

Thief 461

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Chapter 461: Torture &...

Before everything went down in the eight provinces,

The next day after, Ace secretly contacted Freya.

Two ghost worms appeared with the soul realm aura, and they released everyone from their ice sculpture states, and they all slowly regain their consciousness.

Furthermore, those ghost worms also took their belongings, including Feng's, before they left.

The demons were the first to gain their senses. But the moment they did, their first reaction was apprehension as they try to break those cages, but failed miserably since they can't tap into their Qi reserves nor feel it and their physical strength wasn't enough either.

After things started to calm down, they finally spoke.

"Who else is here? Peter, are you ok?" This voice belonged to Brenna.

The prisons were at some distance from each other, so it was hard to know just how many were captured and who else was there.

"I'm fine. I'm more glad you're fine, though." Peter's relief voice sounded.

Everyone started to reply one after another and when they found out everyone got captured, they were shocked.

"Where's brother Feng?" Thomas noticed Feng hasn't spoken yet, and everyone noticed.

Feng's perplexed voice sounded. "Yes, I've been captured as well."

"Hahaha... why do I feel you are more ashamed than worried about this situation?" Thomas teased, but there was clear relief in his voice.

"Don't you?" Feng's vexed voice rang, "We were captured by some mindless worms, and we don't even know how we get here or where we are!"

Gibson's miffed voice rang. "It was all because of that damn water. If my Qi wasn't suppressed by that strange water... humph!"

Carlee snorted with disdain, "You won't be able to do anything either. There were probably soul realm worms within the enemy ranks. Don't you notice, Sir, White Fire isn't with us? Which could only mean he escaped or was entrapped by the enemy, so he didn't have time to save us."

At this time an aged voice rang, "Young Lady, is indeed right. Commander Fire was suppressed by that water as well, and he had no choice but to escape. It's also a good thing since help could be on its way as we speak."

"Who might you be?" questioned Shepard.

Peter answered instead, "He's an elder of Earthen Troll Clan, Yadiel, a diamond river core cultivator. He was probably following us with Sir White Fire and other Earthen Troll, but it seemed they also got captured."

Yadiel's apologetic voice sounded again, "I'm ashamed, your highness, we weren't able to protect you and let His Majesty down."

"Don't worry, old man, it's not your fault. But can you help us escape?" Thomas inquired.

Everyone knew the earthen troll race was quite agile on earth, and they can dig tunnels to escape, so this aroused everyone's hope.

Yadiel replied with bitterness, "No milord, this entire cell or probably the entire prison is made with special material to suppress our Qi, and I can't penetrate it with my hands, either. I'm afraid we are now hostages."

The prison fell into hopeless silence.

"Did anyone know how those mindless demons were controlled? I heard even salve marks can't make them obedient. Which means whoever is behind them won't just want some ransom, and our lives might be in danger." Alora's voice broke the silence.

"Our guess is as good as yours. But I won't be going out without a fight!" Gibson sneered, but there was a hint of nervousness in his voice.

They all knew the situation they were in wasn't optimal for anyone, and it was unknown why they were kept alive.

But they didn't have any way to know, so they didn't waste their energy and calmed down and wait for someone to approach them.

Ace thought, 'What does that fox want? I hope Freya would move fast or things might get out of hand.'

Days pass by and no one came to them as prison remained dark.

However, on this day, they heard the creaking sound of an old door being opened.

Everyone's eyes tightened with brightness when they saw the light.

"Bastard, who are you, and what did you guys want?!" this was another troll speaking who regain his sense a few hours after Yadiel.

However, they were shocked when they saw the visitors were ghost worms and 17 of them, the same numbers as them.

They knew they can't communicate with them, so they wondered why they were there.

Except for one person, Ace!

'So, the torture is about to begin!' Ace grimace.

Although he was confident in resisting whatever they threw at him, he wasn't sure about the others.

He also doesn't know why they were being tortured in the first place and what the end goal was in doing all this.

"Esteemed Guests, I know it's hard to live in those small cells, but you have to bear with it. In the meantime, we are here to entertain you. I hope you all enjoy our hospitality." This imposing voice came as a surprise since they didn't know who was talking, and they thought it was a ghost worm.

But Ace recognized the voice. 'Gage!'

It was indeed the fox patriarch, but he didn't show himself and remained outside so no one could see him.

"Motherfucker, show yourself!" Thomas condemned, but no one replied.

"Do you know who I am? As long as you let us go, I'll promise we won't pursue this matter and my father might reward you with riches you could never imagine!" Peter declared with hope.

Although he didn't like using his status to get what he wanted, in this situation, it can't help, though.

However, no one seemed to hear them.

They all started to back down when they saw those ghost worms starting to appear in front of their cages one by one.

"Start." Gage's harsh voice rang again.

The very next moment thereafter, those ghost worms opened their round mouths filled with razor-sharp teeth and suddenly a white sharp limb shot out from their mouth like a whip.

The edge of this slimy limb was like a long thick needle and before anyone could react, those needles directly penetrate their hearts!

But what happened next made everyone shrill with madness, from those white limbs they felt a strange liquid start to pump into their veins like liquid nitrogen, and they felt icy chillness starting to creep on every part of their bodies.

Even their meridians were penetrated!

This can be considered the cruelest torture in the cultivation world, to inflict pain on someone's meridians. It was like cutting their limbs piece by piece, or even worse!

If those ghost worms didn't control their strengths and burst their meridian channels, they will lose their ability to cultivate or worse, die!

But Winter didn't want that.

However, Ace, on the hand, was completely fine. On the contrary, he felt quite cozy as that chillness raging through his meridians.

'Could it be because of meridians of darkness I'm immune to this kind of thing, or they are just not strong enough to hurt me?' He reckoned while keep pretending in extreme pain.

Ace never heard of someone having special meridians, so it's only natural he has no clue about any of this. Nonetheless, as long as he was fine, it didn't matter.

However, it can't be said for others, since they were experiencing torture worse than death while having no way of stopping it. Those whip-like limbs were like stone pillars, they just refused to budge no matter how much strength they used to take them out of their body.

But the question remained, why Winter was doing it?

On the mountain top,

The crystal white altar under Winter flashed as her eyes were closed.

She suddenly opened her eyes as the altar stop shimmering and there was a hint of satisfaction in her eyes. "They will be ready in two months!"

Suddenly, the altar beneath her trembled slightly, and her lips curled upward. 'Hmph, you just won't give up, do you? But I don't have to endure it for long. The moment I merge with this altar, I'll be able to use that secret technique I found with that ancient inheritance and get reborn completely. As much as I wanted to release you on demons, I can't since you are a perfect match for my soul...'

She suddenly waved her sleeve, and the next moment, a translucent projection materialized.

It was completely gray, and if Ace were here, he would instantly recognize this image. It was the frozen gray lake.

However, this wasn't the surface of the gray lake but the bottom, and the scene could send chills to anyone's spine if they saw it.

In the projection, they were tens of thousands of Demon Skeletons standing like listless puppets, some of these demons had decayed skin while some parts were completely peeled off, showing their bones. They were not as old as those complete skeletons.

Winter's eyes turned extremely sinister as she looked at the projection, 'This is all going to end very soon...!'

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Chapter 462: Arrival of Demon Kings!

The torture last for six exact hours before Gage has them stopped, and they left.

But everyone in the prison was laying on their back with listless and hideous expressions on their faces.

No one could talk or move.

"I-I... I hope... you all won't die... on me... soon. It would be lonely... y-you know." Feng's weak yet resolute voice rang.

"H-hate... full!" Thomas's weak yet hoarse voice sounded. At least he was still fine.

"Heh... T-this was no-nothing!" Peter followed suit.

No one wanted to look weak at this time as they started to recover their will.

Ace smiled. He knew whatever Winter after it had to be something related to weakening their mind, and it wasn't just about soul brand anymore. Because he was already branded with one, but she was torturing him as well.

He mused she only soul brand him for information, and now she had no use for him, but this also put him even more dangerous situation.

But he still waited for Freya.

Three days later.

The communication cube in his thief's space shimmered for a moment before it went dormant again.

His lips curled upward in a stiff smile. 'So, the plan is in motion.'

Because of his circumstances, he told her to use this single since he won't be able to pick it up because everyone was around, and he was pretty sure everyone would be able to hear her voice if he activated the cube.

So, this small signal was enough assurance for him.

Three more days pass and only one day was left before the torture would begin again, but no one had any idea about it.

They were still recovering from injuries in their meridians, and it wasn't a pleasant experience either. Injuries of meridians could be as bad as soul injuries, if not worse!

