## **Bloodline 261**

Chapter 261 So it's yours

Two minutes ago,

Elder Han smiled at Bia who was flying toward him. His smile stiffened when he saw golden flames around her body. Moreover, her size was getting bigger.

'I need sleep. Now I am even dreaming with opened eyes.'

He sighed and massaged his temples. In the next second, a few cries echoed in his ears and he snapped his head to look at the kids who were shouting while pointing at Bia.

'She is actually getting bigger!'

With a shocked expression, he moved and tried to grab Bia but the flames around her were too terrifying.

Elder Han's breath quickened and his mind stopped for a second as he watched Bia's body getting bigger and bigger with each passing second.

'If I didn't do anything now then my one and only disciple would definitely perish even before he entered the secret Realm.'

He grabbed Ratric's shoulder roughly and placed the pouch of storage rings in his hand.

"Give it to the silver-haired boy who just arrived with the elves and bring him toward the secret Realm gate!"

His loud exclamation jolted Ratric who was staring at Bia with contracted eyes.

Elder Han grabbed George and vanished the moment Ratric grabbed the pouch.

Ratric was taken aback. He gazed at the pouch and cursed under his breath. Kyle just arrived and he already caused a big commotion enough to attract almost everyone.

He looked at Han's fading figure and vanished in the opposite direction. Ratric wasn't sure what Han was planning but it was better for Kyle to stand with them after all the ruckus he caused.

Meanwhile, Kyle's breath fastened when he sensed hundreds of eyes looking at the large Phoenix who was hell-bent on making his life difficult.

"The fuck Bia!? Do you want to kill us both!"

Kyle gritted out. He sensed a faint presence behind himself and jumped back but sighed with relief when he saw it was Ratric.

"Sir?"

Ratric expression was ugly as he watched the Phoenix. Due to Kyle's different eye color and hair color he almost failed to recognize him. He threw the storage rings pouch at Kyle who grabbed it unconsciously.

"Shut up brat! Ask her to fly toward the Realm gate or else I can't guarantee both of your safety."

He blurted out and under Anlee's astonished and shocked eyes, he grabbed Kyle's shoulder and disappeared from the crowd.

Regius, Sinon, Yue, and the others standing behind Kyle were too slow to react before they understood what was happening Kyle was already gone.

On the other hand, Kyle felt like his head was spinning and in the next second, he was standing in front of the Realm gate. His eyes narrowed when currents of dark energy seeped out from the gate.

He sucked in a deep breath and without thinking too much immediately shouted inside his mind as he looked at the flying bird who seemed lost after he vanished from his spot.

'Bia fly toward the secret Realm gate! Now!'

George arrived behind Kyle and whispered something inside Ratric ear. A grim expression appeared on the principal face but he stood firmly with the kid.

At a distance, Elder Han cursed with a complicated face. He looked at the hundreds of Array symbols all the Array masters engraved on the ground.

'Shit! I am gonna face a lot of consequences after this.'

For the first time in his life, he was grateful that he worked a lot during the past few months. After all, due to his hard work, he knew how to activate the Array around the secret Realm gate.

The other Array masters tried to stop him but he was too fast and immediately activated the Array to open the gate.

A loud rumble resounded in the sky, the earth trembled with multiple cracks forming everywhere. In an instant sparks of dark electric current buzzed out from the Realm gate with lightning-fast speed.

A second later, a circular opening dyed with bright and dark light appeared in the middle of the huge gate, indicating the Secret Realm was opened.

The thousands of individuals standing around the Realm gate gasped with shock at the sudden turn of events. Due to the trembling ground a few youths who were too busy admiring the fire Phoenix lost their balance and cried out in panic.

An old man from Central Continent looked at the secret Realm gate with a raised brow. He smirked when he saw Ratric's face and started floating.

"I believe this beautiful beast is quite precious. Right?"

A crisp voice sounded behind him.

"It's powerful but too young."

Within a few seconds, a lot of individuals gathered around the phoenix and admired its beauty with various emotions. Half of them were unaware of the origin of the beast and half had a hunch due to the rumors they heard a few months ago.

Kyle's expression was deadpan as he stood in front of the secret Realm gate and heard Bia's panicked cries.

-'Help me! It was an accident. The mana inside my body lost control the moment you arrived here. Now if I revert to a smaller size they will catch me!'

Ratric frowned as he watched the panicked bird.

"There are too many people."

He started floating to do everything he could but then a thunderous voice echoed in the horizon. The voice was lucid with unrestrained anger.

"What the hell is going on here?"

In an instant, everyone froze and looked at the floating navy-haired man who appeared with many powerful guards.

Istalian smoothed his expression and looked at the people standing below him with narrowed eyes.

"Can anyone answer me what the shit is happening? I remember I said to not cause any commotion in front of the Secret Realm gate."

He shouted out and his gaze locked at the Phoenix. The old individuals floating around the phoenix didn't dare to do anything reckless in his presence and retreated backward with emotionless expressions.

Istalian pinched his nose with a frustrated expression.

"Who is the owner of this beast? Or is it just a wild beast?"

His gaze swept around at the deadly silent crowd. He noticed the kids were sweating buckets because the moment he shouted huge pressure descended on their bodies.

He scoffed and lifted his pressure. The young individuals wiped their sweaty foreheads when the invisible pressure around their bodies vanished.

While Istalian was looking around, a young cold voice sounded below the clear sky.

"Bia come to me."

Istalian eyes narrowed at the silver-haired boy standing in front of the Realm gate. He didn't stop the firebird that dived downward toward the youth with astonishing speed. Instead, he watched the silver-haired boy who stood in front of the gate with an expression that showed he would fight to death if something happened to his bonded beast.

Istalian raised his brow with a chuckle.

"So it's yours."

Chapter 262 Worthy of a powerful beast

Kyle didn't reply as he stared at the floating man with emotionless eyes.

The intense flames around Bia's body dimmed at the speed visible to one eye as she dived down and stopped above Kyle's head.

A gorgeous scene reflected inside the crowd's stunned eyes. A cold handsome figure stood firmly in front of the huge trembling realm gate. His features were sharp and due to the bright flames around the phoenix's body, he looked imposing and majestic.

However, just like a mirage the image disappeared in the second. The remaining flames around Bia vanished. She cried out faintly and hurriedly controlled her mana to regain her former appearance.

It was astonishing how such a large beast turned into a tiny bird and obediently landed on Kyle's head.

Kyle's green eyes flashed with a brilliant light when Bia came closer to him. He sucked in a deep breath because he could feel it. His bond with Bia got stronger due to some reason. It was like a part of him recognized her as a true companion.

Bia stayed silent because she knew she messed up. Kyle would probably beat her up once they were alone. She quietly made herself invisible by hiding herself in his hoodie.

Kyle looked up at the floating navy-haired man who helped him out of nowhere. Now, if he wanted he could use 'Instant Teleportation' and easily enter the Relam gate without any difficulty but he knew the man wasn't simple. That's why he waited.

