious.

<It’s Delicious and Good for the Body #3> End.

Chapter 119 - <Bait & Hook #1>

‘Might as well try.’

It wouldn’t hurt to try.

If it doesn’t work, then he could still mix the potion into the sauce.

Hyun-Soo used his phone to contact David.

“David, are you available?”

– Huh? What’s up?

“Can you stop by my dorn? There’s something I want to give you.”

– Okay. I’ll be right there!

Since he experienced a lot of odd situations through Hyun-Soo, he was the best guinea pig.

Even if something weird happened, he wouldn’t think much about it.

“I now have a guinea pig for testing. I should use this opportunity to really test it out.”

The first subject he’ll pour the energy into.

It was going to be through the pear that Riri was eating.

***

Hyun-Soo tried inserting his energy like Riri just to test it out.

And the result was pretty interesting.

[Energy Infused Asian Pear]

A small amount of energy has been infused into the pear.

The natural taste of the ingredient has increased thanks to the energy.

A certain amount of energy can be accumulated within the body.

Effects : It's delicious.

There's a very slim chance that the total amount of energy may increase a bit.

'It has all of these benefits just because I infused energy into it?'

He never thought about using his energy on an object.

Energy was the essence of power that was given to hunters.

Hunters used their skills, went on hunts and survived in portals through this energy.

Why was Hyun-Soo's stamina recovery skill and stat increase potion selling so quickly?

It was to maximize the energy's recover and effectiveness.

That's why most of the ordinary hunters didn't use their energy recklessly.

However.

'I'm not an ordinary hunter.'

Ordinary hunters wouldn't be able to create skills with a SS ranked skill.

There was another interesting fact.

'A certain amount of energy can be accumulated? Then does that mean that my energy will be in someone else's body?'

And the total amount of energy can increase too.

The chance of that happening was very slim, but there was still a chance.

If that happens, then things will definitely change.

There was a limit to how much energy a hunter can use.

It was different based on the rank and the person itself, but

everyone had limitations.

That's why energy recovery was important during a hunt.

'But this just increases the maximum amount, not the energy itself.'

Even if one doesn't level up, the maximum amount does increase.

Hypothetically, low-ranked hunters can go up against high-ranked hunters when it comes to the maximum amount.

But that only applied when the amount was extremely high.

'……It doesn't really sound realistic.'

Was this really possible?

Hyun-Soo was feeling doubtful.

If someone provided that energy without participating in the hunt…

It wasn't even that hard to do.

They didn't require Hyun-Soo's skill creation skill or drink a potion.

Most hunters knew how to control their energy.

Even if they weren't using a skill.

'I feel like someone already tested this out.'

But, no one knew.

This could become a new discovery. It'll be like the time when no one was interested in the monster's corpse.

'I should find out more about this.'

Hyun-Soo first decided to see if there were any related information.

"Hey, rookie!"

Knock, knock!

David arrived right when Hyun-Soo finished his thoughts.

Hyun-Soo greeted the David that refused to ring the doorbell.

“What is it? What are you going to give me?”

The way David’s eyes sparkled reminded him of a child on the morning of Christmas.

Hyun-Soo gave him a piece of the pear.

“Try it.”

“Huh? It’s not really this……is it……?”

“Yes.”

“……Did you really call me here for this?”

“Yes.”

“I was really excited because Eugene told me you were making something really good…”

David looked like the cat that had the large, sad eyes.

And the fact that he looked good was shocking.

But Hyun-Soo coldly told him that it wasn’t ready yet and declined his request.

“I want meat too…….”

David looked disappointed as he looked at the ingredients that were in the kitchen.

David took the pear even though he really didn’t want it.

And then he carefully took a bite.

Crunch!

The crunchy sound of the pear filled the room and it was refreshing.

And then.

“What? Oh my God! It’s incredible! Rookie, what the heck is

this?!”

“A pear.”

“A pear? This is a pear? It tastes like some sort of heavenly fruit. I’m sure the apple from the garden of Eden tastes like this!’

And then David kept on saying that this couldn’t be a pear.

Even though Hyun-Soo made it, he hasn’t eaten it, so he was a bit surprised by David’s reaction.

David kept on asking for more as if he was addicted to the pear.

“I don’t have any more.”

“Rookie, you’re so cold-hearted. You should’ve just not given me any! I can’t believe you would give me only one piece. Are you telling me to die from dissatisfaction?”

David complained earlier about giving him fruit instead of meat and now he was begging Hyun-Soo for more.

An addict would probably react the same way.

‘Is this a good thing or a bad thing?’

Anyways, he was able to confirm one thing.

That it made the food more delicious.

‘Interface did guarantee that it was delicious.’

That’s the description it displayed from the start.

But when he used Interface to check on David, there wasn’t anything different with his energy.

‘It would’ve been nice if it affected his energy too.’

It was a bit disappointing, but he knew he couldn’t get everything he wanted at once.

“Can’t you give me more?”

“Wait until dinner.”

“Such a cold-hearted person…….”

“…….”

Hyuna probably influenced him.

Hyuna became close with the members since she saw them every time she visited the cafeteria.

She had a gentle and friendly personality and on top of that, she started talking a lot faster than Hyun-Soo, it’s only natural for her to become close with the members.

Hyun-Soo felt like he was able to see Hyuna in David.

He felt like he was in a drama.

More like a soap opera.

***

When David left, Hyun-Soo resumed making the food.

He decided to research deeper about the energy later.

It’s because he didn’t have enough information right now.

‘I did see its effects, so I should use it.’

Interface displayed the following information about the pear.

The natural taste of the ingredient has increased thanks to the energy.

‘Then it should increase the taste of the Galbi and Bulgogi.’

It was easy to use.

And Interface should display the same “It’s delicious” description.

But he wasn’t going to stop there.

‘Might as well try mixing all of them.’

He poured the potion as well as the energy into the sauce.

He started cooking to leave a strong impression on the guests.

But now, this was nothing more than an experiment.

Hyun-Soo was honestly curious about the result.

He poured the potion and started stirring the sauce.

He spread the sauce onto the meat and place another piece of meat on top of it.

He spread the sauce, placed another piece of meat and repeated this process several times.

After pouring the remaining sauce on top of the stack of meat, Hyun-Soo gathered his energy.

Buzzzzz.

It sounded like the air was slightly vibrating.

Hyun-Soo started kneading that meat while gathering his energy.

Making sure that the meat have been marinated well.

And making sure the energy had infused.

Kyuuuu....

Riri watched while licking her lips.

It's because the energy she consumed was now inside the meat.

Riri looked at Hyun-Soo with a pitiful expression.

But Hyun-Soo already moved onto the next step.

"Let's start the Bulgogi."

Instead of the pear, he took out an apple and other ingredients and concentrated on the dish.

***

Their reaction was what he expected.

The people that haven't tried it before carefully took a bite and afterwards started putting a lot of food on their plates.

Even though Hyun-Soo made a lot food, it disappeared within

seconds.

“How can it taste this good? I can’t believe it!”

“Who made this? Are there more?!”

There were probably a few hunters that actually ate Bulgogi and Galbi before.

New York had quite a few Korean restaurants.

It may be different from the food served in Korea, but since they made it to accommodate the taste buds of the people here, foreigners may like it more.

But they were really shocked right now because it was totally different from the ones they tasted before.

Everyone had forgotten about Riri.

‘Let’s see…….’

Hyun-Soo used Interface and looked at the hunters that were inside the cafeteria.

He confirmed that the random potion was working well.

The energy limit did increase a little bit for some people.

‘They’re lucky. I hope they’re the friendly hunters that are on our side.’

He didn’t want the enemy to obtain all the good benefits.

It was already too late for him to be worried about that…

‘Well, it’s not a big increase anyways.’

He purposely set the amount of energy that was being infused.

He was experimenting right now.

Even though David didn’t show any signs of side effects, he still had to experiment.