On top of the mountain,

Winter eyes suddenly snapped open and a glint of astonishment flashed past her eyes.

She suddenly waved her sleeve, and a projection appeared, but this time there weren't any skeletons in it, but the living.

She saw two tall demons attacking the hidden door that lead to the gray lake!

Her heart further sank when she was that the hidden door was almost on its last legs.

Right at this moment, the demon holding a thin blade which was two-meter-long, slashed it as a milky white blade arc appeared and directly cut that door into two pieces!

"A complete Blade Intent!" She couldn't help but exclaim, and this wasn't the end of her surprise.

The second demon scoffed when he saw the frozen wall, and he waved his long sleeve before a huge crimson fire bird materialized and with a strange cry rushed toward the frozen wall.

A pathway started to appear in the frozen wall while the firebird continued to move toward the hidden space!

"They are Demon Kings!" She knew only a Demon King-level existence can pass through all those defensive so easily!

'But how did they get here so quickly, and they weren't shocked when they saw the frozen wall as well? It's like they already knew what to expect!

'Furthermore, there's supposed to be only one demon king who might come here, but two appeared instead. Did he bring him to help? But how I don't sense their presence beforehand? They might be using a grade-6 concealment treasure, at least...'

She thought of all kinds of possibilities, but none one of them lead to the strangeness of this situation.

Winter suddenly felt an urgent sense of danger because of her cautious nature.

No matter how she looked at it, this wasn't supposed to happen!

She looked as those two demons make their way toward the surface at an extremely fast pace, and she knew no one can stop them even if she released the frozen lake it was useless against them because of its depletion, and it would also risk the hidden secret at the bottom.

So, she let them come. Two demon kings were still manageable for her with her current state.

But today was going to be the worst day of her life.

Right, when Crimson Flame and Blade Demon King landed on the solid ground, Crimson Flame suddenly put one hand on his long sleeve and a small black snake appeared, which was only one meter in size.

But Winter's expression changed drastically when she was the black snake, which scales were like black gems!

"T-this couldn't be the... Jade Space Serpent!? No, it can't..."

But before she could assure herself, the small snake suddenly landed on the ground and started to increase in size at a fast pace until it was fifty meters in size.

However, it was just the start of Winter's nightmare because that serpent suddenly opened its huge maw, and startlingly, there was a dark mist in its mouth.

Thereafter, a tall demon with a masculine build stepped out of that dark mist.

His skin was gray, and a sharp pair of golden eyes, with an extremely handsome face. He had two golden short horns and gray long hair.

This person smiled coldly as he looked at the hidden space with great interest and couldn't help but praise it. "It seemed we might've struck gold this time."

Blade Demon King chuckled with coldness in his eyes, "Brother Exalted, I have to admit your pet is superb for this kind of operation."

This person was the eighth demon king from Beast Tamer Tribe, and he was the only demon king with a unique title because he was the strongest of them all, Exalted Demon King!

Exalted Demon King chuckled, "Little Fang is indeed incredible, but it can't move around with its belly full, so I have to thank you two to carry it. I just hope other gentlemen won't mind the cramped space."

Just as his voice trailed off, other demon kings and high elders started to appear one by one.

White Sword was the first to appear as he chuckled. "It was indeed a unique experience to stay in the belly of a beast. How about you gift me one of its eggs in the future? I promise I won't rip you off."

Exalted Demon King smiled bitterly, "I wish senior, but this Jade Space Serpent is just too rare. I was lucky to find it in his childhood when I was traveling in the endless sea. I'm afraid finding a partner for it would be even more difficult. It might be the only one in this world."

White Sword didn't push the matter and smiled. "Forget it then. This old man is too old for any pet, anyway."

Everyone appeared from the serpent's mouth, but there were four fresh additions, excluding the Exalted Demon King.

Three were masked demons, one being Killer since his eyes were revealed, while the two others were completely covered without any hint of revelation.

As for the last person, he was giving off a feeling of dark night as his black wither face was completely peaceful without any worldly desire. But his empty eye sockets and two-meter dark antelope horns were giving off a ghastly feeling as if he was a demon crawled out straight from hell!

Despite his aged figure, he was extremely sturdy and stand tall like an unshakable mountain!

Those three masked men were standing behind this old demon without speaking any word. Despite their status, they didn't dare to offend this old demon.

Even White Sword didn't dare to act haughtily in front of this demon.

Everyone knows that this person signified a very high meaning behind its presence, and it means that the Demon Emperor was furious about the news of a royal beast scheming under their nose.

Even if there was a chance, the Demon Emperor clearly showed where he stands if this matter appeared to be true!

Suddenly the empty eye old demon looked at the horizon which the mountain was and said without any hint of emotion in his voice, "Still not want to come out?"

Everyone looked in the same direction with cold intent in their eyes.

An eerily husky voice rang, "Demons, I don't want to fight today and I don't have any malicious intention. How about I share a fortune with you and released your youths to show my goodwill, and we brush this matter off?"

White Fire eyes suddenly emit killing intent, "Beast Aura! There's really ancient beast hidden here!"

Everyone seemed to sense this unique aura that can be released by ancient beasts, just like demons have a demonic aura whenever they used their Qi.

Exalted Demon King sneered, "Do you think you can come and go as you please in our territory? Heh, just obediently surrender, and we won't kill you."

On the mountain peak,

Winter's expressions were a sight to behold at this moment because this was just too sudden, and she knew that even if she succeeded, she won't be able to handle these many demon kings at once.

Furthermore, she felt dread from that empty-eyed, black old demon. She was entrapped on this altar like a sitting duck right now!

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Chapter 463: Corpse Demon Tribe

Winter was filled with unwillingness when she thought about how her hundreds of years of sacrifice were about to turn into the wind.

'Just how did they know I was here despite my caution, and why did they be so many demon kings at once?' She just couldn't figure it out, no matter how much she racked her brain.

In the end, she knew it was over for her and she had to show her full hand just to get out of here alive now, and she still didn't know about the situation outside.

There was a massive possibility that they had set up some kind of trap for her outside or they were just too confident in subduing her.

But she knew the demon race wasn't just an overconfident bunch. They were extremely ruthless to their enemies and they won't leave any possibilities for an escape.

She looked at the mountain and then the blue barrier in the sky with a regretful and reminiscing expression. 'Although, this is not how it is supposed to end, but I already got so much from this place. I shouldn't have risked cultivating this secret technique and left while still having the chance...'

However, an infuriating expression abruptly appeared on her beautiful face, 'But then I won't have a chance to strike the demon race like this...'

The very next moment, she started to form strange hand signs and the altar under her suddenly shimmered in a ghostly light.

The mountain sudden quiver started the foxes and before long, the entire space inside the barrier quivered, startling the demons.

"That animal is up to something!" Lora's expression changed slightly as she looked at the gray lake, which was melting, forming a scary momentum filled with that strange Qi in the lake.

Everyone closed to the lake noticed it.

The empty eyes black skin demon, however, raised his head toward the blue barrier, and the three masked wearing demons couldn't help but also look toward the barrier.

Killer's eyes narrowed when he noticed the blue barrier was starting to fade away!

"Is it opening the barrier and trying to escape?!" He exclaimed, which draw high elders' attention.

At this time the empty eyes' demon spoke nonchalantly, "The Qi from that barrier is gathering into that lake's bottom, and then... hmm, it suddenly vanished and so does the Qi already in the lake. As if... something is absorbing it."

White Fire couldn't help but asked, "Council Minster, what is at the bottom?"

Council Minster replied impassively, "I can't tell."

"Even you?!" A melodious voice rang. It was from one of the mask demons. But no one could tell it was a female because of special concealment.

Everyone knows just how terrifying this Council Minster was and it made them uneasy when they heard even he can't tell what was at the bottom.

Council Minster didn't even frown as if he was exempt from any emotions, "I'm afraid that the case. But I can assure you it's not a threat to me."

Every felt relief hearing this and at this moment, the light suddenly faded away as darkness broke into the space which remain lit all the time.

They all looked up and saw the barrier was completely gone, revealing the starry sky and the snowing winds of the White Hills Plains.

Winter looked at the starry sky with a look of expectancy. It was just too long since she saw the real sky and breathe the air of this world.

But that expression only for so long, as her eyes turned decisive when she sensed eight demons approaching the colony while others stay on the lakeside, including that empty eyes black demon.

"I have to escape the chase of those soul manifestation demons, and that army won't be enough to occupy them for long. The only way is to release it..."

