

## Bloodline 601

Chapter 601 He still hasn't woken up?

Kyle's thoughts were spiraling out of control, but he halted when he caught sight of Yue's face in the crowd. But his eyes gleamed with darkness as he thought about Ceano who had fled with his life.

"That bastard... It's dangerous for him to remain alive since he knows my secret. I need to locate him and eliminate him as soon as possible. Otherwise, even if I manage to evade him, those around me won't be able to if he targets them..."

He was mumbling under his breath when Elizabeth spoke up again with sparkling bright eyes filled with joy.

"I know Ceano's alive. But the moment his fake body was destroyed, even if his soul escaped, he lost a huge portion of his strength! That means he has to consume many treasures just to regain his real strength! Haha, I can't believe this! I need to share the news of Will's death and Ceano's weakened strength with everyone! We need to hunt Ceano to eliminate him before he regains all his strength!"

Kyle raised a brow at her words and observed as she extended her hand, likely to retrieve a communication crystal from her mind space, but all her strength was constrained within the chains binding her body. Her laughter vanished quicker than it emerged, and she gazed at him earnestly.

"Well, now that you are done. I believe you should release us all."

Amidst the joy in her eyes from Will's demise, a touch of severity remained. She was very happy that a powerful ally has emerged to fight the dark side with her and James. However, she felt the need to discipline this human to ensure no one would ever dare to turn the Gladiator Arena into their personal battleground again!

Kyle blinked slowly. He would be a fool to set them all free knowing they would all turn against him the moment he did. After all, he had caused such a massive commotion in front of everyone.

He shot one last glance at the people from the dark side and decided to leave them all to Elizabeth and the individuals in robes to deal with. With both shadow generals now absent from the Gladiator Arena, he knew they could handle them. He shook his head at Elizabeth with a sigh.

"Unfortunately, it is not up to me to release you all. It's only possible when the array in the sky loses all its strength."

Elizabeth stared at his back with suspicion, but it's not like she could argue with him when, right now, he had the power to wipe out every single person in the Arena. Kyle started floating in the air, and her eyebrow twitched violently with disbelief when she saw the silver-haired man flick his fingers to release his friends who were also bound in chains. She shouted with frustration.

"You liar!!"

Kyle tilted his head back to stare at her with an innocent expression, further increasing her frustration.

"When did I lie, I wonder?"

As he freed his friends from those chains, the first one to let loose a string of curses was none other than Bia. She zoomed towards him, eyes blazing with anger.

"You jerk! You dare to leave me out of the battle and bind this majestic me? I am gonna take you on!"

She slammed her small body into his stomach with full force, and Kyle just let her be. A small oof escaped his lips because she really did use a lot of strength to crash into him. His eyes returned to normal, and he let out a chuckle as he grabbed her.

After Bia, the others also surrounded him with aggrieved expressions and just wanted to give him a good beating for lying to them about fighting together, only to leave them out of the battle in the end! However, after witnessing Kyle's strength, no one dared to actually hit him, and they all just expressed their grievances with words.

Kyle glanced at Yue, who hurrmped at him and snapped her head away from his gaze to indicate she wouldn't talk with him. It was at that moment that suddenly Nine appeared before Kyle with seething eyes.

Jian, Sinon, Regius, the girls, and the three old men quickly retreated when they caught sight of Nine's enraged eyes fixed on Kyle. Nine lowered his gaze and adjusted his sleeves while muttering under his breath.

"How many times... Just how many times have I called your name..."

His voice sounded hoarse and dry as if he had shouted until his throat was parched, and then, much to everyone's shock, he raised his fist to punch Kyle in the face.

Kyle's eyes narrowed at the punch aimed at his precious face, and just before Nine's fist could connect, he vanished from his spot. Nine let out a menacing laugh.

"Oh, you wanna play it like this, huh? Alright, as you wish! I won't stop until I land a few punches on you because I know, I know as a supreme rank, you could hear my shouts loud and clear! You bastard!"

Bia quickly regained her balance in mid-air with a curse when Kyle disappeared. Carcel, who was hovering toward Kyle from behind, swiftly moved away from Nine's path as the latter quickly maneuvered behind Kyle, who had reappeared in the distance.

Kyle stared at the fist now aimed at his stomach and swiftly dodged with a bewildered expression.

"What happened!?"

He backed off, dodging another punch once more. The pair kept arguing in the air, with Nine desperately trying to land a hit on Kyle, but then all of a sudden Lara intervened with a concerned look. She glanced at the ball of icy blue flames above in the sky and asked the silver-haired man about Alec.

Kyle followed her gaze and rubbed his nose as Nine glared at him from a distance. The expression on the brown-haired man's face showed that he wouldn't calm down until he landed at least one punch on him.

But Kyle didn't understand why he was so angry... Alright, he admits that even though he faintly heard Nine calling out to him, he ignored the man, but why does he want to hit him? He shifted his body to avoid Nine's potential attack while distracted and responded to Lara.

"He's fine... and I suppose it's time for him to emerge from the nightmare."

Lara blinked as he flicked his fingers, and the ball of icy flames in the sky scattered in different directions.

In the next second, Alec's hovering body dropped toward the ground. Immediately, Nine and all the others rushed toward Alec to grab his dropping body because they could see his eerily pale complexion and tightly shut eyes. Kyle slowly followed behind them and silently murmured.

"He still hasn't woken up? Just what is he seeing in the nightmare?"

## Chapter 602 The nightmare I

A while back, when the massive array encasing the entire sky above the Gladiator Arena was erected and Kyle faced the two Shadow Generals with Alec and Carcel.

Alec was floating in mid-air behind Kyle with a determined expression, ready to end both the shadow generals alongside him and Carcel with the newfound strength coursing through his body.

His body was brimming with divine and spiritual energy. But he could easily handle his power thanks to the divine rank artifact, his system that had been with him for a long time and grown with him.

Also, luckily, the air in the Sacred Divine Land was devoid of mana. Hence, his mana reserve was empty; otherwise, the scenario would have been even more overwhelming.

Alec's gaze shifted towards the two shadow generals. He could see everything was under Kyle's control, and with the array, he was confident they could effortlessly overcome the shadow generals.

But when Kyle's voice resonated in his mind, instructing him to eliminate the third shadow general while Kyle dealt with the golden-eyed one, Alec's mind went blank.

It was a sudden blankness, as if someone else had taken over his consciousness, followed by intense pain that shot from the back of his head to his entire body. Then, a dark voice sounded in his mind.

'Kill him.'

