

Bloodline 271

Chapter 271 Bound to achieve greatness

At the same time, under the clear blue sky, a red-haired figure was dashing around to save his life. Jian eyes widened when he sensed another attack aimed at his back.

He cursed under his breath.

"This ugly fucker why is he not letting me go! I am weak! I am not as tasty as either! So why!"

He lunged forward in a different direction, behind him a large black stick trashed the ground mercilessly.

A winged man shouted out with a frustrated expression.

"Just die you ant! Stop running!"

Jian scoffed out loud.

"If you want to kill me so much just catch me! Why are you panting like a puppy?"

The man's beady eyes contracted with anger and he laughed out loud.

"You! I will hack you into pieces! Just you wait!"

Jian chuckled. The ugly man was (B)-Rank but he wasn't weak as well. He had worked a lot for the past few months! He was already (C)-Rank! He was sure no one in the whole East Continent could compare to him except Alec!

As if remembering something, he grumbled inwardly.

'Damn, I forget to count Kyle! I am one hundred percent sure he is stronger than me!'

While he was thinking another attack was thrown at his back but he dogged it.

After running for ten more minutes, he saw a floating piece of land. An evil smile appeared on his face. It seemed his luck had risen a lot after he entered the secret realm!

It was because, the moment he entered the realm he encountered an illusionary old man! At first, he freaked out when he saw the old man but after sensing that the other party had to intention to harm him he calmed down.

The old man didn't even gaze at him. Still, he was quite curious that's why he decided to observe the illusionary figure for a while.

Alas, the old man got angry due to his presence and shooed him away. However, instead of leaving he quietly hid at a distance, but he was caught only after a minute.

This time the illusionary figure didn't chase him away, instead he gave him a lot of information about this place.

"Now I am the only person who knows everything about this realm! Hahaha. I got lucky even before I got to meet my lucky charm!"

Jian's laughter echoed in the air. The winged man following behind him was so frustrated that he almost coughed out blood! The man's beady eyes burned with hatred. No matter what he would kill this crazy human today!

Jian giggled and jumped at the stairway leading toward the floating land. Now, he didn't need to find the lucky charm. He was omnipotent! His non-existent luck has risen! He was bound to achieve greatness in this realm!

"I just need to find the 'last' treasure land! The old man said that treasure land contained the most precious thing present in this whole realm!"

He dogged another attack coming at him from behind and hurriedly dashed toward the shimmering castle gate present atop the floating land. After listening to the old man, he knew about the dark race and even though he didn't watch their cruelty he hated them to the core.

Anyway, he was a tad bit weak to kill the enemy behind him. So, it was better for him to run for the time being. He would take care of the dark race after he got some treasures and become a little stronger.

Jian lunged forward to push the gate with a brilliant smile.

"Hehe... I am coming my treasures!"

However before he could, the gate opened by itself and two dark-winged figures walked out from the gate.

Jian's smile stiffened. He cursed under his breath and immediately attacked the two men. The two winged men looked at the attack Jian threw at them, even though they were stronger they blocked the attack out of reflex.

The red-haired boy's eyes sparkled, he took advantage of the two seconds he got and jumped in the open gate.

The winged man behind him was dumbfounded, enlarged he shouted at his fellow people.

"You idiots! He ran away! Grab him!"

The two winged men were startled but got angry when they saw how a mere (B)-Rank was ordering them! One of them scoffed and flew away.

"Why should I? He is just a weak human. Go get him yourself."

The other winged man gave him a weird look and left as well.

The man who was following Jian was so angry that he wanted to strangle the red-haired boy with his own hands!

"You shitty human! Just you wait! I am coming after you!"

He didn't even think twice and jumped in the gate as well.

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Meanwhile, in a different place, Seraphine's golden eyes blazed at one of the lands floating a few meters away from her. Her long hair looked messy and her previous elegant clothes were filled with dust.

She has truly suffered a lot after entering the realm. It was fortunate she had a lot of life-saving artifacts the Queen gave her before she left the Kingdom. Or else she would have succumbed to a very pathetic fate after a weird-looking winged man attacked her.

With a deep breath, she turned around to look at the few individuals standing behind her.

"So, Prince Lucus according to the old map your father gave you which treasure land do we need to find."

The handsome young boy standing opposite her gave her a smile. He was the second son of Istalian but he knew his father never cared about him. After all, even after knowing the dangers within the realm Istalian just coldly ordered him to enter the realm and look for the treasure.

"I don't know. The map is not detailed. It only outlined the possible locations but I believe we need to look for a floating piece of land that is underground. We need to find the 'last' treasure land."

Lucus's expression dimmed. This place was indeed too dangerous. Especially those ugly winged individuals. He looked at the golden-haired boy standing next to him with a serious expression.

"Sen, did you get in contact with the others? I thought we all agreed to find each other. So, why is it that only the three of us found each other? Don't tell me everyone else died."

His expression was solemn as he stared at the muscular blonde boy.

Sen lifted his eyes to look at the prince.

'Of course, the others died you idiot.'

A mocking expression flashed through his face but he hid it immediately.

"I don't know."

Lucus gave him a nod and the trio started moving together.

Chapter 272 How And Why We Are Here

Kyle's hairline was dyed with sweat as he panted heavily while sitting on a tree trunk. Countless dead bodies were lying on the ground, demonstrating a bloody sight.

However, amidst all, Kyle's clothes were clean, devoid of even a stain of blood. No, it's not because he was too careful it's because he changed his shirt again.

Bia was sprawled on his stomach with a blank expression, her chest was heaving up and down in a fast movement. She really outdid herself. A sudden thought appeared in her mind.

-I am so powerful? As a (C+)-Rank 'divine' phoneix, I killed 1000 (C+)-Rank monsters! Unbelievable!

Kyle narrowed his eyes and had an urge to grab her body and throw her down. He killed more than 700 (C+)-Rank monsters and now she was taking the credit!

"Shameless..."

His murmur was quiet but a certain bird was too close, she heard his words and gave him a snicker.

As if finally noticing something, Kyle grabbed her by her neck with a serious expression.

"Wait... You are a divine beast? The voice also said divine. That means it's true."

Bia didn't have any energy to bicker with him regarding how he picked her up and just gave him a smug expression.

'It's seemed you finally know how majestic I am.'

