

ETERNAL THIEF

Chapter 26: The Plan!

Listening to Ace's words, Gracie deeply looked into his eyes and asked meaningfully, "Do you even know what slave mark is?"

Ace ponder for a while before answering considerately, "Yes. I heard little about it in the wastelands. I only know; branding with a slave mark means surrendering your free will and forever stay loyal to the person who holds the slave contract. I also personally saw a mysterious red color mark on the people's forehead on the first floor. I should be the slave mark, right?"

Ace actually didn't know all this; it was all the information Eva gave him before coming here.

Branded with the slave mark was also a part of their plan and this kind of trashy slave marks will not work on him because of his soul cultivation. That's why he said without any hesitation and it was the easiest way to win Gracie's trust.

Gracie didn't surprise by the fact that Ace already knows about the slave mark but what was she really surprise about was Ace's will to live. In her eyes, this guy was actually showed her his secret skill and even wanted to branded by slave mark, just so he could live. This really fascinates her and made her look at this 'barbarian' in a new light.

"Fine, I'll allow you to be my personal servant and let you live better than any one of those in that shitty building. But you have to prove yourself first." Gracie mysteriously smiled and continued, "I'll be attending a family meeting in a month if you can steal all those participants' money pouches without anyone finding out. Then you can be my personal servant and I will even reward you. What do you think?"

Gracie smiled sweetly at Ace as if she was looking at a sheep who was about to get slaughter. She concealed the most important part of the information from him, that was this wasn't just any random meeting. It was the Meeting of Grant Family's Younger Generation and it was quite a big event.

To test Ace's' special' skill limit and see if he really can steal from all those contestants without alerting them, Gracie didn't tell him the whole truth. Furthermore, if he failed, she'll kill him swiftly so no one can investigate this matter, but if he succeeds, she will make a huge profit without even lifting a finger.

Besides, if everything goes smoothly then she'll just pretend to be a victim like everyone else, and no one will ever know that she was the mastermind behind the thievery. Most importantly, she'd gain a 'Master Thief' as a slave.

"I'll act according to Young Miss arrangements. But this humble servant has a personal request." Ace requests politely, he wasn't surprised by this 'test' at all. He knew from the start; winning the trust of this arrogant Third Miss of the Grant Family would not be a walk in the park.

"Hmm?" Gracie knitted her brows tightly after hearing Ace. But she didn't rebuke and asked coldly, "Tell me if this request is reasonable, I think about it."

"I just need a space for training my skill because I never used it on multiple people before and most importantly I'm not a cultivator." Ace's tone becomes even more respectful, "I also don't want to fail Young Miss mission, that's why I need to train hard so I can serve with my full potential in a month!"

Gracie mull over it for a while before speaking, "It seems you don't want to go back to that shitty building, So be it, you can live here in the open and practice all you want." She smiles darkly, "However, you're not allowed in my house or if you even take even half a step outside my training ground, you're dead!"

After warning Ace, she turns around walks back to her house leaving him behind.

Since Gracie makes a 'great deal' with Ace she was in no mood of training anymore and decided to play outside because she was in a very good mood.

As Ace watched Gracie leave him alone, 'The second phase of the plan is complete this easily and it is sooner than we anticipated.' He thought joyously.

In Ace and Eva's scheme, Gracie was very important. Their plan was, Ace would be a 'punching bag' for quite some time and after showing his unnatural abilities to endure the 'beating' he will be given to a stronger young miss or master to be their 'sparring partner'.

Eventually, Ace would meet his main goal and that was Gracie Grant!

Eva selected her because she was extremely willful and never listen to others except for her father and even her mother can't control her. Moreover, she was extremely greedy and would take whatever she likes from others. She bullies others no matter who they were,

If Gracie encountered someone strong she would use her status or father status. But even with all these powers backing her, she can't take or act wantonly in front of two persons and they were both 1st and 2nd Young Masters of Grant's family.

Ace and Eva decided to use her greed to manipulate her actions. Ace would show her his unnatural pick-pocket skill and she would not be able to resist the temptation of stealing the precious things from others. Especially from the second rank young master who she hated the most but can't deal with.

However, this plan was supposed to take some time to set in motion, but who would've thought, on the very first day Ace meets his target! Therefore, he strikes immediately and baits Gracie with the pick-pocket skill.

Except for that one-month test part, Ace's plan succeeds in the end and that's what matters the most.

Now, he just has to train the pick-pocket to a higher level to pass Gracie's test. Furthermore, after discovering; the pick-pocket would give him thief points, Ace was really going to practice it seriously.

Unknowingly this skill has become his main priority because to get things from the system he needed TP and only knows this one method to earn TP excluding missions.

Actually, it was very easy to earn TP, he just has to steal things and can earn Thief points. But he never does that before and when he used pick-pocket to steal Gracie's money pouch, Ace finally realized what he has to do to earn TP.

Furthermore, this skill was unexpectedly a Soul skill. Soul Techniques and Soul Skills were rarest in Golden Sky World. Even Devil Race that possessed the most complete heritage of cultivation in this world didn't have many soul cultivators.

Ace used heavenly sense and saw Gracie leaving the house, but didn't go inside. Because she might've left some trap or order, someone, to watch him. Since his soul senses were not strong enough he can't scan the whole house.

Ace didn't care about Gracie anymore and placed those weapons 10 meters away from him and starts using Pick Pocket. Just like what happened to Gracie the moment his Soul Qi thread touched a weapon, it vanished and reappeared in his hand. It was as if space is being manipulated by this skill but Ace didn't understand it too well yet so he keeps practicing it like a madman.

