

Bloodline 321

Chapter 321 Just stop speaking

Nine suppressed his smile and grabbed Kyle's hand with a serious expression.

"Don't worry, ki.. Ahem I mean brother, I will protect you!"

His expression was so righteous that Kyle almost believed himself to be a kid who needed protection.

A blank expression appeared on his face as he yanked his hand away from Nine.

"No thank you!"

Nine stared at him from head to toe with crescent eyes.

"Are you sure?"

With a hum, Kyle narrowed his eyes and blue flames appeared around his body. The air turned extremely cold as the flames enclosed him in a protective shield.

Startled, Nine stepped back with a wry smile.

'Due to his appearance, I forget he is the strongest. Not to mention the flames..'

Nine's eyes trailed off to the surging flames. He stared at them for a second and blinked.

'Am I imagining or the color of the flames had really gotten darker?'

A familiar cry snapped him out of his thoughts, Nine looked back at the battered person crawling toward him.

Jian raised his teary eyes to stare at Nine. He opened his mouth but when he saw Kyle he clicked his mouth shut.

'What am I doing? He is a kid how can I ask him to help!'

Instantly, he jumped to his feet and approached Bia, his only hope.

"Bia! I need help come with me!"

The phoenix stared at him for a second before gazing at Kyle.

With a sigh, Kyle gave her a quick nod.

-'Stay safe.'

Bia spread her wings and followed behind Jian who jumped in the battle with joy.

After Bia's towering figure left, an injured winged man attacked Kyle and Nine with a loud cry.

Nine kicked the man away smoothly before stepping toward Kyle.

"Can you use any other skill except your flames?"

At Kyle's silence, Nine knew he couldn't. With a frown, he stopped another attack aimed at them from behind.

"Should I stay with you?"

"No need. Go fight with the others."

Kyle gazed at the battlefield around him and the flames around his body became violent.

'As long as I avoid direct combat I believe I can help.'

He sucked in a breath and left Nine side. A few eyes traveled in his direction but because of the chilling flames not many dared to approach him and the ones who did were reduced to glistening ice sculptures.

Kyle's eyes scanned the surroundings as he cautiously climbed the highest boulder around him to oversee the situation better.

The hair on his back stood up when a winged man attacked him from behind. With a decisive move, he jumped forward before the attack could land on him.

Kyle's body landed on the ground as he rolled off and stared at the person who attacked him. A trail of blood oozed out from his palm due to the sudden movement.

He clicked his tongue.

"I can use the flames but my body is too weak to sustain deep injuries. What a realistic punishment."

The atmosphere was heavy with various metallic sounds ringing in the air. Kyle rubbed his palm with his thumb and gazed at the man charging toward him with a cold expression.

The wings behind the man fluttered frantically as he extended his hand but before his nails could reach Kyle, blue flames materialized around him. The flames took the shape of spears and stabbed him from all directions.

A painful cry rang out and within a few seconds, the man turned into another ice sculpture that vanished into thin air.

Kyle grabbed his knees and dragged his body to stand up properly. He wanted to attack another dark race individual fighting with an elf beside him when a familiar voice echoed behind him.

"Are you alright?"

"Huh?"

He lifted his gaze to stare back at the pair of amber eyes looking at him with worry. Kyle blinked in surprise. Unlike their previous encounter, Yue appeared disheveled. Her hair cascaded down her back and shoulders, untied. A frown creased his forehead when he sensed the aura around her.

'What happened now? Bia did say she can absorb the aura from treasures but is it really safe for her body?'

He wanted to ask, but then he held back. First, it wasn't his place to pry, and second, they weren't exactly close enough to share secrets like that.

Amidst all this, he failed to notice the hesitation in Yue's steps when she saw his knitted brows.

'Is he uncomfortable?'

Different from Yue who stopped a few steps away from him, Sia immediately made her way toward Kyle with a bright and curious smile.

"Kyle, how did you turn into a kid? Can you tell me I want to reduce my age as well-!"

Her sentence was cut short because someone attacked her from the left. With a curse, she spun her spear and stabbed it toward her enemy.

Yue hurriedly formed a few spells to help Sia. Countless lava snakes rose around her body and the moment she raised her fingers, the snakes shot out toward her enemy.

Kyle gazed at her figure for a second but then started walking in the opposite direction. He used his flames to help the ones in need while carefully avoiding all direct contact with the others.

Even though the battle was quite intense and bloody, he could see it. The battle was in their favor especially due to Alec, Carcel, Bia, and Jian.

Kyle let out a chuckle. Jian would always run off at the first sign of danger, but surprisingly, he was the one taking down the most enemies.

Suddenly, he raised his head when a loud battle cry reverberated in the distance.

Kyle raised his brow when he saw a familiar figure flying in the sky. It's been a while since he saw the winged demi-human. Sinon dived down with a lightning-fast speed and rolled on the ground to join the battle.

Kyle mused softly.

"It's like he's become comfortable with heights. The last time I remember, he was scared to even use his wings."

Soon, just like the dark race many outsiders arrived to join the battle. A few familiar faces also appeared, and Kyle was surprised when he saw Regius with two beautiful demi-human girls.

Regius was practically glowing with smiles as he entered the battle and fought against the enemies.

The battle raged on for an entire day, and with every passing minute, more and more outsiders joined the fight against the dark race. In the end, the remaining dark race people wanted to flee, but for some reason Alec gathered many people to surround them from all directions.

He didn't stop until he had taken down every last person from the dark race. But even after the battle was over, Alec and the others knew that a few dark race people might still be alive.

Afterward, everyone erupted in joy and raised their weapons high in the sky to celebrate their hard-earned victory.

Countless faint murmurs echoed in the air as everyone gathered together to discuss what they should do next.

Regardless of the buzzing atmosphere, Alec and Carcel both raised their weapons to attract everyone's attention.

The crowd went silent but a few people were still talking as everyone stared at the two men standing opposite them.

Alec cleared his throat but before he could speak Bia huge figure landed beside him. Almost everyone went quiet when they saw the majestic phoenix.

Alec gazed at Bia and blinked. He followed her eyes, only to see Kyle's tiny figure standing at the end of the crowd.

Kyle raised his hand and waved at him. With a smile, Alec raised his voice and delivered a quick speech.

First, he expressed how happy he was to see everyone fight together regardless of their race. He did not go into much detail and closed off his speech with a few more lines.

"I believe the strong enemies had been killed. Now all of you can venture around and enter the treasure islands to fight for treasures. Still, to make sure no more deaths occur please stay together with your friends. However, the ones who think they are capable of protecting themselves are welcome to roam around alone."

After Alec was done, slowly the crowd scattered in different directions. There were a few people who made teams but many left alone.

He sighed. Still, the danger lurking around them was gone. So, he believed at least no one would die under the dark race now.

Alec and Carcel went toward Kyle. Just like the duo, all of Kyle's friends approached him. After all, they could not just leave him to fend for himself in his current condition.

Kyle let out a sigh and hurriedly told them he was fine. He just needed to find a cure that was present inside a treasure island.

Yet, his words backfired and Jian and Nine immediately urged to go together. Nine was very displeased when he saw Seraphine lurking around Kyle but he could do nothing but tolerate her presence.

Kyle groaned when he saw so many people surrounding him from all directions. The voices grew louder and louder as they insisted on following him until he found the cure.

In the end, he grabbed his ears with a fed-up expression.

"Okay! Just stop speaking already!"

Chapter 322 Odiak aura

There was silence as everyone stared at Kyle who was looking at them with a tired expression. It would be a lie, if Kyle said he did not like their enthusiasm for helping him but taking so many people with him was impossible.

Moreover, if they all entered the treasure island together with him, the difficulty would increase tenfold.

Kyle ruffled his hair and the smile on his face was borderline evil but for some unknown reason, the girls around him were looking at him with twinkling eyes.

Mia's eyes trailed off to his injured palm and without even thinking twice she took out a healing potion from her storage ring.

Kyle flinched when she sat down beside him so easily. Goosebumps flared up on his neck the moment she tried to grab his hand. With a sudden movement, he moved away. x

"What?"

