

Bloodline 441

Chapter 441 Why can't I sense her?

A while ago, Kyle let out a chuckle as he watched Yue, who quickly ran off towards the building with an embarrassed expression.

He touched his lips with the back of his hand and let out a pleased hum.

The feeling of someone else touching him was not bad at all. Or maybe because it was Yue, that's why. Kyle's heart fluttered for a second when he recalled what he had done a moment ago.

He started walking towards the exit of the garden and watched the orange, morning sky. The atmosphere was peaceful and quiet.

However, the softness in his eyes and the faint smile on his face vanished when suddenly, Bia's presence disappeared.

"Huh."

He stopped in his tracks and started calling the phoenix's name in his head with a confused expression.

'Bia?? Bia? Bia!'

But no matter how many times he called, there was no response.

"What the heck happened?"

A sense of dread crept into his heart, and without a second thought, Kyle vanished from his spot.

In the next second, he appeared in a corridor, startling an old servant who saw him materialize out of thin air.

Kyle ignored the servant who started shouting and ran off to call the guards, claiming that an unknown enemy had entered the queen's residence.

He looked at rows of doors on both sides of the corridor and spread out his scent perception skill to sense Bia.

But it was like the phoenix had entered another space altogether because even with his divine rank scent perception skill, he couldn't detect her presence.

"I'm sure she's inside the building, so why can't I sense her!?"

Hundreds of different scents flooded his nose, but he let out a shuddering breath because in that exact moment, the mark he placed on Yue disappeared, and along with it, her scent that he smelled a moment ago also vanished into thin air.

"Haha, no way."

"What the heck is going on!?"

He started running through the corridor, frantically checking every room while calling out Bia and Yue's names loudly.

The old servant who ran off before came back with many guards holding weapons, but the moment they saw Kyle's hair and eyes, they knew who he was.

The guards and servants also panicked when they heard Kyle's frantic voice calling out to their queen and the divine phoenix.

No matter how they looked at the situation, they knew something was wrong. That's why, instead of questioning Kyle, they all scattered and, just like him, started calling out Yue's name. After all, their top priority was to ensure Yue's safety.

Kyle paused when he saw a middle-aged woman who had come to find him after hearing that Yue had disappeared.

He looked at the woman, and even though he hadn't seen her before, her hair, which was similar to Yue's, gave him a clue about who she was.

Kyle took a deep breath and regained his composure. It wasn't the time to panic. He looked at the woman, who appeared on the verge of tears, as she asked him about Yue.

"Don't worry, aunty. Yue is strong. I believe she's okay. We will find her. I last saw her entering the building."

Yue's mother, Iva, gave him a nod. She could see the tense air around him and knew he was just as worried as her. Also, finding Yue was their top priority.

She didn't ask anything else and started searching the building with the servants, even though they asked her not to due to her health, which had been declining since her husband passed away.

Kyle glanced at her back and rubbed his forehead.

'Damn it!'

His eyes brightened as he spread out his scent perception skill to the extreme level and covered the entire building.

Kyle's stomach churned, and his vision turned blurry because he still couldn't use the skill for a long time due to the many scents that entered his nose all at once. But he shut his eyes and sensed every single scent in the building.

However, all of a sudden, he heard many cries in the distance as a lot of servants started shouting in panic.

"What happened?"

Kyle didn't have to check to know the answer because the moment he turned around, he saw a woman in a dark cloak holding Iva's unconscious body.

His eyes widened because he couldn't sense anything from the woman in the cloak, as if her presence was just an illusion.

He used instant teleportation and tried to stop the woman, but before he could even touch her body, she transformed into a mirage and vanished from his sight.

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Kyle stared at his hand that grabbed nothing but air, and his eyes dilated. The enemy is stronger than him, so much that he can't even touch her.

Suddenly, someone shouted from downstairs in a frantic voice.

"The study... the study door isn't opening!"

Kyle turned his head toward the voice and vanished. In the next second, he appeared beside a female servant who was trying her best to push open the study door, but it wouldn't even budge.

The elven girl immediately backed away the moment she saw Kyle. She cried out, and many other guards and servants gathered as they watched Kyle kick and punch the door with all his strength. Kyle breathed out and shouted at the many people behind him.

"All of you, leave this place!"

He didn't wait for an answer and started gathering all his divine energy inside his palm. Icy blue flames surged out and they started surrounding the study from all directions before seeping into the walls, freezing everything in their path.

Kyle let out a shout and once again punched the door in front of him, this time with so much divine energy that everything else around him started disintegrating.

All the people inside the building started running out when the ground beneath them started trembling violently.

Kyle watched as a crack appeared in the space in front of him, and he finally faintly sensed Bia, Yue, and Iva's presence. His anger increased because he even sensed Nine and Elli in the study.

"Who is this bastard?! How dare you harm my people! Do you really think you can get away with it!?"

Chapter 442 Where did you send them?

Kyle yelled and slammed his fists against the door with even more desperation. But the crack that appeared after he poured so much of his divine energy into it quickly sealed up before his seething eyes.

"Damn it all to hell!"

Countless ice spears materialized behind him and shot towards the door, but not even a scratch appeared on its surface. It felt as if a powerful invisible barrier was blocking all of his attacks.

"Why won't this freaking door break!?"

He noticed that even his flames, which had surrounded the room from all directions, could not enter the space.

Kyle gathered more divine energy, but as he tightened his fist with anger and frustration to punch the door again, something strange happened. The place in front of him shook, and with a faint rustling sound, something spread out in all directions.

Immediately afterward, his flames surged into the room from all directions, freezing and turning everything in their path into countless bright particles because the barrier stopping them had vanished.

After the walls sustaining one of the biggest rooms inside the building turned into particles, a big part of the building started to crumble, causing a cascading effect throughout the entire structure.

Kyle stared at the crumbling door and kicked it with so much strength that it shattered into many pieces.

However, even before he stepped into the room, he sensed it very clearly that Yue, Nine, Elli, and Iva had left the place.

The thing that barely made him relieved was that the moment Yue left the barrier that stopped him from entering the room, he could finally sense the mark he placed on her. But it was so far away and so faint that he couldn't even grasp her exact location.

Kyle stepped into the room. His knuckles were bruised from pounding his fists on the door repeatedly. But despite the pain, he still clenched his fists so hard that blood oozed from his palms.

He stared at the woman in the dark cloak standing across from him. A smirk formed on her face as she checked him out from head to toe with a look that screamed interest.

Kyle's eyes darted toward Bia's unconscious body for a split second, and then he once again fixed his cold gaze on the short-haired woman.

There was a fading portal beside her, and he knew Yue and the others had left the room through that exact portal.

"Where did you send them and why!?"

He couldn't believe the voice that escaped from his lips belonged to him because it sounded too hoarse for his comfort.

The woman didn't say anything and just stared at his body.

At that moment, Kyle felt that something was off because he wanted to attack her, but his legs wouldn't move. He raised his hand and touched beneath his eyes, which had started bleeding.

