

Thief 141

Chapter 141 - A Coward

Ace with Zander family's members and guards were standing in the very front of the sizeable crowd of 4900+ passengers in the colosseum extensive area where the auction was held yesterday.

In the middle range of the crowd, there was standing a young man with average looks and a short built. He wore a simple royal blue. robe. This youngster was Jason in his new disguise!

"Do you sense him?" Jason transmitted grimly. His mood was sullen to the extreme.

"Sigh... No, I seem he didn't come in the end."The old voice sighed helplessly.

"That bastard manage to open my storage ring and I nearly got caught because of the backlash!" Jason was extremely resentful and enraged at this moment. **"You still think he is a normal person? I think he has someone like you guiding him as well."**

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"There is a very high possibility, even I can't remove a Qi mark without regaining my complete strength. But there is also a possibility that he had some kind of ancient treasure on him. I know at least two that were lost in my Era."The old voice was filled with uncertainty.

"Nevertheless, we should stay away from that boy until you reached Qi River Core Realm. So, what if he has the map? No one can decipher it but me!"

"We'll get it back. Just think of it as you give it to someone for safekeeping. It is also a good thing your superiors also got suspicious and now the map is gone, you don't have to be on edge all the time."

"It is easier to get it back from that brat rather than your organization!" The old voice sounded.

Jason takes a deep breath. **"You have a point. My cultivation is progressing quickly with senior's cultivation technique, and it won't be long before I'll get that map back and pay that bastard for this strange tattoo!"**

Jason hatefully looked at his left hand that he covered with a glove. He was naturally talking about Ace's thief symbol!

After Jason leave that place, he found his peculiar bird mark on his ring finger. He was bewildered and try to remove it.

But he soon found out it was impossible!

Jason instantly connected it with that hateful 'friend' of his and decided to just peel off the skin with that mark.

He peels off the skin with the bird mark. As for the pain, it was nothing for him after what he's been through.

However, to Jason and that old voice astonishment; after the new skin growth that bird mark came back!

Jason didn't accept this and peel his skin again, but the same result happened! He nearly went berserk.

If not for the old voice ensuring him it was not harmful and there was no Qi or Soul fluctuation on it, Jason was going to cut off his finger in his frenzy.

Because if Jason cut off his finger, he didn't have any means to regrow it, and that organization would consider him a cripple and kill him for losing a single finger.

But even that old voice can't explain the reason for this bird mark and in the end, guess it was some kind of secret technique as to what it was for. He didn't know the answer.

That's why it gravely warned Jason to stay away from that boy for the time being and inside, it was happy that they didn't encounter that boy for real again.

Even if he found Ace in his sizeable crowd, he was not planning on telling Jason from the start because he was afraid for his safety!

At this moment, Aden enter the stage and the crowd fell into silence.

"My dearest apologies for not being there to welcome you." Aden sighed regretfully as if he was sorry.

"But worry not, I'll be going personally to the Royal Capital with all of you. Since I have some business there as well." Aden announced this startling news with a gentle smile.

Everyone exclaims hearing his unexpected news and Ace narrowed his eyes.

'Hehe, he's afraid.' Ace sense Aden's fear instantly from his soul fluctuations. *'It seems my plan worked!'*

On the side of the stage stand Earl Patrick himself and after hearing Aden's announcement, he scoffed disdainfully, "Coward."

Earl Patrick knew very well why this guy was going to the capital so suddenly because he was escaping!

After Earl Patrick told very thing as Victor describe to Aden and show him those two storage rings, Aden didn't dare to accept after seeing what was inside!

Aden denied with a smiling ashen face as beads of sweat were shining on his forehead. The poor guy was scared silly after seeing the content of those rings!

Aden was a very cautious person, and that's why he thought; he has offended someone powerful who wasn't even afraid of his position as a beast-master. And after hearing the threat, he deemed that youth was coming for him.

He has a terrible feeling about Ace from the very start but he still ends up shooting the arrow and now the other person knows just who pulled the string and wasn't even afraid of telling him!

That's why Aden abruptly went to the kingdom's level branch of Beast Calling Organization and seek help from his brother, who was also a vice beast-master of that branch!

The difference between a county's, and capital level branch was like day and night. Even if someone was not afraid of low-level members like him, but a capital-level branch is a whole other case.

Beast Tamer was easy to nurture. That's why the organization didn't care about the likes of Aden very much if they can get enough compensation. Even that is the case if the other party had an influential position in an empire!

Aden can offend anyone as long as they were in the scope of middle-lands and by the behavior of that brat, he was not from here.

At least that is what he concluded after seeing the 100 high-level Qi stones in those storage rings!

Aden can't find information about them here and the high-level Qi stones were not this common even in the number one capital of lands of kingdoms!

That's why he didn't show up outside and stayed inside the protection of this branch's formation!

Chapter 142 - Thievery & Flight

9-11 minutes

After his abrupt announcement, Aden command gently, "Now people with the Golden Beast Tickets please follow me, as for the other please wait before the fastest category beasts take flight."

Everyone does as Aden said and hundred people came forward and followed Aden.

Fifty of them were from the Zander family. The Zander's siblings and 47 protectors with the minimum cultivation of peak Qi gates realm and the highest one was high stage qi foundation realm!

Even poor Toby didn't get a seat, but these guards did and this made him very aggrieved. But what can he do? It was the decision of his grandfather and big uncle. Even his father was helpless to do anything.

As for the other fifty, they all were from titled families.

Jason in the crowd of faster category narrowed his eyes. *'How did they get golden tickets from that cheat?'* But no matter how much he thinks of it he didn't understand.

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If Ace was here, he might've guessed something, but he isn't and that made this thing fishier.

'My tickets were also stolen by him.' Jason's expression turn violent as he observed these seat distribution closely.

Earl Patrick came in front of his children and gravely said, "Come back alive and you protect your younger sister and brother."

Ace rolled his eyes, *'If you loved them so much you can just not send them, what a hypocrite.'*

"Yes Father, we won't disappoint you." The three of them solemnly said in unison.

After the brief encounter with the Earl, everyone moves towards their rides.

Ace finally saw the beast he was riding.

It was a 30 feet large hawk. Its blue feathers were exquisite and its body was silver-white. It was coldly looking at everyone with its beastly yet intelligent silver eyes.

'Thunderstorm Hawk, that can fly for a month without even stopping and its speed is like an arrow. I wonder if we fall from it.' Ace instantly recognized this species.

"This is a Thunderstorm Hawk, a high stage qi foundation realm demonic beast. I'll be controlling this beast." Aden declared with deep pride in his voice.

"Now, ten among you hundred, please move forward and sit on the rune marking on its back. And please try not to pluck his feathers." Aden chuckles as he joked.

Now the question was, who will ride with Aden? He was the most powerful here and it will be a safe journey with him.

It was another matter that the strongest man was a coward, though.

Everyone looked at Zinder's family group with envy. They all knew what was going to happen.

"Let's go." Niko chuckles coldly at this moment as he commands his siblings and the seven strongest guards to embark on the beast.

'There are some advantages of having a prominent position after all.' Ace thought with ecstasy and do as Niko stated.

Ace jump on the hawk's wide back and was astonished when he saw ten runes engraving there. *'What are these runes' symbols for? And they had carved them into a living being's body.'* He couldn't stop his curiosity.

"Heh, curious?" Aden's gentle voice sounded at this moment when Victor was observing those runes.

"These are anti-air runes. They can stop strong winds from blowing you and you won't feel any air pressure because of them. Only our organization can carve those runes."

Aden explains with obvious pride in his voice, without caring if someone was listening to him or not.

'Anti-air rune, huh.' Ace's eyes shimmered with a peculiar light as he thought of something.

"You'll sit with me." Skyler's sweet voice rang at this moment.

Victor falter slightly and nodded his head with a smile.

Both brother and sister sit on two runes at the very end.

"Why are you sitting in the end?" Niko wasn't satisfied with this sitting arrangement.

"I'm a girl and I don't want anyone to gawk at my back, so I'll sit at the very back. Besides, Victor is here to accompany me." Skyler mildly justified.

Niko didn't have words to retort because Skyler had a point and gave up. "You two, make sure they won't feel uncomfortable."

He gave the command to two of his men and sit at the very front since he can't bear to sit behind someone. Especially if they were mere guards.

'This place is very comfortable.' Ace couldn't help but think like this after he sits on the fluffy warm back of the Thunderstorm Hawk.

After making himself comfortable, Ace's focus finally turned to the notification panel, which was packed with 97 new notifications.

"System, can you make a short report for me? I'll see each one of them separately when I had time," Ace asked. He was in a hurry to find out his big haul of TP.

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"[Successful Pick Pocket Count: 97]"

[Low-Level Thieveries: 8]

[Minor-Level Thieveries: 89]

[Total Reward: 12,000TP]

[Thief Point(s): 12,330]

[Low-Level Thievery: 13]

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'So little.' Ace frowned because of the low-level thievery count. He thought it would be easy to increase his Thievery Count now since he was stealing from many people at once.

