

## **Thief 251**

### **Eternal Thief**

#### **Chapter 251: Toward the Golden Hammered Kingdom!**

While the hype of treasure mountain was reaching new heights, day by day, there was still no movement or reply came from the thief himself.

However, after three weeks of this challenge, the Sky Stealer Society declared they'll be there to take the treasure mountain in their 'Lord's' stead since those three 'Little Giants' were so generous to pay 'tribute' to their lord, Sky Stealer!

This caused another massive upheaval in whole middle-level lands, and those three organizations' members instantly become enraged by this audacious announcement and cursed at those thieves and even challenged them to show their faces in public if they had guts.

This small war of words in four organizations become a new source of entertainment for the public.

Everyone was waiting for the reply of Sky Stealer, who seemed to be biased toward all this.

Royal province of Warren Kingdom, inside an Inn of Gill City,

"Those imbeciles!" Ace cursed as he heard about the declaration of the Sky Stealer Society.

When Ace heard about the announcement of three giants, he also considered this a trap and snorted disdainfully. He simply thought those three giants were either messing around or their brains go rotten since they even dare to set up this childish trap.

However, things changed when the news about treasure mountain being real surfaced on the market. He didn't dare to believe it at first, but after he ruffled some feathers in the black market, he got the confirmation the treasures mountain was a real thing, and by the size of it; they were telling the truth when they say all the treasures of three giants were there!

Ace's countenance finally changed and with a perplexing mood, he left the Blue Kingdom and start heading toward the Golden Hammered Kingdom.

He wanted to see if the treasure mountain was real, and if it was, he didn't mind taking it since they dare to offer it.

However, he was extremely displeased by the Sky Stealer Society butting in when it wasn't even concerned to them. He was confident in escaping if things go awry, but those idiots will die if they dare to step anywhere closer to that treasure mountain.

Even though he didn't care about them, it would alert those people watching over that treasure mountain.

Ace knew taking that treasure mountain would not be easy, and they probably set up some huge formation there, the moment someone tried the theft he would be instantly trapped, or even worse he might die.

Ace was confident because he had the skills to see through these traps and formations, but others didn't. Even if those three giants were allowing others to visit the treasure mountain, they had the confidence to take care of the troublemaker.

Furthermore, no one sane enough would dare to steal from that treasure mountain if they don't cherish their life because there were many deadly existences hidden there protecting it, just the Nightmare Ghosts Organization's existence was enough to give people chills.

"They're going toward their meaningless death!" Ace's eyes were cold and stop caring about those imbeciles anymore.

"Golden Hammered Kingdom... Dulce, we'll meet much sooner than I plan!" Ace suddenly emit an icy killing intent when he thought about his destination.

He didn't forget about his blood feud with Dulce, he would never forget how that bitch destroyed his hometown and all those innocent people just for a storage ring. He vividly remembered everything.

Before, he was planning on proceeding to the Golden Hammered Kingdom and destroying the royal family and ending the past grudge once and for all, and continuing his journey.

However, it seemed someone was aware of his enmity with the Golden Hammered Kingdom and was trying to use it, so they could increase his chance of appearing there.

Ace didn't care whoever it was as long as it wasn't a Bronze River Core cultivator, he was invincible in middle-level lands no one could stop him from leaving if he wants.

Furthermore, from all those memories he probed from all those overseers of those cities, he knew about the disappearance of those Qi river core cultivators that went inside with him.

Others might not know what it means, but he knew they were probably caught in heavenly punishment and perished there, just like he wanted.

That's why he was going toward the golden hammered kingdom with no fear and thought of this as a desperate act to find those missing Qi river core cultivators.

Even if there wasn't the case, he was determined to get that treasure mountain and complete this mission while passing, also destroying the Golden Royal Family.

Fifty days passed before the deadline of ninety days given by the three giants.

In these fifty days, the sky stealer remained silent and didn't react to this big declaration.

However, now the whole middle-level lands know the treasure mountain was real, and the organizations were dead serious about their declaration.

Furthermore, in these fifty days, although sky stealer didn't react, the Sky Stealer Society was quite busy while thriving around alchemists and beast tamers.

This was blunt retaliation after those alchemists and beast tamer started bad-mouthing the organization of thieves when they declared they will take that treasure mountain.

However, those robbed alchemists and beast tamers also retaliate in their way. They attacked anyone who they found any kind of relationship with the Sky Stealer Organization, and they almost killed a thousand members at the price of thousands of innocent suspects. This caused outrage among the public, with increasing collateral damage.

The sky stealer society didn't kill anyone, but those alchemists and beast tamers didn't care about innocent lives, which almost cause a revolt.

It was only solved when those royals of each kingdom stopped those alchemists and beast tamer from slaughtering the innocent, and even higher-ups of two giants show extreme dissatisfaction toward this wanton behavior.

In the end, the public was shut bribed, but everyone could tell the organization of thieves had won this round and even made the public see them in a more favorable and different light.

However, all this has nothing to do with Ace, who after a long tireless journey just stepped into the Golden Hammered City also the capital of Golden Hammered Kingdom!

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#### **Chapter 252: Missing Royalties**

The royal capital of the Golden Hammered Kingdom was truly magnificent, there were unique beautiful buildings with a golden hammered emblem on them.

People seemed cheerful and there wasn't a hint of poverty in this city, moreover, everyone was a cultivator since no mortal could enter or live here.

However, the Golden Hammered City seemed more active than usual; the reason being naturally the Treasure Mountain a few miles away from the city.

Everyone who wanted to see the treasure mountain had to land in the city and then walk to the place since no carriages or flying beasts were allowed in that area. This doesn't stop curious people from paying a visit.

Because of this attraction, all kinds of people were entering the Golden Hammered Kingdom, and this gave the nobles a huge headache since they can't stop anyone because the three giants approved of this. They could only grit their teeth and increase the security of the city to prevent any accident or mishap.

At this moment, Ace was walking in the golden hammered city bursting streets with a stoic expression, his eyes were cold as he watched the prosperous city.

