

Bloodline 371

Chapter 371 I hope this works

Inside a vast, empty expanse, stretching as far as the eye can see, a thick layer of ice covers everything in a cold embrace.

The many glowing skill cores floating in the air froze in their spots when the icy flames flickering everywhere touched them.

A mesmerizing glow enveloped the whole space, and in the center of it all, an icy cocoon covered a small area.

The ice around the cocoon cracked little by little, and it started to fall with faint clicks. Instantly, the ice stretching across the vast space began melting, and the frozen skill cores started moving again. However, the process stopped when another layer of blue particles gathered around the cocoon to make it even sturdier.

A pair of beautiful green eyes peered at the layer of ice everywhere around him. Kyle raised his hand and stared at it. The crushing pain all around his body had subsided, but he had been trapped in this place for... maybe a few hours?

He wasn't sure because his mind went completely blank when the pain became unbearable. Kyle had just opened his eyes when he felt the familiar sensation of warm tears falling on his face.

A faint memory of countless people crying around him appeared in his mind, and he jolted with a gasp, only to find himself trapped inside a layer of ice.

"Well done, Kyle... just well done... How could you crumble so easily? That bastard... I didn't even see his face. I swear I am going to skin him alive, tear him into countless pieces! How dare he!"

He clenched his fist and banged it on the icy layer, but every time he managed to chip away a huge part, the countless blue particles around him would scatter and reconstruct the layer again.

Kyle's eyes were cold, enough to send chills down the spine of those who dared to look his way. He wanted to destroy everything and find that person who dared to harm him. Tearing them into countless pieces would not be enough to make him calm down.

After another minute of unsuccessful tries, he took a deep breath and looked down at his body, or rather, his consciousness. He stared at his legs... no, he was missing one leg, and the blue particles floating around him were trying to construct it. An angry vein popped up on his forehead, and he punched the layer even harder.

"That bastard! If I could find you just once, that would be enough. I would put that same crystal in your body and make sure it devours your soul until there's nothing left!"

Kyle closed his eyes and tried to control the particles because he was fed up. He wanted to leave this place.

"Damn it... I can't sense Bia. A lot of people were crying when I lost consciousness. If I don't get out of this place soon and wake up, they're gonna worry a lot. Or maybe they'll pour hundreds of unknown potions in my mouth."

The sour taste of that last potion Han poured into his mouth still lingers on the tip of his tongue. He definitely doesn't want to wake up and see his master drowning him in countless potions.

Kyle groaned not sure how much more time it would take for the particles to construct his leg, or more specifically, heal his soul. But he was damn sure that once he got out, he was going to make the person who harmed him regret ever being born.

His eyes lit up when he managed to control the particles, albeit barely. He sensed as the speed at which his leg was reconstructing increased. However, he realized with a furrowed brow that the process was too slow.

Kyle blinked and after thinking for a minute, he raised his hand to consume the particles instead of using them to heal his soul.

"I hope this works..."

He waited patiently and only after a few seconds the particles trembled before zooming toward his body with lightning-fast speed. Instantly, a pinprick of pain spread throughout his body.

Kyle didn't notice because his eyes were closed in concentration. But a faint silver layer appeared around his body, merging with the faint, almost invisible golden particles within him. He snapped his eyes open when he sensed a foreign presence in his mind space. A cold expression appeared on his face.

"Someone had the audacity to enter my mind space. Maybe they don't know that I can crush everything here with just a flick of my finger."

He moved his legs and gazed down.

"Finally, I have a complete body..."

Kyle took a break and clenched his fist, ready to punch the ice layer once again with all his strength.

However, before he could, a faint, hoarse cry echoed in his ears. He paused for a second and listened to the cry, which grew more painful with each passing second. Eventually, the owner of the voice started begging to be saved.

"Help me! Help me! These flames are going to tear me apart! Oh my gosh! I'll lose all my strength just because I wanted to devour a few years of lifespan!"

Kyle's lips trickled upward into a snarl.

"Of course, I am coming out to help you. Just give me a few seconds."

He punched the ice layer, and with a loud cracking sound, all the ice around him shattered into countless fragments. Kyle stood up on his feet and gazed at the old figure that was dancing inside his mind space with a panicked expression.

Kyle raised his hand, and the blue flames chasing the figure vanished into thin air. The man with horns dropped to his knees with a sigh of relief.

"I almost thought I was going to die..."

He wiped his forehead and gazed at Kyle, only to retreat with a scared expression. Countless ice spears appeared in the air, surrounding him from all directions. Kyle blinked with a cold smile and cracked his knuckles.

"So, let's hear the reason why you entered my mind space."

Chapter 372 How about we talk a little

A cry of pain echoed in the vast icy space as the horned man, draped in a dark robe, was chased by countless floating ice spears.

The man stumbled and fell when one of the spears grazed his leg. But as he saw the other spears closing in from behind, he crawled and tried to run again.

Kyle watched with a bored expression, observing everything from the sidelines while seated on a familiar throne adorned with gems.

The throne had some cracks on its surface because he used it a few times in the secret realm as a weapon. But despite the cracks, it still had a malevolent and strong presence, just like before.

Kyle wanted to finish off the man who claimed to be a divine being that had lived for a thousand years. But there was a small problem. The man made him realize that he couldn't leave the mind space.

'Damn it, this is my mind space! Why am I unable to leave? Last time I went out so easily just with a thought...'

He closed his eyes and once again tried to leave, but again a powerful force held him back. A force that strangely felt very familiar.

Kyle massaged his temples and stared at the man who had been crying and running around for a while.

"I'm not going to believe that you're a divine being. If you are, why are you so weak?"

His voice echoed in the space, and the sharp spears following behind the man halted in their tracks. The man wiped the sweat rolling down his forehead.

He wanted to curse so badly. Of course, he would be weak because right now, he's standing inside a space that completely belongs to someone else.

Not to mention the edgy blue particles around him that, for some reason, want to tear everything that dares to get close to Kyle.