Now Ace realized he was wrong because there were 'poor' people mixed in this lot.

'No problem, I still have more targets to steal from.' Ace quickly shifted his attention to those remaining 103 targets!

Almost every one of these remaining targets was in the fastest category group.

'5 of them are on Thunderstorm Hawk, so they can wait for now. The remaining 98, however.' Ace quickly spotted the other people who were not on the same demonic beast as his.

One was non-other than Earl Patrick, who was standing expressionlessly on the side and 17 others were from the Beast Calling Organization, Nora and Jade included.

Speaking of which, Aden wasn't taking his two 'cherished' disciples with him and leaving them to look after things until he returned.

As for the other 80 targets, all of them were youngsters of noble families or their protectors, except one particular person, who was standing in the sizeable crowd that was waiting for their turn.

'Oh, there he is.'

An evil grin appeared on Ace's face when he felt a familiar soul signature. It was none other than Jason's!

Ace instantly asked a precise question from the system after finding Jason's new cover, *"System, can a person have a second thief symbol?"*

"[Not until the host does a higher-level thievery than the previous one on the same person.]"

Ace couldn't help but feel somewhat disappointed. He simply wanted to annoy that guy to death!

As for sympathy, Ace has none for Jason since he was an assassin.

Just like before, Ace created 98 soul threads and direct them into their position, and waits for the Thunderstorm Hawk to take flight.

"Now that everyone is ready, off we go," Aden announced as he conjures a formation plate from his storage ring and pours Qi into it.

Thereafter, the runes shimmer with white light, and that light encompassed everyone's body.

Ace closely studied the light barrier with his runic eye's technique and was astonished because of the appearance of the same anti-air runes on this light barrier. It was just that they were very little.

After the barrier was set Aden closed his eyes as he used his beast tamer technique.

The Thunderstorm Hawk let loose a resounding cry as it flips its gorgeous, majestic blue wings and takes flight.

Ace quickly stops observing the light barrier and used the pick-pocket instantly and the next moment thief's charity, in succession.

As for the written Qi stones, Ace has prepared 500 of them so he wasn't out of supply yet.

The very next moment, the Thunderstorm Hawk speed sour as it became smaller and smaller for everyone to see and finally become a dote.

Ace was stunned seeing the speed of this demonic beast for a moment, but he focused soon turn to his surroundings.

Ace saw the large city becoming smaller by every second as the hawk was flying higher. He saw the vast golden sky and couldn't help but think with envy, *'Flying freely in this vast sky must be amazing.'*

Nothing else was on his mind. A few years ago, he never even imagines that he would one day fly in the skies on a deadly beast.

This feeling of being free that he got from the sky was unique.

While Ace was enjoying his first flight,

On the ground.

At this moment, inside Beast Calling Colosseum, it was deadly silent because just a moment ago Earl Patrick nearly killed some poor guy from the organization who was standing beside him.

Everyone heard his shrill scream clearly before he attacked the poor guy.

It was; "**M-MY STORAGE RING!?!?**"

Earl Patrick only let that guy go after ripping his clothes and made sure he didn't have his storage ring.

Now Patrick was looking at others with naked killing intent.

Everyone closer to him put an enormous distance and this peculiar scene bewitched the crowd.

Everyone has one thought at this moment, *'Is Earl Patrick was sadistic?!*'

Chapter 143 - The Journey

9-11 minutes

Patrick didn't care about those strange gazes at him and roared in anger, "**Where is my storage ring? Who stole it?! Come out and I'll give you a painless death!**"

No one speak since they didn't even know just when his storage ring got stolen.

Abruptly, Nora's cry of alarm echoed at this moment, "**My ring is gone!!**"

"What, where is my storage ring?!!" Jade join the fray after her fellow disciple.

Just like that, 94 more victims emerge and all of them were the fastest category passengers and some organization higher-ups.

If Jason didn't want to draw much attention to himself at this moment, he was the only one left who didn't speak!

'That son of a bitch!' Jason was on the verge of insanity because he knew just who had his kind of fetish and ability to steal storage rings.

"Didn't you say you didn't find him?!!!" Jason angrily exploded in his mind, since no one was here to vent his anger. He finds someone on his own.

"I-it must be a mistake...I scan the crowd and everyone outside.. He wasn't here!" The old voice was also sounded frustrated.

"But he was here, and he stole my storage ring again!" Jason said in resentment.

"There must be some kind of mistake. It ought to be someone else. Yes, it has to!" The old voice soothed Jason or itself.

At this moment, Nora's angry voice echoed again, "T-this ugly bird mark. Who dares to do this? Come out! You rascal!"

"Yii, sister look this ugly bird mark is on my finger as well." Jade yelled in alarm and anger as well.

Earl Patrick was flabbergasted seeing this and couldn't help but look at his finger. Because of anger and shock, he didn't notice it at first, but now he also saw that bird mark on his ring finger.

"Insolent rat, come out!" Patrick roar again.

"Now how did you explain this?!" Jason coldly question as his face was twitching uncontrollably.

"That thieving brat!" The old voice was as if it would cry any moment.

"It was a thief called Sky Stealer!" A youngster spoke loudly with rage. He was also a victim.

Everyone looked at him dumbfoundedly.

The youngster quickly shows a fragment-Qi stone and said, "I found it in my pocket and this name was written on it!"

Those victims included Jason and Patrick, probed their pockets and, just like that youngster, they found a Qi stone with the same phase and name!

Patrick can't take this anymore and vomit blood, in anger. This disgrace was too much for him.

Jason also felt a metallic taste in his mouth but swallowed back whatever was approaching. ***'I'm going to torture this arrogant bastard.'***

"Boy, that brat has an earth-shattering secret on him. You have to become strong so you could capture him, and then everything he owes will be yours to take.

"Don't forget, we can still track him by the map. As for the disappearance of Baleful Qi, we'll find out how he did after capturing him." The old grim voice buzz in Jason's mind but there was a hind of greed in it, that Jason didn't notice in his ferocity.

"You're right. One day I'll get back everything that belongs to me." Jason calm his nerves and a new resolve shone in his eyes.

Before things got out of hand, Blank Hound appeared in his black cloak and control the situation.

However, Earl Patrick didn't budge from the colosseum. He was hell-bent on finding that insolent thief named Sky Stealer and his storage ring.

Black Hound had no choice but to start a search of everyone since the people of the organization also got robbed.

After the tidiest search, no clue on the thief was found and people who got robbed complexion were ashen and filled with hatred.

Black Hound was also very frustrated because everything happened in the colosseum and if the news got out, their reputation will go down the drain and they all will receive punishment from the organization.

Soon, another shocking news reached everyone's ears. It was about the thievery outside and the thief was also the same.

This makes things even more complicated and the name Sky Stealer becomes quite appalling.

Black Hound decided to report this freakish thief to the higher-ups of the organization while gritting his teeth. Even if he got punished, this was not something he could hide now, and it was far better if they found out from him rather than someone else.

As for Aden, he would be punished since he left his post without any prior notice. It doesn't matter if he had a brother or father in a capital's level branch.

The victims had no one to get compensation from and they could only shut their mouths and hate that thief to the bones, nothing else.

After this drama of Sky Stealer, the journey for the fastest category was canceled for a day since those nobles needed money to stay in the capital. They can't just go empty-handed and then stay on the streets like beggars, right?

When the victims outside find out about the victims inside, they all were dumbfounded and swore to find that thief no matter what. Of course, Patrick was in charge of this search.

However, this search didn't last long when a piece of shocking news reached Patrick and everyone else in the city.

This news was so unbelievable that no one dares to believe it and it was also related to the notorious thief in Zander's county, Sky Stealer...

In the vast golden sky,

A majestic demonic beast was flying high about like a gale of silver-blue wind. It was none other than Thunderstorm Hawk that takes flight before all the commotion.

It has been a week since the journey to the capital begins and the Thunderstorm Hawk didn't rest for a moment. It can fly for an entire month like this and that's why it was the beast in the fastest category.

Only five more days remain before it would reach the Regal Capital's beast calling colosseum.

Aden and the others on the beasts were silent all this time and everyone focus on their cultivation.

However, if Aden knew what had transpired in Zander City just after a few minutes he left and the shocking news that shake the city to the core, he wouldn't so relaxed and wish if he could've just stayed in the city.

Ace was also sitting comfortably in the last rune. He truly enjoyed the feeling of flying in the sky.

But he got bored after a few hours and, like everyone else, did his own thing.

First, he checked the result of his hard labor.

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[Successful Pick Pocket Count: 98]

[Low-Level Thieveries: 12]

[Minor-Level Thieveries: 86]

[Total Rewards: 14,200TP]

[Thief Point(s): 26,530]

[Low-Level Thievery: 25]

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This new thievery haul was very much to his liking and made him closer to reaching his goal.