He couldn't help but remembered the streets of River Flower City, which were like village streets compared with this city.

But he still compared them and thought with a hint of killing intent, 'Even after having such a beautiful city at your beak and call, you still destroyed a little city like River Flower and massacre those innocent people. I once vowed to destroy your kingdom in front of your eyes, and it's time to complete that vow!'

Ace didn't even care about the treasure mountain as his heart was filled with vengeance, he didn't know why, but he couldn't control his bloodlust after coming into his enemy's home.

Before he didn't have the power to take revenge and maybe that's why his urge to kill was suppressed all those years, but now he was strong enough to deal with this kingdom alone and that surpressed bloodlust finally broke free!

Although he wasn't a killer nor did he enjoy killing wantonly, right now, all he wanted was to kill that bitch and her family before her eyes, and he knew they all deserved it!

Ace waited till the night before he was in optimal condition, he was traveling non-stop for the last thirty or so days, so he needed to clear his mind. He knew the Golden King, Dulce's father, was a peak Qi river cultivator, and he needed to be in his peak condition to subdue him. Beside him, there were still other hidden experts in the royal palace, he wanted to do it as quietly as possible.

Inside the golden royal palace,

The palace was quite big and lavishing, even though it was the night the guards were patrolling and servants were moving around the palace.

There was also an alarming formation surrounding the royal palace and if anyone dare to intrude the palace or sneak inside, it would instantly alert the royal guards.

However, despite this powerful formation protecting the royal palace, someone still easily infiltrated it and entered the main palace right at this moment.

This person was naturally Ace in his trainee hood. He was someone who can infiltrate Nightmare Ghosts hideouts, so, this kind of formation was child's play for him.

Ace didn't know the structure of this palace and where the royal family lives. So, he searched for someone who does, and it didn't take him long before he found the living quarters of the palace's head maid.

After confirming, she was only at the empty Qi river stage, he probed her memories with no further ado.

Just as he expected, she knew all about the royal palace and even some hidden paths, furthermore; she knew where each member of the royal family was located.

However, Ace's expression sink when a string of memory entered his knowledge sea.

'The entire royal family left the royal palace over thirty days ago!' When Ace saw this memory, his heart turned cold.

Ace saw the Golden King leaving with his entire family and treasury, his last order was to look after the royal palace and only the most loyal servants know about the absence of the royal family, this head maid being one of those servants.

Ace's expression was clouded as his killing intent intensified, 'That bastard knew I will come, and he even fled his own home. Truly a cunning king who rules over a kingdom. However, that Golden King left with the treasury as well, but he partakes in that treasure mountain the last time I heard it. Why did he go to three giants, for protection, or did someone even predict I would come after Dulce and decided to give the Golden Family asylum?'

The more he thought about this matter, the likely it was possible, but what Ace didn't seem to comprehend was why did the Golden King didn't go in hiding and wait for the three giants to deal with him.

If anyone were in Golden King's shoes they would've done just like Ace thought but this Golden King has done completely the opposite, he even dared to throw all the treasures of his kingdom in that treasure mountain which was also out of ordinary.

'By the way, he acted, he's far from being a fool or gambler, what made him not hide and even make him put all his treasures on the line. It has to be someone with immense power, probably with the Qi river core.

'No... I didn't think about it much before, but now that I think about it; why do three giants come together so quickly and even dare to openly create that mountain treasures in a place far away from those formations and their main cities?

'Especially Nightmare Ghosts Organization, what made them obey and come all this way, it's only possible if... someone extremely powerful subdues the three giants from shadows and made them work together so much even combining all their treasures.

'The only person capable of making all this happen had to be someone from... Land of Empires, and this person had to be at the top of high lands to control all three giants so easily!'

Ace's heart thumped while a chill run down his spine just thinking of this conjecture, and he knew this was probably the truth, he was targeted by a terrifying existence!

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#### **Chapter 253: Treasure Mountain!**

Ace felt his decision to come to Golden Place and go after the royal family first was right since it gave him many clues and help him snap out his delusion of invisibility.

However, he also had the reason for being too careless because he knew about the problem with the middle sky changing border from all those memories he probed from high-level members of three organizations.

But now that he carefully looked at all the scenarios, he finally saw the issue, things were happening too fast with three giants, and he thought they were probably at their wit's end and this was a desperate attempt to deal with him.

However, after he saw the Golden King's behavior and the way he was so calm when he left the golden palace, he finally felt something was amiss and this was a huge conspiracy going behind the sham of desperation.

If it was any other time, he would've long escaped the golden hammered kingdom and fled as far as he could and remain low-key until he found out who was pulling the strings from behind.

However, because of the damn mission, he can't miss this chance to complete it in one fell swoop since he doesn't know if he would get a chance like this or what if that person took all those treasures back with him when he leaves the middle-level lands?

Ace knew that person might have extraordinary means to even dare to show all the wealth of three giants so openly and let anyone visit it. So, if he wanted to ambush him or even track him down, he could take his storage ring, he knew it was too difficult until he leveled up his skills which were also impossible in the remaining time and the system was also useless because of the oblivious reason.

Ace was in a huge dilemma right now, he wasn't able to decide if he should make a move while everyone was waiting for him, or he should wait and take the risk of tracking that person behind the scene.

'I should take a look at that treasure mountain before planning my next move.'

Ace left the golden palace in a heavy mood, he came here for revenge, but got a wake-up call of immense danger lurking in the shadows.

However, Ace didn't stay in the city and left toward the treasure mountain location in stealth.

He was planning to observe it and see if he would find any anomaly for the rest of the remaining days.

Since they gave him ninety days, there were still over thirty days left before the deadline. He was going to remain at that place and quietly observe the situation.

If he found any chance, he will not hesitate to take it or flee with no hesitation if he encountered any danger.

Ace quickly found out he wasn't the only one who was going toward the treasure mountain direction. He encountered many people on their way; they were also going to visit since you couldn't see a mountain made of treasure anywhere.

