

## Bloodline 411

Chapter 411 I'll tell you when you reached the transcendent rank

Ateo's pupils trembled, and the spikes around him multiplied in numbers, a hundred, two hundred. The number kept increasing with each passing second, and the faces of the people around him turned even paler because they knew that if the attack was launched, a large part of the land around them would be destroyed.

Amidst the pressure, Yon, Jian, and one more guardian jumped forward to stop the man, but they paused when the pressure on their shoulders doubled. Jian let out a curse as he tried his best to maintain his balance mid-air.

Ateo stared at the human with green eyes, his pupils filled with dark particles, and a smile crept across his face. In an instant, the pressure on Kyle tripled, causing him to groan in pain. However, Ateo eyes narrowed dangerously when he noticed there was no trace of fear in the human's eyes as the latter gazed at him.

He was so angry that he wanted to launch all the metallic spikes towards the human, but before he could, cold blue flames surged out of thin air. At first, he wanted to scoff at the human's last-ditch effort, but his eyes dilated because the flames didn't vanish, even under his pressure.

Ateo wanted to disperse the flames, but within a few seconds they gathered around him, enveloping all the spikes and his lower body in an icy embrace.

"What in the world is this? Get rid of it!"

A painful shriek echoed in the air as he vividly felt a strong icy layer forming on his skin. And not just that, a strange foreign sensation that threatened to freeze his very soul appeared in his lower body.

He cried out and watched with horrified eyes as the spikes he created turned into bright particles, even though he had formed them with his divine energy.

"Nooo, how is it possible?!"

Kyle spat out the blood that had gathered in his mouth as the pressure around him and the others vanished.

"This person is seriously strong. The pressure of a true divine being..."

He grabbed his left shoulder and moved his right arm a little, feeling a slight numbness throughout his body.

"I used up all my divine energy just to create these flames. I had a feeling they wouldn't be very effective, but it seems that once the flames reached the transcendent rank, their strength is nothing to scoff at."

Kyle looked at Jian and Yon, both of them watching as the spikes turned into particles with bated breaths.

"Guys, let's finish this."

Jina nodded and let out a sigh.

"I can't help but wonder how the hell you got so many powerful and strangely useful skills..."

From that point on, it was a completely one-sided fight. Jian, Yon, and Kyle mercilessly beat up Ateo. The man desperately tried to escape, but half of his body was frozen in ice. Also, every time he tried to use his divine energy to retaliate, an attack would land on his body and his mind would momentarily turn blank.

In the end, all he could do was cry out as he was tossed between the three of them, who seemed to be thoroughly enjoying breaking every bone in his body. After a few minutes, even the people watching from below turned their eyes away, unable to bear witness to the man's almost unrecognizable condition.

Yon grabbed the half-dead body and placed an artifact on the man's wrists before landing on the ground.

"Does anyone here have experience with interrogation? I want this person to spill everything he knows. It's fine if he dies in the process, I just need the information."

Han and another man with pointy ears stepped forward and took on the job. They were confident in their skills.

After the matter was settled, Yon let out a sigh as he looked around the land that had been damaged.

"Now, I have to work on the barrier all over again..."

Kyle landed in front of him with Jian. Almost everyone's eyes were on him, probably because of the deadly flames he used to stop Ateo. But Kyle went straight to Yon and told him about the air pollution he heard from guardian Lie. Yon wasn't surprised at his words, he had already sensed the air pollution and its cause.

The dwarf was more intrigued by the flames Kyle used. While the array that would clean the air was being reconstructed under the dwarf's words, he took Kyle to a corner to ask a lot of questions about the flames the young man used.

Jian followed the duo, also eager to know where Kyle found the flames. He had seen the blue flames many times before, but he remembered they weren't as strong as they are now.

Kyle let out a sigh at the two pairs of curious eyes peering at him. He scratched his chin, unsure if he should tell them. But then Yon's eyes widened slightly, as if the dwarf had sensed something within him.

"Kiddo, are the flames related to the powerful essence in your body?"

Kyle nodded, and that was enough for Yon to stop the conversation because the essence within the kid's body was strong. He couldn't pinpoint the essence rank due to his low strength, but he was sure it was at least transcendent rank. Now he understood why the blue flames stopped Ateo so easily.

However, Jian was still curious. He circled Kyle with a grin after getting nothing from the dwarf. He wanted to know, even if he didn't get anything, he just wanted to annoy the latter a little.

Kyle let out a sigh and grabbed his shoulder. In an instant, a solemn expression appeared on his face as if he was about to reveal the biggest secret of his life.

"Jian... I just remembered I need to feed Bia. So, call me when the array that would clean the air is ready. I'll come and supply it with my divine energy as well."

He gazed at the blinking red haired man and quickly started walking toward the boulder where he could see the little bird dozing off.

Jian gazed at his back and let out a chuckle.

"Wait, let's go together!"

Kyle paused and without looking back, waved his hand.

"Don't follow me. I'll tell you about it when you reached the transcendent rank."

Jian stopped in his tracks after hearing his words. He thought Kyle wouldn't tell him because the flames were probably related to something special the latter wanted to keep hidden. He was just asking him for fun, but little did he expect that Kyle would actually agree to tell him. Jian burst into laughter and raised his fist in the air.

"Alright, just wait for me to reach the transcendent rank! It won't be long!"

#### Chapter 412 The faint scent

Alec looked up at the dim sky and let out a sigh. There was a tired smile on his face as he watched the last of the youngsters enter the tower of opportunity. He glanced at Carcel and Lara, and the duo nodded at him.

Now that this task was done, there was only one thing left to do... gather the continent army. The three of them quickly left the place and headed straight towards where Han had called them. After all, they needed to supply their divine energy to the air-cleaning array.

The trio wasn't exactly sure why the air needed to be cleaned, but Han had explained that it was polluted with unknown particles that could harm the planet and turn it into a barren land filled with mindless monsters. That's why they knew it was very important to go and help Yon.

News of someone attacking Yon and the others had reached their ears, but unfortunately, it was too late because the enemy had already been taken care of.

Carcel paused when his communication crystal buzzed. Alec and Lara also stopped in their tracks and looked at him as he grabbed the communication crystal. Mia's familiar figure appeared above the crystal, and as usual, she had a soft expression on her face, but there was excitement in her sea-blue eyes.

Mia cleared her throat with a bright smile and told them that when she went into a trance, a towering wall appeared in front of her eyes. At that moment, she felt like she would fail. But She did it! She reached the pseudo-divine rank!

Carcel let out a sigh of relief. He had been worried about her because, after going through the process himself, he knew it was quite painful, especially for those with low talent. But now that Mia has successfully reached the pseudo-divine rank, a smile appeared on his usually aloof face as he congratulated the beautiful woman.

However, before his congratulations could properly reach Mia, another figure appeared above the crystal. It was Sinon, laughing like crazy. Alec, Lara, and Carcel narrowed their eyes as they stared at the wings behind Sinon's back.

