

Bloodline 341

Chapter 341 Two Monster Lords?

Kyle raised his head and stared directly at the man, narrowing his eyes at the air behind him. He wasn't sure if his senses were correct, so he activated his skill, scent perception, to sense the faint thing lurking behind Istalian.

The shadow behind Istalian was startled when it sensed someone gazing at it. It glanced at Kyle and immediately vanished into thin air, trying not to expose itself.

Kyle's brow furrowed as he smelled the various scents in the air. However, he confirmed his suspicions that something strong and dark was present behind Istalian.

He started floating in the air and stopped right in front of Istalian and the guards holding the golden chests.

"Why and how much does master need to pay you?"

As he spoke, an extremely cold aura spread through the air, making those weaker than (S)-rank shiver.

Alec and Carcel glanced at each other and quickly left the ground, floating beside Kyle in mid-air.

Alec raised his brow.

"Let's hear it. Why does Elder Han have to pay you?"

After the duo, many figures rose into the air. All the people who knew Kyle appeared around him. He was already strong enough, but they just wanted to stand beside him.

Istalian's expression darkened, and the old men and women from the other continents immediately distanced themselves to avoid being associated with him. He chuckled.

"Very well!"

Instead of stepping back, he immediately told Kyle how Elder Han had opened the realm gate before the intended time and wasted many resources.

Kyle blinked and gazed at his master floating in the distance.

On his left, Jian cracked his knuckles, ready to put the man in his place. Can't he see that he was alone with a few guards and they outnumbered him? Yet, Kyle surprised him with his next words.

"How much?"

Istalian's eyes narrowed slightly, and he deliberately increased the amount tenfold. The faces of the old men floating in the distance paled when they heard the amount. They glanced at each other because none of them had even seen it before.

Elder Han cried out and pointed his trembling finger at the man.

"You-!"

But he wasn't able to complete his sentence because Kyle agreed instantly as if the amount was nothing.

Istalian scoffed at his calm expression, but in the next second, Kyle tossed two storage rings toward him. The man eyes dilated as he saw the rings coming at him. He immediately grabbed the rings, but to the shock of the crowd, he was pushed back mid-air.

He stared at Kyle with disbelief. Just how strong does one have to be to startle him? He was at the pinnacle of mortal strength! He was the only (SSS+)-rank in the whole planet!

Disregarding the stunned eyes, Kyle raised his brow.

'One of the rings is divine grade, the other is supreme grade. I believe the things inside are enough to keep a whole Kingdom afloat for fifty years, even if they have nothing.'

'Also, I am overlooking the strange being behind you because I remember I owe you one.'

An emotionless voice echoed inside Istalian's head. It took a minute for him to completely digest Kyle's words, and when he did, he was rooted to his spot.

The word 'Divine grade' echoed in his head. No one should know about this word, but seeing how easily the silver-haired man opposite him tossed the rings toward him, it seemed divine grade was nothing for him!

Istalian let out a shuddering breath when he glanced inside the rings. They were not filled, but the things inside were indeed enough to keep a whole Kingdom afloat for fifty years.

He raised his hand, signaling his guards to retreat, and gazed at Kyle one final time before abruptly departing, leaving the crowd in a state of shock.

Kyle's lips trickled upward as he stared at Istalian's retreating figure. He gazed back, and before anyone could offer him treasures to join their Kingdom, he immediately entered the Kingdom Escalante tent.

Elder Han appeared behind him, gazing at him with an incredible expression. Kyle nodded at the old man.

"Master, I want to go home, but I believe it's better if we all go back together."

Elder Han gave him a quick nod.

"Don't worry, King Foraan is here. He has bought a big ship. All the people from Kingdom Escalante will go back together."

After just half an hour, they boarded the ship and it started floating in the air.

King Foraan was tempted to go and talk with Alec, Kyle, Carcel, and all the strong kids from the other Kingdoms. Who wouldn't want more allies? But he was surprised to find out that both Kelvin and Jian already knew them.

As the ship soared, all the older people gathered in a closed room to figure out how to tell the kids about the monster lords. They even put up a big Array around the room so no one could overhear.

When Elder Han arrived in front of the room, a little figure appeared on his shoulder out of nowhere. It was Bia!

The old man looked at her and blinked.

Bia blinked back.

He smiled faintly, but one could tell he was sweating because now he knew for sure that Bia could communicate with Kyle!

"What are you doing here, little one? Go play somewhere else."

He waved his hand to dismiss her. But then, a calm and low voice sent shivers down his spine.

"Old man, I know you've become smarter in my absence. Kyle and the others asked me to spy, so just quietly take me with you. Don't worry about the others, just tell them I can't understand."

Elder Han wiped his sweaty forehead and pushed the door open. Instantly, many eyes turned towards him, some curious gazes traveled toward Bia. However, Elder Han immediately assured them with a dead serious expression that she couldn't understand a word.

As they began their discussion, unaware that their words were being heard by the kids, Kyle leaned back in his chair in another room.

"Two monster lords?"

Alec and the all his friends around him widened their eyes, taking in the information from their spy.

Chapter 342 Maybe I imagined it

After a heated argument, King Foraan stormed out of the room. Following his orders, a group of older men quickly gathered the young ones. With the circumstances, they couldn't keep things hidden from the kids.

As the floating ship approached the East Continent, King Foraan stood before the group of youngsters. Many other older individuals and Elder Han stood silently by his side.

He cleared his throat, wearing a solemn expression, to quiet down the faint whispers and voices.

Once again, he felt a swell of pride seeing the number of people who had returned alive. His eyes flickered with various emotions. The kids had just survived such a big hurdle, and now he and the others were about to put them in danger again.

"I'm really proud of all of you. It's amazing to see so many talented people right here. I know you all want to go back and see your families and friends. But, I have some news... and it's not good, I'm afraid."

He paused for a moment and rubbed his temples. The tension in the air heightened because, unlike Kyle and his friends, nobody knew what news he was referring to.

"Your people, your families, they need you. The dark forest, which had been quiet for so long, has produced two new monster lords."

As soon as his words fell, a heavy silence enveloped the ship. It took a moment for everyone to process the gravity of the situation. Then, a chorus of shocked gasps filled the air.

King Foraan was about to speak further, but Alec, who had been quietly observing from a corner with his arms crossed, raised his hand.

"Have the two monster lords already emerged? What's the current situation? I don't know about the others, but I'm ready to fight."

All eyes turned to him in an instant. Carcel tapped his shoulder with a raised eyebrow.

"Don't forget to count me in."

Mia and Lara followed suit, expressing their determination. Only if Nine was here, he would have been the first to join them, but he was forced to go with Seraphine.

After them, Regius, Yue, Kelvin, and Jian stepped forward. Sia let out a chuckle and raised her spear.

"Who do you think we are? We're not afraid of some monster lords!"

Their voices were joined by many others. At first, they were hesitant, but they found courage when Alec voiced his resolve. After all, the blue-haired man had helped them a lot in the secret realm.

King Foraan blinked. It was clear from Alec's reaction that the news was not new to him. Instantly, his eyes traveled to the brown-haired old man standing by his side.

Elder Han let out a chuckle and waved his hand to shoo away the little bird sitting on his shoulder. He wanted to salvage the situation by pretending he knew nothing, but suddenly, King Foraan let out a chuckle.

He looked at Alec and nodded quickly. Indeed, the kids had grown up.

"You all should rest for now. I understand that you're eager to know more, but we will be heading to Kingdom Escalante, where King Cedric will provide all the answers."

His eyes traveled to the silver-haired man standing quietly in the distance. For a while, Kyle hadn't said anything. As if sensing his gaze, a pair of brilliant green eyes stared back at him.