Elli and Sia giggled at his reaction and just like Mia they also stepped closer to him. The two demi-human girls with Regius gazed at each other and also followed behind. Not because of Kyle but because of the majestic phoenix sitting behind him.

Sia glanced at him from head to toe, the kid version of Kyle was actually quite cute.

"She is trying to pour the potion on your injury."

Kyle opened his mouth with an 'Oh' and obediently held out his palm, blissfully unaware of the people who were staring daggers at him.

Nine let out a dark chuckle and hurriedly dragged Elli back.

"Dear, It's not good for men and women to sit so closely."

Elli blinked at his comment.

"But he is just a kid now?"

Carcel gave the couple a strange look, wondering if he should do the same or not. However, his usual expression made it impossible for him to show his dissatisfaction on his face.

After Mia was done, Kyle stood up and cleared his throat.

"Guys, I think having too many people will make things more difficult. Also, I am not alone. Bia and Haylee both are going with me."

"So, don't worry I will be fine. "

A few people were puzzled about who this Haylee was. That's why he had to tell them about the winged boar who is supposedly the strongest in the realm. Still, he carefully omitted the fact that Haylee could not help him much.

With so many people gathered together, they had to introduce themselves to know about each other.

Kyle quietly watched as they became familiar with each other. His eyes stopped on Jian, who seemed noticeably tense amidst the lively atmosphere.

'What happened to him? He is usually the most cheerful one.'

'Wait... where is Kelvin?'

However, he was soon distracted by Yue. It had been a while since she had approached him, and now she was standing with Regius, engaged in a lively conversation.

'Hmm.'

He watched her for a minute, and couldn't help but wonder, why hasn't she approached him?

'At least the violent aura around her body is gone now.'

He looked away and gazed at Bia. The phoenix had long left his side. Now, she was sitting on Mia's lap with a sleepy and content expression.

Amidst everyone, only Sen looked uncomfortable. He gazed at the people around him, they were all strong. A lot stronger than him.

'Tsk, all rich people are gathered together. Just what the hell am I doing here?'

He hurriedly went up to Lucas to discuss whether they should leave. Since they weren't part of Kyle's friend group. Also, he had this strange feeling that it might be better for him to stay away from Kyle. But before he could approach Lucas, someone grabbed his shoulder with a polite smile.

Sinon unfurled his wings behind his back and smacked his back.

"Hey buddy, what's your name? How did you and Kyle become friends?"

Sen's expression stiffened. The strength of Sinon's smack was enough to shake his inner organs. He hurriedly grabbed the hand dangerously edging closer to his back and a forced smile appeared on his face.

"I do know him but not much."

He wanted to run away when he spotted Lucas nearby but the demi-human was just too persistent. In the end, the duo entered into a conversation. That looked totally awkward from a distance.

Above in the sky, Haylee watched the calm and lively atmosphere, and a smile spread across his face. How long has it been since he saw so many people chatting with each other so casually? It's been a long time indeed.

He couldn't help but look at Kyle. The human had a good circle of friends, and it was clear from their expressions that they genuinely cared about him. They weren't greedy or selfish like some people.

'This group of kids. I feel like they are going to achieve a lot in the future. Especially..'

His crescent eyes stopped on Kyle. The silver-haired human but then he was distracted by the blue-haired human standing at a distance.

Haylee ears perked up when he sensed a faint but familiar aura around him. His eyes widened instantly.

'Why the hell does he have Odiak aura in his body!?'

He could barely hold himself back from leaping at the blue-haired human to get the answer to his question. With an agitated expression, Haylee paced around the sky, eagerly watching as the crowd started leaving one by one. After all, Kyle made it clear that he would go alone with Bia.

The moment the blue-haired youth left Haylee immediately followed behind him, forgetting the fact that he had to tell Kyle about the location of the treasure island.

At the same time, Kyle said goodbye to those who were leaving. He raised his eye when Seraphine approached him with a smile.

It was unbelievable but she was really Nine's sister because the moment she saw Nine, she immediately grabbed his arm and insisted on going together with him.

Contrary to Seraphine's happy expression, Nine brows were knitted together as he peeled her fingers from his arm one by one.

"Seraphine, you are not a kid and now with the dark race gone, I believe you can take care of yourself."

Kyle watched blankly as tears welled up inside Seraphine's eyes within a second. Also, her grip on Nine's arm tightened.

"Brother, how can you leave me alone? What if something happened to me?"

She then gazed at Kyle and the tears in her eyes dropped to her cheeks.

"Kyle, he is leaving me! Can you take me with you? I swear I won't be a burden!"

Nine was completely shocked. He opened his mouth but then closed it again. What the heck just happened!? His sister, who had never shed a tear before, was crying like a damsel in distress.

Fortunately, before he could make matters worse with a curt reply, Lucus stepped in and gazed at Seraphine.

"Why are saying? I believe we need to stay together. So, come with me and Sen."

Anger flashed through Seraphine's eyes when she gazed at her old teammates.

'What the hell! Can they not understand that I want to go with Kyle!'

However, to her dismay, Kyle immediately agreed with Lucus. Afterward, he hurriedly ran off in the opposite direction to avoid any further drama.

Kyle called Bia and she transformed into her phoenix form before landing beside him.

He grabbed her feathers to climb on her back when a familiar voice sounded behind him.

Kyle glanced back, but to his surprise, Yue stopped a few meters away from him. He released Bia feathers with a soft expression.

"Wait for a while."

With a mischievous sparkle in her eyes, the phoenix raised an eyebrow as Kyle approached Yue. It seems he did not notice how he would hear Yue no matter when she called him.

-'Well, Yue is good at cooking. Also, she is warm, unlike a cold ice cube. So, I guess I'll give her my approval.'

Bia watched with utmost focus as Yue opened her mouth but the beautiful moment was shattered when Sia stepped between them.

-'Damn! What a timing! I don't like fox from now on. Wait.. maybe they taste good?'

The tail behind the fox girl swirled left and right when she grabbed her knees to look at Kyle directly.

"Kyle, is the illusion on your body dangerous? If it's not I want to reduce my age as well!"

Kyle let out a sigh. Why was this girl so obsessed with age? She clearly looked under her twenties. Suddenly, he gazed at her from head to toe.

'Maybe she is older but how much?'

"How old are you?"

Sia blinked at his question and let out a smile.

"You should not ask girls about their age."

Kyle gave her a quick nod and stepped away to look at Yue.

"The illusion is dangerous. So, don't try anything. Or else it can harm you."

The ears on Sia's head dropped in dejection. She gazed at Kyle but the expression on his face was too cold. That's why she left him alone.

"What's he so angry about? I just asked a simple question!"

Unbeknownst to her, Kyle was not angry. He just felt frustrated because while he was talking to her, Yue left. His frown deepened as he made his way towards Bia.

"What did she want to say?"

He shook his head and threw the matter at the back of his head.

'I will ask her if I see her again.'

Kyle climbed on Bia's back and the phoenix soared into the sky. Bia sensed his sour mood but did not say anything. Instead, she laughed inwardly.

-'It's rare for him to express so much just because of a single person.'

Bia circled the sky as the duo waited for a certain boar to show up. However, even after an hour, Haylee was nowhere to be seen.

Kyle's frustration increased and a curse slipped out from his mouth.

"Where the hell did he go?"

Chapter 323 Ask him, 'Who is Odiak'

?Meanwhile, far away from Kyle's location. Haylee's eyes followed the blue-haired human running below him. The human was not alone, three more humans were following him but they split up after an hour.

After observing them for a while, Haylee found out that the blue-haired human name was Alec. The other three individuals with him were called Carcel, Lara, and Mia.

When the trio left Alec and went their separate ways, Haylee wondered if he should reveal himself in front of him.

After thinking for a minute, he changed back into a white fur ball. The ball sped up behind Alec before circling his body.

Alec froze in his spot for a second before he distanced himself from the strange ball floating around him.

"What is this thing-!"

He stopped abruptly when the ball started speaking to him.

"Is your name Alec?"

Alec's eyes widened with shock. It took him a few seconds to digest the fact that the ball was speaking! Also, to make matters even stranger the ball knew his name! Instantly, his first course of action was to use the system appraisal skill on the fur ball.

