

Bloodline 351

Chapter 351 The majestic lord

Kyle cleared his throat with a twitching brow as Jian shot him a side-eye.

"Guys, let's get moving. The symbols I left will disappear in just a minute or two."

He started floating, and everyone followed him. They ventured deeper into the dark forest, heading south. Bia let out a yawn and started flying beside Kyle in her smaller form.

Due to their numbers, the sky was filled with numerous figures, which captured the attention of the slumbering monsters deep within the forest.

Kyle let out a sigh when he spotted a few monsters eyeing them from below. In a swift motion, he raised his hand and drew symbols to conceal everyone's presence as much as possible.

After about half an hour, they halted a few meters away from an open area surrounded by tall trees.

All eyes were drawn to the open area, which was teeming with an overwhelming number of low-rank and high-rank monsters. Amidst them, a colossal two-horned Lynx was sitting on a makeshift throne of rocks, its towering height casting a shadow over the entire area.

The creature's eyes gleamed with arrogance as it stared at a few monsters, causing them to hurriedly scatter in different directions. Its body was adorned with iridescent scales that shimmered in the light.

Alec let out a breath he didn't even know he was holding and approached Kyle with a serious expression.

"So, what's the plan? I mean, we have a good number of people, but most of the monsters around the monster lord are at least (S)-Rank, and I even sensed a lot of (SS)-Rank ones..."

Kelvin glanced at Jian, who had been the most excited about all this, but now seemed to be the quietest among them all.

He bumped into Jian with a dry smile.

"What, scared now?"

Jian arched his eyebrow with a grin. He would be lying if he said he wasn't taken aback, but he had experienced countless encounters with monsters in the realm. Or, more specifically, he had been chased around so much that it had become second nature to him.

"Nope, I am ready to fight!"

He raised his hand in the air and wanted to shout, but Sia clamped his mouth shut. The fox demi-human glared at him with furious eyes.

"If you so badly have a death wish, I'm always ready to toss you out in front of the monsters! Shut up!"

Jian blinked and nodded shyly. If it were someone else, he would have never agreed, but well, she was beautiful, so it's all good.

As everyone whispered about how to handle the monster lords as quietly as possible, Kyle blinked and looked at Bia, who sat silently on his shoulder. A shiver ran down the phoenix's back because she was all too familiar with those two innocent eyes.

-Stop! Don't look at me like that! I'm getting goosebumps!

Kyle raised his brow as he grabbed her before she could fly away. Bia shook her head, but Kyle didn't even glance at her. He focused his gaze on Alec with a serious expression.

"First, Bia will go and talk to the monster lord. She's a legendary beast too, and since the monster lord has already reached the highest rank, I believe it has enough understanding to communicate. If that doesn't work, I'll go and lure the other monsters, and the rest of you will have to take down the monster lord."

-Nooooo! I don't agree!

Kyle paused and then let out a sigh.

'You can fly, and I don't think the monster lord would be idiot enough to immediately attack a fellow legendary beast. Plus, your presence is superior to his. Just try to talk to him and lead him away from the other monsters, or if that doesn't work, run away. I'll take care of the monsters that try to follow you.'

Bia stopped and instantly started checking her chances of getting away with an intact body. She saw Kyle's expression and knew she didn't have any other choice. After grumbling for a few seconds, she agreed with an angry look that screamed she wouldn't talk to Kyle after all this.

In front of the duo, Alec thought for a minute and furrowed his brow.

"We can handle the monster lord, but would you be okay with so many monsters chasing you?"

Kyle's lips trickled upward into a smile.

"Now, if I want, I can teleport almost outside the dark forest. Do you really think they have the ability to capture me?"

Alec blinked and then let out a chuckle.

"Well, even I am not confident enough in that area."

Kyle nodded at the others and gestured for them to be ready. The moment the monster lord is alone, they have to distract it in a different direction and take it out of the picture.

In the next second, Bia increased her size with a grumble and soared above the open area. Kyle blinked and vanished behind her.

A bunch of flying monsters spotted Bia's presence and immediately flew up to circle her.

Bia cursed in her mind, but she could feel that Kyle was only a short distance away. His presence was probably hidden due to the artifact.

Her wings fluttered gracefully in the air, catching the attention of the huge monster lord sitting on a makeshift throne of rocks. It raised its head and narrowed its glowing eyes.

The flying monsters around Bia made faint noises, trying to figure out who she was.

'Who are you?'

A deep, unpleasant male voice sounded in Bia's head. She looked down at the tall monster lord who had stepped down from his throne. She cleared her throat and silently wished that after spending so much time with Kyle, her acting would be as good as his.

-I'm Bia, the majestic lord of this area. Who the hell are you, disturbing my peaceful slumber?'

The monster lord blinked, and his long tail perked up with interest. But then, his eyes turned arrogant, shining with a sense of superiority.

'Majestic you say? I'm getting a weird feeling from you... but how come I have never seen you before? Nevertheless, you need to bow down in front of me like everyone else. After all...'

In a flash, he leaped into the air, and the surrounding monsters backed off slightly to make enough space.

'I am stronger and more powerful.'

Bia's eyes dilated as a huge figure overshadowed her body. She immediately flew back to maintain a proper distance.

-'Oh? I believe we should have a one vs. one to decide who should sit on the throne.'

The monster lord let out a hearty laugh and fixed a piercing gaze on her, raising an eyebrow.

'Why should I? I'm already the supreme ruler. I don't need to prove my strength, but I have a feeling you'll soon submit to me.'

The air trembled and all the flying monsters around them zoomed in toward Bia with lightning-fast speed.

The phoenix let out a startled shriek and immediately flapped her wings, sending a sea of fire in all directions before retreating in a different direction.

-'Kyle! It didn't work, the monster lord's too intelligent!'

Kyle, who had been watching them from behind a tree branch, let out a groan.

He rubbed his temples and watched the monster lord, who didn't even flinch from his spot. What infuriated Kyle even more was that the monster lord seemed to be relishing the moment as he glanced at the phoenix.

'Not only is he intelligent, but he's also arrogant. Just leave and take the flying monsters with you. No need to come back.'

The phoenix's eyes widened.

-'You promised to take care of those who followed me! How can you break your word?'

Kyle clicked his tongue and vanished, only to reappear behind Bia. His eyes glimmered with a faint glow, and in a flash, the air crackled with sparks. Countless bolts of lightning descended from the clear sky.

The monsters chasing Bia cried out, but the bolts were too swift for them to dodge. They struck them with lightning-fast speed.

Instantly, numerous bodies dropped to the ground, and Kyle raised his hand, engulfing the area around him with blue flames. The flames dispersed in all directions, and a chilling aura spread out. However, when they dissipated, both the phoenix and the human were nowhere to be found.

In the distance, the monster lord lifted its head, bewildered.

'What the hell just happened??'

An arrogant scoff echoed in his ears, and he snapped his head up. Bia peered down at his body with a glint in her eyes, her booming voice echoing in all directions.

-"Submit? Who do you think you are? If you've got the guts, come and try to catch me first."

A vein bulged on the monster lord's head as he let out an enraged cry.

"How dare you! As a powerful being, you're siding with a human?"

Kyle blinked and glanced at Bia, who was floating mid-air beside him. The corners of his eyes trickled upward with mirth, and an even louder voice echoed in the air.

"So what? Do you have a problem with that? Or are you jealous?"

The monster lord laughed, and a tremor shook the entire area around him.

"Very well! Everyone, hear my command! Go and tear that human and phoenix into hundreds of pieces for me!"

Kyle raised his brow with suspicious eyes. It was odd. After he and Bia had angered him, the monster lord should have pursued them relentlessly. Yet for some reason, he didn't dare to leave the space above his throne. Kyle let out an evil smirk.

'There's something under his throne.'

Instantly, the air around him trembled. Countless monsters under the monster lord's command leaped into the air, while those unable to fly roared and jumped into the trees, aiming to capture the phoenix and the human. Kyle cursed as he saw a barrage of skills being thrown at him. He glanced at Bia, and the duo immediately sped up in the opposite direction.

Fighting against so many opponents was out of the picture. Kyle knew that even if he managed to kill a lot of them, he would probably exhaust his mana before it was over.

He wanted to use instant teleportation, but, well, he was a bait for now, and Bia would curse him a lot, so he didn't dare to use it.

Chapter 352 Now it's my turn

Jian covered his eyes with his hand because he couldn't bear to see the sight. He so badly wanted to laugh, but he knew when to control himself, or else he would probably be the first to get beaten up before they even reached the monster lord.