As he reached closer and closer, with his powerful eyesight he saw a silhouette of a mountain, a few hundred meters high, it was quite noticeable since it was a clear field with no trees or mountain tops.

Suddenly his eyebrow rose when he was only a mile away from the location and some people ahead of him exclaimed in shock and wonder.

Even from here, he could see a towering mountain lit in white light in his night, it was hard to miss. But this mountain was made of millions of crystal-like Qi stones and many weapons, pill bottles, and manuals were scattered all over the mountain.

'It is a treasure mountain!' Ace had to admit this mountain deserved its name. Even he never expected he would see this much wealth collected in one place.

'How will I stash this mountain in my thief's space, even all those storage rings will not be enough? Even if by any miracle they were enough, how the hell am I supposed to store it in them, those guards would not be going to wait for me to finish!'

Ace suddenly found the grave problem. His thief space was almost half full, and it was only a hundred cubic meters in size, and that mountain was almost six-hundred-meter-tall and three hundred meters wide. It was impossible to stash inside his thief's space, or he didn't have ample time to divide it into small portions and store them in his space rings collections.

His gloomy mood become gloomier, 'That person played his hand well, even if I had means to take that treasure mountain away I can't do it instantly and the time I needed to accomplish is even more unrealistic to bought.'

Ace wasn't sure if he could overpower all those people protecting this treasure mountain, especially that hidden mastermind behind the three giants.

With a sullen face, Ace entered the five-hundred-meter radius of the treasure mountain, and he found it even more unbelievable to completely store this mountain even in his storage ring collection.

He walked around and see the mountain clearly, even though people could not move around it didn't apply to him since no can see him in his stealth and he had soul-shattering eyes to move freely without even worrying about the traps.

All this time he was using the soul-shattering eyes, and he saw nothing amiss, at this moment when he was about to walk around the area, system's voice rang in his mind,

[Target in range!]

Scan Status: Start Automatically

Scan: Complete

[Target's Scan Report]

[Total net worth: All the reaming 24 Treasuries are collected together in one place.]

Security:

Duration: 60 Minutes

Effect: Trapped any being below Golden Qi River Core and Golden Soul River Core.

Status: Deactivate

Duration: Depend on energy supply.

Effect: Monitor and detect any being below Golden Qi River Core and Golden Soul River Core.

Status: Activate

[Evaluation: 0% chance of success]

[Warning: Please escape the area as fast as possible because the host is already being monitored by the Myriad Ghost Eye Array, host stealth is useless!]

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## **Chapter 254: Check and Trapped!**

On top of the treasure mountain,

Gordon was sitting cross-legged like a statue, surrounded by a concealment barrier, no one can see him or the barrier. Furthermore, he was completely at the blind spot of the treasure mountain.

Although it seemed Gordon was meditating, it wasn't the case at all, he was monitoring the one-thousand-meter radius around the treasure mountain with a powerful array from his sect.

This entire treasure mountain was a huge, inescapable trap set by Gordon, especially for Ace. How could he not know just how strange Ace was from his astonishing growth and his mysterious means?

He would be a fool to leave this bait with no insurance and much less let anyone visit it.

Gordon used his knowledge and those rune crafters of Flame City to create this Myriad Ghost Eye Array, it was an ancient array that was easy to make and powerful enough to see through any disguise and concealment skill as long as the other person wasn't a Golden River Core Cultivator which was also night impossible.

Furthermore, Gordon also created a powerful talisman to instantly trap the 'fish' the moment he took the bait. As for those Rune Crafters who helped him create these two powerful runic treasures, he naturally killed them all to keep this secret.

Gordon knew he can't take the risk of this information leaking, especially the talisman methods, because if those old monsters found out he was in his place and interfering so much, no one will be able to save him.

That's why he was taking this chance to quickly finish the matter with Ace and leave this forsaken place before those high-level lands could enter this place. He would be long gone after 'silently' those who saw him before the safe period of Sky changing border could even start!

As for why he was so afraid of being found out by royal lands, only he knew the reason.

After setting up these bait and traps, all Gordon had to do was to wait and keep his eyes open all the time.

He knew Ace would come like a thief, and he also knew he will not be in his real appearance, and only Ace has the skills of such caliber. This also made things much easier for him because he would be instantly alert by the Ghost eyes array if someone stepped inside the array with unorthodox methods.

After that, Gordon just had to see the face of that person, and he knew who was who, and he had seen Ace before, so it wasn't a big deal for him to recognize Ace.

However, even after fifty days, there wasn't any trace of Ace, but Gordon wasn't the least bit worried since he knew he would come he just had to wait patiently, and he didn't show up he had another plan ready just in case.

Although Ace didn't come, he found many 'flies' buzzing around the treasure mountain now and then, all he had to do was to give the order to crush those annoying flies. He wasn't interested in them even in the least bit.

Today was just like any other day, and Gordon still didn't move from his spot from the start of this plan.

Abruptly, Gordon's eyes sprang open as a small black cube with four golden different rune symbols on each of its four sides appeared in his. The symbol facing him suddenly lit up, and a transparent screen replaced the golden symbol.

On that palm-size screen appeared a figure in a long hood and black long coat, moving toward the treasure mountain alone while keeping a distance from other people.

Gordon's eyes shimmered with ecstasy as his lips rose into a sinister smile, "You finally decided to show up after making me wait for all this time. How should I greet you?" mumbled Gordon coldly.

He didn't even need to see this hooded person's face because the ghost eye array was ringing in alarm like never before which implied his person's disguise was impenetrable and if not for his stealth skill being only subpar, he would've escaped the ghost eye array detection!

Gordon knew he only had one chance with Myriad Ghost Trapping Talisman, and he didn't want to use it on the wrong person, but he had become surer after he saw the owl symbol on this person's back.

'Such a disguise even stronger than a Golden River Core Cultivator, he's indeed hiding a huge secret. Pity, he's only using it for petty thieveries and playing around.' Gordon's eyes shimmer with intense greed as he patiently waited for Ace to walk deeper.