Kyle hummed softly and waved his hand, prompting Bia to come toward him.

Alec turned his head toward Kyle with knitted brows. He hadn't heard anything from Kyle.

"Kyle...?"

Instantly, all eyes turned to Kyle, waiting for his answer. They were all sure he would join. After all, like Alec, he had helped many of them and was the strongest. Yet, after a few seconds of silence, the crowd grew restless. But before anyone could say anything, Kyle let out a sigh.

"I will join as well. However, I would like to go and check on my family first. Afterward, I'll come join you guys."

Alec smiled and immediately gave him an okay sign.

After an hour, when the ship entered the boundary of Kingdom Escalante, Kyle talked to Elder Han, saying that he would just go for a while and come back.

The old man thought for a second but agreed. He watched as Kyle started floating, but he didn't leave. Elder Han blinked in confusion, but before he could voice it out, Kyle raised his finger and started scribing in the air.

Elder Han's eyes almost popped out of their sockets. He stared at the glowing symbols in shock. Only when Kyle was done did he snap out of his shock, but he was a tad bit late because Directly support the authors on WebNovel!

another voice called out to Kyle before him.

Kyle turned his head back to look at the beautiful figure floating behind him. Yue tossed a communication crystal toward him he snap out of his shock, but he was a tad bit late because another voice called out to Kyle before him.

with a faint smile.

"Ah... It's because nobody has any way to stay in touch with you. So, take it with you."

Kyle grabbed the crystal. The symbols he drew merged together to form a portal in the air. Immediately, he tossed the little bird on his shoulder inside the portal.

-'Ahhhh.'

He ignored the voice in his head and glanced at Yue for a second before he also entered the portal, but she heard his faint words clearly.

"Hmm, it's not like I asked for an explanation."

Yue's ears twitched, and she let out a chuckle. Over the past two years in the realm, she had bumped into Kyle many times. Of course, she was a little mad because he and Bia would only show up when they wanted to eat something delicious. However, the fact that now Kyle can easily speak his mind in front of her made her happy.

She snapped out of her thoughts when she heard a distressed voice beside her. Elder Han had one of his hands in the air, and his face wore a blank expression.

The old man let out a bitter smile as he gazed into the distance.

"Just what has the world come to? He can already draw symbols in the air... Or maybe I imagined it?"

Chapter 343 You are finally back

Bia cursed in her mind when she saw Kyle's figure emerging from the portal. She harrumphed angrily and narrowed her eyes at the city below.

Kyle's eyes traveled downward. He could have easily used instant teleportation to get home in a few minutes, but because of Bia, he knew he couldn't.

"Let's go."

He dove down with lightning-fast speed, leaving his spot in a blur. Bia clicked her tongue and followed closely behind.

-'You're just a tad bit stronger than me, but why is your speed so fast!?'

As Kyle picked up speed, the air rushed against his skin. It was cold, and the air pressure was almost overwhelming, but he only felt a gentle tickle on his skin.

He raised an eyebrow at Bia's words and glanced at his stats from the corner of his eye.

Stats:

Name: Kyle

Bloodline: Celestial

Rank: SSS-

Strength: SSS

Mana: SSS+

Agility: SSS-

Talent: SSS+ Rank

Luck: A

Skills;

....

'Just a little..? I suppose.'

Bia rolled her eyes at his words. She wanted to boast that she had already reached (SS+)-Rank in just two years, but when she thought about the resources Kyle had generously provided and how he was stronger, she chose to remain quiet.

After just ten minutes, the duo reached a small building in an area that should have been bustling with people, but for some reason, it was strangely quiet. They had arrived in the capital city, right in front of the house where Kyle had left his family.

Kyle took a deep breath and surveyed the house before landing in front of the gate. As he reached for the gate, he heard a familiar voice calling him from behind.

"Who's there?"

He turned around and was surprised to see the familiar figure of Butler Eon. The old man's face was more wrinkled, and his brows furrowed as he examined Kyle from head to toe.

"Who are you, young man-!"

Butler Eon paused and blinked when he noticed Bia sitting on Kyle's shoulder.

"This little bird... It looks very similar..!"

His mouth hung open as he snapped his eyes to Kyle's face. A familiar smile played at the corner of the silver-haired man standing opposite him.

Unlike before, Kyle had grown taller, and with his eyes, hair, and pale skin, he looked like a completely different person. Eon sucked in a deep breath, his face filled with shock.

"You..."

Before he could voice his thoughts, Kyle surprised him even more by giving him a light pat on the shoulder.

"How have you been, old man? It's been a while."

Eon's eyes moistened as he heard the familiar voice of the youngest child of the house. It took him a few seconds to believe that the person in front of him was really Kyle, but when he did, he opened his arms with a smile.

Kyle let out a chuckle and embraced him in a warm hug. As they chatted, Butler Eon quickly opened the gate, and they entered the house.

They walked for a while, and Kyle was pleased to see that the house was adorned with decent furniture and a few more male workers. It seemed like things had changed since he left.

After passing through a small corridor, the butler stopped in front of a room. He knocked on the door and waited.

Kyle glanced at the closed door, and a few seconds later, his father replied that he was busy and shouldn't be disturbed.

Butler Eon smiled bitterly as he looked at him.

"He's been like this ever since the other two masters left to fight for the Kingdom."

Kyle sighed and rubbed his temples.

"When did they leave?"

"A few days ago, the Royal Palace announced that they were recruiting people who want to participate in the battle against the monster lord, and both of them immediately applied."

With a nod, Kyle pushed the door open and stepped inside. Immediately, Baron Ohan, who was standing in front of a desk, looked back with a frown.

"Didn't I say not to disturb m.."

He paused when he saw that instead of Eon, an unfamiliar man had entered the room.

Ohan narrowed his eyes at him, but then he suddenly let out a surprised gasp.

"Kyle, is it you!?"

Kyle blinked, surprised that his father had recognized him. He opened his mouth to reply, but before he could, his father hurriedly made his way toward him and embraced him tightly.

"Oh, my child, you're finally back. It's been so long. I almost... thought..."

Tears welled up in his eyes as he gently patted Kyle's back. A warm feeling filled Kyle's chest as he let out a soft sigh.

"I'm sorry for worrying you so much, dad. I'm fine."

After a while, Ohan forced him to sit down and quickly summoned a few servants to prepare a special meal. After all, his son had returned after such a long time.

Kyle smiled and allowed his father to do as he pleased. Ohan asked him questions about his time in the realm. He had been aware that Kyle had entered the ancient realm. However, he knew that his son had grown up. That's why, even though he was worried and initially wanted to scold Kyle when he heard from Elder Han that he had entered such a dangerous place, he let it go.

"The three of you surely know how to make me worry. Now you're back, and the other two are gone."

Baron Ohan let out a sigh and shook his head. He immediately took Kyle into the dining hall. The table was adorned with a wide array of delicious dishes.

Even though Kyle didn't have much of an appetite, he ate and encouraged the old man to eat as well. After all, he had heard from the butler that his father hadn't been eating properly for a while now.

Kyle let out a yawn after he finished eating. He glanced at Bia, who was still devouring a meat dish and couldn't help but chuckle.

He looked at his father and gently tapped his shoulder.

"Don't worry, dad. Ray and Neon are both strong. Also, I'll go check on them."

A mischievous glint flashed in his eyes.

"Well, I can't wait to see their faces when I tell them I've reached the (SSS-)-Rank."

Baron Ohan dropped his spoon and stared at Kyle with a wide mouth.

"What...!?"

Chapter 344 Come to the border

Kyle's figure blurred, and before the old man could react, the spoon was back in his hand.

