

Bloodline 461

Chapter 461 No mana land III

After hearing the old man's words, the couple exchanged a startled glance. Hazel swiftly closed the distance, her leather attire hugging her figure as she stood beside Kyle's bed, scrutinizing the man from head to toe with her aged face.

Right away, a look of surprise and bewilderment crossed her face as she observed with her own eyes how Kyle's injuries had significantly improved since the previous day. She had believed it would take him months just to regain consciousness, but now she could see that his progress had far exceeded her expectations.

Not just Hazel, even Joshua looked surprised. As the couple checked out Kyle, he also checked the people around him and noticed something in common. All of them had blue pupils that looked like sapphires, and they all had crests on their heads, just like a crown.

'That means they aren't humans...'

He also noticed that even though they looked old, the trio bodies were quite muscular. The silence in the room was shattered when the old man sitting beside his bed stood up abruptly and glanced at the room's door.

The couple was startled by his sudden movement, and when they followed his gaze, their expressions turned tense.

Kyle furrowed his brows and tried to follow their gaze, but the trio's backs blocked his view. He let out a silent sigh because he had many questions in his head, but first and foremost, he wanted to know where he was. His ears twitched when, for some reason, the old man's voice turned icy as he looked at the door.

"Why are you here? I told you to wait outside, didn't I?"

Kyle didn't hear any footsteps, nor did he sense anyone's presence, so he became a bit curious when a deep and nonchalant voice replied back to the old man with little to no emotion.

"He's awake, right?"

The couple looked at the old man, who rubbed his white beard with a serious expression that they rarely saw on his face. Hubert, the owner of their village, was always nonchalant, but for some reason, the old man lost his calm the moment he laid eyes on the man with purple eyes standing opposite them.

Joshua let out a hushed whisper.

"Owner..."

Hubert raised his hand to silence him. He was furious... because deep down, he had an inkling that the man standing before him was a disaster the couple should have never brought into their village. After all, no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't fathom the man's true strength.

He silently moved aside, granting Kyle a clear view of the man who had just entered the room. Kyle forgot to blink when his eyes locked with the purple ones. He instinctively tried to clutch the fabric

draped over his body because in those purple eyes, he saw nothing but a void... an emptiness that sent chills down his spine.

Hubert stroked his beard and observed Kyle's expression for a moment before shifting his gaze towards the man with purple eyes.

"As you can see, he's wide awake. So, take your friend and leave my village. You two are free to go wherever you please. And no need to come back, 'cause I wasn't pleased with how you forcefully entered the village despite being stopped by the residents."

Kyle finally blinked when he heard the old man's words. Friend? Does he know that man? No, he doesn't! He opened his mouth to refute, but before he could, the man in question spoke up.

"Oh, but we are not acquainted yet."

Hubert furrowed his brows.

"I don't give a damn. Just leave, both of you, 'cause I am not interested in any more trouble coming my way."

Kyle's gaze shifted towards the man with purple eyes who casually strolled over and settled into one of the chairs in the room, seemingly unfazed by the old man's words. There was something about the man that stirred an uneasy sensation within him.

'Who is he?'

He took a deep breath and decided to ignore the man for now. Kyle opened his mouth to speak... his throat felt dry, but he managed to speak, albeit faintly.

"I... am really grateful to the ones who saved my life... Thank you so much. That's all I can offer right now. I don't know where I am at the moment. But as soon as I am able to walk, I will leave..."

Kyle attempted to sit, but his body refused to obey. He winced in pain as he tried to grasp the bed with his hands. Observing his discomfort, Hazel promptly assisted him in sitting on the bed and let out a sigh.

"Aye, kid, try not to move too much. I don't know how you woke up so early, but your wounds might reopen if you exert yourself too much."

Kyle nodded and leaned back against the pillow placed behind him. He glanced at the man with purple eyes who stared back at him.

"I don't know him."

His voice was firm as he fixed his gaze on the old couple and the old man standing beside the bed.

"Please, can any of you tell me where I am? Why can't I feel any mana in the air. Not just mana, I also can't sense divine energy."

Kyle failed to notice, but Hubert's eyes caught a strange glint flashing within the pairs of empty purple eyes when the man heard the words, 'I don't know him'. Hubert almost thought he was imagining it because he saw the man's purple eyes crinkling with amusement. A troubled expression appeared on his aged face because in that very moment, he finally sensed the man's strength.

Perhaps the man intentionally emitted a faint aura to make his strength known. Hubert wasn't sure since he had never encountered someone whose presence put him on edge before. Nonetheless, just like the silver-haired man, the black-haired one also possessed pseudo divine rank strength.

'Did I make a mistake... maybe he's an ordinary human just like the silver-haired one?'

Hubert fixed his eyes on Kyle and sat down on the chair, wearing a stern expression. His previous annoyance faded into thin air. Now that the two humans had entered his village, he needed to ensure they left as soon as possible to avoid any further trouble.

"I don't know how you ended up here, but this place is called No Mana Land."

Chapter 462 No mana land IV

"A place that's cut off from the outside world after me and my friends battled the first Shadow General..."

"... and got defeated miserably."

Hubert's expression turned somber as he reminisced about the past. However, he regained his composure when he noticed the pair of green eyes fixated on his face.

Kyle winced when the old man patted his arm and glanced back at the man with purple eyes.

"You both know about the shadow generals, or you want me to go into details? 'Cause I really don't wanna talk about that bastard who betrayed his own kind."

Kyle instinctively shifted away slightly to evade any further pats and nodded.

"I'm well aware."

Hubert let out a thoughtful hum.

"Well, unless you have been living under a rock, it's hard not to be familiar with the shadow generals in this day and age."

He reached out his hand and grabbed Kyle's arm once again.

"Stay put, now that I'm wasting my time here, I might as well do some more good deeds and try to heal your broken bones. I happen to be the only person in this land with a healing ability that works without mana and divine energy."

Immediately, a sensation similar to water spread through Kyle's arms, and he could clearly feel his injuries healing. It wasn't happening at a speed visible to the eye, but the pain was definitely diminishing. He looked at the old man's hand and noticed that Hubert wasn't using any energy... or perhaps he was, but Kyle couldn't quite grasp it because it was very different from mana and divine energy.

