

Celestial Bloodline

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He looked at Bia who was already fast asleep and went to sleep as well.

Next day early morning, as usual, Kyle went to the classroom and after the lectures, he and Nine were walking side by side toward the training ground.

After a few minutes, they arrived and started training.

The training ground was filled with students. The top ten students were busy training while the remaining stood in front of Liam in rows.

The students looked at Liam seriously as he was giving a motivational speech.

The speech continued for an hour. Kyle almost cringed and blocked his ears because of the honorable and boring speech. He was not even able to focus on training.

With a sigh, he looked at Nine who was sitting beside him.

"How long do you think this will continue?"

Nine made a serious expression and counted his fingers before bursting out in laughter.

"No more than one week!"

Kyle smiled and looked at Liam when Nine pointed at the standing students.

"Look a few students were brainwashed by the Professor and stepped forward! Who do you think they are going to challenge?"

Kyle looked at the three students who were looking at the professor seriously. Their gaze burning with determination.

"No idea but I think I should get ready. Maybe they would pick me?"

He touched his sword and tapped Nine's shoulder.

"By the way when are you going to challenge one of the top ten? I don't think you are weak. The tournament is after two months are you not going to participate even after knowing the reward."

Nine gazed at the place where Kyle touched with a strange expression. His eyes widened slightly and the thread around his light golden pupils contracted for a second but after a second his eyes turned normal. He smirked and patted the back of Kyle's exposed hand.

Kyle stopped gazing at the two Arena stages and turned his head sideways to look at him.

"Hmm?"

"There's still two months. I will challenge someone and get a spot on the last week to avoid getting caught in a lot of battles."

"Alright. That's a good idea."

Kyle nodded and pointed at one of the stages.

"Someone claimed the stage and challenged Carcel!"

"Who?"

Nine eyes sparkled as he watched a buff student who had purplish hair standing on the stage with a serious expression.

"I know him, his name is Hinan. Just like the olive-haired boy who is following you recently he was following Carcel last week but stopped when the latter glared at him with deadly eyes."

"Anyway, why is he picking Carcel? He is strong but he can't defeat him, even I can't guarantee a victory against Carcel."

Kyle blinked his eyes when he heard about the 'Olive haired boy'. He knew Nine was talking about Tray because the only person following behind him was Tray.

"Hmm."

Nine grabbed Kyle's shoulder and shouted.

"Look Carcel is on the stage. It's starting!"

They both waited for a serious battle but what they saw left them speechless. Only after half a minute, Hinan dropped to his knees with various injuries.

Meanwhile, Professor Liam's face palmed when he saw the outcome of the battle.

The remaining students who were ready to challenge the top students again scattered and left the area without even looking back at Liam.

They almost got tricked because of his motivational speech!

Liam looked at the students and massaged his temples with a dejected expression.

'Damn it! I worked so hard to motivate them! Ugh... It's seemed there's no need for a referee any more.'

He looked back at the two Arena stages with a sigh and regained his old duty as a training instructor.

"Students, the Arena stages are open for the next two months! Remember you can challenge the top students. It's okay if today no one wants to but you have a lot of time!"

He clapped his hands to gather everyone's attention.

"Let's start training now! Today we will do some physical training. So first everyone should run ten rounds around the training ground. Then we will do push-ups and pull-ups!"

The students groaned when Liam shouted with a serious expression.

"Hurry up!"

Kyle looked at the running students and stood up. He gazed at Nine and started running as well.

"Let's join them."

Bia who was sleeping on his head woke up due to the sudden movement. She yawned and started flying around.

Nine gazed at Bia for a while. He stood up and followed behind Kyle with a tired expression while grumbling inwardly.

'I swear the only thing I hate is running!'

His gaze lingered on Kyle's back as Alec, Carcel, and the girls also joined the run.

Alec dashed and tapped Nine's shoulder with a smile.

"Hey, your face seemed a little pale what happened? Did you see a ghost!"

Nine dazed gaze was fixed on Kyle's back as he whispered slowly.

"So many injuries?..."

His sentence trailed off as he felt a stinging pain inside his eyes. He rubbed them gently and shook his head before looking at Alec with a sigh.

"Just a little tired."

"Okay but if you are feeling sick rest for a while."

Alec side glanced at him and left him alone. After they were done Professor Liam asked them to do some push-ups but only after a few push-ups Nine raised his hand with difficulty and looked at Liam.

"Sir, I am not feeling good. I want a tiny break."

Liam gazed at him with a frown.

"Within the last two months, it's the 20th time you have been feeling sick during training! Do you think I don't know what your tricks are?"

Nine clicked his tongue and just resigned to his fate with a downcast expression.

After they were done with the push-ups, Professor Liam made them run again until the students were breathless.

The top students were relatively fine compared to the others so Liam dismissed the remaining students before asking the top students to run again.

While running, Kyle looked at Nine who was dragging his body toward the exit with the other students. He chuckled.

'For once, he actually seemed sick.'

Chapter 175 Blessing or curse

Nine left the training ground and dragged his body to the dorm.

The moment he entered the room, he slumped on the bed and closed his eyes instantly.

After a while, he stood up and looked at the small circular mirror hanging outside the wardrobe.

He gazed at his moist eyes. Soon, small red veins appeared underneath his eyes and he winced with pain.

"I don't even know if it's a blessing or curse."