After that, Ace's prime focus was the Runic Soul Manipulation Technique, first level. He was learning it for some time now was very close to forming needle-like threads with the light soul Qi.

Ace has to acknowledge that from the moment he started to learn this technique, his control over soul Qi and even martial Qi become very precise.

One can see this by his soul threads, before he could only conjure fifteen after forming orange soul core and he thought it was his limit. But he soon finds out this was not the case at all after he began learning this soul-controlling technique.

Just because of this control technique, he manages to create Thief's Charity as well or he still won't be able to create this kind of skill. This skill might look simple, but it was not the case in the least bit.

Only someone like Ace could do this and he just didn't know this astonishing truth about himself...

Whenever Ace get the time, he would practice this technique, as for anyone here finding out about his soul Qi. No one can it was that simple.

Although Aden was an empty river cultivator, he can't detect Ace's soul Qi until he reached the River Depth stage and focused solely on Ace's.

That's why Ace was practicing with no worry.

Three more days pass in the blink of an eye.

Ace's eyes were closed as five white transparent threads were dancing on his left hand's fingers. They were quite thin and still thinning until all of them were as thin as a needle

Ace open his eyes, there was visible excitement in them, *'I finally reached the first level of Runic Soul Manipulation Technique!'* He thought with ecstasy.

He was in a high spirit since he can now finally study the encyclopedias, which he wanted to glimpse into for a very long time. Because without mastering the first part, he can't assess to second part's information,

'I'm close to the capital now so I can open the third part after reaching it. First, I have to find a way to land this hawk.' Ace mused.

From the start, he wasn't planning on going to the capital's beast calling branch because he knew these organizations had a way to communicate in long-distance just by their ability to founding information about him and Jason so quickly.

After what he did, it was most likely that a force was waiting for him there!

Chapter 144 - Abrupt Turn Of Events

9-11 minutes

Ace was now mulling over how he should make the Thunderstorm Hawk land on the group safely because if something goes wrong from this altitude, he would become meat mush and feast for wild beasts.

'I definitely can't use soul attack since it will die at the very moment.' Ace thought gravely.

This Thunderstorm Hawk speed was no doubt equal to his own, but it was only famous for its agility, not its fighting abilities, and its soul was even more fragile than its body.

That's why Ace has to think of a way to perfectly land this Hawk without killing it and the only way that came to his mind was to take Aden hostage just what he did with Jason.

Aden didn't have Jason skills nor his reflexes, he was accommodated to an easy lifestyle for too long and that's what makes him a much easy target to control than an assassin like Jason.

As for others on the Hawk, he can easily kill them with soul-piercing bullets if another tries to play a hero.

The only person who he was uncertain about was none other than the beauty beside him Skyler. But if he plays his cards perfectly, he can easily manipulate Skyler as well..

Now the question was how and when he would do it?

Whatever he does, he had to do it in two days before reaching the Regal Capital!

Ace was still frowning over his next plan when, abruptly, the Thunderstorm Hawk speed decreed drastically!

Everyone was startled and Aden's face became ashen as he senses something and Ace faltered. However, one person was very calm at this moment and that was Skyler!

Ace's eyes contracted instantly as he felt something completely out of expectation with his soul sense, *'Why is my luck always go down to drain whenever things were going according to my plan!'*

He didn't know whether to laugh or cry at this moment, but he didn't panic and remained calm and waited to see these unexpected guests.

The very next moment thereafter, a dominant voice of a man resounded, "Beast Tamer, land this Thunderstorm Hawk this instant I command you, as the Beast Master of Moonless Kingdom's capital's branch of Beast Calling Organization!"

Just as the voice disappeared, a 25-meter large Condor came into everyone's view. It was completely pitch black with crimson beastly eyes and a crimson 3-foot horn on its head.

"Crimson Horn Condor!" Aden cried in alarm and the Thunderstorm Hawk's silver eyes were filled with terror as it looked at that ghastly condor.

"Yes, we'll do." Aden snapped out of his shock and quickly comply with the other party's order without even asking any question.

Ace narrowed his eyes because this Crimson Horn Condor was at the peak of the Qi foundation building realm and the Beast Master who controlled it was also a River Depth realm expert.

But the real problem was the silhouette beside that Beast Master because Ace could feel it was a Soul Cultivator!

As for the name; the Moonless Kingdom. It was far too well known for him to not know.

It was the second-ranked kingdom in the Kingdom Ranking Chart of middle-lands!

As the name implies, the Kingdom Ranking Chart record, the Kingdom's ranks from 1st to 100th, and the Regal Kingdom was at the 94th position!

One could only imagine the gap between these two Kingdoms beast calling branches. That's why Aden didn't dare to ask anything and just after hearing the name, he landed the Thunderstorm Hawk.

Ace didn't falter and remained composed as he observe closely before springing into any action. He could feel those two new arrivals were not here for him, or they might've tried capturing him in the air where he didn't have anywhere to run.

He couldn't help but look at Skyler and was astonished by seeing her calm self, '*What is she up to?*' He thought.

After both aerial demonic beasts landed on the ground, everyone disembarks their rides.

Niko's face was stiff as well as his guards.

As for Aden, he put his best fawning smile as he said, "Sir, you honor me with your presence, I'm Beast Master of Zander county's branch, I wonder what business do you have with me, I'll do my best to help you."

In response to Aden's heartwarming greeting, that middle-aged man didn't even blink and completely ignore Aden.

This middle-aged man was 6 feet tall with a bulky built, his face was average with a long black beard as he wore a stiff face.

He was in beast calling uniform same as Aden but there were three silver stars on his collar, which means a Beast Master of a 1st Grade Kingdom!

Aden had only a single star silver star, which means he was from a third-grade kingdom branch.

At this moment, a slender figure landed on the ground gracefully.

It was a lady, that looked in her early twenties. She has a round pale face with extraordinary features. She wore a gray dress which shows her snake-like waist and two big twin peaks.

However, on her dress, there were two flaming ruins engraved with golden threads on her right breast.

"Estimate Rune Crafter, did you find whom you were looking for?" The Beast Master stiffly asked the figure that has just landed on the ground. But there was a hint of respect in his voice.

Everyone exclaims hearing Rune Crafter!

Ace was also somewhat stunned as he studied the lady. His attention directly goes to her big chest... ahem on those two flaming runes!

'She a 2nd Rank Mortal Rune Crafter of Pill Flame Organization!' He promptly assumed her background, seeing those two runes.

These flaming runes represent the rune crafter's ranks from 1 to 9 and only one organization had the right to use this symbol, Pill Flame Organization!

Ace has long felt the presence of a soul river cultivator, but he never expected to meet a rune crafter of the wealthiest organization below royal lands!

He was no longer ignorant and knew just how much rare rune crafters truly were, and how they were treated. And she was looking for something.

"Yes, I indeed found her." The Rune Crafter mildly spoke as a beautiful smile bloomed on her face when she looked at Skyler!

"Did my mother send your esteemed self?" Skyler spoke at this moment as if she was expected this.

Everyone was flabbergasted hearing her words, even Ace.

"Yes, she can't wait to see you and my name is Olivia Jake. I'm a very good friend of your mother, you can call me Aunt Olivia." Olivia introduces herself to Skyler with a faint smile.

"What is going on here and our mother is dead!" Niko finally snap out of his bewilderment as he spoke with a hint of fury in his voice.

"Hehe, you must be Niko, the first child of that rogue!" Olivia coldly chuckled as she released a little of soul river cultivation aura.

Niko and everyone's face paled as they all felt their soul shake. She didn't even spare Aden who was only watching with great intrigue.

Only Skyler and Victor remain unaffected.

"Aunt Olivia, please don't hurt him. He is, after all, my half-brother," Skyler said passively.

"Hehe, find. Boy, you should thank your sister." Olivia darkly giggles as she stops releasing the soul aura.

'Her mother must've held quite an influential position or this overbearing witch won't listen to Skyler so quickly.' Ace instantly saw through Olivia's act of pleasing Skyler.

Niko's face was pale and twisted with fury as he looked at Olivia and Skyler.

"So, you were planning something, but even father didn't think you were in contact with that backstabbing bitch!" Niko hatefully looked at Skyler as he barked.

Skyler's eyes turn sharp, "If you disrespect my mother again, I'll forget you're my half-brother!" She threatened, and finally removed that veil from her face.

In everyone's eyes, a fairy-like face appeared.

A gorgeous oval face and a pair of exuberant sky-blue eyes. Her skin was as pristine white as jade. Skyler had completely transformed into a seductive beauty who appeared to be in her late teens.

Everyone takes a second glance at Skyler's face again except Ace, who was nonchalant. Skyler was like a fairy, but she was still a level or two below compared to his sealed wife.

But Skyler's transformation wasn't over after the veil was removed from her face, her aura sore!

Before she didn't have any trace of Qi on her, however now she instantly released the pressure of peak stage foundation building realm cultivator and it was not the aura of martial Qi, it was the Soul Qi!

