

BloodLine 411

Chapter 411 Part Two: Ruin

(From MC's perspective)

A few hours later,

I arrived at the base camp. Seeing that there is no one here. I realized everyone went to the ruin site. Shortly after, Ms Valerie arrived.

Looking at me she said, "Let's go to the ruin site."

Hearing that, my eyes gleamed with surprise. I thought she would restrict me like Elder Compton. But it looks like she doesn't want any mishap to happen to me.

Then I nodded in understanding. Anyway, I have to tell Elder Compton face to face that I don't need her protection. So far she has been hindering me.

Then shaking my head, I followed her. Thinking about the ruins, my heart rose in excitement. This is the first time I'm going to see the actual ruin site.

So far I have only seen some books and videos about the ruins. But most of them were censored. I don't know whether the information piled up online was true or not.

"Follow my commands after entering the ruin. Don't act on your own," Valerie Lyons said without turning her back.

Hearing that I retracted my thoughts and looked at her. "Is there any danger inside the ruin?" I asked.

Valerie's expression turned solemn before replying, "There might be some old traps. Only a leader can solve them in our team. So we have to be careful after entering the ruin."

"She is right," a look of understanding dawned upon me.

Elder Compton is an elite-level powerhouse. It's normal for him to solve problems.

Time passed in the blink of an eye,

We arrived at the spot. Seeing the run-down stone structure, a quick glint flashed in my eyes. I asked, "Is this some kind of building?"

On the other hand, Valerie Lyons opened the ruins map in watch to check. Currently, they are standing in front of section 1 of the ruins area.

She looked at the map once again before her eyes fell on the ruins' structure. She found some changes in it. It didn't look like what the leader had described.

Then retracting her thoughts, she turned towards Zack Lockwood.

"Yeah, this is the ruin site. We are currently at section area one. You can use the map to check."

After saying that she added further, "I believe the leader went ahead with the team. So let's go inside."

After saying that she entered section area 1 following the narrowed path. She found traces of footprints. Seeing that she confirmed her thoughts.

At the same time, several questions appeared in my heart. What type of ruin is this? I can tell these were complete structures. But right now time has left traces on them.

It's hard to discern what they were in the original.

I silently used my perceptual ability to check the nearby area. Seeing that there is no problem around me. I silently followed the footprints of Valerie Lyons.

"Wait," Valerie Lyons shouted all of a sudden.

Hearing that, my expression turned solemn. Because I found she was shocked to the core.

I asked, "What happened?"

Seeing her standing like status, I walked past her to look ahead. But what came into my view was a large hole in the ground.

My heart starts to beat faster. "What is this?" The hole is 10 m wide in size. Is this natural or what? Several questions popped up in my mind.

But all of this can be only answered by the research team. I turned around and saw the petrified face of Valerie Lyons. Seeing her like that I have a bad feeling about this.

"Ms Valerie?" I called out.

She let out a deep sigh before saying, "I tried to reach out to the leader. But I found some kind of interference in the signal."

Hearing that I once again looked at the hole. Does something happen to them? But I quickly removed these thoughts.

Elder Compton is Elite Warrior. He should be fine. Instead, we should worry about ourselves. Shaking my head, I asked, "Can we go ahead?"

Valerie Lyons nodded in understanding. When the duo moved forward they found similar holes and cracks in the ground, inside the section 1 area.

But they carefully avoided them and walked forward towards the section 2 area's direction.

"Are we not going to investigate this place?" I asked.

Valerie Lyons said in a solemn tone, "Section area 1 was already cleared out. There is nothing valuable here. I believe the leader and others were in the section 2 area."

"The section-2 area has several unexplored structures," She added further.

Hearing that, I'm looking forward to seeing what's going on inside.

Right after the duo left, the cracks started to widen on the ground inside section area 1.

Time passed,

After several minutes, we entered section area 2. But still, there is no sign of the leader and others. Though the area appeared to be calm. I don't know. Why do I feel something amiss about this?

Valerie Lyons stopped her movements after arriving here. She is sure that the leader is not inside section area 3. Because that section is an unexplored area. So the leader won't go blindly inside without the full support of the team.

So Valerie made up her mind to investigate this section area 2. She turned towards Zack and said, "Okay, we will start searching from this place."

Hearing that I nodded then slowly we started from a nearby ruined structure.

Time passed in a blink of an eye.

An hour later, we didn't find traces of the leader and others. Which made me furrow my eyebrows further. Things are getting troublesome. I have to say Valerie Lyons seems clueless.

I can say that only in my heart. I let out a small sigh before asking, "is this place fully covered like section area 1?"

A quick glint flashed in Valerie Lyon's eyes. There are still places inside this section which are left unexplored. She has the feeling that the leader perhaps walked into one of these places.

As this thought rose in her heart. She felt this is most likely possible.

She replied looking at Zack, "Yes, there are some unmarked stone structures in this area."

"Let's go and search that place also," She added.

Chapter 412 Weapon Storage House?

Ruin Section area-2,

For a moment, everyone thought it was an illusion. The members immediately looked at their leader for answers.

Ricardo Compton feels something amiss. Looking at the empty hall, he thinks there is something more to it. Because this building is an unmarked one. Which means no one had explored it before.

"Alright, everyone. Go and check the rooms one by one," Ricardo Compton instructed his subordinates.

Hearing that, Eric Lloyd and others swiftly acted. Kara Robles and Terrell Boyd went to inspect adjacent rooms. On the other hand, Eric and Garret Marsh looked at each other.

There is a mutual understanding between them. Both of them decided to check other rooms.

Finally, Ricardo Compton was left alone in the hall. He turned around and began to look for a secret compartment. Because he believes it's impossible for such a massive building to be hollowed out.

There must be some secrets in it.

Time passes in a blink of an eye.

A few hours later,

"Damn it, there is nothing left in this building," Eric Lloyd became frustrated. They wasted too much time in this area number 2.

And now they have to prepare for the dark.

On the other hand, Kara Robles sees some ruby-like stones inside one of the rooms. But what attracted her attention is that the stones were of different sizes.

In curiosity, she touched one of the stones and felt no reaction. "Hmmm," She raised her eyebrows in confusion. What kind of stones is this?

But she realized at least she got something in her hands. Something is better than nothing. After collecting the stones, she left the room.

Terrell Boyd is carefully looking for any secret door like the leader. But so far he failed to find anything concrete. Because of that, his moods worsened a little. "It's better to leave this building and search for another one," he mumbled under his breath.

Then shaking his head, he left the room and decided to speak with the leader.

But unlike others, Garret Marsh found some fortune. He spotted some gold sacks inside a certain room. The next moment, his eyes sparkled with delight.

"Ha...Ha...Ha....," he burst into laughter. But the next second, he realized his voice was too loud.

So he quickly recovered himself. But eyes flash an evil glint. He doesn't want to hand over this fortune to the leader. As usual, he thought about selling the stuff at the black market of baguva city.

"Sorry, leader. You should forgive me," Garret said to himself. The next second, the gold sack disappears from the spot. He carefully stored them inside his storage space.

While this was going on, Ricardo Compton found some traces of some exotic materials. Which made his assumption further strong.

Before he could do more searching, he heard the sound of footsteps. Turning around he sees Eric, Terrell and Karla. Only one person is missing.

Compton asked, "What happened?"

Eric Marsh took the initiative to speak. "Leader, we are wasting time here. Why don't we go to some other place?"

Hearing that, Compton knitted his eyebrows. This guy, ever since Eric became part of the group. He is constantly creating trouble for the group.

Just now he spotted some metallic traces. It's too early to leave this place. Before he could speak, Karla stepped forward to hand over something.

Which immediately stunned the rest of them.

"Leader, I found some strange stones inside the room," After saying that she handed over the ruby-like stones.

Compton's eyes widened in his surprise. His mind sprang up in action. He gave a vague feeling in his heart that this building perhaps used to be a weapon storage area.

This is just his assumption. But looking at the strange stones in his hands. He feels it might be possible.

When everyone is observing the stones. Garret Marsh arrives at the spot. At this moment, his face is full of smiles.

He assumed everyone else returned empty-handed. But suddenly he sees the strange stone in Leader's hands. The next moment, the smile on his face disappeared.

Eric Lloyd notices the presence of Garrett Marsh. But he frowns when he sees the unnatural expression of Garrett Marsh.

"Garrett, what happened to you?" Eric Lloyd asked back.

Hearing that everyone turned their attention towards Garrett Marsh.

Garrett Marsh quickly adjusted himself. He revealed an embarrassing smile on his face before saying, "I thought you guys found some treasure. But it's just a broken piece."

Karla Robles was displeased after hearing that. But she kept it in her heart.

The leader Ricardo Compton sighed inwardly and kept those stones inside his storage space. He looked at Karla and said, "Good work."

Which immediately confused everyone. Feeling the confusion in everyone's eyes, he answered, "I think this building is related to a weapon refinery. Because I also found metallic traces."

"Right now after seeing this stone. I believe my assumption is true. But I don't know whether those materials were shifted to some other place."