Those two words echoed in his mind like thunderbolts. He couldn't help but question, who? He no longer comprehended what was happening around him, and the voice resounded once more in his head. This time, followed by a surge of excruciating pain, as if someone had just squeezed his soul. The pain was so intense that Alec wanted to scream, but nothing emerged from his mouth. Then the voice persuaded him to do as asked, promising an end to the pain.

'It would end...?'

He asked in his mind with a blank expression and did what the voice asked him because he just wanted to get rid of the pain. He couldn't bear it. The pain was consuming his entire being, and he felt like he would die if it didn't stop.

His body moved on its own with lightning-fast speed, and he grabbed someone... the face reflecting in his eyes was familiar. Silver hair and green eyes, but he couldn't remember who it was... and just did what the voice asked him to.

'Kill him.'

He raised his hand, and surprise flashed through the green eyes staring at him as he struck the man's chest with all his strength. The silver-haired man was flung backward and Alec positioned himself in front of two familiar but strangely unfamiliar men because the voice asked him to.

Alec stared at the silver-haired man as the latter steadied himself in mid-air and said something, but with the pain looming to engulf him, he couldn't grasp a word.

The two men behind him were also talking, stating that they have control over his life. Alec attempted to focus on the discussion with all his might but couldn't understand what the four people around him were discussing. Then, another command resonated. This time, it echoed in his ears, not in his head.

"Go and fight them both, but don't kill them because I will end their lives."

Alec blinked, and his vision blurred, followed by a sharp, pounding pain in his head that left him disoriented and suffocated. He knew that to get rid of the pain, he needed to do what the voice asked him to do. So, he quickly sprang into action and attacked the golden-haired man, who was closest to him.

The golden-haired man was yelling at him, saying things he couldn't understand as he attacked the man without stopping. There was only one thought in Alec's head – he needed to fight this man. Everything seemed to be going smoothly, but then a chill filled the air around him.

Alec sensed another presence, other than the golden-haired man, and turned his head toward the silver-haired man, who emerged from the icy flames surrounding him.

He swiftly swung his sword at the man without a moment's pause. But before his attack could land, icy flames surged out to halt his actions. Then the silver-haired man grabbed his neck and easily snatched the sword from his hand.

Alec struggled to break free from the vice-like grip on his neck. However, it tightened, causing a sharp, searing pain to shoot through his skin. Just as despair crept in, a mysterious dark aura enveloped his being. His resistance waned, and his already befuddled mind spiraled further into confusion. Now, his surroundings plunged into an abyss of pitch-black darkness, obscuring all vision.

He peered into the darkness, and bit by bit, his ability to think clearly and comprehend his surroundings began to return.

"What's happening...? Weren't we fighting the shadow generals?"

As his mind cleared, the darkness around him shifted into a vast battlefield strewn with broken buildings. Up in the sky, the two shadow generals were watching him while sitting on two colossal thrones. Will and Ceano ordered him to eliminate all his friends with sinister smiles.

Alec glanced ahead... Kyle, Nine, Carcel, Jian, Lara, Yue, Mia, Sinon, Regius. They all floated before him with their weapons raised towards him.

He attempted to stop his body, yet it refused to obey his commands and instead followed the shadow generals' orders to battle his companions, who implored him to come to his senses.

His face lost colors, and he silently screamed within himself to stop. He dreaded harming his friends! The shadow generals' sinister laughter echoed in his ears as he wounded Carcel and several others who were hesitating to harm him because they knew he was under the shadow generals' influence.

Alec's face went ghostly pale with each passing moment as he swung his sword, meant to kill the shadow generals, at his friends. A bitter yet twisted smile appeared on his lips when, unlike the others who were still trying to bring him back to his senses, Kyle lost his composure.

With fury ablaze in his green eyes, the silver-haired man floated toward him to ensnare him within a cage crafted from his icy blue flames. Alec wanted to yell to Kyle that he never meant to hurt them, but his body wouldn't listen.

He hoped they would all flee from him so he wouldn't hurt any of them more. When Alec and Kyle confronted each other in the sky, one of the shadow generals rose from his seat and spoke to Alec with an eerie smirk.

"Kill him."

## Chapter 603 The nightmare II

Alec laughed through the pain, his eyes vacant as he swung his blade at Kyle, who glared at him with anger.

The dark petal on the back of his hand blossomed, and darkness enveloped Alec's entire body as he battled Kyle in the sky in front of all his friends. After a lengthy fight, Alec stood alone atop a shattered building, his hands stained red with blood and his once bright eyes now completely dull.

Kyle was nowhere to be found. Half of his friends were kneeling weakly on the ground, while the other half aimed their weapons at him, tears glistening in their eyes, as he muttered hoarsely.

"I'm sorry... I'm sorry... I didn't mean it... I didn't mean to kill him..."

He stared at his bloodstained hands. This nightmare, if only Nine could witness it, he would have been utterly shocked, because it was eerily similar to the vision he had seen a long time ago on the blue planet.

Fortunately or unfortunately, Nine's vision was merely a fragment of the nightmare Alec was currently going through.

Alec's heart sank even deeper, as he collapsed to his knees when the two shadow generals ordered him to kill all his remaining friends as well. He shook his head, eyes wild with madness, screaming 'no' repeatedly. The shadow generals merely sneered at his state and relished in his torment. It was at that instant he sensed his body plummeting... perplexing, considering he was kneeling; why did it feel like he was free-falling from the sky?

Alec's voice faded, and once again, his vision started to darken when numerous voices echoed in his ears, urging him to wake up. He blinked a few times, and dazedly gazed at the many familiar faces gathered around his body.

'How...?'

His eyes were veiled with haze, yet he was absolutely certain that moments ago, all his friends were gravely injured because of him. So why did they all appear unharmed? Had he perished, or was he merely lost in a dream? His eyes shifted towards Lara, and his heart, which had been bleeding from everything he had just endured, began to slowly ease. She was sitting beside his head with a relieved smile.

"Finally, you open your eyes. Are you feeling okay? Any discomfort in your body?"

A familiar worried voice echoed in his ears, and he just wanted to lean towards Lara's warm hand resting on his head and do nothing. Not even move his body. However, in that calm moment, his eyes caught sight of the silver-haired man floating above everyone sitting around him.

Kyle locked eyes with him, a hint of amusement dancing in his gaze. Alec immediately jerked back, recoiling from everyone around him. His eyes reflected not just dread and fear but also intense pain, a tumultuous mix of emotions. He let out a bitter laugh and started mumbling.

"Don't approach me... I might harm you all... Please, stay away from me..."

