

## Bloodline 301

Chapter 301 It's your work

?With a soft sigh, Kyle tapped Nine back.

"Enough, you are going to suffocate me."

Nine sucked in a deep breath and slowly released him from the hug with a smile. He was happy to see Kyle again. After all, the last vision he saw was everything but good.

He couldn't help but peek at the ice mountain behind Kyle. Nine glanced at his stunned friends and threw his arm on Kyle's shoulder while pointing at the mountain.

"Don't tell me it's your work?"

However, a nonchalant shrug was all he got in return. Nine rubbed his chin with a raised brow.

"Bro, I feel like you have become more annoying."

Slowly, he dragged Kyle to look at the two elves.

"By the way, this is Rowan and this is Elli. They are my friends."

Rowan and Elli both nodded at Kyle but then suddenly Nine lowered his voice to whisper in his ear.

"Remember I told you about a beautiful girl in the past? It was Elli, hehe. Your friend is not single anymore."

A barely visible frown appeared between Nine's brows when he sensed Kyle's body temperature. It was too low. However, it vanished within a second.

Suddenly, Rowan glanced at Elli and stepped closer to Kyle with a shocked expression.

"Wait, Nine called you Kyle, right? The same Kyle who caused a huge commotion in front of the realm gate?"

Kyle was going to nod but then Nine raised his finger and shook it in front of Rowan.

"Nope, this isn't the same Kyle. The one you saw had a huge phoenix but this one doesn't."

Nine gasped and looked at him with wide eyes.

"Wait.. where's Bia, Kyle? Why don't I see her? Don't tell me she ran away because you forgot to feed her on time!"

Kyle rolled his eyes and slapped his arm away. He glanced at the hundreds of insects around them and clicked his tongue.

"Guys, let's climb the mountain. It's not clean... I mean it's not safe here."

The three of them exchanged glances and trailed after him, to climb the mountain made of uneven rocks. Or more specifically made of hundreds of frozen insects. However, unlike Kyle, they quickly began to rub their arms, their breath forming wisps of smoke in the frigid air. It was too cold!

Nine groaned. Still, he couldn't help but mumble with a curious expression.

"Kyle, can you tell me how you froze the insects?"

Kyle stopped in his tracks. Instantly, icy blue flames appeared around his body. Under three pairs of stunned eyes, the flames traveled downward with lightning-fast speed. All the insects clawing on the mountain shrieked as the flames enclosed them in a blanket. After the flames vanished, many similar uneven frozen rocks appeared in their place.

Nine breath faltered for a second as he gazed at Kyle.

'The same blue flames I saw.. does that mean everything I saw is going to come true? No, I am not going to believe the vision this time. Instead, I am going change it no matter what.'

He clenched his fist. It was truly unbelievable that Kyle and Alec were going to fight to death in the future. They were friends. Moreover, from Alec's devastated expression, he was sure that something was wrong with him.

Soon, they reached the top of the mountain but the trio sitting with Kyle was regretting the moment they decided to follow him. Especially, Rowan and Elli, both of them were trembling.

Nine inched closer to Elli and grabbed her hands shamelessly before throwing a resentful glare at Kyle.

"So, what's the plan because within a few hours, we are going to freeze to death!"

Kyle blinked and snapped his fingers. Immediately, two hovering fireballs appeared in front of the trio.

"Is it fine now?"

Nine snapped.

"Are you kidding me? The temperature around us is even lower than the depth of the ocean! You think two tiny fireballs can warm us?"

Kyle rubbed his temples with a sigh.

"I didn't do it on purpose. I checked this field as much as I could, but there's no way out. So, I think our only option is to fight the insects until we find an exit or until the mechanical voice guides us."

Nine agreed instantly and stood up.

"Okay, let's fight. It's hundreds of times better than waiting."

Kyle hummed but before they could leave, a frustrated voice echoed in the air.

"Where is he? I can not believe I have to check every chamber just to find him."

Simultaneously, all of them snapped their heads up to look at the sky and Kyle immediately recognized the small glowing ball floating in the distance.

"Haylee?"

He never thought he would be so happy to see the winged boar. Kyle waved his hand energetically toward the glowing ball. The ball froze mid-air and the trio standing beside Kyle stepped back with shock when the ball turned into a huge winged boar.

Haylee's wings stretched out wide as he landed right in front of Kyle. Yet, the happiness from Kyle's face disappeared the moment his feet touched the mountain-top.

A loud cracking sound was all Kyle heard before the ground beneath his feet crumbled. His eyes widened as the stacked rocks scattered in all directions. However, before anyone could tumble down from the mountain, a glowing shield appeared around their bodies, keeping them safe.

Nine clutched his pounding chest, feeling a bit sweaty and nervous as he realized he was floating mid-air. Just like him, Elli and Rowan were equally frightened.

He gazed at Kyle with bated breath and a bitter smile spread across his face because the latter was floating mid-air without the shield. With a relieved sigh, Kyle took back his stretched hand, he was going to grab two of them if they lost their balance.

Opposite them, Haylee clicked his tongue.

"Such a weak mountain...."

He stopped mid-sentence and gazed at the scattered rocks that were once a mountain.

"Wait.. how did this mountain appear in this place?"

He gazed at Kyle and immediately knew how. With narrowed eyes, Haylee landed on the grass. He flapped his wings and the insects around them scattered in different directions.

The round shields around Nine, Elli, and Rowan evaporated into thin air as they neared the ground. Nine sighed with relief and looked at Kyle.

"I am never going to climb a mountain with you from now on."

Chapter 302 Three options

?Kyle chuckled at Nine's words as he landed beside him. Immediately he gazed at Haylee because the latter was looking at him with serious eyes.

He cleared his throat and took a step closer to Haylee.

"So, what brought you here?"

However, the boar was not in a good mood. He flipped his wings to make it clear that Kyle should stay ten meters away from him.

"You rascal? Do you even know how much I have to suffer just to find you? At first, I thought if only I sensed Bia's location I could easily get to you but when I found her, she was alone and you were nowhere to be seen."

Haylee grumbled. He couldn't believe his superior senses were defeated by a mere artifact the kid was wearing. That's why, no matter how much he tried he was unable to sense Kyle. After a few seconds, he took a deep breath to calm down because he was not here to scold him, he was here to tell him about something very important.

When Kyle noticed the boar's serious expression a frown appeared between his brows.

"What happened?"

Haylee gaze sharpened as he glanced at the trio standing behind him. Noticing his gaze, Kyle waved his hands.

"It's okay. They are my friends."

With a nod, Haylee began from the moment he left Kyle's side. He went to search for the old guardian, however, when he found him. The guardian's illusionary figure was fighting with Guil. A Pseudo divine being from the dark race.

Nine and the elves were confused when they heard the words 'Dark race' and 'pseudo divine'. Seeing their confused expression Haylee stopped mid-way, he thought with a sigh that he had to tell them everything from the start. Yet, before he could explain further, Kyle beat him to it.