There wasn’t a need to create more variables that were difficult to control.

‘They should be showing some sort of reaction soon……’

They probably didn’t realize it because the food was too good.

But they were high-ranked hunters that were proud of their power.

And they were probably really sensitive whenever there was a change in their bodies.

‘What was the rank of the hunter that I sold my first skill to? Was it C or B?’

So many things happened after that day, so he had a hard time remembering.

Anyways, even ordinary hunters do everything they can to take care of their bodies, so for high-ranked hunters, they would probably do more to make sure their bodies are in good condition.

Their body was an asset.

‘But I feel pretty satisfied. This is probably why people cook.’

A small smile appeared on his face because he couldn’t hide his satisfaction.

The hunters might think it’s absurd if they heard this analogy.

Hyun-Soo felt like he discovered a god-like seasoning that would make anyone lick their dishes.

That seasoning was called energy. .

It was the same energy that was used as a base for hunters.

‘This is what a mother must feel…no. I went too far again.’

Out of the dishes that Hyun-Soo and the chefs from a five-star hotel made, they finished Hyun-Soo’s first.

He couldn’t help but be proud of his cooking.

When dinner time was almost over.

Hyun-Soo managed to get rid of his smile and while looking

around the room, his eyes met Kim Yoo-Na's eyes.

Nod.

She slightly nodded her head. Hyun-Soo replied by doing a light bow.

If this was the first stage, then it was time to move on to the second stage.

<Bait & Hook #1> End.

Chapter 120 - <Bait & Hook #2>

“Did you guys enjoy the food?”

When Kim Yoo-Na stood up and spoke, everyone looked at her.

“I know it’s been uncomfortable because there wasn’t a training room, so I prepared a space for you.”

It was an announcement that didn’t fit well with dinner time.

They didn’t reveal the Center Room and the personal training rooms that the members have been using.

Because of that, the visitors complained a bit.

‘Are they crazy?’

‘That’s absurd.’

The members complained about the visitors that were complaining about not having a training room.

It’s because they overstayed their welcome by making up silly excuses and now they were demanding a training room.

‘It’s a good thing they finished building it by spending all their money…if not, my plan might’ve been delayed a bit.’

He heard that there was a tall building in China that was completed in 12 days.

It was an amazing achievement done by man.

The FE’s new building wasn’t any different.

‘They used a lot of money.’

He was able to really see them splurge.

Since money had so much power, the workers worked for 24 hours straight.

If they needed more people, they got more people and if they needed more material, they provided it.

They even provided shower rooms and high-quality food.

Even though they haven't finished it, a part of the facility was completed so that people could use it.

And Kim Yoo-Na notified the visitors about it.

Was it for their comfort and convenience?

The answer was no.

Hyun-Soo slowly looked at the people.

Some wondered why Kim Yoo-Na was announcing it all of a sudden and others felt something through that announcement.

'I knew it.'

Something was happening.

Some hunters felt something change within their bodies and they understood why Kim Yoo-Na made that announcement.

It was obvious.

They needed a space where they can move around freely.

If they figured this out, then they would definitely have more questions.

How did she know?

This was Hyun-Soo's next plan.

'The high-ranked hunters. They've noticed.'

High-ranked hunters are generally smart.

Hyun-Soo wasn't sure if their brains developed when they leveled up or if their bodies were well-developed because they had a lot of hunting experience.

Since there weren't any information about this, he didn't know the answer.

'Anyways, the important thing is that we're at the second stage of my plan.'

All that was left was the third stage.

The third stage was easy.

The only thing the hunters had to do was stand up and run to the training room.

And have them realize the changes in their body and have their bodies learn the effects.

Then he'll be done with that stage.

"If anyone needs a drill hall, our staff at the entrance will guide you there."

A small smile appeared on her face.

"Doing a light exercise after eating is needed."

She added that comment.

No one knew if it really was going to be a light exercise or an intense exercise.

Only the hunters that stood up knew.

***

Click, clack.

Hyun-Soo was on his way somewhere.

He was going to arrive at his destination very soon.

"Rookie!"

David wasn't the only one that was pulling Hyun-Soo back.

Everyone automatically gathered at the Center Room even if they weren't training.

David looked around and then pulled Hyun-Soo into the Center Room.

The room was empty.

"What's wrong?"

“Do you have that?”

“Have what?”

“You know, that.”

“What are you talking about?”

“You know, the Bibimbap that you made for us!”

“Oh…….”

Hyun-Soo now understood and nodded his head.

Then David asked with a disappointed expression.

“Why in the world did you make it for them? There isn’t enough for us!”

“Do you even know what that was?”

Even though Hyun-Soo made several dishes that contained medicinal herbs, he never explained it to them.

“Of course I know it. I’m not that stupid, you know.”

It was understandable as to why they didn’t know because they would either go meet their girlfriends or exercise after dinner.

“Don’t worry. I’ll make it again for you guys.”

It wasn’t that difficult.

After Hyun-Soo answered without any hesitation, David shook his head with a frustration look.

“No, that’s not it. I’m worried about you!”

“Huh……?”

Worried?

Who? Me?

When Hyun-Soo asked, David nodded.

“That’s right! Why would you make something like that? It should be just for us…oh, no, that’s not it! Everyone knows that

you made it now!”

David enthusiastically voiced his concern.

“Ha, ha ha.”

Hyun-Soo’s laugh didn’t really fit well with the current situation.

David was confused because Hyun-Soo’s laugh was odd, but Hyun-Soo couldn’t stop smiling.

‘Now that I think about it…….’

He acted like this before.

When he saw Hyun-Soo use two different elements at the same time, David begged him to not tell anyone.

He was probably curious about how that it was possible, but he didn’t even ask.

But he acted like Hyun-Soo’s guardian because he was afraid that something bad was going to happen to Hyun-Soo if others found out.

‘What did say back then? That he had to look after me?’

He was treating Hyun-Soo like a baby.

That’s why the other members scorned him.

It happened not that long ago, but it was a pretty funny memory.

‘He’s still the same.’

In the end, David was worried about Hyun-Soo.

Even though no one was holding a weapon, it was a war zone.

A war zone where people take and gets things taken away from them.

“Ha ha…….”

It was obvious that David would be worried after Hyun-Soo revealed his skill in the current situation.

“Wh-why are you laughing rookie? Did I make a mistake?”

“No, no. I’m just thankful.”

“……?”

David didn’t understand.

When Hyun-Soo said thank you, David waved his hand really fast.

“N-no…I mean…I should be the one thanking you since I’m probably just being nosy. But, what are you trying to do? Is it okay to reveal yourself like that?”

“They probably don’t know that I did it. And I didn’t purposely reveal it either. They probably won’t think that it’s me and will just think that our clan has something.”

“That’s okay, right? Did you…do that on purpose?”

“Yeah, we should use whatever we can.”

He wasn’t going to do anything useless.

If they had to take one step forward, it would be a giant step.

“I didn’t even know and was worried for no reason. I was really worried that someone might have taken you.”

David let out a huge sigh of relief.

“Ha ha. I just realized this, but it’s great to have someone like you worrying about me. Thank you.”

“Huh? No. Oh man, you’re making me cringe.”

Was it because he was surrounded by people who were honest?

Hyun-Soo expressed his appreciation without any hesitation.

The old Hyun-Soo wouldn’t have been able to say things like this.

It felt like this was the time for him to really realize the things he wasn’t able to before because he was always looking ahead.

“Ariel almost got kidnapped before. They still try, but it was a lot

worse before. Since extraterritorial rights exists, it's not as bad as before...jeez..."

"I see. I understand. Don't worry too much. Do I look like someone that'll get easily kidnapped?"

Hyun-Soo created fire and wind on the palm of his hand while laughing.

It was the same skill that David told him to hide.

Who would try to go up against someone with that kind of skill?

"Yeah, I'm sure you can take care of yourself. But still, be careful."

"Got it."

