

ETERNAL THIEF

Chapter 31: Escape!

Ruben was so shocked and resentful, he wanted to cry right now. How could his causal word draw Rylan's attention?. He was so afraid that he thought he had done something wrong and quickly answer, "Fa...family Head sister Gracie was with her servant when she came and now, he is missing!"

Ruben was anxious that no one would believe him, so he quickly grabs the big bag that was laying on the ground. However, the bag was open, and the movement Ruben picked it up colorful money bags start to drop like rain on the ground.

Everyone saw this scene and they were shocked silly by this sudden development. All the participants saw those money bags and they cried in alarm one after another,

"That is my money bag!"

"That one with flower pattern is mine!"

"That black and white was mine I can even tell what's inside it!"

Everyone began to yell, Ruben was bewildered by this and he also spotted his money bag in the pile. He immediately took it from the pile and opened it and saw inside were his things.

"Sister Gracie YOU!?" Ruben looked at Gracie in shock.

Rylan was so happy seeing this he couldn't describe it in words. He runs towards Gracie at full speed. Caden quickly followed behind Rylan because he knew Gracie has done something she shouldn't have and if Rylan didn't find what he was looking for then he would definitely punish her. He was afraid Rylan would harm her in his anger so he was ready to become her shield and accept punishment on her behalf.

Gracie was shivering in her spot in fear and anxiety. Now, she had to tell Rylan everything truthfully if she wanted to live.

Rylan didn't question Gracie at all and quickly snatched the bag from Ruben and stats to search like a maniac for his ring. After searching every inch of the bag, he still could find the ring.

Now he finally looked at Gracie coldly and all of sudden a mountain-like pressure begin to press down on her. She fell on her knees and can't even breathe because of that horrible pressure.

"Brother at least gives her a chance to explain!" Caden calls in panic seeing Rylan's using full pressure of his cultivation on his daughter.

Rylan take a deep breath and said to Gracie in a threatening voice, "Tell me everything if you hide even a little, I will forget you are my niece!!!"

"Gracie tells your uncle the truth, he would never harm you." Caden was comforting her or himself.

"I-I...I, he was from wasteland and one month ago head butler...." She starts to tell how she meets Ace and how he slowed her his special skill. She even confesses that she was the one who wanted him to steal from all the participants.

"I was blinded by greed! Please forgive me, Uncle, Father!" Gracie pleads for mercy. She somewhat knew that bastard has screwed her over by leaving that bag behind.

When Rylan, Caden, and everyone heard her story they were astonished by this boy. Just when did someone like this appear in the wasteland and have this kind of skill?

"Unfilial Daughter!" Caden's howl, he was trembling with anger. Now he finally understands why she didn't tell him when he asked her about that boy. He was also regretting, he didn't investigate enough and let that boy stay by his daughter's side. Furthermore, he was angrier at Gracie's thievery plan,

If she would succeed and only robbed the participants that would not be any problem for him to solve. But that boy somehow stole something from Rylan and that thing was very important!

The most frustrating thing was that boy was now gone!

Learning from Gracie's about Ace's special skill, Rylan instantly knows that boy is the one who stole his space ring. But he was extremely perplexed and astonished by the fact, 'How did he know that was a space ring and how the hell he steal it under my nose!!?'

Rylan didn't have time to waste so he coldly stated, "5 years in the dungeon and 50 whip strikes every month for five years. What do you think brother, Caden?"

Rylan coolly looked towards Caden after announcing Gracie's punishment. Gracie was still his niece so he can't kill her. But he can't forgive her blunder.

"I have no objection." Caden didn't want this, but she has become too willful and she even plans thievery. By doing so she hides important information about an outsider from family and now all this has resulted.

'Maybe I'm not a good father and now she turns out like this.' Caden sighs sadly.

Gracie hear her uncle's punishment and quiver in fear, she could live in the dungeon but those whip strikes were not a laughing matter. Because receiving whips from someone one gate above her and for 5 years every month at that she would die from pain! She immediately looked hopefully with tearing eyes towards her Father for rescue. Yet he completely agrees with her uncle!

"It was all that son of bitch fault!!" Gracie's shrill scream resounded in the entire venue and she fainted with anger and resentment.

People around couldn't help but pity Gracie, it was clear that the boy plan all of this and used Gracie's greed to trap her. But alas now she has to spend her 5 years in the dungeon.

"Only 15 minutes has passed search all the area of family territory, if you still can't find him search the entire City. I don't care who that boy was and where he came from, search for anything related to him. Also, those who were in charge of servant building and those elders who were supposed to watch the wastelandians will be punished without mercy." Rylan announced sharply and quickly begins to search, he has to find that ring no matter the cost!

