

## **Bloodline 181**

### Chapter 181 - Take Them Off

"You got here thirty minutes after I did... Not bad,"

A charming masculine voice drifted into their ears as they approached the girl in front.

Disbelief was written on their faces as they approached the boulder and spotted a familiar figure. A masculine blonde-haired guy with playboy-like charms was sitting in crossed leg position on the ground behind the boulder.

"It's you?" The green-skinned girl muttered with a look of disbelief while pointing at him.

It turned out that this person looked familiar to them.

"Impossible," Teemee muttered as he stared at the boy with wide eyes.

"How did he...? You..." Ria was also shocked.

The three of them had widened eyes comparable to that of saucers, especially after hearing his statement earlier.

'Thirty minutes late,'

They now realized that even if one of them managed to pass through the light barrier before the girl, they would not still have been able to reach the light first.

'How in the world did he manage to pull that off?... Does he have something to do with the boulder placed here?' Teemee stared at the huge boulder that was the size of a truck.

It was extremely difficult for him to accept what was coming to his mind at that moment. However, the evidence was right in front of them.

They hadn't noticed him sitting behind the boulder because of its massiveness.

This person was obviously Gustav, who had gotten to the light source a while ago, and the girl who arrived here afterward was Angy.

The three of them remembered Gustav's elegance and strong aura of confidence that always radiated around him. Inside the hall where they did their registration, no one could take their eyes off him when he started walking towards the front.

He had left quite a deep impression on them, and now they had confirmed it with their eyes why he had such a strong aura of confidence.

But they still wondered how he did it because, based on their calculations, Gustav shouldn't have been able to pull this off if they were correct with their thinking.

"You carried this all the way out here, right?" The green-skinned girl pointed out while staring at Gustav, who was still speaking to Angy.

Gustav slowly turned his face away from Angy and towards the three on the side.

"And what if I did?" He asked with an expressionless look.

The three of them eyes widened again. Although Gustav didn't answer, his rhetorical reply was him practically saying yes and who cares.

Ria turned to stare at the boulder and turned back to stare at Gustav.

"Do you have a bloodline that gives you the ability to manipulate rocks?" He asked.

Ria was hoping Gustav would say yes because that would explain this absurdity. He couldn't even lift a boulder of this size and mass more than two feet up, even though his bloodline gave him the ability to control rocks.

He couldn't manipulate one of this size. It would be humiliating for Gustav to say he lifted it with just brute strength. So, Ria hoped Gustav would say yes, but to his disappointment, he heard the opposite.

"No, I don't have such a bloodline," He replied and proceeded to keep talking with Angy.

Ria was left standing there with a shocked and conflicted expression. He opened his mouth wide, but no words came out of them.

They already sensed earlier that this might have been the case. Still, even after confirmation, it sounded ridiculous to them.

Although they knew that the gravitational force would make the boulder lighter, the farther Gustav traveled. However, it would take a lot of walking to reach the distance required for that to happen.

Also, just lifting the boulder a few centimeters off the ground won't be easy because they could tell that it weighed over fifteen thousand kilograms.

'I could sense that he was strong, but I didn't expect it to be to this extent,' The green skin girl stared at Gustav with a dumbfounded look.

"How did you do it?" Teemee asked.

He could tell Gustav's reason for doing this was to counter the gravitational force. Still, he wondered how someone would think of doing such a thing even if they had the strength.

"Yes, how did you do it? How!!?" Ria hadn't regained his composure and screamed out his question.

"Why are y'all so noisy? Can't you see that I'm having a conversation here?" Gustav stared at him with a look of annoyance as he spoke.

Flinch! Flinch!

Both of them flinched back when they saw his cold gaze.

'This person is dangerous,' Teemee said and felt the air become chilly.

Grab!

Angy grabbed Gustav's face and turned his head softly to face hers.

"Don't worry about them... I'm sure they are just curious," She said with a gentle voice.

"Hmm," Gustav exclaimed and continued his conversation with her.

He wasn't going to do anything to them since they didn't really offend him. Nevertheless, he didn't like the fact that he was getting interrupted in his conversation with Angy. So, he released his bloodlust a little to scare them, and it worked.

Both of them went to the corner and sat down to wait for the phase to end.

On the other hand, the green-skinned girl sat in front of the bolder and placed her back on it.

"You can take them off now," Gustav said to Angy.

"Hmm? But I already got used to wearing them. I think my body might feel weird when I take them off," Angy replied with an uncertain look.

"They were meant for training... Now is the time for you to display your abilities to the fullest... I'm sure you don't want anything to hinder your success in the test, or do you?" Gustav said with a solemn look.

Angy shook her head in response.

"Good, now take them off," Gustav instructed again.

Angy stood up from her sitting position and started taking off her green sweater.

Chapter 182 - Angy's True Speed

Angy stood up from her sitting position and started taking off her green sweater.

She looked pretty shy, but she had enough covering underneath, so she wasn't feeling disturbed.

Immediately after Angy pulled off her sweater, a short blue singlet covering her chest down to her ribs area could be seen. Her singlet wasn't what was attractive. Instead, it was what was beneath her singlet as well as on her two arms that looked intriguing.

A black metallic-looking flexible strap was wrapped around her belly. Her biceps were also wrapped by a miniature version of this strap.

Angy proceeded to tap seven buttons on the strap wrapped around her right arm.

Click!

A loud clicking sound echoed across the place as the strap opened up and fell to the ground.

Bang!

It made a loud thudding sound as it fell to the ground.

"Huh?"

The trio that arrived earlier was alarmed when they heard the thudding sound.

They turned around to look in Gustav and Angy's direction and were surprised at what they saw.

Angy was already tapping on the buttons of the strap wrapped around her left hand.

When she was done, another strap fell to the ground making a similar thudding sound.

'Are those what I think they are?' Teemee stared at Angy with a bewildered expression as he wondered.

Angy squatted next and rolled up the hem of her trousers, revealing the same straps as before wrapped around her ankles.

She did the same thing and unbuckled the straps.

After she was done, she proceeded to stand up and unlock the biggest strap wrapped around her stomach.

Bang!

This time it sounded like a mini-explosion as the largest one made contact with the ground.

A small cloud of dust was formed due to its mass.