Hearing that everyone became excited. Garrett Marsh's heart skips a beat. He thought he was lucky to find some gold sacks. But he had never expected this entire building to turn out like some kind of storehouse.

From time to time, Eric Lloyd observes Garrett's reaction. Seeing their strange reaction to Garrett, he feels Garrett is hiding something.

But this is not the right place to bring up the topic. Then after hearing the initial findings from the leader, everyone is ready to do one more search.

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(From MC's perspective)

"Zack, follow my footsteps. The unmarked locations were most dangerous," Valerie Lyons said without turning her back.

Hearing that, I replied, "Alright."

But my heart is not calm. At first, I thought the ruins were boring places and my heart was set on practicing inside the mutated forest.

But after coming here, my alertness didn't reduce a bit. I spread my perception around the area covering both of us. If there are any strange movements, they won't go unnoticed under my eyes.

Soon we arrived at the unmarked spot. Seeing this huge building, we stopped our movements for a moment.

"Can we go inside to check?" I asked her.

Valerie Lyons nodded and headed towards the entrance. But the next moment, a huge surprise filled our faces.

"Leader!" Valerie Lyons called out after finding her team. Right now, her raging heart eases down a little bit. She thought the team perhaps entered inside section area 3.

But fortunately, nothing like that had happened.

At the same time, I followed her footsteps to enter inside. I see Elder Compton is discussing among others.

After sensing our arrival, everyone stopped talking and looked at us in surprise.

On the other hand, Ricardo Compton's expression changes a little bit. "Why did you bring him here?" He inquired about Valerie.

He thought that the brat was practicing inside the mutated forest. So what happened now?

Valerie Lyons hurriedly replied, "Leader, I saved him from a group of monsters. The mutated monsters were large in numbers. And they were spotted roaming at the outer ring."

A strange glint flashes in Ricardo's eyes. He trusted her judgments. But still, this ruin is more dangerous than the mutated forest.

"Sigh," He let out a deep sigh. Since the brat came here, he has to keep an eye on him.

"Zack, don't go anywhere. Just stay near me," He said to me all of a sudden.

Having no other choice, I nodded my head in reply.

"Harumph, oil bottle." Eric Lloyd uttered in displeasure. He is looking for an opportunity to remove this kid. But after exiting the mutated forest, there is no suitable time to do that.

But he feels this ruin might be this kid's burial place. An evil plan began to rise in his heart. But this is something which needs the cooperation of others.

Especially, since he knows the leader is keeping an eye on him. But as long as he removed that kid. He believes that the leader won't stand up for the dead kid.

Eric's voice is not loud but it's heard by others.

"Alright, Eric. Don't forget why we came here. Just go and look for the traces," Ricardo Compton said to him.

He doesn't want Zack and Eric in the same place.

On the other hand, a strange feeling rose in my heart. Looks like I have to be more careful of this person named Eric.

Especially, he discards the leader's presence openly. Which means this guy won't hesitate to kill me, if there is any opportunity arises. A sense of urgency rose in my heart.

At the same time, I see Eric left with Garrett Marsh to search for another place. Right now, Elder Compton looked at others and said something.

Seconds later, Karla and Terrell Boyd moved to search in the opposite direction. Finally, the three of us left inside the hall.

Elder Compton started to explain his findings. Which finally aroused some interest in me. Weapon storage building? I immediately looked around this massive structure in curiosity.

I want to check this building like others. But the leader won't let me go.

"Valerie, you can join them after taking some rest here," Elder Compton said.

"Hmmm," Valerie nodded in response.

Chapter 413 The Appearance Of Monster Inside The Ruins

(From MC's perspective)

Ruins section area -2,

Night,

After exploration, everyone used this wide spacious hall to set up a tent. Seven different tents were arranged circularly.

Inside one of the tents,

Garrett Marsh pondered deeply.

"This building used to be a storage house. But it's a pity, I came across nothing except the gold sacks," he grumbled.

Should I give him or not? He became hesitant. Earlier he thought no one would find anything about this building. But as usual, the leader came up with a result.

Then he thought about observing the gold stone. In curiosity, he takes out a few gold stones from the gold sacks and places them on the ground.

The stone is not completely bright. The gold stone faded over time and now it looked like some kind of rock. But he believes that it is similar to modern-day gems.

While he was observing something sinister taking place outside.

Outside of the building,

The ground began to crack. As time went on, the cracks enlarged. Right after, a huge head has risen from the ground.

Boom!

A mutated class-4 worm monster began to rise from the ground. It's happening right in front of the abandoned building. So the huge commotion immediately alarmed everyone.

"What's happening?" I widened my eyes in surprise. Under instinct, I used my perception ability to scan the surroundings.

The next moment, my expression changes drastically. "How come monsters appeared here?" I grumbled.

I remember Elder Compton saying mutated monsters avoid these ruins like a plague. So what changed now? A lot of doubts appeared in my heart.

But I know this is not the time for seeking answers. First, we need to deal with the situation in front of us. Then I walked out of the tent to meet others.

On the other hand, the rest of the team is already standing together to attack the monster.

Seeing them, I walked up to them.

"This is trouble. It's a worm monster," Garrett Marsh uttered in disbelief.

Everyone looked at the monster with solemn gazes.

"Has it found us?" Eric Loyd asked.

Because no one knows why the monster popped up all of a sudden.

A quick glint flashed in Compton's eyes. He should have expected this before coming here. Because the mysterious energy inside the mutated forest is unusually high.

On top of it, the sudden appearance of a monster here. It only tells us something caused this to happen. And why is it? Compton looked in the direction of section area 3.

Section area 3 is a completely brand-new and unexplored site. So the changes happening here are also related to that area.

After realizing this, he said, "Hold on, I'm going to solve this monster."

After saying that he disappeared from the spot and appeared outside on top of the giant head of the worm monster.

Looking at the ugly head and shark-like teeth. Compton's eyes revealed a cold glint. This worm monster is unusual compared to other similar species.

Because the monster looked somewhat intelligent. It already sensed the arrival of a strong enemy yet it didn't attack the enemy casually.

Which caused Compton to raise his eyebrow. Compton knows this one is a mutated monster. And the level of mutation is extremely high. So he made up his mind to decimate the monster in one move.

The next moment, he released a giant fireball at the monster's giant head. Right after the appearance of the fireball, the entire place was illuminated with bright light.

Which also made everyone see the mutated monster.

There is no difference between the corpse and the mutated monster. The mutated monster's body was riddled with holes and green colored liquids were dripping from the holes.

"Vaaak," Kara Robles controlled her vomiting.

"Ewww," Valerie Lyons feels disgusted. This is the first time she has seen something like this.

The rest of the member's faces were also not good.

On the other hand, I continued to monitor the situation. Unlike others, I used my perception to scan further areas. I sensed another worm monster not far away from here.

My heart skips a beat for a moment. Before I could warn them, the giant fireball outside landed on the monster.

Boom!

A terrible sound resonated in the area. This sound was enough to attract other mutated monsters around the vicinity.

The fireball attack caused severe damage to the monster. Half of the head was completely burnt up by a fireball. The worm monster wailed in pain.

Seeing that, Compton released two more consecutive fireballs like a giant son on top of the monster.

Boom! Boom!

One by one the attack landed on the monster's head. When the flames come in contact with the skin of the monster. It completely turned them into ashes.

A few minutes later, after the complete bombing of the fireballs. Not a scum left on the ground.

Seeing that team members sighed in relief.

At the same time, I took this opportunity to warn others.

"Elder, there is one more monster hiding in the dark," He said out loud.

Compton's eyes lit up with surprise. He released his elite sense to scan the surroundings. Soon he found another worm monster.

Right after he disappeared from the spot to attack it.

On the other hand, seeing him disappearing. I exhaled in relief. I'm still far away from dealing with level 4. Especially if it's a mutated class.

Suddenly, I realized everyone was staring at me.

Eric Loyd asked, "How did you know?" His gaze penetrated people's hearts.

But I smiled in response. Which caused his mood to worsen further.

Valerie Lyons feels a headache when it comes to situations between these two.

"Zack, I'm curious about this. How did you find out?" Valerie Lyons inquired.

Hearing that Eric Loyd's mood eases down a little.

"Hmmm," I raised my eyebrows in surprise. I can't deny the vice-leader's question. So I replied, "It's easy. Earlier, I heard two different sounds. So I knew there must be two monsters nearby."

"So that's how it is," Kara Robles widened her eyes in surprise.

"Harumph," Eric Loyd gave a cold snort before turning towards Garrett Marsh.

Seeing everyone's reactions, I shrugged it off.

A couple of seconds later, we heard another booming sound. I knew the second monster was over.

A few seconds later, Elder Compton appeared in front of us. But I found that Elder's face is not good looking.

I asked, "Elder, what happened?"

Hearing that, everyone realized something was wrong.

Compton said with a dejected face, "I suspect the ruin is now filled with monsters."

"What more is there more?" Terrell Boyd uttered in surprise. This was the same thought in everyone else's mind.