The black wings had turned golden at the edges with bright silver patterns on their surface. They looked even more beautiful than before when they had only one color. Just by looking at how the demi-human was showing off his wings and the smug smile on his face, they knew that he had also passed the trial and stepped into the realm of the divine. Sinon rubbed his nose and pressed his face close to the communication crystal.

"Guys, can you see how handsome I've become? Even my horns are glowing a bit! Damn, I'm the first in my race to reach the pseudo-divine rank! You won't believe it, but I actually failed to break the wall on time. However, then I thought about how Nine and Jian reached the pseudo-divine rank and I'm failing like an idiot."

"At that moment, a sudden burst of strength surged through my body. I lunged forward and tore through the darkness that was trying to drag me away from the wall. And the next second, I did it! But let me tell you, it was painful as hell! I screamed until my throat was sore!"

Sinon wanted to say more, but Regius roughly pushed his face away from the crystal and looked at Alec and Carcel.

"Guys, everything's fine here. The three of us succeeded, and we also used Susan's brown crystal. So, just tell us where you are. We'll come straight to you and join you."

Carcel noticed the change in Regius' appearance. The elf's previously brown eyes had deepened in color, almost like bronze. Not only Regius, but Mia and Sinon's eyes' colors had also deepened, just like him, Alec, and Lara.

Carcel nodded at Regius and quickly informed him about the air pollution, before asking him, Sinon, and Mia to come directly to the place where Han had called everyone who reached the pseudo-divine rank.

After Carcel closed the communication crystal, Alec took the lead, and the three of them continued their journey. Before long, they arrived above an open area where many familiar and unfamiliar individuals were busy constructing a round structure - the barrier that would enclose the whole continent in a dome once it's completed.

Alec spotted George and Istalian observing the construction process from a distance, along with many powerful individuals, including the tower's guardians. However, for some reason, Han, who had called them, was nowhere to be found.

Alec's eyes paused on Yon and another female guardian floating beside a round array drawn on the land. He followed the duo's serious gaze and saw Jian sitting cross-legged above the array, which was glowing faintly with a golden color.

Sweat drops trickled down the red-haired man's forehead as he concentrated on supplying divine energy to the array. He even had a deep frown between his brows, like it was taking everything he had just to sit there. Bia was sitting behind Jian in her phoenix form, her eyes closed in deep concentration.

On the phoenix's left side, two more guardians were seated above the array. However, a dry smile appeared on Alec's face when he saw Kyle, the man looked bored and almost eager to finish it up quickly.

Kyle had his hand under his chin, supporting his face. His legs were crossed, but there was a noticeable difference between him and the others. While they were sweating buckets of water, his clothes were as pristine as new. The divine energy surrounding him was also more powerful than the rest.

At that moment, Kyle startled Alec by abruptly turning around and locking eyes with him. The gray-haired man placed his hands back on the ground to steady himself and let out a sigh.

"If you're here, come join us. So, we can finish this as soon as possible."

Due to Kyle's voice, instantly all eyes traveled toward Alec who shook his head and landed beside the array with Carcel and Lara. Then he glanced at Yon to know where he should sit.

The dwarf waved his hand and asked the three of them to sit anywhere, but once they sat down above the array, they weren't allowed to stand up until enough divine energy was supplied to the array.

Alec nodded and, along with the others, stepped onto the array. But he made a mistake by sitting near Kyle. Alec realized it immediately when the latter gave him a narrowed-eyed look, but now that he had sat down, he knew he couldn't change his place.

Kyle's voice was normal and casual, but his words sent Alec into a panic.

"Hmm, I have been meaning to ask, are you carrying something strange with you? There's a faint scent I have been sensing from you since I first saw you. It's not bad... but it's somewhat similar to the scent I detected from the people with black petals engraved on their foreheads..."

Chapter 413 This isn't fair

Alec unconsciously hid the back of his hand with his sleeve and clenched his fist with a tense expression. He wanted to laugh it off, but then Kyle raised his hand... This gesture almost made Alec's soul leave his body, but to his surprise, Kyle's hand softly landed on his back and patted it a few times.

"Why are you getting so tense? It's probably because you have fought with the enemy for a long time. I can sense similar scents from almost everyone, but yours is a little too strong. So, just take a good bath to get rid of it..."

Kyle paused and wanted to sniff the air around Alec one more time because the scent around Alec was a little too strong, different from what one would get by interacting or fighting with others.

However, at that moment, Nine arrived in the sky. He announced his arrival in a loud voice, which made Kyle turn around to look at the man with a faint smile. After finding out that Nine had arrived with his people, Kyle contacted Nine and asked him to come here because Yon needed people with divine energy.

Nine landed on the ground and swept his eyes over the familiar people sitting cross-legged above the array. He had left the people he brought with him in the city near the border and then went to find Elli, his lovely partner.

It took him a while, but he found her in the elven Kingdom, and he was very happy to see her perfectly fine. She had changed a lot with all she went through in his absence, but it doesn't matter.

Now that he's here, he'll make sure to protect her with everything. But because of that, it took him a lot of time to get to the place Kyle asked him to.

"Just tell me what I need to do and where I need to sit?"

He looked at Kyle, who asked him to sit anywhere above the array. Nine smirked at the many eyes that had been quietly looking at him for a while. Carcel examined him from head to toe and nodded.

"It's good that all your body parts are intact."

Nine's eyebrow twitched a little. It's true that he disappeared suddenly, but it wasn't his fault! He was unconscious when he was taken back, and then he was trapped by the Queen! Alec hummed at him with a smile.

"So, how have you been? It's been a while."

At that moment, Jian wiped his forehead. He wanted to stand up, but they weren't allowed to after sitting down above the array. So, he just checked out Nine from where he was sitting.

"You should have at least contacted us, but you just had to disappear out of nowhere. And now I hear that you're the prince of the Sea Continent? Tsk, tsk, I want to beat you up a little for all the worry you gave us. But well, I'll settle for a hug. Come here, sit with me."

He patted the spot beside him with a grin, but Nine shook his head.

"Nope, no hug. You're too sweaty. And do you really want to beat me? Don't forget, I brought a whole army with me. Hehe."

Nine looked at Jian and heard the latter click his tongue. He chuckled and then glanced at Yon and the woman floating next to the dwarf before stepping onto the array and moving closer to Kyle, finally sitting beside him.

"That dwarf and that woman with red hair. They are the tower's guardians, right? I haven't seen them before, but I can tell they are the guardians because they are exuding a refined and calm aura."

Kyle nodded, he had also sensed that the aura around the guardians was calm, likely because they had lived for a long time. He quickly told Nine that once they were seated on the array, they couldn't get up until the array had consumed enough divine energy. Nine understood and closed his eyes to focus on his divine energy before supplying it to the array beneath him.

Soon, Mia, Sinon, and Regius also arrived and joined them. The demi-human proudly showed off his beautiful wings to everyone he encountered on his way, which is why it took them so long. Sinon plopped down beside Nine and patted his shoulder with a smirk.

"Bro, check out my wings. They look amazing, right? And my skin has become smoother and more vibrant..."