Hushed curious murmurs echoed in the air with thousands of eyes staring at Kyle.

Istalian smile widened because Kyle didn't even flinch under his gaze.

'He is worthy of such a powerful beast.'

The moment the Phoneix started flying, he sensed it immediately due to the flames around its body. They were too violent and destructive. Moreover, the young beast was already (C+)-Rank, a testament to its future potential. Istalian would be lying if he said he wasn't tempted to just steal it away but after thinking for a few seconds he decided against it.

Right now it was impossible for him to make a bond with any type of beast because the shadow placed a mark on his body. The mark was too dangerous and could meddle with his strength. It would probably affect his bonded beast as well. Also, he knew if he forcefully broke their bond it would do more bad than good.

He scoffed at the old individuals who tried to harm the beast.

'If I can't get it why should I give you all the permission to lay your hand on it?'

His expression was solemn as he looked around.

"It seems the matter is resolved. The beast went to its owner. Hurry up and gather the kids. There is no time to waste because with each passing second many resources are being wasted to maintain the passage leading to the secret realm."

The old individuals looked dumbfounded at his words. Especially the ones from the Central Continent. They knew Istalian personality. The man would never let go of anything precious so why was he helping an unknown kid? Still, they held back their opinions and immediately went to do their jobs.

Istalian gazed at Kyle with curious eyes.

'Strange I can't sense his rank.'

He thought for a second and spoke inside Kyle's mind.

'I don't know if you will return alive or not but remember you own me one.'

Kyle took a deep breath and gave him a nod. As long as the navy-haired man didn't harm him he would remember his help.

Istalian clapped his hands and shouted once again.

"Hurry up start with the group nearest to the realm gate and send the kids inside."

Amidst all this, he didn't forget to remember the face of the old man who opened the secret realm gate and wasted a lot of his resources.

Elder Han shuddered when he sensed a dark gaze looming around his back. He snapped back to look around but found no culprit.

Kyle gazed at the thousands of young individuals rushing toward the realm. He sighed inwardly.

'I wanted to meet my friends but it is not possible anymore.'

He thanked the principal who was looking at him with conflicted emotions. Kyle's eyes trailed to Elder Han who was staring daggers at him.

He chuckled and waved his hand at the old man. After another breath, he gazed at the crackling gate in front of him.

Dark ominous energy seeped out from the gate and for some reason, Kyle felt sick just staring at it. He shook his head and grabbed the quite little troublemaker sitting on his head.

"Let's go."

In the next second, under many eyes, he jumped into the circular opening present in the middle of the realm gate.

After he disappeared, one after another many batches of youngsters jumped into the realm gate.

At a distance, where the people from the mermaid Kingdom were standing.

Nine let out a bitter chuckle. After seeing Kyle, he recalled the recent fragments of memories he saw. He sighed.

'Kyle is getting stronger. Also, his hair...'

His thoughts were disturbed when a pale hand grabbed his shoulder. Nine expression hardened.

"What is it Seraphine?"

The owner of the hand giggled with a bright smile. A red-haired girl with deep golden eyes stared at him with an amused smile.

"Brother, why are you always so cold?"

Nine didn't reply and just scoffed in his mind. He was forced to enter the realm with them even when he rejected them. He didn't know the reason why Seraphine the future Queen insisted that he should go with her.

Just like Nine, she could foresee future events but her ability was stronger. However, she always misused it. That's why Nine didn't feel comfortable around her.

'No matter what I won't contact anyone after I entered the secret realm.'

If one looked closely, one would notice his shaking fingers. The damage caused by his last vision wasn't completely healed yet.

The girl was persistent. She chuckled when Nine ignored her so bluntly.

"Do you know that silver-haired boy? I saw you smile after he entered the realm safely."

Nine didn't even think twice and immediately lied with a serious face.

"I don't know."

The girl hummed and even though she knew Nine was lying she questioned him for the time being. Anyway, she knew more than him.

Her eyes sparkled when she thought about the silver-haired boy.

'It's him. I wonder if he can really achieve what I saw or is it just an illusion. The future is indeed unpredictable.'

Seraphine watched the youths entering the secret realm with curiosity.

At the same time, an old man from the Kingdom Soltecia approached their group with a smile.

He introduced himself as Gafear and brought a lot of young individuals with him. He was tasked by Istalian to make sure the kids from the mermaid Kingdom got familiar with the youths from Kingdom Soltecia. After all, all of them had to work together in the realm.

Seraphine smiled beautifully in front of everyone because she had to keep her image as the future Queen of the mermaid Kingdom but her eyes reflected nothing but disdain.

'Weak... pathetic.. none of these people are in the future I saw. Tsk why can't I find someone strong.'

Gafear gazed at the realm gate. He sighed and nodded at the Guardians of the mermaid Kingdom.

"It seems we don't have time. Let's move."

Seraphine walked between the crowd elegantly. She gritted her teeth when she saw how Nine ignored her and left her behind.

She wanted to catch up to him but stopped when she saw a golden-haired boy walking behind the second prince of Kingdom Soltecia. The boy's body was packed with muscles and he looked taller than his peers.

Seraphine didn't think much and approached him with a smile. However, she was ignored again.

'Damn it! You shitty commoners!'

Instead of the golden-haired boy, the second prince of Kingdom Soltecia introduced himself to her with a bright smile.

They chatted for a while and Seraphine found the identity of the golden-haired boy. Even after that, she didn't remember where she saw him.

'Sen holten... Sen holten... Don't let me see you again or else I am going to make sure you regret the moment you ignored me.'

A loud pleasant laugh at the distance attracted her attention.

A red-haired boy with sharp eyes jumped forward as the people from his Kingdom made their way toward the realm gate.

"Jian! Wait for me!"

Kelvin wanted to facepalm as he watched his excited friend. They trained 24/7 for the past few months just to get a chance to enter the secret Realm because Kelvin's father, King foraan was against their decision.

Jian didn't look back and laughed out loud.

"Damn, I didn't even recognize the firebird that caused so much ruckus. I had a hunch I saw her somewhere! Who would have thought that she was Bia, Kyle's tiny little bird?"

He was too excited after seeing Kyle. Even though he didn't recognize the latter when he saw his silver hair and green eyes but after hearing the murmurs around himself, he confirmed his doubt. Now he wanted nothing but to find his lucky charm who brightened his life in the Tower of Opportunity.

"I am coming Secret Realm!"

With another laugh, Jian jumped forward into the secret realm gate. However, his smile vanished when an old man with a furious expression grabbed his collar.

"Where do you think you are going after breaking the line?"

Jian's smile stiffened.

"Sir, please let me go! I need to find my lucky charm!"

The old man massaged his temples and just tossed him into the secret Realm. After all, Jian was someone who gave him a lot of headaches for the past few months.

Kelvin sighed and jumped after him with the other people from his Kingdom.

Chapter 263 Already (B+)-Rank

Even though the thousands of youths were heading toward something dangerous, they seemed relaxed.