The more troublesome thing is that they can't handle class 4 and above monsters. If there were more class-4 monsters, then they were completely cornered at this point.

Feeling everyone's mood, Compton said, "Don't worry. Right now as long as we don't step outside everything will be fine. Then we will think of something tomorrow morning."

Hearing that everyone nodded in relief. But on the other hand, I have a feeling that the Elder is hiding something. Things were not as simple as it looks.

What if? These monsters are targeting us. A terrible thought comes to mind. But I quickly suppressed it. This forest is many times more dangerous than the black forest.

I wonder whether Elder Thornton is aware of these recent changes. Then like everyone, I choose to hide inside the tent.

On the other hand, Eric Loyd saw the back of Garrett Marsh. He found Garrett to be less talkative ever since they arrived here. Then he followed back to his tent.

Seeing that everyone was out, Compton disappeared from the spot and went outside to chase some monster out. He knows his team members will be helpless when it comes to a class monster.

So he made up his mind to clear as many obstacles as possible for tomorrow's exploration.

Inside Garrett's tent,

"Damn, this cursed place," Garrett Marsh said to himself. For a moment he thought this place was cursed.

"Yeah, this ruin is the cursed site," A voice sounded from behind.

Hearing that Garrett Marsh turned around to see Eric Loyd entering inside.

Fortunately, he hid his gold sacks in storage space before coming outside.

Seeing him, Garrett Marsh asked, "What are you doing here?"

Eric Loyd sneered, "What? I'm not allowed to see my good friend."

Garrett Marsh commented, "If you are here for that kid then I'm sorry. Now everyone in the group knows the animosity between you and that kid Zack."

"So I'm not going to help," he added further.

A cold glint flashed in Eric's eyes when he heard Zack's name. He was not surprised by Garrett's change in heart.

The leader openly warned him before others. So it is not surprising for everyone to know. But right now he is not here for that kid.

If he wants to remove that kid, he can do it even without the help of others. This time his purpose is different.

Eric wants to know what happened with Garrett Marsh. Garrett's behavior is a little bit suspicious.

So looking at Garrett, Eric asked, "Garrett, are you hiding something from me?"

Hearing that Garrett Marsh's heart skips a beat. He refuted this by saying, "What are you babbling about?"

Chapter 414 The Threat Of Class-5 Monster

(From MC's perspective)

The cold wind brushed past my face. The eerie feeling continues to give me an ominous vibe. I came here to train myself. But the condition here is overwhelming me. The appearance of the worm is not okay at all.

"Zack, stay close to me. Don't go outside," Compton said in a solemn tone. He made up his mind not to make any movements before confirming.

What is going on?

Hearing the Elder's voice, I sighed inwardly. I don't know how much pressure is adding to him.

Then I stopped probing and went back to my tent.

On the other hand, Eric Lloyd was not satisfied with Garrett Marsh's words. He is sure that Garrett is hiding something. It's not at all related to the sudden appearance of the monster.

Boom!

Another deafening sound reached everyone's ears.

"Monster!" Valerie Lyons shouted in a high pitched voice. Her voice was so loud that it alarmed everyone.

Swish!

"What again?" Ricardo Compton appeared before Valerie Lyons.

At this moment, he noticed his reaction to Valerie. Seeing her pointing fingers in the western direction. Ricardo shifted his face in that direction.

His expression changes drastically.

Swish! Swish!

One by one everyone appeared in a few seconds. This time the sound was more alarming than the last time.

Swish!

"Zack," Compton uttered.

Hearing that I nodded my head. Like everyone else, my expression is not good either. I'm hoping that we could get some time. But it looks like we were trapped inside the rune section 2.

I slightly observed the reaction of Eric Lloyd and Garrett Marsh. "What is going on between these two?" I said to myself. Especially during this time. It's of utmost importance to stick together.

But looking at them, I feel elder Compton would lose his patience soon.

Outside,

A Gigantic worm monster made its appearance. The massive body of the monster destroyed the existing abandoned structure.

The energy released from the monster is no less than that of a Class-5 Monster. The size of the monster is twice that of the last monster.

The green small eyes immediately found the trace of prey. The intelligence of the class 5 monster is quite developed. Earlier it's minions were killed by someone.

Right after seeing the prey, the worm monster moved its humongous body toward the abandoned building. It made a massive crack in the ground.

Inside,

Ricardo Compton finally realizes that the monster is not the usual one. His senses were alarmed after a few seconds.

"Everyone moves and quickly hides somewhere," After saying that Ricardo Compton disappeared from the spot and moved to confront the monster.

Right after, Garrett Marsh disappeared using this opportunity. Everyone is not dumb. Even though Ricardo didn't say it explicitly. But it's clear to everyone that the new monster is stronger than the previous one.

The movement of Garrett didn't go unnoticed under Eric Lloyd's eyes. "Damn you pig," he cursed under his breath.

Next second, without minding everyone he chased after Garrett Marsh.

"These two," Valerie Lyons's expression darkened. This is an important time to stay together. But these two chose to act separately.

At this time, Kara Robles commented, "Vice-leader, leave those two. We don't have much time."

Hearing that Valerie Lyons glanced at her and Terrell Boyd. She noticed the expression of these two was not good. But when her gaze fell on Zack Lockwood. Her eyes lit up with surprise.

Zack Lockwood's eyes were calm as water without any fear. This caused her even more shock. How is it possible? The monster is possibly a Class-5 one.

Then she collected her thoughts and lead everyone towards the exit. Because the abandoned building is not safe anymore. When three of them walked out and appeared outside.

They found the landscape changed completely. It is turned upside down. Earlier a few battles caused massive damage here. Valerie Lyons quickly led everyone towards the opposite of the Class-5 Monster.

"The Armor Suit is taking a toll on me," Terrell Boyd finally spilled some words from his mouth.

Kara Robles rolled her eyes at him.

While the Vice-leader Valerie Lyons glanced at Zack. From time to time, she kept her eyes on him. She feels Zack will act separately if not for her watch.

She remembers the previous fight in the mutated forest. She can't deal with the same headache anymore.

"Rooooarrrrr," another deafening sound reached everyone's ears.

Valerie Lyons's face was discolored. Right before them, another worm monster appeared.

Four of them stopped their movements.

"Class-4," Terrell Boyd said with a distraught expression. How can they confront such a massive monster?

Even the leader Compton took some effort to kill the monster previously. But for them, it's impossible to face this monster. It's like seeking death directly.

"Valerie, I think we should split right now," Kara Robles said in a trembling voice. Due to fear, she didn't address her as Vice leader.

Hearing that Valerie Lyons revealed a complicated expression on her face. She can't abandon them. But Kara's words made her realize some truth.

None of them are capable of facing that monster. Finally, her gaze fell on Zack. From what she had heard, leader Compton promised his friend to take care of Zack.

At the same time, I noticed the gaze of Valerie Lyons. So much chaos is happening right now. I guess it's the right time to act individually. Unless Elder Compton solves that class-5 monster.

They can't escape alive.

"Vice-leader, I want to act alone," I said.

"Zack, you.." Valerie Lyons uttered in low tone

"Rooooarrrr," The worm monster made another sound. It got closer to the team. If they waste any more time, it will result in death.

"Split," Valerie Lyons said while gritting her teeth.

Swish! Swish!

Next second, everyone chooses a different direction to escape. But I choose to go in the direction where Eric Lloyd and Garrett Marsh disappeared.

Those two are up to something. But I don't know what it is. While rushing, I glanced toward the Class-5 Monster. The monster is probably located at the entrance of the ruin. But I see the shadow of the monster here itself.

I had never thought the appearance of a Class-5 monster made everyone run for their life. Then retracting my thoughts, I increased my pace a little bit.

As Terrell spoke earlier. Running while wearing the Armour suit is a daunting task.

Behind my back, I hear the terrible sound of a monster. I know no one is fighting except Elder Compton. So before any monster chases me down. I have to find the other two.

One good thing though the worm monster lacks speed. So I believe everyone can escape safely.

10 minutes later,

I reached the other end of the ruin. There are no more abandoned buildings. If I cross this spot, I will reach the plains. The other side of the plain is a mutated forest. Which is another troublesome thing.

A frown appeared on my face. I know that those two initially ran in this direction. But here there is no sign of them. Where did they go? I'm sure that I will not go back to confront that monster.

My mind sprang up in action. This spot is not safe either. The whole ruin 2 is attacked by the worm monster. I guess it will be a matter of time before another monster arrives here.

Then I finally made up my mind to go and check the plains.

Swish!

I disappeared from the spot and dashed towards the plains.

A few minutes later,

In the middle of the plains, I noticed some footprints. This land is not so big either. So apart from some grasses, there is no other structure here. But the footprints made me puzzled.

So I followed the footprints. Soon another footprint came into my view. This time I made an accurate judgment. Garrett Marsh and Eric Lloyd! A quick glint flashed in my eyes.

I found two sets of footprints. One is medium size and another one is a bit large. No doubt! It's the leg footprint of the armor suit.

These two guys go? In curiosity, I followed the footprint. I walked past the uneven land and finally, I came across the corpse.

