

Warlord 291

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Chapter 291 What can I get?

Dilan was ready to leave the Blue Star camp for good. It would be destroyed, either way, so there was no need for them to stay.

With a calm expression, he left the office and walked through the masses of panicking Survivors and Ascenders. The Tier-1 Ascenders were trying to prepare themselves mentally for what awaited them.

If the monster tide had already been dangerous and scary, the purple-feathered Eagle, who was soaring through the air, was several times more dangerous. The destructive power each bolt of lightning caused was devastating and caused several explosions as a chain effect was initiated.

The vehicles in the surrounding area were destroyed, multiple holes were blown into the highly endurable walls of the military base and several corpses were already lying on the ground.

While the Survivors were running for their lives and trying to reach the deeper parts of the military base to be protected a little bit better, Dilan was unruffled as he passed through all of them.

They were looking at him and were trying to find a ray of hope, only to realize that Dilan didn't even throw a glance at them.

"Dilan? Are you not going to help us?" Clerens asked when he appeared next to Dilan. He was pretty sure that Dilan wouldn't let the other humans die so easily.

It didn't matter, whether Dilan liked him or not, the lives of his brethren had always been important to Dilan. That was what Clerens could tell for sure.

"Why should I help you? You wanted to sacrifice me to enter the Sanctum of the Old Vampire Lord. If not for Victoria, you would have the Sanctum Keys by now and I would still be oblivious to the truth," Dilan didn't halt stop in his tracks when he spoke.

He had no intentions to do what Clerens wanted from him, not for free, at least.

"If I kill this beast for you, what will you give me in return? You can hire me as your mercenary, otherwise, I will just leave and the Blue Star camp will cease to exist," Dilan said and finally halted in his tracks to look at Clerens.

"B-but Dilan??" Oliver's voice suddenly reached Dilan. His expression clearly showed that he was baffled what Dilan just said. However, Oliver was not the only one, who was baffled.

Kuhn and Silas felt exactly like Oliver.

'He would let all these innocent Survivors die, just because he doesn't like Clerens?'

"Are you serious, right now?!?" Clerens shouted out, his body moving instinctively as he grasped Dilan by the collar.

But instead of panicking, Dilan smiled mockingly at Clerens.

“Don’t act out of character, Clerens. Aren’t you supposed to be calm, deceiving, and aloof?” Dilan’s mocking smile widened the more he said.

Clerens grit his teeth, let go of Dilan and turned his head to the huge hole in the wall that had been caused by a single bolt of lightning. He saw the huge purple-feathered eagle, who could create highly destructive lightning without difficulties.

‘Dilan is right. This monster is not something either I or the others can handle...’ Clerens knew that he was not strong enough. It would be impossible for them to survive if the purple-feathered Eagle wouldn’t stop its rampage.

Clenching his fists tightly and gritting his teeth, Clerens swallowed his pride as he accepted the fact that Dilan was their only hope

“I will give you...just take whatever you want...but only three items and only after you killed the beast...” He thus said, trying to hide the fact that he hated the current situation.

Clerens didn’t even know what Dilan needed, which was why he was forced to propose giving Dilan three items of his choice. There was no time to start negotiating, not if Clerens wanted the military base and his people to survive!

Dilan smiled faintly as his body turned in the direction of the hole in the wall.

“Alright, we have a deal then,” Dilan spoke calmly before he started to speak to his own people, “You guys will have to stay behind. Your attacks should be useless against this type of monster.”

After that was said, Dilan the stones below his feet crackled when he used all his strength to catapult his body forward. His speed accelerated at a tremendous speed the moment he passed through the hole in the wall.

Meanwhile, the others could only look at the blur Dilan left behind. Oliver sighed deeply, somewhat relieved because he had figured out that Dilan merely played around with Clerens to make some profits.

“Our attacks will be useless against this annoying Eagle?! I don’t believe that!” Ailee suddenly exclaimed and she also disappeared through the hole.

“Can’t she just do as she was asked?” Oliver sighed again. His expression turned sour and against all his instincts that told him to hold his horses, he followed Ailee.

“What a cute couple!” Victoria exclaimed in joy, crossing Ailee out from her list of rivals before she turned into a blur as well

Her thoughts were running wild, just in the completely wrong direction... ‘I cannot lose out to them! My Darling will be disappointed if I don’t cheer for him!’

Williams, Silas, and Kuhn had nothing better to do than to pass through the hole in the wall as well as they left behind Clerens, who could only shake his head.

“I sincerely hope that you guys die fighting this monster,” He cursed quietly, just to recall something as he added, “...but only after it is severely injured...”

Dilan had yet to activate any of his abilities as he rushed toward the purple-feathered Eagle. It had noticed their arrival but that didn't seem to bug it.

The purple-feathered Eagle kept soaring through the air, firing one bolt of lightning after another at the base. Something about the military base seemed to irk the monster, which attracted Dilan's attention.

"What are you trying to achieve, little angry bird?" Dilan asked while keeping a bright smile on his face.

The closer he was to the purple-feathered Eagle, the more obvious its huge size and overwhelming power became.

Dilan had been pretty sure that the Eagle couldn't be a normal Tier-1 monster from the beginning but now that he sensed its whole power from close-up, he could tell that this was not everything.

'Is that the difference between a Tier-1 and Tier-2 monster?' He wondered while a CrimsonClaw Dagger appeared in his hand.

Using his momentum, Dilan stomped with his feet on the ground before he spun around to create additional momentum just to throw the dagger straight at the purple-feathered Eagle.

It was flying around 200 meters in the air which made it hard to hit the target. Fortunately, the Eagle seemed to be close to 10 meters in length, meaning that the target was not that small.

The CrimsonClaw dagger turned into a red flash as it soared through the air with rapid velocity. Only when it collided with the purple-feathered Eagle was the red flash forcefully halted.

When the CrimsonClaw dagger collided with the Eagle, the only sound that reached Dilan's ear was a nearly inaudible thump noise. Before even a second passed the CrimsonClaw dagger was deflected and it fell to the ground.

"Well its not like I didn't expect that," Dilan mumbled. Yet, just a short moment later, a bunch of fireballs, a salvo of arrows and several blazing molotov daggers impacted on the purple-feathered eagle.

In response, a smokescreen covered the area around the purple-feathered eagle only for an enraged screech to echo through the surrounding.

The monster emerged out of the smokescreen as it dived down to the opponents, who had attacked it just a moment earlier.

There was not a single scratch on the eagle's purple feathered. The plumage was merely a bit disheveled!

"As I said, you guys won't be able to injure it!" Dilan spoke loud enough for everyone to let them hear him.

"You forgot about me then, Darling~!" Victoria turned in a flash to reappear next to him. She concentrated her power in the palm of her fingers where she conjured several tiny needles of Blood-Ice.

Once they were created, Victoria released them the moment the purple-feathered eagle was close enough to her to cause the most lethal damage.

“Bleed for me!” She screamed at the top of her lungs as her eyes turned crimson red. She licked her lips in satisfaction, while her battle lust was fully unleashed.

‘Maybe it will be funny with her?’

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When the Blood-Ice needles were released, the purple-feathered Eagle’s first reaction was to evade them.

However, as it had already taken a full dive to attack Ailee, Kuhn, and Williams, evading the Blood-Ice needles was impossible.

As evading was impossible, the purple-feathered Eagle was ready to block the attacks. Yet, just when it looked like the monster would accept getting injured, two bolts of lightning were released from the eagle’s body.

Their strength obliterated the Blood-Ice needles before they blasted toward Victoria. Her eyes widened in response but she was ready to face the attack.

But just before the bolts of lightning could impact her, Dilan pushed her aside.

“Whaat?” Victoria blurted out when she was shoved away. She could only see how the purple bolts of lightning burst open the concrete they were standing on while looking at Dilan’s outlines.

“You Idiot!! Why are you blocking this attack? I’m a Vampire, I would have survived this easily!” Victoria screamed in frustration as her emotions were in total disarray.

But it was just at this moment when Dilan emerged from behind the bolt of lightning. His clothes were a bit burned but other than that he was unscathed.

“But you would have gotten injured. I need you to be unscathed, otherwise, we cannot deal with that monster,” Dilan said, with a bright smile on his face.

His entire body was electrified but he enjoyed this feeling. He looked straight in the purple-feathered Eagle’s eyes while flashing a mocking smile.

“You bastards are not the only ones with stats of an existence at Tier-2!” Dilan shouted out before he turned into a flash.

His Health stat was at 137.4 Units right now, and he received a 10% amplification from the Title [Beyond the Stars] and the Ilran Chestplate increased his Health stat by another 10 Units!

Even without the use of an ability that boosted his Health stat further just the use of his special trait [Stone Skin] would render a few bolts of lightning useless.