Gracie comes back at night.

She enters the house and snugly sits in a chair before saying carelessly. "How was he?"

There was no one around but suddenly a man appears from the training ground, he didn't open the door and directly passes through it as if he was incorporeal.

He gets on his knee and answers respectfully, "Young lady that brat only practice, all this afternoon and evening. After some rest, he starts practicing again and was still practicing like a madman just an hour ago. I think he used all his qi."

"Hmm, not bad, not bad. It seems he is serious about what he said and didn't lie to me. Go and give him beast meat and a blanket as a reward. Keep an eye on him, he'll be living in the training ground for a month and if he succeeds in his task, you will get a new subordinate to play with Yahir." Gracie said coolly.

Yahir was Gracie's personal bodyguard that was personally assigned by her father. He is at the 4th Gate of Qi Gates realm. If Ace were to move around carelessly, he would have been attacked by Yahir instantly. But Ace just does his training diligently and was seen by Yahir as a hard worker. That is why Yahir has a good impression of Ace now.

Yahir emotionlessly said, "Yes Young Lady I will follow your will."

Ace was laying on the ground panting like crazy. He gave his all today and still didn't understand pick-pocket enough to raise its level. But he feels that he can do it within a month.

Nonetheless, he was feeling hungry but wasn't worry about it too much. After all, if Gracie was as greedy as Eva describe her to be, she would not let anything happen to Ace until she finds out if he was useable or not.

Just as he was thinking about food, a fragrant smell enter his nostrils. He quickly looked around and saw a man wearing blue clothes was coming towards him with a tray in his hand.

It was an old man in his fifties with grey long hair and a wrinkled face. He was Yahir. Grace personal bodyguard.

When Yahir saw Ace was looking at him, he smiles kindly like a senior who was going to meets his junior for the first time.

Yahir placed the tray on the ground and said while smiling warmly, "You worked hard today for my lady, and here is your reward. If you keep working like this, she will no mistreat you. But if you betray her trust or make a mistake then I'll be the first one to

come after your head." When Yahir said that his eyes turn icy cold as he emits a thick killing intent.

Ace shivers when he feels Yahir killing intent, 'Just how many people did this old man has killed?!' He was shocked and afraid by this old man. Still, he nodded his head stiffly, and that killing intent vanished like it never exists before and Ace finally could breathe.

Yahir smiled again after seeing Ace nodded and leaves the tray there before leaving.. Clearly, he was only here to give Ace a warning nothing else.

Chapter 27: Grant Family Meeting

Ace begins to live in Gracie's training group from that day on.

However, it causes a huge commotion in the Grant Family.

Like, Head Butler Kylan was quite appalled by this sudden turn of events because he didn't expect; Gracie would take a liking to this 'barbarian' and she even let him lived in her 'house'.

Everyone was astounded by this news because they know Gracie's personality very well and she would never do things that didn't give her any interest. Consequently, everyone starts to investigate this 'barbarian' that Gracie accepted. They couldn't find anything about him though.

Those elders who were supposed to keep watch over wasteland's slaves didn't know anything about Ace. Because those elders have become too lazy after a long period of peace in the family.

Only, now did this new development transpires after Gracie showed liking towards a wasteland boy and they have to give a complete report on him to higher-ups. But they can't find anything on him after they search their half-done records.

Nevertheless, This notion didn't even cross their minds that someone would be daring enough to infiltrate Grant Family with this kind of method.

The most agitate amidst the Grant Family higher-ups was, of course, Caden Grant, Gracie's father.

Caden took this matter truly seriously because he doted on Gracie the most and was worried about her safety. Yet, when he finds out there was no information at all on that punk, he blew his top and punishes those indolent elders with ferocity.

After discovering that there was no information on that punk, Caden summoned Gracie and order her to kick Ace out of her house because he was suspicious.

But Gracie didn't listen to him at all and protest by saying, "I'm going to brand that barbarian with a slave mark after he passes my test in a month." She assured him with; Yahir keeping an eye on Ace all time.

After seeing Gracie's confidence, Caden could only sigh helplessly, 'I spoiled her too much. Well, what can a mortal slave do? Maybe I'm acting too overprotective here.' His eyes were filled with fatherly love when he looked at Gracie's pouting face.

In the end, Caden didn't object anymore and approve of her request to kept Ace as a servant. But he was extremely puzzled by the fact, 'Why did she want that 'barbarian' as a personal servant?'

Whenever he asked the reason, she just smiled mysteriously. Eventually, he gave up completely, now he can't investigate Ace personally, right? Since it was beneath him with his 'noble status'.

Ace didn't know, Gracie accepting him in her 'house' has caused so much turmoil. He was solely concentrating on Pick-Pocket right now.

Even if Ace knew about it, he wouldn't care at all. Because Eva assured him again and again; when the family investigates him Gracie would definitely protect him and won't open her mouth. Because of selfishness and the perks that he would bring her.

As Ace practices this skill, he finds out, it was easy to understand with his Formless Wind Core. This was also the advantage of a soul cultivator, they can practice Soul Skills with ease. and Ace was a Heavenly Soul Cultivator at that.

One month passed in a flash.

Today was the day of the Grant Family Younger Generation Meeting.

Every two years this competition originate among East, West, South, and North District youngsters between the age of 12 to 18.