Mostly it was because of Bia's otherworldly appearance and Kyle's firm stance. Moreover, many of these youths had already faced many hardships in the Tower of Opportunity. So, they thought entering the Secret Realm was similar as well. However, unbeknownst to them this seemingly peaceful departure would be filled with nothing but agony.

After all, it was a dangerous ancient realm that was sealed a long time ago.

Alec staggered toward the secret realm gate with a blank expression. His mind was racing with many thoughts because he was too shocked after watching Bia's true appearance.

Moreover, who was that silver-haired boy... Was it Kyle? The same Kyle he knew?

Alec could not believe his eyes when he lay them on the handsome yet cold youth surrounded by golden flames.

The shocking part that made him rub his eyes again and again was the system appraisal panel.

He mumbles under his breath with a sigh.

"He is already (B+)-Rank... even stronger than me."

'Name: Kyle Ohan'

'Race: Human'

'Rank: (B+)'

'Talent: ?? Error.....'

'Special: ??'

'???'

-Error!

Trying to find the cause! Loading....

-Error!

No more information provided. To know further information host needs to be a whole Rank higher than the target.

He pinched his brows with frustration. They just got separated for a few months and Kyle was already so far.

'Did I slack too much? I should have trained more....'

Alec placed his hand on Carcel's shoulder with a distant expression.

"Bro, I am feeling a little jealous. I want a bonded beast as well."

Carcel gazed at him with a complicated expression. He would be lying to Alec if he said he wasn't feeling jealous. He could sense Kyle was stronger than him and with Bia, Kyle was probably the strongest in their generation. However, instead of feeling down this revelation fueled Carcel's determination to work even harder.

He removed Alec's hand from his shoulder and said with a numb expression.

"Don't worry. I can feel your pain."

After these words left his mouth. He couldn't help but think because he felt like had said this before. A rare smile appeared at the corner of his lips.

Alec saw his smile with narrowed eyes and decided to ignore him. Instead, he turned around and expressed his grievance to Lara.

"Did you watch how easily Bia left our side after seeing Kyle? She is too heartless! I fed her! You bathed her! Mia caressed her fur daily! But in the end, she just left..."

Mia smiled and shook her head.

"What are you doing Alec? Are you gonna enter or should I push you inside?"

Alec clicked his tongue and jumped in the realm gate. Still, aggrieved on the fact that Bia left him so easily.

After them, one by one many more people entered the secret Realm. The opening within the gate was not big that's why it took some time for all the kids to enter inside.

Istalian watched everything from above. His expression wasn't readable. No one knew what he was thinking. He narrowed his eyes at the mermaid princess who was talking with his son.

'She is indeed useful but I don't think she can come back alive because she is too weak. I am unable to understand the reason behind the mermaid Queen's decision.'

After five long hours, all the youths vanished within the realm gate.

Their guardians stood in front of the gate with dread and anticipation. Dread because they knew how dangerous the secret realm was and anticipation because the ones who could return alive would become stronger than before.

Soon, the morning sun started rising at a distance with full vigor, sprinkling bright light everywhere.

As the first ray of light sparkled on the realm gate, it trembled with dark clouds rising into the sky. After a few seconds, the opening within the gate closed with a resounding bang.

Amidst the serious atmosphere, Elder Han sucked in a deep breath and quietly slipped away from the crowd. He made his way toward the forest. However, a familiar tall man landed in front of him with a smile that didn't reach his eyes.

"Where do you think you are going? I believe you need to give me an explanation as to why the realm gate opened before the intended time."

Elder Han's expression stiffened and before he could run away a large hand grabbed his collar.

Istalian called a guard and tossed him toward the guard.

"It would be a pity if I cut the legs of a talented Array master. Just count the losses I suffer due to his impudence and make sure he pays for everything before he leaves my land."

The guard bowed in front of Istalian and started dragging the panicked Array master away.

Elder Han looked far at the Principal with pleading eyes. But to his dismay, the principal looked away with an expression saying,

'I don't know you.'

Elder Han's eyes widened with shock. He cursed under his breath. This was all because of his one and only talented disciple!

'You brat! I am going to suffer because of you just make sure to come back in one piece....'

After an hour, the area around the realm gate was divided into many camps because each Kingdom decided to leave behind a strong individual to observe the realm gate.

No one knew when the realm would open again because the knowledge was lost with time. They only knew that it would open by itself after some time and the alive kids would be teleported in groups.

Istalian observed the area for a whole day. After the camps were made he ordered some of his guards to stay and watch the realm gate.

After all, he had to note the identity of all those who returned alive. In the future, those individuals are going to be the strongest among their peers. So, it was better to recruit them into his Kingdom.

Chapter 264 Beady eyes

Inside the secret realm, the sky was painted with red and black clouds. The land was broken and pitch black with not even a hint of greenery in sight because the thousands of trees had long lost their luster.

Almost everything present in the land gave off an ominous and dark feeling. The hundreds of mountain peaks were devoid of any color. The water within the rivers looked murky mixed with an unpleasant odor.

The monsters within the realm had dark veins bulging out in their whole bodies.

All of a sudden a rumble echoed in the air. The monsters raised their heads to stare at the sky.

The clouds trembled and a bright crack appeared in the darkness. After a minute, a ray of light flashed from the crack landing at a distant mountain.

The monsters glued their eyes to the sky because, after the first light, many more lights flashed from the crack.

Soon, the seemingly dark sky turned bright with hundreds of lights landing all around the secret realm.

Above a large mountain, an illusionary white old man opened his eyes and peered at the vast sky.

"Who opened the realm again?"

His voice drifted away with the air and after a second he was already floating in the sky.

His eyes reflected the many bright lights pouring out from the crack.

"So weak so weak... How are they going to survive."

His expression turned serious as he looked at a distance. Just like him, another old figure started floating in the sky.

However, unlike the old man the other figure's eyes shone brightly when he saw the crack in the sky. He laughed out loud with a twisted smile.

"After so many years they stepped into this place again."

A pair of beady charcoal eyes looked at a distance where one of the lights landed. He extended his pointy nails to claw at the small figure that emerged out from one of light but his hand stopped midway when the illusionary old man grabbed his wrist.

"What do you think you are doing Guil? As a Pseudo Divine being you are not allowed to kill mortals."

The beady-eyed man's facial expression twisted and he swung the hand gripping his wrist away.

"Hahahaha.. who made this rule? This is the place me and my people had been sealed for the past so many years. You can stop me but those weak pathetic beings had to die. If not me then my race will kill them just like last time."

The illusionary old man figure flickered and a cold expression appeared on his face.

"I don't care about others but you are not allowed to touch anyone."

Guil expression turned ugly. He was strong enough to crush everything around him but he was stopped by a tiny piece of soul. He gritted his teeth and left the illusionary old man alone.

However, he didn't forget to inform his people to start the hunt again. After all, even though his soul is bound to this place and he can't go outside he can at least kill all those who stepped in this realm.