'She had weight straps on all these times, yet she was still able to move about at such a high speed,'

The green-skinned girl, Ria, and Teemee were once again shocked by what had just happened.

Gustav smiled at her and asked, "How do you feel now?"

"I don't know how to describe it... It feels like my body is weightless," Angy moved as she spoke, trying to get used to her current body mass.

Gustav had made her wear these straps about six weeks ago when he started training her.

At first, he started with two straps on her arms which nearly caused them to fracture since Angy was very weak. However, as time passed, she got used to it and was able to get back to her normal speed while running after a week.

Gustav began to increase the weight of the straps on her body.

These straps altogether weighed about eight thousand kilograms. Angy would not lift something as heavy as that normally. Still, since they were placed on different parts of her body, there was enough distribution.

Also, she was lifting them with her body, so she was able to pull them off after intense hours and weeks of training.

"Try running around," Gustav proposed.

Angy nodded and dashed forward.

Thwii!

It was like cutting through the air. After images were created as Angy ran around the space.

Thwwi! Thwwii! Thwii! Swooshhh!

She had returned to her previous position, but it still looked as if she was running in a circular format around the space.

A single movement made her appear close to a thousand feet away from her initial position and back.

Without activating God eyes, Gustav's eyes were barely able to follow her speed. In a fight, he would still be able to predict her movements and react accordingly, but her speed had already far outstripped his.

The trio that arrived earlier had their mouths wide open again.

Unlike Gustav, they saw Angy everywhere at the same time. They couldn't pinpoint where her exact body was when she was running in a circular format.

'Isn't this literally cheating? How can a person have that kind of speed?'

'Maybe they aren't Zulu ranked,' This thought roamed their minds as they stared at Angy and Gustav.

Gustav was currently praising Angy while the trio was having ridiculous thoughts.

"I have decided!"

They suddenly heard a loud voice and turned to stare at Ria.

"I will not let you both surpass me in the next phase! Hahaha!" Ria shouted out while pointing in Gustav's direction and laughing.

Gustav stared at him for a few seconds before sitting down once again.

"Okay, good luck with that," he said and proceeded to close his eyes.

"Eh? You little! What's with that uncaring expression? You better accept me as your rival from now on!" Ria shouted out once again, but Gustav ignored him.

"Teemee, you're no longer worthy of being my rival! As from now on, he is my rival!" Ria shouted out again.

"Tch! He's my rival. You're the unworthy one here," Teemee said with a muttered.

That was how an argument began between the both of them.

"Boys,"

The green-skinned girl shook her head with a look of disappointment.

"What is he doing?" She muttered with a low voice while staring at Gustav, who happened to be closing his eyes.

"Let's not disturb him right now. He was at a crucial point, channeling his bloodline before we all arrived here," Angy answered and proceeded to walk forward to sit in front of the boulder.

"Oh," The green-skinned girl exclaimed with a surprised look, 'He can channel his bloodline in such an environment?'

The green-skinned girl was surprised because while channeling bloodline, a mixedblood needed a place with no disturbance for it to go smoothly. The room temperature must be at a particular point.

This environment was lacking in all the compulsory aspects. However, it didn't seem like Gustav was experiencing any form of discomfort, unlike how it was supposed to be.

The green girl proceeded to sit down beside Angy.

"I'm Angy... what's your name?" Angy initiated a conversation with the green-skinned girl.

"I'm Glade," she said while stretching out her hand towards Angy.

Chapter 183 - Reminiscing

"I'm Glade," she said while stretching out her hand towards Angy.

Angy received her hand and shook it gently while smiling at her warmly.

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Gustav had been channeling his bloodline for the past two hours now.

He started channeling his bloodline before Angy, and the rest arrived within the barrier of light.

Later on, seven other participants arrived within the light barrier, and some others were still outside trying to break in.

Gustav's consciousness was currently within his body at the moment.

'Fourth step seems so simple yet so complex. Looks like I might not be able to get there today. Still, at least I'll make sure I saturate my original bloodline well enough to prepare for the time of breakthrough,' Gustav said internally.

His genetic transforming bloodline was currently bubbling, insanely within his body.

He had gotten to the third step several weeks ago with his original bloodline. By contrast, he had gotten atomic disintegration, beast transformation, and Gravitational energy container to the first step.

Gustav's mind wandered to several weeks back.

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After Gustav sneaked into the disciplinary committee's teachers' office, he spent the next two days channeling his bloodline.

His original bloodline was already at the second step at that time, and he only managed to get Beast transformation Bloodline to the first step.

He still had two more to channel to the first step.

After two days had gone by, he headed for Delta labs which happened to be the lab where he sold corpses of mixed breeds.

Although selling those corpses and making more money was important, Gustav was headed to the lab for a more important reason this time.

Mr. Lon would also be visiting the lab, and he needed to see what Mr. Lon was up to. If he could get any clues that pointed to the disciplinary committee as the culprits of the kitchen explosion, he would know what to do next from there.

He had been tapping their phone lines for the past two days, but he didn't get any incriminating evidence from their phone calls.

The only thing he figured out was the name of the person Mr. Lon would be meeting today.

'Ebunoluwa,' Gustav felt that the name sounded a bit familiar. However, when he linked it up to what he remembered, it didn't make any sense, so he decided to just head there and see how things went.

Mr. Lon was headed there by 2 pm, so Gustav had to leave school.

He visited the bathroom and transformed into his alias.

Gustav changed into a six-foot muscular-looking man with ruff brown beards and a bald head.

His skin was a bit tanned, and he looked quite menacing.

Gustav had gotten access to the city records and checked for the person he was currently using.

His alias used to be a hunter, but he happened to have left the city some time ago. So, Gustav decided to make use of his identity for selling the corpse of the mixed breeds.

Gustav felt that even if his fake identity was compromised, he could just transform into another.

Gustav headed to the lab before Mr. Lon did to wait for him.

He arrived there five minutes before Mr. Lon. He waited at the reception area, acting like he was expecting feedback from a worker there or something.

The lab was truly a run-of-the-mill type of lab.

It was a small bungalow building, and the reception area was quite small.

Gustav had been to one of their morgue rooms before, so he knew that some of their equipment was also kinda outdated.

Gustav sat and waited till Mr. Lon walked in.

