

Thief 281

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Chapter 281: Thief Assassin!

A new notification popped up the moment he tried to select Noa's name.

[Please Select a Thief Genre for the new member!]

Compatible Thief Genre for House Member Noa Night: 2 Available

1. Thief Scout
2. Thief Assassin

[Please select one option.]

[Note: Once a thief genre was selected, it can never be changed again.]

Ace's eyes narrowed when he saw the detail of Thief Genre and looked at two Thief Genres available for Noa and mused,

'So, it's like selecting a path for my members to walk in their life, but this path is only related to Thief. I wonder if I had a Thief Genre, well since the system didn't tell me before, it probably means I don't need one, or it lets me select in the future.

'However, selecting a path for someone is completely different, though. I'm not a control freak, and I think everyone has a right to select what they want to pursue in their life.

'Well, it's not like they had much of a choice since they had to be a thief no matter what kind they select it made little difference, this section is the only choice they had, so I won't take it from them.

'Since I'm a leader, I should act like one and treat everyone nicely, so they won't feel like they're in some penitentiary.'

Ace came clean with Noa about thief genre pros and cons. He told her how it worked and once she selected a path, she could never change it and had to walk on it for the rest of her life, there was no room for regrets later.

Noa was momentarily shocked when she heard the explanation about the thief genre because selecting a cultivation path was an impossible dream for her since she can't break through to the next realm with her limited bloodline and race.

But now she was given an opportunity to change her entire life and walk on a path of her own choices even though it was related to a thief, she still felt grateful from the bottom of her heart to the 'Goddess' and especially to Ace who gave her this fantastical chance.

Furthermore, Noa had seen her Thief Genre, which said 'only the House Leader can select', which means she didn't have any say in it if Ace decided to select for her, and he won't need to give her any explanation. But didn't do so and gave her a choice, this raise his position in her heart a little more.

"Leader, thank you for this chance, and I won't make you regret giving me this choice in the future." Noa suddenly change the way she treated Ace and bowed toward him, even with her injuries.

"No need to stand in ceremony with me. We are both now members of the same 'House' and this makes us family, and a family needed to treat each other with courtesy and respect each other's wishes." Ace stated with a faint smile like a leader, but one could see a little redness on his face.

'No wonder those Old Men felt so embarrassed when they were alone after spouting all this nonsense. Being a leader is really difficult.' He thought as he admired the owners of these memories, he just used to act!

But Noa didn't seem to notice anything wrong with Ace's words, and she felt a warmth in her heart when she heard 'family'. 'He's really different.'

"Leader, I decided I want to be a Thief Assassin. I'll protect our House with my life!" Noa said with undying determination.

Ace could tell Noa was speaking from her heart when she made this promise, and he also felt having one or two members wasn't a bad thing after all.

"Fine, I select it for you!" Ace said as he made the selection.

[House Leader has selected Option 2: Thief Assassin for house member Noa Night.]

Noa also heard the 'Goddess' voice in her head, and the interface appeared in front of her again.

[Congratulation, you have been appointed as a Thief Assassin by House Leader.]

Thief Assassin Introduction: A Thief who is also indulged in the art of Assassination

Thief Assassin Role: Whenever a theft was planned, it's a Thief Assassin's job to make sure no one impedes theft and silence anyone who poses a threat to thievery and makes it perfect!

[Your thief house status has been updated.]

Ace also saw this Thief Assassin introduction and felt this was more like a vanguard position in a theft. This was a very dangerous task since he had experienced himself just how dangerous those people protecting the treasuries could be.

"Thank you, Goddess, for your approval and guidance! I will not disappoint you!" Noa quickly praised the system with a resolute voice.

Ace felt his face heated when he saw the reverence in Noa's eyes. He definitely underestimated the power of Noa's faith in a 'God'.

Little did Ace know, the entire demon race was very religious, and some of them were even more devoted than Noa. That's why Noa was quick to believe that system was indeed a God or if it was any human, they would've never believed it so quickly and blindly.

"You don't need to say it out loud in the future, just in your head, 'Goddess' can hear you anywhere. Besides, if people find out we can 'talk with a god they'll probably take us for lunatics or worse, come after us to find out about our secret.

"I'm warning you, although we received the 'guidance' from the 'Goddess'. But the 'Goddess' won't save us if we're in danger or even die. So, in the end, we have to rely on ourselves and keep this an absolute secret!" Ace sternly warned.

He had experienced first handed just how much greedy a cultivator could be, and they can do anything for a chance to increase their strength. Even an extremely shrewd old monster like 'Gordon' was hoodwinked by him because of his greed for power.

"I understand. It was indeed a mistake. I was just too excited. The leader doesn't need to worry about it anymore." Noa nodded decisively in understanding.

She has been victim to the same thing in the past, and she knew anyone finds out that Ace can 'connect' them to a 'Goddess'. Everyone will hunt Ace to the end of this world!

Noa didn't want this to happen, since he was her benefactor and the House Leader she had to protect.

"Check your thief house interface." Ace wanted to see what changes have appeared in Shadow's interface before checking it on his own end.

"Yes, I also wanted to see what Go... I get!" She was about to say Goddess again, but quickly stop and change her words.

Ace nodded, seeing her being so vigilant already.

Noa quickly opened her thief house status.

[House Member: Noa Night (Female)]

[Race: Demon]

[Bloodline: Night Demon (Grade-1 Bloodline) (Upgradeable)]

[Thief Genre: Thief Assassin (Newbie)]

[House Rank: New Member (Upgradeable)]

[Martial Cultivation: Silver River Core Stage of Qi River Core Realm]

[Talent: Low (Upgradeable)]

[House Point(s): 10]

[House Mission(s): 0]

[House Leader Mission(s): 0]

[House Punishment(s): 0]

[House Shop: Thief Assassin]

Noa was elated seeing the house shop has been finally opened, and it was exclusively for a thief assassin as well. But she didn't open it and quickly asked Ace.

"Leader, what is this House Rank, and what purpose does it serve?"

She didn't see this column before, meaning it only appeared after her Thief Genre was selected, and it seemed 'easy' to raise as well.

Ace also noticed this and already asked the system,

"[Thief House Rank were placed to determine the seniority of a member, and it's also represented the contribution they made to thief house. The higher the house rank, the more benefits they will get!]"

Ace simply repeated what the system just told him. He suddenly felt vexed since he had to act like an interpreter because the system can't talk or answer Noa's questions like him. It can only send notifications or alerts in their heads, nothing else!

'Maybe that's how the system would feel with all my questions as well,' Ace mused, and finally unravel why sometimes the system refused to answer him.

It was just too damn annoying!

Before Noa can ask any more follow-up questions related to house ranks, he quickly distracted her, "Why don't you open the shop and see what you get from 'Goddess'. I'm sure it'll blow you away!"

Noa's eyes quickly shimmered with ecstasy, hearing this, and didn't pay any more attention to Ace and quickly opened her unique Thief House Shop!

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Chapter 282: Side Mission!

Noa's eyes quickly shimmered with ecstasy hearing this and paid no more attention to Ace and quickly opened her unique Thief House Shop!

Ace sighed in relief and also looked at her thief assassin house shop curiously.

[House Shop: Thief Assassin]

- Treasures Section
- Knowledge Section
- Evolution & Pill Section

Noa opened the very first treasure section eagerly.

[Treasure Section: Thief Assassin]

- Endless Night Daggers Set [32 Pin-Daggers]: Legendary Grade- 4

House Rank Required: Old Member

Price: 10,000 House Points

- Runic Windless Blowgun: Legendary Grade- 4

House Rank Required: Old Member

Price: 10,000 House Point

- Thief Assassin Armor Set: Legendary Grade-8

House Rank Required: Excellent Member

Thief Assassin Rank Require: Trainee Thief Assassin

Price: 100,000 House Points

- Life Escape Coin: 3

House Rank Required: Normal Member

Price: 1,000 House Points

[Note: Shop will update at 'Veteran Member' House Rank]

Noe couldn't believe what she had just seen and read it again and again before her eyes turned listless. Even though all those things in the shop were priceless in this world. But she can't get them because of those harsh requirements!

Much less accruing all those house ranks, just the House Points were enough to give Noa's despair because she only had 10 at this moment and the cheapest thing was 1,000 House Points!

Ace was also somewhat in disbelief when he saw all those things in Noa's thief assassin's shop. He was shocked not because of the requirements, but from those grades of those treasures!

Even he didn't have these kinds of treasures in his system shop! He even felt slightly better seeing all those requirements attached to them, and he knew Noa had a long way to go before she could get her hands on those powerful treasures.

But when he saw Shadow's listless eyes, he felt a little guilty about gloating on someone's misfortune, and she was nevertheless his own member!

He quickly soothed her, "Don't worry, once we start doing missions, you can get everything very soon. Trust me, I have gone through all this!" He was telling the truth and lying at the same time.

"Thank you." Noa felt a little better, hearing Ace has gone through the same pain as her.

She reluctantly closed the treasure shop and, with hopeful eyes, opened the knowledge shop.