'It took me so many days just to find a small opening in his defense... I thought it would be a good chance to sign a contract with the mortal because he would be weakened, but who could have guessed the otherworldly thing inside his body would become so aggressive? And just what the hell did he do with his soul... it's not divine anymore.'

'It seems I have to change my tactics because there's no way I can fight him in his territory with only my consciousness.'

Kyle stared at him and raised his hand.

"Well, if you don't want to tell me anything, just die... anyway, I'll find my way out of this space on my own. After all, this place is mine."

The man's eyes dilated as towering flames surged all around him in an instant, ready to envelop him in a dangerous embrace that would definitely destroy his consciousness.

No way, he couldn't let it happen! His years of hard work would just vanish into thin air, and his dream to achieve transcendent strength would be gone! He leaped and started floating in the air before white smoke sizzled out from his body.

Kyle paused the flames for a few seconds and watched as the white smoke gathered together to form countless projections. He gazed at them with a yawn.

"Oh, so this is your final shot at survival, huh? Well, hate to break it to you, but it's not working-!"

His sentence was cut short when a familiar figure appeared on one of the screens.

"?"

He jumped off the throne and watched the scene reflected on the first projection with wide eyes. It showed the time when he and the others were fighting with Alec over who would kill the monster lord. Then suddenly, another projection lit up, showing the scene where everyone was calling his name and trying to wake him up.

Kyle watched as his body dropped to the ground with a low thud, and Bia went out of control with anger. The phoenix soared in the sky and started destroying everything around her. Yue and his brothers were crying above him, only to retreat when his master took out a healing potion and started pouring it on his bloodied chest.

His breath grew heavy as he locked eyes with the horned man. The man smirked in return.

"I believe you're willing to talk now, right?"

However, his smirk froze when Kyle vanished, and in the next second, he was sent flying backward by a lightning-fast punch to his face.

Kyle blinked down at him and spoke with a cold expression.

"I really can't stand it when someone threatens me."

He wanted to go and beat up the man even more, so the man would know that he had enough power to take him down in seconds if he wanted. But he froze when another projection lit up, showing Alec, Jian, and many others chasing the crystal that had sprung out from his heart.

Kyle watched as a pair of golden eyes appeared in the projection. The eyes stayed emotionless as the person owning them grabbed the crystal and disappeared before Alec could stop them.

Kyle chuckled and everything around him shook slightly. He clenched his fist and punched the projection. In an instant, the projection turned into smoke and disappeared into thin air.

"I finally know who you are! I'm going to track you down, no matter what!"

However, another projection lit up behind him. He turned around, and his eyes trembled as the sky above Alec cracked and shattered like glass fragments.

"No way..."

Kyle moved back, but another projection appeared next to the one showing the cracked sky. It showed two figures with sinister smiles on their faces.

The duo wreaked havoc and killed countless people. Kyle glanced at the next projection, which showed how Alec, Jian, Carcel, Yue, and many others tried to stop the duo but failed miserably.

His heart sank as Jian's screams echoed in the air around him. With dilated eyes, he moved closer to the projection, witnessing the woman with ears atop her head raise her whip toward Jian.

"Wait!"

Kyle shouted, but his hand phased through the projection, which turned into smoke and vanished into thin air. He stared at the dissipating smoke and turned around to see the other projections, but they all turned into smoke too. Then, a familiar voice echoed from behind him.

"How about we talk a little?"

Chapter 373 It's not true, right?

Kyle snapped back and stared at the man who had a smug expression on his face.

"It's not true, right?"

The man rubbed his hands and neared the distance between them, only to retreat in the next second when he sensed the murderous aura around Kyle.

"Of course it's true. All this happened while you were in this place."

Kyle's expression hardened, and he clenched his fists even tighter. He thought he had only spent a few hours in the mind space, but the situation inside the projection told him a different story altogether.

"How much time has passed...? A week, or two?"

The man blinked and raised one of his hands. Kyle glanced at his fingers and stared at him with bated breath.

"Five weeks...?"

However, the man shook his head and raised his second hand as well before showing him eight fingers.

"No, it's been eight... months."

Kyle vanished, and the man freaked out when Kyle grabbed his robe with dark eyes.

"No way, you're lying!"

The man grabbed Kyle's hand and quickly pushed him back.

"I am not! If you can't believe me, just stay stuck in this place for a long time until everything outside ceases to exist!"

Kyle's hand trembled as he landed on the solid surface beneath him. He hid his eyes with his arm for a second and sucked in a deep breath before staring at the man with gritted teeth.

"Show me the projections again. I want to see what happens next."

A smile appeared on the man's face as he landed in front of him.

'keke... finally got you.'

"I can do it, but you know there's a saying that if you want something, you have to pay for it. How about... a hundred years of your lifespan?"

Kyle stared at his face. He so badly wanted to kill him but controlled the urge because right now he needed information. Information about what's happened to his friends and his family.

"A hundred years...? How about I promise not to tear you into countless pieces? That should be enough for the information I need. Or else, I can just beat you up until you're willing to speak."

The man's eyebrow twitched violently.

"You think I'll stay here until then? Wahh...!"

He jumped back when Kyle raised his hand toward him. Kyle's eyes flashed with a cold glint.

"Don't fret, I know you can't leave this space. Not until I want you to. I know I'm stuck here for some reason, but in the end, this place belongs to me. Just give me the information I want, or else don't blame me for the bleak future that awaits you."

The man's eyes widened. Kyle was right. After he entered his mind space, he had been trying to leave, but even after countless attempts, he wasn't able to.

He wanted to hide the fact behind an aloof facade, but who would have thought the person in front of him would figure it out so easily?

"You-!"

The man wanted to protest, but he knew he was at a disadvantage right now.

"Alright, first swear on your soul that you won't harm me. If you ever break it, you'll suffer the consequences."

'Just swear, hurry hurry!'

Kyle nodded.

"I swear not to touch your consciousness. You're completely safe in my mind space. However, if you attack me first, I won't hesitate to fight back."

'Only in my mind space though.'

The man's smile widened, and he quickly arrived beside Kyle. In the next second, many similar projections appeared in the air. Kyle watched as the whip neared Jian, but at that exact moment, an old dwarf appeared out of nowhere and saved Jian, Alec, and the others.