Ace and Olivia were the only ones who weren't surprised by this sudden transformation.

Ace has long sensed soul cultivator aura on Skyler in the auction and that's why he was slightly wary of her from the start. That veil was a treasure that concealed her soul aura, but not from a Heavenly Soul Cultivator like him.

As for Olivia, she knew because Skyler's mother sent her to fetch Skyler for this very reason!

Chapter 145 - Who Are YOU?

8-10 minutes

Niko felt his soul shake after Skyler released her soul aura on him and vomit a puddle of blood.

His face was ghastly pale as he smiled bitterly, "So, that was indeed the case, huh. That woman might've come back in secret to see you and you removed that veil in front of her, didn't you?" He weakly asked.

"Yes, she came back to see her children, and I removed my veil that father put on me so no can find out by my talent in the soul." Skyler impassively said.

"Hehe, let me guess; then she taught you that soul cultivation technique which you are currently practicing and promise you she'll take you away once you..."

Before Niko could say another word, his eyes rolled upward, and he loses consciousness.

"Don't worry, I only knocked him out, he's spouting too much nonsense." Olivia twiddle with her long hair as she nonchalantly said.

Skyler didn't speak and deeply looked at unconscious Niko on the ground..

"Let's go, we have a long journey ahead of us." Olivia impatiently speaks.

"Yes." Skyler nodded, "Let's go, Victor, we're going to see our mother, she'll tell you everything herself because she's still alive!" She looked at her real blood brother and when she did, a look of bewilderment flashed past her face.

Because Victor was too calm and didn't even show a hint of emotion on his face as if he wasn't shocked at all hearing about this news.

Ace impassively looked at everyone and then Skyler's fairy-like face and sighed deeply as he said, "Don't you find it strange when she came to meet you she didn't visit me if she was there for just her children?"

Skyler narrowed her eyes because Victor is acting strange. No! extremely strange!

"What kind of question is this little Victor don't doubt your mother intentions? She was in a hurry so she could only see your sister that time and trust me, she was very regretful about it." Olivia tries to justify on behalf of her friend with a pained expression.

'Her acting is top-notch.' Ace sneer in his heart but he didn't want to get involved with these two-face people too much. He just wanted to warn Skyler, since she cares about her siblings.

Even an idiot would see Niko know something that Olivia or her friend didn't want Skyler to know and that's why she knock him cold and instantly demand to leave.

The moment she came here, she never even looked at Victor. which means she was only here for Skyler and this also shows that the mother of Skyler didn't care about her other child with no soul talent whatsoever.

Ace didn't know why that woman wanted Skyler now, but something was not right and Skyler just didn't want to see it.

Maybe Patrick also has his selfish reason for hiding Skyler's talent in soul and now sending her into this deadly battle or for other reason to the capital, Ace didn't know and didn't want to know either.

"Who are you?!" Skyler's eyes were icy as she looked at Victor's calm stature. She knew her brother too well and he would never question her.

Especially when it came to their mother. He always wanted to meet her, and she once promised him she would take him to her one day. But now he was questioning her in such a manner, how could she not notice it?

Everyone was surprised by this sudden development, even Olivia.

"Hehe, just a passer-by." Victor chortled at this moment as he swept his hand past his face and Javier appeared in his arrogant smile!

Everyone was flabbergasted by this, and Aden's face was as if his soul had fled his body

"**I-its you!**" Aden screams in horror. How could he forget the reason for his fleeing the city? It was exactly because of this young man!

Skyler also remembered this guy clearly. She would never forget that feeling and humiliation he bought upon Victor.

"Where is Victor!!? What did you do to him." Skyler quickly snap out of her dazzle as killing intent replaced the surprise in her eyes.

Olivia also recover from her shock as she said grimly, "Who are you?" She could tell this guy's cultivation was only at the third gate, however, his arrogant yet calm smile didn't match his meager strength.

"Don't engage with him, his cultivation is not what we're seeing." The Beast Master spoke grimly at this moment, who was silent from the start.

"We don't want any trouble. Just tell the girl what you did with the boy and we'll be on our way." He spoke without any arrogance or respect.

"Finally, a fellow with some brain." Javier chuckled coldly as he deeply looked at the Beast Master. This guy was very sharp despite his looks.

"Victor is fine. I just borrowed his face for one day. Your father should already find him this time around." Javier shifted his attention to Skyler, who was in no mood to talk and ready to pounce on him like a lioness if he speaks any more nonsense.

"How can I believe you?" Skyler still didn't back down.

"Hehe, that's the thing, you see..." Javier mysteriously smile and said, "You can't! But what can you do?"

"Skyler, don't attack him!" Olivia wasn't a fool, and she knew this guy was difficult to deal with and Skyler was standing just two feet away from him.

However, Skyler didn't heed Olivia's grave warning and use a soul attack.

"Until we meet again." Javier mysteriously smiled as he become an afterimage before vanishing completely!

Skyler was stunned seeing this scoundrel elude her soul attack like it was nothing and Olivia's eyes contracted as well as the Beast Master's.

They all know the terror of soul attacks and that guy not only evade it he was now gone!

Olivia also didn't find any soul waves, nor did the Beast Tamer find any qi waves.

Both of them didn't have either soul sense or martial sense. Even if they want to, they can't see through Ace's breathless stealth or they can match his lightning steps.

But the skill Ace used to evade Skyler's soul attack was camouflage steps, which he was very close to achieving low-level mastery in it.

After he successfully evaded the attack, he simply uses his stealth technique and escapes with lightning steps.

As for killing Skyler, he didn't want a blood feud with some powerful soul cultivator who can send someone like Olivia from the pill flame organization here.

And he didn't have complete confidence to kill everyone here, especially when Soul River and Qi River Depth cultivators were present.

So escaping was the only option. He just acts very mysteriously to make everyone dreadful after changing his face.

He knew the moment he turns into Javier, his cultivation would go down, but it gives him the perfect chance to sow fear in everyone's heart and manage to escape without a hitch after showing off his abilities a little.

Skyler was just a puppet who was acting according to his will in all this, and he knew Victor was the thing that can make her attack him.

No one dare to think of chasing him after, seeing him evading a soul attack like it was nothing and he even managed to reap a bountiful harvest of TP.

Or he could've just escaped from the start. No one here can stop him if he does, but all this act he did was for TP!

He would never let this chance to make a huge amount of TP get by, especially if there was a rune crafter of Pill Flame Organization present in front of him. He knew how rich these people were by Vance's example.

No one notice him, not even Olivia, since her cultivation was equal to his soul cultivation, and she was in the state of shock as everyone else.

As for what Ace said about Victor being alive, he was telling the truth!

In the end, Ace didn't bring himself to kill that boy because he wasn't a scum like Javier and more importantly, he wasn't a killer!

He spared him just thinking that if he started killing people for his interest, there will be no difference between him and these people who he loath.

Although he will steal from anyone and everyone for his interest and benefits, talking about a life without a good reason, just didn't fit with his nature.

Especially when the person was Victor, who just wanted to protect his sister and prove himself to his father.

That's also why Ace warn Skyler and then did what he had to steal those storage rings.

As for whether she caught his message, it wasn't his concern anymore since he had other important things to do.

Ace thought this would be his last encounter with Skyler and Olivia, but he was wrong about that. He will meet them in near future and under different circumstances!

Chapter 146 - The Hidden Selection

9-12 minutes

After Ace vanished like a ghost, and only dumbfounded witnesses remain.

The bulky beast master's name was David, and he was the first to regain his composure. and said with a grim face, "He's gone."

"Hmph! Just a nobody with some rat-like skills." Olivia also regain her previous arrogance, but there was a hint of fear in her eyes.

She was truly shocked to see this kind of concealment and disguise skills. Only one organization had these kinds of techniques and skills. Just thinking about them gave her the chills.

"Let's go," Olivia said to Skyler. She still had some doubts about that guy's identity and didn't want to stay to find out.

.

"No, I want to go back and see if he was telling the truth about Victor. If he's dead, I want to see his corpse and if he's alive, I'll bring him with me." Skyler shook her head while resolve shone on her fairy-like face.

"Fine, it will only take two days to reach that place." David coolly agreed with her.

"Sigh... you're just like your mother, stubborn. Fine, let's go. I also wanted to see that scoundrel brother-in-law of mine for some time." Oliva said in a resigned manner.

"Let's take him back as well," Skyler said as she looked at unconscious Niko. She was still kindhearted.

David merely nodded, and Olivia frowned but didn't retort.

"M-m... my storage ring is missing!"

Aden's shrill cry rang at this moment and took everyone by surprise!

"Who cares about your r..." Olivia going to scoff when her eyes felt on her slim ring finger and her eyes were open wide as if they would pop out of their eye sockets at any moment!

"It was that hateful scoundrel!" Olivia's shrill scream rang as only one person came to her mind; who just run away.

"That bastard! How did he do it!?" David exclaimed in shock and fury while looking at the dark bird mark on his ring finger.