This competition determined the ranking of the Grant Family's youngsters. by measuring their cultivation bases.

The Top 10 would get many benefits and resources from the family. The person within 3rd to 10th rank, can gain the best resources of the family and gets 10 half-white grade Qi Pills every month that can help cultivate faster.

First and Second Ranks would also gain all benefits but the most precious prize for them was; they can learn the only Low-Level Qi Mortal Grade Skill that the Grant family possessed. It was extremely precious and the biggest secret of the Grant Family.

Only the top two can learn the skill and only for two days. If they can gain something from it that's their luck and if not that's also their bad luck. Because to memorize Low-Level Mortal Grade skill one has to be at Qi Gates realm Peak!

Skills are divided into Normal, Mortal, Warrior, Master, and Mysterious Grades. All the grades are further divided into Low, Middle, High, and Absolute levels.

As for skills Above Mysterious Grades they were all in the hands of Ancient Sects!

A 2-Star City like the River-Flower city only has 2 Low-Level Mortal Grade Skills and one of them was in the city lord mansion while the second one was in the hands of Grant's family head, Rylan Grant!

Normal Grade Skills can be considered common because they can be found even in 3-star cities.

However, Warrior Grade Skills were all monopolized by Kingdoms. If they even get the news that skill of warrior level was in the hand of a lowly city, that would be considered treason, and that city, as well as every single living being in it, will be erased from existence.

That's why these youngsters of Grant's family yearn for this low-level mortal grade skill day and night. Even those elders didn't have permission to touch it and always wanted to learn it, but Rylan won't let them, He only gave authorization to those who showed value to the family.

Moreover, no one even knows the name of the skill. It was the top-secret of the Grant Family.

Ace was currently walking behind Gracie ceremoniously looking like a loyal servant. He was holding a long bag in his hand and in it were two beautiful long swords.

Gracie was walking towards the meeting venue. Actually, she didn't need Ace to carry her swords but Ace insists on it because he needed this bag to put all those stolen goods.

When Gracie hears this reason she quickly agrees to it and gives Ace a long string bag she even picked another sword just because that bag was looking too empty with only one sword. Ace was happy about it, now no one will suspect anything.

After some time, Ace saw a big open field coming into his view that bursting with activity.

It was the venue for Grant Family Younger Generation Meeting.

The Grant Family was after all the second rank family of the inner region so this competition brought together many different powers. These important characters had come here to watch the competition between juniors of the Grant family!

The competitive spirit amongst the junior members of the family was at a boiling point from the excitement, after seeing all these people came here to watch their 'grand performance'!

The meeting was held in a wide field in the evening. Several guests were bustling about.

Some of the Family Heads from various other families came because of Grant's family fame and power. But no one came from the City Lord's Family due to the complicated relationship between them.

In the wide field of the Grant Family, numerous members from the junior generations of various inner region families had been gathered. Although these bouts between them were going to be grand and intense, everyone's focus was currently on a grand stage that was set in the center of the venue.

Gracie turned around before she enters the venue and whispered to Ace, "You only have to steal from participants of the competition. Don't alert those high-level guests especially the Family Head and Elders. If they find out about it you will die before you know it!" She didn't wait for Ace's answer and enter the venue.

Ace's complexion was dreary, he didn't think this little test of Gracie would be in this kind of exploding spot and felt he has been duped by this, Shorty!

'This going to troublesome!' Ace deemed gloomily.

After entering the venue, Ace saw a big grand stage in the center, and on the center of the stage was a Pillar on it place a white crystal ball. That crystal ball was the size of an adult human head.

Around the grand stage were posh seats and only old-looking and some middle-aged men were sitting in them. They all were wearing luxurious clothes and drinking some kind of wine while chatting with each other casually. He could tell that they were all important figures just by the high qi fluctuations around them.

Gracie directly goes towards the juniors area of her family.

There were only ten seats there and everyone was standing behind them. When those youngsters saw Gracie they instantly shut their traps because they were quite afraid of annoying this little devil.

Gracie scorned after seeing everyone's vigilant gaze and sit in the third seat from the right. Besides her were two seats where two young men were sitting. The one who sits in the first seat with an expressionless yet handsome face was Felix Grant and the one who sits beside Felix was Ruben Grant who has an ordinary face with a dusky complexion.

Felix was ranked Number One in the previous meetings and also the Grant Family's best talent of this Generation. More importantly, he was the youngest son of Rylan Grant.

On the other hand, Ruben was ranked second in the previous meeting and Gracie was third.

Gracie detests Ruben because he always teased her as 'No.3 Sister' whenever he saw her. Therefore, she avoids him most of the time. Furthermore, she can't do anything about it because he has excellent talent in cultivation and he was favored by Family Head and also Felix good friend. Even her father was helpless against him.

This year Gracie has turn 18 and this is her last competition. Consequently, she was determined to beat Ruben this time around. The same goes for Felix and Ruben. These three always competing with each other's but Felix never let any one of them overtake him in these years.

Gracie was about to greets Felix when she hears a huge commotion from the crowd and turned around to see what happened.

Ruben who was also going to teased Gracie becomes serious.

A 1.8-meter tall middle-aged man with dark brown long hair and a fine face enters the venue haughtily. He was wearing luxurious silk robes with beautiful golden embroidery. He nonchalantly walks toward the stage and set in the most eye-catching seat in the center.

He didn't even bother to greet anyone and sits in the golden chair while closing his eyes. Yet, no one dares to show any displeasure or angry expressions. They were even smiling broadly after seeing that man's arrogance because he was the current Head of Grand family, Rylan Grant!