Fifteen minutes earlier.

Ace was watching Rylan's like a hawk while using his soul sense at maximum potential. He has been using his soul qi and mentally tired but in the face of a storage space treasure, he didn't care.

The moment Felix's cultivation gate begins to forms, Rylan's soul wave flickers slightly.

Right at this moment, a soul thread shot towards Rylan's finger! Ace was very careful not to alert Rylan. Since Ace's soul core was still colorless a Qi Formation Cultivators can sense soul threads if they concentrate using their Qi and Rylan's was not far away from that step either.

The soul thread was successfully wrapped around the ring on Rylan's finger. Ace takes a deep breath and waits for the perfect moment. But suddenly remembered something and he sends another soul thread towards Felix.

When Felix's result was clear for everyone to see Ace noticed, Rylan has finally let his guard down! He quickly active the Pick-Pocket and the next moment Felix's money bag was inside that long bag and Rylan Ring was on his finger.

Ace becomes excited 'I get The Ring. Heh!'. He didn't even hear a system voice in excitement. 'Now is not the time to celebrate I have to escape first.'

He quickly looked around and everyone has the same kind of expression as Rylan. He took advantage of the commotion and it was already late evening.

Ace uses stealth and disappeared into the crowd but he left the full bag of these stolen goods behind for Gracie. Because he wanted everyone to know that all this was Gracie's plan.

He has seen all those innocent wasteland boys who were always begging for their life but Gracie always killed them in ruthless ways. He didn't want her to escape by saying she didn't know anything and that's why he left that bag there as evidence.

'She can't find her way out of it now, once Felix or Ruben notice.' He thought while escaping.

In five minutes, he was already in front of the main gate of the Grant family and there was still no one chasing after him. Since it was a family meeting today the security was tight but for Ace it was nothing. No one notices him leaving.

Ace was using silent steps and was heading towards the Kelby family.

Now considering he has alerted the Grant family already. He has to find Eva and complete the system's mission.

Eva has told him before that she is staying in her little cottage inside the Kelby family territory.

Since Asher has gone with his uncle to 'Find Ace'. There he didn't need Eva because her skill was not enough in 1-Star City so he ordered her to keep searching for clues on 'Black Ghost'.

Grant and Kelby's family territories were close to each other. At full speed, Ace has already reached the Kelby family Gate in five minutes and he enters like a shadow.

Kelby's family security was not as tight as Grant's family. It was also at this time, Rylan has started searching the Guests' belongings.

Ace remembered where Eva has told him to find her in the Kelby family after their plan was set in motion.

Ace saw special marks that Eva has left behind on trees, only he can notice these marks because they were specifically for Ace. He followed those marks and saw a little cottage in an open field. It was very simple but much better than his old hut.

He didn't even need to go inside because a graceful figure emerges behind him. Ace already noticed and smile while turning around.

She was obviously Eva.

"Eva let's commences our plan we didn't have much time." Ace said with a smile

Eva's fox-like beautiful eyes shine when she heard Ace.

Chapter 32: Thief's Space!

"You were only there for one month and you already succeed in our plan this quick?" Inquiry Eve suspiciously while narrowing her lovely eyes.

The plan that was supposed to take at least one year just to set in motion was now complete in a month. This was simply unbelievable for Eva.

Ace ignores her questioning gaze and hastily asks her, "Just tell me this; when Rylan plant this mask on your face, did the contract vanished after he drips your blood on it, in his left hand?" If this was true then Ace has succeeded in his quest to free Eva, but if not then he has somehow gone back to Grant's family again.

"Yes! it was like he was using some kind of secret skill. He simply takes this mask and item slave contract out of thin air. But why are you asking this out of blue?" Eva was confused.

"Hahaha. Then this means, I succeed! It seems luck was with me this time." Ace laughs delightfully. He has to thanks the system if not for it he would've never found out about this space ring existence and even alert the Grant family after infiltrating their treasury.

Eva looks around at Ace but she didn't see any bag or other staff with Ace. Besides, he was perspiring profoundly and his face was a little pale.

'He's empty-hand, did he hit his head?' Eva worriedly thought about her 'team leader' and said with a hint of anxiety in her eyes, "But you didn't have any bag of holding, where is the item slave contract?"

Ace was breathing heavily but there was a wide smile on his face, "Hehehe. I'll tell you after we clean Kelby's family treasury. It has already been fifteen minutes since I steal Rylan's ring he should've already started searching for me. We didn't have time to waste, where's the treasure? I'll be right back and then we'll leave this city." Ace's grin mysteriously and wanted to give her a big surprise after completing the system's mission.