[Knowledge Section: Thief Assassin]

- Night Demon Body Transformation: Demon Body Refinement Technique

Requirement: Night Demon Bloodline (Minimum: Grade-1)

House Rank Required: Normal Member

Price: 100 House Points

- Thief Assassin Principles: Soul Cultivation Technique

House Rank Required: Normal Member

Price: 1,000 House Points

- Endless Shadow Daggers Rainfall; Soul Cultivation Art

Requirement: Endless Night Daggers Set & Thief Assassin Principals

House Rank Required: Old Member

Price: 5,000 House Points

- Thief Assassin Invisible Cloaking; Soul Cultivation Stealth Art

Requirement: Demon Body Refinement Technique & Thief Assassin Principals

House Rank Required: Normal Member

Price: 500 House Points

- Thief Assassin's Soul Steps: Soul Movement Skill

Requirement: Thief Assassin Principals

House Rank Required: Normal Member

Price: 500 House Points

- Thief Assassin's Soul View: Soul Reconnaissance Skill

Requirement: Thief Assassin Principals

House Rank Required: Normal Member

Price: 500 House Points

[Note: Shop will update at 'Veteran Member' House Rank]

Noa's breath was a little irregular when she saw all those soul techniques and skills available, especially that very first Body Refinement Technique, which made her heart nearly explode. She never thought one day she would see this many soul-path skills and a body refinement technique tailor-made for her kind!

"T-this... are all of this... real?" Her voice was a little hoarse when she uttered.

She didn't dare to believe the legendary body refinement technique she always wanted. NO, every demon wanted, would fall from the sky in her lap just like that!

"Don't count your chickens so soon. Although I can assure you, all those techniques and skills are real. But are you qualified to cultivate them?"

Ace's ambiguous voice jolt awakened Noa from her stupor. She finally understood what Ace meant; all those cultivation techniques and skills besides the refinement technique were related to the soul path, and she was a martial path cultivator at Qi silver river core stage!

This means she wasn't qualified to cultivate all those techniques and skills. As for the technique she was qualified to cultivate, it was also because she only met the minimum requirement of her bloodline!

This made her realize just how insignificant, and lowly she was, all that proud of being the superior demon race immediately shattered in that instant.

"Why are you so gloomy and listless? If 'Goddess' given you these options, then this means she also left a way for you. Why don't you open the last section?" Ace calmly said confidently.

But the truth was he was also feeling sorry for Noa and even felt he has it too easy all these years. Because the system never put any requirements on him, he can cultivate everything and anything directly.

This made him recognize just how wonderful the system was to him, and he felt a warmth in his heart. He was gratified that the system always endured him, even when he cussed and resent it.

Noa also regained some hope and quickly opened the last section, or she doesn't know what she'll do if she won't be able to use all those soul techniques and skills that were just sitting in her yard.

Because it was common knowledge, a cultivation path can never be changed as long as the person built its foundation.

But Noa was still hopeful since she was dealing with a 'God' here because even in demon society a soul cultivator was rare and this was just too good of an opportunity to miss, especially when soul techniques and skill came directly from a 'God'!

She will regret it for the rest of her life, even after she got the refinement technique she always wanted.

This was the primordial nature of every intellectual being. Once you get what you want, you'll always want more and better!

Ace also knew the system's ways very well. It would not give something that cannot be used. Just like when he first thought of life coin, and it saved his life!

[Evolution & Pill Section: Thief Assassin]

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-2 Evolution

Price: 1,000 House Points

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-3 Evolution

Price: 10,000 House Points

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-4 Evolution

Price: 50,000 House Points

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-5 Evolution

Price: 100,000 House Points

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-6 Evolution

Price: 250,000 House Points

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-7 Evolution

Price: 500,000 House Points

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-8 Evolution

Price: 1,000,000 House Points

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-9 Evolution

Price: 10,000,000 House Points

- Demonic Foundation Reset Pill: 1 Available

Introduction: Reset any Demon's Foundation (Soul or Martial)

Requirement: Normal Member

Price: 10,000 House Points

[Note: Shop will update at 'Veteran Member' House Rank]

Noa's eyes suddenly lit up with hope and amazement when she saw the only pill available was what she needed the most. Likewise, the bloodline evolution was also a big boon for her!

However, Ace was paying attention to something else entirely, 'So, the bloodlines really have grades and the system can also upgrade them.'

He was snapped out of his thought process hearing Noa's rejuvenate voice.

"Leader, you were right, the Goddess really left a way for me to cultivate in soul path! This is great." Noa rejoice and exclaimed.

This was simply too unbelievable since this was impossible from time immemorial!

"Congratulation." Ace was really happy for Noa.

"System open Noa's interface in thief house panel. Let's see if there's any difference here." Ace transmitted.

[Thief House]

[House Member: Noa Night (Female)]

[Race: Demon]

[Bloodline: Night Demon (Grade-1Bloodline) (Upgradeable)]

[Thief Genre: Thief Assassin (Newbie)]

[House Rank: New Member (Upgradeable)]

[Martial Cultivation: Silver River Core Stage of Qi River Core Realm]

[Talent: Low (Upgradeable)]

[Skills: 0]

[Techniques: 0]

[House Point(s): 10]

[House Shop Type: Thief Assassin]

[Give Mission: (Edit)]

[Give Punishment: (Edit)]

'I can see her skills and technique progress, which she'll receive from the system, and I can assign her mission and punishment as I wish. This is really wonderful.'

Ace was satisfied with thief house functions. It gave him full control over his members, and they can't hide anything from him.

Right at this moment, when he just closed the system panel, it abruptly appeared again and the system's voice rang.

[A side Mission has been issued]

[Side Mission]

[Mission: Please issue a Thief House Mission worth 100 or more House Points]

[Time: 2 Hours]

[Reward: Heavenly Soul Rejuvenation Pill (Grade-1)]

[Punishment: None]

Ace was astonished when he saw it was the new mission function system has unlocked after its upgrade. He didn't think he would see it working so quickly, and it was much more convenient than those hard missions.

'There is no punishment if I don't complete it, but this Heavenly Soul Rejuvenation Pill is too good to give up. I also just needed this pill to fully heal my soul. It'll also help Noa 'financial crisis' somewhat, two birds with one stone!'

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Chapter 283: Thief House Leader Mission!

Noa was now clammed after she organized her thoughts, but no matter what, her heart still raced after just thinking about what happened a few moments ago. She was still thinking it was all just an impossible dream and afraid of waking from it.

But everything was as real as it could be, she thought, 'I can finally avenge my family and tribe after all these years of pretentious. Ironically, this chance was given to me by this weak-looking human.

'I just needed to collect the House points now, and I can buy all those powerful techniques and treasures from the 'goddess', but when will I get the chance to collect them?

'These missions probably come from goddess since, but why did there are missions from Leader as well? Can he also give missions, just like the goddess? Well, it's probably one of the privileges given to him by the goddess since he is the leader...'

While Noa was deep in her thoughts, Ace was going to work on his side mission.

[Side Mission has been issued]

[Side Mission]

[Mission: Please issue a Thief House Mission worth 100 or more House Points]

[Time: 2 Hours]

[Reward: Heavenly Soul Rejuvenation Pill (Grade-1)]

[Punishment: None]

'First I need, House Points.' Ace deemed and transmitted his wish, 'System open the recycle shop.'

Ace had too many useless treasures that were just laying in his thief's space taking large space and collecting dust, like weapons, slave contracts, low-level pills, locked storage rings, techniques and skills, low-level material, low-level Qi stones...

He always wanted to get rid of them, but whenever he thought about how much trouble he goes through in collecting them, he always hesitates. But now that he has this recycle shop of Thief House, he can turn them into house points. He was quite satisfied with it, even if he didn't get thief points for it.

[Recycle Shop]

[Treasury: Living Thief's Space]

[Please Select]

Ace's consciousness suddenly entered his thief's space thereafter, 'So, I can select like this it quite convenient.'

Ace didn't delay and said, "Take every Qi stone below middle-level, every slave contract, all those pills, and material that can't be turned into EXP or SP, all the weapons below seven-star... take every storage ring with Qi marks on it as well. I will not waste TP on opening them. It's not worth it."

Ace happily watched all those useless things vanish one after another, and his cramp storage space suddenly became extremely empty. Now there was only a small pile of unlocked storage rings, fifteen mountains of middle-level, high level, and peak level Qi stones, some pills and materials that can turn into SP or EXP, ..., nothing else!

'Now, with all those treasures from lower lands are gone, I can fill it with treasures from mighty demon continent!' Ace nodded in satisfaction, "That's it, converts everything selected into House Point!"

[Calculating...]

[Converting...]

[All the selected treasure has been converted into House Points]

Convert House Points: 10

Ace nearly choked on his breath when he saw '10', he didn't dare to believe it and quickly questioned, "System what hell, after I nearly empty all my thief's space you're only giving me ten house points?!"

"[All the treasures host converted were too low rank and the system only give fair amount for all of them.]"

