

Thief 491

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Chapter 491: Starting Evolution!

The once tranquil White Hill Plains were raging with battle cries and the white lands filled with blood as the war between demons and corpses continue.

As for the place where it all started, it was filled with dark clouds and eerie cries which could make a mortal's soul collapse.

These cries were coming from a huge dark gray glob which was continuously trembling as if something desperately wanted to break out.

Right at this moment, a demon in a crimson mask suddenly appeared from the ground like a phantom as it looked at the glob with its cold, dark eyes.

"You did well, Fourth Minister. The empire will remember your sacrifice." His husky voice rang without any emotion. "On behalf of His Imperial Majesty, I'll grant you peace!"

With that, his entire demeanor changed as he gave off an aura of the volcano that was about to erupt!

Thereafter, a thick black and red Qi gushed out from his entire body before the space close to him started to tremble as sparks started to appear, the moment this Qi appeared.

"Begone!"

"Demonic Flame Rage!"

Ace had no idea what was happening in the white hill plains, as he was currently deep into the Misty Rain Forest and setting up a place for his retreat.

He had created a deep tunnel and then an underground room, then he set up many arrays and formations to make sure make no one disturbed him or discovered this place until he was done.

Although no one will appear in this dangerous part of Misty Rain Forest, he knew many demons were searching for him right now, so he won't take any chances.

After making sure he didn't leave behind any opening, he finally relaxed. He was on the move for over a month now and he was using his skills contentedly so he felt quite fatigued and wanted to rest.

But he knew time was precious for both him and his house members right now. Although he had given fifteen years for this last mission, it was a different story for his house members.

They didn't have over a decade to prove themselves. He had to start preparing soon.

Furthermore, after his last thievery, he knew any target that can grant 5 Million HP won't be a walk in the park for them. One had to know five million HP were equivalent to fifty million thief points.

Even he only got this kind of thief points out thievery from the treasure pagoda, much less getting it out of a random place.

After resting for half a day, he was at his peak condition and was ready to claim the biggest reward, he was looking forward to most.

"System, I want to claim my final reward!" He declared eagerly.

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[Reward: A Clue about Mind Stealing has been claimed!]

[Mind Stealing: Knowledge Sea is the treasure trove of memories. It is endless and inexhaustible. Once a Heaven's Stealer says, 'Memories are like fish in this Knowledge Sea and if one wanted to fish, they need a Fishing Rod!']

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Ace's ecstatic expression suddenly turned dark like charcoal when he read the so-called 'clue'. He couldn't help but bellow, "Is this your so-called clue?! Fish and fishing rod?!"

"[System has already given the reward. Please work hard, host.]"

"Shit! I should've known better!" Ace cursed as he felt he had been cheated big time by the system.

'This isn't a clue but a freaking quote of a busybody who had no better thing to do!'

However, no matter how resentful he was or how much he blamed the system, he knew this stupid quote was all he has right now. He had to be incisive and think of a way to make a breakthrough or he will fail this mission. He had a little over two years left to complete this job mission.

'How could a Heaven's Stealer have said something so meaningless? There has to be something I'm missing!' He quickly calmed down and gawked at the clue!

While Ace was wreaking his brain over the clue he received, inside the thief's house, Noa's private cultivation space.

Her cultivation space wasn't empty anymore. It was filled with the fragrance of herbs, as she had turned half of the space into her herb garden.

Not only this space was miraculous to her cultivation, but she also found it also had an extraordinary effect on herbs and her alchemy comprehension.

She was shocked by this discovery and thanked the 'goddess' wholeheartedly for this space. She then quickly created a herb garden with high-quality Qi soil she found in Ace's thief's space.

She had to admit Ace was really a walking treasure trove; he has too many good things lying around that he didn't seem to care about. So, she took this chance to use them since he said she can take anything.

Not only did she create this high-quality herb garden, which was only inferior to her teacher's herb garden, but she found all the materials she needed to cultivate the Night Demon Body Transformation from 1-Star to 9-Star. She even found materials to concoct refinement liquid from Low-Grade-1 up to Intermediate-Grade-2 and some materials for higher ranks, but they weren't complete sets.