He rubbed his eyes with a painful expression as he sat down on the bed with a sigh.

Even though his expression looked calm his mind was racing because a moment ago he saw something again.

It wasn't something anyone could know because the thing he saw hadn't happened yet.

"A powerful ability? Huh?"

He scoffed at himself and buried his face in the pillow.

'I should not have been born with this ability. My elder sister already had it so why do I have it?'

Nine knew his ability wasn't high-rank like his sister but it was something gifted to him from birth.

In every generation, one member of the royal family would awaken this ability but after his sister, he also started seeing visions. At first, he thought they were just nonsense and never focused on them because the visions only appeared when he touched someone's skin directly. They were random and he would see only one vision in months.

After he turned 16 and awakened his talent everyone was shocked because, through the talent awakening Crystal, it was proved that just like his sister he had the unique ability to see the future.

Even though his mother the Queen tried her best, the news traveled fast around the whole Kingdom.

The ability holders were revered as someone great from ancient times that's why after the people protested, the Queen went into a dilemma.

The future Queen was already decided as her beloved daughter would inherit the throne in the future. That's why to appease the people his mother who never even glanced at him after giving birth to him increased his status among his other siblings and he was given the right to do everything he wanted.

"They didn't even know a prince named Nine existed but when they heard that I also awakened the special ability, they wanted to get on my good side. Why? Just because those so-called ancestors left behind some strange rules. Huh? I hate these types of people! A bunch of hypocrites!"

Nine gazed turned sharp. He hated everyone from the palace. They all neglected him when he needed them the most but came running when he was useful.

That's why after he was given freedom and high authority he left his home. At first, he wanted to wander around and didn't have any specific plan in mind but then while traveling he heard about the Royal Academy.

His interest was piqued after hearing about Principal Ratric and just for fun he registered for the test. His presence inside the test was almost invisible because he wasn't strong. His parents never had any expectations of him that's why he didn't work hard like his siblings who were always trying their best to be noticed.

Even though he didn't show anything remarkable in the entrance test, he passed the first two rounds with extreme difficulty.

When the third round, 1Vs1 battles among the participants started after the first clash he was going to give up but then he almost coughed out blood on the stage when he heard someone shouting from behind.

"Mark my word! You have zero chance of winning with how slowly you are attacking."

Nine snapped, he dodged the opponent's attack and looked back at the person who was giving remarks on his battle.

His eyes narrowed slightly as he saw a familiar person sitting luxury among the Academy teachers with a satisfied expression.

'Isn't he the one who got the lucky spot and didn't need to fight in the final round?'

He thought inwardly with a frown and dodged another attack from his opponent when another remark was thrown his way.

"Defend yourself! Do you even have a brain?"

Nine stopped himself from rolling his sleeves and going down to beat the shit out of the person who seemed to be enjoying himself.

His anger increased when another remark resounded in his head. With a dark expression, instead of the culprit he punched and kicked his opponent to calm his nerves.

He didn't even notice when he won the match and entered the Academy with the other students.

'Damn it! I just wanted to see the Royal Academy entrance test! How the hell did I lose my mind just because of some terrible remarks?'

He cursed inwardly and glanced at the culprit with angry eyes. The person looked ordinary with deep black eyes but for some reason the corners of his hair were silver.

Nine took a deep breath to calm down and saved the person's face in his mind for future revenge.

Before the Academy tested everyone's talents, his identity was exposed to the Vice Principal by some shitty people who were following him from the shadows without his knowledge. In the end, when he snapped they gave him a reason that they wanted to protect him.

Nine controlled himself and soon he saw a familiar face stepping on the stage to test his talent. It was the strange boy who remarked on his performance during the 1Vs1 battles.

When the teacher called out the boy's name, he smirked evilly while mumbling the name slowly.

"Kyle. I am sorry but it seems I will take out my frustration on you!"

He was smirking when the teacher announced Kyle's talent with a nonchalant expression.

"(B)-Rank."

Nine almost tripped when he heard Kyle's talent.

'I thought he would be someone with a high talent when I saw him remarking everyone 1Vs1 battles like a master! Damn it! It's unfair, how can you curse others with so much confidence when you don't even have enough strength to protect yourself!'

Chapter 176 Spiritual gaze

After Kyle was done testing his talent he left the stage, all this while Nine sharp gaze followed his back.

'Talent doesn't matter I will still take out my frustration on you!'

He made up his mind inwardly. They were given a tour of the Academy and afterward, Nine reluctantly went to his assigned dorm but he was surprised to see Kyle entering the room next to him.

Kyle stopped for a moment and glanced around with a nonchalant expression. Nine body stiffened but he didn't know whether to laugh or cry when Kyle's gaze swept past him like a flash. The latter didn't even seem to recognize him!

After Kyle disappeared inside the room, Nine scoffed and entered his room while forming a plan to take a small revenge on Kyle. Afterward, he would leave the Academy. Anyway, he was only here because he got curious.

The next day, after checking the first-year schedule he went to classes but unlike the eager students, Kyle wasn't seen in the classes for a whole week!

He clicked his tongue and threw Kyle out of his mind but then Professor Aliza suddenly asked the class if they knew anything about 'Kyle Ohan'. Her voice was a little angry when she asked them to remind Kyle about the upcoming ranking assessment.

