

Thief 441

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Chapter 441: Meeting with the Parrot

On the second day after the castle's banquet,

Ace was practicing the Lock Eraser King Technique, and he was already at the expert level of the Lock Eraser Master stage and moving toward the Perfectionist level at a fast pace.

He knew if he wanted to accomplish the second chain mission; he had to be at least a Lock Eraser Grandmaster at the Novice level.

That was why he was now solely focusing on this technique right now, and after reaching the peak of the heavenly sea realm, his cognition speed has become twice as fast as before.

Furthermore, he was planning to visit the royal library at noon and see what kind of knowledge he got. He was hoping to find more knowledge about the ruins and also adjust his plans accordingly.

At this moment, Ace frowned slightly before he flip his hand and the Myriad Miles Communication Cube appeared in his hand, and it was flashing.

'What did he want now?' Ace was silently vigilant of All-Knowing Parrot after he visited the lionheart shop.

He knew this guy was scheming something while hiding in the lionheart shop, and he might get dragged into something without even knowing it. That was why he was circumspect.

Ace calmly active the Myriad Miles Communication Cube and All-Knowing Parrot's overlapping voice rang, "Mr. Sky, how's have you been? I hope you like my arrangement?"

'How pretentious,' Ace derided in his heart.

He said, "It was indeed to my liking, and I'm quite grateful for your help. I'm looking forward to working with you."

All-Knowing Parrot's voice sounded, "Oh, is that so? Then the feeling is mutual, and I think it's time to form the Hex Soul Pack as well. What do you think?"

Ace's eyes narrowed. 'He's really conspiring something!'

He said surprisingly, "It's time? Do you mean?"

"Yes, my matter ended earlier than expected, and I also heard the top ten will leave for the second phase in two more days. Although I don't know why you're mixing with the participants, I can understand you didn't trust me enough to divulge it.

"That's why we should form the Hex Soul Pack as soon as possible. It'll be more convenient if we can speak without any restraints and help each other without being worried about betrayal.

"I'm about to enter the blade domain and if you agree with this arrangement, please come to the lionheart shop. This will also ensure both of our security if we meet in the inner domain market. So, what do you think?"

'What an alacritous guy. He had already arranged everything and ensure that he didn't leave any loopholes. If it was someone else, they might've thought it was safe to meet with him since the market is the most populated area of the inner domain and no one would dare to fight there, or the knights will be alerted.

'However, I already knew he was in that store from the start and waiting for something, or he would've contacted me before. Now it seemed he's quite confident in dealing with me and that's why he's pushing me to decide after preparing.

'If I back down now, he might leak the information about my identity to the blade demon king, and he'll easily remove me from the picture altogether. Furthermore, he should already guess I'm after something because of Feng's popularity... hehe, but you make a grave mistake.'

Ace's eyes turned cold when he thought how this guy had cornered Feng without even doing anything and if he was someone else, he had to meet All-Knowing Parrot since they would be worried about the identity getting leaked after coming so far.

He said with elation, "Fantastic! I'll be there in the evening."

All-Knowing Parrot's voice sounded in agreement, "That'll be for the best. See you."

With that, the cube went dormant again.

"You're screwing with the wrong guy..." Ace smirked coldly before closing his eyes again.

Inside the lionheart shop, on the top floor.

All-Knowing Parrot put the cube away but her bewitching eyes were narrowed, 'How did he agree so easily? Is he confident in evading if I acted, or is he simply a fool? No, he's definitely not a fool. No fool can lead the entire eight provinces by the nose.

'Was I too hasty? But I can't miss this chance and my plan is flawless. Once he entered and formed the hex soul pack with me, I can control him and kill him with a thought. But if he vilified or whack before that, I can easily restrain him with this grade-4 dark earth array.'

In the end, she simply shook her head and laugh at her fantasies. She was just too cautious.

How could a mere thief can escape her scheming and even if, by some miracle, it happened, she wasn't worried at all for her safety!

On the contrary, it would completely expose Feng's hidden identity if he acted rashly, especially if she didn't get what she desired!

'Well, it'll be more entertaining that way...' her eyes shone with a dark glint in the end.

Today was a cloudy day as dark clouds filled the golden sky.

Ace left the castle after spending the entire noon in the royal library and absorbed everything that he can, but he could tell this wasn't the secret library where all the secrets were hidden.

However, it was enough to acquire new information, especially about the ruins of this world. He found that all those ruins were from the war period when all races fought for supremacy and many mighty figures sacrificed themselves for the bright future of their race.

Nevertheless, he wasn't moved by those legends at all and left the castle for his meeting with All-Knowing Parrot; he was looking forward to it.

Although he wasn't restricted by anyone to leave to enter the blade castle, he was still careful about being followed.

He left after in the sham of going to the life wine pavilion for drinking before he would leave for the expedition and no one would find it strange as well. However, he didn't take any carriage or any escort and was left alone.

This time, no one followed him, and he easily changed his disguise into the same demon he had entered the lionheart shop last time.

When he reached the lionheart shop, he opened the live fate map and was somewhat surprised by seeing All-Knowing Parrot was still inside and wasn't afraid he would reveal her whereabouts.

'Either he's overly confident or just wasn't afraid I would tell anyone...' Ace thought as he entered the familiar building.

This time, he was directly led by an attendant toward the upper floors.

On the ninth floor, he saw Aliya again, but she wasn't like before, and her eyes were filled with mortification and indignation as she looked at Ace.

'I didn't offend her. What's the deal with her?' Ace felt she had some kind of mental problem and pretend he noticed nothing.

"Follow me!" She snorted and moved toward the upper floor, and Ace follow suit.

When they reached the last floor, Aliya led him toward a closed room.

She said, "You may enter, mistress is waiting."

'Mistress? So, All-Knowing Parrot is a woman?' Ace was astonished, but he didn't show anything and entered the room.

Aliya closed the door before an array plate appeared in her hand and she activated it, locking the entire tenth floor.

Inside the room,

Ace saw a veil demoness with nation toppling figure, calmly setting on a chair.

She signaled toward the chair on the other side of the table with her slender hand and spoke in her melodious tone, "Please, take the seat, Mr. Sky."

"It's a pleasure to meet you." Ace said with a smile while he took the seat.

All-Knowing Parrot said in an ambiguous tone, "It seemed Mr. Sky didn't expect me to be a woman, right?"

"Well, I would be lying if I said I'm not surprised, but not as much as finding out the All-Knowing Parrot to be such a beauty." Ace flatter.

All-Knowing Parrot chuckled and mysteriously said, "Well, you're the first to see me in the entire eight provinces. Are you sure I'm not a fake?"

Ace coolly said, "If you're fake, then the Hex Soul Pack won't be able to form and besides I have means to know if you're Boss All-Knowing Parrot or not, and I'm sure you're the real one."

He was just guessing; he didn't know any about the hex soul pack at all, but he could tell only the hex demons can form it!

"Hehe, that's true, all right." She calmly admitted it before she said, "Can you show me your actual face?"

Ace shook his head, "I'm not worth seeing, and I can't show my face to you without completely trusting you, so apologies. Besides, you're also hiding your appearance."

All-Knowing Parrot chuckled and didn't pursue the matter.

She turned impassive and spoke, "Then let's not beat around the bush before we form the hex soul pack. We need to sign a soul contract...!"

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Chapter 442: Ace's Trap for the Parrot

"Then let's not beat around the bush. Before we form the hex soul pack, we need to sign a soul contract."
"

Ace didn't reject her at all and serenely asked, "If I may ask, what will be the contents of this soul contract be?"

All-Knowing Parrot's eyes shone as she said, "It's simple, during the hex soul ritual we won't back down at the last moment and form this hex soul pack unpretentiously. That's all. If you want to add anything, you may."

'He'll definitely add the condition about malicious thoughts and plans... heh,' She thought with a hint of antipathy. But to her surprise, he didn't!

"It's fine, we didn't need to add any more conditions, but..." the demon looked at her with a meaningful smile.

"If Mr. Sky wanted to say something, please, by all means, I won't mind." She said, but her eyes shimmered with ambivalence because she can't see through this man. 'It's because of his disguise!'

'She fell for it!' Ace's eyes flashed with a wily glint at this moment. "It's like this, just like you prepared the soul contract to ensure nothing goes wrong. I also prepared a Soul Oath Contract.

"I wonder if you're willing to take the same oath as the soul contract with me as well. We both know these things can be tampered with. You can also check the soul oath contract, while I'll check the soul contract. This way, we'll both can perform the ritual without any worries."

All-Knowing Parrot's eyes narrowed as she felt something was amiss, but his request wasn't unreasonable at all. On the contrary, if he would've agreed quickly, she might've felt even more uneasy.

'But how did he get his hands on a soul oath contract? They are far more precious than soul contracts! He's even wanted to give me the soul oath contract to examine...'

She had to admit this meeting wasn't going according to her plan at all; she had prepared many reasons and means to deal with Ace if he tried to back down. But not only did he was agreeing with her, he even had his own intentions.

Now, if she didn't agree, won't the tables will turn on her?

She said, "Let's do as you suggest. Here's the soul contract. You can examine it as much as you want."

She took out a translucent sheet of gray paper and put it on the table while she carefully looked at the expressionless man. She wanted to see some kind of flaw or hint, but alas, she caught nothing.