Not just his eyes, but blood was also flowing from his nose and mouth, even though he wasn't injured.

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Then, he finally dropped to his knees and stared at the woman with dilated eyes as she took a step closer to him. Her bronze eyes brightened up as she peered at him.

"Who are you? You are clearly so weak, but why is there something inside your body that I can't grasp?"

Glacia narrowed her eyes. As one of the strongest people on her planet, someone who had reached the final stage of the transcendent rank, she couldn't believe she was unable to see through a human who hadn't even entered the divine rank.

"I have been sensing something unique inside you, but the moment I tried to understand it... it hid itself, almost as if it had a mind of its own and knew that my presence could pose a threat."

The portal next to her began to fade, and Glacia knew it would crumble in a few seconds. But the human in front of her made her want to stay on this weak planet a little longer.

"How about I give it a look? Don't worry, I will make sure not to kill or completely destroy your body."

The icy flames in the room began to extinguish as Kyle lost control of his body. He didn't notice, but Glacia had once again extended her domain to gain complete control over everything around her.

She reached out her hand towards Kyle, who met her gaze with a pair of cold, emotionless eyes.

Kyle couldn't speak, but he swore that if he survived today, he would do whatever it takes to kill this woman.

Glacia let out a chuckle.

"I have to admit, it never ceases to amaze me how arrogant all the people I have met on this planet are."

She touched Kyle's forehead and started sending her energy into his body. Not really caring about the massive power difference between them or the fact that her energy could wreck his body.

Only after a split second, an astonished expression appeared on her face because she sensed that the human in front of her had a mind space. But how was it possible when he clearly hadn't reached the true divine rank?

She wanted to forcefully peer inside his mind space, but before she could, once again a crack appeared in her domain. Glacia snapped her eyes up from where a pair of brown eyes stared at her.

Her hand left Kyle's forehead, and she staggered back when the person staring at her threw a wave of electricity at her.

Glacia's eyes widened with shock because the person who attacked her had reached the transcendent rank as well, albeit just the initial stage. But it was enough to make her raise her guard against the old dwarf who tore a part of her domain, even though his hands were trembling.

"Hoho, Susan, this is interesting, but I only see a kid and a phoenix in there... no one else."

The old dwarf entered the domain after he finally managed to tear a part of it. He wasn't alone. Susan, Anlee, and many old elves who were contacted by the guards and informed that something happened to Yue were floating right behind him.

Chapter 443 That woman took Nine as well?

Susan quickly entered the domain after he heard the old dwarf's words. He saw Kyle, and upon seeing the kid's condition, an angry expression appeared on her face.

"Just what the hell is going on here!?"

His angry voice echoed in the air. He couldn't believe he had just left the kids alone for a while, only for an unknown person to attack them in his absence.

If he hadn't sensed the strong force inside the former west Continent and found the old dwarf, Zron, one of the old divine guardians of the planet who had just managed to construct his body, he would have never known something was going on.

Zron glanced at Susan with a surprised expression, a little taken aback that his old friend was getting angry because of an unknown kid. Regardless, he focused his gaze on the woman in the dark cloak.

"I did sense another transcendent presence, but why is such a strong person harming a weak individual? I thought those above the pseudo-divine rank are not allowed to kill lower beings unless they are siding with the dark side."

Glacia clicked her tongue.

"What bad timing..."

She glanced at Kyle one last time.

The human's eyes had turned blank; he probably fainted in the process.

Glacia knew the dwarf was weaker than her, but she also knew that even if she fought with him and won, she wouldn't come out unharmed.

That's why, before Zron could even attack, her body turned into a mirage, and she entered the portal that scattered into countless white particles.

Anlee and the other old elves also entered the space and started looking around for Yue. However, when they did not find her, they started to panic and questioned Zron and Susan, but the duo completely ignored them.

Susan gritted his teeth and made his way toward Kyle. The moment he touched his body, the boy fell down toward him.

"He is badly injured! Zron, I am taking him with me for treatment. Just find the other tower's guardians and inform them about everything."

Susan formed a portal in front of him and left with Kyle. After he left, Zron glanced at the phoenix and checked her body.

"She is fine. Just unconscious."

He glanced at Anlee.

"You, what is your name? Well, whatever it is, do you have a communication crystal?"

Zron paused and started mumbling under his breath.

"Wait, even if I have a communication crystal, I don't know the other guardians' communication crystal coordinates..."

He let out a sigh and before Anlee and the other old elves could get a proper idea of what the heck was happening, his figure turned into a mirage and he vanished with the phoenix.

It didn't take long for the news that the elven Queen had disappeared to spread throughout the whole Coaxis.

The news reached Yon and the other guardians an hour later through an old elf, and Yon immediately contacted Susan since Zron didn't come to find him.

Yon got angry after hearing everything from Susan. He couldn't believe that something like this happened in their presence. And seriously, what was Zron doing when that woman ran off without a scratch!?

Alec, Jian, Carcel, Sinon, and the others found out about it through Anlee, and they were shocked because they had just parted with Yue and Kyle a while ago.

They all quickly went to find the tower's guardians to get more details, but even the guardians had no clue, except that a powerful elven woman took Yue and badly injured Kyle.

The people of Coexis, who were still celebrating their recent victory against the enemies, were hit with another wave of panic when they heard that a new powerful enemy had appeared on the planet.

How could they not panic? After all, this time the enemy was strong enough to badly injure the strongest human on the planet and kidnap Yue, the elven Queen, right in front of the guardians of the tower of opportunity.

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Inside a dimly lit room, Kyle opened his eyelids at the sound of the water droplets. But a splitting headache hit him hard, and he let out a groan. Just then, a familiar voice sounded beside him.

"Don't get up because I don't have any more divine energy to heal you."

Kyle blinked a few times, and his hazy eyes finally cleared up. But when he remembered what happened before he became unaware of his surroundings, he let out a deep exhale and clenched his fists tightly.

His eyes darted toward the unfamiliar ceiling before he glanced at the old man with white hair sitting a little distance away from him. It was Susan, and he looked very tired for some reason.

The room looked ordinary, but water droplets cascaded down from one corner of the ceiling, forming a beautiful curtain of water that fell into a small pool. Also, the room didn't have any furniture except for the bed Kyle was lying on and the chair and table where Susan was sitting.

"So, I survived...?"

He let out a sigh, which sounded way too loud to ignore. Susan raised his eyes and stared at the kid.

"Yes, you did because of me and Zron."

Kyle blinked, still a bit dazed from everything that had just happened.

"Zron?"

"He's the last divine guardian of this planet who stayed behind when all the other divine beings left. He reached the transcendent rank, so he could sense the woman who harmed you."

Kyle sat up, ignoring Susan's request not to. The old man let out a sigh, even though Kyle had made him work a lot during or before the war, he couldn't just let the kid die.

At first, when Zron told him about the transcendent rank individual, he thought it would be just another enemy. But who would have guessed that Kyle and Yue would be in danger?