***

'Not bad.'

Knowing that someone cared was a pretty good feeling.

Hyun-Soo exited the Center Room and headed to his original destination.

Knock, knock.

Hyun-Soo stood in front of a large door and knocked.

It was a notification that the owner of the room wanted.

"Come."

A slim figure was looking at something while leaning on a desk.

Kim Yoo-Na lifted her head and greeted Hyun-Soo.

"How are they reacting?"

It wasn't Hyun-Soo's own plan. They were using the clan's name to execute the plan.

That's why it was difficult for him to see their reactions.

But Kim Yoo-Na was actively participating in the plan.

“It was great. They were pretty excited so they ran to the training room.”

Kim Yoo-Na giggled.

Hyun-Soo was able to imagine that.

A good amount of them visited here to get information and to find some sort of flaw.

There were also some that were trying to become allies with the clan.

Anyways, they put their pride down and ran to the training room.

“It’s a success.”

“Yes, it sure is.”

“I’m sure they’ll make a more competitive offer now.”

“It’s all thanks to you, Hyun-Soo.”

They showed off the clan’s skill.

Once they come back to their senses, they’ll be busy calculating their offers.

Even though strong hunters gathered here, there was still a difference in skill between them.

After seeing FE’s skill, there will definitely be some that believe that they’re not strong enough.

‘We’ll just get rid of them.’

It meant that they weren’t strong enough to walk on the road that the clan was going to walk on.

This will be their chance to find out the skill differences.

It was an unexpected bonus.

‘The more people we filter out, the better I guess.’

There’s a reason why companies gave two tests and did an

interview at the end.

“Since we provoked them, I’m sure some of them will start getting busy.”

“Yes, let’s move on to our next part of our plan.”

Hyun-Soo and Kim Yoo-Na looked at each other.

After sharing their secrets, a sly smile appeared on their faces.

Since they set everything, some of the hunters will start getting busy Once they start moving, they’ll execute the next part of their plan.

The first part of their plan was a success.

Hyun-Soo decided to slowly start executing the next part.

“Try this.”

Hyun-Soo took out the fruit he brought with him.

It was a tangerine he bought from the market.

He bought it because Hyuna really liked it, but he decided to offer some to Kim Yoo-Na too.

“What’s this?”

“You’ll know once you try it.”

It wasn’t that Kim Yoo-Na didn’t know what a tangerine was. She was wondering why he was offering it to her.

Even though she asked why, Hyun-Soo answered her by telling her to try it.

Kim Yoo-Na peeled the tangerine and ate a small piece.

“……!”

<Bait & Hook #2> End.

Chapter 121 - <Bait & Hook #3>

Kim Yoo-Na's eyes widened.

"This……? Is this 'that' as well?"

"Yes."

Kim Yoo-Na agreed on Hyun-Soo's plan to gain control through food.

It was possible because she worked with Hyun-Soo for a long time.

Hyun-Soo also assumed that Kim Yoo-Na somewhat had an idea about his skill.

'There's no way someone as quick-witted as Kim Yoo-Na wouldn't know.'

But she never asked him directly or hinted at it, so all he did was assume.

She was surprised by the tangerine that Hyun-Soo gave her.

She knew about his cooking skills since she ate his food before, so she wasn't expecting this at all.

"So that's why they acted that way."

She thought things were working out on their own because they reacted so passionately and didn't know this was the reason.

"It's not an ordinary tangerine. You did something to it, right? I'm assuming it's related to what you wanted to tell me."

"Yes, that's right. Regarding the potions that are being sold at the black market, I'm thinking about making a more systematic approach."

"The potion that are being sold? Are you thinking about selling them through a different method?"

"I'm still thinking about it, but it doesn't hurt to plan ahead."

Getting the result you want right away was difficult.

That's why it's important to take one step at a time even if it takes longer.

Then you'll be able to reach your goal during the most important moment.

"What kind of plan is it?"

She was no longer focused on the tangerine.

She turned into a serious businesswoman.

"I'm planning on putting a grade on the potions. It would be divided into low rank and high rank potions. I'm thinking about making the low rank potions cheaper so that more people will purchase it. High-ranked hunters will most likely go for the high rank potions, so it wouldn't bad to offer those to them."

"Are you thinking about making them limited editions?"

"Yeah, because all they have if money. And if it's limited, it'll make them want to buy it even more. They're not interested in ordinary potions, so using that method to sell potions to them wouldn't be that bad."

"I agree. Selling ranked potions...not a bad idea. No, it's actually great."

She mumbled while looking down at the tangerine that was in her hand.

"The world is changing, but the hunters are still in the same spot. There are a lot of A rank hunters that are unable to overcome the S rank barrier. Excluding those hunters, everyone else is changing."

Colorful portal.

An odd transformation that didn't exist before.

Skilled hunters tried hunting it, but they ended up failing.

'Evolution or selection.'

What Kim Yoo-Na said was simple.

They didn't know what kind of danger they were facing.

Will this evolution stop here or will it grow bigger that it'll eventually get out of hand?

If they don't change with that evolution, they'll fall behind...

'That's us.'

It wasn't just the FE clan.

The FE clan and other groups.

The last would be mankind.

When the portal first appeared, it affected a large amount of the population.

Before hunters appeared, people predicted that the world was going to end.

But there was one reason why mankind and civilization didn't die out.

Evolution.

And change.

In order to go against the mysterious portal, hunters were the result of the change.

And Kim Yoo-Na was talking about another evolution.

A change for evolution.

And the preparation stage for that change.

She was pointing that out.

"In that sense, I support your decision. I'm not saying it from the business aspect. As a human and a member of the human race, I want to thank you for it too."

Kim Yoo-Na bowed.

‘The reason wasn’t even that grand.’

An amazing task for the human race.

He didn’t have the time to do that.

He didn’t have that kind of strength and wasn’t in the position to do something like that.

‘I don’t know what will happen in the future, but she’s thinking highly of me when all I’m trying to do is survive.’

All this time, Hyun-Soo lived to survive.

He wanted to live a better life to be exact.

That’s why he was doing everything he could in order to make money.

A life where he could live happily without being pressured by others.

He thought it wasn’t a bad life since his family had been living a long, difficult life.

He endured all of that and came this far.

‘But a comfortable life…we still have a long way to go.’

Even the rich had their own problems.

But the people here were trying to get more and take away as much as they could.

It was a cold world because they didn’t care who got hurt during the process as long as they were okay.

It was probably the same everywhere.

But seeing people unsatisfied with what they had and stepping on others to get more was an unpleasant sight.

That made Hyun-Soo look towards the top of the world.

There were other reasons, but that was one of the reasons.

‘And this plan will help me reach that goal.’

Out of all the hunters, there were only a few high-ranked hunters.

Most were low-ranked hunters.

Low-ranked hunters usually make a big deal before entering a portal.

Was there really a need to give them potions?

'I'm not working for charity.'

It was like planting seeds into a field.

It was hard to say which of those seeds will grow, but among the few that does grow a lot, they'll provide a nice shade for Hyun-Soo.

'Many a little, makes a mickle.'

He was forced to include the low-ranked hunters.

It was also because he was reminded of the time he was a low-ranked hunter.

He wasn't like Kim Yoo-Na who was a leader of a large group, but he wanted to assist the low-ranked hunters a bit.

There was a reason why having a lot of people was beneficial.

The more people a group has, the more power they have.

If Hyun-Soo's potion helped them, then that optimistic mindset will help them someday.

It didn't matter if they had limited strategies against the high-ranked hunters.

But it was better to kill two birds with one stone.

"If things work out according to your plan, then the potions will aid them. When a hunter grows, the chance of them changing increases as well. It'll increase the hunters' overall level."

"Yeah. I'm not sure how much it'll affect them, but it's better than nothing."

If a hunter's level increases even just a little bit, it'll make the hunt a lot easier.

Then they'll be able to earn more experience.