Her eyes turned ruthless as she looked at the altar beneath her and she suddenly move her both hands together and again started to form strange hand signs.

Suddenly, she mumbled a strange string of words, and small black rune symbols started to surface on the altar and her body, and slowly those rune symbols started to crawl off from her skin like ants and submerged into the altar.

After the last symbol left her body, she sighed, filled with bitterness and resentment, "In the end, I was still one step away from having a perfect body and the strongest talent in ice element.... It was all because of these hateful demons!"

With a stony expression, she slowly stood up from the altar.

It now shimmered in gray light as it trembled as if something wanted to break out.

The next moment, a fox symbol appeared between her eyebrows as she mumbled, "My children, the demons have invaded our lands and wanted to kill us. We can't just stay idle and let them slaughter us. I need a few moments to prepare the killing formation. Buy me the time!"

Suddenly, furious fox cries rang on the entire mountain, as the holes in the ground outside also started to get restless.

"So, there was an army hidden here, well, more beasts with royal bloodline for us then." The Exalted Demon King, who was riding on top of Jade Space Serpent, smiled with ecstasy as he looked toward the mountain.

Blade Demon King sneered, "I don't want those animals. I just wanted to find my son!"

"Just don't go lunatic blade on us, all right?" Blood Demon King smirked.

Blade Demon King merely scoffed before the two-meter blade in his hand suddenly gave off a fearful aura and, without any hesitation, he swings it toward the huge ice wall direction!

A beautiful ten-meter, white arc formed mixed with silver and white and directly landed on the ice wall, causing a tremendous impact.

The ice wall was like paper and cut apart into pieces.

"I think we had some company." Earth Demon King looked meaningfully at those holes.

"Just some bugs." Ghost Demon King sneered before he waved his sleeve and hundreds of needles appeared above his head. They were coated in translucent gray Qi, giving off an extremely frosty vibe.

"Ghost Needle Storm!"

The very next moment, all those needles shot toward the holes, leaving behind after images.

While Eight Demon Kings were busy dealing with the ghost worms, at the lakeside,

The gray lake was now turning into plain water because the Qi was strangely getting sucked right at the bottom.

The Council Minister suddenly spoke with a hint of astonishment, "There are thousands of corpses at the bottom. As for how much, even I can't count them. But all the Qi has absorbed by them!"

Dark Hole's expression changed slightly. "Corpses? What does it mean?"

At this moment, the female voice rang again with a hint of worry and shock. "I once read an ancient legend. There was once an extremely sinister demon tribe known for their talent in reviving the dead.

"But the truth was they can't actually revive the dead, but they made them into something called corpse puppets to do their bidding. Not only, the corpse puppet will have 60% cultivation of the dead person, but they also possessed the ability to become stronger as they consume and kill the living.

"But I only thought it was a legend?"

Council Minister nodded in approval and spoke, "You are truly knowledgeable, My Lady, truly worthy of being the Wise Demon Lady title."

The second masked demon clenched his fist when he heard the praise, but no one noticed it except Killer since Council Minister was still speaking.

"There was indeed such a tribe in ancient times when war was raging all over the world. This wasn't just a legend. This tribe was known as the Corpse Demon Tribe, a connate Demon Ancestor Tribe!

"However, In the end, they vanished mysteriously after the era of war ended, or if they were still around, I don't think Devil Race would be the number one race right now!"

The five high elders were also astonished since they had never known such a history of the demon race and such a scary tribe even exist at that time!

But it wasn't the time to reminisce about the glory of this forgotten tribe.

White Fire's expressions were filled with worry. "We also got the report that this was a ruin. T-then could it this be that..."

"Indeed, who would've thought there was the inheritance of Corpse Demon Tribe in eight demon provinces? I'm afraid we can't let that beast who had the inheritance escape, no matter what.

"Just the method to create the corpse puppets is priceless in this world, and if it fell into another race's hand, there will be dire consequences."

Council Minster's voice was icy at this moment. "I'm leaving these corpses to you all. I think that beast is buying time for its escape. The Demon King won't be enough!"

The high elders solemnly nodded. They understood the gravity of the situation they were in.

The antelope horn on Council Minster suddenly shimmered before he turned into a streak of dark light and bolted toward the peak of fox mountain!

He was literally flying!

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Chapter 464: Confrontation

Inside the cave prison,

Ace and the others naturally felt the tremor, the others were all shocked and fearful because they had no idea what was going on.

But Ace had, 'It seemed they took action far sooner than I expected. Now, I have to make my next move.'

Right at this moment, everyone in the cave prison heard a menacing voice in an unknown language.

"My children, the demons have invaded our lands and wanted to kill us. We can't just stay idle and let them slaughter us. I need a few moments to prepare for the killing formation. Buy me the time!"

Ace felt the fake soul core suddenly become restless, and the fox symbol appeared, shining in a ghostly light.

But he merely scoffed it off since it had no effect on him and he could tell by Winter's hasten voice that she was in a hurry, so she won't have time to look at every soul brand.

Ace suddenly placed his hand on the cage lock and the eraser essential was released, but he didn't open his own door and continued to release the eraser essential as it moved toward the other cells like liquid snakes.

The others didn't notice it since they were still comprehending what was happening and even if they did, they won't be able to tell what it was without their cultivation.

The tremors lasted for five minutes before the cave prison settled down.

Suddenly, Shepard notice the newly emerged gap in the door and he couldn't help but move toward it and try to push the door and it was opened without any resistance!

He clamored, "It opened, the door is opened!"

Everyone's attention was drawn by Shepard's voice and they also tried to push open the door and just like Shepard they were opened without any resistance!

Well, except for one person!

"Hey, mine is still locked!" Thomas yelled in a hurry.

Peter and others noticed Thomas wasn't out and his door was still locked.

"Well, it seemed I'm stuck with you." Feng's perplexed voice also rang.

"Why didn't all the doors open?" Perplexed, Gibson tried to use force, but his Qi was still restricted inside the prison so he was helpless.

The others also become somewhat hesitant now. Because they knew if they wait the enemy might appear and it would take their only chance to escape, but they were hesitating in leaving Feng and Thomas behind since they weren't dispensable.

Yadiel appeared with other earth trolls and said in a grim voice, "I think the others are here to help us and they might be searching for this place. We should leave and then bring back help."

Peter nodded, "You guys go. I'll wait outside. I can protect them until the help arrives."

Yadiel retorted before Brenna could, "Your Highness, don't forget we are here. Leave the protection of the two young masters to me. In the meantime, you all will leave with the others under the ground. This way, it'll be more convenient.

"I can also try to approach them from underground. The restriction might not work from the underground. But you all have to leave while you still have the chance."

Feng's voice sounded in agreement, "He's right, you guys will only slow him down. Don't worry, I won't die here."

Thomas chuckled, "Same, you should all go. If I don't return, just do me a favor and tell my sweet wife I loved her more than anything in this world."

Peter's expression fell. "Tell her yourself. I'll find help as soon as I could. Count on it!"

The other also assured.

Alora appeared in front of Feng prison at this moment and whispered, "I-I... hang in there. I'll find help for you." Then she spun around to the left with a slightly flushed face.

Ace smiled wryly, 'I still didn't know where your golden fate point led to. But it seemed I won't be able to monitor you any further. A pity I won't be able to steal that from you... sigh.'

Ace felt great regret when thought about how he changed Alora's fate and made her a golden fate point. He thought it might be triggered here, but she was still a golden fate point, which means her opportunity might not be here.

He could also understand this logic since a golden fate point wasn't something a silver fate point could match.

But he still felt pity that he might not be able to steal that from her after this event.

The prison door was also opened by Ace, so they didn't get stuck there as well.

The earth troll also didn't waste any time. The moment they felt their Qi returning, they instantly dug tunnels. They don't care what was happening outside.

Peter and others follow suit and only Yadiel remained as he said he was digging the tunnel toward the prison cells to see if he could free Thomas and Feng.

Thomas felt the silence return and sighed as he sat down close to the bars. "Brother Feng, we might not make it this time. Do you have any last wishes? You can tell me it's better than dying with regrets."

However, he suddenly heard the door opening sound, and he thought someone was there to get rid of them. But he was astonished when he saw the person walking from the other side and it was none other than Feng!

"Fuck, your door also got opened, is it malfunctioning? Why is my luck so bad?!" He clamored.

Ace smiled with a hint of sadness, he said, "Tell me, Thomas, what will you do if you find out I wasn't the person you know and talk with all this time?"