He cleared his throat and glanced into the distance. Kyle and Bia swiftly dodged the countless attacks. The duo was completely successful in their task. So much so that it was almost pitiful to watch.

The many people around him also watched with stunned expressions. The ones who knew about Kyle's history of getting chased around by monsters finally found out that he had a natural talent for it, and the ones who didn't stare at him with respect.

After Kyle and Bia's figures vanished into the distance, Alec and Carcel glanced at the monster lord. There were still a few monsters around the monster lord, but unlike before the open space now felt empty.

The duo glanced at each other, and Carcel took out his weapon before glancing at the people behind him. He was using the same blue spear he got from Kyle. For some reason, he liked this one better than his own.

"Now, I believe we can win the battle without much trouble. So, get ready. After all, we can't let all the hard work that Kyle and Bia put in go to waste."

All the individuals in front of him nodded seriously, and they quickly prepared their weapons. With a gesture from Alec, they left the concealed space.

Suddenly, the monster lord snapped his head towards them, snarling. His eyes widened in shock as he saw the number of people emerging from the shadows. Instantly, he let out a boisterous laugh.

"So, it was all a trick? Did that human think his puny people could take me out?"

Sinon's wings fluttered behind his back and he flashed a grin. He glanced at Jian, who was eager to unleash his high-ranked skills on the monster lord.

The winged demi-human raised his hand and spoke up.

"Let's see who can land more hits on him! Whoever manages to strike the monster lord once will receive one mana stone from the others!"

Of course, no one would refuse free mana stones. They all agreed and immediately went on the offensive against the few monsters surrounding the monster lord.

The monster lord let out a cry and unleashed his most powerful skill, but Mia stepped in. She raised her hand, and a majestic shield materialized in front of her, causing his attack to dissipate upon impact. The monster lord cried out and called for his underlings who were chasing after Kyle, but to his dismay, the human and phoenix had led them quite far away.

Alec, Jian, Carcel, and the rest of the individuals surrounded him from all directions, and his eyebrow twitched violently as a foreboding feeling crept into his heart.

The first one to attack was Alec. He unsheathed his sword and lunged at the monster lord. Immediately, his blade clashed against the monster lord's defenses, creating sparks that illuminated the area. The others swiftly joined in, their weapons and skills combining in a fierce assault.

The monster lord growled in frustration, he raised his paws and attacked back with furious roars but soon he saw the gravity of the situation. After his few underlings died he was practically alone against so many people. He again tried to call for reinforcements, but his underlings were nowhere to be found.

Sinon raised his hand, Carcel who was beside him thought he would use a strong skill, and that's why the prince gave him enough space. Regius also noted the winged demi-human stance, but his eyebrow twitched when he saw Sinon attack.

A waterfall materialized above the monster lord, glistening with radiant droplets that cascaded down upon him. However, the effect was merely enough to dampen his scales.

Carcel glanced at the demi-human speechless.

'If you were going to use such a skill, it would have been better if you didn't use it at all.'

Nevertheless, as a good person, he refrained from voicing his opinion.

Sinon knitted his brows when he noticed a few individuals giving him strange looks. He had been practicing his water-

type skills ever since he found out through Kyle that they were quite useful, but it seemed he wasn't naturally suited for them.

Due to their relentless assault, the monster lord grew more desperate. Ignoring the mounting injuries, he opened his mouth and unleashed a powerful shockwave that reverberated in all directions.

The force of the shockwave pushed back almost everyone nearby. A few individuals who were of (S)-Rank gasped and clutched their ears, unable to withstand the impact.

The ground beneath the monster lord fractured and shattered into numerous pieces. Dust and debris filled the air as he attempted to escape amidst the chaos. However, his injured body prevented him from making any significant movements.

That's why he wanted to scare the people attacking him by eliminating half of them with his skills.

Alec noticed the monster lord's glowing eyes through his hazy vision and raised his voice.

"Mia! Use the shield!"

Mia didn't question him and instantly a shield materialized in front of the monster lord. In the next second, a terrifying beam of light shot through the space and collided with the shield with lightning-fast speed. The shield held for two seconds before crumbling, but it bought Alec enough time to regain control of the situation.

He clenched his sword and unleashed a mighty swing with it. The blade glowed with a vibrant aura as mana tremors rippled through the air. The sword force was incredibly powerful, cutting through the air with an unstoppable force.

As his sword traveled toward the monster lord, a majestic glowing sword materialized behind him. Instantly, a deafening clash resonated through the battlefield. The monster lord cried out in pain, his body faltering as he staggered back.

Alec let out a deep breath, sweat trickling down from his forehead. Carcel gave him a signal and spun his spear in the air.

Instantly, he lunged forward with his spear. The unassuming weapon gleamed and sliced through the air with incredible speed.

As the spear closed in on the monster lord, a surge of energy coursed through it, causing the tip to emit a brilliant glow. With a resounding thrust, Carcel's spear pierced through the monster lord's defenses, eliciting a cry of pain.

The impact of his attack sent shockwaves through the battlefield, causing the ground to tremble.

Jian's eyes twinkled with awe.

"Now it's my turn!"

He moved forward, ready to unleash his most powerful skill. However, it seems he was destined to not get what he wanted because Kyle's figure appeared above the growling monster lord.

Chapter 353 It's cute

Kyle furrowed his brows with a loud sigh.

"You all still haven't killed him? Alright, I'll give the finishing blow."

Alec's eyes widened, his mission would fail if he let anyone else kill the monster lord! He lunged forward to stop Kyle, panic written all over his face.

Just like him, Jian's eyes also trembled but for a different reason altogether. How could he let his prey be stolen right before his eyes? He also lunged at Kyle with a loud no.

The people around them stared in astonishment as the duo grabbed hold of Kyle's arms before the latter could unleash his attack.

Kyle blinked, clearly confused.

"What?"

Jian stared at him with a deadpan expression.

"Let me!"

Kyle let out a chuckle and gave him a nod.

"Okay. Look, the monster lord's secretly trying to run away, so kill him before he's gone."

Jian nodded enthusiastically, but Alec stopped him with a righteous expression.

"Wait, let me kill this one. I'll give you an (A)-rank skill core!"

A solemn expression appeared on Jian's face, but in the next second, he raised his hand with an okay sign and retreated.

Kyle looked at the red-haired man dumbfounded. He couldn't believe Jian benefited because of him.

'Wait... I was the one who stopped my actions, so why is Alec giving the skill core to Jian?'

He wanted to ask the question, but he got distracted when he noticed a pair of concerned eyes. Kyle blinked and floated over to Yue.

"What happened?"

Yue raised her eyebrow, surprised that he noticed. She was worried when she saw him being chased by so many monsters, but, he didn't have a single scratch on his body. She hummed and looked around.

"Where's Bia?"

Kyle stared at Alec as the latter used his sword to kill the monster lord.

"She'll be here soon. I used teleportation, so I arrived first."

The crowd around them cheered with excitement. They had done it. They had killed a monster lord on their own, without the help of any elders! Just a few years ago, if someone had told them they would do this, they would have called that person crazy!

After Alec killed the monster lord, he received the reward for his mission. A bright smile appeared on his face.

He immediately checked the monster lord's body for any skill cores, but he didn't find any. Instead, he found a strange pulsating crystal in place of the monster's heart.

"What's this?"

He grabbed the crystal and everyone's attention shifted to it. But before anyone could look at it properly, a roar echoed through the air.

- "It's mine!"

Bia's eyes sparkled, and amidst the stunned onlookers, she swiftly snatched the crystal from Alec's hand. The blue-haired man stared at his empty palm and then glanced at the phoenix soaring above with a wry smile.

Alec shrugged his shoulders and looked at the people around him.

"She took it. If anyone wants to fight for the crystal, they should go talk to the phoenix."

Instantly, the crowd dispersed in different directions, searching the other lifeless bodies. Knowing Bia's temperament, no one dared to challenge her for the crystal.

Kyle glanced at the furious phoenix with a chuckle.

'Is the crystal useful to you?'

Bia huffed at him, her eyes narrowed. Despite her anger, she replied.

- 'It's the monster lord's heart. Only monsters with immense physical strength have their hearts turned into crystals. So, it's pretty rare... no almost impossible to come across one. And yeah, it's useful to me.'

Kyle gave her a quick nod and stared at the makeshift throne of rocks.

'I need to check what's beneath the throne.'

