

Paragon 1281

Chapter 1281: Klaus's Return

Klaus's sudden exit was just too shocking.

Right under the noses of 14 True Immortals, a level 7 Emphyrean not only made a quick escape, but even an Immortal King had no idea how he pulled it off.

Just like the 14 criminals, Varkos was also in shock, watching as Klaus's body slowly turned to mist.

He tried to locate his other clones, but he was unsuccessful.

Naturally, if he looked outside of reality, he would have seen Klaus's clones. Something that doesn't exist in reality can also be found within the void.

Although the brat was all chatty and disrespectful, the truth of the matter was that right after the Blood Tournament, the real body had long since left the arena through the void and, using his understanding of the void law, had started creating a chain of clone bodies.

Klaus's escape was foolproof. He deceived everyone, including the True Immortal who had been keeping a close eye on him, with a mere illusion that had been made tangible.

Of course, to make the clone more lifelike, he made Magnus's Soul Body possess it. So, from when he enslaved Villa to when he joined the auction, it had been his clone.

It mimicked his aura and even went as far as drawing attention to itself by making sure the only thing they saw was a brat who was too intelligent for his own good.

The rest was merely time.

So, when the time came to make a run for it, Klaus didn't waste it.

Now, the 14 criminals could only put several bounties on Klaus. However, if only they had known the one they were looking for was actually in disguise the entire time, perhaps they would claw the skin off their faces.

"Find what you can on Blood Sword. I have a feeling he is not as simple as he appeared to be," Varkos said to his five minions before walking away.

Klaus had left an impression, and as such, he would do everything in his power to find out more. Of course, Klaus had already anticipated that, and so Icon would work her magic.

[En route to Planet Korvel-3]

After the talk with Niva three hours ago, Maud hadn't taken her eyes off the screen. She had been addicted to the Uniweb, and so for the past three hours, she had been browsing through thousands of fashion pages.

As for Niva, after pondering what Maud told her, she decided to meditate to clear her mind.

She made many sacrifices for her revenge mission. However, since things were not as simple as she would like them to be now, she might as well make peace with that.

However, the moment a new presence entered the ship, both Niva and Maud broke away from what they were doing.

"Lord Klaus," Maud seemed happy to see Klaus appear unharmed. Of course, because of the veil, her expression was shrouded in mystery.

As for Niva, she had no expression on her beautiful face. However, seeing the brat who defeated her now standing only 2 meters away from her stirred some emotions in her heart.

"Happy to see you again, Maud," Klaus smiled at his one and only gothic death companion, whom he had no idea what she looked like.

"Happy to see you too, Lord Klaus,"

Klaus nodded and turned to Niva. Looking at the straight face staring at him, Klaus merely smiled. "Looks like you made it in one piece. And I apologize for nearly impaling you with that arrow."

Niva said nothing and just remained standing, looking back at Klaus. She was probably making sense of what to do, considering what had happened since he arrived in the spaceship; instead of ending up dead, it was all thanks to Klaus's ingenuity.

Klaus knew she was going through a lot, so he just sat down. Then, taking a deep breath, he changed back into his true form, causing Niva to raise her brow.

"Is that your true appearance?" she asked, her tone dry of any emotion. However, Klaus knew she was very curious.

"Of course, this is my true appearance. However, the appearance we met in is also my appearance, so no need to see that look as a disguise." Klaus smiled and winked. "I am a complicated fellow, so the earlier you get used to that, the better."

"Aren't you worried that after I get what you promised me, I will betray you by revealing your true identity?"

Klaus chuckled. "Young lady, do you really think I would show you the real me without precautions? If you dare betray me, here is what I can promise you." Klaus's voice dropped low...

"...Aside from killing you, I will make sure that before you breathe your last breath, I will kill every last friend, family member, and loved one. I might even kill your favourite chef and his family. Only then would I finish you off."

Klaus grinned and made her aware of something. "After all, we met as criminals, but unlike you, I am indeed a criminal, not a pretend one. So you will do well to comply because, trust me, I am not as benevolent as you might think me."

On the side, Maud giggled, turning her gaze away from Klaus to Niva. Klaus just smiled and spoke again...

"From what I know, after the Blood Tournament in 4 months, a year later, the Underworld Slaughter Tournament will take place.

That will be when we kill Varkos. This means for the next 16 months, you will be staying with Maud and me. You can continue your training, as you were meant to compete in the Galaxy Warrior Competition within the next 100 years.

I would hate to see you denied that chance after you clear your name and return to your life. So if you need something to help you break through the Real Immortal stage to the True Immortal stage, you can ask as we travel."

After saying that, Klaus turned away from her and decided to spend some time calming his mind. In no time, he fell asleep, leaving Niva pondering his words.

Threatening to kill her family may have gotten to her. However, hearing his latter offer made her somewhat relax. It seemed she wouldn't become a prisoner with him.

"Relax your mind, Niva. You are about to have perhaps the most adventurous moments of your life with Lord Klaus and me, so do well to prepare.

Trust me, when this journey comes to an end, you are going to have a lot to talk about with your friends."

Maud said nothing after that. However, her words gave Niva something new to ponder.

As someone who had grown up under the protection of immortals her whole life, following someone weaker than her around seemed like a bad thing.

Yes, Niva was still undecided about whether she was stronger than Klaus.

In a way, she was stronger.

However, from what Klaus had shown, it was only right that she accept reality and face the fact that her life for the next 16 months was going to be a wild one.

Three days later, the ship came out of warp when they were only a couple of thousand miles away from planet Korvel-3.

Maud woke Klaus up.

Chapter 1282: Weapon Spirit

Klaus stopped the ship when they were just 10,000 miles away from planet Korvel-3. That is a safe enough distance to observe the planet that has been taken over by bandits.

Of course, not all of the planet is infested by bandits, but since Korvel-3 is a mining planet, the moment their mine was taken over, the entire planet could be considered a hostage.

So, entering anyhow is just too dangerous, considering he would be dealing with immortal stage bandits. They are dangerous and unpredictable. So while Klaus may be able to brazenly enter, he wouldn't put the lives of the hostages in danger.

Of course, with the cloaking tech of the S-class ship he is using, he could enter without anyone reading him. However, that is a maybe, and Klaus isn't about to take that gamble.

The lives of the hostages are too important to gamble with.

"Why have we stopped?" Niva asked, staring coldly at Klaus. After thinking for a day, she realised that submitting to Klaus just like that was not something she wanted.

She had her own dignity and pride, so she would hold on to that, but at least listen to his arrangements from here onwards.

Even so, seeing that they stopped when only a few minutes out from their destination made her turn to Klaus with a dark expression.

She wanted to have some fresh air to relax her bones and let the past few days catch up to her. Klaus stopping the ship seems to be interfering with her plan.

Klaus pointed at the brown planet flashing with lightning and thunder. "You see that. It is the atmosphere churning like a hot iron dipped in cold water.

If you don't want our ship torn to pieces or blasted to junk, then stopping first to make a solid plan before entering is the best move, don't you think?"

"Oh, please, that is just a cloud storm. This S-class spaceship is more than capable of passing through. Also, the absence of outer ring defensive shields or weapons suggests that this is a typical planet.

So who is going to blast us from the air?"