The illusionary old man looked at his fading back. He gazed at the sky filled with bright lights for a second and vanished. In the end, he was just a small piece of soul left behind by the original body. It was not his job to save each person who had a death wish.

He would look around for some promising youths and send them back. As for the remaining people they can only blame themselves for entering this place even after knowing about the danger.

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Meanwhile, Kyle felt a familiar dizzy sensation after he stepped into the realm gate.

He opened his eyes and found himself above a dark rocky mountain. The sky was black and he could see a bright crack in the middle. Hundreds of bright lights flashed through the crack and landed far away from each other.

Kyle's nose wrinkled when he sensed an unpleasant odor in the air.

"What is this smell... The air is not clean."

He waved his hand and narrowed his eyes to look around. Bia peeked out her head from his hands and narrowed her eyes as well.

-'Why is this place so dark? Also, the mana here is so thin...'

Kyle's ears twitched when he recalled what happened a minute ago.

"I believe you need to give me an explanation about what happened outside the realm."

Bia shuddered when Kyle's grip around her body tightened.

-'Will you believe me if I said I don't know anything..'

Kyle raised a brow and his eyes turned crescent.

"I will believe you if you let me beat you up a little okay."

Bia panicked and hurriedly opened her wings to fly but Kyle's grip around her was too tight.

-'Wait... How can you harm this majestic me? Did not you see how strong I am!'

Kyle didn't listen and grabbed her through her neck with an evil smile.

"Majestic?"

Bia blinked and immediately shook her tiny head. She didn't dare to provoke him because even if they fought she knew there was no way she could win. After all, she was (C+)-Rank while Kyle was (B+)-Rank!

-'Nope... Not at all. Who is majestic? I am not.'

Kyle nodded with satisfaction. He patted her head and placed her on his shoulder.

"Good."

Bia nodded like an obedient child. However, her inner thoughts said otherwise.

-'I am majestic. No one can change this fact. Also, just wait I am going to increase my strength, and then we are going to have a serious one vs one!'

Amidst all this, she truly missed Kyle. Her small head snuggled inside his neck cozily with a pleasant expression.

Kyle hummed and patted her head again. After all, he could sense her emotions.

"Let's go!"

He stepped forward and started descending the mountain. However, only after a few steps, Kyle's feet slipped and he fell into a dark hole.

Chapter 265 Dark race

Bia flapped her wings and started flying when Kyle's body fell downward.

She blinked and gazed down at the narrow hole that engulfed Kyle.

-'Hey... Are you okay?'

Kyle looked up at the opening and cursed under his breath. He almost wanted to strangle that flying bird who was staring at him with smiling eyes.

He hissed when he sensed a stinging pain in his palm.

"I am fine just a scratch."

Kyle closed his eyes to look around in his mind space. It was just as huge as he remembered. Within a second, he fished out a small vial of healing potion from the pile of glass vials stacked in a corner.

He poured the potion on his palm, Anlee and Aira had prepared a lot of things for all the kids to use in the secret realm before they left Kingdom Tersia. After all, no one knew how long the kids had to stay in this place.

Kyle watched the wound on his palm. It was healing but at a very slow speed. He clicked his tongue.

"They only gave away low-grade healing potions. So stingy."

"Anyway, what's in the pouch Principal Ratric threw at me?"

It was so hectic at that time that's why he just simply tossed the pouch in his mind space. Kyle hurriedly took out the pouch and peeked inside.

His eyes sparkled and he laughed out loud.

"Finally! I got my wealth back! Damn being poor is so bad!"

He emptied the content of the rings in his mind space and hugged the (S)-Rank sword clad in a silver scabbard with a satisfied smile.

'I missed you the most!'

Kyle's happiness doubled when he saw an unfamiliar low-rank storage ring within the pouch. It was filled with so many healing potions! And half of them were high-grade!

'Master you are the best!'

He smiled at the ordinary-looking broach placed inside the pouch. It was similar to the life-saving artifact Elder Han gave him in the past.

He hurriedly tied the broach on his shirt and after he tossed everything in his mind space, he wore all the empty storage rings on his fingers.

"They are empty but they look pretty on my fingers."

Bia who had been watching him for the past five minutes narrowed her eyes.

-'Are you gonna come out from the hole or not?'

Kyle raised his crescent eyes. He snapped his finger and three floating fireballs appeared around him.

"Nope, not coming out. There is a narrow tunnel here leading underground. Just follow me."

Bia sighed and dived down into the hole. She gazed at the fireballs.

-'Don't waste your mana I can illuminate the path.'

The moment her words fell, bright golden flames appeared around her whole body. The flames were brighter than Kyle's fireballs

Kyle shrugged and waved his hand. The fireballs around him vanished. They moved in a straight line going deeper and deeper underground. The tunnel ground was dry and dark. Moreover, it contained nothing except uneven dark-colored rocks.

However, Bia's expression was resolute because she knew Kyle had a long history of finding treasures just by walking.

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Meanwhile, the atmosphere outside the tunnel was heavy.

An army of flying figures suddenly appeared in the dark sky.

Their beady pitch-black eyes stared at the bright lights flashing from the crack present in the sky. The leader of the group let out a menacing laughter. An evil smile tucked at the corner of his dark lips.

"Indeed the ancestor didn't lie those living outside are here again."

A tremendous pressure emerged from his body. The pressure scared the ones standing behind him. However the pressure wasn't directed at them, it was aimed at one of the lights failing from the crack.

A pained cry rang out in the sky and the light vanished into darkness, leaving behind an injured floating figure.

The young curly hair elven girl opened her eyes and clenched her injured chest with a painful expression. Her mind was foggy. What happened? She just entered the gate but in the next second, she felt like someone forcefully vanked her body out.

She cried out when she saw how far she was from the ground. She struggled to move her floating body but an invisible chain restrained her movement.

"Oh, it's a woman?"

A scratchy, unpleasant voice sounded in her ears. She snapped up and her eyes contracted with dread.

A pair of dark beady eyes stared at her with an ominous glint. The man's skin was tanned and a dark pair of bat-like wings extended from behind his back. Dark long veins bulged out across his whole neck and his long pointy nails didn't look any weaker than a lethal weapon.

The girl noticed his ugly smile and choked out.

"What... are you?"

The man's eyes trailed down her body and stopped and her face.

"Such a pleasant voice but I don't like it."

He smirked and tilted his head.

"Still, I should introduce myself. Right? Well, I am Emion. The current leader of the dark race. Haaa... I remember the people outside used to call as.. what was it?"

Emion looked back at his people with a frown because his memory was not good.

The girl's expression turned deadly pale when she saw a whole army floating behind him. All of them look hideous just like Emion.

A head peeked out from the crowd.

"I remember. They used to call us demons even though we are from the dark race."

The man tried to look hurt but the evil smirk playing on his lips gave him away.

Emion laughed out loud, showcasing a row of black razor-sharp teeth.