System Analysis:

'Name: Haylee'

'Bonded beast'

'Age: 2679'

'Rank: SSS'

'Talent: (SSS)-Rank'

'???'

-Error!

Trying to find the cause! Loading...

-Error!

No more information provided.

"Haylee?"

Alec mumbled under his breath. The name was quite familiar. He thought for a few seconds and suddenly Kyle's last words appeared in his mind.

"Wait, are you the same Haylee who was supposed to help Kyle? What are you doing here!?"

The ball froze mid-air seemingly processing Alec's words. Then suddenly a bright light flashed in front of Alec, forcing him to close his eyes for a second.

Haylee immediately changed back into his original form. His large wings fluttered behind his back as he landed in front of Alec who stared at him with bated breath.

The boar cleared his throat clearly reluctant to admit the fact that he forgot about Kyle after sensing Odiak's aura in Alec's body.

Alec snapped out of his trance and let out a wry smile.

"So, you are Haylee... Indeed Kyle doesn't need help with you around."

The boar nodded in agreement. However, he was not here to talk about himself. That's why he immediately focused on the question he wanted to ask the human.

"Alec, I sensed a faint aura inside your body. It belonged to someone I know. Can you tell me if you had an encounter with someone strong in the outside world? Maybe an old dwarf..?"

Alec thought for a few seconds and shook his head. All the strong people he knew were humans.

Haylee let out a sigh and eyed him from all directions. If only he could peer inside his body to check where the aura was coming from. However, it was impossible. He could only sense it, not see it.

"Hmm, I guess it's just a coincidence and you don't know anything."

With a shake of his head, the boar opened his wings, ready to fly away but suddenly Alec stopped him.

"Wait!"

Haylee gazed at the human and let out a sigh.

"If you want to ask for help in finding treasures. Then I must apologize I am not allowed to."

Alec was surprised and a little perplexed.

'Can he only help Kyle?'

He threw the matter at the back of his head with a sour expression. It was better to not think about it. Or else he would feel unfair.

"No, I am not asking for help. I just want to know about something..."

Alec passed for a few seconds and gazed at the failed missions that had been filling the system interference after he entered the secret realm.

'Mission; xX'

Find the 'Divine essence' stored in the last treasure island.

Treasure island location: In the north, underneath a mountain.

Reward:

1× divine essence

Penalty:

-None

-Failed

'Mission; xX'

Find the 'Resonite Gem' stored in the '012' treasure island.

Treasure island location: In the west.

Reward:

1× (S)-Rank skill

Knowledge

Penalty:

-sub rank,

-Knowledge,

-??

-Failed

'Mission; xX'

Find the 'Enchanted hot spring'.

Location: In the west.

Reward:

×1 (S)-Rank healing skill,

+3 sub rank.

Penalty:

-None

-Failed

Alec massaged his temples with a groan.

He somewhat knew the locations of the missions, but witnessing the cruelty of the dark race made him angry. That's why he couldn't complete the missions on time. Or, to be more specific, someone else had already taken the treasures before him.

And, for some reason, he had this nagging feeling in the back of his head that all this was done by a single person.

At first, he thought maybe... maybe it was Kyle. However, he crossed Kyle's name because when the mission about the hot spring failed he met Kyle almost instantly.

Also, they were both in the dark race territory. Kyle couldn't possibly stumble upon the hot spring immediately after he fought an intense battle with Emion. Or could he...?

'The divine essence and resonite gem are okay.. but what the heck did the person do with the hot spring? Don't tell me he drank the water or just destroyed it completely after using it?'

'I swear I am going to rough up the person who is playing with my emotions!'

He did not even realize his conflicted emotions were showing up on his face. The boar gazed at him with narrowed eyes when he showed a dark expression.

"What happened?"

Alec shook his head and immediately changed his expression into a smile.

"Nothing... I just want to know what is a resonite gem and divine essence."

"Huh?"

Haylee stared at him for a few seconds, dumbfounded. He blinked, thinking maybe he heard wrong but Alec was clearly asking about the divine essence and the resonite gem that even he knew nothing about!

He only found out about the resonite gem due to Kyle!

The boar opened his mouth but closed it again. First, he sucked in a deep breath to calm down and then stared at Alec with a deadly serious expression.

"How do you know about them?"

Alec opened his mouth to lie. After all, he could not possibly reveal the system's presence, but before he could speak, a strange notification flashed in front of his eyes.

He stared at the screen in front of his eyes with shock.

Ask him, 'Who is Odiak'.

It was the first time the system sent such a notification to him! After all, the system only ever asked him to complete missions and gave him rewards!

Alec gulped down his nervousness and repeated the words.

"Who is Odiak?"

Haylee's jaw hung open as he stared at the human in front of him. In the end, he could only blurt out a single word.

"How...?"

Chapter 324 If I am really the one

?It took Haylee a whole minute to digest Alec's words. He gazed at the human from head to toe again and again. At first, Kyle's presence itself was an anomaly for him, and now Alec as well.

"How the hell do you know about Odiak?"

Alec jolted when Haylee's sharp eyes narrowed at him.

"I .."

He opened his mouth but was at a loss for how to explain himself. His eyes flashed with conflicted emotions as he looked back and forth between the glowing screen and Haylee's face.

Inside his mind, Alec cursed at the system, but it remained eerily silent. However, fortunately, before he could have a mental breakdown under Haylee's sharp eyes. The system screen flashed again.

Alec's eyes widened when the system asked him to tell the boar about its presence.

Opposite him, Haylee's eyes flashed with skepticism as he observed Alec's strange behavior. For some reason, the human was just staring into the air.

Alec sucked in a deep breath and spilled everything. He began by recounting the time when he first received the system and how it started assigning him missions.

He didn't go into many details, but while he was talking, Haylee fell silent. The boar listened attentively from start to finish.

Once Alec finished, Haylee let out a big sigh. He moved his paw and massaged his head. From Alec's explanation, he immediately understood the origin of Odiak aura within the human body.

It was Soul, the first and last divine artifact constructed by Odiak.

'So, from the start Odiak consciousness chose Alec?'

Haylee's mind wandered as he processed the information. He knew that Odiak had left a part of his consciousness behind, but he never expected the dwarf to also leave behind the divine artifact. After all, divine artifacts, just as their name suggests, are incredibly precious and rare. Not many have the ability to create them.

Suddenly, Haylee thought about the time he told Kyle about James and Odiak, and a dry smile appeared on his face.

'Seems like I made a mistake. It was Alec who was supposed to know that knowledge, not Kyle.'

Haylee gazed at Alec and tapped the place beside himself.

"Let's sit, we have a lot to talk about."

Alec gingerly sat down beside Haylee as the boar repeated the same things he had told Kyle. However, unlike Kyle, Alec asked a lot of questions, and Haylee had to painfully admit that explaining to Kyle was much easier than to Alec.

In the end, the boar first told Alec about the ranks above (SSS+)-Rank. Unbeknownst to him, Alec's expression grew paler as he heard Haylee's explanation.

Once Haylee finished, Alec asked some of the same questions as Kyle. First, he asked if the planet was safe now or if Odiak and James had perished out there.

Unfortunately, Haylee could only shake his head in response. He knew nothing about what had happened in the outside world.

However, Alec's final question left Haylee speechless.

"Can you tell me who took the divine essence? I believe if the system is asking me to get it, it's important for my growth."

The corner of Alec's lips trickled upward into a barely visible evil smile. Finally, he could know about the culprit who claimed the rewards of all his missions. But his smile stiffened when he heard a familiar name from the boar's mouth.

Alec wiped his imaginary tears and hurriedly tossed his grief at the back of his head. Forget about revenge, with his current strength he could not even fight an equal battle with Kyle!

"I remember Kyle was flying before he turned into a kid.. What's his rank? I know it's higher than (S-)-Rank but how much?"

Alec paused for a second.

"Also, for some reason, the system's appraisal skill didn't work on Kyle."

Haylee blinked, seemingly thinking about Kyle's rank.

"I sensed his rank while he was fighting with Emion, and it's still (S-)-Rank. It's strange with the amount of treasures he is consuming he should have broken through to the next rank but for some reason, his body needs double the amount of what is needed by an ordinary person."

Alec nodded.

