

Bloodline 451

Chapter 451 Planet Aethstria

The nightkin race people who found Kyle were stunned when the human vanished into thin air right before their eyes.

They started searching for the human because planet Aethstria was off-limits to the outside world due to the fifth shadow general, who had been staying on the planet to heal the injuries he suffered while fighting the strongest demi-human.

That's why Kyle's sudden appearance was a shock to them, even though every planet nearby knew that planet Aethstria is very dangerous right now.

Not to mention, it's rare for people to have teleportation skills, but the human have such a strong teleportation skill!

If they manage to find him, they could sell him to one of the twin divine-rank demons on the planet for a hefty price, all because of the human's teleportation skill.

The twin demons possess a unique ability. They can extract skills from anyone's body. That's why the duo is always willing to pay big for people with strong skills.

After the nightkin race started searching for the human, the rumors about a silver-haired man with brilliant green eyes entering planet Aethstria spread like wildfire.

The news reached the dark race as well, and how could they miss out on the fun? So, even though they had doubts about the rumors, they started destroying everything around the planet just to find the human before the nightkin race.

Just within an hour, chaos erupted throughout the whole planet, with two different races competing with each other just to find an unknown human.

After the people of the demi-human race, the ones who used to rule planet Aethstria, were either killed or trapped by the dark race and nightkin race, life on the planet became pretty dull for the two races.

So, Kyle's sudden appearance ignited their spirit to hunt once again. However, no matter where they looked, not even a single person was able to find the silver-haired human, almost as if he didn't exist at all.

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Inside a grand hall, bathed in a soft, dim light that cast long shadows across the stone walls. The air seemed heavy, and right in the center of the hall, there sat a magnificent throne. It was crafted from dark, weathered wood and adorned with ornate carvings and gilded accents.

A man with dark, piercing eyes and pointy ears was sitting upon the throne. Onicuss, the fifth shadow general, let out a yawn. He was trying to rest, but he wasn't able to due to the commotion he could hear from outside the hall.

He let out a snarl and narrowed his eyes to see just who the hell dared to disrupt his rest, and he saw the twin divine-rank demons pacing behind the doors.

"What do they want now? I gave them permission to do whatever they want on this planet and leave me alone."

His voice didn't sound hoarse, but it had a hint of pleasantness to it. If it weren't for the dark five-petal flower glowing on the back of his hand, he could have been mistaken for a normal elf who just gained a lot of strength.

He rubbed his temples and got up from the throne, then gestured toward the entrance of the hall. Right away, the two massive doors shook and creaked open slightly to give the twin demons enough space to enter the hall.

Onicuss watched as the two idiots, dressed in dark robes, entered the hall and quickly knelt before him. He tsked and took a seat to hear what the duo wanted this time.

If they weren't useful, he would have already disposed of them. After all, they are the only ones bold enough to disturb his rest.

One of the demons flinched when he sensed the shadow general's gaze on his head. But he knew that the general wouldn't kill him or his brother because of the unique skill they possess.

Still, he cleared his throat and, without wasting any more time, went straight to the point. Even though he and his brother were useful, he knew the man opposite him would kill them without a second thought if they wasted his precious time.

"Master, we apologize for the disturbance. We just want a little help from you... Please use your strength and close off the planet for a while so no one can leave this planet."

He didn't dare to raise his head, hidden beneath the dark robe, and quietly waited for an answer with his brother, hoping the shadow general would agree.

Onicuss let out a hum and raised his brow. He thought the duo wanted more rewards from him since they recently managed to extract a powerful skill from one of the strongest demi-humans he killed and presented it to him.

"Why?"

The two demons kneeling in front of him flinched again, as if they weren't expecting him to agree so easily or maybe ask such a question.

"It's just that... we heard a human with a strong teleportation skill entered the planet, and we want to extract that skill... So, if master closes off the planet, he won't be able to leave, and we would be able to find him."

The news about the silver-haired human reached the ears of the twin divine-rank demons an hour ago.

The moment the duo found out that the human had a powerful teleportation skill, they were tempted and started searching for him. However, even with their superior senses, they weren't able to locate the human.

At first, they thought the rumors were baseless and wanted to punish the people who spread them. But coincidentally, one of the nightkin race people who saw the human had the ability to show what he saw to others.

After the duo saw the vision shown to them, they finally believed the words of the people who were dragged in front of them for punishment. Now they wanted to find the human, but they knew it wouldn't be good if he somehow left the planet.

In the end, the duo decided to seek help from the shadow general. But they were hesitant and wasted too much time outside the hall.

Onicuss hummed with a bored expression. He was a little surprised that someone dared to step onto the planet even after knowing about his presence, but that's it because he knew the human wasn't a threat. Otherwise, he would have sensed the latter's arrival.

"A human you say?"

The twin demons nodded their heads while not daring to look straight into the shadow general's dark eyes.

"Yes..."

Onicuss rubbed his chin and waved his hand toward the demons.

"It's not hard to seal off the planet. I'll do that... so go and find the human. I believe he is not strong and just someone who accidentally entered the planet."

The two demons' expressions lit up. They quickly thanked the shadow general for his help and left the hall.

Onicuss stared at their fading backs and let out another yawn.

"I will sleep after this..."

He sighed and placed his palm beneath his chin before a dark beam of energy shot out from his other palm. The beam shot up towards the hall ceiling with lightning-fast speed.

After just a few seconds, countless dark ripples started spreading all around the planet in the sky, which was already filled with gloomy clouds.

Onicuss observed with his senses as the entire planet was enveloped in a faint layer of energy. Now, no one would be able to leave the planet without his permission.

He closed his eyes and decided to sleep again because after another year, he had to leave this planet.

Meanwhile, the twin demons started searching for the human once again. They also asked a lot of people under them to find the human, and whoever found him would get a huge reward.

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Completely unaware of the commotion his sudden appearance has caused throughout the planet, Kyle stretched his body and slowly peeked out from where he was hiding. He let out a sigh of relief when he didn't see or sense anyone nearby.

"I need to leave this planet as soon as possible."

He thought his injuries would heal in an hour, but it took longer than he expected, maybe because he broke a lot of bones and had many internal injuries.

Regardless, he was sure that if it was another person who suffered such injuries, the person would have taken at least a few days to make a full recovery.

He removed the concealment array and left his hiding spot. But after only a few minutes, he sensed many dark presences around him.

"Why the hell are there so many people in this place? I didn't sense so many when I decided to rest and heal my injuries."

Kyle quickly vanished in another direction, but once again, he sensed many people in his surroundings.

He cursed under his breath and vanished towards the clouds to leave the planet. But his eyes widened with shock when a layer of energy stopped his path.

"What the heck!?"

He clenched his fist and tried to break or tear the layer of energy. But no matter how much he tried, it just didn't budge.

Chapter 452 Just what have I gotten myself into?

Kyle took a deep breath to calm down and glared at the layer of energy in front of him. It barely rippled after he punched it so many times. He touched the layer of energy and attempted to teleport directly to the other side, but once again, he failed.

He felt a presence behind him and looked back to see a floating woman. She had dark, beady eyes and bat-like wings.

A smirk appeared on her face as she examined Kyle from head to toe, as if she had found a hidden treasure. Her nails were sharp and pointy, and dark veins were visible on her tanned skin where the tight fabric of her dress didn't cover her body.

Kyle's brows furrowed as the foul stench coming from the woman reached his nose. It had been a while since he encountered someone from the dark race, and he could not deny his discomfort.

He could sense that the woman in front of him had pseudo divine rank strength. Kyle's frown deepened as the pair of beady eyes locked onto him, and the woman let out a chuckle.

"I found you! Haha!"

He didn't get what she meant, and he didn't want to know either.

Kyle was about to grab his sword to deal with her and avoid any more trouble. But then, she opened her mouth wide and let out a deafening scream that echoed everywhere, making his ears ring.