Kyle let out a sigh of relief. He stared at the old dwarf's back as the latter fought with the enemies and couldn't help but feel a strong sense of familiarity. After a minute, he remembered where he had seen him before.

'He's the one who gave me the old scroll before I entered the tower of opportunity...'

After the dwarf's body crumbled into particles and disappeared into thin air, the projection vanished once again. But it was enough. Kyle just needed to make sure his friends were all okay and... alive. Now, the question was how he was going to leave the mind space.

Actually, why the heck was he stuck here in the first place? He looked at the man next to him and narrowed his eyes.

"The smile on your face says you already know what I'm about to ask, right?"

The man blinked and let out a groan, slapping his hand over his mouth.

"Are you expecting me to know without you telling me? And now that I'm safe, do you really think I'll give you information for free?"

Kyle furrowed his brow. A hundred years of lifespan... no matter how he looked at it, it seemed like too much.

"I'm willing, but no more than ten years. It's because I don't want to wake up in an old body."

The man burst into laughter, staring at Kyle with astonishment.

"What are you saying? Don't you know your body can't age after your divine soul reached the transcendent rank? Oh... wait, wait, don't tell me you still have no idea about the otherworldly thing inside your body?"

He saw Kyle's serious expression and expressed his shock.

"Oh my gosh! How can one be so ignorant? The moment I saw you, I knew something was wrong. After all, nature was clinging to you like you're the most precious thing in the whole universe."

Kyle blinked and processed the huge amount of information he had just learned. The first thing that clicked in his mind was that he had a divine soul... but it had reached the transcendent rank.

The second thing that clicked in his mind was that he couldn't age anymore. As for the nature thing, he had an idea that the man was referring to his luck stat.

Kyle stared at the man as the latter paced around with a grin. He thought for a long minute, and before the man, who had a big grin on his face, could speak, Kyle spoke up with a deadly expression.

"I'll give you ten years of my lifespan. In return, tell me everything you know about the otherworldly thing you are talking about. Also, let me know how I can leave this place. This is my first and final offer. If you want more, then let's stay in this place together for a long, long time."

Chapter 374 I need to run away

In the vast space, Kyle stared at Nesis, the horned man who had achieved true consciousness and a physical form after a thousand years of hard work.

No, more specifically, the latter had consumed a lot of people's lifespans to reach the divine rank.

Kyle found out about this when Nesis pulled a piece of paper out of thin air and placed it in front of him with a smile. But Kyle didn't even look at it.

Instead, he tore the paper and burned it right in front of Nesis's eyes. There was no way he would sign a contract with something that feeds on the lifespan of others.

Kyle patiently waited as Nesis placed his fingers on his wrist. After his threat, the man agreed to answer his questions in exchange for only ten years of lifespan.

'After all, if he didn't, he would have to stay stuck here with me for a long time.'

A sharp pain traveled through his body, but it disappeared as quickly as it came.

Kyle saw it clearly when white energy emerged from his skin and entered Nesis's head, which glowed brightly.

'I said it would be okay to give away ten years of my lifespan, but I still feel bad about it... Well, once I'm out of this place, I'll take it back. And if I can't, I'll just destroy his true body as compensation.'

His eyes turned cold, but they returned to normal when Nesis opened his eyes wide with pure shock and astonishment. The man even distanced himself from Kyle, his forehead sweaty. Kyle raised an eyebrow, surprised.

'Did he somehow figure out what I was thinking?'

Nesis took a moment to pause and wiped his forehead. However, the gaze he gave Kyle had completely shifted. If before, he wanted to take Kyle's lifespan because of the otherworldly thing inside his body, now he wanted nothing to do with the human in front of him. Not after learning about his past.

"... Just as I told you, I can't see your future, but I have already taken ten years of your lifespan. Not only that, I have also read everything that you've gone through up until now. So, I'll fulfill my end of the deal."

He spoke with a calm voice, but his trembling fingers revealed his true feelings.

'I need to run away! This person isn't dangerous, but the Celestial essence inside him is too terrifying! How did it make him stay alive for so many years when his body couldn't even contain such vast power?'

The first time Nesis saw Kyle, he knew the human had a strong soul and a powerful bloodline in his body. He wanted to devour Kyle's lifespan because after consuming his last contractor's lifespan, normal human life energy no longer gave him power. Yet, never in his wildest dreams did he imagine that the human's fate would be blank. Not to mention his past...

It's been too strange to say. It's like whenever the human was in danger, the celestial essence inside him would conjure up something entirely different to make him avoid the dangerous path. So, he could stay alive for a little while longer.

Or rather, he could have a bit more time to get stronger, so his body could finally have enough strength to truly contain the tremendous power within him. And the essence has been successful because, after so many years, its host had finally gathered enough power to truly possess a part of it.

However, in all its attempts to steer clear of the most dangerous path, the other paths weren't exactly safe either. Ultimately, no matter which path it chose, there was always some level of danger. So, in the end, instead of avoiding danger altogether, it shifted its focus to avoiding death.

If Kyle noticed Nesis's trembling fingers, he didn't say anything and just gestured for the man to answer his questions.

Nesis stood up, his expression growing paler by the second. After all, now that he had harmed the owner of the same essence, the consequences would surely come back to haunt him in the future.

'I only took ten years of his life, but gained strength equivalent to consuming a hundred years from a divine being.'

However, he knew the essence inside the human had already marked him as a threat.

'If only I had read his past before taking his lifespan! Now, I need to get as far away from this human or else I'll lose my life... and the reason could be anything.'

Nesis opened his mouth, but what came out was far from pleasant.

"Your body should have withered the moment you were born, and the essence within you should have returned to nature. No, you weren't supposed to stay alive in the first place..."

He paused because the pair of brilliant green eyes staring at him narrowed dangerously. Nesis sensed the faint blue particles trembling around Kyle's body and quickly shut his mouth with a loud click.

'Now, I'm not sure if nature is favoring him or if the essence inside him is forcing nature to compensate for the fact that it didn't write his fate.'