Like Kim Yoo-Na mentioned, it can increase a hunter's overall level.

'But this is just an extremely optimistic assumption, of course.'

Wouldn't it be nice if things went the way he wanted?

Problems and changes that Hyun-Soo never expected could occur.

Kim Yoo-Na also knew.

But despite of Hyun-Soo's decision, she displayed a happy, beautiful smile.

"I'll fully support your decision. Profit is important, but that doesn't mean profit makes up for everything."

"Well, I don't think we have to worry about profit since we have the low-ranked hunters. We can get profit elsewhere. How's that tangerine?"

"This tangerine?"

She looked down at the tangerine that was in her hand.

"It's a bit different from the food you made before. The hunters' reacted really well while eating the food."

"It was good, right?"

"Yeah. I have never eaten a tangerine as sweet as this one."

She ate a variety of fruits other than the tangerine and among them, she's never eaten a tangerine that was this sweet and had this much sugar.

"Can you check your energy?"

"Excuse me? The energy in my body? Why should...!"

After Hyun-Soo asked, Kim Yoo-Na started concentrating and stopped talking.

She then opened her eyes.

She couldn't talk because she was so surprised and just blinked while looking at Hyun-Soo.

'It's obvious she's reacting that way since the tangerine was filled with energy.'

Hyun-Soo didn't say anything and just thought Kim Yoo-Na looked cute.

'Let's see.'

He activated Interface and saw that her total energy increased.

It was a small percentage, but she was lucky.

'Things will work out easier than I thought.'

"Hyun-Soo? How did...this happen?"

Energy moved inside her body and she was able to feel a larger amount of energy moving within her.

It was a small amount, but as she carefully checked herself, she was able to notice the small change within her.

She was able to easily find out the reason.

The tangerine in her hand.

It was so sweet that she couldn't stop herself from putting the whole thing in her mouth. It was the same tangerine that Hyun-Soo gave her.

Full of surprises.

That's what Kim Yoo-Na thought every time she saw Hyun-Soo.

Hyun-Soo always thought ahead of Kim Yoo-Na.

When she believed that she figured something out, he offered something more and surprised her.

‘Was that why?’

It felt like whenever they got close, they grow apart and when she gets the courage to take a step forward, he becomes far away.

Shake, shake.

Kim Yoo-Na shook her head and threw away her thoughts.

Now wasn’t the time to think about things like that.

“What do you think?”

He already knew the answer, but still wanted to ask.

“There will…definitely be a war.”

Hyun-Soo’s potion alone was enough to create chaos.

But a potion that will increase the energy’s max limit?

Any hunter that desired power would want it.

A potion that increases one’s stats or recovers one’s stamina couldn’t be bought.

But there’s a potion that increases the energy’s max limit?

Hunters that aren’t able to overcome the S rank wall will desperately want it.

Those that are thirsty will do whatever they can to quench that thirst.

Even if it meant that they had to cut their skin open and drink the blood.

Hyun-Soo noticed her worried expression.

‘……I’m a pretty lucky guy.’

Hyun-Soo already knew how people were going to react once they release this.

He expected bad reactions as well.

There was going to be a lot of people that wanted it.

Kim Yoo-Na was a hunter too.

It’s possible that she would want one too.

She could’ve asked what Hyun-Soo did to the tangerine.

But her face wasn’t filled with greed, desire or curiosity. She was just worried about Hyun-Soo.

<Bait & Hook #3> End.

Chapter 122 - <Thinning Out #1>

“Don’t worry too much. It’s not like we’re going to reveal it soon. But with an item like this, don’t you think it’s worth trying it?”

Of course they had a backup plan.

They’ll probably have a detailed plan by the time the potion is released to the world.

They won’t let people scam them easily.

‘On top of that, I’m the only one that can make it. With just that, they won’t be able to attack me easily.’

They haven’t decided on how much they were going to reveal.

But in time, everything will be revealed.

Only Hyun-Soo could do this.

Hyun-Soo recalled the data room he visited before Kim Yoo-Na visited him.

There was an enormous amount of data regarding the clan.

These days, information could be used as a weapon and a lot of data was contained in the data room.

And Hyun-Soo was able to find the information he was looking for.

It was some sort of thesis and one of the tests that was related to the topic was the thing that Hyun-Soo was curious about.

That a hunter’s energy was natural.

Since everyone’s energy characteristics was different, energy couldn’t be exchanged.

When an energy with different characteristics enters the body, it automatically pushes it out and the body experiences excruciating pain. The person may even lose their life if things got really bad.

When two different energies meet, it'll really damage the body.

That's why the person may even die.

Hyun-Soo thought of one thing while reading the results.

'But, why is it possible for me?'

On top of that, when someone consumes it, their total energy level increases.

The chance of that happening may be low, but one can benefit from it.

'Am I the only one that can do it?'

He suddenly came to a realization.

He looked down at his hands.

'……What am I?'

That question popped into his head.

How far could he go?

He was continuously doing things that others couldn't even try.

"Ha ha……."

Hyun-Soo quietly laughed inside the room.

He tightly clenched his hands.

Anything was fine.

As long as it placed Hyun-Soo at the very top.

And that was one of the reasons why Kim Yoo-Na visited him.

Because only Hyun-Soo could do it.

She checked again and again the worth of his skill.

Even though Hyun-Soo didn't provide her with details, Kim Yoo-Na knew his worth right away.

She probably had an idea when she ate the tangerine, no, probably when she was eating the food with the others.

“We’ll be able to cover both high-ranked and low-ranked hunters. Right now, among the high-ranked hunters, only a few will want it, so only make a few. But, for the premium line, it’ll best to go with your ‘thing’ that you mentioned.”

Kim Yoo-Na nodded her head after she finished calculating.

She still looked worried, but it seemed like she pretty much understood.

“I understand. Not doing anything because it’s dangerous is pretty stupid. In that case, I’ll feel better if I help you myself. I’ll help you.”

She looked at Hyun-Soo with a determined expression.

“The road that you’re walking on. Let me walk with you.”

“What are you……?”

“Do you not want me to? Are you worried that I might get in the way?”

“No, it’s nothing like that. I’m thankful that you’re offering to help.”

He needed Kim Yoo-Na anyways to walk on that road.

The FE clan was Kim Yoo-Na’s and Hyun-Soo was planning on helping the clan rise to the top.

It caught him off guard because Kim Yoo-Na suddenly offered to help.

On top of that, his mind went blank when he saw her big eyes.

“Thank you for accepting. Thanks a lot.”

“Huh?”

It somehow ended as him accepting her offer.

“You’re going to start a company, right? Your plan may fail if you make a connection with the black market.”

“Yes, but I’ll have to continue providing the potion.”

“Great. Then I’ll purchase the share.”

“Excuse me?”

The conversation was moving too fast.

“It’s only natural that I buy the company’s share since it’s yours. With that, the connection between us will strengthen.”

She mumbled with a satisfied look on her face.

“…I’ll gladly welcome you as my partner.”

She was a smart and capable woman that was able to lead a clan.

That’s why it’s a good thing that she’s helping, but…

‘What’s going on?’

He did come to ask for her help and approval, so it worked out.

But Hyun-Soo had an odd feeling like he was forcefully pulled in.

He glanced at Kim Yoo-Na and noticed that she had a smile that not many people had seen.

She no longer looked worried.

Things ended differently than what he had imagined, but he achieved his second goal.

The base work was done, so all he had to do now was wait and save his energy.

‘Things are going to become even more chaotic.’

Hyun-Soo had high expectations.

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‘How should I gather the energy?’

Kyuuuu?

Hyun-Soo was thinking deeply while watching Riri eat the energy that was on the tip of Hyun-Soo’s finger.r ‘I need to make

potions and give some to Riri too. On top of that, I have to go hunting too…Lahatlan's skill is outstanding, but the problem is that it consumes too much energy.'

There were too many things that required his energy.