Skyler also saw her storage ring go missing as her eyes went wide in bewilderment, *'Just who in the world was he!?' Her beautiful eyes wander in the direction where Ace has vanished.*

Ace was moving to the south from where landed.

According to the map, the Regal Capital was only a six days' journey away if he moves at full speed.

Although his speed was equal to the Thunderstorm Hawk, however, all these landscapes would decrease his pace quite a lot since he can't fly.

But Ace wasn't in a hurry to reach the capital of Regal Kingdom because now he was close, which means he can be there when the kingdom level test of Damien Royal Institute began.

According to Victor's memories and his research, the registration would begin three months before the test.

As for why they all were going so early, this had to do with a hidden selection!

This hidden selection was done by none other than Pill Flame and Beast Calling organizations!

The purpose of this hidden selection was to select youngsters who had an affinity with either Pill flame or Beast calling.

The widest area of this hidden selection was controlled by Beast Calling Organization since it was all over the Middle lands.

Pill Flame only held this kind of hidden selection in the top ten kingdoms.

This is how these two organizations absorb the most promising talents first and leave the leftovers for Damien Royal Institute.

Although, one can join these organizations by showing required talent and passing their tests. However, it was very rare because the result in failure means certain death!

That's why only a few people go through this process and most of them try their luck in these hidden selections where they had a chance to live at least.

However, this hidden selection has a brief time, which is one month and when this one month starts, it all depends on organizations' higher-ups.

But whenever this month started, the royal families of every kingdom get advance notice and these royal families will send words to the titled families of their specific kingdoms.

What happened after was very obvious, every family would send their most promising youngster to the royal capital. Where some experts of organizations measure these youths in shadows!

If you got selected, you'll get an invitation from the organization to join them and it is far better than joining the Damien Royal Institute, which influence was limited to Middle-Lands.

The common faction didn't have any knowledge of this at all, though.

Patrick also send Skyler here because he wanted her to join these organizations. With her talent in the soul, any of these two organizations would fight for her.

But alas, she had other plans and Olivia was already on her way to fetch her but was unexpectedly 'greeted' by Ace in the end and got robbed!

Ace knew now he would become wanted by both organizations in the whole middle-lands because he robbed one Beast Masters of 1st-grade kingdom and a rune crafter together!

But he was determined and made his choice long ago.

Ace has become Heaven's Stealer long ago, and if he didn't even steal from these rich goats, how could he call himself Sky Stealer?

Truth to be told, Ace wasn't interested in joining this institute, but it would be a brilliant cover and he can also reach the number one kingdom with no hitch and accommodate a large amount of TP quickly.

But first, he had to find another face since Javier's face was going to be all over the place soon and he needed the second mask for this.

Ace stopped outside an abandoned cave of some low-level demonic beast and spent the night there. He also wanted to check the new haul of TP.

He was very excited. After all, he had robbed a rune crafter of pill flame organization and he knew it was worth the risk since he can get a large tally of TP and probably buy the mask now!

After closing the cave carefully, and lit the fire.

With elation, Ace opens the notification panel and saw a new notification.

=====

[Notification Panel]

[{Unseen Notification}]

[Quick Report of Thieveries]

[Successful Pick Pocket Count: 8]

[Low-Level Thieveries: 4]

[Minor-Level Thieveries: 4]

[Total Rewards: 50,170TP]

[Thief Point(s): 76,700]

[Low-Level Thievery: 29]

=====

Ace's eyes shone with elation as he mutters to himself, "I expected nothing less from a rune crafter of pill flame. Let me see what she had in her storage ring."

Ace slide the thievery report upwards because he wanted to see the exact details of Olivia's storage ring.

=====

[Pick Pocket success]

{Host steal}

{1: Low-Level, Middle-Grade Storage Space Treasure} (5th Mortal Level-Runes)

{17: High-Level, Low-Grade Storage Space Treasure} (4th Mortal Level-Runes)

{14: Middle-Level, Low-Grade Storage Space Treasure} (3rd Mortal Level-Runes)

{1502: Low-Grade Storage Space Treasure} (2nd Mortal Level-Runes)

{50,766: Low-Grade Pills} (Green-Ranked pills)

{11,101: Middle-level, Low-Grade Pills} (Blue-Ranked pills)

{8,972: High-level, Low-Grade Pills} (Azure-Ranked pills)

{993: Low-Level, Middle-Grade Pills} (Purple-Ranked pills)

{1: Low-Level, Middle-Grade Weapon} (5-Stars)

{5: High-level, Low-Grade Weapon} (4-Stars)

{Techniques and skills Low-Grade (Warrior-Grade): 76 Techniques, 121 Skills},

{Techniques and skills Mid Low-Grade (Master-Grade): 2 Technique, 19 Skills},

{Qi-Stones Trash-Grade (Low-Level): 598 Million},

{Qi-Stones Lowest-Grade (Middle-Level): 110.8 Million},

{Qi-Stones Low-Grade (High-Level): 26 Million},

{Qi-Stones Mid-Level, Low-Grade (Peak-Level): 11,21}

{Formation Plates Low Grade, (2nd Mortal Ranked Runes): 900}

{Array Plates Low Grade, (2nd Mortal Runes): 4,000}

{Blank Runic Plates Low-Grade (2-Start): 98,090}

{Blank Runic Plates Mid-Level, Low-Grade (3-Start): 21,121}

{Blank Runic Plates High-Level, Low-Grade (4-Start): 8,000}

{Blank Runic Plates Low-Level, Middle-Grade (5-Start): 98}

{Slave Contracts: 12,867}

{Medicine Herbs and Metal Ores: 2 Million Herbs, 980,121 Metal Ores}

{Rewards: 45,000 Thief Points}

=====

Ace inhales intensely, "These people of Pill Flame Organization are filthy rich!" He exclaimed.

"System, open this ring and arrange everything like last time in thief's space," Ace told.

=====

"[100TP has been deducted]

[The Storage Ring is now opened]

[The system has also sorted everything in the Thief's Space according to Host command.]"

[Thief Point(s): 76,600]

=====

Ace saw different large piles adding up in his thief's space and couldn't help but think, '*I can probably consider one of the richest people in Middle-Lands now.*'

He was right.

After admiring his wealth, Ace's consciousness shifted to a new pile that emerge just now.

In Ace's hand, a rectangular white plate appeared. It was completely blank, like paper.

Ace crease this white plate as it felt like smooth jade. This was a two-star blank runic plate. He knew these plates were used in crafting runes and it depends on the person's ability to turn them into either array plates or formation plates.

Just like how the system differentiates them into formation plates and array plates.

Olivia was a 2nd Rank Mortal Rune Crafter, so it was very normal for her to have these blank and ready runic plates.

These runic plates were crafted by Crafters with different materials. That's why these plates rank like weapons by Stars.

Some rune crafters can even craft these runic plates on their own, but it was a very cumbersome task, so the majority buy them from Crafters or hire them to create special ones with the material they provide!

Chapter 147 - Renowned Sky Stealer

9-11 minutes

It is said that a real rune crafter would craft the runic plates himself, and by doing so, the chance of successfully creating an array or formation plate increased by several folds.

Aside from these runic plates, Ace swept past those techniques and skills, and to his surprise, all of them were on how to craft the rune symbols into special arrays and formations!

Ace excitedly open one of lowest grade skill but didn't even understand a thing and guess it all because still didn't have any knowledge of rune symbols.

He carefully stores those techniques and skills to the side for the future. He also found a rune crafter's token of pill flame organization like Vance's and store it away with the other one.

These tokens can be very useful if he used them perfectly at the right time.

After arranging everything in the thief's space, he swept the system's panel to see another particular panel.

===

[Light Element Soul Qi is active.]

.

[Time Remains: 14:33:29]

====

"I still have over fourteen hours before the break of two days. I should open the third part of Heavenly Rune Crafting first and, in two days of break, practice the camouflage steps. I should gain low-level mastery before going to the capital, it will enhance my escaping ability many folds." Ace mumbles to himself as he planned.

As for buying the second mask, Ace completely forget about it since he had some time, and he didn't plan on going to the capital soon.

He has already decided to stay in this cave and practice rune crafting and camouflage step until the registration began, three months from now.

Besides, he knew it was going to be very noisy when they began searching for him, so it was a wise move to stay here until the commotion about him dimmed down.

After calming his thoughts, he opened the third part of the heavenly rune crafting manual, Basic Myriad Rune Symbols Encyclopedia.

'It finally opened this time without any resistance.' Ace thought with ecstasy.

'Basic Myriad Rune Symbols Encyclopedia, the complete encyclopedia on every foundational rune symbol and its structures. There are twelve tires of this encyclopedia and I have assessed to Tier-1.' it did not surprise Ace since he has predicted something like this before.

'In the first tier, there are four essential element runic symbols of Earth, Water, Fire, and Wind.