Lara, Nine, and everyone else around him were stunned at his reaction and gazed at Kyle with solemn eyes. Carcel had already spilled the beans that the silver-haired man was the one who put Alec into a nightmare. Kyle blinked when he found all eyes on him and let out a sigh.

"What? Don't give me that judgmental look. I just threw him into a small nightmare-!"

He halted, raising his hand in surrender as the many eyes on him darkened.

"Okay, okay, it wasn't just any ordinary nightmare. But I did it to prevent him from fighting me and Carcle under the shadow generals' commands. I have no clue what he endured in that nightmare."

Kyle landed next to the group and began rolling up his sleeves with a serious expression as he examined Alec's face.

"Let me bring him out of whatever he went through. A couple of slaps, and he will be back to normal, just like before!"

Of course, he was joking. But the people around him didn't find his joke amusing. The first person to give him a smack was none other than Yue. She hit his leg and glared at him fiercely.

"Can't you see he's already not thinking straight? Don't do anything to make his condition worse."

Kyle hissed dramatically and sat down beside her. A touch of bitterness flashed in his eyes, but she ignored him. He glanced at Alec, who had ceased mumbling and was now observing everyone around him with a vacant yet puzzled expression. It appeared the blue-haired man was starting to regain his composure. Kyle then looked at Nine and patted his shoulder.

"You possess a powerful healing skill, right? Can you apply it to others? Alec isn't injured, but the skill could help soothe his mind."

Nine shot him a fierce look and swiftly moved towards Alec to apply his healing skill. He didn't really mind how Kyle knew about his healing ability as he extended his spiritual energy to envelop Alec, who gazed at him silently. Alec raised his hand to examine the black petal present on his skin, while a few notifications from the system echoed in his mind.

- Error!

Attempting to identify the issue! Loading...

The host's consciousness was manipulated by the dark energy within his body. In result, the system was temporarily disabled.

The host endured a potent nightmare while the system was offline.

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After receiving the notifications, Alec realized that everything he had experienced was merely a nightmare, meaning he hadn't hurt anyone. He let out a deep, relieved breath and eased his tense body. However, he clenched his hands into fists at the realization that everyone now knew he could be influenced by the dark side before scanning the faces around him.

"I am sorry..."

He softly murmured.

"I don't remember what happened after the darkness overcame me... I didn't mean to harm anyone. If I did, I am truly sorry."

A bitter smile crept onto his face as he attempted to hide the dark petal glowing on the back of his hand with his sleeve.

"The shadow generals can control me because I signed a dark contract with one of them. I'm sorry I didn't tell you all..."

"It's best if you all stay away from me because you all would be affected if they controlled me once again."

Chapter 604 No thanks. We reject.

Lara and all the others stared at Alec silently. They didn't blame him because they knew he had been suffering all alone due to the dark mark without any help.

All of them wanted to help him but had no clue how one can be released from the dark contract. While they were all busy in their thoughts, Old Hal, who was chained outside the very stage they had landed with Alec's unconscious body, suddenly spoke up.

"I can help. One of my comrades recently invented an artifact that can wipe out the dark mark placed on someone's body by the dark side. But in exchange, you all need to follow me to the war going down at the other end of the universe. Because, you know, nothing is free in this world."

The powerful figures in robes chained around the old man were taken aback by his sudden proposal. They looked at him with a hint of admiration.

Truly, the old man was suggesting a deal that the young ones would never turn down at the ideal moment. None of them dared to disturb him as he directed his serious gaze towards Kyle and the others.

Old Hal had been observing them all from the beginning and had noticed the deep care they held for each other.

Their fate was intertwined with the silver-haired man. Hence, he particularly desired to bring the silver-haired man to the war. As he watched them pondering his words, a faint smile graced his face. If they agreed to his proposal, he would recruit numerous skilled individuals... but his smile faltered when suddenly Nine chuckled and gazed at him with narrowed eyes.

"No thanks. We reject."

Nine's firm voice, which accepted no refusal, reverberated through the air, and a wide grin crept onto his face. Lara, Carcel, Jian and the few others who were seriously contemplating accepting the old man's proposition gazed at him in confusion.

Old Hal and all the people in robes waiting for the youngsters' responses frowned at Nine's words. They were well aware that the youngsters were completely lost on how to get rid of the dark mark on the blue-haired man's body. So, why was this lad rejecting the old man's proposal? Even Elizabeth, who was listening to everything from a distance, was somewhat puzzled.

Kyle's eyes shifted towards the grin on Nine's face, and he was certain the man had something up his sleeves. Instantly, a spark of curiosity flickered across his face, but he held back from moving closer to Nine, aware that the man would try to punch him again. Keeping their distance seemed like the wiser choice.

At that instant, Alec cracked a subtle smile as he made eye contact with Nine.

"Good. You all don't have to follow anyone just because of me. This is my battle-!"

Before he could finish his sentence, Nine clicked his tongue loudly.

"Quiet, why are you being such a whiner? And who said it's only your fight? We're all here for you. Let me finish my words first."

He reached out his hand into the air and pulled out a rolled-up paper from his mind space. It took him a considerable amount of time to locate the contract with Alec's name among the numerous papers he swiped from the demon's planet.

As the paper materialized in his hand, all eyes were drawn to it. But nobody knew its significance. Nine sheepishly rubbed his nose and then shot Kyle a stern look.

"Here."

He extended the paper towards Kyle, who moved closer, albeit slowly, and took it from his hand with a puzzled look.

Kyle unrolled the paper amidst everyone's curious stares, but as he read the symbols inside, his eyes widened in surprise. The symbols of confinement. He locked eyes with Nine, who had a sly grin on his face.

"I've finished my task. It's your turn now."

Sinon, Regius, and Jian leaned in towards Kyle, gazing at the paper in his hands with narrowed eyes. But unfortunately, the trio didn't get anything at all. Regius traced the symbols with his finger and asked.

"What are these? Symbols?"

Sinon replied with a frown.



"I think they are, but why do they look more like scribbles?"

Jian shook his head, pointing to the paper with a serious expression.

"No, look closely! It's a drawing of a snake with seven heads!

Kyle's eyebrow twitched slightly at their comments. Thinking he should teach them a thing or two about arrays in his spare time, he shook his head solemnly.

"No, it's a dark contract."

He glanced at the name signed at the bottom corner of the paper.

"The one Alec signed..."

Jian's eyes widened at his words. Alec was the most shocked and quickly stood up to snatch the paper from Kyle's hand. He fixed his eyes on the ordinary paper, shaken by the memories it brought back.

As everyone gathered to stare at the paper in disbelief and shock, Kyle moved closer to Nine and asked with curious eyes.