Klaus furrowed his brow, hearing Niva's explanation.

Yet again, she had proven she was no ordinary human. She had proven her experience in battle and demonstrated her knowledge in many areas. Of course, it is perfectly normal to be that knowledgeable, considering how she was raised.

The environment she grew up in has shaped her to know more than the average person.

However, for her to be able to make sense of something Klaus was using as a smoke screen to hide the fact that he was here on a mission and that she would have to stay behind in the ship showed she was intelligent.

"You are right. This ship could indeed pass through the cloud storm. However, you are wrong about the defense part.

You see, while you were busy becoming a pretend criminal, the Crimson Star Raiders took the planet hostage and seized their mining equipment.

In the last 2 months alone, over 300 B-rank hunters failed to drive them away or even identify how many hostages there are exactly. While this planet is indeed ordinary, it harbors dangerous individuals.

So tell me, do you think stopping to make a plan is the sound move or a stupid decision?"

Niva smirked. "Then how are you going to decide on a plan when you are afraid to land on the planet's surface?" She sneered and then added in a disdainful tone, "What a coward."

Klaus chuckled, slightly amused. "Coward? Are you referring to someone else or me?"

Niva didn't respond, but it seemed to think maybe she was still angry at Klaus, so she couldn't let a chance to call him a coward pass by.

Klaus shook his head, amused, and waved his hand, causing a thin, carved blade to appear.

Niva blinked a few times, seeing the sword hover before Klaus. Around the sword, she could see dense void energy spinning around it.

This caught her interest greatly.

However, instead of asking what the sword was, her pride and ego wouldn't allow her, so she remained seated, but her focus was on what Klaus would do next.

A few seconds later, Klaus formed a hand seal and pointed at the sword. It trembled, and three layers of seals appeared around it, shaking as if they wanted to break.

However, even after five minutes, not a crack appeared in them. Eventually, the sword stopped shaking. This made Klaus smile.

"Come out," he commanded, and, as if compelled by a superior being, a breathtaking beauty appeared, her expression contorted with anger. Her silver hair billowed in the air, making her appear ethereal.

Lightning danced across her hourglass body, and those beautiful blue eyes staring back at Klaus were also filled with the universal law of lightning.

When Niva saw her, a shocked look appeared on her face.

"Bastard, release me," Seraya's immortal soul shouted, pointing her slender finger at Klaus.

Klaus chuckled and replied, "Seraya, is that how you thank your saviour?"

"My saviour? Bastard, you trapped me inside a sword, and you call that saving? If you want to save me, then release me and let me leave this godforsaken sword."

Klaus shook his head in amusement. "It is indeed a godforsaken sword, but it has slain a Supreme and a Void Leviathan before, so I will show it some respect if I were you. After all, it will be your vessel for a while."

"I don't care. Just release me, bastard."

"Calling me a bastard won't do you any good, so you might want to stop and listen to what I have to say."

"I don't want to hear anything from you. Just release me."

"What is going on here? Shouldn't she be dead and her soul captured by the cartel?" Niva suddenly asked. Only then did Seraya notice her.

Klaus pointed at Seraya and said, "Well, Seraya here shares some similarities with you. However, instead of maintaining her true heart after a tragedy, she became a true criminal and caused so much pain and suffering.

So while I saved you with your body intact, I had to destroy her physical body and trap her immortal soul inside a weapon.

If she wants a new body, she must redeem herself, but as you can see, she is rather feisty to deal with. Perhaps you can reach her and help her understand that I will not be releasing her today or tomorrow.

The only way she earns her freedom and gets a new body is to earn it through hard work. That starts by accepting the Weapon Spirit Seal to become the weapon spirit of the Legendary [Grim Void Blade]."

Niva was left with her expression filled with shock. Nothing makes sense anymore. All she had just heard was just too much for her fragile mind to handle.

'And here I was, left wondering just how he saved me using the void, while he had killed someone in front of an Immortal King and even stole her immortal soul without him noticing.'

"Just who are you?"

Klaus smiled and raised his shoulders high. "I go by many names, but you can call me Klaus Hanson. Pleasure to make your acquaintance."

Chapter 1283: Klaus's Offer

Both Niva and Seraya were left dumbfounded, shock riddling their faces as they gazed at Klaus in horror.

It had just dawned on the two of them that the person they were dealing with was no weakling. In fact, they were standing in the presence of a monster.

What Klaus had done so far, now that they both thought about it, made no sense. In a logical sense, no mortal should be able to pull off what he had done for both of them.

Transporting Niva through the void over a span of several light-years is unprecedented. It shouldn't be done that easily anywhere. In fact, it should have escaped the sight of even a True Immortal.

Rescuing Seraya's soul after destroying her body under the watchful gaze of dozens of True Immortals and even an Immortal King is just too daring to attempt.

But Klaus pulled it off, and the fact that they both were alive now—even though one of them was merely an immortal soul—was just too much to handle.

It shows Klaus's capabilities.

"Are you from a legacy family? You must be from a legacy family. Only the legacy heirs can measure up to you." To make sense of why Klaus was stronger than her, she convinced herself by pairing him against the heirs of the major families in the universe.

Hearing her words, Klaus smirked. "Young lady, it will be in your best interest not to put me on the same pedestal as those pompous assholes who have been grown behind thick walls like greenhouse flowers.

If anything, measure me against those freaks that guard the Dome gates, or the twisted psychos who venture into the forbidden lands and ruins. They are worthy to stand beside me, not some stupid legacy heirs."

Klaus was almost angry hearing Niva's words.

The level he saw himself at was far higher than that of the heirs. Of course, there are a few of them that could give him a hard time, but as a paragon, most of the annoying bugs he faced were legacy heirs.

So naturally, he hated them.

"Whatever," Niva shrugged and turned to Seraya. She had wanted to fight her since the background research she did on her showed she was also a scum of society.

Too bad Klaus beat her to that. "What do you intend to do with her?"

"I already said she either accepts my offer to become my weapon spirit, or I will seal her away for a thousand years. Afterwards, I will ask again.

However, if she refuses the offer again, I will have to devour her soul and turn her into energy." Klaus paused and turned to face Seraya.

"I like my weapon spirits to give me their consent first before placing the Weapon Spirit Seal on them. So what do you think, wanna become my weapon spirit for a hundred years?"

Seraya didn't say anything like how feisty she was when he brought her out. She just remained standing, her mind spinning like a hula hoop.

Klaus knew she was thinking, so he made sure she understood what he was asking of her.

"If you accept my offer, you will become my weapon spirit for just 100 years. In those 100 years, you will aid me in killing scums of society that threaten to destroy the innocent.

In return, if and when I start to see that you have changed, I will aid you in any way I can to ensure your progress in your cultivation. I hate rising alone... I enjoy taking my friends with me to the top.

So in a way, you must earn my friendship.

Then, when the 100 years are over, I will personally help you forge a new body and assist you in reintegrating into society as a new person.

Of course, there are other freebies, but that will depend on how well you perform. That is all I can say. You have five minutes to make a decision."

Klaus sat back in his chair and turned to Maud, who wasn't even bothered by what was happening around her. She had just made a friend online, and so she decided to spend some time chatting with her.