'First one is the Earth Rune Symbol, which is the combination of three runic structures. The second one is the Water Rune Symbol, which is the combination of 5 runic structures. The third is Fire Rune Symbol, which is combined by 9 runic structures and last is Wind, which is combined by 11 runic structures.' Ace frowned after studying this information.

These runic structures are the key here because these special runic structures are the ones that give the runic symbol its specific ability and elements.

Because if one had light element soul Qi that person could only create light element symbols and that's where these runic structures came to being.

If one can master the structure of every element, it can create any type of runic symbol and combine them into arrays and formations.

But Ace was not at that level yet. He had to first remember those structures and create them with his soul, Qi.

'This is an arduous task to control my soul Qi so precisely to the point of perfection, if I even blink, my effort would be wasted. Heh, I expect nothing less from Heavenly Rune Crafting.' Ace laugh wryly, but he was going to master this no matter what.

After that, Ace immersed himself in studying the Earth Rune Symbol's runic structure.

However, Ace didn't know the runic structures he was learning at this moment are the very essence of those elements that existed between heaven and earth!

To this day, no one has ever got these perfect runic structures of elements. That's the actual reason for Ace's rune crafting being Heavenly!

Without these perfect runic structures, even with heavenly Qi, those runic symbols would never be called perfect!

While Ace was studying the third part of Heavenly Rune Crafting earnestly.

A piece of shocking news was released to the public of the entire Middle Lands!

The most astonishing part from whom the news came from, well, it was none other than Pill Flame and Beast Calling, two giants below royal lands!

This news was about a newly emerged notorious thief who called himself 'Sky Stealer' and his trademark was a dark owl mark which he tattooed on his victims' fingers!

Furthermore, this mark was impossible to remove even after cutting one's finger. Pill Flame Organization itself confirmed this news!

This thief has robbed a Rune Crafter and a Beast Masters of both organizations and engraved that impossible-to-remove mark on them.

Both organizations were furious, and they both declared a reward on that's Thief!

Anyone who can provide accurate information about this thief will get 1 Million Middle Qi Stones. If anyone can capture him alive, they can claim 50 Million Middle Qi Stones.

As for his head, the reward was 100 Million Middle Qi Stones!

Many powerful cultivators and titled families move by this and all of them begin a search for this so-called Sky Stealer, like made dog.

Both organizations provide his portrait. It was Javier's face, of course.

This news was released to the public one month after Ace robbed Olivia's group.

But this news didn't last long because even more shocking news surfaced just a week after and it was about the same person!

This time the news was this thief didn't just rob a Rune Crafter and Beast Master or an Earl of a tiny kingdom. Before this he robbed the most renounce Azure Alchemist of middle lands, Vance Golden!

This wasn't the end of this shocking news. The main part was this thief stole something very important from the pill flame organization. As for what it was, the organization didn't announce it.

But the Thief's bounty skyrocketed after that.

Anyone who can provide accurate information about this thief will get 1 Million High Qi Stones. If anyone can capture him alive, they can claim 50 Million High Qi Stones and a grantee seat in the Pill Flame Organization's empire-level branch!

As for his head, the reward reached 100,000 Peak Qi Stones and 10 grantee seats in the Pill Flame Organization's empire-level branch!

This news flabbergasted even empires!

Everyone was wondering just what could have that thief stolen that the organization was going to such a length to capture him and retrieve that thing.

Nevertheless, now even empires and top kingdoms of middle lands join the fray for the thief's hunt. He was now a walking piece of treasure. Whoever finds him will get everything.

They could just take the thief's everything and no one would ever know or they can exchange it with the organization for fame and riches!

Inside a lavishing Palace Grand Hall,

"Royal Brother, don't worry. He can't escape now. The organization is taking it seriously after I provide the formula of Blood Rose and show them that bastard portrait and tell everything about him.

"I heard, even the Flame Master came out of his close door cultivation after finding out that thief managed to escape the low sky-changing border alive!" The person who was speaking looked like an old scholar. He was none other than Vance Golden!

"How did they believe you so quickly?" The handsome middle-aged man sitting on a golden throne spoke at this moment.

He was the Golden King of Golden Hammered Kingdom, Gale Van Golden!

"I heard one of five Flaming Families got involved and support my claim. I think it is the family behind Green Flame and that mysterious woman.

"And that slippery rat also stole from a rune crafter from one of these flaming families as well recently. That's why the organization instantly acts and they are even sending Qi River Core envoy to search for that thief." Vance said grimly.

Truth to be told, he was not happy at all about this. After he returned from the low lands dejectedly, he goes directly into close door cultivation to soothe his hatred.

Since the person was dead, what was the point of hating him and burning oneself, right?

Vance has just recently exited his close door cultivation after returning to his calm self when he heard about the newly famous thief of Middle Land and it was none other than the person who he hated the most, Sky Stealer!

First, he didn't dare to believe that someone could escape the sky-changing border alive, but when he saw the same owl mark in the wanted poster, Vance nearly had a stroke.

Without even thinking, he goes to the organization branch in the Golden Hammered Kingdom and told the Pill Master there everything, included the information about Blood Rose and that thief in front of his eyes vanished inside the low sky changing border.

The Pill Master first didn't believe him and thought Vance has gone nuts but when Vance bring Green Flame into the conversation and demand to confirm with her. He finally moved!

Chapter 148 - Hundred-Face Deception Mask

9-11 minutes

When this staggering news reached Zelda's ears, she also didn't dare to believe it, but after seeing the wanted poster, she had to!

Zelda was as if she has seen a ghost and immediately contact her aunt Layla who was very dejected after that incident and even punished by elders of their family.

Layla was flabbergasted, hearing this astonishing news, and reported this to the family head who was also her Eldest Brother and Zelda's father.

And just like that, the entire organization shakes when this truth was confirmed that boy of low lands managed to escape from the sky-changing border's formation without the sky-changing pass!

Now almost every big shot of Pill Flame knows about the existence of Blood Rose and, most importantly, the earth-shattering secret that thief had on him!

They quickly raised the bounty on him and even sent a group of envoys to the middle-lands to capture that thief alive, so they could obtain his secrets.

Three months pass and Ace didn't leave his cave. He was completely clueless about the storm he causes just by showing off his abilities!

At this moment, Ace was completely focused before his eyes.

There was the needle-like light element soul Qi thread, which was moving in the air, creating a complex white structure in the air..

Two complete white structures were hovering in the air beside the new one that he was making with extreme care.

Sweat was beading on Ace's forehead but he didn't lose his focus and controlled the soul thread with extreme care.

With a hair margin, the soul thread was moving around a triangular pattern when it suddenly collide with it, and like a little firework, those three structures explode simultaneously.

"Damn this earth rune, why the hell is it so difficult!" Ace cursed while gritting his teeth.

For three months he was trying to form the earth rune but failed every time.

But his progress was noteworthy since he can form two structures and is only a little away from the third.

One thing that was worth mentioning was he finally attained low-level proficiency in camouflage steps a week ago and start learning the Misperception Steps of Misperception Sky Art.

"I should get going now. I'll practice it after taking care of the participating business." Ace sighed helplessly.

"System I want to buy Hundred-Face Deception Mask." Ace said pensively.

=====

"[Hundred-Face Deception Mask: Grade-2 Rune Item]"

{Purchase successfully}

{50,000TP has been deducted}

[Thief Point(s): 26,530]

=====

"Where is the mask?" Ace questioned in confusion because nothing emerge in his thief's space.

"[Host, please remove the two-face mask.]"

Ace was started, but he did as he was told and disabled the two-face mask before taking it off.

Before he could ask any further questions, abruptly a dark blue streak shot from his glabella!

The very moment thereafter, the two-face mask started to vibrate and suddenly the two faces of Javier and Victor faded!

After that, the mask began to change and become completely pitch black as a white gem appeared on the forehead. It has become completely blank and faceless.

Ace was bewitched by it as he looked at this inky, faceless mask with a white gem.

System sweet voice buzz at this moment in his head,

=====

[Hundred-Face Deception Mask: Grade 2 Rune Item. Upgraded version of Two-Face Mask]

[Ability: It can save 100 faces in the {Grade-1 Memory Gem}. It can also increase and decrease cultivation realms according to the wearer's will. The cultivation realms are only limited to the actual cultivation of the wearer and it cannot cross the wearer's cultivation base limit until the wearer broke into a higher realm.]

[Description; It can trick Martial Sense of Qi Soul Martial Cultivator and Soul Sense of Soul River Core Soul Cultivator.]

[Warning: Cultivators of Soul Manifestation Martial Realm and Soul Embryo Realm can easily see through this mask's formation.]

[Current Save Faces: 2]

=====

"What happened to my two-face mask?" Ace asked in bewilderment.

"[System has upgraded the Two-Face Mask into Hundred-Face Deception Mask.]"

"To hell with your upgrade! I want my Two-Face Mask as well. I pay for it, damn it!" Ace instantly snap because he never thought this black-hearted system would not give him a new item and only upgrade the old one!