On the contrary, the bolts of lightning were literally the best Dilan could have encountered right now as he received two notifications, which caused his mood to brighten up even further.

[Host has been struck by a bolt of lightning with the destructive force of a Tier-2 ability. First requirement to upgrade the ability <Thunder Step> advanced. Get struck by lightning 2/5→3/5]

[Host has been struck by a bolt of lightning with the destructive force of a Tier-2 ability. First requirement to upgrade the ability <Thunder Step> advanced. Get struck by lightning 3/5→4/5]

Dilan flashed a bright smile as he pushed past Victoria. She looked at him in dumbfounding for a second or two before she realized where she was, and what had just happened.

'Maybe...just maybe, he might be more of a psycho than I was told I am...' Victoria thought with a cheeky smile on her face.

Her heart fluttered wildly to realize that Dilan had rescued her and by following his trajectory she could tell that he wanted to provoke the purple-feathered eagle.

It was difficult to fight an aerial beast, even more so if it used long-range attacks as a means to fight and attack.

However, that was not something Dilan could be bothered about right now. Ailee and the others split up the moment they saw that their attack failed.

This forced the purple-feathered eagle to focus entirely on one opponent. The monster switched tactics and chose to attack Kuhn, who seemed to be the weakest.

However, this was a big mistake.

Kuhn's hands were shivering at the terrifying prowess the purple-feathered eagle showcased but he quickly found his senses back.

If he didn't act now, he was bound to die!

[Blazing Cyclone]!

Kuhn activated one of his strongest Occupational abilities, [Blazing Cyclone]. A huge inferno of flames manifested right in front of him before it turned into a cyclone that was blasted in the direction of the purple-feathered Eagle.

The monster was not resistant to flames but Kuhn was merely a Tier-1 Ascender. Most of his mana had been used up in the single attack. On the contrary, it took the purple-feathered eagle only a single concentrated bolt of lightning to pierce through the Blazing Cyclone.

Following that, merely a quarter of a second the bolt of lightning destroyed the Blazing Cyclone when Kuhn released the compressed flames.

A wall of flames emerged between him and the eagle, giving him the necessary leeway to jump to the side with all his might.

Just a moment later the purple-feathered eagle emerged through the wall of flames with its talons first. They were razor-sharp and brushed past Kuhn, only to cut through the cement.

Kuhn felt like he had escaped death by a hair's breadth. However, just as a thunderous sound emerged next to him, his heart skipped a beat.

The purple-feathered eagle released thunder from the tip of his right wing. The attack was aimed straight at Kuhn, whose heart was beating rapidly. He could see death approaching him at a breakneck speed and his face drained of all color thinking that his life would end right here and right now.

But just when Kuhn wanted to give his all to escape death, a purple flash emerged in front of him.

The entire stone foundation around Kuhn was destroyed as Dilan, who had activated both [Thunder Step] and [Second Acceleration] blasted through the fire and over the ground to give Kuhn a helping hand.

With the momentum he had accumulated, Dilan grasped Kuhn's robe before he hurled him through the air like a piece of cloth.

"Williams!!" Dilan's shout echoed through the surroundings. Williams reacted instinctively. He used his [Psychokinesis] ability to slow down Kuhn's fall, only to divert his attention back to Dilan.

However, what he saw there caused his eyes to widen. A highly concentrated bolt of lightning pierced straight through Dilan, while his distance from the purple-feathered eagle was not even 10 meters worried him.

But before Williams or anybody could help him, the concrete around Dilan burst open. A dread rose from the pits of their hearts as it was clear to the bare eye that no ordinary existence would survive this.

Even Dilan, whom nobody would call ordinary, wouldn't be able to overcome this unscathed. They had to do something to help him.

It was just at this moment when large icicles coated in bloodshot forward. They collided on the purple-feathered eagle's neck where they exploded, releasing thousands of shards that cut into the eagle's flesh.

A blood-curdling screech filled with pain escaped the eagle's mouth as its body reared up. The concentrated bolt of lightning ended but the counterattack was far from over.

Oliver emerged out of the eagle's shadows. His eyes gleamed coldly as he slashed out with his CrimsonClaw dagger.

[Violent Strike] was fully unleashed, providing Oliver with the necessary power to issue one of his strongest attacks.

The eagle's neck was already injured, which was why Oliver was certain that his attack would seriously maim, or possibly even kill the purple-feathered eagle.

But just as Oliver's hand shot out, the eagle flapped its wings to create enough force to change its position and evade it.

Oliver's attack missed its target and the eagle received the opportunity to snap at Oliver with its beak.

The purple-feathered eagle was much faster than Oliver. This was something Oliver hadn't calculated in his attack when he had issued it.

Thus, he could only frown deeply when he saw that the monster was faster and about to bite off his head.

[Shadow Walk]!

Instinctively, Oliver disappeared into the eagle's shadows to retreat. Simultaneously, a volley of arrows that were aimed at the eagle's eyes impacted its head. Even if they missed their target it was enough to distract the purple-feathered eagle.

Making use of this opportunity, a blazing serpent emerged to the eagle's right. It coiled around the eagle's right wing before tremendous force pulled a dark figure closer.

Dilan survived the bolt of lightning that had attacked him head-on.

He was not unscathed, and his injuries were not to be underestimated either. However, [Bracing Pain] had already amplified his stats, meaning that his Health stats was currently 200 times greater than that of the average human before the Primordial Ascension.

If he couldn't heal, while having an additional amplification from his Origin ability, [Regeneration], then nobody would be able to overcome this type of attack.

Dilan used the Blazing Serpentine Balde to push himself forward and closer to the eagle. Simultaneously, he restricted its movement for a short moment. Within the blink of an eye, he catapulted his body forward and landed on the eagle's back.

Meanwhile, a wonderful notification appeared right in front of him.

[Host has been struck by a bolt of lightning with the destructive force of a Tier-2 ability. First requirement to upgrade the ability <Thunder Step> has been completed. Get struck by lightning 4/5→5/5]

"Playtime is over, you fat angry bird!"

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Chapter 293 Near-death

Dilan was tightly holding onto the eagle's plumage as it reared up. Its physical strength was stronger than Dilan's but that did not matter in the current situation.

The Blazing Serpentine Blade had disappeared in Dilan's storage ring and he was using all his might to not fall off the eagle's back. It tried to shake him off hard and moved violently while making use of its wings, talons, and head but Dilan maintained an iron grip.

Lifting one hand, a CrimsonClaw dagger appeared within it. He spun it inside his hand smoothly before he used his whole force to pierce the dagger inside the purple-feathered eagle.

When the CrimsonClaw dagger's tip and the eagle came into contact, Dilan heard a crack. Pain spread through his entire left hand all of a sudden and his eyes widened slightly.

"I cannot even injure you despite using my whole strength and the CrimsonClaw Dagger?" Dilan grit his teeth in annoyance as he felt how the CrimsonClaw dagger crumbled in his hand.

His hand was not broken from the crackling metal that reduced to pieces in his hand but that was merely owed to his high Health stat. Dilan was quickly healing, which allowed him to overcome what awaited him just a moment later.

As it was rendered unable to use any physical means to attack Dilan, the purple-feathered Eagle screeched out in anger. It created a highly concentrated bolt of lightning on its back.

The monster planned to attack Dilan with a bolt of lightning at first but because it could tell that Dilan's agility was not to be underestimated the purple-feathered eagle evenly spread out the bolt of lightning all over its back.

"Argghh!!" A groan escaped Dilan as he felt electricity charging through his entire body. Blood trickled out of his nose but Dilan didn't even think of letting go of the purple-feathered eagle.

He held onto its feathered body tightly, while seeing that the monster changed its tactic again. Instead of trying to attack Dilan, the eagle started to attack Ailee and the others.

Blood-Ice needles blasted in the eagle's face before it reached the others but the attacks barely fazed the monster.

The purple-feathered eagle blocked Victoria's hail of Blood-Ice attacks with its wings before it lunged at Ailee, who was the closest to the monster and therefore an easy target.

Oliver appeared in Ailee's shadow. He screamed out in rage and was ready to give his life if he could protect Ailee by doing that. Using his entire mana, he activated [Shadow Image] to create two shadow images of himself while his body was shrouded in shadows as well.

Simultaneously, he executed [Violent Strike] with all three shadow images. Shadow images couldn't be used to attack or defend under normal circumstances but Oliver ignored this as he used his entire mana to fuse the shadow images in the shadows that shrouded him.

Through this, his Violent strike became much stronger as the mana normally utilized for three [Violent strike] uses was executed in one. The shadow images merged with his attack providing an additional enhancement in Oliver's attack.

Oliver slashed at the eagle's beak with all his might as it dove down at them. The purple-feathered eagle was not the slightest bit scared as it faced Oliver's attack head-on.

Rather than fear, its eyes were overflowing with mockery. It was almost as if the monster had expected something like this.