All the drama happening around her seemed not to faze her. She is all about fashion, and her new friend seems to be a big-time fashion designer.

Klaus just shook his head and let her be. He had already pulled her away from the fashion show on Planet Yahmir; he wouldn't want to distract her again.

Meanwhile, Niva continued to stare at Klaus, her mind replaying the offer he had made to Seraya.

Everything sounded like a good thing to her. However, deep in her heart, she couldn't help but wonder if this was a trap.

It is all too unreal to think that, after all Seraya had done, she would only get to work for him for 100 years, but she would get to walk away with so much more.

'Nobody can be that generous for just 100 years of work,' Niva said inwardly. However, a part of her still thought that maybe Klaus meant what he said.

Maybe some people are just generous.

Meanwhile, Seraya was left in a loop. On one hand, if she accepts Klaus's offer, she will be free in 100 years. However, if she were to be deceived, then she would forever be a weapon spirit with no chance of ever breaking free.

So it was all down to whether she should take a leap of faith and trust Klaus or remain stubborn, which, until she could break the three seals on her body, would keep her trapped.

'He saved me at least, so the least I could do is trust him. If he betrays me, I can only blame my bad luck for meeting scum men in my life.'

She sighed and then turned to Klaus. "I accept your offer."

Klaus smiled and formed a hand seal, manifesting a seal. He gestured forward, and the seal flew, merging with her forehead.

Seraya's eyes widened, but a few seconds later, she frowned. A lost expression appeared on her face. "Is that all?"

She asked, unsure of what to even think. She expected a change, but what she got was just too shocking.

Klaus smiled and stood up. He walked toward the window of the spaceship and gazed out at the planet 10,000 miles away. A couple of seconds later, he turned to Seraya.

"Oh, were you expecting me to enslave you, huh? Unfortunately for you, I am not that wicked. You did nothing to me, so while I took it upon myself to punish you, I wouldn't go as far as to enslave you.

I only wanted you to become my weapon spirit, and that is what I did. You still have your free will. You can do as you please.

However, when I command you to unleash the power of the sword, you will obey, and lastly, you cannot kill me."

Seraya was left stunned. She expected so much worse, but what she received was the opposite.

"Oh, and lastly, there are seven seals on the sword. Your job now is to break at least three in the next 100 years. I won't force you to do that, but please know that breaking just three seals will benefit you more than it will me.

But before that, I have a mission for you."

Chapter 1284: The Crimson Star Raiders

[Planet Korvel-3. Outer Mining Ring]

"Damn it. We have been here for 7 days already, but these fuckers don't want to pay the ransom," a thick blue-skinned young man with dark green eyes and a pair of thick horns said, throwing a stone at a snow hill.

Sitting beside him is another young man with peculiar features. This one had silver skin and a pair of rather large, human-shaped eyes.

The big-eyed young man nodded. "This has been the longest and most uncooperative raid we have had in the past 30 years. It seems we will be leaving with only the minerals."

"It seems so." Blue Skin smirked. "We have to just kill all the workers, or even take the beautiful ones away and sell them as slaves. That will earn some bucks."

"The Crimson Star Raiders aren't a weak bandit group after all. Lord Raukesh will make an example out of these fuckers if they don't pay the ransom by the end of tomorrow."

"I look forward to that. I, for one, would love to be away from this snow-infested, godforsaken planet by the close of tomorrow. There are better places to be than this stupid place."

Big Eyes nodded, but he suddenly turned to his left.

"What?" Blue Skin asked, noticing the sudden movement of his friend. He has large eyes and a keen ability to see and sense things from a great distance.

Naturally, it was only right to see far if one possesses such big eyes. It was one of the reasons why he was assigned the role of guarding the entrance of the Outer Ring mine.

"I may be wrong, but I sensed someone move through the snow just a second ago." Big Eyes shook his head and added, "Maybe I am overthinking things."

"You think maybe those hunters are back, or—" Blue Skin asked, but Big Eyes shook his head. "I am not so sure. The last five who came were smashed to bits by Lord Raukesh. If they learned their lesson, they wouldn't send more."

"I guess you are right. But maybe we should check it out anyway."

In the end, Big Eyes nodded, and they moved deeper into the snow.

When they left, a thin, carved sword appeared from the void and transformed into a stunning beauty. Seraya, now a weapon spirit, turned and looked in the direction Blue Skin and Big Eyes went.

She smirked and muttered disdainfully, "Bunch of losers."

As someone who was both a criminal and an assassin, she knew best not to abandon her post when there was any disturbance. She had used that method to get past many checkpoints, so she knew only losers would be fooled by it.

Seeing them go, the urge to strike them down, considering she is an Early Immortal while they are only Peak Emphyreans, crossed her mind, but she ignored it.

The mission Klaus gave her is to map the mine and find a good place to hide. He would use the void to come to her, so she chose to let them go.

She turned and flew away, not even her presence being sensed by all whom she passed by.

The mine is huge, and considering there are 300 bandits and 12,000 hostages inside, it means she must work super fast and cautiously if she wants to get an accurate reading on things.

Klaus knew the mission description could be incorrect, considering the information was provided by the one who posted the mission and was updated by those who failed to complete it.

This was why, before he stepped into the mine, he would make sure he got his own accurate reading.

Meanwhile, inside the spaceship, Klaus sat in a relaxed manner, examining the Thunder Jade Essence Ore.

He had angered quite a lot of True Immortals in the process of acquiring it, so he was looking to see what was so special about it.

It is blue, with lines of ancient runes carved onto it. While its size is less than that of an adult's fist, the power hidden within it is just too much to ignore.

'It is indeed worthy to spark such a spectacle at the auction hall. The amount of thunder law embedded in this thing is too much.'

Klaus could visibly see that the laws woven into the Thunder Jade Essence Ore were enough to take his lightning law comprehension to the Harmony stage.

Of course, he would need more than that to reach Absolute Lightning Law. But moving from Perfect Lightning—where he is now—to Harmony is just too much to pass up on.

[It was only after we purchased it that I realized it is a low-grade Thunder Jade Essence Ore. However, I have already started looking for the medium- and high-grade versions.

Although the master wouldn't need it again to cultivate the Heaven-Defying Body, it is also the fastest way to increase the master's comprehension of the lightning law.

So, when I find one, we will get it. Then, if possible, we would also find a way to get access to a thunder pool and help you create the Lightning Spirits too, as you did with the Flame element.]

Klaus smiled inwardly. 'You are the best Icon. However, maybe we should focus on finding a suitable planet with a lightning-rich atmosphere to undergo my tribulation, since the moment I absorb the Thunder Jade Essence Ore, I will break through to the immortal stage.'

[I have already located one. It is 600 light-years from this place. It has no intelligent life on it. But there may be immortal-level monsters, so the master would have to prepare well before going.]

'I will. Also, I suppose this mission, once completed by killing all bandits and saving the hostages, will earn me enough hunter points to become a C-class hunter.'

[Yes, master.]

Klaus was already hoping to become a B-rank hunter fast enough so he could take on more dangerous but rewarding missions.

Of course, he knew it would be a long stretch, considering that once he became a B-class hunter, he would be able to take on missions outside the star system he was in.

However, if he managed to become a B-class hunter, he would be able to gain access to some of the perks that come with being a hunter.