He paused when he noticed Nine opening his eyes and looking at him. Sinon blinked, he was astonished to see that Nine's features were even more handsome than his own. Deep golden eyes flickering as if they had stars in them. Not to mention, Nine's skin has become radiant with a healthy complexion.

"No way, this isn't fair! I know you reached the pseudo-divine rank before me, but why did you become even more handsome than me?"

Sinon protested with a frustrated expression, causing everyone around to burst into laughter. Nine bent down and patted Sinon's hand on his shoulder with a look of understanding.

"Now you know not to brag before seeing what your opponent is capable of..."

Nine lowered his voice into a whisper, and a solemn expression appeared on his face.

"Also, who are we to say we are handsome in the presence of so many otherworldly individuals sitting next to us...."

Sinon's expression fell as his eyes roamed around, taking in the faces of everyone present. He looked from Regius to Jian, then Carcel, Mia, Lara, Alec, and finally, his gaze paused on Kyle. And then, Nine's words hit Sinon like a lightning bolt. It was painful for him to admit, but he felt average in the midst of all of them.

Nine patted Sinon's shoulder, offering comfort. However, at that moment, one of the guardians who was sitting nearby cleared his throat to let them know that everyone around them could hear their conversation loud and clear. That's why the duo stopped talking and quickly closed their eyes.

In the distance, Yon gazed at the young ones with a soft expression. He knew that each and every person in front of him had been through a lot at such a young age. He only hoped that they would all remain as pure as they are now to each other, always ready to support and help each other whenever one of them encountered a problem.

Chapter 414 Just think in your head

In the middle of the silence, Kyle suddenly opened his eyes and startled everyone around him by standing up from the array.

Jian, Nine, and Sinon's eyes widened at his actions, and the trio shouted at the same time.

"You can't stand up after you have sat down!"

Yon's eyes also widened, wondering what the heck the grey-haired man was doing. But then he noticed the array beneath everyone and let out a sigh. He quickly shouted, and his voice echoed in the air.

"After so many hours, the array has absorbed enough divine energy. You all can stand up and leave the array. It's going to activate in a minute or two."

The moment his voice drifted in the air, everyone sitting cross-legged on the array stood up. They all had their clothes drenched with sweat, except for Kyle, who has naturally cold skin and fire-resistance skill.

Jian grabbed the collar of his shirt and gave it a shake before looking at Kyle with a groan.

"Kyle, you could have used your icy flames to make the place a little colder, but... you're never useful in this type of situation."

Kyle's ears twitched as he turned around and stared at Jian with a raised eyebrow. But before he could say anything, Jian quickly ran off to join the others who were heading towards the tents in the distance to change their clothes.

On the other hand, Bia let out a tired yawn and flapped her wings, creating air currents in every direction before transforming into her smaller form and flying toward Kyle, only to land on his shoulder.

- "Kyle, where's Yue? I haven't seen her."

"Not that far... she'll be here in a minute or two. I did contact her, but she stopped in the elven Kingdom for a long time, probably because of something important."

Bia raised her head and narrowed her eyes at the man who was stretching his body.

- "How the hell do you know she stopped in the elven Kingdom for a long time? There's no way it's the scent perception skill because it can only vaguely sense others."

Kyle raised his hand and softly flicked the phoenix's head because she was looking at him as if he had done something extremely impolite to a lady.

"I can only know her location, nothing else. Don't give me those suspicious eyes. It's a new feature of the scent perception skill that was unlocked after the skill jumped a rank. I can mark someone to track their location, but only one person at a time for now. And I already told you I will remove it once the uneasy feeling I'm having goes away."

Bia humphed at his words and looked away. Just then, a bright light shot out from the air-cleaning array that had been supplied with enough divine energy. The light scattered into countless bright particles like fireflies, covering the entire sky in a beautiful blanket.

Kyle raised his hand and touched one of the particles, but to his surprise, not just one particle, but a lot of particles gathered around his body as if they liked his presence. He glanced around and noticed that he was the only one the particles gathered around.

In the distance, Yon chuckled at him.

"Don't worry, they won't harm you and will scatter with the wind. They're made of nature and divine energy, so they tend to gather around people close to nature. It seems your luck stat is quite high..."

Kyle looked away without answering. Regardless, these particles will roam the whole planet, and the air will finally be cleaned once they're done. Just as he predicted, after a minute, Yue arrived with Anlee and a few other old elves. The elven queen gazed at Kyle, who waved at her, causing the bright particles around him to scatter in different directions.

Yue suppressed a smile and waved back. Then she went directly to King Istalian and King Muzim with an elderly elven woman in elegant attire. She started talking with the two kings, and after her, the dwarf king also arrived and joined them. The four leaders of the continent had solemn expressions as they discussed something important.

Kyle found a clean spot on a nearby boulder and sat down above it with Bia, observing everything from a distance. He couldn't help but notice that Yue was much younger than the three old foggies she was talking to.

'The way she talked with the kings with so much confidence despite her age is remarkable.'

Bia rolled her eyes at his words.

- 'Just think in your head. Why are you making me listen?'



After talking for a while, the four leaders of the Continent turned around and asked all the strong people around them to gather with solemn expressions, as if they were going to make a hard decision.

At that moment, Alec stepped out from one of the tents in a fresh set of clothes. He was wearing a white button-down shirt with black pants, and his shoes were sleek, giving him a sophisticated look.

Kyle let out an 'Oh'.

"He's back to his usual cool and charming look. I can sense a lot of eyes staring at him."

He let out a chuckle when he noticed Lara in the distance. She rolled her eyes at Alec, who slowly closed the buttons of his cuffs in a cool manner. Kyle watched as she took quick strides toward Alec and smacked his shoulder with a huff before walking away with a look that screamed that she would beat him up if he followed her.

Alec blinked at the sudden turn of events and gazed at Sinon, Regius, Jian, and Nine who were doing the same beside him, a little aggrieved that he was the only one suffering. Carcel also came out behind Alec, but unlike the others, he tentatively stepped away and started walking toward Mia, who had just stepped out from a tent in the distance.

Jian quickly left when he spotted Kelvin in the crowd. The man had arrived with a few others when he was supplying divine energy to the array.

Alec and the others noticed the gathered crowd, and as the young guardians of the continent, they quickly joined everyone in front of the four leaders of the Continent.

But at that moment, Yon landed in front of Istalian and the other three leaders and told them something that turned their expressions ashen.

The human king, Istalian, took the lead and stood in front of the crowd. He cleared his throat but paused when he sensed a sharp pair of eyes staring directly at his head. From the corner of his eye, he saw it was Kyle, and a drop of sweat rolled down his forehead unconsciously.

'Don't tell me he wants to get back at me just because I took the phoenix's blood? No, it can't be possible... right? I sacrificed so many of my precious treasures in exchange for just a few drops of blood that stingy phoenix gave me!'

He wanted to protest, but well, he had more important matters to attend to. So, he focused his gaze on the people in front of him with a solemn expression.

Chapter 415 You all are my people

Istalian's voice echoed everywhere as he first told the people in front of him what Yon had told him.