If he didn't find a way to recover his energy fast, then he won't be able to make potions or go hunting.

'I need to create a recovery skill for myself.'

Up till now, he always sold the skills and never thought about learning them.

It was because his skill slot was limited.

Hyun-Soo obtained Lahatlan without warning and since it can happen again, Hyun-Soo decided it was best to have an empty slot.

'I should still learn one though.'

It was time for him to create a skill again.

'Looks like there's going to be a lot of useless skills.'

The function may be good, but they weren't good enough for him.

'Wait, can I sell those?'

Since it would be a waste to throw them away, he could transfer them to the members and sell the rest.

But the issue was that Hyun-Soo only had one body.

He had a lot to do and for security reasons, he rejected doing direct sales.

'On top of that, it's a huge country. Jeez.'

Doing one transaction will be a lot of work.

He would have to ride a plane instead of a bus or subway.

On top of that, he would have to deal with the entire world.

He would have to constantly travel by plane.

Just thinking about the time and money he would have to spend gave him a headache.

‘It would be nice if I can actually sell it as a scroll.’

Hyun-Soo sighed.

He decided to think about it again once he starts making the skill and focused on the current issue.

‘Even if the skill somehow helps, it’s not enough. Isn’t there a different way?’

Kyuuu, kyuuuuu.

Hyun-Soo’s eyes landed on Riri, who was biting the tip of his finger.

‘She ate a monster’s skill and now is eating my energy. Isn’t she full?’

She was no bigger than the palm of his hand, so where exactly were all those skills going?

She must’ve liked Hyun-Soo’s attention because she flew around him.

‘I wish it was possible for me too. A monster’s skill is probably a lump of energy.’

He was suddenly envious of Riri because she would eat a lot during the hunt.

‘Wait. Consuming a monster’s energy?’

Was it possible?

That question popped into his head.

Hm…….

A deep sigh escaped Hyun-Soo’s mouth.

Moments later, he lightly tapped Riri, signaling that her meal time was over.

‘Right, it’s worth a try.’

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Riiing!

The sound of the alarm was short.

Hyun-Soo instinctively looked at the device he was wearing on his wrist.

It was 3 AM..

And he saw Eugene’s message.

“Please come to the Center ASAP.”

It was an urgent message.

‘What’s going on?’

The message was only sent to a few of the members and he questioned it only for a moment.

Hyun-Soo quietly left his dorm and headed towards the main building.

The building was quiet.

The hallway that led to the Center Room was quiet too.

But right when he entered the Center Room, he saw the members.

“Oh, you’re here. I’m glad you were able to make it.”

Eugene greeted Hyun-Soo.

“What’s going on?”

“Well, you see...it’s better if you see it for yourself.”

Eugene looked like he was feeling complicated when he asked what was going on and why they were gathered here at this time.

He contemplated for a bit and pointed to an area while saying that it was better for Hyun-Soo to see it with his own eyes.

"……?"

When the members moved over a bit, he saw a person.

A person in black was working hard on something.

They were anxious and as they looked around, they were repeatedly taking something out.

Even the members were standing around them, they kept on doing it as if no one was there.

Then they moved over a bit and did the same thing. They even acted as if they were looking at something in the air.

"Do you know what they're doing?"

"……They look like they're mentally disabled."

Out of the people that visited, there wasn't anyone that acted that out of place.

Hyun-Soo looked at Eugene.

Hyun-Soo was waiting for Eugene to give him an answer.

"He's spy."

"Are you serious?"

"Yeah, he was looking around and it was pretty noticeable. I think he was trying to get near the data room, but…"

Eugene explained that they became that way and pointed at the man.

"Why is he acting like that? He's acting as if he's been possessed by something."

"You got it, Hyun-Soo. He's definitely possessed."

"I'm sorry?"

Hyun-Soo couldn't keep up with the conversation.

He rushed over here and he was told that there was a spy.

It was an urgent matter. Because all the members had their guards up.

Everyone knew that there was a spy and a thief.

The problem was when they were going to make their move.

That's why it was urgent.

But the spy was acting extremely oddly.

'He looks like he's crazy…….'

But he was possessed, not crazy.

He wasn't sure where the conversation was heading to.

Eugene pointed to an area when Hyun-Soo looked confused.

He saw something familiar.

"Riri?"

Kyuuuuu!

Riri was supposed to be asleep at the dorm, so why was she here?

"He's like that because of Riri's skill."

Which meant that he wasn't crazy.

The monster from the second portal had the ability to control the mind.

And Riri was born from that monter's egg.

So it's obvious that she would be able to use Karazhan's skill, but…

'She's never used that kind of skill up until now.'

"I asked her to stop with the hallucination, but she's not listening. Since she's been following you around, she'll probably listen to you."

<Thinning Out #1> End.

Chapter 123 - <Thinning Out #2>

Hyun-Soo called Riri.

“Riri, stop and come over here.”

Kyuuuu!

Riri was sitting on top of the spy’s black head and flew to Hyun-Soo when he called her.

“Wow. She wouldn’t even listen when we asked her to stop.”

David mumbled to himself in disappointment.

He was complaining about how she was treating people differently.

Hyun-Soo asked after she sat on his shoulder.

“Did you make him that way?”

Kyuuuu!

It was a short answer.

She was clearly saying yes.

Hyun-Soo had no idea as to how she left the dorm and how she was able to catch that person.

On top of that, since when did she have the ability to create illusions?

‘They do say that kids grow every day.’

This probably happened because he hasn’t been able to take care of her recently.

Of course she wasn’t a child of a human, but since it hasn’t been that long since she hatched out of the egg, it’s safe to say that she was a child.

Kyuuuu, kyuuuuu.

Riri was trying to say something by violently moving her body.

But when she realized that her owner wasn't understanding her at all, she flew towards the palm of his hand.

And she tried to place Hyun-Soo's hand on top of her head.

'Is she?'

"Hyun-Soo, I think Riri wants you to compliment her."

The other members must've felt the same thing as Hyun-Soo because they were pushing him to compliment her.

Others even quietly said how they were really envious.

"Good job. Thanks for catching him."

There's no way they wouldn't be able to catch the spy since they've been expecting it.

But it's possible that they fought to capture him.

He may not talk or even try to commit suicide.

People that believe that they're right tend to do drastic things to prove it.

And that usually brings serious consequences.

People can get hurt.

But all of that was avoided.

Because of Riri's skill.

What are the chances that they would be able to capture a high-ranked hunter without using violence?

"Riri, is it possible to use your skill in a different way?"

Kyuuu?

"Is it possible to restrict his mind?"

Kyuuuuu!

A short answer.

It was possible.

‘I should set a date and get to know about Riri more.’

He wasn’t sure if it’s possible since he couldn’t understand her, but Hyun-Soo decided to try.

He thought he did well by finding the egg during the hunt.

She was his shield and now, she was able to create an illusion.

‘It would’ve been bad if she was an enemy…’

He looked down at Riri who was nodding her head at Hyun-Soo.

It was obvious that she didn’t want to be apart from him.

She must’ve felt good after hearing the compliment because she seemed happier.

‘There’s no way.’

There’s no way she would abandon him.

Riri sometimes acted as if Hyun-Soo was her world.

Because of that, the other members were envious.

“Then limit him so that he only tells the truth when asked a question.”

Kyuuuuu!

Right when she answered, the spy stopped moving.

He just stood there with a blank expression. He didn’t move or do anything dangerous.

“Your name?”

When Hyun-Soo asked to test it out…

“Alexander Lachowski.”

He immediately replied.

Hyun-Soo looked into his eyes and could see that he was being controlled.

It seemed like his body was paralyzed and he was only able to

speak.

“This makes things easier.”

Ismael commented while standing on the side.

And the other members commented on how it was a relief.

“I was afraid that we would have to fight this late at night.”

“You’re right. Interrogating him will be easy too. All we have to do is ask, right rookie?”