He looked around and saw that everyone was busy examining the bodies of the monsters they had killed. Kyle glanced at Yue, she had been floating beside him.

"Don't you want to check?"

She shook her head.

"Not all of them have skill cores. And the ones that do aren't useful to me."

"Huh? How do you know that?"

"I have a skill, but it's a low-ranked one, so it's only useful on dead monsters."

Kyle let out an 'Oh'.

"What a useful skill."

He started floating towards the throne, and Yue glanced at him with a questioning look. She didn't ask anything, but he told her anyway.

"I'm going to check underneath the rocks. Want to come with me?"

Yue nodded, and the duo approached the throne. A few people noticed them, but Jian stopped them with a grim expression. No one understood his words, but he tried his best to signal them, that the couple needed some alone time.

Kyle landed above the rocks, he stared around for a few seconds but then used the scent perception skill to sense if something valuable was present in his surroundings.

He frowned when he didn't sense anything valuable but instead, he sensed a small life behind the throne.

Kyle's eyes narrowed, and he went behind the throne where many rocks were stacked together to form a small round burrow.

He bent down and started removing the rocks one by one. Yue sat down on her heels beside him. After he removed the rocks, a pair of brilliant pale blue eyes stared at him.

Kyle grabbed the growling little monster's neck and stared at it with curious eyes. It was very similar to the monster lord Alec just killed.

"A young Lynx? Don't tell me we killed its father or maybe mother?"

The little monster stared at him with round eyes, it blinked cutely and tentatively licked his arm with a low whimper.

Kyle stared at the saliva dripping down from his wrist and had the urge to just toss the monster away, but he paused when he sensed Yue staring at the Lynx with sparkling eyes. He thought for a second and then moved the monster toward Yue.

"Do you want to cook it? The size is short and won't fill Bia's huge stomach, but well, I guess we don't have a choice. It looks quite delicious."

As if sensing the impending doom, the monster cried out in surprise and tried to wriggle out of his grip. After countless failed attempts, it stared at Yue with teary eyes.

The elven girl was speechless at Kyle's words, and when she noticed the wriggling monster staring at her, she let out a sigh.

"No, I won't cook it! It's too young to understand what's happening, so why don't you form a bond with it?"

Instantly, Kyle shook his head with a solemn expression.

"No way, one is enough. You know she eats a lot. Also, I just somewhat killed its only parent. So, what if it attacked me in my sleep? That's why, it's better to cook the monster."

The monster didn't understand Kyle, but for some reason, a chill ran down its spine. It gathered all its strength and leaped toward Yue with a pitiful expression.

Kyle wanted to grab it again, but Yue stopped him. He furrowed his brow, but his brows relaxed when she gave him a bright smile.

"It's cute, so if you don't want it, you can give it to me. In return, I will cook you something good next time."

Kyle stared at her face for a second and agreed. Yet, for some reason, he felt irritated when the monster curled up on her lap cutely.

'What cute? It's too ugly.'

Chapter 354 It's impossible

As the youngsters cheered for their victory against the monster lord, the moment the monster lord died, the monsters attacking the other two borders of Kingdom tersia became confused. The fighters at the borders noticed the change - before, the monsters charged at the borders without caring about their own lives, but now, if their lives were threatened, they started retreating. Moreover, the monsters who were inside the forest and getting ready to make a move scattered in different directions.

How could they not? After all, the one who controlled them, the monster lord, was now dead.

Dynn, the old elf, stood up at one of the borders in the south. Just two hours ago, he received the news that his one and only grandson, Regius, went to hunt a monster lord. Not just any monster, but a monster lord! The old man was so furious that he almost attacked the person who brought him the news.

He and his wife were overjoyed when Regius returned from the realm unharmed, but now the rascal had the audacity to go and put his life in danger once again!

"It's all because of that silver-haired kid! Just wait till I get my hands on him, I'll teach him a lesson! How dare he lead my grandson astray?"

Dynn also noticed the monsters' peculiar behavior, his clothes stained with blood and wrinkled. Surrounding him were several elderly individuals, their eyes meeting in silent understanding.

After a long pause, the old elf rubbed his temples and let out a dry chuckle.

"No way... It's impossible. Did those rascals really kill the monster lord?"

Dynn's eyes widened at his own words, and he vigorously shook his head. He couldn't believe it. The task they couldn't accomplish was done by a group of youngsters!

He remained in denial for a moment, but eventually, laughter escaped his lips. His shoulders shook with amusement as he gazed into the depths of the forest.

"That rascal... Now I don't know whether to punish him or praise him. Haha, I think I'll leave that decision to his grandmother."

He shook his head and closed his eyes briefly, savoring the joy. In just a week, many lives were lost, but they also saved many by slaying the monster lord.

"These kids deserve rewards for such a monumental achievement... I should go and ask the King."

However, just ten minutes later, Aira delivered another shocking news to him. She said that because of the kids, Anlee had discovered a massive underground layer filled with countless mana stones and mana weeds. The upper layer alone was enough to rival an entire kingdom's economy.

Dynn was on the verge of losing his composure. He couldn't believe what he was hearing. He sat down on the border to gather himself. After a few minutes, he let out a loud curse, startling the few old elves floating mid-air around him.

"You rascal! If you found something good, why the heck did you give the responsibility to that leecher, Anlee?"

Dynn huffed and, after calming down, looked at the monsters still present at the border. He stood up, gripping his weapon tightly. He raised his voice and jumped towards the monsters.

"Let's finish this and go home for a well-deserved rest!"

The news about the monsters' behavior spread like wildfire and reached the ears of the elven King. Instantly, the communication crystal of Regius, Sinon, Niamh, Faith, and all those from Kingdom tersia buzzed like crazy. The moment they answered, they were bombarded with hundreds of questions. After the questions, they were praised for their achievement.

Regius let out a heavy sigh and wiped the sweat off his forehead after he closed his communication crystal. He felt like crying because his grandfather had warned him about the impending doom that awaited him due to his angry grandmother. But his attention was quickly diverted when he noticed a little monster in Yue's arms. The sight of the monster left everyone gasping in shock as they stared at Yue.

Regius looked at the monster and gave a wry smile.

"Yue... how did you find it? Did you form a bond with it?"

Yue nodded. She had formed a bond with the adorable little monster right away. She felt a little guilty because she did it without their knowledge, but she didn't want to give it to someone else.

Regius sighed at his fate. Deep down, he held onto the belief that someday in the future, he too would come across a small monster possessing immense talent and form a bond with it! Just like him, many others had similar dreams.

Mia and Lara both stared at the little monster and started petting it. However, they stopped when Bia's eyes glowed with anger. The phoenix swore to kill the monster if it received more attention than her! No way, no one can take her place!

Kyle noticed the fury in Bia's eyes and secretly praised himself. If he had bonded with that little Lynx, Bia would have pecked him to death!

'No... she would have first skinned or maybe grilled the little monster.'

After everyone recovered their mana, Kyle began floating in mid-air. He sniffed the air, trying to sense the presence of the second monster lord. Their task was far from over. They still needed to defeat the second monster lord, the one responsible for the attacks on Kingdom Escalante.

Jian gave him a weird look, but what else could he do? He needed to smell the countless scents to locate the other monster lord.

Kyle glanced at Alec, who had disappeared suddenly and only just arrived back. He blinked and raised an eyebrow.

'How did he jump from (SS+)-Rank to (SSS+)-Rank in such a short time?'

Alec had a wide smile on his face as he approached Kyle.

"So, what's our next destination? I believe we're all ready now!"

Kyle grinned and gave Alec a thorough once-over. If it weren't for his scent perception skill, he would have never detected Alec's rank. With a slight smile, he tapped Alec's shoulder twice.

"Congrats... now you're stronger than me."

Alec stared at him for a moment before fully comprehending Kyle's words. Indeed, he had surpassed Kyle in strength, but how did Kyle know about it!?

Kyle's words shocked many, especially Carcel and Jian. The duo had an unofficial competition with Alec to see who would reach the (SSS-)-Rank first. They exchanged a glance and let out a sigh together. It seemed they had lost. However, Kyle's next words made them question if they were hearing things.

"Reaching (SSS+)-Rank at such a young age is an impressive feat."

Kyle smirked as Alec stared at him with a blank expression. Maybe, the blue-haired man was still processing Kyle's words. It was clear that Kyle had just revealed his rank in front of the crowd.

Alec let out a dry laugh, unsure whether to thank Kyle or not. After all, now he would have to deal with the consequences of being hailed as the youngest (SSS+)-Rank on the planet.

