

Celestial Bloodline

#Chapter 181 The tragedy before the tournament I - Read Celestial Bloodline Chapter 181 The tragedy before the tournament I

Chapter 181 The tragedy before the tournament I

A miserable voice rang out inside the student's hall and Nine was jolted awake.

He hissed and clutched one of his knees, it was bleeding.

His eyes were blurry and the only thing he could hear was a male voice crying beside him.

After a minute, when his mind became clear enough to think properly his eyes darkened as he frantically looked around the familiar hall.

Not far away from him were some students lying or sitting while tending to their injuries. A few professors were running here and there trying to calm the panicked students. On his left, a grey-haired boy was crying as he mumbled someone's name again and again.

A crowd of unharmed students was standing at the hall entrance with solemn expressions. They were whispering and looking at the injured students with complicated expressions.

Nine eyes became moist as he remembered what transpired a while ago. With a groan, he moved his painful body and patted the shoulder of the boy crying beside him. It was one of the twins who stood inside the Array with him and the others.

Others?

As the mention of his friends, his mind raced. His knee was severely injured but he gritted his teeth and looked around the crowded hall with a panicked expression, trying to find even a single familiar face.

His gaze lingered on the faces of the students sitting or lying around him, soon he saw a familiar face.

"Lara..?"

He took a deep breath, her eyes were shut and her clothes were covered with blood but after sensing her normal breathing he sighed with relief.

After he saw Lara, he looked around but didn't see any other familiar face. His heart trembled as he counted the injured students present in the hall.

"7....17.."

A total of 18 students were present in the hall. That means from the total 30 students 12 students including the blue-robed professor disappeared within the Array.

Nine slumped down on the floor with a deadpan expression. He could see almost all the students present in the hall were injured. Does not it mean the ones who disappeared would have suffered injuries as well? The Array was broken forcefully, it was almost impossible for the others to escape intact.

'I knew something was going to happen yet I let down my guards...'

He cursed himself inwardly and clenched his fists tightly.

'No..No they will be fine I am sure.'

Nine took a deep breath to regulate his ragged breathing. He looked at his knee, it seemed the Professor gave him a healing potion when he was unconscious because he could see the injuries recovering but the speed was too slow.

With a thought, the mana within his body swirled before it transferred to his knee. The thin veil of mana spread out gently from his skin and enveloped his knee in a warm embrace.

After a minute, the injury around his knee disappeared. He stood up and stopped a nearby Professor.

"Sir, have you seen the Vice Principal?"

He tried to be calm but his voice gave him away because it sounded too impatient.

The Professor gazed at Nine with a frown but then he pointed out the hall.

"They are trying to locate the Array coordinates...."

The Professor's sentence was cut short because Nine dashed out from the hall, he bumped into some students standing at the entrance but he pushed them away roughly and ran straight toward the place where everything happened.

The students looked at him with displeased expressions but then they sighed, thinking maybe he also lost his family member like the grey-haired boy who was crying his heart out in the hall.

Nine ran for a while and after taking a turn he appeared at the square field. The Array circle was broken into many pieces and many pits can be seen in the field.

His eyes darted around when he saw a familiar figure shouting with anger.

"Damn it! Damn it! It's been an hour how can you all not even locate a simple coordinate? Useless!"

George shouted at Elder Elaze and the Professors who were doing their best to locate the coordinates through the broken Array.

Elder Elaze sighed and looked at George, he could see the frustration and anger present in the latter face.

They have been doing their best to locate the coordinates but it seemed that the woman planned everything because the moment the Array was destroyed the coordinates were tangled up into a bundle of mess.

The Elder looked at the sweating Professors who were trembling under George's pressure.

He pinched his nose and approached George with a frown.

"I don't think we can locate the coordinates. We need an Array master."

He said with a solemn expression.

"Have the Principal picked up your call?"

George's expression was blank as he shook his head.

"Not yet."

He clenched his fist. Now where should he find an Array master? Array masters were rare and not easily available.

The other Professors in the Academy had some knowledge regarding the Arrays but just like him they only had very basic knowledge, like how to operate and destroy some intermediate-grade Arrays.

In the end, the people who learned about this profession were always low in numbers. The only Array master in the Academy was Elder Han who had left the Kingdom two months ago.

George knew very well he couldn't contact Han after he entered the Central Continent. The only person who could do it was the Principal but he wasn't picking up his calls.

"I swear if anything happened to the students. No matter who is it as long as the person is involved I will skin them alive."

From a corner, Nine looked at the situation. His pupils trembled slightly when he heard the Vice Principal's words.

He staggered and anxiously took out a communication Crystal from his storage ring. Geroge had noticed his presence but he didn't look at him.

Within a second, the Crystal lit up and Nine talked with someone before walking toward the Vice Principal with a serious expression.

"Sir?"

Geroge finally turned around with a frown.

"Don't walk around this area go back."

Nine fiddled and looked at the broken Array.

"No... I just want to say something. I know someone proficient in Arrays. I hope you can permit the person to enter the Academy because we need to find the coordinates as soon as possible."

"I have already talked to the person he will arrive within an hour!"

Geroge frown deepened. Outsiders were not allowed to enter the Academy that's why even when Nine identity was disclosed to him he didn't let the people following behind Nine enter the Academy. In the end, they all stayed outside the Academy.

'I need as much as help possible until I can contact the Principal. The more time I waste the more dangerous it would be for the kids.'

He gazed at Nine with a serious expression and nodded.

"Alright, I will let the individual in."

Chapter 182 The tragedy before the tournament II

Kyle's body was floating above a layer of cold surface. No matter where one looked they could only see burning blue flames but ironically the flames were not hot. Instead, they were cold enough to send chills down anyone's spine.

Beautiful brilliant blue flames gently swirled around his body. Everything in front of Kyle was blurry and hazy.

The only thought that resounded inside his blank mind was that he should sleep.

'It's so peaceful....'

His body floated and the dangerous flames touched his skin gently. It was cold but Kyle felt the flames were a part of his body. A warm trickling sensation spread around his body and a thought crept up at the back of his mind.

'It's time...'

When it appeared Kyle frowned with discomfort. He didn't want to sleep yet he felt like he was forgetting something important.

His mind started to become clear as he fought the urge to let the blue flames envelop his body.

After a few minutes of struggle, a small memory appeared in his mind. He was clutching a soft thing before everything turned blurry. Wasn't he?