Kyle smirked, of course, he was happy at the fact that she just increased her status from ordinary to divine. He wasn't sure yet but he had a nagging feeling Bia could reach the divine rank in the future. Doesn't that mean she can go past the limit of mortality and follow him when he becomes a true immortal? Kyle blinked at his thoughts. When did he become so confident?

'I am not even (S)-Rank and here I am imagining being an immortal.'

He shook his head with a sigh. The future was unpredictable and no one could guess what was waiting for him.

Bia saw the rapid change in Kyle's expression, she clicked her tongue and wriggled out from his grip with a hiss.

-'We are done with the goal but the mechanical voice didn't return. What now?'

Kyle's thoughts were disturbed due to her sudden question. He looked at the sky with a serious expression.

"I don't know. The voice only said we need to pass the entrance test to gain the right to fight for the Vails of divine essence."

After resting for an hour, he carefully jumped off the tree. As usual, Bia sat down on his head and both of them decided to go deeper into the trees because the mechanical voice never returned.

Kyle held his sword in his hand and started walking. They passed through many thick tall trees and to their surprise the place they passed from was devoid of any living being. A deadly silence envelope their surrounding.

After half an hour, Kyle activated the skill 'swift steps' and increased his speed. He dashed between the trees while looking around to find something, anything.

Bia flapped her wings and started flying above his head but the image behind the tall trees remained blurry.

The time tickled by fast but even after many hours, the duo didn't find anything. In the end, Kyle climbed a tree to sleep.

The sky was burning brightly above their heads, but Night never arrived. Still, he closed his eyes to sleep for a while.

Bia gazed at his sleeping figure and quietly landed beside him to keep an eye on the surroundings. She wasn't drowsy but for some reason after a few minutes, her eyelids fluttered shut.

A loud strained shout jolted her awake, Bia snapped her eyes open and got a heart attack when she saw Kyle holding the jaw of a huge, towering monster.

The monster's head was round and large with four short legs below his huge furry belly.

Her eyes trembled when she looked at Kyle. His shirt was drenched in blood. How? Kyle was so strong but the strange monster injured him so much! Her question was answered soon when the monster's body released a heavy, suffocating pressure.

Bia choked on her breath. A (S)-Rank monster! Her body trembled due to the pressure and she finally registered that they were not in the same place anymore.

The trees around them were nowhere to be seen. Instead, they were present atop a large white stage. The monster's deep blue eyes flickered with rage and it thrashed one of its paws forward to hack Kyle into pieces.

- 'What happened!?'

Bia cried out in Kyle's mind and flapped her wings to fly. Her round eyes flashed with a deep glow and in the next second, golden flames descended on the monster's body with a maddening pace.

Kyle gazed back with hazy eyes.

"Oh... You are awake. Ugh"

He used every ounce of strength and pushed the towering monster away. Just like the golden flames, blue icy flames surged out from his body, they enclosed the monster who cried out in anger. However, it was evident their flames were not working.

Bia's golden flames only left some minor injuries on the monster's body and even though Kyle's icy flames froze its body parts the monster would get rid of the ice.

Kyle cursed loudly as he dodged another attack from the monster.

'Why the heck are my flames not working? I injured someone with (A)-Rank strength before so easily but it's not working on this thing... Is it because the strength difference between us is too huge?'

Bia's panicked voice echoed in his head again and again, it made Kyle dizzy.

He rolled back and started running around the stage to avoid the monster for a few seconds, but his speed was too low!

Only after a second, the monster jumped at him with a loud growl. Kyle gritted his teeth, the white stage was painted red with his blood. He grabbed his sword and swung it vertically at the monster.

"I don't know how and why we are here! The moment I opened my eyes I found this monster drooling on my body. Just a few more seconds and I would have been a goner."

Bia suddenly recalled how she wasn't supposed to sleep and watch over Kyle. So how the hell did she fall asleep?

Chapter 273 The Line Is Crossed

A shrill cry rang out above the stage as Bia watched how more and more wounds piled up on Kyle's body with each passing second.

She flapped her wings and many fire arrows formed out of thin air. The arrows crashed at the running monster's back with a lightning-fast speed, the monster stopped momentarily. It didn't expect the tiny thing would attack again.

The pair of deep blue eyes stared at Bia before the monster stepped back to look at Kyle's panting figure.

It let out an irritated huff. At first, it only had to chase a single person who ran around in circles like a buzzing bee but now this tiny thing who can't even scratch a tiny part of its skin dared to attack him from behind!

A sharp glint flashed through its eyes, the monster had enough of this chasing game! It wanted to finish the prey as soon as possible.

A low growl rumbled from the monster's throat, under Kyle's gaze, the monster's blue eyes lost their color and two thin red-grey slits appeared between its pupils.

Kyle's hair stood up behind his back. A faint bad premonition surged inside his heart, he knew something was off with the monster.

His grip on his sword tightened and his eyes darted around at a fast speed.

'I am injured, my flames aren't working on this thing... if it continues I don't think I will be able to continue after my mana runs out.'

Kyle knew there was no way out from here. While Bia was unconscious he had tried jumping off the stage but he was stopped by a strange wall. That means he and Bia had to kill this thing before they could leave.

He knew the pressure of a (S)-Rank monster wasn't something he could cope with easily. His eyes darted to the stage that was filled with his blood.

'I can only hope it works...'

As he thought, the land below his feet started trembling. Kyle's eyes widened when he sensed a powerful force under his feet.

The monster eyed him with a smug expression. Kyle cursed under his breath but instead of panicking he instantly used his skill to teleport at the other end of the stage.

Bia gasped when the place where Kyle was standing a second ago blasted. In an instant, pieces of broken stones flew everywhere with a large cloud of smoke.

A faint shock flashed through the monster's eyes. It ranked its gaze at the place where Kyle was standing, only to see nothing.

On the other hand, the pair of green eyes staring at its back turned cold. A sudden current flashed through Kyle's eyes, he saw how the monster just blasted a large part of the stage like it was nothing.

'This fucker wanted to kill me! I thought this thing wanted to eat me but... now the line is crossed!'

At first, Kyle wanted to save as much mana as possible because he was not sure what would happen after he killed the monster. This place was too strange. What if another monster appeared out of thin air? What if the mechanical voice threw him into another life-threatening situation?