"The heck is wrong with her....?"

He immediately got his answer when he saw countless dark dots filling the entire sky around him.

Kyle squinted his eyes and nearly freaked out at the sight of numerous individuals with bat-like wings coming straight toward him from all directions.

The woman's eyes crinkled with amusement as Kyle's expression turned solemn. She tried to attack him with her sharp nails, but a look of surprise crossed her face when the human swiftly moved back and effortlessly dodged her strike.

She glanced at her empty hand, which grabbed nothing but air, and let out a chuckle.

"I knew it! I knew you are strong! How else could you stay hidden for so long? I am the one who found you first, human, so I am not going to let you go!"

She flapped her wings and tried to attack Kyle again, but he dodged her attack once more and fled in another direction. No, it's not because he was scared of a single pseudo divine rank woman.

He could handle her easily, but there's no way he could handle the countless pseudo divine rank individuals approaching him from all directions!

"There are some divine rank individuals as well! Damn it, what did I do to offend them!? I just entered the planet not more than a few hours ago!"

The woman stared at his back and let out a loud shout that echoed in all directions.

"Do you think you can run away? Dream on!"

She flapped her wings and followed behind Kyle, who jumped in mid-air to dodge her attack.

Kyle's eyes flashed with a glint, and he vanished from his spot. The woman halted in her position, glancing around to find the human. She let out a loud shout, realizing that the human had run away.

She gritted her teeth, unable to believe she had let her prey, the same prey that could get her a huge reward, slip away from her hands so easily.

At the same time, Kyle appeared in a distant place filled with broken trees. The ground beneath his feet was desolate, and he even spotted some crumbled stone structures in the distance.

He let out a sigh and rested his hand on a broad, withered tree trunk to contemplate his next move. He knew for certain that someone strong had sealed off the planet, preventing him from leaving. However, as he glanced upward, he caught sight of a pair of ominous crimson eyes peering down at him from above the tree trunk.

"Oh, hey..."

The owner of the crimson eyes smirked at the human, who slowly stepped away from the tree trunk. The man's pale cheeks stretched into a wide, creepy smile.

Kyle let out a dry laugh when he sensed that there were several other people around him as well, except for the man sitting above the tree trunk.

"No, it's bye I guess..."

He vanished again before the man could attack him. This time, he appeared inside a crumbled structure that looked like someone's house.

Kyle quickly grabbed the edge of his hoodie and pulled it over his face. Only his eyes were visible as he peeked out from behind a half-standing wall to glance at the people floating in the distance. Some of them were from the dark race, and Kyle was sure that the people with pale skin and crimson eyes belonged to the second subsidiary branch of the demon race.

"There's something wrong. I feel like they are searching for me... But why? I need to confirm my suspicions."

Kyle whispered under his breath and fixed his gaze on one of the unsuspecting men who had crimson eyes. He took a deep breath and drew a portal that materialized before him. Slowly, he stepped into the portal and appeared behind the man dressed in tightly-fitted blue clothes.

He grabbed the man's mouth and, before the other people nearby could notice, dragged the struggling man back into the portal that dispersed in the air.

Kyle appeared inside another crumbled structure and used his fear skill on the struggling man, causing the latter to cease all movement and start trembling. Kyle lowered his voice and grabbed the man's neck with his other hand.

"If you make even a single sound... I'm going to kill you, got it?"

The man nodded, and he tossed him aside. Kyle formed a ball of water and washed his hand with furrowed brows.

The scent coming from the people who had dark petals engraved on their bodies, he just couldn't handle it because it always overwhelms his sense of smell.

Kyle sat down on his heels and stared at the man whose already pale skin had started to turn purple under the fear skill.

"This skill has gotten a lot stronger... it's very effective against anyone below pseudo-divine rank."

"So, I have some questions I want to ask. Just nod your head if you agree, or else I can just kill you and find someone else."

Right away, the man opposite him scooted back a little and nodded his head vigorously. Kyle hummed, satisfied. It seems he should use the fear skill more often because he could see the man's eyes starting to turn hazy with fear.

"Okay, now tell me, are you and the people outside searching for me?"

The man nodded again, and then Kyle asked why they were searching for him. But the answer he got wasn't pleasant.

"You mean there's a big bounty placed on my head by some divine-rank demons because they want to extract the teleportation skill from my body?"

Kyle rubbed his forehead, feeling a little distressed and bewildered. Within just a few hours, the entire planet was hunting him. Why? Just because of his teleportation skill?

He had been chased by many people, and not just people, but monsters too. But not even in his wildest dreams, he thought that one day all the residents of an entire planet would be hunting him. He let out a wry smile and stared at the man.

"Do you have know anything about the layer of energy surrounding the planet right now?"

"Who created it, and is there a way to bypass it?"

Kyle waited for an answer, but the man opposite him suddenly became quiet. In the next second, his hazy eyes started to clear up, as if he had just thought of something that gave him the courage to overcome the fear instilled inside him.

"Why should I tell you... human!?"

Kyle clicked his tongue, and the man opposite him froze in his spot as several ice spears materialized around him. Their sharp tips were just inches away from his neck. The man watched as the pair of bright green eyes peered at him, and the human across from him spoke in a cold voice that sent shivers down his spine.

"I believe I asked you some questions?"

But the information Kyle got after breaking one of the man's legs wasn't good at all.

He crash-landed on a planet where the fifth shadow general has been staying for years, and to make matters worse, the shadow general was the one who wrapped the planet in a layer of energy!

Kyle waved his hand, and the many floating ice spears immediately killed the man opposite him.

"Just what have I gotten myself into? One problem after another... I still have to find Bia and Jian."

"I don't even wanna think about Jian's bad luck right now... I can just hope the duo don't end up on a planet where the first shadow general or Azazeal is present..."

Kyle smacked his mouth with a curse.

"I shouldn't think about the worst!"

Chapter 453 Just a little more to go!

Kyle sensed a few people coming towards the place he was hiding, and he vanished in a different direction. He wandered among the collapsed structures and avoided every person he encountered on the way.

The gloomy sky above his head began to darken as the dark clouds concealed the faint light that barely made it through.

Kyle stopped beside a lake and pulled the hoodie down from his head.

However, he didn't dare to get close because he saw many skeletons scattered around. Plus, the lake had started to dry up, and the remaining water inside was too dark to be called water. He released a sigh and settled behind a boulder to spend the night there since he did not sense anyone nearby, at least not in close proximity.

"I should try using my flames to break through the layer of energy... maybe it will work? Just a small opening would be enough for me, because once I leave this planet, I can easily escape."

He closed his eyes but snapped them open a minute later when he sensed someone approaching from the distance.

"Darn it! Don't they need to sleep or have a home where their parents are waiting for them? It's so late, and they are still searching for me..."

"It's only my first day on this planet, and I'm already frustrated from running around just to find a quiet and safe spot."

Kyle vanished in another direction, but he screeched to a halt in mid-air when he saw a majestic castle amidst the barren land, surrounded by many stone houses.

His nose twitched as he used his scent perception skill, despite the discomfort, and sensed many powerful treasures inside the grand castle adorned with towering stone walls. He hasn't smelled a single treasure on this planet since he arrived here, and now he sensed so many in a single place... almost as if someone dumped the whole planet's treasures inside the castle.

Kyle glanced at the dark aura surrounding the castle and, without a second thought, he turned around and fled in another direction.

"No way am I going inside when this place could very well be where the shadow general is staying."

"I can fight a divine rank individual right now, but I'm sure the strength beyond that would be too much for me to handle."

In that exact moment, inside the castle, Onicuss opened one of his eyes and his gaze traveled before he fixed his eye on the floating silver-haired human. His lips trickled upward into a smile as he whispered under his breath.

"So, the human has another strong skill besides the teleportation skill?"