"I can not believe Kyle consumed the divine essence and a whole enchanted hot spring and he is still in (S-)-Rank."

Haylee let out a chuckle.

"Consuming the divine essence is not an easy task. I believe there is something special within his body."

Alec's eyes narrowed in contemplation. He remembered when he discovered Kyle's talent in the tower, but now he wasn't so sure. If Kyle could consume the divine essence, did that mean his talent was even greater than Alec had imagined?

'Ah... what am I thinking? Does talent even matter now? I believe I have more important things to focus on.'

He gazed at the clear sky. The weight on his shoulder increased. At first, he wanted to save the innocent people from the destruction he witnessed through the system but now what? With the new knowledge Haylee shared, he realized things were not as simple as they seemed.

If Odiak and James were truly successful in defeating the Shadow General then why haven't they returned? And why would the system choose him if the planet is already safe?

While Alec was lost in his thoughts, Haylee spread out his wings with a faint smile.

"I'll come see you later. I should go check on Kyle. Maybe he's cursing me right now?"

Alec watched as Haylee soared into the sky and disappeared from his sight. With a sigh, Alec gazed at the sword hanging on his waist.

He clutched it tightly with a sigh.

"I wonder if I am really the one...? Everything is so confusing."

He shook his head and jumped on his feet. With a last glance at the system status window, Alec ran off toward the nearest treasure island. After all, he needs to get stronger. So, much so that he could fight against the danger lurking outside the planet.

A faint smile appeared on his face when he thought about his friends.

"I believe I won't be alone."

But after he climbed the stairway and stood opposite the castle gate, his smile stiffened.

Alec's eyes twitched as he scanned the castle gate, where a prominent and unmistakable warning was displayed.

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

Chapter 325 At least I loved my bed

Haylee's gaze wandered off to the majestic phoenix flying across the sky, specifically eyeing the dark-faced human sitting on Bia's back.

With a hesitant sigh, he transformed into a white fur ball, floating around to catch the phoenix's attention.

Bia's eyes lit up the moment she saw the light.

- 'Finally, he is here!'

Kyla heard her voice and gave the ball a dangerous look. The ball flinched but settled on his shoulder.

Haylee let out an awkward chuckle.

"Actually I...?"

But before he could finish his explanation, Kyle ignored him with a blank expression.

"Just tell me, where is the treasure island that we are searching for."

Haylee blinked and gazed at Bia.

'What happened to him?'

Bia's wings fluttered gracefully as she laughed inwardly.

- 'Ignore him, he's been like that for a while now.'

Haylee hummed softly, guiding the duo as they soared further toward the east.

The wind rushed through Kyle's hair and after what felt like an eternity, the phoenix finally came to a stop above a towering mountain. Bia dived down and lowered her body on the mountain's surface.

Instantly, Kyle left her back and surveyed the scene before him. He narrowed his eyes at the two similar-looking castles floating around the mountain before looking at Haylee.

"Which one?"

"Strange, I remember there was only one."

Haylee muttered, furrowing his brow in confusion.

"Wait, let me go check which one we need to enter."

Kyle gave him a quick nod and the ball vanished into one of the castles. But to his surprise, the ball emerged after just a few seconds. Haylee blinked and after floating mid-air for a while, he entered the second castle.

Bia transformed back into her small form and landed on Kyle's head. Kyle staggered a little due to her weight but managed to maintain his balance.

With a mischievous glint in her eye, Bia ruffled his hair with her paws, creating a big mess before settling comfortably on top of his head.

An angry vein bulged on Kyle's forehead as he raised his hand to swat the bird away. However, his attention was quickly diverted by Haylee, who had been going in and out of the two castles.

"What is he doing?"

-I wonder as well.'

The duo watched Haylee and after two long minutes, the boar transformed back into his original form. He gazed at Kyle with a complicated expression.

Kyle stepped forward but due to the weight on his head, he almost tripped on his feet.

'When did you become so heavy?'

With a glare, he hurriedly grabbed Bia and tossed her back before walking toward the boar.

"What happened?"

Hayley's eyes flashed with a serious expression.

"I checked both the castles, and they both have the same number '965'."

Kyle raised his brow with an 'Oh'. He gazed at the castles.

"What about the cure? Do they both have it."

Haylee shook his head.

"I wasn't able to check any chamber, let alone the treasure chamber, so I don't know if the cure is there."

With a frown, Kyle waved his hand at Bia.

"Let's just enter. It's not like we have any other option."

Bia circled Kyle's head as he approached the nearest castle. As if in response to his presence, a stairway emerged from the castle.

Kyle ascended the stairway and pushed open the gate. As he stepped inside, a familiar darkness blurred his vision.

He thought he would feel nothing, just like before but the moment the darkness engulfed his body, his head buzzed with a loud ringing sound, enough to make him grit his teeth.

In response to the overwhelming sensation, Kyle instinctively grabbed his ears. As soon as his feet touched a solid surface, he couldn't hold back any longer and threw out all the contents of his stomach. His expression turned pale, as he wiped his mouth.

"Damn it..."

After a few seconds, Kyle looked up at the empty and dark corridor stretching out before him.

"Bia?"

His voice echoed in all directions, as he cautiously stepped onto the carpeted floor, searching for the boundary of the treasure island.

A familiar panicked voice rang inside his head.

-Where the hell are you? Me and Haylee got thrown out the moment we entered the gate!'

Kyle's expression fell as he looked around himself. The corridor was eerily quiet, with only the sound of his footsteps reverberating through the silence.

"Fuck, don't tell me I have to complete the trial alone?"

He cursed under his breath for a whole minute before taking a deep breath to calm himself down. He hurriedly silenced the voice ringing in his head.

'I am fine. Just stay quiet until I am out.'

Kyle's eyes wandered on the space around him as he walked in the corridor. Amidst the dark space, a bright spark flashed beneath his feet.

He snapped his eyes down and watched as the spark stretched out like a snake, disappearing into the distance.

Kyle kept his eyes on the light as he followed behind it. However, the more he walked, the corridor seemed to extend endlessly, as if there was no end in sight.

After two long hours, Kyle's legs wobbled as he tried to maintain his balance. Now, his little body was not enhanced with mana. So, the fact that he had managed to walk for so long was already a miracle for him.

"I wonder how I survived all those years when I was a kid?"

He gasped for breath and held his knees with a sweaty forehead as he recalled the time when he was five years old.

"Wow, I was just a small unruly kid who, for some reason, hated work, study, and almost everything related to exertion. Well, at least I loved my bed."

His voice echoed in the corridor before his own voice whispered in his ear.

"Damn it! Where is my favorite pillow!?"

"What!?"

Kyle's eyes widened with astonishment as the spark beneath his feet gathered, conjuring an old yet unfamiliar image before him. He blinked, watching a silver-haired boy throwing a tantrum over a pillow in an ordinary room.

"No way! I never did that!"

Kyle gasped, shouting in disbelief. If the light was going to show him illusions, they should at least be realistic. He may have been unruly, but throwing tantrums was not his thing!

Suddenly, the silver-haired figure in the image tilted his head, looking at Kyle with a confused expression.

"But you said you like beds?"

Kyle's eyes widened as he opened his mouth, but then quickly closed it.

'What the hell? Why am I arguing with something that can potentially harm me?'

Chapter 326 Have a try boy

?Kyle's hand became sweaty as he took a step back, fully intending to run away in the direction he came from.

As if the figure in the image noticed Kyle's movement, it blinked, and in the next second, the image vanished into thin air, replaced by a large crystal-scaled chameleon.

The chameleon's large and slender body slithered around Kyle who staggered on his feet and dropped to his butt.

Kyle's eyes met the chameleon's large, blue, beady eyes mid-air, and he let out a startled hiccup. He quickly closed his mouth, preparing to use the blue flames, his only weapon at the moment. Another option was to gather all his strength and leap over the lizard-like creature and empty his mind space onto its head. However, before he could make a move, the chameleon's curled tail gently wrapped around his body.

The blue eyes flashed with confusion as they peered at Kyle from head to toe again and again.

"Wait, what am I supposed to do? It's been so long.. my memory is too blurry. Who are you, kid?"

Kyle let out another hiccup and removed his hand to suck in a harsh breath. His eyes traveled at the scaly tail wrapped around his body.