For the first time since the Primordial Ascension had started, Oliver and the others witnessed the scheming of a seemingly ordinary monster. The purple-feathered eagle was clearly more intelligent than other monsters, which one could tell when it opened its beak to shoot a bolt of lightning out of it.

The bolt of lightning collided with Oliver's attack and it was just a second later that Oliver's entire body was momentarily paralyzed. He was unable to move and he would have fallen to the ground if it was not for his feet that were firmly planted on the ground.

The purple-feathered eagle didn't waste time after throwing a bolt of lightning at Oliver as it closed its beak to continue the attack.

Oliver could see death dancing in front of him as the eagle's beak got closer with a speed that exceeded his own by far.

However, just when Oliver was about to get pierced by the beak of the purple-feathered eagle, it let out a horrendous screech.

The monster's attack was forcefully interrupted as multiple blazing Molotov daggers, arrows, fireballs and Blood-Ice icicles exploded right on the eagle's face.

All these attacks were more than enough to distract the purple-feathered eagle but Dilan's attack was what caused the monster to scream out.

He had manifested another CrimsonClaw dagger in his hand moments after the first one turned into thousands of shards.

However, this time Dilan didn't even think about attacking the purple-feathered eagle as stupidly as before.

The monster had a much higher physical resistance than its mana resistance. Dilan concluded this because Victoria's attacks were working while his attack hadn't worked.

He knew that he was stronger than her even after she regained all her strength. By connecting the dots he realized that he had made a grave mistake and chosen the wrong way to attack the purple-feathered eagle before.

More than 30 Units of Mana were compressed inside the CrimsonClaw dagger as he activated [Mana Slash]. The Crimson Claw dagger was already cracking because it was incapable of handling any more mana that could be compressed in the blade's rather small body.

Dilan didn't care about this at all as he continued to attack. The Mana Slash cut inside the monster's neck the moment Dilan released it.

This was what caused the purple-feathered eagle to give a whimpered cry of pain. Instinctively, it sensed that something was wrong. Flapping its wings it took flight in the air, while Dilan was still clinging to its back.

Angered and annoyed, the eagle was using the vast majority of mana to prepare to attack Dilan with all its might. Nobody had been able to face it before but the eagle now realized that it had been too arrogant. It fought too recklessly and ended up in a situation, where it was not able to escape anymore, not if it didn't make use of every weapon and trick in its arsenal.

However, Dilan noticed this and he didn't want to allow the Eagle to flee, let alone that he was going to get roasted by the attack the monster was about to discharge in the air.

"Even if your physical resistance is fucking high, there has to be a limit, you fucking piece of shit!!" Dilan screamed out and activated [Bearer of Pain] to refill the entire mana he had used up.

The more life force was drained from Dilan the stronger he started to feel. [Bracing Pain]'s amplification increased the more severe his injuries grew and the moment he reached the highest amplification, Dilan was ready to end the purple-feathered eagle's life.

The third CrimsonClaw dagger was filled with a total of 50 Units of Mana. This was everything he could utilize to activate [Mana Slash]'s strongest attack.

It may not be possible for the CrimsonClaw dagger to make the most use of a Mana Slash that had been activated with 50 Units of Mana but that was not something Dilan was concerned about.

The overflowing mana could just discharge within the purple-feathered Eagle, killing it!

Issuing a war cry, Dilan used his Strength that exceeded 120 Units after all the amplifications he received and brought down his hand tightly gripping the crumbling CrimsonClaw dagger.

It pierced through the eagle's purple feathers, and the skin underneath before sinking right into its flesh.

When the CrimsonClaw dagger pierced through the flesh he released the [Mana Slash] that shot out at once.

Just a moment later the CrimsonClaw dagger was destroyed but Dilan couldn't care less about that as the strongest attack he had ever created wreaked havoc inside the purple-feathered eagle.

The Mana Slash cut through its flesh, bones, and internal organs and it was not even two seconds after Dilan's final attack that the remnants of mana were released explosively.

The eagle's body expanded and it looked like it was about to die.

But Dilan was not patient enough to wait for it to die. He wanted it to die right here and right now without giving a way to escape.

Lifting both hands over his head, he used all his remaining mana to shroud his hands with it. Tightly holding his hands together he brought his arms down at the exact same location he pierced through the eagle's flesh.

"Die!!"

Chapter 294 Tier-2

Even if the purple-feathered Eagle was powerful, it was impossible to stay unfazed when the compromised force Dilan was able to release smashed onto it.

We were talking about the impact on a small spot equivalent to more than 120 times the average human's strength before the Primordial Ascension after all!

With an ear-splitting sound, the monster smashed on the ground barely twitching faintly.

It was lying inside a huge crater holding onto the last straws of its life. The purple-feathered eagle was trying to desperately clutch all the hope it could as a painful scream of desperation escaped its crippled body.

The Mana Slash combined with the terrifying impact Dilan had executed on its neck broke it, rendering the monster incapable of escaping.

But despite the unbearable pain that spread through the monster's body and its incapability to move properly, it was still twitching and trying to do everything it could.

Dilan saw this through his blurred sight. He was not completely unscathed either. Some of his life force had been deprived and the impact with which he landed on the ground was not to be underestimated in his state.

But his eyes were ice-cold when looking at the eagle below him. Not even the slightest trace of mercy could be seen within them.

"You are a tough one, huh?" He mumbled, stumbling against the monster's body as he took a few breaths to get back to his senses.

Dilan knew that the fight was over but he couldn't allow the purple-feathered Eagle to have the slightest bit of leeway.

It was unlikely that the monster could flee in its current injured state but the impossible had become possible with the appearance of the Primordial Ascension.

With that in mind, Dilan lifted his hands once again. He coiled them into fists as he continued to smash them onto the barely moving monster.

One smash after another landed on the purple-feathered eagle, whose cries turned more and more miserable and weak. Dilan landed one blow after another before the eagle fell silent once and for all.

As blood splattered on his face, Dilan's fists went numb and he lost track of how many times he had hit the monster.

Only when his Stamina was depleted and a cold hand reached out for him did he stop moving.

"It's dead, Dilan...calm down..." Victoria appeared behind him. Her hand was resting on his bloodied shoulder as she looked at the heavily breathing Dilan.

There was no trace of lust or the uncontrollable intent to continue to fight. She ignored the horrifying sight around Dilan and kept her eyes fixated on him as she wiped the blood off his face.

She seemed worried, which was the complete opposite to the behavior they had seen her showcase since they had gotten to know her.

Victoria was not someone who worried a lot about others.

Despite her unusual behavior nobody said anything. Everyone stared at Dilan in shock.

They had witnessed just how powerful the purple-feathered eagle was. This type of monster was not something anyone could have handled....except Dilan.

"Even if Yvonne, Kathrine, and everyone else would have joined the fight...we wouldn't have been able to defeat it, right?" Oliver asked in a weak and nearly inaudible voice as he looked at the remnants of the beast that had nearly churned him not too long ago.

He had barely survived the attack, and that was also only thanks to the dense shadows that had shrouded him the moment he was struck by the bolt of lightning.

"Only Victoria's attacks showed signs of inflicting damage to the eagle...and even that was negligible. They barely worked..." Ailee spoke while supporting Oliver to get back on his feet. She held onto him tightly as if she would never let him go again.

Because of that, Oliver smiled faintly even if it was painful. All the pain was worth it as long as he could protect Ailee! He leaned on her and his gaze lingered on her face as if he wanted to say something.

"Don't say something stupid, or I will throw you aside," Ailee sneered the moment Oliver opened his mouth.

He closed his mouth again and his expression mirrored that of a kicked puppy before he accepted the given situation.

"One step at a time it is then..." He could only mumble before feeling pain in his sides. Ailee had pinched him before her gaze flicked back to Dilan, and studied him for a moment.

"Looks like Victoria will become a precious and powerful member of our group..." She said to which Oliver could only agree,

"...and a rival for Kathrine and Yvonne," Oliver added, just to feel Ailee pinch him a second time.

Oliver smiled at her reaction but he could also see concern in her eyes.

"Just let them take care of their problem. They're adults and old enough to take care of themselves...especially Dilan," Williams suddenly joined their discussion as he appeared by their side.

He showed a trace of jealousy because he could tell that many women were interested in Dilan.

It was not as if nobody was interested in him but most women were basically after the protection a powerful Ascender could give his or her lovers!

However, that was not the case in Dilan's situation. There may be many women who were after him because of his strength but Kathrine, Yvonne or Victoria were certainly not interested in him just because of his strength.

Victoria was a unique case about which Williams couldn't say much but her genuine worry was enough for him to believe that she truly cared about him.

"Victoria must feel a special connection to him...I guess," Silas suddenly stated, trying to find the only logical explanation for Victoria's behavior.