"Huh!?"

An innocent smile played at the corner of Kyle's lips as he glanced at his father.

"Not just me, Bia has also reached the (SS+)-rank."

Butler Eon, who had just entered the hall, halted in his tracks as he witnessed and heard Kyle's words and actions.

The little bird proudly raised her head and spoke up in a beautiful serene voice.

-"Of course, the majestic me is not someone who would stay behind!"

The two old figures stared at the bird with wide mouths.

Kyle let out a chuckle, and Ohan finally snapped out of his daze. He wiped his forehead, which had turned sweaty for some reason.

"You... reached what rank?"

However, instead of Kyle, Bia climbed onto his shoulder and replied proudly.

-"(SS+)-Rank!"

Ohan froze, and the little weight on his shoulder increased tenfold. After a long silence, the old man's eyes turned moist again. In the distance, Eon quickly sat down on a chair to calm his muddled heart.

Kyle panicked and quickly stood up to pat his father's back, but his father's next words nearly made him laugh.

"I don't know what... and how you did it, but I am proud of you! I was shocked when Elder Han told me you have (SS)-Rank talent... Now you're telling me you have reached a rank higher than even that...?"

"I know I never mentioned it, but in my heart, I always knew that my lazy son would achieve something big one day..."

He grabbed Kyle's hand and tapped it gently. Kyle sat down, and after Eon and Ohan, both calmed down. He asked the other servants to leave them alone.

In the next second, he raised his hand and drew a few symbols in the air, ensuring that no one could hear them. Then he glanced at his father with utmost seriousness.

"I want to know... in our ancestors, do we have someone who was exceptionally strong?"

Baron Ohan blinked and thought for a while.

"No, I was the only child of my parents, and I don't remember anyone strong in my grandparents' generation."

Kyle nodded, but he wanted to know more.

"How about further in the past... a long, long time ago? Maybe one thousand or two thousand years ago?"

A deep expression appeared on the old man's face. He thought hard and long but didn't remember anyone strong.

Kyle sighed.

"Do we have history books? Like the ones passed through generations?"

However, his father shook his head. Suddenly, Butler Eon spoke up.

"What about the ice enchantresses? I saw this book in the old house. If I remember correctly, it was quite old."

Baron Ohan chuckled and shook his head.

"That book was just an old romance story I found in my parents' study. Maybe someone wrote it in their free time. I read it, but I don't think it's something that belongs to our ancestors. As far as I can remember, we don't have any grand ancestry."

Kyle blinked when he heard 'ice' in the name. Bia gazed at him with wide eyes.

-'No way! Ask more about it! I feel like we'll get some clues about your bloodline!'

Noticing Kyle's curious expression, Ohan burst into laughter.

"Haha, it was just a romance book, but if you want to know, I'll tell you the main story. Well, it's an old tale about a beautiful woman who was known as a powerful battle mage around four thousand years ago."

"She was called the Ice Enchantress throughout the whole book."

He paused for a second to gather all the pieces of the story from his memory.

"I remember she and her two male companions were described as unique. They all had something special and they all wanted to become the strongest one day. Hmm, there is a reason why I said the story is not true. The power ranks described in the book were a little different from the ones known in our Continent. And the woman, she had something called a transcendent rank ice bloodline."

Kyle's eyes narrowed and a solemn expression appeared on his face.

"Not much was described, but the story was quite good, at least until the trio's younger days. Then suddenly, one of her male companions acquired something very strong and became someone powerful. She was happy for him, but then he became distant. At first, the ice enchantress didn't care. But as time went on, she ended up falling in love with her second companion. Unfortunately, her choice wasn't the best because the person she fell with asked her to cheat the other one. In the end, together, the two of them betrayed their third friend..."

Baron Ohan let out a sigh.

"Afterward, the story ended abruptly. At the end of the book, a few lines were written in a messy scribble. They said, 'I regret it... I regret it so much that it pained my heart. I'm sorry. I'm leaving first... I know the hell I created, but I'm too powerless. So, I'm leaving behind a part of my essence, in case someone from my family can inherit it. I hope they can use it better to protect their loved ones'."

There was silence as Kyle processed the vast amount of information in the short story his father described. His mind raced with countless possibilities, but in the end, transcendent and celestial were two different ranks altogether.

He massaged his temples and let out a bitter smile because, according to his father, the book didn't have any names.

"So, does that mean my bloodline is somehow connected to her? And why in the world did she betray her friend... just for love and strength?"

Baron Ohan listened quietly, and Kyle's words were enough to shock the old man once again. But he didn't dare to ask Kyle any more questions, fearing that his fragile heart wouldn't be able to handle it.

Kyle stood up and paced around with a frustrated expression.

"I wish I could say that it was just a storybook, but why do I feel like my peaceful life is getting too complicated with each passing day? For heaven's sake, I'm just in my twenties!"

Bia blinked at his words.

-"Just how the hell is it related to your age?"

Kyle snapped his eyes toward her.

"You don't understand! I'm not that old to experience so much. I'm already suffering because of the artifact inside my heart-!"

He clicked his mouth shut but it was too late. In an instant, two pairs of old eyes fixated on him.

Kyle couldn't help but let out a dry smile. No way was he going to worry his father with his problem. As he pondered the different ways to escape the situation, something suddenly started buzzing in his mind space.

He quickly took out the communication crystal that Yue had given him before he left.

Ohan and Eon were both prepared to pressure him for more information about the artifact Kyle had accidentally mentioned. However, the duo froze when a beautiful lady's image appeared above the communication crystal in Kyle's hand.

Yue's brows furrowed as she called out his name.

"Kyle? Can you hear me?"

Kyle sighed in his mind, feeling grateful for the timing.

"Yes, I can. What happened?"

The elven girl paused when she saw two more faces behind Kyle.

"That...?"

Kyle blinked and looked at the two pairs of curious eyes staring at the communication crystal.

"Dad...?"

Baron Ohan cleared his throat and stepped back. He quickly grabbed Eon and gave Kyle a solemn nod.

"She's pretty. I agree."

After his hushed whisper, he hurriedly walked away with Eon, giving Kyle some space. Of course, inwardly, the duo was strategizing on how to make him spill everything about the artifact.

Kyle watched their retreating figures with a bewildered expression. He snapped out of it when Yue called him again.

"What happened?"

Immediately, Yue's expression turned serious. She mouthed an apology, and another familiar old elven figure appeared in the crystal. Anlee narrowed his eyes at Kyle and let out a grunt.

"You look quite different from the past."

Kyle's expression hardened as he saw the old man. Well, he'd be lying if he said he wasn't tempted to close the crystal. After all, no matter what, he still remembered the grudge from the past. Even though the man had trained him in Kingdom tersia, he had also attacked him when he came out from the tower of opportunity. Regardless, Kyle waited patiently to hear what the latter had to say.

Anlee noticed his expression and went straight to the point.

"It was never my intention to disturb your time with your family, but I hope you remember that you owe the elven King a favor. He wants to use it now. The elven Kingdom needs as many strong individuals as possible right now, and you are the best option."

Kyle furrowed his brows, but he wasn't someone who would go back on his words.

"Alright, I'll come visit the Kingdom in a while."

However, before he could close the crystal, Anlee stopped him.

"Come to the border directly. It's not because of the monsters. We were able to control them because the monster lords hadn't attacked yet. It's because the dark mage has attacked one of our borders. He has killed too many innocent people."

Kyle nodded. He wasn't sure who this dark mage was, but if the latter was causing trouble, so it was better to take him out.

Chapter 345 Someone else arrived before us

Kyle closed the communication crystal and walked out of the room. Ohan and Eon noticed his worried expression and asked what had happened.