Beside Rylan was a man who was not as tall as him but wasn't short either. His face resembles Rylan's greatly and sat on the seat right next to Rylan's.

He was Gracie's Father and Rylan's younger brother, Caden Grant.

Rylan swiftly gestures with his hand while his eyes were still closed, it was a signal!

Everyone understands what that gesture means; the Meeting was finally about to start!

Chapter 28: Soul Threads

Recognizing Rylan's signal, no one dares to make a sound anymore.

In this taciturnity, an old man in his sixties walking towards the center of the stage came into everyone's view. He was an elder of the Grant family Ezekiel Grant.

Ezekiel has a mild smile on his old face while greeting everyone in the venue, "Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to my Grant Family Meeting of the Younger Generation. Let's start the evaluation process right away." He didn't dare to spout useless nonsense and directly start the meeting because Rylan didn't like wasting time.

Rylan seldomly shows his face because he was always focusing on cultivation and wanted to reach the Qi Foundation Building Realm as quickly as possible. Most of the time these kinds of matters were handled by Caden. But this time, it was his youngest son, Felix's last meeting therefore he attended this event.

That's also why so many important characters came this time, to show their loyalty and support.

It was all because Rylan was the second strongest man after the City Lord in the River Flower City! Once he breakthrough into the next realm, he would be an existence, at the same level as the City Lord.

Many families who can't curry favor with the Layton Family came here to jump on Grant Family ship while Rylan was still weak.

Ezekiel address loudly, "Let me explain the rules to everyone quickly. First, only the youngsters at the age of 18 and below can participate in the competition. Second, every junior will get only signal chance to evaluate by this 'White Cultivation Measuring Crystal'."

As he said he pointed towards the white crystal beside him. This 'White Cultivation Measuring Crystal' can measure cultivation below Qi Foundation Building Realm.

"Third after the evaluation, the top 3 to 10 rank participants can challenge First and Second Ranked but only single times! If anyone can beat participants in the first or second rank, they can take their places and loser can't challenge the winner." He declared distinctly.

"There is a total of Forty-Two participants in this meeting. We will start from the youngest of these forty-two participants." Ezekiel announced as he shifts his focus towards participants.

A little boy who seems to be 12 years old starts to walk towards the stage nervously under everyone's curious gazes. He was clearly the youngest of them all.

This little boy moved towards the white cultivation measuring crystal tensely. This was his first meeting.

Ezekiel said in a soothing tone, after seeing the Boy's nervousness, "Boy don't worry, just place your hands on The Measuring Crystal and pour your Qi in it. After we'll see what your cultivation level is, Now go!"

That little boy take a deep breath and placed his hands on the crystal, and pour his Qi. The next moment something magical happened, the white transparent crystal suddenly starts to shine brightly and a single little gate begins to form. That gate was light yellow in color.

"1st Gate of the Qi Gates Realm, Low!" Ezekiel announced while nodded in satisfaction.

Ezekiel calls with a smile, "Next!"

This cultivation measuring crystal can change into five different colors gate that symbolizes Qi Gates Realm Five Self-Gates. The Yellow Color for 1st Gate, Orange for 2nd Gate, Green for 3rd Gate, Brown for 4th Gate, and Golden for 5th Gate.

As for Low, Middle, and High that depends on the color depth. The brighter your realm gate is the higher your final evaluation.

Since the measuring crystal just showed a light yellow gate it meant this body just recently open the 1st Gate. If he was close to breakthrough or at the peak of 1st Gate the color that crystal shows would be the brightest yellow.

The little boy smiled with pride, after all, he was only 12 and already a cultivator. He was not here for the prize and only here to show off his talent.

Ace saw all of it and was quite fascinated by that white crystal. He didn't think one can measure cultivation just like that as well. Now, he really wanted to go to the stage and

test his own Heavenly Cultivation! He wanted to see if that thing can measure heavenly qi or not.

One has to know after all his efforts, Ace was now at the peak of the 1st Gate of Heavenly Gates. He just needs some experience and insight to open the 2nd Gate.

Ace wasn't amused by that toy anymore and was ready to begin his 'work' after watching the next participant was heading towards the stage.

When everyone's attention was focus on that participant, Ace closed his eyes.

Swiftly, formless fine threads of Soul Qi begin to eject from each finger of his right hand. These threads were dancing around his finger like puppet strings. He manipulates these strings with Soul Qi and like arrows, these five strings shot towards the standing participants besides the stage.

No one can see or sense these threads if they aren't soul cultivators or their martial cultivation base is higher than Ace by two whole realms.

Ace called these fine threads, 'Soul Threads'.

Soul Threads were formed by his formless wind soul core!

Of course, he got this brilliant idea from the pick-pocket skill.

Since the pick-pocket skill can form One Qi Thread and move it with Qi as well. Ace tries to form these threads with soul Qi and he succeeds effortlessly. it was like these threads were just mere random tricks that he can perform with the Heaven Stealer Technique anytime.

Ace was awed by the Heaven Stealer Technique that the system gives him, it was like he can do anything with it as long as he can imagine it.

All the 'Soul Threads' wrapped around five contestants' waists.

Ace instantly activate the mid-level pick-pocket skill that he practiced all this month. Pick-Pocket's instantly active but this time it didn't form any new thread and was directly engaged on those already formed soul threads.

Just like that, the soul threads vanished and Ace felt the bag in his hand become a little bit heavy.