"Maybe it's his blood, or maybe something else," he added before quieting down once again.

The reason for Victoria's weird behavior from the moment they had encountered her didn't matter to Silas at all. He had other things to think about and had enough on his plate to worry about.

Silas had been useless in the entire fight. He had been more of a burden than help, which frustrated him, especially after seeing how exhausted and weak Dilan looked.

"Am I even of any use to Dilan?" He wondered while his gaze lingered on his leader; the strongest man he had ever seen in his life.

Everyone knew that Dilan's past hadn't been easy. Nobody was able to find out something about his life before the Primordial Ascension but his behavior in certain situations and the scars all over his body was more than enough to understand that he had lived a rough life.

"He won't throw me away, right? I just need one more chance..." Silas thought, gritting his teeth. He had been nothing more than a burden in both fights which he had fought by Dilan's side. Silas knew that but he didn't want to give up, not after what he had just witnessed.

Dilan obliterated the monster that had nearly killed all of them by using attacks that exceeded the norms of anything Dilan had ever demonstrated!

He activated the same abilities he normally used but their strength exceeded the threshold of power his weapons could handle.

The CrimsonClaw Daggers were considered the strongest weapons owned by anyone in their group. They were razor-sharp and extremely durable.

Yet, those terrifying powerful weapons, which not a single Tier-1 existence could block without sustaining injuries, shattered after colliding with the purple-feathered eagle's body.

Dilan barely managed to stand up without realizing anything that happened around him. He didn't hear the others talking and neither did he feel that Victoria was trying to help him.

His entire focus was solely on the head of the monster he had just killed. Dilan's vision was blurred but as if his muscle memories were acting for him, he got his hands on a fist-sized Essence crystal.

It was thrice the size of ordinary Tier-1 Essence crystals and the Essence that swirled within was much stronger.

"A Bronze Essence crystal? Is that why it was so powerful?" Dilan mumbled incomprehensibly for everyone else to understand as he absorbed the Essence.

He needed the invigorating sensation of the Essence, otherwise, he would collapse on the ground without the ability to do anything against it.

[<Bronze> Essence of Tier-2 Level 5 Thunderbolt Eagle has been absorbed → +1.7 Strength, +0.9 Health, +0.4 Stamina, +4.8 Agility, +6.3 Mana]

[Essence pool has been filled. Host reached Level 13(Tier-1)! +1.0 Status points can be allocated!]

[Essence pool has been filled. Host reached Level 14(Tier-1)! +1.0 Status points can be allocated!]

Chapter 295 Sanctum's Opportunity

Dilan's entire body was being invigorated as the Essence of the Tier-2 Thunderbolt Eagle spread through his veins.

His condition improved within seconds and his sight became clearer. All the exhaustion which he had felt from before seemed to have been wiped away. It was an amazing feeling but it astonished Dilan greatly.

'Two level ups and roughly 14 stats points...amazing!' He nearly exclaimed only to say something different, which he had taken note of.

"So pure..."

The Essence he absorbed had been dozens of times purer than the Gold Essence of the Clawed Bears. This was only obvious but it was still shocking because the purity and the humongous amount of Essence he had just absorbed were simply insane.

Under normal circumstances, Dilan would have never gotten so many status points, let alone enough Essence to level up twice. This didn't really make sense, especially not because of the Cursed Blessing [Will of the Primordial].

But the Thunderbolt Eagle was not only a whole Tier higher than Dilan but its level was also much higher.

'If the information I collected is correct, Level 25 is the highest Level an existence at Tier-1 can reach...'

That meant the Thunderbolt Eagle was close to 15 Levels higher than him at Tier-1, it had advanced to Tier-2 and leveled up no less than five times afterward. The Essence it must have accumulated to achieve all of that was tremendous, but sadly, Dilan was the one to have gained the most out of it.

"Tier-2 Essence is truly on a different level..." Dilan mumbled before he got an idea.

"Maybe hunting Tier-2 beasts would be the best?" He wondered, thinking that it would be great to level up quickly and increase his stats with ease. The stronger an opponent, the higher the use of their Essence for the hunter.

"No, that would be stupid. I could barely kill it by sacrificing my weapons and fighting recklessly..." Dilan continued to speak to himself, while Victoria was holding him up.

Dilan took a while to finish his train of thought but once he was done, he noticed that the others had already appeared around him.

All of them looked exhausted but they were calmly waiting for Dilan to give them the next order.

But instead of giving them an order, Dilan merely smiled as he stated the obvious, "We have to get stronger, much faster than our current speed of improvement!"

The others heard when Dilan mentioned that the Thunderbolt Eagle was a Tier-2 monster. They had already expected something like that but it was not as if they could actually believe that they had been facing a Tier-2 monster already.

The Primordial Ascension had happened less than 6 weeks ago, yet, the first Tier-2 monster had already appeared.

“More will come...soon, won't they?” Kuhn asked, his voice quivering with fear. The day when they left the Rian mountainside hospital was clear in his mind as day. Kuhn was haunted by these memories, the memories when the Red Dragon had emerged behind the mountainside. It was scary and a single thought was enough for him to start shuddering.

He didn't want to imagine how things would turn out if more beasts like the Red Dragon were to appear.

“Well, that was a Bronze Tier-2 monster. If we follow a 'normal' and linear process, we should face more ordinary Tier-2 monsters first before Bronze Tier-2 monsters emerge. But it's not like the progress of monsters would come to a stop just because we want them to.

There might already be Gold Tier-2 monsters out there and we were lucky enough not to meet them,” Dilan spoke in a calm but serious voice. The Vampires they faced had already been at a high level as well.

It wouldn't have taken them long before reaching the maximum Level at Tier-1. Afterward, they would have advanced to Tier-2, thereby gaining immeasurable strength.

It was impossible to say how much stronger one would become by advancing from Tier-1 to Tier-2 but Dilan predicted that the difference was even higher than the first advancement.

The only difference was that one wouldn't choose an occupation while advancing but that the occupation would probably become stronger. But Dilan could only make predictions. It was not as if he had the ability to see in the future and tell whether or not his thoughts were correct.

“If that was only a Bronze Tier-2 monster, what would happen if there were more of them, or even stronger ones appeared?” Silas mumbled, imagining exactly what would happen. He began to shudder as well and his helpless gaze involuntarily turned over to Dilan.

Their leader looked quite calm, which reassured everyone. However, they also knew that Dilan had barely been strong enough to defeat the Tier-2 Thunderbolt Eagle. His strongest weapons were now destroyed and it was obvious that he wouldn't be able to face another Tier-2 monster right now.

“Looks like we need to grasp the opportunity provided by the Sanctum,” Williams said, his gaze lingering on the corpse of the Thunderbolt Eagle.

“Let's go back to Shiron first. We need to plan that out properly, otherwise, we might be the ones who will suffer...” Ailee cautioned, her expression visibly souring at the thought of thousands of Vampires taking them by surprise and attacking them while they were unprepared.

The Sanctum of the Blood Monarch may be useful and considered a great opportunity but the fact that thousands of Vampire would be after their lives soon enough was not something great.

They needed the Sanctum Keys and all five of them were in Dilan's possession.

“Yeah, let's go back. But before that, I will force Clerens to give me what I deserve!” Dilan chuckled lightly to lighten the mood so as to calm everyone around him. Unfortunately, this didn't work well, which was why Dilan shrugged his shoulders before he stored the corpse of the Thunderbolt Eagle before he set off.

The Thunderbolt eagle's talons and beak could be turned into powerful weapons, something that Dilan needed desperately. After all, the strongest weapons they owned were entirely useless against the first Tier-2 monster they encountered!

When Dilan returned to the military base of the Blue Star camp, he was eyed weirdly. Even if the Survivors had not witnessed his fight against the Thunderbolt Eagle they were not stupid either. By connecting the dots, they figured that Dilan and his group had defeated the monster that their own soldiers were too afraid to even face.

The people they had trusted and relied on hadn't even thought about fighting. They had witnessed the terrifying power each of the bolts of lightning had caused and that was enough for the Soldiers to determine that they would die the moment they would face one of the bolts.

Even the three leaders didn't dare to venture outside. Rather than sacrificing their lives, they retreated with their people to save their skin. The Survivors didn't even want to imagine what would have happened to their entire base and their lives if it hadn't been for Dilan.

It was a frightening thought and not something the Survivors wanted to keep thinking about.

"What do you think about this?" Williams suddenly asked as he appeared next to Dilan. Victoria glared at him because she wanted to spend some alone time with Dilan but that was something Williams tried to ignore.

"What do you mean?" Dilan returned the question. Williams could have been a bit more specific, which was why Dilan smiled wryly.

"The Soldiers' behavior. Some of them were the first ones to run away and it looks like they selfishly abandoned their own people just to be the first ones to reach the most secure zones inside the military base," Williams answered Dilan's question while he kept his focus on Dilan.

