

Bloodline 281

Chapter 281 Trying to fly

A mud-filled hand popped out from a small opening hidden behind a large boulder. The air around the boulder was clean with a hint of flowery smell.

A few loud coughs sounded and Kyle finally crawled out from the round tiny opening. He patted his chest and wiped the mud clinging to his hair and face.

"Damn it! If I knew I have to crawl in the tunnel to find the exit no way in hell I would have entered this shitty opening!"

He sniffed his arm and cursed again. His ears twitched when a barely audible laugh sounded behind him and he was damn sure it was Haylee!

He snapped his head back with anger but found nothing. The boar's hiding skills were indeed incredible. Even with Kyle's newfound (S-)-Rank strength he wasn't able to pinpoint the boar's location.

He took a deep breath and ignored the infuriating laugh. But, it seemed the world was hell-bent on angering him because in the next second another laugh echoed in his ears. And this time the culprit was none other than his own bonded beast!

Kyle's expression hardened, he gazed at the clean and pristine red bird sitting on a nearby rock. Unlike him, Bia was enclosed in a thin white shield. He was not sure what happened between Bia and Haylee when he was inside the shield but the duo seemed to have gotten closer. It was evident because the boar was giving her special treatment!

'Aghh! Did he not say he wasn't allowed to help or harm others? This is blatant favoritism!'

Kyle remembered each second of the torture he suffered after he entered the narrow tunnel. How he had to crawl in the mud for hours and how his precious set of clothes was gone just like that. He swore inwardly he was going to make Haylee regret his decision of not enclosing him in a white shield as well!

While he was thinking about how he should exact his revenge, he finally noticed the scenery around him. Kyle ignored Bia and hurriedly moved to look behind the boulder.

He raised his brow slightly. All around the boulder, the ground was filled with flowers of every kind. Kyle shook his head to remove the remnant of mud from his hair and briskly moved between the flowers. The ground beneath his feet was soft and mushy. He looked up and an astonished expression appeared on his face. He was still on the same mountain he appeared after he entered the secret realm but now it was not dark and gloomy. Instead, the mountain was filled with life and greenery.

"Woah, do not tell me we just got teleported to another realm?"

Kyle's voice was dim but because he was alone, his voice traveled almost in all directions. He froze for a second when he caught sight of the countless floating islands beneath the clear sky, each with a big castle on the top.

"All these islands are very similar to the one I saw inside the mountain. Don't tell me..."

- 'They are all treasure lands.'

Bia completed his sentence with a chuckle, she spread her wings and started flying above his head. Kyle's eyes twinkled with mirth. He rubbed his hands ready to enter the nearby treasure land, but before he could take a step forward Haylee's astonished voice sounded behind him.

"Kid, you are inside a newly grown herb garden. Don't tell me you are going to leave without taking any?"

Kyle stopped and blinked his eyes. After a second, the meaning behind the boar's words finally dawned on him. He looked below at the hundreds of vibrant flowers, swaying around his feet. His eyebrow could not help but twitch. Now he finally believed the fact that he was inside an ancient secret realm.

"Are you sure these flowers are herbs? I don't even know their usage."

He bent down and plucked one of the flowers from the ground and observed it carefully. Indeed they did not look normal because on each petal he could sense abundant of dense mana. Kyle sucked in a deep breath and gazed at the rows of flowers.

Without even waiting for another second, he dived down and started plucking everything. An evil laughter echoed in the eerily silent mountain. Anyway, he would sell half and give the other half to his master who could very well know what these flowers are used for.

After an hour, the winged boar started regretting his decision to tell the kid about the herbs because the kid didn't even leave behind a single petal! The once vibrant part of the mountain was left barren when Kyle was done.

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Kyle sighed blissfully and peeked inside his mind space to look at the huge mountain of flowers.

"Good."

His ears twitched when he heard a faint distant cry. It felt like someone was crying for help. He frowned for a second but ignored it because first, it was too far away. Second, he was inside a dangerous secret realm where every individual was responsible for their own life.

Kyle grabbed the hem of his shirt and tossed it away with one swift movement. He took out a clean piece of cloth and wiped his bare upper body before donning a brown hoodie, especially to hide his bright silver hair.

"Tsk.. it's fine for the time being. I will change after I took a bath somewhere."

After he was clean, Bia dived down and landed on his head. She narrowed her eyes at the floating islands.

- 'Which one?'

"Of course the nearest one."

Kyle eyed the nearest island but before Bia could tell him about the location of the stairway leading upward toward the island, he took a deep breath and started gathering mana under his feet. A

startled cry came out from Bia's throat when Kyle suddenly lost his balance and staggered backward.

"Woah.. Woah... be steady..."

-'What the hell are you doing!'

Bia hurriedly balanced herself on his head and grabbed his hoodie with her sharp toenails. Kyle chuckled and once again gathered mana under his feet.

"I am trying to fly. If you can't let me climb your back then I can fly on my own. After all, I broke through to (S-)-Rank. The rank where one can fly naturally."

This time he did not stagger and made his posture steady. Kyle's smile widened when his feet left the ground, he felt a tingling sensation all over his body due to the weight of natural gravity pressing down on his shoulders.

"Well, it's not as hard as I expected."

Haylee laughed dryly at his exclamation. If he remembers clearly usually it takes a month or two for humans to get familiar with the sensation of floating after they broke through to (S-)-Rank. Now this kid just tried twice and succeeded. Not to mention he was saying it was not difficult at all! How infuriating.

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Chapter 282 Golden Moths

Kyle stretched his legs in the air twice and waited for a few seconds to maintain his balance. His eyes trailed off toward the nearest island as he moved his body left and right. A few cold gusts of wind caressed his face gently and before he knew it, he got the gist of how to move his body mid-air.

A joyful expression appeared on his face and without even thinking twice he changed his direction to go straight toward the castle shining atop of the nearest island.

Bia sighed with a hint of frustration. He learned how to fly just like that? She shook her head and tossed the matter at the back of her mind. Anyway, it's not like she knew another human who learned to fly in front of her.

Kyle arrived above the nearest floating island, he circled the castle twice before gazing far, all around at the other floating islands with narrowed eyes. A few tiny dark flying figures appeared in his eyes. He focused his vision on one of the figures and frowned.

"Demi-humans? So many? Hmm... their wings looked a little different from Sinon's. Moreover, what's with their bodies... they are so... ugly."

The winged boar heard his exclamation, he wanted to correct Kyle that the flying figures were from the Dark race but he was distracted by the old and serene voice inside his head. It was the illusionary old man. The moment Haylee left the last treasure land. His presence was known by Guil and the illusionary old man. The winged boar sighed and vanished to talk with the old man because it had been a while since he left his slumbering place.

"I hope you stay safe kid until I come back. I can see a lot of potential in you."