Ace didn't have any way to retort since the system was telling the truth, but he still felt extreme pain in his heart because there were hundreds of millions of low-level, fragment Qi stones and if he gave them away to some poor kingdom, they could've become a first-rate power like the Leap Kingdom.

But he only got 10 house points for that amount of wealth. He would naturally be going to feel the pain.

"Fine, open House Points Exchange Platform. I'm not going to use that recycle shop again, ever." Ace vowed in dismay that he can't take back the already fired arrow.

[House Points Exchange Platform]

[Exchange Rate: 10 Thief Points = 1 House Point]

[Please Select Thief Point Amount: ____]

=====

Ace considered it since he was running low on TP, and he still needed to buy some things from the system shop before he could leave this place. Furthermore, the exchange rate for TP and HP was just too damn unfair.

"Covert 20,000 TP into HP." Ace commanded.

[20,000 TP has been successfully converted into 2000 HP[1]]

[House Point(s): 2010]

[Thief Point(s): 1,668,400]

"System open Make Mission interface of Thief House." Ace quickly commanded, wasting no more time.

[House Leader Mission]

- Make a Mission for All House
- Make a Mission for selected Member(s)

[Please Chose one option]

"Open the second section." Ace order.

[Make a Mission for selected Member(s)]

[House Members: 1/3]

[Write a Mission]

Ace opened the Write Mission section curiously.

[Thief House Leader Mission Creation]

Mission: ____

Reward: ____

Time: ____

Punishment: ____

'Let's see what mission should I give?' Ace mused.

He didn't want to give away a too simple mission or too difficult one, so he thought for a while before he suddenly thought of one which was perfect for this situation.

Ace quickly start to speak about what kind of mission he wanted to issue in his mind, and the system filled the blanks for him.

After he completed the content of the mission system will evaluate the reward in HP after that he can only increase them but not decrease or add something more like he can buy something from Thief Assassin Shop and put it as a reward in HP place or do both. It was his choice.

He can't use those shops' treasures for himself, though. That greatly disappoint him, or he wanted to buy that Thief Assassin Armor Set for himself. It's not like he wouldn't give it back in the future, since it was Noa's.

But the system didn't let him be successful in his schemes.

In the end, Ace finally decided to motivate Noa for this mission and bought something from the Thief Assassin Shop and the HP reward.

He wasn't a stingy person, especially when it came to helping others, and Noa's strength was going to be his strength in the further. So, it was only natural to help her further.

After finalizing everything, Ace was left with 1510 HP.

[Are you sure you want to issue this mission to New Member Noa Night?]

[Yes/Edit Again]

Ace selected 'yes' with no hesitation. He was quite satisfied with his creation.

Noa was thinking about asking Ace about those missions and see if he could issue her one right now since she desperately wanted all those treasures in Thief Assassin Shop.

But she was hesitating since it would be too much. After all, he just helped her 'join' this establishment of Goddess of Thieves. She didn't want Ace to have a terrible impression of her, since she had already offended him before.

She somewhat knows he probably let her join this Thief House because he was pushed to a corner and took this step to save his life, or he might not even consider giving her this chance.

Although she could tell Ace wasn't a bad person. However, she had experienced firsthand his shrewdness and his ability to act so calmly in extremely dangerous situations.

She would never forget how easily he told lies, and even she can't read him with her powerful cultivation. That's why she was hesitating to further annoy him, or what if he gave some impossible mission or even punishment of death?

She didn't know what kind of privileges Ace had over her as a Leader but just by her status as a 'New Member' and seeing all those ranks in the shop like Normal Member, Old Member, Excellent Member, she knew Ace's status was no joke, and he can easily get rid of her even with those rules attached!

Although, she was extremely grateful. But by no means, she wasn't an idiot. She had survived all these years in Demon Duke Mansion and even served the person who annihilated her entire tribe and pretended to be her savior for all these years.

One could tell just how patient and control she had over her emotions and mind, but Ace still fooled her, which made her fear Ace and even respect him!

'I should wait and see for now.' Noa decided to remain silent for now and mended her relationship with Ace.

She could tell she was probably the first member since Ace also had to ask for 'guidance' after she joined, and this gave her some confidence to win his favor.

However, right at this moment, the 'Goddess' voice rang in her mind which startled her greatly and the same shade appeared in front of her, and she thought, 'Goddess Decree!'

Noa has already named the system panel Goddess Decree. She attentively listened and read the detail respectfully without missing a word.

[Thief House Leader (Ace White) has issued a mission]

[Thief House Leader Mission]

Mission: Escape the Crisis!

Description: Escort House Leader (Ace White) out of the Ocean Demon City safely and find a safe place.

Reward: 400 House Points, & Night Demon Body Transformation Technique

Time: 30 Days

Punishment: No Mission for 10 years!

[1] House Point

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Chapter 284: Noa's Tragic Past!

Noa's dark eyes turned sharp when she read the mission details, rewards, and punishment. Especially punishment. It was quite harsh, but the rewards were just as tempting.

She looked at Ace with complicated emotions. She was just thinking of how she should mend her relationship with him, but it seemed she didn't need to do anything.

Ace noticed Noa's complicated emotions and couldn't help but sigh slightly before saying, "Don't mind our previous interaction. I don't hold it against you, and we're associates now. Besides, don't you see the rules of thief house? They're also applied to me."

Ace was telling an absolutely... lie!

He was like an unshakable mountain in Thief House, and no one can go against him if they don't want to die. He also understood now why the system had reviled, he could give a mission and not keep it hidden.

It was probably because this will intimidate everyone and keep a tight leash on them, so they would never think about betraying him. This will also give him their absolute loyalty and recognition.

If anyone wanted to raise in member ranks, they had to rely on his missions and pray, he won't punish them to death in an impossible mission.

But Ace also considered it a disadvantage because he can't earn House Points like them, and he had to convert his TP or treasures for them, which was quite unfair in his view.

That's why he told Noa; these rules apply to him as well. He didn't want to put fear in his member's hearts and form a master-servant relationship. He wasn't this kind of person. Furthermore, he hated slavery, and he won't be a dictator just because he could.

He wasn't narrow-minded and as long as his members show results, he'll be generous to them. That's why he put such a harsh punishment on excellent rewards.

Furthermore, the system had calculated the time he could put into this mission and thirty days was the maximum he could give, or he didn't mind making this time sixty or ninety days.

Nevertheless, he wanted to see Noa's capabilities, and he knew she was quite strong and motivated to be in his Thief House, so she won't risk failing this mission.

Besides, it's not like he would just sit there and let her carry her. He will help, and he was still going to prepare for the worse and rely on his strength!

"Thank you, Leader. Since you put your trust in me, I'll not disappoint you." Noa promised solemnly, with grateful eyes.

Noa was now feeling warm in her icy heart after all these years of impassiveness. Before Ace had promised her, he would get her a body refinement technique, and she never believed him.

But now he had already completed his promise and even given her far more than just a mere body technique. She knew, even with her life, she won't be able to pay Ace back for this great kindness.

Noa suddenly got on her knees and bend her hand as it touched the ground.

If any demon was here, they would be shocked silly because this was kneeling posture only allowed for Demon Emperor!

Noa has just put Ace at the same level as the ruler of demons, and this was probably the first time in the demon's race history that a demon submitted to another race completely and voluntarily, much less a race like humans!

If those proud demons found out about Noa's blasphemous action right now, she would probably be hunted by the entire demon race to the end of this world!

Ace, on the other hand, did not know what Noa had done, and he blurted, "What are you doing? Get up! Please don't do this in the future. I don't need your devotion or kneeling. Just help me with your best abilities, that's it."

He felt quite embarrassed right now since he never felt these kinds of emotions from anyone.

Noa got back on her two knees and deeply looked at Ace's slightly red face. She nodded and said solemnly yet tender voice, "Don't worry, I'll do my best!"

Ace nodded in satisfaction, seeing Noa has returned to her normal self, and said, "Now, we have to leave this place and our best shot is only that door behind you."

Ace pointed at the old metallic door with a hint of uncertainty in his eyes. He wasn't confident, but he could tell this door was a pathway that lead to somewhere, he just had to open it.

Before, he will never even considered this option, but after getting the Lock Eraser King Technique, he was confident about opening that lock array, which was probably a grade-1 lock array.

He just had to cultivate the lock eraser king technique to the first layer of the Lock Eraser Master level. He also found out this technique will only work on lock type array and formation, not on barriers like the one outside.

It was completely different from treasure opening hands. It can't take advantage of flaws in arrays and formations, but this technique can erase any lock without requiring finding flaws in it!

However, Noa didn't understand Ace's real meaning and said, "Yes, this door leads to a passage right outside in Ocean Demon City. It was specially made for my ancestors because our tribe was quite good at assassination and my ancestors work directly under the first Ocean Demon Duke and do their dirty work.

"That's why this path was made, so they could easily come and go inside the ocean demon city and directly report it to the Demon Duke. However, after the first Ocean Demon Duke's death, our tribe was expelled by his son and this passage also lose its meaning.

"But the Duke's son didn't know about it, and my ancestors keep it that way since he banished them. However, they never use it against the Ocean Demon Duke Family either and so as time pass this pathway was lost in history, and only our tribe's every generation chief had knowledge about it.