"First.. let me go!"

He just blurted out whatever came to mind, but to his surprise, the lizard-like creature actually let him go.

Kyle's feet touched the carpeted floor, and a wave of relief washed over his body. It took him a moment to comprehend the situation, but when he did, the previous panic vanished from his eyes, replaced by a delighted glint.

The lizard-like creature continued to gaze at him, seemingly perplexed, when Kyle let out a pained sigh. He looked away and spoke in a voice that the lizard could hear clearly.

"I'm lost. I mean, my parents would be so worried about me and I am stuck in this never-ending corridor..."

The chameleon's crystal clear body flashed with sparks as he lowered his head to listen to Kyle more clearly, his ears perking up with interest.

He blinked and a distant memory appeared in his head that he was not supposed to do this. But how long had been since he last heard another person's voice? One thousand years? Or two? He couldn't remember.

Kyle wiped his dry eyes with his big sleeves. He couldn't help but wonder why was he so good at acting.

After staring down the corridor for a few seconds, he turned his gaze towards the lizard and asked a hesitant question.

"So, uh... what about you?"

The chameleon's blue eyes flashed with a little confusion, but he was more than willing to talk with someone after so long.

"I am a bonded beast but I don't remember who my master is. You can call me Ris."

Kyle raised his eyebrow with an 'Oh'. He really wanted to ask if his master was Odiak or James, but some things were best left unsaid.

'I should find the cure first. Once I am out, Haylee can take care of this lizard.'

"Ris? Do you know the exit of this place? Or maybe the location of a strange white room filled with..."

The chameleon eyed the corridor and let out a sigh.

"I don't. I was sleeping, and you woke me up. How about we find it together?"

Kyle jumped on his feet and gave him a quick nod. Ris body flashed inside the corridor but only after a few seconds, he stopped and look back at Kyle.

The kid was standing at the same spot.

"Hey, follow me."

Kyle blinked with an innocent expression.

"After walking for two hours, I am tired."

Ris went back toward him and circled his body with a pondering expression.

"Do you want to climb on my shoulder?"

Kyle's lips trickle upward into a smile. Ris lowered his body and he grabbed his scales to climb up.

Ris started moving in the corridor, and Kyle let out an evil laugh in his head. All his previous frustration evaporated into thin air.

'This journey is gonna be the smoothest one ever.'

Bia, who heard his laugh, shuddered.

-'What the heck are you doing inside? Don't tell me you finally went crazy after the shock?'

Kyle hummed sweetly in reply, not even caring about the fact that due to his words, the duo outside panicked. Fortunately, Bia could sense his emotions faintly, or else she would have tried to blast the castle gate with everything she had.

Ris sensed his smile and frowned. He had this nagging feeling at the back of his head that he was supposed to punish or test the kid for some reason, but no matter how much he searched his mind, he couldn't piece together what he was supposed to do.

In the end, he tossed the matter at the back of his head as they traveled in the endless corridor.

As they wandered around the corridor, Ris suddenly stopped. Kyle's eyes traveled down to the lizard beneath him.

"What's wrong?"

Ris blinked and slowly started climbing the nearby wall.

"I think I know how we can leave the corridor."

"Oh."

Kyle didn't dare to say more, afraid that the lizard might remember everything and discard him like a piece of clothing. He shook his head not even daring to think about the worst.

After circling the wall for ten long minutes, Ris let out a victorious chuckle. he leaped down from the wall and touched a dark spot with his paw.

Kyle's eyes narrowed when he noticed a faint movement in the air.

'An Array?'

In the next second, a slight tremor shook the corridor, and then the air in front of them twisted, forming a bright portal.

Ris looked at the portal, his eyes flashing with some memories. He hummed, trying to piece everything together.

While he was thinking, Kyle quickly jumped off his shoulder and entered the portal without even sparing him a glance.

Ris blinked and gazed at Kyle's fading back. Suddenly, his eyes widened because he finally remembered what he was supposed to do!

"Wait!"

With a sharp and loud cry, he jumped into the portal behind Kyle, but unfortunately, it was too late.

The chameleon's eyes narrowed into slits as he appeared in a white room. The room was empty, except for an old table in the center.

The same silver-haired kid was standing beside the table, looking back with a smirk. In his hand, he held a little glass bottle that he tossed in the air.

Kyle placed his other hand on his chest with crescent eyes.

"Thank you."

Ris' eyes turned red with anger.

"You bastard! How dare you take advantage of my weak memory!"

He let out a laugh and narrowed his eyes dangerously at Kyle.

"You think you can leave this place?"

Kyle blinked and unclasped the bottle with his fingers. Instantly he gulped down the contents without even thinking twice.

Ris leaped at him with stunned eyes, but he froze when a bright light flashed around Kyle's body.

After the light vanished, Kyle felt refreshed. The illusion on him dissipated in an instant, and his body returned to its original shape and size.

Kyle gazed at the stunned lizard and flashed a smile. After all, he could see the exit portal from the corner of his eyes.

"I should go now."

Ris let out a laugh. Countless sparks flew out from his body to surround Kyle from all directions.

"Have a try boy-!"

His sentence was cut short because Kyle vanished into thin air. Ris mouth hung open and he snapped his head toward the portal when a laugh echoed in the air.

Kyle waved his hand and blinked at him one last time before jumping into the portal without looking back.

Chapter 327 The strongest generation

Bia's eyelids fluttered shut as she made herself comfortable opposite the castle stairway.

Haylee's gaze wandered around the phoenix, and he couldn't help but let out a chuckle.

"So, after all that worrying, now you're going to sleep?"

Bia opened one eye to peek at him.

- 'For some reason, after hearing his evil laugh, I think he's doing just fine.'

Haylee blinked at her answer, but then he let out a hearty laughter.

"Even though I haven't heard his laugh, I am having the same feeling."

The duo basked under the warm sunlight on the mountain, enjoying the serene and calm atmosphere. However, after a few hours, the peaceful moment was abruptly shattered when the air in front of the castle twisted to form a bright portal.

Haylee's eyes widened slightly. He couldn't believe it. Kyle had managed to complete the castle trail in just a few hours. How was that even possible?

"Was the punishment trial so easy that even a five-year-old kid can complete it?"

He mumbled under his breath, contemplating that maybe it was not as hard as he thought.

On his left, Bia burst into laughter. She spread out her wings to fly toward the portal.

In an instant, the portal pulsed, and a familiar figure emerged, Kyle's silver hair fluttered beautifully as he flashed a faint smile.

Haylee's eyes met Kyle's mid-air, and for a moment, he swore he saw a strange glint in those green eyes. But before he could process anything, Kyle kicked off his foot and vanished into thin air.

Haylee blinked, and Bia froze in her spot as Kyle's figure materialized behind the boar.

The moment Kyle vanished, a loud cry rang out from the portal, and a large crystal-scaled chameleon stepped out.

Bia's eyes dilated when she faintly sensed the lizard-like creature's rank. She quickly flapped her wings to distance herself from the portal.

- 'What the hell did you do now!?''

Her panicked eyes wandered toward Kyle, who was hiding behind Haylee. Even the boar was stunned.

Meanwhile, Ris's eyes dangerously zeroed in on the silver-haired human. He let out an evil laugh, an angry vein bulging out on his forehead.

"Very well, human, you have successfully entered my radar! How dare you take advantage of my jumbled memories? Do you think I will let you go?"

Haylee opened his mouth, shocked.

"Ris!?"

"Huh?"

The chameleon finally noticed the winged boar, and just like Haylee, his eyes widened slightly. Memories flashed in his eyes as he blinked.

Kyle glanced at the duo and slowly tiptoed away from Haylee. Swiftly, he distanced himself from the boar and vanished into thin air before anyone could notice.

'Bia, we're leaving. Let the old friends have their conversation.'

The phoenix snapped out of her daze and quickly flew away in another direction.

Unaware of the two individuals who had run off, Ris let out a surprised gasp.

"Little Haylee? Wow, how long has it been? What are you doing here? Last I remember, you were bound to the last treasure island."

Haylee smiled, but one could see the irritation in his eyes.

"I believe I am not little anymore."

"Ah.. right."