Kyle heard the drifting voice but his eyes did not move away from the floating figures. His expression chilled when he saw how one of the winged figures killed a running individual without mercy. A sudden old almost blurry image appeared in his mind.

"I don't think they are demi-humans. Why do I feel like I have seen them somewhere before."

Bia changed her place and sat down on his shoulder with a serious expression.

-"Where?"

Kyle's thoughts trailed off to a distant memory before his eyes widened slightly.

"That book I stole.. I mean I borrowed from the red-haired woman from the Tower of Opportunity."

Bia looked at him with a strange expression saying, you still remember about it?

Once again, Kyle felt grateful that Elder Han secured his storage rings or else all his hard-earned materials would have gone down the drain. He dived down and softly landed in front of the castle gate before rummaging through his mind space to look for the book.

While searching, he made his way toward the castle gate and pushed it roughly. A loud creaking sound resounded in the air and after a second pitch black darkness spilled out from the gate.

"So, it's going to be a similar experience every time?"

Kyle mumbled with a sigh and stepped into the darkness, after his figure vanished, the castle gate was closed again with a loud bang.

Amidst the silence, three golden arm-sized moths with crimson wings emerged from the shadows. The moths swirled around the castle gate and a few childish giggles spilled out from their throats. They looked cute and adorable if not for the rows of razor-sharp teeth inside their mouths and the dense (S+)-Rank aura around their bodies.

"Did you see that human, he smells so tasty."

"Shhhhhh- keep your voice low he is still nearby."

The moths murmured among themselves with hushed voices. It was rare for them to leave their home because they were strong enough to feed themselves. After all, with their incredible sense of smell, they could just kill and eat the monsters who accidentally walked around their home. Also, the treasure lands were closed off for a long time, and due to the influence of the dark race, everything basically tasted the same.

The trio was overjoyed after the treasure lands opened again because the incredible smell in the air was enough to make their mouth watery. But, the moment they left their base to look around for herbs and treasures they smelled an otherworldly delicious and tempting aura from a certain direction. And to their surprise and shock, the aura was coming from a two-legged human. The red bird flying around the human also had a delicious smell but compared to the silver-haired human it was nothing.

Still, even after locating the alluring smell they didn't dare approach the human because first they sensed a very strong opponent beside the human. And second, even though they could smell the human they were not able to pinpoint his strength. That's why, the trio was dejected but before they could leave with regrets the strong presence around the human vanished into thin air.

"I want to eat him."

One of the moths voiced his desire to his brothers and the crimson wings behind him fluttered with anticipation.

"Me too me too.. I want a part as well!"

The last moth smacked his brothers with a serious expression.

"Tsk, the human is so tiny and slender. If we ate him now I don't think we would be satisfied! Also, there's a bad-smelling thing inside his body. Let's fatten him up first then we will take him to our home and remove the bad-smelling thing from his body. Only then can we eat the human with bliss."

The two moth's eyes sparkled with awe when they heard their brother's plan. Indeed the oldest was the most intelligent. One of them tilted his head with an innocent smile that betrayed all of the cruel words spilling out from his mouth.

"What about the bird? It's not as good as the human but the smell around her is delicious as well."

After hearing the question all three of them started thinking deeply before the oldest gave his opinion with a serious expression.

"The bird is too tiny as well. I can sense it's a beast just like us. So, let's cage the bird and feed it until it turns into a large beast. We can save her for the future."

Three heads moved up and down with satisfied expressions. Indeed after reaching (S+)-Rank the trio had become so much intelligent.

Chapter 283 '0179' Treasure land

A while ago, when Kyle stepped into the darkness. He felt a sudden pull around his body and before he knew it he was standing outside the boundary of a large platform.

Kyle shook his head to remove the remnant of haziness from his eyes. The moment he lifted his gaze a bloody sight reflected in his vision. The platform was turned upside down with scattered pieces of debris everywhere. He eyed the few dead bodies lying lifelessly on the ground before looking at the four alive individuals fighting with two tanned, dark-skinned men.

As if noticing Kyle's gaze, a pair of dark beady eyes looked back at him with an ominous glint. But, before the winged man could make Kyle's presence known to his other companion, one of his opponents struck him with a bolt of lightning.

Kyle's expression hardened and Bia narrowed her eyes at the platform.

-'What the hell is happening?'

'I think the winged men are trying to kill the others because I can sense they are stronger.'

As he replied to Bia, Kyle finally found the book he was looking around for in his mind space. He summoned the book out and stepped on the platform when a familiar yet unfamiliar mechanical voice drifted to his ears.

"Welcome new participants to the '0179' treasure land."

"Counting the number of new arrivals...."

Kyle ignored the voice but the people fighting in the room stopped for a second. They immediately moved their eyes to look at him. The only human among the four individuals fighting with the winged men cried out loudly.

"It's a human! Not a winged creature!"

On the other hand, the winged men's expressions turned ugly because with the addition of Kyle, the fight was not in their favor anymore. The mechanical voice sounded again but this time it left everyone dumbfounded.

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

"Loading... unable to detect the rank of the human... Automatic rank would be assigned."

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

"Please do your best to find the correct answer to the path in front of you."

Kyle's eyes didn't move away from the fight. Due to his presence, the two winged men retreated to a distance and the three elves and one human finally had some time to tend to their injuries.

In the midst of the heavy atmosphere, Kyle sensed two pairs of heated eyes directed toward him. He raised his brow, the winged men were staring at Bia with greedy eyes.

'Oh? It's seemed they know about the word 'Divine'.'

He casually opened the book and traced the first name written inside with his figures.

'Demons... No, these winged men are a little different.'

All around him, the platform was silent as everyone stared at him with strange expressions. What the hell was he doing reading a book in the middle of a place where a life and death battle was ongoing?

The injured human could not take it when he saw how one of the winged men was secretly preparing to attack the new arrival. He looked at the hoodied boy and shouted with frustration.

"What are you doing? Come here! These two creatures are dangerous. One is (A-)-Rank while the other is (B+)-Rank. They killed all the participants who entered this castle!"

He was infuriated when Kyle ignored him and shut his mouth with a deadpan expression. He looked at the three elves and they slowly started moving backward toward the door present at the other end of the platform. Anyway, if the hoodied boy was so hell-bent on dying under those creatures they would let him die.

Opposite them, after flipping a few more pages of the book Kyle stopped at a familiar description and rubbed his chin with a serious expression.

"Dark race. One of the two important subsidiary branches of the demon race. Woah I can not believe there are more races except for the ones I know."

He mumbled softly and tossed the book in his mind space before gazing at the two winged men.

"So, the two of you are from the dark race? If yes, why are you killing others?..."

Kyle stopped for a second when a sudden realization struck him.

'Wait, according to the book just like demons the dark race feasted on all types of living flesh, and due to their cruel nature, they liked to destroy peace. More specifically they can do anything to gain strength... don't tell me the people from the dark race are trapped in this realm.'