He glanced at his feet that had stepped on a fleeting transparent energy, a energy that shouldn't have been visible to him because it was just someone else's perception. However, he sensed it immediately the moment it entered his range.

"A powerful skill that allows its user to smell everything in their surroundings."

Onicuss let out a chuckle. It's the first time he was glad the twin demons successfully extracted the transcendent rank awareness skill from the strongest demi-human body he killed. Now he could naturally sense everything as long as it was in his surroundings.

He lifted his feet and the thing beneath dissipated into thin air.

"How strange... I wouldn't have sensed it because just as his senses were about to reach me, he suddenly withdrew as if he knew my exact location. But I still felt it... It's a shame that even though I was trying to sleep, I couldn't."

He mused with interest and closed his eyes. But then he opened them again and rose from the throne. The tight-fitting grey attire on his body stretched as he started stepping toward the exit of the hall.

Onicuss's pointy ears twitched as a few individuals from the dark race, stationed outside the hall, greeted him with their heads bowed to the ground.

They dared not look up and even held their breath in his presence. But his attention was captured by the silver-haired human who had already run far away from his castle in just a few seconds.

Onicuss beckoned one of the individuals kneeling in front of him, and the woman freaked out when she saw a smirk on his face. It was a smile that only appeared on the shadow general's face when he found something interesting that he wanted to play around with.

"Just contact the twin demons and ask them to follow my presence. I think I found the human those idiots have been searching for so long."

The woman heard his every word, but before she could nod, the shadow general had already vanished from her sight. She let out a relieved sigh and quickly left with the others to inform the twin demons.

Onicuss appeared outside the castle in mid-air. He narrowed his dark eyes and spotted the human in a far away place.

The latter had tucked his silver hair inside the hoodie, probably to stay as invisible as possible in the dark night. Onicuss rubbed his chin and floated towards the human slowly.

"His presence is hidden from everyone below the pseudo divine rank for some reason... Oh, it's because of the earring he's wearing. It's an artifact."

He watched as Kyle started moving towards the layer of energy he created.

"Don't tell me he's trying to break it? Haha, it's not possible. Even a transcendent rank individual can't break it, let alone a weak human who hasn't even entered the true divine rank yet."

Onicuss chuckled and watched as the human punched the layer of energy again and again, only to fail in the end. At that exact moment, he sensed two individuals behind him as he floated toward the human, but he ignored the duo because he knew they were the twin demons.

He yawned and shook his head at the human's effortless struggle before asking the twin demons behind him to go and quickly grab the human because it was getting boring.

"I did say he can't break it-!"

Onicuss halted mid-sentence when bright blue flames reflected in his dark eyes. The flames surged all around the human's body before quickly traveling toward the layer of energy with lightning-fast speed.

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A while back, Kyle looked around to make sure nobody was nearby. Then, in the next second, he used his divine energy to create the blue flames that surrounded him and quickly approached the layer of energy.

He clenched his fist and punched the layer as the flames covered the area he hit. Kyle's ears twitched when he heard a faint crack, and his eyes lit up.

'It's working!'

He punched the layer again with even more strength, using his divine energy to coat his fist. Under his eyes, the icy flames started to seep into the layer of energy, and ice started to form on its surface.

'Just a little more to go!'

Kyle punched the same spot again as the flames covered his fist and the layer of energy in front of him. But then, a deep voice sounded beside him.

"Oho, you are weak, but it seems you will be able to break it..."

"Of course-!"

Kyle's eyes widened as he realized his mistake. He was supposed to be alone! So, who on earth asked him the question?!

He vanished from his spot and appeared in the distance before he fixed his gaze onto the source of the voice.

The first thing that caught his attention were the pair of dark eyes, and then he noticed the wide smile on the face of the elven man floating opposite him.

Kyle clenched his fist and furrowed his brows. He failed to sense the man, even though the latter had come so close to him. Doesn't that mean the person opposite him was very strong?

'But he looks quite ordinary...'

Nevertheless, he moved back further and quickly sniffed the air.

But just as Kyle suspected, he couldn't detect anything from the man dressed in gray across from him, as if the man's presence was merely an illusion.

In the next second, Kyle moved his eyes toward the two individuals flying toward him from the distance.

He wrinkled his nose as a disgusting stench of blood and flesh emanated from the duo, whose bodies were covered in dark robes and entered his nostrils.

'Ugh...'

Kyle pinched his nose before he emptied the contents of his stomach. He quickly made up his mind to disappear in another direction but paused when the two individuals in dark robes started chuckling, albeit faintly.

The twin demons stopped a little further away from Kyle because of the shadow general who had his eyes fixed on the human. However, the human ignored him and kept his eyes on the two demons who were whispering to each other.

"Brother... we found the human, now he can't escape! Hehe."

"No, it wasn't us who found him, it was our master!"

Kyle's face turned rigid when he heard the duo's faint conversation.

He didn't even dare to look at the smiling elven man who had been boring holes into his body with his intense gaze.

'Don't tell me this ordinary-looking elven man is the shadow general? But he doesn't have any visible dark petals engraved on his body, and I can't sense any dark energy from him!?'

Chapter 454 I will give you a good spot among my servants.

Kyle slowly began moving backward in mid-air with a face that didn't reveal his inner panic. His expression turned serious when the elven man started to move towards him. He blinked and used instant teleportation to disappear in a different direction.

'I am fucked!'

Onicuss' lips curled into a smirk as the human across from him vanished into thin air. He narrowed his eyes and raised his hand to envelop the space around him inside a barrier. A comfortable wooden chair materialized beneath him in mid-air, and he sat down. Onicuss rested his palm beneath his chin as he watched the human with an amused expression.

Meanwhile, Kyle didn't dare to look back as he kept using instant teleportation to go to the other end of the planet. He was hoping to find an abandoned cave or something to hide in. But his eyes widened because after the third time he used instant teleportation, he realized that the scenery around him didn't change at all.

He clenched his hoodie, which covered his head, and slowly looked back at the man who had been watching him with an amused smile.

"You... "

Kyle's shut his mouth when he sensed countless more people around him.

The night sky started to turn even more ominous as individuals from the dark race and nightkin race began to fill the sky and surround the area from all sides. The air rumbled with the distant echoes of their laughter and cheers. It seemed they were delighted to have found their prey, the prey they had been searching for so long, all thanks to the shadow general.

Kyle's face hardened as he stared at the man, who he was now sure is the shadow general. He sensed many pseudo-divine rank and divine-rank individuals around himself.

'What does he want to do? I believe he alone is enough to finish me, so why? Don't tell me this bastard wants to watch me struggle...'

He knew he was in big trouble.

No, if only it could be called trouble... he was literally floating between so many enemies that his chances of survival were almost non-existent. Not to mention, he still had no idea about the rank of the elven man sitting in the chair before him.

Could he be a transcendent rank individual or maybe even higher?

"Just when I thought things couldn't possibly get any worse..."

Kyle whispered under his breath in a faint voice, but he knew everyone around him heard him because the two dark-robed individuals floating behind the shadow general burst into laughter.

He would be lying if he said he was not overwhelmed. He wanted to curse so badly, but had no idea who to curse... The only thing that gave him courage was knowing he was part of the future Nine saw.

'Damn, back then I was so sure that the future had changed because Nine told me about it. And now, I'm betting on that same future. Huh, honestly, getting beaten up by Alec and beating him in return is a lot better than dying.'

Kyle almost wanted to laugh at his thoughts but held it in because he knew people around him would think he went crazy, seeing no way to survive.

He pulled down the hoodie that was covering his head. His silver hair glistened in the darkness as he locked eyes with the elven man sitting on the chair in mid-air across from him.

The man had been strangely quiet, but Kyle did not care. He got ready to face the worst nightmare of his life. After all, he had already tried to escape using instant teleportation, but he failed.

"So, fight is it? Alright, let's fight 'cause I don't think I can escape."