"How did you get your hands on it?"

Nine's face beamed proudly as he lightly thumped his chest.

"A powerful being... someone beyond comparison, lent me a hand. He admired my charm and just couldn't stand to see harm come my way."

Kyle blinked at the enigmatic words uttered by the brown-haired man. He could not help but think about the identity of this powerful being who helped Nine. Little did he know that it was none other than himself.

'Another friend I have forgotten? No, that can't be right. Yue never mentioned anyone else I am very close to.'

Old Hal and the many folks silently watching the group were utterly shocked when they realized that the paper Nine handed to Kyle was a dark contract. They were curious about how Nine came across it, given that no one had ever managed to find one. However, watching the group deeply engrossed in their conversation, no one dared to ask, feeling they would probably be completely ignored.

Chapter 605 How about we even the odds?

Alec stared at the paper in his hands, feeling the urge to obliterate it, shred it to bits. However, before he could act, Nine approached him and swiftly snatched the paper from his hands.

"You can't tear it or else it would harm your body. We need to eliminate the dark energy within this contract."

Alec nodded, his gaze fixed on the paper in Nine's possession as the brown-haired man handed it back to Kyle, who blinked in surprise. Nine sighed inwardly.

"Don't be clueless. You can read the symbols on this contract, so I trust you have the ability to cleanse the darkness from it, right?"

Kyle looked at Alec and the others, their hopeful gazes focused on him. The paper in his hand began to float, and a spiritual radiance illuminated his index finger. Amid the watchful eyes upon him, he swiftly traced a series of symbols in the air, too fast for anyone to follow, to counter the powerful ones etched on the paper.

Then icy flames burst from his palm, enveloping the paper in frost before breaking it into tiny particles.

Subsequently, dark smoke started to emerge from the back of Alec's hand where the dark petal resided. All present observed as the dark petal dissolved into smoke, leaving nothing behind. Alec looked at his hand and expressed his gratitude to Nine and Kyle with a broad smile.

"Thank you."

The darkness began to lift from his eyes, hinting at a newfound light within. At that instant, Jian looked at the array in the sky.

"What's next? I don't think we can enter the Lost Treasure Tomb at this point."

Kyle eyed the array, noting there was ample time before it dissipated. With a flick of his fingers, a portal materialized in the air.

"Let's make our exit for now. We can strategize our next move later. But before we go... how about we even the odds?"

His gaze narrowed as he peered at Ned, who was bound by the chains behind Old Hal. The scoundrel who had called Nox worthless. Kyle wouldn't let this slide; he had a score to settle.

Noticing the silver-haired man's intense gaze fixed on him, Ned's body tensed, and a wave of dread washed over him.

Yue and Jian, who have crossed paths with Ned previously, were momentarily confused by what was happening. But when they saw Nox, floating above Kyle with a fierce look, they immediately understood why Kyle was ready to beat up Ned. The lynx sneered and perched on Kyle's shoulder.

"Finally! It's time to show him who the true worthless one is!"

Kyle chuckled and patted the lynx's head. Before anyone could intervene, he vanished from his spot. In the next moment, Ned was hurled backward as the chains restraining him disappeared.

Despite Ned's desire to fight back, the silver-haired man's speed was just too fast. A violent blow to his stomach left him gasping for air, coughing up blood. In mere seconds, he struggled to even stand on his feet.

Old Hal simply closed his eyes at the sight as Kyle kicked Ned's body away without a hint of mercy. The old man had anticipated that Ned's inconsiderate remarks would eventually result in a situation like this. He let out a deep sigh, somewhat relieved that Kyle chose not to end Ned's life.

Nox couldn't see a thing with Kyle's lightning-fast moves. Yet, he felt content, a wicked grin forming on the lynx's face as he turned his head towards the audience, particularly fixing his gaze on a distant eagle perched on the shoulder of a demi-human woman. The eagle trembled as its eyes met the lynx's.

"Haha, It's my go now."

He glided towards the eagle to exact his revenge while Kyle returned to his position without a trace of blood on his attire. Yue and the others looked at the silver-haired man with speechless expressions but chose to stay silent.

Bia promptly followed Nox, and upon witnessing him assaulting a small eagle, she shot him a scornful look.

- "Don't tell me you couldn't even handle a feeble eagle, huh? Just how weak have you become in my absence? I believe I need to put you through some serious training so you don't cut my nose."

Nox halted his actions and swiftly tossed the eagle he was beating away with a shiver upon hearing Bia's words.

"What sort of training...?"

He inquired with a sinking heart. But Bia departed his side and went towards Kyle to sit on the human's head, leaving Nox behind, cursing his luck.

Nox shot a final glare at the eagle before swiftly joining Kyle. With all debts settled, the group began to drift towards the portal that Kyle had conjured to depart, under the watchful gaze of many onlookers. But Nine paused and, before stepping into the portal, he tossed a storage ring filled with dark contracts toward Old Hal.

"No need to thank me. I have a generous heart, so I assist everyone."

Nine had stolen mountains of dark contracts from the demon realm. He didn't really have any need for them once he found the one he needed. So, he hoped the old man would find a way to cancel the contracts and free all those enslaved by the dark side.

As he entered the array behind the others, he was stunned, just like everyone else, when they materialized right outside one of the gates of the Gladiator Arena.

Jian looked back at the colossal gate, surrounded by a barrier.

"Huh? I thought we were leaving for a distant place. What's the meaning of this?"

Kyle descended and touched down on a grassy field. There were still countless individuals outside the arena who were unable to register in time. They had heard the commotion inside from outside but couldn't enter due to the restrictions. When the group emerged from a portal, it surprised many, but since the group was not recognized, they were safe.

Jian and the others swiftly followed Kyle and landed on the grassy field too. They observed as the silver-haired human settled on the ground and leaned against a tree behind him, wearing a tired expression. A glint of mischief flickered in Kyle's eyes as he began counting the people around him.

"Regius, Jian, Nine, Sinon, Carcel, Alec, Lara, Mia, Yue, Zron, Yon, Susan, and me... Not counting Bia and Nox since the two of them are bonded beasts. We make up a total of 13 individuals."

Jian let out a faint groan.

"You're quite something, aren't you? You didn't free Xavier and the other two humans from the chains. They were with me. I am sure they are going to suffer...."

However, all his complaints died down, and his eyes sparkled brightly when he heard Kyle's next words.

"We can all enter the Lost Treasure Tomb forcefully or maybe secretly if we sit here and wait for the right moment."

Chapter 606 Then why is he completely fine?