The staff started greeting him the instant they noticed him, but he ignored them and headed for the corridor on the right end side of the reception.

While heading there, a dark-skinned man in a lab coat came out from that passageway and met with Mr. Lon.

Mr. Lon paused his steps when he saw this man, and they said a few words to each other before turning around to head for the passageway.

Gustav's eyes widened. The moment he saw the man that met with Mr. Lon, he recognized him.

Gustav even thought his eyes might have been playing tricks on him so he made use of God eyes and zoomed in on the man to confirm.

After using God eyes, Gustav didn't have any more doubts.

'Anu,' Gustav said internally.

'He's supposed to be dead. How is he here?' Gustav debated internally.

This person happened to be the same guy employed in the kitchen after one of the workers resigned.

He was also in charge of the cooking equipment that exploded and was one of Gustav's suspects until he was confirmed dead in the explosion.

Gustav remembered seeing his dead body with his very own eyes. So, he couldn't understand why the same person was standing here alive, hale and hearty, conversing with Mr. Lon.

'How in the world is he alive? I need to get to the bottom of this,' Gustav thought with a look of resolve before standing up and heading towards the passageway.

"Mrs. Gonlaz, I'm going in to meet Mr. Ali for the purchases," Gustav voiced out with a thick masculine voice when he arrived before the receptionist.

She stared at him and smiled while nodding.

Gustav nodded back and walked into the passageway on the right.

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Gustav opened his eyes and sensed that four hours had gone by already.

'Next time, I'll definitely reach the fourth step,' Gustav said Internally while standing up.

At that moment, there were close to three hundred participants inside the barrier.

Most of them looked like they had run out of energy.

This was to be expected since a lot of them did not eat the previous night. However, they were still happy that they made it to the end of the test phase even though they were starving.

Some were still trying to break through the light wall, but their efforts were fruitless.

Everyone within the light wall was seated at the moment so, when Gustav stood up, they all stared at him with weird gazes.

'It's time,' Gustav said internally while looking up.

Everyone followed his line of sight and stared at the spherical ball of green light above.

Chapter 184 - Second Phase Comes To An End

'It's time,' Gustav said internally while looking up.

Everyone followed his line of sight and stared at the spherical ball of green light above.

The next thing they saw was underneath the spherical green light ball open up, and everyone within the space was sucked into it.

Sshhhssh!

All the participants, who were about three hundred, disappeared within a flash.

"THE SECOND PHASE OF THE ENTRANCE TEST HAS COME TO AN END!"

A loud voice resounded across the test phase.

Those that hadn't managed to enter into the barrier of light before the announcement started lamenting.

Looks of disappointment, unhappiness, and remorse could be seen on their faces as they were teleported out of the space one after the other.

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Gustav and the rest of the participants opened their eyes a moment later. They realized that they were now in a hall similar to the one everyone appeared in when they first arrived at the tower.

The number of participants left was nothing compared to the number of participants that gathered here initially, and this was only the second phase.

From what they knew about the MBO entrance test, it had at least five phases.

Most of the participants that arrived really late started rejoicing after hearing the announcement.

Although they looked fatigued, they had managed to make it to the next phase.

Gustav sat somewhere in the middle of the seats on the right side.

Angy joined him and positioned herself on his right-hand side while the green-skinned girl sat on Angy's right side.

Surprisingly, Teemee and the loudmouthed Ria sat down at Gustav's left-hand side as they waited for the MBO to address them on the next phase.

Gustav wasn't bothered by their decision to sit next to him. He just kept staring forward.

They didn't know that he was actually looking at something.

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[Host Attributes]

-Name: Gustav Crimson

-Level: 21

-Class: Sub Parallel Being

-Exp: 181,200/3,360,000

-Hp: 9590/9600

-Energy: 3100/4250

{Attributes}

»Strength: 65

»Perception: 62

»Mental Fortitude: 62

»Agility: 62

»Speed: 64

»Bravery: 62

»Intelligence: 63

»Charm: 62

»Defence: 62

»Vitality: 64

»Endurance: 67

{Attributes points: 20}

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Gustav stared at his attributes after using the attributes points he gained from finishing the daily task.

He was satisfied with the way he distributed them, but something caught his attention again.

'Hmm, I still don't know what this is all about... So far, it hasn't given me any sort of benefits,' Gustav stared at his class.

'Sub Parallel Being,' The moment he got to level 20, this appeared in front of the class, which had been displaying '???' since he got the system.

Gustav had been trying to figure out if there were any perks to this development. However, he hadn't noticed any changes or boons.

He had his suspicions about it, but he had no way of confirming what 'Sub Parallel Being' truly meant with the system not talking to him.

While Gustav's mind was still in a state of conflict, Gradier Xanatus appeared with a bright flash of light in the middle of the hall.

"Well done for making it this far," His voice reverberated across the room.

The hall quietened, and everyone focused on Gradier Xanatus as he continued speaking.

"As you all know it, the second phase has come to an end, and you all managed to pass. There will be an assessment score for each of your attributes at the end of the entrance test. The assessment score will later determine what squad you'll be placed in if you managed to make it to the end. As of this moment, each and every one of you has been given an endurance assessment score that is rated from one to ten." Gradier Xanatus said and paused for a brief moment. His eyes locked with Gustav for a second before looking away again and continuing.

"All this will be revealed by tomorrow when you're all being briefed on the third phase of the test. When the fourth phase begins, the MBO entrance test will be broadcasted across the world. There are chances that some of you will gain endorsements from different entourages if your performance is considered great..."

The hall became a little noisy as some of the participants' faces lit up with excitement.

"However, that is only if you can be successful in the third phase.

Participants also have the chance to catch the eyes of the higher-ups and get some hidden boon... The weak and talentless do not have a place within the MBO! We are protecting the lives of earthlings from terrestrial and intergalactic forces! Show that you're capable and prove yourself worthy if you truly want to be here!" Gradier Xanatus voiced out with an authoritative tone.

The participants were fired up by his statement. Some even forgot about their hunger for the time being as their faces lit up with determination.

"You will be given twelve hours break to refresh and replenish your energy. Lodges are available for you to rest based on the number of your badges. Also, the feeding lounge is open to you all, and you can get something to eat before going to bed," Gradier Xanatus said.