However, she knew she can't concoct the refinement liquid of Grand ranks without Spirit Fire, which made her somewhat depressed.

But she knew she can't be too greedy about this and first she had to complete the first nine-star levels before finding clues about the spirit fire.

Although she was already a Grade-2 Soul Alchemist, concocting these refinement liquids wasn't a joke. Even the one-star refinement liquid was as difficult as creating a nine-star soul pill.

That's why she didn't dare to underestimate this body refinement technique and today she finally created the 1-Star Refinement Liquid in the soul cauldron she got from Ace, which belongs to her teacher.

However, she didn't start immediately despite her excitement. Every Body Refinement Technique came with extreme pain and overbearing suffering.

Some even cause deaths and that's why only strong will people dared to cultivate them, but the benefits outmatched the risks since soul cultivators can get a body as strong as a martial cultivate and make up for their weakness.

As for demons, they had robust bodies like beasts, but this doesn't mean they had an advantage when it comes to body refinement. On the contrary, they had an even bigger risk of dying because the techniques that can make their body power are even more overbearing than a normal cultivator could handle.

There was a clear warning in Night Demon Body Transformation about how overbearing this technique was, and the minimum injury Noa could receive was her meridians being damaged!

This kind of injury would make her useless for one or two years, which she can't afford.

But this won't stop her from cultivating this technique. She had longed for this kind of technique before she met Ace, and she wasn't a coward, either.

There was also a method to make the early stages of the refinement technique a little less overbearing, and that was to make her bloodline grade higher!

If it was another demon without a Demon King Tribe background, they would be extremely helpless and even those Demon King Tribes would be helpless at a certain point, but Noa was not!

She looked at her House Points with ecstasy at this moment.

[House Point(s): 101,350]

She had collected all these HP by completing Ace's missions and doing thieveries in her travels.

Noa had been waiting for this moment for a while now. She commanded with rapture, "Thief Assassin Shop: Evolution and Pill Section!"

[Evolution & Pill Section: Thief Assassin]

[Night Demon Evolution: Eight Available]

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-2 Evolution

Price: 1,000 House Points

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-3 Evolution

Price: 10,000 House Points

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-4 Evolution

Price: 50,000 House Points

- Night Demon Bloodline: Legendary Grade-5 Evolution

Price: 100,000 House Points

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"Goddess, I want the Grade-4 Bloodline Evolution!" She solemnly declared.

[House Member Current Bloodline Level: Grade-1]

[Please purchase the Grade-2 Bloodline Evolution, and Grade-3 Bloodline Evolution before Grade-4]

[61,000 HP is required to complete the entire process]

[Do you want to continue?]

Noa's eyes narrowed slightly. She didn't know she had to achieve lower bloodline evolutions before she could acquire a higher one. She can't jump the process!

Nevertheless, she had a sufficient amount of HP to reach her essential goal, so it didn't change anything. She nodded resolutely.

"Continue!"

[Bloodline Evolution has been started!]

[Total Time: 29H:59M:59S]

[Warning: Please don't lose consciousness or the process will stop!]

Thereupon, Noa suddenly felt her entire body heated at an extremely high temperature, her face particularly!

However, she forgot about the rising temperature or the suddenly cracking sounds in her body.

Her eyes widen to the fullest when she felt something suddenly gushing out of her face under her mask.

"T-this...?!!" Her eyes shone with thrill and disbelief. She never thought it was possible at all.

However, the next moment that thrill turned into horror,

"Ahhhhh..."

Noa's screams reverberated in the entire space, and it was just the start of her suffering!

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Chapter 492: Demon Tamer Province

The Demon Tamer Province was the biggest province of the eight provinces, and many powerful demon tribes reside here because of the high Qi density.

Furthermore, unlike the other provinces, the Demon Tamer Province was special because it had only ten massive cities and a King Domain. All of these cities were controlled by the Demon Tamer's ten clans.

They were known as the Ten Magistrate Clans.

Their authority was even higher than Demon Dukes, and this give the Demon Tamer tribe absolute control over the Demon Tamer Province.