Thomas felt Feng was pulling his leg, so he plainly replied, "It depends on how deep our understanding is with each other. Besides, it doesn't matter to me just how many faces you have, as long as you consider me a friend, it doesn't matter. What, do you want to get chummy with me before leaving? Don't bother, I don't want to die with that last horrible memory!"

Ace could feel Thomas's agitation, but he didn't show it on his face. He was afraid that if he asked Feng to stay, he won't, and leave him. So, he said nothing, he just didn't want to remember when his friend abandoned him.

They both knew life was more important than anything in this cruel world, only seldom one could see true companionship.

Thomas just doesn't want to test it, afraid he might not take it and if he were saved in the end, they both would never be the same.

However, Ace's next words shocked him. "Heh, it was indeed worth keeping you here before I take my leave."

"What do you mean?" Thomas suddenly frowned as he looked at Feng's smiling face. He suddenly felt there was something he was missing.

Ace merely smiled, and then he tossed something toward Thomas.

Thomas confusingly catch the small object and when he saw it, the pentagon shape and the owl symbol were engraved on it.

His eyes went wide with disbelief, he knew what this symbol represented, he looked at Feng with horror, "Y-y-YOU... no! It's impossible, you were with us when the last time the sky stealer appeared. Why the meaning of this?!"

This was the fact, everyone knew the ocean demon participants were halfway toward the blade domain when the sky stealer struck. So, they were never under any suspicion.

Thomas even knows Feng had signed the loyalty contract of the royal council, so it was more absurd for him to be the infamous thief!

Feng chuckled, "I have my own goals on becoming Feng, the real Feng who you have information on, died a long ago. I just took his face and you never meet the real person, so you were always dealing with me. I don't have time to explain more.

"But since you treated me well, I didn't want to leave without saying anything or giving you hollow grief."

Thomas took a deep breath before he somewhat calmed down, but his heart was still racing as his mind was in utter chaos.

He just couldn't believe all this because it was just too damn absurd. Ace not only fooled everyone but even the demon king as well!

The thief everyone was searching for was right between them all along.

He didn't know if he could ever trust anyone after this.

But he could tell Ace revealed his identity because he didn't want to give him grief, which would only slow him down. This at least means Ace considered him as a friend.

He said with uncertainty, "Are you leaving? Meaning, Feng is going to vanish?"

Ace nodded. "That was the plan from the start. This was supposed to be Feng's last mission before he would vanish into the ruins, but we were caught, as you can see.

"But I have taken care of it as well. But the primary goal remained the same: Feng has to vanish without anyone knowing. So, they can't trace it back to me or you guys won't be able to live peacefully if they felt threatened by my abilities!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 465: Farewell & Danger

Thomas fell into deep silence because he knew what Ace was telling was the fact.

The moment everyone knows Feng was the Sky Stealer, they might come after his close ones and they won't hesitate to use soul search as well. He didn't want to get involved with this, and his identity won't be able to save him either.

He looked at Ace and coldly said, "So, you want me to tell everyone how you died here? In the end, I'm just a tool for you, like everything else!"

Ace could feel the deep fury in Thomas's words and he could only sigh helplessly, "You can tell others whatever you want. But you were never a tool for me after we become friends. I just thought you deserved to know. I won't blame you, even if you told everyone about it. But I know you won't because it will only cause trouble."

"If you have gone without saying all of this, I would've really grieved, but I think it was far better than knowing all this shit. I don't know if I would be able to trust anyone after today." Thomas menacingly uttered.

Ace didn't defend himself. "Well, it wasn't as bad as you make it. I'm a thief and won't hesitate to steal whatever I want, but I won't harm my close ones if they don't try it first. Tell me, if I gave you the chance to become something far greater than you could ever be, will you join me?" He closely noticed Thomas's reaction.

Thomas glanced at him and smile disdainfully, "Become a thief? No, thanks, I just want to live my life with my Milly happily. Greatest meant nothing to me."

Ace smiled, he wasn't dejected or angry after being rejected. He knew if he gave others the choice, they won't see the genuine opportunity unless they truly join the thief house, like Noa and Freya.

But Ace gave Thomas the choice because he knew Thomas had a life, a family which he might not abandon, especially Milly!

Ace knew he was doing all this so he could live a peaceful life with Milly, and if he joined the Thief House, he might not be able to move forward without her.

He didn't have more tokens right now, so he didn't want to earn Thomas hatred if he tricked him like the others. The circumstances were completely different right in the comparison with the first two times.

Thomas wasn't like Noa or Freya, who didn't have anyone they loved or wanted to go back to.

He nodded and chuckled, "Fine, but don't regret it later."

"Don't worry, a thief is the last thing I want to be." Thomas scoffed, as he was getting calm now that he finally accepted the truth. But he was still not ready to accept Ace's existence completely.

Ace again tossed something toward Thomas.

Thomas looked at it and it was a storage ring and looked at the Ace with a questionable look.

Ace said, "I only have one request, give these things to Feng's maids and help them find a safe place. Although I already have taken care of it, if they were still there, give it to them and tell them I'm grateful for everything they have done and I'm sorry about not being able to take them in."

Thomas's eyes narrowed. "They knew?"

"What jealous?" Ace grinned, "Well, they were supposed to die at Feng's hand since they were planning to kill him and he knows about that scheme. They are pitiful. I can only do this much."

Thomas sneered, "Aren't you afraid I'll take it and won't give it to them?"

"You can if you want to. But can you?" Ace questioned with a knowing smile.

Ace's expression suddenly changed, "It seemed that old earth troll penetrated from the underground. It's time to bid farewell. As for what to tell them, just said Foxes take me, they'll understand.

"And one last thing, if you ever need my help, just think of me with your heart and I'll come as long as I could." Ace meaningfully gave Thomas the idea.

Thomas sighed this time, "Just go. I hope we won't meet again, ever."

"I hope so." Ace chuckled before he vanished from Thomas's sight!

Thomas stared at the void for a while before a smile appeared on his face. 'A Thief, huh? That bastard didn't even show his real face, much less tell me his name. Well, I hope you won't die.'

Thomas was jolted by the sudden tremor in his cell, and after that, a hole appeared and Yadiel's head pop up.

Thomas quickly stood up and said in a panic, "Quickly, we have to bring help. Someone from the other side appeared and took Brother Feng. They were foxes!"

Yadiel didn't have a chance to breathe when he heard Thomas's panic cry and his expression changed, he also sensed Feng wasn't in prison anymore.

"Let's go. It seemed they had other doors. We have to leave quickly." Yadiel quickly dived back and Thomas followed.

He took a last glance at where Ace vanished and sighed. 'I hope we meet again, in different circumstances.'

With that, they both vanished into the tunnel.

Thereafter, Ace's figure appeared again on the same spot. He smiled and thought, 'That guy has a talent for acting. It's a pity he won't be joining me. But who knows what happened in the future...'

With that, he directly headed toward the entrance and left the prison.

The first thing that came into his sight was the starry sky. 'So, she dispelled the barrier, it's easier to get away now.'

Ace ran toward the west direction since that place was with the lowest number of life forms.

But his eyes suddenly contracted as he looked upward and saw a dark streak heading toward the peak, and his heart jumped when he sensed the soul signature from that streak, which means it was a living being!

'Just who can that be flying at such a terrifying speed? I can't even fathom the aura.' Ace sweated as he remained static. He didn't want to get noticed by whoever it was and wait for it to fly past.

That streak directly headed toward the peak, and when Ace saw the coast was clear, he used his full speed to descend the mountain. He felt dread from the dark streak and, by the looks of it; he knew it was going for Winter.

'Just who did demons bring?' Ace was curious, but not enough to wait and see.

Although he was the one who suggested spreading the information among the upper echelon of eight provinces, it seemed he had underestimated the allure of a Demon Emperor-level inheritance.

Nevertheless, he had got himself free before Winter could succeed in whatever she was planning to do with them or with the orb altar.

But he soon found out that the severity of the situation was far worse than he had imagined when he was close to the mountain entrance.

Ace's steps came to an abrupt halt when he saw thousands of foxes and tens of thousands of ghost worms lunging toward eight figures like an ant army without carrying about their lives.

Even the fox children were in that suicide army and he could see the flashing soul brands on their foreheads.

His expression turned frosty. 'She's quite ruthless to use the soul brand to send all of them to their deaths, even her kin, just to buy time.'

Ace felt highly disgusted.

But he was more shocked by those eight demons waving their sleeves and killing that army like they were shaving snow with hot blades.