He grins widely, 'It's too damn easy this way!' He was happy since he robbed five people at the same time without any quandary and no one even notices him.

After his first completion, Ace became like some professional thief, and whenever a new participant moves towards the stage, he would take advantage of these disturbances and steal!

After two hours every participant except Gracie, Felix, and Ruben were done with their cultivation measuring test.

Ace was a little listless since soul threads take quite a toll on his soul and mind, although his eyes were shining brightly as he was looking at the system's black panel.

"[Pick Pocket Succeed]

[Host Steal: 62 trash grade pills (half white grade), and 12,184 ruby coins.]

[Rewards: 12 Thief Points (TP)]"

[Thief Points (TP): 52]

Ace spends 2 hours stealing all these and now only Felix and Ruben were left. He was a little perplexed and didn't use his skill on them. The reason was he was afraid they would notice something since they were closest to him.

"Number three sister now it's your's turn," Ruben speaks for the first time with a tantalizing tone. Since Caden was here he can't tease her too much.

"Humph!" Gracie only grunted vexedly and move towards the stage. She didn't even glance at him.

Ezekiel didn't dare to treat Gracie like all the other juniors and quickly escort her by himself. She has an extremely high status in Grant's family and besides, a very bad reputation of being unruly.

"Young Miss please," Ezekiel gestured respectfully.

All the audience went silent, they also know who this young girl was.

Caden smiles gently after seeing Gracie appearing on the stage. She was his only child and he was very fond of her. That's why he always spoiled her and didn't punish her for her blunders.

Gracie didn't greet Ezekiel like others, she didn't even seem to notice him. She only looked towards her father and smiled sweetly.

She suddenly turns around and smiles coldly towards Ruben.

Ruben was started and a very bad feeling arose in his heart after seeing that stiff smile.

Gracie slowly placed her hands on the crystal and pour her Qi.

The Cultivation Measuring Crystal begins to glow and a Light-Orange Gate was formed. "2nd Gate of Qi Gates Realm, Low! Congratulation miss on reaching the 2nd Gate at such a young age." Ezekiel announced loudly.

"This young miss of Grant's family really is a genius."

The crowd also begins to exclaim in shock.

"Master Caden congratulation on having such a talented daughter!"

Those family heads sitting beside Caden start to congratulate him warmheartedly.

"You All are too the kind, that little girl works hard on her own I didn't do much." Caden smiled ear to ear as he replied. He straightened his chest with a face full of pride.

Opening the 2nd Gate of Muscle was very difficult if you didn't have a solid base. Some people will open the first gate early but will be stuck at this point for years.

If someone can open the second gate in 3 to 4 years after the first gate, that person considers a genius in the lands of cities.

Ace saw all this commotion and reflected disdainfully, 'My little sis has already opened the 1st Gate when she was only 7 years old and I know for sure, she has already breakthrough after her bloodline was awakened. These people here are all narrow-minded.'

Ace was thinking about his little sis when his soul sense that was locked on Ruben and Felix tingle. He instantly senses Ruben's emotions became somewhat unsettled and was looking for just this kind of opportunity.

He quickly sent a soul thread towards Ruben's waist and use the pick-pocket.

Ruben didn't notice anything because his mind was messed right now for some reason.

"[Pick Pocket Succeed]

[Host Steal: 7 trash grade pills (half white grade), and 4904 ruby coins.]

[Rewards: 2 Thief Points]"

[Thief Points (TP): 54]

Ace directly heard the system voice in his head.

He didn't show his delight and stand in his position like a status, he was now only a single step away from completing Gracie's mission.

Only Felix was left but Ace didn't want to do it because Felix was Rylan Grant's son. Furthermore, this Felix was too calm and very alert of his surroundings. He didn't show any opening.

Ace was confident in stealing Felix's money pouch but, it would definitely alert Rylan and the Grant Family in the future. And this would be quite troublesome for him.

Since he has robbed all the participants, those elders would unquestionably investigate this unnatural event. But if he steals from the Family Head Son, it was possible that Rylan would take action himself.

That's why he determined to wait for Gracie to come back and asked her if he could spare Felix.

Gracie walks back to her spot with her head high like some arrogant peacock. She sits nonchalantly beside Ruben and said meaningfully, "Former number two brother it's your turn. Heh, Heh!"

When Ruben hears, 'former' his face muscle twitch uncontrollably and a tremor runs through his body!

Chapter 29: Storage Space Treasure!

Ruben didn't dare to tease Gracie or he was not in the mood anymore, because he knows what was going to happen after seeing her result just now. He takes a deep breath and with a gloomy expression begins to walk on the stage.

Ezekiel saw Ruben coming and was about to greet him like Gracie but stop in his tracks because he noticed Ruben's stiff mug and only said politely, "Young Master, please."

Ruben forcefully calm his wavering emotions and placed his trembling hands on the crystal and pour the Qi.

The Cultivation Measuring Crystal begins to change and A Brightest Yellow Color Door is formed.

'Sssi'

When Ezekiel saw this, he sucks a breath of cold air. Now, he understands why Ruben's face was like charcoal and didn't want to say it. But alas, he has to, "1st Gate of Qi Gates, High!"

The crowd clamored after hears this, especially Grant's family juniors and elders alike.

They exclaim because this was the first time that ranking has changed from the start of the meeting. And the change was also happed in second and third position!

"Didn't they say Ruben was more talented than Gracie why he was weaker than her?"
Asked someone in crowd in low voice.