Nesis went up to Kyle, feeling a bit scared but he knew he had to answer the human's questions if he wanted to leave. He put his middle finger on Kyle's forehead. Kyle furrowed his brow, but he didn't feel any danger, so he didn't stop him.

"How about seeing your past from my perspective?"

Kyle blinked but nodded. He also felt the blue particles on his skin getting a little restless, but he wanted to know.

He wanted to know everything about himself. The moment he thought about it, the particles calmed down a bit and let Nesis do what he wanted to do.

Instantly, a white light emerged from Nesis's finger and entered his forehead. Kyle closed his eyes when a worried voice echoed inside his head.

...

Kyle opened his eyes and found himself floating inside a room he recognized. It was his father's room, a place he had seen many times before.

His gaze paused on the beautiful woman sitting on the bed. She had a worried expression, her eyes fixed on the newborn baby lying beside her. Kyle couldn't look away as the woman grabbed the arm of the healer who was checking the baby.

"What happened to my son? Why isn't he waking up?"

Chapter 375 It's something that naturally belongs to you

Kyle jolted when Nesis materialized beside him. The man gazed at him and hummed.

"Did you recognize this place."

Kyle looked at the woman, the old healer checking the baby, his father's familiar figure standing behind the woman. He then glanced at the two familiar kids peeking from behind the room door, and his expression softened.

Nesis tapped his shoulder and pointed at the baby draped in a soft fabric.

"It's you, the time when you were born. Did your father never tell you that you didn't cry when you were born, nor did you move for a long time? The only thing that kept the couple going was that you were breathing and your heart was beating."

Kyle looked away from the woman. It's been a while since he saw his mother, but he knew she had gone to a better place. So, he focused his gaze on Nesis.

"I believe we're not here just to watch all this."

Nesis nodded.

"You're unresponsive because you possess the celestial bloodline. It's something that naturally belongs to you, a power that ignited within you the moment you were born. However, your body was too weak to contain it, that's why your life force was slipping away with each passing second. The healer is not even strong enough to fight a true monster, how could he understand what's wrong with you?"

Kyle kept his gaze fixed on the man. The realization that the bloodline naturally belongs to him brought a faint smile on his face.

"It's good that I didn't inherit the bloodline from the ice enchantress or anyone else. It's good that it is mine... Now I don't have to worry about someone coming and demanding it back or making me work for them in exchange for the power they gave me."

Nesis noticed the faint smile forming at the corner of the human's lips. He narrowed his eyes in contemplation upon hearing the name 'ice enchantress'.

"The ice enchantress... I'm not really sure who she is, but when I got my first contractor, I did hear her name a few times. Ah... now it all makes sense. That's why I felt traces of another power in your body and why you survived after birth."

Kyle's face, which had a faint smile, quickly turned solemn. So, the moment he had been dreading had finally arrived. The dark history of his ancestors.

'After today, I am going to pretend I don't know the ice enchantress. I don't want her tragic love story to haunt me or my family.'

Nesis continued to explain about the other power within his body, and the more Kyle listened, the more his expression grew downcast.

Kyle glanced at his father and massaged his temples. So, basically, every descendant of the ice enchantress carried a trace of her inheritance within them. But the power remained dormant because it was too small.

That woman made sure to scatter her unique power everywhere, so if a strong individual ever emerged from her descendants, they would be compelled to right the wrong she did.

'How cunning...'

He didn't even feel a bit grateful towards the woman and looked at Nesis with a deadpan expression.

"You mean, I would have died after birth, but before I lost my breath, the celestial essence inside me forced the dormant 'nail-sized' power of the ice enchantress that I inherited from my family to awaken?"

"Then, the bloodline consumed the nail-sized power to lock itself within me. It also forcefully increased my luck stat so I could survive."

Nesis's eyebrow twitched violently when he heard the words 'nail-sized'. He so badly wanted to confront the human because, even though it was nail-sized, it possessed incredible strength! But he managed to control himself. After all, he needs to distance himself from this human as much as possible and as soon as possible.

"Let's continue."

He waved his hand and the scenery in front of them changed.

Kyle frowned as he watched his younger self leave the house with Neon after their father asked them to play outside. He remembered that during this time, his father's condition wasn't good because his mother had just passed away.

He stared at the two kids, one young and the other a little older, who stood in front of their house. Neon wanted to go to his favorite weapon shop. However, Kyle stopped midway and insisted on going to the park in front of their house. Just because he felt like playing there.

Neon agreed with a groan, but sighed when many little kids surrounded them at the park. He left Kyle there and went back home to check on their father.

Kyle watched as Sen and a few more kids around his age started picking on him in the park for no reason.

"I know what happened next... It was the time when that man with the golden pupil appeared and made me swallow something strange. The same man I saw in the projections you showed me. You know, my memories aren't blurry, so there's no need to watch all this."

Kyle glanced at Nesis, who pointed to another scenario. The same shop where he and Neon were originally supposed to go appeared in front of him. He watched as the shop crumbled into dust because a fight broke out between two adults. The duo was strong enough to destroy many buildings, and a lot of nearby people died.

"Huh...?"

Kyle blinked because he had no idea something like this happened. After all, he was bedridden for a few days due to the high fever he contracted the moment he returned home.

His breath turned uneven as he watched many familiar scenarios where he would just change his mind to avoid dangerous events. He couldn't believe his whole life was filled with so much danger, and he had no idea about all of it.

Nesis changed the scenes in front of him from time to time so the human could see how the essence inside him had been protecting him, even after knowing that his fate was blank.

Chapter 376 No one is allowed to control me

".. so all this while... I've been doing so many things that I don't even want to?"

Kyle chuckled as the scene in front of him changed again. It showed how he didn't want to practice, train, or work just because he thought his talent was weak. Or was it because Sen and a few others made fun of his low talent? But he lived in a small city where almost everyone had average talent, except for Sen and his two friends.

So why did he think that way?

Nesis looked at the scene and shook his head.

"No... don't see it like that. The essence wanted to protect you, so it interfered with your thoughts. It was just trying to help you avoid death."