He mumbled and his fingers moved curling up into a fist.

"Bia?..."

Kyle waited but no one replied. His brow knitted into a deep frown as a frost breath came out from his mouth.

From his blurry gaze, he could see the flames around him. It felt like a dream.

"I need to wake up.."

Meanwhile, inside a dark damp underground place. A red-haired middle-aged man walked between the two rows of prison cells. His eyes were brown and many scars could be seen on his face.

The man wore a mask to hide half of his face. As he moved between the prison cells he looked at the young individuals tied up inside with a smirk.

The place was dark, and the only sounds one could hear were the occasional clicks of the metal chains on the prisoners.

After a while, the red-haired man's eyes landed on a blue-haired woman lying unconscious in one of the prison cells. He smacked his lips and looked at the woman with a heated gaze.

"Tsk, what a beauty. It is a pity I can't touch anyone because they are all specimens who will be turned into potions soon. Hahahaha."

He laughed and looked back at the four men standing behind him.

"Are all the kids transferred to this place?"

One of the four men stepped forward and nodded with an evil smile.

"They all lost consciousness because almost all of them were injured. The Array was broken midway that's why only half of them were teleported at the planned location."

The man's smile widened.

"Don't worry though, the one master wanted was among the ones who appeared."

The red-haired man nodded with satisfaction. They have done their job perfectly all because of a crazy woman who killed herself to complete the mission.

"Have you transferred the beast?"

"Yes, we have. The beast was strong but all of us worked together to put a metal chain around its neck. We even took the kid's storage rings and sent everything to master."

The red-haired man's eyes trailed off to one of the cells, and he grinned.

"Look, it seems someone has woken up."

He walked and looked at the golden-haired crawling individual who seemed to have woken up due to their voices.

As the red-haired man advanced toward the cell, he stopped because the golden-haired youth shot him a deadly glare. His black eyes shone with anger as he shouted at them while clutching the long metal bars in front of him.

"Who the hell are you all? Where is this place?"

The red-haired man snickered.

"Does it matter? Just sleep... like the others. Oh, I almost forgot you are a Prince aren't you?"

Carcel's eyes darkened when the red-haired man crouched down in front of him while looking at him with disdain.

"So what? It doesn't matter who you are because no one will save you. If you want a peaceful and painless life just stay quiet like an obedient puppy. Anyway, it's not like you can do anything with those chains restraining you."

One of the men standing behind the red-haired man looked at the Carcel before pointing at someone else lying in a nearby cell.

"I think that black-haired one is already half dead. His body is freezing like ice. I almost freaked out when I touched him."

The red-haired man frowned, showing displeasure he stood up.

"Don't let him die yet. Master is busy with the beast now but he needs all these youngsters for future experiments. So give him a healing potion."

He said with a heavy tone and gestured for one of the men to give the freezing individual a potion.

Afterward, all of them moved between the prison cells to confirm that everyone inside the cells was alive.

The red-haired man gave Carcel a side long glance with a chuckle and together with the four men following behind him he left the area.

Carcel cursed and tried to pull the metal bars present in front of him but not even an ounce of mana came out from his body.

"Damn it! These chains..."

He wriggled his hands uncomfortably, both of his wrists were tied with metal chains. After observing the chains he could mentally deduce the chains were made of some special material that was stopping him from using the mana present within his body.

He hissed when he sensed the large gash present on his shoulder. He was too focused on the red-haired man before and didn't notice his injuries.

Carcel took a deep breath and stood up with gritted teeth. He saw another person who was tied up inside his cell. It was one of the grey-haired twins.

"Guys....Can anyone hear me?"

He shouted while banging the metal bars with his bare fists.

Soon, he heard some groaning sounds and saw a familiar face standing in the opposite prison cell.

"Tray...."

Tray panicked when he saw his situation but after Carcel calmed him down both of them tried their best to wake up the others.

After a few minutes of struggle, everyone was awake except the black-haired youth lying in the last cell.

Chapter 183 The tragedy before the tournament III

The air around the prison cells was eerily quiet, all the chained students woke up when Carcel and Tray made a ruckus.

At first when they opened their eyes in an unfamiliar place they were shocked and dread clenched their hearts but after spending a few hours inside the prison cells they looked a lot calmer now.

A few injured students were lying on the cold ground. Carcel and Alec both stood while grabbing the metal bars. Their breath hitched when they saw the blue-robed Professor who was chained up in the last cell.

The Professor shook his head with a grim expression. His name was Oliver, he was one of the oldest and most loyal professors working in the academy.

When he was selected to go to the tournament with the Vice Principal he was happy beyond means because he was only (S)-Rank not like those young strong Professors but alas who could have thought something like this would happen.

Oliver pointed at the black-haired youth lying opposite him. He winced slightly because the black chains around his wrists were thicker than the kids.

"Even though he is in my cell I can't touch him because he is too far away and the chains are stopping me from any excess movement. I can sense he is breathing but no matter how much I call he isn't waking up."

Oliver eyed the few youths who were clinging to the metal bars with frustrated expressions. He sighed.

"Kids don't worry I know I am not useful right now but I will do my best to protect you all until the Academy sends reinforcement."

Alec sucked in a cold breath. He gazed at Kyle with narrowed eyes.

"Why isn't he waking up..?"

He said with a slightly agitated voice and looked at the prison cells. Each cell had two people tied up inside with chains.

"Damn it!"

Alec cursed and looked at the system notification. It had been five hours since he woke up in this place and the system wasn't useful at all. He used the system appraisal function on the chains but got nothing.

The chains were made of a special material called 'Lethrial'. They were usually used on dangerous criminals to seal their mana and strength, making them the same as any other normal unawakened human.

Alec took a deep breath and looked at everyone.

"Do any of you have any hidden artifacts that can help us?"

No one replied but then one of the girls wearing the third-year uniform looked at Alec with a frown.

"I only had one Artifact and it was in my storage ring. Just like me, the others would have probably put their Artifacts in the rings as well. No one would carry them around because it's a hassle. The only thing we can do is wait for the person who imprisoned us here. Maybe we can trick them and escape...."

Her sentence was cut short when the boy standing inside the cell opposite to her spoke with an anxious voice.

"Jenny, just how would we trick them? Our mana is sealed. I can't even fight a lower (F-)Rank monster with my current strength!"