"However, we lose the key to this door two generations ago in a fight with another tribe. Now this pathway can only be our hiding place until the demon duke deactivated the array."

Ace listen to Noa's story attentively, since it was his time hearing about demon tribes and Noa's subspecies.

But Ace could feel deep hatred from Noa's voice and soul fluctuation when she talked about her tribe and ocean demon duke. He knew there was probably deep hatred between her and the ocean demon duke.

After all, she just said herself; this passage was only known by her tribe chief and which means she had a relation to the tribe chief and a close one at that.

He couldn't help but ask, "Then why were you working for that, Warden? Did your tribe approve of it?"

Noa's eyes turned cold as she answered with extreme hatred in her voice, "My tribe was annihilated by another tribe fifty years ago. Everyone died, my parents, family, and tribesmen.

"Warden Cane rescued me at that time, and I served him from then on, so I could take revenge for my tribe. But after a few years, another tribe also uprooted that same tribe that destroyed our Night Demon Tribe.

"I was quite disappointed and felt my meaning of existence had been stripped off after hearing that news. But Warden Cane was like a second father to me, so I decided to repay him for all he had done for me throughout my entire life.

"However, soon I found a hidden journal written by Warden Cane himself, and after reading it, I discovered the truth behind all those destroyed tribes. It was all done by the order of Ocean Demon Duke Mansion!

"They had been doing it for many years after Livy inherited the Dark Ocean Demon Tribe Chief Position and Demon Duke title. Livy would uproot any demon tribe which he deemed useless or unworthy of existing in his dukedom.

"He used other tribes to do this dirty work, and Warden Cane was his spokesperson in all these slaughterers. Another tribe also targeted our tribe on Livy's order, and Warden Cane was also present that day.

"Cane just put a front, so he could make me his loyal servant, and he succeeded in his scheme. If that bastard didn't have a habit of writing all those deeds he had done, like some glorious adventures, I would still be a loyal bitch to my tribe executioner!

"However, I keep the front of loyalty even after finding out the truth and bid my time, so I could destroy both Livy and Cane in one fell swoop. But I was too naïve and greatly underestimated those two, especially Livy.

"That person was a monstrous genius, just like his father! Revenge was just a pipe dream for me in front of him because my Night Demon tribe can only advance to Golden River Core Stage, while the Dark Ocean Demon tribe can go as far as the Peak of Qi Soul Realm!"

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Chapter 285: Harmony of Body & Soul!

Ace listen to Noa's story and his heart was cold as ice in the end. He couldn't believe this woman's patience and fortitude to work under her tribe's executioner for all these years.

He couldn't help but compare himself with her. When Dulce destroyed his hometown, he nearly went insane with hatred and vengeance. But Noa kept persisting and waiting for the day when she could win it all.

But Livy was just too cautious with whatever he does, and he was too powerful for Noa to fight against. She was simply living under the delusion, but she never gave up.

If she hadn't trusted him completely after she joined Thief House, and he showed genuine kindness to her, she would've never told him about herself and the biggest secret she kept to herself for all these years.

Noa ever felt a sense of relief after telling Ace about this secret that she had carried for all these years.

"Don't worry now that you've joined Thief House. You can get your revenge soon, and I'll help you with it." Ace solemnly promised.

He had gone through something similar, and he knew just how painful it was to constantly live under the same sky as your enemy, which you can't touch.

"NO! I want to do it myself! I'll annihilate the entire Dark Ocean Demon Tribe in front of Livy before killing him!" Noa quickly rejected Ace's kind intention and retort with killing intent.

Ace merely chuckled coldly and repartee, "Heh, why did we need to kill them? Don't forget I'm a thief, and now you are too. A thief took revenge differently. Imagine if you were to theft away the entire wealth of Dark Ocean Demon Tribe and then left your name arrogantly, what would Demon Duke Livy feel and its repercussions?"

Noa's eyes narrowed into slits when she heard Ace's question. She didn't even consider this option, but now that Ace has raised this question, she suddenly thought about it.

"H-he'll despise by his entire tribe and probably strip off his Demon Duke title and his powerful status and punish by his father!" Noa mumbled coldly, with a hint of elation.

"Heh, you said it yourself. It would be far worse than killing him. He might commit suicide or turned into a complete madman."

Ace couldn't help but remembered Dulce's twisted face filled with madness and despair and felt deep satisfaction!

Noa also felt this was a better idea than killing Livy and letting him off too easily. The scene of Ace taking away the name board appeared in her mind.

Noa glanced at Ace with a hint of admiration in her eyes and earnestly said, "Leader, please teach me the way of thief!"

She could tell by Ace's previous action of taking the Soul Trapping Banyan Tree timber that he was very good at this thing, and that's also why the 'Goddess of Thieves' chose him as well.

'Since I'm a thief now, I have to act and think like one!'

"Don't worry about it. But it's not the time yet. We first have to leave this place. We can't take on Demon Duke Livy right now. But I can assure you we'll be back!" Ace confidently declared.

"I'll follow Leader arrangements then." Noa nodded with a hint of understanding in her eyes.

She also knew it wasn't time yet and once she got all those soul techniques and skills in the thief assassin shop, it won't be too late for her sweet revenge!

"Give me a few hours, and I'll show you the first and essential skill of a thief!" Ace said while sitting cross-legged and closing his eyes.

Noa's eyes shimmered with confusion, but she didn't disturb Ace, since he looked quite confident before he closed his eyes. She also wanted to see what he'll do and this will also give her a chance to heal her injuries!

Ace was naturally going to heal his soul with the reward he just received after completing the side mission, and after that's, he'll enhance his skills, so he could safely escape this place.

[Side Mission]

[Mission: Please issue a Thief House Mission worth 100 or more House Points]

[Status: Complete]

[Reward: One Heavenly Soul Rejuvenation Pill (Grade-1) has been transferred to the living thief's space.]

Ace didn't delay, he sent his sense into the thief's space and saw an almost transparent purple pill with a golden circle has appeared. He knew this was the Heavenly Soul Rejuvenation Pill he had just earned.

'This is my first time taking a Soul type alchemy pill.' Ace was excited since he would be able to completely heal his soul core with this pill and become whole again.

With a thought, that fingernail-size purple pill appeared in his mouth and instantly tuned into purple mist directly spread toward his head.

Ace felt like the icy wind has just entered his mind, and this feeling was quite refreshing. However, the very next moment, this chilly feeling turned into intense pain like thousands of needles just stabbed into his brain.

Ace's face turned pale and thick throbbing veins appeared on his forehead. He never thought this medicine effect would be this compelling and painful. Compared with the soul points, this was pure torture.

But he endured with gritted teeth and coolly observed the restoring soul core little by little.

After an hour of painful experience, Ace was drenched in sweat and his breath was slightly hasted.

Noa also notice this change in Ace and become somewhat worried, but she didn't disturb him and only observe. She could tell he was using some pill, and it will only do more harm than good if she interfered.

At this moment, the last bit of the orange soul's core became complete and a huge amount of wind soul Qi was released the very next moment.

Ace suddenly felt all the pain he just experienced fade and a warm sensation wash over his whole true soul like a tide wave, almost making him moan.

His brutally cracked true soul started to mend at an astonishing speed under the orange soul Qi. Ace didn't know how lucky he was to have the soul core holding his true soul together or without it, he would be dead with this kind of damaged soul, long ago.

The moment his true soul was repaired by the soul core, the orange soul core expanded two folds! Before, it was like a little pea circling in the center of his true soul, but now it was like a fiery marble. Furthermore, he could also feel this true soul has become sturdier and more vigorous.

'Is this the effect of the complete black wind soul technique?'

This was the only plausible explanation since he hadn't noticed it before; when his soul core became stage three because of his injury. He only thought it would remain the same, but it seemed he has greatly underestimated the heaven stealer technique prowess.

Right at this moment, Ace felt something very different and magical for the first time after the transformation of Soul Core was done. He felt like he could use his soul Qi as effectively and as much as his martial Qi.

"[This is the harmony between body and soul that host just felt. After host martial cultivation and soul cultivation became the same and harmonized, the host didn't have to worry about using or overdrawing too much soul Qi anymore. As long as the host had martial Qi or soul Qi, you won't feel tired or overdrawn ever again.]"

The system's sudden voice and astonishing information bewildered Ace, it was just this voice that contained a hint of playfulness.

But Ace didn't focus on this since this news elated him because he was always on edge about whenever he used his soul Qi too much since his physique took quite a toll.

'Now, this is what I called true advantage!'

Ace was very satisfied with this fresh development, and he was even more confident in himself than before. Not overconfident, though!

"System, open the pill shop."

Ace didn't forget he was still trapped in the enemy's den, and he can't become too relaxed or careless, or he won't even know how he loses again, just like what happened with Gordon.