Kyle's face turned expressionless and a large amount of mana enveloped his sword, illuminating it with a whitish-grey hue.

The monster's eyes snapped back when it sensed the violet mana movement.

'Bia, don't do anything now. After I am done help me distract this thing!'

Kyle shouted in his mind. The monster leaped at him, however, instead of retreating Kyle swung his sword smoothly on the monster as he mumbled in his mind.

'Second strike: Eradicate'

The monster froze for a second, the energy pulsating around Kyle's sword wasn't dangerous enough to threaten its life. Still, the energy was extremely-violet and could probably give it a few deep injuries.

The monster wanted to dodge but Kyle used instant teleportation again. He appeared above the furry body in an instant, and the glowing vortex on Kyle's sword exploded when it touched the monster's body.

The monster's eyes contracted into thin slits, due to Kyle's sudden move it wasn't able to react in time. In the end, even though its speed was higher than Kyle's, it could not match the speed of instant teleportation.

With a loud cracking sound, the monster's huge body was pushed backward, and a bloody gash appeared on its neck because Kyle chose the most vulnerable part of its body.

A cold chuckle echoed in the deadly silent stage, the monster snapped its eyes up and saw Kyle looking at him with a cold smile.

Anger flooded in its eyes and the monster who didn't have much intelligence to begin with went berserk.

Bia's eyes widened at the sight, she cursed in her mind. Kyle was provoking the monster! Amidst all this, she followed his words and started raining one fire attack after another on the already muddled-headed monster. She had to distract that huge thing!

Due to the onslaught of so many attacks, many injuries formed on the monster's body. However, it was evident, that those injuries were not enough to kill it.

Kyle suffered a few more injuries as he nimbly dashed around a certain part of the stage with a focused expression. Bia's expression turned ugly. With each passing second, her mana thinned and she knew after another minute, her mana would run out.

She gazed at Kyle who was still running around, he would just occasionally attack the monster once or twice, and nothing else.

-'What the hell are you doing? Running around aimlessly!'

Kyle merely raised his brow, his focused eyes never lifted from the ground under his feet. He sucked in a deep breath.

'Stop attacking, I am going to finish this thing.'

Bia looked confused as she watched Kyle who suddenly stopped a meter away from the monster silently.

The monster let out a loud growl when Kyle pointed his finger below, two pairs of eyes snapped downward frantically. Bia's eyes widened at the sight. On the other hand, the monster's eyes flashed with confusion.

The place where the monster was standing, strangely had many scattered glowing mana stones. Moreover, if one looked closely they would see the faint bright symbols drawn on the ground.

"It's the first time I used mana to draw an Array..."

Kyle's eyes sparkled at his own masterpiece. He couldn't believe he actually did it. He thought gathering mana outside his body to form Array symbols would be very hard but after he tried, it wasn't as hard as he expected it to be. It was rather easy.

Now, if Elder Han or any other Array master heard his thoughts they would probably spit out blood. It took them so many years just to learn the basic theory of how to form mana symbols but Kyle did it on his first try just because he knew the theory.

Chapter 274 Cut it up

The monster growled at him angrily and pounced forward once again, but Kyle didn't move from his spot. The monster's bloody eyes turned even redder with the sheer amount of frustration and anger he was feeling just by staring at Kyle's face.

It roared and decided to just finish everything in a single move! In an instant heavy pressure seeped out from its body. The monster wanted to blast the whole stage except the place where it was standing!

On the other hand, Kyle merely raised his hand nonchalantly and snapped his fingers. A deadly feeling enveloped the monster and its jumping body froze mid-way. The monster felt the dread that crept inside its heart. It cried out and struggled to move its body but nothing worked.

Bia's eyes turned crescent and she immediately landed on Kyle's shoulder with a huff.

-'Could have informed me about the plan.'

Kyle chuckled.

"I forget."

-'What are you waiting for? Just finish it.'

Kyle eyed the large furry thing. He used the type of Array symbols that could make his enemy immobile for a few minutes. Also, the time was thin that's why he didn't have time to draw any offensive symbols.

"Um... We need to kill it."

Bia almost tripped on his shoulder. She was truly speechless. Why the hell did he do such a grand show when they had to kill this thing themselves?

Still, a strange twinkle flashed through her eyes. It was evident the monster's death wouldn't be peaceful at all. Bia stretched her legs with a groan and started flying again.

-'I am feeling hungry, let's cut it up and cook fresh meat.'

She crackled out an evil laugh. Kyle's eyes widened at her words. No, it was not because he found them cruel!

"Why didn't I think of this idea? I bought all the cooking material with me and you can light the fire!"

The monster who had been struggling for the past few seconds freaked out when it saw the two pairs of sparkling eyes. This was truly the first time it felt scared! Those two tiny creatures' eyes shone in a glint that made his legs tremble!

A few pained muffled cries echoed in the space and after half an hour, Kyle and Bia were enjoying their first meal in the secret realm.

It was truly delicious. The aura of cooked meat drifted in the air. Also, who could have guessed they would taste the meat of an (S)-Rank beast! Moreover, after such a bloody fight the meat taste became even more savouring!

However, Bia felt that it could have been even more delicious if it was not cooked by Kyle. He truly lacks cooking skills. Not to mention the fact that he brunt a few pieces in the process. Bia's eyes ranked at Kyle's face. He seemed unaware of this fact that's why she carefully hid it inside her heart to not make him angry. After all, he was the person who was going to feed her in the future.

-I should not damage my future.'

She nodded and silently ate her portion.

After they were done eating, they waited but the mechanical voice never returned. Still, Kyle didn't dare to sleep because the previous incident where he almost ended up in a furry stomach was not pleasant at all.

Kyle heaved out a tired sigh. He wasn't sure how much time passed as he lifted his eyes to become astonished again.

"Huh!?"

He blinked with a loud gasp and Bia who had been snuggling in his hair immediately jolted.

-'What happened! I swear I was not sleeping!'

She stopped mid-way because the scenery around them had changed again. The stage had vanished into thin air and now the duo was sitting on a smooth red carpet drawn out in a large hall.

A row of tall pillars circularly surrounded the hall, those pillars extended upward to hold the dome-shaped ceiling. The hall looked old and bright but the duo could not spot even a single firetouch or bright burning stone around the hall.

Bia eyed the hall with a deep expression.

-'So, we are going to change locations so abruptly every time.'