Ris's body flashed, emitting countless glowing sparks as he circled the boar with a hum. But then he remembered he was supposed to be following someone.

"Wait, where is the human?"

His eyes widened as he stared at Haylee.

"Don't tell me he ran off!?"

Haylee's lips twitched and he barely stopped them from curling up into a smile. He had a hunch about what happened. After all, he knew that Ris sometimes had issues with his brain. The boar cleared his throat and composed his expression.

"What did he do?"

Ris's face darkened and his body flashed around the floating castle as he sniffed the air.

"That little prick sure knows how to put on a show. Not many have dared to break the rules in this place. And since master closed off the realm, I haven't had a chance to open my eyes. But I can't believe the first thing I experience is deception!"

He kept sniffing the air, hoping to catch a trace of Kyle's presence. But after a few minutes, his face fell.

"I thought it was due to the illusion that I couldn't sense him. But why in the world am I still unable to sense him?"

Haylee let out a weary sigh, but his crescent eyes revealed a different story altogether.

"Leave it, you won't be able to sense him, I can't either. He is wearing an artifact."

Ris blinked and gazed at the boar with a blank expression.

"You are joking right?"

Haylee shook his head, his ears perking up with delight. In the past, Odiak and his master would always push him to train with the Lizard. And, even though he hated to admit it, he would always end up losing whenever they had a real battle.

Ris cried out and slammed his tail on the ground.

"Ahhh! I was supposed to make him suffer with his darkest desire! With his worst nightmare! How could he just slip through my fingers like that?"

His tongue darted out to lick his lips as he gazed in the distance.

"Should I go look for him?"

However, like a sudden splash of cold water, Haylee's next words left him speechless.

"Forget about it, he's the one who asked me that question Odiak left behind."

Ris stared at the boar with shock and a bit of suspicion. Yet, he couldn't detect any deceit in Haylee's eyes. How could he? After all, Kyle really asked Haylee the question.

With a frustrated groan, the chameleon started walking away from the mountain. The crystal scales on his body shimmered with bright sparks under the sunlight.

"Whatever, I am just gonna go get some fresh air. It's been a while, after all."

Haylee chuckled and followed behind him.

"Let's watch the kids. There are a lot of strong individuals who have entered the realm this time."

Soon, the duo disappeared into the distance. Once they were gone, Kyle's body materialized in the air. He gazed at the peaceful mountain and looked towards the second castle he had yet to enter.

Bia's tiny figure appeared beside him. She circled him before settling on his head with a satisfied sigh.

-'They're gone. Why are we here again?'

Kyle rubbed his hands together and his lip trickled upward into a faint smile.

"Let's explore the second castle. I have a feeling we will need another cure for the future."

Bia clicked her tongue.

-'You still wanna break the rules?'

"Who said I do? I'm just taking extra precautions."

-'Oh, so you're doing it when the guardian's gone.'

Kyle ignored her words and flew toward the second castle without hesitation. Now, with the dark race gone and his body back to normal, he felt confident in plundering all the treasures from this realm.

...

At the other end of the realm, Guil's body was ruthlessly thrown into a mountain. Dust and debris filled the air as the once towering mountain collapsed into a heap of shattered fragments.

Emerging from the wreckage, the winged man let out a burst of maniacal laughter that echoed through the desolate landscape.

"How dare those weak outsiders kill my people! I will make them pay!"

A far contrast to his bloodied condition, his coal-black eyes burned with a fiery rage, capable of obliterating everything in his path.

However, before he could take any action, an illusionary old man materialized in front of him.

"Stop Guil, you are not supposed to meddle in the affairs of mortals."

Guil cried out. He clawed into his head with a crazed expression.

"Haha! I am going to kill them all! No one will go back alive!"

The illusionary old man's face flickered with complicated emotions as he eyed the man before him.

"You know, it's quite ironic. Last time, when the secret realm was opened, your people ruthlessly took the lives of everyone who entered. Now, the tables have turned. So why does it make you so furious?"

Guil's face darkened as he spat out a mouthful of blood. He narrowed his eyes at the illusionary figure with a mocking glint.

"How much longer can you hold on, old man?"

The illusionary old man raised an eyebrow in response.

"Don't worry, it's going to be longer than you expect. I believe I can keep you busy until they all make it out safely."

With a laugh, the winged man flapped his wings and zoomed towards the figure. His bloodied eyes dangerously narrowed in on the old man.

"Are you sure? The realm exit won't open for another two years. Yet..."

He dragged his words and gazed at the flickering light particles surrounding the illusionary figure.

"Your body is crumbling."

The old man let out a scoff.

"If my last moment arrives, I will make sure to take you with me."

They fought for two whole days before Guil's body was once again thrown into the distance. The old man eyed his panting figure and gazed back in the distance.

The air was humming and with the dark race gone, the youngsters were exploring the treasure islands without much trouble.

"Hmm, not like the old times, but this generation is indeed the strongest."

"I believe now I don't need to worry about them. They will explore the realm, clear the trials, and leave when it's time."

Chapter 328 Work for me

?In a dark cave, amidst the silence, two familiar armed-sized golden moths with crimson wings stepped out from the shadows.

The duo gazed at each other with twisted and pale expressions. It wasn't because of anger, it was because of the amount of natural treasures they had devoured in the past few weeks.

"Revenge for the oldest!"

They roared together and then emerged from the cave.

One of them sniffed the air and pointed his wing to the left with a dark expression.

"Now we are strong! That human won't be able to stay alive for long!"

The other let out an evil laugh.

"After capturing the human and that little bird, we will torture them! Then we will eat them!"

Indeed, they craved revenge, but the delicious smell of the human made their mouths water. After giving each other a final nod, they left together, blissfully unaware of the hell that awaited them.

....

At the same time, Kyle hummed as he stepped out from the exit portal. His silver hair shimmered in the sunlight, and his ivory-colored hoodie looked clean and fresh.

He gazed at the little glass bottle in his hand with a satisfied expression. After tossing the bottle into his mind space, his figure floated above the Castle as he narrowed his eyes in the distance.

After him, Bia's tiny figure also appeared from the portal. She looked in the same direction and let out a bored sigh.

-That was too easy. We didn't have to do much to get the cure. I wonder why it was so simple. Wait... maybe that chameleon was the actual challenge inside the punishment treasure islands?"

Kyle's lips trickled upward into a faint smile.

"I had my suspicions but it's good that we managed to get it without much trouble."

Bia circled his head and they set off towards the nearest treasure island.

Time flew by as the duo ventured from one treasure island to another. They encountered many new faces and a few familiar ones along the way, but Kyle ignored them. It was better that way.

Also, every time Kyle finished exploring a treasure island, he made sure to leave a 'friendly' message on the castle gates.

Bia would get angry whenever she caught him scribbling on the gate. First, she didn't like being called 'little', and second, she found it ironic that he was putting all the blame on her when he was the one taking everything!

"Caution; The little phoenix took everything."

All the people who saw Kyle's friendly message got mad and frustrated, but in the end, there was nothing they could do except find another treasure island.

Among them, Jian was the most frustrated one because, for some unknown reason, he found the message the most!

Haylee and Ris also came across one of Kyle's friendly messages and they were left speechless. Still, Haylee chose to ignore it, while Ris, who was curious about the person behind the friendly reminder, couldn't find out who it was.

In the end, the duo decided to leave it alone and started following behind an interesting winged demi-human who was slaying monsters stronger than his rank.

Amidst all this, everyone in the realm was getting stronger with each passing day. It wasn't easy though, and due to the countless challenges there were some casualties as well. Regardless, those who persevered until the end reaped the sweet rewards of their hard work.

After two long months, Kyle was sitting comfortably on a tree trunk.

As he opened one of his eyes, he was greeted by a breathtaking sight. The surroundings were filled with towering green trees, and a mesmerizing crystal-clear stream flowing gracefully amidst the trees.

His gaze wandered until it settled on a particular tree opposite the stream. A hint of annoyance flashed in his eyes.

"How long are you two going to follow me?"

The bird on his head moved, deliberately trying to mess up his hair, before letting out an innocent hum.

-'So, you finally decided to finish them?'