The girl named Jenny gritted her teeth. Her long pink hair was tied up in a ponytail and her olive-colored eyes were fuming with anger.

"So what should we do Linzi? Should we wait for them to kill us all?"

Her loud voice resounded everywhere and Linzi shut his mouth. He was a silent boy who liked peace. In his whole life, he was carefree but after hearing that the famous Principal would give personal training sessions to the ones who fought in the tournament, he worked hard for the first time in his life but now he regrets everything!

Blane who was sitting behind Jenny pinched his nose. His round glasses were nowhere to be found maybe they dropped when the Teleportation Array was broken.

"I don't think we should fight with each other in this situation. The Academy will probably send reinforcement. We are all the top students how can they just leave us all to die here in this dark place?"

He spoke with a calm tone and stood up. Blane looked at Professor Oliver and opened his mouth to say something but a small movement behind the Professor caught his attention.

"Kyle is waking up?"

He mumbled but almost all the chained students heard him. They all turned around and stared at the black-haired youth who was finally moving after so long.

Alec and Carcel looked at each other and sighed with relief. It was fine as long as they were all alive.

Mia stood up and walked to the metal bars while dragging the chains tied to her wrists.

"I hope he is fine. I didn't see Bia...."

She whispered and gazed outside. She wasn't able to see Kyle but her gaze lingered around the long road present between the two rows of prisons.

On the other hand, Kyle opened his eyes with a groan. Everything was foggy but when he moved his hand to rub his eyes he felt the weight around his wrists.

"?"

His expression hardened when the memories of the event that transpired before he disappeared within the Array appeared in his mind.

Kyle's half-opened eyes widened as he dragged his lower body to sit up straight and looked around.

'Bia...? Bia...?'

He forgot to breathe for a second when he saw Professor Oliver chained opposite to him. His emotionless gaze traveled to the metal bars, gazing outside he saw many familiar faces. All of them were chained and from the look of it, he was the last person to wake up.

Seeing Kyle's eyes, Carcel shouted with a tinge of worry in his voice.

"Are you alright? Can you hear me?"

Kyle didn't reply and closed his eyes for a second. He wanted to arrange his thoughts.

When the Teleportation Array was activated, his mind was a little hazy.

He wanted to activate the skill 'Instant teleportation' but he knew his body would have shredded into many pieces the moment he used that skill inside the activated Teleportation Array.

He had been learning about Arrays so he knew very well about the consequences of his actions. Also, even if he succeeded and used the skill to escape what about Bia and the others?

'I can only use the Teleportation skill on myself. Bia would have disappeared within the Array!'

Kyle took a deep breath and stood up, he gazed outside.

"Where are we? Does anyone have any idea?"

With a sigh, Alec shook his head.

"No, but we are underground. It's been five hours but no one come here to check on us."

Chapter 184 Dead?

Kyle yanked the chains around his wrists with frustration.

"I can't use my mana.... Ugh..."

He was already angry because even though he could sense Bia through their link she wasn't replying.

'Just stay safe for a while.'

He mumbled inwardly and looked at his empty fingers.

"Damn, my hard earn gold coins and thousands of mana stones, those ancient books, and my (S)-Rank sword! Everything is gone!"

He shouted with frustration, Professor Oliver gazed at Kyle and blinked his eyes. He smiled thinking maybe Kyle was joking to light up the mood but then Alec hissed as well.

"My sword is also gone! It was even more precious than yours!"

Alec humped and cursed inwardly. He was already poor but now he was dirt poor just like a beggar.

Kyle shot him a glare.

"What precious? Your old sword was just a piece of long metal. One of the storage rings on my finger was supreme grade!"

"I am gonna kill all those bastards who dare to steal from me!"

Kyle was fuming. It was the first time he suffered such a big loss! He looked at his shirt, the ordinary-looking broach was still there.

'Why the hell did they leave it? Wasn't it better to take it as well!'

His eyes darted to the stairs at the end of the prison cells. He touched the white earring present on his ear.

'It's seemed because of my cold body they didn't focus on me that much.'

Professor Oliver was stunned and he wasn't alone who found Kyle's words unbelievable. A supreme-grade ring wasn't something anyone could easily have!

Carcel looked at Kyle and Alec and shook his head with a sigh. The atmosphere that was previously too tense and eerie was now relaxed because they bickered.

Kyle took a deep breath. The chains tied around his wrists clicked as he approached the metal bars. He looked at Alec and Carcel with an unknown expression.

"I am dying for a while. Make a ruckus big enough to alert all those people present at the end of those stairs."

He whispered slowly with a serious expression. Alec blinked his eyes.

"How?..."

Kyle waved his hand and lay down on the ground.

"It doesn't matter. Just do as I say. I am the only person who can fake death due to my special condition. If someone died they would probably discard the body because it would rot."

"Shout with everything because I don't want to stay in this place even for a second. Also, Bia...."

Kyle's voice turned into a whisper when he said Bia's name.

'I can sense she is not far. I need to find her.'

He closed his eyes, his body was already cold coupled with the earring it wasn't hard for him to act dead.

The others looked at Kyle's body. They gazed at each other with serious expressions. It was a big gamble. If they got caught no one would be able to survive.

Linzi's nervous voice rang out as he gazed at Kyle.

"Can't we wait for the Academy reinforcement? It's too dangerous."

Kyle shot open his eyes and looked at Linzi with a cold gaze.

"What if they didn't appear on time and we all died? Can you take the responsibility?"

Linzi shut his mouth and didn't dare to make eye contact with Kyle.

"Huuu..."

With a long breath, Kyle gazed at the ceiling and shut his eyes once again.

Alec was the first one who started shouting. He cursed and called the ones who tied them here heartless bastards. Soon, the whole area was in chaos with metal chains bagging here and there while the students cried out their lungs.

Carcel yanked the metal bars with force and kicked the nearby wall.

"You bastards, save him! He is dying! I will kill you all!"

His voice was thunderous as he shouted again and again. Some of the students were even spotting nonsense because after cursing the kidnappers and their entire generations they were out of words.

Among all of them, there was a person who was chanting the last lecture he heard in the classroom.

Jenny looked at Blane with a speechless expression. She shook her head and started chanting a lecture as well.

Meanwhile, outside the underground chamber.

Two tall black-haired men were standing in front of the stairway leading underground. They looked at each other while holding their ears. One of them cursed.