How could she see through Ace? He even fooled the demon king, much less a first-stage diamond soul river cultivator like her.

"System, I want one thief house recruitment token!" Ace promptly commanded.

He has been waiting for this exact moment, for the moment he spoke with the All-Knowing Parrot.

He knew this person has tremendous potential because of her ability to build the strongest secret information network outside the royal zone and remain unscratched and hidden all this time.

Furthermore, she can acquire information from the most hidden and guarded areas, which means she had a very special ability. He has never forgotten how she found out about his element sword intent, despite his awareness.

This alone was enough for Ace to rope her into the Thief House and via her, he can control the entire Spica Syndicate and get all the information without doing anything.

If he had any doubts before, they all vanished after he visited the lionheart shop and discovered they can easily smuggle soul materials throughout the eight provinces, and he wanted her into the Thief House even more!

She was perfect for being a member of the thief house, and he knew if he invited her directly she would never agree and might even retaliate after finding out he wasn't a hex magic user.

That was why he didn't take any action against her, even after knowing she was still here, and letting her scheme as much as she wanted and have the feeling of always being in control while she was actually falling into his trap all along.

Now he was finally at the juncture of tricking her despite her carefulness. He felt more excited.

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[One Thief House Recruitment Token has been delivered in the host's living thief's space.]

[Thief Point(s): 2,535,400]

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Before, he had converted a hundred thousand TP into ten thousand HP to issue Noa the kill mission, and now a million was spent again on the recruitment token. Although he felt pain seeing his TP getting lower and lower, but he was also getting much more in return.

All-Knowing Parrot had naturally no idea about what Ace was thinking. She was waiting to examine the soul oath contract.

Thereafter, a crystalline pitch-black, palm-size token appeared in Ace's hand, engraved with his thief symbol on one side and two ancient god words, 'Thief House' on the other, just like a coin.

All-Knowing Parrot carefully looked at this delicate token.

"This is the soul oath contract. I get it with my inheritance, and I only have this one. It's very simple to use; we have to drip our blood on it, and afterward, we just have to repeat our oath while engulfing it with our Qi and the contract will be established." Ace lied through his teeth.

However, All-Knowing Parrot wasn't Noa and wasn't easy to hoodwink, she asked, "This contract has your famous symbol on it, was it made by you and what tribe are you from, I never heard any hex demon tribe who worshiped an owl?"

However, Ace had already seen this question coming, and he knew it won't be easy to trick her.

He said coolly, "Truth be told, I also don't know my tribe name, but my parents left this inheritance for me. As for the owl symbol, they say our owl was our sacred symbol, and it will always protect us and our tribe. That's why I took it as my symbol as well."

All-Knowing Parrot looked at Ace with a piercing gaze clearly didn't believe him at all.

Ace quickly followed, "To show there wasn't anything amiss with this soul oath token, I'll take the oath first, and then you can check the token before following through."

"System, if I drip my blood and use my Qi, it won't count, right?" Ace quickly asked, but he was quite confident it won't because he was the leader. How could he recruit himself, right?

"[No!]"

Ace felt relief and quickly pierce his finger and drip his blood on the token and said solemnly while engulfing the token in his earthen Qi,

"I, solemnly, vowed that I'll follow through the entire hex soul ritual and I have no malicious thoughts toward boss All-Knowing Parrot. I'm also a pure hex demon who didn't know his tribe's name, and if I lie, this token will shatter, and I'll receive a terrible backlash!"

He deliberately added more words to remove All-Knowing Parrot's doubts further.

Just as he thought, the All-Knowing Parrot's eyes soften and shimmered with uncertainty after hearing his oath and him using the token first, and nothing happened.

Ace put the token on the table. "This is enough to show my sincerity, right? Or you can also sign the soul contract first while putting in the same conditions and I can sign it first, but you have to add the condition of signing this contract afterward as well."

This was the last straw that broke the camel's back. All-Knowing Parrot didn't want to add such conditions in the soul contract because she had malicious thoughts, and it'll destroy the soul contract the moment she signed it and revealed her intentions.

No matter how she mused, Feng had demonstrated he wasn't scheming and even seemed sincere. He agreed to sign the soul contract first, but she still felt uneasy because of his demeanor.

'Am I overthinking things, and could he be a shrewd simpleton in the end?' She thought while looking at the dark token with the owl symbol.

All her life, she was very meticulous and calculative, and that's how she survived to this day. She built an empire no one can touch, but today, for some reason, she felt her astuteness and plans were going against her in front of this man.

Everything was perfect, too perfect, nevertheless. The other party was playing right in her hand and even handing his life to her, which she wanted, and yet, she had this strange feeling that nothing was in her hand and the man in front of her was the actual player all along.

But logically, it was also impossible since she believed her mind more than her gut feeling.

In the end, she felt her over-calculation was making her this way, and she picked up the dark token.

'I'll be safe no matter what, nothing can danger me!' A decisive glint flashed past her eyes after making sure there wasn't anything wrong with this token, it seemed completely ordinary.

"I just have to take the oath about the ritual, right?" She looked at the simple yet unfathomed man deeply!

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Chapter 443: Welcome to Thief House!

Ace nodded, "Yes, I just need insurance that you won't do anything during the ritual. As for my oath, it was to show my sincerity toward beauty like you."

"Heh, I'm inflated by Mr. Sky's praise." She chuckled while thinking, 'In the end, he's just a man. Why I'm thinking so much?'

She altogether jettisoned her uneasiness and cut her slender finger and a drop of blood dripped onto the Thief House Recruitment Token, and it got instantly absorbed. Thereafter, a mercury-like dark Qi appeared from her hand and touched the token.

'**You're done!**' Ace's wicked smile almost covered his entire face when he saw this, while he held his breath.

What happened next made All-Knowing Parrot learn her gut feeling was true all along!

The moment her Qi touched the token, it turned into a beam of pitch-black light and bolted toward her glabella!

Ace had to admit, she was far quicker than Noa, and she even managed to form a Qi barrier, but alas, the dark streak easily penetrated all of her defense and directly entered her head!

She impatiently probed her body and soul many times and when nothing seemed to be amiss, she indignantly looked at Ace. "You, what's the meaning of this?!"

But she didn't attack Ace because she thought it was the oath being established and if she reacted exceedingly, she might suffer some kind of backlash.

Ace didn't answer and waited for the system's notification.

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[Thief House Recruitment Token has been used!]

[System detected someone is trying to join the Thief House through a soul clone!]

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Ace's heart churned the moment he heard this and nearly fell from his seat. His victorious expression finally changed and almost vomit blood!

How could he forget about those hateful clone techniques?

Just as he was about to spout nonsense when the system's voice sounded again.

=====

[Searching for the genuine soul!]

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Ace felt like he had heard the words of salvation and quickly relax and looked at All-Knowing Parrot coldly and stated, "I have to admit you almost destroyed my entire plan with your soul clone. But it also means I was right about you!"

All-Knowing Parrot's eyes widen in shock when she heard 'Soul Clone' and an array plate appeared in her hand the next moment. This was her biggest secret, and it was somehow exposed to that dark streak. She finally understood why he wanted to use that token. It was to see if she was real or not. (According to her)

"I did not know; how can that token reveal this to you, since you found out in the end, I'm afraid I can't let you leave here! You can also see you can't hurt me or do anything since I'm just a soul clone.

"While I can easily expose you and destroy your entire plan and let the royal zone take care of you, I'm sure they won't let you go after they found out about the element sword intent.

"Follow me and let me put a hex soul mark into your soul. I promise I won't mistreat you, and you'll get far more than theft around. Or I can use this array and completely restrain you here and the outcome would be the same.

"But if you try to fight, everything will be over for you, so choose!" She looked at Ace with mockery as if she had already won, even if he discovered her secret.

'Hmph, I'll find out how he gets those tokens. They can be extremely useful, and he might have even more treasures. Hehe, it was indeed worth the effort in the end.'

However, her delightful expression clouded when she saw Ace cozy himself on the chair as he put his cross feet on the table. He didn't seem perturbed at all.

Thereafter, he swiped his hand in front of his face and the next moment, his real, human face appeared, and he had a huge devilish grin on his face as he said, "Really?"

Right at this moment, inside a room filled with thick dark Qi clouds.

Two vibrant eyes sprang open in this darkness, which was like humans with gray irises, but instead of one, they were golden tri-pupils.

"That's a hunter!" A euphonious voice cried out thereafter.

However, before she could say anything else, the space in this place throbbed before like glass, it shattered and a dark streak appeared from within and shot toward the voice's position!

"What?!" the voice sounded again filled with consternation and trepidation.

While All-Knowing Parrot was gobsmacked by Ace's actual appearance and was speechless.

Ace finally got the awaited notification.

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[New member entry has been successful.]

[Please open the Thief House interface to see further information.]

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At this moment, she finally snapped out of her trance as if she had sensed something.

Her eyes shone with killing intent as she was about to use the array when Ace's calm yet threatening voice sounded, "Don't show killing intent to me, or you'll regret it very soon."

"What was that token?!" She completely ignored his warning and some mysterious words in her head.