Hubert felt Kyle's eyes at his hand, but he brushed it off. It's not like the human would comprehend the spiritual energy of a water dragon. He carried on.

"Just as the name implies, this land is devoid of mana. And not only that, it also lacks divine energy."

In the past, the no mana land was actually a part of a beautiful planet brimming with various energies. It was ruled by the water dragon race, a race that is very different from all the other dragon

racers because they only focused on water type skills. But everything changed when one of their own betrayed them and joined forces with the dark side.

"How ironic that he gained the title of the first shadow general after destroying his own home."

Hubert let out a bitter chuckle, his aged face reflecting the pain as he reminisced about the past.

The planet was wrecked in the battle. Hubert, along with his friends who have since passed away, did their utmost to save the planet. But unfortunately, their efforts were in vain, as just when they thought they were gaining the upper hand, Azazeal's fake body stepped into the battle and broke the planet into countless pieces with just a single attack.

After the battle, when Hubert opened his eyes once again, he found himself alone. All of his people were dead, except for a few who had managed to survive by hiding themselves. The planet was broken into countless pieces. In a final effort to save his race from extinction, Hubert gathered the remaining survivors to leave the place. However, something strange happened.

All of a sudden, the planet's core burst out from the broken pieces, and all the mana and divine energy in those pieces started dissipating into particles. Those particles formed a grey field around one of the biggest pieces of the planet, where the planet's core settled.

"That's how the No Mana Land came to be. Countless people know about this place, but no one dares to come here because there are many natural spatial tunnels around this land that can send them to an unknown place in this vast universe."

Kyle's expression sank when he heard Hubert's next words, and he immediately looked away from the man's hand to focus on his face.

"Also, if someone enters this land, they won't be able to leave unless they possess a transcendent rank physique. Only then can they pass through the grey field surrounding the No Mana Land."

Hubert saw Kyle's expression grow pale with each passing second, but he didn't really care and continued.

"That's the reason I decided to settle here and create a village in this desolate place. It was hard at first because we couldn't adjust without mana, and due to the lack of mana, manaless beasts started forming on this land..."

He let out a sigh.

"But over time, we made our naturally strong physiques even stronger and fought back against the manaless beasts. After all, this place is hundreds of times better than the outside world."

Kyle closed his eyes to process the information. He took a deep breath and looked at Hubert.

"Is there any other way to leave this land? Getting a transcendent rank physique... is not easy. How am I going to leave this land then?"

Hubert rubbed his forehead.

"There is no other way, and I told you to leave my village. Not this land."

He retracted his hand from Kyle's arm and stood up.

"I'm taking off. Just take it easy for now and don't overthink. You need to recover and leave this village as soon as possible. I know you're human, but I don't dislike you. Rather..."

His blue eyes shifted towards the man sitting in the distant chair.

"... I didn't like the person who came with you."

Kyle wanted to ask more questions, but the old man took a few big strides and left the room. He glanced at the old couple, but they also left behind the old man.

He let out a groan.

"Damn it... how the hell am I going to achieve a transcendent rank physique in a land that lacks mana!?"

His ears twitched when a familiar deep voice reached his ears.

"It's not that hard. Moreover, the old dragon didn't give you complete knowledge... maybe he forgot."

Kyle snapped his eyes towards the man sitting in the distance. The man's purple eyes seemed too empty to belong to someone who was trying to give him reassurance. He furrowed his brows.

"Who are you exactly? I don't know you. Why did you say we are friends?"

Chapter 463 No mana land V

The atmosphere in the room grew tense as Kyle locked his eyes on the man seated in the distance. But only after a few seconds, he quickly looked away from the man's eyes and noticed that his palms had started to sweat, almost as if he was feeling overwhelmed by the intensity of staring directly into those purple pupils.

'Huh!'

Kyle noticed his own behavior and once again snapped his head towards the man, this time with a deadly serious expression because he noticed the man was treating him like thin air even after hearing his questions. That's why he repeated his words once again.

"I said, who are you?"

His firm voice echoed in the air, but he received nothing in return except silence. Kyle took a deep breath to stop himself from getting even more frustrated after everything he had been going through recently.

He decided to put rest as his top priority because he knew his body needed it the most at the moment. Hubert has helped alleviate his pain, and he could sense that his bones were better than before. But it still wasn't enough for him to walk normally.

And once he gains some strength and mobility, he's gonna rough the man up to vent his frustration and anger, and, of course, to get the answers too.

'It's not like he's all-powerful. I sensed his aura too when he let it out earlier. He's just a pseudo-divine rank human, like me.'

Kyle grabbed the fabric covering his body and shifted to lie down on the bed, but he kept his eyes open. Mostly because of the presence in the room—the presence he couldn't sense at all. Subconsciously, he wondered if the man was truly a pseudo-divine rank.

He blinked and gazed at the ceiling in silence, his mind replaying everything he had experienced recently. A flicker of pain gleamed in his eyes as he thought about the phoenix.

'She's going to give me a good beating. I guess I deserve it. It's my fault this time.'

The tranquility in the room shattered as the familiar deep voice resonated in his ears.

"Your eyes still shine so brightly. But why? They should be serene, composed, icy, and vacant... just like mine."

Kyle blinked as the voice continued.

"Maybe... it will take a while for us to be on the same side but also opposite at the same time. Do you still remember the face of the person who made you so miserable?"

At the end, the voice turned slightly raspy, almost as if urging him to answer.

"Huh...?"

Kyle blinked again with a stunned expression.

'The face of the person who made me so miserable..?'

He promptly stopped breathing as he recalled the time before he jumped into the tunnel filled with violent currents. Instantly, dread crept into his heart, which started thundering in his chest because even after he racked his brain many times... he couldn't remember.

He couldn't remember the face of the person who beat him up. No, how was it possible?

Kyle's eyes dilated. He remembered everything else... how he fought back, how the person beat him up enough to make his body bleed from every part, but he forgot... he forgot the opponent's face. It was as if his memory had turned hazy, blurring that specific face.

He snapped his eyes towards the place where the man was sitting, only to find the chair empty.

Kyle attempted to drag his body out of bed, but the pain coursing through his body thwarted his efforts.