Nine smiled mischievously when he saw her frown, as a good neighbor he instantly wanted to do his duty and tell Kyle about the angry Professor. He wanted to see panic on Kyle's nonchalant face!

He laughed evilly and went back to his room. The next day, he saw Kyle standing in front of the dorm and his eyes sparkled with amusement.

Nine cleared his throat and after patting his clothes he called out to Kyle who was going to enter his dorm.

"Kyle? Right."

Kyle turned around and instead of his usual nonchalant expression, he looked at Nine with a frown.

"Yes, it's me."

Nine blinked he was here to see Kyle's reaction but he got a little nervous when Kyle stared at him directly.

He stretched out his right hand with a smile.

"It's nice meeting you, I am Nine."

Kyle looked at him from head to toe. Nine's eyebrow twitched and he almost had the urge to leave because it took Kyle a whole minute just to grab his hand.

"As you already know, my name is Kyle. It's nice meeting you too."

Nine looked at Kyle with a forced smile he was going to say something when he felt a familiar jolt of pain in his eyes. He winced inwardly and an image of a man appeared inside his mind.

His mind was blank for a second as he saw the man standing within a sea of blue flames. The man was flying and Nine could only see his back but even his back looked

majestic. Just a single glance and Nine was sure the individual was powerful enough to crush anyone with a single move.

A shocked expression appeared on his face as he stared at Kyle in a daze. His mind raced with only a single question.

'How?'

How was it possible for Kyle to become so strong when he only had (B)-Rank talent? His pupils contracted the next second when he sensed Kyle's rank. It was (F+)-Rank!

The only people who reached (F+)-Rank were Alec, Carcel, Lara, and Mia but they all had incredible talents!

On the other hand, Kyle sensed Nine shocked gaze and he instantly hid his aura but for the next few seconds, there was an awkward silence.

"So why did you call for me?"

Nine finally snapped out of his stupor when Kyle broke the silence.

He smiled and looked at Kyle. This time his smile was wider as he hurriedly tossed the plan of taking revenge on Kyle out of the window and instead decided to befriend him.

With time they become close and Nine knew even though their friendship started because of a weird vision, Kyle was his first genuine friend!

After spending some time with Kyle, he learned a lot of things about him. Unlike his outer nonchalant appearance, Kyle was a very observant and trustworthy person. He was also sharp but for some reason, he disliked interacting with others.

Nine chuckled and sat down on the bed thinking about how his small revenge turned into friendship.

"I still want revenge for those bad remarks but damn he is too strong! I can't catch up no matter how much I try!"

He grumbled and after a while a serious expression appeared on his face. After entering the academy he saw a few more visions related to his classmates but today when Kyle tapped his shoulder on the training ground, it almost made him panic because what he saw wasn't something good.

It was only a single image but Nine was sure it was going to happen very soon because in the vision Kyle's appearance looked the same as now.

The image showed an area filled with tall green grass and wild weeds, Kyle was lying alone between the grass with tattered clothes. His eyes were shut and a lot of bloodied injuries could be seen on his whole body.

"I wasn't going to participate in the tournament but after seeing the vision I think it's related to the tournament. I need to stop this from happening!"

A determined expression appeared on his face. Even though Nine knew Kyle would be fine because he had already seen him standing in a sea of blue flames with a majestic presence he didn't want to take any risk.

The vision Nine saw had never been wrong before because his ability was related to nature.

"I need to make sure Kyle avoids this situation. If someone dared to kidnap or attack him in the presence of so many strong Professors and Vice Principal George that person would be really strong."

"I am too weak. I need to start working hard if I want to help him!"

Nine groaned and he decided to work even harder from now on.

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Meanwhile, in the training ground. Kyle panted heavily as he lay down on the ground with a tired expression.

"I can't run anymore."

Bia sighed and sat down beside him.

-'I think today's training is a little brutal.'

Kyle winced as he moved his legs to relax his tired muscles.

'Just a little brutal?'

He scoffed and looked at the other top students who were still trying their best to run. The only person who seemed to be in a better condition was Alec.

Professor Liam looked at Kyle's figure and finally gave the signal to stop.

"Okay. It's enough for today. I will see you all tomorrow with the other students."

He chuckled with a satisfied expression and left the panting students alone. Alec looked at the fading back of the Professor before sitting down to calm his breath. Carcel, Lara, Mia, and the other top students had already slumped down with panting breaths.

After a while, Kyle stretched his legs with a sigh.

"I am not coming here tomorrow! I am taking a day off!"

He grumbled and Alec looked at him with a tired expression.

"I am not coming as well. He seemed to be taking revenge because we scared the other students too much when we fought each other."

After a while, they finally had the strength to stand up. They all dragged their bodies toward the exit.

While walking, Kyle thought for a while and looked at Alec.

"Anyway, Do you know what happened to Nine?"

Alec gazed at him with surprise. The first question that appeared in his mind was why was Kyle asking him this question. Shouldn't he ask this to Nine?

"I don't know. We should go and see him tomorrow."

Kyle nodded he just wanted to know if Alec was able to know something like this with the system.

After Kyle left, Alec massaged his temples and looked at his fading back.

'Why do I feel like Kyle knows something? No.. it's not possible.'

He shook his head and threw the thought at the back of his head before thinking about Nine. Even though he told Kyle he didn't know anything he had an idea as to what was wrong with Nine.

'I wonder what he saw? I just hope it's not something bad.'