Both bodies were connected by all senses, and she just clearly experienced that dark streak that appeared after shattering the space, which was unheard of, and entering her main body despite her defense.

She finally understood why Ace remain so calm, and that token was the thing from which he got his confidence. She finally felt fear after all these years and didn't dare to underestimate him anymore.

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[Malicious and Murderous intention detected from a Thief House Member toward House Leader.]

[Punishment: Death]

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But something unexpected happened that made her blood run cold at this moment. Because of her extreme killing intent, an unmanageable pain hit her soul and a bolt of deadly lightning ran amok in her both bodies!

"Ahhhhhhh...."

She shrieked while falling onto her knees, and her veil also fell off, revealing a beautiful yet appalled face. The array medium also fell on the ground, vines appeared on her skin, and blood trickled from her orifice.

What made her feel genuine despair was that her actual body was also in the same state, despite being at the peak of the platinum soul realm!

"P-please..." this was the only word that came out as she felt her true soul start to flutter.

"I told you, don't show me your killing intent." Ace sneered, "Stop it."

From the last time, he was extremely calm and didn't pity All-Knowing Parrot at all because she deserved this since she schemed against him.

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[House Leader has stopped the Punishment]

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After this mysterious voice rang again, those two powers vanish, and she quickly started to recover from her injuries.

She looked at Ace with horrified eyes. She didn't dare to show killing intent anymore, afraid that the blood-curdling pain would start again. "I-I... I admit my fault. I'll give you anything. Just let me go. You can have my entire syndicate, information, resources, everything, just please spare my life. I won't try to take revenge anymore!"

Ace pursed his lip. "Why do you sound like I'm the villain here? Aren't you the one who wants me to become your slave? Where's your dignity? Do you want to be my slave now?"

Her heart palpitated when she heard this and said in a quavered voice, "I-I know I was wrong, just let me go. I can't be your slave, please, I have a responsibility. But if you kill me, you won't get anything out of it! You can just place this restriction on me and if I ever try to retaliate, you can kill me, but I can't be your or anyone's slave. I rather die!"

She meant what she said right now. She was only begging because she wanted to see if she could talk her way out of it with words and regain her freedom. Furthermore, she was willing to pay the price for her freedom, even her sweat, and blood, the Spica Syndicate!

As long as she lived she could earn everything back, but she was unwilling to become someone else slave, especially becoming a slave of some mediocre race, she had her own pride!

She felt Ace would start torturing her again, but her eyes widened when she saw him smiling.

"At least you have some backbone, or I would be sad to give you such an opportunity, but you still chose to remain stubborn in the end. Remembered, even we thief have their dignity, and that dignity is to have 'no dignity at all, alright?"

"W-what?" She felt something was wrong with Ace.

From the start, he seemed completely composed and mysterious, but now he suddenly said he was giving her an opportunity after using some mysterious restriction on her.

He even called her a thief, which she wasn't.

Ace grin and said in a warm tone, "Welcome to the Thief House!"

"T-thief house?" She was confused.

Ace sighed and bemoaned, "Why you guys always wanted to kill me, didn't you notice the voice in your head?"

She suddenly remembered that mysterious voice in her head, but she was panicking at that time, so she simply goes after the person who planted the voice in her head.

Seeing her recalling something, Ace put on his best swindler's smile!

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Chapter 444: Second Thief House Member: Freya Witch

"First relax, there's no need to agitate anymore." Ace calmly said as he looked at the magnificent demoness.

All-Knowing Parrot know she was now completely at the mercy of Ace right now and if he wanted, he could easily get rid of her, so there wasn't any need for any of this. She quickly regained her calm and looked at him with vigilance.

'Is he going to order me to do something for him?' She thought indignantly.

She knew if it was her, and someone had tried to scheme against her, she would never let that person go no matter what!

Ace spoke with a confident smile, "As I said before, I gave you opportunity not enslavement and, in this world... no, between heaven and earth, I'm the only one who could provide this opportunity!"

All-Knowing Parrot wanted to scoff, but she held back and questioned, "What kind of opportunity? I'm not sure if this opportunity of yours is suitable for demons. I hate to break it to you, but we are not of the same race.

"I don't know how you infiltrate this deep into the demon continent and what you're after or why the royal zone didn't notice your existence, but let me make it clear we are not the same!"

"I'm aware of this, but the opportunity I'm giving you is bigger than racism and in the thief house, no matter what you are, you can grow stronger than anyone else and touch the boundaries you've never imagined!" Ace said with a passionate voice.

All-Knowing Parrot's eyes shone with uncertainty. "If what you said is true, I don't mind working with you. But I have to see the opportunity myself!"

Ace curled his lips, "Why of course, who would've believed just empty words, right? I'll let you experience the power of the 'Thief Goddess' first. Just say 'Thief House' or thought of it, and you'll understand everything!"

'Thief Goddess?!' All-Knowing Parrot's heart trembled and said without hesitation. "Thief House."

However, Ace's face fell when he saw no status panel appeared and suddenly thought of something, he puckered his lips, "It seemed only your main body can use it. Well, it also made sense. How could a mere clone have the privilege of the main body?"

"Alright." All-Knowing Parrot was hesitant this time, but she knew if Ace wanted to harm her, he didn't need to play petty tricks anymore.

Ace also used the thief house interface to see the All-Knowing Parrot information while she was doing the same.

On the other side,

All-Knowing Parrot's main body mutter, "Thief House."

She yelped when a dark screen appeared with the words and the same mysterious static voice rang in her head.

[Welcome to Thief House]

[Rules & Regulations of Thief House]

0. Any violation of Thief House Rules & Regulations will result in Absolute Death!

1. The house members cannot betray, scheme, sabotage, or held malicious intentions against Thief House or its members.

2. The house members cannot insurgent thief house or rebel against the House Leader (Ace White)!

3. The details about the Thief House and its members cannot be shared with any non-members under any circumstances, or it will violate rule zero.

- 4. The house members cannot leave the Thief House once joined.**
- 5. Internal fighting is not allowed, nor other members can have any kind of malicious intentions against a fellow member.**
- 6. The house members will get House Points with every successful house mission, or any mission issued by House Leader (Ace White).**
- 7. House Points are the currency of Thief House and members can use them in House Shop. No other sort of currency is allowed!**
- 8. If any member failed the House Mission or House Leader (Ace White) Mission, the house points will be deducted, followed by a punishment based on the importance of that mission!**

[Continue?]

'Is this some kind of cursed magic?' She didn't dare to believe in her eyes because it was just absurd, and she never heard of anything like this before.

As she read the rules, she finally understood what has happened to her when she showed killing intent to Ace.

"Is this really the work of a god? Are they real?!" She felt goosebumps all over her body just thinking about it.

She didn't believe in any God, but now she felt her beliefs turned upside down and her breath quickened.

"I-if it's really the blessing of a god, then everything he said is true, and it seemed only he can share this blessing with others. It's just that if he told me directly, I would've never believed him... no, I have to see more!"

She quickly focused on the [Continue] and the interface changed again.

[Thief House]

[House Leader: Ace White]

[House Members: 2/3]

[House Member: Freya Witch (Female)]

[Race: Evil Witch]

[Bloodline: Illusionary Witch (Grade-6 Bloodline) (Upgradeable)]

[Thief Genre: No Appointed (Only House Leader can appoint a Thief Genre)]

[Soul Cultivation: Platinum Soul Embryo Realm (Advance Stage-9)]

[Talent: Average (Upgradeable)]

[House Point(s): 100]

[House Mission(s): 0]

[House Leader Mission(s): 0]

[House Punishment(s): 0]

[House Shop: Available (Empty at this moment)]

All-Knowing Parrot or Freya's eyes contracted the moment she saw her real name and 'Evil Witch' race, her heart turn cold because this was her biggest secret.

"How is this possible?!" she exclaimed. The more she read, the more she felt her scalp tingle with trepidation.

This was simply unimaginable that all her secrets were revealed.

"Is this done by goddess?!" She didn't dare to take Ace's words for wind anymore.

Inside the lionheart shop,

Ace naturally saw Freya's status and looked at her clone with a hint of bewilderment. "Evil Witch? What kind of race is this? I never heard of it before?"

The soul clone naturally knew what her body just saw and narrowed her eyes at Ace with a hint of nervousness, "Can you see this information as well?"

Ace smiled mockingly. "I'm the leader, of course, I can see everything. We are members now, so it's won't be good to hide things from each other, right? So, what is an evil witch?"

Ace was extremely interested in this Evil Which since he has never seen this race in the records, and they seemed quite powerful. Her bloodline and potential were both higher than Noa's!

"I'll naturally tell you everything since you're the leader, but first, tell me, is this really a work of god? Then why can you select the other member and why we are thieves? Can I evolve my bloodline and potential, and what is this Thief Genre only you could select?" Freya threw a volley of questions sternly.

Ace answered without minding her tone, "Showdown, will you? I'll answer your question one by one. First, do you think I'm capable enough to make something like this?"

"No!" she answered without any hesitation.

Ace pursed his lips, finding this somewhat offensive, but he continued, "Then only a being like gods can make this and increase your talent and bloodline. As for why we are thieves, it's because we bless by the goddess of thieves, so we naturally have to be thieves. What are you, dissatisfied?"