"According to the information extracted from the divine being captured by us, the enemy has six more divine-rank individuals. They also have a big army that is scattered in the dark forest, searching for natural treasures because fortunately or not our planet has a lot of them."

He paused as many people's expressions hardened upon hearing the number. Right, Istalian had only talked about the divine rank individuals. But what about the pseudo-divine rank individuals? And the ones with (SSS+)-Rank strength? Their numbers would likely double or triple the divine rank individuals!

"However, recently Diora ordered everyone under her to gather at the west side of the former east Continent. They plan to attack us in a few days, or if they take as much time as possible, maybe in a week."

Sharp gasps echoed from the crowd at his words. Alec clenched his fists, just as Kyle said, they had no other choice but to either attack or get ready to suffer under the enemy. But this time, they won't wait for the enemy to run all over them. No, they will be the ones to make the opponent regret the very moment they stepped on their planet!

"Diora and Hay, the two of them are leaders of the army, along with another divine rank elven woman known as Misha. All of us have already seen the powers of Diora and Hay, but from the information, Misha is even more powerful than the two because she can control the monsters around her. As long as the beasts are weaker than her, she can make them submit to her without much difficulty."

Bia scoffed at Istalian words. She, the majestic phoenix is the one who just gained the divine authority to rule the monsters below her. Who the heck is this Misha? Does she think she can just appear out of thin air and expect Bia to let her take her one and only trump card? No way in hell!

The phoenix's eyes blazed, and she swore she would be the one to completely wipe out this Misha!

-"Let's see which is stronger, the divine majestic phoenix authority or some unknown little elf manipulation who just popped out of nowhere!"

Kyle chuckled at her words and rubbed her forehead.

"I am sure your authority is higher, but her divine pressure would be stronger. You sensed the divine pressure that the man we captured excluded. The true divine rank pressure... We have stepped into the pseudo-divine rank, but we just touched the edge of the divine realm. On the other hand, she has attained true divine strength..."

Kyle paused when a sudden idea appeared in his head. He rubbed his chin, considering if he should use it or not, and after a few seconds, gazed at Bia, who for some reason shuddered under his gaze.

-"Don't give me those eyes! They always give me chills!"

Kyle shook his head and ran his fingers through his hair, which had started to turn silver at the tips. He noticed that the more divine energy he absorbed, the stronger its effect on him became. That's why for a while now he kept spreading out his divine energy in the atmosphere, allowing his body to absorb more and fill up the space over and over again.

"No, nothing bad. I just gathered some symbols in my mind and thought of an array that would use your divine energy and construct a barrier around you. It would protect you from all types of divine pressure that can potentially affect your body. So, do you want to give it a try?"

Bia blinked, tempted by the offer. If she had something like that, she could practically bulldoze her way into the enemy camp without any restraints. As for the divine rank skills, she was confident she could dodge them with her agility.

-"But I believe the process would be very painful, right? Also, why don't you draw the symbols on yourself first so I can see its effect?"

Kyle hummed and glanced at Istalian, who was speaking to the crowd.

"Of course, it would be painful because I would have to draw the symbols directly on your body. And I don't think it would work on humans or any other race because, in the array, the main symbol I added can only be used on monsters."

Bia grumbled a little. She didn't like pain... but then she thought about the potential effect she could have by easily killing hundreds of enemies, so she agreed with a groan. A little pain would be nothing for a majestic phoenix like her!

Kyle nodded at her, and in the distance, Istalian started talking about the main topic. He said that he and other kings, along with the elven queen, had decided to gather their army and launch a surprise attack on the enemy. Istalian's voice turned a little hoarse, maybe from the mix of emotions he was feeling.

"No matter what, we are all together! We have the tower's guardians! Alec, Carcel, Jian, and all our young guardians who bravely fought on the frontline have reached the pseudo-divine rank! The Sea Continent has also sent their army this time!"

Many people were angry at the Sea Continent because the merpeople closed themselves off and hid underwater while everyone else suffered. But they didn't voice their grievances because now the Sea Continent has finally decided to help. Besides, they need as many people as possible for the war. So, even if they wanted to, they couldn't fight with the people of the Sea Continent.

Istalian let his gaze wander around the countless people in front of him before he abruptly looked at Kyle, who stared back at him. Istalian smiled and surprised Kyle by pointing directly toward him. All eyes instantly turned towards Kyle because of the King's gesture.

"Also, we have Bia, the legendary phoenix. She has reached the pseudo-divine rank too! Now her authority to control all the monsters beneath her is even stronger! So, she'll be able to control hundreds of monsters to fight against Misha!"

Many people in the crowd praised the phoenix that protected them from monsters for so many months.

Bia raised her head proudly, happy to receive so many compliments.

-"Of course, I will! You all are my people..."

Before she could say more, Kyle grabbed her beak to silence her. He didn't want her to make any unnecessary promises because he knew the battle would be life-threatening for everyone.

Istalian's smile widened, and he concluded his speech with something that Kyle didn't like even a bit.

"Lastly, we have Kyle, the strongest human on this planet. I'm sure many of you have heard or seen how easily he killed the divine-rank individual who appeared out of nowhere to harm us. He will be leading the Continent army with our young guardians. That's why I'm also declaring him as the guardian of Coaxis!"

"Let's shout to welcome the new guardian and get ready for a battle - a battle that will decide our future!"

The people in front of Istalian shouted loudly, ready to fight for their lives. Kyle facepalmed with a frustrated expression.

'Who the heck asked him to make me the guardian!?'

He sighed, but then snapped his head up to look at the pair of amber eyes that had been staring at him since Istalian declared him as the Continent's guardian. She had her arms crossed and a beautiful, innocent smile on her face.

'Haha, no way, don't tell me...'

Kyle laughed dryly in his head. Bia let out a pitiful sigh and rubbed his shoulder with her paw to comfort him.

-'Just believe it, your future wife set you up.'

Chapter 416 Not alone though

The entire Coexis was buzzing with preparations for the war. The three middle-aged kings and the young elven queen, who declared war, wasted no time and left the scene to fulfill their responsibilities as the leaders of the continent.

Not just them, all the elder figures from each race spread out. Their first goal was to gather the trained royal armies, and their second goal was to announce to the public that anyone with the strength to fight for the continent could join the war. In return, if anything happened to them during the war, their families would be given enough to live comfortable lives.

Kyle watched the busy scene in front of him. Yon and the other guardians of the tower were working hard to finish building the round structure as quickly as possible. The same structure that would enclose the entire continent in a dome-like barrier.

He glanced up at the darkened sky above him and then turned to Bia, who had agreed to draw the array on her body. But he knew it would be painful, so he quickly went to Nine, who was the only one left with him after all their friends scattered to complete the tasks given to them by the four leaders of the Continent.

It was pretty strange that nobody asked Kyle to do anything, even though he was also named as a young guardian of Coexis by Istalian. But maybe they knew he wouldn't be very helpful in assembling the army.

Nine gazed at Kyle, who had arrived beside him quietly.

"What's up? Are you getting bored? Don't worry, soon you'll be the one fighting on the front lines, haha!"