Alec's eyes gaze at the system interference. He thought about it and a familiar screen appeared in front of him.

System Analysis;

'Name: Nine Orlando'

'Race: Mer'

'Rank: (D)'

'Talent: (S+)'

'Special: Healing (C)-Rank; The individual can heal others and himself with mana.

'Inherited skill; Spiritual gaze (low)-grade; The individual can see a split second in the future if he touches someone's skin directly but the ability will cause pain because of its unique nature. The skill grade is too low that's why it can't be used frequently. It will activate itself randomly.

Other skills...

No more information provided.

'I have to say I was quite shocked after seeing this but it's fine even though he isn't a human he is one of my friends. Also, I am one hundred percent sure he saw something again that's why he looked weak and sick.'

Alec sighed and went back to his room to rest.

Chapter 177 Intermediate mastery in Arrays

Next day, Kyle didn't see Nine in the classroom. He frowned and became a little worried.

After the classes, he skipped the training session together with Alec and Carcel. The three of them went to Nine's dorm.

Kyle gazed at the two individuals standing behind him and knocked on Nine's door for the second time today. The first time was in the morning but because no one opened the door he left it alone.

He waited for a minute and knocked on the door again but didn't receive any response.

"Don't tell me he went out again?"

He sighed and looked at the duo standing behind him.

Alec shrugged his shoulders.

"Maybe... It's possible. Anyway, now that Nine isn't present we are free for the day. What are you going to do?"

Kyle looked back at Nine's dorm with a serious expression.

"I am going to the library for a while."

"Huh?"

Alec and Carcel both looked at each other. Kyle did go to the library frequently for some reason but for the past week he stopped, so they thought maybe he won't go there again.

"Alright. Then we are leaving, if you are free you can see us in the second-year students building. I heard they are trading some stuff with the juniors."

Alec said and left the building with Carcel. Kyle looked at their backs for a while, he once again knocked on Nine door.

"Huh... He was sick where did he go in such a condition?"

He shook his head and went to the library with Bia. When he stepped inside, he saw the familiar old Librarian who gave him a nod.

As he walked through the rows of bookshelves, he felt someone was staring at him from behind. Kyle frowned and looked back only to see the new woman who was assigned as an assistant to the librarian.

She was wearing a light blue robe and he could see glasses on her deep eyes but she wasn't looking at Kyle thought she was busy sorting some books on a nearby bookshelf.

'Did I make a mistake?'

He grumbled inwardly at how paranoid he was and was going to brush the matter when Bia's voice resounded inside his mind.

-'She was staring at your back.'

'Huh?'

Kyle's feet stopped for a moment and he blinked a few times.

'She was?...'

He gazed at the woman again this time with a serious expression. He had been coming to the library for a few months now and sometimes he would feel someone was staring at him.

-'Yes, she turned away the moment you look back.'

Bia yawned and flapped her wings while sitting on Kyle's head but her eyes were sharp as she gazed at the woman.

Kyle gave a side long glance to the woman who seemed too busy with the books and after noting her strange behavior, he entered the secret room with Bia.

Bia flew around the familiar room with a bored expression before sitting on the only table present in the middle of the room.

On the other hand, Kyle sat down on a chair and picked up one of the books present on the table. The book was thick and filled with complicated symbols but he read through each symbol with ease.

Under the guidance of Elder Han, Kyle has achieved a lot in Arrays within a short amount of time. Even Han was shocked at his improvements because Kyle was very fast at picking up things and his learning was basically out of the chart.

There were seven stages of Array mastery.

1_Begginer

2_Novice

3_Intermediate

4_Advance

5_Expert

6_Master

7_Grandmaster

When Elder Han suddenly disappeared, Kyle had reached intermediate mastery in Arrays. He gazed at the pile of books present on the table.

"I think I will be done with these books within two months. Maybe I will reach advanced mastery before the Academies tournament."

A smile appeared at the corner of his lips. The books were quite hard even for him but after he started learning seriously he liked this profession.

Kyle thought trailed off for a second as he thought of a silly scenario.

In a large forest, he was surrounded by hundreds of monsters but he stood tall and just waved his hand sprinkling mana stones everywhere. Instantly a high-rank defensive Array appeared around him. In the end, the monsters weren't even able to touch him as he easily killed them with another high-grade offensive Array.

The battle was won and he didn't even use an ounce of mana! How good it would be!

Bia narrowed her gaze at Kyle's face. He was wearing a strange evil smile for some reason.

- 'Kyle..?'

"Huh?"

- 'You okay?'

Kyle blinked and pinched his nose bridge with an embarrassed smile.

"I am fine."

...

Meanwhile, inside Vice Principal George's office. He frowned as he looked at the brown-haired youth sitting in front of his work table.

"So you are saying I need to increase the security around the Academy?"

Nine wore a grave expression as he looked at George.

"Yes, I think something bad is going to happen!"

George scoffed. He knew Nine identity as a Prince but he didn't expect to hear such bullshit. Just who would dare to attack the Academy in his presence? After Ratric he was one of the strongest in the Kingdom. Also, the nearby Kingdoms weren't idiot enough to send their elites to barge into the Academy because no one wanted to make Ratric their enemy.

He picked up some papers from nearby table and started reading while pointing at the exit.

"Okay. I heard you, you can leave now."