My back went cold for a moment. The next moment, I used my perception to scan the surroundings. I used it carefully so as not to alarm the worm monsters.

It would be troublesome if the monsters noticed my presence. So I started slowly. Finally, after confirming there is no threat around me. I walked up to the corpse and checked it.

When I realized it was the corpse of Garrett Marsh, I sighed inwardly. But I wasn't surprised. Looking at their previous behavior, I realized there is indeed some bad blood between them.

But what made Eric kill his friend? That guy was obviously after me. I thought he made up a team with Garrett Marsh to attack me. But the ending was unexpected. Then after checking one more time, I decided to track Eric Lloyd.

There must be something going on. I didn't find any traces on the corpse. But I believe Eric Lloyd has some answers.

Chapter 415 Achieving Multiple Breakthrough

(From MC's perspective)

When I walked further, I saw the silhouette of Eric Lloyd. Seeing that he is up to something. I started to follow him from behind. This situation inside the ruin is dire.

But this guy is working on his plan. A trace of apprehension appeared in my eyes. I can fight across ranks. But that doesn't mean I can hold a candle against Class-5 Monster.

Shaking my head, I continued to follow him. After a few minutes, I felt something strange. The ground beneath my feet felt different. It's not solid ground. It felt artificial.

Crack!

Before I could think anything further. The ground beneath my feet collapsed and it swallowed me.

Everything happened in a blink of an eye,

Tud!

I heavily dropped onto the ground. I don't know where it is. The entire area looked pitch black. Fortunately, I'm wearing the armor suit. It took the majority of the impact. Which saved me from injury.

The armor suit has lights. When I used it, the surroundings became visible to my eye.

My eyes lit up with surprise.

It's a very old laboratory. I remember seeing images of it from various books. How come such architecture is present here? Slightly away from the old ruin.

So from the very beginning, people were doing it all wrong. They are searching for something like this in the ruins. Many people including Elder Compton were expecting to find something inside ruin area 3.

But now I feel sorry for them. The next moment, I thought about Garrett Marsh and Eric Lloyd.

Those two? Are they aware of something like this? If it is true then, they are stabbing the back of Elder Compton.

I shook my head in disappointment. Elder Compton is lenient towards them. Then I tried to stand up. After I got up from the ground, I observed the state of my armor suit.

Seeing that there is no crack on them, I sighed in relief. Next, my gaze turned toward the laboratory. The laboratory seems to be huge.

First, I should search this area. There is no track of Eric Lloyd. I wonder what happened to that guy. I slowly started to investigate the surroundings.

I wonder if there is any entrance and exit to this laboratory? I walked past a lot of cages. I see many broken skeletons inside. What kind of horrible experiment people were doing at that time?

A cold shiver went down my spine. Finally, I spotted a wooden desk and chair. It seems to be the working spot of a researcher. I hurriedly walked up to the spot and opened the drawer.

After cleaning the debris, I found an old withered book. My eyes gleamed with a twinkle. Finally, there is something profitable.

I tried to open the page to read it. But right after seeing the scrambled letters. "It's not my cup of tea," I mumbled under my breath. The words are written in an old language. I don't know which era it belongs to.

But when I casually flipped a few pages. My gaze fixed on one of the pages. It's not the letters but the drawing that attracted my attention. It seems to be some kind of liquid bottle. The liquid looked red.

A vague feeling rose in my heart. I don't know why? But I feel this liquid is very important to me. Then I glanced at various cages. Don't tell me the liquid bottle is a product of this experiment.

After placing the withered book inside my storage space. I continue to investigate the surroundings. I feel the liquid bottle exists inside this laboratory.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

One hour later,

After searching the nook and corner, I finally found the sealed area of the cabin. The door of the sealed area is very thick, unlike other areas.

So far I haven't used my power here. The area looked old. If I use my power, then the area will be destabilized.

I decided to handle it carefully. I twisted my fist and punched it heavily.

Boom!

The thick metallic door began to crack. A few minutes later, it broke into several pieces.

When the smoke was gone. I stepped inside the room. As expected the room is a hidden and important room of the laboratory.

The room is covered with dust and spider webs. Then I slowly started to clean it. After a few minutes, I came across another table and chair.

I hurriedly opened the drawer. This time I found a metal box inside the drawer. Seeing that I felt immediate hunger inside me. "Blood Element," I mumbled under my breath.

There must be something inside of it.

I took the metallic box and placed it on the table. Fortunately, the metallic box is a normal one.

Click!

The lock of the metallic box looked simple. So I opened it after a few tries. When I removed the top cover. I see a red liquid bottle carefully placed inside.

The next second, I felt the throbbing of a heart. The blood element won't react unless something is important. So this liquid is useful to me.

But I don't know what it is. Unfortunately, the withered book was written in an old language. But I can infer that the red color liquid is the final product of the experiment.

I don't know what type of experiments they carried out. Thinking about those skeletons. I feel the experiment has something to do with blood.

The throbbing of the heart increased suddenly. The craving is getting increased second by second.

A trace of determination appeared in my eyes.

Next second, I picked the red colored liquid bottle. I unscrewed the bottle and drank it in one go.

The red color liquid went down my throat. I felt the insane heat all over my body. Without thinking further, I sat cross-legged on the spot.

I gritted my teeth and started to run the blood method. The bloody rune ring inside my consciousness became bright red.

A second later, the celestial lightning scripture started to flicker all of a sudden. My heart shook to the core. Unless there is a lightning element, the lightning scripture won't take initiative to start.

But this time the lightning scripture broke my cognition. What is the origin of this liquid? The next second, I felt a change in my lightning essence.

After realizing it, I looked inside my organs. The blood light immediately started to absorb the energy from the red liquid.

At the same time, I felt the energies also added to the lightning essence.

This dual operation of two exercises surprised me the most. Then I retraced my thoughts and started to absorb the energy.

A few seconds later,

I felt a breakthrough opportunity. My heart filled with surprise. Then without waiting further, I used this opportunity to achieve a breakthrough.

I ran the essence to collide against the invisible barrier.

Click!

Surprisingly, the barrier broke into pieces on the very first attempt.

The dantian inside my body started to expand. After a few seconds, the expansion stopped and the essence energy started to fill the dantian.

This all happened in a blink of an eye.

I officially became the Initial Trainee Warrior. Finally, my purpose of visiting the mutated forest is fulfilled. Now I can perform well in Crimson Hall's exhibition match.

Just as I felt happy. I feel another movement inside my dantian. The essence filled my dantian. The energy is very abundant.

After confirming it, I felt the true horror. The power of the red liquid has not vanished. I hurriedly used this opportunity to achieve another breakthrough.

I realized I stumbled upon a very rare opportunity. The resource of the lightning element is especially scarce in this region. So I don't want to miss this opportunity.

I carefully ran the essence energy and started to attack another barrier.

A few seconds later,

Click!

I tore through the barrier. The next second, the dantian started to expand again. This time the size of the dantian became huge.

I stepped into a new realm- Mid level Trainee Warrior.

I felt this time the dantian will stop expanding. Nevertheless, the red color liquid hasn't exhausted its energy.

When I relaxed my guard. I felt the movement again. My expression was filled with horror. I don't know where this uncontrolled breakthrough would lead me to.

My expression turned solemn and I carefully controlled the energy for another breakthrough. I revealed a bitter smile on my face. I'm getting too much happiness at one time.

10 minutes later,

Peak Level Trainee Warrior!

20 minutes later,

Initial Elite Warrior!

The lightning rune in my consciousness dimmed. And the celestial scripture withdrew from running.

"Phew," I exhaled in relief.

When I gazed inside my dantian. I couldn't help but reveal a happy smile on my face.

"I became Elite," I uttered in disbelief.

I see a sea of purple essence inside my dantian. Especially, I see the majestic totem standing in the middle of the lightning essence.

The violet color essence has a mix of a blue tinge to it. The essence seems to be a lot purer and thicker.

Chapter 416 Double Breakthrough: Elite Warrior (Body & Essence Breakthrough)

(From MC's perspective)

My attention shifted from dantian towards the remaining red liquid. Seeing that the red liquid has exhausted somewhat. But it's not up to the point where I can say the energy is completely absorbed.

The blood light from my body started to convert the remaining red liquid energy to white energy. This white energy then started to enter my skeleton.

Once again, I was reminded of the tearing pain. In preparation, I gritted my teeth. I decided to upgrade my body strength as well.

"Ahhh," I let out a small scream before stopping. Compared to before the white energy this time is a little bit overbearing. Slowly, changes started to take place.

The red bone part of my skeleton began to stretch further. Slowly the red color started to expand.

I gritted my teeth and focussed on running the blood method.

At a certain point, Click!

Initial Trainee Warrior! (Physique)

I broke through. But the movements didn't stop. It repeated similar to essence breakthroughs.

Small sweat beads formed on my forehead.

Unlike before, the body breakthrough comes with agonizing pain. I have to experience similar pain before reaching another breakthrough.