[Available Pills]

[Grade-1 Healing Pills]

[Price: 1,000TP, Per Pill]

[Grade-1 Heaven Qi Recovery Pills]

[Price: 500TP, Per Pill]

[Low-Grade Insight Pills]

[Description: Instantly Raised any skill proficiency by a single stage]

[10 Pills Available]

[Price: 5,000TP, Per Pill]

[EXP Pill: Low-Grade Heaven Stealer Martial Pills]

[1 Pill = 10,000 EXP]

[5 Pills Available]

[Price: 150TP, Per Pill]

[EXP Pill: Middle-Grade Heaven Stealer Martial Pills]

[1 Pill = 50,000 EXP]

[5 Pills Available]

[Price: 10,000TP, Per Pill]

Ace was astonishing seeing the big change in the heavenly stealer pill description and quickly understood what has caused this change.

'This pill was suppose to help me breakthrough any bottleneck I encounter in my cultivation but now that I can't encounter any bottleneck which made this pill useless, it turned into EXP Pill instead.

'Well, it's not like I'm complaining, it's just that if I can just unlock the heaven stealer soul pill as well, my life would be much easier. Nevertheless, now I'm only required to collect soul points since these pills will last for a while!'

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Chapter 286: Raising Skill-levels

Ace's speculation about the Heaven Stealer Pill was spot on. If he hasn't entered the Heavenly Sea Realm, this change will never take place, but now things have changed.

Ace didn't dwell on this topic for long since it was in his favor and he didn't need to find EXP for some time anymore and only lack the missing SP.

"System, how much SP will I get for the soul material in my thief space?" Ace suddenly remembered the name board he picked up on his way here.

He almost forgot about it because of all the unforeseen events. Now that he was completely healed and Noa's threat was also out of the way, he can finally focus on raising his strength.

[A small piece of Soul Trapping Banyan Tree (Soul Material): 1,000 SP]

Ace wasn't satisfied with this price because this small piece was enough to even affect a soul realm cultivator, but the system was only pricing it at a mere thousand soul points.

But he didn't refute because he knew once the system gave a price, it will never change even if he got on his knees and started begging. Besides, the scene of Noa getting punished by the system was still vivid in his mind, and he didn't want to take his chances.

'Forget it, I just cross two stages in one go. It's me who is being too greedy. I'll leave this timber for now until I collect enough SP for the next stage,' Ace mused.

"System, I want to purchase all the heaven stealer pills and all the insight pills in the pill shop." Ace stated.

He could've left those heaven stealer pills in the system shop, but after what happened before, he won't! Besides, he has TP to spare, so it wasn't a big deal to buy everything.

[Low-Grade Insight Pills: 10]

[Description: Instantly Raised any skill proficiency by a single stage]

[Price: 50,000TP Total]

[EXP Pill: Low-Grade Heaven Stealer Martial Pills: 5]

[Price: 750TP Total]

[EXP Pill: Middle-Grade Heaven Stealer Martial Pills: 5]

[Price: 50,000TP Total]

[Final Price: 100,750 TP]

[Purchase has been successful!]

[All the pills have been sent to the thief's space!]

[Thief Point(s): 1,567,650]

Ace quickly looked inside his Thief's Space and just as he expected, there were twenty new shining marble-like pills neatly arranged in 5,5,10 separately.

The group of ten round pills was colored completely crystal white with a golden hue was surrounding it like a golden hallow. This was the insight pill set.

As for the other two groups of five round crystal pills, they were completely pitch black. No one could tell the difference between low-grade and middle-grade heaven stealer pills.

However, Ace could tell which group was which because he could sense the Heavenly Qi density in them as clear as day.

Ace, let the heaven stealer pills be and focus on the white insight pills. These pills were his main reason for opening the pill shop.

"System, how should I increase the skill level with this insight pill?" questioned Ace.

"[Host just needed to consume an insight pill and circulate the specific skill host wants to increase the proficiency of. But be warned, the host can only use one insight pill on one skill once, it won't work continuously.]"

'I knew it would be too good to be true if I can just increase my one skill to peak in one go! But one level is also enough, especially in his kind of condition. Since I can only use this pill one time on one skill, I should not waste it on those skills that can I increase on my own.'

This wasn't a tough question for Ace. He quickly selected the skills he desperately needed to survive the mighty demon continent and escape this predicament.

The first skill he chose was naturally his heartless stealth art. Although he was confident in increasing it on his own. But he didn't have time.

He quickly consumed one insight pill and felt his mind become extremely clear, and he quickly circulated his Qi according to the Heartless Stealth Art.

Within minutes, he grasped the quantities of the second form of this cultivation art, the Pulseless Stealth!

Noa's, who was busy healing the injuries that she got from the system, abruptly opened her eyes with horror. Because she suddenly felt Ace's aura completely vanish!

'Where did he go?! How can he just have vanished into thin air in an instant?!' Noa panicked since Ace was too important to her and if anything happened to him, she might lose everything!

Just as she was about to search high and low, Ace quickly appeared again right where he was, and he was still sitting there peacefully!

'Was that a stealth skill?!' Noa's eyes instantly narrowed. She was very sensitive toward stealth arts because of her unique species.

'He was able to completely clear his trace, even under my martial sense. This stealth skill is even stronger than my innate stealth. It has to be a skill come from the 'Goddess'!' Noa's mused in astonishment.

This was the only explanation she could think of, and she was even motivated to get all those skills in her shop. Since Ace was fine, she stopped worrying about him and focused on healing again.

Ace didn't know what had just happened. He was deeply engrossed in this wonderful feeling of being enlightened. With every passing moment, his understanding of pulseless stealth grows by leaps and bounds.

After an unknown time, he finally snapped out his enlightenment, and he was astonished because he has fully mastered the Pulseless Stealth in one go!

He didn't dare to believe it and glance at his skill panel and saw,

[Skills: 7]

Heartless Stealth (Art):

[Breathless Stealth: Perfection

Pulseless Stealth: Perfection

Heartless Stealth: NONE]

...

'This pill is simply magical, and this is just a low-grade one!' Ace was ecstatic just thinking about all those pills he will get in the future.

However, what he didn't know was this pill was only enough to increase his skill for just one level. Simply put, his pulseless stealth should only be at a low level after taking this pill but somehow, he reached perfection!

He didn't know this, and the system also didn't clear his misunderstanding either.

'Next is the soul-shattering eyes. I need it to see thought at least Grade One Rune Symbols!'

If this was before, he wouldn't dare to take this step because it was just too dangerous to increase his soul skill wantonly, but after the harmony of his soul and body, he was confident he could take this much!

Without hesitation, he used another insight pill and start using soul-shattering eyes.

He was again engrossed in that mystical feeling and gained insight into soul-shattering eyes.

After an hour, Ace snapped out of the effect of the insight pill, but to his dismay, after checking his skill status, his fear come true when the soul-shattering eyes only increase by a single stage from low to the middle not reaching perfection.

'Is it because I eat two pills in a row and now its effect is becoming dilute? But how is this possible? If this was the case, the system would've warned me? Or this Pill effect depended on a skill standard?'

Ace mulled over it for a long time but in the end, he still didn't get an accurate answer, so he put it back in his head and moved toward the next skill, which was the Soul Guardian Barrier Art's Soul Barrier!

He has gained low-level mastery over it, but after the incident with Gordon and being nearly killed by a soul attack talisman, he didn't dare to neglect his soul protective skill anymore.

Ace quickly consumed another pill and recited the soul barrier.

Within half an hour, Ace raised his mastery of this skill from low to middle, and this made it even more clear; the first time he used the insight pill was very different.

Now, Ace moved toward his movement skill, the lightning steps of Misperception Sky Steps Art! How could he forget this essential movement skill that was a lifesaver?

After another hour, the lightning step also reached the middle level and Ace could feel now he can probably outrun a Golden River Core Cultivator!

Besides these four skills, he used no more insight pills on his other skills. Soul Piercing Bullet was quite easy to raise, while he can't use these pills on techniques like Dual Shadow Swords since it was considered a weapon cultivation technique.

So, Ace finally choose to use one more insight pill on the very new skill Lock Eraser King Technique!

Although he can learn it eventually, he won't be taking his chances and used one chance for this technique right now.

Ace took the fifth insight pill and start learning the Lock Eraser King Technique's first-level, Lock Eraser Master!

This time, it took him six hours to achieve the first novice lair of Lock Eraser Master level!

Ace felt quite glad that he used an insight pill because if he tried to learn it normally it would take him at least an entire month, minimum. It was just damn difficult!

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Chapter 287: Opening the locked door!

Ace took the fifth insight pill and start learning the Lock Eraser King Technique's first-level, Lock Eraser Master!

This time, it took him over six hours to achieve the first novice lair of Lock Eraser Master level!

Ace felt quite glad that he used an insight pill because if he tried to learn it normally it would take him at least an entire month, minimum. It was just damn profound!

Nevertheless, he can now easily erase any array, formation, or even a talisman lock as long as they were Grade One or lower. This technique was truly marvelous and far more powerful than his treasure-opening hands.

It is just that it can only be used on lock-type rune symbols and not took advantage of flaws like treasure opening hands, and it was a clear disadvantage.