His eyes darted around in a frantic search before finally fixing on the fading figure of the man who had started to walk towards the room exit.

"Wait! Wait!"

"What the fuck!? What the hell do you mean? Why don't I remember his face?"

Kyle shouted, causing the man to pause briefly in the doorway.

"I told you the old dragon didn't give you all the knowledge."

Kyle watched as the man walked away, without a single glance back, and silence descended upon the room once again. He lowered his gaze and noticed that many of his wounds had reopened due to the movement.

"Ugh, just fuck it all!"

He gathered the fabric on the bed in his hands and buried his throbbing head in the material.

However, right at that moment, a familiar icy sensation flowed through his body, as if trying to calm

his nerves. But instead of feeling soothed, Kyle grew even more irritated. He muttered a silent curse and willed for the sensation to stop.

In his current state of mind, he feared he might lock the essence himself.

.....

Hubert quietly walked through the houses made of clay bricks that surrounded him. There were many people with similar blue pupils who greeted him as they wandered the narrow, earthy streets of the village.

A few shops lined the streets, offering leather clothing sourced from the wild goats, which are one of the only normal monsters found in the nearby mountains. They also had meat and accessories crafted from stones, wood, and various ores found in the land. Some children were playing with tree branches, adding a lively touch to the peaceful atmosphere.

But a vein bulged on Hubert's forehead as he paused and glanced back at the old couple following him.

He snapped and waved his hand.

"What now? I gave him treatment. Go, shoo, leave me alone. I am going back to the mountain to rest."

Hazel and Joshua exchanged glances before Joshua spoke up.

"Owner, we just wanted to tell you that you forgot to pass on all the information about this land to the silver-haired human."

Hubert furrowed his brows, feeling slightly confused. Sensing his confusion, Hazel let out a big sigh and raised a finger.

"Aye, you didn't mention that the longer he stays here, the more he will forget about his past. His old memories will start to fade, just like the rest of us. This place lacks the very essence of nature. Only you managed to keep your old memories intact because you have reached the last stage of transcendent rank."

Chapter 464 No mana land VI

Hubert closed his eyes and let out a sigh.

"I probably forget... but it's not like I can help him. No one can. Still, he won't forget the time he's going to spend on this land. He will only forget what he experienced outside the boundaries of the No mana land. So, just tell him about this when you two have time."

He paused for a second.

"It's partially 'cause of the grey field around the land as well, but if he's able to leave this place, he can remember... well, only if his mind gets stimulated."

Hubert rubbed his long white beard and started thinking if he forgot anything else. The old couple left his side to go back to their house, and only then did he raise his hand as if he remembered something else.

"Ah, right... the passage of time here is also different from the outside world. Ten years here equals a year outside... huh? Where did they go? Tsk, that's why I don't like answering them."

He stomped his foot and with big strides, he left the village, heading towards the mountain that overlooked the village. He didn't stay in the village. Instead, he built his own house atop the mountain. He did this to keep an eye on the nearby forest and to stay away from all the noise.

.....

A few days went by, and the sky above the village was filled with thick, dark clouds. There were no stars or moon to be seen in the sky, but the houses in the village were adorned with numerous grey flowers. These flowers were placed inside pots that hung on the walls, providing a source of illumination.

Joshua entered the room where the silver-haired human was staying. The old man was accompanied by his only great grandson, who appeared to be around twelve years old.

The little kid with blue pupils held a plate filled with meat and some other edible herbs as he followed his grandfather.

Joshua glanced at Kyle, who had his gaze fixed on the wall opposite him.

"Kyle, if you are awake, eat something. Just like I mentioned earlier, there is no mana in the air, so you will feel hungry quite easily."

Kyle took a look at the food that was brought for him and let out a sigh. He glanced at the plain notebook with a dark cover in his hand and carefully tucked it beneath his pillow. Slowly, he got up from the bed, being careful not to reopen his wounds that had almost healed.

The kid circled around him with his usual cheerful smile and called him big brother before placing the food on the stone table. He ruffled the kid's short, wavy hair and sat down on the chair to eat.

Joshua noticed the notebook that Kyle had placed beneath his pillow. It was something the human had requested, along with a pen, from him and Hazel when they informed him that his old memories would start to fade over time.

Kyle wanted to write down everything about himself so that even if he forgot, he could remember by reading the notebook.

Joshua walked over to the table and took a seat across from the human.

"Have you finished writing everything down?"

Kyle glanced at him. He felt grateful towards the old couple who had been taking care of him. He wanted to repay the duo with mana stones or treasures, but he couldn't retrieve anything from his mind space due to the lack of mana.

"Not everything. Just the things I can't afford to forget. Well, I still remember everything else, except for the face of one of my enemies..."

Suddenly, he remembered the man with purple eyes.

"What about that man? The one you found with me? Is he still in the village?"

Joshua furrowed his brows.

"I saw him yesterday near the forest... but he ignored me, and before I could approach him, he was gone."

He stared at the human opposite him.

"I thought you would react very strongly... when Hazel and I came to tell you about the fact that your old memory would fade... but surprisingly, you didn't."

Kyle didn't say anything. He actually had a lot on his mind, but after contemplating everything for an entire day, he found himself becoming calm.

He had already been through a lot, so he knew it was important to stay composed and deal with the situation instead of complaining or asking why all this was happening to him.

The room went silent as Kyle ate the food that was brought for him.

Joshua was about to leave but stopped when the human stared at him with his green eyes.

"I need to leave this land as soon as possible. There are many people waiting for me. Is there truly no alternative method to leave this land without achieving the transcendent rank physique?"

Kyle placed the small knives in his hands on the table as he finished eating. He stared at the old man, waiting for his response. He had actually started walking around and doing some light exercises in the room to help himself heal even faster. Right now, he only had one objective—he had to find a way to leave this land.

Joshua locked eyes with Kyle. He could never get used to the human's bright eyes, shining like gems. In that fleeting moment, he thought about the pair of purple eyes belonging to that other person he encountered before and wondered if they too ever shone so beautifully... Or maybe they were always blank?

He let out a sigh.