Kyle shut his eyes for a few seconds, and when he opened them again, his bright eyes gleamed with a dangerous intensity.

"It doesn't matter. No one is allowed to control me, not even something that is a part of me."

His words echoed in the air, and he noticed that the blue particles on his body became eerily still. As if sensing his sour and frustrated emotions, a strangely soothing cold sensation spread across his skin. However, Kyle's mood didn't improve.

He fixed his eyes on the scene in front of him, where he was eating breakfast with his family, and Neon suddenly suggested that he should go and take the Royal Academy entrance test.

Nesis gazed at his face and started speaking again.

"If you had trained hard before your talent awakened, there was a chance that the powerful bloodline in your body, which had barely locked itself, could have been forced to move. But since your body was even weaker than an ordinary human, you would have died due to the overwhelming surge of energy in your veins."

"The moment you awakened your talent, which was only (B)-Rank, the bloodline within you moved a little. But at that time, the thoughts that had influenced you for so long made you completely accept the fact that no matter how much you tried, you would never be able to achieve anything big in your life."

"That's why the bloodline paused its movement. It knew that changing your thoughts too much would have consequences that could be anything but good, but it had no choice. In the end, it gave you enough reasons to accept Neon's suggestion."

Nesis locked eyes with Kyle and asked him a question, a question the human couldn't answer.

"Do you think if you didn't want to take the Royal Academy entrance test, your family would have forced you? Or maybe you thought, what's the worst that could happen, and it would be fine to participate just for the sake of your family, even though you knew you had almost no strength?"

Kyle stayed silent and imagined the scenario if he had refused to take the entrance test.

No doubt, Neon and Ray would have made a fuss and given him a bit of a hard time. He would have received a little scolding from his dad too, but he knew things would have gone back to normal after a few days.

He would have just gone back to his laid-back, ordinary life with not much to achieve. However, he agreed so easily, as if he didn't care about the consequences or the possibility of danger during the test. And to top it off, he passed the test with little to no strength.

Should he thank his luck stat that was increased after consuming the ice enchantress essence? No, he knew he shouldn't. After all, the tiny essence of the ice enchantress inside him would've never awakened if not for his bloodline.

Nesis's next words sent chills down his spine, and he clenched his fists tightly.

"... If you hadn't entered the Academy, you would have died under the group of monsters that attacked the city in your absence. Kyle, you were weak, but am I wrong to assume that you would've jumped into danger to save Neon and Ray? So, entering the Royal Academy was the best course of action for you at that time."

Nesis was hesitant, but he told Kyle that his fate was blank because he was destined to die the moment he was born. That's why it remained empty even though he survived. He wanted to say more, but Kyle asked him to stop the scene playing in front of him. In the next second, Kyle opened his eyes and found himself sitting in the same place inside his mind space.

He slumped to the ground and tried to process all the information he had just acquired in such a short amount of time. Kyle stared at the empty air around him without blinking.

"So, all this time, the essence inside me chose the path that would help me gain enough strength to accommodate it. Or the path that was safest for me..."

Nesis didn't say anything and just listened quietly.

"So, meeting Nine, Alec, and all my friends wasn't fate... After all, my fate is not written... it's blank, right? What about Bia? She had a divine strength within her. I know it's somehow connected to me..."

Nesis sat down beside him and after contemplating for a few seconds, replied.

"Bia's only parent gave you its essence, something that's very dear to all types of legendary beings because it takes them a lot of time just to form it. That's why, in return, the essence within you accepted Bia as your bonded companion. And as a gift, when you formed a contract with Bia, it increased her strength a little, so the phoenix could accompany you for a long time."

"However, it couldn't affect Bia a lot, or it would have given more harm than good to the unborn phoenix."

Kyle stared at the air, and a long silence fell between them. Nesis felt uneasy when he saw Kyle's eyes, which had a bright glow to them. But contrary to his expectations, the human let out a chuckle.

"Now, I know everything. Just give me one more answer. Is the essence still going to interfere with my thoughts? Or will it make me forget everything I just found out?"

Chapter 377 The protector

Nesis paused for a moment and looked into the distance.

"From what I have seen in your past, the bloodline stopped interfering with your thoughts after you turned eighteen. The lock on your bloodline was lifted, and it gave you the power of blue flames. But because you were still weak, it could not move freely in your body."

"You were safe and making progress on your own. You started getting stronger really quickly. So, there was no need to interfere. Eventually, the essence just started floating inside your body, waiting for you to become even stronger and fully accommodate it within you."

"However, when you came out of the secret realm, the bloodline sensed danger on your path again and tried to make you change your mind, to make you retreat to safety. But it failed this time because your emotions were too troubled."

"Maybe it was because you didn't want to leave your friends in danger. I'm not sure, but you resisted the urge to retreat and kept fighting alongside your friends until the incident you had been dreading finally happened."

Kyle stared at Nesis. He knew the man was talking about the incident where the crystal ate a part of his soul. And he had already mentally marked that golden-eyed man as his biggest enemy. He would go out and hunt that man, even if he had to travel to another planet to find him.

"So, it will not interfere until I am in grave danger?"

Nesis nodded in agreement.

"It won't, after all, it is a part of you. Now that you know, I believe it won't go against your wishes. But if you are in a dangerous situation, it would try its best to inform you or maybe..."

He paused and didn't say it, but from the expression on the human's face, he knew the latter understood. That if he ever went through something that could potentially take his life, the bloodline would do everything it could to save its host.

Kyle let out a sigh and motioned for the man to continue. Nesis opened his mouth and started speaking again.

"I'm not sure about the extent of a celestial's powers since I have never seen one myself, but I can tell you that you have only tapped into a fraction of the power within you."

"Maybe in the future, you would awaken more skills related to your bloodline. One of them might even be the ability to foresee the future, but I can't say for certain. You will have to wait a long time to figure it out on your own. However, with your fate blank, I can't guarantee that you will survive until then. The essence is doing its best to protect you, but who can stop death if it naturally comes knocking at your door?"