"Yes, Demons! Good job. Here this thing is a gift for you."

He grabbed the trembling girl's neck and tossed her toward the ones standing behind him.

A loud cheer rang out behind his back coupled with the girl's pleading cries. Emion fixed his gaze at the crack a cruel smile appeared at the corner of his lips.

"All of you spread out everywhere. After the crack in the sky closed the old treasure lands would open up again. All those outsiders are here for the treasures. Kill the males and take the females back for enjoyment."

As if recalling something important he clicked his tongue.

"Make sure not to break the girls completely. They are useful. The ancestor is worried about the race population and the girls' bodies are the perfect container to plant new seeds."

With a loud exclamation, the hundreds of figures standing behind him scattered in different directions. On the other hand, Emion's gaze shifted and he vanished behind another bright light that fell from the crack.

Chapter 266 A few more years

The old illusionary white man standing atop a mountain gazed at the bloody scene below.

After he stopped Guil, the people from the dark race spread out everywhere to kill all the young kids who arrived in the realm.

This scene was very familiar because it has happened before. The old man thought he had long detached himself from the mortal world. However, he couldn't help but sigh at the cruel sight.

"Instead of getting stronger, the people outside had gotten weaker with time."

He looked up at the crack, his senses spread out heading toward a faraway place.

"James and Odiak hid the planet before they left... So, why do I feel like the planet's core is getting weaker? Don't tell me an outsider found this place..."

"I thought this planet would stay hidden for a long time because it was dear to them but it seemed I was wrong. A few more years maybe..."

The old man shook his head. Just a few more peaceful years and then this hidden planet would lose its protective shield. Afterward, the future of the mortals residing on this planet was bleak.

"The fact that this place stayed hidden for so long is already a miracle."

He stepped down from the mountain and disappeared into a dark cave.

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Meanwhile, the young individuals who arrived in the realm had long started roaming but their experience wasn't good.

After the first few peaceful minutes, hundreds of strange ugly creatures with bat-like wings appeared everywhere and started hunting them like wild beasts.

Moreover, the monsters within the realm were not weak at all. They were more violet and bloodthirsty than the ones outside. Also, to make matters worse the weakest monster in the realm was (C+)-Rank!

That's why with each passing second, many youths died regretfully.

At a distance, Nine opened his eyes and found himself standing in front of a lake that was surrounded by many large boulders. He frowned as he looked around.

"What the hell is wrong with this place?"

The lake water was smelly and dirty. Nine squinted his eyes and gazed into the water. He almost freaked out when he saw many huge brown worms sleeping in the water.

'The fuck!'

He took in a sharp breath and hurriedly distanced himself from the lake. No way in hell he could defeat those huge things. Moreover, they were so ugly.

All of a sudden a faint cry echoed behind one of the boulders. With a cautious expression, Nine tiptoed and peeked from behind the boulder.

A demi-human with shoulder-length hair was fighting with a familiar brown worm. The fight was bloody and the demi-human looked badly injured.

In the next second, Nine quietly left the area. It's not that he didn't want to help. It was just his condition wasn't good enough to help others. Also, the worm was (B+)-Rank!

As he passed through a few boulders, something within his storage ring buzzed. Nine clicked his tongue and ignored it.

It was the device given to him by the Queen. After everyone entered the secret realm he and the others from his Kingdom were ordered to find Seraphine immediately.

"Instead of finding her, I should find a good quiet place to recuperate. Or else I don't think I will be able to survive in this place."

His fingers trembled and a painful expression appeared on his face. He stopped abruptly atop a boulder. His eyes dilated at the sight in front of him.

A few meters away from him, red blood dyed the pitch-black ground. A clawed hand held the heart of the lifeless body of a human lying on the ground.

Nine stopped breathing for a second. He stared at the winged man who titled his head and crushed the thumping heart present within his hand.

'Those black beady eyes...'

Nine vision turned blank. He thought the beady-eyed man he saw in his vision was a demi-human but right now in front of him, a familiar beady-eyed man was tearing the body of a young man.

The moment the winged man snapped his head to look at the boulder where he was standing, Nine jumped down and grabbed his mouth to hold his breath.

He stayed quiet and after a few seconds, slowly peeked out from behind the boulder. The dead body was still there but the beady-eyed figure was nowhere to be seen. Nine took in a large breath but then a scratchy voice sounded above him.

"What are you looking at?"

With a loud shout, Nine didn't even look up and jumped forward. He distanced himself from the boulder and stared back with sharp eyes. His sword appeared inside his hand.

The beady-eyed man unfolded his wings and started flying. A burst of delightful laughter slipped out from his throat.

"You wanna fight me? Are you sure?"

With a mocking smile, he released his (A)-Rank aura.

Nine expression hardened but in the next second, he looked up with a raised brow.

"Who said I am going to fight you?"

The man looked confused but then under his eyes, Nine used all his skills on the lake behind him.

A big worm emerged from the lake with a loud screeching sound. After the first worm, many more worms jumped out from the lake.

The man was surprised. Nine took advantage of the few seconds he got and took out a white bead from his storage ring.

He crushed the bead immediately and his vision blurred. In the next second, he was standing at a different place.

Nine sighed and slumped down on the ground.

"Now I only have three more teleportation beads."

He looked around and after seeing no one, he started running toward a nearby mountain.

"I don't think I can fight for a while. Also, the mana here is very thin. Let's just find a place to rest."

After arriving below the mountain, he found a cave and hurriedly entered inside. He closed the cave entrance and moved deep into the cave to look for a good resting place.

Chapter 267 Treasure lands

After five long hours, the bright lights raining from the crack stopped abruptly. The sky trembled and hundreds of dark clouds gathered around the brightness. Wisps of black smoke puffed out from the crack and with a loud bang, it vanished within the smoky clouds.

Under the now clear sky, many loud cries echoed all around the realm but those voices got muffled due to the heavy air.

At that exact moment, the white illusionary old man appeared in the sky. His old thunderous voice sounded in the whole realm.

"Welcome new arrivals to the Lumbra Realm. The entry gate has closed that's why the treasure lands would open up now."

A heavy silence enveloped the whole realm. Unlike the panicked new arrivals, the people from the dark race stopped in their actions. They stared at the sky with thrill and anticipation. After all, they were the ones who would grab all those treasures. These pathetic outsiders were just here to open the lands again.

The illusionary old man couldn't help but frown. If it was up to him, he would never open the treasure lands but everything was automatic. That's why even if he tried he couldn't stop the process. The realm was designed a long time ago just for the sake of nurturing young talents.

He didn't feel anger but frustration itched on his face as he spoke out loud and clear.

"Be prepared because each treasure land will have its own rules and tests. You have to fight and win the treasures will your strength."

After his voice drifted in the air. The people from the dark race cheered loudly. The realm has long lost its luster as they destroyed everything. However, even after digging and destroying every nook and cranny, they were unable to locate those hidden treasure lands.

The old man scoffed at their enthusiasm.