Bia blinked at Kyle's evaluation.

-If it's true doesn't that mean the ones who entered this secret realm are in danger.'

The winged men looked surprised because after killing a few outsiders they were sure the outside world had forgotten about their presence. They looked at Kyle with amusement and one of them suddenly grinned widely. He was secretly gathering dense mana behind himself in the form of a destructive black fireball and it was almost ready. At first, he was a little skeptical about the new arrival rank but the dark fireball was strong enough to kill even an individual with (S-)-Rank strength so he was confident to finish this little boy with one attack.

He licked his lips and looked at Bia with creepy eyes. In his whole life he had only ever heard in words about 'divine beasts' but to think he would see one such beast with a punny human. It was unbelievable.

"Human how about you asked this question to your ancestors?"

The moment these words left his mouth, he immediately tossed the black fireball toward Kyle. A maniac laughter echoed in the air when the winged man saw Kyle's stunned expression.

The human and the three injured elves froze in their spots, they looked at Kyle's figure and sighed inwardly. Still, they took advantage of the few seconds they got and immediately lugged toward the door with everything they had. After all, with their condition, they would not last long if they fought with those winged creatures again.

Even after a few seconds, the four of them did not hear anything behind them. They gritted their teeth and the first one to arrive in front of the door was the human.

He sighed with tears brimming in his eyes and stretched out his hand to push the door when a familiar hoodied boy appeared in his vision.

He froze mere inches away from the door with his mouth hung open. The three elves behind him also halted their steps.

A barely audible voice escaped the human trembling lips.

"How ..?"

As if waiting for the question, two loud painful cries echoed behind them. Just like the three elves, the human nervously looked back and his eyes widened with disbelief.

The black fireball was frozen mid-air with wisps of blue flames dancing all around its surface even before it reached the hoodied boy's location. The two winged creatures were crying in pain because everything below their necks was frozen into ice.

Not even sparing the shocked individuals a glance, Kyle looked back at the flying bird with a guilty expression.

Bia cursed and dived toward him with an angry expression.

-Damn it! At least inform me if you are going to use instant teleportation!'

'Sorry, I forget..'

Kyle rubbed her head and pushed the door open. The individuals standing beside him finally snapped out of their stupor and looked at him with wary expressions.

The human even pointed his finger at him while stuttering something incomprehensible.

"You....You.."

Kyle gazed at them once and stepped in the door without looking back.

After he left, the human looked at the three elves standing beside him.

"Those bright eyes.... I remember now! Is not he the one who caused a commotion in front of the realm gate? That bird sitting on his head it's the phoenix right!"

The elves looked at each other with complicated expressions. They did not dare to comment on it because just a while ago they tried to abandon the same person.

In the end, they all decided to wait for a while before they entered the door to avoid the hoodied boy. Little did they know, the hoodied boy had an old cleaning habit. No matter allowed or not he always took each and every useful treasure from the places he visited.

Chapter 284 It's strange

After the door closed behind them, Bia's grip on Kyle's hoodie tightened. She slowly gazed at the dimly lit hall in front of them.

-Hey, are you alright.'

Kyle stopped in his steps. He did not show it before because he was in front of so many people but it seemed he could not hide it from her. After all, she could sense his emotions faintly. He would be lying if he said he was not shaken by his actions.

"They died right? Those two winged men. I thought I controlled my strength..."

-Their hearts stopped due to extreme coldness even before you tried to control the flames. Well, they are cruel beings and they killed so many people so it's not bad for your first kill.'

Kyle's brows knitted together. He thought he would feel guilty if he killed someone other than monsters. But, it seemed he was overthinking, he did not feel anything even when he took their lives so easily. The only emotion he felt was shock because it was the first time he was not able to control the blue flames within his body properly. It was a fleeting moment but he sensed it clearly.

The moment the winged man hurled the black fireball at him, he quickly surrounded the two men and the black fireball with his flames. However, before he could control the flames around their bodies the flames went out of control and froze their hearts.

"Is it because of those dark particles mixed with the mana they used? The blue flames are like a part of me. So it's very hard to believe I was not able to act on time."

Kyle grazed his thumb over his finger with a contemplating expression. In the end, his only guess was that the black particles within the mana of those two men were some kind of impurities and it seems his flames clashed or maybe wanted to eliminate those impurities that's why they spiraled out of control.

He took a step forward to get a closer look at the hall ahead. It was mostly empty, except for the four unmoving human-size statues standing quietly in pairs on both sides.

"It's strange..."

- 'What?'

Bia nestled closer to his hair, eagerly waiting for his answer. However, instead of speaking, Kyle drew his sword and briskly walked to stand between the statues.

He could see another door at the other end of the hall but he just wanted to engage in a fight to clear his mind. As if noticing his movement, in an instant, the statues came to life but they were too weak. Maybe it was due to the treasure land evaluation of Kyle and Bia's rank but not even a single statue was above (C+)-Rank. That's why Kyle did not even take a minute to finish them off.

He stood between the scattered fragments and glanced at his stats from the corner of his eyes. Below his name the word 'Celestial' was shining just as brightly as he remembered.

'It's strange that I possess it when my parents are just ordinary humans. It's also strange that I never felt competitive when I was young even though usually if someone is getting mocked they would try to become better. It's also strange that I somehow found motivation the moment I knew I had something special within my body without even questioning its origin... There are so many strange things but why is it that I never question them?'

Kyle's heart suddenly thumped loudly. His usually calm face crumbled into displeasure.

'Ugh.. I think I should talk with my father after leaving this place. Maybe I inherited this bloodline from my ancestors. Still, I don't think our ancestors are powerful or else father would have bragged about it a lot.'

He felt like he was only a step away from knowing something very very important but his lack of knowledge made it impossible for him to go any further.

- 'Kyle, I think you should look back.'

Bia's voice jolted him awake, and he blinked. Darkness overshadowed his body and Kyle snapped his head back to look at the massive figure looming behind him. It was another statue, but from the look of it, the statue was reformed using the broken fragments scattered around the hall. And lo behold, it was (A)-Rank! Was the treasure land kidding with him? He just paused in the hall for a minute and now the danger increased tenfold!

'Bia fly.'

Bia had been looking at the statue for a while now. She thought Kyle would fight again because the statue did not look powerful enough to harm him. That's why it took her a while to fully grasp the meaning behind Kyle's words.

- 'Huh?'

But, before she could get an answer Kyle was already gone.

- 'Wahhhh You bastard!'

Her body plummeted downward at a fast speed but fortunately, she quickly unfurled her wings to regain her balance mid-air. Bia looked at Kyle who was standing at the end of the hall, opening the next door without any care of the world and her eyes blazed with anger.

-This time I am going to pluck all your hair! Just you wait!

Kyle pushed the door open with a tiny smile and looked back innocently.