His attention was especially drawn by the demon who was sitting on top of the giant black serpent's head and swinging his fingers in a unique rhythm, and those fox beasts around him turned into blood mist.

He also saw the blade demon king killing hundreds with a single swing of his sword, while a strange white disk was floating on top of his horns.

But everything changed when an extremely terrifying pressure descend on the entire mountain and quickly covered the entire field!

Ace's heart palpitated as he thought heavenly punishment has descended and instinctively looked upward.

But the sky was clear, and no thunderclouds were visible.

However, his confusion didn't last for long when he heard a deafening cry, which nearly made him deaf from the peak of the mountain.

"Kiyyyyyyoooooooo...!"

But this ghastly cry was merely the start because thereafter, no one believed what they saw, from the gray lake direction, a huge tsunami rose, which was seen by everyone.

However, what made everyone shocked was tens of thousands of corpses riding within that tsunami and they were all giving off soul piercing feeling!

As if this wasn't shocking enough, the ghost worms suddenly let loose a collective shrill cry before they suddenly exploded like watermelons and turned into gray water.

Before they begin to merge into one entity!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 466: Law Awareness Realm!

On the mountain peak,

When the Council Minister landed on the mountain peak, Winter was nowhere to be found and only the crystal altar was left, which was quivering and cracking continually.

Council Minister's brows knit slightly as he felt the dreadful aura rising from that altar or the thing that was trying to break free!

Although he didn't know what was trapped behind that altar, he didn't want to find out, even someone like him felt slightly dreadful from whatever was trying to break free.

He waved his sleeve, and dark Qi gushed out and covered the entire altar and pond.

But to his surprise, his Qi sucked into that altar the moment it touched it and it triggered some kind of reaction, and the altar instantly shattered.

'Boom...!'

The very next moment, two gray ghost claws appeared and everything around them started to freeze in gray!

An extremely terrifying pressure started to spread on the entire mountain, which made even the Council Minister take a small step back.

Following by ghostly claws, a face crawled out which could send chills to anyone's heart, it was an uneven face with white eyeballs all over its face and tentacles crawling from its vertical mouth and its torso was humanoid as the bottom was like a snake.

Its entire gray body was covered in dark runs.

It suddenly let loose a deafening cry which rang in the entire space,

Council Minister's expression was now completely changed. He looked extremely solemn as he looked at that monstrosity.

"A Quasi-Martial Law Awareness Realm Corpse Puppet?!"

Martial Law Awareness Realm, and Soul Law Awareness Realm, or Law Awareness Realm, was the name of the Seventh Realm of Cultivation!

Although the Council Minister himself was a Martial-Quasi Law Awareness Realm cultivator, he never thought there would be an existence of this level still trapped in the outer continent.

Furthermore, he could feel this thing was in complete control of this place and another scary aura was rising from the bottom of the mountain after its strange cry.

He grimaced, 'Just how strong was the Corpse Demon Tribe to kill this thing and then make it a corpse puppet? According to the legends, any refined corpse will only regain its 60% cultivation, which means this thing died as a Martial Law Awareness Realm!'

Council Minister suddenly thought of something, 'But how did it regain control of itself? Didn't the corpse supposed to be mindless, or did someone free it from its restrictions? Wait... that beast where it is?!'

Council Minister finally understood just how did this thing regain its senses and he was extremely furious about the beast who released it despite knowing just how much damage it would cause.

Furthermore, this corpse and all the other things in here belonged to the demon race, but that beast not only took everything, it even released those corpse puppets on the continent just so it could escape!

Council Minister didn't dare to imagine if he hadn't come here, what would've happened if this thing ran amok in the eight provinces. The damage would be unimaginable.

Even those eight demon kings and council elders together won't be able to contain it because the disparity between them was just too big and only a Quasi Law Awareness realm could match a Quasi Law Awareness Realm in a fight!

Nevertheless, the fight with that thing won't be a pretty one even for him because that thing won't feel pain or didn't have any fear. That was why the corpse puppet was fearsome!

"Even if it's meant my death, you have to die here!"

Council Minister also released his imposing aura, which clashed with that corpse puppet head-on!

A fight between Quasi Law Awareness Realm was about to break out!

The others had no idea about what had just transpired on the top of the mountain, but those demon kings could guess from that dreadful aura.

But they had no time to think about it because those ghost worms were merging into a collective entity that was slowly approaching the manifest realm!

Furthermore, there were still madly charging foxes, not to forget about those corpses on the other side.

"Call the reinforcement. We can't waste time on these cannon folds. We have to deal with that abomination or we might really face calamity this time!" Earth Demon King said solemnly as he looked at the growing gray water entity.

"Fuck, we are really in trouble this time. This second aura is probably coming from the Council Minister and they are equally matched!" Blood Demon King frowned.

Blade Demon King's eyes were filled with worry about Peter. He knew things were going out of hand and he had to hurry. He took out a communication cube and activated it. "Commanders take charge!"

On the other hand, Ace was moving in a complexly opposite direction with a grave expression on his face when he felt another deadly aura at that peak.

When he thought about how that strange cry made those ghost worms react, he couldn't help but think about the Orb Guardian.

'Could it be that Winter was suppressing that orb guardian all this time and if this is true, then according to its instinct it would directly head toward the elemental orb since they could sense their general location! Only a space by the system can completely cut off their connection.'

Ace couldn't help but felt pity for whoever had the ice orb right now if this was really the orb guardian and from that aura, he knew this wasn't something just anyone could handle!

Nevertheless, this had nothing to do with him right now, since he knew it would seek death if he tried to fight that guardian for the elemental orb. Both times, he had to rely on heavenly punishment to get rid of the guardians.

He wasn't sure if this one can be dealt with by the heavenly punishment at all.

But he had to admit demons were really worthy of being the second-strongest race in this world because that second aura was directly clashing with the first one and was equally matched.

However, this also made him agitate to leave this place since he was still in the vicinity of the fox mountain and the entire place was trembling under the undulation caused by the clash on the top.

'Boom...'

Suddenly, an enormous blast rang from the mountain peak, which caused a huge tremor in Qi in a one-mile radius.

The sky started to change and Ace saw that half of the sky has turned completely dark while the other half was turned into a gray ice storm. He was on the side of the dark and he felt this Qi wasn't harmful at all, but it was giving him a strange sense of closeness.

He felt like he was grasping something, but he didn't stop because it was just dangerous to stay for this moment, gain. His life was far more important.

But he still felt there was something about this dark that made his heart race, and if he could stay and mull over it, he knew he might get something amazing. A pity he can't, though.

After he reached the ground, he took the advantage of everyone being distracted and headed toward the rare side, which was completely opposite of the gray lake.

He could still hear booming sounds from the sky, but he completely focused on escaping.

However, when he was over ten miles away from fox mountain and crossing that palm tree forest, he heard a tremendous commotion from ahead.

'Demon reinforcement?' He thought and quickly climb on the palm tree and remain static.

Soon, he saw galloping demonic beasts and demon riders madly heading toward the fox mountain as they raise huge snowy clouds in their way.

'They are only going to their death.' Ace knew what was happening there, and he knew whoever go there would be in immense danger.

But he still admired the unity of the demon race in the face of a common enemy and they react really quick as well even though they were after the inheritance. Nonetheless, they were still efficient!

He clearly understands if they had to stay in that prison for three or four weeks more, the others might lose their minds with torture and he had to use one of his trump cards to escape as well.

Ace let that demon cavalry pass and then again started fleeing.

This time he didn't encounter anyone and when he saw the familiar snow fields in the distance, he couldn't help but smile with relief.

'I'm finally out of this damn place.'

Well, that was what he thought when he was suddenly intercepted by a colossal figure which abruptly appeared ten meters away from him and made his heart palpitate.

It was a ten-meter-tall pink fox with a silver sheen on its fur and three tails. A melodious yet icy voice sounded with a hint of curiosity. "How do you manage to ignore my soul brand?"

Ace was flattered when he heard this voice and his blood run cold. 'Winter!'

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 467: Conning Winter!

"How do you manage to ignore my soul brand?"

Ace's blood ran cold as he came out of his stealth and appeared in front of Winter in Feng's disguise. She was looking at him with her curious yet frightening eyes.

'So, she could trace me with that damn soul brand?! Why I didn't think of it!'

It was his first time getting intercepted while escaping, all because of something he didn't even know was possible.

He never thought the soul brand technique could be this dangerous, and now he was facing a wily fox who had just pulled the wool over the demons.

However, he knew if he didn't come up with anything good, he might suffer this time.