Kyle shook his head with a faint smile and explained that he had to leave for Kingdom tersia because of some urgent matters.

"I'm sorry, I just came back, but I have to leave again. But I promise, next time I'll stay for a whole month."

Baron Ohan shook his head.

"It's fine. You're old enough to take care of yourself. Just don't forget about your old man and come visit sometime. Also, if you come across your brothers, scold them for me. They ran off without my permission. I know they want to help others, but they should inform me first."

Kyle nodded with a mischievous glint. Of course, he was more than happy to help his father teach his brothers a little lesson. Bia sighed and went to hug the old man too.

"I'll miss the food. Don't worry, even if he doesn't come back, I'll be here."

Kyle rolled his eyes and grabbed the overdramatic phoenix. He waved at his father and butler Eon one last time before the duo left and started floating in the sky.

Bia's wings fluttered gently in the air. Kyle raised his finger and drew a few symbols. Suddenly, a round flickering portal appeared in the air.

He glanced at his house one last time. For some reason, a bad feeling was nagging at him, but he couldn't explain it.

"I'll be back soon."

He stepped into the portal, and Bia followed closely behind.

...

In a grand hall, King Foraan stood beside King Cedric, who had a serious expression. He looked at the kids in front of him and let out a sigh before glancing at Anlee, who just arrived with a request for help.

Cedric took one last look at Carcel and waved his hand at the youngsters.

"Just go. The entire East Continent is in danger. It doesn't matter who falls first, because once the first kingdom falls, the others won't last long either. Right now, Retric and Prince Casper are taking care of the Kingdom Escalante borders. I'll be joining them soon. So, all of you should go and help take care of the dark mage."

He paused, his expression turning serious.

"Make sure he regrets his actions."

Alec raised his weapon, and the others followed suit.

On the other side, Elder Han and another array master finished setting up the teleportation array. They called the kids to stand on it, and Anlee stood in front of them, humming. He nodded at the two kings, grateful for their acceptance of the sudden request.

In the next moment, they all vanished from the hall. Cedric tapped Foraan's shoulder.

"I just noticed, Jian has become much stronger, and so has your son, Kelvin."

Foraan chuckled and shook his head.

"I'm leaving now. Since my son has decided to follow his friends, someone needs to go back and take care of the Kingdom. I just received news that a few nobles are causing trouble."

He left instantly, and Elder Han talked with Cedric about Kyle.

"Anlee has already spoken with him. He will go directly to the elven Kingdom."

After Han left for the nearest border, Cedric turned around to make his way toward his study, but suddenly, a faint tremble in his storage ring made him frown.

He glanced at the old white jewel in his storage ring. It was trembling for some reason.

"What happened?"

Cedric paused when he sensed another presence behind him and turned to look.

"Aefel WintCrest, what brings you here? If you're looking for your daughter, she left with the other kids."

Aefel's feet touched the carpeted floor, and his amber eyes shone in the dim light as he gazed at the King's storage ring.

"I know Yue isn't here. I'm not here for her. I want something from you. We can discuss it."

Cedric's brow knitted together, and the jewel in his ring became more agitated with each passing second. He wasn't sure what it was, as he had found it in an old treasury.

He folded his hands behind his back and narrowed his eyes.

"Let's talk. If you can offer something valuable in return, I'm open to making a trade."

Aefel smiled, and as Cedric took out the jewel, it instantly leaped toward the two porcelain bracelets in Aefel's hand. With a click, the white jewel merged with the bracelets. They trembled slightly, and Aefel let out a thoughtful sound.

'One more part and this artifact will be complete. I hope it's something useful, or else all the effort I put into collecting the parts would be in vain.'

He sighed and placed the bracelets in his storage ring. If Kyle were here, he would have recognized the bracelets. After all, he was the one who completed the symbols on one of the bracelets.

...

Alec opened his eyes above a barren land and glanced at the others standing around him.

Suddenly, two familiar figures appeared in front of them. Professor Aliza and Professor Liam greeted them with tired smiles. Their clothes were wrinkled, and their weapons were stained with blood.

They were among the first to arrive here after receiving an order from Principal Retric to help.

However, before they could even greet their old students and the unfamiliar kids, Anlee impatiently led them toward the border.

Aliza's brow furrowed as she looked at Lily. She knew Lily had taken Kyle's place and entered the realm. Now, the little girl had grown into a beautiful lady.

'Will she be alright? After all, the dark mage is her father.'

After a few minutes, the kids arrived at a village that housed a large border, stretching in a straight line before the dark forest.

They all took in shuddering breaths as they saw the village completely destroyed. The land was stained with blood, and low-rank monsters roamed around. The air echoed with the sounds of metal as countless elves in silver armor fought to kill as many monsters as possible.

Anlee instantly disappeared to help someone nearby. Alec closed his eyes for a second and pulled out his weapon to take down the monsters around him. The people around him joined the fight too. Together, they defeated all the nearby monsters and hurriedly followed Liam and Aliza.

Within a minute, they reached the border, but it was already beyond saving. Half of it had collapsed, and more monsters kept pouring out from the dark forest every second. A large number of elves tried to stop them, and even though they managed to hold their ground, the number of monsters was just too much to handle.

Amidst everything, the air around the border felt a bit cold for some reason.

Alec glanced at Carcel, and with a nod, they floated up to lend a hand to as many people as possible. Alec's eyes glowed with a faint white light as he unleashed attack after attack on the monsters. After spending so much time in the realm, his swordsmanship became more graceful and precise. Carcel floated behind him, spinning his spear to take down just as many monsters.

On their left, Regius, Kelvin, Sia, Lily, Sinon, and the others started their rampage.

Jian, Lara, Mia, and Yue stood at the back with the mages in a line, raining down countless spells on the monsters.

After their arrival, the elves fighting in front of the border breathed a sigh of relief. Finally, reinforcements were here. Many lives had been lost, but as long as the situation didn't worsen, they could save a lot of lives.

Nonetheless, it was strange. The elves didn't seem too surprised by the kids' over-the-top performance. Their expressions were kind of numb like they had seen something even more mind-blowing before.

As the youngsters quickly took their positions and began fighting, the number of monsters thinned with each passing minute.

Yue raised her hand, and countless glowing arrows appeared behind her. The arrows shot out with lightning-fast speed, killing many monsters.

"Where is the dark mage?"

Her question was interrupted when, in a faraway place amidst the towering trees, a huge blast took place. Jian narrowed his eyes.

"I can't see what's going on. It's too far away."

Lara tapped his shoulder.

"Let me."

Her eyes glowed faintly, and in the next second, a familiar tall figure with silver hair appeared in her vision. Far from the border, the man was almost crushing his opponent with the fire phoenix flying around him.

Lara glanced at Jian, a faint smile playing on her lips.

"It seems someone else arrived before us."

Jian and Yue both stared at her, confused. Mia, Alec, Carcel, and the others who heard her words were also perplexed, but then a woman with long hair appeared beside Yue.

Aira, one the strongest guardians of the elven Kingdom, rubbed her bandaged chest and a faint smile appeared on her usually cold face.

"The kid has indeed gotten stronger. Me and the people beneath you wouldn't have survived if he had come just a little later."

Another figure appeared beside her. Anlee wiped the blood stains from his shirt and raised his brow, surprised.

"He arrived even before me?"

Yue's eyes widened slightly.

"Is it Kyle?"

Jian burst into laughter.

"If it's him, then I don't think we need to worry about the dark mage. I can only hope that the dark mage ends up as an intact corpse!"

Suddenly, he pulled out a large boulder from his storage ring and tossed it in the distance towards a huge, round monster that had arrogantly walked out from the forest.