One is his reputation. In this modern era, reputation goes a long way. If he has enough reputation, he would be able to traverse the vast universe unhindered.

So, completing this mission and becoming an immortal is the next best thing he can do. But before that, he must first clear the bandits out.

Thankfully, Niva was generous enough to offer her help. She would stand guard outside the planet and stop whoever slipped up on Klaus.

[Two Hours Later]

'Lord Klaus, I am done mapping the mine and found a secure place for you to descend.' Seraya's voice entered Klaus's relaxed mind.

'I will be opening the void portal when you are ready.'

Klaus sighed and stood up. He first turned to Niva and said, "Be ready for anything."

She nodded and turned away.

Klaus then turned to Maud. "I might need your help, so be ready to act when I call."

"Okay, Lord Klaus."

'I am ready, Seya.' Soon, Klaus vanished from the ship like a ghost.

Chapter 1285: Odds & Reward

Inside an underground cave formed from an abandoned mining hole, the void cracked, and Klaus stepped out calmly.

Opposite him, Seraya stood staring quietly at him.

After Klaus made her his weapon spirit without enslaving her, she became somewhat grateful, so she chose to work hard and earn her freedom.

Klaus already made her aware that the immortal she killed, which led to her running away and later choosing the life of a criminal, was, in fact, still alive. It turned out she only managed to destroy his body, so he made a new one.

However, since he had promised her they would get revenge, she relaxed and embarked on the mission Klaus had given her with an open mind.

"What have you found?" Klaus asked after making sense of his surroundings.

"There are 315 bandits, 15 more than you said. But out of the 315, only 11 are at the immortal stage. Ten are Peak Early Immortals, and the one I assumed to be their leader is a Peak Real Immortal.

I couldn't sense his strength, meaning he is far stronger than me. However, the remaining 304 are all Emyreans. Not even a single one of them is below the rank of an Emyrean."

"That is quite a team for bandits."

"Indeed. They are much more organized and coordinated than mere bandits. This means there is a chance they have someone stronger and more influential behind them.

This also makes them dangerous."

Klaus couldn't deny Seraya's words. Moments like this, when there is unexplained behavior among a group of people who aren't supposed to possess such qualities, there is always someone sane behind them.

However, the last time he checked, such people wouldn't come against him directly. They are too reputable to be associated with bandits.

They preferred to hide in the shadows and manipulate events through the darkness.

So he was not worried that a stronger opponent would come against him on this mission. But he was sure they would strike from the shadows when he least expected it.

"What about their formations and weapons?"

"They have quite a firepower for bandits. I spotted three A-class laser guns that can kill even a Real Immortal. However, upon closer examination, it would take 3 seconds to lock on a target and fire.

That, in my eyes, is 3 minutes to find a counter or escape.

Of course, I will help distract them long enough to destroy or steal the weapons. However, you must be careful nonetheless.

Additionally, it appears they are divided into a team of three or four. 12 bandits are guarding the hostages, and all ten Early Immortals are inside the main base with their leader.

To get to them, you must face their leader. This means it would be an eleven vs one battle."

"That will be a headache to take on 11 immortals, with one already at the Peak of the Real Immortal stage." Klaus smiled despite the impossible odds stacked against him. "This also means killing them all in one fell swoop is possible."

Seraya frowned, plainly lost for words to say. All Klaus had just said was a clear sign that the odds stacked against him were already huge enough to compel him to turn and run, as the other hunters did.

However, for some reason, he seemed even more eager to face them in battle. That was not a normal behaviour expected of a hunter of his calibre.

But then again, Klaus isn't exactly a normal person. He is outside the circle of common sense.

"Do you have a plan?" Seraya asked, a little concerned. Since she is now linked to Klaus. His life assures her own. So doing anything reckless that might harm him is a threat to her life.

"That will depend on what you can tell me about the hostages."

"There are 12,000 of them, like you said. They are being held in a blast chamber 200 miles away from the location of the bandits' leader and his goons.

Ten Emyreans stood guard outside while the hostages were locked in the blast chamber."

"Then this mission can be considered completed." Klaus smiled and waved his hand, manifesting a 3D map of the mine. Icon was finally able to create a map of the mine based on what Seraya had said so far and what she had captured

When they arrived in space, she attempted to scan the planet and the mine, but something was blocking her senses, preventing her from creating a map.

So she linked to Seraya's soul, and when she infiltrated the mine, she used that time to start.

Thankfully, Seraya is no ordinary assassin. She learned the craft of infiltration, so she helped her map out the entire base and, using her advanced senses, she created a rather detailed map.

She even added the heat signatures of the 315 bandits. This gave Klaus a more detailed view of the base and where to go if he wanted to complete the mission as quickly as possible.

"So far, the priority is to make sure the hostages are okay. This means the mission will start there. Luckily for us, we are closer to them than the others.

So you will handle the ten bandits guarding them. Once that is handled, create a large shield, strong enough to withstand the core explosion of an Emyrean.

It will take just an hour to handle the rest of the Emyreans and implement my plans. When it happens, you will know."

"Okay," Seraya knew best not to ask. Klaus is a danger she can't understand. So she chose to go ahead with the plan and hopefully complete her first mission without any curveballs.

"Don't cause a scene, Seya. We wouldn't want to be discovered at all." She nodded and then transformed into the thin, curved blade and vanished...

[Entrance of the Blast Chamber]

"Oh, men, I am even bored at this point," one of the bandits said, looking around him with a bored look in her eyes.

"Not only you, Lan. At this point, those bastards from the Silver Light Bandit Group will laugh at us for being babysitters when they find out this was how our last mission went."

"Damnit. I hate sitting around. The leader should at least let us play with the ladies."

"Yeah, and some of the men too." One of them grinned. "You all know I don't swing the same way as you guys."

Disdainfully, they all smirked and spoke in unison. "We know."

He smiled and turned to look in the direction of the main mine, where their leader and the rest of their bandit brothers and sisters were moving about, doing absolutely nothing.

As bandits, doing nothing when they should be raiding caravans and airships made them bored.

"If you are so bored, how about I help you go to sleep... forever."

Suddenly, a voice spoke from behind all ten of them. However, before they could react, a silver sword light flashed across the air, and blood splashed into the air.

Those who saw the light didn't even have time to process it before their brains were pierced through by the sword. In less than a second, all ten Empyrean-stage bandits lay dead.

'Lord Klaus, I am done here.'

Klaus smiled, already on the move... 'Nice one, Seya. Wait for my signal.'

Chapter 1286: Klaus Made His Move

'Icon, create an attack map that covers all 305 bandits, taking into consideration the distances between them. Also, utilise the blind spots and the positioning of the weapons they have.'

The moment Seraya gave Klaus the go-ahead after she killed the ten bandits, he made his move. However, instead of attacking right away, he first created a structured map to help him kill more easily without raising an alarm.

Of course, the moment they start dying, someone is bound to notice. However, that too had been included in Klaus's equation. He wasn't making his move without a plan to handle the obvious.

This mission cannot fail.

Once completed successfully, he would be pushing closer to the rank of a B-class Hunter.

So at all costs, he must complete it without any hiccups.

[Master, I have created the battle map, taking into account all you asked. The closest team you can take out is a four-man team.]