Kyle hummed and stood up. He patted his clothes. Of course, they were clean. He had changed into a new pair of hoodie and pants after the bloody fight.

His gaze wandered around the hall and he finally noticed the tiny square-shaped door at the end of the hall. It was hidden under the shadows of the pillars and if not for Kyle's heightened sight he would have never noticed the door.

Kyle squinted his eyes.

"That's it? Do we just need to enter the door?"

He was skeptical and hesitant, but still proceeded to walk toward the gate. However, he stopped even before he took the first step.

Bia poked out her head from his hair.

- 'What happened?'

"Bia start flying. I don't think we should walk on this pretty red carpet."

Bia only replied with an 'Oh' and immediately flapped her wings to fly. She secretly clicked her tongue. He could just teleport whenever he wanted. How convenient!

Kyle watched her for a few seconds as she flew toward the gate at a normal pace. Then he gazed at the door and calculated the distance in his mind. He took a deep breath and instantly teleported from his location. In the next second, he appeared in the middle of the hall. However, he didn't stop and immediately used the teleportation skill again.

In the next second, he arrived in front of the door but Kyle's body froze, he lifted his hand to trace his cheek and felt a wet sensation. His eyes widened when he saw blood on his fingers.

"What happened!?"

Kyle didn't sense anything. He just felt a sharp prickling pain.

- 'Look behind you!'

"Huh?"

Kyle turned around and sucked a deep breath. Hundreds of sharp thin crimson arrows were embedded on the surface of the red smooth carpet at the exact place where he stopped for half a second. Some of the arrows even burned the carpet surface. It seemed they were poisonous.

He didn't dare to imagine what would have happened if he actually walked on the carpet.

Kyle ignored the crimson arrows and gazed at the door with a sigh.

"It's good that this type of trap can not harm someone like me."

Chapter 275 Stone guardian

Kyle covered his face when a hot burned smell invaded his nose. He stepped in the door only to arrive in front of a large pool filled with bubbling hot magma.

The place was incredibly hot, but the duo didn't even break a sweat, because first, Bia was a fire phoenix and she couldn't care less about the high temperature. On the other hand, Kyle's body was naturally too cold after the bloodline awakening, and with the addition of the skill 'fire resistance' he could easily ignore any type of temperature around him.

Amidst the sizzling magma, the walls around them seemed unscathed filled with large mesmerizing murals of strange-looking creatures that seemed to come to life.

The duo carefully looked around, Bia's round eyes narrowed at the many tiny platforms floating above the magma. Those scattered platforms looked like a string of stairs leading up to an unknown place.

Kyle eyed the magma and poked Bia.

"Go up and check where these stairs are going."

Bia swatted his finger away with a glare and opened her wings to fly. She passed through the gaps present between the floating platforms with agility. After flying for ten seconds, she felt a tingling sensation around her body, and under Kyle's gaze, her body vanished.

Kyle hastily spoke in his mind.

'Are you alright?'

-I am fine and I found the exit but... there are a lot of doors. You need to come up.'

While he was conversing with Bia, the creatures in the mural created on the walls moved, albeit very slowly. Their eyes glowed in a dark light ready to pounce at Kyle.

However, their supposed prey has something else planned because after Kyle confirmed the situation above. He hummed thoughtfully. He eyed the spot where Bia's body vanished and knew that should be the boundary or exit of this room.

Kyle picked a small movement in the murals from the corner of his eyes.

'Well, it's interesting but I don't have plans to have another bloody fight so soon.'

In the next second, he used the teleportation skill to directly arrive at the floating platform that was nearest to the place where Bia disappeared.

The moment Kyle's feet touched the platform it crumbled into dust but before he could fall, he used the teleportation skill again, directly arriving beside Bia.

After he passed the boundary, his feet submerged in a wet sensation. Kyle looked below, he was standing inside a pool of cool water.

His ears twitched when he heard a few loud growl sounds coming from beneath the water. He smirked.

If someone else managed to arrive at this place, they would probably struggle a lot under the onslaught of those weird creatures and the bubbling magma but he just passed the place within half a minute.

Bia's eyelids couldn't help but twitch at the silver-haired boy. His lips were curved upward in a beautiful arc but for some reason, she wanted to wipe that smug smile from his face.

-'Stop grinning. We are still in the middle of a dangerous place.'

Kyle raised his brow with an 'Oh' because he could feel the sourness in Bia's voice. He controlled the urge to laugh and gazed around himself.

Just like Bia said, a row of plain doors reflected in his vision.

After thinking for a few seconds, Kyle entered the first door but found nothing. The room behind the door was empty devoid of anything. That's why they stepped out of the room again.

Bia sat down on Kyle's head as he eyed the doors with a frown.

"Let's enter the last one this time."

Bia agreed without a second thought. Well, it's not like she could compare with Kyle in terms of luck so it was better to follow his lead in this type of situation.

After they entered the last door, they found another path that led them to another room filled with various traps. However, they passed it easily due to their teamwork. After a few more twists and turns in a strange corridor that was filled with various doors and rooms, they arrived in front of a white door.

Kyle had a blank look on his face as he pushed the door open roughly. On his way, he counted every injury he suffered during his fights with the monsters. He even counted each deadly trap that was laid on his path. Now, he was damn sure if he didn't get the treasures at the end, he would blast this place!

As if sensing Kyle's threatening thoughts, the mechanical voice that had been quiet for as long as he remembered, sounded again.

"Congratulations participants for passing the tests of the 'last' treasure land alive."

"Please step in the room because the guardian has been waiting for your arrival."

Kyle ignored the voice and staggered into the room but he stopped between the doorway. He squinted his eyes to look around.

The room was the biggest he had seen up till now. It was illuminated brightly with many bright orbs floating around, and a huge stone statue holding a bow and spear was standing in the middle of the room.

He craned his neck to look behind the statue and saw the treasures!

A large old wooden table was placed behind the statue. The round spots on the table were occupied by a few glass vials. In each vial, a tiny droplet of golden liquid was floating.

Kyle hurriedly counted the vials and smirked in his mind. He could see that a few of the spots on the table were empty meant someone else took the remaining vials before him. However, there were still nine vials left!

He didn't move from his place as he ranked his eyes around the room. In an instant, he caught sight of a bright portal at the end of the room.