"Unfortunately, there isn't. In the past, a few youngsters from the village wanted to leave as well to explore the outside world. That's why Owner checked this land many times to find an opening or hole in the grey field, but he wasn't able to."

Kyle's face hardened as he listened to the old man quietly.

"Owner is strong, and he can leave this land whenever he wants, but he never did. He's a little annoying, but he has been protecting this village for a long time. He grumbled a lot, but he's also the one who trained those youngsters and helped them all achieve a transcendent rank physique... and they were able to cross the grey field."

Chapter 465 I can do it

Joshua paused for a moment as a thought flashed through his mind. He glanced at Kyle from head to toe, observing his human physique, which was significantly different from that of a dragon's.

"Kyle, how about you go and ask the owner for help as well?"

"This land lacks mana, so you won't easily find any natural treasures that can assist you. He can train you. His methods are a little... challenging, but under his guidance, you can definitely achieve a transcendent rank physique more easily."

Kyle noticed the slight pause in the old man's words when he mentioned Hubert's training method. Nevertheless, he didn't care about the difficulty of the method. He needed a way to leave this place.

If achieving a transcendent rank physique was the key to leaving, he was willing to do whatever it took to reach that level.

He glanced at the image that had replaced his stats from the corners of his eyes and noticed that his physique had already reached the pseudo-divine rank.

Kyle rubbed his temples.

"But still, it's gonna be hard to get him to agree, right? I mean, he made it crystal clear that he wanted me out of this village multiple times. If it weren't for my injuries, I believe he would have kicked me out without a second thought."

Joshua let out a chuckle.

"So you don't even wanna give it a try? I remember those youngsters who wanted his teachings."

"They had to camp outside his house for days and do all the chores for that lazy man, like cook meals for him, cleaning his house, and washing his clothes. It was only after enduring so much hardship that they achieved what they wanted. And mind you, they were of his own race... That's why for you, it's gonna be even tougher, but he's not a bad person. If he sees your determination, he will surely help you."

He lowered his voice into a whisper.

"Also, it's a secret, but owner can use spiritual energy. So if you are under him and get badly injured somehow, he would save your life at all costs."

Kyle nodded and stared back at the old man with a firm gaze.

"I will make him agree. I have no idea about this land, and if I train on my own as you said, this land lacks natural treasures, it would take me too much time. I need a knowledgeable figure to guide me and Hubert is my best choice."

"That's why I will make him agree."

Joshua patted his shoulder with a grin and wished him luck before he left the room after picking up the kid who had long since fell asleep on the chair next to Kyle.

Kyle watched his fading back and then stood up from the chair. He did some light exercises in the room, like moving his arms and legs, before he went out of the room to enter the bathroom opposite his room to wash his face. There was no mirror in the bathroom, and the water was filled up in large buckets.

He bent down slightly, careful not to make any excessive movements, and splashed water on his face multiple times before staring at his reflection in the water. The faint glow from the grey flowers hanging on one of the walls illuminated the small space with a soft glow.

"I have to do a lot, right?"

He sighed and closed his eyes.

"I need to keep moving forward... I can't stop. Not when I promised Bia I would go see her soon. She's probably going crazy right now... And Yue, I wonder how she's doing? I hope she's alright."

Kyle's eyes fluttered open as a rush of unfamiliar thoughts flooded his mind. His eyes turned extremely cold because he had finally understood the pattern of how his bloodline influenced his mind. Almost every time he was about to step into danger, the essence would try to influence his actions, just like now... his thoughts—they were trying to tell him that he shouldn't take any action at the moment and that he shouldn't worry too much about the people waiting for him, as they can take care of themselves.

"What now? Is there something dangerous nearby? Hmm, well, the No Mana Land itself is dangerous."

"But... for some reason, the essence has become rather quiet lately, has it not? It's not even pushing it anymore. Now I can easily sense thoughts that don't belong to me. Or is it that my mind has gotten sharper?"

He wasn't exactly sure why. Maybe it was because he warned the bloodline that he would lock it, or perhaps it could sense his restlessness and frustration.

But strangely, it had settled within his mind space completely. He could occasionally sense a familiar cold sensation coursing through his body, but it would quickly vanish as if it never existed at all.

"I am sure I can't lock it at my will. Not when it's a part of me. But I will make sure it does not interfere with my thoughts. Now I know this feeling. So, I will know if danger is nearby."

Kyle cleared his mind and stared at his reflection.

"Hardships... I need to face them as well. I can't always rely on my bloodline. Not when it's not even listening to me if it's threatened."

He has realized that as long as he stays alive, everything will be fine. Only when his life is threatened does the bloodline act up. That's why he needs to stay alive, and he will stay alive. No matter what.

Kyle took a deep breath and straightened his posture before removing his clothes. He examined the multitude of scars and injury marks that marred his body. They stood out even more prominently against his pale, cold skin.

"So, let's get started. The goal for now is to achieve a transcendent rank physique. It's hard, but not impossible."

"I can do it."

His gaze shifted towards the clothes placed in the distance.

Hazel had purchased a few sets of clothes for him to change into. He put on the plain brown shirt and jacket, slipped into the dark pants over the boots, and let out a sigh as he noticed that everything was made of leather. They were slightly larger on his frame, but well, it's not like he can complain.

Chapter 466 Can I come along

Early the next morning, Kyle stepped out of the house where he had been staying for the past few days. He was able to move around normally, albeit slowly, but it was enough for him in that moment.

However, before he could proceed further, he encountered a familiar face. It was a young man named Bemail, who appeared to be around the same age as him. Bemail had previously visited him with Hazel.

Bemail was taken aback as he examined Kyle from top to bottom. His height nearly matched Kyle's, but Kyle couldn't help but notice, with a quick glance, that Bemail's body was filled with densely packed, explosive muscles.

Kyle nodded as the man approached him, a smile lighting up his face, his blue eyes gleaming in the daylight.

"Oe, you can move already? I thought it would take you a while to heal since you're human."

Bemail slapped Kyle's back and flashed a mischievous smile.

Kyle flinched slightly at the force behind the gesture, but he managed to maintain a composed expression.

Bemail clicked his tongue.

"You're quite sturdy, huh?"