Klaus nodded and moved in the direction of the four-man team.

Under a makeshift pavilion, four bandits sat discussing random topics when suddenly, a person appeared between them, none of them realising when he approached.

"Who are you?" one of them asked, his hand going for his dagger.

Klaus smiled and winked at him... "Who I am is not important. The question should be what I intend to do."

"What do you intend to do?"

At the tone of this question, Klaus grinned. "To kill you four, of course."

Klaus tightened his hand into a fist, and, like being held in a chokehold, all four Emphyrean-stage bandits felt their breath catch, their bodies frozen in place.

It was as if a pair of invisible hands grabbed them by the throat and gave them a good squeeze.

Suddenly, a chill ran down their stomachs, causing misty vapour to come from all their orifices. Their eyes widened in shock.

Then, as if they swallowed a block of ice, their intestines turned to ice and soon manifested outside. In less than three seconds, all four of them died without sustaining even a single injury.

"Gotta present those bodies for identification after all," Klaus said with a grin. Then he waved his hand, and all four bodies vanished. In their place, four clones of him appeared.

By memorising the faces of the four bandits he had killed, he morphed his appearance to match them. But he didn't stop there; he activated a skill he had mastered during his 4th incarnation.

The moment he applied it, the clones came to life, and they began to speak.

"Chill, Klaus, we got this," one of them said, and the other three nodded.

"Well then, see you losers later." Knowing full well that they weren't real, Klaus couldn't help but address them. They were his temporary creations after all.

What he had just done was something that even Immortals couldn't easily do.

He created illusion clones of himself. Then, using the [tangible me] skill, he made them tangible. Later, he applied a sliver of soul essence to them, allowing them to draw essence directly from his cores.

But he didn't stop there; he even animated them, allowing them to talk independently. He had no idea what they would talk about, but he knew if someone were to come close to them, they would never recognise their true nature as clones.

The amount of mental strength that went into creating them is just too much. However, Klaus had minds to spare, so he went all out.

Soon, he appeared before another team of four. However, instead of moving to have a last-minute chat with them, he merely waved his hand, and thousands of near-invisible needles appeared.

'This is going to sting,' Klaus said inwardly, and then, with a grin on his face, he gestured forward, and the needles moved.

They zipped through the air with no sound whatsoever. Before any of the four Peak Emphyreans could register what had happened, the thousands of tiny needles had already entered their bodies.

Eerily, not even a single needle came out from their bodies.

But the strange part was that, despite them dying from the needle attack, they remained seated and relaxed as they were.

Even Klaus was taken aback by how eerie the ghost needles were. He had no idea where the needles came from, since he had yet to remember which incarnation used them, but watching how they killed, he was intrigued.

Just like the previous team, he replaced them with clones and moved on to the next team. This time, the team consisted of only three members.

However, they weren't seated in the same manner as the previous two teams.

This team had them moving through a cave to the other side to meet up with another team of four.

Klaus had no idea why they were going there, but he quickly made his move and subdued them. Then, using a mind-reading skill, he extracted the memory of why they were meeting a second team.

Soon, he created the clones and made sure he personally controlled one of them. So he hid inside the cave and let the clones approach the second team.

"What took you so long, Hyim?" a green-skinned lady with a body littered in gory tattoos spoke, pointing at the three clones walking toward them.

The one referred to as Hyim is the clone Klaus was personally controlling. Hearing the question, he smiled and said teasingly... "No need to be like that, Vid. We are here, aren't we?"

"But you are late."

"Some annoying bugs held us up. But now that we are here, how about we get started?" Klaus asked through the clone representing Hyim.

Vid smirked and took out three Dark Space connectors... "Remember, you three are just our backup players. Only attack when I give the signal."

Hyim nodded, and so did the other two clones.

Since they had nothing better to do, they decided to play games inside the Dark Space to release some stress. However, since they needed seven teammates but had only four, they asked for Hyim's team to join.

They took the connectors and watched as Vid and the other three with her wore them and quickly entered the Dark Space.

Just then, the real Klaus appeared and stared amusingly at the four bandits, who were sitting with their guards completely down.

"Like sheep to the slaughter."

Some time later, Klaus moved out and headed to the next target.

Meanwhile, inside the Dark Space, in a grand arena where thousands of spectators could be seen cheering at the top of their voices, a team of seven assassins clad in dark cloths appeared on the battle stage, commanding many cheers.

The match officiator stood tall, a broad smile on his face.

"And now, to our second team, everyone, welcome the Green Axe." Everyone turned to the entrance of the locker room, hoping to see the Green Axe team that chose to join the Backstop Crime League, which happens every day inside the Dark Space.

"The Green Axe Team," the match officiator shouted again, but nobody appeared.

After the third time, he was forced to declare the Silent Ghosts as winners automatically. The Green Axe team never made it, so they were disqualified.

Unbeknownst to them, all four members of the Green Axe were murdered in their sleep, none of them even being aware they had died.

Chapter 1287: Annihilation Ice Core Bomb

In a span of 30 minutes, Klaus had killed 90% of the Emyrean stage bandits and replaced every last one of them with illusion clones.

In this endeavour, Klaus had dedicated 100 minds, every last one focused on controlling an aspect of the perfect illusion he had created. He could not afford to let the immortals sense that something was wrong.

He wants them to be held up in the building for his final play.

Thankfully, by the time he arrived at the last team of Emyreans, not even a peep was made, allowing him to handle them too as efficiently as he could.

He used silent and nearly invisible weapons to complete all his kills. It was now that he had discovered the wide variety of weapons in his arsenal.

He had all kinds of weapons, each soul-bound to him. If one day he were to find weapon spirits for them or awaken the ones already possessing weapon spirits, then, with just his Spirit Master abilities, he would be unstoppable.

After killing the last Emyrean team, Klaus didn't rush to enter the hall where the bandit leader and his ten henchmen were.

He sat down and sent a part of his consciousness to the Soul Sea.

He appeared inside the 9th core, where all his nine soul bodies were seated around a large table. Atop the table lay a head-sized core radiating dark ice energy.

Klaus immediately recognised it as the Annihilation Ice. He wielded seven deadly ice elements; the Annihilation Ice was one of them.

Before coming on this mission, he told Fruity (4th soul body) and Kaden (8th soul body) to create a weapon out of that element.

Now, it seemed that they had done just that.

"Is it done?"

"Yes," Kaden replied.

"So what should I expect?" Klaus asked, already eager to try it and see the effect.

"Since your ice element is only at the Harmony stage, the core created from it is just strong enough to kill Early Immortals. However, since it is the Annihilation Ice, it would seriously injure a Real Immortal to some degree.

Naturally, that is enough to turn that Peak Real Immortal into a dud. The rest, then, will depend on you and how you intend to kill him.

But if the Real Immortal has high ice resistance, then expect them to emerge from the explosion nearly unscathed."

"Oh, sounds like it is going to be a whole lot of fun." Klaus smiled and extended his hand, letting the core fly into it.

"Then I will be on my way, guys."

"Good luck," the nine soul bodies said.

Klaus nodded, opening his eyes to the outside with a smile playing on his lips. He had no idea his soul bodies could cook up something this powerful.