'My life is about to get a bit difficult from now on.'

Alec shook his head and swatted away Kyle's hand. Kyle chuckled and pointed his finger eastward. He felt a bit concerned because while they were battling, the second monster lord had approached dangerously close to one of the borders of Kingdom Escalante.

'Don't tell me it sensed when we killed the monster lord... and now it's preparing to attack the nearest Kingdom in advance?'

Kyle furrowed his brow and began floating towards the location of the second monster lord. The others followed closely behind.

As they raced towards their destination without pausing, Alec suddenly remembered something. He blinked and glanced at Kyle.

'I've gotten a lot stronger now... not a whole rank, but definitely much stronger. So perhaps...'

Alec narrowed his eyes and opened up the system window. In an instant, a panel materialized before him. After taking a deep breath, he decided to use the system appraisal function on Kyle.

'Please show something this time!'

Only after a second, a few panels flashed in front of his eyes.

'Name: Kyle Ohan'

'Race: Human.... loading...'

'Rank: (SSS-).'

'Special: ... loading... bloodline...'

'Special: have a bloodline'

'Bloodline rank: Celestial'

'???'

-Error!

Trying to find the cause! Loading...

-Error!

'Talent: loading...'

'Talent confirmed: Celestial'

No more information provided. To know further information host needs to be a whole Rank higher than the target.

Alec's breath hitched the moment he laid eyes on the special bloodline.

'Wait... wait... I remember I received a mission in the past that was related to a bloodline! The Celestial bloodline... So it was Kyle all along?'

He took a deep breath when he witnessed Kyle's talent.

'Haha, (B)-Rank...? Who the hell said he had (B)-Rank talent!'

Alec's lips curled into a smile. He wasn't sure about his own talent after reaching (SSS+)-Rank, but seeing Kyle's made him realize that the latter would likely surpass him.

'I hope we stay friends for a long time.'

At the same time, Kyle felt an intense gaze on his back, but when he turned around, he saw no one. He furrowed his brow.

'Did I make a mistake?'

Chapter 355 He attracts bad luck

The eastern border of Kingdom Escalante was a sight of chaos and danger. Retric fell to his knees, his body trembling after defeating another (S+)-Rank monster.

His breathing was uneven, and George quickly rushed to his side, helping him stand. The principal chuckled and shook his head.

"I... am fine. Go help the others."

But George refused to leave. Suddenly, countless large bats with crystal-like eyes emerged from the forest. George clenched his weapon, gritting his teeth as he swiftly took down several bats trying to grab a young man.

"These bastards... what's happening? Why the hell did they suddenly start attacking with full force?"

He cursed under his breath, his words loud enough for those around him to hear. Retric shook his head.

"Watch your language, George. You're the Vice Principal of the Royal Academy, and many of our students are fighting behind you. What would they think if they heard your words?"

George jumped into the air and killed more bats, his brows furrowed in frustration. The situation was growing dire. Just an hour ago, he and the others had celebrated their victory over the initial wave of monsters attacking the second border of Kingdom Escalante.

However, little did they know, that an even larger swarm of monsters had descended upon the eastern border. That's why those who knew about Arrays had teleported everyone to the east border.

George wiped his forehead, exhaustion evident in his tired sigh.

"After all this is over, I want a big vacation."

Another elderly figure joined in, Elder Han's eyes lit up despite being covered in blood.

"I want one too! How about a twenty-year break? Someone wants to marry me. She thinks we're getting too old and might die alone... Haha..."

In the middle of his laughter, he coughed up a mouthful of blood. His mana was depleted, and his legs were trembling. It took all his strength just to float mid-air.

Retric and George's eyebrows twitched when they heard his words. George scoffed. This old fogey really knew how to piss him off.

Retric stood up on his feet and killed another monster that jumped out from the forest.

"Survive first, then we can talk about vacations. Just a heads up, only one of you can get it, so figure it out amongst yourselves."

The principal smirked as he observed the duo's gloomy expressions. He glanced at Duke Evan and Valenza, who were on the verge of collapse but refused to retreat.

How could they? Countless lives would be lost if they gave up. Many powerful individuals were floating above or standing around the duo, but like them, their conditions didn't appear much better.

As Retric killed another monster, the land beneath his feet started trembling. He and many others raised their heads, and their eyes dilated as two towering inferno Cats walked out from the forest.

The cats' eyes glowed with a faint light, and their heads were crowned with two horns each. In an instant, one of the cats gazed at the principal, her eyes filled with mirth. Then, she opened her mouth, and a fire tornado swirled out from her jaw.

Retric and George screamed at the people nearest to the cat.

"Leave! Both of them are (SS+)-Rank! Go to safety!"

The principal jumped toward the cat, raising his fist to stop the fire tornado. But the other cat threw him back with her tail.

His body was flung backward, crashing into a few individuals with a loud bang. Blood oozed from his mouth, nose, and even his head. His consciousness started to fade as the people around him shouted, but his ears buzzed with a loud ringing sound.

But before the fire tornado could land on the countless people and burn everything, a golden-haired figure clad in silver armor appeared in front of the cat.

King Cedric raised his hand, and his eyes narrowed. In the next second, a towering earth wall appeared in front of the cat. The cat cried out, and the fire tornado crashed into the wall. The wall started crumbling with a loud rumble, but it was enough to give Cedric enough time.

He raised his spear and swung it forward. His figure traveled with lightning-fast speed, and he flung one of the cats back into the forest.

The other cat also attacked, but Cedric turned around and thrust his spear forward. Instantly, countless spears rained from the sky, and he kicked the other cat back into the forest as well.

The king calmed his breathing and gazed at George with a hard expression.

"I will fight them. You go take care of Retric."

George nodded at him and hurriedly moved back. The King figure stood imposing in front of the two inferno Cats, who walked out from the forest again with angry eyes.

A lot of people cheered but hidden from the crowd, Cedric's hands were trembling. He had just broken through to (SS+)-

Rank a while ago and rushed to the border after receiving the news. Yet, it took all his strength just to send the Cats back into the forest.

'I would never let anything happen to my people, so I'll fight until the end.'

He started floating and raised his spear again before facing off against the two inferno cats. However, his body was accumulating numerous injuries, and he knew he couldn't defeat the cats alone. Eventually, he summoned all his strength and kicked the cats back into the forest. Their massive bodies crashed above the tall trees, putting them at a safe distance from the crowd.

Cedric groaned as he entered into a fierce battle with the cats. He believed that if he could eliminate the pair, they would be safe for a while. But his eyes widened in shock when he noticed two pairs of red eyes peering at him from behind a few trees.

'No way... Is this some kind of joke?'

The King's body trembled. The air buzzed with countless voices, as two towering wild boars emerged from the forest. The trees quivered, and the land shook violently.

The boars let out piercing screams and unleashed shockwaves that crashed into the people fighting nearby. Instantly, the people were thrown backward, and within moments, many innocent lives were lost.

The border behind the soldiers began to crumble from the impact, causing panic among the mages standing above it.

In the midst of the chaos, two familiar figures fought valiantly alongside the soldiers against the monsters. The duo raised their weapons, displaying great bravery.

If Kyle were here, he would have immediately recognized them. Ray and Neon exchanged glances as they were pushed back by the shockwave.

Neon coughed up blood, his armor torn in various places. He looked at Ray, who grabbed him with a worried expression.

A sigh escaped Neon's lips as Ray fought the monsters and tried to protect him. However, Neon could see the severe injury on Ray's shoulder. He shook his head.

"I'm fine. I can... keep fighting."

He coughed again, and Ray glared at him with anger in his eyes.

"Shut up and drink a potion, or else I'm going to beat you up. Remember, we left home just to help the soldiers. We need to go back and apologize to the old man, or he'll cry his eyes out."

Neon chuckled and wiped his mouth, then grabbed his knees and staggered back to his feet.

"Kyle... that rascal entered the Academy and went to such a dangerous place without a care. I want to beat him up once, so don't worry. I won't fall so easily."

The duo's eyes widened when a few large bats attacked them with countless shards of earth. Neon groaned as one of the shards embedded itself in his shoulder.

He wanted to cry out in pain, but a pair of pale golden eyes appeared in front of him. Nine sighed as he stared at the duo, and kicked one of the bats back.

"If I had been a little bit later, forget about monsters, Kyle would have completely destroyed this whole place. It's a good thing I have enough money to travel so quickly."