Things have come this far. I don't have any option to turn it back. I continued to run the blood method.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

20 minutes later,

Mid-level Trainee Warrior (Physique)

30 Minutes later,

Peak level Trainee Warrior (Physique)

1 hour later,

Initial Elite Warrior (Physique)

"Finally," I uttered in disbelief. It feels surreal. I officially step into Elite rank in both essence and body cultivation.

I don't know how Elder Thornton and others would react. If they learn about my breakthrough, their reaction would be worth seeing.

The feeling right now, can't be described in one statement.

This red liquid is enough for ordinary warriors to skip two entire big realms and step into a higher realm.

But I'm both body and essence cultivator. That's why the energy required for me is extremely huge. If I was an essence cultivator alone, I would have become a Super Elite warrior by now.

My lips curved into an arc after feeling such beaming strength inside my body. The next second, I felt another movement.

My heart skips a beat. Don't tell me the red liquid is yet to dry. When I looked inside, I found the remaining red liquid. The amount is drastically reduced compared to before.

Seeing that the blood-red rune in my consciousness dimmed. I feel that the remaining red energy won't pose a threat to me.

After checking one more time, I withdrew my consciousness.

"Phew," I sighed in relief. When I tried to get up, my feet didn't even touch the ground. "I'm levitating," I mumbled under my breath.

The next second, a look of understanding dawned upon me. After becoming an elite warrior one can gain flight ability.

The scenes of Elder Compton's fight against the worm monster flashed before my eyes. He used his flight ability to cause damage to the monster.

While levitating, I also absorbed the armor suit. The armor suit weighs a lot less than before. The elite power brings a sense of security to me. I can do a leapfrog battle.

So I think Class-5 Monster can't pose a threat to me.

"Ha...Ha...Ha....," loud laughter reached my ears suddenly.

Hearing that my expression changes drastically. Who could be? I'm all alone here.

"Eric Lloyd," I muttered.

I easily recognized the voice. Then I disappeared from the spot and moved towards the source of Voice.

I immediately found the location. "This?" I had never expected there to be an underground chamber beneath this facility. Eric's voice also comes from the underground chamber.

When I decided to go down. I heard another roar of laughter.

"Ha..Ha...Ha..."

"I'm an Elite Warrior now."

" Elite Warrior"

When the words reached my ears. A quick glint flashed in my eyes. How? A question popped up in my mind. It's already huge luck to come across such a heaven-defying red liquid.

Don't tell me there is one more existing underground. I paused my movements for a second and started to think. I can't rashly enter the underground.

Because this facility is heavily run down. Any clash here would cause further damage to the structure.

After figuring it out, I made up my mind to enter. Because there is quite a possibility that the underground chamber has another entrance.

Then I opened the wooden door and started to descend. I started to hover instead of touching the ground.

I see Eric Lloyd hysterically laughing to himself. So much that he didn't even notice my presence. I smirked. What made him react like that?

On the other hand, Eric Lloyd was over the moon. Without minding the surroundings, he started to blubber.

"I'm really lucky. I found the inheritance of the ruin owner. Compton is going to bleed blood," He said to himself.

"No!"

"I'm not going to share the secret with him. Especially, no one should know about the healing scripture," He said in a low tone.

But he isn't aware that someone is listening to his mumbling.

At the same time, I felt throbbing in my heart again. Healing scripture? My hand trembles a little. Even this guy has dog sh!t luck. To think he was able to find a healing cultivation method.

Thank goodness, my search for a healing cultivation method comes to an end. I'm finally going to make use of a healing element similar to the blood element.

The next second, a firm determination appeared in my eyes. It is impossible to obtain the healing scripture without killing him.

Swish!

I disappeared from my spot. My speed was so fast that Eric wasn't able to react.

When he realized something was wrong. It was too late.

I gave a heavy blow to his head.

Smash!

The blow was so fast. Eric Lloyd failed to block it. His mind went blank for a moment. Before he could realize it, he got smashed onto the ground.

Pfff!

Coughing up blood, Eric Loyd tries to get up with a horror-stricken face.

All of this happened in a blink of an eye.

Except for the armor suit's light, everything appeared dark.

At the same time, my gaze turned toward the table.

An emptied liquid bottle and A piece of cloth are on the table which attracted my attention. From his earlier, blabbering. I see that piece of cloth seems valuable.

I reached out to pick it up.

"Don't touch my things," Eric Lloyd said in a hoarse voice. His consciousness becomes a little bit clear.

Finally, he managed to recognize the face.

"Zack, it's you," He uttered in disbelief. He never expected this kid to be so strong. How is this possible?

On the other hand, I uncovered a piece of cloth. Seeing that there is something written in it. My curiosity was piqued further.

"Harumph,"

"Don't waste your time. Only people with healing elements can read the scripture," Eric Lloyd said in a cold tone.

He forgot about his situation and wanted to see Zack making a fool of himself.

But the next second his mouth widened in disbelief.

"What?"

He saw the piece of cloth lit up with green light and the next second a green light shot between Zack's eyebrows.

On the other hand, I'm shocked. I spread my consciousness casually. But the word became alive unexpectedly. Surprisingly, I understand the healing cultivation method.

But it's not time to experience it. So I retracted my mind and looked at injured Eric Lloyd.

"Thanks to you. I got what I wanted," I said with a smile.

"Impossible, how could you have a dual element?"

"Who are you?"

Eric Lloyd asked back in a trembling voice.

I sneered looking at him. I run the blood element in my body. The next second, I felt monstrous power hiding in my muscles.

Swish!

I disappeared from the spot and appeared above Eric Lloyd. Under his panic-stricken face, I raised my leg and gave a heavy kick to his chest.

Eric's armor suit couldn't withstand the blow.

Boom!

A small crack appeared on the suit. Eric Lloyd was further crushed to the ground. When the smoke is cleared, I see a huge dent in the armor suit.

Unfortunately, I can't use my lighting element here.

Eric Lloyd's face is discolored. His chest bones were broken from the blow. He couldn't fathom his strength of Zack.

"He is just a kid. Why does he have the strength of Elite?" Eric Lloyd cried in his heart.

But unfortunately, his questions will remain answered. Because he saw another foot coming against him.

A few minutes later,

Eric Lloyd turned into a cold corpse. The armor suit was broken. There is a wide hole in its chest region.

If one looks closely, one can find it was completely caused by brute strength.

"Phew," I exhaled in relief. Thanks to the blood power, I somehow manage to kill him. And Eric Lloyd is my first Elite-level kill.

Then my gaze landed on the emptied bottle. Shaking my head, I decided to search the place. I want to see whether anything is left out apart from healing scripture.

Chapter 417 Part One: Fighting Against Class 5 Monsters

(From MC's perspective)

Underground chamber,

I spotted a narrow hole that leads to the surface. Seeing that, I confirmed Eric must have come from here. Other than that there is no other entrance/exit to this underground chamber.

The narrow hole is like another secret path that leads to the surface. My eyes gleamed with a twinkle. I already searched the nook and corner of this place.

There are no more books and other experimental stuff. Every other lab equipment got eroded over time. Finally, I decided to leave. Before leaving there is one more thing to take care of.

I can't leave the corpse here. There is a mutated forest ahead. It's better to dump the corpse there. After figuring it out, I picked up the cold corpse and moved toward the narrow hole.

A few minutes later,

I got back to the surface. My gaze turned towards the ruin. I don't know what is happening out there. But in a few hours, the sun is going to rise.

I hope that monster activity will decrease over time.

Swish!

I disappeared from the spot and dragged the corpse towards the mutated forest.

"Woowwww," I let out an excited roar. The flight ability is more amazing than I had imagined. It gives me an adrenaline rush.

In a blink of an eye, I reached the mutated forest. I quickly slowed down my movement. Though I became an Elite warrior.

I'm not going to underestimate the mutated forest for a moment. Even Elder Compton was surprised by recent changes here. My expression turned solemn.

Then I entered the forest and dropped the body under a giant shade tree. I took a final glance at the smashed corpse of Eric Lloyd before disappearing from the spot.

A few minutes later,

I arrived back at my previous location. In mid-air, my eyes were scanning the surroundings. I spread my perception around here. This time the range of my perceptual ability is increased after a successful breakthrough.

After seeing that, there are no monsters in this vicinity. I decided to rescue my teammates. And it's time to test my new powers.

After a few minutes, I reached the ruin area 2. The damage done was beyond my belief. After taking a glance at them, I looked for monsters.

My eyes spotted a few injured Class-3 Monsters. But they seemed to be injured from the Class-5 Monster's appearance.

Shaking my head, my eyes started to look for the big fish. "Where is the Class-5 Monster?" I muttered to myself.

"RoaaaaarrR"

A terrible sound reached my ears. After hearing that, I head towards the source. On the way, I realized the sound was coming from area 3.

A trace of apprehension appeared in my eyes. Ruin area 3 is an unexplored region. Even the researchers find it hard to enter this particular ruin.

What's hiding in this place?

I increased my speed slightly. Soon I reached the spot. But I will never forget this scene in my life.

Two Class-5 Monsters trying to reach the surface from the ground. And the ground appeared to be the site of ruin area 3.