A vein bulged out on Kyle's forehead as he grabbed the bird and placed her on his chest instead. Soon, the duo got busy with their own battle. The bird wanted to sit on his head, while Kyle didn't want her to because he had just washed his hair.

On the other hand, the two golden moths hiding behind the tree were absolutely terrified when they heard Kyle's voice. The duo had been following the human for a while now, but they couldn't even lay a finger on him!

They tried to secretly attack Kyle countless times but failed miserably. In the end, they decided to put traps around the human, but they failed again. First, the human would always fly, and second, even if he somehow started walking, he would avoid that particular spot where the trap was laid!

They looked at each other and with a nod, they started flying away quietly. After watching the human and the supposedly little bird that turned out to be a huge phoenix, they knew that winning against the human was impossible. That's why they were trying to set up a dangerous trap one last time, but the human knew about their location! It was dangerous! Too dangerous! Forget about revenge and the sweet scent, their lives were more precious!

The duo froze in their tracks when a shadow fell upon them. They held onto each other tightly and looked up with wide eyes.

A pair of bright green eyes stared back at them. Kyle's eyes narrowed dangerously at the moths.

"It's been a while... No, I sensed you the moment you started following me. So, what should I do with you now?"

He clicked his tongue when Bia's voice echoed in his head.

-'Hey, at least give me a heads up before disappearing into thin air!'

Kyle extended his hand to touch one of the moths, but to his surprise, the duo immediately jumped back.

Bia sat down on a nearby tree to watch the show. After all, she knew Kyle could handle the moths easily.

Opposite her, the moths spread out their wings to send wind currents at Kyle but before their attack could land on the human, he vanished into thin air.

Suddenly, a faint murmur echoed in the air, sending chills down their spines.

"Ice Domain."

The moment the words fell, an icy aura spread out in the forest, enveloping everything around the two moths.

Kyle gazed up and held out his palm toward a floating ice particle, but instead of melting, the ice turned into a wisp of smoke upon touching his skin.

The moths panicked and tried to fly away, but they were stopped by the long pointy icicles emerging from the ground with a loud rumble. The air cracked, and large smoky clouds formed above their heads.

In the next second, round ice pellets dropped from the clouds, heading straight for the panicked moths. The temperature increased so much that even Bia had to move a little further away.

Still, before the ice could kill the moths, Kyle appeared in front of them. His gaze wandered around the frozen trees and the ground covered in icicles. Even the crystal-clear stream that once flowed gracefully amidst the trees was now frozen into ice.

Finally, his eyes stopped on the two creatures that were half frozen, their teeth chattering as they struggled to move.

"How are you feeling?"

Kyle hummed, he did not use his blue flames since he had no idea how to melt things frozen by the flames. However, he found that he could easily control the ice within the ice Domain according to his will.

He tapped the moth's head with his knuckles, a small smile forming on his lips.

"I will release you, but from now on, you'll be working for me."

The moths' eyes flickered with unshed tears as they struggled to voice their answers, but the icy aura around their necks made it difficult for them to speak. In the end, the duo could barely manage a nod in response.

Kyle's eyes narrowed. He rubbed his fingers and the icy aura around the moths' bodies scattered in the air. The moths gasped for breath as they cried out.

"Human! How dare you! Release us! We won't follow you anymore!"

Kyle let out a chuckle, his tone turning dark.

"Of course, I will, but like I said, from now on you two are going to work for me. If you can't work for me, there's no use in keeping you alive...."

He dragged his sentence and his eyes turned crescent.

"Well, the meat of two strong insects would be very delicious."

The moths trembled under his gaze. The younger one even started crying. They reluctantly agreed to Kyle's terms, but deep down, they were still planning their escape. But Kyle's next words made their mind blank.

"By the way, don't even think about running away. I can track you with the scent perception skill."

Chapter 329 An object

The moths stared at Kyle as his words rang inside their heads. The moment they comprehended Kyle's words, they gasped together.

"How...?"

After all, the 'Scent perception' skill was something they were born with. How did the human have the skill? Anger flashed through the moths' eyes when they recalled how Kyle killed their brother.

"How dare you, human! Did you dig up our brother's core after killing him?"

The eldest one let out a cry and raised his trembling wing to attack Kyle but before he could, the human smacked his wing away.

"Don't talk so much."

Kyle clicked his tongue and rummaged inside his mind space, but found nothing useful. In the end, he raised his finger and started scribing two symbols in the air.

The mana in the air gently swirled around his finger before a faint light appeared. Kyle squinted his eyes, the light was so faint that he couldn't see it clearly. But he was sure he was going in the right direction.

Bia's eyes narrowed at the symbols, and she let out a surprised gasp.

-'Are you sure it's safe? They could die if you make a mistake.'

'Not sure...'

Kyle's hand shook in the middle, and his forehead turned sweaty. But after a minute, two faint yet complete symbols shone in the air. He moved his finger, and the symbols immediately vanished into the moths' heads.

The moths cried out with surprise when a sharp pain stabbed their heads, but the pain vanished after a few seconds.

Kyle let out a sigh of relief and massaged his head. When he first read the Array books he found in the tower of opportunity, he didn't understand a single thing. But in the past two months, he picked them up again and finally discovered something useful inside. It was the 'Symbol of Torment'.

The symbol itself was very easy, but it took him a whole month just to figure out its purpose. Still, when he did, he was thrilled. If used correctly on someone, the symbol would torment them if they ever tried to attack the one who drew it.

Its usage was limited, though. After all, it could only be used on monsters.

"As long as it's working, it's fine I guess."

Kyle said with a chuckle and the two moths in front of him turned pale.

The duo desperately wanted to run away, but they knew it was too late.

As Kyle continued to intimidate the moths, Bia unfurled her wings and landed on his head. She watched as he further frightened the moths by warning them that if they ever dared to betray or disobey him, they would meet their demise due to a powerful spell he had placed on them.

Kyle clapped his hands, signifying the end of his threats.

"Now, go find as many treasures as possible and come report to me every week."

The duo gave him a trembling nod and attempted to flap their wings, but due to their previous injuries, they couldn't fly properly. Instantly, they dropped to the ground.

Kyle ignored them and let out a yawn. He decided to climb a nearby tree to rest. However, Bia started protesting, saying it was too cold. Kyle blinked and looked around. It was a bit cold with everything frozen in ice, but it didn't bother him much.

Still, he hummed and started walking away, but suddenly one of the moths called out to him.

"Hey, human...?"

Kyle stopped and glanced back.

"What?"

The moths exchanged glances before the oldest one's eyes flashed with determination.

"If... Eek!"

He jolted when Kyle turned around. After taking a breath, he continued speaking, though with less confidence.

"If... you release us from the spell, I will tell you about something that's inside your body..."

Kyle frowned, narrowing his eyes dangerously at them.

"Well, let's hear it first."

The moth's eyes sparkled a little. He knew his words were working.

"I know you don't know, because even though you got the scent perception skill after killing our brother, you can't use it on yourself. I will tell you, but remove the spell first."

Kyle's frown deepened.

'When the hell did these two idiots learn how to bargain?'

Bia lowered her head to stare at the moths.

- 'First tell me, can you use the skill on yourself?'

'Ah... I cannot.'

- 'Then hear them out. They probably know something.'

'Don't tell me they sense my bloodline?'

He bent down to gaze at them directly with a hard expression.

"I won't remove the spell, but I promise not to harm you as long as you work for me while I am in this realm. So, speak."

The moths became perplexed. They wanted to protest, but under Kyle's threatening gaze, they spilled everything.

"It's something very bad."

The other moth nodded in agreement.

"Unlike the cold and pleasant scent coming from your body, it doesn't smell good."

Kyle rubbed the artifact in his ear.

"I know that you two can sense me, but can you sense my rank as well?"

The duo immediately shook their heads.

"No, no, we cannot. At first, we only smelled the sweet scent coming from your body, but when we found you for the first time, we sensed something else as well. Something dark. It's probably an object."

Kyle blinked.

"An object?"

The duo's eyes flashed with something as they gazed at each other.

"It's very tiny, but it's deeply rooted in your heart. You can't remove it."

"Yes, indeed. If you want to get rid of it, we can help you."

Bia's eyes flashed with annoyance.