The more the boar heard Kyle's explanation the more stunned he became because the kid knew almost everything about the dark race. Moreover, his knowledge did not end there. He even knew about the various powerful ranks above (SSS+)-Rank.

In the end, when Kyle was done explaining. Nine, Elli and, Rowan's expressions were blank. The trio was too shocked because the information shattered their views. They could not believe that in their whole life, they thought (SSS+)-Rank strength was the end of mortal powers. Yet, many otherworldly divine and supreme beings existed in the universe.

Nine let out a trembling breath and gestured at Haylee to continue. However, the boar had a serious question he wanted to ask Kyle.

"How did you find out about all this? This knowledge had been hidden a long time ago."

Kyle hesitated as he gazed at Nine but in the end, he answered while omitting out the part of his bloodline and mind space.

"A few months ago, two huge white slits eyes appeared in my dream. They gave me the information. I don't know anything about the eyes but they looked powerful."

Haylee closed his eyes in deep contemplation. Eyes with white slits. Yet, he was unable to find the owner of such eyes from his memories.

He shook his head and silently threw the matter at the back of his head before resuming from where he paused.

"Right, while fighting, Guil saw me. I wanted to hide but failed. As I am the guardian of the last treasure land, I can not leave that place until the divine essence is gone. That's why, now he knows that all the divine essence is gone."

Haylee inhaled a sharp breath. He practically ignored Nine, Elli, and Rowan who were ogling at him with all the focus they could muster, and fixed his gaze on Kyle.

"The old guardian had stopped Guil but he can not stop the dark race. The moment, Guil knew about me, he informed Emion the current leader of the dark race. Right now, Emion and a large number of people from the dark race are ruthlessly searching for the person who has the divine essence."

Kyle's expression chilled when he heard the familiar name. He mumbled under his breath.

"Emion and all those people from the dark race... They are searching for me, right?"

Haylee nodded with a hardened expression.

"I know with your strength and the presence hiding artifact you are wearing you can escape easily but..."

Kyle snapped his eyes up to stare directly into Haylee's eyes. He knew that if the people from the dark race were after him. They would probably kill each and every person they encounter in their path and he despised the thought that a lot of people had to die because of him.

"But what?"

Haylee gazed at Kyle's clenched fists and shook his head.

"The guardian who is stopping Guil doesn't know anything about you. He had already chosen the people he wanted to send out from the realm safely. Yet, everything changed when Guil found out about the divine essence. He had been stuck in the pseudo-divine rank for a long time and the divine essence could help him break through the bottleneck. Moreover, if he stepped into the divine rank the old guardian wouldn't be able to stop him and he could leave this realm forcefully."

Haylee paused for a second when he noticed how tense Kyle was. Still, Kyle shook his head and asked for him to continue.

"Naturally if Guil left, the whole dark race is going to follow him. That's why the dark race is doing everything to find the divine essence."

Haylee suddenly gazed at Nine. For some reason, the kid turned too pale when he heard that the dark race could leave this realm. He frowned but ignored it, thinking maybe the latter was too shocked.

"Kid, just like me the guardian is not allowed to interfere with the things happening in the realm. Also, I am unable to take back the essence from you because after a treasure is taken out from a castle it can not be placed back as it's against the rule."

"So, now you have three options. First, surrender and give the essence to the dark race. However, if you did the dark race would still kill everyone. Not to mention the fact that if Guil reached the divine rank, he would be released from this realm. Second, hide until the realm exit is opened. And third fight back."

Chapter 303 The resonite gem

Kyle gazed up in the sky. It was clear. He let out a sharp breath and slowly opened his fists. From the boar's words, it was evident, that he had to make a choice, and he knew what he wanted to do.

Unlike him, Nine and the elves were doing their best to process the mind-boggling information that had the power to shake the world outside.

The trio was still reeling in shock as Kyle rose to his feet. His expression was completely devoid of emotion, a stark contrast to how he had appeared earlier when they were speaking casually.

"I don't know how precious the divine essence is, but I took it. So, I am going to take responsibility. I will choose the third option, I am going to fight. Plus, I've got some debts to settle with Emion."

Haylee's eyebrow twitched when he heard his last sentence.

"I left you alone for only more than two weeks, and you have already managed to make enemies with Emion? Not anyone else but Emion!?"

Kyle gave a curt nod. It didn't matter if they were enemies, he had already marked the dark race on his blacklist. He knew he would have to confront them sooner or later. The current situation, where they were relentlessly hunting him, gave him a perfect excuse to fight back.

A cold smirk appeared at the corner of his lips.

"I believe I would rather be the hunter than the prey."

Haylee let out a sigh. If possible, he wanted to suggest that Kyle should hide because he saw immense potential in the kid. Regardless, he knew that the decision was not his to make.

Beside them, amidst his astonishment, Nine cracked his knuckles and approached Kyle with a wicked smirk just like his.

"Hey, do you think you are the only one who likes hunting? Just like you, I have some unfinished business with the dark race that I want to settle."

Kyle arched an eyebrow with a faint smile. He was actually considering the idea of leaving the trio behind. But it looked like that wasn't going to be an option. Suddenly, he gave Nine a scrutinizing look.

'He is not weak. Almost (C+)-Rank.'

Yet, the smile on his face stiffened as Nine leaned in to whisper in a hushed tone.

"You don't have to pay me, just give me some divine essence. I don't know what it does exactly, but the whole dark race is after it. So, it's gotta be something pretty darn good, right?"

Behind Nine, the elves glanced at each other and grabbed their weapons tightly. Elli playfully tapped Nine's shoulder.

"Don't you dare to leave me behind? Or else I am rejecting the proposal you made a few months ago."

Nine's expression sank within a second. He grabbed her hand with utter disbelief.

"No way, tell me you are joking dear?"

Finally, Kyle could not take it anymore. The sight of his friend crying his eyes out was just too painful. He silently went to talk to Haylee.

"No matter what, first we need to leave this place. Do you have any idea how we can leave?"

Haylee eyes wandered around before a strange expression appeared on his face.

"This is the second last chamber of this treasure island. Not many can make it here without completing the tests of the other chambers."

Kyle blinked with confusion.

"Huh? Really, but there is no way out of this place."

The bickering trio behind him, instantly gathered around the boar, eagerly waiting for the answer. After all, who wants to deal with insects all day and night?

Haylee flapped his wings and with a leap soared into the sky. His loud voice echoed in the air as he narrowed his eyes in the distance.

"This is a time-limit chamber. So you need to survive until the time is over, the exit will open automatically."

The moment his words fell a bright portal appeared out of thin air behind Kyle. Haylee gazed at the portal and turned into a white ball of light before floating around Kyle.

"Now, it seems your test here is complete. You can leave but your friends..."

He dragged his sentence and glanced at the trio standing behind him. The trio was visibly upset, Rowan hastily reached out to Kyle with knitted brows.

"How many days did you spend in this place?"

The trio looked at him eagerly but his answer was anything but good.

"6..12.. a total of 14 days I believe?"