The Black River City was located a few miles away from one of the forbidden zones of the eight demon provinces, the Black River, where black water streams.

It was the largest river of demon tamer province and, according to the legends; this river directly led to the royal zone. But no one was alive from the venture of proving that the legend was true.

Anyhow, the Black River City was ranked in the middle when it comes to city space or prowess and it was filled with hidden experts.

Right at this moment, a large carriage drawn by two Demonic Wind Lions was undergoing a throughout search by a special search team with a variety of anti-concealing treasures and arrays.

A gray demon with a 2.3-meter height and a fierce look was also undergoing checking by the guards.

"Brother, you know me. I'm a merchant. I pass from Black River City every other day. Do you need to waste your precious time like this every time I pass or leave the city?" His deep voice was filled with dismay.

The guard, clad in black armor, replies in a helpless tone, "You can only blame that malicious thief for this. He has been robbing and killing people for over a year now, and everyone is searching for his traces. We or anyone is under strict orders to check even a fly who wanted to enter or leave the cities."

The gray demon sighed as an array englobed him, "I heard about this matter in the other cities as well. But didn't that thief only active around the Blade and Moon provinces? Why the security in Demon Tamer Province as well? A mere thief can't travel all the way here under so many dangerous places, right?"

"This I don't know either." The guard shakes his head. He also had no clue about this matter. He closed the array and nodded. "You're free to go. Sorry for the trouble."

"Happy to help." The gray demon nodded and embarked on his carriage and enter the city.

The black river city was filled with majesty tall buildings and vast streets as carriages drawn by vicious beasts were moving around the city.

The citizens walking on the streets were also powerful, and the weakest of them was a Six Qi Gate Realm at least. There weren't any mortals in this place, and everyone was a cultivator.

This was the terrifying aspect of the demon tamer province. No mortal was allowed here. They simply can't survive in this place!

As the gray demon moved with great familiarity towards the place and he drove the carriage toward the market area of the Black River City, which was the busiest place in the entire city.

Soon, he stopped in front of a lavish fifteen-story shop named 'Treasure Cloud Firm' and he entered after ordering the guards to move the goods on the carriage to the warehouse.

This demon directly moved toward the upper floors and when he was on the third floor, he slowly crept toward the west edge.

After making sure no one was paying attention, he dashed his fingers on the wall in a strange pattern and a faint clicking sound rang.

However, no one noticed as the gray demon himself had already vanished from plain sight and the wall suddenly turned into a door. But it didn't last long as it opened and close in an instant and the hidden door vanished.

The gray demon appeared again in this dark narrow passage and after he quickly reached the end, there was nothing except the wall.

However, the demon again started tapping on the left wall and before long, a hidden door appeared and light appeared from the cracks.

He unhurriedly entered the bright space, and he entered a spacious, bright room.

On the room corner, an enthralling demoness, with an oval face and pale white skin and violet eyes, and long violet hair, wearing a green attire was sitting calmly with a cold expression as she looked at the gray demon with a hint of resentment in her watery eyes.

The gray demon suddenly beamed a bright smile when he saw the gorgeous demoness and greeted, "We meet again. Aliya."

This enthralling demoness was indeed Aliya, Freya's closest aid and assistant. She was also the one who was managing the Spica Syndicate in Freya's absence.

Aliya's eyes were icy as she looked at the gray demon with a hint of hatred as if he snatched her most precious thing. She said, "Where is Mistress, Sky Stealer?"

The gray demon non-other than Ace in his new disguise, it has been over a year since he last appeared in the public eye.

After spending three months in the Misty Rain Forest, he continued his traveling, and he entered the Demon Tamer Province after seven months.

Crossing the Spear Deon Province had taken quite some time since there were many dangerous places he had to cross and he even encountered powerful demons searching for him on his way.

Furthermore, not only he had to avoid those demons, but he barely escaped the massive formation between the borders of spear and demon tamer province, which was abruptly activated when he was already between the two provinces.

He had to admit now that these demons were putting everything just to find clues on his whereabouts, and the Life Demon Association was providing resources to operate those massive formations. They almost managed to corner him.