Kyle wasn't sure if it was a compliment or not, but he gave the man a quick nod and expressed his desire to explore the village. Bemail pondered for a moment and agreed since he still had some time before heading to the training grounds to join others his age. The duo strolled through the village, and Kyle couldn't help but notice that it wasn't very large.

Many curious onlookers stared at Kyle, particularly due to his unique eyes and bright silver hair.

However, a number of older residents greeted him nicely, probably because they were already aware of his presence.

After taking a brief tour of the village, Bemail turned around and faced the human. Initially, he was curious about Kyle, but when he saw him for the first time... he had to admit he was disappointed because Kyle appeared somewhat weak.

He knew he shouldn't judge a book by its cover because he still hadn't sensed Kyle's strength, but it just bothered him whenever he glanced at the latter's good-looking face that stood out in the crowd.

'He's all looks, nothing more.'

Nevertheless, Bemail kept his thoughts to himself because his grandma had strictly asked him not to be impolite to the guest.

'Tsk, what guest... he's just a freeloader.'

He gave Kyle's shoulder a pat.

"I reckon you have seen enough of the village. Head back now. I need to go train, the instructor is strict and I can't be late."

But he closed his eyes and took a deep breath upon hearing Kyle's next words.

"Can I come along?"

Bemail smiled, and a dimple appeared on his left cheek.

"Oe, what would you do if you followed me? You can't even throw a decent punch in your current condition. Are you planning to watch me sweat or something, huh?"

"Just head back. It's not something a kid should watch."

Kyle's eyebrow twitched, and he held himself back from saying something inappropriate.

He felt grateful for Hazel and Joshua because the elderly couple had taken care of him. That's why he would overlook their grandson's language.

"I just want to do some light exercise. The room is too cramped for that."

Bemail clicked his tongue and then, without caring about Kyle, he started walking toward the back of the village.

Kyle quietly followed behind him, making his steps as light as possible. He rubbed the white earring in his ear.

'I guess it's still working.'

They soon left the place surrounded by houses, and Kyle stopped when he noticed a large field in front of him.

It was just a plain field where many people, both male and female, around his age or maybe even younger, were engaged in physical training and practicing with various weapons.

'So, this is the place where the youngsters are taught to fight and protect themselves in dangerous situations?'

Kyle watched as a stern middle-aged instructor shouted at Bemail, who jumped over the wooden barrier surrounding the field and entered inside, only to be punished by the instructor for being late. Kyle's eyes traveled towards the trees surrounding the field. He had noticed before in the village, but now as he looked at the trees and flowers again, he realized that all of them were grey.

'At least the land, wood, and everything else I have seen so far still have their natural colors intact.'

Almost everyone in the field noticed him and started whispering. The instructor heard the sudden murmurs in the field, which is why he came to ask the human if he needed something.

Kyle noticed the instructor's slight discomfort, which made him realize that not everyone in the village welcomed someone from a different race. That's why he decided to go straight to the point.

"Can I use the field as well?"

The middle-aged man across from Kyle furrowed his brows with a complicated expression. He scratched his head while glancing at the human.

"You can use the field, but try not to disturb the others."

Kyle observed as the middle-aged man left without uttering another word. He himself remained silent and began to stroll along the perimeter of the field. Gradually, he picked up his pace, increasing his speed with each passing minute. After an hour, he was running at a pace that could rival that of an average person.

However, he was careful not to make any big movements that could worsen the healing wounds on his body. He needed to make sure that his body was properly healed before engaging in strenuous exercise.

He performed some light stretches and noticed that the clear sky above him had started to turn darker. That's why he decided to leave the area, without even sparing a glance at the instructor or the individuals who had been secretly observing him.

Kyle walked along the familiar path, making his way towards the house where he had been staying, while counting on his fingers.

"One, two... three... including the instructor, I sensed four divine rank individuals in the field. Huh, they looked so much younger than me, but they are all so strong. Not to mention, almost every other person in the village is divine rank. Except for those whose strength I couldn't figure out."

He rubbed his thumb against his index finger. Once his mind cleared, he began using his scent perception skill. It was hard at first since his head was throbbing, likely due to his poor physical condition. But the skill didn't require mana, just like the fear skill, so as soon as his mind cleared, he started using it.

"I will go find Hubert as soon as my injuries are healed. If he doesn't agree to help, I will enter the forest. I hope the scent perception skill can help me find some treasures, even though the chances are very low in this land that lacks mana."

Chapter 467 A familiar name

Bemail clicked his tongue with annoyance as he approached the silver-haired human who had been visiting the training ground for the past week. A couple of girls and a few guys his age were pestering him to invite the human to join them inside the field instead of running and exercising outside.

As Bemail approached the human, he couldn't help but give Kyle a once-over, noticing that there wasn't even a drop of sweat on his body, despite witnessing the human sprinting around the field earlier at a pace that could rival Bemail's own.

The sky had started to turn dark, and he couldn't understand how Kyle managed to stay so dry.

"Man, I start sweating buckets after just a couple of hours, but look at this guy..."

Bemail muttered under his breath and scratched his head.

"Ugh... I guess humans just don't sweat as much as dragons?"

He flinched as, just before he could jump over the wooden barrier, Kyle glanced back and locked eyes with him, raising a questioning brow.

"What happened?"

"That... I-!"

Bemail almost slapped his mouth in disbelief because he actually stuttered due to the sudden surprise. That face, coupled with those bright eyes that had a color he rarely saw in his life... Damn!

"Ahem, the instructor said you can join us and train inside the field. So why don't you come in?"

Kyle let out a surprised 'Oh'. He had felt many eyes on him ever since he started coming here. But he mostly ignored them because he knew the people of the village would be cautious around him.

"It's fine. Now that my injuries are healed, tomorrow I'm heading to the mountain to find Hubert. That's why I don't think I'll be coming back here anytime soon."

Bemail blinked, but when he processed Kyle's words, he let out a gasp of surprise with wide eyes.

"What, you are going to find the owner? Don't you know he doesn't like it when others visit him? He's gonna throw you off the top of the mountain!"

Kyle looked at him, and the corners of his eyes raised a bit with amusement. At first, Bemail was very guarded around him, but now Kyle could sense a hint of worry in the man's voice. Maybe after staying around him for so many days, Bemail had started to feel more at ease around him.