Kyle grabbed his sword from his mind space, but the shadow general only raised a surprised brow and waved his hand.

In an instant, the twin demons behind Onicuss floated forward to fight Kyle. Not just the duo, but the countless people flying in the sky also surrounded the silver-haired human from all directions.

Kyle's face stiffened when the twin divine-rank demons attacked him with many other divine rank individuals. He blocked one of the attacks as his sword crashed with the pointy nails aimed at his heart, but he was just a pseudo-divine rank individual. That's why he was pushed back in mid-air.

As the second attack aimed at his heart arrived, he vanished toward Onicuss to at least wipe that disgusting smile off the man's face.

But he let out a frustrated shout when a barrier stopped him from approaching the man sitting on the chair, and many people flew forward to attack him.

"The hell... I told you I would fight you! Why do I need to go through so many people just to reach you!? That's not fair!"

Onicuss rubbed his chin and narrowed his eyes at the human, who blocked another attack aimed at his back and vanished into thin air, only to appear behind one of the divine-rank individuals to kick them into a portal that materialized in the air.

The air lit up with arrays of skills as they were thrown at Kyle. But everyone was growing increasingly frustrated due to the human's teleportation skill.

Kyle jumped back after he killed a pseudo-divine rank individual amidst the crowd. His ears twitched when he faintly heard the voice of the shadow general amidst all the sounds around him.

"There's something in your body I can't sense... what is it, human? It's strong enough to counter my perception... how interesting."

Kyle's face darkened.

No way, he couldn't let the secret of his bloodline be known to others, especially not to the shadow general! He still remembers how that woman who took Yue, Nine, and the others with her wanted to peer into his body just because she couldn't exactly understand the essence in his body. The pain he felt in return was unbearable.

He blinked and disappeared into the distance, away from the shadow general. Also, to divert the man's attention from his body, he took out countless mana stones from his mind space and scattered them in the air around him. In the next second, many portals lit up in the air and illuminated the dark sky.

Then Kyle used his fear skill. His eyes glowed a bit, and all those below the pseudo divine rank stopped in their tracks, and their eyes started to turn hazy.

Kyle's head throbbed, even though the skill didn't require mana or anything else. He still had to concentrate to spread it out to such a vast space. Moreover, he noticed, with a clenched jaw, that he couldn't maintain it for a long time.

But he took advantage of the few seconds he got and used a big part of his divine energy to spread out his ice domain. Kyle felt his strength rising when an ice barrier spread out to enclose him and a lot of people around him inside a space that separates them from the surroundings.

Kyle's breath turned heavy. He knew his domain had the ability to make itself invisible from the outside world, and not many people can enter inside without his permission. But it consumed too much of his divine energy and mana, and he knew that to maintain it for a long time, he needs more mana and divine energy.

'That's why I don't use the powerful skills too often... they are useful but they require too much energy.'

The people inside the domain watched as countless icicles formed around them, their icy sharp tips pointed directly towards their bodies. The air grew increasingly cold as Kyle clenched his fist, and the icicles shot out towards them with lightning-fast speed.

Many people who were still struggling to overcome the fear skill cried out as the icicles penetrated their bodies. But in the next second, the air stilled and Kyle gritted his teeth when he saw a crack in his domain.

'Darn it! I thought he wouldn't interfere!'

He watched as the icy barrier started to shatter. All of a sudden, a chill ran down Kyle's spine and he vanished from his spot. In his place, Onicuss watched as his hand grasped nothing but thin air.

"The human possesses yet another impressive skill. Now, I wonder how many more strong skills he has."

Onicuss chuckled, but a look of disdain appeared on his face as he glanced the injured people around him. He couldn't help but feel repulsed by these weaklings who couldn't even handle a single human who hadn't even reached the divine rank yet.

He raised his dark eyes, and the domain Kyle created shattered into countless pieces before fading into thin air.

Onicuss watched the fading ice and glanced at the panting and sweating silver-haired human across from him. He knew the latter had probably used up all his divine energy, and he wouldn't be able to fight any longer.

But for the first time in his life, he was so interested in someone. That's why, even though he wanted to kill the human before him and extract all his skills, he offered him a way to survive.

"I have to admit, you are strong. I will give you a good spot among my servants. So, how about you sign a contract with me, human?"

Chapter 455 It's bearable

Kyle let out a chuckle and tried his best to calm his breathing. He had no idea what contract the man opposite him was talking about— but one thing was for sure, he had no plans of becoming someone else's servant. Not in this life, at least. Sweat glistened on his hairline, even though his body had started to turn colder with each passing second.

He ran his fingers through his hair and checked the remaining mana and divine energy in his body.

'Not much... huh, not even enough to finish one third of them.'

Kyle glanced at his hands, trying to sense the bloodline within his body. The bloodline that had turned eerily silent from the moment he entered this planet.

'It's not enough... I am not strong enough. But instead of waiting for death, it's better to give it my all. It's dangerous... but maybe if I use my essence to injure the shadow general, I will be able to leave this planet in one piece.'

Onicuss smiled as he watched the human opposite him, who had become quiet. Not just the human, but all around him, the air turned silent as the twin demons and all those who were ready to fight Kyle once again stared at the shadow general with bewildered expressions. No one had any idea as to why he wanted to take an unknown human under his wing.

Amidst the silence, time trickled by and after a minute, Onicuss's patience started to wear thin. He peered at Kyle with a smile that didn't reach his eyes.

"So, what's your answer, human?"

Kyle glanced at his hands one more time. He really hated it when he had no way out. It frustrated him that he felt powerless, to the point where a man who couldn't even live his life without his owner's permission could run all over him. He blinked and tilted his head to stare directly into the pair of dark eyes peering at him.

"I would have agreed... Only if the stench coming from you wasn't so repulsive."

"And besides, I despise working under others, especially not under a man who himself is a slave to someone else and doesn't even know when he will die just because his owner wants it."

Onicuss's smile faded, and his dark eyes grew even darker. The air around him quivered, causing the twin demons who could sense his mood to quickly retreat. The duo even silently ordered all the people floating nearby to move away because they knew that now the shadow general was angry.

Kyle also sensed the air around him tense, but he did not stop as he channeled his mana and covered his body in a faint layer of ice armor. He clenched his fists and grabbed his sword.

"I am not going to be your servant, not yours, not anyone else."

"You have so much power, but what's the point when in the end you have to bow to someone else? You don't even have the right to decide for your life."

"I pity you-!"

Kyle's words were cut short when a powerful gust of wind neared his stomach so fast that he could not even react. He was only able to sense the attack when Onicuss' fist collided into his stomach, and he was flung backward in mid-air.

Kyle gasped with wide eyes as the air from his stomach was punched out. It was painful, so much that his vision blurred, yet he still tried to stop his body in mid-air. But before he could, another attack landed on his stomach, and his body was hurled downward with lightning-fast speed before crashing into the barren land with a resounding boom.

Onicuss rubbed his wrist and unclenched his fist. He gazed down at the cloud of dust that emerged from where the human's body crashed.

"Huh, you pity me? You?"

He sneered. In the next second, the night sky lit up as shimmering particles spread out from his palm, brightening the space around him. All the people around Onicuss quickly retreated further back in mid-air as the man glanced at the silver-haired human who once again started floating opposite him.

Kyle wiped the blood oozing out from his mouth and glanced down at his stomach where a massive injury was peeking out from his torn clothes.

He shook his head to clear his vision and attacked the shadow general, despite his whole body screaming with pain.

"Ha... You have no idea how much I want to kill you right now... But I am not able to."

Onicuss snickered and tilted his body to dodge Kyle's fist, but then the human vanished from his sight. He chuckled, and his body disappeared into a blur as Kyle's sword phased through the place where the shadow general should have been.

Kyle raised his head and watched with bated breath. In the distance, Onicuss grabbed his collar with both hands, smoothing out the few wrinkles before staring at the human with a cold smile.