Gordon saw after this hooded person was only five hundred meters away from the treasure mountain, he looked around sneakily as if he was about to move in the empty field.

However, Gordon's eyes instantly narrowed when this person instantly stopped and turned around and start running like a phantom as if his life was on the line!

Gordon knew something was amiss, and he didn't dare to wait any longer and flip the cube, which lit another symbol.

The very next moment thereafter, a black barrier instantly appeared to cover a thousand-meter area around the treasure mountain like a dome.

Gordon quickly flip the cube again and when he saw the figure was inside the barrier he instantly had a sigh of relief, 'I almost let him escape, how did he see through this array? Well, I should ask him directly.'

Gordon stood up from his place and looked in the particular direction before saying with a cold smile.

"My Boy, Ace, it's been a while."

Gordon's thunderous voice rang in the barrier's vacancy, snapping everyone out of their stupor who were abruptly trapped inside the barrier.

The moment Ace heard the system voice, it only took him only a moment to see the target report which come abruptly without even his concern, or it also didn't take any time for completion either.

However, when Ace saw the level of those two securities measures and system warning, he quickly turned around and run as he pushed his lightning steps to the limit.

He knew he has been had!

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**Chapter 255: Check and Trapped!**

Ace knew he has been had and if he didn't leave this place, he might not leave again, and just as he thought a barrier abruptly appeared closing the entire thousand-meter area around the treasure mountain.

Ace's heart turned cold, he knew the person had activated that grade-2 talisman. The most dreadful thing was he can't see any kind of flaw because this was a Grade 2 talisman.

'How could someone have a grade-two array, and grade-two talisman like this, even in high-level lands it should be impossible, especially the talisman? I never even heard of it before and now someone is using a grade two from the start, and it's being used on me, damn it, what a stroke of bad luck!' Ace cursed as knew he was stepping into an unavoidable trapped.

It wasn't his fault since his knowledge of high-level lands was limited and even if he knew the person he was dealing with was not from the high-level land altogether.

This was his first enemy, who had ample experience and many powerful means to deal with sneaky cultivators like him.

Ace had grown accustomed to seeing low-level runes all the time, and his skills were also at high levels before. But now he finally encountered someone who can create traps much more powerful than his skill levels and play him to death!

However, if Ace knew Gordon was only using the simplest Grade-2 array and talisman because there weren't materials available to create a powerful one, heck, they didn't have the Qi stones to power those terrifying arrays here, who knows what he would feel.

Ace didn't know how lucky he had been to grow so much in this 'safe' environment because if he was in royal lands his journey would've been hell.

Furthermore, he always felt the grade treasures were extremely rare, but he didn't know he was just a tiger living in the world of goats all this time, now he finally encountered another tiger with wings!

Ace was about to use his most powerful attack to overpower the barrier when he heard a thunderous voice calling his name,

"My Boy, Ace, it's been a while."

His eyes instantly constricted when he heard his real name because to his knowledge his name was only known by two of his loved ones, Eva and Alina, and beside them, all the people who know his name were already dead or missing, like his parents. Besides, his name was so rare that this person can't take him for someone else either.

However, it was now even more important to escape this place since his person know his name which also mean he probably knows him from low-level lands.

The black blade swords were already in his hands as he brandished them with despair lightning and heck them toward the black barrier.

'Bang...' A deafening sound mixed with lightning rumbling and metal rang in the vacancy.

Ace's face sank even more because the barrier wasn't even scratched by his despair -lightning. His expression was ugly because he knew just how potent his element Qi was, and it still didn't even leave a scratch on this barrier.

'So, this is a grade-2 talisman, huh.' Ace's mood was as gloomy as it could.

"Impressive, I never thought you would awake lightning element, it's quite rare even in azure mainland." The same voice rang again with a hint of surprise.

Ace finally turned around as he knew the only way to leave this place was either wait for an hour, which was almost impossible, or destroyed the talisman which was clearly in the hand of this person.

"What is going on? Why is a barrier appeared out of nowhere?" Someone suddenly questioned out loud.

"You think we know? Ask this voice!" Someone sneered.

"I want an explanation from three giants, I'm the duke of the golden hammered king!" A person in golden robes also spoke as he stated his status.

These people didn't see Ace since he was still in his stealth, nor can they find Gordon, so they started to look for three giants.

There were almost five hundred people trapped inside this dark barrier with Ace, and they all belonged to different powers of middle-level lands. They were only there to see the legendary treasure mountain, but who would've thought they were being this unlucky to choose such time to visit.

The people outside the barrier were also just as confused as those inside because from outside one could see inside the transparent dark barrier, but they can't enter and only watch what was happening. They can't listen to anything like those who were inside, though.

"Get rid of these flies." Gordon's annoying voice sounded again, with a hint of killing intent.

Everyone's heart tuned cold where they heard this, they knew something was wrong.

"What are you trying..." Before this person could even finish his sentence, a black-clad person appeared behind him like a ghost and slit his throat!

"YOU..."

"Wai..."

"Please spare my ch..."

Many voices filled with pledging and despair rang in the vacancy, but those assassins from Nightmare Ghosts were like emotionless statues as they killed everyone like they were killing chickens.

"T-they're killing everyone!" Someone outside the barrier exclaimed with a horror-filled voice.

Everyone felt a chill run down their spine as they saw inside the barrier which has turned into a slaughterer's house, those people even start to turn around and fled without stopping.

They didn't know what was happening, but they knew if those assassins decided to come after them, they would not even have the chance to strike back.

The entire area became deserted as everyone fled for their lives, but those assassins' targets were the only people inside the barrier since they also can't leave the barrier either.

Ace looked at the slaughterer with a deep frown, he didn't move from his position to save those people because he knew, no one can save them.

He coldly looked toward the peak of treasure mountain, where he could vaguely see a silhouette of a person. He knew this was the proprietor of this entire treasure mountain trap and also some familiarity with him.