"Your badges are also equipped with a map of this floor. No one is allowed to go below or beyond this floor. Everything you need is available on this floor." Gradier Xanatus added before concluding, "Your time has started, so you all have less than twelve hours to freshen up,"

Zing!

After Gradier Xanatus finished saying those words, he disappeared with a flash of bright light.

Chatter! Chatter! Chatter!

The room became noisy the moment Gradier Xanatus disappeared.

Everyone looked around for places they were supposed to head to.

This particular room was very large, but they could see the walls surrounding it. They began to wonder how they were going to leave.

Grrumm! Grrumm! Grumm!

Three different openings suddenly appeared on the east side of the room.

The three openings were as large as four hundred feet, so everyone could see the corridor it led to.

They didn't need to be told to understand that the passages led to different parts of the floor they were currently on.

"Map," Gustav called out while turning his palm to face his head.

Trooinn!

Rays of light shot out of his palm as a small holographic map hovered above it.

Chapter 185 - Nostalgia

"Map," Gustav called out while turning his palm to face his head.

Trooinn!

Rays of light shot out of his palm as a small holographic map hovered above it.

"Woow!"

The entire hall turned to stare at Gustav after noticing the holographic map hovering over his palm.

They instantly understood that this was the method of checking out the map and everyone repeated Gustav's action.

Trrooiinn! Trooinn! Trooinn!

Just like Gustav, rays of light shot out from the number on their palms and formed a map of the current floor they were on.

Everyone could see where the openings on the east walls lead to.

It led to a big corridor within the floor that was a bridge to smaller corridors that led to the eatery, rooms, and public convenience rooms divided between males and females. These parts and some other places were shown on the map. However, at the end and the beginning of the map, a red sign was displayed, which had the word "restricted."

Gustav's eyes squinted when he noticed the restricted parts on the map.

"Let's go, Angy," He muttered.

Gustav and Angy walked out through the openings along with many others.

Immediately they arrived at the corridor, everyone could see a path leading to the front, right, and left simultaneously.

The walls were glistening white, and the glow served as the light for the passageways.

According to the map, the way to the eatery was northwards.

The instant everyone was about to raise their foot to move forward, blue circles started appearing on the ground. The blue circles surrounded everyone's right and left foot.

The number of circles was equivalent to the number of feet that everyone had.

Everyone was surprised at the appearance of the blue circles that surrounded both their foot. However, before they could understand what was happening, the floor beneath them started moving their bodies forward.

"Woow!"

No one was used to this. So, many lost their balance and even fell on their butt.

'Another reason why you have to be ready for anything within the MBO,' Gustav said internally after seeing people falling on their butt.

They weren't informed about this, so the MBO obviously wanted them to figure it out themselves.

He looked down at the small circles surrounding both his feet. A thought came to his head, and he suddenly stopped moving.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Three people ended up bumping into him from behind. Still, due to Gustav's sturdiness, they ended up falling on their butts like the others.

"Hey! How did he end up stopping?" Some of the people around wondered.

Angy, who was still being moved forward, noticed that Gustav was no longer beside her and turned her head to the side to look behind her.

She also stopped moving forward when she noticed him.

The circle surrounding her feet rotated, and surprisingly, her body was turned around, and the floor started moving her forward towards Gustav behind.

'Looks like the movement is based on leg muscles intentions,' Gustav analyzed internally.

'The floor scans the intentions of the person standing on them and moves that person in the direction they intend to move in.' Gustav came to this realization when he stopped moving earlier and also noticed Angy being moved towards him.

[God eyes has been activated]

Gustav activated God eyes and stared at the floor.

He couldn't see through it. However, he noticed the energy points and the color of the floor displayed when he activated it.

In the past weeks, Gustav had started learning about the colors that objects displayed when he activated God eyes.

He discovered a few things, and among them were the colors of mixed-breeds, Slarkovs, and humans that were different from one another.

Another thing he figured out was the color AIs displayed, which was oxford blue.

'The floor has an AI installed within,' Gustav slowly deactivated God eyes after seeing this.

'As expected of the MBO... Such advanced tech,' Gustav thought as he looked forward.

The floor started moving forward once again as he met up with Angy.

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Several minutes later, Gustav, Angy, and some other participants had arrived in the eatery and had ordered their desired dishes.

Eating was free, so the participants that were famished ordered to their heart's content.

The eatery was pretty large. It was able to contain a thousand people. However, only around three hundred participants were left after the last phase, so there were many unoccupied tables and chairs around.

There was not a single human in the vicinity except for the participants.

The food was served by machines even though they were prepared by people.

On the left side of the cafeteria was a glass wall that showed the outside of the tower.

They could see the outline of Plankton city from their position.

It was already around eight pm, so the skies had already darkened. Still, the city's beauty seemed to even shine more spectacularly in the dark.

The skyscrapers glowed up. Commercials of different kinds were displayed. Even small buildings looked dazzling, and every part of the city looked splendid.

It was like staring at a cluster of fireflies.

This gave Gustav a feeling of nostalgia, reminding him of the times he would head to the mountainside to attempt suicide.

He always adored the city's beauty, but unfortunately, society wasn't as beautiful as the structures they created.

'The earth is really a beautiful place... Too bad that most people's hearts are the opposite,' A melancholic vibe surrounded Gustav as he ate while staring at the city upfront.

Angy noticed his weird mood and was about to speak when three people approached their table.

It was Glade, Teemee and Ria.

"Can we join you guys?" The three of them asked together when they arrived before their table.

"No,"

"Yes,"

Angy and Gustav stared at each other after giving contradictory responses.

The trio stood in position with a look of confusion on their faces wondering which response they were supposed to listen to.

#### Chapter 186 - Getting Along

The trio stood in position with a look of confusion on their faces wondering which response they were supposed to follow.

Angy stared at Gustav with a pleading look.

"Hmm, whatever," Gustav muttered while turning his face away from hers.

He continued eating his food. After the short drama, the trio took his statement as silent affirmation, so they proceeded to sit in front of both of them.

"Why are you so grumpy? Man, you should learn to cheer up!" Ria pointed at Gustav and voiced out immediately after taking his seat.

Gustav stared at him like he was retarded and replied, "I just don't like nuisances,"

Ria; "..."