'But I gave you a heads up didn't I?'

Bia rolled her eyes with frustration. After cursing him for the nth time in her mind she flapped her wings to follow behind him.

Kyle whistled with a smile and stepped into the next door. He narrowed his crescent eyes when he appeared in another similar hall.

At first, it was completely fine. He casually swept his eyes on the countless huge white-scaled lizards standing in the middle of the hall. The aura around the biggest lizard was slightly higher than (C+)-Rank. While the remaining lizards were all (C-)-Rank. However, after a few seconds, the smile playing at the corner of his lips stiffened because unlike before he did not spot any exit.

'Hey Bia is it only me who is unable to see the exit?'

Bia's eyebrow twitched. She knew fighting the lizards wasn't difficult but the lizards were just too many in numbers! And to make matters worse the hall was not even big enough to accommodate a fight containing so many monsters. What if in the midst the ceiling dropped on their heads?

-I don't know why, but my gut feeling is telling me that for some reason these treasure lands know you are cheating with an artifact.'

Kyle shot her a glare.

'I wonder who is the one with (C+)-Rank evaluation because the last time I remember I was only given (F-)-Rank evaluation by the treasure land!'

After taking a normal breath he very slowly took a step back. However, it seemed the lizards had eyes on their backs because in an instant many pairs of glowing blue eyes snapped back and locked onto his location.

He wanted to curse but stopped mid-way to stare blankly at the ungrateful bird who was sitting on his head just a second ago.

Bia flapped her wings to fly up toward the ceiling before gazing at Kyle with deadly serious eyes that betrayed all the glee she was feeling inside. After all due to Kyle's strength that was increasing almost with each passing second it was becoming incredibly rare for her to get her little revenge.

-Be careful, some of the lizards are drooling.'

Chapter 285 I am not here

Kyle glared at Bia with resentful eyes, but he could not refute her words because some of the lizards were indeed drooling after they saw him.

'Why is it that all the monsters I encounter in this realm want to eat me? I am not delicious at all!'

He clicked his tongue and before the lizards could pounce at him he kicked off his left foot to jump in another direction.

As if waiting for the cue, the moment he jumped, two long scaly tails attacked the place he was standing a second ago.

The ground shook with loud banging sounds and just like Bia feared, the impact blasted a big chunk of the targeted area into many pieces. Even the ceiling was trembling! She flew back a little to avoid a sneaky attack from one of the lizards.

- "The hall is going to collapse if this continues! Just kill them directly!"

Bia choked on her breath when Kyle's floating figure suddenly appeared beside her. She controlled her loud thundering heart before cursing the person who created the skill instant teleportation!

- "You bastard! I am not talking to you anymore!"

Kyle controlled the urge to laugh because this time he could sense it she was really angry. He secretly reprimanded himself for being so mean to his one and only personal future (SSS+)-Rank divine beast and hurriedly explained to salvage the situation.

"This time it was kind of urgent. I won't do it so suddenly again."

Bia harrumphed coldly and turned her face away clearly showing her displeasure. And that's how the human and bird become engrossed in their world. Completely ignoring the presence of the countless glowing eyes staring at them from below.

The strangely peaceful atmosphere in the hall was shattered when one of the strongest lizards hissed furiously at Kyle and Bia. Its long scaly tail slapped the ground loudly before a bright light gathered between its brows. Within a second, the light turned into a round glowing orb.

"Oh shit!"

Kyle cursed. The moment he saw the orb the hair at the back of his head stood up. In an instant, he grabbed Bia and tossed her in another direction before vanishing behind her.

Bia let out a piercing scream when Kyle threw her aside. Due to the sudden force around her body, she lost her balance and tumbled downward. With a startled cry, she flapped her wings to stop her fall but as if the whole world was trying to make her miserable today before she could balance herself mid-air a massive white-scaled lizard leaped out toward her with an open jaw.

- "Ahhhh Don't!"

Bia's pounding heart almost leaped out from her ribcage. In an instant, bright crimson flames spread out from her body to enclose her in a round shield.

Kyle hissed due to the sudden heat when he appeared beside her after using instant teleportation. Still, he ignored the heat and grabbed her body before she could become someone's else food in front of his eyes.

"Calm dow.."

He stopped mid-sentence because the white orb gathered between the lizard's brows shot up like a beam. It directly passed through the previous place he was floating with lightning-fast speed before crashing straight into the ceiling with a loud bang. The hall trembled with broken debris flying

everywhere and a huge dust cloud gathered in front of Kyle who coughed and waved his hand to clear his vision.

His eyebrow couldn't help but twitch when a loud and clear cracking sound echoed in the hall. He looked up blankly. A large crack painted the once smooth surface of the ceiling.

"Damn it! These lizards are crazy! Don't they know if they destroyed the hall they are going to perish with me?"

Kyle grabbed Bia who appeared lifeless. The reason, just a moment ago she lost half of her soul. Her heart was still beating loudly inside the confinement of her chest.

-'Should I just faint? After all, I don't think I will stay sane until the end..'

Her pitiful appearance did not deter Kyle even a bit. He shook her body casually and said with a serious expression.

"What are you doing? We are in the middle of a battle. Go distract the lizards who are behind me."

A vein bulged on Bia's forehead. With a loud angry shriek, she flapped her wings vigorously to release herself from his grip. In an instant, aggressive crimson flames surged around her whole body.

"Wait.."

Kyle swiftly backed away to a distance when Bia suddenly increased her size. Even the many lizards closing toward them silently from all directions halted in their place. They simultaneously cried out in surprise due to the sudden appearance of a huge fire beast.

-'You punny lizards!'

Bia's anger was not directed at the culprit. Instead, she cursed and attacked the lizards. She flapped her wings repeatedly and a large fire tornado formed below her figure. Within a second, the fierce flames picked up their pace, making the tornado swirl around with more intensity.

Soon, the hall was filled with harsh heat and strong winds. The lizards cried out in pain when aggressive crimson flames licked their bodies and to avoid the flames they scattered trying to find any possible cover.

The combination of the fire's destructive force and the lizards' instinct to flee created a dramatic and dangerous situation. Even though Bia's huge frame and aggressive flames were not enough to kill the lizard after all she was only (C+)-Rank but the flames were successful in spreading momentarily panic among them. So much so that the lizards even forget to use their strange skill.

Amidst all this, now, if someone saw Kyle they would notice how he secretly hid his presence. He even went as far as to stand in a shadowed corner just to make himself invisible.

'I am not here.'

He slowly very slowly landed on the ground when the lizards were distracted. He eyed the ceiling that was almost on the verge of collapse after Bia's eruption.

'Sigh, it's impossible to save the hall now. Let's just end this.'

He rubbed his left foot on the ground and in an instant wisps of blue flames gathered around his legs. A far contrast to the fiery crimson flames burning almost in every corner of the hall, Kyle's flames just calmly spread out to cover the whole ground.

