

Chapter 688 The Plot

Though Julie hadn't spent much time on the island, she knew the layout of the island better than Liam and the other recent arrivals.

She soon spotted Liam and discreetly trailed him.

Liam, however, wasn't oblivious to her presence. But when he realized she was a local, he shrugged it off, assuming she was merely curious about when the newcomers would leave.

They soon reached the valley that Carville had spoken of.

At that point, the valley was teeming with people, and Liam's detector indicated that the rare-earth mine was right there, deep beneath their feet.

Excitement filled the air; the strong signal in their detectors led everyone to believe that the mineral deposit was likely much larger than any previously found.

But as extensive as the mine might be, it wouldn't be enough to be divided among all the interested parties.

Sharing wasn't on anyone's mind, though; each group was plotting to claim the mine solely for themselves.

Liam, in contrast, was more reserved. The Duncan family

hadn't appeared yet, and according to his detector, this enormous deposit was completely underground.

Growing increasingly wary, he scanned his surroundings as he cautiously moved toward the center.

The deeper they ventured, the louder the disputes became. Various groups were already bickering over the allocation of the rare-earth mine.

And it wasn't just verbal disagreements. Armed forces from major factions had amassed. With hundreds of armed individuals, the situation was a powder keg, just waiting for a spark to ignite a full-scale brawl in the valley.

At that instant, Carville's crew was present too. Liam watched them from a hidden vantage point, his brow furrowing even more.

While tension filled the valley, Carville seemed at ease. He intentionally had his team linger on the outskirts of the area. Given Carville's lax formation, it was difficult for Liam to dismiss the notion that their participation in the contest was merely a ruse.

Carville, still amid the crowd, yelled, "The Duncan family hasn't shown up yet. We need to remain vigilant. Remember, we, the four major families, banished them from Invone. They have no right to claim any of the rare-earth mine!"

After saying this, Carville began tallying his team members,

as though preparing to set up watch points.

Liam snorted in disdain.

Carville might fool others, but he couldn't conceal his true agenda from Liam. It was clear that his so-called vigilance was a facade. He actually intended to work with the Duncan family.

A war seemed imminent.

Liam inspected his gear. He was well-prepared for today, equipped with both armor and weaponry.

Even if he stood alone, Liam was sure of his own safety.

As Carville's men scattered in various directions, they faded from sight. Meanwhile, the factions on the field remained engrossed in the struggle over the rare-earth mine, oblivious to the subtle shift in dynamics.

Over ten minutes passed when a haze of yellow smoke began to form above the valley. Initially faint, by the time anyone noticed, it had already enveloped the entire area.

In less than thirty seconds, a dense yellow smoke blanketed the whole valley.