Teemee; "..."

Glade; "..."

After saying that, Gustav resumed eating casually.

"You... You... Who are you calling a nuisance?" Ria pointed at him with trembling fingers, but Gustav just ignored him.

"We should really have a go at it. I'm going to knock that pride out of your skull!" Ria jumped up after voicing out.

"Calm down, you idiot, it's not like you can defeat him," Teemee said.

"Ak, you're... Right," Ria sat down with a crestfallen look and stared at Gustav while taking a bite from his plate.

"You may be strong, but I will become stronger than you soon," Ria pointed his spoon at Gustav while speaking and gobbled down the food he put in his mouth.

"Muscle brain idiot," Glade muttered from her position.

"Ehhh? Who are you calling me a muscle brain?" Ria shouted out again, but Glade ignored him just like Gustav and initiated a conversation with Angy.

"What's your reason for trying to join the MBO?" Glade asked.

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After around thirty minutes had gone by, the participants were slowly starting to leave the eatery searching for their rooms.

According to the words of Gradier Xanatus, everyone had a room that can only be accessed based on their badge numbers.

They followed the map to the lounge area, located on the southern part of the floor.

It was also the area with the largest space on this particular floor.

Gustav headed with Angy and the trio.

After some minutes, they arrived in that area with a very long and spacious corridor that extended as far as the eyes could see.

Doors were on the left and right sides of the walls.

Each of the doors had numbers on the top right corner.

The participants stared at the number on their palms while looking at the doors as they walked across the corridor.

Gustav already figured out that the numbers were in an arranged format. So, he could tell that his room was still a distance away from their current position.

"Mine is here guys, I guess I'll go have a good night rest," Glade said with a smile as she headed for the door that had the number, '00054,'

"Hmm, Cow tail girl, good night," Ria voiced out.

"loud-mouthed idiot," Glade voiced out as she placed her palm in front of the door.

Ria wanted to retort, but the rest of them greeted her good night and continued moving forward.

Since he didn't want to be left behind, he quickly followed after them.

Angy and Gustav happened to be the next to find their rooms, and they weren't too far from each other.

Gustav was '00126' while Angy was '00121'.

As for Ria and Teemee, their numbers were in the thousands, so they still had to walk further down the corridor.

On arriving in front of his door, Gustav placed his hand in front of the door and waited.

Rays of light permeated from the walls, and scanned the number on his palm.

Kechum!

The doors slid open, and he walked in.

The room looked pretty nice. A bed could be seen in the middle. However, the room didn't look luxurious in any way. It was structured regularly.

Gustav checked and noticed that there was a bathroom and toilet also.

After checking everything out, he moved towards his bed.

"Map," He called out.

The map shot out from his palm again, displaying the structure of the floor.

'I wonder what floor of the tower we're currently occupying,' Gustav said Internally with an intrigued look.

He had always wanted to visit the tower. However, even after coming here, it still had a lot of mysteries surrounding it.

Gustav was still intrigued about the height of the tower. Still, so far, they hadn't been told anything about the tower.

'I'll check out the training room before the start of the next phase,' Gustav spotted the training room on the center of this floor on the map.

He decided to check out the next morning to complete his daily task because he had no idea what the next phase was going to be about.

He had thought about checking out the restricted areas so he could infiltrate other floors in the tower. He immediately threw that ridiculous thought to the back of his mind.

There was no doubt that the floor was under heavy surveillance. If Gustav tried anything, he would be found out immediately. There was no guarantee that he would actually be able to pass through the restricted areas successfully.

In his head, he had a fifty percent chance of successfully infiltrating other floors without getting caught, but he decided not to risk it.

If he managed to join the MBO, he would be able to go wherever he wanted without restrictions, so he decided to focus on that.

--

The next morning everyone woke up to the sound of the alarm.

An alarm resounded in everyone's room, waking them.

A holographic projection gave them instructions to head back to the hall, where they were addressed by Gradier Xanatus earlier.

Gustav was among the first to arrive there because he performed his daily tasks within the training room when the alarms rang.

Participants began to arrive one after the other, and in a few seconds, almost two hundred participants had walked in.

Once a minute passed, the openings on the side closed up.

"Uhh?"

Everyone was surprised at the sudden closure since some participants still hadn't arrived. Still, that same moment was when Gradier Xanatus appeared in the middle of the hall with a flash of bright light.

"Those that failed to arrive here within a minute have been disqualified!"

Gasp!

Those were the first words that came out of his mouth the moment Gradier Xanatus appeared.

"One of the things you will learn if you manage to pass the test and get enlisted is... Sluggishness isn't allowed!"

Chatter! Chatter! Chatter!

The participants thanked their stars that they immediately dropped what they were doing and headed here after hearing the alarm.

They silently pitied those who must have been using the toilet at that time.

"Now, I will explain the next phase to you!"

Gradier Xanatus voiced out next.

Chapter 187 - Assessment Score Revelation

"Now, I will explain the next phase to you!"

Gradier Xanatus voiced out next.

The hall quietened down after he said that. The participants perked their ears to make sure they listened to every detail.

"Oh right, before that, your assessment score for the endurance test will now be revealed," Gradier Xanatus said while snapping his fingers.

Snap!

Zing! Zing! Zing! Zing! Zing!

Small holographic squares started appearing in front of the participants. In a few seconds, everyone could see holographic projections in front of them.

On the holographic projection, a list was displayed.

'Endurance score' was the first on the list. The endurance scores ranged from one to ten.

- "I got a six,"

- "I got a five,"

- "What did you get? A seven?"

- "I got a five-point five,"

Voices of different participants discussing their friend's assessment test result could be heard.

Angy checked hers and saw the score '7.7'. She smiled after seeing her score and looked ahead for Gustav, but he was far away, so she couldn't see him properly.

'I wonder what his score is?' Angy wondered.

Gustav got to the hall before her, so they were seated in separate positions.

So far, only three people had gotten beyond the score of seven, and that was Glade, Teemee, and Ria.

The people sitting around them shouted it out when they saw it.

Teemee had a score of 8.3, while Ria had a score of 8.

-"She has got to be the highest!"

-"A score of 8.9,"

-"Wow, who is she?"

The people around Glade reacted with shocked looks when they saw her score.