The monster cried out as the weight descended on its head. Alec blinked, shocked.

'Why does this look so familiar!?'

Many pairs of eyes instantly turned toward Jian, and he let out a shy smile.

"What? I learned it from Kyle!"

Chapter 346 We have an old score to settle

At most ten minutes ago, before Anlee and the others arrived, the air above the border trembled slightly and a bright portal appeared out of nowhere. Kyle stepped out from the portal and glanced down.

Instantly, his eyes turned cold. The border was half destroyed, and the land was covered in blood. Countless individuals were trying to stop the monsters pouring out from the forest, but unfortunately, they weren't able to.

He wanted to lend a hand, but his eyes narrowed when he saw a familiar woman being thrown back, crashing into the border with a loud bang. The impact sent dust and debris flying everywhere, and the woman spat out a mouthful of blood.

Kyle recognized her immediately. It was Aira, the guardian of the Kingdom. She's the one who designed the monster wave during the event where he was chosen to enter the secret realm.

Aira clenched her bloodied chest and glared at the black-robed man flying opposite her.

"You bastard!"

Her voice trembled slightly. The man, draped in a black robe, stared at her with his blood-red eyes and smirked.

He raised his hand to kill the innocent elves around him, but Aira shielded them with her body. Even though her condition didn't look good, she tried to maintain her figure steady.

Kyle raised his hand, and wisps of blue flames appeared around his fingers.

"He is the dark mage, right?"

However, he was jolted by Bia's startled voice. The phoenix cried out in his head with anger and hatred.

-That man! I know him! I know him! He was the one who kidnapped me!

-That bastard!!! OMG, my blood is boiling! I want to throw all my skills at his head!

Kyle blinked. It took him a few seconds to understand her words, but when he did, he turned his head towards the man in the black robe with sharp eyes. Of course, he remembered... There was no way he would forget that old grudge!

He cracked his knuckles, and a laugh escaped from his lips, echoing loudly in the air. It caught the attention of almost everyone below.

Aira snapped her head up, her eyes widened a bit when she noticed a pair of brilliant green eyes staring back at her. Just like her, Ziner the dark mage also turned his head up. But his eyes dilated when he saw Bia.

"Haha, the beast! The legendary beast! I want that beast!"

He burst into laughter. He had been searching for the beast for a while, and now that it had come to him on its own, there was no way he was letting it go!

He licked his lip and his eyes gleamed with an ominous color.

'I want her blood, her blood!'

He raised his hand to send Aira flying so he could grab the bird, but before he could, a cold hand grabbed his wrist. Ziner's eyes contracted when a pair of green eyes stared at him. He was about to let out a surprised gasp, but before he could, a powerful kick landed on his stomach with lightning speed.

In the blink of an eye, in front of the onlookers, his body crashed back into the forest, shattering countless trees. His shrill cry echoed through the air as he desperately tried to regain his balance mid-air, but it was in vain.

Kyle was ready to give chase, but Bia cried out in his head.

-'No! He's my opponent!'

The elves gasped with shock when the air trembled, and a majestic phoenix appeared in the sky. Bia's wings flickered with crimson flames as she dove down toward the fallen figure with incredible speed.

Kyle sighed softly and glanced back at the badly injured Aira. He reached into his mind space to pull out a healing potion and tossed it toward her.

"I'll handle the dark mage."

Stunned, Aira quickly grabbed the potion. She watched as Kyle's eyes glowed with a faint light and he disappeared once again, only to reappear amidst the monsters. The elves around him were startled, but before they could react, the ground beneath their feet trembled.

The cold, flickering flames raced with lightning-fast speed, engulfing the monsters who cried out in surprise. The air grew instantly cold. Then, in the blink of an eye, countless ice sculptures materialized around Kyle, only to vanish into tiny particles as quickly as they appeared.

-'OMG! He is strong! Kyle!'

Kyle glanced at the phoenix that had left to fight the dark mage so arrogantly. Only to return after a few seconds.

He clicked his tongue and in the next second, the blue flames around his body surged out in all directions to kill as many monsters as possible. The elves were shocked to see the surging flames that froze everything in their path.

Kyle glanced at Aira, giving her a quick nod before he vanished and reappeared beside Bia.

"What happened?"

-'He's insane! He tried to cut me with a blade! And he's not weak! I think you caught him off guard with that kick!'

Kyle shot her a raised brow, but he quickly looked away before Bia could notice.

"Let's take him deep into the forest to prevent any further casualties."

Bia nodded in agreement. In the next moment, Ziner's floating figure appeared before them. The man let out a laugh and patted his robe. His red eyes gleamed when he glanced at Kyle. Th.ê most

"Kid, you caught me off guard but-!"

Before he could finish his sentence, another unexpected kick landed on his stomach, sending him flying back once again.

Bia's eyebrow twitched violently. Of course, how the hell did she forget? The instant teleportation skill was made to catch others off guard!

Ziner cried out, but before he could catch his breath, Kyle once again appeared in front of him. He kicked the man repeatedly, and within a minute, they were far away from the border.

Kyle flashed a smile that didn't reach his eyes.

"I believe we have an old score to settle."

Chapter 347 He's still alive

In the midst of the towering trees, not even the countless monsters running out from deep within the forest dared to approach a particular barren spot.

Ziner's eyes were bloodshot as he glared at the silver-haired man opposite him with pure hatred. His black robe was torn in various places, and one of his legs was bent at an unnatural angle.

Slowly, he wiped the blood oozing from his mouth.

'I won't believe I can't even land a single attack on him!'

Ziner's gaze shifted to the flickering flames surrounding Kyle's body, the same flames that nearly froze him to death moments ago. He let out a menacing laugh.

"You damn bastard!"

He raised his hand, causing the ground beneath Kyle to cave in and transform into lava. But to his frustration, the lad vanished before the lava could even touch him.

"Looking for me?"

The dark mage snapped back upon hearing a familiar voice, only to grasp at empty air. Crazy laughter spilled out from his mouth as he stared at his hand. Ziner clamped his mouth shut and eyed the little bird perched on a distant tree branch. From the beginning, the bird had been observing him while the silver-haired man kicked him repeatedly. His eyes dilated.

'Haha, how about I kill it? The other one will show up!'

He leaped towards Bia with lightning-fast speed, but another kick landed on his back, sending him flying once again.

Kyle glanced at the groaning man with cold eyes.

"I said we have a grudge to settle, and yet you are seeking death? Huh?"

He stepped forward, his feet touching the ground with a deliberate pace as he approached the dark mage. Raising his foot, he placed it on the man's hand, instantly causing the latter to cry out in pain from the pressure.

"Hmm, what I don't understand is why, after enduring so much suffering, you still want to harm my bonded beast?"

Kyle narrowed his eyes, seeking an explanation.

Ziner's eyes flickered with countless possibilities, and he let out a stifled laugh.

"Give... the bird to me... I will give you something that will make you stronger... so strong that no one will be able to touch you! Hahah... ahhhh!"

His cry echoed as Kyle increased the weight on his hand. Kyle's brows knitted together as he glanced back at Bia.

'What did he do to you when he kidnapped you?'

Bia blinked and pondered for a few seconds.

'Blood... Ah... remember I was injured. He didn't kill me, but he took my blood and did some strange experiments.'

Kyle massaged his temples. So, the dark mage took Bia's blood and created something that could potentially enhance someone's strength.

'Is there something special in your blood? You are a phoenix, after all.'

Bia unfurled her wings and soared through the air.

'My blood does have healing properties, but it's only useful for minor injuries. I don't think anyone would be crazy enough to drink blood just to cure a bruise.'

'So, nothing useful?'