Nine looked at the pointed finger and sighed while massaging his temples like an old man. He had been trying to talk with George for a while now but the latter didn't seem to believe him.

'It's not unexpected. He didn't know about my Inherited ability.'

"Alright but even if you can't increase the security please keep an eye on the students to avoid any future danger!"

He stood up with a serious expression and left the room.

George looked at Nine fading image and his frown deepened.

"This brat! Why is he suddenly stressing about the Academy security? Did someone from his Kingdom want to attack the Academy?"

"Anyway, it's better to be cautious. I will ask the Elders to guard the kids for a while."

He sighed and started reading the papers.

...

After the sudden news about the Academies tournament was released by the King himself, all the Academies present within Kingdom Escalante started preparing for the tournament with full power because the King promised to reward the top 200 students himself.

The public also heard about the news and was excited because something like this never happened before but their excitement died down when they found out the Academies tournament would be held in a secret place, away from their eyes to avoid all types of mischief and hidden danger.

A lot of nobles voiced their opinions in front of the King because even they were forbidden to know the tournament location.

In the end, the King ordered to record the whole tournament inside the video crystals. After the tournament, the crystals would be sold to everyone who wished to see the student's performance in the tournament.

After one month passed, a total of 86 Academies registered for the tournament. Each Academy was informed to bring thirty elite students, ten students from each year.

Inside a luxurious room filled with various types of beautiful antiques. The room was painted white and a large bookshelf filled with documents was present on the left.

A huge brown curtain was floating behind a golden-haired man who sat on a chair embedded with gems. He placed his hand on the table present in front of himself with a frown.

Two tall individuals wearing golden uniforms were kneeling in front of the sitting man as they told him the news they received a few moments ago.

"Your majesty. We have checked the information it's true."

The golden-haired man who seemed to be in his mid-thirties sighed as he waved his hand to dismiss the guards.

After the guards left he took out a communication Crystal for the ring present on his middle finger and envelope the Crystal with mana, seemingly trying to contact someone.

A few moments passed when the Crystal finally lit up showing a projection of an old individual who was sitting on a grassy field.

"Ratric?"

The old individual gazed at the golden-haired man with a polite smile. The man was none other than the King of Kingdom Escalante.

"Your majesty, why did you call me so suddenly?"

The King looked at the old man with narrowed eyes.

"I just received a report about that student of yours what was the name again? Kyle was it?"

A confused expression appeared on Ratric face as he waited for the King to finish his sentence.

"You said he only had (B)-Rank talent but in the report I received his talent isn't (B)-Rank?"

"At first it was fine because he only had a beast that had a legendary talent. There was no way he should be able to nurture the beast with his strength that's why no one was willing to take any risk but now with his actual talent being (SS)-Rank, the old foggies are becoming too greedy."

Ratric frowned as he heard the news.

"I had no idea about this."

He said with a sigh but the King looked too serious.

"It's okay. Ask George to protect that Kid for a while and send him to the 'Secret Realm' with Alec and Carcel. I believe the three of them will give us a lot of surprises in the future."

Chapter 178 I need to verify his talent

The time within the Royal Academy was passing peacefully. All the students of each year were busy challenging the top ten to snatch their spots.

At first, the students were reluctant to fight because the top ten from each year were stronger but after hearing about the tempting reward the King would give to the top participants of the tournament they were motivated.

As the day of the tournament neared, a few confident students challenged and fought against the top students. Even though not many were able to win, the Professors in charge were astonished to see some hidden individuals with great strength defeating the top ten.

From the first year, Kyle, Alec, Lara, Carcel, Mia, Lily, and Jake stayed in their position but the ranks below them changed repeatedly. To Kyle's surprise, Tray the boy who was following behind him entered the top ten after defeating Nike who was ranked 10 in the whole class.

From the second year, Blane was able to enter the top ten easily, and from the third year students mostly the top ten were defeated by their classmates except the top two students who were twins.

In the first-year training ground;

Nine was sitting beside Kyle as he looked at the figures present on the two Arena stages. In the first stage Alec and Carcel were having a friendly match while in the second stage, a brown-eyed youth was fighting with Lara.

Nine stood up and gazed at the blue-haired girl sitting on his left. It was Mia, she was playing with Bia wings with a smile.

"It's my turn next!"

He shouted with a serious expression while glancing at his opponent Lily.

From the original two months, only two weeks were left and soon the selection process for the tournament would end. That's why if he doesn't get a spot in the top ten within two weeks, he won't be able to enter the tournament.

Kyle stood up as well and patted Nine shoulder.

"Now that you have finally decided to fight. Be careful, she isn't weak at all."

Nine was able to sense the hidden meaning behind Kyle's words.

'She is strong. Make sure to not break your bones.'

He nodded with a solemn expression and entered the Arena stage under Professor Liam's eyes. Lily was standing beside the students who were watching Alec and Carcel fight but when she saw Nine she climbed the stage and stood opposite to him.

Nine's expression stiffened as he remembered the not-so-beautiful past. During the Selection process when they were fighting for a spot to enter the Tower of Opportunity she kind of roughed him up into a tattered mess.

He took a deep breath and took out his weapon. Lily smiled as her long hair floated behind her back.

After the Professor waved his hand both of them attacked each other with incredible speed.

Meanwhile, Kyle looked back and his eyes narrowed at Bia. He could see the gleeful expression on her face as Mia caressed her fur gently.