There was something that intrigued him and Williams wanted to find out whether Dilan had noticed it as well or not.

"Well, isn't it obvious what will happen next? The Survivors won't be able to trust these Soldiers because they abandoned them once. Who says that they won't do it a second time?" Dilan asked a logical question which made everybody pause and think. He shrugged his shoulders before he continued,

"...but they're too weak to leave the Blue Star camp on their own. They will either try to join us, wait for some other group to appear in the white shining armor to take them in, or they will just give up on life and accept the fact that they cannot trust their own people if a powerful monster were to appear." Dilan was still smiling lightly. He pointed out the most likely scenario, while only leaving out one potential outcome..

"So you don't think that they will start fighting for themselves? That they will try to become stronger to prevent being forced to rely on someone else ever again?" Williams asked with a glint in his eyes.

However, Dilan could only shake his head while pointing at the Survivors around them. They were shivering in fright, their eyes were filled with desperation and they could hardly control their body so as to not collapse on the ground.

“Nope, never!”

Chapter 296 Nutcase

“Nope, never!” Dilan said in all honesty. He sincerely hoped that he would be wrong in his analysis of the behavior of the Survivors around him but it was unlikely.

The Survivors in the Blue Star camp had been spoiled and they were told that there was no need for them to fight. However, it was the exact opposite in Dilan’s group. Everyone had to do something, whether it was to fight, to support the combatants, or do something else.

But the most important was the fact that every single member in Dilan’s group was required to have some combat training. Every once in a while even the Ascenders with non-combat occupations were told to leave the safety zone to fight monsters.

This was not bullying or torture but a necessity. Everyone would give his or her utmost to make sure that the Survivors could stay safe under all circumstances. However, if thousands of monsters were to attack the base all of a sudden, it would be nearly impossible for Dilan and the others to protect the Survivors.

Dilan wanted his people to be prepared for the worst and that was only possible if they gained some combat experience if they knew how to fight, and if they could kill.

Teaching and ingraining this into their daily activities was difficult and he agreed that it was much easier if one were to accept that only those, who were willing, had to know how to fight. Fortunately, making things easy was not something Dilan was good at.

He liked the challenges and accepted them at face value. It would help him become stronger, whether it was physically or mentally.

“Just look at these disgusting human beings...if you don’t force them to do anything, they would just wait for the Grim reaper to take them,” Victoria suddenly spat in disgust. She looked at all the Survivors around her with contempt and could only shudder at their behavior.

Most humans were selfish, entitled, and arrogant in her opinion. Their arrogance was baseless, their entitled behavior wouldn’t bring them anything but pain in the New Era, and their selfishness would break any trust that was built between humans the moment one of them abandoned another in the face of danger.

Dilan’s group was much better in that regard. Dilan told the others to stay back and to let him fight but they joined them regardless to help him out. The actual usefulness of their help was questionable but that didn’t matter right now.

Victoria liked the humans around Dilan, which was a plus point considering that she wanted to join Dilan’s group because of him and nobody else.

She pushed her body against Dilan’s arm and held him tightly. Her breasts squeezed against his arms and she batted her eyelashes at him.

‘Here we go again...’ Williams just thought, rolling his eyes, and questioning what exactly was wrong with this Vampire and why the hell he couldn’t find someone like her.

“Yeah, I don’t like it here either but calm down,” Dilan said, ignoring Williams’ stare that spoke volumes of what he felt about the situation.

In the following minutes, Dilan found Clerens, who looked at him as if he was a true monster.

“Shouldn’t you be a bit happier that I defeated the monster that nearly destroyed your entire base?” Dilan furrowed his eyebrows, and smiled lightly before he added,

“Now I want to take a look at your treasury. I saw that you guys have a small place to concoct potions as well. So don’t even try to hide your recipes!”

Dilan was laughing lightly and one would presume that he was joking. However, Clerens could tell that Dilan was being anything but fun right now.

And after witnessing what Dilan was actually capable of, Clerens didn’t even think about hiding anything. It was a great deal to sacrifice mere three items in exchange for staying alive.

“Just take three things and leave afterward...please,” Clerens requested before sighing deeply as he walked over to the treasury.

“Everything you can wish for is inside the treasury,” He said gloomily before he walked away, trying to hide from the humiliating gaze Victoria threw at him.

“And that is a Vampire with noble blood. To think that Vampires would reach such a low standard...” Victoria grumbled before tightening her hold over Dilan and rubbing her body against his.

“Well, whatever...as long as I have you it’s fine!!” Victoria’s eyelashes fluttered as she gave him a devious grin. Dilan could only smile weirdly before he moved through the treasury.

Calling it that might be an overstatement because there were only a bunch of weapons, a few books, recipes, and other stuff inside a large room. However, it was better than nothing. Dilan couldn’t actually complain.

He was already happy with the gains they had made from killing the Thunderbolt Eagle. The monster’s Essence crystals and its body were of exceptional use and value after all.

“By the way, why are you acting as if we have known each other for decades, and that we have been lovers for years?” Dilan suddenly asked as he walked through the treasury, and took a look at various items.

He read through the notifications that popped up in front of him when he picked up the treasures while acting as if the answer to the question he had asked didn’t matter much.

Secretly, however, he was trying to figure out what made Victoria follow him and act like they were in a relationship. It was simply too weird, after all.

“A reason...a reason...” Victoria suddenly mumbled trying to think what exactly was the first thing that had attracted her to him.

“You slaughter everyone and everything if you want to...you’re merciless to your enemies...you look sexy while fighting...you don’t know how to hold back...you don’t back off at the sight of dangers...you have

nice blood...and something pulls me toward you, I guess?" Victoria answered, not sure if she had missed out on anything.

Meanwhile, Dilan lifted his eyebrows while his head turned toward her. He stared down straight at her without avoiding making eye contact

"But you look a lot sexier when your eyes are on me~" She added all of a sudden, pulling herself closer to him once again.

And from that moment on Dilan knew that he had picked up a real nutcase, a true psycho...

Nonetheless, Dilan smiled. A nutcase was still better than a hypocrite. Victoria was clingy but she was not actually dangerous, not to him, at least.

"I think my behavior is weird as well but it's not like I can do anything against my instincts. Vampires usually follow their instincts before they think rationally," Victoria was still leaning against him, rubbing herself against him. She was lightly caressing his back to relax him but Dilan could only look at her in doubt.

"Well, if that were really the case, it would hardly be possible for Vampires to stay a myth until now. Everyone on Milarn would know about the existence of Vampires if what you said was really the truth," Dilan retorted.

It was not like he doubted the truth behind Victoria's reasoning to follow him but he was not foolish enough to believe everything she said. He took everything with a grain of salt.

"We have been manipulating humans since ancient times. Do you really think we would allow anyone to figure out about our existence? I mean hiding our existence is not necessary anymore but many will prefer laying low than revealing themselves to the humans. After all, despite most humans being cowards, there are some, who are much stronger than others...and fearless!" Victoria seemed to hint something, but Dilan didn't even realize that.

He could only tell that she was trying to undress him while distracting him with her words. Hence, he stopped her by grasping her wrist lightly.

"Now is not the time to be naughty!" Dilan scolded while holding her arm down.

"You are so fierce~" She exclaimed using her other hand to caress his cheek, "Let's play later then~"

A moment later, she twisted the arm Dilan was holding to wriggle out of his grasp. Dilan heard the sound of bones breaking, which shocked him. He had not even held her hand with much force.

But as he looked at Victoria to make sure that nothing was wrong with her, he saw that her expression didn't change a bit. She still looked as crazy as before. In the blink of an eye, she placed both her hands on his head and held his face inches apart from her own.

"You're mine now!" She declared as she pressed her lips on his.

'A real nutcase...'

Chapter 297 Finally back

Victoria didn't mingle around. She disappeared moments after kissing him, leaving behind a baffled Dilan.

"She just does whatever she wants..." He mumbled, shaking his head while a small smile appeared on his face.

It was very interesting to keep someone like Victoria around them. Even if she was doing whatever she wanted to, it was actually not that difficult to block her off.

Dilan never really did that despite stating his boundaries to her every now and then. Victoria was capable of clearing Dilan's mind. That was not something everyone could do easily and until now he had not come across anyone who was as interestingly weird as her.

He walked through the treasury with a much calmer mind while thinking about future events. Meanwhile, the memory of her soft lips pressing on his own flashed through his mind once in a while, which made it much easier for Dilan to keep his calm.

At the thought of facing thousands of Vampires, Dilan would either get excited and show that he was completely prepared to have the time of his life fighting all his opponents while shedding blood, or he would feel depressed because there were bound to be casualties when his group would clash with the Vampires.

Both reactions were not helpful in any way, which was why Victoria's presence had been quite helpful, to help him find a balanced state while simultaneously releasing the tension in his body.