Neon and Ray glanced at each other, then looked at the brown-

haired man who appeared before them. The first and last time Nine visited them, they were in a coma, so they didn't recognize him. However, when they heard Kyle's name, their eyes lit up.

But before they could ask the brown-haired man anything, a rumble shook the land beneath their feet. In the distance, the land blasted, and dust and debris scattered everywhere.

George shouted, as he stared at Elder Han, who was within range of one of the boar's attacks. In an instant, the atmosphere became chaotic.

Elder Han's eyes widened. He wanted to retreat, but it was too late. In the end, he raised his hand and many symbols materialized around him, forming a sturdy shield. Regardless, he knew the shield wouldn't last against such a huge monster.

The old man prepared himself for the impact, but it never landed on his shield or body. He let out a surprised gasp and raised his eyes to stare at the familiar silver-haired man floating mid-air in front of him.

Kyle wiped his forehead and cursed under his breath. While they were traveling toward the border, Jian accidentally roused a pack of monsters sleeping deep within the forest. That's why they were stopped, or they would have arrived half an hour ago. In the end, Kyle sensed a lot of blood and arrived first after using instant teleportation.

'I don't know why, but he attracts a lot of bad luck.'

Kyle clicked his tongue. The blue flames surging in front of him dispersed in all directions. The boar's eyes narrowed, and it raised its leg to crush the land beneath, but before it could, a kick landed on its jaw, and it was flung back into the forest with a cry.

Kyle glanced back at the old man and instantly grabbed a healing potion from his mind space.

"Master, are you alright?"

Chapter 356 The one with silver hair, is it Kyle?

Elder Han looked at the vial of green-colored potion offered to him, and his lips curved into a smile.

"I just saw my life flashing before my eyes."

He sighed and a similar vial appeared in his hand. He shook the vial in front of Kyle.

"Did you forget that potions are one thing your master never lacks?"

Kyle raised an eyebrow but then shrugged his shoulders. The potion in his hand disappeared and he waved his hand at the old man.

"Go rest, I can sense you're running low on mana. I'll take care of things here."

Han chuckled and moved back with a nod. Kyle's eyes traveled downward, observing the countless people engaged in battle with the monsters. As a few eyes stared at him, he vanished into thin air.

In the next second, his figure reappeared behind the second wild boar, which had paused after he kicked the first one into the forest.

"Fear..."

He mumbled under his breath, causing the boar and all the surrounding monsters to freeze in place as if sensing a dangerous enemy.

In an instant, the air trembled, and countless ice spears materialized in the sky, almost overshadowing the land below.

Kyle's eyes glowed with a faint light, and before the boar and the other monsters could break free from their frozen state, the spear shot out with lightning-fast speed, piercing through the air.

The people fighting in front were startled when they saw the number of spears raining down from the sky. But as they blinked, the spears pierced through the bodies of each monster who was under the fear skill, one by one.

The monsters wanted to cry out, but only muffled cries rang out on the battlefield as their bodies dropped to the ground, with a loud thud.

The one who screamed the loudest was the wild boar, as many spears penetrated its body from all directions with their razor-sharp tips.

The boar's eyes closed, and it dropped to its knees as it took its last breath. In an instant, the air turned cold as the ice spears scattered into many fragments and dispersed in all directions, harming the other monsters nearby.

Kyle floated around. He raised his leg and kicked the already dead wild boar's body back deep into the forest.

The boar's body crashed into the trees and tumbled backward at a fast speed. The other boar, who was coming out, froze in its tracks as it looked at its companion's body.

For a few seconds, a deadly silence enveloped the air as the monsters and all the fighting individuals stared at the silver-haired man floating mid-air.

Nine let out a chuckle, he started floating and clicked his tongue.

"Show off."

Kyle's ears twitched. He turned around and glanced at the familiar face he hadn't seen for a while. He raised his brow, and his lips curled into a smirk.

"How about you kill the other wild boar? It's coming out..."

His sentence was cut short because Nine turned around and disappeared into the crowd without looking back.

Kyle blinked, and his figure vanished again, only to reappear behind the other wild boar. A chill ran down the boar's spine. It cried out, and many earth spikes appeared behind its back. However, after hearing no voice for a few seconds, it turned around and glanced back, but the human was nowhere to be seen.

The boar let out a growl, but then it looked down at the bloodied tip of the sword sticking out from its chest, its eyes dilated. Blood oozed from its mouth, and its eyes rolled back.

Kyle grabbed the sword handle and yanked it back, raising a small dust cloud in the sky as the boar's body dropped to the ground.

He furrowed his brow as he waved his precious sword to clean the blood off it.

'I don't know if I'll find any more high-rank weapons, so it's better if I take utmost care of this one.'

He sighed and vanished from his spot again.

In the distance, King Cedric breathed out as he stopped another attack from one of the Inferno Cats. He panicked a little when a figure materialized beside him.

A sigh escaped the King's lips as he saw Kyle. He had seen how the silver-haired kid fought and killed two strong monsters so easily.

The two Inferno Cats froze in their spots when the duo saw the silver-haired human who had killed the boars. They glanced at each other, and before Kyle could attack them, the duo ran away in different directions.

"Huh?"

Kyle stared at their backs. He could have easily caught them, but it's probably best if he didn't venture too far from the border. Not until the others arrived.

He turned around and glanced at the injured golden-haired man who looked a lot like Carcel. With a nod, he offered a healing potion.

Cedric chuckled and shook his head.

"My storage ring is filled with these things, save it for the future."

Kyle blinked and stared at the potion bottle. He couldn't help but think that maybe something was wrong with the potion, that's why no one was taking it from him.

Secretly, he placed the particular potion vial away from the others in his mind space and vanished from his spot again.

His figure appeared in the middle of the crowd, and blue flames scattered in all directions. The flames didn't harm the humans and other soldiers but only enveloped the many monsters attacking the border.

The monsters cried with panicked eyes as their bodies turned into ice sculptures. The air that had been cold turned even colder when the flames appeared. In the next second, the ice sculptures crumbled into bright particles and vanished into thin air.

Kyle wanted to use instant teleportation again, but a familiar voice echoed in his head. He raised his head and saw Bia's huge figure soaring in the sky.

-'You really had the guts to leave me with that little monster, huh? It would have died in my hands if not for Yue stopping me in time!'

Kyle chuckled, and many eyes traveled towards the phoenix soaring through the air. They watched with awe as the beautiful fire phoenix flew across the sky.

After Bia, Alec also appeared in the sky. He glanced down and let out a sigh. In the next second, his figure flashed, and he landed beside Kyle.

"It seems you cleared the most dangerous monsters."

Kyle nodded.

"It's safe for the time being, but the monster lord hasn't shown up yet. Anyway, did you all take care of the pack of monsters who attacked us?"

Alec's lips trickled upward in an evil smile.

"If me and the others had stopped to take care of all of them, it would have taken me more time to arrive. So, we all decided to leave Jian behind to handle the mess he created."

Kyle smiled at his words and pointed at the monsters, indicating that they had a lot of work to do.

Alec nodded, and the duo immediately jumped into battle. The crowd was stunned because, just like Kyle, Alec also killed countless monsters with a single attack.

The phoenix soaring in the sky also joined the battle. After only a minute, Yue, Regius, Lara, Mia, Carcel, and all the others except Jian arrived as well. The battlefield quickly became even more chaotic as the new arrivals swiftly took care of the monsters.

In the distance, Nine smirked as he watched them fight. He turned back when someone tapped his shoulder slowly.

Neon stared at his face with a curious expression.

"The one with silver hair, is it Kyle?"

The corner of Nine's eyes trickled upward with mirth.

"He's... maybe?"

He laughed when Neon's face fell. Ray, who was standing behind Neon, grabbed his shoulder with a smile.

"How could you not recognize your little brother? It's definitely Kyle!"

Neon let out a groan.

"I know... but it's unbelievable. He has gotten so strong in such a short time. Also, what happened to his hair and eyes?"

The two brothers conversed about Kyle's appearance when Nine joined in.

"Don't worry, the change won't harm him. I don't know the reason, but I guess it's related to the special flames he's using."

Neon blinked, gazing at the blue flames around Kyle's body, and nodded.

Nine hummed, he suddenly noticed Ray's injured shoulder and extended his hand.

"Let me cure your injury. I have a healing skill. It's better than a potion."

Ray nodded, and Nine placed his hand on his shoulder. Nine's eyes glowed for a second, and a thread of mana emerged from his hand. After a few seconds, the injury on Ray's shoulder vanished into thin air.