Kyle hummed, death. It's been around him for so long, but he's still alive. So, does he still need to worry about death? As long as he keeps chasing strength and keeps moving forward, he knows he can live for a long time. He smirks and looks at Nesis with a raised brow.

"You say you're not sure if I'll survive, but you have taken ten years of my lifespan so easily, haven't you? That means I have a very stubborn and strong life force. And not to mention the fact that now I have a body that won't age. Do you really think I'll die halfway just because my fate is blank?"

"No, it's actually a good thing. Now I get to write my own fate."

Kyle jumped up and stretched his body with a faint chuckle.

Nesis stood up as well beside him, watching the peculiar human with an unknown expression.

The man couldn't figure out a lot of things since he was just a divine rank artifact that gained true consciousness by consuming many people's lifespans.

However, he knew one thing for sure, the essence within the human could manipulate nature to some extent. He just hoped that it would forget about his tiny, fleeting presence once he ran away to a faraway place.

Kyle blinked and gazed at Nesis.

"Now, tell me why I can't leave this place. My soul has recovered and gotten stronger, and I am not weak either, so why am I being forced to stay here?"

"I need to go out. I don't really care about others but I don't want anything to happen to my family. Not just my family, there are a lot of people important to me out there. They are all experiencing so much and I am just sitting here doing nothing."

"Ah... I believe it is time for me to become the protector of the planet for a while... right?"

Kyle's nose wrinkled a little at his own words. No matter what, he knew being a hero could never be his thing, but he didn't mind doing it for a little while.

Just until the real protectors, Alec, Carcel, Jian, and the others who had the tendency to help others, could stand up as the strongest on this planet. They would be the real leaders who could protect this place for a long time.

"Then, I need to get my revenge on the man who placed the crystal in my heart. I must become stronger as well so I can fully control the bloodline within my body. Along the way, I will perform a few good deeds and eliminate the third shadow general and all the people associated with him."

Kyle doesn't know what's going on beyond this planet, but if he lets those people live, his family and the planet will always be in danger.

A familiar, beautiful face suddenly flashed in his mind. The last time he saw her, she was crying beside him.

"Well, now I am safe and I know exactly what I need to do. So, I'll go see her. If she agrees, it wouldn't be a bad idea to have someone come along with me on my journey."

He looked at Nesis with a smile that didn't quite reach his eyes. He wanted to ask Nesis if the latter knew anything about the shadow general attacking the planet or Azazeal. But to his disappointment, Nesis shook his head. The man had only heard their names and didn't know who they were. Nesis had been focused on increasing his own strength, after all.

Kyle let out a sigh and grabbed Nesis's shoulder. The man had been quite useful.

"Just tell me why I am stuck here and how can I get out of this place. The sooner the better."

Chapter 378 You have my permission

Nesis looked at the human in front of him, pausing for a moment to think. He blinked as if trying to come up with the right answer to the human's question.

"I think it's because of the hole in your heart. Once it's completely healed, you will be able to leave this space."

"Huh?"

Kyle blinked, feeling a little confused and unsure of what the latter meant.

"A hole?"

Then it hit him. Right, the crystal was inside his heart, and when it sprang out, he sustained a dangerous injury.

"But it's just an injury, shouldn't it have healed with the amount of healing potions I consumed? And, the essence, it should have healed me, right?"

Nesis wriggled out of Kyle's grip, feeling the tightness on his shoulder. The man rubbed his shoulder, even though it wasn't his true body, he still felt the pain.

"You're right, it should have, but that soul-eating crystal was a sinister artifact. The dark energy it left behind messed up the healing process in the injured part of your heart. Those potions, they stopped the bleeding and healed the outer injury. But, they couldn't heal the injury deep inside your heart. And your bloodline, it was focused on healing your soul, the most important part of you."

Kyle's expression turned solemn as he scanned the man from head to toe.

"So, how can I leave this place? Don't tell me I have to wait for my heart to naturally heal. Or should I try guiding the essence to cure my injury?"

Nesis's eyebrow twitched, and he quickly stopped the human before he did something irreversible.

"No, don't do that. The essence is too strong and it could harm your heart. Your body may not age now, but it's still not strong enough to handle the immense power. Plus, if the bloodline could heal your heart without any harm, it would have already done it. After all, it healed your soul and even increased its rank."

Kyle gave the man an impatient look. The reason was clear - it didn't matter why he was stuck here. He needed answers on how to leave this place.

Nesis felt like crying. The man who had drained the life force of countless people never expected to find himself in this situation. He so badly wanted to slap his past self for being so greedy and getting involved with a mortal who possessed something so dangerous inside his body. After hesitating for a moment, a faint glow appeared in his eyes.

"I can help you with the injury, but you have to let me leave this place first."

Kyle raised his brow, not trusting the man one bit. What if he let him go and the guy just ran off without curing him?

Nesis had a speechless expression on his face, but Kyle's next words almost made his mind go blank.

"Right, take out another contract. This time, write inside that I'll let you go outside, and in return, you'll cure my heart. If either of us breaks our word, we both suffer consequences."

Kyle paused for a moment, a smirk forming at the corner of his lips.

"... And if Nesis tries any tricks while Kyle is unconscious, his consciousness will explode, and he will die instantly."

Nesis heard his words loud and clear and protested with a wronged expression. However, blue flames appeared around Kyle, and his lips curled into a snarl.

"You think you have a choice? You have taken ten years of my lifespan. No way I'll let you go so easily."

Nesis dropped to his knees, but then the blue flames around Kyle formed a round shield around both of them. The man looked at the human in front of him, who looked just like a devil, and reluctantly agreed with an aggrieved expression.

A thin piece of paper appeared in the air, and Kyle quickly grabbed it. The human turned around and started reading all the terms. After reading them at least ten times, he heaved a sigh of relief. Then, he went back to the man and asked him to sign first before he would sign.

Nesis complied with a blank expression. Well, his fate was already sealed when he laid his eyes on this human, so what more could hurt him?

He would be happy that he could somehow save his life, just this time. He promised himself he would never even dare to follow someone so casually again.