While it isn't on the same level as a B-class ice bomb, it is strong enough to kill even Real Immortals simply because of its nature. The next step would be to assess the effect it would also have on the Peak Real Immortal.

Klaus tapped into his connection with Seraya. 'It is game time, so raise the shield and prepare for a freezing shockwave.'

After saying that, he looked at the large door leading to the hall and smiled. Then, with a gentle wave of his hand, the door slowly opened.

Inside the hall, the 11 immortals turned toward the door, each holding a frown on their face.

"Who dares interrupt us?" As the only immortals in the bandit group, they knew whoever dared interrupt them might have a message for them.

However, they at least had to first announce their presence and be granted entry. So someone entering without announcing their presence made them glare furiously at the door.

Suddenly, a chuckle reached their ears.

"Tsk, is that how you welcome the grim reaper?" Klaus walked through the door with a broad smile on his face.

The 11 immortals became alert when they saw an unfamiliar face. Some of them even pulled their weapons, ready for battle.

Looking through, Klaus saw that all eleven of them were from the same race. They looked the same as the Blue Skin Bandit Seraya was tempted to kill.

However, they each had even thicker and larger horns. This was a sign that they were much older and stronger than the others.

The leader had the largest, longest, and thickest horn. But as he scanned him, all he saw was a brute with a large axe.

Seraya was right not to sense his strength. That was because the mountain of a man standing before him was filled with strength. Just one attack from his axe was enough to shatter every bone in even a Peak Real Immortal.

Not even low-level True Immortals were safe from him.

However, Klaus remained calm, unbothered by their actions or looks. He only walked toward a chair and sat down. Then he waved his hand, and a glass of wine appeared.

His left leg rested on the right as he gazed at them...

"Brethren, no need for violence. I am merely a humble hunter whose mission is to ensure the bandits taking over this mine are dealt with," he paused, then asked in a questioning tone, "You eleven wouldn't happen to be part of them, would you?"

All eleven immortals unleashed their auras, weapons ready for the slaughter. Seeing this, Klaus took a gulp of his drink and stored away the glass.

It seemed he wouldn't be able to have a last-minute chat with them as he intended.

"My bad. I never expected you 11 to be the bandits I was looking for." Klaus grinned and winked at their leader.

"KILL HIM"

And just like that, 11 immortals lunged at him, casting a very large, intimidating shadow. To an ordinary warrior or a hunter, this would have broken their resolve.

However, Klaus merely smiled and waved his hand, causing the core to fly out. Timing it perfectly, he hurled the core to the point where it would have the impact.

The immortals instantly sensed the danger. But they missed their window to make any move to stop it.

"Like frozen popsicles," Klaus snapped his fingers, and for a moment, everything became calm. Then, a suddenly chilling wave of ice exploded, freezing all 11 immortals in an instant.

But that wasn't all; the shockwave washed all over the mine, spreading as far as it could go.

Seraya instantly sensed the danger, so she channeled more energy into the shield she had created. However, when the shockwave hit it, it froze and cracked.

She panicked. But she held on, pouring more energy into it. Suddenly, an even bigger crack appeared in the shield.

"Damnit," Seraya cursed, feeling the cold seeping into her soul. She knew the moment her shield dropped, the cold would seep into the chamber holding the hostages. That would be catastrophic, so she held strong.

But when an even bigger crack appeared, her heart sank.

Thankfully, just when she was about to lose her shield, a cold sensation came from behind her. A wave of rather chilling ice energy blew past her and reinforced the shield.

Looking behind her, she saw Niva pressing her index fingers and thumbs together while the remaining fingers folded down.

A cold energy was emitting from her.

"Thank you," Seraya said, but the still uptight Niva ignored her. Even so, Seraya wasn't mad; she did save her on her first noble mission.

Chapter 1288: Epic Mission Completed

[Inside the Hall - The Ice Explosion]

The moment Klaus detonated the core, all 11 Immortals came to a halt, their bodies frozen like statues. The ice instantly seeped into their bloodstreams, freezing them from the inside.

With the annihilating quality of the Annihilation Ice, none of them stood a chance. The annihilation ice attacks the inner body instead of the outer, so outside resistance is futile.

It is that deadly, considering all seven forbidden ice elements at Klaus's disposal are designed to attack a specific part of the body.

If he had used the Abyssal Ice, the attack would have targeted their skin, while the Chaotic Ice would have targeted both the body and the immune system.

Of course, with its dual nature, it also lowers its potency. It is only used when other ice elements have been used. The chaotic nature strengthens them.

So, with the Annihilation Ice, where death was instant, and the effect was invincible, this made for the perfect tool for this attack.

If they had known, all of them would have protected their inner bodies more than their outer bodies. But as they say, there is no second chance for slackers.

However, even though they were all frozen, Klaus saw that the leader, who was unfortunately the closest to the bomb—thanks to Klaus's surgical throw—was slowly defrosting the ice with his flame energy.

However, with how immediate everything was, even if Klaus allowed him to finish, he would again die. The ice had seeped too deep into his core.

Defrosting that would take some time. And if he somehow manages to break free, there will be some bits and pieces of ice inside his body.

So with just a snap, Klaus would have killed him. Basically, he is dead regardless of what he does. It is already written.

But Klaus didn't rush to kill him. No, he first had time to talk to his assistant.

'Are you recording this, Icon?'

[Yes, master. How can I ignore such an amazing display of combat and flex? I know the master wants this moment captured without even telling me.]

'You are the best, Icon.'

Klaus walked close to the frozen statues and extended his hand, summoning orange flames. "I need your faces in the shot."

Using his mind, he controlled the flame to defrost their faces, showing the moment of realisation before their bodies were frozen.

"Nice-looking guys. You all decided to become losers who prey on the weak and gullible." Klaus smirked, feeling the need to smash their heads in.

[Master, I believe they are still alive. However, their immortal souls have been frozen too, preventing them from escaping.]

'Oh, so in other words, their souls are now solid and can be shattered.'

[Indeed.]

'How amazing. I never knew the Annihilation Ice was this powerful.'

Klaus was visibly shocked.

In all that he remembered from his 4th incarnation, he only used the Soul Eater Ice when he wanted to deal directly with the soul. But hearing that his Annihilation Ice is also that powerful, he became happy.

"Time to eat your souls to strengthen mine," Klaus said; however, he didn't use the Soul Eater Ice. Instead, he waved his hand, and a large needle-like spirit weapon appeared.

It is the [Soul Injector Needle].

It attacks the soul directly, and whenever it is used, all souls it pierces are devoured by it, allowing the owner to take them back later.

Klaus is planning on sending the video of how he defeated the immortal-stage bandits to the mission hall as a way of earning some perks.

Icon told him that doing something daring allows one to receive favours from the mission hall. After having a taste of an epic mission, Klaus wants another one.

So he would send the video, and he isn't planning on showing more than one ice element on camera.

So he used the needle, directing it slowly as it pierced the heads of the immortals as he moved from one immortal to the next.

As he got closer to the leader, he could see his face changing, showing he was doing everything in his power to break free from the ice.

However, Klaus knew deep down that all resistance is futile. He had already locked his soul down with a fragment of ice inside it.