After all, he had paid 50,000TP that he painfully collected and now his one item was taken away from him and he didn't even get a damn refund. How could he not be aggrieved?

But to Ace's dismay, the system didn't even bother to give him any explanation and completely ignore his protest.

"I'll remember this system!" In the end, he could only give up after threatening the System.

After his empty fight with the system, he finally laid his eyes on the inky mask and couldn't help but grin because this is all he needed and it can increase or decrease the cultivation that he wanted for a long time.

This means, now he can even pose as a mortal if he wanted to!

Furthermore, it can even fool a soul sense of someone at Soul Embryo Realm!

Although it was a realm lower than Martial cultivation, it can still save his life.

Soul Cultivation also had eight realms.

Like Martial Cultivation, six known realms, ***Qi Gates, Qi Foundation Building, Qi River, Qi River Core, Qi Soul, and Qi Soul Manifestation.***

The six known Soul Cultivation realms were ***Soul Gates, Soul Foundation Building, Soul River, Soul River Core, Soul Embryo, and Soul Embryo Manifestation.***

Ace ecstatically put the new inky mask on his face and the system's voice sounded.

====

"[Hundred-Face Deception Mask is activated!]"

[First Option]

[Which face would host like to wear?]

[Face 1 or 2?]

[Please state the cultivation realm and stage for the face.]

[Note: *You can only increase your cultivation up to High Stage of Foundation Building Realm.*]

[Second Option]

[Did the host only want to mask his cultivation?]

[Please state the cultivation realm and stage.]

=====

Ace snorted after hearing the system's voice because she hadn't answered him when he protested just a few moments ago.

But when he saw the new option, his eyes sparkled.

'Oh, even that old ghost empty dream wasn't able to see through my Heavenly Cultivations. This is more convent. With this second open, people will be able to see my cultivation and it would be worldly cultivation.' Ace was exhilarated.

"Use Victor's face with fifth Qi Gate cultivation," Ace commanded with a snort. He still didn't forget about his two-face mask scam!

The very next moment thereafter, Victor's face appeared, but his cultivation aura was of a fifth Qi Gate cultivator.

As for why he specifically said fifth, not peak, it was because Ace knew about the cultivation techniques different in the upper lands, and this mask can even create the aura of 6th, 7th, 8th, or even 9th gate cultivator like himself!

In this part of middle-level lands, the sixth gate didn't exist just like low-lands, and only the top ten kingdoms had that method.

Ace found a method in Dulce's ring which he gave away to those girls he rescued once in the luminous city.

Ace chose Victor's face because it was most likely that Skyler would never agree with her brother's face to become wanted, nor her mysterious and powerful mother or the family behind them.

That's why they could only give away Javier's face despite knowing he can transform into Victor as well and his hypothesis was right.

After Skyler reunited with her brother, who was found by a servant in the same hotel room where Ace was staying. She had a sigh of relief.

When Patrick found out that Skyler was going to her mother and taking away Victor as well, he wanted to kill this unfilial daughter of his on the spot but encounter sullen Olivia.

She was in a terrible mood after that scoundrel stole 10% part of her wealth and Patrick became her punching bag.

But since Patrick had a relationship of husband and wife with Skyler's mother she didn't kill him and just left him there and take away both Skyler and enthusiastic Victor who was looking forward to meeting his mother and even forgotten about what Ace has done to him.

Patrick can only resentfully watch and Niko's complexion was also not good, but what can they both do in the face of an angry rune crafter bitch?

As for Aden, he stayed in the Regal Capital with his brother in the name of finding that thief who stole his entire wealth, but the main reason was he didn't want to go back at all.

After making sure everything was fine, Ace exited the cave after three entire months and headed to the Royal Capital of Regal Kingdom. He can't wait to see this big city and stole everything he could from there.

'Let's see how the capital of the kingdom looks like.' A smile creep out on his face as he vanished into nothingness.

But he didn't know the hidden forces were closely watching and waiting for the next appearance of the infamous Sky Stealer!

Chapter 149 - The Regal Capital City

9-11 minutes

The Regal Capital City was quite large as it spread in four hundred square miles. It was divided into three districts, Common, Royal, and Royal Palace.

At this moment, it was nighttime, but the outside avenue of the colossal golden city gate was packed with many people.

Since the registration for the institute was begun a week ago, many youngsters were coming to register themselves because it will last for only sixty days and not a day further.

But there was tight security on the gate and the guards were scanning every single person with some kind of exquisite black mirror and checking their belonging included any storage space treasures.

Everyone knows for what or whom this kind of security was. It was for the notorious thief Sky Stealer.

Seemingly, that thief was master of disguise and that made him even more difficult to discover that why all this security was placed by the organization itself!

Almost everyone wanted to find him below royal lands, and the last place he was seen just happen to be the outskirts of the regal capital city!

Many experts hid in the capital city at this moment and searched the entire Kingdom!

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Even the Regal King didn't dare to offend any of them. He could only pray that thief would not appear in his Kingdom again or it would be a calamity for the entire kingdom.

Because if that thief showed up again, these people might kill anyone they suspected to be that thief without even caring for their statues!

A hundred meters away from the gate, in the shadow of a large tree, a pair of sharp eyes were observing the bustling golden gate of Regal Capital City.

'It seems all this security is for me. There are two empty river cultivators hidden in the gate. Heh, they also wore some kind of treasure on their eyes, it most likely to see through my concealment skills. They're putting some effort into this.'

This person hidden in the shadow was none other than Ace, who has reached the capital city this morning but was astounded seeing all the security measures.

That's why he observed and wait till night when his skills were even more powerful.

First, he was planning to enter the city in Victor's disguise but change his mind and found another face.

As for sneaking inside, Ace didn't want to take any risks since he didn't know the capacity of those sensory treasures. He was sure about his new mask, but his skills were not at their peak state and this made it easier for him to decide on his next step.

Truth to be told, Ace didn't think these people would take him so seriously and this somewhat made him even warier of the consequences of his actions.

Although Ace had imagined this kind of thing happening, but not this fast. He wanted to inquiry further but didn't dare to carelessly talk with anyone since it might look suspicious.

'Now I just had to select a face, well it's a plus since there are many to choose from in this enormous crowd. I had to choose a lone person, and it has to be a youngster qualified to take part in the upcoming test.' Ace mused as he observed the enormous crowd with soul sense.

'Hmm?' Suddenly Ace spotted a youngster with an average face and height dragging away a seemingly 15 to 16 years old girl, with a lustful expression on his face.

The girl was struggling to free herself from his grip, but the young man's cultivation was at the third gate and that rendered her struggle worthless.

The most shameful thing was no one came forward to help her and everyone mind their own business as if they saw nothing.

A cold smile appeared on Ace's face before he vanished on the spot.

That boy dragged that girl in a remote area and said with a lustful smile, "Why are you struggling for? Just please me and I'll give you one or two Qi stones."

"P-please let me go." The girl trembled like a kitten. She had an above-average face and was wearing plain clothes with a stack of Qi stones hanging on around her waist and only had the strength of 2nd gate cultivator.

She looked like a commoner who was here to try her luck in the test, but caught the fancy of this lustful boy and was helpless to do anything since she was alone and no one wanted to help a commoner like her.

However, the boy's mind was filled with vicious thoughts as he ignored her plea and move forward to rip her clothes but before he could touch her, the girl's terrorized face abruptly turn cold.

The boy seems to sense something amiss as he wanted to get away from the girl but it was too late because a sharp dagger was already stabbed into his heart and it was done by that innocent-looking girl!

The boy's eyes were wide open with disbelief as he felt the warm blood gushing out from the hole and his consciousness began to slip. **"Who....hiikkk"**

Before he could say another word, the girl coldly twisted the dagger and he die just like that.

"Heh, all scum should die without mercy." The girl sneered coldly before she took the Qi stone sack from the boy's corpse and leave while humming a tone.

No one could tell by the look that this innocent little girl just killed someone so easily.

However, she didn't think someone was watching this all scene from shadows with great interest. It was, of course, Ace who followed those two here.

From the start, he knew this girl's real cultivation was at the fifth Gate but she was using some kind of skill to mask it.

'Hah, you can't judge someone by your mortal eyes in this cultivation world.' Ace chuckles softly and moves toward the stiff corpse.

"Scums like you deserve this kind of death." Ace mumbles to himself as he coldly watches the young man's corpse.

After confirming that no one was around, Ace take off the Hundred-Face Deception Mask and quickly scan the young man's corpse with its 2nd-grade formation.

The silver gem on the mask shine for ten seconds.

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[Face 3, has been successfully recorded in memory gem.]"

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Ace heard the system's notification in his mind and the silver gem also stop shimmering and returned to its dormant state.

"Activate face 3 with fifth gate cultivation base." Ace put the mask back on and command the system.

With a flash of silver light, Ace has turned completely into that dead youngster!

He didn't know his name, nor did he care, since he was alone and by his scummy nature, his friend would be in a single number. He wasn't interested in his memories, either.