'It's just a guess, okay... maybe after bonding with you, the effects were enhanced? Your bloodline could have influenced my blood.'

Kyle blinked, realizing that this was actually a possibility. He raised his leg, preparing to kick the man, but before he could, a familiar voice echoed behind him.

He turned around and saw Jian floating mid-air. Jian's long hair fluttered as he waved his hand with a mischievous glint.

"I thought you might need some help... but now that I see the state of your opponent, I believe my previous words were accurate."

He landed opposite Kyle, but before he could say anything else, Kyle crushed Ziner's hand.

Jian's eyes widened in surprise.

"Wait! Don't kill him! Aira said she would take him to the capital city to execute him in front of everyone. That way, in the future, no one would dare to harm the elven Kingdom!"

Kyle raised an eyebrow, his expression filled with surprise. Jian nearly dropped to his knees as wisps of blue flames traveled to the dark mage's legs, freezing them completely. The ice quickly dissipated into bright particles, vanishing into the air.

The dark mage let out a shrill cry, causing nearby monsters to become frightened.

Kyle let out an innocent 'Oh' to emphasize that it was purely an accident before walking toward Jian and patting his shoulder.

"He's still alive."

Jian glanced at Kyle, then looked at the man who had lost consciousness from the intense pain. He didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

'It would have been better if you had killed him! Just look at his condition!'

Jian so badly wanted to say it out loud, but he remained silent because he knew Kyle would actually turn back to kill the man!

Kyle's feet left the ground as he glanced at the border.

"Bia, let's lend them a hand and clear out some monsters. The numbers are getting overwhelming again."

Kyle vanished towards the border, and Bia swiftly floated behind him, leaving Jian to take care of the half-dead dark mage.

Soon, Kyle appeared above the border. He glanced at the familiar figures fighting the monsters. All of them were doing great.

He hummed and vanished, only to appear beside Alec, who almost slashed his sword at him due to his sudden appearance.

Alec calmed his heart and glared at the infuriating silver-haired man, who had mirth dancing in his eyes. Alec rolled his eyes and kicked a nearby monster.

Instantly, Kyle drew his new (SS)-rank sword to join the battle but then suddenly a hand tapped his shoulder. He turned back, only to see Carcel with a solemn expression. The prince tightly grabbed his shoulder and spoke with deadly seriousness.

"Don't appear out of nowhere. I almost attacked you. Well..."

Carcel paused for a second, and Kyle swore he noticed an evil smile at the corner of his lips.

"Next time, I won't stop mid-way and just attack. After all, what if it's a monster?"

Kyle's smile stiffened and he gave him a quick nod. Alec, who witnessed their interaction, immediately froze. His lips would have curled up into a smile if not for Kyle, who glared at him with a deadpan expression.

Chapter 348 You are kidding... Right?

In a grand and regal space, filled with luxurious furnishings and exquisite decorations, the room boasted high ceilings and large windows that allowed natural light to pour in. However, the tranquility was shattered when Istalian tossed a glass to the floor.

The glass crashed, its pieces scattering in all directions, causing Seraphine, Lucus, and Sen, who were standing in front of him, to instinctively tremble.

Yet, before the King could snap at the trio, Nine stared at him with clenched fists.

"No matter what, we are from the Sea Continent. You have no right to detain us!"

Istalian let out a laugh, frustration etched on his face. He desired the divine essence, and yet these kids couldn't even find it with a map.

He turned his gaze to Lucus and Sen, and his face darkened.

"You two are useless. I thought you could at least handle this task, but I was mistaken. I should have sent someone better."

Istalian wanted to raise his hand, but the shadow behind him screamed inside his head with anger. The King clenched his heart and glared at the four individuals standing opposite him.

"Leave, and never show me your face again."

The moment they left, he spat out a mouthful of blood and glared at the wisps of dark energy emanating from behind him. The shadow let out an angry chuckle.

"Where is the Divine essence? I told you to send someone powerful, but you! Now how am I going to construct my body? Haha, if I don't get the divine essence, I will kill you!"

He paced around the room, causing the air to tremble. Suddenly, he snapped and glanced back at Istalian.

"There's a way... I sensed divine energy in that phoenix's body. Get me the phoenix. It doesn't matter what you do, I want the phoenix!"

Istalian's eyes widened slightly.

"The phoenix has divine energy in its body?"

The shadow didn't say anything else and increased the pressure on his heart. Istalian cursed and agreed.

"Give me some time... I will get the phoenix..."

Istalian sighed with relief as the pain dissipated into thin air. Regardless, he chuckled to himself. How was he supposed to get the phoenix? After all, both the phoenix and its owner were too strong.

...

In the meantime, Nine quietly walked behind Seraphine, Lucus, and Sen after emerging from the room. His face remained calm, but he felt troubled inside. The divine essence, he remembered it's with Kyle.

'Should I contact him? But I don't have his communication crystal coordinates. I wonder if he even has one.'

Suddenly, an elder from the Sea Continent appeared before them. The old man expressed his anger at Istalian for detaining their princess and prince. However, Nine noticed with a scoff that he was all talk.

Lucus and Sen quickly left them alone, and after grumbling for a while, the elder led Nine and Seraphine to a secluded corner.

He glanced around and hastily drew a few symbols in the air, scattering some mana stones so they could leave the city directly. But when he turned around, Nine had vanished into thin air.

The elder cried out in surprise, and Seraphine's eyes widened. She hadn't even noticed when Nine slipped away. He had always been standing right beside her!

She wanted to follow Nine, after all, she knew where he would go, but the elder made her go back because the Queen was worried about her.

Seraphine glared at the empty spot behind her and clenched her jaw.

'I'll just head back for now. Once I get permission from the Queen, I'll head to the East Continent.'

After she and the elder disappeared, Nine peeked out from a room. He hadn't gone too far, just found a hiding spot. He chuckled and rubbed his hands.

"I don't really care about the Sea Continent. It's better if I go hang out with my friends. Plus, my future wife's probably worried about me."

He wiped his dry eyes and tiptoed around. But even after wandering the Castle for an hour, he couldn't find an exit. Frustrated, he decided to take matters into his own hands and jumped out of a nearby window, only to be chased by a guard.

Nine cursed and started floating, but that only attracted more guards. Eventually, he landed on the ground and revealed his identity to them.

He massaged his temples with a sigh.

'Why the heck was I sneaking around when I could've just left normally?'

The guards were suspicious since not many people had seen him. But when Nine mentioned Lucus and Sen's names, they confirmed his identity and politely escorted him outside.

Nine stretched his legs as he looked at the scorching sun. He started floating and quickly scanned the nearest city to find a teleportation device so he could directly go to Kingdom Escalante.

...

In Kingdom Tersia, the air above the partially broken border trembled as Bia's eyes narrowed and a sea of fire descended upon the forest.

The nearby elves fighting panicked as the fire spread through the trees. But before the flames could harm anyone, Bia controlled them, directing them to surround the monsters emerging from the forest.

Kyle nodded in approval. Bia had indeed become more powerful. A faint smirk appeared on his lips.

'Ah... finally, one of my dreams has come true. I have a legendary beast strong enough to clear the path for me.'

However, his smile faltered as he remembered the countless treasures he had to feed her in order for her to reach a higher rank quickly.

'Well, it's worth it!'

He nodded solemnly. After the number of monsters dwindled around the border, many of the elves let out cries of relief. They had been fighting for so long, but the new arrivals swiftly dealt with the initial wave of monsters in just a few hours.

Anlee and Aira glanced at the figures floating around them, and a faint smile graced their faces. These kids were the future of their Continent.

Aliza and Liam also felt a swell of pride as they watched their students fight so brilliantly.