"He was winning the second rank for last two meetings but it seems he hit a bottleneck in his cultivation this year." Answer someone knowledgeable.

All the crowd was bursting with the same kind of discussion.

On the stage, an elder was sitting behind the seats of Rylan and Caden. He was currently clenching the chair arms tightly, they were some cracks on them; it seems he was quite angry.

He was Ruben's father and 3rd ranked elder of the Grant family Milok Grant.

Milok's rank was only below Caden and Ruben was his pride and joy. Since Ruben even manages to win Felix's friendship and that's how Rylan's attention as well. Milok was quite satisfied with all his son's achievements.

Milok's relationship with Caden was always sour. That's why he encourages his son to suppress Gracie and make crakes between Felix and Gracie's relationship, and Caden could do nothing to him openly because of Felix and Rylan.

However, now Ruben has lost his second position to Gracie.

That's why Milok was in an extremely sullen mood because he always eyeing Caden's position and now he has no choice but changes his plans.

Milok was mulling, when a sneering voice enters his ears from the front, "Third Elder my condolence."

It was obviously Caden, who was looking back at Milok with a wicked smile on his face.

Milok long beard quiver a litter and nearly vomit blood in anger. 'This Bastard!' He cursed in his heart.

Milok was after all an old fox and forcibly controls his anger and said with a force yet ugly smile, "Master Caden I'm very happy about little Gracie's performance and she finally defeats that arrogant brat this will teach him a lesson."

Those other guests sitting around them didn't dare to say anything, they didn't want to offend either of them.

Caden laughs heartily when he saw Milok ugly face and didn't press the matter anymore. He knew this sly old fox and his ways very well. If Milok saw the situation is against him, he would even call a donkey his father just to get out of it.

Gracie saw Ruben was coming back with an ashen face and felt her mood becoming quite good. How could it not be? This guy always teased her and didn't show her respect at all. Yet, this time she beat him fair and square. She had a lucky breakthrough this year, that's how she managed to open the second gate.

Even if Ruben challenged her, she would defeat him with ease, she was a stage higher than him after all.

"New 'Number Three' brother will you challenge me?" How could Gracie let this chance slip by to humiliate Ruben this easy?

Everyone becomes silent after she asked Ruben and their focus was shifted on Ruben.

Even Felix who didn't show any emotion was looking at this scene with amusement.

Ruben becomes pale as a ghost, with all this attention on him. He really wanted to challenge Gracie but before exiting the stage, he saw his father's special signal. Milok was clearly telling him to stand down.

Milok knows that odds were not in his favor if Ruben challenge Gracie, he would lose even more miserably. That's why he signals Ruben to not challenge her.

"H.ha.haha." Ruben laugh dryly and said with a forced ugly smile, "How can I challenge little sister Gracie? Since we are family, we shouldn't fight with each other."

He was grinding his teeth in anger. If not for his father he would've challenged her already, so could only sit silently like a beaten dog.

The crowd was very disappointed they thought that it would be very amusing to watch the fight between two top juniors of Grant's family. But Ruben chickens out in the end.

Gracie was also speechless by Ruben's shamelessness and wanted to beat him up, but it was not the place for it. Now that she was stronger than him, she would not let him live in peace and take her sweet time avenging the grievance of years.

"Oh, thank you 'number three brother'." She ignored him again.

Ruben becomes more enraged when he hears 'No.3'. But alas he can do nothing now just like Gracie all those years ago. He knows his life was going to be miserable from now on.

Ace curiously saw all this from behind Gracie. This was his first time seeing this kind of situation.

Ace clearly saw how Ruben was behaving arrogantly in front of Gracie just a few moments ago when he thought he was stronger than her. But now, when Ruben discovered he can't beat her; he immediately begins behaving submissively.

'This is what it means to be strong and powerful.' He thought and couldn't help but be awed by this cultivation world and most importantly Human Nature.

Ezekiel only laments after seeing all this and again speaks loudly. "Now that we know Young Master Ruben didn't want to challenge Young Miss Gracie. We can move towards our final contestant of this meeting." He was just about to call Felix regally when he felt a powerful pressure.

Ezekiel was alarmed and thought it was an enemy attack but he simply can't move. However, the pressure vanished the next moment, and drench with cold sweat Ezekiel turn around when he saw Rylan has finally opened his eyes and looking at him expressionlessly. He quickly escapes the stage because he knew what Rylan was going to do.

Everyone becomes puzzled when Ezekiel escaped like a mouse who just saw a cat. But the next moment, no one dares to speak because of Rylan standing up.

When everyone saw this, those who were sitting immediately stand as well. No one wants to displease Rylan.

Rylan didn't glance at anyone and slowly walk on the grand stage.

Rylan's eyes suddenly locked in the participant's area. He was expressionlessly looking at Felix.

Felix saw Rylan's and smiled for the first time, seeing his father was looking at him. He knew his father would evaluate his children on their last competition by himself. This is how Rylan shows affection.

"Come!" Rylan's thunderous voice resounded in the venue.

No one dares to make a sound because they knew Rylan was calling for Felix and didn't want to die by ruining this moment for father and son.

Felix smiled broadly as he walks towards the stage. He was truly happy because his father didn't forget this was his last competition. His mother was dead and his big sister was already married. Even his elder brother who he admires the most has gone with his nephew somewhere.

Everyone's focus was on Felix and Rylan except for one person and that was Ace!