Freya deeply looked at Ace's dark blue eyes and wanted to see through him, but she found nothing. In the end, she sighed, "No, if I can become strong, I don't mind becoming a thief or a monarch."

"Good, as for why I can select the members, it is naturally because I have more merits than you, and I'm the leader. As for thief genre..." Ace coolly stated the obvious while he explained the thief genre, house points, missions, and house shop.

'She's harder to deal with than Noa!' Ace thought bitterly after speaking for half an hour.

Noa blindly believe everything he said and never question him, but Freya differed completely from humble Noa.

"Then this means if I have more merit, I can also become the leader?" She asked impassively. She had more understanding of Thief House after Ace explained.

It was simply magical that she didn't dare to believe, but the proof was right before her eyes and her calculative nature appeared again.

Ace narrowed his eyes at this question. Even Noa didn't dare to court his leadership position, but this woman's ambition was on another level.

His eyes went sharp like blades as he said, "If you want my position, you can try. But let me warn you, if you try to scheme or sabotage me or another from the Thief House, I won't stop the punishment next time. You might hide your emotions for me, but you can't hide it from the goddess!"

Freya believed Ace's words. She still didn't forget that torture and the rules. She was only an ant in the face of a god and didn't dare to cross her boundaries. If she wanted to subvert Ace, she had to fight fair and square and please the 'goddess'.

When Ace saw her determined expression, he couldn't help but coldly laugh inwardly.

'You want my position? I'm afraid you have to kill me first!'

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Chapter 445: Thief Genre...!

Ace didn't nip the bud because he knew this woman would be more motivated to work this way and let her think she could become the leader in the future. He'll let her feel the disparity with his actions and coy subdue her!

Freya's eyes shimmered with a hint of ecstasy. She really wanted to control this Thief House. It was far more appealing to her than anything in this world.

"So, will you give me a choice in the thief genre, or you'll be a petty person and try to repress me?" she asked gaily.

Her fear completely vanished because she thought Ace also can't go against the house rules. Although he could control the missions, she knew he won't be willing to discard her at this moment after doing all this.

Furthermore, she wanted to see the shop eagerly after Ace explain the techniques from the 'goddess' will appear there, and she can also increase her bloodline potential.

Ace knew she was trying to provoke him, but he naturally won't suppress her, since he would be shot himself on foot by doing this.

He ambiguously smiled, "Of course, let's see what kind of thief you have the affinity with, and you may choose yourself. I won't stop you."

His smile suddenly turned icy cold, "But after we're done you have answered my question which you were trying to dodge all this time and I want the truth or will you believe me if I say I can easily give you a death mission, right here and right now?"

Freya suddenly felt a chill run down her spine. She could tell this guy wasn't joking, although she didn't want to reveal her plans. But Ace had already shown his sincerity by telling her about the Thief House and even gave her a chance to select the thief genre herself.

Now, if she didn't show her sincerity, he might really do as he said, she still didn't know Ace's limits of giving the mission, and she didn't want to test them either.

"I understand." She nodded solemnly.

If she wanted something, she had to sacrifice something as well, and in the face of Thief House, her secrets were worth nothing!

Ace nodded in satisfaction and looked at the opened thief house interface.

=====

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

[Thief Genre: A specific Thief Path for house members...]

Compatible Thief Genre for House Member Freya Witch: 5 Available

1. Thief Scout

[Introduction: A Thief proficient in the art of scouting and information collecting with any means possible.]

2. Thief Charming

[Introduction: A Thief with unparalleled charm who can control anyone with the power of [Charm] and [Illusion] to compel them to do its bidding without them discerning anything.]

3. Thief Witch

[Introduction: A Thief walks the path of Witchcraft.]

4. Cursed Thief

[Introduction: Thief proficient in the Dark Witchcraft]

5. Evil Thief

[Introduction: An Evil Thief controls the minds and lives of its targets with [Dark Witchcraft], [Illusion], and [Charm] while remaining completely hidden in darkness.]

[Please select one option.]

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

=====

Ace cocked an eyebrow at seeing Freya's got five options in her thief genre, while Noa only got two. Furthermore, all those options were for controlling the others.

He was more fascinated by Evil Thief since it had the power of three options combined, and it seemed far more useful than other genres, and it also suits Freya's personality very well.

Freya also noticed the slightest change in Ace's expression, and her heart tightened with all this suspense and frustration at not being able to see anything. She was afraid Ace would play some tricks and ruin this opportunity. She even bemoaned provoking him now.

However, Ace truthfully told her about the five options, and just as he thought, Freya answered without even thinking.

"I want to be this Evil Thief!"

She was elated hearing the introduction of the Evil Thief Genre and felt this suited her very well. She also felt that Ace seemed completely relaxed about giving her this thief genre, and she became curious about his thief path.

After Ace selected the option, she got heard the 'goddess's voice.

[Congratulation, you have been appointed as an Evil Thief by House Leader.]

-Evil Thief Introduction: An Evil Thief controls the minds and lives of its targets with [Dark Witchcraft], [Illusion], and [Charm] while remaining completely hidden in darkness.

-Evil Thief Role: In a theft, the Evil Thief had the role of silently infiltrating and planting its controlled minions and using them to distract the enemy while making sure the other house members remain safe throughout the entire

[Your thief house status has been updated.]

"He didn't lie to me!" (Real) Freya mumbled with elation when she read and heard about the evil thief.

She also observed the change in her status,

[House Member: Freya Witch (Female)]

[Race: Evil Witch]

[Bloodline: Illusionary Witch (Grade-6 Bloodline) (Upgradeable)]

[Thief Genre: Evil Thief (Newbie)]

[House Rank: New Member (Upgradeable)]

[Complete One Thief House Mission for rank upgrade]

[Soul Cultivation: Platinum Soul Embryo Realm (Advance Stage-9)]

[Talent: Average (Upgradeable)]

[House Point(s): 100]

[House Mission(s): 0]

[House Leader Mission(s): 0]

[House Punishment(s): 0]

[House Shop: Evil Thief]

'So, this is the House Ranks. It seemed by completing them I'll be able to ladder my way to the house leader position! But first I have to surpass the first member.' Her astute eyes shimmered with decisiveness.

She opened the shop next, which she was most eager to see,

[House Shop: Evil Thief]

-Treasures Section

-Knowledge Section

-Evolution & Pill Section

Freya opened the Knowledge Section promptly.

[Knowledge Section: Evil Thief]

-Illusionary Dark Pupil Awakening: Witch Connate Ability

-Requirement: Evil Witch Bloodline

-House Rank Required: Normal Member

-Price: 10,000 House Points

-Evil Thief Scripture (1st Vol): Soul Cultivation Technique

-House Rank Required: Normal Member

Price: 1,000 House Points

-Traceless Mind Evasion; Soul Cultivation Art

Requirement: Evil Thief Scripture & Illusionary Dark Pupil Awakening

House Rank Required: Old Member

Price: 7,500 House Points

-Dark Elemental Shadow: Soul Cultivation Stealth Art

Requirement: Evil Thief Scripture

House Rank Required: Normal Member

Price: 1,000 House Points

-Shadow Illusion Escape: Soul Movement Skill

Requirement: Evil Thief Scripture

House Rank Required: Normal Member

Price: 500 House Points

-Evil Eye: Soul Reconnaissance Skill

Requirement: Evil Thief Scripture

House Rank Required: Normal Member

Price: 500 House Points

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

"This shop even has a method to awaken my illusionary dark pupil and a corresponding soul art as well?!" she couldn't help but exclaim as her race.

But she quickly calmed down since she knew she still needed HP to buy that awakening technique.

"I also have to cultivate the Evil Thief Scripture to practice the other soul skills. But this means I have to discard my old cultivation technique. Well, since my foundation is perfect, I'll be able to change it with some time." She decided unequivocally.

Although she had her skills and a cultivation technique, after witnessing the Thief House's shop, she didn't hesitate to discard them.

'However, these house points are going to be an enormous problem and only the leader can give missions with house points as a reward or the goddess herself. But I have to depend on him more. Now I understand why he didn't look wary of me at all.' She thought grimly as she decided to see the other sections before doing anything.

She opened the treasure section this time,

[Treasure Section: Evil Thief]

-Dark Grimoire: Grade-9 (Upgradeable)

House Rank Required: Excellent Member

Price: 500,000 House Points

-Soul Manipulation Chain: Grade-5

House Rank Required: Old Member

Price: 10,000 House Point

-Evil Thief Armor Set: Grade-8

House Rank Required: Excellent Member

Evil Thief Rank Require: Trainee Evil Thief

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]

"This shop even had a grimoire that I needed the most?!" Her entire body trembled to see the Dark Grimoire that she dreamed about day and night!

"I build all this just for the ancestral grimoire. That is the only grimoire in the entire world that can help me, but now I can buy an equally powerful grimoire from this shop. Truly laughable." She was truly bitter and felt as if her entire life was a joke.

'I can't give him a reason to get rid of me. I have to behave!' She suddenly changed her view of Ace and decided to remain sincere with him, or she would regret it!