The intelligence of Class-5 Monster is quite developed. So that's why the tussle is happening between these two monsters?

The appearance of the monsters on this site is unexpected. A lot of pus is released from the monster's pores.

Which made me even more disgusted. The next moment, I took the black sword from the storage space.

After a long time, I'm going to use my lightning technique in the open area.

"Sword Divide," I gripped the sword and started to charge it. A thick lightning essence is absorbed by the sword in a blink of an eye.

Moments later, I released the lightning shot at one of the monster's heads.

Boom!

A purple beam of energy piece through the air. The appearance of a purple beam illuminates the sky completely.

In a blink of an eye, the attack reached the monster.

Bang!

The attack was so fast that a lightning beam pierced the head of the monster in one shot.

"Rrroooaaarr"

Another terrible sound resonated in the area.

A wide hole appears at the center of the monster's head. A lot of yellow pus spilled from the monster's head. Seeing that other Class-5 Monsters got alerted.

Before the other one makes a move against me. I charged the black sword again. I was even surprised by the power of lightning.

After reaching the Elite, I see a clear difference. Now the lightning seems to be more destructive and overbearing.

Average monsters won't be able to withstand the lightning power. But this monster seems to be a Peak one.

...

Ruin Area: 2

Pfff

Ricardo Compton coughed up blood. The surrounding landscapes were destroyed. Earlier abandoned structures were nowhere to be seen.

Everything was decimated by the rampage of the Class 5 Monster. The sunlight is yet to come. Now the ruin site is surrounded by smoke and debris. Even smoke covered the sky completely.

Ricardo Compton slowly adjusted himself before collecting the thoughts. He was able to injure the Class-5 monster by overdrawing his energy.

Right now, the meridians inside his body were slightly damaged. Only after some recuperation, he is able to recover.

But that facility is not possible here.

"What happened to them?" Compton muttered to himself.

To provide safe cover to his team. He had confronted the monster alone. The appearance of the Class-5 Monster caught off guard everyone.

But he feels that the appearance of the monster is a coincidence. It won't happen again. His team members might have escaped from the commotion.

When he feels everything is okay right now.

"RrroooarrrR," a deafening scream reached his ears all of a sudden.

Compton's face was discolored. The nightmare started to appear again. "How is this possible?" He grumbled.

The vibration from the sound is no less than that of a Class 5 Monster.

"No"

"I have to move out from here," Ricardo Compton tried to get up. He is in no shape to fight against the monster.

The changes in this area were beyond his control. At first, he thought the mutated forest had undergone some changes.

But it looks like even the ruined areas were no different. Unless a high-rank warrior arrives here. It's impossible to handle the situation.

Ricardo Compton managed to drag his body away from this debris.

But the monster's roar was getting near. He used his flight ability to move in mid-air. Slowly, he reached the ruin area 1. When he arrived back at the familiar spot.

He looked at the surroundings. Everything has changed. Sighing, he moved towards the base camp.

1 hour later,

He took his time to reach the base camp. But there is no sign of a tent here. The grounds have massive cracks which lead deep inside.

When he was lost in thoughts. He heard some voices.

"Leader"

From behind the massive boulder. Valerie Lyons, Kara Robles, and Terrel Boyd walked out.

Swish!

The next moment, he appeared before them. Upon seeing them alright, Ricardo Compton felt relieved. But at the same time, his eyes searched for one more person.

Valerie Lyons and Kara Robles looked at each other. Valerie understood that the leader was looking for Zack Lockwood.

But they separated some time ago. After fleeing from the monster, fortunately, the three of them managed to regroup together. But they didn't find a trace of Zack Lockwood.

Valerie Lyons lowered her head in shame. In her opinion, Zack must have perished from the monster's attacks.

Even for them, a Trainee Warrior. The situation had become a do or die situation a few hours ago. But Zack is a mere Special Trainee.

There is no way to escape. This is the same thought in everyone's mind. But no one dares to speak in front of the leader.

Compton's eyes turned cold. From their expressions alone he already guessed something. Zack was left alone.

He looked at them with a stern gaze for a moment. Before letting out a deep sigh. The situation was so dire that he can't blame anyone else.

He knew many Class-3 Monsters and few Class-4 Monsters razed the ruin to the ground.

The atmosphere turned a bit solemn for a moment.

A couple of seconds later,

Ricardo Compton gained some clarity. "Alright, this place is not suitable for us to stay anymore. There is some sign of Class-5 Monsters back in the ruin," He said in a solemn tone.

"What?" Kara Robles exclaimed in a trembling voice.

Terrell Boyd gulped his saliva in fear.

Valerie Lyons' face is also not good-looking either.

Compton made up his mind to search for Zack before quitting the exploration. He knows his friend Thornton won't spare him.

But the environment here is posing a threat to Elite level warriors. So in the end he can only say bad luck for Zack.

When it comes to the other two, Eric Lloyd and Garrett Marsh. He doesn't care about them. When the commotion happened, those two slipped away first.

Which is already unforgivable in his opinion.

"Alright, I'm going to search for Zack. You guys can stay here," After saying that Compton disappeared from the spot.

The three of them didn't have any other choice other than to wait for their leader to come back.

Chapter 418 Part Two: Fighting Against Class 5 Monsters

(From MC's perspective)

Ruin Area:3

My two lightning attacks tore through the defense of the monster. One of the monsters is dead and the other one is lingering with the last vitality in its body.

"Sword Divide"

I shot the lightning beam once more. When the lightning attack fell on its body, the rest of the body blew into pieces. With that, the 2nd Class 5 Monster lost its life.

The ground is littered with yellow pus liquid. I took this opportunity to scan the surroundings. I spread my perception around this section of the ruin.

The appearance of two Class 5 Monsters from the ground. Made my suspicion deepen further. "There is something wrong with the 3rd section of the ruin," I said to myself.

Suddenly, I noticed someone coming in my direction. After confirming it, I landed on the ground.

A trace of apprehension appeared in my eyes. I'm standing near the monster's carcass. How to explain this situation? Because I realized the person is none other than Elder Compton.

"Zack, is that you?" A silhouette suddenly appeared before me.

I revealed a small smile on my face. But my gaze instantly fell on his body. He suffered a gruesome injury. Yet he came in search of me.

I sighed inwardly.

Elder Compton failed to notice the massive carcass near Zack. He didn't even believe his senses a couple of seconds ago.

After seeing Zack safe and sound, he let go of his hanging heart. "Kid, you are very lucky. To think you had survived this ordeal. I have no words to express my sense of relief," Compton said with a smile.

Pfff

But the next second, he coughed up blood.

I hurriedly walked up to support him.

Compton wiped the blood from his face before saying, "We have to leave this place asap."

Hearing that, a quick glint flashed in my eyes. Elder's injury seems to be severe. He needs urgent treatment. Which is something impossible here.

Everyone should stop this expedition and go back to Baguva City.

"Alright, elder"

"But I need to collect something before going out," I said.

Elder Compton looked confused. Next second, his gaze fell on two monstrous carcasses of the monsters.

His face was discolored in fear. For a moment, he felt blank. But soon he realized these two monsters were Class-5 Monsters.

A look of bewilderment appeared on my face. He sees Zack collecting the monster core from the monster's carcass.

Which further shocked him to the core. How is this possible? Compton's eyes stared at the carcass and Zack back to back.

From the information which he sees, his brain tells him that Zack has something to do with the monster.

But he doesn't want to believe it. He was injured by one single monster. As an Elite warrior, he knows the horror of the monster.

But what happened to Zack? How come a Special Trainee Warrior became like this?

On the other hand, I collected the two monster cores for storage space.

I realized Elder Compton is feeling shocked right now. I think he should understand the situation first.

After collecting the cores, I walked back to him.

"Zack, you...?" Elder Compton opened his mouth to ask something.

"Elder, this is my real strength. That's why I came here to practice in the mutated forest," I lied to him.

Compton revealed a complex expression on his face. This is Zack's real strength. He finds it hard to believe. But the facts before him were compelling.

And it's impossible to jump from Special Trainee to Elite level in one night and skip one whole realm in the middle. Considering the situation last night, he shook his head in denial.

What's more shocking is that? How old is he? 14 or 15? Suddenly he feels sorry for those kids from Tier-7 cities. Zack will undoubtedly become number one in an upcoming competition.

Then he let out a small sigh before saying, "Young people these days are very scary. And that Thornton, I envy him," Compton said with a smile.

In response, I revealed a smile on my face.

A few minutes later,

We both arrived at our base camp. I hovered in mid-air and supported Elder Compton's body. Now that we are safe. The real trouble lies ahead.

I don't want any mishap to happen in a mutated forest. Once we cross the mutated forest, then we will be safe for sure.

When I was lost in thought, I heard some movement ahead.

"Leader is back," Kara Robles said in a loud tone as she appeared before us.

Similarly,

Swish! Swish!

Valerie Lyons and Terrell Boyd appeared right after her.

"Impossible," Valerie Lyons exclaimed looking at me.