The stage was only ten meters away from the participants' area and Gracie was in the very front and the moment Rylan walk in the center of the grand stage he came into Ace's soul sense range.

The moment it happened, the system voice buzzed in Ace's head, and a black panel appears. He was bewildered by it because,

"[System detects a Storage Space treasure!]

[Did you want to mark it by using 2 TP?]"

Ace was baffled by this and transmitted in mind confusingly, "System what is this Storage Space treasure?" Even this name was unique to him.

"[1 TP Required for the answer.]"

Since he has earned quite some TP recently, he said without care, "Take it." His 54 TP become 53 and the system's voice sounded again,

"[Storage Space treasures are used for storing non-living things like weapons, currency, pills, and other treasures. Simply put, it is like having a secret space fused within a finger ring, you can store the whole mountain inside that little ring if you have large enough space. Some storage space treasures can also store Living-things inside them like humans, living beasts, living medicine herbs, and other things alike. It is like a portable treasury. To form a storing space inside a treasure you need to be a Rune Crafters.]"

[The system only detected a ring of the lowest level; it is not even stable. It was clearly made by a novice Rune Crafter and will be destroyed after 5000 years.]"

Ace heard system explanations on these storage space treasures and become astounded. He didn't even imagine that there was something this legendary even exist in this world.

'If I can have this storage space treasure, didn't this means I don't have to carry this bag around and I can also put these stolen goods and my weapons inside the ring. It is really like a portable treasury. But how can this kind of treasure appear here and who has it?'

"System marked that treasure!" Ace really wanted this storage space treasure. Because with it he can do missions or thieveries with ease.

As he transmitted his voice the TP becomes 51.

He saw a black little panel appearing on someone's hands. It was a blue ring on the finger of a man's left hand.

But when Ace saw who the owner of this ring was his complex turn ashen because it was non-other than Rylan Grant!

Chapter 30: Thievery!

Ace's complexion was gloomy after seeing Rylan wearing the blue storage ring. He really wanted that ring but Ace's reasons force him to stay calm.

All this communication with the system only takes a few seconds.

Now, Ace begins to think with lightning speed when he abruptly remembered something and become pale just by thinking about it.

He recalled Eva's words, 'When Rylan take this mask out of thin air, I was surprised by it!'

Ace didn't pay much attention to it at that time, he simply thinks it could be a secret skill or something like that. Particularly now, the story was totally different because he knew about the existence of the storage ring!

'If Eva was right and he took out that mask out of thin air then didn't it mean, what I'm looking for is also in that ring?' Ace reflected and comes to a scary conclusion. He takes a deep breath and calms his pounding heart.

If Ace's guess was right then Rylan would most likely keep the most important things and treasures of the Grant family in that storage ring. And if he could steal that storage ring, that means his mission will be complete and he will be able to get out of here right now. Furthermore, he didn't need to go to the main mansion of the Grant family to search for their treasury either.

Furthermore, what if he didn't find that 'thing' in the treasury of the Grant family?

At that time, he has to go after Rylan, and to find Rylan in his own house was not difficult but he has to go through all types of security and traps. However, right now he was just standing right in front of him.

Now, Ace was having an internal conflict and can't make his final choice,

'If I strike now, I can leave the Grant family. But if I can't find that 'thing' in Rylan space ring Eva would be in trouble and if I can't find that 'thing' in the treasury either... I'm 90% sure that Rylan has that 'thing' in that ring because no one wants to put this kind of precious stuff in the treasury that someone else can open. Sighs...' Ace sighed helplessly.

Although the next moment, Ace's eyes begin to shine brightly and focus the soul sense solely on Rylan. He finally made a choice.

If Ace noticed even the slightest bit of change in Rylan's soul wave he would strike without any hesitation!

On the stage, Felix has already standing in front of 'White Cultivation Measuring Crystal' beside his father.

Rylan said in a commanding tone, "Start!"

Felix didn't linger and put his hands on the crystal and pore the Qi. The crystal begins to shine brightly and a dim green color gate formed.

Third Gate of Qi Gate Realm!

The mob exclaimed in astonishment because it was very difficult to find someone of Felix's age who opened the 3rd Gate in the lands of cities.

Moreover, everyone knows that only Asher has reached the 3rd stage of the Qi Gates realm at the age of 20 in the entire River-flower city and is recognized as the top genius of the entire city. But now there was another one emerge and he was even younger than Asher.

The most crucial point was both of them were Rylan's Son and Grandson. Now, if Rylan reached the Qi Foundation Building realm in near future, and with talents like Rylan and Ashen at the mix, Grant's family will definitely rise above the Layton Family.

'Nephew let see if you can still act arrogant in front of me when you'll see me next time.'
Felix imagines while smiling after seeing everyone's reaction.

His own nephew Asher always looks down on him because he was younger and weaker. Felix always wanted to suppress him and beat Asher into submission. Now he has shown more talent than his nephew and even surpassed him.

Now even his father who always praised his nephew has to acknowledge him.

Rylan was really amazed by this sudden pleasant surprise. He didn't expect that his son has already surpassed his talented grandson who he was very fond of. He felt gratified and blessed by heaven at this moment.

A smile creeps out on his expressionless face for the first time as he thought 'Two talents in a single generation, heh. No one can stop the rise of my Grant family now!'

The way Rylan looked at Felix also changed and his gaze becomes gentler. He gave Felix the same position as Asher in his heart.