The already panicked lizards freaked out when coldness seeped into their bodies from below. The ones who were injured due to Bia weren't able to cope with Kyle's blue flames and immediately succumbed to their end.

In the end, when the duo was finished, the once clean and pristine hall was in utter mess. The ground was filled with ice sculptures and broken debris lying around everywhere. Half of the ceiling had already collapsed and the remaining half was just barely hanging.

Chapter 286 Just a wandering person

Bia moved her eyes to look all around the hall. It was completely turned upside down.

- 'So... they are all dead? If not.. I don't think I can continue.'

She took a deep breath to calm her raging heartbeat and slowly decreased her size. Right now, she did not have even an ounce of mana within her body. Her eyelids dropped due to heaviness and her wings flapped slowly barely lifting her weight.

Kyle hummed in response and slowly walked to stand beneath her. As if hearing his command, the ice sculptures all around him turned into bright particles and swirled around him before vanishing into thin air.

He looked up at the stubborn phoenix who did not come toward him even after they were done. With a sigh, he tapped his shoulder.

"It's fine now. Come here and rest for a while."

Bia opened her eyes and looked at him with resentment but she was too tired to argue. In the end, she threw the matter of revenge at the back of her head and briskly landed on his shoulder.

- 'I am going to beat you up once when I am a little stronger.'

Kyle chuckled a little and grabbed her body to caress her feathers.

'Hmm, from the aura around your body, I think this outburst was good for you. Maybe, within a week you will break through to the next rank.'

Bia did not hear what he was saying and closed her eyes to sleep. Well, even if she did she was too tired to care. Kyle slowly patted her head a few more times. After confirming that she was asleep through her even breathing, he placed her inside his hoodie and his eyes darted around before finally locking in a certain direction.

His previous calm eyes turned cold. In an instant, his sword appeared in his hand. With a swift movement, he unsheathed the sword and pointed it in front of himself.

"So, how long are you planning to stay hidden?"

He waited for a few seconds and almost thought maybe he was mistaken. However, the intense stare he had been feeling at the back of his head from the moment he stepped into this hall was not something he could overlook. So, he tilted his head to try once again.

"Huh, do you want me to drag you out?"

Kyle chuckled a little and grabbed her body to caress her feathers.

'Hmm, from the aura around your body, I think this outburst was good for you. Maybe, within a week you will break through to the next rank.'

Kyle's voice sounded sarcastic. He was betting on this last try because even though he and Bia destroyed the hall and killed all the lizards the exit was nowhere to be seen. Doesn't that mean they have to wait until the exit appears? So, instead of letting an unknown danger lurk around them, it was better to believe in his instinct.

He waited for a few more seconds but still did not get a reply. Kyle scoffed and took a step forward but as if finally admitting defeat an eerie laughter echoed in the hall.

Kyle narrowed his eyes when the sound grew louder and louder with each passing second. He lifted his hands to block Bia's ears.

"Have some decency. Someone is sleeping stop laughing so loudly."

The laughter stopped abruptly maybe due to his absurd remarks. And under Kyle's gaze, a tall dark-skinned man stepped out from behind an invisible curtain.

A pair of familiar beady eyes peered at him with astonishment. The man unfurled his dark bat-like wings and Kyle noticed with a deep frown. The wings were bigger, bigger than the two winged men he killed a while ago. Moreover, the veins bulging around the man's neck were deeper and more prominent.

The man grazed his sharp pointy nails on his palm and looked at Kyle from head to toe. His eyes reflected pure interest for the boy standing in front of him.

"Hey, human.."

His voice sounded rather loud as he stared directly into Kyle's eyes.

"If you said you are one of those outsiders I won't believe it because you are clearly stronger. Stronger than the weak ants I encountered. So... who are you?"

Kyle did not move but he felt uncomfortable under those dark eyes. It was like the man was trying to see all his secrets. He opened his mouth to reply but closed it again when he sensed Bia moving in his hoodie. In an instant, a familiar voice sounded in his head.

-'Kyle, he is strong. No matter what don't fight him. We won't survive.'

He sensed the tension coiling around Bia and sighed.

'After we are done here, I want an answer as to how you always know if someone is strong or not.'

Bia did not reply but if she was being truthful this was not a skill. It's just, ever since she hatched, whenever she looked at someone she just had this feeling in her head about how strong they were. But her guesses weren't always right, so she would brush it off every time Kyle brought it up.

"Well, I am just a wandering person who accidentally stumbled upon this realm. What about you..."

Kyle dragged his sentence and raked his eye on the man's body. His actions betrayed all the nervousness he was feeling inside because he knew it, even before Bia's tense voice resounded in his head. The man in front of him was not someone he could handle yet.

"Who are you? Is not fair if I am the only one replying."

The winged man let out another laugh. Amused at the human who dared to speak with him with such a tone.

"My my my how unfair.. Isn't it? Let me introduce myself properly. Hmm?"

He placed his hand on his chest with a wide smile playing at the corner of his lips.

"Myself Emion. The current leader of the dark race."

His smile widened when Kyle's body tensed.

"You know about dark race right? Or do I need to explain further human?"

Kyle cursed inwardly. The word 'leader' reverberated in his head again and again, making him painfully aware of the fact that the enemy was indeed a lot stronger than him.

'Bia I think we need to run. Hmm, should I use the life-saving artifact master gave me?'

Bia freaked out and immediately grabbed him tightly with her toenails.

-'The heck don't you dare to leave me behind! or else I am going to haunt you even if I become a ghost!'

The tension around Kyle's shoulders lessened due to her unexpected cry.

'Don't worry I won't leave you behind after feeding you so many precious resources.'

He raised his hand to pat her head and looked at the man.

"Oh, dark race.. I indeed heard about it from someone but it's so long that I don't remember clearly. How about increasing my knowledge a little?"

-'Kyle!! Why are you speaking as if he is your old friend? Oh no! Oh no! We are going to die!'

Chapter 287 Correct answer

Kyle ignored Bia's cries and focused on the man in front of him. His grip on his sword tightened when the latter raised an amused brow at him.

Emion took a step forward but Kyle stepped back due to his sudden movement. An invisible dark pressure surged in the hall, almost crushing the ground underneath.

"Why are you stepping back? Do you not want to know more about the dark race?"

A regretful sigh escaped Emion's lips when the boy did not even flinch under his pressure. He would have already torn this human into hundreds of pieces but he stopped because first he was injured and second he was intrigued by Kyle's presence. It was like the human did not exist at all.

Even now, the boy was clearly standing in front of him but he was unable to sense anything from him. Moreover, that tiny bird sitting on the latter head was a phoenix. Something he had not seen in his whole life.

"How interesting?"

Emion mumbled under his breath. He wanted to speak more but Kyle's next move surprised him. The boy suddenly sheathed his sword and looked at him with a smirk, that betrayed all the coldness present in his eyes.