"Thanks for the reminder. I'll make sure he doesn't throw me off the mountain, at least. After all, I can't fly now.

He rummaged through his clothes and pulled out a few patches of dark silver flowers from inside his jacket. As soon as he revealed the flowers, Bemail's eyes widened even more in shock. Kyle noticed the subtle change in his face and tossed the flowers towards him.

"I just found them around the field while running. Are they useful in any way?"

Bemail quickly caught the flowers with a fluster. He glanced at them and then at Kyle with a bewildered expression before turning around completely to face Kyle, making sure that no one could see them.

"These are moonlight flowers! They are very rare and precious! How the hell did you find them? And not just one, but so many! Did you really find them around the field? No way! I won't believe you!"

Kyle raised an eyebrow. He really found them around the field while running... they were unlike the other gray flowers and were simply concealed amidst the cluster of flowers around them. If it weren't for the faint metallic scent he detected from them, he would have overlooked them, thinking they were ordinary.

Kyle rubbed his chin because he had noticed many more in that spot as well. He would go and gather them too.

"Moonlight flowers? So, are they useful?"

Bemail lowered his voice with a solemn expression.

"Of course they are! They are very popular among girls because they are believed to enhance beauty and youthfulness!"

Kyle's eyebrow twitched, but he took a deep breath and patted Bemail on the shoulder.

"Then you can have them. Take care."

Bemail seemed like he wanted to refuse, but the human left the area with long strides, without looking back.

Kyle clicked his tongue as he passed through the narrow, earthy streets and made his way toward the place he's been staying to say goodbye to Hazel and Joshua, as he would be leaving tomorrow.

On the way, his ear twitched when a passerby suddenly called out his partner with a name that sounded strangely familiar. He furrowed his brows and mumbled under his breath.

"Nicole...? That name sounds rather familiar, but why can't I remember where I heard it before?"

But no matter how much he thought about it, he couldn't remember any memories associated with that name except for a feeling of familiarity.

Kyle's picked up his pace, and after only a few minutes, he entered the room he had been staying in and hastily took out the notebook from beneath the pillow to check for any familiar names. Yet, even after he checked the notebook multiple times, he realized that there was no mention of that name in there.

As he rubbed his forehead in frustration, Hazel entered his room with a few more sets of clothes and asked him what had happened. Kyle hid the notebook inside his jacket and glanced at the old woman.

"Nothing... I feel like I have forgotten someone important once again."

Hazel looked at him quietly and softly patted his shoulder. She placed the clothes she brought on the bed.

"Don't worry, young man. Even if you forget them, they will remember you, won't they? Once you leave this place, you can go and meet them, and you will regain your memory."

Kyle stared at the woman's old face, his expression downcast as he felt a deep sense of having forgotten someone very important, someone he never wanted to forget.

"Yeah... Hopefully."

He responded with a sigh, setting the matter aside. He informed Hazel that he would be leaving to meet Hubert the next day. At first, the old woman was taken aback, but then she wished him luck.

Hazel had seen Kyle heal faster than anyone she had ever seen. She had a feeling he would leave this land sooner than she expected.

Nevertheless, she made sure to let him know that he was always welcome to visit her whenever he wanted. She even packed some sets of clothes and shoes for Kyle in a bag. After all, storage rings or any other storage abilities didn't work in the No Mana Land due to the lack of mana.

Chapter 468 It's my name, Aze

Azazeal stepped out of thin air and landed on the rooftop of the house where Kyle and Hazel were. He calmly placed his thumb on his fingers, his expression devoid of emotion.

However, his purple eyes gave away a hint of disappointment as he moved his thumb over his fingers, as if he was calculating something really important.

Despite his extraordinary senses that could rival the Celestials outside this universe, he had failed to find the most important thing he had come to find on this land.

"It's rare for me to find them through the visions of the future... but I'm sure I saw it clearly, one of the remaining eight guardian celestial spirits is here on this land."

He looked down, and his purple eyes reflected the silver-haired human engaged in conversation with the old woman inside the house.

"Do I really need to follow you to find it?"

His eyes gleamed as numerous fragmented images flashed through his mind. In that moment, the corners of his eyes lifted upward for a brief moment.

"After all, amidst the countless possibilities... among the myriad of paths you can traverse due to your blank fate, in one of them, the spirit willingly bestowed upon you all its power simply because, unlike me, your essence is pure, so beautifully cold... almost equaling nature itself."

Azazeal's ears twitched slightly upon hearing Kyle mumble a name under his breath.

"Nicole...?"

He briefly closed his eyes and then reopened them with a thoughtful hum.

"Your mother? It appears that your memories are fading quickly because your essence is trying to hide from me."

.....

The next day, early morning, Kyle stepped out of the house, wearing a loose-fitting pair of pants beneath a cream-colored sweater with long sleeves. His feet were snugly tucked into dark shoes.

On his back, he carried a sizable round bag that had been prepared for him by the old woman. Hazel and Joshua offered to walk with him until he reached the forest, but he politely declined their offer since the old couple had already done a lot for him.

Kyle had only taken a few steps when Bemail stopped him.

Bemail wore a determined expression as he locked his blue eyes with Kyle's.

"Kyle, I will accompany you to meet the owner. I know it's risky, but I can't just sit back knowing that the owner might grab hold of you and toss you down the mountain!"

"I considers you a friend, especially after you gave me so many moonlight flowers! They were quite valuable, and I want to repay the favor!"

Kyle stared at his face, which looked dead serious for the man to be joking around. Also, from Bemail's attire that clung to his body perfectly, he seemed ready for combat. Kyle blinked and opened his mouth, pointing toward an unknown cloud in the sky.

"What's that?"

Bemail immediately followed his finger with narrowed eyes, then turned around to face him with confusion.

"There's nothi-!"

But he stopped abruptly and his eyes widened because there was no one in front of him. The silver-haired human had vanished.

Meanwhile, Kyle was jogging through the cluster of small houses that surrounded him from all directions.

Many passersby noticed him, and he could even feel a lot of eyes on his back. But he paid no mind to them and quickly left the village, entering the forest and making his way straight toward the nearest mountain that overlooked the village.