'I feel like someday you will abandon me for a beauty!'

Kyle scoffed because she didn't even reply and ignored him completely.

He sighed and sat down again watching Nine battle with a serious expression.

On the stage, Nine blocked another magical attack from Lily and jumped backward before attacking her with water bullets.

The fight continued and Kyle chuckled when he saw Nine getting beaten up here and there but in the end, the latter won after a long and exhausting fight on the stage.

Nine waved his tired hand and shouted at the top of his lungs.

"I am in the top ten now!"

He smiled with satisfaction but his smile stiffened when someone from the crowd challenged him the next second.

Nine cleared his throat and looked at the muscular boy who just stepped out from the rows of students.

"How can you challenge one of the top ten so recklessly! Don't you have any sense? Do you want to get beaten up so badly?"

He said with a scoff but then his expression turned heavy as he looked at the youth.

"Sigh! Unlike you, Lily is strong so don't blame me if you break a bone or two...."

The students were silent in the training ground as Professor Liam stared at Nine who was busy threatening his opponent without any care.

After hearing Nine long and threatening speech the muscular boy hesitated but then Professor Liam raised his hand.

"Alright Nine will rest for half an hour afterward Duran will challenge him."

Nine grumbled and glared at the muscular boy while cracking his knuckles. He wanted to intimidate his challenger.

"Tsk, after I recover my mana I will see you! Just you wait!"

He gave the guy a last warning glare and jumped down from the stage. His eyes moved around before fixing on Kyle with a sigh.

'It's been a whole month already but nothing out of the ordinary happened inside the Academy. Does that mean the scene I saw would happen in the tournament?'

He massaged his temples with a frown. Nine had stopped going out for a while now and he had been watching over Kyle's surroundings.

He even followed the latter to the library but was shocked to find out that Kyle was learning about Arrays!

'Ugh... How can you have time to learn about Arrays when our schedule is packed with classes and training sessions!'

'Anyway, even though I was kicked out from the study by Vice Principal George I am sure he would keep an eye on us for a while after my sudden warning.'

He walked and sat beside Kyle who gave him a water bottle.

"They are fighting again!"

Nine clicked his tongue when he saw how Alec changed his opponent to Lara and Carcel was now fighting with Jake.

"Show off!"

Kyle chuckled but then he felt a little dizzy and his smile vanished replaced by a sudden cold chill shooting up his spine. Nine saw Kyle's unfocused eyes and stretched out his hand to touch his forehead.

"Are you alright?"

Kyle jolted and instantly backed away from his hand with a frown.

"I am fine."

"Hmm... Alright. If you say so."

Nine retracted his hand and prepared himself for the next fight with that idiot muscular boy.

On the other hand, Bia shuffled her wings and left Mia's side.

-'Are you alright?'

She flew toward Kyle before sitting on his lap while straightening her messy wings.

'I am fine but my body temperature is dropping too much. In the past two weeks, it's become worse. That's why I didn't let Nine touch me just now. My body is almost freezing he would've freaked out if he touched me.'

Bia hummed and slow waves of heat emitted from her body. The heat gathered around Kyle who smiled.

'When did you learn this? Also, You do know that it won't work on me because of my passive skill 'Fire Resistance'?''

Bia didn't reply and just sat down on his shoulder with a sleepy expression.

....

The next week in the Royal Academy was very hectic, mostly for the Professors who were in charge of supervising the 1vs1 battles between the kids.

In the last week, the atmosphere became a little tense and anxious because even the weakest students wanted to try their luck and they started challenging the top students. Even though the weak students were defeated, fighting so many battles was very taxing on the top students. That's why when three days were left, the Professors announced the end of the two-month battles.

The top 10 students from each year were selected and the Professors wrote down their names.

Meanwhile, George was busy as well because the Principal asked him to bring some Defensive Artifacts with him to the tournament. The location and everything about the Academies tournament was decided by the King himself so he didn't have any idea about it. He wasn't sure what type of stage would be waiting for the kids or him. That's why he picked one old Elder named Elaze and three capable Professors to accompany him.

The tense atmosphere around the Academy was gradually lifted when the Vice Principal appeared and gathered all the students in a large field. His eyes were serious as he started a long speech.

During the speech, he tried his best to console the students who were unable to participate in the tournament.

After the speech finished, one of the Professors handed him a name list.

George nodded and looked at the top students' names, his eyes narrowed a little when he saw Kyle's name but then he just shook his head with a helpless sigh. The Principal has already informed him about Kyle's actual talent two months ago.

He was shocked at first because how was it possible for the Academy Artifact to make a mistake while checking Kyle's talent? Not only that, the Artifact only showed Kyle's talent wrongly while everyone else talent was accurate!

George scoffed and saw Kyle's figure standing in the crowd.

'I need to verify his talent.'

He noted inwardly and raised his hand to quiet the students who were speaking.

"Alright. We will leave for the Academies tournament in three days through a teleportation device to avoid any problems. So all the students who are selected should rest for the next few days."

After George waved his hand, the students left one by one. The ones who were selected left the field with bright faces while the ones who weren't selected left with dejected faces.

Chapter 179 What is she doing here?

Kyle woke up early as today was the day the selected students would leave for the tournament.