He pretended to be elated and then played dumb. "Mistress, I never received your command in that prison. But they suddenly opened, and I had no choice but to escape with the others. I did just as you ordered me to. They didn't suspect me."

Ace glanced at her with worry, and when he noticed she was still listening, he continued, "But then, suddenly, powerful Qi waves surged, and we all got separated. I was searching for them when I just stopped by, Mistress!"

Winter looked at the respectful demon with a hint of doubt, yet she couldn't help but feel he was telling the truth.

'Could it be that the Qi suppressing stone interfered with my soul brand signal? If that's the case, I have to be more careful.' She thought.

She bought Ace's lie because she also didn't think Feng could resist or break free from the soul brand unless he were far more powerful than her, which was clearly impossible.

Furthermore, she would instantly notice if someone would try to fiddle or use some means to resist her soul brand.

As for why she was still loitering here, she had indeed made her escape before the Council Minister could reach the peak after unsealing the corpse puppet, but she stopped to see demons in despair.

She couldn't bring herself to leave without witnessing the prowess of the monster hidden beneath that altar, and she had to admit it was far more terrifying than it was described, which made her even more regretful and resentful toward demons who foiled everything!

Ace just happened to escape in the same direction, and when he entered a one-mile radius of Winter, he got noticed, and she intercepted him out of curiosity.

'Boomm...boom...klelelee...'

Fighting sounds made Winter look at the sky, which was now filled with dark and gray.

'It's time to leave. They won't be able to contain those Corpse Acolytes with that Corpse King around. The more they fought, the more it'll recover and draw power from those Corpse Acolytes in the lake.

'It's a pity I won't be able to control that power anymore. But I still have the method to make my corpse army, which will only belong to me, and he will be my King!' She looked at Ace with bright eyes filled with malice.

Ace felt goosebumps when he noticed that peculiar glance. 'She's scheming against me!'

Winter coolly stated, "Alright, since you managed to escape, this also means you're far more capable than my useless children, so I'll take you with me and nurture you into an expert this world has never seen before!"

'This is definitely bad...' Ace cursed, but he showed a very excited expression. "I'm honored, Mistress. I'll put my life on the line to pay for this kindness."

Winter was pleased as she turned around and said, "Alright, let's go. You will slow us down, so this way will be faster."

First, Ace didn't understand what she meant just now, but the very next moment, he was cocooned into a pinkish barrier, without having the ability to move, and then dragged behind Winter as she moved!

Ace felt uncomfortable at first, but then he got somewhat got used to this feeling. He had to admit Winter's speed with hundreds of times faster than him. It was like riding the wind. But it was a pity he couldn't enjoy the feeling, for obvious reasons.

A few hours later, Ace noticed they were heading toward the Mighty Moon Province and he knew this wasn't good at all.

'She wanted to escape the continent while the demons are still busy with those things she released. This is bad. I can't go off the continent like this...'

He questioned in a respectful tone, "Umm... Mistress, are we going to leave the demon continent?"

Winter's ears perked slightly as she replied, "What are you unwilling? It's because of your bonds? Heh, forget about it, in this world bonds are nothing but tools, as long as they are useful others will keep them and the moment they become rusty or useless, they won't hesitate to replace them. You can only rely on yourself in this world." There was deep bitterness and hatred in her voice when she said that.

Ace knew this won't help like this. If he wanted to stop her, he had to tell her something which interest her and made her stay willingly.

Then he suddenly thought of something as his eyes brighten.

He said in a hesitant tone, "No, Mistress, I had no such ties after I met you. But what I mean to say was there's a treasure in the blade province and I never told anyone about it."

Winter remained uninterested. "I can give you more, so forget about it."

Ace smiled deviously at this moment, he said with assurance, "I knew it. How can some Demon Ancestor Treasure worthy of Mistress time?"

However, the moment those words left Feng's mouth, Winter's step came to an abrupt halt!

She used her Qi to throw Ace in front of her and asked with wide eyes, "What did you say? Tell me everything?!"

Ace suddenly felt the soul brand glowing in full power and he knew she had taken the bait!

He quickly replied, "When I was young, I had found a strange token and when I accidentally touched it with my blood, it suddenly got bonded with me and strange information appeared in my mind."

Winter's eyes shimmered with intrigue as she asked, "What kind of information?"

Feng replied, "It was information about some Demon Ancestor Treasure, and I can sense its general position through that token. It had also raised my talent..."

Before he could continue, Winter's eyes narrowed. "Where is that token? You don't have any storage ring?"

She has long noticed Feng didn't have any storage ring but was staying; he had this token.

This make her even more interested and eager to see if what Feng was saying was true or not.

Winter knew what kind of existence a demon ancestor was and she didn't doubt even for a second that Feng would've never known unless he had an extremely high status in the royal zone, which she knew was impossible.

That was why she quickly became interested in this treasure when he said Demon Ancestor. She was greedy, to begin with, and she thought this could be another tremendous opportunity for her!

But this also make her lower her guard and she didn't use her martial sense to scan Ace's words because she had a blind trust in her soul branding technique, which was far more reliable than martial sense or soul sense.

But this will also give Ace the chance to con her as well!

He said, "This token is merged with my martial space. It is all because of it I become so talented. But I can gladly give it to mistress."

With that, he placed his hand under his robe as Winter watched with expectancy.

"System, one house recruitment token, please." He ordered.

=====

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

[Thief Point(s): 1,342,100]

=====

Feng pull his hand out of his robe and this time it wasn't empty, but he had a dark token in his hand.

Winter clearly had no idea about the existence of the sky stealer or his thief symbol, so this gave Ace even more leverage over her, and used it to his own advantage.

Ace knew his only way out of this situation was if he could overpower Winter, which was impossible, so he chose the second-best option, which was to subdue her!

He suddenly felt glad that Thomas didn't agree to join the Thief House or he would be out of house recruitment token already and this situation might really turn worse.

However, now she had completely bought Feng's story because she thought she was in complete control and Feng can never do anything to harm her.

This created this perfect situation!

Winter suddenly turned into her charming, pitied self. She took the coin from Ace's hand with a hint of ecstasy in her eyes.

She looked at the dark, exquisite token and used her Qi to probe it, but found nothing special. If she hadn't seen Feng 'pulling out of it from his body, she would never believe it was special.

She looked at Feng and asked, "How should I use it?"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 468: An Unexpected Lose & Gain

"How should I use it?"

This question made Ace nearly laugh madly, but he was excellent at hiding his emotions.

Still, he didn't dare to be careless in front of this wily fox, or she might suspect something, and all his efforts would go to the drain, and he might have to run as well.

So, he kept his head lower in a respectful position as he replied, "I don't know its correct use since I'm still incompetent. But it all started after my blood touched it. Then it merged with my body."

'What a waste of such treasure.' Winter felt disdain as she perked her finger and dropped her blood on the dark token.

However, nothing happened, which made Winter frown slightly as she looked at Feng with a hint of killing intent.

Ace felt chills. 'She wanted to kill me to get rid of the ownership? And here she was, just promised treasures and a bright future, but now? She's really ruthless!' he cursed.

Feng quickly said, "Mistress, my connection with it vanished! I think you should try to prob it with your Qi now. Since the blood got absorbed, I think it's already yours."

Winter finally moved her eyes from Feng to the token again, and she thought what he said made sense. So, she released her Qi!

The very next moment, the dark token finally activated, turning into a dark streak, and bolted toward her forehead!

Winter didn't feel anything amiss and tried to catch the dark streak, but she was astonished when it completely ignored her physical interference and entered her forehead!

"This is really..."

However, before she could celebrate, a strange voice sounded in her head, and a peculiar dark projection appeared before her eyes, which alarmed her!

[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 hold malicious intentions against Thief House or its members.

2. ...

...

...

8. If any member fails 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?]

"Thief house?" She mumbled as she quickly glanced at the writing. It was in the beast language. The language she was most familiar with.

Her expression eventually changed as she saw the name of the house leader and finally looked at Feng with a hint of trepidation.

Feng had a broad smile on his face at this moment, as he said, "Hehe, as Goddess said, welcome to thief house... Mistress!"

"Scoundrel, you tricked me!" She quickly saw through Feng's mockery and released her full might on Feng!

But she didn't take extreme action. Because she was still uncertain about what precisely happened, she noticed what Ace said. 'Goddess', so she was still cautious.

Now, she also noticed Feng didn't seem to be in her control!

"Oh, you didn't show killing intent? Well, it would save you some pain, I guess." Feng grinned, which made Winter even more shocked because he was absolutely fine under her pressure!