Nine slumped down to the ground with a blank expression.

"Hey this is a joke, right?"

Kyle shrugged his shoulders and grabbed the light floating around him.

"Haylee, stay with them. I know you can not help them but your presence alone is enough to repel the insects. Also, Bia and the others might show up soon too. Once everyone's done, you can all come find me."

Haylee gave him a nod and Nine face relaxed immediately. He grabbed Kyle's shoulder before the latter could jump in the portal.

"Remember, if it's dangerous don't jump into a fight alone."

With a nod, Kyle jumped into the portal. However, only after a few minutes did Haylee remember a very important fact that made him cry out inwardly.

'Wait wait!! You rascal how am I going to find you when I can not even sense your presence?'

'At least, you should have removed the artifact!'

Nine and the two elves exchanged strange glances as the quiet boar suddenly began pacing with a serious expression. However, no matter how much they probed, they were not able to find out the reason behind his behavior.

Meanwhile, after jumping into the portal Kyle arrived in a similar white room. He glanced around, the room was filled with almost all types of weapons. Gleaming blades, intricately crafted bows, and an assortment of other armaments, each one radiating a strong aura.

As he took a step forward, the mechanical voice sounded in the air.

"Congratulations participant for completing all the training designed for you. Please take any one weapon as your reward."

Kyle smirked and shook his head as he glanced at the weapons. Usually, he would have taken everything one way or another but a few people he knew needed good weapons. Especially Jian and Nine. The duo had gotten stronger but the weapons they were using were too weak.

His eyes caught sight of rows of (S)-Rank wands lined in a corner. One of the gleaming wands had an amber gem embedded in the middle.

"Hmm.. I know she can use a lot of weapons but she doesn't use spells often.. even though Regius said she is a mage."

A bright light in a corner reflected in his eyes and he immediately left the wands. The light was coming from a strange round gem sitting between the weapons.

Kyle bent down and picked the gem. The moment his hands touched the gem, ripples formed on its pure white surface. Instantly, a strange current flashed around the gem and he tossed it away.

"What was that...?"

The gem rolled inside the room as he rubbed his fingers. He was going to ignore it, but suddenly it burst into white particles. The particles were not attractive but they gathered together to form a buzzing screen. The screen flickered with countless colors as they merged to show a scenery of a huge room filled with hundreds not thousands of weapons.

Kyle's eyes dilated when he saw a familiar figure walking in the screen. It was none other than the illusionary black-haired man he, Alec, and Jian saw after they left the last floor of the Tower of Opportunity. Yet, unlike the emotionless eyes Kyle remembered, the man's eyes were twinkling with mirth.

A joyful laughter rang out inside the room as the man in the screen flicked his finger to get rid of the smoke around him. The same white gem was floating beside him.

"Odiak just how many weapons are you going to make? Huh... I feel like we are going to a war."

In front of Kyle's eyes, another figure appeared inside the screen. It was a middle-aged white-haired dwarf.

The dwarf scoffed and tossed the hammer in his hand toward the black-haired man.

"James stop messing around. I am busy. Also, why are you recording this? Resonite gems are rare nowadays don't waste it."

The dwarf held out his hand to grab the gem but James vanished from his spot. Instantly, the dwarf cursed out loudly.

"Damn it, just how the hell did you change the simple skill into instant teleportation? Even though I can practically travel with the speed of light but this skill is truly getting on my nerves!"

The atmosphere between them was harmonious as the two men bickered with each other carelessly. Kyle watched their interaction quietly.

Yet, like a mirage the smiles on their faces vanished when a bloody figure barged inside the room. The resonite gem floating around James dropped to the ground as he cried out with panic.

"Elizabeth!? What happened to you?"

The image in front of Kyle blurred as the particles trembled. Yet, he heard it clearly when a new voice reverberated from the gem.

"James calm down, I am fine."

"Don't speak you are injured. I am going to hack the bastard who attacked you into millions of pieces."



There was silence around Kyle for a second but then Elizabeth's voice sounded again.

"I am fine... I am fine. I escaped on time but the.."

Her voice faltered for a second as she hissed with pain.

"Planet Azure has been attacked. The attacker is none other than Azazeal's third Shadow General. Within two days they had conquered half of the planet. We need to immediately activate the shield you and Odiak had been preparing around the planet because their next destination is our home planet."

James' voice was filled with resentment as he spat out one curse after another.

"That bastard Azazeal!? He had not even shown his face, yet his minions are getting so ahead of themselves. Who does he think he is? I swear I am going to put a hole in his skull sooner or later!"

Chapter 304 Too many questions

?James' voice halted and a loud metallic sound reverberated from the screen. It was evident he picked up his weapon.

Kyle breathed out as the voices grew further and further with each passing second. In the end, they vanished without a trace. There was silence in the room as the bright screen dimmed and lost its luster. Finally, it scattered around him and vanished.

He massaged his temples with a grim expression.

"Why does it feel like I stumbled upon something that was meant to be kept hidden?"

Kyle grabbed his knee and unconsciously gazed at the countless weapons around him.

"Now the question is, did they win or did they lose the battle?"

"Who is this Azazeal... and the Shadow General they were talking about?"

His head throbbed with a powerful headache, triggered by the countless unanswered questions in his mind.

"Ugh... If they won, why is there no record about it? Not to mention the fact that even their names are forgotten. It's like the information had been wiped out completely."

"Doesn't that mean they save the planet but they died in the battle? Still, if they died under the third Shadow General what about the person named 'Azazeal'?"

He couldn't help but groan because the more he pondered it, the worse his headache became. In the end, Kyle tossed the matter at the back of his head.

"If I want answers, it looks like I'll have to coax Haylee or meet the realm guardian who is currently fighting with Guil."

Kyle gazed at the many swords present in the room, but they were not as strong as the one he had. So, instead of taking a sword, he grabbed the lone blue spear placed in a corner. It was different from the other spears because its body was plain, and one side of the spear had a pointed edge resembling that of an arrow.

"I believe I can throw it at someone from a distance.."

He stepped back from the weapons and stood in the middle of the room.

"Alright, I am done choosing. Open the exit. So I can leave this place."

The moment a portal appeared in front of him, he jumped inside without looking back.

"I believe I won't be able to visit any treasure island for a while. Tsk, what a pity..."

The sky outside was as clear as he remembered when Kyle appeared in front of the castle gate. He gazed at the majestic gate and mumbled slowly.

"They will probably take around 14 days to come out."

With a chuckle, he spun the spear in his hand and gazed at the few black dots in the distance.

"I think I have a lot of work to do."

His words faded in the air as he vanished from his spot, heading straight toward the nearest dot.

After a few minutes, in the distance, the air around one of the winged men diving towards a floating island trembled for a second. Suddenly, a strong force slammed into his body from behind, causing him to cry out in surprise and lose his balance. As he staggered forward, he realized the attacker wasn't finished yet. In the next second, a sharp pain stabbed his shoulder.

Kyle knitted his brows.

"Is it because the spear is a little heavier? My aim was not perfect."

