

## Chapter 1174 Red Zones

Liam gazed down at Townsend's lifeless body; he felt nothing.

He barely acknowledged the corpse with a glance before looking away, feeling no remorse or pity.

Because to Liam, Townsend had gotten off lightly; a quick death was too lenient for him. Regret gnawed at Liam for not prolonging Townsend's suffering, considering Townsend's death by the Shadow Sword as far too merciful.

Liam kicked Townsend's body aside and cleaned the blade of the Shadow Sword. He felt it almost dishonored the weapon to be sullied with Townsend's blood.

After that, Liam turned to face Susannah, his expression softening into a gentle smile. "Miss Prescott, it seems we should part ways here."

Susannah was taken aback, a trace of reluctance flashing across her face.

Liam caught it but chose not to comment on it.

Dipping into his Compressed Space Containers, he retrieved a Ten-Color Element Stone acquired from the trial illusion's points store. Offering it to Susannah, he said, "Miss Prescott, you're close to reaching the sixth rank. I got this Ten-Color Element Stone from the trial illusion. It's of little use to me, so please, take it."

Normally, Susannah might have politely declined such a generous offer. However, she didn't want to refuse Liam.

She felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude, her cheeks coloring with excitement as she accepted the Ten-Color Element Stone.

She said, "Kolton... I mean, Liam, thank you so much! Once we're out of the maritime secret realm, the Prescott family will welcome you. You'll always be considered a friend of my family!"

Susannah's demeanor towards Liam remained unaffected by the fact that Liam had hidden his real identity before. In fact, she seemed to hold him in even higher regard now.

Nearby, Idris let out a sigh of relief.

He was thankful that he hadn't made any rash decisions earlier. Considering how effortlessly Liam had overpowered Fulton, Idris knew that Liam could have easily killed him as well.

As Liam prepared to leave, he suddenly remembered Shayla and Laura and turned back to Susannah.

He asked, "By the way, Miss Prescott, have you seen two women around here? One of them is seriously injured. Their names are Laura Rhodes and Shayla Alvarado."

Susannah, realizing that Liam was searching for his companions, thought back carefully.

Eventually, she shook her head and sighed. "I'm sorry. I haven't seen them."

Liam felt a twinge of disappointment but managed to muster a grateful nod. "Thank you anyway, Miss Prescott," he said.

After concluding his conversation, Liam left Susannah and Idris, his resolve firm as he prepared to resume his search for Laura and Shayla in the maritime secret realm.

Time was slipping away. The realm would seal itself in just a day.

If Laura and Shayla were still inside the maritime secret realm, finding them quickly was crucial, or they would be trapped here indefinitely if they didn't get out before the exit closed.

As time sped on, half the day had already evaporated.

Liam had spent that time darting across the realm with his Lightning Wings, searching most of the realm without pause.

Despite his exhaustive efforts, Shayla and Laura remained elusive.

Growing more anxious by the minute, Liam clung to one certainty: Laura and Shayla wouldn't leave the maritime secret realm without him.

He even returned to the small valley they had previously visited and checked again. He believed nothing untoward had happened to them there.

Furrowing his brow, Liam muttered to himself, "If they haven't left and they aren't harmed, where could they possibly be?"

Studying the map, he acknowledged he had covered most of the locations.

His gaze was suddenly captured by the red zones marked on the map—areas so treacherous that they were generally considered off-limits. He had subconsciously steered clear of these regions during his search.

A sudden realization washed over him, casting a shadow over his features.

Could it be that Shayla and Laura had wandered into one of these perilous red zones?

While Liam felt brave enough to navigate these risky areas, the sheer number of them made it impossible for him to search every one individually. Even an additional half day of searching wouldn't suffice to cover all them all.

Liam's heart tightened at the thought of abandoning Laura, who had saved his life, and Shayla, who had suffered greatly in the Glyn family because of him.

He couldn't accept that.

His resolve deepened, and he clenched his fists with renewed determination, vowing to scour every hidden corner of the maritime secret realm to locate them.

Just then, a powerful wave of longing surged from the Heart of Life shard within him.

He furrowed his brow. The force was directing him towards the Demon Forest, another daunting red zone like the Shadow Valley.

The Demon Forest was already on his planned route, due to the significance of the Heart of Life shard.

At that moment, Liam felt a strong intuition. He felt that going into the Demon Forest could actually bring him closer to finding Shayla and Laura.