Now that he knew the soul could be frozen, he made sure to reach that depth. With just a thought, he could shatter it. So watching as his eyes turned bloodshot made him relax.

Eventually, the Soul Injector Needle reached him.

"This is the end, buddy. The 400 billion universe coins ransom is not coming."

Without adding any more context, Klaus controlled the needle, letting it stab through his head and come out from the other side, not even a drop of blood coating the needle.

The moment he died, Klaus told Icon to end the video.

"Damn, my Annihilation Ice is almost drained of essence." Klaus felt his ice element drain repeatedly for a few seconds before everything came to a sudden stop.

Even so, he would need to devour a lot of energy to replenish it, else he wouldn't be able to use it in combat effectively like he could with the other elements.

Klaus extended his hand and took away the bodies of the 11 bandits. Then he teleported away, appearing in front of a dome of frozen ice.

"Hmm, so she is here." Feeling a familiar ice, Klaus smiled and tapped the dome. It cracked and shattered, vanishing into a cloud of ice mist.

On the other side, Niva and Seraya were revealed.

"Glad to see you here," Klaus said to Niva, who was busy using her senses to see what had happened.

All she saw was absolutely nothing. The moment the ice core exploded, his clones were also destroyed, so she saw nothing.

Klaus ignored her and turned to Seraya.

"Good job, Seya. You have saved 12,000+ innocent people." Klaus paused, then asked, "How do you feel about that?"

"Niva did most of the saving, but I guess it feels good to finally be on the right side of things."

Klaus smiled and nodded... "Don't worry, 100 years is just around the corner. By the time you are free, you will understand a lot of things."

After saying that, Klaus collected the bodies of the other ten bandits Seraya killed. Then, adding all 315 bodies, he transferred them to the mission hall ring and sent them away.

He pulled up his phone and marked the mission as complete after adding the video attachment and the time it took to handle all of them.

It took less than two minutes for the mission to be confirmed.

[You have completed your first Epic mission: 'Crimson Star Raiders Extermination']

[Rewards have been transferred.]

[Congratulations, you are now a C-class Hunter.]

[You have earned 1,905,900 Rising Star points from all kills. Current Rank: 500,690]

[Show proof of life for all hostages and earn additional Rising Star points, 10% hunter points, and a chance to access the Epic Mission Board]

Klaus grinned, turning away from his phone and looking toward the building 100 meters from them.

"Time to free the hostages."

Klaus moved and soon stood before the large metal door. He tapped into his Spirit Master abilities and instantly grasped the metal door with his mind.

Then, like tearing paper, he tore the door in two, revealing the faces of all 12,000+ hostages, most shivering from the cold.

Chapter 1289: A Rising Star Hunter

"Everyone, remain calm. I am a hunter from the mission hall hired to come rescue you from the wicked clutches of the bandits.

You can call me Hunter Renegade, but if you want it to rhyme, then you can call me the Renegade Hunter." Klaus let himself smile as he floated off the ground, allowing the 12,000 hostages to see him.

"As of this moment, all 315 bandits have been taken care of, so you are free to go home. Thank you for your cooperation, and sorry for the pain those scum have caused you."

After saying that, Klaus formed a flame ball and exploded it, allowing the heat to wash over the entire mine. In an instant, the cold was carried away, leaving those who had been shivering to sigh in relief.

By the time he turned around, Niva was long gone, and Seraya had turned into her sword form.

None of them wanted to be seen by the natives of Planet Korvel-3.

Suddenly, Klaus sensed the auras of 15 Emphyreans and an Early Immortal coming from the direction of the city. He knew they were natives from this planet, so without waiting for them to arrive, he vanished into thin air.

A few seconds after he left, a small spaceship arrived 30 km away from the mine. They didn't want to get close to the mine, as they were still scared that the bandits were around.

They came when a sudden chill washed over them from the direction of the mine. So, as the guardians of the planet, they came to see.

They were responsible for paying the ransom to the bandits, but since they didn't have the 400 billion universe coins they were asking for, they used the 4.1 billion they had to post the mission.

It was a risk, and they took it.

On this side of the universe, they knew if people started going missing, nobody would care. So they weren't afraid the miners would be killed since they could be sold into slavery.

So they posted the mission ad and hoped the hunters would come through for them. Unfortunately, many retreated before even landing on the planet, while a few tried to venture into the mine, only to flee in panic.

They were out of options and were even planning on selling the planet for the lives of the hostages when the cold explosion came.

By selling the planet, the buyer would have settled the bandits in their own way, allowing the hostages to live. However, doing so would have rendered everyone a slave to the new owner.

However, when they arrived at the mine and saw the thousands of miners helping each other leave the large building with no bandits in sight, they were all shocked.

They quickly made their presence known. Then, finding out from the hostages what happened, they were told that a hunter called Renegade had come to their rescue.

They checked on the mission, but even without their approval, the mission was marked as completed. This was a clear sign that the hunter had indeed delivered.

Realising this, they all became grateful to their saviour, the Renegade Hunter.

Meanwhile, inside the spaceship, Klaus sat with his leg crossed, scrolling through the notifications he received after he uploaded the proof of life of all 12,000+ hostages.

[Proof of life confirmed.]

[You have earned 3,500,000 Rising Star points. Current Rank: 100,000]

[Per the mission clause, hostage survival results in a 10% increase in the overall Hunter Points earned. Since a total of 12,000+ hostages had been rescued, you have been rewarded a 10% hunter points.]

[Congratulations, you have earned 424 Hunter Points.]

[Congratulations on reaching the top 100,000 on the Rising Star Hunter Ranking. You are eligible to pick two missions from the Epic Mission Board (Star Base).]

Klaus grinned, feeling his ego rising. To move from the top 900,000 to the top 100,000 in a single mission showed the kind of monster he was.

The mission wasn't as simple as it appeared to be. Over 300 hunters cancelled, and even five died, so completing it with such surgical precision was truly remarkable. He deserved all the rewards he was given.

Especially the proof of life he had uploaded, which showed the kind of hunter he was, earned him more ratings.

He had made sure no harm came to the hostages; that is the role of a hunter: to make sure all innocents are protected, no matter what.

Klaus scrolled to his hunter profile, and what he saw made him happy.

[[Hunter's Name: Renegade]]

[[Hunter's Rank: C]]

[[Progress: 2,914/4,000]]

[[Missions Completed: 3]]

"Soon, I will become a B-Rank hunter, then I can take on missions outside of this star system." Klaus smiled and said inwardly, 'It would allow me to visit other places. I can even try reaching out to Gorr's daughter.'

Since the other Star Light is said to be her assistant, Klaus wanted to get to her fast enough to see what he could do.

Unbeknownst to Klaus, while he saw the sudden jump from the top 900,000 to 100,000 as a cool feat, the hunters currently on that ranking were all in shock.

Regardless of where the conversation was raised, every last one of them just couldn't believe how a Level 7 Emphyrean who was only a D-class hunter managed to complete an Epic mission involving 11 Immortals and 304 Emphyreans.

None could believe that.

However, the mission hall doesn't lie, so regardless of how they saw it, it had already been done, and the winner was a mere mortal whose name started to spread everywhere.

Headlines like

- Who is the Renegade Hunter?

- It took three missions for the Renegade Hunter to debut in the top 100,000 Rising Star Hunter Chart.