He pulled out the spear from the man's shoulder without giving any heed to the pained cries spilling out from the man's mouth.

"It's fine I guess it will get better with time."

As he stabbed the man again, he activated the skill scent perception to check his surroundings. Instantly, countless scents flooded his senses. Yet, Kyle's focus was solely on the ones who emanated a nauseating feeling.

"Hmm, where's Emion and his minions who are searching for the divine essence?"

As the man's body dropped from the sky, Kyle dived down toward the scent of blood in the distance. His figure stopped mid-air above a group of people.

An individual from the dark race was chasing after two young elves. A male and a female. Kyle abruptly landed in front of the running elves. The duo cried out in surprise and changed their direction to avoid him but the said person did not even glance at them. Instead, Kyle raised his spear above his head, aiming at the man behind them.

The man's eyes widened as Kyle appeared in front of him. He flapped his wings to fly backward, but Kyle smirked coldly. With a swift motion, he threw the spear and vanished from his spot. A loud cry echoed through the air, causing the running elves to pause and look back with held breaths. The man chasing after them was dead.

Under their stunned eyes, Kyle retrieved his sword from the man's chest and picked up the spear from the ground.

He looked at the elves and after thinking for a second beckoned them to come closer.

"Come here."

The elves were visibly shaken, they glanced at each other. However, after a few seconds of contemplation, they mustered the courage to approach Kyle. After all, the latter just saved their lives.

They gazed at the silver-haired youth and unconsciously, a bitter feeling spread out inside their chest. The human in front of them clearly looked younger than them but he was so strong already.

Kyle gave them a nod.

"Names?"

The male elf was the one who replied to him.

"I am Xion, and this is my sister, Shui. Thank you for saving us."

"No problem, do you both have friends who entered the realm together with you?"

The duo looked at each other with confusion.

"Ah, we do have a few."

"I believe you can contact them? If yes, ask everyone you know to spread the word that it's better to gather together. The more people the better. This place is too dangerous. Especially.."

Kyle pointed back at the winged man's dead body.

"These creatures. They are strong, but, I don't think their number is big. So, if large teams are formed everyone will be able to fight back."

After the elves nodded seriously, he started floating and pointed his finger in the distance.

"Also, head toward east. I can sense that compared to the other sides, the east side is safer."

As Kyle vanished from their sight, the elves gazed at each other. They quickly grabbed their communication devices to contact everyone they knew.

Chapter 305 Calm down

?Within just a few days, Kyle's words spread like wildfire, and a lot of individuals came together to form teams. It didn't matter what race they belonged to because survival was everyone's priority.

At first, there were conflicts over sharing resources, but when faced with a common threat, they put aside their disputes and united to fight back.

The initial panic and chaos caused by the Dark race started to subside. Moreover, the ones who had lost friends or suffered at the hands of the winged creatures were even brave enough to go after the lone individuals from the dark race.

Despite everyone's initial doubts, many decided to follow Kyle's words and started heading towards the east, because whenever anyone heard that the words were spoken by a 'silver-haired' youth. They could not help but remember the silver-haired youth who caused a big commotion in front of the realm gate.

In the end, they realized they had no other choice but to trust the silver-haired youth who spread the word. After all, the supposed person was rumored to be the strongest because he had a legendary fire phoenix by his side.

Unaware of the big uproar he caused, Kyle was busy searching for Emion and the group of individuals from the dark race who were after the divine essence. However, even after a few days, he was not able to find them. In the end, he secretly followed behind one of the winged men and found their base.

Kyle's eyes narrowed as he cautiously peeked through the branches of the huge tree he was sitting on.

A wide structure surrounded by many towering walls reflected in his eyes. He did not see any fortress around the uneven buildings built inside the structure but the walls were strangely adorned with hundreds of dark symbols. A few winged men were flying in and out of the structure.

"Hmm, I found this place quite easily but should I enter or not?"

The air around the base was thick with an eerie energy as if the very atmosphere was tainted by the wickedness that resides there. Kyle breathed out and jumped down from the tree to slowly land on the ground.

His eyes turned cold when he heard an agonizing cry in the distance. The voice unmistakably belonged to a female. Instantly, he looked up but narrowed his eyes because the person who was dragging the female was not a man but a woman. However, a familiar pair of dark wings and horns adorned her figure.

"So, they don't lack women in their race."

Kyle closed his eyes to calm his troubled thoughts. He couldn't possibly reveal himself in front of so many enemies. With caution, he inched closer to the towering walls and traced one of the strange symbols.

'Is this an Array?'

'I don't really want to test it out.'

He shook his head and used instant teleportation to directly teleport to the other side of the walls. A curse slipped out from his mouth because he appeared just mere inches away from a sharp blade protruding out from the ground.

Kyle wiped his forehead and slowly grabbed the tip of the blade and moved it away from his face. He looked around, many similar blades were fixed in front of the walls, probably to kill those who dared to jump inside the structure.

He gazed at the many buildings and slowly started moving. The space around him was quiet except for a few individuals of the dark race flying in the air. Maybe because almost everyone was out to harm the ones who entered the realm.

The moment, Kyle stepped in another direction, a winged man walked out from one of the buildings. The man's hands were bloodied as he wiped them with a cloth and tossed it away with a click of his tongue.

"Tsk..tsk he died already? I thought I could send him to the execution chamber to get some reward but too weak."

He spat out and spread his wings to fly but a cold hand grabbed his mouth from behind and dragged him toward a corner. Kyle eyed the struggling man in his grip. He was not strong, barely (B+)-Rank.

"Don't make noise or else I am going to slit your throat."

The moment Kyle's words fell, a painful sensation spread across the man's neck. Shivers ran down the man's spine and he immediately ceased his struggle, because he could feel the sharp edge of the weapon pressing against his neck.

Slowly, Kyle lowered his hand from his mouth.

"What is the 'execution chamber' and where is it?"

The man trembled as the blade pressed further into his throat. He cried out.

"It's.. the place where we kill.. the outsiders. It's in the.. center of the base..."

However, before he could finish his words Kyle swiftly slashed his throat. Blood dripped down Kyle's sword as he coldly glanced at the lifeless body lying on the ground.

"Execution chamber. Huh? What an ominous name."

With a blink, he vanished from his spot, heading straight toward the center of the base. Another person from the dark race appeared in front of him. However, he quietly silenced the man and ran toward the center of the base.

"Why am I having a bad feeling about this?"

Meanwhile, in the center of the dark race base. A large platform engraved with black symbols was built. Dozens of people from the dark race were gathered in front of the platform as they watched with glee when the many captured outsiders were dragged to the platform. A few muffled cries rang out when one of the winged men mercilessly pushed them onto the platform.

Opposite the platform, a chair was floating mid-air. Sitting atop the chair was none other than Emion. He chuckled when one of the captured youths glared at him with bloody eyes.

Emion raised his hand to hush the excited crowd. He stared back at the youth. The blue-haired boy was truly handsome. Still, what a pity he was a man.