"Emion is it? Well, I know you want to attack me but..."

Kyle's eyes trailed off toward his abdomen. More specifically he gazed at the dry blood spots present on the man's robe.

"You are injured. Aren't you? And believe me, even if I am weaker than you I would not go down without taking someone with me."

He grabbed the stunned, astonished, and shocked phoenix from his hoodie and caressed her feathers slowly.

"Tsk tsk, I am not even alone. So, I hope you think twice before attacking."

Emion eyebrow twitched at the arrogant remarks. He snorted. The boy was audacious enough to threaten him in front of his face. If not for the fact that he was severely injured after fighting countless similar-rank lizards he would have already killed this human with a single slap.

At first, when the boy stepped into the hall due to his unusual presence Emion hid himself to observe him for a while. However, he was shocked just after a minute. The boy was so much stronger! So why the hell did he only fight weaker enemies in the hall? Then he thought.

'Oho, he is wearing a special artifact to cheat in the treasure lands.'

Emion wanted that artifact. That's why he decided to wait until the human revealed the artifact. But now he knew his plan was not going to work at all. He grinned and unfurled his wings to fly.

"Arrogant are not we?"

After throwing a disdainful glance at the human, he flapped his wings to form a burst of wind and directed it toward Kyle to assess his strength.

Kyle felt a powerful push on his body. It was powerful enough to send him flying if he was just a little weaker. Still, he stubbornly planted his feet on the ground to stand straight. He even raised his brow at the man to show he was not affected at all.

Emion clicked his tongue and as if waiting for their little talk to end, a little tremble shook everything around them before a bright light flashed to occupy every corner of the hall. Kyle winced due to the sudden light. He subconsciously moved his arm to cover his eyes but the light vanished like it was never there in the first place.

He blinked and his eyes traveled around. The hall that was battered after he and Bia fought with the lizards was now back to its clean and pristine condition. He snapped his eyes up to look at the man but the man did not even glance at him.

Instead, Emion eyes were fixed on the three ordinary-looking doors that emerged out of thin air at the end of the hall. He leaped toward one of the doors with a wide grin plastered on his face.

"Finally I can go to the next stage."

He was so fast that Kyle almost thought he teleported. However, Kyle knew the man did not teleport.

'Just how much stronger one needs to become to move so fast?'

Emion stopped after he pushed the door open roughly, he tilted his head and looked back at Kyle with an evil smile.

"How amazing right? Even after both of us destroyed this place it went back to its original condition the moment all the participants were done."

Kyle did not understand why the man was speaking to him so suddenly but he kept his wary eyes on him.

Emion mumbled something under his breath so fleeting that Kyle was not able to grasp it. After flashing another wide smile at Kyle he stepped in the door.

"Human, try to stay alive because I want to be the one to end you. Remember... we will meet again, hahaha."

After Emion vanished, Bia blinked at Kyle with bated breath. Was he the same person she knew?

-'When did you become so good at pretending?'

However, instead of replying Kyle suddenly clenched his chest and dropped to his knees.

"Ugh, that bastard!"

Bia's body tensed. She distanced herself from him and looked at him from head to toe.

-'Are you injured? What happened?'

"Of course not.."

Kyle stopped mid-sentence and coughed loudly. Droplets of blood seeped out from his mouth, painting his jaw red.

"That man... he deliberately targeted my heart when he delivered the wind attack but it's fine. I am not severely injured."

He wiped his mouth with his sleeve and retrieved a healing potion from his mind space. After drinking the potion, Kyle gazed at the three doors with a sigh.

"Let's leave, this place is giving me chills."

Bia gazed at him with worry but she knew they could not stay in this hall any longer. Or else just like the previous hall they have to face even stronger opponents. She agreed with a nod and flew toward the doors.

-'So which one?'

"Hmm, Emion entered the first door let's enter the last one to avoid any type of contact with him."

Kyle stopped in front of the door for a second and glanced back at the hall. Right now it was empty. Devoid of any monster. A sudden thought flashed in his mind. Didn't the mechanical voice say they have to find the correct answer to the path in front of them? Or did it say they have to find the correct exit?

-'What happened?'

"I just noticed something strange. This hall, it's very similar to the previous one. It's like we entered the same place. We fought with monsters in the first one and did the same in the second one. The only difference was that the opponents were different."

"Why do I feel like we won't find the exit even if we entered this door? Bia do you remember what the mechanical voice said after we stepped onto the platform."

Bia thought for a second.

-'Well, not clearly but I think the voice said to find the correct answer to the path ahead.'

Kyle hummed. He pushed the door and walked in with a contemplating expression.

"I have a guess but I need to confirm it."

Chapter 288 A shield

Kyle looked at the familiar hall in front of him and let out a dry chuckle. Countless human-sized fire eagles filled his vision.

"So, my guess is correct."

He mumbled slowly. Bia was sitting on his shoulder. She was tired after the last battle and right now she wanted nothing but to leave this place. She yawned and nuzzled closer to his neck.

-'Whatever, I am not going to fight again. Just take care of it on your own.'

Kyle hummed. He waved his hand and the air cracked around him. In an instant, hundreds of thunder arrows rained down on the eagles, successfully stopping them in their place. The eagles who were hit cried out in pain and immediately flew back to avoid the arrows. It's been a while since Kyle used the 'thunder arrow' skill and he would be lying if he said he was not astonished.

"It's true even a simple (F+)-Rank skill can become so destructive if the user is strong."

He glanced at the eagles and increased his voice.

"I don't think we need to fight because I found the correct answer to the path in front of us."

"We are in a loop. Aren't we? This place is filled with similar halls, that's why after killing the monsters no matter what path we choose we will end up in the same place."

His loud and clear voice echoed everywhere as he took a step forward. Bia blinked at his words.

-'A loop? I don't think so it's only the third hall..'

Her words were cut short because, in the next second, a familiar mechanical voice echoed in the hall.

"Congratulations participants for finding the correct answer to the path ahead. The door leading to the treasure room will be opened in a few seconds."

"5... 4...3.."

Bia almost tripped on his shoulder. She could not believe the answer was so simple yet so difficult at the same time.

-'Seriously?'

Kyle chuckled and thought about Emion.

"It seems I don't need to worry about revenge because it's almost impossible for him to survive in this place."

After the countdown hit zero, a low tremble shook the hall and a familiar bright light flashed in front of Kyle. He closed his eyes for a second and when he opened them again the fire eagles were nowhere to be seen. Instead, a huge door was standing proudly in the center. The door was vastly different from the others because it was filled with strange designs.

Kyle briskly approached the door and pushed it open with a smile. A low creaking sound echoed in the air before a white room appeared in his vision. The room was filled with nothing but a round table in the center, and above it, a massive transparent blue shield was shimmering brightly.