Eve looked at Ace's pale face with concerns but his eyes were full of vitality so, she trusts him and told him where the treasury was located.

Kelby's family territory wasn't as big as Grant's family. They only have one main mansion and two other districts under their control so it wasn't hard for Ace to remember all the details.

"Don't alarm the family head of Kelby family he's a peak of Qi Gates realm expert," Eva reminds Ace warily.

"Don't worry even that Rylan couldn't find me what that old guy can do?" Ace snorted and vanished in the direction that Eva gave him.

The main mansion of the Kelby family was big and always protected by the elders of the family. It was where the main family lives.

Ace was hiding behind a tree and observing the big mansion of the Kelby family.

He didn't see anyone guarding the gates of the mansion but he could sense two powerful experts hidden nearby with his soul sense.

'Hmm? They are weaker than that elder who was hosting the meeting of the Grant family. it seems they're at the 4th gate of Qi Gates.' Ace quickly guess their cultivation base by comparing them with Ezekiel.

Ace didn't have much time to waste because he knows if Rylan didn't find him in Grant's family territory, he would ask for the help from Kelby family, and at that time they would also become alert as well. He has to do it quickly and without anyone noticing it.

He used stealth and silent steps with his True and Fales eyes simultaneously so he could see hidden traps as well as notice those two experts' sudden movements.

Ace enters the mansion through the hidden passage that Eva told him about without alerting those two experts.

Inside the mansion were quite large and there wasn't anyone here except for the attendants and the main family.

Ace remembers and followed Eva's instruction and go towards a white pillar that was beside the stairs. When he gets closed the pillar, a panel pop out that he didn't see for a while and heard the system's voice,

"[Target in range!]

[Did the host want to scan the target?]

[Cost: 10 Thief Points]"

Ace snorted and ignore the system. Since he already knows everything about the treasury what is the point of wasting the thief points?

He active Ture and false eyes and saw a strange mechanism on the pillar. It was like Billy's shop hidden doors but more advance.

Just like before he saw mysterious grey lines and a dark hole between them. He quickly active treasure opening hand second form 'two fingers as key' and arrange his metallic fingers on the hole.

The hole vibrates a little and his finger started to sink in it. With a light 'shhe' sound, the illusionary array disables and the pillar shows a hidden door.

Ace fully activates his heavenly sense and confirms that they were no one behind this door. This door was not some simple door because Ace could see complex grey lines on it and it will not be open by simple means after all the whole treasury of the Kelby family was probably behind this door.

This array on the door was not an 'Illusionary Array', it was a 'Locking Array.'

After finding the 'dark hole'1 position of the 'locking array', Ace close his eyes and begun to use the third form of treasure opening hands 'Pattern Key'.

Ace three fingers started to turn silvery and a strange symbolic pattern surface on them. He places his silvery finger on the locking array 'flaw' or dark hole.

With a little vibration, his finger sinks in it, and a light 'papp' sound rang, which means the door was opened.

Ace quickly open the door and saw an underground passage.

After confirming with his heavenly sense that there was no one, he went in. With silent steps, he reached the end of the pathway in seconds.

At the end of the pathway, he saw a silver color door that was probably made of some special metal and the treasures were unmistakably behind this silver door!

'The treasury of Kelby family!.' Ace's heartbeat races as he was filled with excitement.

Ace used the true and false eyes and this time he saw two little dark holes in the silver door array. He now has some idea that the more powerful or flawless the array is the black holes would be hard to find and unlock as well.

Now he has to use the fourth form of the treasure opening skill 'Lock-Eraser Key'.

Ace commences operating the skill with both of his hands, His pams turn silvery and a single golden mysterious symbol started to form in the center of his pams. The golden symbol looks like a spike with tiny needles around it.

Ace has practiced this skill the most after pick-pocket and was a little bit away from mastering the fifth and final form.

He places, both pams on dark holes and the moment it happened the silver door tremble a little and the dark holes mysteriously started to spin.

Ace felt the golden symbol started to suck his Heavenly-Qi wildly and his face started to turn paler.

The 'locking array' on the silver door crack opens after twenty seconds.

Ace was panting and exuding profoundly because he was drained after using the fourth form 'Lock-Eraser Key' together with his eye's skill. Furthermore, he was continuously using Soul Qi form this evening that put a large burden on his mind and body.

'I should be able to escape with my remaining Qi.' Ace deemed weakly as he gradually opened the silver door.