Ace finally come out of stealth and questioned, "Who are you?"

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#### **Chapter 256: We're Doomed!**

"Who are you?"

Ace asked sternly while he kept searching for any possible opening to take advantage of and escape this predicament.

He knew this time around he had to play it carefully, or he might didn't even know how he die. Since the other party had no intention of attacking, he was more than happy to waste time.

Even though his voice wasn't loud, it sounded loud, since the area was deadly silent after they killed those people.

All those assassins were also done with killing the small fries, and they looked toward the hooded figure, which was giving off a mysterious feeling of apprehension.

They knew this was the infamous thief, Sky Stealer, and they finally trapped him.

More and more people appeared like some powerhouses of Pill Flame and Beast Calling. They couldn't help but took a careful glance at the thief who antagonized them for so long.

Amid these powerhouses were seven more people who weren't from the three giants, it was the golden family who had taken asylum here when they donate their treasures, and they were feeling it was the right decision after seeing the thief trapped so easily.

"How could you forget about the person who told you about your parents' wellbeing, and you killed him mercilessly after that?" Gordon's lament voice sounded with a hint of mockery.

Ace's heart instantly jolted when he heard about his parents, his mind instantly focused on the person he killed all those years ago. How could he forget that person who was the City Lord of River Flower City and a cultivation clone of a Qi soul manifestation realm expert according to the system?

"Y-you're Mathies true body?!" Ace's voice was filled with alarm and trepidation.

He finally understands just how much trouble he was in right now.

Although he never forgot about this looming threat of a Qi soul manifest cultivator, he never thought this person would be this resourceful and deadly. Furthermore, after all these years as time passed, he almost neglected the possibility of him coming.

Now, because of his neglect, he walked right into a trap set by a dreadful existence.

Well, who could blame Ace, since he was also desperate because of the system's mission and his vague knowledge of royal lands?

Gordon's eyes narrowed as asked with a hint of curiosity, "How do you know it was a clone?"

His cultivation technique was quite special and all the cultivation clones created by it were living beings not just any random clones, no one could tell if they were clones even if those old monsters of sects were looked at those clones much less a brat from these forsaken lands.

"Heh..., look, it was Senior's clone who attacked me first, and I didn't know it was a Qi soul manifestation cultivator's clone until I killed it. I'm just a thief and I have nothing useful for an expert like Senior, so why don't you forgive a little thief like me."

Ace try talking reason with this person, he didn't dare to underestimate him anymore, and escaping in front of Qi soul manifestation expert wasn't even an option anymore!

However, those people listening to their conversation nearly faint from fear when they hear 'Qi Soul Manifestation Realm Cultivator', this realm was an absolute legend below royal lands and no one ever broke through this realm in the history of high-lands.

If this person controlling this powerful 'formation' was a Qi soul manifestation expert, then this means he was from a... sect!

Just this possibility made their heart race, if they could catch the fancy of this expert they could instantly sour to heaven!

However, one person didn't have this thought right now,

It was a beautiful blond girl standing beside Golden King; she was naturally Dulce.

Dulce was living in constant terror after Ace showed up in the middle-level lands and make such a commotion now and then. This terror tuned into her eternal nightmare when she heard; he even managed to escape alive the earthen mist forest, and he was coming into her home!

She nearly went insane with fear and in every person, she saw the boy surrounded by gloomy smoke, just like that day when he said he'll destroy her kingdom.

She only felt safe after her father stayed in this place surrounded by powerhouses of middle-level lands, and when Ace was caught, she felt a huge mountain was lifted from her heart. Likewise, she even wanted to taunt Ace for being still an ant.

However, after she heard the word 'Mathies' her face went instantly pale like a ghost because she knew who Mathies was, how could she forget the City lord who escaped with this little devil that day.

"No... no... it must be someone else... yes... yes... it much me... It had to..." Dulce starting to mutter madly like a broken record.

Golden King was also alarmed since he was countless times read the report about Ace's past and how he met with his daughter after his meteoric rise. After hearing his daughter mad muttering, he felt his entire body was in a deep ice lake.

If he knew his daughter had offended someone from royal lands and the person was also a mammoth-like Qi soul manifestation realm expert, he would've killed her long ago and gone in hiding with his family and never seen the light of the day.

But now, he had delivered himself right in the hand of others and finally understood why those people from three giants even suggested giving him asylum here.

'We're doomed!'

With listless eyes this thought surfaced on his mind and even Vance was not better than his elder brother, he was even worse; he loses his consciousness just from the fear of approaching death.

As for escape alive, heh... who could escape a Qi soul manifestation realm goliath!

Gordon didn't even look at the panicking Golden Family and merely chuckled as Ace remarked,

"Fine, I let you go since I don't want those pests from White Crown finding trouble with me after your death, but only after you let me use 'Soul Search' on you!"

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#### **Chapter 257: Kill Him!**

"Fine, I let you go since I don't want those pests from White Crown finding trouble with me after your death, but only after you let me use 'Soul Search' on you!"

Gordon wore an ambiguous smile as he stated his condition.

'After soul search, you'll be turned into a retard, so I naturally let you go and let you live a life worse than death, this will be your punishment of destroying my cultivation clone.' Gordon thought maliciously without showing it on his face.

Soul search was a special technique of investigation that anyone could use after reaching Qi Soul or Soul Embryo realm. This technique can forcibly extract memories of another, whether or not others like it.

But this force extraction of memories can cause massive damage to others' minds and as a result, the victim would become either retard or even die an agonized death.

That's why the soul search was forbidden by every race, it can only be used on extremely cruel criminals or as a last resort. However, this rule was only placed for not using the soul search openly, and as long as no one leaves any evidence behind they can use it on anyone!

Gordon deemed, Ace doesn't know about soul search and its terror, that's why he put this condition as an act of 'mercy' in front of him. From the start, he was planning on using soul search on Ace.

He won't believe him even if Ace told him the truth, he wanted to see his memories himself, so he could find out about the 'secret' his parents left on him, that help him grow so much and even white crown was 'after' it.