"Can these kids fucking shut up for even a second?"

"Man, they have gone crazy."

The other replied and then looked at the stairs.

"Should we check them?"

The first man shook his head with a frown.

"No, we aren't allowed. Wait I will go and inform the Boss."

He left and after walking for a while he knocked on a door.

A red-haired individual opened the door and stared at him with a yawn.

"What happened?"

"Boss Larry the kids are shouting nonstop. They are saying someone died down there!"

Larry frowned and gestured for the man to follow behind him while calling two more men.

He approached the stairs with the four men following behind him.

After descending, he grabbed his ears with annoyance because the voices were too loud.

"What the fuck is wrong with you all? Want to die!"

Larry shouted with anger and finally, the individuals in the prison cells turned quiet.

Alec grabbed the metal bars and gazed at him with moist eyes.

"Save my friend! Or else I will kill you even if I have to die together with you!"

His voice sounded emotional. Jenny's acting was even more superb than Alec's as tears welled up in her eyes.

"Save him, please... I can't..."

Her voice choked midway as she slumped down on the floor with ragged breathing.

Alec was stunned. He gazed at Carcel and the others with a knowing expression.

'She over did it!'

On the other hand, Kyle's eyebrow almost twitched when he heard Jenny's words. He calmed his troubled heart.

'I am dead....hu hu...'

Everyone watched as the familiar masked man, Larry walked up to Kyle's prison cell. He opened the metal bars with a key and stepped inside.

"Who is this kid?"

He spit on the ground and kicked Kyle's body but when his foot touched Kyle's stomach his eyes widened slightly.

"So cold! Don't tell me these kids were telling the truth and he is really dead?"

Chapter 185 Second Chamber

Larry crouched down and looked at Kyle's body with a frown, hidden behind the mask present on his face. His head snapped back, eyes glaring at one of the four black-haired men.

"If I recalled correctly didn't I fucking ask you to give him a potion?"

His loud voice resounded in the prison cell. The black-haired man trembled slightly before he anxiously stepped forward.

"I swear I did give him a potion. It's just it was a low-grade one."

Larry clicked his tongue. Potions were expensive even though he had some high-grade ones but why would he waste them on someone he kidnapped?

"Leave it. I will speak with the old man about this. I don't think this guy is important except for the fact that he is the one who bonded with that fire beast."

He gazed at Kyle again. This time more seriously, his mana seeped out from his body as he stared at Kyle with a frown because no matter how much he probed he couldn't sense even a speck of mana within Kyle's body.

'Strange? Even if he is dead why is his body like an empty shell devoid of any energy or force? I can't sense anything.'

Larry moved his hand and placed two of his fingers beneath Kyle's nose to sense any breathing.

Alec's gaze was fixed on Larry's back as he held his breath while grabbing the metal bars tightly. He was continuously praying inwardly for Kyle not to get caught.

The other students were not better either, with anxiousness written on their faces. They knew if Kyle got caught nothing good would happen.

Under their intense stares, Larry checked Kyle's breathing.

"He isn't breathing."

He whispered before grabbing Kyle's wrist to check more but the moment he grabbed Kyle's wrist he let go of it instantly.

"Damn, why is his body so cold?"

At first, when he kicked Kyle's stomach the coldness was not that severe as he didn't touch him directly but now after touching Kyle's skin directly, Larry didn't dare to touch him again.

'This coldness isn't simple. Just with a single touch, it's burned the mana around my palm. What the hell is wrong with this kid?'

Larry stood up and gazed at the others.

"I need to report this. So you all stay here and keep an eye on his body until I return."

The four black-haired men nodded and watched as Larry's back faded away in the distance.

Alec wiped the sweat from his forehead when he saw everything going smoothly.

'Alright. Hope it's work.'

He gazed at Carcel and they all waited for Larry to come back.

On the other hand, Kyle was quietly lying at the same place but if someone looked closely he was breathing albeit very faintly. His face was serene devoid of any emotions but inwardly his thoughts were a mess.

He was one hundred percent sure he would have started sweating when Larry suddenly released his aura to probe his body but thanks to the coldness clinging to his skin he avoided dying.

'He is stronger than I expected.'

After Larry released his aura Kyle sensed his rank. Larry wasn't weak at all. His aura was restrained but he was at least (A-)-Rank.

'He is strong but I have to risk it. The more time I wasted the more dangerous it would be for Bia. I need to leave this place soon.'

Kyle waited for a long time when he heard the rhythm of footsteps echoing outside the prison cell.

He regulated his hushed breathing and it became quiet once again.

Larry stopped outside the prison cell, he glanced at Kyle's body

"Just like I thought he was not that much important. Pick up his body and throw it inside the second chamber."

The black-haired men trembled when they heard about the second chamber. It was a dangerous place where one of the sick head elders working for their big boss experimented on dead bodies.

"Hurry up."

Larry waved his hand and one of the back-haired men entered Kyle's cell.

He opened the black chains present on Kyle's wrists with a strange-looking square-shaped device before dragging his body like a rag.

"His body is too cold."

The man hissed because he felt like he was touching ice but the ice was ten times more colder than any normal ice.

Larry left the place with the four black-haired individuals following behind him. The one at the last was dragging Kyle's body.

All the students watched as Kyle was dragged outside. In normal circumstances, they would have created a fuss about how their friend was killed by those heartless men but because of the serious matter, they forget to act.

Jenny took a deep breath and looked outside.

"Why do I feel like he won't come back to save us?"

Alec pinched his nose bridge. He knew why Kyle was so desperate to leave this place. It was because of Bia.

"He will if he survived out there."

...

Meanwhile, at the Academy. George paced around in the square field with a frustrated expression. He looked at the blue-haired old man who was tracking the broken Array coordinates.

It's already been five hours but there was no progress.

Nine was standing a few meters away from him. The person working on the Array was one of the men who was following behind him after he left his kingdom. He gazed at the other two individuals standing beside him with a sigh.

The first one was Goen, one of the grey-haired twins while the other one was Lara. She had woken up two hours ago and was just as shaken as Nine. Her cold gaze was locked on the blue-haired man who was fumbling with the Array here and there.

"How much more time do you need?"

She said while looking at the blue-haired man with knitted brows. She wanted to ask her father for help as he was strong but the Vice Principal stopped her.

'We have already wasted so much time!'