Hazel and Joshua had told him everything about Hubert they could, and now he just needs to find the old dragon.

Kyle sniffed the air around him to keep a close check on his surroundings because according to the old couple, the manaless beasts were the most dangerous beasts on this land. It would be very dangerous if he somehow encountered one because even the lowest rank of them had a strength above Ascendant state.

He passed through the tall trees, bathed in the soft morning light. But even when he reached the foot of the mountain, he didn't see a single hint of greenery. Instead, the leaves of the trees and the petals of the flowers were gray.

Kyle gazed at the towering mountain, its shadow casting over the vast stretch of space. With the round bag secured behind his back, he raised both hands to stretch his back and arms. He was determined to find Hubert before night.

However, in that very moment, as he lowered his gaze, a pair of white shoes caught his attention. Instantly, Kyle's breath caught in his throat as he slowly lifted his gaze to meet the eyes of the figure dressed in white. No words could capture the depth of his shock, for he had not sensed the presence of the man, whose purple eyes bore into him with an unsettling lack of emotion.

"You!?"

Kyle backed away and assumed a guarded stance against the man, who stared at him with a raised brow and slowly withdrew his hand that had been suspended in the air, as if he had intended to touch Kyle's head.

'Did he want to attack me!?'

But before Kyle could confront the man, the latter opened his mouth and spoke in a deep and silent voice that vanished in the air within a second.

"Aze..."

Kyle took another step back in alarm, his mind racing. Despite using all his mental strength to perceive the man's strength through his scent perception skill, he couldn't sense anything from him except for a faint scent of warmth that strangely reminded him of the cold sensation of his bloodline.

He really thought the man who called him his friend, even though they weren't, had disappeared, and he would never see him again... but who could have guessed that the man would return?

Kyle got ready to run in the opposite direction when the man stepped towards him. A chilling sensation ran down his spine, and his bloodline, which had been holed up in his mind space, started to stir restlessly. However, before he could make his escape, the man spoke again, but this time his voice sounded surprisingly ordinary, just like that of an ordinary human.

"It's my name. You can call me Aze."

Chapter 469 It wouldn't be fun, then

Azazeal — this is the name that everyone knew him by. He didn't remember from whom or when he received that name because it's been so long.

However, for the first time in a long while, Azazeal was taken aback when a very old yet familiar name slipped out from his mouth almost instinctively. His purple eyes flickered with surprise as he gazed at the silver-haired human across from him.

'Is it because I have seen you a lot in the future that has yet to come?'

On the other hand, Kyle's stance visibly relaxed as he gazed at the man dressed in white from head to toe. He mumbled under his breath with furrowed brows.

"Aze?"

He had no clue why the latter had suddenly chosen to reveal his name. But he snapped out of his thoughts when he saw Aze stepping towards him.

Azazeal parted his lips and stretched out his left hand towards Kyle.

Immediately, the deep purple color of his eyes began to dim, replaced by a more common shade of purple.

"Now that I have given my name, shouldn't you do the same?"

Kyle's eyes traveled towards the outstretched hand reaching out to him. He recognized the gesture; the man opposite him wanted to get acquainted. But he couldn't shake the sense of unease stemming from his bloodline.

"Aze, you say? How can I be sure it's your actual name? Besides, you're the one who disclosed your name to me. I'm not compelled to reveal mine."

He saw the man blink, but there was still no emotion in those purple eyes. Kyle quietly clicked his tongue and without another word began striding towards the mountain. He cast a final glance at the mountaintop and, without any more hesitation, started to climb.

Azazeal glanced at his outstretched hand, the purple color in his eyes gathered into two slits, revealing the hidden obsidian color beneath. He tilted his head to look at the silver-haired human who had once again altered the future.

"It's annoying... how his actions can change without any rhyme or reason. Should I feed him the fruit of fate... because I am still unable to see our end."

"But it wouldn't be fun, then, right?"

The corner of his eyes trickled upward, and his eyes completely turned obsidian, only to regain their normal shade of purple in the next second.

The clear sky above rumbled slightly as Azazeal too started climbing the mountain. Kyle noticed him immediately due to the pristine white clothes... or maybe because the man deliberately made sure to stay in his sight. But Kyle observed with a frown that the man was walking effortlessly, unlike him, who had to clutch at each jutting rock to stay steady because the entire mountain was treacherous.

The air was calm and serene, but a vein visibly throbbed on Kyle's forehead every time he stole a glance at the man walking not far from him. He took in a deep breath and quickened his pace, but Aze effortlessly matched his speed.

"Damn it, what's your deal? Stop following me and scram because you are seriously getting on my nerves."

Azazeal paused and stared at him.

"But I also want to climb the mountain."

Kyle rubbed his temples and without a second thought, sprinted towards the mountain top. He didn't look back and utilized his agility to the fullest, grabbing onto rocks to leap and flip his body.

But as he grasped a jutting rock to cross another large gap in the mountain, he nearly lost his grip when he caught sight of a familiar pair of white shoes.

"Th fuck!"

Kyle gripped the rock with all his strength to maintain his balance and snapped his head up to look at the eyes staring at him. His scent perception skill had been completely useless against the man.

"Aze, right? What's the problem with you? Just go and climb the mountain if you want. Why are you following me?"

His eyes widened in disbelief as the man effortlessly leaped towards another rock, ignoring him as if he didn't exist. Kyle let out a cold chuckle, his burning gaze fixed on Aze's back.

"This guy... he's pushing it too much this time! I swear I'm going to punch him the next time I see his face!"

He leaped upward and continued his journey, this time ignoring the man just as the latter had ignored him. However, as he crossed one-third of the mountain, his head collided with Aze's back, who had halted to gaze at the area in front of him.

Kyle barely restrained himself from grabbing the man and throwing him off the mountain. He reminded himself repeatedly that he was unaware of Aze's strength and it wouldn't be wise to engage with someone who hadn't initiated an attack. Yet, for some reason, his patience was wearing thin in the man's presence.

He reached out to touch Aze's shoulder to push.. Ahem, gently move him aside, but before his hand could make contact, the man swiftly stepped out of his path.

Kyle blinked and glanced at the man suspiciously. Aze had stopped moving for some reason, even though the path ahead was clearer than before.