Nine smiled and wanted to retract his hand, but he froze when a few images flashed at the back of his head.

"?"

The golden threads in his eyes trembled violently, and both Ray and Neon panicked when blood started pouring from his eyes and mouth. But Nine raised his hand to stop them, with a horrid expression.

"I'm fine... but Kyle is in danger!"

Chapter 357 I don't feel like fighting

Ray and Neon were stunned as Nine dropped to his knees. Nine's last words kept replaying in their minds, especially his warning about Kyle being in danger. Ray quickly grabbed Nine's arm and urgently called out to Neon.

"What are you waiting for? We need to help him! Let's find a safe spot first, quick!"

Nine's eyes blurred, and his consciousness started to fade. He heard the countless voices around him, Neon and Ray's worried remarks as they cleared the path and dragged him away from the battlefield.

He closed his eyes and did his best to clear his mind, but he knew he had used too much power again. Sometimes, he hated the fact that he couldn't control his strength. He raised his head towards Ray and a few incoherent murmurs escaped his mouth.

"Kyle... ask him to go to a safe place.. that man.. with golden pupil..."

Nine couldn't make sense of his own visions. He saw everyone happy, but then what happened? Suddenly, a sharp pain stabbed at the back of his head, making it hard for him to stay conscious.

Ray glanced at Nine as he slumped on his shoulder. He cursed quietly to himself. Nevertheless, he knew the best thing to do was to find a safer place for Nine.

In the meantime, the chaotic battlefield quickly started to calm down as the new arrivals effortlessly killed the monsters.

Carcel wiped his plain-looking spear and glanced at the golden-haired man floating beside him.

"So, how's my mother doing?"

King Cedric scoffed and stared at the spear in his hand.

"Just worried about your mom?"

Carcel blinked and checked him out from head to toe before looking at where his brother was fighting.

"I can see you and Casper are totally fine. So, I'm asking about the one who's not here."

King Cedric clicked his tongue.

"So many years have passed, but you're still the same. About your mom, she wanted to come along, but someone had to take care of the castle, so I made her stay. Go see her once we're done here."

Carcel nodded and moved away to kill another monster.

On the other side, Alec raised his head and stared at the forest where the monsters were pouring out. The numbers had gone down, and they had wiped out all the monsters at the border, except for a few low-rank ones. But the monster lord hadn't shown up yet.

He hummed softly but frowned when he saw Kyle stop for a few seconds with a perplexed expression. Alec narrowed his eyes and quickly noticed the hesitation in Kyle's movements. He would pause every few minutes, but then shake his head as if he zoned out.

Alec started floating and quickly approached him.

"What happened-!"

He stopped because Kyle got startled when he called out to him. The latter blinked and stared at him.

"Did you say anything? Sorry, I got distracted..."

Alec nodded, wanting to ask what happened, but Kyle started stretching his neck with knitted brows, as he glanced toward the forest.

"I don't feel like fighting for some reason..."

However, then he shook his head and clicked his tongue.

"I'm getting frustrated because of the monster lord. Why hasn't it shown up when it's just hiding nearby?"

Kyle glanced at Alec and tapped his shoulder with a smirk.

"How about we force it out if it's not going to come out?"

Alec stared at him for a few seconds, but the duo got distracted when a loud curse echoed through the air. Suddenly, a familiar man with red hair appeared, and it was none other than Jian. He fixed his angry eyes on Alec.

Jian burst into laughter, a vein bulging on his forehead as he pointed an accusing finger at Alec.

"You! How could you abandon me? Do you even care if I died out there?"

"I know... haha, it was your idea to leave me behind!"

He rolled up his sleeves and zoomed in toward Alec with lightning-fast speed. Alec's eyebrow twitched, and before Jian could catch him, he flew away in a different direction.

Jian arrived in front of Kyle, an evil smirk appearing on his face. He ran his hand through his hair and glanced at Kyle with a deadpan expression.

"Bro, help me kick him, and I'll give you one (A)-Rank skill core?"

Kyle raised his brow, interested.

"The offer is not bad at all."

Alec's eyes widened in the distance. He couldn't believe Jian was asking the one who ran away first to beat him for the same reason, and the payment was only one skill core!

'Wait... I gave Jian an (A)-Rank skill core just a few hours ago. Don't tell me he's using the same one just to get back at me?'

He paused when the ground beneath his feet started quivering, and a massive tremor shook the trees opposite him. Countless monster cries rang out in the air.

Alec looked up, his gaze fixated on the towering figure that appeared in the sky, casting a shadow over the land as it approached from the distance.

The colossal bat's eyes shimmered like crystal, as it stared down at the border and the many small figures below. Its fur was a deep, obsidian black, adorned with intricate patterns that glowed with an eerie light. Its wings spanned the length of several trees, a magnificent sight to behold.

The air grew silent as all eyes were drawn to the monster flying above the trees, and its crystal-like eyes.

Alec couldn't help but let out a curse.

"So, the second monster lord is an obsidian bat?"

His words hung in the air as the bat unleashed a deafening screech that echoed through the land, causing a massive amount of dust to rise. In the next moment, strong monsters that had been lurking around the monster lord jumped out from the forest with lightning-fast speed.

The land crumbled beneath their weight, and the trees were torn apart. It was a truly terrifying sight. But things took a turn for the worse when another wave of low-rank monsters joined in.

Kyle blinked and vanished from his spot, his voice echoing loudly through the air.

"Guys, let's take down the strongest one first!"

As soon as his words fell, everyone floating mid-air around him sprang into action and engaged the most powerful monsters in a fierce battle. Those on the ground did their best to fend off the onslaught of countless low-rank monsters pouring out from the forest.

Kyle furrowed his brow when he noticed that the soldiers and many other fighters were already exhausted. If the situation kept going, they wouldn't last much longer.

Alec raised his sword and joined the fight, but he paused for a moment when Kyle's voice echoed in his head.

'Go, confront the monster lord. We will do our best to handle everything here. As soon as someone is free, they will join you.'

Alec nodded and quickly glanced at the monster lord. Once the other monsters emerged from the forest, the monster lord remained motionless, simply observing the chaotic scene with its crystal-like eyes.

Kyle took down another monster and glanced at Alec, who had taken the forest route to avoid drawing too much attention from the other monsters.

'Bia, reduce your size and go help him.'

The phoenix, who had been fighting alongside Mia and Yue, flapped her wings and the fire around her disappeared. She grumbled a bit but quickly reduced her size and followed behind Alec. Due to her small size, she easily maneuvered past the monsters.

Kyle quickly used his instant teleportation and in the next second, he appeared at the boundary of the forest, where the monsters were emerging from.

'I hope this goes better than last time.'

He took a deep breath and beads of sweat formed on his forehead. Suddenly, the ground beneath his feet trembled, and numerous fire skeletons emerged from the earth. The skeletons had glowing, hollow eyes, but Kyle noticed with a frown that their movements were not properly coordinated.

'Why do I feel like my control has gotten worse for some reason?'

He sighed, knowing that the skeletons wouldn't last long, but at least their bodies would serve as a decent shield for the hundreds of people behind him.

Just as Kyle was about to vanish, he noticed two familiar inferno cats stepping out from the forest. The cats let out hungry growls, their eyes filled with glee as they surveyed the chaotic scene. One of them opened its mouth, ready to unleash a fire tornado on the individuals fighting nearby, but blue flames suddenly appeared around her body, causing the cat to jump back to a safe distance.

The second cat also jumped back as soon as it saw the flames. The two of them looked around, and then a voice that sent chills down their spines echoed from above.

Kyle waved his hand in the air and clicked his tongue.

"Almost had one of you this time, but you're both pretty good at escaping."

Chapter 358 We have got a lot of work

Kyle rubbed his hands as he hovered above the cats. A few nearby monsters attacked him, but he quickly finished them off.

One of the inferno cat's eyes darted around. She wanted to escape because she had seen the human fight before. He would just disappear and reappear out of thin air.

Kyle chuckled when he saw panic in their eyes. The duo truly knew when to retreat. He hummed and vanished again.

The moment he disappeared, the cats panicked. One of them jumped off toward the forest, ready to escape, but it froze in its tracks when the same human landed in front of her. He cracked his knuckles with a frustrated expression and ran his fingers through his hair.

"How about fighting without a weapon? It's been a while?"