“Probably. We’ll have Riri stick with him just in case.”

Kyuuuuu?

“You did well in capturing him. We have to make sure to finish it up without any mistakes. I’ll give you a reward if you listen well.”

Kyuuuu?

“Yeah, I’ll give you a reward, so all you have to do is follow that middle-aged man.”

“Wait, why do I….?”

Eugene thought it was ridiculous, but Hyun-Soo was serious.

Hyun-Soo couldn’t let a newborn call that spy older brother.

Riri shook her head when Hyun-Soo told her to follow him, but happily agreed when he mentioned reward.

“I think we’re pretty much done here, so we can all go back. Thanks for coming out this late.”

Eugene waved his hand after tying up the spy.

The members looked disappointed because nothing really happened.

“I was nervous while coming here, but it ended just like that.”

“It’s good that it ended this way. It’s hard to keep things quiet, but we don’t have to worry about that.”

“You’re right.”

“I’m awake now. Hey, rookie. Want to have a drink with me?”

It’s only natural that they were fully awake since they were called out in the middle of the night.

“No, I’m going to try to get some sleep.”

He rejected their offer.

They caught one spy.

Usually, it would be difficult to pull them out of this room.

‘But Riri is with him.’

That meant that his second plan to weeding out the hunters was done.

It happened really fast too.

In order to prepare for that, Hyun-Soo wanted to be in a good condition.

“Okay, rest up.”

“See you tomorrow.”

After saying goodbye, everyone went back to their place.

Yawn.

He couldn’t stop yawning.

He hasn’t been sleeping well lately because he had a lot to take care of.

And today was one of the reasons.

That’s why his eyes shot open even though the alarm was short.

“I should be able to sleep well tonight.”

A small issue that occured in the middle of the night.

But the result was going to be different.

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“We built the building, but it’s useless. Wahhh…”

Katrina was the most disappointed because she invested the most in this building.

“What? It’s gotten quiet, so isn’t that better?”

“That’s true, but…….”

The base that was once filled with visitors was now quiet.

It happened after Riri controlled the hidden spy by creating an illusion.

Thanks to Riri’s skill, the interrogation was pretty easy.

They found out the guild he was in and the allies he was associated with.

They got all the details.

‘I didn’t know Eugene could be so cold and stubborn.’

He normally smiles a lot, but when he talks sometimes, there’s a hidden meaning behind it.

But he was usually nice to the members.

Hyun-Soo knew from the way he took care of him and Katrina.

But when Eugene is involved in a certain task, he transforms into a cold person.

‘I’ll be able to eat comfortably for once.’

That night helped him differentiate the allies from the enemy.

Kim Yoo-Na gathered data about this situation first thing in the morning.

She made a serious request and asked some of the visitors to leave.

“Why are you doing this all of a sudden?!”

One of the people that was asked to leave asked.

“The official letter that I’ll be sending out will have the reason, so you can check then.”

When Kim Yoo-Na replied, they slightly hesitated as if something was holding them back.

But they made a comment moments later.

“But this is too much!”

“I’m prepared to tell you the reason as to why I’m asking you to leave, but…it may damage your reputation. Are you okay with that?”

Kim Yoo-Na was willing to announce it in front of everyone.

The opponent was the one that cowered.

It was obvious that they would react this way.

When the other hunters realized that they wouldn’t be able to get anything out of this, they quietly grabbed their bags.

They all looked disappointed.

But there was no reason for them to stay.

The data that Kim Yoo-Na had was already released.

The visitors that hesitated looked at Kim Yoo-Na’s cold expression and the members behind and quietly left the base.

“I’m kind of worried. We went out pretty strong.”

One of the members mumbled as they recalled the time when the visitors poked around to see if there was anything they could steal.

“There’s nothing to worry about. They won’t be able to complain since they came with bad intentions. We have proof too.”

The spy that Riri caught confessed and his confession remained as official data.

“And there’s no reason to treat them nicely. They’re a bunch of thieves.”

“But I don’t think they’re going to give up like this. They may try to break us up.”

They may have left without much complaint, but no knew what they were going to do behind their backs.

The guild that the spy was in and the hunters that were associated with him were all kicked out.

But there was a big chance that they may turn a blind eye and make him responsible for everything.

But, who cares?

“Well, we can just catch them again.”

Hyun-Soo intercepted their conversation and commented.

“You’re right. The rookie is right. We can catch them again if they come, right?”

“Yeah, it’ll be better if they come. Since we have Riri, we’ll have more proof.”

Kyuuuuu.

When Riri heard her name, she peeked out of Hyun-Soo’s hood.

“Where can I get a monster like Riri?”

Everyone looked envious as they looked at Riri. Then, Riri went back into Hyun-Soo’s hood.

The members looked disappointed.

“So, should we start hunting again?”

“We have to take the unskilled ones to the hunt…I hope they’re better than the group from last time.”

Team Xeon wasn’t helpful at all when they were hunting the Puppeteer.

They actually got in the way.

“Yoo-Na said she’s going to stop by the black market before.”

“Oh…to get that contract? Figures. Even though we weeded out all the unskilled people, I’m sure there will be some that will change their minds. But, isn’t that really expensive?”

“It’s expensive. If we were to buy all of those people…wow.”

“You think Yoo-Na would buy all of them? I’m sure she’ll ask them to pay.”

There was word that caught his attention while listening to their conversation.

“What kind of contract?”

Wasn’t it as simple as signing it and getting it notarized?

Getting the contract notarized may be expensive, but it probably wasn’t that expensive for these high-ranked hunters since they had a lot of money.

It was probably a special contract…

“Oh, it’s called a magic contract. It’s better than a notarization.”

“A magic contract?”

“Some are saying that a Hidden Class hunter created it and others are saying it was discovered in a portal. We’re not sure which is true, but it’s really effective. A binding power forms once you write in it. A strong binding force.”

“Do you die or something?”

<Thinning Out #2> End.

Chapter 124 - <Thinning Out #3>

“Oh, how’d you know? You’re right. It depends on the contract, but that’s a possibility. That’s why people that know it call it a slave contract. But it’s that effective. People try not to use it that often though.”

He understood after listening, but since there were human rights issues, no one really uses it.

“But Yoo-Na chose to use it because she wanted to make it official. When people join forces or become allies, they don’t really use it. But it’s better to be safe than sorry. And for a colorful portal…it’s worth it.”

They were still studying the Puppeteer’s corpse.

They haven’t found anything yet.

But everyone agreed that a colorful portal was a lot more valuable than an ordinary portal.

The world was focused on the monster that FE killed and FE itself.

That’s why Kim Yoo-Na was being cautious.

There was a new group that was joining them and she needed data as well as security.

“I’m sure we’ll get approved since we submitted a request.”

After that single visit, they received all of their approvals on time.

That’s why they should be getting the approval soon.

‘I have a lot to do before then.’

The time until the next hunt.

Hyun-Soo will be prepared by then.

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“The investigation team’s report was simple.”

They were having a meeting regarding the colorful portal they got approval for.

They’ve received simple reports like this before.

Colorful portals didn’t have noteworthy information.

So even though they requested for an approval, no one knew what kind they would end up with.

But the report was simple?

‘This feels like deja vu.’’

This happened before.

The report was extremely simple and peaceful, so it didn’t sound like a colorful portal.

And everyone experienced hell in there.

Although Hyun-Soo was able to find out the portal owner’s skill…

‘The members barely made it out alive. It affected them pretty badly after.’

The sight of Katrina crying hard was engraved into his head.

Anyways, that simple report led to one conclusion.

If it didn’t have an owner like Karazhan and if the portal didn’t have an owner at all, there was only one answer.

“It’s the place we went to last time.”

The members were pretty smart, so they understood.

All of them didn’t look so good.

“Karazhan…….”

This had to be fate.

“This complicates things a bit.”

Brad enveloped his head with his hands.