She opened the last section in expectancy,

[Evolution & Pill Section: Evil Thief]

[Illusionary Witch Bloodline Evolution: Three Available]

-Illusionary Witch Bloodline: Grade-7 Evolution

Price: 1,000,000 House Points

-Illusionary Witch Bloodline: Grade-8 Evolution

Price: 10,000,000 House Points

-Illusionary Witch Bloodline: Grade-9 Evolution

Price: 20,000,000 House Points

-Soul Recovery Pills: 10 Available

Introduction: Grade-9 Soul Pills, able to recover any injuries on the soul, even at the brink of death.

Requirement: Old Member

Price: 100,000 House Points (Per Pill)

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Chapter 446: Evil Witch Race

Ace had already seen her entire shop and status, and he looked at Freya with a hint of delight. 'Her skills and techniques are completely different from thief assassin. Her actual strength lies in control and deception!

'She can easily sway the targets and create an opening in their securities and get the keys of treasuries for me and so much more. This will make my life much easier and I don't have to worry about collecting information and hidden danger anymore.'

Freya finally snapped out of her own fanatics and noticed Ace's smirk. She took a deep breath before a peculiar glint flashed past her eyes and bow her head, "Leader Ace, please accept Freya's humble apology about what happened before!"

'She changed colors even faster than blinking.' Ace thought.

He teased, "What, you want House Points?"

Freya's expression didn't change. "No, I want a mission, and I'll earn them myself. You just have to issue the mission."

"Don't worry, I'm not a frivolous person, and you'll get what you deserved." Ace smiled hintingly, "Now tell me about your Evil Witch race and what this had to do with hex demon. And, what is this hex magic and witchcraft they seemed to relate to each other?"

Freya knew she can't hide her biggest secret from Ace anymore, and he was the leader who controlled the mission, which she desperately needed.

Furthermore, after she looked at the items in the shop and their prices, she became curious about how much HP Ace had since he could use them to give her tasks and how did he get them.

She also came to a startling conclusion that Ace might have far more privileges than the members, which she couldn't imagine. Just the privilege of seeing her 'house status' was enough to give her the idea.

'Although he looked like a happy-go-lucky person, he tricked me and I can't tell when he's lying as if it's his second nature. I should not antagonize him much, or he might get rid of me with the missions. I still didn't know the limitation of these missions he can issue!' She mused.

She spoke, "The Evil Witch Race is not inborn, but a fallen race of Spiritual Witch Race. I know little about the Spiritual Witch Race, but according to the records left by my ancestors, the first Evil Witch was born after she fell into the path of evil.

"She stole the Forbidden Evil Grimoire, which was left behind by some evil god, and practice the evil witchcraft in that grimoire. Afterward, that Forbidden Evil Grimoire changed her entire anatomy, and she became the first Fallen One, the Evil Witch!

"The Spiritual Witch Race naturally won't let this kind of evil existence live who was born from their race and hunted the first Evil Witch with everything they had, but the Forbidden Evil Grimoire was much more powerful than they expected.

"Not only did the Evil Witch escape their pursuit, but it's recorded that she managed to kill half of the Spiritual Witch Race with the Forbidden Evil Grimoire, making the Spiritual Witch Race cower and gave up on killing her.

"After the first Evil Witch was born, she created more Evil Witches with the Forbidden Evil Grimoire and that's the background of our Evil Witch Race!"

Her voice was filled with pride and awe for this first Evil Witch and longing for this Forbidden Evil Grimoire.

Ace's eyes flashed with astonishment. He didn't expect the Evil Witch Race has such a history.

She continued as her expression turned grim, "However, when the other races found out the potential of the Evil Witch Race and their ability to control the mind of the living being without them knowing, they all felt threatened, and they banded together with the Spiritual Witch Race to eliminate us.

"I don't know what happened in that war, but according to the records, some of our low-rank clansmen appeared in Golden Sky World, on the mighty demon continent over tens of thousands of years ago.

"It's stated that the Magic or Qi density of this world was thousands of times lower than the world where my ancestors came from, and it also lacks something more, but it wasn't stated what. But they were shocked that this world was quite peaceful, and they can live here without any worry and never wanted to return."

'Could it be they're from another heaven?!' Ace instantly thought of the possibility.

Freya's eyes turned icy at this moment, "But who would've thought that the demon race would attack my ancestors and try to enslave them for their blood?"

"It's stated that the Demon Ancestor somehow found out that our race's blood was extremely useful for the king-level clans to evolve into emperor-level clans, and it was even more potent than their own race!

"But the real reason was the longevity in our blood, which even drew Devil Ancestor into the mix.

"At that time, a huge war break out between the three races, but the demons outmatched the evil witch race by their massive numbers, and they even had the support of the Devil Race.

"Although we have powerful hex magic, and we can easily manipulate some strong demon tribes, the devils had extremely powerful souls, and it wasn't easy to control them. Faced with Demon Ancestor and Devil Ancestor, our Ancestor perished.

"They even called us Hex Demon and make us look like villains while the actual villains became heroes!" she gritted her teeth in the end.

Ace felt his horizon broaden, hearing Evil Witch Race's tragic ending.

'Devil Ancestor and Demon Ancestor, what kind of existences they are to eradicate the evil witch race who were from another heaven!' Ace felt chills just thinking about them.

"But some of our clansmen still managed to survive, and I'm the decedent of one of these survivors. But most of them are dead because of the harsh conditions of wildness, and the demon race never stops hunting us.

"I'm probably the only one who left of my race until I found out about you." She looked at Ace with a hint of embarrassment.

Ace smiled meaningfully, "But it seemed you didn't have kind intentions toward me and found me a threat, or you just didn't want me to get in your way, right?"

Freya didn't hide her intentions, "First, I was only curious about your real identity when the Mist Demon King requested to find out about your whereabouts. You have stolen something from her, right?"

"Heh, yes, I indeed stumbled upon something belonging to Mist Demon King." Ace admitted, but he would never tell anyone that he got a fragment of eternal provenance treasure from that theft!

Freya nodded and didn't ask what he had stolen, "Afterward I keep an eye out there for you in the iron demon city and I accidentally discovered you comprehended the element sword intent and then stealing Henrik's storage ring."

Ace's eyes flashed, "How did you do it?" he was really curious about this thing for a while now.

Freya's lips curled into a charming smile. "I can control the small mortal creatures and see everything they see with their own eyes. That's how I always acquired information without being noticed by anyone. Everyone ignored these small creatures, and only some paid attention to them."

Ace's eyes widen slightly in understanding and smiled wryly, "So, that's how it is. You taught me another essential lesson, thank you."

"Hmph." Freya scoffed. "Anyway, afterward it was easy to find your disguise, and Feng's rise was just too unnatural. But no one noticed it except me, though.

"Seeing your talent, I suspected you had a grimoire, and that's why I wanted to draw you here and used the soul hex imprint to make you loyal to me." She said while carefully noticing Ace's expression.

Ace clearly didn't mind, "So, first you decided to see if I know about this soul hex mark or not, and I guess it's something only some witches can perform, right?" He smiled.

Freya's eyes flashed, and she nodded, "Yes, the soul hex pack is something two evil witches performed when they decided to live and died with each other, and they can only perform this once in their life.

"While the soul hex imprint is an unbreakable slave imprint that brands the essential soul and makes the bearer absolute loyal to their master, both ritual processes are almost similar. I would've drawn the magic circle myself for the ritual, making it even more difficult to escape the inevitable."

Ace's eyes turned somewhat cold hearing this and utter, "Don't you think I can also be a clone like you?"

She sensed Ace's unhappiness but knew it was meaningless to hide. She could only tell the truth, to earn Ace's trust.

"No, the Yin Soul Possession Technique is something only passed down in my maternal clan. Even my deceased father didn't know about it, and only women can practice it!"

Eternal Thief

Chapter 447: Another Thief Helper

"No, the Yin Soul Possession Technique is something only passed down in my maternal clan. Even my deceased father didn't know about it, and only women can practice it!"

Ace's eyes flashed with disappointment when he heard this. He finally thought he can have a clone technique reference to create his own somehow, but it seemed he was destined to be disappointed.

He pursed his lips. "Then, this means your soul clone can help you with the backlash of a soul contract as well, right? But won't you already say you know I can also bypass the royal council's loyalty contract? How are you planning to deal with it?"

Freya smiled slightly, "No, you didn't know the soul contracts aren't easy to bypass, like those slaves or loyalty contracts made with martial materials. Although, the method of forging soul contracts is only in the hands of the imperial family.

"But every one of the soul contracts is absolute if you don't have a soul type substitute like my soul clone to bear the contract. That's why I wasn't worried you'll back down after signing the soul contract.

"However, who would've thought you'll fool me into joining you instated!" She smiled wryly in the end.

Ace said nothing about it and only smile subtly. "Well, I trick you into an opportunity? This didn't count, right? So, what is this hex magic?"

She pursed her lips, but still answered, "You can say Qi is Magic and Magic Qi. But Magic differs slightly from Qi because as long as you know 'Spells or Chants' you can use any element Qi or Magic, while you have only one innate element Qi.

"Magic or Qi both have the same fundamentals, while Qi is difficult to master when Magic can be grasped by spells. If you knew a law spell, you can even cast a law skill if you can support the Qi consumption!

"As for Hex Magic, it's the branch of Black Magic. With hex magic, you can curse someone to death, control their mind as I do with small creatures, possess someone's mind to do things, or you can even perform healing curses and many more."