Zron sat next to Kyle with a skeptical expression when he learned he could also explore the Lost Treasure Tomb. He had refrained from joining the Gladiator Arena because he feared his old bones might get broken, but he would definitely not turn down the opportunity to enter the tomb without having to earn a spot.

"What if we couldn't? The Lost Treasure Tomb can only accommodate a limited number of folks inside, you know."

Kyle nodded thoughtfully. The tomb had a limited capacity for visitors. That's why the Arena was organized, but he was confident that with the right strategy, they could gain entry to the tomb without any issues.

"Don't worry, leave it all to me. Besides, even if we can't get into the Lost Treasure Tomb, the Sacred Divine Land is brimming with countless treasures. I am sure it wouldn't be a bad plan to loot it all."

Zron hummed and opted to sit back and observe how things unfolded. After seeing so much, he couldn't quite anticipate what the young man was truly capable of. His brow twitched as Kyle distanced himself from him and made his way over to Yue, who was sitting with the girls.

The silver-haired man shamelessly rested his head on her shoulder and closed his eyes to relax for a while. Yue was surprised, but she smiled and let him be. Bia followed suit, closing her eyes to rest, while the others closed their eyes to meditate.

Alec and Carcel both felt a bit uneasy because of the supreme-rank strength still flowing through their bodies, making it hard for the duo to concentrate. They wanted to ask Kyle to remove the power of the array from their bodies and return them to their normal strength, but seeing him asleep, they held back from interrupting him.

They thought that once the array in the arena disappeared, their strength would return to normal by itself. However, they weren't ready for the sharp pain that shot through their entire bodies when the supreme-rank power faded away.

Alec clutched his chest, gasping for air, sweat pouring down his face as he looked at Carcel, who was in a similar condition. Lara, Mia, Nine, Sinon, Regius, Jian, and the three old men quickly huddled around them to hand them healing potions and other healing treasures.

However, even after drinking the potions, the two men were too tired to even move. Every muscle in their bodies felt like it was stretched to the max, aching with exhaustion and pain as if they had been asked to lift a mountain. Susan checked their pulses, his expression grim.

"Their bodies exerted a power that was too much for them. That's why it has taken a toll on them. It will take a few days at least before they can move freely again as their bodies need time to recover completely."

The people around him nodded, understanding that the power of the array was too much for Carcel and Alec's bodies to bear, and it's not like they thought that such immense power would come without any cost. This was just a small price to pay. In that moment, Nine's eyes narrowed, and he

whipped his head toward Kyle, who was resting on Yue's shoulder, making her unable to move from her spot.

"Then why is he completely fine?"

His words grabbed everyone's attention, and immediately all eyes turned to Kyle. Indeed, the silver-haired man had utilized the majority of the array's power. So, why did he appear unaffected when both Alec and Carcel were clearly in pain?

Yue's eyes flickered with concern as she gently patted Kyle's back.

"Kye? Are you alright?"

He remained silent, letting out a slight groan with furrowed brows before leaning into the warmth emanating from her body. Yue's eyes widened as his skin made contact with her neck, realizing his skin was freezing cold, almost like ice. His skin was always cold but not to this point where she felt like she was touching ice.

She swiftly extended her other hand towards his forehead, and everyone was stunned as a delicate layer of shimmering ice materialized on Kyle's skin before her hand could connect with him.

"Kyle?"

Yue flinched suddenly when she felt an icy sensation on her neck, realizing the frost on Kyle's skin was affecting her shoulder and neck. Despite this, she chose not to move away but instead softly tapped his back again to wake him up.

Nine frowned and rolled up his sleeves, his expression solemn and concerned.

"Move back, Yue. Let me wake him up. A couple of slaps should do the trick!"

The words he spoke were eerily similar to what Kyle had said when he wanted to help everyone wake up Alec. Everyone was left speechless by his words. It was clear that the two men were truly friends. However, before Nine could act, Kyle's eyes snapped open, and he swiftly moved away from Yue, shaking his head to clear his thoughts.

"Ah..."

He let out a soft gasp, and a hint of pain flashed through his green eyes. However, it disappeared in the next moment, and he released a soft yawn. He was experiencing the same, or maybe even worse pain than what Alec and Carcel were going through. Yet, he was already accustomed to it. Thus, the pain didn't really affect him too much, except for some discomfort in his body. He glanced at Yue, and upon seeing her slowly rub her neck, he let out a soft sigh.

"Why didn't you move away?"

Kyle ignored Nine, fully ready to give him a few slaps to settle all the scores, thinking he wouldn't have this chance again. Not just Nine, he ignored everyone around him and reached out his hand toward Yue, placing it gently on her shoulder. Instantly, spiritual energy flowed from his palm, calming the redness on her pale skin.

"Step aside next time if my body starts feeling too cold. It occurs when my body's natural healing powers are activated."

The many eyes that were fixed on the duo shifted to Alec and Carcel when they saw that the silver-haired man was perfectly fine and had the audacity to disregard them all, devoting his complete attention to Yue.

Chapter 607 What punishment?

Inside the Gladiator Arena, as the array in the sky disappeared into a shower of tiny sparks, Elizabeth was the first to take flight, followed by Old Hal. The other robed figures accompanying the old man hurried to help Ned with his injuries. But they were taken aback when they saw the man's condition, silently vowing never to judge a person by their appearance again.

The people from the dark side were completely terrified at the fate awaiting them with the two shadow generals gone. Realizing they had to fight to survive, they launched an immediate attack. However, before their strikes could land on anyone, Elizabeth swiftly raised her hand, creating a powerful barrier that trapped them all.

She was a powerful presence, unmatched by anyone in the Gladiator Arena except for the men called Ceano. Sadly, that bastard was stronger than her.

Her booming voice resonated through the air as she pacified the audience.

"Settle down, everyone. It's not the time to panic. It's the time to celebrate! Finally, after so many years, one of the shadow generals has met his demise!"

A broad smile appeared on her lips.

"I can't express the happiness I feel that such a formidable enemy was defeated by none other than a young human... and that human is from my planet! Haha, Kyle, I will always remember this name I heard, and I believe you all will too. Indeed, he deserves the title of nature's favorite... or maybe any title he chooses for himself."

Instantly, her smile turned stern, and a solemn expression graced her face.

"He accomplished the unimaginable, vanquishing a powerful foe. I aim to acknowledge his deeds and those of his companions, yet their transgression in the Gladiator Arena cannot be overlooked. Rules are rules, and they must face the consequences of their misconduct. No exceptions shall be made to uphold the integrity of the Gladiator Arena as a place where regulations are important."