Kara Robles and Terrell Boyd revealed dumbfounded expressions on their faces.

"How did you survive?" Finally, Kara Robles took initiative to ask.

But in response, I looked at my feet. Feeling my gaze, three of them looked downwards. Seeing my flight ability, Valerie Lyons widened her eyes in disbelief.

"Aahhh," Kara said.

A hint of fear appeared in Terrell's eyes. Three of their world views turned upside down within seconds.

The atmosphere turned pin-drop silent for a moment.

Seeing the strange reaction of everyone.

Compton took initiative to clarify the doubts.

"Zack has been hiding his strength for a good reason. If not for last night's incident, he wouldn't have revealed his strength," Compton said.

Hearing that three of them revealed a complicated expression on their faces.

After a couple of minutes, three of them were disgusted with this shocking fact.

Valerie Lyons calmed down her heart. Suddenly she felt her actions a few days ago were stupid. At that time, she interceded in Zack's training to save him.

But looking at the situation right now. She doesn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Suddenly she realized two members were still missing.

"Leader, what about Eric Lloyd and Garrett Marsh?" She asked.

Compton's expression turned serious. He searched the entire ruin but he failed to find their trace. Not even a corpse was seen.

Suddenly, he turned towards Zack. Maybe Zack has information about these two.

On the other hand, four of their gazes fell on me. Feeling that, I wrinkled my eyebrows. I'm not going to tell you that I killed Eric Lloyd.

"Zack, what are you thinking?" Compton asked.

"After our separation last night. I didn't see those two," I said without many expressions on my face.

My words didn't raise any suspicion. But four of them fell silent. They are hesitant about leaving the team members behind.

But those two were not good. Garrett was probably killed by Eric. Shaking my head, I asked, "What to do now?"

Everyone then looked at Elder Compton. Now everything rests on his decision. Compton is not looking to leave anyone behind.

But he was afraid of Class-5 Monsters. Even with Zack's presence, he is not sure about facing one more Class 5 Monster.

Finally, he asked for Zack's opinion. "Zack, what do you think?"

Hearing that, my heart filled with surprise. I had never thought that there would be a day like this.

I took a couple of seconds to answer.

"Elder, I believe the ruins were not safe anymore. Especially the ruin number 3," I said.

Compton's pupils constrict. He immediately connected the dots. Those two giant carcasses that he saw earlier were parts of Class 5 Monster.

From Zack's words, he already found some clues.

"Alright, Zack and I will do one more search around this area. After that, we will leave," Compton said.

Three of them sighed in relief. But a strange expression appeared on my face. I realized those two may be bad but they are old teammates in the end.

The team won't leave that easily. After some talk, we went in two directions. I randomly started to search for a few spots.

I decided to check ruin number 3. I know Elder Compton won't go to that place. So I should look around there.

A few minutes later,

I started to scan the surroundings. I still don't know what is causing the change here. But I have a vague feeling that there is something beneath this ruin.

It feels like deja vu. I still remember the changes that happened at the Black Forest. At that time, the situation was similar to the current one. Where did the appearance of the Class 4 Monster cause turmoil?

But this time it is a mutated forest with a Class 5 Monster threat.

...

On the other hand, Kara Robles looked at Valerie Lyons.

"That Zack is hiding deep. I should have noticed something in our first meeting itself," Kara Robles commented.

Her words reached the other two. Terrell Boyd nodded his head and said, "If Zack had revealed his strength earlier, our situation would have been better."

"Maybe we could have saved Eric and Garrett," He added further.

Kara Robles echoed the same opinion by saying, "It would be better if Zack had fought last night."

Valerie Lyons who knows ins and outs sneered in her heart. She knows Eric was targeting Zack first. Then why would Zack waste his time to save Eric?

She shook her head in disappointment.

Chapter 419 Arrived Back To The City

(From MC's perspective)

Mutated Forest,

After searching for one hour, elder Compton was convinced that two members had died. He doesn't plan on wasting any more time. So we immediately left the base camp and entered the mutated forest.

It will take some time to exit the mutated forest. But unlike when we came, this time I'm not worried about the sudden appearance of monsters.

A few hours later,

While moving through the mutated forest, we came across many monsters including a few Class 3. But both Elder Compton and I dealt with a lot of monsters.

The rest of the minions were dealt with by the other three warriors on the team.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

Several days later,

We arrived back at Baguva City. It feels surreal to me. Things happened to me fast. Especially after becoming an Elite Warrior.

A lot of unnecessary worries in my heart were completely swept away. I feel a lot more secure and at ease. Even on our backs, the mutated forest didn't pose much threat to us.

All of this is possible because of strength. If it was earlier, I would be in a constant state of alertness. But this time I feel a lot more relaxed.

Soon we reached Elder Compton's office.

After stepping out of the air car, we walked back to the massive building.

On the way, I noticed some changes in Valerie Lyons, Kara Robles, and Terrell Boyd. They seem to maintain some distance from me.

Is it because of my strength? A quick glint flashed in my eyes. I have a feeling that it must be due to the disappearance of two team members that caused them to behave strangely.

Then shaking my head, I followed Elder Compton back to his office.

Creak

The door opened. After stepping inside everyone sat on the sofa.

Click!

I removed the armor helmet from my head and breathed the fresh air after a long time.

Following my movements the rest of them also removed their armor suit.

"Finally we came from that terrible place," Kara Robles said with a sigh.

Valerie Lyons feels some disappointment. They started the research trip with a lot of expectations. But in the end, the not only trip turned out to be in vain. They even lost two members.

While Terrell Boyd is keeping his silence. Right now he wants to go back to his place. But this was not possible before the leader Compton opened his mouth.

After removing the armor helmet, he placed it on a desk. He observed the expressions of everyone.

Looking at them he solemnly added, "Soon the changes in the mutated forest will attract everyone's attention."

"Eventually, people will know that we are the last research team who went there."

"So I'm going to create a report just in case anyone asks me in the future, " he added further.

His words didn't raise any objections. So none of them were refuted. Seeing that he decided to add one more thing.

Before that, his gaze fell on Zack. Compton thinks it is necessary to hide Zack's power in a report. Because in a few weeks the Crimson Hall's match will start.

If people came to know about Zack's strength, then he will eventually be targeted by many.

Thinking about it, a dignified expression appeared on his face. He said, "One more thing, Valerie, Kara, and Terrell."

Hearing the name, three of them straightened their backs. Valerie already guessed something in her mind.

"Three of you should forget about Zack hereafter. He didn't participate in our research trip," Compton said in a solemn tone.

Three of their expressions changed drastically when they heard that.

On the other hand, a quick glint flashed in my eyes. I had never expected Elder Compton to come up with this plan.

If people learn about me, it would raise a lot of eyebrows. Though I'm not weak as before, it's still a good precautionary method.

At the same time, Valerie Lyons quickly understands the meaning behind Compton's words.

Even Kara and Terrell were not stupid either. Then three of them agreed not to reveal anything about Zack Lockwood.

Kara felt a little disappointed in her heart. They have yet to ask why Zack didn't reveal his strength earlier. But the leader Compton is doing everything in favor of Zack.

"Anyway people are big. It is not good to offend them," She sighed in her heart.

Terrell Boyd already made up his mind to forget about Zack. He had never seen such a young Elite powerhouse in his life.

The Elite warriors are already considered giants in Tier-8 cities. But Zack has achieved such a feat at a young age. It made him doubt his worldview.

Ricardo Compton was satisfied with everyone's expression. Then after some discussion three of them left the building leaving behind Compton and Zack in the room.

"Alright Zack, when do you want to leave?" Ricardo Compton asked. Their trip ended abruptly. And they came earlier than the scheduled plan.

So he doesn't know what is going on inside Zack's mind.

Hearing that, I raised my eyebrows. There are a lot of things to do. Especially, I want to check the healing scripture.

On the other hand, Compton said, "Alright, you can take a rest in Villa. We will talk about this later."

I nodded my head in response. Then I walked out of the building and booked the air cab to go back to the villa.

A few minutes later,

A giant four-wheeler appeared in front of me. Seeing that I hopped inside the cab and told the destination to the driver.

The air cab rose from the ground and moved towards the destination the next second.

On the way, the cab driver appeared to a stranger. I easily thought of his thoughts. Because from time to time, he glanced at my armor suit.

Shaking my head, I closed my eyes.

20 minutes later,

The air cab slowly landed in front of the gated community. After paying the cab fees, I stepped out and walked towards the Villa.

After entering my room. I removed the full-body armor completely. Feeling the weight removed from my body, I feel a lot less.

"Phew," I exhaled in relief. After dropping the armor suit, I went to take a long bath.

Several minutes later,

I changed into my comfortable clothes before lying down in bed. Suddenly a wave of tiredness washed over me. Without realizing it, I fell asleep.

I woke up after a few hours. Being Elite level has its perks. I feel quite energetic. It's just that I was mentally exhausted before.

After feeling good, I sat up cross-legged on the bed. Then I took the healing scripture from my storage ring.

Seeing the scripture, a quick glint flashed in my eyes. Looking at the scripture, the terrible laboratory comes to my mind.