Ace's eyes lit up. 'I can even perform a law skill if I had a magic spell? Didn't this mean I collect a bunch of law spells, I don't have to worry about enemies?!'

Freya seemed to guess what Ace was daydreaming about and snorted disdainfully, "Do you think a law spell is a cabbage which you can find anywhere? Even our race didn't have one!"

"What? So rare?" Ace felt his dreams shattered.

"Hmph, I know little, so forget it. As for a grimoire, it's a spell book where you can write and store magic spells and even release them instantly, like a talisman. But only some races can make a Grimoire recognize them and for others, they are nothing but simple books." said Freya.

"Wait a moment, that book you mention..." Ace's eyes flashed.

"Yes, the Myriad Hex Manual is a Grimoire of my ancestor, and it also records her spells as well. It's also indestructible or Devil and Demon Ancestors won't leave it alone and destroyed it like other grimoires, but they can't use it either, so they let their juniors take care of it.

"It seemed the Grimoire landed in the imperial demon family's hand and after all these years, they might've already forgotten about the terror of that grimoire. So, they let that demon price use it to draw us out in the upcoming auction of the Life Demon Association.

"But after I mention that grimoire you show only momentarily interest and that's led me to think you have your own grimoire." She smiled bitterly in the end.

"Oh, I was still seen thought in the end, huh?" Ace chuckled, "Don't worry, I'm sure the grimoire in your shop is more powerful than the one in the imperial family's hand."

Freya retorted lightly, "No, that grimoire is also a rank nine, and it had many hex spells. You can say it's a full inheritance of my ancestor, so I need it! That's why I wanted to control you because of your thievish skills, but it seemed now you have to help me, anyway!"

Ace didn't reject her, "As long as you show your worth, I'll steal anything for you, but only if it won't put anyone of us in jeopardy."

"I understand." Freya nodded. She had to admit, with Ace's skills, it wasn't impossible to get the grimoire.

"So, now you know everything, but you still didn't tell me how did you come here from the blood continent and cross the barrier around the demon continent, and what's your end goal?" She asked with slightly narrow eyes.

Ace smiled bitterly, "I'm not a hunter but a human from Azure Wind Continent and I entered here by accident."

He can't tell her he almost died, and the system teleported him to the middle of the demon continent. He has to maintain his leader's image, after all.

Freya's eyes widen slightly and exclaim, "Human? That hateful race?"

Ace's expression fell and retorted, "What do you mean hateful?"

Freya said with a hint of anger, "They are hateful because they also join demons and devils to kill our race at that time, and they're loyal dogs of devils, Hmph!"

Ace's eyes narrowed, "You mean devils control humans?"

He naturally does not know about the main azure wind continent since he came from the lower lands, but from Freya's tone, he could sense something was amiss.

Freya nodded, "I don't know where you came from, but the human continent has long been under the devil race's protection and devils had their sect in the azure wind continent."

Ace was shocked inwardly and couldn't help but think about what Patriarch Empty Dream told him years before.

'It seemed they did scheme against Patriarch, and then they allegiance themselves to devils. Do they really stoop to such a level?' He grimaced.

Although Ace didn't have any ties with humans, he was still a human, and he felt sad about their conduct.

"Forget it, they have nothing to do with me." Ace shook his head.

Freya said nothing, but she was still astonished about Ace's identity, and now he can order her around. How ironic.

"Then what's your end goal?" She changed the topic.

Ace said with uncertainty, "I don't have any end goal. I just want to become strong for the time being, and I can only rely on the 'goddess', which means I have to theft. As for my current goal, it's the life demon treasure pagoda!"

Freya felt he had just heard something absurd. "Life Demon Treasure Pagoda of Life Demon Association?"

"What, there's another one?" Ace pretended to be startled.

She pursed her lips. "Are you trying to get killed? Don't you know those buildings are the most secure places in eight provinces? Even I can't infiltrate too deep into the Life Demon Association, they're just too careful."

Ace sighed and lamented, "I don't have any choice. It's the order of the goddess. I can only grit my teeth and walk forward."

Freya's eyes suddenly glow in understanding, 'So, that's how it is. No wonder, he had an ample amount of HP. It's all because he can directly receive a mission from the goddess, but they also seemed quite dangerous.'

Ace guess what she was thinking, but he didn't correct her and smiled, "You see, I already have the entire structure of blade domain's treasure pagoda, including all the ranks of traps, formations, hidden treasuries, and other stuff."

Freya was startled. "How do you get this kind of secret?"

"Hehe, I have my means, so tell me, are you in or not? I'll issue you the same mission as your senior, but different from her since you're a control type thief." Ace asked, even though he already knew the answer.

Freya felt she had underestimated Ace again, and she had to reevaluate this leader of her.

She said, "What kind of thief is my senior, can you tell me?"

Ace said ambiguously, "You can ask your senior after you both meet. I won't divulge anyone's information since it would be unfair to both of you. Although we are like family now, we have to respect each other's privacy, right?"

'Family, huh?' She looked meaningfully at Ace.

Freya pouted beautifully, "Fine, I'll just have to wait, so what do you want me to do?"

"How much time do you need to change your cultivation technique?" Ace asked.

He knew she was already a peak platinum soul embryo cultivator, so she won't need to reset her foundation like Noa.

Freya thought for a moment, "I have to see the cultivation technique first, but I don't think I can buy it with my current credit, and I also didn't meet any requirements."

Ace know the meaning behind her hints and smiled subtly.

"I'll tell you the method to earn house points without missions. But I don't want to you change your cultivation technique until I'm done with this theft.

"Because the cultivation technique is the most precious one you have ever seen, it can grant you an innate soul ability in every realm, so it would take quite a while to recover your original cultivation after you started.

"I'll also leave the building's blueprint with you, and you have to..."

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 448: Hidden Current & The Expedition Team

At night, Feng returned to the blade castle and no one suspect anything as he returned to his courtyard.

'Sigh... it finally ended.' Ace sighed with a hint of exhaustion.

He couldn't help but smile bitterly when he thought about his long conversation with Freya at the Lionheart Shop.

Not only did she ask all kinds of questions, but she even gave a suggestion for his thievery, which Ace never thought of before, and he had to admit that women had a talent for tactics. But she was just too sharp and hard to fool.

Nevertheless, Ace was glad he added her to the Thief House. Now he had access to all kinds of information and resources. He also handed her the things he didn't need. To sell in the black market, which emptied fifteen percent of his thief's space.

He also told her about the theft method to acquire house points, which made her startled, and he also taught her his two signature skills, Soul Threads and Thief's Charity (Inverse and Reverse).

He even offered her a 'safe place' for her real body to change her cultivation technique after he was done with this theft and, surprisingly, she agreed as well.

After dealing with all this, he left, since it might alert the demon king if he didn't return to the castle at night.

'She told me that the royal envoy was also searching for her, and his reason for this might be her information network. Well, too bad I got her first.' Ace's lips curled.

'Furthermore, the mist domain also seemed to be in a state of silence after the hunting competition, which was quite unusual. It might be because of Santos's disappearance.

'I have to be careful of mist demon king since I've killed her son and I don't know if she knows he's dead or not. But according to Freya, the Mist Demon King had a terrifying backer, and she's also involved in all kinds of trades. Well, as long as I play my part well, no one will ever know I was here.'

Ace smiled confidently, especially after the discussion at the lionheart shop, and started to cultivate his lock picking skill again.

The night before the expedition,

At the Evil Blade Clan's secret hall, an aged voice filled with anger rang.

"What do you mean, you can't approach that brat? Do you try to visit him?"

"Father, that hateful fellow was hiding in the blade place, and he only left yesterday, but we were alerted too late, and he was already vanished and only returned in the middle of the night!" the middle-aged demon spoke with frustration.

The old demon's face was filled with fury. "Then do you find out what task that brat received from His Majesty? We'll intercept him on that mission since he had to go alone!"

The middle-aged demon sighed helplessly, "No, only those knight commanders know about this and if we pry in it, we might infuriate his majesty, so I don't dare to approach them. Especially White Fire. That guy is too loyal for his own good!"

"What about Miya? Didn't she try to approach him?"

The middle-aged demon's expression turned even nastier and said with gritted teeth, "She tried to visit him this noon, but she was intercepted by those two slave bitches, and they won't let her meet him.

They said he was in the cultivation chamber without even notifying him. If not for the castle, she would've killed those two impudent slaves!"

"Sigh... it's really a tragedy." The old demon's face wither further as he sighed in a resigned manner.

The middle-aged demon also felt the same frustration as his father because they just couldn't subdue a single brat who wasn't even mature yet.

Not only that, they were being silently watched by the Blade Demon King, especially after the banquet and if they do something in desperation, they might really suffer terribly.

At this moment, a voice sounded from the outside,

"Patriarch, a messenger has arrived with a message!"

The middle-aged demon's eyes narrowed and retorted, "Didn't I tell you not to disturb me while I'm in the forbidden area?"

The voice sounded again,

"I-I know, but the sender of this message is assumingly... All-Knowing Parrot!"

Mist Domain, Mist Demon Castle,

Mist Demon King was in her cultivation chamber. She hasn't appeared in the open after she met with Blade Demon King as if she was waiting for something.