'So what if you all got stronger? In the end, you can never leave this place.'

On the other hand, the barren dark realm shook violently. The land trembled and thick clouds of smoke emerged out from the ground.

Within a few seconds, a brilliant sun appeared in the sky and bright light spilled from the dark sky.

The dry dark trees regained their vigour and lush green grass beds spread out everywhere.

Nine opened his eyes abruptly. He was already shocked due to the thunderous old voice that sounded in his ears but he lost his cool when half of the cave ceiling tumbled down in a lightning-fast speed. He jumped and after avoiding the large rocks pouring out from the ceiling, immediately rushed toward the exit.

"The fuck! I just closed my eyes for a second and someone destroyed the whole mountain!"

He cursed and if not for his quick reflexes he would have already perished under the pouring rocks.

"Why the hell did I go so deep inside the cave!"

Nine eyes reflected the cave entrance and he lunged forward after gathering every bit of his energy.

He covered his face when bright light pierced through his eyes.

"What the actual fuck..."

Nine mouth was hung open The previous incident where he saw the beady-eyed man instantly disappeared from his mind.

He took in the sight in front of him and mumbled under his breath.

"Is this even the same place?"

The previous dark sky was now clear and bright. The land was filled with greenery but what truly astonished him the most were the countless floating islands beneath the clear sky.

He released a large breath and looked at the nearest floating island. Similar to all the other floating islands, an old castle shimmered brightly atop the island.

He slowly moved closer to the island but then a very important question appeared in his mind.

"Wait...how am I going to fly up?"

The moment this question appeared in his mind his expression turned solemn. He was practically standing underneath one of the treasure lands but he couldn't reach it.

As if sensing his predicament, the ground around him started trembling again. Nine already muddled heart almost leaped out from his chest. He looked up at the huge treasure land with horrid eyes and started running in the opposite direction.

"Please don't tell me it's going to fall!"

Nine halted his steps when he didn't sense anything behind him. He looked back and his eyes widened at the large stairway leading up toward the treasure land.

"Oh, It's seemed I don't need to fly..."

He staggered forward and slowly started climbing. At that moment, a faint laugh sounded above the sky.

The voice was unpleasant that's why Nine looked up with narrow eyes.

His eyes shook visibly when he saw hundreds of black figures flying toward the treasure lands.

"This...so many people. Also, they all looked similar to the man I saw a while ago."

Nine closed his eyes for a second and made his way up toward the castle present atop the treasure land.

"Now is not the time to divulge in this matter. I can't fight with them. They are too strong. I just hope my friends stay safe."

He sighed as Kyle's face appeared in his mind and for some reason, his bad mood brightened a little.

"Well, I don't think I need to worry about him because even if the sky fell he would still survive."

•••

A few minutes ago, Kyle stared blankly in front of him. The deep tunnel ended but he was met with nothing except a dead end.

He coughed lightly and looked at Bia who was wearing a deadpan expression.

"I think we should go back."

His sentence was cut short when Bia shot him a glare.

Kyle shut his mouth and a frustrated expression appeared on his face. They had been moving underground for the past few hours and he was sure right now they were almost at the bottom of the mountain. However, the problem was that they were surrounded by thick black walls.

He narrowed his eyes at the wall in front of him with a thoughtful expression.

"Should I break it?"

Bia's eyes widened.

-'Are you crazy? We are both gonna get buried underground forever!'

Kyle chuckled. Of course, he knew they would get buried if he did anything with the walls.

"I was joking."

Bia sighed with relief. She flapped her wings and made her way back to the entrance of the tunnel.

However, in the next second, a loud old voice resounded in their ears.

Kyle blinked his eyes as he stared at the long narrow passage.

"So, the realm was empty and the so-called treasure lands were closed all along?"

He couldn't help but laugh at himself.

"Don't tell me I wasted so many hours in vain?"

Bia's eyes turned blank as she poured salt over his wounds.

-'You did.'

Kyle took a large breath but the moment he stepped forward the whole tunnel shook violently. His eyes widened with shock.

"We need to leave this place!"

Bia flapped her wings and increased her speed, heading straight toward the exit. Kyle rushed behind her. However, it was too late.

Kyle cursed under his breath. They were too far from the exit. His pupils contracted when he sensed a part of the ceiling crashing on Bia.

He gritted his teeth and jumped forward to grab Bia's body. A loud cry rang inside his head.

-'What are you doing the flames!'

Kyle ignored the struggling bird. He would be lying if he said he didn't feel pain when he grabbed Bia's body. However, the golden flames around her body didn't affect him much because his body was naturally too cold. It happened after he awakened his bloodline. He only felt an uncomfortable stinging sensation in his palms and nothing else.

Kyle hugged her small body and rolled down to avoid another huge boulder crashing down from above.

His green eyes brightened for a second as he looked at the large tunnel. He knew it was impossible for them to go out in such a small amount of time. He grabbed the broach on his chest and hurriedly tossed it in his mind space.

'Damn it! I can't use Instant Teleportation. Bia is with me!'

He ranked his eyes to look around but after finding nothing, he placed his hand on the ground and decided to transfer the whole mountain in his mind space but it didn't work. Who was he kidding?

Bia's struggling voice echoed in his head as she cried out again and again.

-'Kyle let me go!'

She flapped her wings and tried to free herself from his grip but Kyle didn't let her go.

Kyle watched the trembling ceiling, he used the 'ice armor' skill and jumped back. Within a second, a thin invisible layer of ice appeared around his whole body.

Kyle's breath hitched when a large boulder crashed down on his back. It was painful but due to the invisible armor around his body, he didn't bleed.

'Should I freeze everything?'

Chapter 268 Shattered dreams

Kyle's eyes shone brightly in the dark. In an instant, bright blue flames appeared around him. The flames moved according to his will and enclosed everything.

The trembling ceiling froze for a few seconds but the layer of ice he created wasn't enough to hold the weight for a long time.

Kyle clenched his fists and once again the towering cold flames enveloped everything around him. He secured his head and got ready for the impact. However, at that moment his eyes caught sight of a small light seeping from a distant corner.

Kyle's eyes zoomed at the light as he made the flames wrap everything in his path. The icy boulders in front of him crumbled into bright particles and he shouted out.

"Ice spear!"

In an instant, two large spears appeared in front of him. One after another they shot forward and crashed at the place where the light was spilling from. The space in front of him cleared up for a few seconds and amidst the shaky ground, Kyle immediately propelled his body forward toward the source of light.

Kyle's eyes narrowed at the light and a sudden burst of flames emerged from his body. In an instant, the wall froze and turned into bright particles and what appeared in front of him was a narrow hole.

The bird in his hand was so anxious that she bit his palm.

'Bia stay calm for a second!'

Kyle gazed inside the hole, it was going further underground, and at the end, he saw something bright. With a large breath, he jumped into the hole and his body dived downward at a fast speed.