The horned man signed the contract with trembling fingers. It was an unfair contract that he had only made others sign before. Who could have thought that one day he would experience the same thing he had put others through?

Kyle didn't even bother to glance at him. After reading the contract with narrow eyes one last time, he signed it and sealed the deal. He stared at Nesis and took a deep breath.

"Go, you have my permission to leave the mind space."

However, before the man's face could light up and he could run away, Kyle stopped him with a deadpan expression. The human paced around him before stopping right in front of his face.

"I need to make sure you didn't take anything from my mind space. You know, there's a lot of valuable stuff in here."

Nesis blinked, watching Kyle's eyes scrutinize his robe. He couldn't believe this pesky human was accusing him of stealing when all he did was run to escape those blue flames. He would be lying if he said he was not tempted to steal a few treasures under the human's nose.

But darn, this mind space is so vast that if he really did start looking around for the treasures, the flames would have killed him even before he found a single one.

Kyle smiled when he didn't sense anything precious with the man. He nodded and motioned for Nesis to get lost and do his job. After all, he needed to leave this place as soon as possible.

The horned man wiped his eyes, which had become wet for some unknown reason, and quickly disappeared from the mind space.

Kyle kept an eye on his surroundings and sat down with crossed legs, impatiently waiting for the man to do his job.

Chapter 379 Another crack

Nesis appeared in the room where Kyle's unconscious body lay. His figure was blurry, but he wiped his forehead with a trembling hand as if he had sweat on it. Today was the worst day of his life.

He glanced around and almost freaked out because the room, which had a faint layer of ice before, was now completely frozen. Thick ice covered everything, and even the curtains had stopped moving. Then, he looked at Kyle's body and saw that ice had completely enveloped him in a tight embrace.

Nesis cried out when he saw his original form, the bracelet from which he emerged. It was also frozen into ice on Kyle's wrist.

He quickly bent down and started breaking the ice. No way, he was gonna stay here after completing his end of the deal! After all, he knew that even if the essence let him go, there was no way the cruel human would.

The man hissed when the ice seeped into his fingers as he tried to reach the bracelet, freezing his skin completely.

"I can't admit defeat!"

He summoned all his strength and white smoke emerged from his forehead. Nesis grabbed the bracelet, and as the ice started to melt, he snatched it away. However, his eyes widened as a loud and clear cracking sound echoed in the air.

The man stared at his original form and dropped to his knees.

"Oh my gosh... Another crack? How am I going to repair it? It's going to take at least fifty years!"

Nesis stared at the human, but first, he formed a small portal mid-air and quickly tossed the white bracelet inside. He wanted his original body to be in a faraway place. He sighed with relief after securing himself.

"Now, I will just heal his injury and disappear before he wakes up."

He hurriedly sat down beside Kyle. His heart ached at the thought of the amount of energy he would waste, but if he didn't, his consciousness would explode. He had no other choice.

"Damn it, it's gonna take me days just to remove the icy layer above his chest."

His eyes glowed, and white smoke emerged from his body, gathering above Kyle's chest. To his surprise, the ice above the latter's heart moved on its own, giving him enough access.

"Haha, why does it feel like I've been scammed? The essence is making way for me so easily as if it already knows that I don't have the guts to harm its host."

Nesis laughed, but his eyes were filled with regret. He easily passed through the dormant blue shield on Kyle's skin and guided the white smoke toward the human's heart.

The man closed his eyes to concentrate. After all, if he made even the tiniest mistake, he would die instantly. Yes, it was hard to admit, but he knew it wasn't the human who would die. He would be the one suffering the consequences.

After just a few minutes, he discovered the small hole in the middle of the human's heart, where dark red energy had stopped the surrounding area from healing the center part.

A lot of faint blue particles were surrounding the energy, but they weren't daring to move too violently inside the human's heart. That's why they could only slowly try to destroy the energy, so as not to harm its host.

...

After an hour, the mana in the room shook violently, and the ice around the majestic bed in the center cracked loudly, scattering into large chunks.

Kyle's heart, which had stopped beating for a long time, finally made a low beat, like a gentle breeze. Then, with each passing second, the beats grew stronger and more frequent. Some faint sounds echoed in the room, and after another minute, his heart found a steady rhythm, full of life. It was a bit weaker than before, but as time passed, it picked up its pace until it finally found the perfect rhythm.

The room echoed with the sound of a harsh breath, and Kyle's fingers began to move. He couldn't open his eyes because of the layer of ice, but he noticed it starting to melt as soon as he moved. A lot of familiar yet unfamiliar knowledge appeared inside his head and he momentarily paused in his actions.

Dazed, Kyle blinked away the drops of water clinging to his lashes and gazed up at the frozen ceiling. It was completely covered in ice. He let out a deep sigh.

"Finally... Nesis?"

He called out, but there was no response. The bed creaked as he shifted his body to a more comfortable position, sitting up. He looked around the room, adorned with many antiques, but found no other presence.

"Huh, don't tell me that bastard ran off?"

Kyle snarled, realizing that guy was pretty sharp. The man had actually left before he could open his eyes.

"He did check my past, and I guess he would have sensed that I wouldn't let him go so easily."

He shifted his hand slightly, feeling his muscles twitch a bit. Well, it was to be expected after being immobile for so many months.

Kyle clenched his fists and closed his eyes, channeling the mana inside his body. Slowly, he regained some strength and removed the frozen blanket draped over him before stepping onto the floor.

His feet were bare, and he felt a cold sensation from the icy surface, but it didn't bother him much.

Kyle gazed at the window in the distance and moved his hand. He wanted to try melting the ice around him, but he knew it would be better not to exert too much strength abruptly, especially since he had just woken up.

"I still can't sense Bia?"

He closed his eyes, and after a few seconds, he did sense the presence of the phoenix in a faraway place, but it was very faint, almost as if their connection was barely holding on.

"It seems like I was completely isolated from the outside world. That's probably why I felt like our connection had been broken. I can still sense it weakly. It might take some time, but I believe it will recover if she stays near me for a while."