Kyle massaged his temples and asked the question he had been hesitating to ask because he already knew the answer.

"What about Yue and Nine?"

Susan's eyes widened at his words.

"What, that woman took Nine as well?!"

Chapter 444 I am leaving this planet

Kyle glanced at Susan's shocked expression and quickly got out of bed to stand on his feet.

"Not just Nine, there were more people too, and I have a feeling Nine already knew this was going to happen."

He remembered Nine's words. The brown-haired man had told him that he would be going to a faraway place for a while.

"Also, Yue's strange behavior..."

Regardless, the one thing Kyle didn't understand was why they didn't tell him or anyone about it. If they were forced to go with that elven woman, they could have at least shared the situation.

After all, if Kyle and the others had known about it, they would have rushed to help Yue and Nine if the duo was in danger.

Yet, they both chose to hide it.

"Hmm, I remember Yue trying to tell me something, but she would always stop. It's like, for some reason, both Yue and Nine couldn't share it with others."

Kyle took a moment to check his body. He clenched and unclenched his hands a few times and moved around, making sure everything was okay.

Susan's expression turned grim as he approached him.

"Kid, don't push yourself too hard. That elven woman gave you some serious internal injuries, and even though they are healed, you still need rest."

Kyle shook his head and took out a pair of shoes from his mind space. He put them on and looked at Susan.

"I am good. I am grateful that you and Zron saved me and Bia. And you even took care of me while I was unconscious."

His voice echoed in the room, which had started to feel too silent.

"But... now I think it's time for me to leave this planet. Yue and Nine aren't my only reason. I have been meaning to leave for a while now because I have some scores to settle with a few people out there. Plus, I don't think staying here will help me increase my strength anymore."

Susan let out a big sigh, not sure what else to say to make the kid stay and rest.

Also, Kyle's unwavering gaze made it clear that he wouldn't listen or care about the danger beyond the planet's boundaries.

So he pointed at the room's exit.

"Alright, I respect your decision, but let's talk about it later. Now that you have decided to get up, please ask all the people outside to leave the tower of opportunity."

Susan looked fed up as he went back to sit down on the chair.

"They have been crowding outside the whole day because of you."

Kyle let out a faint smile. He had sensed the many familiar presences outside even before Susan told him. His tense shoulders relaxed as he quickly stepped towards the room's exit.

He pushed the hard wooden door open and saw many people talking, sitting, or walking in the open area filled with grass in front of the room.

In an instant, all eyes turned to him, and the first one who jumped towards him was none other than Bia.

The phoenix left Mia's shoulder and climbed onto Kyle's head with a worried expression.

-'Hey, why are you always the one who gets seriously injured!? That damn woman, I am going to kill her if I ever see her again, even if I have to use all my strength! Ugh, I need to tell you a lot! Nine and Elli were behaving strangely, and so was Yue!'

Kyle heard all the complaints of the grumbling phoenix who, like always, messed up his hair.

He barely maintained his balance when Jian, Sinon, Ray, and Neon wrapped their arms around him tightly.

Alec, Carcel, Regius, Han, Mia, and Lara shook their heads as Kyle patted the red-haired man's back to make the man move away from him.

Kyle froze when all of a sudden Jian wiped his nose on his shoulder. He took a deep breath but still raised his leg to kick the man far away from his body.

However, before he could, Jian quickly backed away and started wiping his eyes which were completely dry.

"Bro, why are you freaking us out again? It's good you didn't go into a coma again. Also, I think Nine went back to his Kingdom. I wanted to inform him about you... but he's not picking up his communication crystal."

Sinon also backed away and joined Jian as Ray and Neon started checking Kyle's body, and after they were sure he was perfectly fine, Ray fixed his narrowed eyes on him.

"I feel like now you invite trouble whenever you go. You're the youngest among us, so don't you dare to die before us. I am going to contact dad because he's been worried sick about you. So talk to him, okay?"

Kyle nodded and glanced at Alec, who stepped forward and patted his shoulder.

"We all know what happened. Don't blame yourself, you did your best. Zron had told us everything about the woman who took Yue with her. She has reached the transcendent rank."

Alec paused for a second.

"But no one knows if Yue's fine..."

Kyle closed his eyes for a second and sensed the mark he placed on Yue.

"Don't worry, she's fine. I can sense her faintly... and if she's fine, the others are fine as well."

Alec looked at him, and his face turned serious, not because Kyle could sense Yue, but because the elven woman had kidnapped some others too.

"What do you mean, others?"

Kyle gave a wry smile and told everyone everything. Bia also joined in and shared what she saw and heard before she lost consciousness.

The moment the duo was done, the air became heavy as Jian clenched his fists with an angry expression.

"That bastard Nine! How could he not tell anyone about this and just leave with such a dangerous person? Not to mention he took Elli with him! Did he lose his mind or something? If he knew, he should have told me or anyone else!"

Sinon grabbed Jian's shoulder and let out a smile that looked borderline evil.

"Don't worry, the next time we see that bastard, we are going to beat him to a pulp!"

Han glanced at the young people around him. All of them had started talking about how they were going to find that woman who dared to harm their friends. Then he moved his eyes toward Kyle, who went to the side to talk with his father.

After Kyle closed the communication crystal and tossed it toward Neon with a faint smile, Han approached him with a solemn expression.

"So, Kyle, what are you going to do next? I know you won't just sit around."

Kyle glanced at his master, who hadn't said anything all this time. A sharp and serious glint flashed in his eyes.

"Master, I am leaving this planet."

In an instant, everyone turned silent. They already had a feeling Kyle would leave, and honestly, all of them also wanted to depart from the planet to become stronger and find Nine and Yue.

Han let out a sigh.

"It's your decision, and nobody is going to stop you because you are old enough to know what's best for you. I also know you have become very strong, and staying on this planet would hinder your growth."

"As your master, I want to see you achieve an amazing future. So don't ever give up, no matter what goes down, no matter how hard it gets."

Kyle's green eyes brightened up as he stared at the old man opposite him.

"Master, I know what I want to do after that elven woman tried to take my life. I want to become stronger than anyone out there."

He chuckled when everyone started gathering around him and continued.

"I don't want to be vulnerable. I want to be able to protect myself and my loved ones. Nobody should have the power to harm me. So, I am going to go all in, push myself to the limit, and become the strongest."

"It might seem like a dream or maybe I sound arrogant, but I am going to try my best to make it my reality."

Alec clicked his tongue.

"You think you are the only one, huh? I'm also gonna become the strongest! Let's see if you can beat me first!"

Jian's eyes widened with shock.

"How can you two forget about me?? I'm sure I will be the strongest, and you two will be my underlings in the future!"

Sinon rolled his eyes and wrapped his arm around Jian's neck.

"How about we have a one-on-one to see who's stronger?"

Regius smiled and folded his hands.

"You shouldn't forget about me, right? After hearing Kyle's words, I am super motivated to become the strongest too."

Lara and Mia raised their brows and glanced at each other.

"Do you really think we would stay behind?"