The past three days for him were ordinary and he mostly spent his time lying on his bed as he didn't have to attend any lecture or training sessions. He also skipped learning about Arrays because a week ago he reached advanced mastery in Arrays.

He was excited because now he was able to read some symbols present in the Ancient Array books he found in the Tower.

As he was trying to read the books he had the urge to tell Elder Han about his achievement that's why after contemplating for a while he decided to contact the old man through the communication Crystal but to his dismay, the latter didn't pick up his call.

In the end, he sighed and threw the matter in the back of his head.

Kyle inhaled deeply and propelled his body out of the bed. It took him a while to remove the layer of blankets present around his body. His bare feet touched the cold ground and his toe curled up.

"It's cold."

He grumbled and entered the bathroom to take a bath. In the water, he could see his eyes were a little drowsy and in the last two days, his complexion had turned paler.

Kyle shook his head and touched the white earring present on his ear.

"I didn't advance to the next rank even after so much training and hard work and from my body, I can sense I am not even near!"

He lightly clenched his fists with a frustrated expression and after wiping his body, he came out from the bathroom wearing the Academy blue uniform.

Kyle looked at his clothes with a rather unsatisfied expression. He didn't like the Academy uniform because it was a little tight but all the students participating in the tournament were required to wear it that's why he had no other choice.

Kyle looked at Bia who was still dozing on the pillow, he picked her up with two fingers. Bia slowly opened her eyes with reluctance but when she saw Kyle's evil smile and mischievous eyes she blinked because something was amiss.

Her premonition was right because Kyle's next sentence sent chills down her spine.

"You are looking too ugly let me clean you a little."

-"What? You are joking right?"

Kyle turned around and started walking toward the bathroom again. Bia's eyes widened.

-"Wait wait wait...'

She struggled and tried to bite Kyle's fingers but the latter was already used to her protest and didn't let her fly.

With an evil smirk, he entered the bathroom and for the next few minutes, painful cries of Bia could be heard as Kyle mercilessly washed her with cold water.

When Kyle came out Bia's feathers were wet and her eyes were cold as she cursed him inwardly nonstop.

Kyle ignored her and after wiping her with a towel a satisfied expression appeared on his face.

"You look pretty now."

He said with a serious nod and Bia shut her mouth with a grumble.

Kyle's eyes trailed off to the ordinary-looking broach present on the table.

It was the same broach Elder Han left behind for him. He wore it regularly because according to the Elder, it was a life-saving Artifact even though it looked very ordinary.

Kyle picked up the broach and wore it on his shirt before picking up Bia who was moody and left the room.

He gazed at the three storage rings present on his fingers.

'Should I take them all or leave some behind?'

It was fine for him to carry them in the Academy as no one cared but now when he would meet new people it was a different story.

While thinking he knocked on Nine door. After a few seconds, the door opened.

Kyle raised his brow because after opening the door Nine turned around and started ruffling his blankets and his wardrobe was a mess.

"What happened?"

He said with a serious expression and entered the room.

"Nothing, I just lost something. It is like a bead, very small. I think I dropped it somewhere."

Nine stopped and sighed. It was the Artifact that would inform him if the people from his race were nearby, no matter strong or weak. He acquired it after he found out about the Queen shadows following behind him.

"Let's leave. Maybe I lost it."

He threw the blanket away and left the building with Kyle. While they were walking many passerby students looked at them with envy because, unlike the other students who have to prepare for the final exam, the students entering the tournament were exempted from the exam.

After walking for a while, both of them arrived at the open square field behind the Student's hall. A few students were already gathered in the field.

Kyle gazed at the students but when he saw the two similar-looking boys standing arrogantly at the front his gaze paused for a second. They both looked identical with light smoke eyes and grey hair.

'The third-year seniors?'

He retracted his gaze when the others noticed his presence. He walked beside Nine and they stood between the students who were chatting. Some of the students glanced at Kyle but didn't approach him when they saw his nonchalant expression.

Kyle watched quietly while Nine became busy talking to the seniors like they were his long-lost friends. After a few minutes, some more students arrived. Alec and the others also appeared. In the end, a total of thirty students were gathered in the field, ten students from each year.

In front of the students, two Professors wearing blue robes roamed around the square field as they checked the round Teleportation Array present in the middle. One of them set the coordinates according to the location they received from George in the morning.

Everything was going smoothly and after a few more minutes Vice Principal George also arrived in the field with Elder Elaze.

Professor Liam was following behind them with a wide grin because from all the Professors he was selected to follow the kids. Well, he wasn't the only Professor who was selected but who cares as long as he could watch some nice battles between the kids.

Kyle's eyes were a little drowsy but he shook his head again to focus. When the Array was ready, George waved his hand to gesture to the students to enter the round boundary of the Array.

Kyle started walking with the others but then he saw a familiar face coming out from behind a wall of the student hall.

'What is she doing here?'

He frowned and narrowed his eyes when he saw the Librarian's new assistant standing at the end of the square field.

Chapter 180 Who did it!

Professor Aster paced around his room with a sweaty forehead.

He gazed at the Communication crystal present on the table opposite him. A figure of a woman wearing a long black shirt with grey pants could be seen on the projection hovering above the Crystal.

"I just need to stop him for a minute right?"

He said while swallowing his saliva. Thick beads of sweat trickled down his forehead as he knew even a single mistake would cause him to lose his life.

The long-haired woman inside the projection looked familiar. She was the new assistant assigned to the Librarian after careful consideration.