"I praise your confidence. You are the first person who attacked me out of nowhere. I would have probably suffered a lot of injuries if you were stronger."

He laughed out when the anger in the youth's eyes increased. On the platform, from behind the angry youth, a disheveled golden-haired boy whispers slowly.

"Alec please calm down. Or else we are probably going to die today."

Chapter 306 Get caught

?Kyle's eyebrow twitched when he arrived at the scene. He couldn't help but muttered with disbelief.

"How the hell did they get caught?"

Among the individuals thrown mercilessly onto the platform, Alec and Carcel's figures stood out like a sore thumb.

Kyle wiped his forehead as he looked at the small crowd gathered in front of the platform. Emion, the one he had been searching for was also there!

Suddenly, right before his eyes, Alec snapped at Emion with wild, crazy eyes. His voice was so hoarse that Kyle almost thought it belonged to someone else.

"Wait wait, you idiot! Don't make him angry! I have not figured out how to save you yet!"

From Carcel's ugly expression, Kyle was sure the latter was dragged here due to Alec.

"Just what the hell did they do? Normally, the dark race would have killed them on the spot. But instead, they have set up a special execution platform for them..."

Kyle groaned when a sharp headache stabbed his head. He watched as two winged men stepped onto the platform carrying sharp blades. They were probably thinking of beheading the captured outsiders.

At that moment, Emion rose from his chair and directed an evil smirk towards the platform. However, Kyle was sure that his malicious gaze was fixed on Alec.

"I don't think I have time for any plan..."

'Hey, Bia?'

The moment Kyle called out her name an irritated voice sounded inside his head.

- 'Don't you dare speak to me! How dare you leave me behind when the situation was so dangerous? Huh, I believe you are strong enough to handle everything alone. So why are you calling me now?'

She paused for a second.

- 'Also... it's a secret, okay... but I heard Yue cursing you under her breath when she heard you left alone. Not just her, even Jian was sharpening his blade, ready to knock some sense into your head.'

Kyle blinked and rubbed his nose, but didn't he ask Haylee to follow up once they were done? As if catching Kyle's train of thought, Bia's voice turned sarcastic.

- 'Go ahead, say that Haylee would bring us to you. He can't even sense your presence. Did you forget you're wearing an artifact?'

'But...'

- 'But what?'

'You can sense me, right?'

Bia hummed softly as if she contemplating his words.

- 'Ah.. right, I can. So, what do you wanna say?'

Kyle let out a sigh. The fact that Haylee could not sense him due to the artifact slipped out of his mind. He gazed at the execution platform when Emion announced that the most powerful among the captured outsiders would be executed in the end. That's why, instead of Alec, a purple-haired dwarf was forcefully dragged to the center of the platform.

The dwarf cried out in panic as the blade hovered above his neck. From Emion's pleased smile, it was evident he wanted to torment Alec by forcing him to witness everyone's death.

'Bia, do me a favor. Make sure to pluck every single strand of hair from Alec's head if something happened to me, okay.'

-'What!? Where are you? Don't jump into any danger if you can not handle it!..'

Her words were cut short because Kyle blocked her voice. He gazed at the platform and before the blade could drop onto the dwarf neck, he vanished from his spot.

On the platform, Alec clenched his jaw as he watched the blade inch closer to the dwarf's neck with dilated eyes. But before the blade could touch the dwarf, a loud pained cry echoed through the crowd.

The blade froze in mid-air as everyone turned their heads towards the source of the cry. The crowd quickly parted, revealing a man writhing in pain. A bright blue spear jutted from his chest as he took his final breath in front of the shocked onlookers.

Emion roared and flapped his wings to fly above the crowd.

"Which bastard did it!?"

He couldn't believe someone dared to attack his people right before his eyes! However, no matter how hard he searched, the culprit seemed to have disappeared into thin air. In the end, he snapped at the crowd.

"What are you all looking at? Go search the area around the platform! Hurry up, I want his head!"

The moment his words fell, the crowd scattered in many directions. However, the panic in their eyes was undeniable, because if even their leader couldn't track down the enemy, it meant the enemy was likely stronger than Emion!

Alec snickered at Emion back loudly with cold eyes. The latter was flying just mere inches away from him that's why he heard it loud and clear. Anger welled up inside Emion's heart as he snapped his head back to crush the insolent human completely, but he froze in his tracks when he saw a familiar figure tiptoeing toward the captured outsiders.

Just like Emion, Kyle stopped in his spot, he so much wanted to strangle the blue-haired youth sitting mere inches away from him. However, he controlled the urge and stared back at Emion with a blank expression.

"Oh, hi-!"

Kyle's sentence drifted in the air as he vanished from the platform, narrowly evading Emion's sharp nails that tore through the space where he was standing a while ago.

Emion let out a loud angry cry because after Kyle vanished he again could not locate him. He snapped his eyes toward Alec and the people sitting around him.

"That bastard wanted to save you, right? So, if I kill some he would show up for sure."

Alec and Carcel both glanced at each other with bewilderment. They only caught a glimpse of the person who vanished in front of their eyes but from the bright silver hair, they were sure it was Kyle!

Carcel groaned, the strange brown rope on everyone's wrists made it impossible for them to freely move their bodies. Amidst all this, just like Kyle, he so badly wanted to punch Alec.

'If only he stayed quiet for a second... Ugh, we were so close to freedom!'

Chapter 307 I wanted to save someone

?Kyle appeared behind a wall and released a huge breath. He heard Emion's loud words and vanished from his spot again.

Due to Emion's angry cry, a lot of people from the dark race returned and surrounded the platform with vigilant eyes.

Emion extended his nails to tear the dwarf who was nearest to him, but before he could touch the dwarf, cold blue flames surged around him. Surprised, he waved his hand to extinguish the flames with his pressure. But instead of stopping the flames shone with intensity and covered the platform completely. However, strangely enough, the flames did not touch Alec or the other captive.

The flying people from the dark race jumped to stop the flames with their attacks, but they were stunned because the flames engulfed every attack and turned it into glistening ice.

Alec watched the surging flames with bated breath. He couldn't help but question himself. Was the one using the flames really Kyle? Suddenly, he felt a cold tug on his wrists. The moment he looked back a pair of bright green eyes stared back at him in exasperation.

A curse slipped out of his mouth when Kyle ripped the rope from his wrists forcefully. He wanted to speak but Kyle spoke first.

"Help others and run. I am going to leave the moment my mana is down."

Alec opened his mouth but Kyle's figure vanished right before his eyes. He rubbed his wrists and swiftly untied the rope from Carcel's wrists. The duo looked at each other and hurriedly went to untie the others. They did not have their weapons and their mana was low. So, fighting was out of the question.

A frustrated cry slipped out of Emion's throat as he flapped his wings roughly to disperse the surging flames. The flames tried to penetrate his skin but they failed miserably when a heavy current enclosed him from head to toe.

Unlike Emion, the other flying Individuals from the dark race were too flustered to touch the flames. Their vigilant behavior made it easier for Alec and Carcel to untie everyone smoothly.