Chapter 380 Rank: SSS+

Kyle glanced at his stats from the corner of his eye and raised an eyebrow. A faint smirk played on his lips.

He received new knowledge in his head the moment his consciousness came out from the mind space. But who could've guessed that when his soul's rank increased, all his skills would also get a boost in their ranks?

"Well, after going through so much, it's only fair to gain at least this much."

Stats:

Name: Kyle

Bloodline: Celestial

Rank: SSS+

Strength: SSS+

Mana: ???

Divine energy: ???

Agility: SSS+

Talent: ??? Rank

Soul rank: ??? Rank

Luck: S+

Unique ability; Nature's favorite.

Unlocked due to (S+)-Rank luck.

Skill;

##*Bloodline ability; Blue flames (Unranked)--->(???)-Rank:

Blue flames acquired due to the presence of an ancient bloodline. The user can manipulate the flames with his will by consuming mana or any type of energy.

--->User can melt the things frozen by the flames with divine energy.

##*Fireball (F)-Rank--->(A+)-Rank:

The user can use mana to create multiple fireballs.

--->The fireballs would be more destructive, causing greater explosive destruction, resembling a raging inferno—a furious and unstoppable blaze. The size of the fire's rage would increase according to the amount of mana consumed.

##*Ice Dragon inherited skill; Ice Domain (S)-Rank--->(SS+)-Rank:

The user can call upon a Domain in a specific area, locking and freezing it.

--->No one can detect or enter the Domain without the user's permission. It's would be an invisible barrier that separates the enclosed area from the surrounding space.

--->Inside the Domain, all the user's stats will increase significantly. Water and ice-type attacks will be ineffective against the user, and enemies will have all their stats reduced by a rank. The user has

the authority to freeze everything within the Domain unless the enemies are stronger than the Domain's rank.

##*Fire Phoenix inherited skill; Fire resistance (Passive) (B)-Rank--->(S+)-Rank:

--->Any fire or temperature lower or equal to (S+)-Rank naturally won't affect the user. It would also provide resistance against all fire-type attacks equal to or lower than (S+)-Rank.

##*Thunder arrow (F+)-Rank--->(A+)-Rank:

--->The user can tap into their mana reserves to summon a deadly barrage of thunder arrows from the sky. The more mana the user pours into it, the more destructive and wide-ranging the skill becomes.

##*Fear (A)-Rank--->(S+)-Rank:

The user can instill fear in all the targeted individuals, lower-ranked than themselves, making them unable to think straight during battle.

--->By activating the skill, an illusion effect would automatically trigger, showing the targeted individuals their darkest nightmares.

Mana isn't required for this skill.

##*Ice Spear (B)-Rank--->(S+)-Rank:

The user can create numerous large ice spears by using mana. The ice spears would shatter into fragments upon impact, injuring everyone within their range.

--->After the ice fragments hit the targets, they would melt and seep into their bodies, causing even greater damage.

##*Scent perception (Pseudo divine)-Rank--->(Divine)-Rank:

This skill grants the user the ability to detect hidden scents effortlessly. They can track down elusive creatures or special objects without any obstacles through their sense of smell.

--->The user can leave a mark on a target and track them even if they leave the realm.

Mana isn't required for this skill.

##*Ice Armor (B)-Rank--->(S+)-Rank:

This skill lets the user enclose themselves in an invisible veil of ice, the veil provides resistance to physical and magical attacks. The user can also absorb the Ice Armor into their body, using the ice to heal minor wounds.

--->The user can form ice armor around someone else from a distance.

##*Fire rain (B)-Rank--->(S+)-Rank:

The user can harness mana to create a sea of fire that descends directly on the enemies from the sky. The more mana they use, the larger the range of the attack.

--->The fire that is ignited through this skill can be controlled by the user's will.

##*Black Skeletons (S)-Rank--->(S+)-Rank:

The user can harness mana to create skeleton warriors. The more mana they use, the higher the rank of the skeleton warrior. They can even summon an entire undead army with enough mana.

--->The countless summoned low-rank skeletons can combine to form a sturdy skeleton with a higher rank.

##*Instant Teleportation (A)-Rank--->(SS+)-Rank:

The user can teleport within a few-meter radius at lightning speed. The more mana they use, the farther they can teleport. They can even cover thousands of miles within mere seconds, with enough mana.

--->The user can teleport freely to move in and out of all the realms without any restrictions, as long as the rank of the realm is equal to or lower than theirs.

##*Swift steps (S)-Rank--->(S+)-Rank:

This skill can be activated by using mana, and once activated, it increases the user's agility stat. The user can become as fast as lightning, making it impossible for enemies to see their silhouette before they're defeated.

##*Aqua ball (F)-Rank--->(S+)-Rank:

--->The user can conjure a sea of water out of thin air by using up enough mana. The water summoned by this skill can be controlled by the user's will.

Kyle saw all the question marks in his stats and let out a sigh. The connection he made with the planet core after entering the Royal Academy couldn't calculate his strength anymore. It had increased beyond what the planet could measure.

"I need to find something stronger to calculate my strength."

He got out of bed and stretched his body for a few minutes. His feet felt ticklish from the cold floor as he looked at himself. He was wearing a loose dress.

Kyle glanced around the room, which was filled with frozen furniture. It definitely wasn't his house, and he couldn't help but wonder why there was no one else around.

He was practically buried in ice, but there was no healer to check his condition. Or did Nesis make them run away? In the distance, he noticed two doors. One of them seemed like it could be the way out, while the other one probably led to the bathroom.

He approached one of the doors and tried to turn the handle, but it was frozen. So, he kicked the door and it flew open with a loud noise. Kyle stepped into the bathroom, only to find everything completely frozen.

"No worries, I have got a water-type skill."

He quickly tossed his shirt aside and cleaned himself while controlling the floating water around him. Kyle wiped the ice off the wide golden-framed mirror hanging in front of him and stared at his reflection without blinking.

"Oh, my hair isn't silver anymore—it's turned grey. I know now it'll take some time for it to go back to its original color."

Not to mention his eyes, well, instead of dimming, they were shining with an even brighter green color, almost like emerald gems.