The blue-haired old man glanced at Lara with an emotionless face but then he ignored the kids and looked at George.

"I have found the coordinates."

George disappeared from where he was standing and appeared in front of him with a flash.

"Location?"

"It's quite far from here. Almost near the east border. The one connected with the dark forest."

George nodded and started floating, in an instant he disappeared from the Academy. Elder Elaze gazed at his figure and followed behind him with a grim expression.

Nine and Lara looked at each other with frustration. They wanted to follow behind them but how can they match their speed? The only thing they could do was to wait.

Sensing George and Elaze's departure another Elder came out from one of the Academy buildings and quietly floated above the Academy looking at their fading backs. Unlike the other Elders, he looked much more distant from the mortal world. His long black hair swirled behind his back as he gazed around with his sharp emotionless eyes.

"Sigh, I wonder who dared to attack us even after knowing the consequences of their actions."

Chapter 186 Got tricked

Kyle was breathing faintly as he half opened his eyes and engraved every place he saw in his mind while being dragged around like a rag. He thanked his past self for not cutting his hair because the slightly long hair hid his eyes.

He could hear small voices as he was dragged around a long narrow path.

'Ugh.. my butt and back. Can't they pick me up properly? At least respect the dead!'

With another turn, Larry left after gesturing to two of the black-haired men to take Kyle's body ahead.

Now Kyle was alone with two black-haired men. One was dragging him while the other was just walking beside the first one. Kyle thought about attacking but discarded the thought because he wasn't sure just how strong his opponents were.

His eyes darted around as he sensed Bia's presence everywhere.

'She is somewhere above. I think this place has a lot of floors.'

Kyle contemplated inwardly and stayed quiet.

While being dragged he saw a lot of men patrolling here and there. In front of the underground prison where he was chained up with the others, a large Array was present so it was almost impossible for anyone to escape the prison.

'I can't break that Array but I can tackle with it.'

He waited for a while before the man dragging him finally stopped in front of a large door.

The man looked at his companion with dread.

"I don't want to go inside. He is too creepy."

"Just go and deliver the dead body he won't attack you."

"Alright..."

The man took a deep breath and after knocking once he opened the door and entered inside.

Kyle wrinkled his nose the moment the door was opened.

'Blood...'

The smell of blood and rotten flesh drifted through his nostrils and he felt his head spin.

He was dragged inside the room and the smell became heavy. From the corner of his half-opened eyes, he saw what one would call hell.

A mountain of mingled and broken bodies. A lot of skeletons in the corner. The room ground was painted red with blood.

Dread crept up in his heart he knew this place wasn't safe at all. His finger grazed at the ground and he felt a wet sensation below his body.

Amidst all this, he stayed calm. His heart was beating wildly inside his chest but he didn't dare to move or do something reckless.

The man dragging him stopped, Kyle didn't know who he was talking to but the man's body visibly trembled as he let go of Kyle's collar and spoke with a broken and scared voice.

"Sir...? I am sorry but I am here to deliver this bod. y...."

His sentence was cut short as the person he was talking to shot him a glare.

"Leave it. I will check it later I am busy right now."

The black-haired man nodded frantically and after tossing Kyle's body nearby he ran out of the room.

Kyle's breath hitched in his throat as he took in the sight of the man standing a few meters away from him.

Messy large cyan color hair and pitch black eyes, the man's body was filled with blood and he was holding someone's broken flesh.

He was wearing a large coat that swept the blood present on the ground. The man's eyes were fixed on a table in front of him.

Kyle's eyes froze when he saw the thing present on the table. A dead body of a young man who seemed to be in his early twenties.

He clenched his fist and held the urge to attack the cyan-haired man. Kyle wasn't a good person he would never go out of his way to help others but he felt sick and angry after seeing this room.

His gaze lingered on the cyan-haired man back a tad longer.

'I can't. Not right now... I am not strong enough.'

With a forced breath, he shut his eyes to calm down. After a few seconds, he focused on the door of the room. The security outside this room wasn't tight, it seemed the man standing in front of him was feared by others.

Kyle measured the distance between himself and the door with emotionless eyes. He gave another cold glance to the cyan-haired man and disappeared from the room.

'Instant Teleportation'

After Kyle used Instant Teleportation, the cyan-haired man turned around with a jolt.

"What was that? I felt a large movement of mana."

He looked around with narrowed eyes and didn't see anything.

"Huh.. Did I imagine it?"

Then suddenly he raised his brow while gazing at a specific place. There were clear signs of a body being dragged inside and placed in a corner but there was no sign of the fresh dead body.

Where did the body go?

"Interesting... Did they get tricked? Heheh..."

He chuckled and shook his head. A few moments ago someone sent him a dead body but now it was nowhere to be seen. Did it just disappear into thin air?

"A fly is trying to run away. I want to see who it is but let's play for a while. The person wouldn't have gone far."

He removed his bloodied coat and after wearing a cleaner one he left the room.

On the other hand, after Kyle used Instant Teleportation he directly appeared outside the room. Without even waiting for a second, he ran toward the direction he was dragged from.

On his way, he saw some guards but because of the earring, his presence was concealed which is why he easily avoided them.

He walked between the shadows and after a few turns he appeared in front of a few rooms but he didn't enter inside. Instead, he went toward the stairway leading underground.

Two back-haired men were standing in front of the stairway. He took a deep breath and gazed at them from behind a wall with squinted eyes.

'I need that strange square-shaped device they used to open my chains.'

Chapter 187 Let's go together I

Kyle frowned feeling the weight of the situation, carefully assessing the black-haired man's position from behind a nearby wall. They were standing slightly far from each other, completely blocking the entrance of the underground stairway.

'I can't sense their ranks they are probably stronger than me.'

He clenched his fists and gazed around with narrowed eyes. After scanning for a few seconds, he noticed a stack of crates placed a few meters away from the underground stairway and formulated a plan.

With a swift and precise movement, he approached the crates filled with strange-looking grass and pushed one of the crates to distract the guards.

The black-haired guards looked at each other with frowns and one of them approached the crates to investigate the noise.

Seizing the opportunity, Kyle swiftly approached the remaining guard from behind, he summoned a thunder arrow and delivered a swift strike on the back of the guard's neck that rendered him unconscious.

Before the guard fainted he released his aura and Kyle sighed with relief because the latter wasn't as strong as he expected. The guard was (D+)-Rank, only a sub-rank higher than Kyle.