While he was thinking, the mechanical voice sounded again.

"All the participants should defeat the stone guardian and the winners can take one vial of divine essence each."

Kyle chuckled with crescent eyes.

"Are you joking? Why should I take one when I can take all?"

Bia eyed the vials, for some reason the golden drop of liquid within them looked very tempting.

-If the voice is saying we can only take one doesn't that mean there is a trap around the table? You can clearly see some of the spots on the table are empty. I don't think no one tried to take all the vials before.'

Kyle didn't reply and just slumped down in the middle of the door with a tiny smile.

-'What are you doing?'

Bia left his head and arrived on his lap with a confused expression.

"Just recovering my mana."

Chapter 276 The golden droplet

Kyle closed his eyes to rest in the middle of the door. After he recovered all of his mana he grabbed Bia and stood up with a serious expression.

"Fly and enter the bright portal at the end of the room."

Bia grumbled but agreed. She flapped her wings and started flying. However, the moment she passed the first half of the room, the stone statue's eyes flashed with a bright light.

The statue started floating and an arrow appeared in its hand, it grabbed the bow and aimed the arrow at Bia with a sharp glint.

All this happened within a few seconds, the statue's movements were fluid and fast, and before Bia could react the arrow shot out with deadly precision. However, at the same time, blue flames erupted from below and enveloped the arrow completely.

A low cracking sound echoed in the silent room and under Bia's shocked gaze, the arrow crumbled into tiny sparks.

Kyle heaved out a sigh. That was a close call. He dashed toward the floating statue and shouted.

"Bia enter the portal. You know I can leave any time I want!"

Bia snapped her eyes and hurriedly dived toward the portal. The statue wanted to follow behind her but blue flames appeared in its path.

Kyle gasped as he saw how the statue evaded the flames with a lightning-fast speed and arrived in front of him. A large spear appeared in his vision and his instinct kicked in.

Without even thinking twice he teleported beside the table. On the other hand, the spear in the statue's hand penetrated deep into the ground with a loud bang.

The statue left the spear and snapped its head back to look at Kyle with glowing eyes.

Kyle cursed under his breath. However, even in such a situation, one could see his wriggling fingers nearing the table.

"The fuck is this thing?..."

His sentence was cut short because instead of taking out the spear the statue nocked another arrow in the bow and shot it toward Kyle.

Kyle grimaced. In an instant, blue flames emerged from thin air and enclosed his body. After the arrow reached the flames it crumbled into dust.

The statue staggered and rushed to the place where Kyle was standing, only to see nothing. It froze momentarily because even the table had disappeared into thin air.

On the other hand, Kyle rubbed his left hand as he appeared in another location. He suffered a jolt of sharp pain the moment he touched the table but instead of retreating, he forcefully tossed the whole table in his mind space. At least, the treasures were secure.

He looked at Bia's figure. She was flying inches away from the portal. He shouted with frustration. "Enter! Or else I am leaving you behind!"

The statue turned around to attack Kyle again but just like wind Kyle vanished again.

An evil laughter echoed in the room as he appeared in front of the portal.

"I told you I will take them all!"

Kyle mocked the mechanical voice. He didn't even look back and grabbed the stubborn bird who was still flying in front of the portal and jumped inside.

At the same time, the statue exploded with a burst of strength and tried to catch his figure but it was too late.

In the end, the statue's eyes dimmed and it staggered toward the same place where it was standing a minute ago.

After Kyle vanished within the portal an amused voice echoed in the air. It was very similar to the mechanical voice but one could sense emotions within the voice.

"Why do I feel like I have been cheated on?"

A thin transparent pure white body of energy formed in the room. A pair of large white wings adorned its round back.

"I think the statue has weakened or else how can a weak child bypass an (SS-)-Rank stone statue? Should I dismantle it?"

The body moved its hand to swat the statue but stopped midway.

"Wait this place is empty. The treasures are already gone. So, I don't think I need to increase the difficulty."

With a nod, it decided to follow the silver-haired kid silently. After all, its duty here was done.

In the next second, the bright light around the body vanished, illustrating a large white boar with white wings.

Just like Bia, the winged boar was a legendary beast with (SSS)-Rank talent. However, the beast has reached the end of his potential a long time ago.

In the end, instead of going with his master who stepped in the path of immortality, the boar decided to stay in this place because he knew he would only be a hindrance to his master. After all, he could not increase his strength even after consuming a lot of divine essence.

He had seen many individuals who arrived in this treasure land to fight for the divine essence but it was the first time he saw someone getting it so easily.

The boar smiled. The kid was indeed fun. Instead of staying in this boring castle, it was better to follow the silver-haired boy.

His size decreased and the boar turned into a small ball of fur before jumping into the portal behind Kyle. As for the 'last' treasure land. There was no need for him to stay in this place because the traps were intact and if someone stepped inside the castle they would activate by themselves.

He felt a little bad for those who would pass so many tests in this treasure land only to get nothing in return but it's not like he asked them to enter this place.

Meanwhile, after jumping inside the portal Kyle arrived outside the castle. He took a deep breath and released Bia from his grip.

Bia looked at him silently as Kyle hummed and patted her head with a smile.

"I want to see the usage of those golden drops of liquid. How about a drink?"

Bia felt a bad premonition when Kyle patted her head with an impure smile. She gave him a deadpan expression.

-'You want to test the treasure on me?'

Kyle's smile stiffened. He was really bad at coaxing others.

"No.. let's drink one each."

Bia nodded.

-'Good.'

With a sigh, Kyle looked inside his mind space. The wooden table was placed in a corner. He summoned the table outside but didn't touch it.

"The last time I touched it I felt a very painful jolt in my hand."

He took a deep breath and slowly touched the table. However, he didn't feel any pain. Kyle smirked and picked up two vials before tossing the whole table in his mind space.

Kyle sat down outside the castle gate. He placed one vial in front of Bia and decided to consume the other.

On the other hand, the fur ball that followed them outside had a mini heart attack when he saw how easily Kyle opened the vial and tossed the golden droplet in his mouth.

The boar didn't even think twice and barked out loudly.

"Nooo! How can you consume the divine essence without reaching the end of your talent or any preparation? Your body will explode!"

Still, he was a tad bit late because before he shouted, Kyle had already gulped down the droplet.