Carcel cleared his throat and surprised everyone around him by stepping into the conversation.

"I don't think you all should worry about who should take the title of being the strongest. I mean-!"

His sentence was cut short when Bian let out an evil laugh.

-"Of course, the majestic me has already taken it! Who dares to claim the title if not me?"

Ray and Neon glanced at everyone as they all turned quiet after Bia declared her claim to the title of the strongest.

The duo grinned at the proud phoenix, who held her head high and stared at everyone, daring them all to challenge her words.

Han let out a wry smile as he watched them all and shook his head. He glanced at Kyle and held his shoulder.

"So, when are you planning to leave the planet?"

Chapter 445 Just a feeling I can't describe

All eyes turned to Kyle, who glanced at Susan from the corner of his eye.

The old man had just stormed out of the room made of stones in the grassy field, probably because of all the noise everyone was making. Susan wanted to make them all go away, but he stopped when Kyle started speaking.

"I have come to realize that putting things off is a bad habit of mine. So, from now on, if I want to do something, I will do it right away... That's why I am leaving now."

Kyle gave his answer to Han with a subtle smile, and he responded with a nod. But then a wave of protests erupted, with all of his friends saying that if he left now, they would not be able to go with him.

After all, they had to inform many others about their departure since they were the young guardians of the Continent.

Regius needed to bid farewell to his grandmother and the surviving elders from his village. Carcel had to inform his older brother and mother. Sinon, Jian, Lara, and Mia faced the same situation.

And let's not forget that they had to find capable individuals to take their places all around the planet. It would take at least a few days to sort it all out.

Alec rubbed his chin with a thoughtful expression.

"Kyle, I know you have made up your mind, but how about we all leave together after a few days?"

"That way, me and everyone else can quickly handle what we need to do."

Jian agreed with him.

"Also, if we leave together, it will be a lot safer. In the end, no one knows how many dangers are waiting for us outside the boundaries of this planet."

Ray and Neon glanced at each other and also agreed with Jian and Alec.

They wouldn't stop Kyle if he wanted to leave because they knew he could take care of himself, but they wanted him to stay for a few days because they didn't know how long it would take for them to see their younger brother again once he left.

Kyle let out a deep breath as multiple voices flooded his mind. Bia sensed his troubled emotions and left his head to sit on his shoulder.

-'What happened?'

Kyle raised his hand to caress the phoenix's head and furrowed his brows.

'Just a feeling I can't describe...'

The moment he mentioned that he would leave the planet now, a sense of unease began to well up inside him. It felt like something was telling him it would be better if he left a few days later with everyone else.

Kyle relaxed his brows when he noticed Alec's eyes on him, not wanting to make the man worry. But why would he feel this way all of a sudden, like something bad would happen if he left the planet now?

'This is not the first time I have had this feeling... Could this be a new way for my bloodline to alert me about danger ahead of time? Regardless, it is best to stay cautious.'

He thought he would leave a few days later and the strange feeling in his heart vanished like it never existed.

'Hmm...'

Kyle raised his hands to calm everyone around him, but at that moment, another person landed on the surface a little distance away from them.

Zron let out a yawn. Then, the brown-haired dwarf clicked his tongue at all the people in front of him as he approached them with slow footsteps.

"I just wanted to rest. Kids, can you all stop speaking for even a second? I can hear all your noise up here."

He pointed up at the clouds where he had been trying to catch some shut-eye and locked eyes with Kyle.

"Hoho, I actually thought you died. But it was a pleasant surprise to see you alive."

Kyle squinted at the dwarf because he looked a bit familiar, especially with that sleazy smile on his face. Then his eyes widened because he had seen the dwarf before!

"You... aren't you the one who gave me that old scroll before I entered the tower of opportunity?"

Zron stopped and let out a chuckle.

"It has been so long and you still remember?"

He waved his hand and rubbed his nose.

"Shhh, no need for thank you! I'm someone who helps people here and there. That scroll was nothing compared to all the things I have given out casually."

Alec gave a wry smile since he was the only one who knew which scroll the duo was talking about.

'So, Kyle got the scroll from Zron?'

However, in that moment, Jian raised his hand with suspicious eyes.

"Wait, wait, wait! What scroll are you both talking about?"

He had a bad feeling about this because he knew Zron stole his and Kelvin's storage rings! That damn old dwarf! He only let it slide because the dwarf saved his life.

Bia glanced at Jian, and his expression sank when she told him about the scroll.

"The scroll helped us a lot in the tower, and we gathered many treasures because of it. It has all the knowledge of the first three floors of the tower."

Kyle started checking his mind space.

"I think I still have it with me... I wanted to sell it for a good price after knowing it's authentic, but I never got the chance."

Han let out a chuckle at Kyle's words. Now he understood why the kid had so many treasures to sell after coming out from the tower. Not just Han, Neon, and Ray also glanced at each other, finally figuring out the secret of how Kyle got his hands on so many treasures.

In that moment, Jian surprised everyone around him by dropping to his knees with a blank expression. He pointed his trembling finger at Zron.

"You!? Don't you dare tell me you stole the scroll from me and Kelvin!!!"

Chapter 446 You thief!

Zron let out a gasp.

"Brat! How could you put such blame on me!? Me, stealing? No way! I am such a powerful person, do I need to steal..."

He shut his mouth when Kyle took out an old scroll from his mind space, and Jian lunged forward to open it and check the content of the scroll.

"Haha! This is the same scroll Kelvin and I lost! You thief!"

Jian's angry voice made the dwarf sweat.

"You didn't even spare our accessories! Do you have any idea how much suffering we had to endure because we lost this scroll? The king acquired it after spending thousands of mana stones!"

Zron let out a scoff, too thick-skinned to admit he stole it.

"No way, it's a different scroll! Look, the design is older than yours!"

Susan facepalmed when the two started arguing. He quickly dragged Jian away before the kid got beaten by the dwarf, who had started to roll up his sleeves to prove his words.

The moment Jian was out of the picture, Zron swiftly changed the topic.

"You kid, I heard your conversation. You want to leave the planet, right? However, where would you go? Do you have a destination in mind?"

Kyle shook his head.

"I have no idea about my destination. But I will follow the mark I placed on Yue to find her, Nine, and the others. Also, I'll increase my strength along the way so I can take down all the enemies I encounter."

Zron rubbed his chin.

"You have reached the pseudo-divine rank. But it's dangerous to wander outside the planet due to the shadow generals and the dark armies..."

In the next moment, a thoughtful expression appeared on his face.

"Just tell me this. Are you gonna leave alone or go together with the others after a few days?"

Kyle smiled as everyone stared at him in silence. He could see that they all hoped he would leave with them in a few days.

"I'll leave with them after a few days."

Sinon raised his hand and cheered to lighten up the mood, and he succeeded because everyone started laughing at the winged demi-human.

However, at that moment, no one knew that today would be their last day to have a normal conversation with each other.

Zron nodded at Kyle.