'She must have been the first to arrive then?'

They all felt that she must be quite powerful and decided to be on the lookout for her.

What they didn't know was Glade was currently wondering within herself what a particular person would get since she managed to get such a high score, 'Maybe he got a ten,' she stared at the side of a blonde boy's face three seats ahead.

The same question was on the mind of Teemee and Ria.

Gustav stared at his assessment score with a look of confusion.

"Erm, excuse me," Gustav voiced out while raising his hand.

The hall quietened after hearing him. Although his voice was low, it sounded pretty compelling and powerful that everyone turned and focused on him.

"Is there a reason why my score shows this? I don't know what this means," Gustav pointed at his assessment score, which had a '+' sign in front of it.

Everyone also stared at it with a confused expression.

"Oh yes, that," Gradier Xanatus said with a smile.

"This simply means your score for endurance hasn't been assessed... Or rather, it is still being calculated," Gradier Xanatus said.

Chatter! Chatter! Chatter!

The whole place became noisy again after hearing that.

-"Does that mean he was so bad that his score couldn't be calculated?"

-"I don't think that's it. I remember he got there before I did,"

-"What exactly does that mean?"

"Your performance was beyond the prescribed level for that phase, so you might need to be reassessed," Gradier Xanatus added.

Gasp!

The entire hall became extremely shocked upon hearing the last statement of Gradier Xanatus.

'Performance... Beyond the level of the first phase? Doesn't that make him the highest?'

Everyone turned to stare at Gustav again with their mouths agape.

Angy smiled after seeing everyone's reaction.

'As expected of him... Everywhere he goes, people are always amazed by his deeds,' she said internally.

"Oh, I see," Gustav didn't need any further explanation to understand what was happening.

'Hmm... Maybe I should have tried less. Being on the receiving end of this kind of attention is pretty weird,' Gustav said internally as he took his seat.

Chatter! Chatter! Chatter!

The participants within the room were astonished and started chattering about him after realizing that he must have been the first to arrive and not Glade.

'As expected of someone that arrived thirty minutes earlier... He even got beyond a perfect score,' Gladier, Teemee and Ria had thoughts similar to this as they smiled wryly.

Who knew how they'd feel if they were told that Gustav also rested for several hours before deciding to continue moving.

Gradier Xanatus coughed twice, causing the place to quieten again.

"As you can see, there are other candidate assessments besides endurance that haven't been calculated yet," He said.

Everyone nodded as they stared at the others.

Apart from endurance, there was also strength, combat prowess, mental capacity, and six others.

They had no score in front of them like the others.

It would seem that these assessments would be calculated as the entrance test continued.

"Now, the next phase will be based on mental capacity," Gradier Xanatus continued.

"You all will be immersed in a space along with participants from the other floors. In this space, every object, sound, landscape can either be real or be an illusion. In this phase, you have to differentiate between reality and illusion. In other words, your senses will be tricked. So, the aim of this test is to see how you lots can handle it..." Gradier Xanatus added.

'So, it turns out there were other floors where tests were also going on,' Gustav said internally after hearing Gradier Xanatus's explanation.

He felt like the numbers should have been higher than they were from the onset.

This made everyone realize that Gradier Xanatus wasn't the only supervisor in the building. He was only in charge of the batches transported to this floor when everyone arrived inside the tower.

"Lastly, you all have six hours to find a way out of this space after being sent in. That is the greatest challenge since the entrance or exit you find might just be an illusion," Gradier Xanatus explained.

The participants became tensed upon hearing that. They never thought they'd have to go through such a complicated test. They currently couldn't imagine how they were going to be able to differentiate illusion from reality.

Chapter 188 - The Complicated Third Phase

"We'll be using a low leveled brain inducer to send you all to that space. Therefore, it's not going to be above what your age group can handle... It's a virtual space, but at the same time, everything will be real except for what we want to portray as fake... The rest will be up to you," Gradier Xanatus voiced out.

'Low level brain inducer eh?' Gustav contemplated after hearing Gradier Xanatus's explanation, 'I hope this doesn't end up being troublesome,'

The participants still had lots of questions and looks of wariness, but they knew that the explanation wouldn't be more than this.

Zing! Zing! Zing! Zing! Zing!

The hall brightened up as participants began to disappear from their seating positions one after the other.

Gustav also disappeared along with them in a few seconds. When the light surrounding him disappeared, he found himself in a hall that was larger than every space the participants had been in so far.

It wasn't really a hall. It looked more like a lab because tub-like machines could be seen in rows and columns that extended as far as the eyes could see.

A glass wall could be seen seven hundred feet above on the right side of the wall.

Within the glass walls, five people could be seen dressed like Gradier Xanatus.

Two women and three men within the glass walls were dressed in orange uniforms with black stripes.

They had authoritative looks on their faces.

One of them, with a rhino horn on his forehead, folded his arms with a frown on his face. He looked down at the participants who kept appearing within the laboratory.

They all had their different ways of standing that looked quite menacing.

Gradier Xanatus stood in their midst. He looked quite tame compared to the rest of them with his hands locked behind his back.

"Find the pod that has your number on it," Gradier Xanatus said, his voice traveling through the large laboratory-like room.

More than a thousand participants were moving around the place at the moment.

The participants from Gustav's batch could see a lot of unrecognizable faces.

They instantly understood that these were the participants from other batches that had tests on separate floors.

The participants began to find their pods one after the other. Gradier Xanatus instructed this set of participants to go in next.

Tsshhh! Tsshhh! Tsshhh!

The pods opened up, and they entered it to lie down. It closed back immediately after that, and a red bar appeared above every pod that had been closed up.

Inside, the participants could only see blue and green glowing lines across the smooth surface within the pod.

Surprisingly they could still hear Gradier Xanatus's voice inside the pod. However, it wasn't coming in sound waves. Instead, it was resounding in their minds.

Giving them some other instructions and reminding them what this is all about

Gustav was already inside his. Being inside the pod reminded him of when he used to sleep in a bathtub.

Gustav smiled, 'I wonder what happened to that bathtub now? Maybe they put it away...'

Gustav wasn't really bothered by the pod reminding him of such times within his former household. He had gotten so used to sleeping inside the hard tub that he didn't feel uncomfortable lying down inside the pod.