-'What's that?'

Bia unfurled her wings and left his shoulder to circle the table. It was old and rusty but the massive shield atop the table looked beautiful. She glanced at the empty spot behind the shield with a raised brow.

-'I think someone else found this room before us because there's an empty spot behind the shield.'

Kyle looked around and after confirming that the room had nothing except for the table, he stepped inside and gazed at the shield with curiosity.

"Only one? This treasure land... is quite poor."

Bia's eyebrow twitched at his remarks.

-'Just take it. So, we can leave.'

Kyle sighed. He couldn't believe he suffered so much just for a round shield and to make matters worse he sensed nothing special from it. With a dejected expression, he reached out his hand to grab the shield but his fingers went right through it.

"Huh?"

The shield's clear surface rippled with a mesmerizing shimmer when Kyle moved his hand back.

"Don't tell me I can not touch this thing!?"

Kyle's expression sank. No way, in hell he was going to accept this! He was ready to smuggle the whole table but the shimmering shield in front of him suddenly crumbled into bright particles. Those particles gathered in front of his body before clinging to his skin tightly.

"What the.."

He abruptly yanked his hoodie when a sudden cold sensation touched his chest. It was different from the sensation he usually felt around his body.

Bia circled above his head with a curious expression. Suddenly, Kyle grabbed the hem of his hoodie and slid it off his shoulders. He traced his fingers on his chest before they bumped into a solid surface that covered the area around his heart. He blinked and gazed at his chest, a fist-size blue shield shimmered brightly above his skin.

"It turned smaller. I want to test out how it works but the place... do I need to attack my heart?"

Bia gazed at the small bright shield with interest.

- 'So, it's going to cling to your body?'

Kyle grabbed the shield and tried to pull it away from his skin. However, instead of leaving his body, the shield turned into bright particles that roamed around his body before clinging to his skin again.

"I don't think I can remove it."

He jumped back and crooked a finger at Bia with a smile that seemed nothing but annoying in her eyes.

"Attack me. Let's test it out."

- 'Okay.'

Bia looked at the shield around his heart. With a sigh, she flapped her wings twice and two fireballs shot out toward Kyle's chest with fast speed. Kyle did not dodge. Instead, he let the attack fall on his chest. Anyway, the fireballs were too weak to actually harm him.

Under two pairs of eyes, the fireballs successfully traveled and closed into his chest but before they could crash a familiar round shield zoomed out in front of Kyle. It devoured the attack within a second and vanished back into his chest.

Kyle patted his chest and wore his hoodie with a satisfied expression.

"Not bad!"

He looked back and noticed something different. The door from where they entered the room was nowhere to be seen. Instead, a bright portal was present in its place.

- 'Now, finally, I can rest!'

Bia cheered loudly and urged Kyle to enter the portal because she wanted to sleep!

After the duo entered the portal, another door appeared in the room. With a loud crashing sound, Emion's body plummeted inside through a narrow opening. One of his wings was broken and his whole body was covered with thick dark colored blood.

"Damn it! Who the hell made this shitty place I almost died in those halls!"

He groaned and after taking a few large breaths, he dragged his body so he could look around. However, the sight in front of him was anything but pleasant. The air in the room trembled when a loud angry shout emerged from Emion's throat.

He kicked the empty table and looked at the room with veins bulging all around his body.

"I endured so much only to find an empty room!?"

Chapter 289 What scared?

Kyle inhaled fresh air the moment he emerged from the portal. The sky was clear and bright. He looked back at the towering castle gate behind him with a sigh. It was shining brightly. Suddenly, a thought emerged in his mind.

'I took the last shield that means this treasure land is empty now.'

With a smile, he gathered mana on his index finger and started scribbling on the gate. The words were large and clear almost damaging the once beautiful castle gate.

"Caution; Don't enter the little phoenix took everything."

Kyle laughed out loud at his work. Now, at least the ones who saw this treasure land will know that it's empty. Sitting on his head, Bia's eyebrow couldn't help but twitch at his actions, she could not believe he was lying so blatantly.

-'Are you done? Don't wake me up for a while I am gonna sleep now.'

With a low grumble, Bia made herself comfortable on his head and closed her eyes but then a low barely audible whisper sounded behind the duo. Her eyes fluttered open with annoyance.

-'What now?'

Kyle looked back with narrowed eyes but the place around him was empty.

"Strange, I also heard something."

He kicked off his left foot and started floating mid-air. A few familiar dark flying figures appeared in his vision but he ignored them and made his way toward a nearby mountain to find a quiet cave. However, only after a minute, a pair of crimson wings appeared in his path.

Kyle abruptly halted in his tracks and due to his sudden movement Bia snapped open her drowsy eyes.

-'What happened!? Can you let me sleep just for ten minutes!'

Kyle frowned and gazed at the arm-sized flying insect in front of him. It was quite similar to a wild butterfly but the wings around the insect were larger and more thicker.

"A moth?"

With a sigh, he was ready to tell Bia that it was just an insect but the next thing that happened made him swallow back his words.

In front of his eyes, the little, almost adorable moth opened his mouth wide before spitting out a large cluster of sparkling grass in front of him.

Kyle winced when he saw rows of razor-sharp teeth inside the moth's mouth. Those teeth were very similar to a certain cute squirrel he wanted to forget so badly.

"The heck?"

In an instant, he distances himself from the sparkling grass. From the dense mana around the grass, he was sure it was not ordinary. But no way in hell he would touch something that came out from someone's else mouth!

The moth's eyes brightened as he looked at Kyle from head to toe like he was assessing the world's biggest treasure. His tongue darted out from his mouth to lick his lips as he pushed the floating grass toward Kyle.

"Eat it."

Kyle's eyebrow twitched as he stared at the moth in front of him with strange eyes. Wisps of blue flames appeared around his body because he wanted to finish the moth and be done with it, but before he could attack a sharp wind gale struck him from behind.

Bia lost her balance when his body staggered forward in mid-air. She freaked out and immediately flapped her wings to fly.

- 'Eeek there is one more behind you!'

She looked down, ready to increase her size and grab him if he actually lost his balance but Kyle was gone.

- 'Huh?'

Just like her, the two moths were also taken aback by Kyle's sudden disappearance. But then, out of nowhere, Kyle's disheveled figure appeared in the distance. He quickly regained his balance mid-air with a painful groan.

His hoodie was torn from behind, exposing a deep gash that painted his back in shades of crimson. A trail of blood seeped out from the wound before vanishing into his clothes. With knitted brows, Kyle moved his hand to touch the wet sensation cascading down his back and his face paled when he saw blood.

"So, the shield is not going to protect me from behind?"

He noticed with a dry laugh, that he didn't like pain. After drinking a healing potion with a blank expression, Kyle moved his head back to look at the person who attacked him before his eyes locked onto the two similar-looking golden moths. They looked momentarily confused after his disappearance.