However, Ace wasn't too concerned about it since he was now a rune crafter and after using five insight pills he had a feeling that he can develop a skill on the foundation of Treasure Opening Hands that can take advantage of flaws in rune symbols structures!

But it still required too much work, and he didn't have time, as well, he first had to leave this damn place!

Ace opened his eyes and found Noa was still recovering from her injuries, but she was almost healed. He was glad that the system didn't go too crazy too soon or if the system decided to quickly end Noa's life instead of torturous death, he might not even be able to save her in time.

Noa's eyes snapped open the moment she felt Ace's gaze, and when she saw he was awake after his strange cultivation season.

She couldn't help but asked with uncertainty, "Leader, are you alright?"

Ace was confused since he did not know about the strange phenomena he caused while learning.

"I'm fine. You don't need to worry about me." He still answered albeit he didn't know why she asked.

"Tell me, how're your injuries? Can you use your strength, or do you need more time?"

He now wanted to leave this place as soon as possible after he raised his skills and learn the Lock Eraser King Technique's first-level Lock-Eraser Master. But Noa was still injured, so he didn't mind waiting for her.

Furthermore, he knew close to nothing about Mighty Demon Continent and Noa was the native, and she probably knew quite a lot since she was a powerful demon. He was planning to learn about all of it after leaving this place.

"I'm fine. I have already healed all the grave injuries and only minor injuries are left. While moving, I can heal them. But do you really have a way out of here?" Noa asked in a grave tone, with a hint of expectation in her melodious voice.

"Heh, I told you I'll show you an essential skill of a thief after I'm done with my preparation. Let me complete that promise." Ace smiled ambiguously while he stood straight and move toward the locked old door.

Noa naturally remembered what Ace said, and she was astonished at seeing Ace moving toward the locked door. She didn't know what he was going to do, but she didn't ask and only observed with curious eyes.

Ace's expression turned serious as his dark pupil suddenly turned white as the world around him also changed. These were the soul-shattering eyes at middle-level mastery.

He didn't feel any discomfort anymore after using this soul skill, and he had a feeling that he could continuously use this skill for straight three or four days now!

However, to his dismay, he didn't seem to see the flaw in his door's lock array, which means this skill wasn't strong enough. But he wasn't using it to see the flaws, nor did he need the flaw for the Lock Eraser King Technique to work. He was using soul-shattering eyes, so he could clearly see just how many arrays were linked to this door.

Because if there was an alarming array or any attacking array beside the lock array attached with it, then he would probably cause a commotion, and once that happened, it would be over!

As for why he didn't just use his runic eyes' technique, it was simple; it wasn't profound enough as well, since he was only at the very beginning level of that technique as well. At most, he can only see runes up to tier-9 and that was his limit.

At least with soul-shattering eyes, he can see vague patterns and outlines of arrays or formations engraved or attached to this door, even if they were still well hidden.

At this moment, Ace could only see a single vague outline of one small yet profound array and let loose a sigh of relief since he didn't have to worry about anything, even if he made some mistake using his new technique for the first time.

'Lock Eraser Master!'

Ace instantly activated the first level of Lock Eraser King while carefully placing his index finger on the lock array.

The very next moment thereafter, Ace's index finger suddenly shimmered in dark metallic light and dark mercury-like Qi started to flow out from his dark metallic finger, slowly started engulfing the lock array like it has a consciousness of its own.

Ace wasn't startled by this strange liquid-like Qi since he already knew this called the Eraser Essential and, with higher levels, this eraser essential will also become more potent and abundant.

However, this eraser essential can only work on lock-type rune symbols, nothing else, nor could it harm anyone, and it was completely invisible to other eyes and only Ace could see it. Moreover, this eraser essential can only be made by Heavenly Darkness Qi!

Ace attentively watched with his soul-shattering eyes the eraser essential completely engulfing the small lock arrays entirely, and he was astonished the very next moment because he could feel the eraser essential was slowly erasing the symbols of that lock array!

Even though he knew how it was supposed to work. But witnessing it himself was still quite an amazing and shocking experience.

After all the rune symbols were completely erased by the eraser essential, they slowly faded away like they never existed, and so does the lock array on the old door!

Ace's lips curled into a satisfied smile when he saw the wondrous work of his new technique. 'With this, I don't need to worry about locks anymore, at least.'

Noa was closely observing Ace from behind. She didn't know what was he doing, but he was just standing there like a statue while placing his finger on the center-left corner of the old door for a few moments now, while doing nothing.

This clearly confused her since she can't see the eraser essential nor can she see the lock array attacked with the door.

However, at this moment, Ace finally move and turned around with a mysterious grin on his handsome face.

"Try opening it now." Ace said ambiguously while grinning and moving to the side, clearly the way for Noa.

Noa's eyes narrowed slightly when she saw Ace's confident expression. She didn't know what Ace was playing at, but she felt that Ace's words hold some magical power that made her want to follow his every command unconditionally!

She suppressed that feeling again, yet she still moved toward the old door. Likewise, she wanted to see if that strange feeling was created by Ace, or if it was just her gut feeling.

Noa place her slender hand on the door and slightly pushed it and her eyes widen in incredulity when she heard a creaking sound while the door move slightly with her hand!

"Y-y... you... but... how?!" She couldn't help but stutter in disbelief and exhilaration!

Noa knows the history of this door and the lost key. Without the key, it was almost impossible to open this door without brute force, but Ace had done it with just a touch of his finger!

"Hehe, don't be so alarmed. It's one of my skills, and you know where I got it from." Ace mysteriously winked while smiling.

Noa inhale sharply as she instantly knew what Ace was implying, and her eyes shimmered with excitement as she thought, 'So, this is the power of skills granted by 'Goddess of Thieves' I have to get all of them as quick as possible!'

She was even more eager to get her hands-on skills and techniques inside the thief assassin shop.

"Ok, let's go, I want to quickly leave this damn place." Ace chuckled and urged Noa to quickly open the door and move.

"Right away!" Noa's voice was filled with excitement as her eyes shone with admiration for Ace.

After the old door was completely opened, a dark pathway appeared.

Ace quickly stopped Noa and scan the dark pathway with his soul-shattering eyes and after making sure there wasn't any trap or any other hidden rune symbols, he signaled her to go forward!

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Chapter 288: Freedom!

After walking for half an hour, Ace and Noa reached the end of the underground tunnel, and it was blocked by a solid wall.

Ace was using his soul-shattering eyes all this time while carefully examining the tunnel, which was filled with tiny insects and an old smell. After carefully examining the wall before him, he was sure this was the end of this tunnel.

The tunnel was only four-meter-wide and three-meter-high, enough for three or four people to fit in.

Ace suddenly looked on the upper wall of this tunnel, and he soon found a meticulously hidden square door!

"Up there is a hidden door. I think it's our way out." Ace notified Noa, who was also searching for a passage.

Noa was startled hearing Ace had already found the way forward because even she couldn't find anything with her martial sense, no matter where she probed. This made her, even more, assure that Ace was far too mysterious than he showed.

Ace didn't pay attention to baffled Noa and carefully scan the hidden door. Just as he thought, he noticed small runes forming a little lock array, but to his elation; it wasn't a grade array, and it was only made by mortal runes of rank-9.

As for how he could tell the difference in the level of runes it was very simple, as long as he didn't encounter a grade array he can see the rune symbols and their flaw but if he encountered a grade array or formation, he can only see a vague outline and the higher the grade of the runes the vaguer it will be.

He deemed he could only see the vague outline up to grade three runes and grade four runes will be completely invisible to him since his soul-shattering eyes can only see flaws in Grade-One runes after reaching the perfect mastery.

"Umm... can you lift me, so I can open this door?" Ace embarrassedly asked.

He needed to come in contact with the array for using his skill, and he was more than a meter short to reach the ceiling of this three-meter-high tunnel.

That's why he shamelessly asked Noa who was 2.3-meter-tall and could easily touch the ceiling with her long hands.

'Well, what I can expect, this tunnel was made for tall demons in the first place.' Ace smiled wryly.

"O-of course." Noa quickly agreed since it was a piece of cake for her, and she didn't doubt about Ace opening the hidden door, which she can't even see.

A dark pillar suddenly rose right beneath Ace's feet and slowly lift him until he reached the ceiling.

Ace click his tongue in wonder and mused, 'So, this is element reasoning of Qi river core cultivator where one starts connecting and controlling the surrounding element not just the innate element inside their bodies!'

Ace paid no more attention to this topic and turned his focus to the ceiling. With no hesitation, he put his palm on the wall as a golden rune appeared right in the center of his palm.

Noa also noticed the strange Qi waves from Ace's palm. She was using her martial sense to see what Ace was doing but was astonished since she can't see through his skill and only felt strange Qi waves, nothing else.

'Click...'

A small crisp sound rang in the silent tunnel as a one cubic meter old wooden door appeared right where Ace's hand was placed.

Ace's lips rose in an elated smile and with no pause, he pushed the door upward and its creak opened completely and a golden light shone on Ace's face!