However, Gordon knew Ace had many tricks up his sleeves, although Ace possess no threat to him, Gordon didn't want to accidentally kill Ace or push him to the brink of death. It would be a huge loss if Ace die before he gained his secrets.

That's why he was planning to give away his real identity from the start to intimidate Ace, but he never thought Ace already knew about the cultivation clone and even took him for his real body as a misunderstanding.

Things tuned out better than he imagined, and that's why he struck while the iron was hot and pretend to be intimidated by the White Crown and bring up soul search like it was something trivial.

As long as Ace agreed to soul search, he would acquire everything he needed and leave Ace to live like a maniac for the rest of his life.

Ace was deep in thought, standing in his place, everyone was waiting for his answer. They all know he couldn't escape someone from royal lands.

But some of them frowned when they heard Gordon plan on sparing Ace after conducting this mysterious soul search on him.

Especially the golden family, their expression was hideous and pale. They knew Gordon tricked them, and they will die one way or another. Even if Gordon didn't take any action against them, Ace would not spare him if he leaves alive this time around.

But no one dare to make a sound, this matter was already out of their reach, and they were all ant trapped in Gordon's layer now. Whether they live or die was on Gordon's whim now.

Gordon also didn't hurry Ace, as he coldly watched him. He knew everything was under his control and he'll soul search Ace one way or another no matter what. He just wanted to end it easily.

As for others who were watching all this, he already considered them corpses long ago!

Ace finally spoke with a hint of hesitation in his voice, "Fine, senior can use this soul search, but you have to give me that treasure mountain first. I know someone like Senior status didn't consider those scraps, treasures, at all. You only need me, and if you don't agree to this condition, I'll instantly self-destruct!" He smiled wryly.

Gordon frowned ever so slightly, hearing Ace's condition and threat.

Although Ace was right, he only considered these treasures, scraps, and normal stone. But Ace greedy demand puzzled him, and he even wanted to kill himself because of treasures.

'What this brat up to? Even in these circumstances, he's thinking about treasures? Are treasures more important than your life?'

However, before he could probe Ace's true intentions, a pleading shrill voice rang in the silent vacancy, "Lord, you have to kill him, you can't let him escape what if he comes after you when he becomes as strong as you!"

Everyone looked toward this gutsy person, who dare to speak this boldly in front of a royal land personal!

Gordon and Ace also looked in the direction, especially Ace, his eyes suddenly emit killing intent when he heard this voice, how could he forget this voice, even if he forgets everything he will never forget this hateful voice.

Everyone saw a blonde hair girl with bloodshot eyes and a twisted face filled with hatred and madness, looking at Ace like she wanted to eat him alive. Who could this be but Dulce!

"Hoho... look what we have here, I almost forget, you were the one who torture my clone and then even poisoned him. Then you destroyed his family and city as well. You're even more guilty than little pup Ace, and now you even dare to interrupt in my matter!" Gordon's voice turned icy, "So, tell me how would you want to die!"

Golden King, Golden Queen, the crown prince, the second prince, the fifth princess, and Vance who just regain his wits, everyone in Golden Family trembled like leaves when Gordon's icy gaze landed on them.

However, Dulce has already lost her reasons under the impeded death after learning about Gordon's real identity. She knew she was doomed today and fell to the pits of despair and her mind finally couldn't take it, and she lost her will to live.

Dulce abhorrently screamed while pointing her shaking finger at Ace,

"Kill him first, or he'll hunt you down just like me. He'll ruin your life and make it a living hell. Don't make the same mistake as I did last time, he's playing you, kill him before he escaped just like before!"

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 258: Counter and Counter**

"Kill him first, or he'll hunt you down just like me. He'll ruin your life and make it a living hell. Don't make the same mistake as I did last time, he's playing you, kill him before he escaped, just like before!"

Dulce suddenly laughed, "Hahahahaha... hahahaha... you'll be just like me... ahahaha...if you don't kill him..."

Golden King was as pale as a ghost, he couldn't take it anymore as he brandished his fist in golden light and punched toward madly laughing Dulce's head. Deep in his eyes were intense sadness as he looked at this most brilliant daughter who had turned into a complete retard!

"Hmph, who told you to move?!" Gordon's cold voice rang like thunder in the area, there was oppressive might mix within his voice, everyone's mind trembled after hearing it.

Golden King's golden Qi also shattered from Gordon's voice, and he instantly fell on the ground and puke a mouthful of blood.

Everyone's eyes were filled with horror and dread, especially Golden King's, they all see just Gordon's voice was enough to make a peak Qi river realm Golden King puke blood and shatter his attack.

If they had some doubts about Gordon's identity before now, all of them completely vanished and turned into absolute terror!

"Forgive me, my lord!" Golden King weakly plead, he didn't dare to move from his kneeling position.

"Hahahah... you see this; even my father wanted to kill me, now. You'll be just like me if he lives... Hahahaha..." Dulce continued to laugh madly.

This time no one dare to act and let her be, but there was a pity in everyone's eyes seeing Dulce's condition. She had lost her will to live and become like a walking carcass.

Gordon acted he didn't heart Dulce's ridiculing words and only sneered disdainfully, "Since you already lost the will to live, it would be a mercy to kill you. What do you think little boy Ace?" he looked toward Ace with interest, he knew the grudge between Dulce and Ace was much deeper than his.

Ace looked toward madly laughing Dulce with killing intent, seeing her twisted appearance, he couldn't help but remember that rainy day when he just laughed like this and almost lost himself.

"Just as Senior says, it would be a mercy to kill her anymore. I'll let senior decide what to do with this madwoman." Ace calmly stated with a deep sigh, 'This might be the best revenge I could get for all those innocent people.'

"Good, she'll live like this alone for the rest of her miserable life." Gordon nodded with a pleasing expression, everything was going according to his will. Even Ace was acting all submissive and respectful.