Kyle rolled his eyes.

"I'm leaving for a while because I need to do something. If anything happens, contact me."

Nine nodded and waved his hand to shoo him away.

"Go, go! I'm leaving as well because I need to check on the people I brought. I will give your communication crystal coordinates to Yon so he can contact you directly if he needs help... Just make sure to come back on time."

Kyle gave him a pat on his shoulder and started floating. In the next moment, he created a portal in mid-air. Bia flapped her wings and entered the portal, with Kyle following suit. Behind them, the portal broke apart into tiny particles that disappeared into thin air.

In the next second, the duo found themselves above a forest far away from the Continent. Kyle asked Bia to change into her phoenix form. Crimson flames spread out in all directions as Bia spread her wings to change her form.

Kyle gazed at the pair of crimson pupils that had formed a blue ring around them after Bia reached the pseudo-divine rank and let out a soft sigh.

In the end, to make sure nothing goes wrong in the process, he first asked the phoenix to call some monsters who were around them. He wanted to test the symbols on another monster first.

Bia flapped her wings and let out a cry. Instantly, a lot of monsters in the forest snapped their heads toward the sky and made their way toward the powerful existence that called them.

Kyle noticed with knitted brows that a few of the monsters looked like they had lost their minds. However, it seems that after Bia's authority increased, they were unconsciously listening to her call.

"I hope the air gets clean as soon as possible..."

The duo, one phoenix and one human, landed in the forest and got busy with their little experiment, completely oblivious to the dark sky that started to brighten up as the sun rose.

Bia groaned a little when another symbol was engraved above one of her wings, in a beautiful shade of gold.

-"Hey... why does it look like you're deliberately using fancy symbols so I won't stop you from finishing the array?"

Kyle chuckled at her words.

"Your crimson feathers have a touch of gold in them, and they're blue at the edges. So I'm engraving the symbols right above the blue feathers, to make them look good on you..."

'After all, nobody wants to see an ugly phoenix trailing behind them... haha.'

Bia narrowed her eyes at him, a hint of suspicion in her gaze. But the phoenix's attention was quickly diverted when Kyle paused. They both sensed an immense amount of mana in the distance. Kyle started floating and looked at the beam of light that shot up into the sky with lightning-fast speed.

He blinked, and the beam spread out beautifully from the top, enveloping the vast area around it in a transparent dome that would protect the people within if someone dared to attack.

"It seems Yon is done with the barrier."

He looked at Bia, who arrived beside him and softly patted one of her wings.

"It's done, the symbols. Also, the array on your body will activate on its own, so you don't need to do anything..."

Kyle paused, and his lips curved upward.

"You know what you need to do next, right? Now you can vaguely feel my presence again because our bond has gotten stronger in just a few days. So, find me once you're done."

Bia let out an evil cackle and flapped her wings as she dove towards the forest below.

-"Don't you dare start the war without me. I'll be back in no time! Haha, not alone though!"

Her loud voice echoed in Kyle's ears as he turned to look in the distance, where the enemies were gathering.

"It's true that extra precautions won't hurt, but right now my heart is hurting because the treasures I collected after so much struggle are all going to disappear..."

He grumbled and vanished into the distance, only to reappear above the remnants of the former Kingdom Escalante.

"So, they're really gathering on the western side...? I can smell countless disgusting scents in the distance. The fight with the divine-rank individuals is going to be very hard."

Kyle flicked his thumb with his middle fingers, and countless bright, flickering symbols appeared around him. They were ordinary low-rank symbols used to attack the opponents that anyone could draw with little knowledge about arrays. As time passed, the number of symbols around him increased, causing the air to contract and tremble under the pressure.

He closed his eyes and started stacking the symbols on top of each other. Initially, the symbols were violent, but they calmed down as he got the hang of it.

If only Han could see what he was doing right now, the old man would have fainted from horror and shock.

These symbols may be low-rank, but the way Kyle was stacking so many together in such a small space, despite their violent aura and potential danger, would create a devastating end product. That could easily take down even an (SSS+)-Rank individual. And to make the symbols even more dangerous, Kyle supplied his own divine energy to them.

Chapter 417 Who died?

Amidst the ruins of countless buildings, a beautiful middle-aged woman wearing a pristine white robe stepped onto the highest and largest block of rock in front of her. Hundreds of eyes around her were staring at her as she approached the demi-human woman standing before her.

"Diora, stop playing around and finish the work here so I can leave. I informed the third shadow general, but he won't be coming. He said if only you and Hay can turn this place into a living hell, there's no need for him to waste his time. Regardless, he will send someone to check once we have completely conquered the planet."

Diora's ears twitched a little, and she glanced at the human standing beside her.

"Tsk, why do you always wear white clothes? They don't suit you at all. And I am not wasting time; I am letting everyone have some fun. After all, it's not every day we find such a beautiful planet that is untouched by any evil."

She turned around and pushed the woman in front of her back with three fingers.

"Also, stay away from my business. I already hate the fact that the third general sent you and Ateo here, even though I said I can handle it."

Misha let out a smirk and grabbed the three fingers touching her chest tightly, enough to leave marks. The black three-petal flower engraved beneath her chin glowed with her grey eyes.

"Don't provoke me, dear. You know I hate it when I'm challenged."

Hay, who had been watching the interaction between the two women from a distance, quickly arrived beside them and pulled Diora away from the beautiful woman who looked so pristine. However, he knew Misha was the cruelest among them all.

The last he heard, she killed over a thousand humans just to enhance her beauty. So, he knew it would be better if Diora didn't fight against her. Especially since the latter can control an entire army of monsters.

"Oh... did they form a barrier around themselves? But how? No, no, the question is, where did they get so many resources to form such a strong barrier around themselves..."

Hay furrowed his brows beside her.

Three males, two elves, and one from the lizard race were floating above the trio. They were the divine-rank individuals who arrived on this planet after Diora and Hay. The trio was silently enjoying the two women's bickering and keeping an eye on the countless people gathering around them after Diora announced they would destroy the last hope of this planet.

Just then, Diora snapped her eyes toward a faraway place. Not just Diora, everyone who could sense the mana in the air turned around to stare at the distance.

Diora pulled her hand away from Hay's grip and widened her eyes with a smirk.

"Oh... did they form a barrier around themselves? But how? No, no, the question is, where did they get so many resources to form such a strong barrier around themselves..."

Hay furrowed his brows beside her.

"I don't think you should be happy to see it. The barrier is strong-!"

But he stopped when both Diora and Misha started laughing as if he had said the biggest joke of his life. Misha patted his shoulder with a sweet yet evil smile.

"Strong? No, it's not. One of the divine-rank individuals among us is enough to break that little barrier without much trouble."

Diora agreed with her for the first time. She had seen how weak the people of this planet were. Last time, she only retreated because of Alec. If the general hadn't arrived so suddenly and formed a contract with that human, she would have already destroyed the remaining forces of this planet.

Diora jumped in the air to gaze at the countless people gathering around her.

"Hmm, should we gather more people, or are these enough?"