"These treasures look interesting...Oh, what is that? That would be perfect for..." Dilan spoke in astonishment as he finally found a few treasures that were actually pretty useful for their group.

He had never expected to find a lot but the treasures he found proved his expectations to be completely wrong.

Once he was done collecting three treasures, Dilan returned to the others. Victoria was also standing in the group, while her gaze kept flicking to him every now and then.

Her expression seemed to be full of questions and she was lightly touching her lip as if to feel something.

"Just what is it?" She mumbled quietly, not wanting anyone to hear her. However, an Ascender's senses were much higher than an ordinary human's senses. Dilan had picked up her words, just like everyone else as he joined their group.

"What's the issue?" He straightforwardly asked, looking deep in her eyes that had returned to their marine blue color.

"N-nothing...don't mind me..." Victoria said before retreating a few steps.

Her gaze was still fixated on Dilan but her behavior was even weirder than usual. And that meant quite a lot.

'Is she her 'normal' self as long as her eyes are not crimson?' Dilan wondered because he felt like Victoria transformed into a completely different woman the moment her eyes turned crimson.

This would be quite interesting and if it were to be the truth, Dilan's life would become much easier. He would be able to figure her out as long as he would know which side of her was he speaking to.

Dilan felt that it made sense but also that it didn't really make sense. He smiled at his own thoughts before getting back to the more important things.

"We should leave now. But because almost everyone is exhausted, let's just use the Van again. Whoever wants to can hop in and drive the way back," Dilan suggested calmly when everyone's attention was on him.

His body might be invigorated but he was still not completely fit. Meanwhile, Silas was injured and Oliver's appearance resembled a piece of coal not too long ago.

It was fine to rest a bit inside the Van especially because they would drive only a few hours.

"So we're done here? Finally!" Ailee exclaimed in joy and she turned in the direction of the van without hesitation. She was ready to drive if that was necessary but she didn't want to stay in the Blue Star camp anymore.

The Survivors' gazes were disgusting, even more so that of the Ascenders. She felt like she was an appetizer, and the thought unnerved her. If possible, she would have left the Blue Star camp the moment they killed the Thunderbolt Eagle.

"I'll get some more fuel and then we can set off," Williams stated before he disappeared. It took him a few minutes to return with a heavy canister in his hands.

"Looks like nobody wants to stay here anymore. Bidding farewell to Clerens is not necessary either because he might curse me, soo....let's go!" Dilan clasped his hands together and they set off without wasting any more time.

They entered the van that was standing in the Blue star camp's base, unscathed and ready to be driven several hundred kilometers in the next eight hours.

It was already late evening when they set off and they only returned home when the first rays of sunlight unveiled themselves on the horizon.

"Finally we're back!" Ailee spoke excitedly, tightly gripping the steering wheel. It was bent but she couldn't care less about that. She was at home, and it was all that mattered!

"It has been half a week since you left..." Oliver mumbled, trying to figure out why Ailee was so excited. But in response to his words, she only glared at him and turned her head away before huffing audibly.

After they arrived in Shiron, it didn't take long before the first Ascenders found their van. They were vigilant of potential threats for a few seconds and stared at the vehicle with squinted eyes before they saw that Ailee was driving the van.

Everyone returned to the base, anticipating hearing the grand stories of what must have happened when Ailee and the others were out with Dilan. It was impossible for nothing special to have happened!

When the van reached the base, Dilan and everyone else was greeted heartily. It was almost as if one was in medieval times and the Knights had returned from the battlefield with a glorious victory, of course.

Oliver and Kuhn enjoyed this feeling the most, while Dilan's expression didn't reveal much emotion. He took a glance at over his group and saw that almost everyone's expression was filled with genuine happiness.

There was no grief or anything like that perceptible in their eyes or body language, which calmed Dilan a lot.

'It looks like nothing bad happened when I was away. That's great...' He thought almost immediately, just to feel something familiar wrapped around his arm.

"No way?!" A Survivor blurted out subconsciously which was followed by many others gasping in surprise.

Dilan didn't turn his head to look at what was going on to his right because it was obvious.

Victoria's eyes had turned crimson and she seemed to have become more possessive of him than before.

She held his arm and was tightly clutching it to her chest but Dilan didn't really mind it.

"What the hell..." A familiar voice suddenly echoed through the surroundings, just for someone else in the same direction to start cursing, "Who's that bitch?!"

Dilan turned his head to look at the sisters Kathrine and Yvonne. Their eyes glared at Victoria as if she was dead meat, which was something Dilan had not expected.

He lifted his right eyebrow and was about to ask them what was going on when he noticed that Ailee rushed over to the sisters.

"Calm down girls!! I'll explain...or I will try..." She hurriedly said while trying to pull them away from the crowd.

"You see...eh...it's difficult to explain...but eh...Dilan didn't do anything wrong...I think..."

Chapter 298 The Sibling's alliance

"What did you just say?" Old Jeff's voice resounded in the large office where more than a dozen people were situated. All of them were staring in a single direction.

Old Jeff looked at the young man, who sat opposite him with an eerily calm expression on his face.

"So...not only do Vampires exist but thousands of them will attack our camp soon? And you are actually happy about that?..." Old Jeff asked for the second time while feeling weak in his legs. He slumped back in his seat without being able to do anything against it before he took a deep breath.

"Are you nuts?" He asked, finally speaking out everyone's thoughts out loud.

“Probably, but what does it matter?” Dilan returned the question with the same smile he had on his face most of the time.

“You can ask Ailee or anyone else, who was with me when we eradicated the Blood Legion in the fight against the Thunderbolt Eagle. They’ll all agree that we need the Sanctum of the Blood Monarch to grow stronger. A system notification is not something that appears without reason. It has to be an opportunity with exceptional value for those who overcome all hurdles!” Dilan spoke in a serious tone.

He was not as nonchalant as he answered Old Jeff’s question. The reality had clearly shown them that they were too weak. Dilan was barely strong enough to kill the Bronze Tier-2 Thunderbolt Eagle and he was pretty sure that the sole reason for their victory was all the increases he received from exterminating the Blood Legion.

Absorbing their Blood Essence increased his strength to the bare minimum he had needed to kill the Thunderbolt Eagle.

“I can only fight one Tier-2 monster at a time and it is impossible for me to handle several of them at once, not with my current strength, at least. As for everyone else, only Victoria and Yvonne may be able to actually injure an ordinary Tier-2 monster. Let alone killing a Tier-2 monster, even running away won’t be possible for anyone in this group.” Dilan explained the situation in a very clear manner.

Yvonne was unofficially considered the second strongest member in Dilan’s group, with Dilan being the strongest. Nobody except Ailee and the others witnessed Victoria’s strength before but it was quite obvious that Dilan regarded her strength highly.

Thus mentioning the strongest Ascenders after him in context to the fact that they were unlikely to be able to kill a Tier-2 monster on their own, everyone turned serious as well.

“So...you want to make use of the fact that you are in possession of these keys that lead to the Sanctum to annihilate all the Vampires for us to gain more strength?”

If I heard correctly, we won’t level up from absorbing Blood Essences but will gain lots of stats in addition to a few other gains...and that in turn is supposed to help us kill stronger beasts to gain more status points Essence?” Bianne asked in doubt. She may not be one of their group’s fighters but she was still able to use her head and think rationally.

The situation sounded a bit risky in her opinion and Bianne could tell that Dilan was fully aware of this. However, this was especially what bothered her.

After all, this meant that the threat of Tier-2 monsters was much higher than she could fathom.

While most people in their small circle of a dozen people were still trying to wrap their minds around the fact that Vampires have existed on Milarn even before the Primordial Ascension, Bianne and the others were clearly able to adapt real quick to new situations.

But even if they were fast at adjusting, it didn’t mean that they could ignore everything that happened around them.

The tension in the room was palpable because of everything Dilan had revealed not too long ago but the gaze of two particular women made it almost unbearable for some of them to breathe.

Kathrine's body released electricity currents every now and then, while Yvonne's entire existence seemed to be overflowing with the aura of death. It looked like both were about to pounce at the woman, who was clearly vying for Dilan's attention.

Victoria's eyes were crimson and by now everyone could tell that she was a Vampire. She was a powerful Vampire and was a new addition to their group which was perfectly fine with everyone. However, nobody could really understand how she ended up falling head over heels for Dilan, in only three days at that.

She was basically begging for his attention and didn't hesitate to use her body and charm to achieve this.

Meanwhile, Dilan didn't do anything against Victoria's advances. He accepted them and kept a light smile on his face. However, instead of letting his bestial desires influence him, Dilan had everything in his control.

Contrary to the vast majority of powerful male Ascenders, Dilan wasn't staring at Victoria with uncontrollable lust and the desire to tear her clothes apart and ravage her right here and now.