Gordon pointed his finger toward mad Dulce and a crimson streak flashed past her forehead and she instantly lost her conciseness, but a red word appeared on her forehead, 'Slave'.

Ace's eyes narrowed when he saw the slave mark on Dulce's forehead, but he didn't speak.

"Good, now she won't die even if she wants to." Gordon nodded his head in satisfaction and again looked toward Ace, "Now, this matter out of the way, let's finished yours as well."

Ace's heart palpitated as he thought, 'Did he see through it?'

"Fine, you can take this treasure mountain, but I'll divide it into ten portions and give you two portions before and after you cooperate obediently, you can get the other eight portions after soul search. This is non-negotiable, if you want to die, then die I'll still have other methods to get what I wanted!" Gordon sternly declared.

He didn't trust Ace at all. So, he probed his true intention. If Ace was planning something with this treasure mountain, he won't let it happen.

Although it would be troublesome if Ace self-destructs, Gordon still can soul search him, but it won't be as effective as when done on an alive person.

However, to Gordon's astonishment, Ace agreed quickly.

"Fine, I'll take two portions first, but they had to be all over the treasure mountain, not just one place!" Ace stated calmly.

Now, Gordon was perplexed, 'Just what is going on? Is it really about just treasures?'

But he can't just go back on his word, yet he won't leave any way for Ace either, "Since you had this demand, I'll also add a little condition, I want to check your storage ring as well, if there wasn't any interesting I'll give it back."

Gordon wanted to inspect Ace's storage ring, one reason was to check if what White Crown was after inside his storage ring, and if there was Ace would never give it away and this also make things much easier for him. This means even without Ace's memories, he still possessed his secret.

As for the second reason, if Ace gave away his storage ring, this implies Ace didn't have any trick up his sleeve and he was only being greedy. But this will also make Ace's life more precious since this makes that secret verbal and only Ace had the information about it. He can't kill Ace at that time, and this made things trickery.

Gordon was hoping for the first since it would make things much easier and even if Ace retaliate or pull some trick, he won't hesitate to end him, but if it turned out to latter, he might lose everything if Ace was dead, and he didn't get that important memory!

"I agree to this condition as well!" Ace agreed with no hesitation again.

This made Gordon even more confused, 'It that secret verbal, what is it a technique, skill, art? No, those that pair won't be in that much trouble if it was just some verbal secret. Wait, did he hide the thing somewhere before coming here?'

The more Gordon thought, the more confused he become and hesitate. He never thought things would become so complicated.

'First, let's see if you have the skill to negotiate with me or not!' Gordon finally moved!

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#### **Chapter 259: Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate!**

'First, let's see if you have the skill to negotiate with me or not!' Gordon finally moved!

Before, Gordon simply thought things were smoothly moving and this could end without him using any force. But as things progress, he finally understood Ace wasn't as simple as he seemed, he had something up his sleeve.

Gordon wasn't an idiot, and he had tones of experience in life, he knew when someone was up to something and Ace was defiantly up to no good.

That's why he wanted completely catch Ace off guard and try to subdue him. If he succeeds, this will end all this drama, but if not, he had to evaluate Ace again and might have to play along with him.

But one thing Gordon was absolute confidence in was Ace can't escape today, no matter what kind of trick he pulled.

When Ace saw Gordon's silhouette abruptly vanish from the treasure mountain top, he knew Gordon was going to push him. He long predicted this scenario, he knew an old monster like Gordon would not be easily played by him. He had to show his strength first.

He had long found out that Gordon's wasn't at Qi soul manifestation realm because he didn't have the power to see through Qi soul manifestation realm expert, but from Gordon, he felt the well-hidden Qi fluctuations of a Qi river core cultivator and instantly guess this was one of Gordon's clone!

That's why he completely changed his plans!

However, even Ace greatly underestimated Gordon's prowess, in three-second Gordon has covered almost a thousand meters distance and Ace only found him when he was just five meters away from him!

Ace's heart palpitated when he saw Gordon was holding a sword brandished with Gray Qi, he suddenly felt a familiar aura from this gray Qi, but he didn't have time to ponder over it.

He quickly used the misperception steps to the fullest, he didn't know if Gordon could see through this movement skill, but he had to try, or he will fall in Gordon's clutches.

The thing Ace was mostly afraid of happened, Gordon seemed to be completely immune to his movement skill and slash toward his shoulder with no hind of bewitchment.

Garden's felt the strange sensation, but his real level was just too high, and it was not enough to work on him, he instantly slashed toward Ace's arm to chop it off!

Ace felt goosebumps all over his body as the gray Qi was about to heck his entire arm. Suddenly a black page appeared in his hand and he quickly used it as a shield.

'Boom...!'

A deafening sound of metals crushing together rang in the area. The dirt around scatted everywhere because of the leftover force.

'Hmm?' Gordon was astonishing, he naturally saw Ace using the black page-like shield in the last moment, he simply thought it was just a last-ditch attempt, but this page completely blocked his attack!

He knew just how powerful this gray Qi was, and it will be hard for even a Qi soul cultivator to block it like this, but this black page completely absorbed the attack!

'What is this treasure?' Gordon's eyes shone with interest and desire.

"Since senior didn't want to keep his word, I'll have to destroy everything on me and myself!" Ace's determined, and decisive voice sounded behind from the black page.

"Do it, I don't think you can destroy that thing in your hand, and it also seemed your most cherish belonging, I get it from your corpse." Gordon sneered in a mocking tone.

He was fully convinced that this black page was the treasure White Crown was after and given to Ace by his parents for safekeeping. He can't see thought it even with his powerful martial sense, this thoroughly convinced him!

Ace's lip suddenly rose into a cold yet mocking smile, "Are you sure, you can get this after I die? Don't Senior hear about special treasures?"

"Stop bluffing and die!" Gordon didn't even wait to get his hand on that black page and attack with his full might, this time he was even faster and more ruthless, directly going after Ace's life.

However, Ace was prepared, his reflexes were top-notch as he managed to shield his neck at the last moment, but the gray Qi still fazed his neck and blood instantly trickled.