Kyle cried out when hundreds of sharp rocks grazed his body. He hurriedly used mana to strengthen the 'ice armor' around his body. However, it wasn't enough. The speed at which his body was going down made his head dizzy for a second.

Still, he bore the pain and strongly protected the small body struggling in his grip.

After a long torture, his half-closed eyes finally saw the source of light as he crashed into a large boulder. Kyle's body jerked up in pain. He groaned and finally released Bia from his grip.

Bia cried out as she looked at him with moist eyes.

-'You fucker! I told you to let me go!'

Her breath caught in her throat when she saw Kyle's condition. His whole body was riddled with injuries and his clothes were wet with blood.

Kyle sensed her worry and forced his eyes to stay focused. He gritted his teeth and moved his trembling hands to take out a mana potion from his mind space.

It was painful but he forced his hand to pour the potion in his mouth. One wasn't enough that's why he gulped down two more.

After two minutes of labored breathing, his hazy eyes finally regained some clarity as he looked at Bia who was sitting beside him.

"I am... fine."

Bia didn't say anything and quietly observed his injuries. They were healing with the speed visible to one eye. It was the effect of the high-grade healing potions Kyle just chugged down.

After checking that he was fine, she hissed and pecked his hand with an angry expression.

-'You are crazy!'

Kyle grabbed her body and he propelled himself up to look at his surroundings.

He blinked at the sight in front of him. The place in front of him wasn't narrow at all. A rocky path and a white beautiful lake surrounded by a batch of beautiful glistening flowers. Above the calm lake, there was a floating piece of land, and atop that land stood an old castle.

Kyle unconsciously looked up at the ceiling with astonishment.

"We are still inside the mountain."

He sucked in a deep breath and tried to stand up but hissed with pain.

"Ugh... I forget my injuries are healing..."

After thinking for a few seconds, Kyle's eyes sparkled and he looked at Bia with an innocent smile.

Bia sensed his gaze and almost had the urge to slap him. Just a second ago they passed through a life-and-death situation and he was already thinking about something evil?

Her hunch was proven in the next second when Kyle patted her head and ordered her to increase her size.

"I am injured. Now only you can take me to the castle!"

Bia grumbled but gave him a nod. In the next second, she opened her wings and started flying. Her size started increasing and after a few seconds, a familiar sight appeared in front of Kyle who stared at her huge beautiful body in a daze.

"I didn't look properly last time due to the thousands of eyes watching us but your true form is truly awesome."

He nodded with a satisfied expression and dragged his legs to stand up. Due to the high-grade healing potions, his injuries were almost healed. However, he was too excited to climb the back of a certain phoenix that's why he made sure to wear a pained expression.

"Alright come down!"

Bia gazed at him. She flapped her wings and dived downward. However, instead of letting him climb herself, she casually grabbed his arms with her paws and picked him up.

Kyle was stunned for a second. His feet left the ground and his dreams of climbing the Phoenix back were shattered just like that. The whole process was so smooth that Kyle had to double-check if he was imagining everything. He grumbled under his breath.

"You could have let me ride you."

Bia scoffed and flew toward the castle gate. The moment they appeared above the lake, the air around the floating piece of land trembled.

Kyle narrowed his eyes.

"What's happening?"

In the next second, a large stairway emerged from the floating land and descended toward the ground.

Kyle blinked and let out a faint laugh.

"It seems we don't need to fly."

Bia almost had the urge to throw him on the stairway but she thought about his injuries and restrained her urge.

She slowly placed him in front of the shut castle gate. Afterward, she decreased her size and sat down at a nearby boulder.

-'I can't sense anything behind this gate. Is it safe to go inside?'

Kyle hummed and instead of opening the gate he actually descended the stairway. He stood beside the lake and cleaned his blood-filled body before changing into a clean set of clothes.

He nodded at himself and again climbed the stairway. All this while, Bia stared at him with a speechless expression.

-'I thought you were injured?'

Kyle ignored her piercing eyes and slowly pushed the gate open.

"I can't sense anything as well. Let's see what's inside then."

Chapter 269 Mechanical voice

Alec held his bleeding stomach as he lay down beside a boulder. His breathing was ragged and if one looked closely they would see a lot of wounds on his body.

He felt dizzy due to the blood loss. He took out a healing potion from his storage ring and poured it on his wounds.

After taking another breath to calm his wild heart, he stared at the winged man's body lying a few meters away from him with anger and disgust. A bright sword was protruding out from the man's chest.

Alec shut his eyes when he recalled how he almost died a minute ago if not for the strange chain Principal Ratric gave him before they left the Kingdom.

The moment he appeared in the realm, he felt something amiss with this place. Also, the ground beneath his feet was dry and barren. So, how was it possible for this place to have any treasures?

Still, he started moving in a straight direction but only after a few hours, he encountered a cruel sight.

Two strange-looking individuals with bat-like wings were toying with a girl. Alec's eyes chilled at the sight. Anger welled up inside his chest and even though he clearly knew they were stronger he attacked them with everything he got, but in the end, he was too weak.

One of the two dark individuals easily overpowered him and mocked his bravery. At the same time, the other dark individual dragged the girl away under his red-rimmed eyes.

Alec wanted to save the girls at all costs. He used everything at his disposal but it didn't work. In the end, the dark individual who had been fighting with him for the past few minutes got bored. He wanted to finish him as soon as possible. So, he could follow his friend who took the girl away.

However, when the man's pointy nails neared his chest a sudden force burst out from his chest. The man cried out in pain and immediately held his hand. Alec's mana was almost dry but he gathered every bit of his strength and swung his sword desperately at the man.

It was as if time stopped for a second, his old sword which had not been much useful in the past suddenly shone brightly and before he could register what was happening the sword was already embedded within the man's chest.

Alec was bewildered at the sudden bright light that appeared out of nowhere. When he acquired the sword from the Tower of Opportunity it was old and rusty but now it was shimmering in a bright color.

He opened his eyes and stared at the dark sky. His usual bright eyes were now filled with coldness.

"Dark race."

It was fortunate that he had the system appraisal skill or else he would have never found out about this race.

A chilling expression spread out on his face. He remembered the last time he felt so weak. It was the time when his friends were killed by the monsters. He was weak in the past and even now he was still weak.

Amidst his troubled thoughts, he swore to kill that man who dragged the girl away, even if it took him a lot of time. He would kill him no matter what.

Alec punched his fist on the ground with a cold expression and even though his wounds were still bleeding, he dragged his body to stand up.

"I am sorry."

A sharp breath escaped from his lips as he stared at the sky. The girl's tragic cries still echoed in his mind. He knew it was not his fault but he felt guilty because he wasn't able to save her.

As he walked aimlessly above the dark ground, after a few minutes an old voice sounded inside his ears. He looked up at the sky when the ground started trembling.

Under his blank gaze, hundreds of treasures lands appeared above in the sky. They looked majestic.

Alec looked at the nearest floating land and climbed the stairway that emerged from the land. He needed strength and for it, he was willing to take any tests.