However, Kyle wasn't done yet. He hated it when things dragged on, and he had to think too much. He knew that neither Kingdom Tersia nor Kingdom Escalante were safe until the monster lords were out of the picture.

'My head's already filled with the artifact, and I have to track down that bastard who put it inside my heart without a clue. Moreover, I need to join Alec in searching for the person damaging the planet's core. So, I think it's best if we put an end to this once and for all.'

He groaned a bit and rubbed his temples.

'Why do I feel like I'm working so much when I don't even have a useful divine artifact like Alec?'

Bia glanced at him with narrowed eyes.

-'Why the heck are you talking so much? If you want to think, just do it in your head, and don't disturb my peace.'

Kyle chuckled and disappeared into thin air. In the next moment, he reappeared amidst the clouds. Instantly, his nose was overwhelmed by countless scents, but the strongest one was the smell of blood.

After a minute, his eyes faintly glowed as he stared in two different directions.

'Gotcha. Now we just need to go and take out the monster lords directly.'

Bia, in the midst of battling another monster, nearly lost her balance in mid-air upon hearing his words.

-'Haha... you're kidding, right?'

She laughed dryly. No way... it had to be a joke.

Chapter 349 The monster lords' location

Kyle didn't answer and vanished once again, only to reappear in front of the crowd. The battle was almost over, with only a few low-rank monsters remaining. Alec and the others had already stopped fighting.

He raised his hands to clap, but abruptly, a strange feeling welled up inside his chest. He blinked, and for a moment, his eyes turned hazy. A fleeting thought crossed his mind, warning him of impending danger, but it slipped away before he could fully comprehend it.

'What just happened..?'

Kyle shook his head with a frown, trying to clear his mind. He clapped his hands, and blue flames scattered in all directions, swiftly finishing off the remaining monsters.

The elves cheered with joy. Finally, after all the struggle, the first wave of monsters had been defeated! However, the floating individuals raised their heads towards Kyle, who cleared his throat to get their attention.

Alec floated up and approached him with a questioning look, followed by Carcel and all the others who could fly.

Kyle raised his finger and quickly drew a symbol, creating a faint barrier to keep their voices from traveling outside. Then, he looked at Alec, Carcel, and the familiar faces.

"I found the monster lords' location. They're in different places. How about we go and take them out directly?"

A few gasps echoed through the air, but Kyle's gaze was fixed on Alec, who smiled. Alec ran his hand through his hair and glanced at an old system notification.

As soon as he arrived at the border, he received a mission to defeat one of the two monster lords, and he would jump straight to (SSS+)-Rank as a reward. Moreover, if he killed the second one as well he would gain a divine rank skill.

Alec glanced at Kyle and before anyone could reject he agreed.

"It's better this way we would be able to save a lot of lives. Also, if the monster lords are gone the other monsters would scatter and won't attack the borders."

After him, Carcel agreed too. But he raised a question, how would they kill the monster lords? After all, the monster lords would be surrounded by countless other strong monsters. If killing the monster lords was so easy, why would the strongest in their Kingdoms wait until now?

Kyle blinked and flashed an innocent smile that for some reason sent chills down Bia's spine.

"Don't worry, I've got a plan."

Carcel raised an eyebrow, and Jian cracked his knuckles.

"So, what are we waiting for? Let's recover our mana and head towards the nearest monster lord."

Regius hummed softly.

"You're right. With so many of us, I think we can easily defeat a monster lord. Alec, Lara, Carcel, Mia, Jian, Yue, Niamh, Kyle, Bia... they all have the strength of (SS)-Rank. In my opinion, it would be too easy."

Anlee glanced at the kids. He refused to let the youngsters face such danger. Even Liam and Aliza spoke up, but after Kyle said that he had a plan, they were ignored like thin air. If Aira had been here, she would have also refused, but she went back to the capital with the dark mage's unconscious body.

After all his friends agreed, Kyle pointed his finger towards the nearest monster lord, the one who would probably attack the elven Kingdom, and gestured for everyone to follow behind.

Alec glanced at everyone and with a nod, they all floated behind Kyle.

The air trembled as Bia glanced down at the many floating figures. For some unknown reason, her left eyelid twitched violently. A bad premonition stabbed at the back of her head, but she couldn't pinpoint what it was.

Anlee cursed and immediately followed behind. On the way, he hurriedly called as many people as possible to let them know about the crazy situation.

Liam and Aliza also took out their communication crystals and immediately called Principal Retric. The old man almost had a heart attack when he heard the news.

He screamed at the two professors to stop the youngsters in any way possible, but Aliza and Liam could only sigh. Who would have thought there would come a time when they would be powerless against the kids they trained just a few years ago?

The news quickly reached the five Kings of the East Continent. They wanted to send their forces behind the kids, but unfortunately, their forces couldn't arrive on time. After all, the other borders of Kingdom Tersia and Kingdom Escalante were still under attack by the monsters.

....

After traveling for two hours, Kyle paused deep inside the dark forest, above a peaceful lake, surrounded by tall trees. Completely unaware of the turmoil he caused throughout the entire East Continent, Kyle narrowed his eyes, and the rest of the individuals came to a halt behind him.

Alec tightened his grip on his sword, looking around the quiet forest. But this part seemed strangely calm. Unable to contain his curiosity, he questioned Kyle with a serious expression.

"Don't tell me the monster lord is hiding here alone? If so, we might have a chance to take it out easily."

Kyle blinked.

"No, the monster lord is further deep inside the forest, surrounded by powerful monsters. I just sensed something good in this place. So I thought it would be best to check it out along the way... right?"

Alec chuckled, a small vein popping on his forehead. He couldn't believe they had been holding their breath for nothing.

"Yeah, right."

He rolled up his sleeves and gave Kyle a murderous look. But before he could pounce on Kyle, the latter disappeared.

Kyle appeared in a distance and stared at him with a hurt expression.

"I swear we would regret it if we left this place without checking it out. You know, I sensed so much pure mana, it was overwhelming."

He landed next to the lake and gazed at the crystal-clear water.

"I believe there's a big natural treasure beneath the lake. I would have come alone, but then I thought about you all..."

Kyle shrugged and smirked as he stared at them. Alec scoffed, but his expression revealed his interest.

In the next second, Kyle gave Bia a signal to watch the surroundings and jumped into the water. Alec glanced at the others and clicked his tongue before following behind him.

Jian laughed and followed suit. Whenever he followed Kyle, he always found something good. So, there was no way he would stay behind.

Yue glanced at Lara and Mia, and the trio also entered the water. After them, everyone else also jumped in the lake.

Anlee stared at the lake and let out a frustrated laugh.

"Why the hell are they trusting him like he would be right!?"

He wanted to stay back and wait for reinforcements so he could bring the kids back. But suddenly, Liam and Aliza also jumped in the lake. He stared at their fading backs with disbelief.

"Alright, so we're all getting childish, huh?"

He scoffed, but curiosity got the better of him. After a minute, he followed behind them.

Bia gazed at their fading figures and let out a tired sigh.

-'Are you sure, you sense something similar to the the earth layer that Haylee mentioned in his story?'

Instantly, Kyle's voice echoed in her head.

'Hmm, the mana is incredibly dense, it's almost unbelievable. I'm a hundred percent certain that there's something valuable deep beneath the water.'

Bia chuckled dryly, wondering how the ones who lost the layer would react to this news.

Chapter 350 We'll catch up with you later

Kyle's eyes narrowed as he caught sight of a faint light deep in the water. Without hesitation, he dove down, feeling the pressure of the depths surrounding him.

A few bubbles escaped from his mouth, but ever since reaching the (S)-Rank, he could breathe underwater without much discomfort. Well, except for a ticklish sensation in his nose and throat.