"So, how about you all go to 'The Sacred Divine Land'? I remember our planet has an ethereal tunnel leading to that place. Odiak and many other divine rank individuals discovered it a long time ago and made it usable after sacrificing a part of their strength."

He waved his hand, and many chairs appeared around him. He sat down on one of them, and Kyle quickly sat opposite him to learn more about it. Alec and the others followed suit.

In the distance, Susan released Jian, who let out a snort and made his way to one of the chairs. He put aside the thought of revenge for now because he knew he was weaker, and it seemed like the dwarf had some useful information to share.

Susan let out a sigh and joined everyone.

"The Sacred Divine Land is probably the best place for you all right now."

"James and many other people had used the ethereal tunnel in the past. I'm not sure where they are at the moment, but I heard the Sacred Divine Land is perfect for those who want to gather enough divine energy to break through to the divine rank or go further."

Bia furrowed her brows.

-"What is that place? A place filled with Divine energy?"

Zron let out a hum.

"It's a huge land floating between countless planets in this universe. You are right, the place is filled with divine energy. But it's not called a sacred land because of the divine energy. It's named that way because of the thousands of ancient tombs filled with treasures hidden beneath the land."

"The sacred land is also called the land of spirituality because there's no mana in that land. Instead, there's spiritual energy, which is very useful for strengthening one's soul rank."

Kyle glanced at the image that had replaced his stats from the corner of his eyes. His soul rank increased after he woke up from the coma because his soul consumed the celestial essence.

'So, there are other ways to increase one's soul rank too?'

Zron continued when he saw all the people around him invested.

"However, only the people who are close to nature or can converse with the mystical spirits in that land can harness that energy. The spirits are small winged creatures without physical bodies, they only have souls."

"It's pretty rare to come across people who can use spiritual energy, except for the special ones who can see the future or fate of others. That's why the land is known as the Sacred Divine Land."

Zron's expression turned serious as he glanced at Susan.

"It's a perfect place for all of you. But unlike Susan and the other guardians who haven't left this planet, I know a lot. I don't think the land is very safe now because half of it is ruled by the demon and dark race after the first shadow general destroyed a big part of it just for the sake of fun."

"But I truly think you kids should go there and enhance your strength because, apart from the sacred land, there's no other place that can offer you sufficient resources to break through the confines of the divine rank."

A teacup appeared in Zron's hand as he took a sip and glanced at the many people staring at him with a hint of excitement.

"Nevertheless, in the end, it all depends on your luck and abilities whether that place becomes a treasure trove for you or a worst nightmare."

Kyle absorbed the information he had just received from the old dwarf. He couldn't believe there was still so much he needed to know to become truly strong.

As everyone around him quietly digested the information, Kyle did not hesitate to ask the many questions he had after knowing Zron had a lot more knowledge than the tower's guardians.

"Do you know more about the shadow generals? What about their leader? Why are they attacking the planets?"

Chapter 447 How about you go and ask him?

Zron let out a chuckle at Kyle's questions.

"The shadow generals... I don't know much about them, but last I heard there are five of them. Perhaps the number has increased during my absence... but all of them have only one leader, Azazeal."

"However, no one has seen the man, so how could I know how much stronger he is... or how he managed to make so many strong individuals submit to him."

Zron's voice turned solemn as he spoke the next words, and the teacup in his hand vanished.

"He simply appeared out of nowhere and shook the whole universe."

"As for your last question, kid... Hoho, do you think evil people need a reason to do bad deeds? Or maybe there is a reason, but I don't know. After all, I am just one of the countless people who are living in this vast universe."

The dwarf started grinning as he stared at Kyle and the others.

"How about you kids go and ask him?"

Jian stared back at him with a deadpan expression.

"Don't worry, I will personally go and have a face-to-face conversation with him."

Zron's grin widened.

"Good good, I like your enthusiasm! So, do you all want to leave for now to prepare for your departure or should we first go and check the ethereal tunnel? I haven't visited that place and I wonder if it has enough resources to function..."

Susan stood up and straightened his clothes.

"It's not far away, and I can draw a teleportation portal."

"So I don't think it would take us a lot of time to go and check it. Does anyone want to go together?"

Jian raised his hand.

"I wanna go! I have to do a lot of things, so I don't think I will have time to go and see the ethereal tunnel later. So, take me."

Sinon grabbed the arm of the red-haired man and flapped his wings.

"The name sounds pretty awesome, and I'm curious too, so I wanna go too. I believe the place is not dangerous."

Han also decided to go and visit the place because he always liked discovering new things, and the ethereal tunnel really sounded otherworldly.

Zron stood up and let out a tired sigh.

"Why are you all so excited? The place has been abandoned for a very long time, and it's probably covered in so much dust that you won't be able to see anything."

"Hassh, all of you are making me feel old even though I am only a few hundred years older than you all."

Susan's eyebrow twitched as the dwarf wearily stretched his back as if he had shouldered the workload of countless individuals.

Susan rolled his eyes and created a portal before looking at everyone nearby.

"The ones who want to come with me, follow me, and the rest, please leave the tower of opportunity. Although it's open to the public, it's not a place where you all should just barge into anytime!"

He clicked his tongue and stepped into the portal before he appeared in front of a dark underground cave, leading even further into the darkness.

He glanced back and saw many people arriving behind him, one by one. In the end, everyone followed him.

Kyle saw Zron yawning beside him and sniffed the air. He raised his eyebrow and let out an 'Oh'.

"So, the ethereal tunnel is beneath the tower of opportunity?"

Zron almost lost his balance when he heard his words. He stared at the silver-haired man as if he had seen a ghost.

"How did you know?"

Kyle blinked and pointed at his nose.

"My nose is a little sensitive."

Zron's eyes widened. He couldn't believe a pseudo-divine rank nose was so strong.

"This place is covered with many layers of barriers because the tower's punishment chamber, where the guardians who harm the planet's residents are punished, is on the other side. So, I'm really surprised you can sense that it's beneath the tower!"

Kyle ignored the dwarf and furrowed his brows as he glanced at Susan, who had grabbed a communication crystal from his mind space to contact Yon and Jordan. After all, the duo was more knowledgeable than Susan about the ethereal tunnel.

Alec and the others have started to look at the dark cave to check the place out. Bia flew towards Mia and sat down on her shoulder, curiously looking at the cave structure.

But Kyle paused and grabbed Zron's arm before staring at the dwarf with a serious expression.

"Zron. It's faint but I'm sensing a familiar dark aura in this place. Are you sure it's safe?"

The dwarf halted after hearing his words and quickly used his senses to explore the area, then shook his head.

"You're overthinking, Kid. I have a strong detection skill and I can't sense any other living thing besides us here."

Kyle's expression became even more serious.

"No, I'm not saying someone is here. I'm saying someone with a dark aura has visited this place before us."

Zron noticed his troubled eyes and quickly stopped everyone from entering the cave without him.

"I'll take the lead."

Kyle watched the dwarf's back as the latter took the lead. Just then, Yon and Jordan also arrived through another portal that Susan constructed.