"Me too. I want to kill you so badly as well, and believe me, I can. A single attack is enough. But I won't, because I want to see you beg for it... you know what?"

His body turned into a blur again as Kyle attacked him once more. In that exact moment, a deep voice sounded in Kyle's ears as someone tightly grabbed his shoulder.

"Death."

Kyle gritted his teeth upon hearing a cracking sound from his shoulder. His whole arm felt numb, and he knew the bone in his shoulder had been forcefully twisted enough to break it.

'Damn! It's painful!'

He clenched his other fist and punched the person behind him, but his body was thrown forward in mid-air when a kick landed on his back before his fist could even touch Onicuss.

Onicuss chuckled when the human managed to maintain his balance in mid-air and glared at him with eyes that screamed he wanted to kill him. He felt satisfied for some strange reason when he saw Kyle's bloodied condition.

"I like the fire in your eyes. The eyes that I will dig out and feed to the monsters after you take your last breath."

Kyle gritted his teeth and moved his shoulder, trying to alleviate the pain a little. He clenched his jaw, refusing to let out even a single noise as he retrieved several healing potions from his mind space. The glass vials shattered in his hand as he threw the liquid onto his body. Amidst the stinging pain, he glanced at the man standing opposite him.

"Your eyes aren't too bad either... How about you dig them out first?"

Onicuss let out a sigh and shook his head at the human's bold remarks.

"Of course, it wouldn't be fun if you lost so easily. I want to see just how long you can hold on before you beg me to kill you."

Kyle narrowed his eyes as Onicuss disappeared from his sight. He tried to use instant teleportation to vanish as well, but before he could, someone grabbed his leg and forcefully dragged him back.

Onicuss laughed as the human let out his first scream and blood trickled down from Kyle's upper body. He knew how painful it could be when someone's body was pulled out from the void that teleported them to another place. No, not because he had experienced it, but because he has a similar skill that allows him to enter a secret space.

Nonetheless, he mused, as he had actually thought he wouldn't be able to grab Kyle in time. It seemed the human had exhausted all his divine energy and had resorted to using his mana to fight back.

"The teleportaion skill is strong but dangerous at the same time, isn't it?"

Kyle clenched his jaw and kicked the man with his other leg. Surprisingly, Onicuss let him go before he could even struggle, but he couldn't maintain his balance and crashed down once again.

His body lay amidst the floating sand and dust as another crater formed in the ground due to the impact. Kyle spat out blood, which stained his jaw and neck red, and struggled to clear his vision. He clenched the sand around him and took a deep breath before grabbing another healing potion from his mind space. However, he noticed that his injuries weren't healing as fast as before. His whole body was covered in blood, and he had no strength left.

'I can't... I can't give up. Not until I know Nine, Yue, Bia, and Jian are safe...'

Onicuss landed beside him and sat down on his heels with a smirk.

"Does it hurt? Do you want me to make it less painful?"

But his expression darkened when Kyle chuckled and stared into his eyes.

"It's bearable... you are not as strong as I thought..."

A vein bulged on the shadow general's forehead. He couldn't believe that even in such a condition, the human had the strength to talk to him like that. Onicuss stood up with a dark expression.

"Very well. Very well."

Chapter 456 Why is he here?

Onicuss clenched his fist and attacked Kyle's heart, a spot he had been avoiding so the human wouldn't die too early. But now, the human was getting on his nerves to the point where it bothered him in an unpleasant manner.

Kyle's eyes narrowed into slits as his ears picked up the faint rustling of the wind. In that moment, his eyes started glowing and he managed to fix his gaze on the fist rapidly closing in on him.

'Damn it!'

He strained his muscles and used his agility to its fullest to move away on the ground as Onicuss' fist landed an inch away from him. In an instant, the land blasted into many pieces as the shadow general shifted his gaze to locate the human who had once again vanished into thin air.

Kyle coughed up more blood as the last remnants of mana in his body dissipated, just like his divine energy after another usage of instant teleportation. His body crashed to the ground just meters away from Onicuss, who stepped towards him with a raised eyebrow.

"Ugh..."

Kyle grabbed his knees and managed to stand on his feet, but then he saw another attack heading towards him. He stumbled backward, attempting to block the attack, yet he couldn't do it in time. However, just as Onicuss' hand was an inch away from his heart, under the watchful eyes of many, a blue shield zoomed out from his chest and stopped the shadow general's attack.

Immediately, a loud sound echoed through the air as Onicuss' narrowed his eyes and his hand collided with the shield, which shimmered in the darkness.

Kyle also glanced at the familiar shield. It had been a while since he had seen it, as it hadn't been very useful to him after he found it in the ancient realm. Then he raised his eyes to fix his gaze on the man opposite him.

"Ha... That was close..."

Onicuss let out a snort and attacked once again, this time with a little more strength. Kyle's breath hitched as the blue shield shattered into countless fragments right before his eyes, and the impact sent his body flying several meters back.

His body rolled in mid-air, and his feet skidded on the ground as he desperately tried to maintain balance with gritted teeth. However, his vision started to blur as blood rushed to his head, causing him to drop to his knees.

He raised his head and glanced at the figure clad in grey. Onicuss let out a smile and gazed down at him.

"So, do you want to die yet, human?"

Kyle's fingers twitched as he reached out for his sword, which trembled in the distance, far from his body. He had been gathering his essence since the beginning of the fight. It was very hard to focus on multiple things at once, but he somehow managed to gather a few particles. He just hoped the essence would at least injure the man standing across from him.

Kyle knew the secret of his bloodline would be revealed once he used the particles, but right now he didn't give a damn. His life was what mattered most, and he couldn't let the person who is trying to kill him walk away unscathed.

His eyes turned blank as he contemplated the worst outcome. If he were to die today, what would be the point of having such a strong bloodline? It would be meaningless.

He needed to use it to kill or injure the one who made him so miserable, just to reassure himself...

Onicuss watched as Kyle's fingers beckoned the sword in the distance. The shadow general couldn't help but laugh at the human's final struggle.

Nevertheless, he found amusement in the fact that he had never met someone so incredibly stubborn in his entire life. The human knew that he would die, yet he refused to submit like all the others Onicuss had encountered thus far.

"Do you still think you can fight back?"

"How pathetic. Can't you see you are already at death's door? Your breath is leaving your body, human."

Kyle's eyes crinkled, even though his whole body was screaming with pain. His clothes were torn and countless massive injuries covered every inch of his body.

"I don't think... I can let you live..."

He whispered with a barely audible voice, but due to the silence, everyone floating in the air heard his words loud and clear.

Onicuss's lips curved upward into a smile, and he deliberately let out a gasp.

"I'm so scared. What are you going to do? Punch me or stab me with the sword you are secretly reaching for?"

"Oho, you picked the blade?"

Kyle grabbed the sword and watched as Onicuss stepped back. In the next second, the elven man coated his fist with a layer of energy that had a pure white color. The shadow general's eyes showed that he thoroughly enjoyed Kyle's struggle.

"Human, tell me your name. I'm giving you a chance to be remembered by me because you made my day today."

Kyle's eyes narrowed as he pushed his body up to stand on his feet. Immediately, he wobbled as blood trickled down his body and almost lost his balance again. But he managed to stabilize himself by stabbing the sword in his hand into the ground. He glanced at the shadow general.

"You want to remember me? Alright, it's Kyle... my name. Don't you ever forget this name because I will be the one to kill you."

He meant what he said, even if he would have to die under the countless people around him after injuring the shadow general. He wouldn't regret it.

Onicuss's expression hardened when he saw the confidence and hint of arrogance in the human's eyes, which seemed to shine even brighter, almost as if they were burning.

"Kyle? A good name, I must say. But has no one ever told you that you are very annoying and have a knack for getting on others' nerves?"

He watched as the human clenched one of his fists and let out a strained chuckle.