This was the only reason why Yvonne and Kathrine were able to restrain themselves from attacking Victoria. They trusted that Dilan would thwart her advances sooner or later.

"This fucking bitch...she won't stop, will she?" Kathrine suddenly mumbled quietly and Yvonne could only shake her head lightly.

"Dilan's willpower might be strong but if she keeps going, he won't reject her...she is beautiful, and it's not like Dilan is a monk either..." Yvonne hated to state it out loud but it was a fact that Dilan was just a man and even he had his wants, just like any other ordinary person.

He was not committed to anyone and it was not as if he would do something illegal if he were to sleep with Victoria. It was already a wonder that he was able to control himself right now, while nearly everyone else was staring at Victoria with lust in their eyes.

Even if Yvonne didn't like to acknowledge it, Victoria was beautiful, proactive and if Dilan were to reject her, this would either mean that he was in love with someone else and loyal to that person, or that he was actually impotent.

Because neither Yvonne nor Kathrine wanted the former, let alone the latter to be the case, they could only curse their rotten luck, voice out their complaints to each other, and try to think of ways to get rid of their common enemy

Unbeknownst to the sisters, they had formed an alliance against Victoria, while unofficially acknowledging that they had feelings for Dilan.

Everyone had noticed this already but the sisters never wanted to acknowledge it out loud. In their opinion, it was not time to fall in love, to become lovers, let alone to think about a relationship and what would come after. They were fighting for their survival, and every single day something terrible could happen.

However, Dilan's strength, his actions, and the fact that he didn't exploit his strength to get whatever he wanted whenever he wanted making him even more attractive.

He would never force a woman to sleep with him and his control over his desires was remarkable almost to the extent that even the women were astonished.

In the end, Dilan fought for all women in their group by establishing rules to protect them and he didn't hesitate to execute his rules and the punishments that followed.

It was only obvious that many women had fallen for him but Dilan had never been interested in them. He did not let anyone approach him easily and had set clear boundaries to make sure that nobody bothered him. Only a few people were allowed to get close to him, including the siblings, Ailee, Bianne, Oliver, Williams, Sven, Xenia, and so on.

However, Victoria was definitely an unknown variable, a very dangerous one as both Yvonne and Kathrine had been too certain that Dilan would keep rejecting everyone...almost as if he was waiting for them to open their hearts to him and to wait for them to approach him.

But that was just their fantasy because Dilan didn't really think about anything when blocking off everyone else.

He just did so to keep his mind at peace and to focus on the most important tasks; to protect his own life and the lives of the people around him.

"Okay...let's just say that it would make sense to fight several waves of various vampire groups that would attack us...how are we supposed to fight them? You just told us that the higher Vampires, or whatever they're called, are much harder to kill than anyone else and that all of them are basically powerful and stronger than the average Ascender in our group.

What does it matter if Tier-2 monsters are a big threat to us if we cannot survive the attacks of these Vampire groups?" Sven sounded a bit frustrated with Dilan but that was quite understandable.

He demanded way too much from his group. All of them would be killed just because they were not able to meet Dilan's requirements. Dilan was just about to say something when Victoria's long fingernails tapped on the wooden table in front of her.

Her action was not special but everyone's attention was drawn to her as she released her charm. A provoking smile formed on her face.

"Aren't you just a coward that is scared of dying?"

Chapter 299 The Bitch & The Whore

"Aren't you just a coward that is scared of dying?" Victoria asked with a sneer. She stared deep in Sven's eyes but ended up being disgusted by what she saw.

"Just to clarify, the noble groups you mentioned are called families, or clans and they are unlikely to collude with other families because they want to keep all the benefits of the Sanctum for themselves," Victoria said while her eyes were still ice-cold, and were lingering on Sven, who was getting uncomfortable.

Only the fact that Victoria calmly rested her body against Dilan was somewhat reassuring because their leader would intervene if Victoria were to act all of a sudden.

However, Dilan was not thinking about saving anyone because he could tell that Victoria wouldn't do something stupid right now. His mind was deep in thoughts about something Victoria told them in the Van.

'Vampire hierarchy...we should be able to exploit their hierarchy...'

The hierarchy of Vampire clans was rigid and received a bit too much importance in the Vampire society and nobody was ever able to transcend the threshold of their bloodline without the King's support.

In the end, that meant the Vampires wouldn't fight together because the Sanctum of the Old Vampire Lord and the Instance Dungeon inside the Sanctum were something all of them wanted to enter.

"We will have to fight a handful of clans at once, at most. That is also only the case if we're unlucky," Dilan shared his opinion. The others nodded their heads and the tension in the room decreased drastically. Everyone was worried about the worst-case scenario but it looked like things weren't actually that bad.

Dilan had been away only for a few days and everyone could feel that his strength had increased tremendously. If that was how much all Ascenders could improve by absorbing Blood Essences, it would be worth a shot. This was also something Yvonne agreed to.

"It won't even be necessary to fight thousands of Vampires at once. The families and clans that are the closest to the Sanctum might arrive within a short span of time but even they shouldn't be fighting together. If we make use of their rivalry, the Vampires all around us will cease to exist!" Yvonne seemed to have calmed down and she didn't glare daggers at Victoria when she shared the strategy in her mind.

However, her eyes darted to Victoria the moment she spoke the last words. This inevitably increased the tension in the room, which Dilan noticed with a faint smile on his lips.

'Interesting,' That was the only thought in Dilan's mind as he looked from Victoria to Yvonne.

Victoria was unaffected despite Yvonne's provocation and she was even smiling in return.

"If you have anything against me, we can fi—" Victoria started to speak but she was interrupted by Ailee, who suddenly joined the conversation as well by clearing her throat and trying to distract them.

"But before we can make use of the Vampire clans' rivalry, we will have to come up with a few strategies to fight Vampires. We are not Dilan and based on the way I view their combat prowess even ordinary Vampires will be stronger than our average Tier-1 Ascender!" Ailee quickly added while sweat trickled down her temples.

She had felt the need to intervene in whatever Victoria was about to say, otherwise, the meeting would end in a big brawl between the rivals of Dilan's love interests.

Of course, Ailee wanted to avoid that, but she also wanted to convince everyone that it was necessary to have a strategy to fight the masses of Vampires, whether there were thousands of Vampires or just multiple waves with hundreds of them.

“It’s only natural that we need to learn how to fight while utilizing our advantages. The Vampire families that will come after us know nothing about us if we have Victoria by our side. She told me that she is willing to reveal the special abilities of the noble Vampires who will attack us.

This will give us an advantage and the ability to change our strategies accordingly!

We can also split up the Sanctum Keys to create several groups to further distribute the pressure on everyone and enlarge the battlefield. This is just an idea of mine and we can speak about it when everyone accepts that we will fight the Vampire clans,” Dilan spoke calmly but his eyes were gleaming in excitement.

He was quite happy to be fighting the various Vampire clans. According to Victoria, they were stronger than the Mihorl clan. This may sound like bad news for others but Dilan actually liked it. If the others wouldn’t want to deal with the noble Vampires, Dilan was more than ready to kill all of them on his own.

He would gain all the benefits on his own in that case, which was why he wouldn’t feel the need to complain if someone was unwilling to fight the noble Vampires.

However, it didn’t look like anyone was interested in Dilan’s joy as most people at the gathering were forced to keep turning their heads to look at the sisters and Victoria. The tension between them was intense and nobody wanted to be caught in their fights.

“So you will betray your entire race? Looks like we will need to be careful about you as well...” Kathrine suddenly said, her voice quiet while her eyes seemed to be overflowing with hatred when looking at Victoria. Dilan raised his eyebrows in surprise. He had not expected the usually calm and composed Kathrine to act like this all of a sudden.

“Kath, what’s wrong with you?” Dilan asked almost immediately, his expression clearly showing his confusion. Kathrine was stupefied for a moment as she had not expected him to side with Victoria. The horrified expressions on her face made Victoria laugh out loud, rubbing salt to Kathrine’s injury.

“Bitch, you know nothing about me. Why are you talking to me like I’m a hypocrite? I bet you’ve killed humans before as well, so don’t even think that you’re any better than me. Get down from your imaginary throne and act like a mature person, little brat!” Victoria continued to laugh mockingly after she finished speaking. Her words were like a searing hot knife that pierced deep into Kathrine’s gut.

Kathrine had killed humans before and she didn’t feel bad about it because all of them had been evil in her opinion. Victoria would do exactly the same; kill the Vampires that were evil in her opinion.

All Vampire clans that attacked them were considered to be their enemies and one could label them evil. Thus, Victoria was actually helping them a lot if she were to reveal the noble clans’ secrets when Dilan and his group were to be attacked.

However, even if that was the case, Kathrine didn’t like Victoria and the way she acted. It was almost as if their group’s King had suddenly found his Queen. This thought was something Kathrine hated to the core and the light provocations Victoria issued were more than enough for her emotions to overflow.