- He is him, he is the Renegade Hunter.

- A Rising Star Hunter, the Renegade Hunter.

- A new Rising Star Hunter has appeared in the Dervas Mission Hall, and he is already making waves.

Be it the Uniweb or the Dark Space, every last hunter was talking about Klaus, spreading his name everywhere.

He was now a C-class hunter, but looking at his profile, all could see he needed only one more mission to become a B-class hunter.

Once that happened, he would become the youngest and perhaps the first mortal to reach the rank of a B-class hunter.

Naturally, that would cause an even greater sensation.

But then again, fate has a way of making things work in favour of those she hates. Klaus wanted to become an immortal before his next mission, but it seemed fate had other plans.

Just when Klaus was about to give the command to the ship AI pilot to move away since the mission was over, a red emergency flash appeared across his screen from the mission hall.

When he tapped on it, a wicked smile appeared on his face...

[RED ALERT: A high-priority rescue mission request. Location: Planet Nevil (Yting Planetary System, Devas SS). Rank: Epic+. Reward: 40 billion UC + 4,000 HP]

[Additional rewards may be given based on the rating of the mission after completion]

'Icon, how close are we to Planet Nevil?'

[Master, Planet Nevil is the one I picked for your tribulation.]

'Oh, in that case, we should check it out,' he said. He opened the mission board and pressed 'Accept.' His name appeared among the hunters currently in the vicinity.

Surprisingly, he was the only hunter.

The ship turned around, and with a speed several times faster than the one it came with, it vanished.

[UC: Universe Coin. HP: Hunter Point. SS: Star system]

Chapter 1290: High Priority Rescue Mission

"Where are we going?" Niva asked with a curious look, but Klaus didn't mind her.

He was busily looking through the space rings of the bandits he had killed. Since he took all three A-class weapons and even some other weapons, he knew there was more to earn from them.

It was one of the perks of being a hunter. Unless asked to submit space rings or other treasures, the hunter is free to take all the spoils for themselves.

So Klaus was looking through them. Thankfully, his mental capacity is strong enough to pierce through all restrictions below the rank of a True Immortal.

Suddenly, a delighted expression appeared on his face as he spotted something inside the leader of the bandits' space ring.

"An A-class spaceship. That will do," Klaus transferred the spaceship into his own space ring before turning to Niva.

"I am going somewhere important. You, on the other hand, will be heading to Planet Virel, where you will be staying for the time being. I have already made arrangements, so you have nothing to worry about."

Niva frowned, clearly displeased with what Klaus said. Separating from him would give her some peace of mind to handle her own things like she wanted, but it would also mean she would be far from him.

In a way, she didn't seem to like that at all.

Klaus is hateful; that much is true. But she feels safe around him. The moment he separated from her, she knew she wouldn't be able to maintain her calm.

Seeing her expression, Klaus smiled. "Don't worry. You will be going with Maud. She and I share a connection that allows us to travel instantly to each other's location.

She also possesses some abilities that will allow her to set up a gate on Planet Virel that will link to me. So when she is done with that, I can come to you anytime I want.

However, for now, you should know that the moment someone spots you with me, we both will become fugitives. You are a wanted criminal, after all.

This means the best move is to send you somewhere safe and away from the eyes of the Righteous Faction, who want more than anything to get their hands on you."

Klaus realised now that he had started making waves, the chances of the mission hall keeping a close eye on him were high.

He had already anticipated this before he signed up, so he wouldn't want Niva to be caught in the crossfire when his fame skyrocketed.

She needed a peaceful place to cultivate, and since Planet Virel was now essentially his, considering the Dark Space Company was protecting it, she would be safe there.

He had already spoken to Sera and made arrangements for Niva.

"You will only be there for a year at most. The moment I am ready to help you kill Varkos, I will come for you. But for now, you must go and spend the time working on your own strength."

Niva thought for a moment and nodded. She indeed needed to be out of space and hidden somewhere nobody could find her.

Klaus had made her feel safe so far, so she must trust him yet again and hope the next time they met, she would have a chance at her revenge.

[Master, we are only 15 minutes out from Planet Nivel.] Icon informed Klaus, who nodded and returned to searching through the remaining space rings.

After five minutes, he put all the space rings into a single space ring and handed it to Niva. "There are some resources in here. When you arrive on Planet Virel, look through them and utilize them to enhance your strength."

She accepted the gift. Of course, Klaus had already made arrangements for her to receive some training resources. But for now, she would need the loot from the bandits.

Klaus sat back in his chair and began to think about the rescue mission he was about to embark on. This isn't a solo mission.

If ten hunters were closer to the target, they all could go to their rescue, and the reward would be divided among them based on the role they played in the rescue.

So while Klaus is the only hunter closer to Planet Virel, more hunters could come later.

[We are 2 minutes out, Master.]

Icon updated him again, causing Klaus to issue a command to the ship AI pilot through Icon. The ship came to a stop, and Klaus stepped out with Niva and Maud.

He retrieved the A-class spaceship he found in the leader of the bandits' space ring. It is designed like a normal private jet, but it has undergone modifications for aerial combat.

"It will take less than 5 days to reach Planet Virel. Once you touch down, someone will come to meet you and assist you in getting settled in. I will also be in contact."

Niva nodded.

Klaus turned to Maud. "Once you are done building the death portal, let me know. I will need your help when breaking through to the Immortal stage."

She also nodded. Soon, they were gone. Klaus got back on the ship and continued his journey toward Planet Nivel. He had no idea what he was walking into, but he hoped it would be fun.

[Planet Virel - Rescue Target]

BOOM

A powerful explosion rocked a part of the planet, raising both dust and smoke into the air. From this smoke, a girl clad in silver leather-like armor appeared, holding a large bow.

She is a human, but with longer ears and slightly bigger eyes. Although normal for a human, if one were from the eastern part of the Earth, they would consider her cute silver eyes large.

She is beautiful by most standards, and judging by her aura, she has only recently reached the low-level Real Immortal stage.

Behind her, four others also clad in silver armor, but with patches of red and black, followed. Two male and two female. All four of them have short silver hair compared to the lady wielding the bow, who had longer hair.

However, all four of them are Peak Real Immortals with powerful auras.

As they flew out, one would expect them to be running from monsters, considering Planet Nivel is known for having only non-intelligent monsters.

However, just as the lady and what appeared to be her four guards escaped through the smoke, the void trembled and cracked, allowing five Peak Real Immortals and two True Immortals, all redheads, to block their path.

They quickly encircled them, weapons drawn. The silver-haired young lady and her guards also came to a sudden halt.

"Looks like the road ends here, Ophelia." From the void, another voice spoke, causing the silver-haired lady holding the bow to frown deeply.

"Desmond, you bastard," she cursed and started channeling energy into her bow. She knew there was no escape from this, so if she was going down, she might as well fight.

From the void, another young redheaded man with the rank of a high-level Real Immortal holding a 2 meter long spear walked out, holding a spear.

When he saw the look on Ophelia's face, his smile widened.

"Oh my, after a week of chasing, we have finally managed to get our hands on you." He pointed his spear at Ophelia and demanded, "Hand over the map fragment, and we will consider giving you a quick death."