"You senile old man, do you think I'm joking?!" Ace was completely enraged and afraid seeing this old guy was going to attack again.

The black page instantly vanished from his hand, and he threw his storage ring toward Gordon.

Gordon was naturally astonished seeing Ace's bizarre action and the incoming storage ring toward him and stop in his tracks, but he didn't catch it instantly and form a Qi hand to catch it. After making sure it was completely fine and only a storage ring with no Qi mark, he looked toward Ace, waiting for his explanation.

"See for yourself if the 'Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate' is in there, I don't have any storage ring on me, you can even check with your martial sense and the ring is open!" Ace quickly put some bullshit name together to give the 'Page 09' and explain the reason behind his action.

'Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate?!' Gordon was quickly engrossed in this shocking name and hurriedly checked the storage ring he just received from Ace.

However, his expression turned ugly when he didn't see the 'Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate' inside the storage ring. His eyes turned sharp like blades as he used his martial sense to scan Ace's body.

The more careful he scanned, the more his expression started to sink because Ace didn't have another storage ring hidden on his body nor the 'Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate' and couldn't help but looked at Ace who was grinning at him!

When Ace saw Gordon's clouded face, he knew the fish had taken the bait and sneered inside, 'Watch how I play you to death, old goat!'

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#### **Chapter 260: Hoodwinked!**

Gordon coldly looked at Ace and sternly questioned, "Explain!"

"Heh, so, you finally decided to chat, old man." Ace grin mockingly.

Ace wasn't even in the least bit of worry about Gordon's cold gaze anymore. He knew his plan of deceiving Gordon has been succeeded!

"Watch your mouth!" Gordon's aura instantly spiked when he saw Ace's carefree attitude, and he even dare to call him 'Old Man' now, instated of 'Senior'.

But he didn't attack, he knew something was amiss after seeing the storage ring and 'clean' Ace.

"Fine, fine, so here the thing..." Ace's smile didn't vanish at all as he said, "Your guess was right, my parents left the 'Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate' for me when I was young. I only found out when I turned twelve because it was inside my knowledge sea. I also received some memories of a cultivation technique and skills which I'm currently using despite possessing Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate! Do you know why?"

Gordon's interest was instantly piqued when he heard this, he wasn't someone from these forsaken lands, and he knew there were indeed mysterious ways to hide unique treasures inside a person's body or imprint techniques and skills for a certain period.

"Why did you cultivate another Cultivation Technique, if you have the Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate?" This was what he also wanted to know now since he knew Ace didn't have any reason to lie to him, nor he can escape his grasps.

"You see old man, the Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique can only be cultivated when a person clear half of cultivation journey, simply put, this technique can only be learned after one enter Qi soul manifestation realm. The most astonishing thing about this technique is you can cultivate in a soul path from the final half of the cultivation journey, meaning directly to --- realm!" Ace's voice was filled with passion and yearning in the end.

Gordon's breathing turned rigged when he heard this impossible to believe secret, and his eyes shone with intense greed.

'No wonder... no wonder... that's why the white crown come to such a place chasing after those two. So, it was because of this heaven-defying technique. If this technique can help in the other half of the cultivation journey and the soul path no less, doesn't this mean whoever cultivates this technique can ascend to heaven! My technique only helps me until the seventh realm, and I never heard of humanity had any technique that can help us reach the eighth realm!'

The more Gordon think, the more his greed intensified, it almost materialized from his eyes. He knew the gravity of this technique if words got out the entire human race will strive for it, and it will cause a bloody war, even relatives would turn on each other for this technique!

'I can't let him live anymore, after I get the technique I'll kill him instantly and leave this place... not... I have to leave the continent!' Gordon instantly made his mind.

But he wasn't completely blinded by Ace's honey words and said with a little soft voice, "As long as you can let me soul search you and give me the Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate I'll let you go, I can even sign an oath contract with you!"

He will only completely believe him after soul search and with this, he'll kill Ace during soul search, so he won't violate any term of oath contract, he can't let Ace live with this kind of secret. His own master will hunt him down if he got wind of this technique!

"There's no need to oath contract, I just want that treasure mountain." Ace didn't even seem to care anymore as if everything was under his control, "However if you play any trick this time I'll instantly self-destruct my martial space, and you won't get shit! Because if I were to die, that technique slate will instantly shatter since it's bond with me, and only I can transfer it to others!"

This carefree attitude gave Gordon more reason to believe Ace was telling the truth. But he still hesitates though, after thinking about that technique and Ace can't leave the ghost trapping talisman for another fifty minutes, he took the risk.

Now, even if Ace was telling the lie, he can't let him die because the technique slate was definitely on him, and he saw it with his own eyes. If half of what Ace was true, then he can't risk this technique being lost!

Because in Gordon's eyes Ace can't come up with this kind of story on the spot, nor he should know the name of the eighth realm of cultivation world because only a few old monsters know about it.

But too bad for him Ace was an acting expert and with so many memories he naturally had a rich imagination, besides he had the System which was probably millions of times more terrifying than this oriented technique of his.

"Since little friend Ace wants the treasure mountain, it will naturally be his." Gordon suddenly put on an elderly smile and even change the way of calling him.

"You, slaves! What are you waiting for? Go and quickly put all the treasure mountain in storage rings for my little friend here." Gordon ordered sternly to all those dumbfounded people watching from afar!

Because everyone was a cultivator, their hearing and eyesight were extremely sharp. They hear and saw how Gordon attacked abruptly and Ace somehow blocked all his attacks with a strange black page.

But when they heard Ace's explanation about the black page and heard about the wonders of Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate' everyone's heart stirs and greed filled their heart.

However, when they looked at Gordon coldly staring at them, all the desire in their hearts turned into bitterness and helplessness.

They knew fighting Gordon for the Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate was like fighting a tiger with bare hands.

They could now even guess Gordon might kill them all, just to silent them, since they would've done the same to hide the secret of this heaven-defying technique!