“Did you just call me bitch?” Kathrine asked while gritting her teeth. She was fuming in rage and soon lightning currents began to circulate around her entire body. She stood up from her chair without hesitation, indicating that she was ready to beat Victoria into a pulp.

“Oh, fuck it...” Ailee’s groan could be heard through the entire room and there was not a single person who couldn’t feel Ailee’s emotions. The situation was fucked up and a fight was unavoidable. Looking at Kathrine dead in the eye, Victoria got up as well.

Oddly enough, Dilan was smiling lightly when he said something to Victoria. He was clearly enjoying the situation!

Victoria’s right hand lightly caressed Dilan’s chin before she finally averted her attention to Kathrine.

“You act like a bitch, so I called you one. Do you think your attitude is helping Dilan to lead these cowards into war? The Shikan plains will become a warzone, irrespective of whether Dilan throws the Sanctum keys somewhere thousands of kilometers away from this base or not. Everything has been initiated and the chain reaction has set off.

Blood and death will engulf the Shikan plains and those who are too weak will die. Will you be someone, who helps Dilan to save the people he holds dear, or will you drag him down because you are an emotionally unstable kid?” Victoria provoked Kathrine by throwing facts at her as bluntly as possible.

This was not how Victoria would usually act because she would just attack Kathrine and kill her if the young Ascender were to be her enemy.

But Dilan had requested something odd from her, which was why Victoria ended up throwing provocations at Kathrine instead of directly challenging her to fight.

“Provoke her. I want to see how she will react,” Dilan had whispered to her without intending to tell anyone what he actually wanted to figure out.

He was currently smiling as he looked at the situation that unfolded in front of him.

‘Will you back off after getting attacked, or will you face her?’ Dilan wondered with a knowing expression on his face. He knew that Kathrine could gauge Victoria’s combat prowess.

Victoria was stronger than Kathrine, by far, at that. However, something Dilan had not expected to happen, happened, which caused his smile to brighten.

Yvonne entered the fray!

“How about you stop calling my sister a bitch? You act like a whore and nobody calls you that, so stop acting like you are better than anyone here!”

Chapter 300 Ready to fight

"How about you stop calling my sister a bitch. You act like a whore and nobody calls you that, so stop acting like you are better than anyone here!" Yvonne snarled as she slammed her flat hands on the table their group sat around.

The wooden table creaked in response before it broke down.

"Was that really necessary, girl?" Dilan thought, rolling his eyes while keeping quiet. He was more interested in the situation that unfolded than the wooden table.

"Whore? Did you just call me a whore?" Victoria roared, her voice laced with anger. The room's temperature decreased by several degrees at once and shards of Blood-Ice formed on Victoria's body.

She took a step forward and kicked aside the broken parts of the wooden table. The table was smashed into smithereens, while the wooden shards were blasted through the entire room.

Everyone tensed up and the Ascenders threw Victoria a wary glance wondering if it was necessary for them to fight this monster.

Victoria didn't release even a tiny bit of mana yet. She was solely relying on her physical strength and her vampire power to exert heavy pressure that weighed down on everyone inside the large room.

The pressure was not something that could affect Dilan but everyone else clearly felt the power Victoria possessed. She was a noble Vampire, a quite old one at that. Even without the power she gained from the Primordial Ascension, Victoria was not to be underestimated.

Adding the fact that she had quenched her thirst for human blood with Dilan's blood that she considered "sacred", her vampire powers were more potent than ever before.

"Do you have a death wish?" Victoria gritted her teeth as she continued to march forward, turning the floor below her into Blood-Ice.

She had forgotten about Dilan's earlier request of simply provoking them the moment Yvonne called her a whore. Dilan noticed this but he didn't intend to intervene...not yet.

"I embrace death but I don't intend to die...maybe you want to get a taste of death?" Yvonne spoke in a defiant tone as she stared deep into Victoria's crimson glowing eyes. She was not afraid and took a step closer to Victoria as well, facing her head-on.

In the beginning, Yvonne was bothered by Victoria simply because she was too cozy with Dilan. Kathrine was jealous of every single thing Victoria did but Yvonne was just a bit bothered.

That was what she told herself, that she was just a bit bothered for her sister's sake. However, that was not the entire truth. Yvonne was not honest with herself and the glaring truth became apparent to her the longer the meeting lasted.

When her mind and the chaos of her emotions seemed to have died down, Yvonne was able to join the conversation in a seemingly calm manner. But it only took a tiny provocation that was directed at her sister for all of Yvonne's emotions to bubble up again.

Victoria had now turned into her mortal enemy, and her nemesis at once and Yvonne didn't want to lose out against her...for her sister's sake.

Even then, Yvonne was not entirely honest with herself but that was not something the young woman realized.

"Is that an invitation? Because I will happily oblige," Victoria gave a devilish grin as she revealed her fangs. Her fangs were also growing out of her mouth and began to glow crimson. Victoria's entire body revealed her intention to fight and obliterate her opponent. Bloodlust began to leak from her and shrouded Yvonne tightly.

At that moment, Kathrine appeared by Yvonne's side. She would never allow her little sister to fight the battle she would fight on her own.

Unfortunately, Kathrine was simply not strong enough to compete against Victoria. This was also why she had used her words in an attempt to stir trouble for Victoria, but that didn't seem to have worked well.

Victoria was ready to fight both sisters and not a single trace of hesitation could be perceived in her.

When the situation was about to escalate, everyone's gaze turned to Dilan. They knew that he was the only one who could prevent the worst from happening. Yet, when they saw Dilan's excited expression, they could tell that their leader had lost it.

"Is he really going to let them fight? Right here at that??" Williams suddenly asked. He didn't think that Dilan would endanger anyone else for the sake of his satisfaction. And that was correct!

When the tension reached a certain threshold, where only a tiny spark was required to initiate the start of the battle between Victoria and the sisters, Dilan cleared his throat as he got up from the ground.

Without hesitation, Dilan released his entire strength at once. The room that was already overflowing with Victoria's heavy pressure was replaced by Dilan's sudden influx of power.

Everyone felt a pressure that was three times stronger than before weighing on their body. Sven and the other weaker Ascenders were unable to move, while Victoria, Yvonne, and Kathrine flinched simultaneously.

Victoria turned around as she felt a terrifying sensation from behind her. It was as if death was lurking behind her, which instinctively forced her to calm down, otherwise, she would die for sure.

Even if it was Dilan, who released this sensation, Victoria began to understand that disobeying Dilan would end up devastatingly.

"Did he improve that much?" Kathrine suddenly mumbled as she started to breathe heavily. Her eyes were bloodshot due to the anger she had felt just a moment ago. However, right now, she felt a sudden wave of frustration and disappointment flooding through her.

Kathrine was confident that she had improved a lot during the last three days. She wanted Dilan to be proud of her progress when he returned. Little did she know that she would embarrass herself the moment Dilan revealed his true strength upon returning.

"If you guys want to fight, go outside. Killing and crippling are forbidden. Only Victoria is allowed to be severely injured," Dilan stated the rules before he retracted his powers. Several Ascenders slumped to the ground in response because their legs didn't want to obey them.

"He is so hot~" Victoria mumbled reflexively, not intending to hide her admiration for Dilan's strength and the way he acted. He was just perfect!

Dilan didn't hear what Victoria had said and he left the room to wait for the three women outside. He knew that they would fight once and for all to clear up their misunderstandings.

"Why do I feel like they're going to become best friends after this?" Dilan thought with a faint smile on his lips as he stepped through the door outside the room.

"It's definitely too hot in here..." Kathrine mumbled sarcastically while her body shivered because of the cold Ice-Blood, which had spread through the entire room.

Yvonne just lifted her eyebrow at the comments of the two women but she didn't say anything.

"I really lost my cool there..." She thought while clearing her throat to ask the most important question, "So...are we still going to fight?"

"Of course. I merely provoked you guys because Dilan told me to but I still want to beat you into a pulp for calling me a whore. Nobody, who dared to treat me this rudely, is still alive! You can be glad that Dilan doesn't allow me to kill you," Victoria answered in all seriousness.

However, oddly enough, Yvonne could tell that Victoria didn't have the intention to kill her, not anymore.

"Wait a moment!" Kathrine suddenly exclaimed and everyone turned their heads to look at her as she continued to speak, "Dilan told you to provoke us? This..."

Kathrine couldn't believe that Dilan would do this to her. She began to question Dilan's intentions and her brain seemed to be clogged which prevented her from thinking properly.

"Calm down sis. He just wanted to see how you would react if someone stronger than you provokes you," Yvonne tried to pacify Kathrine but her eyes turned serious as well.

"But I cannot accept that either. Shouldn't we beat up Dilan instead...maybe?"