I suspect the owner of the laboratory might be a healing warrior. Otherwise, it is impossible to explain the origin of the red liquid and the healing scripture.

After retracting my thoughts, I finally glanced at the healing scripture. I slowly opened the piece of cloth to look at it. The piece of cloth looked empty.

After seeing there are no words inside. I can confirm now that the green light in my consciousness is complete healing scripture.

I placed the cloth back in my storage ring. Then I closed my eyes and started to investigate the green light in my consciousness.

Finally, I noticed a change in my consciousness. The green color light is located between the lightning element rune and the blood element rune.

This weird pattern attracted my attention. Then I slowly started to understand the green color light.

When I concentrate more, the green color light becomes clear. In that place, I saw a triangle-shaped rune.

Then the words of healing scripture appeared in my mind.

Unconsciously, I started to run the healing method in my body. Immediately, I feel some change inside of me.

I noticed deep green energy energies were absorbed by me from the surroundings. Seeing that my lips curved into a gentle arc. I repeated the process.

Slowly, the green energies gathered inside my body. And I immerse myself in cultivation.

...

Back in the office,

Ricardo Compton after finishing some work. He immediately called his good friend Thornton.

When the call is connected. A tired voice reached his ears.

"Are you back?"

Hearing that, Compton felt strange. He doesn't know how to explain the events that happened in the mutated forest.

"Yeah, we came back from our expedition. What about you?"

"Are you coming back to receive Zack?"

Thornton asked back in a calm tone.

The atmosphere turned quiet for a moment.

Suddenly,

"What about Zack?"

"Is he alright?" Thornton asked back with some excitement.

Compton looked dumbfounded. What could go wrong with Elite Warrior? He revealed a wry smile on his face.

"Zack is fine," Compton finally said.

"Good" "Good"

Thornton uttered well twice.

"Alright Compton, I'm going to come. I'll leave tomorrow morning right away," Thornton said.

Compton nodded his head in understanding.

"Okay, I'm waiting for you here," Compton replied with a simple. After hanging up the call, he decided to go home as well.

Chapter 420 Healing Scripture

(From MC's perspective)

As I immersed myself in cultivation. I started to notice that green energies began to gather inside my dantian. Seeing that I broke out in cold sweat.

I don't know whether the dantian can allow two different energies to settle down. On top of it, there is also a majestic mysterious totem standing tall in the middle of the lightning essence.

I'm hoping there won't be any adverse reaction. Then I see the green energy easily settle down beside the thick lightning essence without any obstruction.

I sighed in relief in my heart. The major hurdle has been cleared. What about the totem? There are many unexplained things in my body. First, it's the totem and second is the red bone in my body.

Two of them are related to the cultivation method that I practice. I would like to see whether it is the same case with the unknown healing scripture.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

I opened my eyes two hours later. This time a small number of green energies are present in my dantian. I became hesitant. Is there a technique to use this energy?

To channel this energy, I need proper technique. Like the Lightning wheel, Sword Divide, and Lightning phantom techniques.

Otherwise, it is impossible to use this healing energy for external use. A trace of conflict appeared in my eyes.

Why do I need healing energy? The healing method is just an added burden on me. Suddenly, a look of realization dawned upon me. I remember old events vividly in my mind.

Especially the injuries which I had suffered at the Black Forest. It is because of the healing liquid that I recovered completely. It was that day, I realized the existence of a healing element in my body.

Because of the healing element, internal injuries were cured much faster.

"That's right, I don't have to use healing energy for others. It will play a huge role in saving me from a desperate situation," I said to myself.

Right now, the gathered energy was minimal.

So I continued my cultivation.

Two hours later,

I opened my eyes again. This time the green energies were slightly larger compared to before. Now I found it appropriate to call it green essence. Because the healing energies looked much more condensed than before.

Seeing that, a small smile appeared on my face. Then I decided to circulate the healing essence in my body. I want to see what would happen when the healing energy runs through my veins.

When the healing essence from dantian ran through my vein. I felt a cooling sensation all over my body. I had never felt this sensation in my body, especially the veins.

Like the veins were washed over by cold power. But after a few seconds, I felt warm in the same spot.

This amazing sensation made me continue the circulation. When I completed the one full circle, I somehow felt lighter. After realizing this, I repeated the process again and again.

Slowly the green essence energy starts to dry up. I realized that monster cores were observed by blood power in my body. The same healing essence energy is also being absorbed by my body.

I feel it's a good change. Especially to my veins, the healing essence would provide good treatment.

When the healing essence completely dried up, I stopped cultivation. Then I got up and proceeded to take a bath.

30 minutes later,

Again, I switched to new comfortable clothes. I feel good. The healing scripture turned out to be good. And one of my goals was fulfilled. Right now my three elements were equipped with cultivation methods.

The only thing I want to do in the future is to look for blood element techniques. There is no one ahead of me. I hope to find answers in Tier-6 cities.

I don't know whether the Saw Scale Viper Academy has a collection of books from antique eras.

After retracting my thoughts, I looked at my sci-fi. Image of Uncle James & Granny Park appeared in my mind.

I smiled and immediately contacted Uncle James.

When the call is connected. I heard a familiar voice.

"Zack, are you awake?"

"I heard about your situation from Elder Thornton," James blurted out all of a sudden. He didn't expect a call from Zack. He assumed the other party was taking some rest.

My eyes lit up with surprise. Then I realized, Elder Compton must have communicated with Elder Thornton.

Then I start speaking about my trip. But I omitted the important ones. Especially the events related to changes in the mutated forest and the ruins.

I thought everything was fine at the other end. But my expression changed drastically when I heard turmoil in Hansen Campus.

Especially the wild spread of negative news about me in Red City.

"City Lord is intentionally ruining your reputation," Uncle James' words struck my heart.

What is going on? Everyone advised me to leave the red city at that time. No one wanted me to stay in the red city until the start of the Crimson Hall event.

"Alright, Elder Thornton is probably leaving tomorrow. You can ask him the rest of the matter," James uttered before hanging up the call.

My eyes burst out with a cold glint the next second.

"City Lord Alex Fuller," I muttered to myself.

Is this guy from Crimson Hall? A question popped up in my mind. Then why would he allow crimson hall members to cause havoc in Hansen Institute?

Especially the warriors from crimson hall challenged Hansen students right after arriving in the red city. This almost looked preplanned.

Quite a few students were injured from their challenge. It was nothing but extreme provocation.

From Uncle's words, I see that their target is me. But after finding out about my absence. They took their anger out on the rest of the students.

My heart boils in anger.

"Crimson Hall"

"Crimson Hall"

"I naively thought you guys left me alone. But looks like it is not," I mumbled under my breath.

The crimson hall event is the right place to get back revenge on them. Right now, they are doing everything to lure me out.

Especially the person named Alex Fuller. Instead of supporting local people, this guy is doing the opposite. He has been fueling hatred among people.

Like Uncle James just said. This new City Lord is intentionally spoiling my name. I suspect this guy was already bought by Crimson Hall. No wonder, Elder Thornton is coming here to see me.

Then I calmed down. If it was earlier, I thought of seeking support. But now I'm an Elite Warrior. Both body and essence cultivation are at the same level. No one can be my rival in the same rank.

So I'm not afraid of assassination attempts like before. After retracting my thoughts, I decided to do other work.

The following day,

I continued the routine. After doing some morning exercise, I decided to cultivate. This time I'm going to do blood cultivation. There are Class 5 Monster cores in a storage ring.

After remembering that, I picked up the core and placed it on my palm. Then I started to run the blood method.

The next moment, the blood rune in consciousness started to flicker. Then I started to absorb the energy from the monster's core. When the energy gathered inside my body.

The blood light immediately appeared and started to convert those energies into mysterious white energies. Then the white energies drilled into my skeleton.

What follows next is the tearing pain. Even after becoming Elite level, I couldn't help but feel this agonizing pain. The mysterious energy seemed to be stronger than before.

I see the red ink in my bones start to expand further.

At one point, the expansion stopped. Seeing that, I continued to absorb the energy from the monster's core.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

After two hours, the monster's core broke into pieces. I completely absorbed the energy. And I felt a slight improvement in my physique. Which shows the horror of the Class 5 monster.

Even if I want to buy a similar monster core from outside, it would be impossible. Then after retracting my thoughts, I decided to call Jonathan.

I don't know where he is. And what is he doing?

When I tried to contact them, I wasn't able to reach him. Seeing that, I sent a text message to him. He would be pleasantly surprised. If he knew I became an Elite Warrior.

After doing that, I got up from the ground and decided to take a round around the city. It would take several days for Elder Thornton to reach here.

But in the meantime, I got plenty of opportunities to explore the city.

Several minutes later,

After changing into nice clothes, I walked out of the Villa. It feels good and lighter without an armor suit.

Then I immediately stride towards the gate. Outside, I see air cabs waiting for a customer. There are many nice places in this city. The one I would like to visit is the Antique store.

I got plenty of opportunities from antiques. So before going, it's better to ask Elder Compton's opinion.