Brad was known to be quiet, so if he made a comment like that, it meant that even he wasn't looking forward to it.

Well, it was understandable.

'A monster like didn't exist until now, so it's natural for them to act that way.'

There were theories about psychological-type monsters existing, but they actually encountered one.

And it was in a totally brand new portal too.

All the members didn't like it, but not Hyun-Soo.

'Isn't this our chance?'

He kept his excitement to himself.

He was currently learning how to make Riri useful.

And if he obtained another Karazhan?

'The power will be increased by several folds.'

But there wasn't a guarantee that this Karazhan had an egg.

He had a 0% chance of obtaining Karazhan's egg in a portal that didn't have Karazhan.

That's why going into a portal that was Karazhan's was a good opportunity.

But the others weren't looking forward to it.

Obtaining more power was great, but when heard who their opponent was, they became disappointed.

Hyun-Soo, who was very hopeful, raised his hand.

"What are your thoughts on this, Hyun-Soo?"

Kim Yoo-Na understood why the members were acting that way, so she was in an extremely difficult position.

People can lose lives during a hunt and if the hunters didn't have good reactions, then there was no point in hunting the portal.

If they did that, FE's fame and actions will be affected negatively, but their lives were more important.

It felt like the hunt would bring bad results if they decided to go for it.

And Hyun-Soo raised his hand despite of them reacting that way.

He was like a ray of hope to Kim Yoo-na.

"I know that there are people that are still feeling doubtful even though we cleared three colorful portals. Since we teamed up with another group for the third one, I didn't think it was fate and there are rumors that we got lucky on the first and second portal...if we clear this portal, don't you think those rumors will go away?"

When Hyun-Soo finished, everyone had different opinions.

"You think we don't know that? It would be nice if it was possible. But, Karazhan is a monster that can control the mind. Even though they're still researching, they haven't found anything important. In this situation, it's the same thing as walking in there to die. Or are you telling us to just trust you and participate in this hunt?"

Marcus was the one that spoke.

"But it makes sense. If we kill the same monster again, it'll be proof that we're actually strong and that it wasn't all luck. And he said it so confidently, so I'm sure he has a plan...I don't think it's a bad idea to think about it while considering that fact."

The members that liked Hyun-Soo reacted positively.

When most of the members reacted that way, Marcus and the members that followed him crossed their arms.

It was obvious that they didn't like it.

They sat back in their chairs and looked at Hyun-Soo as if they

were daring him to try.

‘Endure it. Endure it…….’

Marcus would annoy him at least once during meetings like this.

It seemed like he acknowledged Hyun-Soo after seeing him resolve many of the issues, so it must’ve been his pride getting in the way.

The meeting was originally for the portal that was approved, but now it turned into Hyun-Soo’s presentation.

Hm.

Hyun-Soo cleared his throat after everyone focused on him.

“It’s not that complicated. I understand that we don’t have a way to defend ourselves against a monster like Karazhan since it was our first time. But if you think positively, this could be our chance. No one else can do it but us. There’s a good chance that there are other monsters like Karazhan. Since we encountered one, it’s possible that there are two, maybe three of them.”

“We already know that. But the issue here is the success rate. If we fail, we all die.”

Some of them even shuddered while saying that the pain they experienced made them think that death was a better option.

‘What kind of illusion did Karazhan show them?’

Hyun-Soo assumed that they brought out their opponent’s darkest memory and they repeatedly show it so that they’ll suffer and feel pain.

People usually want to bury those thoughts, but if they’re constantly seeing the same memory, it was understandable as to why they were reacting that way.

It must’ve affected them pretty badly because they’re usually excited about going on a hunt.

“If you’re worried because the monster is a psychological-type monster, then you don’t have to worry.”

“How can we not worry?”

People were starting to become optimistic, but then hesitated when Marcus asked.

“It’s simple. You just need to get used to it.”

“…Get used to it?”

“Yes. You can think of it as doing training.”

“How is that possible?”

“What? You guys have a skilled teacher right here.

Hyun-Soo tapped below one of shoulders.

It was the shoulder that Riri was sitting on.

Kyuuuuu?

When Hyun-Soo mentioned her name, Riri felt good and tilted her head to the side.

She must’ve liked the attention because she started flying.

Then she landed on top of Hyun-Soo’s head.

The small fairy, no, monster, flew around as if she wanted them to praise her.

“Oh…right. Riri controlled that spy’s mind not too long ago.”

“You’re right. I’m not sure how similar her skills are compared to Karazhan, but I’m sure it’ll help us.”

Everyone reacted positively when Hyun-Soo mentioned Riri.

The members started feeling hopeful when they realized there was potential.

They didn’t have to experience those painful memories again.

People needed hope to become positive.

‘I feel proud.’

Hyun-Soo rubbed under his nose while feeling proud of himself.

The members trusted Hyun-Soo’s words and they started coming up with ideas while talking amongst themselves.

Even though they got approval, the date of the hunt hasn’t been confirmed.

It would be a big problem if the portal didn’t appear after getting the approval, but not now.

“Great. I think it would be good for us to do severals tests with Riri.”

Clap, clap.

After Kim Yoo-Na clapped her hands to get their attention, that was the conclusion she came up.

Hyun-Soo quietly glanced at Marcus.

He didn’t have a bad reaction.

Once there was a way, he gave up pretty easily

‘…It’s hard understanding him.’

Anyways, the members decided to train with Riri.

“Let’s get going!”

They were now full of energy and willing to train.

***

“We don’t have to call the other hunters, right?”

“I’m actually not sure about that. But, there’s no reason for us to take care of them, right?”

This was what David actually meant.

They need to experience the painful themselves so that they’ll realize just how awesome we are for overcoming that.

It could be seen as being childish, but on the other hand…

‘It’s a really good idea.’

That’s just human nature.

They’ll feel thankful at first, but later, they’ll start demanding things.

‘People will start taking advantage if you keep treating them nicely.’

Of course that doesn’t apply to everyone.

The members of the FE clan was like that.

They could’ve tried to take advantage of him by using various methods, but.

‘It seems like I have pretty good luck with people.’

He also considered himself lucky because he obtained a SS rank skill like Interface and a skill like Skill Creation, which helps him grow as a hunter.

“I also agree with that. There’s no reason to train them. Let them experience it first. Show them that this is what a colorful portal is and we can think of it as an introduction.”

When Hyun-Soo smiled, the members smiled too.

Their smiles were similar to criminals that were planning on committing a crime.

After Riri picked out all their enemies.

After Kim Yoo-Na prepared some safety tools, some of the members from the allied guild decided to participate in the hunt.

‘Should I consider them as subordinates?’

They were on different levels.

They weren’t all going as equals. The FE clan was more like a babysitter.

<Thinning Out #3> End.

Chapter 125 - <A Way to Win #1>

‘They’re just along for the ride.’

Money won’t bring them this opportunity. They won’t be able to experience this elsewhere.

On top of that, they were safe.

This alliance was formed for power.

So they didn’t feel the need to help them grow.

Because of that, it was only natural for them to exclude them from the training.

And the members that were participating didn’t have any experience with a colorful portal.

Hyun-Soo was able to predict how shocking it was going to be for them.

‘Just tell all of your friends.’

That way, their value will keep increasing.

“Let’s start!”

They were still testing the training method with Riri.

Since they didn’t know how many people Riri’s power will be able to protect, they decided to start with a small group.

When there’s a colorful portal involved, it’s best to be careful.

“This would’ve been impossible if we didn’t have Riri. Our Riri is amazing.”

Before starting the training.

The members complimented her so that they can stay on her good side.

Kyuuuuuu!

But it didn’t matter.

Riri stuck to Hyun-Soo and was begging for his attention.

She was asking for a lot of compliments since she worked really hard.

But for Hyun-Soo, he felt a bit embarrassed.

It wasn't only because of Riri. The members all looked jealous.

This was really burdening for him.