When the silver door opens, a strong medicinal aroma enters his nose and Ace felt his mind become a little clear. He immediately knew there were large numbers of alchemy pills in here and high-quality ones at that.

As Ace enters the treasury, his eyes brighten with glittering lights. He saw rows of shinning weapons and shelves of colorful pill bottles.

But he didn't have much time left to appraise all of this, he quickly looked at the blue ring excitedly on his finger and questioned the system, "System tell me, how can I use this storage ring?"

Ace didn't bring anything with him since he has this storage ring. He was thrilled about using this legendary storage ring.

"[If a Storage Space Treasures has owner then it is also bound by the owner's 'Qi Mark'. Until the owner died or removes the 'Qi Mark' of its own free will, no one can see inside or use the storage space treasures. The system has already deducted 1 TP on its own since the host seems to be in a hurry]" System answered but this time its voice wasn't emotionless but a hint of playfulness was mix within.

But Ace didn't notice it at all because he was dumbfounded and started to panic after hearing; he can't use the storage ring without killing Rylan. He didn't even bring a bag after getting his hands of the space ring in excitement. Now how the hell he was suppose to bring all these treasures out? IN HIS HAND?!!

"[A free suggestion for the host, check the message panel.]" System voice rang in his head but this time it was emotionless and cold like always.

Ace snapped out of it by system voice and finally remembered that he has received some kind of notification when he steals the storage ring but he was in hurry to escape and didn't pay much attention to it at that time.

Now that system points it out for him, he remembers about it and quickly opens the message panel.

[Message Panel]

[Pick Pocket succeed]

[Host Steal]

[Lowest-Grade Storage Space Treasure: 1],

[Lowest-Grade Pills (White-Ranked pills): 393],

[Low-Grade Pills (Green-Ranked pills):102].

[Middle-level Low-Grade Pills (Blue-Ranked pills): 3],

[Lowest-Grade Weapons (1-Star): 44],

[Low-Grade Weapons (2-Star): 8]

[Middle-level Low-Grade Weapon (3-Stars):1],

[Techniques and skills of Lowest-Level (Mortal-Level): 4 Techniques, 9 Skills],

[Techniques and skills of Low-Level (Warrior-Level): 2 Techniques, 4 Skills],

[Ruby Coins: 12.4 Million],

[Qi-Stones Trash-Grade (Low-Level): 98,762],

[Low-Grade Slave Contracts (2-Stars): 3]

[Medicinal Herbs and Metal Ores of Low-Grade (Green-Ranked, 2-Stars): 87 Herbs, 52 Metal Ores],

[Rewards: 653 Thief Points]

[Thief Points: 703]

Ace didn't dare to believe what he just saw!

He rubs his eyes to check again, but that huge list was still there. That huge amount of TP was still there as well. He forgets that he was currently standing inside the treasury of the Kelby family as excitement fills his heart and laughs like a looney.

"I'm Rich! That old guy hides his wealth well, he even has these Pill, weapons, techniques, and even currency of upper-level lands. Where the hell did, he gets this from?" Ace mutter joyously but there was a hint of uncertainty in his eyes.

Ace wasn't a brat of the outer region anymore. He has read an old book about Kingdoms and knew they used Qi-Stones as currency. He also knows these Warrior-level skills and techniques were monopolized by them and if they find out that Grant's family has so many of them, they would probably annihilate the whole River flower city down to the last chicken in fury.

'That bastard surely robbed someone from a Kingdom or he finds this ring somewhere.' He thought grimly, and his guess was extremely accurate.

Many years ago, Rylan finds an expert of a Kingdom. That expert was gravely injured.

Rylan was about to help him when he noticed him using the storage ring from afar. He was quite knowledgeable and he read about these legendary storage treasures in his family secret records. These space treasures were managed by upper-level lands just like skills. But one can get a storage ring if he has connections and Qi-Stones.

Rylan took advantage of the situation and killed that man and take the storage ring and all of his belonging in it. Rylan even burned his body to ashes and leave no trace behind so no one can trace it back to him.

That's why Rylan was so panicked at that time when the storage ring vanished. He thought the Kingdom whom the cultivator he had killed, tracked him down and want to avenge their dead member.

But when he discovered, his ring was only stolen by a little boy of wastelands, he has a sigh of relief and starts to search for Ace before someone could figure out his biggest secret.

Ace calms down and notices another message below this big list.

[Congratulation! The special conditions have been satisfied!]

[Host now has a storage space treasure and more than 500 TP]

[Now Host can unlock System's new function!]

[Thief's Space of 10 Cubic Meters]