The duo, along with Susan, hurriedly followed Zron, and the others walked behind them, chatting faintly about the ethereal tunnel they were about to see.

But for some reason, Kyle didn't feel like going into the cave. The moment he used his scent perception skill, he sensed a very subtle scent of the dark shadow he had sensed with Istalian in the past.

'I can't detect its presence, but just its scent... It feels like that dark thing stayed in this place for a while, which is why its scent is still here.'

Kyle pushed aside his growing anxiety and quickly joined the others before walking alongside Ray and Neon.

But he kept an eye on his surroundings as they passed through the dark cave and entered a well-lit open space.

There, they all saw a big stone platform in the middle with a round glass structure on top. It rose up towards a shimmering, see-through curtain.

Chapter 448 I think we should go back!

Zron's eyes narrowed sharply as he took in the condition of the place.

The stone platform and the round glass structure, which should have been covered in dust, looked like someone had cleaned them thoroughly. And there were countless mana stones and various plants emitting mana scattered around the platform.

'No way...'

He shot a quick glance at Kyle from the corner of his eyes, and a wave of unease washed over him. Something was definitely not right. And to top it off, the shimmering, see-through curtain that transported people to the Sacred Divine Land was now rippling with divine energy. Clearly, someone had recently infused it with power!

Susan, Yon, and Jordan saw the same things and quickly moved to stop everyone before they got close to the stone platform with serious expressions on their faces.

Jian furrowed his brows and asked Susan what was going on. However, Susan just brushed it off, saying it was nothing.

Bia flew over and landed on the red-haired man's shoulder to get a better view of the situation since Jian and Alec were in the front row with Han and Sinon.

Kyle's anxiety started to grow once again as he glanced at the stone platform.

"Guys, I think we should go back!"

He raised his voice to make his point clear, and his voice sounded serious, not open to any refusal. Zron heard Kyle's voice and waved at Susan with a stern expression.

"You, gather everyone and lead them back. There's nothing worth seeing here except for the platform."

Jian clicked his tongue and grumbled quietly to himself.

"It's not like we want to stay. The ethereal tunnel is nothing special anyway."

Susan let out a sigh, and everyone turned around to enter the portal that he created. Zron quickly climbed the platform to check the glass structure above it.

But as the dwarf took another step toward the glass structure, there was a loud click, and the platform beneath him shook with a thunderous sound, causing the entire chamber to tremble with it.

Almost with the speed of lightning, all the mana, divine energy, and the countless mana stones and mana plants scattered around the platform dissipated into tiny particles.

The portal Susan created also faded into tiny particles before anyone could even leave through it. In an instant, everyone became alert as Susan, Yon, and Jordan shouted at them to leave through the cave they arrived from.

Kyle's face hardened as he quickly created a few portals, but all the portals dissipated the moment he built them. That's why he also rushed inside the dark cave with everyone else.

"Damn it! Damn it!"

He cursed when the ceiling above their heads started crumbling. The cave turned suffocating as every speck of mana in the air transformed into particles and was greedily absorbed by the platform.

Meanwhile, Zron froze in front of the glass structure and gasped when the see-through curtain above it started expanding at a speed visible to the naked eye.

It rippled and started sucking everything in its surroundings with a maddening pull. Zron's body turned into a mirage as he vanished towards the cave.

"Someone messed with the ethereal tunnel, it's going to blast-!"

His sentence was cut short because, with a sonic boom, a powerful wave of energy spread out in all directions.

The deafening sound was enough to make everyone's ears stop working.

Then, a loud blast echoed in the air as the entire glass structure above the platform shattered, and the stone platform itself started to disintegrate.

The impact was so powerful that it shook the entire tower of opportunity above the underground chamber, causing the cave to crumble down on top of those inside.

Many surprised cries echoed in the air, and Kyle's eyes dilated as he used his Ice Armor skill on everyone around him.

An invisible veil of ice appeared on their bodies, but his skill dissipated within a split second. Gritting his teeth, he vanished towards Neon when he saw him almost getting crushed under the ceiling. But he spat out blood because the moment he used instant teleportation, the mana he used was forcefully sucked away, causing him to crash into Neon who was already struggling.

Kyle shouted at Zron to do something, who was saving Han and Sinon. He spread out his blue flames in all directions, attempting to freeze everything.

However, just like his skills, the icy flames also faded and turned into particles that were sucked in by the see-through curtain, which had started to tremble wildly.

Alec, Jian, Mia, Susan, and everyone else used all their protective skills to protect themselves and the others around them, but they all cried out because, just like Kyle, their skills also dissipated into bright particles.

- "Ahhh!"

Kyle snapped his eyes toward the phoenix when she cried out and saw Jian, Bia, and Alec scrambling to grab onto something as their bodies were forcefully dragged toward the curtain that had started to spin with lightning-fast speed.

Lara, Yon, Regius, Carcel, and Mia were trying to help the trio, but they were also being dragged toward the curtain. Kyle wanted to use instant teleportation, but his mind started buzzing and his eyes turned hazy. Zron let out a shout in that moment that jolted him out of the daze.

"All of you, brace yourselves! I am going to use all my physical strength to forcefully destroy the curtain!"

The last thing Kyle had in mind was to use instant teleportation, so he vanished towards Bia and the others without caring about the pain he went through when his mana was forcefully sucked away.

His vision blurred as he tried to grab onto the phoenix, but then Bia let out a cry and grew in size. In an instant, golden and crimson flames scattered everywhere, enveloping her in a barrier.

However, she made a mistake because as her flames scattered, the curtain sucked in her divine energy and let out a howl.

Just before Zron's fists could touch the curtain, it ominously stretched out and swallowed the phoenix and the two people closest to her.

Then, right in front of everyone's eyes, the curtain broke apart with a loud rumble, shattering into countless pieces that scattered in every direction.

Chapter 449 Now what would happen to them?

Zron let out an angry cry and used his divine energy to make everything around him come to a standstill. His divine energy finally stopped dissipating now that the curtain had shattered into countless pieces.

The crumbling structure of the cave and underground chamber came to a pause and the rocks and debris that were falling stopped mid-air.

Alec gasped as the tip of a sharp boulder halted just inches from his shoulder. He took a deep breath and steadied his racing heart. As he looked around, he noticed that everyone around him was badly injured.

Ray dragged his injured leg and stared at the place where the curtain scattered into countless pieces with bated breath.

"Kyle!"

He cried out with a horrified expression. Noen also stared at the place where, just a little more than a minute ago, he stood with Kyle, but now the silver-haired man had vanished.

Sinon let out an angry shout as he repeatedly punched his fists into the ground. Kyle, Bia, and Jian were swallowed up by the curtain right before his eyes, and he couldn't do anything.

Regius quickly stopped him. He was feeling the same way, but he couldn't let Sinon harm himself even more when his clothes were already dripping with blood.

But before anyone could fully comprehend just what the hell had transpired in front of their very eyes and what they should do next, a faint ripple formed in the air.