He descended deeper and deeper, gliding through the water like a nimble creature. The world beneath the surface held a mysterious allure, and after a while, his eyes widened slightly as he saw a bright, glowing curtain.

Kyle paused in front of the curtain, which seemed vast, almost like a dome, extending in all directions.

Soon, Alec appeared beside him. The blue-haired man opened his mouth, perhaps to speak, but all that came out were bubbles.

Kyle resisted the urge to facepalm and instead rolled his eyes.

'Just speak in my head. Why are you so eager to drink water that isn't even clean?'

Alec blinked and let out a chuckle, but it got drowned in the water.

'Now, what's this thing? Don't tell me we need to destroy it or something. Also, I'm surprised your prediction was right. How the hell did you sense it?'

Kyle's lips curled into a faint smile. He so badly wanted to whisper in Alec's ear that he has a pseudo-divine skill, just to see his reaction. But with so many people around, he decided to hold back.

Shrugging his shoulders, he reached out to touch the bright curtain. To his surprise, his hand passed right through it.

"Huh?"

Kyle blinked, and before Alec could ask anything, he entered into the curtain.

He gasped when thick mana entered his mouth and nose, causing him to quickly raise his arm before his face. He was about to glance back at the curtain, realizing that the space he appeared in had no water. But before he could, his eyes were drawn to the brightness ahead of him.

Kyle paused and released a shuddering breath. The space in front of him was wide, stretching deep underground. He couldn't see an end. But what shocked him were the countless glowing weeds

brimming with mana in the midst of the darkness. Not only that but the land was filled with natural mana stones, some big enough to be called boulders.

'This is worth a fortune!'

Kyle's eyes brightened with excitement as he eagerly rubbed his hands together.

'I feel like I've become the richest person on this planet!'

However, his expression quickly fell when Alec also entered the curtain behind him, groaning about the sticky substance. But Alec's complaint was cut short when he laid eyes on the incredible sight in front of him.

He clamped his mouth shut and stared at Kyle with shock.

Carcel, Regius, Jian, and Sinon soon followed, their eyes widening with shock as they took in the scene.

Jian couldn't help but laugh as he patted Kyle on the shoulder.

"Haha, a treasure? This is more than a treasure, it's a whole treasury!"

Kyle raised his brow with a smirk.

"Now, now, I know you're grateful. Just make sure to share the next treasure you find with me, okay?"

Jian nodded solemnly. Of course, a tiny treasure would be nothing in front of the sight he's seeing. Blissfully unaware, no matter how many people were with Kyle, he would be the one taking the most. After all, he had mind space. And not just any normal mind space, but one big enough to hold a whole city easily.

After them, many other people followed behind and entered one by one. Aliza and Liam were bewildered. The duo glanced at each other with astonishment.

The crowd stayed quiet, waiting for someone to take the first step forward. Jian chuckled and rubbed his hands.

"So, let's bet on who can get the most."

Kyle agreed instantly.

"Nice, I like that."

All of them rolled up their sleeves and dove toward the weeds and mana stones, but the numbers were overwhelming. They knew it would take a lot of time to gather everything, but nobody complained because picking up treasures was everyone's favorite task, not to mention the treasures that were lying right in front of their eyes.

As they got busy, Anlee also stepped into the curtain. The old man groaned and muttered a curse, thinking how foolish he would be to follow the kids. But he froze when he saw what lay before him. At first, he stood still, too shocked to react, but then he couldn't help but burst into laughter.

"I'm rich!"

"Ahem... I mean, this place is a real treasure trove!"

He glanced at the youngsters collecting the mana stones and glowing weeds, then looked at the curtain with a panicked expression. Immediately, he raised his voice.

"Wait, all of you! Are you crazy? This place relies on the mana emitted from the weeds and mana stones. If you pick too many, the curtain will collapse and the water will rush in. Everything will be lost!"

A few of them stopped, but not many cared, just like Kyle and Jian. Alec heard his words and quickly intervened, stopping the people around him. They all instantly glared at Anlee with anger. After all, the old man had interrupted their joyous moment.

Nevertheless, nobody questioned his warning and reluctantly retreated. Alec rolled his eyes when he saw Jian and Kyle still engrossed. He glanced at Carcel, and the duo hurriedly dragged them toward Anlee.

Kyle stared at the old man. Inwardly, he somewhat knew the curtain would collapse. After all, it was built naturally. But no way he would admit it slipped his mind because he was too busy with his hands.

Anlee sighed and looked around the area. After a minute, he smiled in a way that a businessperson would when planning to profit from their customers.

"How about leaving this area to me? I'll talk to the King and he would send a lot of people to extract all of these precious herbs and mana stones. Don't worry, I'll make sure everyone gets their fair share after deducting the workers' payment."

Liam scoffed at his words. Being a caring professor, he would never let his students be deceived by an old man!

"Why should it be you? I can do the same. I'll contact the principal, and the Royal Academy will handle this place."

Soon, they got into an argument. Aliza rubbed her temples beside them. They were fighting, yet the one who discovered the place hadn't even spoken up.

She turned to talk to Kyle, but he was engrossed in conversation with Alec and Jian. After the trio finished, Jian stopped Anlee and Liam. He cleared his throat with a serious expression.

"I know it's a challenging task, which is why Kyle and I decided that both Sir Anlee and Sir Liam will take the responsibility."

The duo immediately agreed, more than willing to work.

Jian nodded solemnly.

"Alright, we'll catch up with you later. Please take care of this place for us."

After that, Jian entered the curtain to leave. Kyle also gave a nod to Liam and followed suit. Almost all the young ones went after them, though their eyes revealed some hesitation. But since they had already gained a lot of treasures in the secret realm, parting with a little wealth meant nothing to them.

Aliza watched their disappearing figures and glared at Liam.

"What the heck are you doing? We're supposed to stop them because they're heading towards the monster lords!"

Liam and Amlee blinked and glanced at each other. Liam eyes widened.

"Wait, did they deliberately leave us behind?"

Aliza cursed softly and attempted to pass through the curtain, but her eyes widened when she couldn't.

"What's going on?"

She looked at the two men next to her, and Anlee quickly reached out to touch the curtain. He felt a strange sensation in his hand and let out a deep breath.

"Did someone among them have expertise in arrays? I just sensed a low-rank array. It might be a simple one, but it's too tricky for us to force our way out, or the curtain will collapse."

Aliza's eyes widened.

"Does that mean we're stuck?"

Anlee shook his head.

"No, the array will fade away in a few minutes, but I'm afraid it might be too late by then."

...

As soon as Jian emerged from the water, he couldn't help but smile.

"I had no idea it would be this much fun to fool the elders."

He glanced at Kyle and instantly narrowed his eyes when he saw him holding a gorgeous lady in his arms.

'What the heck did I miss?...'

In the distance, dazed, Kyle locked eyes with a pair of amber eyes. A drop of water trickled down from his hair and gently landed on Yue's face.

He swore it was just instinctual. He thought she had slipped, which is why he grabbed her... but now he felt a weird sensation because their bodies were too close.

He carefully removed his hand from her waist and took a step back. Yue's pointy ears twitched, her neck flushed, but seeing Kyle's passive expression left her feeling a bit disheartened.

Kyle blinked and immediately apologized.

Yue gave him a quick nod and glanced at Lara and Mia. The girls had already grown a lot closer to their partners.

'Why does it feel like it's going to take us at least a hundred years just to get to the next stage?'

After spending time with him in the secret realm, she knew she liked him, but he was a little too dense to notice.

'Well, it's not bad. With his behavior, I don't have to worry about any other girl getting close to him.'