"Haha, we're out!" Ace quickly jumped outside as he could tell there wasn't anyone in the five-hundred-meter radius area, so it was completely safe.

Noa's eyes also shone with ecstasy when she saw the golden sunlight entering the dark tunnel from the opened door. She quickly jumped outside, just like Ace.

Ace looked around, and he noticed they were in a wide field of grass and when he turned around his eyes contorted because he saw a magnificent city wall a mile away, and it was covered in a dark doom!

"That's the ocean demon city! I don't think this tunnel made for my ancestors would be so long." Noa's complicated voice rang with a hint of melancholy.

Ace noticed Noa's change of emotions and couldn't help but sigh before saying confidently, "Don't worry, we'll be back."

Before he was in a state of soul injury and noticed little details, but now that he was completely healed and even become stronger, he could tell the difference between lower lands and the mighty demon continent was like sky and earth!

Just the dark golden sky was enough to tell the huge disparity between the Qi density of the two places.

He could also feel this Qi was much more potent and had a strange effect on his body as if it was nurturing it!

Ace didn't know if this was because of the difference between continents, or the lower lands were just too barren. However, he had little time to ponder over this problem since he was still on the periphery of ocean demon city, and he wanted to go as far away as possible.

"So, where from here?" Ace did not know about this completely unfamiliar continent with no borders or boundaries whatsoever.

Noa was the native of his place and he was relying on her to be his guide for a while until he understood the structure of this continent.

"We should go toward the Dark Iron Demon Tribe's Iron Demon City, which is the second-biggest city in Ocean Demon Dukedom. It is the closest city we can go to, and the way is also relatively safe." Noa replied after considering it for a while.

She knew Ace was new here, and she didn't want to put his life in danger, so she went with the safest way.

"Fine, led the way."

Ace didn't mind if that was the second-biggest city or the first or even third, as long as he could find a place where he could gather information and stay safe until he understood the complete situation.

Noa also didn't delay and flashed toward Iron Demon City's direction, which was southwest of Ocean Demon City. She also didn't want to stay anywhere closer to this city, where her biggest adversary lived and ruled.

"This is not your top speed, right?"

At this moment, Ace's confused voice enter Noa's ears and her eyes contracted when she saw Ace was nonchalantly moving shoulder to shoulder with her and looking at her with confusion.

"I was only worried about you being left behind, so I control my speed!" Noa retorted with a hint of shock in her voice.

Although she was telling the truth, she was still using forty percent of her prowess and using her tribe's secret movement skill.

Before in the ocean demon city when they were escaping, she used only ten percent of her speed and at that time Ace can keep up with her. Now, she just wanted to test if he could keep up with her at this speed, and then she would reduce her speed a little, but it seemed she had greatly underestimated Ace.

"Heh, don't mind me. I want to see your full speed." Ace only smiled, with a hint of provocation in his dark-blue eyes.

He wanted to test his middle-level lightning steps and Noa was the perfect opponent since she was a silver river core cultivator and also a demon! She was initially stronger than a human cultivator because of her superior demon body!

"Hmph... as you wish!" Noa tenderly snorted. She could easily discriminate the provocation in Ace's expression and her demonic nature stir.

Although she knew Ace had skills from a 'god' yet, he was still weaker than her in cultivation, and she was very confident in her speed, which can even render a golden river core cultivator's speed useless.

Like a dark blur, Noa completely vanished from Ace's view, even though he was somewhat shocked by her speed.

However, Ace merely chuckled the next moment, and whereupon like a dark lightning bolt he chased after Noa, but there was no sound!

Now he could somewhat fuse his lightning element with his movement speed, which made it even faster, and his despair-lightning was naturally soundless, which was perfect for a thief!

Noa wasn't using her stealth, so Ace could see her and even if she were using it, Ace could easily detect her after his huge advancement in soul cultivation.

She turned around to see Ace's shocking expression, but it was she who was gobsmacked because Ace was again just beside her and, with a nonchalant smile, moving shoulder to shoulder with her!

"You! I lose!" Noa said with a hint of helplessness, while her dark eyes brimming with desire for all those things in the thief-house shop.

"Heh... don't worry, I'm also using my full power to keep up with you." Ace tried to be humbled.

"Hmph!" Noa only tenderly snort since she could tell Ace was telling a white lie just by his nonchalant expression!

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Chapter 289: Mighty Demon Content Structure

Ace and Noa were moving too fast for normal eyes to see them. One could only see two blurs with extreme difficulty.

Both of them didn't need to rest since they were high-level cultivators, and they can maintain this kind of speed for ten or so days, and Ace can go even further with his large amount of Qi reserves. Which were equivalent to a peak Golden River Core cultivator and if his equally Soul Qi reserve were added to the mix, then one can only imagine just how much Qi Ace had!

Even Noa was shocked in her heart after seeing Ace keeping up with her without even breaking a sweat. Before, she only thought he was using a skill with a high level of Qi consumption, and he'll be tired very soon. But she again had to reevaluate Ace's strength, and she couldn't help but wonder if he was really a human or not!

They both travel straight for two days without stopping for rest and finally reached their destination, the Iron Demon City of Iron Demon Tribe, which was only below the Ocean Demon Tribe and above many others.

Ace was very much looking forward to exploring this new continent, which was many times larger than the human continent. Although he was aghast at first when he found out he was in Mighty Demon Continent. But after 'recruiting' Noa he wasn't afraid anymore.

In these two days, he had learned quite a lot about the Mighty Demon Continent from Noa and was astonished after finding out it was filled with dangers and opportunities.

On the Mighty Demon Continent, live many species of demons. Some were intelligent, while most of them were mindless demons who only know how to kill and cause chaos and suffering. These kinds of demons were known as Scavenger Demons, and they were scattered all over this vast continent and scavenge many weak tribes.

But to this day, no one had managed to get rid of these Scavenger Demons because they were too many and the higher authorities were too lazy to deal with them, and they were also the best whetstones to train young demons.

However, no one knew if this was the only reason they were left alive or not...

Nevertheless, the Mighty Demon Continent was divided into Eight Large Provinces, One Royal Zone, and Three Forbidden Countries.

The seven provinces were arranged into two outer provinces, three inner provinces, and three core provinces. These eight provinces were governed by Eight Demon Kings who were the Demon Emperor's loyal subordinates and also eight of the strongest demons on this continent.

Royal Zone was where the Demon Emperor Palace reside and the royal demon family.

Noa told Ace that this Royal Zone was completely surrounded by towering walls and protected by a powerful formation and demon experts. It was the strongest and impenetrable fortress of the Demon Race and no one can enter this zone without a special order from Royal Zone, not even a Demon King!

As for the three forbidden countries, the local demons like Noa only know that they were three mysterious islands close to the north of the mighty demon continent.

As for why they were called 'forbidden countries' she doesn't know, but one thing was clear: they were directly controlled by the Royal Demon Family and no one dares to take a step inside.

Besides the mighty demon continent, Ace also learned that there was an endless sea surrounding the continent and if anyone wants to go toward another continent, they must cross this sea.

But it was much harder said than done because this sea was too mysterious and dangerous, only Soul Manifestation Cultivators dare to travel in it, but even they sometimes face life-threatening dangers there.

Besides, if anyone wanted to cross that sea, they needed special treasures which were only in possession of Demon King's level demons!

Speaking of which, the demons followed the royal hierarchy system to distribute their ranks. But their ranks were earned on the base of their strength and merit. Strength came first thought.

A Demon King Rank Demon can earn the rank after entering the Soul Manifestation Realm, while a demon duke title can be earned after stepping into the Soul Realm and so on.

There was a title of Grand Demon Duke whose requirements were unknown, but these kinds of figures lived in Royal Zone and then there were army titles like Demon Marshal, Demon General... and so on.

But they were nothing like humans when someone can cause a revolt and win the crown, demons followed strength, and as long as a demon was capable enough of defeating eight demon kings, then the entire royal zone and finally the Demon Emperor it can become the new Demon Emperor!

What truly baffled Ace was, according to Noa, these eight demon kings never become nine or ten, but one with a sane mind could tell it was impossible to only have eight soul manifestation experts after all these years. This means the mighty demon continent's strength was too deep and well hidden!

Ace had to reevaluate his understanding of this continent, and he deeply engraved in his mind that he was currently in the territory of the second hegemony of this world, so he better not act carelessly or there might be thousands of Gordons waiting for him this time around!

He now also knows they were in the fifth and last inner province of the mighty demon continent, named 'Mighty Blade Province'. It was under the judicial of Blade Demon King, also the chief of the ruling tribe of this province, Dark Blade Demons.

Now, Ace also understood why everyone was astonished by seeing him appearing suddenly because he was right at the end of the inner province and according to Noa no one of other race had ever infiltrated more than two outer provinces before and Ace was probably the very first to cross four provinces without being caught!

It was all because every boundary was made with a very powerful formation and only demons can cross it without being worried of any harm and if even a devil dared to try crossing it with no preparation, then he will also lose his life!

Besides these formations, there were also other unknown ways which can easily sneak out the rats of other races, and they were so effective; one can only imagine after seeing the mighty demon content has remained impenetrable to this day!