The same couldn't be said for a lot of other participants who kept turning their bodies because they weren't comfortable within the pod.

Gradier Xanatus stopped talking and wished the participants good luck as the pod began to function.

The red bar that appeared on top of everyone's pod started filling up, and in a matter of a few seconds, it filled up completely.

Ting! Ting! Ting! Ting! Ting!

The red bar turned green, and the participants felt their consciousness being pulled out of them.

Their head turned woozy, and before they knew it, they had lost consciousness.

After a few seconds, they opened their eyes and found themselves in an unfamiliar world blazing with green and yellow fire.

Gradier Xanatus and the rest of the other supervisors stared at the large lab and watched as the bars on their pods turned green.

"Looks like it will be starting soon. Let's get the projection of the furry world up here," One of the supervisors, who happened to be a lady with blue hair all over her face, said.

Trooinn!

A holographic projection appeared in front of them that displayed a world blazing with green and yellow fire.

They could see the participants appearing all over the place, one after the other on the projection.

"Sir Xanatus... Do you think there might be any special class material among these lots?" One of the supervisors with green worm-like hairs asked.

"Don't be ridiculous Valgus, do you think a candidate with the potential of being special class will appear here?" The man with a Rhino horn dismissed with a deep tone.

"I think someone like that has appeared already," Gradier Xanatus answered with a mischievous smile.

- "What?"

- "Amongst them?"

- "Impossible!"

Three of the supervisors voiced out at the same time.

"Why would th..." The supervisor with a Rhino horn was speaking when the female supervisor with blue facial hair interrupted.

"Sir Xanatus... There seems to be a dysfunctional pod over there," She pointed at the western part of the lab.

"Huh?"

The four of them turned to the side and stared at the direction she was pointing in.

Among the thousands of pods with a green bar on them, a particular one still glowed red.

"Hmm? Check what's going on with that pod," Gradier Xanatus instructed.

One of them nodded and proceeded to jump through the glass wall.

Zwooon!

The supervisor's body phased through the glass and traveled across the air for several thousand feet before landing in front of the said pod.

"It says, unable to initialize brain waves," The supervisor voiced out.

Although he was more than a thousand feet away, they understood what he was saying. However, they were confused by that statement.

"I'll call for the maintenance tech team to check up on it," The other female supervisor with black flowing hair voiced out.

"Hmm, I don't think there's any need for that," Gradier Xanatus said and gestured for the supervisor with a rhino horn to open up the pod.

Tsshhh!

The pod opened up, and a boy with blond hair could be seen lying within it.

'Ah damn, I had a feeling that this was gonna happen,'

Chapter 189 - Higher Level Pod

"Hmm, I don't think there's any need for that," Gradier Xanatus said and gestured to the supervisor with a rhino horn to open up the pod.

Tsshhh!

The pod opened up, and a boy with blond hair could be seen lying within it.

'Ah damn, I had a feeling that this was gonna happen,'

The person within the pod was none other than Gustav.

He sat up when the pod slid open, and the supervisors stared at his frame from within the glass wall.

'Just as I thought... It's him,' Gradier Xanatus said internally with a smile.

--

A few moments ago, when the pod bar filled up, and everyone's consciousness was manipulated, Gustav also felt it.

His head was a bit woozy for a second, but in the next second, system notifications popped up in his line of sight.

-----

[Host Brain Waves are being manipulated by external forces]

[Mental Fortitude needed for blocking Brain Manipulation: 30]

[Host has acquired enough mental fortitude to hindering Brain Manipulation]

[Brain Manipulation has been successfully hindered]

-----

Gustav felt like cursing when he saw this. He knew mental fortitude was good since it protected his mind, but, in this situation, it was actually doing more harm than good.

He really wouldn't like to stand out much.

Yes, he was planning to reveal some of his hidden abilities during the test phase. However, at the rate things were going now, he might end up being too outstanding, and he didn't know how that would end up for him.

Gustav didn't want to reveal the full capabilities of his mental fortitude because he was sure they were going to see him as an anomaly.

Currently, his mental fortitude was so high that he could even control his dreams and change them to whatever he wanted when he is asleep. If he had a bad dream, he could just switch it or turn off his dreams entirely.

There were other things that mental fortitude had granted him. He wanted to make sure they weren't revealed.

If there was a way he could reduce the stats, he would have done that immediately. Unfortunately, there wasn't.

Tsshhh!

'Ah damn, I had a feeling this was going to happen. The instructors might need to use a high-level brain inducer,' Gustav said Internally while sitting up after the pod slid open.

"Hmm, kid, step out for a bit," The supervisor instructed.

Gustav did as he was told and came out.

The supervisor moved closer to the pod and started checking it out.

"I wonder what's wrong with this..." Before he could complete his statement, he heard a voice in his mind.

'There's nothing wrong with the pod, Chuks... Bring the kid here,' It was the voice of Gradier Xanatus in his mind.

'Hmm, there's nothing wrong with the pod? Then why didn't it send him there like the rest?' He questioned.

'Bring him over here first,' Gradier Xanatus commanded.

The supervisor nodded and grabbed hold of Gustav's left arm.

Gustav was alarmed by the sudden grip, but the supervisor leaped upwards towards the southeast area before he could react to it.

Zwwooooonn!

Gustav traveled across the air along with the supervisor, and before he knew it, they were closing in on a glass wall.

Gustav placed his right arm in front of himself in defense as they arrived in front of the glass. However, to his surprise, there was no collision when they made contact. Instead, their body phased through it.

'Intangibility,' Gustav immediately recognized this bloodline ability. It was one of the rarest bloodlines in the history of mixedbloods.

Plop!

They landed within the small room, and Gustav looked around.

He noticed Gradier Xanatus standing among the weird-looking supervisors.

"Sir Xanatus, I've brought him," The other male supervisor with grey colored hair voiced out.

"Good, welcome candidate 00126," Gradier Xanatus voiced out.

Gustav just stared in response. He was more concerned with the words that were going to come out of Gradier Xanatus's mouth next and how he would counter them if they happened to be unfavorable.

"It would seem your mental defenses happen to be higher than what the pod can handle, so you can't be sent in with the others," Gradier Xanatus explained.

"So, what's gonna happen now?" Gustav asked with a calm look.