-What the hell are they saying?'

"They're not talking about my bloodline. But... how is it possible?"

Kyle rubbed his chest. He wasn't sure what it could be. If it was related to his bloodline, it should be all around inside his body, not in a specific place. Or maybe his bloodline originated from the object?

His mind wandered for a few seconds before he shook his head and sat down in front of the duo with a serious expression.

"Tell me more about it. Also, what is this sweet scent you mentioned that you sensed in my body?"

The eldest moth licked his lips as he backed away from Kyle, fearing that the human would kill him after learning they wanted to eat him.

"The scent, it's very pleasant and cold. Just like an extremely powerful treasure. That's why we wanted to eat yo- eek!"

He jumped back when Kyle slammed his hand on the ground. The human's eyes darkened as he clenched his hand.

"Now, tell me about the dark object. Can you sense if it's stronger than the cold scent?"

The moth shook his head.

"No, it's not. It's very weak compared to the scent."

Kyle gazed at the ground, deep in thought.

'So, does that mean it's not connected to my bloodline?'

After pondering for a while, he snapped his head up, almost scaring the souls out of the moths' bodies.

"You two. You mentioned you can remove it. How?"

The moths' eyes sparkled with glee upon hearing Kyle's question. Instantly, they tried to hide their excitement, unaware that Kyle had already noticed their crescent-shaped eyes.

"We can... If you just let us dig into your heart. We'll take out that tiny thing... Wahhh!"

They cried out when Kyle stood up abruptly. Bia's body tumbled downward from his head, but she quickly unfurled her wings to fly above him.

-'Wow, did you hear it? They want to dig into your... Should I just kill them?'

The little phoenix snapped, ready to use her most powerful skill, but Kyle grabbed her body.

He waved his hand at the moths with a cold expression.

"Go, do your job. Also, remember that you will die if you dare to disobey. So make sure to come report to me every week, or else I'll come to you."

The duo trembled and instead of flying, they crawled away in another direction.

Kyle closed his eyes and took a deep breath. His cold expression crumbled, replaced with a deep one.

"Just how many problems does my body have?"

Bia's eyes traveled upward, and she flew away from his hand.

-'Hey, don't feel down. It will be fine. Let's go ask Haylee, maybe he could help.'

Kyle nodded quickly, and they started traveling in a random direction. After a few minutes, Kyle used the scent perception skill to locate the boar, but he stopped after just half a minute due to the countless smells flooding his nose.

In the end, he let out a sigh.

"He's too far, I can't sense him."

-'Let's keep moving then. We'll find him on the way.'

The duo traveled toward the west. Along the way, they stumbled upon a few treasure islands. Kyle's mood did improve, but the thought of something dark lurking inside his body was always present in the back of his mind.

He would rub his chest from time to time, thinking maybe it wasn't dangerous. However, after knowing about the object deep inside his heart, he knew it was something he needed to remove as soon as possible, regardless of whether it was dangerous or not.

Chapter 330 Slimy creatures

?Kyle glanced down from the top of a towering tree, observing the two massive beasts chomping on strange blue fruits.

Haylee and Ris, the duo, sat together in their true forms above a broad stone bed, keeping a keen eye on the winged demi-human Sinon, a human girl, and two elves engaged in a battle against a group of (B)-Rank green frogs with black dots covering their bodies.

The area surrounding the stone bed was teeming with dirty water and countless tall thorny trees. Additionally, numerous low-ranked frogs were leaping out from the water, causing Sinon and his companions to be pushed back. Cursing under his breath, the demi-human retaliated by kicking one of the frogs, only to be caught off guard by another frog leaping at him from behind.

It was clear that Sinon and his companions were doing their best to escape, but their efforts were in vain as they found themselves encircled by the countless frogs.

Kyle pinched his nose in response to the stench wafting from the water, and the tiny phoenix sitting on his shoulder let out a disgusted groan.

- 'Why are they even bothering to fight those slimy creatures? Ugh, it's so gross!'

'I am more surprised by Haylee... he is eating while watching the same slimy creatures.'

Bia blinked in surprise.

- 'What about the lizard sitting next to him?'

'Well... let's not talk about him. After all, lizards do eat frogs, right?'

Bia's eyes crinkled with amusement as she noticed a hint of speechlessness in Kyle's voice. He was mocking the chameleon.

- 'We have been keeping an eye on them for a while now. What's the plan? I wouldn't be surprised if the lizard tried to strangle you, given your not-so-good history.'

Kyle rolled his eyes and waved at the little phoenix.

'Go talk to Haylee so he can stop Ris in time. Right now, they're probably hiding from Sinon and the others. They don't know that I know their location because of the scent perception skill. Meanwhile, I will go help Sinon a bit.'

Bia unfurled her wings and soared away with a chuckle.

Kyle clenched his fists and eyed the dirty water with a groan.

'Let's try not to get dirty.'

In the next second, his body vanished into thin air.

At the same time, Bia's figure hovered above the boar. Ris's ears perked up, and he narrowed his eyes at the little beast.

"What's this tiny little bird doing here? Wait! Why is the bird so strong? Also, I feel like I have seen her somewhere."

Haylee hurriedly stopped the chameleon before he could grab Bia with his tail.

"Stop, I know her."

Bia released a relieved breath and landed on Haylee's shoulder. Immediately, she heard the boar's voice in her head.

'Why are you here?'

-'Kyle wants to talk.'

Haylee frowned when he saw Ris's interested eyes. The chameleon probably overlooked Bia's presence before because of Kyle, but now he was fully focused on her.

"Don't you dare do something funny."

Ris clicked his tongue and retracted his tail. On the other hand, Haylee hurriedly looked around.

'Where is Kyle?'

-'He's right in front of you.'

Haylee snapped his head up to stare at the figure that materialized inches away from the winged demi-human.

Sinon cried out and almost lost his balance mid-air, but he quickly regained his composure.

Bia shook her head with a sigh.

-'No one can get used to his sudden appearance.'

She unfurled her wings and left Haylee's side with a few more words.

-'I am leaving. Just stop the lizard in time if he wants to harm Kyle.'

Haylee slowly turned around to look at Ris, who was fuming when he saw Kyle's face.

"That bastard is here! So what if he's the one who asked the question master left behind? I'm going to break one of his legs!"

However, before he could throw caution to the wind and leap at Kyle, Haylee grabbed his tail with a chuckle.

"Let's talk a little, shall we?"

The chameleon's eyes widened.

"How dare you stop me? Do you want to fight? Haha, it's been a while, but believe me, it'll be as painful as before."

Haylee's forehead turned sweaty. He cursed under his breath and with all his strength, dragged Ris away so as not to disrupt the battle opposite them.

While the two beasts argued about whether they should break Kyle's legs or not, Kyle himself smiled and looked at Sinon's frightened face.

"What's up?"

The wings behind the demi-human fluttered as he looked at Kyle with hopeful eyes. The previous anger about almost falling into the water due to Kyle vanished into thin air.

"Kyle, it's good you're here. I'm dead tired. Help us out a little. We accidentally stumbled upon this place. Now, all we want is to retreat. But these annoying frogs aren't giving us a chance!"

Kyle opened his mouth to say that he would help, but under his dumbfounded gaze, Sinon flew away in the distance.

The demi-human stopped at a nearby tree and waved at Kyle before sprawling on a branch like a starfish.

Bia circled Kyle and said with utmost seriousness.

- 'He sure knows how to dump his work on others.'

With a sigh, Kyle gazed at the human girl and two elves still fighting with the frogs. He waved his hand.

"I will distract the frogs."

The trio nodded, and in an instant, countless ice spears formed in the air. Kyle's eyes locked onto the frogs, and the spears shot out toward them with lightning-fast speed. The frogs cried out in surprise and scattered, trying to disappear into the water.

Kyle lowered his body and glanced at the trio behind him.

"Climb a tree."

The trio exchanged glances and without asking any questions, hurriedly climbed the nearby trees, just like Sinon.

Once they were at a safe distance, blue flames surged out around Kyle's body. The flames spread out on the water.

A few muffled cries of pain rang out in the air as the frogs in the water tried to flee in different directions, but before they could, the flames traveled in all directions, turning everything into ice.