At this moment, she suddenly moved, and a communication cube appeared in her hand, which was flashing brightly.

She activated it, and a husky voice sounded.

"I can't make a move without any solid evidence!"

The dark mist around her trembled after she heard this and replied in fury, "Our son is dead, and you want evidence? Do you even care about us!?"

"Don't you dare talk to me like this! No one is more furious than me in this world, and I want to trample on that bastard's entire clan, but do you think moving against a Demon King is easy?"

"Even if I can kill him, the Imperial Family will also get the reason to weaken my authority. So, found something before contacting me. I can't talk with you right now because of all this shit going on here!"

With that, the cube went dormant.

Afterward, a deadly soul Qi wave spread to the entire mist castle, killing everyone under the river core realm!

Today was the day of departure for everyone for the expedition to this damaged ruin at the border of mighty blade province.

At this moment,

White Fire was solemnly standing in front of eight young demons.

This was the expedition team that was selected by Thomas and Peter three days ago.

The members were, Feng, Thomas, Peter, his fiancé, Brenna, Alora Yisrael, and Carlee Violent recommended by Thomas, then there was also another silver blade clan demon with a fierce look on his handsome face, he was recommended by Peter and rank 18 in top hundred, Gibson, and last was another wild tribe demon rank 23, Shepard Echo.

Shepard was specifically selected by Thomas and Peter because of his ability to control sound waves and observe them. This was an extremely useful ability in a dangerous and unknown place, like a damaged ruin.

Everyone selected was already notified two days ago about this expedition, and they were also elated to hear this since this was a huge chance for them.

They were all prepared for this expedition.

White fire said, "Are you all prepared?"

"Yes!"

Everyone answered in unison.

White Fire nodded as he looked at Feng and said, "Feng is this team leader, and you have to follow his order after entering the ruin. I won't interfere as long as you didn't encounter any soul realm level threat, even if you died. Is that clear?"

Shepard raised his hand at this moment. He was a dark orange skin demon with small horns and bright yellow eyes, wearing full body armor.

White Fire's eyes narrowed ever so slightly. "Speak."

Shepard asked, "You said we have to follow, sir, Feng's orders, but what if that order threatens our lives, or he wanted to attack us for treasures or hoard them?"

Thomas and Peter's expressions change slightly, but they said nothing since this was a question worth answering.

White Fire smiled coldly. "If you found his decision unreasonable, you all can cast votes to decide. As for hoarding the treasures, as long as you have the ability, you can try taking them from him. I won't interfere with it. Any treasure found in that ruin will be distributed between you guys, but I won't interfere with that distribution!"

The other five expressions changed as they cast glances at Feng, who seemed completely nonchalant all this time, saying nothing.

Thomas suddenly chuckled, "Haha, brother Feng, I'll be relying on you."

Peter only smiled wryly and said nothing, although he could feel Feng wasn't that kind of person. But in the face of treasures, even close relatives backstab each other, much less someone who he met a few times. Nonetheless, he also wanted to fight with Feng, so he found it an opportunity as well.

At this moment, Feng suddenly moved and stand right beside White Fire and said, "I don't want anything that isn't related to the sword, and if we came in the possession of anything related to the sword, I'll share it with brother Peter.

"I hope everyone can work together without being vigilant of each other, or I'll kill anyone who would try to drag me down or sabotage anyone. Is that clear?"

"I agree." Thomas was first to agree.

Peter smiled. "I'll also share anything related to the sword with brother Feng. Don't worry."

The others also quickly agreed since Feng promise not to fight for other things, and they felt relief.

White Fire couldn't help but smile in satisfaction. He was also glad that Feng cleared this small seed of discord, or they can never work together with each other.

He said, "Now that we are all on the same page, let's go. We'll travel in carriages for half a month first. Let's go."

Afterward, they all embark on five carriages and depart for this expedition!

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Chapter 449: The White Hill Plains

The White Hill Plains were at the western border of mighty blade province, and this place was called white hills because all year long it was covered in a thick layer of snow and the temperature here wasn't something a mortal could survive in.

White Hill Plains was also the place where ice-type beasts and herbs were found. But this place was also extremely dangerous because of the exact same reason.

The snow storms were constant at this place and anyone could easily bury under the snow or even lose their way.

At this moment, a few miles away from the outskirts of the White Hill Plains, five carriages stopped. Nine demons disembark the carriages.

They were none other than the blade domain expedition team of eight and White Fire.

They had been traveling for fifteen days at full speed and just reached this place.

Ace couldn't help but look at the White Plains as far as his eyes could see and feel the icy temperature. It was his first time coming to such a place filled with snow.

"We're here." White Fire spoke at this moment. "We'll part ways from here!"

Everyone looked at the White Fire in disbelief. They all know just how large and dangerous this place was, and now he was going to leave them alone here to search for the damaged ruin!

White Fire's lips curled into a stiff smile. "What do you think? I would take you to the damaged ruin myself. Don't flatter yourselves, your actual test is to find your way toward damaged ruin.

"I'll only provide you with a map, nothing else, and you all have five months before I'll take you all back, even if you found nothing. It will consider a failure, and you all will lose your positions."

White Fire, like everyone's ugly expressions and took out a scroll and toss it toward Feng, and said, "This is the map, good luck..."

With that, White Fire suddenly turned into a blurry image, and before anyone could ask any questions, he was long gone!

"Fuck, we've been screwed by the old man!" Thomas couldn't help but cuss.

Everyone silently agreed with Thomas.

Feng said at this moment with a grave expression, "Well, this much was expected, since it would be too easy to just explore a damaged ruin."

Alora said at this moment, "We should look at the map before deciding how to move forward. It is very hard to move into this place at night, so we also have to arrange for it as well."

Although they weren't told the exact location of the damaged ruin but hinted that it was at the border of the mighty blade province, so it wasn't hard to research those few famous locations.

"Shepard, here you'll be in charge of leading the way. I heard you are an expert in this thing, so don't disappoint me." Feng handed the map to Shepard with a meaningful look.

Shepard was startled for a moment before he received the map. He could feel the hidden pressure in Feng's words and nodded solemnly. He knew this person wasn't someone he could trifle with, even if they were from the same generations.

No one objected to Feng's decision.

Peter utter as he looked at the witness far away, "There are demonic beasts that can easily hide in the snow or camouflage themselves. I have an array barrier, but it consumed too much Qi, but I'll also protect us from ambushes. We can all take turns to keep it active. What do you think?" he looked at Feng.

Feng nodded at his suggestion, "We'll do as you suggest..."

They all discussed other things while Shepard and Carlee discuss the direction they should take on the map.

A mile away, White Fire appeared on a small hilltop.

Thereupon, the ground cracked before a little person appeared from the ground. It was an earthen troll.

He knelt in front of White Fire and said respectfully, "My lord, the preparation is complete."

White Fire impassively nodded, "Good, don't lose their tracks, and if any danger appeared which they can't handle, contact me post hastily. Also, monitor any new arrivals."

"Yes, milord." The earthen troll uttered.

White Fire looked at the team of eight, which had started to move, and mumbled, "Why did I have this strange feeling?"

A week later,

Feng and the party were slowly moving toward their aim.

They had been moving very carefully in this place where all they could see was white and at night; the situation turned even worse.

They also encounter some snow beasts, but they were all weak and easily found by Shepard.

Now, everyone on the team admits Shepard was great at leading and founding danger and without him, they might have a hard time.

However, Ace was completely unfazed by anything, since he could find danger far quicker than Shepard. But he didn't reveal and play his role as Feng.

He also long noticed they were being followed, and their source was under the ground, which give him some idea who was following them, so he wasn't worried about this tail.

But he still didn't find White Fire, and he mused that the guy was either out of his range or excellent at hiding, which he doubted.

Nevertheless, Ace was looking forward to that ruin because one reason was Alora was with him and that might be the place where she might receive that golden opportunity, or he might find something interested.

At this moment, Thomas approached him and said in a low voice, "It seemed we're being watched, but I can't tell the source. Could it be the old man (White Fire)?"

'What a sharp instinct.' Ace couldn't help but praise him because the watchers were keeping at least a four-hundred-meter distance, and he knew Thomas hadn't awakened his soul sense yet.

He pretended to be surprised and replied, "It could only be him, and if not. Then don't worry, I don't think that guy would let anyone powerful approach us who we can't handle."

Thomas nodded in agreement and suddenly changed the topic, "Brother Feng, Alora seemed to be interested in you, why don't you..." He put on a lewd smile.

Feng's expression darkened, "Scram."

They all couldn't help but smile wryly. They were now used to Thomas's happy-go-lucky attitude, while Alora's face was turned slightly red as she stared dagger at Thomas.

Carlee couldn't help but giggled as she also teased her friend, "Hehe, is that true?"

"Scram, that brat is slandering me!" She retorted, but she couldn't help but took a glance at Feng's stony face and felt some disappointment.

Although she didn't have any feelings toward him, she was still curious about this prodigy of the blade domain who was even stronger than Jaxx, and his icy demeanor gave him even more charm.

She felt strangely attracted to Feng.

At this moment, Shepard's grave voice rang. "Something is coming this way!"

Everyone became alerted and vigilantly looked around.

They all knew now that Shepard was never wrong about the danger before.