"Don't you want to climb the mountain? Why did you stop?"

Once again, he received no answer as the purple eyes peered at him as if waiting for him to move forward.

Kyle seriously had enough. He rolled his sleeves to have a one-

on-one with the man. However, as he took a step forward, the ground beneath his feet caved in, and he dropped into a narrow gap.

Immediately, a groan escaped his lips as he grabbed his back and stared at the dust and debris that enveloped his vision. And in that moment, a familiar voice echoed outside the gap.

"Oh, I thought you would avoid it?"

Kyle let out a laugh, a laugh that was nothing but cold as he locked his eyes with Aze, who stared at him from outside the gap. He raised his fist and with a single jump left the gap only to find that Aze had already jumped toward another place.

"Just you wait, you bastard!"

Chapter 470 Can you cook?

It was a peaceful evening with a sky clear except for the dark clouds that had begun to obscure the brightness. The birds were singing a beautiful melody behind Hubert, who had his legs casually propped up on the wooden table in front of him as he relaxed on a chair with his eyes closed.

The old man rubbed his white beard and hummed softly as he savored the moment, but he nearly jumped and lost his balance from the chair when a loud shout pierced the air around him.

"You bastard!!!"

Hubert swiftly regained his composure and shifted his gaze to identify who dared to call him a bastard.

His eyes narrowed as he observed two familiar individuals running towards his humble hut. One dressed immaculately in white, and the other... well, his attire was so grimy with dirt that it obscured the color.

"What's going on?"

He stepped back and picked up a common stone from the ground before focusing on the man in white.

"How dare these fellows disrupt the peace near my home."

Hubert raised the rock and exerted some of his strength to hurl it towards the man clad in white. But the old man's eyes widened slightly in surprise as the man with purple eyes evaded his attack, causing the rock to strike the person behind him directly on the head.

Kyle cursed again and massaged his throbbing forehead.

"Who the heck dares to..."

He paused in the middle when he saw a familiar face opposite him. It was Hubert, the old man he had been looking for. Kyle quickly wiped the dirt off his forehead and glared at Aze for ruining his clothes. He had been trying to catch the man to beat him up, but he ended up falling into another pit on the way.

'Damn it, now my first impression is ruined all because of this guy.'

Nevertheless, he quickly went up to Hubert to greet the old man. However, Hubert stopped him with a raised hand.

"Human, state your business from a distance and leave, 'cause I don't have time. I am a busy soul."

Kyle's eyebrow twitched, but he stopped in his tracks and first greeted the old man by asking how he had been, only to receive a curt response in return.

"I am fit and perfectly healthy. Just tell me, why are you... two here?"

Hubert glanced at Azazeal for a second, then he fixed his gaze on Kyle once more, as he already had an inkling of why they were here. He made a mental note to punish both Hazel and Joshua because they are the only ones who could inform Kyle about the fact that he taught others in the past, and all the people he taught were able to successfully leave this land.

Kyle's expression turned serious as he looked at the old man.

"As you already know, a transcendent rank physique is necessary to leave this land. I am here to ask you to help me because I believe you have the most knowledge about this land, and you are currently the strongest person as well. I have to leave this land as soon as possible. I can't stay here. So, please help me reach the transcendent rank physique."

Hubert hummed nonchalantly. He had indeed helped many young people in the past, and he had to say it wasn't a good experience because he knew once he took someone under him, he had to take responsibility for that person.

However, he didn't refuse immediately because when he healed Kyle's injuries, strangely, his spiritual energy willingly entered the human body to heal the latter's injuries as if it liked Kyle's presence. This piqued his curiosity about the human. Not to mention, he could see the determination in Kyle's eyes and knew from his experience that even if he rejected the human today, the latter would do anything to reach the transcendent rank physique.

It might take Kyle a longer time to reach the physique, but the human would surely reach it. Moreover, the second thing that made Hubert hesitate from outright rejecting him was the other man who came with Kyle, the one who had been silently standing and watching everything from the side.

Hubert sat down on the chair and glanced at Kyle as he placed his foot on the table.

"It's getting dark, don't you think? Also, I'm feeling quite hungry at the moment... How about we continue this conversation over some food?"

Kyle blinked, realizing where this was heading, and the old man's next actions confirmed his thoughts. Hubert gestured toward both him and Aze before pointing at the small hut in the distance constructed of wood, dry leaves, and clay bricks.

"Go, you two, hunt a wild goat from the back of the mountain and prepare a good meal for all of us since I am too old to be doing so much work."

Kyle's eyes traveled toward the man with purple eyes who seemed unfazed and spoke up without a second thought.

"But I am not good with cooking. No one has ever liked it? How about Aze..."

"Can you cook?"

He smirked when he finally noticed a faint flicker of annoyance in those purple eyes, but his smile vanished when the man replied back with a nonchalant voice.

"I can't."

Kyle was itching to argue, but he clamped his mouth shut as Hubert slammed his palm on the table.

"What's with the uselessness? If you can't even cook, why are you two even here? Go and tidy up the house... wait, it's already clean, I did it last night."

Hubert massaged his temples, feeling a massive headache coming his way as he glanced at the two people opposite him. However, he couldn't help but notice that the one in white clothes had still not asked him for help, even though from the faint aura he sensed in the past, Aze should also be a pseudo-

divine rank. Nevertheless, he held his thoughts and rubbed his chin with a pensive expression.

"Alright, I have decided."

He clapped his hands together and drew a leafless bud on the ground with his finger. The bud looked like a flower that hasn't bloomed yet.

"This is a rare herb known as the Vitalis. It enhances body endurance if its bud is consumed. Locating this herb is hard, but with a sharp sense, you can discover it on this mountain. The one who can gather 1,000 of them for me, I will train that person until they reach the transcendent rank physique."

Kyle stared at the drawn image of the herb, and after a few seconds, his eyes lit up.

"I saw them a while back!"

Hubert's eyebrow twitched as he raised his head to gaze at Kyle, only to see the silver-haired human sprinting back toward the direction he came from.

The old man turned around to gaze at Aze, the silent one, but the man with purple eyes had also started strolling in the same direction as Kyle without giving a damn about him.

"...."