As for that girl who killed him, Ace wasn't planning on mingling with her and it was a very slim chance that he would bump into her in this large city.

But if that happen, likely, she would not remember him and with his higher cultivation, she would think it is someone else since no one can come back from death with this kind of cultivation!

After Ace was done with his disguise and put on some new black robes, he grabbed some dried wood from nearby and torch the boy of that young man. Now no one would find any evidence and this face completely belong to him.

"Now those hidden experts can't find me. I like these middle lands since they didn't use those annoying identity crystals." Ace murmured while smiling faintly and blurred to the direction of the city gate.

Ace joined the long line outside the city and wait for his turn. He didn't encounter someone like Jason this time during his two hours of wait.

Everyone was minding their own business, and people in the group were chatting happily with each other.

Ace also heard some talking about a thief, but it was very vague, and decided to investigate the matter further in the city.

After two hours, it was finally his turn.

"State your name and birthplace." A robust guard coldly speaks.

"Ryan White, from Moonlight City of Ale Province." Ace nonchalantly answered.

The Ale Province was the biggest province of Regal Kingdom and Moonlight City was the second biggest city in this province. He naturally gets all this information from the map and selected this place carefully.

The guard didn't speak first and looked at the sickly-looking guard with the antique black mirror in his hand.

The antique black mirror was a treasure that can see through any disguise below Qi River Core Cultivation and detect lies!

"He is telling the truth and his face is real." The sickly guard spoke with no emotion.

But those guards still didn't let Ace pass until,

"He is clear." The aged voice gave his confirmation!

"One Low Qi Stone." The guard finally demanded the gate toll.

Ryan smile faintly as he conjured a low Qi stone from his storage ring and give it to the guard.

"Welcome to Regal Capital City!" The guard nonchalantly said as he opened the little golden gate and let Ace pass!

Chapter 150 - Envoy Arrives

8-11 minutes

Ryan slightly nodded at those guards and enter the capital city.

Ace knew just where that old voice came from. They were those two hidden experts of the empty river realm!

But since he can fool that mirror and those two old geezers, he felt relief wash over him. He was little nevus first but not anymore.

Ace walks inside the city and was greeted by an astonishing sight.

The streets were made of exquisite marble and every building was made with precious material and craftsmanship. It was as if he has entered a completely new world.

'If this common district is so exaggerated, then what about those two reigns where the noble and royal family live.' Ace wondered as he keeps walking while observing the city?

Although it was nighttime, the streets were completely lit with light stones polls, and bustling with activities..

They were many shops and stalls selling unique items.

Ace couldn't help but observe the items curiously.

In his way, Ace's eyes were suddenly glued to a portrait that was hanging outside a cloth shop and his eyes contracted.

Ace moves toward the shop to see the portrait more clearly.

After Ace reached the clothing shop, he closely looked at the portrait. There were two pictures, one was an average-looking youth while the other was of an extremely handsome and cut boy.

His expression turns grim seeing Javier's and his old portrait from Low-Land and reading about the huge bounty placed on his head.

'It seems that lady and old alchemist found out I'm still alive and tell everything to pill flame organization. That also explains the tight security. I had to be more careful and alter some of my plans.' Ace gravely thought.

He instantly guesses what could've happened when he was in wildness for three months and decided to lie low for some time.

After this sudden discovery, Ace wasn't in the mood to stroll and found an inn and rest for the night before going to the registration venue in the morning.

On his way to finding an inn, Ace suddenly spotted the signature golden building of the Jade Pavilion.

'Let's enjoy some jade wine before resting.' Ace's mood lightened slightly and move toward that building.

"Sir, mortals are not allowed here."

When Ace was close, he heard a sweet voice and saw a beautiful lady blocking two boys' paths with a gentle smile on her face. She was an early Qi foundation stage cultivator!

One boy was a third Qi gate cultivator, while the other was a mortal.

"He's with me." The boy with cultivation said stiffly.

"It doesn't matter sir, mortals are not allowed, period." The lady said with a smile.

"B-brother let's go somewhere else." The little mortal boy timidly said.

"Humph, let's go." The other youth wasn't willing, but what could he do? He takes his younger brother and left in a rage.

Ace observed this scene from the sideline and his eyes turn cold.

Because Ace sense some mortals sitting on the higher floors and knew this lady didn't let that mortal boy in because of his common clothes. They were clearly from some poor background and here for the test, while the little one seemed to accompany his elder brother.

'Heh, it seemed I didn't need to be polite with the restaurants anymore.' An icy glint flash through his eyes.

"Sir, welcome to Jade Pavilion. Please go to the second floor." That lady said with a smile. She spotted Ryan observing the quarrel long ago but didn't care.

Ryan nodded with a smile as he nonchalantly entered the Jade pavilion before going to the second floor.

After enjoying the bottle of Jade Wine, Ace left with a cheerful expression on his face.

That day, something strange happened in the Jade Pavilion because all of their famous Jade Wine completely disappeared!

The management was shocked and didn't know the reason for it, someone stole it. But no one suspects the famous Sky Stealer because he won't leave with just wine if it was him.

In everyone's eyes, that lunatic wasn't afraid of anyone and steal everything. It doesn't matter who you are or what you are. That was why this wine thief was inspired by that fellow.

'Hehe, these one thousand wine barrels should last for a while.' Ace ecstatically saw one thousand white jade barrels in his thief's space and grin.

Jade pavilion only had an alarming array protecting their unground storage where these wine barrels were and no one noticed him stealing them.

As for suspecting him, he didn't care because no one would take an interest in some wine thief.

Ace finally finds an inn and rents the biggest room for four months with forty low Qi stones.

This price was too much for any commoners coming here, but for Ace, it was nothing.

Because after he stole Olivia's storage ring, his wealth can now rival an empire!

Ace still had many sealed storage rings. He didn't want to waste TP on them since it wasn't worth it. He was planning on holding them before he found some other method to remove Qi marks.

Ace was standing before the window in his room, he was watching the illuminate streets of Regal Capital as he mumbles with a faint smile, "What a lively place, perfect for a thief."

The Grand Regal Palace of Regal Kingdom can be seen from the royal district, and only the royal family lived in this grand palace.

At this moment inside the lavishing meeting hall of Regal Palace. A ten-meter-long golden jade table with beautiful carving was set in the center of the grand hall with matching chairs around it.

But the head chair differed greatly from the other. It was very extinguishing, as a symbol of the winged wolf was engraved on it that looked very vivid. This was the seat of Regal King!

A handsome man with long black hair was sitting on this seat at this moment. He wore plain robes. But the surrounding air was as if he was unreachable and aloof.

On his left row of chairs only sat a woman with an extraordinary white face and slender figure. She wore an exquisite pink dress.

On his right, ten people were sitting, three of them were women and seven were men.

Everyone wore a solemn expression in the right row, and the person sitting on the head chair had a pensive face.

"Esteemed Envoy, how was your journey. I'm truly honored to have a person like you grace my kingdom with your presence." The slim, handsome man in the very fourth row speaks with a fawning smile on his face.

Shockingly, this slim man was the Regal King, Kale Val Regal! He wasn't sitting in his actual place! One can only imagine by this the statues of that envoy.

"It was fine. It's just that the Qi here is very thin, I feel like suffocating." The woman scoff before the man could say anything.

Regal King's expression change slightly as he spoke with a wry smile, "I apologized Lady Envoy, but my kingdom is just a third-grade kingdom. The Qi here is indeed very thin compared to where you come from."

The woman was going to spout something again with an unsatisfied face, but the man on the head chair gave her a sharp glare and she swallowed whatever she was going to say with a hint of fear in her eyes.

"Do you find anything about that thief?" The man spoke nonchalantly.

Regal King frowned, hearing this, and his face darkened a bit. *'It's all that bastard's fault to appear in my kingdom.'*

"No, we never heard of him after he stole from Lady Rune Crafter last time. But the Pill Flame and Beast Calling people are scattered throughout every city of the kingdom and every city is armed with Disguise Shatter Mirrors. If that petty thief dared to appear again, he'll regret it." King Kale ensured with a wry smile.

"No, he will appear in this capital." The man coolly said in his hoarse voice with apparent confidence in it.

Everyone's eyes contracted to hear this sudden news.

King Kale's expression turned ugly as he asked, "How can Lord Envoy be so certain?"

"It's very simple. He's a thief through and through, and what a thief is interested in?" The man deeply looked at the Regal King as he questioned him.

"Wealth or anything that he took a fancy of." King Kale made a vague guess.

"No, he's probably is the richest person in the middle-lands at this moment after he stole from an azure alchemist and a 2nd Rank Mortal Rune Crafter. He even knows how to open storage rings, so you tell me what he wants?" The man revealed another shocking news as he asked the question.

"He can what?!" King Kale's face was full of shock and everyone on the right side of the table.

"Heh, you heard right, he can open storage rings without killing someone." The man chuckles coldly.