Whispers swirled through the air as the crowd chattered about the silver-haired man and his companions. They caused quite a stir and then vanished.

Surprisingly, the crowd seemed somewhat pleased that the silver-haired man and his friends would face consequences. Nobody likes being chained up for hours, and to top it off, Kyle even messed with Ned, one of the powerful folks overseeing the Arena.

From various individuals' points of view, despite the silver-haired man taking down a shadow general, Kyle's arrogant attitude deserves some punishment. Some might just be hiding their jealousy behind their critiques of his actions and power.

Elizabeth gazed into the distant sky with a contemplative look and let out a sigh.

"The first punishment I have chosen for the group is to ban them from the Arena. They are also prohibited from entering the Lost Treasure Tomb. The second punishment is something I cannot reveal, but rest assured it is not a light one."

After her words disappeared in the air, Xavier and the two humans accompanying him, who were attempting to stay discreet and blend in with the crowd, were swiftly apprehended by Vexana, following Old Hal's instructions. They weren't the only ones caught; Wesley and the elves who entered the Arena with Yue, along with the lizard race individuals who arrived with Nine, were also captured for interrogation.

Xavier muttered curses under his breath, much like the supreme-rank old man from the lizard race who was rueful of the day he allowed Nine to integrate with his people. Wesley and Ronan faces were also grim as they were presented before Old Hal. The old man in a robe asked them about Kyle and his companions, wondering if they knew where the group had headed after leaving the Gladiator Arena, but they had no clue about their whereabouts.

Old Hal nodded, and Xavier and the individuals gathered in front of him breathed a sigh of relief when he let them all go without any punishment, stating that only Kyle and his friends who had run away would face consequences, not those who were with them unknowingly.

After the Arena settled, and all the dark side participants were removed from the Arena to be sent to a distant planet inhabited by flesh-eating beasts by the array masters since Elizabeth and Old Hal both avoided getting their hands dirty with their blood. Vexana declared that the battles in the arena would promptly recommence.

Elizabeth once again rose into the sky to convey her parting words to the audience before leaving the Sacred Divine Land to return to the war. With the shadow generals gone, her presence became unnecessary.

"I encourage all of you to do your best to claim a spot in the Lost Treasure Tomb now that the dark side's presence has been eliminated from the arena. Give it your best shot. And remember, don't mimic what the nature's favorite attempted, for you lack the power to endure my wrath, hahaha."

Her loud laughter echoed through the air, making everyone scrunch their noses in annoyance. As Elizabeth floated towards Old Hal to say goodbye, Ned, who had regained consciousness, stopped her with a serious expression.

"I'm sorry for interrupting, but besides kicking Kyle out of the Gladiator Arena, what other punishment did you have in mind for him?"

He asked with fists clenched and jaw tight. He wanted to see Kyle suffer for what the human did to him. This kind of humiliation, Ned had never faced before, and he felt he had lost all his dignity.

All those who saw him being beaten by Kyle would mock him for life for being defeated by a mere divine-rank human. He waited for Elizabeth's answer with anticipation. After all, even if he couldn't find the human, she could with her powerful influence.

Elizabeth blinked, tilting her head with a puzzled expression.

"What punishment?"

Ned's expression sank upon hearing her words, a realization hitting him.

"Don't tell me...?"

Elizabeth patted his shoulder, a smirk playing on her lips.

"Listen, Kyle and his crew, they are a big plus for our side. Their strength is top-notch, and I'm sure they will be a huge help to us in the future. I noticed their strong aversion to the dark side."

Her smirk widened.

"I am not going to punish any of them. It was simply a way to calm the crowd. Forget what happened to you; it was a result of your own actions. Kyle and his friends will soon join us, fighting against the dark forces alongside you as comrades. Clear your heart, or you may regret it."

Elizabeth's gaze turned cold with a warning. After seeing Ned grow pale under her stare, she departed the Gladiator Arena.

She wanted to personally let everyone fighting in the war know that the future looks bright because many formidable allies would soon join them.

Chapter 608 Let us in on the plan

The sky was clear above the towering walls of the Gladiator Arena. Every dejected soul who couldn't register for the Arena on time had scattered to hunt for treasures in the Sacred Divine Land.

Among the myriad verdant trees surrounding the arena, a group of familiar faces congregated beneath a specific tree, divvying up the treasures they had obtained from delving into a nearby ancient tomb, all thanks to Kyle's acute sense of smell.

Sinon glanced back at Kyle. The silver-haired man had done the most important work, locating the ancient tomb and treasures. Unlike the others who were busy selecting treasures for themselves, he was leaning against the tree with a calm expression. The winged demi-human moved closer to Kyle with a smile.

"Do you not want anything? We have come across many treasures. Take some before Zron hogs them all-!"

His words were interrupted by a smack on his head. Zron rolled up his sleeves and glared at him with narrowed eyes.

"Who am I, once more?"

Sinon winced and rubbed his head with a somber expression. He lowered his eyes, filled with regret... indeed, he regretted the moment, just like everyone else, when they accepted this greedy man as their master.

"Master..."

A satisfied expression appeared on Zron's face as he got busy again selecting some valuable treasure to enhance his current strength. Kyle chuckled at the scene, his eyes softened as he patted Sinon's shoulder to give him some support.

"Don't worry, they're all spiritual treasures. Not really useful to me right now. You all can divide them. Plus, many such treasures are just gathering dust in my mind space."

Kyle was telling it like it is. When he and Bia set out to explore the Sacred Divine Land on their own, they stumbled upon a trove of treasures, practically emptying out every tomb they stumbled upon. So, he wasn't short on treasures by any means.



His smile faded as he raised his hand to flick away the tiny winged creature entirely made of light attempting to sneak up on him from behind.

Sinon didn't even flinch at this sight. It's been over three months since they left the Gladiator Arena, and witnessing mystical spirits hovering around Kyle and seeing him casually shoo them away had become somewhat routine for all of them... or to be precise, they were sort of numb after the initial shock they experienced.

Kyle brushed his hand, which had come into contact with the mystical spirit, against his clothes and glanced at Sinon. He casually reached out to pluck a distinct, dark green patch of grass growing nearby, different from the others, and handed it to the man.

"I'm not sure what this is, but it's giving off a positive scent. You should ask Alec or Susan as they are more knowledgeable. I'm confident it's something valuable as well."

Sinon nodded and swiftly rejoined the others. It seemed his worry about Kyle not acquiring any treasures was baseless. The man could easily come across something valuable by simply leaning against a tree. Who was he to fret about such a formidable individual?