Chapter 277 My body will explode

Kyle's eyes widened when he heard the floating fur ball that appeared out of nowhere. Also, due to the sudden appearance he choked and started coughing. Still, the golden droplet was already down his throat.

He raised his head to look at the floating ball, it was completely white and round. He sucked in a deep breath and dread crept inside his heart.

'My body will explode?'

Kyle patted his chest to calm his muddled heart. On his left, Bia's expression hardened when she heard the floating ball exclamation but, before the duo could comprehend the situation, the ball vanished. In the next second, it appeared in front of Bia, and snatched the glass vial placed in front of her.

Kyle's eyes narrowed, too fast. He was not even able to see its afterimage! Just from this, he knew the other party was too strong. He silently summoned his flames and asked Bia to fly away quietly. No matter what was this strange thing, if it dared to attack he would not let it go!

Meanwhile, the winged boar grumbled under his breath. He was stunned speechless at the kid's boldness. How can someone just gulp down the divine essence without any preparation? Moreover, this divine essence was of the highest quality! Especially extracted by his master for those who could not go beyond their mortal talents.

The boar raised his eyes when he sensed a cold sensation around his body but a single wave of his paw was enough to stop the surging blue flames. In the next second, under Kyle and Bia's stunned gaze, the flame crumbled into dust and drifted away with the air.

Kyle's breath hitched in his throat when a heavy pressure descended on his body. It was not the first time he experienced a strong opponent pressure on his body but this pressure was different. He felt like a foreign energy was trying to squeeze his body ruthlessly.

Kyle gazed at the floating ball with a frosty expression. Amidst all this, his eyes trailed to the vial within the fur ball paw. Unlike him, the golden droplet inside Bia's vial was intact. He was not sure if what he heard a while ago was true or not but if it was true he was glad Bia did not consume the golden liquid.

The winged boar narrowed his eyes at the dust because he sensed a strong power within those blue flames but he could not pinpoint what it was. In the end, he threw the matter at the back of his head and cleared his throat with a serious expression.

"Kid, you are young and even though for some unknown reasons I can not sense your rank I...."

He stopped midway and blinked his eyes because the kid was nowhere to be seen. His astonished gaze darted around in a wild manner.

"Where the hell did he go?"

In an instant, his eyes zoomed at the sprinting figure descending the stairway. A speechless expression appeared on his face as he watched the flying bird and the running silver-haired boy.

Kyle gazed around the floating treasure land for an exit. He knew he and Bia could not go back from the way they came from because the path was closed after the tunnel caved in. Moreover, they were deep within a mountain!

'Bia! Can you see any other exit?'

-'I can not!'

Bia increased her speed and her wings fluttered frantically as she looked around for another path. In the middle of her frantic search, she noticed something strange the floating fur ball didn't move from its location, instead, it stayed in front of the castle gate motionlessly. The previous

exclamation where the floating ball said that Kyle's body would explode rang inside her head. She gazed at Kyle's running figure with a worried expression.

- 'Kyle are you feeling okay after consuming the golden liquid Or...'

Her worriful words were cut short because after Kyle jumped down from the stairway he dropped to his knees with a sweaty forehead.

- 'Are you alright!?''

Bia shouted with panic and dived toward Kyle at full speed.

Kyle groaned and shook his head, he saw her shadow from the corner of his eyes but soon his vision turned blurry. He could not help but curse under his breath.

'Ah.. don't tell me I am really going to explode. I swear I am never going to toss everything I found in my mouth!'

Still, even though he was cursing he did not feel any pain. Instead, a soothing and comfortable sensation spread out in his body. A strange tingling feeling swirled around his chest and drowsiness enveloped his senses.

Bia landed beside his body and cried out loudly before climbing his back with red-rimmed eyes.

- 'Kyle!'

At this moment, the winged boar finally moved. He wore a solemn expression as he made his way toward the weeping bird.

"Stop, now you can not save him."

Bia looked back at the floating ball and her gaze turned cold. She channeled her mana and increased her size to protect Kyle.

The boar raised a brow but he did not even flinch under Bia's towering figure. A deep sigh escaped his lips as he eyed Kyle's body.

"I thought it would be fun to follow this young man for a while.... What a pity he looked like someone who had a lot of potential but now he would die because of a single carelessness."

Bia's body tensed at the floating ball remarks. She wanted to speak and ask a lot of questions but she could not. Not until she reached (S-)-Rank.

This was the first time she felt so helpless. She closed her eyes to focus on the link between her and Kyle. A confused expression appeared on her face. Their link was intact. They could always feel each other emotions faintly and now the faint emotion Kyle was transferring toward her was utter bliss. The emotions were very similar to the ones he emitted during a long warm bath.

- 'Why the hell is he so comfortable when he is in such a dangerous situation!'

The brilliant feeling she was getting from Kyle proved that he was not in any type of pain. So, how was it impossible for him to explode? Bia's skeptical eyes shifted to the floating fur ball.

The winged boar was not looking at her that's why he failed to notice her narrowed eyes. He was more focused on Kyle because he wanted to retrieve all the vials of divine essence after the kid died.

He sighed and stopped beside Kyle with a patient look. After the kid's body exploded, he would collect all the storage rings on his fingers and look for the vials.

That's how one fire phoenix and one winged boar fixed their gaze on the silver-haired figure.

Chapter 278 Pretending to be on the death door

The time ticked by and with each passing second, the heaviness within the air thinned. Kyle's chest heaved up and down in rhythm and a calm expression painted his facial features. After the first minute, the boar was astonished at the kid because only a powerful body could cope with the divine essence for so long. However, even after five long minutes, the kid's body did not show any sign of explosion.

He could not help but get closer to the kid to see if he was really going to explode.

The boar's expression turned solemn because even after he secretly sent his mana toward the kid he did not sense anything.

'Is he wearing a concealing artifact? Strange even if the artifact is a high-rank one I could have at least sensed his rank.'

Bia watched the floating ball as it started circling Kyle with a solemn expression. Her eyes flickered with complicated emotions and if one looked closely they would notice the previous panic and worry had vanished from her eyes.

She slowly planted her left paw on Kyle's body while fixing her gaze on the floating ball. A familiar voice echoed in her head.

'Bia, don't tell me that thing is still here! I am already pretending to be on death door why is it not leaving!?'