"GOOD GOOD! You didn't disappoint me, Your Father! And proved that my Grant family is a den of geniuses. Everyone I announced that this year's meeting is ended with my son Felix as the winner. Nevertheless, please stay because there going to be a banquet tonight in celebration of my son's great achievement!"

Rylan announced with a rare smile on his face and everyone starts to cheer.

All the elders of the family smiled gleefully, they didn't delay either and quickly begin the preparation for the banquet.

Caden saw his big brother in good mood and come to him with a thick smile on his face, "Congratulation big bro you have two 'dragons' now."

"Hahaha, You're too polite Caden!" Rylan laughs heartily hearing Caden's words.

Rylan patted his shoulder happily with his left hand when his smile suddenly stopped because he saw his hand was lacking something.

Yes! it was empty! His storage ring was gone!

Caden saw his big brother's expression and a very bad feeling arouse within, 'But why?' before he could think any further, an intense pain stirs from his shoulder.

"ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh"

All the cheering stopped with Caden's sudden painful wailing.

But before anyone could figure out what transpired, they heard Rylan's thunderous roar filled with killing intent.

"Juuuuuuustttt WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO DAREEEEEEEEE???!!"

Unknowingly Rylan has crushed Caden's shoulder bone in panicked. Even if he knows he didn't care at all because his eyes were solidified on his index finger.

There was supposed to be a 'blue ring with beautiful pattern' there, but now it was gone and only a slight white mark of it left. His mind was in utter turmoil and because of it he loses control of his endowment and released the full aura of Quasi Qi Foundation Building cultivation-based. The pressure was so huge, one could felt even a hundred meters away.

Caden was in the eyes of the storm and almost lost his life. He couldn't take the pressure and used his cultivation of peak Qi Gates realm and shrill in pain, "BROTHER YOU!??"

Rylan snapped out of it by Caden's piercing shriek and see his hand was drenched in Caden blood. He quickly loses his grip and Caden fell on stage with a painful groan. He was lucky that Rylan didn't use his Qi or his shoulder might've been torn apart from his body.

"Wh...what happened?!" Caden quickly eats a healing pill and after his pain decreases a bit he asked with a worried expression on his pale face.

He has never seen his brother lose his calm like this before especially in public places. But now he was almost looking like a madman, he was a completely different person.

'It's GONE.' Rylan thinks with a hint of horror and panic in his bloodshot eyes.

Yet he forces himself to calm down and controls his emotions but he didn't lower the pressure of his cultivation base.

Everyone on stage was shivering in fear.

The whole venue was deathly silent.

The atmosphere becomes chilly with Rylan killing intent at its peak. No one knows what happened but no one wants to find out because they were afraid that Rylan would kill them in anger even if they breathe loudly.

"LOCKDOWN! THE ENTIRE AREA!!" Rylan roar loudly.

Those guarding elders felt the pressure on them was gone and quickly follow Rylan's order.

Now no one can go out without Rylan's permission.

"I just want everyone to show me their hands and their belongings and they can go after that!" He blatantly stated.

Everyone becomes angry but they didn't dare to disobey. They could tell by his frantic expression that he would kill anyone who didn't cooperate.

"Everyone on stage shows me your hands and anything that can hold things inside!" Rylan starts with those on the stage first because they were closest to him.

Everyone's expression turns ugly but they could do nothing. One by one everyone showed him their hands and their money pouches.

After checking every person Rylan would always place his hand on their forehead and closed his eyes. He was actually sensing the storage ring since that ring was bond to him, he could sense the storage space ring if it was near him.

Rylan was checking everyone when he heard Felix's unexpected voice, "Father my money pouch is gone!"

Felix voiced could be heard by everyone in this silence. Everyone becomes startled they start to check their money bags.

"Mine is gone too!!"

"My as well! Damnit!!"

"What is happening??? Who dares to steal here?!"

Everyone was shocked by this strange turn of events because only participants' pouches were stolen and nobody else.

Gracie has almost forgotten about Ace after seeing her father injured and didn't pay any attention to him. She didn't know why her Uncle was doing this, but after she heard everyone's alarming cries, she immediately thought of someone.

Gracie even forgets about her father and quickly looked behind but Ace was nowhere. Her face becomes deathly pale and she started to tremble uncontrollably because there was a large bag laying behind her chair. She didn't dare to check that bag because if what she was thinking is true then she's dead!

Ruben was agitated because his money bag was also gone missing, suddenly he noticed Gracie's pale face because he was sitting right next to her. He thought her money bag has also been stolen and feel a little better after thinking he wasn't alone.

But when he saw Gracie was looking behind herself, he also looked there confusingly. He only saw a long bag there and after seeing that bag he remembered there was a boy who was carrying it this evening and was not here anymore.

"Sister Gracie where is that boy?" Ruben's voice echo in the silent area like a morning bell.

Everyone's attention included Rylan turns towards Gracie and Ruben instantly.

Gracie's jolt awakened from Ruben's sudden voice.

Gracie wanted to kill Ruben now. 'Did this rascal have to be so loud!!' she cursed him but alas now she could do nothing about it.

Everyone was looking at her and she was also suspecting that her uncle's rage has something to do with Ace's disappearance. If her uncle finds out about her schemes, she shivers after just thinking about the consequences of it.

Rylan was a sly fox no matter how much he was freaking out right now, Gracie paled expression was not right in his view.

Even Caden who was still healing his wound knows his daughter was hiding something and it was not a good thing in this kind of situation.

"RUBEN!! Who is 'that' boy?" Rylan calls loudly.