"Well, this pod happens to be at the right level for your age group, so it's either you're way older, or you're just different..." Gradier Xanatus said.

"Can't I just use a higher-level pod?" Gustav asked.

"Well, you see, there are four levels of brain inducer pods. The pod you and your fellow participants used is at the beginner level, which is the first. The second level isn't what normal participants can handle since their brain functions might be overworked. As for the third and fourth levels, let's not even go there. You will be turned into a vegetable," Gradier Xanatus explained.

"Why don't we try the second-level pod?" Gustav asked once again.

"If we use a higher-level pod to send you in, it would be a violation because it's for the age group of thirty. Also, it will make it more difficult for you to differentiate between illusion and reality. The whole process would be quite unfair since the other participants will have it easier. Only special class candidates can handle it at your age," Gradier Xanatus replied.

'Special class?' Those words caught Gustav's interest, 'This means I'm in the safe zone since there's a set of my age group that can handle it,'

This made Gustav calm down. His previous worries disappeared after he realized this.

"Let's try it," Gustav proposed.

The supervisors stared at Gustav with a weird look after hearing that.

The supervisor with rhino horns on his forehead replied Gustav before anyone else could, "Listen here, kid, without authorization, we can't put you in that pod so forget it. Your case will have to be reported to the higher-ups and you will have to wait for their next set of instructions."

Chapter 190 - The System Is Still A Bit

The supervisor with rhino horns on his forehead replied Gustav before anyone else could, "Listen here, kid, without authorization, we can't put you in that pod so forget it. Your case will just have to be reported to the higher-ups, and you will have to wait for their next set of instructions."

"And how long would that take? Will I be able to take part in the next phase?" Gustav asked.

"You will have to forget about continuing the MBO entrance test till after their feedback, so you won't be joining the next phase. You're no longer a part of the MBO entrance test as from this mo..." Before the supervisor could complete his statement, Gradier Xanatus interrupted.

"Prepare the stage two pod!" He voiced out with an authoritative tone.

"Uhh?"

The other supervisors turned around to stare at Gradier Xanatus after he gave that order.

"But we haven't been given authorization," The supervisor with grey hair voiced out.

"I'm giving the authorization... I will handle whatever comes next myself," Gradier Xanatus replied while walking towards Gustav.

"Sir Xanatus! What are you talking about? Are you sure about this? Punishments will be meted out if anything happens to this candidate because of your decision!" The supervisor with Rhino horn voiced out.

"Do as I have said, prepare the stage two pod," Gradier Xanatus replied with a condescending tone.

Immediately they heard the tone of his voice; none of the supervisors questioned him anymore.

The supervisor with Rhino horns backed down and moved to the side.

"Why?" Gustav asked while staring at Gradier Xanatus, who was currently standing in front of him.

Gradier Xanatus placed his right palm on Gustav's right shoulder before answering, "I've been watching you... Let's see if you'll live up to my expectations,"

Gustav furrowed his eyebrows upon hearing that and didn't respond.

'I can only hope this level of the pod will be high enough to transport my consciousness into that world... It's going to be a hassle to wait for feedback from the higher-ups,' Gustav said internally as they waited.

In about two minutes, some people in lab coats with weird-looking rhombus-like helmets covering their faces came into the small room pushing a white pod.

This pod was almost twice the size of the ones in the large hall in front.

They started setting it up with a connected device, and in a few seconds, it powered up.

Tsshhh!

It slid open, and Gustav went in.

The pod closed up back as he laid down inside.

"Has it been successfully connected to the furry world?" Gradier Xanatus asked the people in lab coats.

They gave an affirmative reply and stared at the pod, which was currently glowing up.

Red bars appeared on it like the others and started filling up.

'Work this time, please,' Gustav said internally.

This was the first time he wished one of his stats was lesser than it currently was.

The bar filled up completely, and just like before, Gustav felt his consciousness being pulled out of his body.

-----

[Host Brain Waves are being manipulated by external forces]

[Mental Fortitude needed for blocking Brain Manipulation: 50]

[Host has acquired enough mental fortitude to hindering Brain Manipulation]

-----

'No! no! no! Not again,' Gustav said internally with a look of frustration as he saw the system notifications.

The system was about to hinder brain manipulation again.

'Hey, system... I'm sure you can hear me. It wouldn't be sensible for me to stand out beyond this because it might cause future and unknown complications. If you could just let this machine do what it's made for, that would be the best,' Gustav said, internally hoping that the system would listen to him.

[Host has acquired enough mental fortitude to hindering Brain Manipulation]

He noticed that the notification paused here because there was still supposed to be another notification after this.

He felt maybe the system decided to listen to him. Still, in the next second, a notification popped up above other notifications.

("The existence of the system shall not be exposed. I shall not tolerate entry of external forces into the Host's mind!")

The system finally chatted with him again after several months.

'Listen to me... If we go beyond this, it might put us in a compromising situation. If I'm in a compromising situation, it means you also are,' Gustav replied internally.

("If you get in a compromising situation and die, it doesn't affect me! I can always choose another host!")

The system responded coldly.

'I'm calling your bluff. After spending six months within me, there's no way you'd want to start from scratch,' Gustav said internally without a look of worry.

("Do you pride yourself on being important now?")

'How about we stop arguing and make a decision before the supervisors get too suspicious... Just listen to my suggestion,' Gustav proposed.

("Alright, go on,")

'From what I've noticed, you don't want them peeking in my head... This machine can do that, but it isn't really trying to do that now. So, the best course of action would be for you to reduce my mental fortitude below fifty for it to send my consciousness to where the third phase is happening. Immediately I'm in, let my stats return to normal. That way, even if the machine tries to pick my brain when I'm in, it wouldn't work since my mental fortitude has returned back to normal. Also, I won't be pulled out of the world since the machine only needs to send us there. It plays no role in keeping us within that world. It's like a gateway, so returning my mental fortitude stats normal will not pull me out of that world unless I find the exit,' Gustav explained lengthily to the system.

("Doesn't seem like a bad suggestion, but with all that intelligence, you could only come up with this? I'm quite disappointed")

Gustav; "..."

'The system is still a bitch,'

-

Outside the pod, the supervisors started to get worried when they saw that the bar remained red even after filling up.