Emion glared at his people with bloodied eyes.

"Stop staring you idiots and grab them! If they escaped today I am going to punish you all!"

Regardless, he flapped his wings angrily, and a large black vortex formed behind him. His eyes traveled around the platform to find the silver-haired human.

"You bastard! If I can not find you I will just crush everything completely!"

True to his words, the vortex spun violently and extended in size repeatedly. Dark ominous current crackled around it, as it soared above the platform, ready to engulf everything.



The flying people around Emion cried out in panic when they saw the vortex. They could not believe the weak ants forced their leader to use his strongest skill! Instantly, they escaped to save their lives.

A crazy laughter spilled out from Emion's mouth as he clenched his fists.

"DIE!"

As soon as his words fell, the vortex moved, but suddenly a figure materialized in the air. Kyle ran his hand through his hair and cocked a finger at his face.

"What scared?"

Emion forehead throbbed as blood rushed to his head. He waved his hand and the moving vortex changed its direction toward Kyle.

"You insolent! Just Die die!"

Kyle frown. He wanted to vanish but Alec and the others were not that far from the platform. He knew if he disappeared now, Emion would throw the vortex at them. *Reaad* the latest stories *on* *novelbin(.)com*

That's why instead of teleporting away, he curled his fingers around his sword and gazed at Emion with bated breath. In the next second, a loud sound of metal hitting metal rang out in the platform as Emion stopped Kyle's sword with his pointy nails.

Emion raised his brow, shocked because the strength of Kyle's attack was too weak.

"You! You!"

He stuttered due to the intense humiliation he felt in his chest. The human was clearly so much weaker! How the hell did he dare to attack him head-on?

Kyle's eyes widened when Emion easily snatched his sword and pushed him toward the vortex. He cursed under his breath and vanished from his spot. Countless ice spears formed around him as he appeared behind Emion.

"Give me back my weapon!"

Emion snapped back but he staggered backward when countless ice spears zoomed toward him with lightning-fast speed.

He flapped his wings to destroy the ice spears. However, at that moment, a barrage of thunder arrows poured down from the sky, straight on his head.

"What!?"

His grip on the sword faltered as he moved his hands to stop the arrows. The sword dropped to the ground with a loud click.

Kyle vanished from his spot and picked it up immediately. With a sigh, he gazed at the vortex and chuckled coldly.

"Let's see if you can confront the vortex you created."

He appeared in front of Emion and kicked his chest with all the strength he could muster. The man staggered due to the sudden attack and Kyle punched his face with a cold expression.

A cry slipped out from Emion's mouth and the sudden force sent him a few meters back. Kyle clicked his tongue.

"Just a little more and he would have been engulfed by the vortex."

Before Emion could snap at him, he vanished from his spot. Kyle hissed when he appeared in the air. He waved his hand. The punch he delivered to Emion's face almost broke his bones.

He gazed down at the running figures and followed behind them in mid-air. Beneath him, Alec and others jumped and dodged an attack coming from behind.

Kyle waved his hand and a familiar blue spear appeared in his hand.

"Good thing I picked it up on time."

He raised the spear above his head and threw it at one of the winged men flying behind Alec. The man cried out in pain as Kyle dived down toward Alec.

He couldn't help but ask when his flying figure appeared beside Alec.

"Hey, tell me how did you offend Emion?"

Alec gazed at him with bated breath.

"I... wanted to save someone."

Kyle glanced at Carcel.

"What about you?"

Carcel rolled in another direction with a curse.

"I wanted to save the one who wanted to save someone else!"

Chapter 308 That was a nice attack

?Kyle raised an eyebrow with an 'Oh' and didn't ask any more questions. He quickly connected the dots in his mind and figured out what had happened.

Most probably, Alec tried to help someone, but it turned out that the person he was up against was none other than Emion. That's why he lost and ended up infuriating the latter, and while Alec was being dragged around by Emion, Carcel happened to see him and tried to help, but unfortunately got captured as well.

Kyle raised his head to gaze at the sky when he heard Emion's furious roar. The man was truly angry because even from such a distance, Kyle could see the thick dark veins bulging all around his head and neck.

With a sigh, Kyle held out his fingers toward Alec.

"I can only stop him for five more minutes."

Alec shot him a nod because five minutes were more than enough. Instantly, he jumped and bent down to dodge an attack from one of the angry winged men following behind them. He raised his voice and waved his hand toward Carcel and the people running around him.

"Everyone scatter!"

Immediately, everyone scattered in different directions. Kyle retrieved the blue spear and held it above his head. His loud voice reverberated behind everyone as he vanished from his spot to engage with Emion.

"Carcel grab!"

Sweat rolled down from Carcel's forehead as he glanced at the plain spear hurled toward him. His eyes narrowed, and with a big leap, he snatched the spear out of the air. Strangely, the cold surface of the spear warmed up his palm. Carcel halted in his tracks and twirled the spear in his hand.

"Not bad at all."

He gazed at the man flying behind him and lunged at him with a smirk. The spear in his hand moved with a rhythm as he thrust it forward.

The wings behind the man fluttered frantically as he tried to evade the attack but under his shocked eyes, the ordinary-looking spear tore through the air with lightning-fast speed. Carcel twisted the spear's body and stabbed the arrowhead directly in the man's stomach. A pained cry slipped out from the man's mouth as he lost his balance and plummeted toward the ground.

In the distance, Alec rolled down to grab a fistful of sand. He tossed it back at the person flying behind him. The man flapped his wings and waved his hands to repel the sand but suddenly a heavy object fell on his head. Due to the sudden impact, he staggered mid-air with a cry. The man rubbed his head and snapped back with bloody eyes to glare at the purple-haired dwarf who attacked him with a heavy rock.

"How dare yo-!"

His sentence was cut short because Alec grabbed a pointy rock and stabbed it in his chest. The man's eyes dilated in pain and he extended his nails, ready to tear the human apart. However before he could make a move, Alec snickered and delivered a powerful kick to his abdomen.

The man's body plummeted down and the moment he dropped to the ground another heavy rock was thrown on his head. Alec gazed at the dwarf with a nod.

Instantly, the duo ran in the opposite direction because more and more people from the dark race were gathering in the air.

At the same time, in the sky, Kyle vanished from one spot to another to avoid Emion's ruthless attacks. A bright glint flashed inside Kyle's eyes and he vanished from his spot. Instantly, Emion snapped his head back and clawed the air around him because he was sure the human would appear behind him.

An evil smirk spread across Kyle's face when he appeared above his head. He rummaged in his mind space for a heavy object but the only heavy thing he had in his mind space was a gigantic throne he stole.. Ahem, he borrowed from the tower of opportunity.

Kyle hesitated for a second when he thought about the hundreds of glistening gems adorned around the throne. Still, he dropped the throne on Emion's head with a regretful sigh.

"I need to stock some heavy boulders..."