She gazed at Misha with a taunting look.

"Or maybe you can just control an army of monsters so we can finish this as soon as possible, just as you suggested."

Misha wanted to scoff at her words but paused when she heard a cracking sound in her mind space. It was like something just shattered into countless fragments.

"Huh..?"

Her eyes widened when she realized what had broken. It was a small finger-sized black crystal, the same crystal that was connected to Ateo's lifespan. She quickly took out the broken pieces from her mind space and stared at them in shock.

"No way..."

Diora turned around when she did not get the curt response she was expecting from the woman. Her eyes narrowed at the broken fragments in Misha's hands. The demi-human quickly zoomed in front of the stunned human.

"Hey, Misha, don't tell me it is what I am thinking it is...?"

Diora stared at her and let out a chuckle because she recognized the broken fragments. All the individuals with divine-rank strength and above under the shadow generals had to perform a ritual and connect their life energy to the dark tablet present inside the demon's planet. In return, they were all given black crystals.

This way, if any of them died, their crystal would shatter, and their names on the tablet would turn white to indicate their death to the one guarding the tablet.

The reason everyone had to go through the process is because the people above the pseudo-divine rank were important. After all, their full strength could potentially wipe out a big part of a planet.

But the question was, who died?

Diora has her life crystal. Hay and the other three divine-rank individuals are also alive and doing perfectly fine around her. So, who...

"Wait... one person is missing right now?"

Misha closed her eyes, and when she opened them again, they were filled with anger.

"That bastard! How the hell did he die?"

She let out a loud cry and threw the fragments on the ground. Diora tilted her head, and a bad feeling welled up in her heart.

"So, Ateo died? But how? He's strong, there's no way he would just die out of nowhere."

Diora snapped her head towards the divine rank individuals around her.

"Where the hell did he go? Did any of you see him?"

The divine rank individual with the lizard-like appearance instantly answered with a grim expression.

"He captured someone lurking around us and then headed towards that place."

The man pointed his finger toward Coexis, and Diora let out a loud laugh that made the air around her tremble.

"So, you're telling me those little ants killed a divine rank individual in such a short time and without making any noise?"

She looked around, and the corners of her lips curled upward when no one answered. Diora started floating and raised her voice.



"Get ready, all of you. We're going to attack now. I don't care about the others who haven't arrived yet. I want to see just how the heck those ants killed a divine-rank individual, hahaha."

## Chapter 418 Attack

Nine narrowed his eyes at the countless people standing in rows in front of him. Some of the old folks seemed unhappy, but he didn't give a care. They were all outside the border, in an open field that stretched towards the former ruined East Continent.

The tower's guardians, except for Susan, were gathered above the tall border with numerous powerful mages. Behind them, the entire Coexis was enveloped in a dome that shimmered under the sunlight.

Nine hummed and glanced to his left, where numerous elves in armor stood under the command of two old elven Dukes. It was unbelievable but the elven Kingdom had gone all out in such a short time.

Almost everyone from their Kingdom had armor on, showing that they didn't hold back in using all their resources for the upcoming battle. In the distance, Yue was engaged in a serious conversation with a few old elves and she looked beautiful in her ensemble. Her attire featured sleek metal plating, carefully crafted and intricately designed.

Nine's eyes paused on another elven woman, standing a little further away from Yue. He quickly left his spot and headed towards his lover, not caring about the old merpeople who were giving him deadly stares.

He landed in front of Elli, who had her long hair tied in a ponytail, and patted her shoulder with a smile.

"You look beautiful..."

However, before he could finish his sentence, Sinon appeared beside him. The winged demi-human wore an evil smile as he glanced at the two of them.

"So, what's up?"

Nine's eyebrow twitched. He wanted to roll up his sleeves and have a one-on-one showdown to answer the annoying question thrown at him. But before he could, a commotion broke out. A lot of people turned around to watch as the largest teleportation array, engraved in the distance, lit up.

In the next second, countless humans in blue armor started appearing above the array. Some older individuals guided the new arrivals to leave the array and stand in a different direction to make room for more people. The first few batches of humans were probably from the royal army because after them, a lot of humans who wore different sets of attire started appearing above the array.

King Istalian stepped out from another array drawn in the distance, accompanied by his two sons, Lucus and Izroth. After them, Jian, Carcel, Alec, Regius, and Lara arrived with George and some other older individuals.

The crowd kept getting bigger and bigger as more and more people arrived to stand in front of Yon and Istalian, who had started floating in front of them.

Completely unaware that two pairs of eyes had been watching them from a distance, Diora let out a chuckle as she focused her gaze on the people below her. Her hand rested beneath her chin as she

observed the scene while sitting on a cloud that enclosed her in a transparent barrier. Hay stood quietly behind her.

The woman eyes turned crescents as she twirled her hair.

"Well, I came first because I got curious about how the ants killed Ateo, but my, my, why am I seeing so many unfamiliar faces?..."

She had left behind the army with Misha and the other divine-ranked individuals. However, who would have thought that the people they were planning to surprise with a deadly attack were preparing to surprise them instead? Her eyes scanned Yon and the other tower's guardians before abruptly stopping on a few familiar faces of the young individuals who had fought against her, Hay, and the other divine individuals but somehow managed to stay alive. In the end, her sharp gaze fixed on Alec.

"How did they increase their strength? I mean, seriously, how? I can't help but wonder if they stumbled upon some hidden treasure trove. Now I'm itching to dig the beautiful place hidden inside the dome so badly..."

"Anyway, I understand now... how Ateo died. After all, with so many pseudo-divine rank individuals, even I would have a hard time."

She burst into laughter and watched as the number of people grew beneath her. No matter what she said, she was confident that she could easily wipe out a big part of the army below.

"Hay, should I attack? It would be so much fun to see their expressions crumble when I destroy the army they gathered in just a few minutes...haha."

She clamped her mouth shut when Yon raised his head to stare at her direction with furrowed brows as if the dwarf was trying to see through her barrier. Diona eyes sparkled when Yon looked away.

"Wow, that was dangerous! I got goosebumps because of that dwarf."

She paused and rubbed her hands together with a smile.

After the humans, the people from the demi-human and dwarf races also arrived. Soon, rows after rows of individuals stood side by side. The differences between their races were forgotten in the face of the danger they were about to face.

"Hay, I just had an idea, let's wait a bit and see how big their army is. And when they're all ready... boom! Haha!"

In the midst of all the commotion, the bright sun started to fade from the horizon as the number of people in front of the border grew.

After the humans, the people from the demi-human and dwarf races also arrived. Soon, rows after rows of individuals stood side by side. The differences between their races were forgotten in the face of the danger they were about to face.

The atmosphere grew tense with each passing second, and those who were just speaking and chatting casually before were now standing with their weapons clenched tightly in their hands.

Yon gazed at the crowd in front. The air became heavy, filled with the faint sound of metallic clinking. The soldiers from each race stood in the frontline alongside the older people who would command them. The newly enlisted fighters were positioned behind them, and finally, the mages

stood in the end. Many of the mages were also stationed above the border, accompanied by a few tower's guardians who would guide them.