In the next second, a gem rolled out from beneath the place where once the stone platform was present.

Carcel looked at the gem's pure white surface as it stopped in front of him. He hesitantly reached out to pick it up when everyone's attention shifted to the gem. However, as soon as his fingers touched it, ripples appeared on its surface and it exploded into many white particles.

The particles gathered to form a buzzing screen. In an instant, the screen flickered with countless colors as they merged and showed an image of a man with grey pupils staring back at all of them.

Zron's eyes turned red when he saw the man in the image. He knew who it was!

But how was the man alive when his body was destroyed a long time ago?

"You bastard!"

Zron wanted to rip apart the screen created by the resonite gem, something he didn't even possess.

However, when he attempted to touch the screen, his hand simply passed through because it was just a recording.

The man on the screen snickered and ran his hand through his jet-black hair. He let out a menacing chuckle as everyone stared at the screen, holding their breath.

"Yo, yo!? I wonder how much damage the little gift I left behind caused?"

"Hehe, it's a pity I can't see it! However, I'm sure I took my revenge very brutally. Did the ethereal tunnel's entrance blast? Haha, I really want to know how many of the tower's guardians died and how many were forcefully sucked into the curtain, only to be tossed into the vast universe?"

The man's grey pupils widened with amusement. Even though it was just a recording, his expression made it clear that if someone was seeing him on the screen, they had received his gift.

"Tsk tsk, I know many would have survived. But don't worry, I'll come back even stronger to eliminate the remaining guardians! This is my revenge now. Odiak should regret the time he ordered a group of pseudo-divine rank individuals to team up and kill me!"

The man smirked as the screen cracked and scattered into thin air. Zron clenched his fists.

"Darn it!"

He cursed under his breath, but he knew the person he wanted to kill so badly right now had already left through the ethereal tunnel. The man even messed up everything before leaving to ensure that if any of the tower's guardians ever stepped into this space, they would suffer the consequences.

Alec glanced at Zron as he stood up. His throat felt dry as he spoke up and asked the question that everyone wanted to ask.

"Now... what would happen to them? The man on the screen said they would be tossed into the vast universe? But where...?"

He clenched his fists and stared at the dwarf who glanced back at everyone with an unreadable expression.

Zron couldn't tell the truth to the kids, not now at least, because he knew if he did, all of them would blame themselves and it would hinder their growth.

"I know the entrance of the ethereal tunnel has been destroyed, but its path is made of pure divine energy. It's not something anyone can mess up easily."

He paused for a moment.

"The kids are strong, and all of them have reached the pseudo-divine rank. I'm sure they can handle the forces pulling them from every direction and they would go to the sacred land."

Ray dropped to his knees and let out the breath he was holding. So, Kyle would be fine, right? Han approached him and gave him a healing potion before holding his shoulder tightly.

"Don't worry, I know they will be fine. All of them know how to protect themselves."

Alec clenched his fists and glanced at everyone around him with a solemn expression.

"Guys, let's quickly do what we need to because we need to leave the planet as soon as possible! We can't let Kyle, Jian, and Bia get into any danger, no way!"

He turned his gaze towards Zron and pointed towards the chamber where the entrance of the ethereal tunnel was destroyed.

"Zron, you can restore the ethereal tunnel, right? Please do whatever it takes to fix it because instead of searching for them aimlessly, it would be better if we all took the same path as Kyle, Jian, and Bia."

Zron nodded with a serious expression, and Carcel stepped towards Susan.

"What are you waiting for? Create a portal because we don't have much time."

Susan glanced at Zron. He knew the dwarf was hiding something as he formed a portal, and everyone quickly left the cave. In the end, only the three tower's guardians and Zron were left in the space, surrounded by an eerie silence.

Susan's expression turned grim as Zron stepped toward him. The rocks and debris that had been suspended in mid-air began to move away to clear the dwarf's path, but he paused when Yon's voice sounded from behind Susan.

"Just spill it, would you? What's going to happen to the kids?"

"Will they really go to the sacred land?"

Zron closed his eyes and took a deep breath to calm his nerves.

"I don't know. The path of the ethereal tunnel is stronger than its entrance, but... I know that bastard pretty well. Even if he couldn't destroy it completely, he would have damaged a major part of it."

"I can just hope the kids don't get separated or end up on a planet that has already been conquered by the shadow generals..."

Susan massaged his temples as he sat down on his heels.

"But how many planets out there are safe right now, apart from the ones that are hidden from the outside world?"

No one replied to his question as Jordan and Yon started checking the chamber to see how much resources and manpower they needed to restore the ethereal tunnel to its original state.

Zron glanced at Susan, who had a solemn expression on his face, almost as if he was thinking about something really important.

"Hey, old man, are you worried about that silver-haired boy?"

Susan held his knees and stood up.

"I am, I am, even though he annoyed me a lot but I still am. Not to mention, he has something very precious inside his body, and if a greedy person sensed it, he would be in grave danger."

Zron furrowed his brows.

"What? He has something else inside his body? But I didn't sense anything except for that soul-eating artifact, and he had gotten rid of that artifact, hadn't he?"

Susan let out a dry chuckle and shook Zron's shoulder.

"I wonder why as well? Maybe it's because you are greedy? Anyway, now I know what I want to do. I'm going to leave the planet with the other kids to find him, or else my heart won't be at ease."

.....

A while back, after Kyle was sucked into the see-through curtain with Bia and Jian.

It was downright painful, and the thought kept echoing in his head as he fought to figure out where the heck his body was being pulled into.

His green eyes shimmered brightly amidst the vast darkness that surrounded him from all sides. He tried his damndest to stop himself from being dragged further into the abyss.

And he was certain that he had broken a few bones in the process, but he simply was not able to withstand the powerful force that pulled him body.

His pupils shook as he heard Bia's voice in his head, crying out in confusion about what the heck was going on. But with all the chaos in that dark space, he couldn't quite pinpoint where the phoenix was.

After a minute, numerous bright, sizable holes appeared in the darkness.

Those holes were the ones generating the suction force. In that moment, when the brightness cleared up Kyle's vision a little, he finally saw Bia and Jian being sucked into one of the holes. The red-haired man was holding onto the phoenix tightly, shouting words that Kyle couldn't understand.

Kyle wanted to use his skills to grab Bia too, but it didn't work out because his mana and divine energy were sucked in by the dark space around him.

Nonetheless, he reached out his hand toward the phoenix's body, and he swore his fingers touched her feathers.

However, he just couldn't grasp them because all the bright holes in the darkness let out screeching sounds that made his head ring.

His eyes started to close due to the horrible sounds, and he lost consciousness, even though he tried his best not to.

Chapter 450 It's a human, I think?

Kyle's body felt weightless after he passed out, and the blinding light of one of the holes enveloped him from all sides.

The swirling motion made his stomach churn, and after what felt like forever, his body was finally ejected out from the other end of the hole with a thunderous rumble.