Emion twisted his head up but it was too late. With only half a second to spare, he hastily constructed a shaky shield above his head as the heavy throne descended with lightning-fast speed. However, the shield cracked under the immense weight and shattered into countless pieces.

A muffled cry slipped out from his mouth when the throne crashed onto his head with a deafening bang.

Kyle's lips trickled upward into a barely visible smile when Emion danced around in the air and rubbed his bloodied head.

Regardless, he vanished behind his throne and grabbed it before it could plummet to the ground and shatter into many tiny pieces. Kyle sighed with relief and hurriedly tossed the throne in his mind space. However, the moment he raised his head, he was met with a speechless twitching pair of eyes.

Carcel threw the dead body in his hand away and gazed at Kyle with a blank expression. Inwardly, he swore he would never get on the latter's bad side.

"That was a nice attack..."

Kyle was not sure if it was a compliment or insult but he accepted it as a compliment and thanked the golden-haired youth with a nod.

"Why are you still here? Leave, my mana is down I am going to vanish after thirty seconds."

Carcel raised the blue spear with a nod.

"I am borrowing this until I find the one I lost."

Before Kyle could answer, Carcel crushed the tiny round bead in his ear. His figure blurred and a bright light flashed around him. In the next second, he disappeared into thin air.

Kyle blinked.

"Huh?"

He scratched his head with a sigh. Just how on earth did he forget about Carcel's status? There's no way the King would allow his son to enter such a dangerous place without some kind of life-saving artifact. He shook his head with a smile.

"So he endured so much because of Alec?"

Kyle glanced at Emion and vanished from his spot. He appeared in the distance and his eyes roamed around to see the situation beneath him. Almost everyone had gone quite far.

He nodded and grabbed his sword tightly.

"Just one more attack.. then I will leave as well."

With a determined expression, Kyle was ready to attack Emion one last time but suddenly the air around him trembled and a loud unpleasant roar tore through the air. He looked up and his eyes widened slightly.

In the distance, Emion's whole body was enveloped by dark clouds, suspended in mid-air. Countless ominous snakes slithered out from the murky clouds, crackling with electricity. The sky above his head turned pitch black and a swirling vortex formed behind him. The violent currents and winds

tore everything in their path, and the black vortex greedily swallowed the scattered pieces into pitch-black darkness.

Kyle watched as the vortex devoured everything, showing no distinction between friend and foe. He hastily tossed his sword in his mind space when Emion snapped his bloody eyes toward him. With a blank expression, Kyle gave him a curt nod and vanished from his spot.

"I believe I shall leave now."

Emion roared angrily behind him. The vortex and the murky clouds surged forward toward the place Kyle was standing a while ago. However, the intended target had already vanished into thin air.

"Ahhh you bastard! I will kill you! I will cut you into thousands of pieces and feed your flesh to the monsters!"

Inside a medium-sized building, Kyle grabbed his ears as he peeked through the window to glance up at the crazy man.

"Damn... his voice is too unpleasant."

He let out a large breath and vanished from his spot again. Now, staying in the dark race base was not safe. Still, he knew he could not leave Emion alone because if he did, the latter would just kill every outsider that appeared in his path.

That's why instead of leaving the base, Kyle activated his skill scent perception for a few seconds.

"I should check around for a while. After all, I need compensation for the gems I sacrificed on his head."

With a nod, he carefully passed through the numerous buildings scattered within the dark race base, heading straight toward the only place where he sensed a pleasant scent. Kyle noticed with narrowed eyes, the interior of each building was basically the same. Square rooms and simple sets of furniture.

"Ah, the dark race is quite poor."

Kyle let out a sigh and shook his head with pity.

While he was engrossed in his search. The air outside calmed down and Emion closed his eyes to suck in a sharp breath. His fists were trembling because all the captured outsiders escaped under his nose.

He couldn't help but engrave the silver-haired human face in his head.

"I will find you! Just wait!"

He gritted his teeth so hard that blood oozed out from his mouth. With another sharp breath, he flapped his wings and left the area because he suffered a few internal injuries in the middle of his frenzy.

However, he swore the moment he recovered he would go out for a mad hunt and kill every outsider he encountered mercilessly!

Chapter 309 The dark race is truly poor

?Kyle stopped in front of a medium-sized building. He narrowed his eyes with skepticism at the ordinary-looking door. Still, he entered the building through a widow because he was sure he sensed something good in this place. Just like the other buildings, the interior was rather simple.

Slowly, he explored the building by going from room to room, checking behind furniture and opening doors. Strangely, no one from the dark race was present in the building. As he searched, his eyes scanned the walls for any signs of hidden passages or secret compartments. And that's when he noticed a simple stone bookshelf. However, it was empty.

Kyle blinked with a raised brow.

"Huh? If they don't have books why did they place it here.."

With a grin, he pushed the stone shelf away from the wall. It was heavy but the weight was nothing in front of the delicious smell of treasures. His grin widened when a narrow stairway emerged from behind the shelf, leading down into darkness.

With a mix of excitement and caution, Kyle descended into the stairway, until he reached a wide underground room. However, the sight he saw was vastly different from the one he imagined.

The room was mostly empty, except for a few old plants and herbs that were messily scattered on the ground. In the distance, he saw a table and gingerly walked past the scattered plants.

Kyle's eyebrow twitched when he arrived in front of the table. A few bloodied weapons and some storage rings were all, that were strewn across the table surface. He sighed and massaged his temples because the weapons and rings belonged to Alec and the people who escaped a while ago.

"What did I even expect? The dark race is truly poor."

Regardless, he activated his skill scent perception to check if the room really had nothing of value. Instantly, his nose was blasted with hundreds of unpleasant scents oozing out from the dead plants and the surrounding walls. Yet, amidst so many scents he sensed it clearly when a calm and soothing smell flickered around him.

Kyle moved his head to glance at the few weapons placed above the table. He picked up the simple-looking sword and narrowed his eyes.

"Hmm, Alec sword? I thought it was just an ordinary weapon but the smell coming from it is saying otherwise."

He tilted his head and swung the blade around him. A humming sound echoed in the room as he ran his fingers along the smooth silver surface.

"It's good but it's not mine. What a pity."

He shook his head and tossed everything present on the table inside his mind space. However, he made a mental note to return the items if he encountered their owners. After all, due to the dark race presence the ancient realm was very dangerous.

"Anyway, since I only know Alec and Carcel, I should just dump everything on them."

Kyle roamed inside the room but in the end, found nothing of value. He dejectedly left the building and aimlessly wandered inside the base. He was so carefree that if anyone saw him they would think he was walking in front of his house. In the middle of his walk, he even killed a few members of the dark race as if they were the ones intruding on his territory.

After a few hours, he let out a tired yawn. There was this weird feeling in the back of his mind, that he was forgetting something really, really important, but he just shrugged it off because he was too tired.

Kyle looked around and decided to enter the nearest building. To his surprise, he discovered an empty bed in one of the rooms. Though the bed was firm, it was better than rocks and trees. He drew a protective Array in the room and retrieved a blanket from his mind space to get some sleep.