This grave information also gave Ace chills, and he knew his 'stay' on this continent would not be so safe.

Besides all this, Ace also found out that Ocean Demon Duke was just one of the six duke-level characters under the Blade Demon King, and Dark Ocean Demon Tribe's Dukedom was only ranked fifth among six dukedoms!

As for this iron demon tribe, its chief was a Demon Marquess and was quite loyal to Demon Duke Livy.

However, Ace suddenly found an enormous problem after he observed the colossal city gate of Iron Demon City. He only saw demons going in and out, no other race whatsoever.

Although Ace had the Hundred Face Deception Mask, he wasn't sure if it could solve the problem of Demon Horns and their abnormal height!

Furthermore, he and Noa were both fugitives now, and Demon Duke Livy might come looking for him here or even post bounties on their head after not finding them in his city.

He was just too familiar with this procedure and here if he was even a little bit careless, he would be doomed before he even knows it.

Ace was planning to completely familiarize himself with the demon race and their means, it won't be too late to start!

"Miss Noa, can you tell me if Demon Duke Livy has ever seen your face?" Ace asked Noa, who was also gravely observing the city doors. She also had the same thoughts as Ace.

"No, but our tribe is too easy to recognize because of our unique horns and eyes. If someone was looking for us, they can easily find me." Noa shook her head dejectedly.

Ace's face also fell when he heard this. He never thought this would be so troublesome to disguise as a demon, or a demon to disguise as another demon. They were just too damn unique and not like humans.

"Sigh... can you capture a demon with the same stature as me, or it won't have to be exactly like me, just close enough will do? I want to try something before we took any further steps." Ace sighed and first decided to see if he could use his disguise mask to become a demon.

Because his appearance was even more obvious since according to Noa, there was not any kind of demon without horns. This made Ace more helpless.

Noa didn't know what Ace was planning to do, but after traveling with him for three days, she knew he had mysterious measures, and she won't doubt him anymore.

It was already deep at night, so it was a piece of cake for Noa to abduct an alone demon who was only at the empty river stage and his constitution was not much different from Ace as well!

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Chapter 290: Hundred-Face Deception Mask: Face-6

While Noa was looking to abduct a demon, Ace was also thinking of different ways to enter the iron demon city if his mask didn't work or if it works, how can he take Noa inside with him?

Because he could see the security was no joke around the city gate and those demons were scanning everyone and everything with different powerful treasures and weren't sure if his mask could fool them or not.

Ace had to admit one thing: those demons really know how to be eye-catching. They had big carriages pulled by vicious and powerful demonic beasts. He could tell those beasts were all tamed, and it seemed the beast taming wasn't as novel as in lower lands, or it was something completely different.

He couldn't help but think of those beast eggs in his thief's space and techniques of Beast Calling Organization that he theft and all those storage rings of treasures mountain inside he got from Gordon's after fooling him.

Ace still didn't have a chance to skim through them, but he wasn't in a hurry and those rings were also with no Qi mark since Gordon gave them unlocked to Ace, so he could see his 'goodwill'.

'I should see if I can hatch those beast eggs when I have the chance and rearranged those treasures in all those storage rings,' Ace mused.

Ace snapped out of his thoughts when he felt Noa's soul signature moving toward him with another unfamiliar soul signature. After his soul core expanded, his senses become sharper, and now he could easily see through a Silver River Core cultivator with just his innate soul sense.

His lip curled into a faint smile as he mumbled, "So, she actually found one."

It was already deep at night, so it was a piece of cake for Noa to abduct an alone demon with her prowess. She quickly reached where Ace was hiding and was astonished when she saw he was already waiting for her with a knowing smile on his face.

With uncertainty shining in her dark eyes, she threw an unconscious demon on the dirt ground like a rag doll.

Ace carefully scan the unconscious demon, who was only at the empty river stage, and his figure was not much different from him. He was 2.1-meter tall with a toned build and dark silver skin, a pair of small white horns on his forehead, and two sharp long fangs were visible through his purple lips. It looks like an average human male.

"What kind of demon is he?" Ace curiously asked.

"An adult Silver Iron Demon! I found him not too far away, living from here. He was probably out hunting. It was common for weak demons to hunt to earn a living. Only talented demons can enter some colossal force, and this one seemed nothing like a talent." Noa explain with a hint of disdain as she looked at that unconscious Silver Iron Demon.

Ace frowned a little. He had heard about this kind of treatment from Noa, and he knew this was common practice on the mighty demon continent. Not just here, even in humans. This practice was normal. But here it was a level above because these kinds of untalented demons were despised by their own parents and expelled from their homes.

Although some humans can do this kind of cruel thing to their children, it was quite rare, since even a tiger doesn't eat its own cubs. But here it was nothing new or uncommon, and these untalented demons also accept their fates as it is. They die in wildness or of old age somewhere.

This was the same story for tribes with low-level potential, those that can only reach foundation building realm in their lifetime were left in the wildness for death, while those that can reach the peak of the river realm become servants of these big tribes.

Only a river core realm demon can possess a respectful status here, and only a tribe with river core realm level potential was qualified enough to get a noble status or fight for it!

Ace also found it quite disturbing, but he knew every race had their own beliefs and customs and this was the race named 'Demon', so what he can expect from them?

Nevertheless, it was probably because of these customs and beliefs that they were so strong and united against other races.

Ace looked at the unconscious Silver Iron Demon and squatted on one knee while placing his hand on the demon's forehead.

'Soul probing.' He instantly cast soul probing on the iron demon.

Ace wanted to probe memories of these demons from the moment he had come here, but he didn't have the chance and Noa was out of the question.

Now that he got the chance, he naturally won't miss it.

A large stream of memories fragments entered his mind and all of them were this demon's life experiences.

Noa's eyes instantly constricted when she felt strange Qi fluctuation from Ace's hand placed on the silver-iron demon's forehead.

'What kind of Qi is this and why I'm feeling dread about it?' Noa mulled with a grave look in her eyes.

She was founding Ace unfathomable the more she knew him and she was feeling quite glad that she joined his side or if she was the enemy with him, she won't even know how he would have dealt with her!

Noa now had wholeheartedly accepted Ace as her leader, and he had earned it on his own, unbeknownst to him!

Within minutes, Ace had already gotten all the memories of over a hundred years' worth of this iron demon in his head and even processed them while keeping important ones and discarding unimportant ones.

Even he was shocked by his own speed, and he finally felt it was worth it to create the Qi sea and enter the Qi sea realm!

Ace found out this Iron Demon's name was Pablo Silver Iron, and he was a citizen and tribesman of the Dark Iron Demon race. But his potential was low because he can only reach the empty river stage after a hundred and twenty years and was deemed trash by his own family and kicked out from his own household a few years ago.

From shame and anger, he left the iron demon city and lived in the forest not far away from the iron demon city and only come back in a few years once in a while to sell herbs or demon beast materials he found in the wildness and bought some necessary things before leaving the city again.

Furthermore, he wasn't the only vagabond around here, and there were hundreds of more living like him in the same way.

Ace even felt sad for this poor demon. He was living like a vagabond even though his family was one of the founding families of iron demon city, but they still didn't want to keep him around. Even his own parents and siblings despise him because of his lowly talent.

'Sigh...' Ace sighed as he lamented, 'What a cruel race.'

Ace didn't dwell on it since it wasn't his problem and took out the hundred-face deception mask.

"This is?" Noa's eyes twinkled with curiosity as she looked at the faceless back mask with a gem on top of it in Ace's hand.

This was her first-time seeing Ace taking out something from his 'storage ring' beside the thief house recruitment token, and she couldn't see through this mask at all.

"Heh, it's a toy. Just watch." Ace chuckled mysteriously.

He faced the white memory gem toward Pablo's face and commanded, "System, save face six."

The white memory gem shimmered as it slowly scanned Pablo's face and figure.

[Face 6, has been successfully recorded in memory gem.]

Ace's eyes suddenly shone with elation because before he thought this might not work on a demon, but it did in the end and this was nothing but great news for him.

Noa was also astonished after seeing the mysterious white light slowly skimming all over Pablo's body and then vanishing the next moment.

Ace, without waiting for another moment, put on the hundred-face deception mask and said, "System, activates the face 6 with the same cultivation of the face owner!"

In Noa's gobsmacked yet astonished eyes, Ace's entire figure changed as his 1.9-meter height started to increase until it reached 2.1 meters same as Pablo and his pale white skin become dark silver as it was forged with silver iron!

Ace's long silky back hair also become silver white while his human eyes completely turned into silver eyeballs and the most shocking thing was he grew a pair of small sharp white horns on his forehead and two sharp canine teeth surfaced from both corners of his lips.

Ace's aura also changed, and he emitted the aura of an empty Qi river realm of a 'large size river'. (Form with 7-foundation slates)

"YOU!" Noa's eyes were filled with horror when she looked at two silver iron demons!

"Hehe, don't be alarmed, it's me. This is the effect of my toy." Ace's voice was also a little hoarse as he smiled while showing rows of sharp teeth.