The cat cried out and raised her paw to attack. The other one also jumped toward Kyle, but the duo froze when dread crept into their hearts. They stared at the human with dilated eyes as he ran toward them and punched one of them with all his strength.

Kyle opened his fists with a groan and waved his hand as he watched the inferno cat flung backward mid-air.

"Fear skill is good, but using my fists is a little painful."

"Let's finish this as quickly as possible."

He sighed and vanished again.

Sinon was in the middle of a fierce battle with an (S+)-Rank monster when suddenly, a furry body was flung towards him from the forest. His eyes widened in surprise, and without hesitation, he unfurled his wings and swiftly jumped back mid-air. The massive body crashed onto the monster he was fighting, causing it to cry out in pain.

The winged demi-human wiped his forehead with a sigh of relief and glanced at the inferno cat's body before turning his attention to the forest entrance, where Kyle stepped out with knitted brows. Sinon blinked, and the silver-haired man vanished from sight.

"Damn, did he use his fists to kill something that huge?"

The wings fluttered behind his back as he shook his head with a chuckle, not even daring to imagine how badly the inferno cat had been beaten up.

Kyle reappeared a few meters away from Carcel, who had been locked in combat with a group of (S+)-Rank winged hurricanes, a type of monster with two horns and colorful wings.

A cold wind swept through the air as blue flames materialized around Kyle. He burned his mana to make the flames spread across the sky, almost enveloping everything around Carcel and the winged hurricanes.

The crowd and the surrounding fighters watched as the flames grew colder with each passing second. Kyle stepped into the flames and paused beside Carcel. The two of them gazed at the panicked group of birds before the flames gathered, engulfing everything around them. Painful shrieks filled the air, but Carcel realized with a sharp breath that the flames didn't even touch him.

Carcel glanced at Kyle, who wore an emotionless expression that he hadn't seen in a while.

"Thanks, but where is Alec? I haven't seen him for a while."

Kyle blinked, and the flames scattered in all directions, leaving behind bright particles. His fingers brushed past the moving particles, and he felt a faint, cold yet soothing sensation. How strange, he had never felt cold before. He rubbed his fingers and pointed towards where the towering bat had been watching everything.

"I asked Alec and Bia to confront the monster lord, but Bia told me they were stopped in the middle by a group of monsters."

He looked back at Jian, who had been throwing down skills and casting spells left and right, doing everything he could to take out as many monsters as possible and protect as many people as he could.

Kyle frowned as he surveyed the battlefield. The situation didn't look good. He knew they could hold on for a while, but once their mana ran out, the border would fall. His gaze shifted to George and Retric, who had joined the fight despite their injuries, and then to Elder Han.

He thought for a few seconds and vanished once again, only to reappear beside Elder Han, who was fighting alongside a group of elderly men to clear out some monsters near the soldiers.

"Master?"

Elder Han quickly killed his opponent, his forehead glistening with sweat. He glanced at Kyle, breathing heavily.

"What's going on? Why are you here?"

Several old men around him immediately stopped the monsters in front of him when they saw Kyle, allowing him to talk with the silver-haired man who had displayed incredible strength since his arrival.

Kyle reached into his mind space and pulled out a book. In a matter of seconds, he flipped through many pages before stopping at a particular symbol. He tore out the page and handed it to Elder Han, who looked at him with confusion.

"I need your help. Draw this symbol on the border beneath the mages. The more symbols, the better. It doesn't matter where you draw them, I just need a large number. Gather as many people as possible who can draw symbols."

Elder Han stared at the page, which only had one symbol. He recognized it—it was used in one of the lower-ranked arrays that could increase someone's mana if they stood above it. However, the array consumed a lot of resources and could potentially harm the user's body if they were lower than (S)-

Rank, as the mana would forcefully fill their body within a few seconds.

The old man wanted to question Kyle, but he had already vanished. Elder Han let out a sigh and rubbed his temples, gazing at the symbol before grabbing one of the old men fighting in front of him with a serious expression.

"Come on, we've got a lot of work to do."

The duo floated towards the border, and Elder Han took out his communication crystal, asking George to send as many individuals as possible who could draw arrays.

George cursed because Han closed the communication crystal the moment he asked why. The Vice Principal stared at the crowd around him with frustration.

"How the hell am I supposed to gather people who can draw array symbols in the middle of this chaos?"

He punched a nearby monster before floating towards the area where students from various academies were fighting, searching for individuals who could draw array symbols.

Chapter 359 We're going to burn the forest

Kyle appeared behind Mia, who had been floating above the border with a few other mages. He looked around and noticed the pale faces of the people standing above the border.

"Mia?"

The people floating in front of him were startled, and Mia paused for a second when she heard the familiar voice. She swiftly cast another spell to take down a monster attacking a soldier, then she turned around to look at him.

"What happened, Kyle?"

Yue, Lara, and Niamh, who were floating beside Mia, glanced at him. Jian, who had just joined the mages, was also startled by his voice. Kyle took a deep breath and pointed his finger towards the forest entrance.

"If I give you enough mana, can you construct a shield big enough to cover the entire area in front of the forest?"

Mia blinked, not quite sure what he meant. Nevertheless, she nodded without hesitation.

"I can do it, as long as I have a large amount of mana in my body, but how?"

Kyle looked at her with a serious expression.

"Mana isn't the problem, but the process is going to be a bit painful. So, are you sure?"

Mia nodded and clenched her fists. She believed she could do it. If Kyle had a good plan, they could save a lot of lives. Yue frowned, wanting to speak up and question why Kyle didn't ask her, considering she was stronger than Mia. But she stopped when Kyle turned around and stared at her.

"Yue, I remember you have a powerful fire skill, right? And Jian too."

He glanced at Jian, who floated towards him with a nod.

"After Mia is done, I want both of you to use your fire skills. I want it to be as big as possible..."

He paused for a second and gazed at the duo.

"Would you do it?"

Jian and Yue glanced at each other, and then the red-haired man let out a chuckle.

"You think we won't? Of course, we would! A little pain is nothing!"

Kyle let out a faint smile as he nodded. Yue gazed at him with crossed arms.

"So, do we use the fire skill on the monsters? But if the fire is too big, I don't think we would be able to control it properly. What if it harms the people fighting with the monsters?"

Kyle shook his head.

"No, we're going to burn the forest."

Jian stared at him with stunned eyes and let out a dry laugh. If they burned the forest, it wouldn't just stop at a mere fire. The fire would spread quickly, destroying the trees, plants, and wildlife.

"You're joking, right?"

Kyle met his gaze with a serious expression.

"No, I'm not. However, I can assure you that the scenario you're imagining won't happen."

Jian approached him and flashed him a grin.

"Don't worry, bro. I trust you. And not just me, the others do too. Let's finish all this and go eat something good!"

Kyle raised his brow.

"I like the offer, but I already have plans with someone else who promised to cook for me. So maybe some other time?"

He tapped Jian's shoulder, who stared at him and vanished, only to reappear at the border in the next moment. Yue stared at Kyle's figure from a distance and then glanced at Jian, who had a look of disbelief on his face as if he had just experienced the worst betrayal of his life.

Yue's lips curled up into a beautiful smile. She thought Kyle would have forgotten her words considering the situation, but he remembered.

She glanced at the little Lynx sitting on Lara's shoulder and started floating to attack the monsters once again.

Unbeknownst to her, a pair of suspicious eyes had been observing Kyle and her interaction for a while now. Lily raised her brow when she saw the smile on Yue's face.

'What a beautiful smile. Are they in a relationship?'

Lily blinked and stared at Yue for a few seconds before tilting her head back to gaze at the silver-haired man running above the border.

'Ah... they don't seem to suit each other. Well, I think I should lay low for a while until everyone forgets about the fact that I am the dark mage's daughter.'

.....

Kyle peered at the glistening symbols beneath his feet. The mages around him were startled by his sudden appearance above the border, but he ignored them and kept on drawing symbols. He was so fast that they couldn't understand what he was doing. All they noticed were the shiny symbols he left behind.

After ten long minutes, Kyle vanished and reappeared in the sky, fixing his gaze on the opposite end of the border. Elder Han and a few others were trying their best to draw as many symbols as possible.

'It's not enough. I need more symbols... the more, the better.'

Kyle jumped into the battlefield, and in the next second, he appeared amidst the soldiers fighting the monsters on the land. His eyes glowed, and everyone around him gasped as blue flames scattered in all directions. The flames engulfed numerous low-rank monsters and vanished into countless bright particles.