She scoffed when she saw Aster's pale face.

"If you are going to act like this you will get caught for being suspicious even before I did something! Just do as I said I will face all the consequences."

Aster took a deep breath and nodded. He could see the woman was already half crazy from the look in her eyes. He didn't know why she was doing such a suicidal mission but he didn't care as long as all this didn't impact him.

"Alright."

He cut the connection of the communication crystal and left the room, heading straight toward the student's hall.

While walking, he arranged his poster and tidied his clothes. A serious and nonchalant expression appeared on his face as he looked around like nothing happened a while ago.

After a few minutes, he appeared at the field present behind the Student hall.

He gazed at the students standing on a side before he focused on Geroge who was standing opposite to the students with Elder Elaze and Professor Liam.

When the Teleportation Array was ready, George waved his hand toward the students while walking.

"Step in the Array."

His voice was deep and the students instantly moved to stand inside the Array one by one but George stopped midway because someone called him from behind.

"Sir."

He turned around with a frown as he looked at the approaching figure. Elder Elaze and Professor Liam stopped as well as they gazed at the individual who appeared out of nowhere.

Meanwhile, Kyle heard Professor Aster's voice he stopped for a second but Nine pushed him toward the Teleportation Array.

"Hurry up. Wait... Why is your back so cold."

Kyle stepped back with a nonchalant expression and raised his hands to avoid the topic.

"Alright, Alright... I am moving."

He entered the Array with the other students. One of the blue-robed professors who was checking the Array before stopped and entered the Array with the students.

They all waited for the Vice Principal to step inside the Teleportation Array.

Nine rubbed his hands with a smile.

"I am excited but inwardly I am freaking out! We are going to fight face-to-face all the other Academies!"

Alec touched his shoulder with a solemn expression.

"Don't worry we will save you if you are near death."

Nine slapped his hand away with a dark gaze.

"Hump! I can beat all those who will challenge me!"

The grey-haired twins from the third year looked at the group of first-year juniors with amused expressions but Blane the second-year student who was standing behind them looked at Nine with a narrowed gaze. He still hasn't taken his revenge on Nine!

Kyle chuckled slightly at Alec and Carcel because they were doing their best to ruin Nine image in front of the seniors.

Even though he looked focused at Nine and the others his gaze was fixed at the Vice Principal because he was having a nagging feeling at the pit of his stomach.

His nervous eyes looked at the place where the strange woman was standing a few minutes ago but he didn't see anyone.

'Where did she go?'

His sentence was answered with a familiar sensation that enveloped his body. White particles gushed out from the Array surrounding the dumbfounded students.

Kyle's eyes widened and he gritted his teeth because he wanted to step out from the Array but it was too late. With the remaining willpower, he hugged Bia and the last thing he heard was the miserable shrieks from the students standing beside him.

On the other hand, when Aster called out to the Vice Principal.

"Aster? What happened?"

George said with a frown. He was busy so he wondered why the latter stopped him so urgently.

Aster wore a serious expression, as he took out a plaque from his storage ring.

"Sir, I just received the news. More than five students have gone missing after leaving the Academy!"

His voice was grave as he showed a D-shaped wooden plaque to the Vice Principal.

George's eyes narrowed when he saw the plaque, it was given to the Professors who were in charge of the mission hall in their free time. Aster continued after getting George's attention.

"At first, I thought they would return after completing their missions that's why I didn't bother with them but even after a whole month there is no news about them."

Liam grabbed the plaque from his hand with a frown.

"Who are they? The names of the missing students. Did you check their mission location, maybe they suffered while fighting or worse..."

His words trailed off as he knew they couldn't protect each student after they left the city around the Academy.

George sighed and opened his mouth... but his eyes contracted the next second when he sensed the movement of mana behind him.

He turned around frantically with a deadpan expression and his eyes instantly narrowed into a slit as he saw the Teleportation Array had been activated without his permission.

"Who did it!"

George shouted but he knew he didn't have time that's why instead of looking for the culprit he leaped into the sky. The ground rumbled beneath him.

He stretched out his hand within a second.

"Contract!"

A vein appeared on his forehead as he tried to stop the Teleportation Array that was already activated.

Even for an Array master, it was very hard to stop a Teleportation Array that was activated because it could cause damage to the ones who were present inside the Array.

Under George's anxious expression, the ground beneath the Array cracked and a huge hole appeared. The Array which was brimming with white particles split into many different parts.

Loud and painful shouts of the students rang out in the field as some of them were injured but it was too late because the remaining half of the students with the blue-robed Professor disappeared within the Array.

George's eyes darkened as he saw the remaining injured students lying on the ground.

"No way!"

He shouted. How could this happened under his watch? His heart trembled with anger as the mana inside his body seeped out.

Professor Liam cursed and hurriedly dashed forward to give healing potions to the injured students.

George's bloodshot eyes locked on the only person standing at the end of the field.

"That woman! stop right there!"

He vanished and grabbed the neck of the fleeting young woman.

"You did...?"

His question was cut off when the woman in his hand snickered with a mocking expression. She already planted an Artifact that could change the Teleportation Array coordinates in the ground last night, the only thing she needed to do was to activate it but for that to succeed George had to stay away from the Array.

She bit her tongue and killed herself while gazing at the angry Vice Principal with a satisfied expression.