"Maybe... my mind is too hazy to recall such little details."

Kyle quickly grabbed the sword he had stabbed into the ground. However, he caught Onicuss off guard by hurling the sword in a different direction. Then he leaped towards the shadow general. As he clenched his fist, a surge of excruciating pain shot through his spine. But he focused on the few blue particles he had gathered inside his body and controlled them, so they would move towards his fist.

'Now... everything depends on the essence in my body...'

Onicuss chuckled and swayed his neck from side to side as he locked his eyes on Kyle. He knew better than to underestimate his enemies, especially the human coming at him, who had continuously surprised him. He was aware that the human must have something up his sleeve, which explained his confident lunge.

That's why he used a significant portion of his strength as he raised his fist envelope in white energy to match Kyle's attack. The power he used was enough to severely injure a divine-ranked individual, let alone a badly wounded pseudo-divine human.

However, what happened next surprised Onicuss once again.

He watched as Kyle approached him, but then suddenly, the human's face displayed an expression that he had not seen since their first encounter. The expression of dread and utter disbelief.

Onicuss wondered what happened in just a split second for the human to change his expression, but yet again, he was surprised when Kyle's fist collided with his. He felt a faint tickle on his knuckles and watched as the human was flung backward. Kyle's body skidded on the ground for a minute before his back crashed into a boulder with a resounding boom.

The shadow general looked at his fist in utter confusion. So, the human's last attack didn't mean anything?

Onicuss couldn't believe his prediction about how Kyle would use a powerful attack or secret artifact against him was completely wrong.

"....?"

But after a few seconds of silence, he burst into laughter so loud that the air around him quivered. Seeing the shadow general laughing, everyone floating in the air also started to laugh at the human.

Amidst the countless noises, all of a sudden, the mana and all type of energies on the planet started to dissipate.

Onicuss's smile vanished when the black five-petal flower engraved at the back of his hand started to emit intense heat.

He snapped his head up toward the dark sky, which began to brighten up with a deep red and purple hue, enveloping the entire planet in its embrace.

All of a sudden, everyone floating in the air started gasping for air, and Onicuss let out a shocked cry. His forehead turned sweaty, and his hands started trembling as he lowered his head, not even daring to gaze at the sky that started to tear up with countless cracks.

"No... why is master here!? Why!? No one had seen him for so many years..."

Chapter 457 He was here, right?

The people in the sky, including the twin divine-rank demons, plummeted to the ground when a tremendous force descended on the planet.

Countless panicked cries echoed in the air as the land beneath them also started to crack. Then, spatial tunnels started forming in the air as violent currents surged out of them, sucking everything in their surroundings inside.

The dark sky soon turned murky with a mixture of purple and red hues that danced around like electricity. At that very moment, a colossal crack ripped through the sky, stretching wider and longer with lightning-fast speed.

Onicuss's eyes quivered as he instinctively knelt because the black five-petal flower engraved on the back of his hand had begun to react once more, urging him to bow in front of the powerful presence.

His strength felt insignificant as a cold and empty gaze, which sent shivers down his spine, bore down on his back.

He cursed at the twin demons as they started fleeing in different directions, along with many other divine-rank individuals. The gaze was so powerful that all those with strength lower than pseudo-divine lost consciousness under its influence.

If only someone looked up right now, they would have noticed the massive, obsidian eye with two purple slits in the middle peering out from the colossal crack.

The eye possessed an aura of detached indifference as it surveyed the planet, yet a ripple of disturbance traversed its vacant gaze when it couldn't find what it was searching for.

After a few seconds, which felt like an eternity to those under its gaze, the eye closed, and the crack began to mend itself. Onicuss breathed a sigh of relief as the gaze on his back faded and the countless spatial tunnels around him started disappearing one by one. But the shadow general's thundering heart nearly leaped out of his chest when he nervously glanced upward and saw a figure materializing in the sky, as the red and purple hues converged together.

Onicuss couldn't help but let out a hiccup at the sight, his body swaying as he fought to maintain his balance. Despite his restless heart, a complete figure materialized from the red and purple hues within seconds, dressed in a plain white shirt and dark trousers.

It was a young man, no older than twenty, with purple eyes and black hair. The man stared down at every person on the planet before fixing his empty gaze upon Onicuss, who scrambled to make sense of what the heck was happening.

His form disappeared, only to reappear before Onicuss in an instant. The shadow general bowed his head until it touched the ground to greet him, but the man appeared indifferent as his gaze swept across the desolate and ravaged terrain that surrounded them.

Onicuss whispered under his breath as he discreetly raised his head to gaze at the man opposite him.

"Mast...er?"

However, he soon realized that the person in front of him wasn't exactly the same he had met in the past.

More precisely, the man's appearance looked a little off because he seemed like just an ordinary human... only if one ignored his empty eyes.

Onicuss shut his eyes as a deep and resonant voice came out from the man's lips, and he strode forward in a particular direction where a tent had formed in the middle of a massive boulder.

"He was here, right?"

Onicuss had no idea what he heard because his head was a jumbled mess.

"Huh...?"

He cleared his mind of all unnecessary thoughts and tried to grasp the man's words. Yet, even after understanding them, he couldn't help but ponder over whom the man was referring to. However, when he raised his head and saw where the man was going, a sudden realization dawned on him. He stuttered as he hurriedly stood up and followed the man from a distance of one meter.

"Th...at human...?"

Onicuss held his breath with a pale expression when the man walking in front of him nodded.

'Wahhhh, but I killed that human!? Right now, I can't even sense his presence... Don't tell me... he is someone master knows...? No no no, I am dead if it's true!'

He screamed internally as he watched the man who waved his hand to clear the dust and bent down to inspect the tent on the boulder. Onicuss let out a frightened gasp when the pair of purple eyes turned around to gaze at him, and the man stood up.

"He was here, but I guess he escaped. I can't believe he risked his life and used the spatial tunnels that were created due to the presence of my original body. If he used the tunnel... he probably went to the no mana land."

Onicuss watched as one of the man's hands started fading into a red and purple hue, but it stabilized once again when the man blinked and glanced at his hand while speaking.

"What's your number?"

Onicuss answered with a barely audible voice, feeling aggrieved that his master didn't even know his name.

"5th..."

"So, you are the last one? I was wondering why you are so weak."

Onicuss felt his knees weaken as the man grabbed his shoulder and looked at him with a face that held little to no emotion.

"Increase your strength because you just made an enemy of my future friend. Just a few more years and he's going to become someone who will mercilessly kill everyone who ever dared to lay a finger on him."

Onicuss stuttered with a stunned and bewildered expression.

"... friend?"

Just when the hell did his master, the person he barely even saw twice in his life, have a friend?

'Wait, hold up, master said future friend... does that mean that silver-haired human is someone master's going to know in the future?'

Onicuss watched with a blank expression as the man began floating towards a round portal that materialized in the air.

"I shall take my leave and go meet him because my body is made of pure energy. It won't remain stable for long and will soon return to my original form."

The moment the man stepped into the portal and the portal vanished into thin air, Onicuss dropped to his knees and let out a sharp exhale to calm his heart. In just a day, he had experienced so much and his mind couldn't fully comprehend it, no matter how hard he tried. He quickly used the black five-petal flower engraved on the back of his hand to contact the other shadow generals.

"I need to inform them all, master... Azazeal has come out from his seclusion after all these years."

He lowered his voice as he mentioned the man's name, the one who didn't even bother to remember his name.

Chapter 458 Don't ever look for me

A while back, Kyle felt his heart thundering in his chest as he glanced at his own fist with disbelief. He screamed in his head with a desperate expression, hoping that the few blue particles he had gathered inside his body after so much struggle would heed his command.

But they did not. They coursed inside his arm for a split second, but when he neared the shadow general, the particles quickly returned back to his mind space and refused to come out again.