Kyle was a little anxious when he didn't sense the guard's auras but now he felt confident looking at the other black-haired man who was looking through the stack of crates.

Kyle looked at the unconscious man lying between his feet and bent down to remove the storage ring on one of his fingers before grabbing the grey steel spear present between one of the guard's hands.

He gazed at the spear that wasn't even close to his precious (S)-Rank sword and gave a reluctant nod.

'This will do for now.'

Kyle silently tip-toed toward the other guard who was looking around the crates.

The guard wanted to turn around when he felt a large palm grabbing his neck from behind, he wanted to shout but before he could a jolt of lightning coursed through his entire neck, making his entire body tremble with pain and he lost consciousness within a few seconds.

Kyle rubbed his hands and checked the black-haired man's body for a storage ring but to his disappointment, he didn't find anything.

With a sigh, he silently dragged both of the bodies and carefully hid them behind the stack of crates.

He looked through the only storage ring he found and his disappointment increased.

"They are so poor."

Kyle shook his head silently, first the storage ring only had a few meter space and second it didn't have anything precious. The only things present inside the ring were some clothes, a handful of mana stones, four low-grade healing potions, and the square-shaped device he was looking for.

He clicked his tongue and made his way toward the Array present outside the stairway. The two guards didn't have anything related to this Array, he was sure if he passed through it without any preparation the one who made this Array would know instantly.

Kyle's eyes narrowed as he focused on the mana movement around the stairway, the bright invisible mana particles moved and swirled around the Array gently. With the precise gestures of his fingers, Kyle tapped on the air touching various parts of the Array.

After a minute, a hole appeared within the smooth Array and Kyle entered the hole hurriedly descending the stairway with large strides.

On the other hand, inside one of the prison cells. Alec was sitting on the cold ground with a serious expression, he lifted his head and gazed at the others who were silent for a while now.

"It's been 15 minutes, what do you all think Kyle is doing right now?"

Blane perked up his ears with a chuckle. He moved his body and looked at Alec.

"He was dragged like a rag. Just pray those men don't bury his body ten feet underground."

Mia looked at Alec and showed him her hand.

"Now it's 16 minutes."

Jenny who was sitting in the same cell as Blane looked at them with annoyance.

"Why are you all fucking counting each second like your life depends on it?"

She massaged her temples.

"Even if he somehow got the chance to flee from those men it would take him a while before he returned."

The prison cells turned eerily silent again with everyone contemplating what to do next but it's not like they could do anything while being tied up like this.

Professor Oliver stood up with a frown. He didn't sense anything but his eyes were locked on the black shadow descending the stairs. With a serious expression, he pointed at the stairs.

"Someone's coming."

The chains around the students' wrists clicked as they stood up with vigilant expressions, locking their gaze on the approaching shadow.

Their eyes widened with shock and disbelief when the shadow owner appeared in their vision. They all looked at each other with a familiar question written on their faces, It's only been sixteen minutes and he was back already?

Alec suppressed the urge to laugh and called out Kyle's name.

"Kyle?"

Kyle waved his hand at them with an emotionless face and hurriedly approached the cells. After witnessing that strange room he was not in the mood to smile.

He took out the square-shaped device from the storage ring and first opened the chains around the Professor's wrists.

With a click the chains dropped down and Professor Oliver sighed with relief.

"How's the situation outside?"

He spoke to Kyle who proceeded to enter another prison cell.

"There are a lot of guards patrolling. A few rooms on this floor, and many stairways leading upward but I didn't see any exit or window on my way here."

Kyle spoke with a serious tone and removed the chains hurriedly. The students were practically beaming with joy as Kyle removed the chains around their wrists.

At last, he entered Alec's cell and removed his chains.

Alec rubbed his wrists with a hiss but he stopped and he noticed Kyle's deadly pale face.

"Hey, are you feeling alright?"

He stepped forward and wanted to touch Kyle's forehead but the latter flinched away.

"I am fine. You all should find the exit and leave with the Professor. I am going to find Bia."

Chapter 188 Let's go together II

Alec held the urge to smack Kyle's head when he heard his words.

"Are you kidding me? No way you are going alone, it's too dangerous. Let's go together.

He said with a deadly serious expression, not wanting to back down even a little. Kyle sighed when he saw Alec's stubborn expression.

"Okay, then the others should..."

His sentence was cut short when Carcel who always stayed quiet showed him an irritated expression.

"I will go with you as well."

Mia stepped toward the trio with a frown. She was the second closest person to Bia after Kyle.

"Me too, I won't be able to take it if something happened to Bia."

Carcel gazed back at her with a serious expression. It was dangerous, he knew very well but if she wanted to come along who was he to stop her?

Professor Oliver shook his head looking at them. They were all young and filled with hormones, even though the beast was important but for him getting the kids out of this place safely was a top priority.

"Kids, it's better if we leave this place first. After we are in a more safe location I will contact the Academy they will send someone to save Kyle's bonded companion."

Kyle looked back at the Professor with a dissatisfied expression but he kept quiet for a few seconds. He could sense Bia's presence, she was not that far. There was no way he was going to leave her behind because he was having a bad feeling in the pit of his stomach. After all, no matter how much he called her name inwardly she didn't reply.

Through their link, Kyle was able to talk to Bia no matter where they were but now the sudden quietness was making him uneasy.

"I am leaving."

He said with a serious expression and started moving toward the stairway.

Alec and Carcel both glared at the Professor who was speechless.

"We are going to follow him."

They instantly followed behind Kyle with Mia tagging together with them. Jenny looked at Blane who shrugged his shoulders.

"I don't know why but I think it's a lot better if we followed them."

He said and dashed behind Carcel fading back. Jenny looked at the Professor.

"Sir, I am gonna follow Blane. Please make sure to send reinforcement if you find the exit."

She didn't wait for an answer and left the bewildered Professor who massaged his temples with a sigh. He looked at the remaining students with a complicated expression.

"Let's follow them. It's safer if we all stayed together."

Professor Oliver staggered toward the stairway but he stopped when he reached the end because his hair stood up behind his back.

"There's an Array around here."

He spoke in a hushed tone but Kyle who was waiting outside the Array so the others could leave safely raised his brow.

Kyle pointed to the left.

"Walked out from that place it's safe."