But her shock turned to horror when Ace suddenly snapped his fingers, and she coughed up blood!

"Y-you... how did you break my soul brand?!" She quickly pulled distance between them as she looked at Ace with wariness.

She knew if Ace wanted to break free from her soul brand; he had to be at least in a quasi-law awareness realm, but even then, he won't be able to do it in an instant.

Her heart raced as she looked at the demon who was smiling at her as if she had already fallen into the abyss!

At this moment, she thought of something, and her eyes widened slightly, "It was you who alerted those demons!?"

She finally understood how those demons reached there so quickly and why they knew about the layout of the hidden space. It was only possible with the internal breach, and she guessed it was Feng all along since everything started after he appeared!

Feng chuckled, "Took you long enough to figure it out. But it was indeed me, sorry for that, but as you can see I was in a parlous situation, put by you. So, I've taken such action and look. I'm free now!"

"Scoundrel! What have you done?!" Winter gnashed her teeth as she finally showed killing intent.

Ace sighed, "And here we go again."

However, the notification was different, and both of them heard it at the same time.

=====

[A Soul Remnant has been hiding within the House Member, Winter Fox's Knowledge Sea!]

[Starting the extinguishing process!]

=====

Winter was shocked as her soul suddenly shuddered, and her expression turned extremely sinister!

Ace looked at her with astonishment. It was the first time he hears this kind of notification.

Thereupon, he saw dark mist begin to rise from Winter's head, as it gave Ace a feeling of desolation!

Winter felt as if her soul was being torn apart, and she started to quiver as the Dark Mist continued to rise.

She suddenly transformed into her beast form, but it wasn't the end, her size started to decrease, her three tails turned into two tails, and the beautiful luster on her fur also faded.

She now looked like the patriarch of the fox clan and wasn't unique anymore, except for her pink color!

"NOOO!" she howled as everything was taken away from her.

Even Ace was somewhat baffled about this situation. He can now feel her aura was only at the peak of the diamond soul realm, not unnoticeable as before!

An ancient hoarse voice rang from that dark mist at this moment, "Who dares to interrupt the resurrection of this matron?!"

Winter suddenly trembled when she heard this voice and couldn't help but look toward the dark mist with disbelief and fright!

She said in a weak voice, "Y-you're not dead?!"

The same voice sounded again. "Little fox, you dare to scheme against me after I gave you my clan's entire inheritance?!"

Winter's expression was extremely pale as she understood something. "You want to possess me?! That's why you gave me the inheritance and then pretended to be dead?"

"Little fox, since you dare to betray me... where is the Corpse King?! YOU..."

However, before that mist could clamor, it suddenly shuddered. "NO, how could someone be capable of destroying my soul in this place?!"

It suddenly jolted and tried to fly toward the horizon, but it completely struck in its place, and no matter how much it struggled, it won't get free.

If finally took notice of Ace in the distance and quickly said in a pleading tone, "Fellow Cultivator, I was wrong. Please let me go, and I'll give you my treasures and won't seek revenge!"

Ace pretends as if he heard nothing. He could tell this thing wasn't something he could deal with, nor he can let it go or who knows what it might do.

Screams rang from the mist before it started to fade.

It left one last sinister sentence before it completely faded away.

"Bastard, you dare to kill me. My brother will know..."

Ace's heart palpitated. 'There's a brother as well?'

Suddenly, when the smoke vanished, something fell on the ground beside Winter, who was now completely listless and filled with despair.

Ace ignored the fox and pick-pocketed the small thing, which fell after the smoke vanished.

It was a crystal bead; it was two inches in size and had black patterns on it.

If it hasn't dropped from that back mist. He would've thought it was just some random treasure.

He asked the system, "System, what is this?"

=====

-Soul Treasure: Soul Resurrection Bead (??? Grade)

-Description: ???

=====

Ace's eyebrow raised in surprise, 'Another treasure not from the first heaven? Furthermore, with such a name. it can't be normal. That remnant soul was hiding in Winter's knowledge sea, probably because of this bead's help.'

Since he didn't have use for it, he stowed it away.

'Then could that soul also be from higher heaven? It's possible as well, and there's still this brother. Only she can shine some light on this.' Ace looked at Winter, who almost lost her will to live.

He sighed as he moved in front of her and said, "What, are you just going to lay there and wait for your death now?"

She looked at Ace with myriad emotions and replied resentfully, "Scoundrel, it's all happened because of you!"

Although he just saved her from a disaster, he also took away her entire fortune with it!

Ace smiled, "Well, I'm also the greatest thing that happened to you as well. Just look at what I gave you, and then you can judge it yourself."

Some luster finally returned to her eyes, as she remembered how that mysterious voice effortlessly got rid of that mist like it was nothing, and she then thought about what Feng called that mysterious voice.

'Can it really be a god?!'

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 469: Third Thief House Member: Winter Fox

Winter finally get off the ground with a pale complexion, she wasn't majestic anymore, and she seemed to have lost the ability to transform into human form as well.

Ace looked at her and meaningfully smile, "Just say or thought Thief House, and you'll know what I'm talking about."

Winter looked at Ace deeply and then finally thought of Thief House and then the same projection appeared, startling her for a moment and this time she continued forward.

[Thief House]

[House Leader: Ace White]

[House Members: 3/3]

[House Member: Winter Fox (Female)]

[Race: Magic Beast]

[Bloodline: Ice Illusion Fox (Grade-5 Bloodline) (Upgradeable)]

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

[Martial Cultivation: Diamond Qi Soul Realm (Advance Stage-8)]

[Talent: Low (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)]

"What is the meaning of it?" She looked at Ace with a questionable gaze with a hint of astonishment.

Her entire information was on this projection, even the true name of her race and bloodline, which only the true magic beast knows. This suddenly ignites her hope!

Ace naturally saw everything as well, and he was also astonished when he saw Winter's status and thought, 'The Magic Beast race, huh? They are really hiding it well.'

He said, "First, I'll clear something for you. If you're thinking that it wasn't any different from your previous condition, then don't worry, we are not going to be possessed. Because this is a blessing from Thief Goddess which can help us become powerful and broke the limits heaven inflicted on us mortals..."

He then gave his master speech, as he did with Noa and Freya.

It didn't take long before Winter was swayed as well and she finally understood why Ace said it was the biggest opportunity of her life, so big she can't even comprehend.

In the end, she accepted the system and urged Ace to see her thief genre, which he did.

Ace was surprised when he did, because,

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

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

-Compatible Thief Genre for House Member Winter Fox: 1 Available

1. Faceless Thief

[Introduction: A Thief proficient in the art of transformation, disguise, charm, and illusion!]

[Please select one option.]

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

=====

'Are you kidding me? There isn't anything to choose from!' Ace cussed in perplexion.

He looked at Winter, who was now calmly looking at him with eyes full of anticipation. He put on his best smile and said, "Congratulation, you are now Faceless Thief."

Winter's expression turned strange. "What about other options?"

Ace lied with a disdainful smile, "They weren't suitable for you..."

However, Winter cut him short with narrowed eyes. "Scoundrel, you're lying!"

Ace was annoyed with Winter's sharp instincts, but he knew she was a soul manifestation realm expert a few minutes ago, and now she was slightly wary of Ace as well since he conned her into joining the Thief House.

He smiled wryly and replied, "The truth is there isn't any more option. But this faceless thief is not bad as well. See for yourself."

He selected the option, and Winter got the notification soon as well.

She gave him a meaningful yet disdainful glance before she looked at her new status.

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

-Faceless Thief Introduction: Faceless Thief had limitless faces and it can transform into any life form under heaven without leaving any flaws in disguise!

-Faceless Thief Role: In any theft, the faceless thief will be the first one to enter the enemy's ranks and infiltrate the theft location. The faceless thief can lead the enemy into circles while providing accurate information and a safe path for the theft!

[Your thief house status has been updated.]

[House Member: Winter Fox (Female)]

[Race: Magic Beast]

[Bloodline: Ice Illusion Fox (Grade-5 Bloodline) (Upgradeable)]

[Thief Genre: Faceless Thief (Newbie)]

[House Rank: New Member (Upgradeable)]

[Complete One Thief House Mission for rank upgrade]

[Martial Cultivation: Diamond Qi Soul Realm (Advance Stage-8)]

[Talent: Low (Upgradeable)]

[House Point(s): 100]

[House Mission(s): 0]

[House Leader Mission(s): 0]

[House Punishment(s): 0]

[House Shop: Faceless Thief]

Ace's eyes shone with ecstasy when he saw the complete information on Faceless Thief and couldn't help but felt this was a good thing since Winter can now easily infiltrate others without being worried about any exposure.