.....

A loud sound reverberated in the middle of the vast field. Bia narrowed her eyes dangerously at the tiny innocent insects crawling below her huge body.

-'You bastard! how dare you cut off my voice!'

Her wings fluttered with crimson flames and countless fireballs appeared around her. With a single flap, she tossed the fireballs down at the insects. The surrounding air grew scorching hot as the raging flames intensified, growing larger and more ferocious with each passing second.

In the distance, Nine and Jian both simultaneously peeked out from behind Haylee's huge body. They wiped their sweaty foreheads when they saw Bia's towering figure.

Nine let out a chuckle. Before when Kyle was around, he endured bone-chilling cold, and now with Bia's presence, he had to endure intense heat.

He tapped Jian's shoulder with a hardened expression.

"Why do you think she is so angry?"

Jian narrowed his eyes in contemplation.

"Maybe, she is missing Kyle?"

Nine nodded in agreement. The duo had only met a few days ago, but to their surprise, they instantly clicked, as if they were long-lost friends.

Haylee's eyebrow twitched when he heard the two boys clinging to his body. He so badly wanted to throw them away but he paused for the sake of the rules.

Unlike the two curious heads peeking out from behind Haylee, Rowan and the girls were training in the distance. Due to Haylee's presence, the insects did not bother them that much that's why they were able to easily pass their time in the castle.

After using up all her mana, Bia let out a huff and silently landed next to Haylee. The boar acknowledged her with a nod when he sensed the powerful aura around her body.

"Good job. If you keep it up, you might just have another breakthrough."

Bia closed her eyes. Just as Kyle had guessed, she recently reached (B-)-Rank. However, despite feeling drained, she couldn't help but be angry at him. It had been a whole day without any news from Kyle. If she couldn't sense that he was alright, she would have thought he had perished out there.

"Bia, are you hungry?"

A familiar sweet voice floated through the air, instantly diverting Bia's attention from Kyle. She shrank in size and pounced on Yue with a blissful expression.

-Yes! It's food time!

### Chapter 310 Hot Spring

Kyle opened his eyes after a few hours and stretched his body, feeling refreshed. After gathering his blanket, he walked out of the building. Not from the window but from the front door.

For some reason, the atmosphere outside was eerily quiet. He couldn't help but look up when he noticed shadows casting upon his figure.

The moment he raised his head, he was greeted with the sight of countless people from the dark race gathered in the air. Emion clasped his hands behind his back and gazed at the rows of flying figures in front of him.

Then he started a speech mid-air as to how the outsiders had humiliated them blatantly and how he wanted a certain 'silver-haired' human head. He even promised generous rewards to those who could locate the escaped individuals.

Kyle narrowed his eyes. He had to suppress a groan because the bounty on the silver-haired human was almost ten times greater than all others.

"I believe I am certainly not the person he is looking for..."

He silently kept an eye on the sky. After a long speech, Emion and the people around him all roared. Together, they flew out from the base. As soon as they crossed the boundary, they split up into multiple teams of two and went off in different directions.

Kyle massaged his temples. It was true due to his recent actions Emion forgot about the divine essence but the situation right now was even more dangerous than before. He pinched his brows and decided to follow behind Emion because he was the strongest.

But as he approached the base walls, he noticed a peculiar round dome tucked away in a secret corner, surrounded by rows of blades.

"What's that..."

Curious, Kyle went closer to the dome but to his surprise, four muscular winged men were guiding the dome. He raised his brow. Almost everyone went out to capture the escaped individuals so why did Emion leave someone to guard the dome? Doesn't that mean there was something special in the dome? However, even when he used the skill of scent perception he sensed nothing from the dome.

He narrowed his eyes and vanished from his spot. In the next second, a muffled cry slipped out from one of the guards' mouths when Kyle grabbed his mouth from behind and twisted his neck.

He tossed the body away and took care of the other three guards. After checking the place one last time, he roamed around the dome and found a door.

It was shut tightly with a big lock. Kyle chuckled and wisps of blue flames appeared around his fingers. He gingerly touched the lock and the flames danced around the metal eagerly. He flicked the lock and it turned into bright particles that drifted in the air.



With a smile, Kyle kicked the door open. A loud sound rang out in the air, yet no one was around to check on the culprit. He briskly walked in the dome and his eyes widened with glee only after a few steps.

Nestled among the countless scattered glowing mana stones, there was a round hot spring. The water of the spring was shimmering with a mesmerizing glow. Wisps of steam rose from the water, carrying with them a soothing aroma of flowers and earth.

"Did the dark race dig it out? It's a natural hot spring..."

Kyle removed his shoe and dipped his toe into the warm inviting water. He grimaced because the water temperature was hot, very different from his own.

He sensed the air around him and noticed the dense mana filling the atmosphere. Kyle sucked in a deep breath because he detected a faint revolting scent, mingling with the aroma of the hot spring.

"Someone from the dark race used this spring... but the scent doesn't belong to Emion. So, who used it? Someone with a stronger status than him?"

Kyle gazed up at the dome ceiling as he recalled Haylee's last words.

"Ah... don't tell me it's Guil."

He smirked coldly. Guil was probably busy fighting with the guardian. So, it would be a pity if he left such a good place alone.

"I should make the most of it while it's still beneficial for my body. It's a shame I don't have anything to store the water. Anyway, I will just freeze everything before I go."

Kyle discarded his clothes and jumped into the spring with a splash, immersing himself in the refreshing water. The warm droplets caressed his skin, rejuvenating his senses.

"If I stayed in this place for a day. I believe I can step into the next rank..."

A sense of tranquility washed over his body, melting away his stress and worries.

While he was enjoying the hot spring, the people from the dark race roamed inside the secret realm. Searching for the outsiders and the silver-haired human. Yet, for some strange reasons, they were unable to find a lot of targets. Moreover, to make matters worse, the outsiders were gathered together into big teams which is why even when the dark race found them they were unable to harm anyone. Instead, they were beaten up badly.

...

In front of the dark race base, Alec gazed at the sky and rubbed his nose. He was still lurking around because how could he leave without his precious sword?

That's why he waited until the dark race people were gone. After securing the surroundings, he jumped inside the towering walls silently.

Slowly, his feet landed on his ground, just mere inches away from the sharp blades placed in front of the walls. Alec rubbed his hands and gazed at the many buildings in front of him.

"It's going to take a while if I want to search every single building."

Just like him, a few more individuals were also lurking around the base in the hope of finding their lost belongings. Alec almost freaked out when two more people landed beside him.

He grasped his chest and groaned at Carcel and the purple- haired dwarf.

"At least inform me before jumping.

Carcel nodded and pointed the blue spear in his hand on the left side.

"I will go check in that direction."

The dwarf pointed his hand in the right direction. In the end, Alec dragged his body to search the buildings in the front. After all, the more the better. However, even after a long day, they were unable to find their weapons and storage rings. In the end, they thought dejectedly. Maybe, Emion took everything with him.