Amidst the crowd, Alec looked around and suddenly furrowed his brows.

'Where's Kyle?'

He started floating and quickly located everyone except Kyle and Bia.

'Hmm, it seems he's not here.'

Just then, King Istalian stepped forward from the group of older people and cleared his throat loudly. Not only him, but Muzim, Yue, and the dwarf King also stepped forward to offer words of encouragement to the countless soldiers and fighters in front of them. The same soldiers and fighters who were about to engage in a life-and-death battle for their home planet.

The tense atmosphere intensified as all eyes turned to Istalian. However, before the man could open his mouth to speak, a laugh echoed in the air. Istalian's eyes dilated because he was just too familiar with that voice.

Not just him, instantly, all the people who knew the owner of the voice snapped their heads towards the air where the voice came from.

Diora blinked when so many eyes were fixed on her. She slapped Hay, who was floating beside her.

"Shhh! You should have told me I'm getting loud again! I wanted to hear the speech! Now it's all gone!"

Alec, Jian, and many others started floating to gather around the woman. Their eyes blazed with anger as they got ready to finish the woman that appeared in front of them. Yon also grabbed his weapon, but Diora's eyes were fixed on the army below.

"Now that the speech is ruined, how about I have some fun?"

She raised her hand, and the eyes of the people around her dilated when the air in front of her cracked to form a massive jaw that overshadowed a huge space in front of her. The air twisted with flickering dark particles, and a loud rumble sounded in the sky.

Alec let out a shout and lunged forward to stop the woman. He had seen that skill before. Last time, it destroyed a big city! Now, with so many people around, who knows how much devastation it could cause?

"Stop her! A huge part of the land below would be destroyed if her attack-!"

His sentence was cut short when familiar icy blue flames surged in the air, completely enveloping everything around Diora. The woman let out a surprised gasp as the flames surged and danced around her, eventually engulfing the jaw she had created.

"What's happening? Wait...These flames...?"

She wanted to stop the flames, but they were too strong and cold to the touch. In the end, she could only watch with wide eyes as the flames completely enveloped the massive jaw she created and vanished into tiny, little particles that drifted around her in a beautiful manner.

"Haha... No way...?"

Behind her, Hay narrowed his eyes and looked around for the owner of the flames because he sensed that the flames were dangerous, too dangerous. At that moment, a voice echoed in the distance.

"A little late but just in time."

Kyle sighed as he stepped out of a portal, his gaze traveled to Diora and Hay before stopping at Alec.

"What are you all waiting for? Attack!"

Yon wasted no time and launched the first strike against the woman. The others quickly joined the dwarf as well.

Chapter 419 She'll be back in a minute or two

Yon's hammer collided with a hard surface, and a loud bang echoed in the air. He looked up and saw the dark-robed elven man who had been quietly standing beside Diora all this time. The man effortlessly blocked his attack with just the back of his hand.

Hay scoffed at the dwarf and with a push, sent him backward a few meters in mid-air. Then, he straightened his robe and turned to look at Diora, whose eyes were glued to his back.

"Indeed, those strange icy flames caught us off-guard, but you shouldn't let yourself get distracted, Diora."

Diora gritted her teeth at his words, and her mood turned dark. She clenched her fists and let out a laugh.

"You're right... but now, I'm angry!"

She narrowed her eyes at Alec, Carcel, and Regius, who had gotten closer to her just because she was distracted by the blue flames.

In a flash, a whip materialized in her hand, and her nails grew darker along with her eyes, which started to shine ominously under the dim evening sunlight.

"Let's see... one, two, three... I'll take-!"

Her sentence was abruptly interrupted because she had to jump back mid-air in order to avoid a glowing arrow that was aimed directly at her head. Diora snapped her head toward the beautiful woman with orange hair who was floating in the distance.

Lara tilted her head as her gaze locked with the woman who had nearly killed her in the past. If it weren't for Alec, she might not have even survived. Although she had no idea how he saved her life.

The moment their eyes met, the old memories of seeing so many people die in front of her eyes came flooding back into Lara's mind, causing her eyes to become devoid of emotion.

"So, what were you saying? Three? No, the number is bigger. Count again."

Lara's cold voice sounded in the air. Mia and Yue glanced at her and the two of them raised their voices to agree with her.

The corners of Jian's eyes lifted, showing a mix of anger and mirth at the same time.

"Wow, that was cool! Now it's my turn!"

He summoned a fire tornado, and the fiery flames surged into the air before heading straight toward Diora with lightning-fast speed. The woman's eyes grew even darker as she watched the flames, and a piercing cry escaped her lips.

"You bastards! I am going to kill you all!"

Diora sensed it right away that the fiery flames Jian used weren't strong, completely different from the icy blue flames that had momentarily halted her before.

But before she could disperse the flames, Yue and Mia unleashed their most powerful attacks. The air cracked with lightning as a thunderstorm appeared in the sky.

Alec, Carcel, and Regius exchanged glances and attacked the woman from different directions with their weapons.

Diora roared and looked at Hay, but she laughed with anger when she saw her companion surrounded by countless figures from all directions.

Just like her, Hay seemed to be in a tight spot with Nine, Sinon, Yon, Istalian, and many others attacking him from all sides.

Diora's angry eyes then traveled towards the grey-haired man floating in the distance, the same man who had blocked her initial attack. She stopped Alec and Regius' attacks with her nails and thrashed her whip to disperse the thunder and flames.

The woman's expression twisted with pure rage because the grey-haired man didn't even join the others to stop her and Hay. He just watched from a distance with an emotionless gaze, as if he believed his involvement wasn't necessary.

"Fuck! Fuck! Fuck! You bastard! How dare you mess up with me! I'll kill you! No, I'll kill all of you!"

Her eyes blazed with anger, and with a powerful thrash of her whip, the people around her were pushed back mid-air.

"You weak ants think you can stop me with your meager strength? Let's see how long you can last!"

Diora locked eyes with Hay and shouted his name. In the next second, she raised her hand and released her divine pressure in all directions. Alec, along with everyone around him, froze in their tracks.

Not only them, but a sense of dread enveloped the countless people standing beneath them as the air turned heavy and suffocating the moment the woman released her pressure.

Hay wanted to join Diora, but his eyes widened when he noticed a familiar figure materializing behind her.

"Behind you!"

He shouted, but it was too late because before Diora could sense something behind her, a powerful kick landed on her back, throwing her body forward in mid-air.

Diora's surprised cry echoed in the air as she quickly tried to balance herself, but her eyes widened when a portal materialized in front of her.

"What the hell?!"

She wanted to tear the portal with her nails, but another powerful kick landed on her back. In the next second, the portal enveloped her body, and her vision turned dark. The moment she vanished into the portal, her divine pressure disappeared, and countless relieved sighs echoed in the air.

Hay cried out and gazed at the flickering portal that vanished into thin air before snapping his head toward the culprit.

"Human! Don't think I can't tear you apart right here and right now!"