The sudden sound startled him awake, causing him to gasp for air and blink his eyes wide open, desperately trying to make sense of his new surroundings.

At that moment, he was captivated by a mesmerizing sight—the countless stars shimmering in the dark expanse of space. However, he couldn't fully appreciate it as the powerful ejection propelled him further into an unknown destination within the vastness of space.

He gritted his teeth and tried to stop himself, to balance himself in mid-air, but the force was just too strong. In the end, he spread out his flames, now that they had stopped dissipating because he had left the ethereal tunnel. The icy flames engulfed his body entirely as he was propelled backward. But when he forcefully turned around and saw a massive planet looming behind him, his racing heart almost stopped for a second.

'Oh, shit! If I crash now, my remaining bones will surely break too!'

Kyle cursed the entire universe in his mind and used all his divine energy to create multiple layers of ice armor around his body. Then he buried his face and head inside his arms and braced himself for the impending impact, which he was certain would be excruciatingly painful.

The air around him started to get hotter, even though he was surrounded by the icy flames. But the moment he passed through the outer boundary of the planet, his face turned pale as the smell of blood and flesh assaulted his nose from all directions. It was so repulsive that it made him gag.

Kyle quickly shut down his senses, or else he knew he would pass out again from the stench alone. Right now he wasn't really in a position where he could properly check his surroundings.

After a while, his body crashed onto a solid surface, causing dust and debris to fly everywhere from the impact.

Just like he thought, the impact was so strong that the ground beneath him caved in. Moments later, the dust finally started to settle, and he coughed up blood, his vision spinning from the whole ordeal.

Pain was shooting through his entire body, and he couldn't even move his limbs while he lay inside the collapsed ground. It made his already blurry vision even worse.

Kyle let out a faint cry and dug his nails into his palms to stay conscious.

One of his trembling hands tried to grab some healing potions from his mind space, but they slipped from his grasp and dropped onto his chest.

However, he clenched his jaw and used the mana in his body to shatter the glass vials above him. The green liquid slowly trickled down his body, and he winced in even more pain as it started to heal his injuries.

His breathing started to calm down as some of the injuries started to heal. Kyle closed his eyes tightly and after a while, he gathered some strength to grab a few more healing potions from his mind space to drink them this time. The liquid trickled down his throat, and he let out a sharp breath.

"I swear... I'm... fuckin' going to tear the person into thousands of pieces... who made me go through all this... shit."

His eyes shone brightly with anger as he glanced at his battered condition. The healing potions were healing his injuries, but he knew it would take at least an hour for him to recover completely. It's rare for him to suffer so much, except for the time when the soul-eating artifact ate his soul. But now, he couldn't help but glance at his luck state again and again.

Did his luck take a nosedive for some reason? Why on earth was he suffering so much? For fuck's sake, didn't he get the nature's favorite unique skill after his luck stat increased? So, why the hell is this happening!?

Kyle's thoughts came to a screeching halt when he saw a pair of crimson, beady eyes outside the spot where his body was sprawled out like a starfish.

'Oh, crap!!'

He forgot to keep an eye on his surroundings because he blocked his senses due to the gross smell!

In an instant, Kyle held his breath and stayed completely still, hoping the white earring in his ear, which had been pretty useless recently, would hide his presence because he could sense the owner of the beady eyes wasn't strong. But he knew he had caused quite a commotion when he landed on this planet, so there were probably a lot of people who saw him unless they were blind.

That's why, he hurriedly spread out his scent perception skill and sensed all the presences around him, and many more heading towards his location with fast speed.

Kyle started sweating because all of them had the same disgusting scent he sensed from the dark race inside the secret realm. No, the scent was a lot stronger than the dark race! Not to mention, the strong scent of blood that oozed out from almost everywhere on the planet.

'Damn it! Damn it! Don't tell me I freaking landed on a planet that's been conquered by the dark race or the second subsidiary branch of the demon race?!'

Kyle got ready to use instant teleportation when a raspy female voice sounded above him, along with a few others.

"How strange... I can't sense anyone. But I'm sure I clearly saw something enveloped in strange flames dropping from the sky."

In the next second, a man with a pair of horns atop his head peered into the pit where he was lying. His crimson eyes twinkled with mirth as they met Kyle's.

The man's lips curled into a beautiful smile as he let out a chuckle before gazing back at someone else.

"Oh, it's a human, I think? And he's still alive."

Kyle let out a dry chuckle that got stuck in his throat as he noticed several pairs of crimson eyes peering into the collapsed ground, fixated on his body.

The man with horns on his head jumped into the collapsed ground and walked towards the human with a smirk that showed he was intrigued by the latter sudden appearance.

He extended his ghostly pale hand, which stood in stark contrast to his dark clothes, to grab Kyle's leg. But he halted when Kyle abruptly raised his leg as if he was about to kick him.

Surprisingly, Kyle used that movement to propel himself up and stand on his feet. Then, he finally noticed the dark two-petal flower engraved on the man's neck, and he knew he was totally screwed.

The man arched an eyebrow, surprised that the human still had the strength to move despite all the injuries on his body.

"Human, does that mean you are strong? It's actually been a while since someone came to this planet."

Kyle took a step back when more people jumped into the collapsed ground.

"So?"

The man started laughing, and a woman with similar horns on Kyle took a step back when more people jumped into the collapsed ground.

her head paused behind him.

She giggled and blinked at Kyle with a sweet smile.

"Human, do you not want to introduce yourself? We are all here to welcome you, anyway."

Kyle chuckled and tilted his head.

"I don't need an introduction, and I won't give one. Simple, right? Because I'm leaving. Goodbye."

The woman opened her mouth to mock him. How could she let the prey that dropped into her lap run away? But her smile stiffened when the human vanished from her sight.

"Huh!?"

Kyle appeared in an area filled with dry trees. He let out a sharp breath and quickly used his scent perception skill to check his surroundings.

After a few minutes, he found a hidden underground tunnel tucked between many huge boulders.

He quickly set up a concealment array outside the tunnel and hid inside the space, waiting for his injuries to heal completely. This way, he could leave the planet without any trouble.

Kyle changed into a clean pair of trousers and a dark shade hoodie, then sat down with his legs crossed. The moment he closed his eyes, he tried to reach out to the phoenix.

But even though he could sense Bia at a very far away place, she didn't reply to him. It was as if she couldn't hear him clearly due to the vast distance or maybe she wasn't conscious.

"I need to find Bia and Jian first. I just hope they don't end up in some dangerous place. But at least they are together."

He let out a sigh as he remembered Jian clinging to Bia's body as if the red-haired man's life depended on it. So, he was sure the duo would have gone to the same place.

Kyle drank another healing potion. Then he quietly started to recover his mana and divine energy. Completely unaware that after he vanished from the sight of the people who found him, a massive uproar erupted throughout the entire planet Aethstria.

The same planet that has been ruled by the nightkin and dark race, the two subsidiary branches of the demon race, for the past fifty years after the fifth shadow general killed one of the strongest demi-humans in existence.