He really wanted to wear a mask.

"Riri, can you create an illusion for them? An illusion that brings out their worst memories."

"Hey, hey, rookie. Let's not go there. Since we're training, why not do something easy?"

David was one of the members that were participating in the first training, so he was scared.

Hyun-Soo contemplated for a bit and then nodded his head.

"You're right. Riri, start by creating an illusion that brings out their happiest memories."

"You're too extreme!"

"Bringing out an ordinary memory isn't fun though."

"You need to experience it yourself…… "

"Unfortunately, it doesn't work on me."

After David made a funny expression to annoy Hyun-Soo, he closed his eyes and took a deep breath.

The other hunters did the same and started concentrating after closing their eyes.

The atmosphere suddenly changed.

When Hyun-Soo tapped Riri with his finger, Riri flew up into the air.

Kyuuuuuu—

Her cry was a lot deeper than her usual cry.

A large amount of energy started pouring out of Riri.

“Grr……!”

“Ack!”

The members were in pain at first, but…

“Wow……. This is nice…….”

“Ohhh……. Gisel…….”

They started saying odd things and released a moan-like sigh.

“…….”

Hyun-Soo felt uncomfortable just looking at them.

Since he needed to know the members and Riri’s limits, he decided to stop the illusion.

“5, 4, 3, 2, 1…… five minutes is over! Riri, you can stop now.”

Hyun-Soo had been counting and when Riri heard him, she stopped.

“How was it? Not too bad?”

Kyuuuu, kyuuuuuu.

Riri nodded her small head when Hyun-Soo asked if she was okay during the five minutes.

After checking with Riri, Hyun-Soo turned his attention towards the members.

“It seemed like you guys weren’t trying to break out of the illusion at all.”

The members were looking at the sky, but seemed distracted.

“Oh, well you see…we would’ve tried to break out of it if it was a painful illusion…”

“Um…there were good illusions that I didn’t want to break out

of.”

“…Then that illusion will be the last thing you’ll see before you die.”

The members smiled sheepishly when Hyun-Soo mentioned that they could die.

“We’ll do better this time!”

“It’s more like you guys were doing your best to enjoy it.”

“……We’ll try not to.”

David commented on how Hyun-Soo became scarier and expressed his fear.

Hyun-Soo firmly believed that the illusion wasn’t the reason why they didn’t break out of it.

They just haven’t found a way to break out of it.

Hyun-Soo asked Riri to create a nice illusion since they were just training, but since they weren’t able to break out of it, they made excuses to cover it up.

“Then we’ll go for 10 minutes this time.”

“Okay! Ready!!”

They told Hyun-Soo that they were going to break out of it within that time.

And then…….

“10 minutes. Wake up.”

“Cough……. Why can’t we break out of it?”

“The problem is that the thought of it being an illusion doesn’t pop into my head. It happened the first time and during the 10 minutes, I kind of noticed it towards the end…”

“Hm, then the biggest problem is not being able to detect the illusion.”

“Right and breaking out of it won’t be easy, but we first need to be able to detect it first.”

“Well, just keep trying. I’m sure we’ll find a way.”

Knock and the doors will be opened.

He heard it somewhere.

Where there’s a will, there’s a way.

It described the situation perfectly.

They had to keep trying until they got results.

The members complained about how they felt like they were being tested on instead of training, but soon closed their eyes and endured the 15 minutes illusion.

***

“I don’t think it’s working out.”

Hyun-Soo commented bluntly.

The members were exhausted and they all glared at him as if he was being unfair.

“That’s something I should be saying, not you…….”

“Hyun-Soo is right, but why am I so annoyed?”

The more time passed, the more they realized that it was an illusion.

The problem was that a lot of time had already passed.

If they waited that long to realize, then they would’ve already been dead.

“At least it’s good that you won’t be stuck in it forever.”

But it didn’t mean that it was okay.

Time.

Time was the issue.

“We need to shorten the time somehow…… “

“Maybe it was built so that humans aren’t able resist the psychological attacks.”

“No way. That can’t be true.”

The members remained quiet when they mentioned that Hyun-Soo was able to resist.

“We just need to find a way.”

“No! There can always be excl…….”

They weren’t able to get good results even after training for a while.

It seemed like the members were leaning towards giving up on the hunt.

It was good that they were using Riri to train, but the problem was that the people getting trained weren’t getting good results.

But Hyun-Soo ignored their complaints.

There’s definitely a way..

‘We need to clear this hunt so that I can achieve my goal more easily.’

That’s why he couldn’t give up.

The members looked scared when they saw Hyun-Soo trying to think of ways to make this work.

“I think he’s really trying to get us.”

“…He’s worse than Yoo-Na. There’s a reason why they’re getting along so well.”

Being tired physically was a different story.

Being mentally tired was a lot worse.

Moving a finger was hard and even breathing was difficult.

They just wanted to lie there and melt into the ground.

But the Super Rookie was energetic and was thinking while looking at them.

It seemed like his eyes glistened.

They were cornered.

“Rookie, aren’t you tired?”

“Not really.”

“…The energy that Riri is using, did you give it to her?”

“That sounds about right.”

Whenever Riri used her power, a portion of his energy went to Riri.

It was probably because she was a monster that he controlled.

“…And you know that Riri used her powers for a few hours, right?”

“……Of course.”

“And you’re not tired.”

The members looked at Hyun-Soo as if he was some kind of monster.

“Ah! I can’t do it anymore! Just take me! Kill me!”

David finally yelled out that he gave up and lied down.

He was already lying on the ground and it was more like his head was up.

“Oh, that sounds like a good idea. I think it’s worth trying.”

“Huh?”

David didn’t know what Hyun-Soo was talking about, so he lifted his head up.

Hyun-Soo was already deep into his thoughts.

‘They do realize that it’s an illusion as time passes, so that’s been

taken care of. That means that they just need to realize it sooner… right, I think that method will work.'

The thought popped into his head after hearing David.

It was really simple.

It took time for them to realize.

So if they shorten that time, it'll resolve everything.

That meant,

'Forcefully waking them up.'

Hyun-Soo smiled and touched the device that was on his wrist.

A few minutes later.

"……Why did you call me here?"

"I need your help, Marcus."

"My help?"

How dare you ask for my help?

When Marcus raised one of eyebrows, that's the feeling that Hyun-Soo got.

Marcus clicked his tongue when he saw two members lying weakly on the Center Room floor.

"Why did you call me? Do you need someone to drag out these weaklings?"

"Well, something like that."

"……?"

"You just need to use your skill on them."

"…Are you telling me to kill the members?"

"No way. Just a little bit. Just enough to wake them up."

It's like shocking them.

Marcus's cold expression changed when he heard Hyun-Soo's

explanation.

“So you’re telling me to shock them…?”

“Yes, that’s right. I can’t do it right now and since we’re in a hurry…I thought it was a good idea and it’s best to test these things out as soon as possible.”

The test subjects were of course the two members that were on the floor.

“Ridiculous.”

Marcus thought it was ridiculous, but he didn’t complain.

Marcus really cared about the members.

He really cared about the clan and when a weakling like Hyun-Soo appeared, he was the one that ignored him.

After observing Marcus, Hyun-Soo believed that Marcus acted that way because he had a really big ego.

It was obvious as to why he cared so much about the members.

He was in this situation because he cared about their future.

If this test fails, then they’ll fail the hunt.

“So, what do you need me to do?”

Marcus released a short sigh and gave up on fighting against Hyun-Soo.

Of course Hyun-Soo didn’t really care.

“It’s simple. Once Riri activates the illusion and I give you the signal, you just have to use your skill weakly. You know what an electric shocker is, right? You just need to output the same amount as the shocker. If not, those two will get fried.”

“I won’t make a stupid mistake like that.”

“Right, so let’s start.”

David realized something fishy, so he immediately got up.

It was like a scene from a zombie movie.

<A Way to Win #1> End.

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