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Meanwhile, after Kyle pushed the gate open he didn't see anything. He narrowed his eyes at the darkness spilling out from the open gate.

"I can't see anything. Bia how about you go inside to check?"

Bia's round eyes widened as she stared at him with a deadpan expression.

-'Just step inside. Why are you trying to make me a meat shield?'

Kyle clicked his tongue and gingerly peeked inside with a cautious expression. After careful consideration, he conjured a fireball and threw it inside. The fireball traveled in the darkness for a second but vanished in the next second.

Kyle frown. He grabbed a rock from nearby and threw it inside the gate. Again, the rock vanished within the darkness.

"It seems I have no choice but to step inside."

With a sigh, he activated his skill 'ice armor' and walked in the gate.

A tremendous force coiled around his body and pushed him downward. Kyle's head buzzed and his vision changed abruptly.

It was like he traveled from one place to another. Kyle's eyes widened at the sight in front of him. He was standing in a large bright room surrounded by nothing but white walls.

Bia flapped her wings and flew around the room with an anxious expression.

-'What is this place? Also, there is no exit!'

Kyle's eyes trailed at her figure for a second before he noticed the rock he had thrown a while ago. It was lying on the ground.

While the duo was looking around the room, suddenly a mechanical voice sounded in the air.

"Welcome participants to the 'last' treasure land."

Kyle and Bia both abruptly turned around to find the source of the voice but even after their eyes traveled everywhere they didn't see anyone.

"Counting the number of participants...."

"Total participants two; A (C+)-Rank divine beast and a (??)-Rank human."

"Loading.... unable to detect the rank of the human due to an unknown artifact. Automatic rank would be assigned."

"Conclusion; Total participants two; A (C+)-Rank divine beast and a (F-)-Rank human."

Chapter 270 (F-)-Rank is too little

The voice was monotone devoid of any emotions, Kyle looked around the room with a dumbfounded look. Who was talking? However, even after ranking his eyes everywhere, he didn't see anything except white walls.

He gazed at Bia. She wanted to attack a nearby wall with a fireball, but the moment she formed a fireball it dissipated in the air with a sizzling sound. Her round eyes narrowed at the wall.

-'I think the voice doesn't belong to a living person. Instead, it's more like a recording or a mechanical voice.'

Kyle's expression was grim. At first, he was worried about the sudden voice but after listening to the voice his worries changed instantly.

"Don't you think the automatic evaluation is a little too much? Me, (F-)-Rank human? It should give me a higher rank..."

Bia almost lost her balance and stared at Kyle with a speechless expression.

There was silence for a few seconds before the voice sounded again.

"Participants please do your best to reach the end. The entrance test will commence in a minute..."

"59... 58...56...."

Kyle summoned his sword from the mind space. He wasn't sure what he would face after the countdown reached zero. Still, he felt excited, a little thrilled as well. The voice said this was a treasure land. That means if he passed all the tests he would get the treasures!

He stretched his body and did some push-ups as the countdown echoed in the enclosed white room.

Soon, the countdown reached zero and under the duo's eyes, a wooden door appeared in the white room.

Kyle eyed the ordinary-looking door. He didn't even think twice and pushed the door open. As he stepped in the door, an area surrounded by big, dense trees appeared in his vision.

Bia's flying figure appeared behind him after a second. The moment she left the door, it vanished.

Kyle gazed at her and even before he could say something, she flapped her wings and flew upward to see what was behind those trees. A vast expense of greenery reflected in her eyes.

-'It's too blurry I can't see anything beyond the trees.'

Kyle hummed and gave her a nod. In the next second, his ears twitched when he heard a faint rustle behind him. The rustling sound increased with each passing second but when he turned around he found nothing.

At that moment, the mechanical voice sounded again.

"Loading.. The entrance test will begin now. Please kill 1000 monsters each to clear this test."

"The monsters' rank is adjusted according to the participants' strength..... After passing the test you will be eligible to fight for the 'Vials of Divine essence'."

Kyle's eyes widened when he heard the name 'divine'. He thought about the divine rank and immediately searched his memory to find something similar but his knowledge was still lacking.

Amidst all this he knew this 'divine essence' was something extraordinary!

'I have to get it no matter what!'

After the mechanical voice stopped, a group of two-headed trolls stepped out from the trees. They were ugly, with large eyes and noses.

Kyle grabbed his sword tightly. He was ready to fight but his enthusiasm plummeted when he sensed the trolls' ranks. He blinked and watched the trolls who slowly staggered toward him.

"They are only (F-)-Rank...."

Suddenly, Bia's cry sounded in his mind and Kyle snapped his head to look up. She was surrounded by a group of flying monsters and those monsters were stronger than the ones he was supposed to fight.

Kyle's face showed a complicated expression, he was stronger but his opponents were so weak. On the other hand, Bia was fighting a group of (C+)-Rank monsters!

He casually waved his hand. A burst of blue flames enveloped the trolls but Kyle didn't even glance at them and shouted at Bia.

"Bia come down. I don't like these ugly trolls let me fight with the other monsters."

Bia was more than willing to change opponents, she dived downward and appeared beside Kyle.

-'Don't worry I will take care of the trolls.'

Bia flapped her wings and bright golden flames appeared in her surroundings. However, her flames seemed weaker in comparison to the cold blue flames that lingered around Kyle's body in a protective manner.

The air was filled with blazing blue and golden flames, showcasing a mesmerizing sight. Moreover, Kyle was astonished at the fact that his flame didn't harm the golden flames. Nor did the bone-chilling coldness seeping out from his flames affect Bia's body.

He sighed and focused on the fight. One monster died after another. Amidst all this, their numbers never decreased. It was like the monsters were forming from thin air, just like an illusion. Checkk new *n*ovel ch*a*pters at nov*e*lbin(.)com

At first, the battle was one-sided because Kyle's mana stat was too high even greater than Bia, a divine beast. Still, unlike the (F-)-Rank trolls, the (C+)-Rank flying monsters were powerful. He didn't even notice how the mana within his body vanished.

Kyle panted heavily as he killed the 600th monster. He clicked his tongue in irritation, after all, even though he could fight without mana his body couldn't cope with it any longer.

He looked at Bia with a tired expression.

"Hey, I want to rest for a minute. Stopped them for a while."

Bia hummed, unlike Kyle her condition was quite good. Mainly because she didn't have to do much to kill the (F-)-Rank trolls. Also, the trolls were slow that's why her kill count was lower than Kyle's.

-'Just for a minute.'

After giving him a nod, she flapped her wings and started flying to distract the flying monsters.

Kyle gazed at the trolls who were still pouring out from the tree and climbed one of the trees to rest for a minute.

The entrance test was truly tiring. It was good the mechanical voice wasn't able to calculate his true strength or else he would have never passed this test.

Kyle's body started aching after he crossed the 800-kill mark. He was so tired that he wanted to sleep between the monsters' but he persevered and did his best to complete the goal.