After dividing the treasures, everyone agreed to grab a bite. Initially, they weren't big on eating since each member of the group possessed enough strength to go without food for months, thanks to the divine energy within them. But Bia's habit to eat at least two substantial meals daily, even when not feeling hungry, led the group to join her in eating. Eventually, it turned into a shared habit among them all.

Nine, Carcel, Sinon, and Regius wasted no time and swiftly went to hunt a few beasts nearby. At the same time, the three girls with Alec began to light a fire and gather the essentials for preparing the meal. The three old men were also occupied; they went to find some good fruits nearby.

Only Kyle, Bia, and Nox lay peacefully under the green tree without a care. It wasn't that they were unwilling to help; it was simply because after trying Kyle's cooking, he was kindly told to never cook again.

Also, due to the mystical spirits always surrounding him, all the beasts would flee at the mere sight of his shadow. Eventually, they requested Kyle to gather other edible items like regular fruits or anything else edible, but the silver-haired man returned after a full day with fruits brimming with divine and spiritual energy. Eating such divine and spiritual fruits daily wasn't good for everyone's body, so he was also dissuaded from that task.

As for Bia and Nox, the pair just simply stayed with Kyle because they only knew how to eat and nothing more.

Kyle's nose twitched as a delicious aroma wafted in the air, and without even looking, he was certain it was Yue's turn to cook today. However, before he could join the others after Bia and Nox, his head snapped toward the sky. His eyes narrowed at the dark clouds gathering above.

"Oh... it seems the lost treasure tomb is about to open. That means the Gladiator Arena will be over soon."

A mischievous gleam flickered in his eyes as he checked out the towering walls of the Gladiator Arena. After they finished their meal, Kyle told everyone to get ready to enter the Lost Treasure Tomb.

They weren't surprised at his words since they could also see the event unfolding in the sky. They were just curious about how they would enter the Gladiator Arena. Nine rubbed his hands with an evil smirk.

"I can't wait to see the faces of those top participants who have been grinding day and night in the arena just to secure a spot to enter the Lost Treasure Tomb when we casually stroll into that very Tomb!"

Jian laughed in agreement.

"It's going to be so entertaining, haha!"

The pair, along with everyone else, exchanged glances with Kyle before Regius couldn't contain himself any longer.

"But seriously, let us in on the plan. Just spill it; we'll figure it out eventually anyway."

Kyle's expression turned serious as he cleared his throat.

"It's something I can't reveal at the moment. Otherwise, it might jeopardize the plan."

Bia, who knew him inside out, swiftly moved to his shoulder and asked him with a skeptical expression.

-'Hey... why do I get the feeling that you don't have a solid plan in mind right now? Don't you dare tell me you just want to go with the flow?'

Her doubts were confirmed when Kyle reached out to grab her beak to silence her so she wouldn't tell anyone else.

'No way! Just what kind of person do you think I am, huh?'

-'....'

Just like that, a phoenix, trying to tell everyone around Kyle to prepare for another impending doom, was silenced by the man himself before she could utter a sound.

Chapter 609 Get ready, everyone!

At the same time, inside the Gladiator Arena, Old Hal and the individuals in robes were observing the final round of battles happening within the towering walls.

After enduring three long months, the top five thousand participants would at last be chosen to venture into the Lost Treasure Tomb from the numerous contenders.

Old Hal watched the final battles with a serene smile, much like everyone seated behind him. Blissfully unaware, a group of individuals was plotting to enter the Lost Treasure Tomb right under their noses.

The crowd roared in support of the victors, their thunderous cheers echoing through the grand arena, containing the thrill within its colossal walls. Numerous onlookers felt envious as they were unable to claim a spot for themselves, yet that didn't deter them from cheering on the winners.

A grand projection descended from the sky, expanding in size to display the final scores of the five thousand winners, guaranteeing the precision of the final result.

However, as soon as the audience's eyes fell on the floating projection, their smiles vanished. The individuals in robes floating around Old Hal also lost their smiles.

The joyous atmosphere was somewhat dampened by the name that claimed the top spot on the projection. It belonged to the very human who had only cleared the first two rounds of battles in the arena, yet he stayed securely at the top throughout, all thanks to the generous amount of extra points the Arena awarded him after the second round ended in his absence.

Old Hal simply sighed; he lacked the strength to alter the results of the Gladiator Arena. The arena was designed that way. It autonomously assigned points to each participant based on their skills and demonstrated powers.

Kyle received a massive 100 extra points, boosting his initial score of 10 to a total of 110 by the end of the first round. As the second round concluded, his total skyrocketed to 220.

In each round, only 10 points were awarded to all winners, with an extra 10 points given to the top hundred contestants who showed outstanding skills.

Even with the bonus points granted during the nine rounds of battles in the arena, the person in second place only accumulated a total of 180 points overall.

Old Hal signaled to Vexana and a few others to take down the floating projection showing the names, then proceeded to declare the top five thousand participants, except for the top name, naturally.

The individuals in robes swiftly called out the names and started gathering the five thousand winners in one spot. The impending opening of the Lost Treasure Tomb didn't leave any room for delays.

It didn't take long for the five thousand winners to gather and stand proudly in the heart of the arena atop a massive platform that ascended from the ground once the numerous floating stages separated. Old Hal emerged before them with a gentle gaze and a subtle smile.

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"I wholeheartedly congratulate all of you gathered here. It's an honor for this elder to witness such a multitude of talents... and I genuinely wish none of you encounter harm in the treacherous realm that lies ahead."

He ended his speech with a parting advice, asking the five thousand winners to stay safe and make it back alive before shifting his focus to the sky above the Arena.

The onlookers hushed as they beheld a subtle aura of spiritual energy materialize above the Gladiator Arena, slowly blending and intensifying until it intertwined, forming a grand floating gate in the sky pulsating with profound divinity and spirituality. The colossal gate gleamed, radiating a feeling of power and enigma that saturated the atmosphere with a tangible energy.

Whispers of awe spread among the spectators, the atmosphere crackled with anticipation, each heartbeat resonating the deep importance of the unfolding event. The most thrilled were the five thousand victors standing on the platform before Old Hal, who announced upon seeing the gate.

"Get ready, everyone! The moment has finally arrived. The gate will open shortly and will close once the maximum capacity of entrants is reached. Vexana, prepare for the platform to move towards the gate. Ned, disperse the arena's power to prevent unauthorized access from those nearby. Only the winners are permitted to enter."

Vexana and Ned nodded and, along with a few others, began their designated tasks. They were aware that certain individuals in the crowd below might try their luck and attempt to enter the tomb forcibly.