Kyle's fist collided with the shadow general's, and he heard the clear sound of his knuckles cracking. Not only his knuckles, but he also felt the bones in his entire arm breaking from the impact as he was flung backward. His body came to a halt only when it collided with a boulder. The pain was excruciating, rendering him unable to utter a single scream.

As his body skidded down to the ground amidst the dust, a trail of blood was left behind on the surface of the boulder. His fingers twitched as his breath started to fade with each passing second. His vision grew dim, and this time he didn't fight to stay awake.

The only question echoing in his mind was why? Why didn't his essence obey him? Wasn't he the owner... so why? Deep down, he knew that his chances of survival were slim after he used his bloodline, but if his essence had just helped him, he wouldn't have any regrets. He could have injured or perhaps even killed that bastard who sought to gouge out his eyes. It's not like there was any other option...

Amidst the haze and pain, a faint voice echoed in Kyle's head. It sounded familiar, very familiar. He tried his best to grasp the voice that started to break as his consciousness started to fade.

- 'Kyle...? Kyle?'

- 'It's Bi...a, can you hear... me?'

Bia's voice sounded very concerned because, due to the distance, she wasn't able to feel Kyle's emotions or presence properly. She lost consciousness after she left the ethereal tunnel and landed on an unfamiliar planet. It was fortunate that even though the planet she landed on with Jian was conquered by the dark side, a group of people who were still fighting for the planet saved her and Jian. They took them to a safe place before the duo met their demise at someone's hand.

Bia just regained consciousness, and the first thing she did was to use all her focus to contact Kyle. She wanted to make sure he was okay because Jian didn't let her leave the planet alone.

Kyle's ears twitched a little when the air around him started to stir for some reason. But his attention was diverted because his head started ringing when someone called out his name loudly again and again.

- 'Kyle!? You basta...rd! Reply or else I'm going to b...eat you up!'

- 'Why aren't yo...u saying anything!?'

Bia's voice cracked when she didn't get any response even after calling out his name so many times. She even cursed, but he stayed quiet. Instantly, dread crept inside her heart, and she let out a loud scream in his head.

Kyle gasped, and his eyes snapped open wide, their clear surface now marred with many red veins. He blinked to shake off the haze covering his mind and sight, so he could focus on the voice ringing in his head.

'Bia...?'

The phoenix's tense voice visibly relaxed when she heard his voice. She complained about why he wasn't replying but stopped only after a few seconds because she finally focused on the tremor in his voice as he called out her name. It was as if it took his all just to utter a single word.

- 'Kyle...? Are you okay?'

Kyle let out a faint breath, his brows furrowed in concentration as he tried his best to close off all his senses and completely focus on Bia's voice.

'I am... fine.'

-'Are you sure?'

Bia's voice turned silent, but now that Kyle regained his sight, he deliberately forced himself to not sound like he was in pain.

'I am fine. You... tell me about yourself.'

His voice wavered in the middle because all of a sudden he heard many panicked cries around him and a suffocating pressure descended on his body.

Kyle glanced upward and watched as the entire sky above him started to fill up with red and purple hues.

-'I am okay... Jian too. We landed on a dangerous planet, but we found a good place to hide. I will come find you-!'

Bia's words were cut short because Kyle abruptly stopped her in the middle.

'Don't...'

'Just go to the sacred divine land with Jian. I will come to find you two... when I'm done here.'

Kyle wanted to laugh at his own words because he wasn't even sure if he would be alive to see the next morning sun with his condition.

But he was glad for the first time that the phoenix couldn't sense his emotions at the moment. His eyes started to sting as tears welled up in them.

'Bia, remember, don't ever look for me, or else I will never talk to you... I will come to find you. I will...'

The phoenix went silent for a moment, then she started bombarding his head with many questions.

-'Where the hell are you? What do you mean I shouldn't find you!?''

But before Bia could even get a single answer, Kyle blocked out her voice from his mind. And to make sure she wouldn't leave Jian and start searching for him alone, he quickly drew a symbol in the air with his gaze alone. The symbol glowed and then entered the back of his hand before disappearing inside his body.

'Now she won't know, at least not for a few years, if I die today...'

He wasn't sure if that amount of time would be enough for Bia to forget about him, but at least the crybaby wouldn't be crying as much as she would right now.

After all, time had the power to make the memories fade away.

He closed his eyes and many familiar faces flashed through his mind... Yue, he wasn't even able to find her. His family, would they ever find out-!

Kyle's thoughts came to a screeching halt when all of a sudden the air beside him started to twist. He opened his eyes and watched with bated breath as a round tunnel formed in mid-air just a little distance away from him.

Violent currents surged out from the tunnel, and it started sucking everything in its surroundings inside.

'The hell...'

He narrowed his eyes and tried his best to look towards the spot where the shadow general was supposed to be. Due to the pain, his mind forgot to process the fact that the elven man had not come to check on him. However, before he could get a clear look, his body started getting pulled towards the tunnel because of the strong suction force.

'Now what's going on? It seems like I can't even have a moment of peace...'

He wanted to grab onto something nearby to stop himself from being pulled towards the tunnel because he could see that the currents in the tunnel were too intense. No way he would be able to fight them and stay alive in his current condition. But the pain coursing through his body and his lack of energy prevented him from doing so.

Kyle's struggle came to a halt when his eyes accidentally wandered toward the sky, where a massive crack formed and an obsidian eye with two purple slits peered out from the crevice.

He held his breath as he locked his gaze onto the eye. In that split second, he made a decision—to let the tunnel suck him in, no matter if his body could bear it or not. Well, he would die either way, so the method doesn't really matter to him anymore. But at least no one would be able to extract his skills or dig out his eyes.

Moreover, he has a minuscule chance of survival if his luck stat somehow kicks in, although it has been rather useless lately.

Chapter 459 No mana land I

Deep within the heart of a vast forest, the trees stood tall and proud, basking in the gentle sunlight streaming through the veil of clouds. They were surrounded by patches of blossoming flowers.

But the leaves of the trees, as well as the petals of the flowers, lacked their usual vibrant shades. Instead, they appeared as muted gray. This unique color, contrasting against the brown earth, gave the forest an eerie and mysterious ambiance.

The air in the forest seemed to move at a leisurely pace.

However, there was a noticeable absence of vitality and all types of energies, almost as if the very essence of life was missing. This left the forest with an incomplete and desolate atmosphere.

The calmness of the forest was shattered as a strong-built elderly couple, with striking blue pupils and crests on their heads, clad in leather clothes, made their way through the trees. They chatted while collecting flowers in the baskets strapped to their backs, seemingly unfazed by the forest's unusual colors, which created a surreal atmosphere.

The couple soon encountered a bizarre creature that didn't have a defined shape and had a color similar to molten steel. Its body was constantly shifting and flowing, like liquid metal in motion. And amidst the flowing liquid, a pair of fiery eyes glowed, giving it a menacing look.

The old woman paused and quickly stopped her husband as well. Her smile faded when she saw the creature sniffing the air with hungry eyes.

"My, my, it's been ages since I last laid eyes on a manaless beast so close to our village, especially after the owner went on a crazy hunting spree because one of them ate the only mana plant he managed to grow after fifty years of effort."

"Honey, look! It's sniffing the air... Do you think it's going to attack us-!"

Before she could finish her sentence, the creature surprised the duo by moving in a different direction. The old man narrowed his eyes at the beast's back.

"Huh, where is it going? These beasts are always bloodthirsty, so it's strange to see one of them leaving even though it had already spotted us."

The old woman also furrowed her brows. Her wrinkled face mirrored worry as she grabbed the man's arm.

"Don't tell me the beasts are up to something again? Just a few years ago, they attacked in a group and killed many people from our village."

"Honey, I don't think we should let it roam around the village. The owner is too lazy and only cares about himself. He wouldn't care if the village is attacked again."