Professor Oliver looked at Kyle's finger, he was anxious because if the Array was activated their escape plan would be busted but after seeing how Alec, Carcel, Mia, Blane, and Jenny were standing outside the Array he followed Kyle's finger and stepped out from the left side.

The other students quietly followed behind the Professor.

Kyle looked at the Professor who stood beside him and blinked his eyes.

Oliver stared back at him with a serious expression. He wasn't strong but he would do his best to protect the kids.

"What? stop staring and lead the way before someone arrives at this place."

Kyle didn't say anything and nodded. He started walking in the shadows with silent footsteps while everyone followed behind him.

After a minute, he stopped because he saw two men patrolling around a few meters away from him.

He tightly grabbed the spear in his hand, ready to attack when Oliver moved swiftly and slit their necks within a few seconds.

"Let's move."

Kyle snapped out of his daze and nodded.

"We need to go up."

He pointed at a stairway and started climbing with the others silently following behind him.

They passed through a few more narrow paths and climbed two more stairways. While moving, Kyle spotted some more people patrolling around but Oliver quietly took out everyone without making any noise.

After taking out another enemy, Oliver looked back at Kyle with a frown.

'Is it my imagination or are we strolling around a dangerous place like it's our backyard?'

There was no way this eerie place only had these weak bugs, Oliver could take care of very easily. He narrowed his eyes and quietly walked beside Kyle who closed his eyes to sense something and pointed at their left.

Alec chuckled slightly when he saw Oliver's complicated expression.

Meanwhile, the cyan-haired man Kyle saw in the room filled with dead bodies walked around for a few minutes but a frustrated expression appeared on his face when he didn't sense or find any other tracks except for some bloodstains leading toward the dead body which disappeared from his room.

He clenched his brows with a furious expression and moved forward with large strides.

After walking around for a while, he arrived in front of the underground prison where the new subjects from the Royal Academy were tied up.

His dark facial expression brightens a little.

"I can't find that fly but I can play with the new kids."

He rubbed his hands with an evil grin but frowned when he didn't see any guard around the stairway.

"So irresponsible! I know the kids can't run away because they are tied up with mana restraining metal but they should place some guards in this place."

He spoke angrily and was going to call someone to send a few guards when his eyes narrowed into a slit as he noticed a huge hole within the Array present outside the stairway.

"Shit."

He cursed and entered the Array. The ring present on his finger shone when the faint mana touched his skin as he easily passed the Array. He hurriedly descended the stairway only to curse once again with a livid expression.

"Damn it! Those kids fucking ran away. What the hell is Larry doing?"

Chapter 189 The tournament is canceled

Inside a grand hall fit for royalty, with opulent chandeliers casting a warm, golden glow. The hall was adorned with intricately carved chairs, plush velvet drapes, and gilded accents, creating an air of majesty and elegance, creating a truly regal atmosphere.

The hall door swung open and a dignified golden-haired middle-aged man walked inside with a few old faces following behind him.

The golden-haired man approached the middle chair designed with beautiful patterns and sat down with a serious expression.

After him, an old man with a wrinkled forehead proceeded to open up a small device, and instantly afterward three big projections lit up midair.

"Your Majesty, the tournament will start within thirty minutes."

The old man said in a nonchalant voice before he and the other three old individuals sat down on the empty chairs available in the hall.

Cedric the current King of Kingdom Escalante gazed at the middle projection, it showed a vast expanse of light green bushes. Among the grassy field, a big stage coupled with many small stages was set up in a circular fashion. With rows of audience seats set up in one corner upon one another.

The other two projections showed many individuals varying from young to old. The young were the students participating in the tournament while the old individuals were their protectors.

Cedric frowned and his eyes narrowed when he didn't see the familiar face of his acquaintance Geroge. No, not just George no one from the Royal Academy was present in the Projections. He tapped the chair's armpit and looked at the old man sitting on his left.

"Ratric, where's your people?"

His voice was heavy but the old man sitting beside him was confused as well.

"I don't know, after leaving the forest I directly arrived here."

It was indeed strange, all the participating Academies were required to arrive at the platform five hours earlier to start the tournament as soon as possible.

"Let me check."

Retric fiddled with one of his communication devices that was linked with the Academy but his frown deepened when he opened the device. It was broken.

"Ah... I didn't notice this."

He sighed because he was too busy running around and forgot about the broken device. With a swift movement, he took out another device and after injecting the device with his mana signature he called George directly.

The communication crystal vibrated for a while before it stopped and an anxious voice resounded in the hall, attracting the attention of everyone.

"Sir?"

Retric expression hardened a little, it was very rare for George to panic.

"Yes, it's me. Where are you? The tournament is about to start."

There was silence for a second before George's voice resounded as he recounted everything that happened in the Academy.

Ratric face was ashen as he heard everything with clenched fists, an angry vein bulging on his forehead. He gritted his teeth.

"Who dare to show such audacity and kidnap my people?"

His angry voice died down when the King stood up with a dark expression and patted his shoulder.

"What about the students? How many were abducted?"

The King's voice was calm but everyone sitting inside the hall could feel the hidden rage in his voice.

"12 students including Professor Oliver. Carcel, Alec, and Kyle included."

There was an eerie silence within the hall as Retric stood up and clenched his fist with anger.

"Tell me the location of the coordinates you find. I am coming there. I will destroy them with my own hands."

Geroge didn't waste any time and hurriedly told him the location. Retric looked at the King who was livid and finally took a deep breath to calm his troubled heart.

"Cedric I am leaving. Please take care of the matter regarding the tournament."

The King simply nodded and Principal Ratric stormed out of the hall, directly floating toward the east border.

After he left, the King ordered someone to link his projection with the place where the tournament was going to be held.

Soon, his floating image appeared in front of the hundreds of excited students and old individuals who were waiting for the tournament to start.

The crowd cheered with enthusiasm but the King's next words poured a bucket of cold water off their heads and their excitement disappeared replaced with confusion and bewilderment.

"For now, the tournament is canceled."

The single line resounded in their heads like a bolt of lightning. Some of them wanted to know the reason behind this decision and some wanted to confirm if they were hearing things but the Projection was abruptly cut off, making them curse inwardly.

After making the announcement, the King dismissed everyone present in the hall. When he was alone his nonchalant expression disappeared replaced with worry.

He clasped his hands together and called out his two loyal shadow guards.