Right away, the arena's power surged, emitting a brilliant light that momentarily subdued the strength of all those watching from below, ensuring they wouldn't cause any trouble. Old Hal nodded and watched as the platform, carrying the many winners, ascended towards the sky to position them in front of the Lost Treasure Tomb gate, which began to open from the center.

The old man wasn't concerned about outsiders forcing their way into the Tomb as the arena walls acted as an impenetrable barrier, preventing any unauthorized entry. He smiled as a loud creak echoed through the air, and the two halves of the gate swung outward, gradually unveiling an entrance.

At that very moment, a figure of a silver-haired man briefly appeared among the audience seated in the numerous seats within the towering walls. But he vanished instantly after observing the scene in the sky at such a rapid pace that no one was able to witness his arrival.

Kyle reappeared outside the arena where everyone was eagerly waiting for him. They all stood before different teleportation portals, filling the space around him, a blend of excitement and thrill evident in their expressions, ready to utilize their utmost agility for a single leap.

With the tomb gate's exact location already in his mind, Kyle skillfully traced a series of symbols in the air to connect the unfinished teleportation portals in front of everyone to a point just an inch from the gate. He glanced at everyone before directing his gaze at Bia, sitting on Jian's shoulder.

"Jump right after getting the signal I will send to Bia through our bond! Old man, the portals are ready. I trust you got this!"

Susan, the only one in the group who had some knowledge about symbols and arrays, nodded. He was the one assigned to activate the other end of the teleportation portals. Kyle disappeared once again, and the anticipation in the group grew.

Chapter 610 You little something-!

As the Tomb gate swung open, Old Hal's smile froze when a portal materialized right above the platform, where the countless eager winners stood poised to enter the Lost Treasure Tomb under his command. A familiar figure garbed in a sleek grey leather sweater emerged from the portal, sporting a sly smirk that sparked astonishment in the eyes of the onlookers.

Kyle peered down at Old Hal and the individuals floating before the tomb gate. Naturally, he wasn't conceited enough to believe that the portals he had crafted wouldn't be obliterated by so many supreme ranks. He cleared his throat and shifted his focus to the imposing gate.

"The tomb entrance has finally opened, and no one thought to invite me. How sad."

He shook his head with a sorrowful expression and glanced downward once more when he sensed a murderous aura aimed at him. It was Ned, floating beside Vexana, glaring at him with fury in his eyes.

"I believe I should at least be awarded a spot after killing a shadow general, right?"

His booming voice echoed through the air, his eyes sparkling with mischief as he disappeared from his spot using instant teleportation to enter the tomb directly. However, as he anticipated, a strong aura surged from Old Hal's body, and the instant his form reappeared before the gate, he was hurled backward through the air as a powerful force struck him.

Old Hal glanced at the numerous winners standing on the platform, shocked at Kyle's sudden arrival, and his booming voice reverberated through the air.

"All of you, start entering the tomb."

As his words dissipated in the air, he swiftly vanished from his spot to reappear before Kyle, who had already balanced himself mid-air in the distance.

Kyle rubbed his shoulder with a dramatic hiss; for some reason, the old man didn't use his full power because the force that struck him was only at the late stage of transcendent rank. He could have easily overpowered it, but he chose not to. He wasn't here to enter the tomb but to divert the attention of the formidable individuals capable of tearing the portals he had crafted. Glancing at the myriad of people on the platform who had begun flying and entering the Tomb, he let out a sigh.

"I'm just asking for a spot, come on, it's not a big deal."

He looked at Old Hal floating before him. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw Ned, Vexana, and all the individuals in charge of the Arena gathering around him. At that moment, Old Hal gazed at him with a serious expression.

"Unfortunately, we can't. The winners have been chosen. You should go; we won't harm you. Just consider it a favor owed to me."

Kyle chuckled, slightly on edge as ten percent of the individuals on the platform had already entered the tomb. He needed to hurry, or it would be too late.

"Old man, I never thought this is how you would treat the one who took down a shadow general. Don't you think you should grant this humble one small request to avoid making an enemy out of me?"

Ned sneered at his words and wanted to lunge at him to seek revenge but halted when Old Hal glared at him. The old man shook his head at Kyle.

"It doesn't matter who you are. You were already eliminated from the arena. So, it's impossible for me to grant your request. Leave, young man. Don't force me."

Kyle raised his eyebrow.

"Oh, what would you do if I don't leave? Believe me, I am definitely going to enter the tomb. No one can stop me."

He vanished from his spot to enter the tomb once more, but once again, a powerful force flung his body backward. Old Hal appeared before him. His aged face showed a hint of reluctance because he didn't want to harm the young man.

"Remember; you force me to do this."

Kyle smirked inwardly as the old man approached him to engage in a battle. It seems his plan succeeded.

He vanished from his spot before the old man could grab him and reappeared above the elegant elven statue, standing proudly atop the towering walls. It was the farthest from the tomb gate.

Vexana, Ned, and all the other powerful individuals followed the old man who went toward Kyle. But the instant they neared him, blue icy flames burst from Kyle's body, enveloping everything around them with a speed that caught everyone off guard.

Kyle shouted in his mind to Bia as the icy flames engulfed everything and everyone around him, obstructing their vision.

'Jump!'

The instant his voice resonated in Bia's mind, she yelled towards Susan.

-"Now!"

Susan wasted no time, activating the other ends of the numerous portals flickering in front of everyone and shouted.

"It's ready!"

Without a moment's hesitation, everyone jumped into the portals. Inside the arena, under the eyes of countless onlookers and the people entering the tomb, many portals materialized in the air, just an inch away from the tomb gate.

Before anyone could understand what was happening, Nine, Alec, Carcel, Reguis, Sinon, Jian holding Bia, Lara, Mia, and Yue holding Nox, together with Yon, Susan, and Zron, appeared from the portals.

Their figures went unseen by many bewildered onlookers as they entered the tomb smoothly because the portals materialized extremely close to the tomb gate. Only those in the transcendent and supreme ranks, who possessed powerful eyesight, were left in shock.

Old Hal, who had dispersed all the icy flames around him, halted his actions, his eyes widening as he sensed what had occurred behind him. He swiftly turned his head back towards the tomb, but it was already too late as the flickering portals disintegrated into particles.

An angry expression flickered across his eyes as he unleashed his most powerful wind skill to disperse the icy flames. The air cleared instantly, and the sight of those hovering around the old man returned.

"You little something-!"

A curse escaped his lips as he shifted his gaze towards the spot above the elven statue where Kyle was meant to be standing, only to discover it empty.