The old man sighed and nodded. His blue pupils shimmered as he locked them on the creature and started following behind it with his wife.

"It's just one beast, and after looking at its body, I believe it has not stepped into the divine-rank yet. So, we can handle it."

However, only after a minute, the duo stopped in their tracks when they found the reason for the beast's strange behavior as it halted next to a tree that was covered in glistening ice. The creature's eyes glowed ominously as it fixed its gaze upon the two figures opposite it.

On the other hand, the first thing that caught the couple's attention was blood, so much so that it painted a significant part of the land in crimson. The glistening ice on the ground and the tree's surface made the red color even more striking under the sunlight.

Then, their eyes fell upon the unconscious man lying beside the tree. His sparkling silver hair was covered with blood, and blood was flowing from every part of his body, creating a distressing scene.

But what truly startled the elderly couple wasn't the unconscious man, but rather the individual dressed in a pristine white shirt that had not even a speck of dust on it, crouching beside his bloodied body. This person's purple eyes displayed little to no emotion as he extended his hand towards the bloodied man's neck as if intending to strangle him and take away his last breath. The duo watched as the man retracted his hand after a moment and murmured under his breath with a sigh of regret.

"It's a shame that I can't kill you, or rather, you won't die even if I obliterate your body into thousands of pieces... just like me. I feel like we are very similar in this regard."

At that exact moment, the beast standing beside the crouching man started letting out strange struggling sounds. And under the old couple's stunned eyes, the beast's body dissipated into smoke, leaving behind nothing as if it did not exist at all.

The duo almost tripped on their feet when the man with purple eyes turned his head and looked at them directly.

"Hey, my friend and I are lost after we entered the no mana land. How about you two lend us a hand?"

The duo glanced at each other, unsure if they should help him because he clearly tried to kill the other person and now he is asking for help.

Moreover, even though they could gauge the strength of the unconscious man, they were not able to sense anything from the man with purple eyes. Not to mention, his empty gaze gave them a strange feeling, almost as if he was peering directly into their souls.

The old woman took a deep breath and bravely stepped forward, despite the old man's attempts to stop her. She let out a sigh and shook her head at her partner.

"Joshua, I'm not sure about the one with black hair, but the injured one needs immediate treatment."

"The air in this land lacks mana and has nothing within it. So his body won't be able to naturally recover, and he will die soon. I can't just stand by and let someone die before my eyes... especially when he looks the same age as our grandchildren."

Joshua massaged his temples. His wife only called him by his name when she was very serious.

"Alright, alright, Hazel, but stay behind me and let me handle it."

He grabbed his wife's hand and made her stand at a distance. Then he moved toward the bloodied silver-haired man. The other man with purple eyes had long since moved away from the couple and was now watching everything from a distance.

Joshua checked the silver-haired man's pulse and furrowed his brows in concentration.

'How the hell did he even survive...? His whole body is badly broken.'

He glanced at his wife, and together the duo decided to take the man back to their village to give him proper treatment. But they were sure that the man wouldn't regain consciousness for at least a few months given the severity of his injuries.

Chapter 460 No mana land II

A familiar sensation of excruciating pain coursed through Kyle's body as he desperately gasped for air.

No matter where he looked, everything around him was dark, with violet currents crawling around his body, as if trying to tear him apart. He wanted to scream, but his throat had grown hoarse, leaving him voiceless.

In that very moment, he snapped his eyes open, gasping for breath. Beads of cold sweat streamed down his forehead as he locked his gaze at the unfamiliar ceiling above him, which emitted a soft glow.

Immediately, he attempted to grasp the layer of fabric enveloping his body, but a sharp, stinging sensation shot through his fingers. It was then that he realized his entire body was covered in something unfamiliar. Kyle's mind felt hazy and muddled, making it difficult for him to comprehend his surroundings.

He absentmindedly blinked a few times, and after a while, he finally regained enough clarity to realize that he was in a dimly lit room, and his body was wrapped in bandages.

Then, the painful memories of what he had gone through came rushing back to him. He instinctively reached out for his sword upon hearing a few murmurs outside the room where he was lying, only to remember that he had lost it while fighting the shadow general.

Kyle's eyes trembled as he attempted to grab healing potions from his mind space... but his fingers grasped nothing. He realized with dread that he was unable to access his mind space. It was then that he noticed there wasn't even a trace of mana in his body, not even divine energy.

It felt awfully similar to when he was just a normal human and hadn't awakened his talent. He panicked for a moment but sighed with relief when he glanced at the image that had replaced his stats from the corners of his eyes and didn't notice any change in his strength.

He was still a pseudo divine rank individual. The only difference was that his body lacked mana and divine energy.

Kyle wanted to absorb it from the air, thinking that maybe because he was unconscious, his body had stopped performing its natural function. But he noticed with a shuddering breath that the air around him didn't contain anything. It lacked the very essence of nature.

He couldn't move his body much, probably because his injuries hadn't healed yet. Moreover, he could still feel the pain throughout his body, so he decided to just move his head a little to get a better look at his surroundings. However, all he could see inside the room were some baskets filled with grey petal flowers, a few wooden chairs, and a stone table that was a little distance away from the plain bed he was lying on.

'It seems someone saved me, but who? Also, what is wrong with this place? Why does it lack mana and divine energy?'

Kyle let out a deep sigh... so he made it through, huh? In the midst of the pain, a fleeting smile crossed his face, but it disappeared as quickly as it came. This time, he truly believed he was going to die. He was certain of it when he willingly entered that tunnel filled with violent currents.

'If only it wasn't so painful...'

A surge of anger welled up inside him as he recalled the moment when his bloodline refused to obey his command.

'This is dangerous... really, really dangerous. It has the power to influence my thoughts, and I have come to realize that it will do anything to ensure its own survival. It's a part of me... but it's very strong, and I have no control over it.'

Kyle's ears perked up when he heard footsteps approaching the room. He quickly shut his eyes and tried his best to calm his breathing as much as possible. His fingers twitched when the room's door was flung open with a loud bang, like someone had just unleashed all their anger on that pitiful door.

Instantly, an old man with a long white beard and hair stormed into the room with big strides. He muttered curses under his breath as he glared at the old couple standing behind him.

"Are you two a bunch of idiots? Do you think I'm running a charity here or am I a doctor? Why the hell does this whole damn village keep bringing back injured folks and expecting me to heal them?"

"Damn it, I swear one of these days I'm gonna drop dead from all the work I'm doing, just because I made the stupid mistake of creating this village."

The old couple's faces fell as they glared back at the old man. Hazel let out a silent snicker, as if saying, what the hell do you even do? But she instantly hid behind her husband when the old man raised his brow with a dark expression towards her.

Joshua sighed. He was equally annoyed, but he knew not to make an enemy of the old man opposite him because he was the strongest person in their race.

"Owner... we just gave him simple treatment and applied some ointment on his injuries. You know we can't use any healing skills since we lack mana... It's been three days, and his body is as cold as ice. The poor kid would die if you didn't do anything."

The old man let out a snarl, his face screaming that he didn't even care a bit even if the kid died right in front of his very eyes.

"Just remember, this is the last time I'm saving someone. After this, if you two ever bring someone to me, I'm gonna strangle that person with my own hands."

The duo exchanged glances as they remembered the man with purple eyes who also wanted to strangle the silver haired kid. But they stayed quiet as they watched the old man drag a chair and sit beside the bed where the kid was lying.

However, the moment the old man sat down beside the kid, he narrowed his eyes and let out a snicker.

"Brat, you are already awake?"

Kyle's fingers twitched violently. He heard the conversation very clearly and couldn't help but slowly open his eyes to glance at the old man in the leather outfit sitting beside the bed. But instead of looking at him, the old man glanced back at the old couple with a deadpan expression.

"Didn't you two say he was almost dead. So, why is he fit as a fiddle? Did you two disturb my sleep and drag me here just to annoy me!?"