Kyle lowered his leg and glanced back at the man with a raised brow. His lips curled upward, but his eyes remained cold.

"Why don't you give it a shot? But I believe you'll have to go through a lot of people before you can even get close to me."

Nine and Sinon crackled at his words. The duo raised their weapons and once again attacked the man with Yon and the others. Alec, Carcel, Lara, Yue, and Mia also joined in, raining countless attacks on the elven man who seemed to have gone quiet for some reason after hearing Kyle's words.

Hay's eyes darted around. Now that Diora wasn't here, there was no point in fighting so many people alone. He knew he could overpower them with his divine pressure, but he knew it wouldn't work for long.

Jian gazed at Kyle and the empty air around the man. The red-haired man rubbed his chin and asked him the question that almost everyone had been itching to ask.

"What did you do with Diora? Don't tell me now you're strong enough to kill a divine being... Wow, bro, you just left for a while and got stronger again... No way!"

Instantly, everyone in the air perked up their ears, except for Yon and the ones who had already sensed what the portal did.

Kyle turned around and replied, but his response left all the people who were eagerly waiting to hear that Diora had died speechless.

"Nothing, just tossed her in a teleportation portal to send her to a faraway place. She'll be back in a minute or two... I guess."

Chapter 420 You're back?

Jian rolled his eyes. So, the portal was just a regular teleportation portal? How the heck did he never know portals could be used like that? Many people had the same question, especially the array masters and the tower's guardians.

But they knew that if they wanted to create a portal in the blink of an eye, they needed to have a deep understanding of arrays and a lot of practice. And even with all that, they would still need Kyle's teleportation skill to make it look so effortless. So, in the end, all they could do was let out a big sigh.

Kyle blinked, unaware of what was going through the minds of the people stealing glances at him. He watched as Hay was pushed back by Alec and the others.

"It's strange, why isn't he using his divine pressure?"

Kyle narrowed his eyes at the man and used his scent perception skill to sense the air. A foul stench that made him retch entered his nose, and he quickly shut off the skill.

"What the heck was that? Don't tell me he's preparing to launch a powerful attack..."

"No matter what, we can't take risks."

He vanished from his spot, and Hay, who had been secretly keeping an eye on him while blocking the attacks, quickly became alert.

'Where did that human go? No, he can't just disappear. I'm almost done gathering all my divine energy. This attack would kill at least half of them. Just a few more seconds...'

He became ruthless and started using the mana in the air to form sharp blade-like earth spikes. Then, he shot them in all directions to stop the grey-haired man from suddenly attacking him out of nowhere.

Kyle appeared between Alec and Regius, who were just pushed back by Hay. He grabbed Alec's shoulder and gestured toward Regius, the green-haired elf with a serious expression.

"I'm going to use all my divine energy, so use your strongest attack. Let's finish him in one go. I sensed that woman is almost back... and she's not the only problem. A big army is heading toward us from the opposite direction with many divine-rank individuals."

Alec nodded his head and distanced himself from the crowd. The sword in his hand glowed faintly with a golden light as he fed it his divine energy without restraint. He wanted to use the system's double power skill as well, but it had stopped working after he reached the pseudo-divine rank. Probably because the system is an artifact that is only divine rank.

He knew the system wouldn't help him any further after he reached the divine rank because the skills and benefits the system gave were only useful to those who were below the pseudo-divine rank.

Kyle didn't vanish from his spot and watched as Hay suddenly distanced himself from the people surrounding him. The dark three-petal flower engraved on the man's head glowed with a dark light, and the air stilled when a crack appeared in the air above his head.

Hay snickered as everyone around him froze when a tremendous amount of pressure descended upon them. The pressure was even greater than Dora's divine pressure, and in the next second, darkness spilled out from the crack. Countless red eyes peered from the crack at the people below, their glow looking almost eager to devour everything as they tried to make the crack wider with each passing second so they could come out.

However, it was apparent from Hay's trembling hands that he was struggling.

Kyle pinched his nose as he raised his head to stare at the crack. Now he knew where the stench came from. He didn't know what those eyes were, and he didn't want to know either. That's why, before the eyes could come out from the crack, he used all his divine energy, and in the next second, icy blue flames surged out into the air.

The flames enveloped the crack, and a few mournful cries rang out as the countless eyes peeking from the crack sensed the chilling and dreadful coldness.

Hay's eyes contracted at the flames. He had already used his divine energy to summon the darkness, so he knew he couldn't stop the flames. He gritted his teeth and used his mana to create many defensive barriers around himself.

The flames flickered around him, but for some strange reason, they didn't get close. Instead, they only enveloped the crack and silently swirled around him.

Kyle wiped his forehead with a sigh as the flames enveloped the crack and closed it off with a layer of ice before vanishing into bright particles. But he raised his head and narrowed his eyes when he noticed a familiar figure approaching from the distance.

"Damn, She's already back. Alec, Regius, your turn!"

The duo jumped forward to attack Hay the moment Kyle's words echoed in the air. Yon gazed at the other guardians, and they all also jumped forward in mid-air to attack the man together. The dwarf had already sensed that Kyle was up to something when instead of attacking Hay, Kyle appeared between Alec and Regius.

Hay's eyes darted around, and finally, panic flashed within them. No way, if so many attacks landed on the barriers he created with his mana, he knew the barriers would crumble. Then it would be impossible for him to stop the icy flames that were dangerously lingering around him.

Now he understood why Kyle's flames didn't get closer to him. The grey-haired man probably used all his divine energy to form the flames, and he knew he couldn't waste them. That's why he asked the others to attack first.

Jian, Yue, Mia, and Lara looked at each other and unleashed their strongest attacks on the man as well.

Alec was the first to land his attack on the barriers Hay had created. His sword, infused with divine energy, flickered with countless sparks. When his attack hit the barriers, there was a loud bang, and Alec got pushed back because of the recoil effect.

He tightened his grip on his sword and regained his balance mid-air. Not only him, but even Hay was pushed back by the impact. Alec grinned because, after his attack, countless cracks appeared in the barriers around Hay. Regius attacked the barriers right after Alec with the two glowing blades in his hands.

Hay cried out as the barriers around him crumbled. He quickly moved his hand to create another barrier to protect himself. Anything would be fine. After all, he just needed to survive for a few more seconds because he sensed Diora's presence nearby... but Carcel's spear pierced his body with a tremendous force.

Hay spat out a mouthful of blood, and his eyes widened with shock as the ordinary-looking spear tip entered his shoulder. He lifted his eyes to stare at the golden-haired man who shoved his spear further into his body to push him back. In the next second, a sword pierced his other shoulder.

Hay grabbed the sword's tip and tilted his head to stare at the pair of golden eyes peering at him. Nine let out a snicker and kicked him forward toward Yon and the others, giving them enough chance to attack. Carcel also jumped back into the distance.

At that moment, Diora arrived in the air. She let out a high-pitched cry, as she watched Hay's condition.



"Stop right there!!"

She raised her whip, and her divine aura spread out once again. But a chill ran down her spine when a cold voice echoed behind her.

"You're back?"