Winter also seemed quite astonished and content with her Thief Genre and looked at Ace, "I think it wasn't a bad thing to get tricked by you into this, or I would've killed you the moment I find you weren't in my control."

Ace sneered, "I'm your leader. Have some respect. If I can get control by a mere soul brand, what's the point of me being your leader?"

"Hmph, you're still a scoundrel!" Winter sorted, "I'm sure you also tricked the other two members into it, right? Because no sane person would believe it until they see it themselves or they have some brain damage."

Ace coughed and quickly changed the topic, "Ahem... it doesn't matter. But we should leave this place and go back toward the blade domain. We are in the middle of theft and you can also earn house points this way as well."

Winter's eyes shimmered with excitement when HP was mentioned, but she growled, "I need to rest for at least a year before I can recover from my damaged soul, even with my accommodated treasures. I don't think I'll be able to move in this condition.

"Furthermore, those demons won't stop until they found me and can easily track me if someone from the royalties brings a treasure that can trace my beast aura. That's why I wanted to leave while they were busy, but..." She looked meaningfully at Ace then.

Ace grinned, "But I came into the picture and the whole thing turned upside down, right?"

"Hmph, it's irrelevant now. But I won't be able to use my Qi like this and I'll only drag you down if headed there with you. However, I won't go down this easy, not after acquiring this opportunity." Her eyes turned icy. "Leave me. I'll leave this continent somehow. You can find me in the endless sea after you're done with demons."

"You are even ruthless to yourself." Ace shook his head.

Winter scoffed, "I already told you, in this world, you can only rely on yourself for survival."

Ace gently retorted, "But now you can rely on us, especially me. Truth be told, I never thought you would be the last person to join the Thief House, and I didn't have a good impression of you since you used your children as a sacrifice for your escape."

His eyes turned sharp. "But now that you did, let me make it clear. According to the house rules, you cannot betray or sabotage anyone from the Thief House, or I can assure you I won't stop when the goddess killed you. I know you're smart to understand this much."

Winter merely chuckled, "I know, but you also can't get rid of me as well unless I do some mistake. And to be clear, those foxes weren't my actual children, but they were made with the lake water like those ghost worms.

"But they were made with my bone marrow, so they were almost as good as real since they can reproduce. It's just a pity that powerful was only because of that altar and once the Qi in the lake dries out, everything will crumble, eventually."

Ace was shocked when he heard this. He never thought the orb altar was so powerful. But when he thought about how an orb can create life forms to protect itself, then it wasn't strange this ability can be exploited by the others as long as they know how to use the altar like Winter.

He said, "I want to know what happened there, everything. It's very important to me. I won't take anything from you. I'm not that shameless, but I need that information, especially the information related to that altar!"

Winter deeply looked at Feng, who had a serious face, and she nodded, "Fine. It's not like I can use the entire inheritance without the soul blood, anyway. It's more useful to you now."

Ace smiled mysteriously. "You still think I'm a demon?"

Winter suddenly felt this question was pointing out to something, and her eyes widened with shock when Ace revealed his true appearance!

Winter sensed the masked demonic aura completely faded away, and a mortal-like man appeared without any aura around him.

She exclaimed, "H-Human!"

Ace nodded, "This is the real me and it seemed you have some history with humans since you quickly recognized me and don't take me for a hunter like my other associates."

Winter suddenly gritted her teeth. "Scoundrel, you can't be human!"

Eternal Thief

Chapter 470: Thief's House

Winter suddenly grits her teeth. "Scoundrel, you can't be human!"

Ace was bluffed by that reaction and couldn't help but question, "Why can't I be human?"

Winter seemed to be in great distress as she said, "Humans and Magic Beast can't exist under the same sky!"

Ace was flabbergasted, "Umm... but we have to exist now since you'll die if you didn't want to exist with me."

Winter was completely perplexed by this answer since she knew this and took a deep breath to calm down. "F-fine. I'll make an exception for you. But the other humans deserved to die!"

Ace could tell Winter or Magic Beast Race might have some irreconcilable feud like the Evil Witch Race and Demon. So, it was difficult to change her mindset, but he knew he had no right to speak for the entire human race and he didn't have deep ties with them as well.

He looked at her and coolly said, "As long as it didn't infect us. You can hate anyone you want. I can also tell you hate your race as well. You won't be trapped in that rune unless someone traps you there, right?"

Winter finally calmed down, but her expression slightly changed as Ace saw through her, but she didn't answer, "We don't have time to discuss the past. As I said, I can't be here any long nor did I have your ability to change the appearance or mask my aura despite being the Faceless Thief here. So, I'll tell you when we met next time. Just give me..."

Before she could demand HP or a mission from Ace, he cut her short, "Don't worry, I have a place where you'll be safe and no one can find you, even if they have grade-9 treasure at their disposal."

Winter looked at him with suspicion. "Where?"

Ace suddenly move his hand toward Winter's head and she didn't move, let him touch her face.

He said, "Don't resist."

Winter was about to ask 'why' when she suddenly felt a suction force. She wanted to struggle, but when she thought about what Ace said, she stopped. She knew he can't hurt her now.

The moment he sent Winter into the living thief's space,

An unexpected notification rang.

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[A Thief House Member has entered the Living Thief's Space]

[All Members' slots have been filled!]

[Thief's House has been unlocked!]

-Continue?

=====

Ace was shocked and quickly continue,

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[Thief's House]

Description: Only Thief House Members can enter this private space for the thief house members and train their thief skills and cultivate!

-Current Capacity: 3

-Unlock Function(s): 1

1. Thief Cultivation Chambers

[Thief's House Functions]

[Available Functions: 3]

-Thief Training Rooms: Lock

Unlock Cost: 1,000,000 House Points

-Theft Stimulation Virtual Room: Lock

Unlock Cost: 10,000,000 House Points

-Time Multiplier: Lock

Requirement: Time Acceleration Function

Unlock Cost: 100,000,000 House Points

=====

Ace was completely baffled since he didn't know his thief's space could be so magical and it could turn into a living and training ground for his house members.

"System, the house capacity is separate from the space's normal capacity?" He quickly.

"[Yes!]"

"Good!" Ace thrilled and then asked, "Then can I also enter?"

"[No!]"

Ace's expression fell and swear, "What the heck? Isn't this unfair? I'm the freaking leader! Why I'm the only one who can't enter?"

"[The Leader Resident Function is still unavailable. Besides, no one can teach or train host in the path of Heaven's Stealer!]"

"It's still unfair, damn it!" Ace cursed, despite feeling a little bit better since there was still hope in the future.

But no further answer was given, which made him even delirious, but he knew it was completely useless.

He sent his sense into the thief's space to see what has changed.

A few moments ago, Winter's full view changed when she appeared from bright snowy plains to endless dark space.

She couldn't help but look around and noticed she seemed to stand on a dark cloud, and then her eyes fell on a three-story dark house that looked incredibly mundane and creepy.

"Where did that scoundrel send me?" She wondered out loud.

Ace's astonished voice sounded, "So, this was the place above those dark clouds!"

"Where are you?!" Winter looked around in surprise, but Ace was nowhere to be seen.

"You can hear me?" Ace's uncertain voice rang again.

Ace noticed this house was above the dark cloudy ceiling of his thief's space and now it looked like a two-layer space and the thief's house was completely separate.

He also spotted Winter and was thinking as his sense was still in the thief's space when Winter heard his voice.

He again tried to communicate with her with thought, and he was surprised when he succeeded. Furthermore, he guessed it was another function of the thief's space that he can communicate with the others inside with his mind.

Feeling satisfied, he said, "This is the special space I have access to and I can send the house members here for them to cultivate and no one could tell you are here. The cultivate speed here will also be far faster than outside when you cultivate in your special techniques and skills in your shop."

This revelation alarmed Winter. This was just too absurd because she knew the treasures that can store living things in this world were extinct or lost, and no race had such a thing.

Even if they did, they would guard this secret with their lives because other races won't let them have it for themselves and might band together to snatch it.

Now, Ace was telling her he had access to such a place, how could she remain calm?

The doubts she had about Ace's explanation about the Thief House completely vanished at this moment.

She took a long breath and start testing.

She can't seem to make her Qi appear here, but when she tried to absorb it she was shocked when she sensed the Qi here was strange, like the gray Qi from that lake, but far more potent and effective!