'They are strong at least (S+)-Rank but I think I can handle it if there are only two.'

Wisps of blue flames surged around his body and he vanished from his place. Only to appear behind one of the months. He was ready to attack but before he could a loud cry rang out in the air.

"Brother! He is behind you!"

The moth in front of Kyle suddenly flapped his wings and a burst of wind sent him flying backward.

Bia's loud voice echoed inside Kyle's mind as he flipped mid-air to regain his balance with a painful expression.

- 'There's one more! On your left!'

"Can't they all come out at once? Don't tell me there are more."

Kyle frowned and distanced himself from the three golden months. Sweat trickled down his forehead because just now due to the sudden movement his injury worsened.

'Now, I don't think I can manage.'

He looked up at Bia with a serious expression.

'Leave in a different direction. I will find you after I am successful in slipping away.'

- 'Will you be alright?'

Kyle shrugged his shoulders at her question and vanished from his place.

- 'Why did I even ask?'

The moth scrambled to follow behind the duo. However, due to Kyle's disappearance, their target was Bia but before they could follow her Kyle suddenly appeared in front of them.

The moment he appeared, countless ice spears formed around him. The air cracked when the number increased with each passing second. Kyle tilted his head and his eyes turned cold.

"What scared?"

The moths looked at each other but it was evident from their fearless eyes that the attack was nothing to them. They shouted simultaneously.

"Grab him!"

Kyle clicked his tongue and threw the ice spears at them before vanishing again.

Chapter 290 One down two more to go

Kyle's breath was uneven as he appeared in the middle of a grassy field. He looked up in the sky, even after an hour the three moths were still following behind him.

'Damn it! How the hell are they finding my location? It's the fourth time already! Don't tell me they can sense me but how... I am positive my presence is hidden.'

With knitted brows, he rubbed the white earring in his ear.

'Is it not working?'

A curse spilled out from his mouth when he felt a sudden pinprick of pain on his back. Due to the moths chasing after him ruthlessly, he was not able to rest. Not even for a second, that's why even after drinking two high-grade healing potions his injury did not heal. Instead, it worsened.

Suddenly a loud cry sounded on his left. Kyle snapped his head toward the voice and his eyes dilated at the sight. A familiar winged man was tearing the body of a grey-haired youth. He used instant teleportation to stop the man but he arrived a little late. The youth was already dead. Scattered pieces of flesh painted his vision red and his breath grew even more irregular at the sight.

The winged man was stupefied due to his sudden appearance but unlike Kyle who froze in his spot after seeing a human die so gruesomely in front of him for the first time, the man immediately recovered and attacked him with a black whip.

Kyle snapped out of his trance when a trembling voice reverberated in his ears. The voice was barely a whimper but he heard it loud and clear because it was filled with pain.

He jumped back to avoid the whip that swiftly lashed out toward him. However, his pale face turned even paler when he saw the owner of the voice. It was a young girl.

Her body was barely covered and filled with multiple injuries. Lying above the grassy ground she was breathing but her eyes were blank and they looked lifeless.

Kyle's heart shook in his chest. He took an unsteady step back and for some reason, his mind went blank. After meeting some individuals from the dark race, he knew they were targeting the people who entered the realm but he never imagined they would be this cruel.

The winged man looked at him with narrowed eyes. He couldn't believe the boy dodged his attack but he knew the boy was too aghast at the sight in front of him. So, instead of attacking the man started enjoying his expression that turned paler with each passing second. After all, it would be more fun if he broke his prey first before killing him, just like how he did with the previous ones.

Still, only after a few seconds, he got bored because the boy in front of him was doing nothing, except standing in a single place. Moreover, his eyes turned too cloudy.

"It's no fun if you are already like this."

The man clicked his tongue and stepped forward to finish Kyle so he could find another target. However, his intentions were abruptly interrupted by a loud voice that echoed through the air.

"Brother! I found the human! He is here!"

After the voice fell, a golden moth arrived in front of the winged man. He gazed at Kyle's body with twinkling eyes and then looked at the winged man with annoyance.

"Leave! This human belongs to us."

Behind him, the other two golden moths arrived as well. They looked at Kyle and after confirming that their food was fine, they simultaneously glared at the winged man who didn't budge from his position even after the first warning.

The winged man glared back with a raised brow.

"What if I don't? Huh, you insect how dare you order me around!"

In an instant, a strong (A+)-Rank aura spilled out from his body and descended on the moths. However, the man was shocked when they didn't even flinch under his pressure. He realized with a twisted expression.

'Damn! These bugs are stronger than me!'

Slowly, he flapped his wings to flee in another direction but before he could a sharp blade pierced his heart from behind.

The man glanced down at the tip of the sword that was protruding from his chest. His eyes widened with horror as he tilted his head back to look at the owner of the sword.

It was the same boy who was standing in front of him a while ago but his eyes were not cloudy anymore. Instead, they were seething with anger.

Kyle kicked the man from behind and pulled his sword back roughly, dark blood splattered out to paint his hand crimson. Yet, he did not even stop to brush it off his sword and looked at the moths.

"Haaa.. I am tired of running. So, instead of running, it's better to kill right?"

The moths were taken aback when they heard his sudden declaration. They looked at each other before one of them whispered loudly.

"Don't kill just break his arms and legs then we will take him back."

The other two nodded and all of them attacked the human at the same time. Countless wind blades formed under their wings before those blades traveled toward Kyle with lightning-fast speed.

A cold glint flashed inside Kyle's eyes and he vanished from his spot. After running around for an hour his mana was almost exhausted so he knew he could not use the blue flames because they burned his mana faster. Due to his unstable emotions, Bia was also alarmed. Her familiar worried voice rang out in his head again and again but instead of replying, he subconsciously cut off her voice from his head.

Kyle's figure appeared behind one of the moths but the trio was ready because they had already seen his teleportation skill before. That's why the moment he disappeared, they snapped their heads back and the edge of their wings turned sharper to penetrate his body.

However, before their attack could land on Kyle's body, he vanished again. This time he appeared mere inches away from one of the moths. The moth's eyes widened when Kyle tried to put his sword straight into his heart. The wings behind his back moved almost instantly and the sharp edges targeted Kyle's chest to stop him.

Amidst the heated atmosphere, the moth shuddered when he saw a fleeting cold smile on the human face. He was not able to comprehend why the human was laughing when he was clearly in danger but he got the answer when his wings crashed into a solid surface instead of digging into Kyle's chest.

With a stunned expression, the moth opened his mouth to cry but his voice muffled when the sword entered his chest with little to no restraint.

The other two moths were too shocked to move as they watched their brother's body fall to the ground lifelessly. Kyle pulled out his sword and gazed at them with irregular breath. His whole back was painted with blood but he still dared to speak with a loud and clear voice.

"One down two more to go."