However, before anyone could notice his presence, Kyle vanished and reappeared beside King Cedric and Retric. The duo had been struggling against three powerful (SS+)-Rank bats, trying to keep them away from the crowd.

Kyle glanced at the bats and drew his sword, then looked at the two men who paused upon his arrival. He asked them to focus on the low-rank monsters and clear the land. The duo glanced at each other and nodded. The King looked at Kyle with a smile and gave his shoulder a shake.

"Young man, I'll reward you once all of this is over. You have done a lot, not just for us, but for the whole Continent."

Kyle blinked and nodded politely. No way he would admit that he was only helping because of his friends. After Retric and the King left, Kyle started fighting the bats. It wasn't much of a fight, more like a one-sided beating.

'Bia, can you hear me?'

-I can, but we are unable to get near the monster lord. There are too many monsters surrounding it, and every time we try to get close, they all jump at us from all directions.'

Kyle sensed with a frown that Bia's breathing was irregular.

'Tell Alec to come back. Change of plans. We're going to take care of the monster horde first.'

-What? There are so many! How are we gonna do it?'

Bia asked a few questions, but since she didn't get a proper response, she agreed with a click of her tongue.

Chapter 360 Is it mocking me?

Bia's figure soared across the sky, quickly maneuvering through the swarm of bats to approach the border. Alec followed closely behind, cursing under his breath when a monster tried to bite his leg. He kicked it back into the forest with an exhausted expression.

His eyes traveled toward the large bat, watching them with its crystal-like eyes from a distance. A vein bulged on his forehead as he noticed the mirth dancing in the bat's eyes.

"Haha... is it mocking me?"

Alec rolled up his sleeves, ready to dive towards the monster lord once again. But his actions halted when Kyle appeared a short distance away. Alec's gaze met the silver-haired man, who grabbed his shoulder and pulled him towards the border.

"Come with me! We have a lot of work to do!"

"Huh?"

Despite his confusion, Alec quickly followed. Just like him, Kyle called Carcel, Regius, Sinon, Sia, and a few other strong figures he knew. He pointed towards the land.

"Guys, I want you all to focus on the area in front of the border. Kill as many monsters as possible and clear the space. Also, if possible, get everyone away from the forest entrance quickly."

The eyes staring at him looked a bit confused, but with a quick nod, everyone dove toward the ground and started slaying as many monsters as they could. Amidst the chaos, they shouted orders for everyone in front of the forest entrance to slowly retreat towards the border.

Kyle took a glance at the surroundings and closed his eyes for a moment. If everything went as planned, they would soon defeat the monster lord. He snapped his eyes open and focused on Alec, who was taking down some bats in the distance.

'Alec, you have a powerful wind skill, right?'

His voice echoed inside Alec's head, who killed the bats and appeared beside him.

"I do have one. Do you need me to do something?"

"Just get ready to unleash your strongest wind skill. You need to blow the flames and make them spread faster."

Alec nodded, his eyebrows furrowed in concentration.

"Wait... what?"

He blinked and stared at Kyle, who floated towards the border, and in the next second, Mia appeared in front of Kyle.

"What are they up to?"

Alec massaged his temples and hurriedly made his way towards the silver-haired man.

Kyle took a deep breath, and suddenly the mana around him trembled violently. A faint round symbol appeared in the air, growing wider and brighter until it encompassed the entire sky.

Elder Han and the others who were still drawing symbols on the border paused as their symbols began to float in the air. The old man gasped in shock and snapped his head toward Kyle. He didn't know whether to laugh or cry. The kid had already learned so much about arrays, what else would he teach him now?

'Wait, I can teach him about potions!'

Retric and King Cedric both looked up in astonishment, their eyes fixed on the sky filled with countless symbols gathering in a circle.

The symbols glowed brightly, and with a gust of wind, the surrounding mana flared up and moved toward the symbols. The crowd stood in awe, witnessing the spectacle in the sky, but they couldn't fully appreciate its beauty as they had to focus on defeating the many monsters in front of them.

Kyle narrowed his eyes, staring at a faraway place where he sensed a sharp gaze. It seems the monster lord became alert because of his actions, but who cares? The arrogant bat's eyes told him it was only mildly amused, not enough to come and fight mere humans and soldiers trying to stay alive.

'Huh, let's see how long you can watch.'

Kyle smirked, glancing at the symbols that dimmed with each passing second. He let out a sigh.

'I want compensation for the resources I'm going to waste!'

He clicked his tongue, and suddenly thousands of mana stones appeared around him, but the moment they appeared, they were sucked up by the symbols.

'More?'

Kyle massaged his temples and soothed his aching heart before a pulsating flower appeared in his hand. The flower petals shimmered constantly, shifting colors with a soft light.

In an instant, many monsters turned their heads towards the flower, as if sensing something otherworldly. Not only the monsters but even the humans were drawn to the flower. However, before anyone could understand the reason, Kyle tossed the flower up towards the symbol.

Alec's mouth hung open as he watched how the symbols effortlessly devoured the flowers. Instantly, his hand grew sweaty, and he glanced at Kyle with a blank expression.

"Please tell me you had no idea that the flower was a divine grade one?"

Kyle stared at him and blinked. He did know it was a divine-grade one, considering he had stolen it right under the nose of the dark race leader.

"I do know, but I just didn't want to waste more mana stones."

Alec let out a laugh, unsure of where to direct his regret. He knew that flower wasn't his, but it was a divine rank herb! He paused as the glowing symbols in the sky suddenly brightened like the sun, and the air around him fell silent.

A crackling voice echoed in the air as Kyle moved closer to the symbols and called out Mia's name softly. In an instant, a beam of light shot out from the symbols and zoomed under the stunned eyes of the crowd, heading straight for the woman with blue hair.

Mia's body trembled as the light descended on her shoulders. It was as painful, but she patiently allowed the mana to seep into her veins. Only after a few seconds, her body was filled to the brim because her mana skyrocketed to almost triple her original capacity. Mia shook her head as her vision got a bit blurry from the overwhelming mana flowing through her.

Kyle controlled the array and gestured toward Alec, who raised his sword and unleashed one of his most powerful moves to push the countless flying monsters further away from the border.

As soon as Alec finished, the light on Mia's shoulders vanished. She clenched her teeth and utilized all her mana to swiftly create a massive shimmering shield. The air trembled as the shield descended in front of the forest entrance with a resounding bang. Dust and debris scattered everywhere as the area between the forest and the border became separated by the shield.

The crowd and monsters, all of them, gasped in shock. The shield was tall and wide enough to cover a large space in front of them. The countless monsters pouring out from the forest halted in their tracks and immediately started pounding the shield with all their might.

Mia started sweating, knowing she couldn't maintain the shield for long with the relentless pounding of monsters. She clenched her fists, pouring all her strength into preserving the shield as long as possible.

Kyle glanced at Mia and called out Jian and Yue's names. Two familiar beams of light shot toward the duo as they stood by Mia's side.

In just a few seconds, the sky turned crimson with flames as Yue and Jian unleashed their strongest fire skills towards the forest. The flames spread with lightning speed, igniting the tall trees and eliciting cries from the countless monsters.

The pressure on Mia intensified as the flames descended behind the shield she had created, separating them from the forest. She shook her head and dug her nails into her palms.

'Now, if the shield crumbles, countless lives will be lost... I won't let it happen!'

The monsters in the forest wanted to jump out, but the shield forced them to retreat deeper. The monster lord, who had been watching from a distance moved. It flapped its huge wings and closed in toward the border with panicked eyes.

Kyle grinned and glanced at Alec, who finally understood which flames he needed to blow with his wind skill.

Alec let out a dry laugh, wiped his forehead, and nodded at Kyle. A beam of light descended on his shoulders, and he moved forward to unleash his strongest wind skill.

Instantly, the surging flames shot backward with frightening speed. The monster lord froze as it watched the flames consume the monsters and trees. It quickly moved back when the flames approached.

Countless pained cries filled the air as it grew hotter by the second. The mages, soldiers, fighters, and academy students watched with bated breaths as the few youngsters floating mid-air unleashed such devastation in just a minute.

Kyle glanced at the array above him. He thought it would require more resources, but after using the divine flower, he didn't need any more.

'It's good.'

Alec, Carcel, and Yue, along with everyone around him, looked panicked when they saw Mia grabbing her knee with a pale expression. They knew she wouldn't last long, and it would be devastating if they didn't stop the flames before the shield crumbled!

Kyle furrowed his brow.

"Just a few more seconds..."