-'Shut up! It's still here and now the white ball is looking at you with a strange expression. Jeez...you almost gave me a heart attack when you suddenly fainted!'

'I don't know why but suddenly I felt very sleepy and my eyes closed without my permission... Also, I don't think my body is going to explode. Instead, my strength is rising and now it's getting unbearable for me to stop a breakthrough! Hurry look for an exit so we can leave this place!'

-'... Don't tell me you are planning to use instant teleportation and vanish without me?'

Kyle paused for a few seconds and Bia almost had an urge to yank his hair.

'Of course not... I will break through and come back for you!'

In the next second, Kyle could not help but grimace in his mind because the mana within his body went wild. His body was filled to the brim with energy.

'Damn, I am really going to explode if I stop my breakthrough any further!'

He snapped his eyes open and without caring about the gasping floating ball, he propelled his body up and crossed his legs to sit properly.

Kyle gulped down huge breaths and a thin layer of sweat appeared on his body. The previous comfort was replaced by a prickling sensation that appeared in almost every part of his body. Bia's shocked eyes raked around him, she could feel it. The mana around Kyle was trembling violently in a ruthless manner.

Kyle's eyes widened when chilling blue particles mixed with a few golden sparks surged out from his body. In an instant, they gathered and enclosed his body to form a dense shield.

He could not help but shiver when his body temperature started dropping.

'It's so col..d'

Kyle gritted his teeth when a burst of coldness seeped into his bones like a tidal wave. Now, he finally felt pain. A lot of pain. A barely audible cry escaped his lips but he shut his mouth and clenched his fists to bear the pain. He could feel it, his whole body was freezing. If it was someone else they would have already frozen to death.

Bia sensed Kyle's discomfort and flew around the dense shield with a worried expression but she was not able to see anything because Kyle was completely enclosed in the blue shield.

-Hey, are you okay!'

A faint grumble sounded in her mind as a reply. With a deep breath, she started waiting for him to come out from the shield.

At this point, the floating ball was forgotten. The duo was too busy in their matters to care about anything else.

The boar tried to peer into the strange shield through his senses but a strong frightening force froze his senses. His eyes were so wide that they almost popped out from the sockets.

"How? I am clearly so much stronger... So why do I feel threatened."

He mumbled under his breath. His eyes traveled to the phoenix sitting beside the shield with a serious expression.

After contemplating for a few seconds, he got closer to the phoenix and spoke in her mind.

'Hey, what's with this human? How can he emit such a frightening energy!'

Bia almost had a mini heart attack when an unknown voice echoed in her mind. She snapped her head back to look at the floating ball.

-Is it you!?''

The boar scoffed and flickered his finger to increase his size. A bright light traveled across his body and in the next second, a pair of huge majestic wings entered Bia's vision. She gasped. The floating ball was a winged boar! Moreover, it was twice her original size!

'Yes, it's me, now tell me what's happening with this boy.'

Bia retreated backward with a deadpan expression.

-I don't know.'

The boar hummed and fixed his fascinated eyes on the shield. How long had it been since he saw something that made him shudder? He could not help but sigh. It's been a long time indeed.

'Anyway, little phoenix my name is Haylee. I am the guardian of the last treasure land. Also, no need to be so cautious. I won't harm you.'

The tension around Bia did not lessen but she gave the boar a nod. After all, the boar seemed very powerful and it would be dangerous for her and Kyle if she made him angry.

- 'My name is Bia. Also, can you tell me about the divine essence? Why did you say Kyle's body would explode... Now this is happening....'

The boar lay down beside her with a complicated expression.

'I don't know what happened to this human but I can tell you about the divine essence.'

Chapter 279 A chance to enter the ethereal Ascendant state

The boar started with a sigh and told Bia that the divine essence was not simple. It was extracted from his master body who reached the divine rank many years ago.

The essence was a brilliant treasure gifted to the winged boar who could never go beyond his talent. However, even after the boar reached the end of his talent and consumed the essence he was not able to step in the path of immortality. He failed his master who bore so much pain to squeeze out the essence from his divine body.

Sadness flashed through the boar's eyes as he thought about the past. He shook his head and continued.

'I was not able to benefit from the essence and it only increased my lifespan that's why master placed the remaining essence in this realm for the younger generation. After all, the essence could give them a chance to enter the ethereal Ascendant state!'

The boar's eyes shone with respect for his master because even though every divine being could extract the essence it was a very painful process and there was a chance they would lose a part of their strength that's why not many dared to extract the essence from their bodies.

Bia heard the boar silently. There was a lot she did not understand but when she heard about the 'ethereal Ascendant state' her eyes widened with shock because Kyle had told her about this before. She looked through her memory and recalled that the Ascendant state could only appear when a mortal reached (SSS)+Rank! It was the stage in which they would gain enlightenment from the universe and if they passed the stage they would shed mortality and step in a new path!

In an instant, the atmosphere around her turned heavy and the boar voice turned solemn.

'The essence is a treasure but one had to reach the end of their mortal talent before consuming it because mortal bodies are too weak to hold such a tremendous amount of energy. However, if they had reached the end of their potential there would be a blockage in their bodies. The divine essence would tear into that blockage and directly send them into the ethereal Ascendant state for a few minutes. Afterward, everything would be up to the consumer. They could either clear the milestone and receive enlightenment from the universe or if they failed just like me they could increase their lifespan.'

He paused for a few seconds and gazed at Bia. She was very focused and subconsciously lowered her guard.

'There is a reason I said that his body would explode. If the ones who consumed the divine essence don't have a blockage in their body their bodies would be filled to brim with too much energy. The essence would tear their veins and skin before making its way out.'

Bia sucked in a deep breath and snapped her head toward the shield. The boar hummed.

'I am not sure what's the matter with this kid. His body should have exploded after he consumed the essence but for some reason, it did not...'

His next sentence was so low that Bia was not able to hear.

'Instead, I think there is something within his body that is trying to consume the essence...'

The boar's eyes narrowed. There was another use of the divine essence. The ones who had already cleared the Ascendant state could consume it to increase their strength or to construct a new body for themselves. However, it was clear the kid was not strong because if he was there was no way he would be able to step into this realm due to the restrictions.

'This kid's body has something stronger than the divine essence. How strange. He is still a mortal but his body can hold such a strong power.'