Feng said at this moment, "This isn't a thing, but things! It's already going dark. Deal with it quickly. We have to leave this area. It seemed we have entered some beast's den."

Just as his voice trailed off,

"Awooo..."

"Awwooooo..."

Ghastly cries rang from afar.

Gibson exclaimed at this moment, "That's definitely a wolf cry and the only wolf that I know who lived in a cold environment like this is Ice Dire Wolf, and they're extremely fast in a snowy environment and can easily mix within snow because they're completely white.

"Not only that, it seemed we have really entered their hunting grounds and if an Ice Dire Wolf King is controlling this pack, then I'm afraid we're facing at least a late fourth-grade beast!"

Gibson had a deep knowledge of demonic beasts and medicinal herbs, so he was mostly their encyclopedia and told them about the weakness of the beasts and their habits.

"How should we deal with them?" Peter asked with a grim expression because now the wolf's cries were becoming more and more vibrant, and it might be a wolf pack.

If they encounter numerous fourth-grade beasts, they might suffer this time.

Gibson's expression was quite ugly as he said, "Those Ice Dire Wolves were proficient in controlling Ice Element, and it's very cumbersome to get close to them. Only fire element practitioners can deal with them."

"Didn't this mean we have to rely on Alora?" Thomas exclaimed, and they all looked at Alora.

Feng had an Earth Element.

Thomas had Soul Illusion Element.

Peter, Brenna, and Gibson have Silver Metal Element.

Alora had a Dark Fire Element.

Carlee's element was called Violent Woods.

Lastly, Shepard's element was called Soul Waves.

This means that in their group, only Alora was proficient in the fire element, and this tremendously pressured her.

"Don't worry, just support from behind. There's nothing my sword won't cut," Feng said as he placed his hand on both his sword hilts.

They all looked at the white mist rising in their way!

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Chapter 450: Sword Art: Dark Life Plexus

Everyone felt relief when they heard Feng's courageous words.

At this moment, they finally spotted the beasts in that white mist.

They were three-meter in size while they were covered in snow-white fur, only their gray vicious eyes were visible and long beastly teeth, and they were over fifty.

However, Ace also notice what other's failed because of the white mist, at the very back of these late-grade-3 Ice Dire Wolves were eight more Ice Dire Wolves, but they were over five meters in size while four of them were early-stage grade-4, three of them intermediate grade-4, and the most powerful of them all was a late stage grade-4, and it was six meters in size.

'That must be the wolf king of this pack, and there might be more. Although I can leave, they won't be able to handle these many wolves. I still haven't done with them, and I need them alive...' Ace mused while looking at those madly charging wolves.

"Peter and Thomas, take the command," Feng said at this moment.

Peter's expression changed. "What do you mean?"

Feng said in a gloomy tone, "I'm going to kill the wolf king, as long as he died we can easily kill the others or those guys will keep coming at us, and I'm afraid if this drag long more wolves will join them."

"Are you mad? You have to cross that wolf wall first, and we still didn't know if there's a wolf king or not, and you won't able to find it even if there was one. Don't act recklessly." Thomas retorted seriously. He differed completely from his jolly self.

"Don't worry about me. I can feel the wolf king behind that horde. Just focus on cleaning those wolves. We have to leave quickly after I dealt with the wolf king."

With that, Feng instantly left the barrier, wasting no more time.

"Fuck, that reckless fool!" Thomas cursed as he watched Feng charging right into the wolves.

Peter also had an ugly expression. Although he was a sword cultivator like Feng, he could tell this was a reckless move.

But alas, they were already late, and Feng was already gone without waiting for anyone to stop him.

Brenna spoke at this moment with a hint of shock, "Look!"

They all suddenly looked in the direction Brenna pointed, and they couldn't believe what they saw.

Hundreds of sword shadows suddenly formed above Feng's head before he slashed his sword, creating a humming sound, and those sword shadows shot toward those wolves like heavy rain.

Almost all the wolves let loose ghastly cries and ten of them were dead on the spot!

"Powerful!" Carlee muttered with astonishment.

While Alora also had stars in her eyes, no one knew what she was thinking.

Gibson exclaimed, "It seems we are the ones who underestimated him. Don't forget, he is the number one talent in our province!"

Everyone nodded in a daze.

Peter's eyes were filled with battle intent as he thought of the scene of hundreds of swords, shadows forming above Feng like a sword crown.

"I'm also going!" with that, he also left the barrier and charge toward those wounded wolves; who went into a frenzy after Feng's attack.

"Peter!" Brenna cried in alarm and wanted to go after him.

However, Thomas appeared in front of her, stopping her, but he had a smile on his face right now, not terror.

"Get out of my way!" Brenna glared at Thomas.

Thomas's expression turned stony. "You'll only get in his way." He then shot a meaningful glance at Gibson.

Gibson quickly reacted and approached Brenna and said, "He's right princess, Peter also had sword intent like boss Feng, so he'll be fine. But if you left, he might lose focus on battle and get injured. We don't want that, right?"

Brenna bit her lip but didn't try to leave anymore. She knew they were right and could only pray for her lover's safety.

Thomas finally smiled, "Don't worry, those two sword-brain guys won't die that easy. Let's just clean up those little dogs first before supporting them."

Everyone nodded as they circulated their Qi as it locked onto those rearing wolves with killing intent.

In the meantime,

Ace has already spotted the enormous wolves a few meters away from the horde. He just used the first move of his Dual Sword Mirage to weaken the wolves to a great degree.

As for the consequences of showing his sword art, he wasn't worried anymore, since he could always tell he stumbled upon this move within a ruin close to his tribe.

No one could tell the nature of Qi in dual sword mirage, not as long as they didn't experience it themselves. To others, those dark swords are like sword shadows.

Besides, Ace was feeling uneasy about this situation, so he quickly reacted, or he didn't mind dragging this fight.

His eyes flashed at this moment. 'That idiot is hot-blooded.' Ace smiled wryly when he sensed Peter has also left the barrier and was fighting his way toward him.

At this moment, those big dire wolves had already sensed Ace approaching. The Ice Dire Wolf King let loose an angry roar before the other nine wolves charge straight at Ace.

However, their white fur suddenly glowed in silver light and the ground started to tremble.

Ace noticed the Qi ripples in the snow, and he quickly dodged, but it wasn't enough as ice spikes started to shoot out from the snowy ground at a fast pace, without stopping.

This wasn't the end, as those wolves opened their maws and silver Qi started to gather between them.

Ace's eyes contracted when he felt danger from those silver Qi balls in those wolves' mouths, but he was also busy dodging the ice spikes.

"You're asking for it!" his eyes suddenly turned misty at this moment.

Those nine wolves suddenly jerked and the silver Qi in their mouth also undulate before becoming unstable and detonating in their mouths!

Although Ace's soul bullet wasn't enough to kill those wolves, it was enough to hinder that skill and used it against them.

Those ice spikes also stopped forming after the blasts.

However, Ace could sense those wolves were alive and only injured. So, he quickly reacted as he moved toward them at full speed.

"Twin Demon Emergence, Twin Demon Roar!" Ace instantly used the sword-draw art's second move.

Winds whistled as two green arks like crescent moon formed by Ace's lighting-like draw and headed straight toward those nine wolves who were still in a stupor.

"Awooo...!"

However, Ace suddenly felt his scalp tingle with trepidation after hearing that infuriated cry. Thereupon, the snowy ground beneath those wolves trembled before a thick ice wall emerged and took them off the ground, and the two sword arks missed their targets and landed on the ice wall.

But Ace didn't have time to worry about those wolves because thousands of sharp snowflakes were raining down on him like small needles.

He finally understood why he had this bad feeling that the wolf king wasn't simple at all and a cunning fellow!

If he hasn't moved, the entire team might fell into a huge dilemma at that time, and then he might have had to use his actual skills to escape. Then his plans would go to the drain.

However, he also had to deal with this wolf king now while someone was still monitoring him. But without using his actual power, it would be quite the tidiest task.

Nevertheless, he was getting the EXP out of it, so it wasn't like he was doing it for nothing.

Ace again used his dual sword mirage to counter those snowflakes before using his silent steps to charge at the wolf king.

'It seemed I have to use that new move, but I have to create a distraction first...' Ace's eyes turn icy as the sword in his right hand disappeared.

He waved his sword in hand, creating a huge torrent of earth Qi before he focused that Qi toward the wolf king.

But how could that crude attack land on the wolf king?

He roared, and another ice wall appeared, blocking the earth Qi. However, because of that collusion, a vast cloud of snow filled the surrounding and Qi undulation, completing cutting off other's visions and making the Qi senses chaotic!

Right at this moment, Ace's right hand turned pitch black as lightning crackled around it.

'Dark Life Plexus; Lighting Sword Fingers!'

This was the first time Ace was using his second sword art he created to enter the sword as finger realm, the Dark Life Plexus Sword Art!

Thereupon, the wolf king suddenly felt death approaching as all the hair on his body stood. It wanted to escape, but before it could, five dark streaks filled with lightning and shadow sword intent appeared right before him with a zap!

Without any chance to evade, he had to block but alas, those five strikes were just too deadly and directly crushed on five main acupuncture points, destroying them and the wolf king died within an instant!