The two shadows appeared out of nowhere kneeling in front of him with their faces hidden behind black masks.

"Do whatever you can to find the culprit behind all this. Also, make sure nothing happened to the young Prince."

His voice was deep and heavy, the two kneeling figures nodded and disappeared from the hall.

....

Meanwhile, in a dimly lit dark room, filled with eerie equipment and mysterious contraptions. The room was shrouded in darkness, with flickering lights casting eerie shadows on the walls.

A man with deep red eyes and long uncombed black hair was pacing around a table where patches of red blood could be seen. Two ancient books filled with unreadable text were lying on the table.

He laughed historically as he looked at the red vial present in his hand. His deep gaze locked on the steel cage placed at the edge of the table. An injured beast that looked like a red fluffy bird was lying unconscious in the cage with its neck trapped in a circular steel chain. It was Bia, her feathers were dyed in blood and a large gash could be seen on her back.

"I can't believe it! I just used the beast blood and within a few hours, I succeeded in making such a potent potion that can extend anyone's life force. Just gulping the content of this single vial and the person can live a few hundred years more even if he is lying on death bed!"

"What would happen if I used its heart? Now I am one hundred percent sure I can make a potion that will increase my talent!"

An incredible sensation surged inside his heaving chest as he snickered and jumped around with joy staring at the small vial.

Chapter 190 She is breathing

The black-haired man's smile disappeared when a sweet voice called out to him from behind.

"Ziner? Aren't you going to share it with me?"

He wore a nonchalant expression and turned around to look at the projection floating behind him.

"Tsk, I do all the hard work and you reap the benefits. Anyway, I will send you some when I am done with my experiments."

His voice turned grave for a few seconds.

"Lily, how many times did I tell you don't call out my name? Call me father or dad."

The projection showed a beautiful lady sitting lazily on a small bed. From the projection one could see the scenery around the lady was extremely ordinary. A simple room containing a square-shaped wardrobe, a single bed, and a study table with a chair.

Her long black hair was tied up in a ponytail and her eyes were arched up with a glint.

"Nope, Ziner is better because we both know very well if something happened to one of us the other will run away without looking back."

"Also, who was the one who gave you all the information? Now don't be greedy and share some benefits with me. I have some more information for you. That useless Aster won't tell you anything if you don't give him something in return."

Ziner raised his brow looking at his daughter. Just like her, he didn't care if she died or not but she was indeed useful whenever he needed free information regarding the Academy.

"What news?"

A giggle escaped Lily's mouth as she neared the communication crystal with a grin.

"They found out the coordinates of the Array. George and an Elder ran away the moment they knew the location."

Ziner nodded and waved his hand nonchalantly.

"Even if they found the location, it doesn't matter. After the kids were teleported I changed their location."

Lily's smile faltered as she lay down on the bed.

"Tsk! What a pity you won't die. I am off, I have a class. Make sure to send me some of the potions or else I will release your exact location to the whole Academy."

Her eyes were sharp as a knife when she turned off the communication crystal and stood up from the bed.

"Now that a lot of top students are out of the picture I can participate in the tournament."

There was a reason why she didn't challenge anyone else after Nine kicked her out from the top ten.

"I can only hope Ziner sent me those potions before getting caught."

She tidied up her appearance and left her room with a smile.

On the other hand, Ziner clicked his tongue after the projection disappeared. Not even a minute was passed when his communication device trembled again.

With an irritated expression, he picked up the device but frowned when he saw the caller's face.

A man with messy cyan-colored hair and pitch-black eyes looked at him with a panicked expression.

Ziner saw the panicked man and wondered why the latter called him out of nowhere.

"What happened? Aoky."

Aoky wiped the sweat present on his forehead.

"Boss those kids from the Royal Academy. They ran away!"

His sentence was like a thunderbolt as Ziner's eyes flew open wide. His pupils shrink slightly. Not believing his ears he questioned.

"They what?"

"I just came out from my room. They are all gone!"

Ziner's expression paled slightly.

"Damn it! You all can't even take care of some kids? Find them immediately! They can't go far because we are in the middle of a forest. Hurry up deploy everyone single man! I will check all the passages leading outside."

He shouted with a vein bulging on his forehead. If somehow his hidden location was released he was done for. George and Ratric would tear him apart. Not just him they would destroy everything.

His name was famous because he was a dark mage who had done many experiments on all types of living things. Still, he was one of the (S+)-Rank individuals of the Kingdom that's why the King overlooked his dark work but now that he dared to touch the beloved Royal Academy he knew the risk of his own decision.

"I can't expose myself. I need to find the kids."

With an angry breath, Ziner disappeared from the room. Heading straight toward the passages from where the kids could leave.

....

Meanwhile, after climbing another stairway Kyle stood in front of a large narrow path. His heartbeat quickened because he could sense Bia was nearby.

He walked passing through a few rooms before stopping in front of a black door.

With closed eyes, Kyle placed his hand on the room.

"She is in there."

He spoke with a serious expression and looked at the others.

Professor Oliver's clothes were filled with blood because a few minutes ago they encountered a strong opponent who was (A)-Rank. It took him much more time to take out that man with cautious and minimum noise. Even though the Professor won, he suffered a few injuries and from his ragged breathing, Kyle was sure that Oliver was tired after fighting so many people.

Alec stepped forward and touched the door. He was holding a long blue lance. Not just him almost all the students were holding different weapons. After Oliver killed the enemies they robbed their weapons and storage rings.

Alec looked back at everyone with a serious expression.

"Be ready, I believe someone strong is waiting for us behind this door."

Kyle nodded and with another glance at the Professor, he pushed the door open.

With a low creak, the door opened and Kyle's eyes darted around the dimly lit room, looking around for Bia's figure.

Without waiting for the Professor he stepped inside hurriedly with everyone else following behind him.

Kyle's breath hitched when his eyes landed on the table present at the end of the room. He didn't care about the strange tools and glass containers lying around the room and staggered toward the table with red eyes.

"Bia?"

His voice was barely audible as he fixed his gaze on the metal cage. Mia followed behind him with moist eyes.

The other student's eyes were saddened when they saw Bia's condition. A sigh escaped Oliver's lips as he looked at Kyle's back.

Alec patted Kyle's shoulder with a serious expression.

"I can sense she is breathing."

After hearing Alec's words, Kyle finally released the breath he didn't even know he was holding.