The boar and the phoenix waited for a long time as they watched the shield. The area around them was bright due to the shimmering floating castle. Moreover, due to the enclosed space, they could not tell how much time passed.

Bia felt hungry but the one who was supposed to feed her was still inside a shield. She grumbled and after observing that the boar did not have any plan to attack she decreased her size.

Meanwhile, a wisp of white fog seeped out from Kyle's mouth as he opened his eyes with a blank expression. His green eyes shone brightly and in the next second, the brightness gathered together to form a thin darkish emerald color circle around his irises. If before his eyes were pure green now with the darkish circle they looked deeper and unfathomable.

Kyle massaged his aching temples, his bones creaked with the slightest movement.

"The fuck..."

A curse escaped from his lips. It was so painful and due to the pain, he did not even notice when he lost consciousness. Still, in the sitting position, he narrowed his eyes at the bright shield around his body.

He gingerly reached out and touched the shield. In an instant, the whole shield shattered into tiny particles. The particles swirled around his body before they entered his body smoothly. He felt a tingling cold sensation around his body for a split second that would freeze a normal person to death.

Kyle blinked and stood up but because of his aching body, he staggered and dropped to his knees again.

A familiar voice echoed in his mind and he moved his eyes to look at Bia. However, all colors drained from his face when he saw a huge winged boar standing beside the tiny Bia.

He stuttered out with a dry laugh.

"Don't..tell me it's the floating fur ball?"

Bia gave him a nod and Kyle almost had the urge to go inside the shield again. However, he did not show anything on his face and turned to look at the boar.

"So you are not going to attack us?"

To his surprise instead of the boar, Bia replied with a tinge of respect as she flew toward him.

- 'Don't worry Haylee said he would not attack. He only followed us because he was bored after staying in a single place for a long time.'

Chapter 280 I am (S-)-Rank right now!

Kyle snapped his eyes and looked at Bia with a questioning gaze.

'Why do I feel like I missed something very very important? Also, why are you speaking like you know this boar very well!'

Bia chuckled. Of course, she had to find a source of food because even after a long time Kyle did not emerge out from the shield. In the end, she decided to befriend the large boar and she succeeded.

The boar was very kind and considerate! He offered her a lot of delicious fruits! However, now was not the time to divulge in this matter. Bia eyed Kyle with a serious expression.

- 'Are you alright? According to Haylee, you spend four whole days in the strange shield!'

Kyle's eyes widened.

"What? I was unconscious for four days!"

He could not help but suck in a deep breath and it finally dawned on him that he was in the middle of a breakthrough before he lost consciousness. Kyle's heart thundered in his chest when he stopped focusing on his tired body and noticed his strength.

He froze and pinched himself with utter disbelief.

"Am I imagining?"

Bia heard his murmur and snuggled closer to his neck with a worried expression. Kyle's eyes turned crescent and a wide smile appeared on his face. If not for his limp body he would have probably started sprinting due to the amount of happiness he was feeling right now.

"Bia! I broke through!"

Bia hissed due to his sudden movement and tapped his neck.

- 'I know, don't tell me you turned crazy after spending four days in the shield.'

"No no! it's not a normal breakthrough! I jumped a whole rank! I am (S-)-Rank right now! OMG, I can't believe this!"

Kyle could not help but gasp at his strength. He becomes so strong in the blink of an eye! He recalled how jumping to a higher rank is so hard and he was damn sure he needed one more year to reach (S-)-Rank even if he consumed a lot of treasures! He laughed out loudly almost ready to stretch his stiff body and go for a long run.

However, a clear deep voice shattered his happy movement. It was the white boar. He made his way toward Kyle with a curious expression.

"Indeed I still can not sense anything from you. Can you release your aura for a second?"

He looked at Kyle with blazing eyes because he wanted to know what type of high-grade artifact the kid used to hide everything about himself.

Kyle thought for a few seconds and after confirming with Bia that the boar would not harm him he gingerly held out his hand with bright eyes.

"Okay but before give me back the vial you snatched from Bia. It's very useful!"

A speechless expression appeared on the boar's face. He could not help but scoff. If not for Bia he would have already slapped this brat away. Still, he took out the vial and placed it in Kyle's palm.

Kyle's eyes gleamed when he eyed the vial. This treasure was very precious! He would use half of it and sell the other half to earn a large amount of wealth! hehe.

He chuckled and released his aura. In an instant cold wind spread out from his body and a strong (S-)-Rank aura appeared around him.

The boar sensed his aura and asked about the reason why he could not feel Kyle's rank but he did not get any answer. So, he just gave Kyle a reluctant nod and told him everything about the divine essence.

After an hour, Kyle's expression was grim as he looked at the boar.

"So, you are saying you are not useful because in this realm you can not help or harm anyone due to the rules but you want to follow me?"

The boar nodded. He was not allowed to kill because if he did he would fall into a deep slumber. He could only pressure or injure others to make them submit.

Kyle gazed at Bia. He wanted to slap his past self who ran away after sensing the boar pressure. After another minute of discussion, he agreed.

"Alright, you can follow us silently. You are not useful but if we are in danger just release your pressure on our enemies so they run away."

Haylee agreed immediately. It was not a bad deal.

Kyle stretched his body and patted his clothes before looking around with a frown.

"Now we just need to find an exit."

When he talked about the exit, the boar raised his paw with a guilty expression.

"I hid the exit...."

Kyle narrowed his eyes and placed Bia on his head. He staggered forward and patted the boar's body with a smile. Strangely his eyes were fixed on the boar's large wings.

"Haylee led the way. Also... if only I could ride you...?"

Bia almost tripped on his head and hid her head inside his hair.

-'Kyle!'

However, Kyle didn't care about her and looked at the boar with an expectant expression. It seemed he could still fulfill his shattered dreams.

Haylee raised his brow and eyed Kyle with a mischievous glint.

"You just reached (S-)-Rank. So, I believe you can fly now. There is no need for you to ride me."

Kyle's shattered dreams of riding a huge beast drifted away with the wind. He sighed with a lost expression.

'It seems I am not fated to ride a large flying beast.'

On the other hand, Haylee chuckled and with a wave of his paw a long narrow path opened in front of Kyle. He pointed at the path and before Kyle could question him further his huge body turned into a flash of light and vanished within the shadows to follow behind Kyle quietly.

Kyle groaned and entered the opening to finally leave this mountain.

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