If not for live fate mapping and his improved skills, he would've been in huge trouble and might've got captured by those demons right now.

In the end, he managed to cross the border with great difficulty and then contact Aliya. He wanted the information about what was happening to get those demons coming after him like he had robbed their ancestors.

He hadn't been able to use the communication cube in the wild because he was out of reach, and Freya had told him that she had Aliya move into the Demon Tamer Province when she left the blade province.

That's why he could only contact her when he entered the Demon Tamer Province.

However, Aliya wasn't too happy when she found Ace on the other side of Freya's communication cube. Nonetheless, she was under strict order to help Ace any way he wanted, and his command was equal to Freya's command.

She then arranged an identity for Ace and told him to meet her in this hideout.

Although she had arranged this identity for Ace, she was shocked at how easily Ace managed to pass the guards and enter this place.

Ace's identity as the Sky Stealer wasn't a secret to her anymore, despite that, she was shocked under all the surveillance Ace could walk in Black River City.

The scariest thing was even she can't see through Ace's disguise with her special skill that allow her to see through illusion.

Ace smiled wryly when he saw Freya's unfriendly attitude toward him. He knows she was feisty and quite wary of him since she didn't know about the detail of how Freya joined him.

He said, "Don't worry, she's with me and you'll see her soon. Thanks, by the way, for arranging this identity for me. The real demon should be back by now."

Ace had specifically told her to send the person himself so he could get the memories of that person and this will make his disguise flawless. He was very careful after he encountered all those search parties.

Aliya's expression softened a little when she heard her mistress was fine and soon appeared. She nodded, "No problem, I was only doing this for Mistress."

Ace's tone suddenly turned stern as he spoke. "What's the deal with me being robbing and killing people? Who is denigrating me?"

If something concerned him the most was this matter, he found it after he annexed the memories of this gray demon. He found out that in his absence, there were multiple robberies under his name and thief symbol.

But what make him enraged and paid attention to the matter was not that someone impersonates him, but they were killing innocent people and plundering from the poor and in the last case someone had destroyed a town on the moon province under his name.

This naturally infuriated him, since he would never do something like this, but he also knew someone was trying to use these underhand tactics to draw him out.

That's why he had Aliya look into this until he reached here, and if they wanted to play this game, he played them to death!

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Chapter 493: A year later

Aliya expected this question and her expression also turned gloomy. "I'm paying attention to this matter from the moment it started.

"The first theft happened two months after the treasure pagoda robbery. It was in a marquis demon tribe of moon demon province. Everything was exactly the same, even your famous owl mark in the treasury, but the thief also killed the entire marquis clan.

"Afterward every month or three weeks, same patterns, theft after the kill. To this day, there are nine thieveries, five in Moon Demon Province and four in Blade Demon Province.

"But your impersonator is quite professional. He won't leave any trace behind, except for the symbol and gruesome deaths." She looked at the demon before her with a stony gaze.

When the first incident happened, she simply thought it was Ace, just like everyone else. However, when she got reports about how the thief killed all those demons in the cruelest ways, she knew it wasn't Ace.

Besides, after Ace's theft of the treasure pagoda, there wasn't any need for him to theft from those small tribes or take risks when the entire demon continent was searching for him.

Ace's expression turned stern. "Do you think it's some high-level demon who using this method to lure me out?"

He was sure it was the case because he personally witnessed just how badly the life demon association wanted to capture him and without his skills; it was impossible to escape them.

Now, all of a sudden, someone dared to impersonate him despite knowing just how furious the life demon association was, it was simply courting death.

The biggest omission in all this was that the life demon association still wasn't able to capture the so-called thief, despite knowing the pattern of his raids. They were simply slapping their own face by using these tactics to draw him out.

"This is the only explanation since that impersonator can easily cross the border between moon and blade provinces after they activate the border protecting formations on the entire continent." Aliya had the same thought.

A faint sigh escaped, Ace said, "They all think I'm after fame and this might be the easiest way to draw me out. Well, I had to admit if someone was really doing it for fame, they might've already made some kind of mistake."

He shakes his head and sneers, "Although they anger me, if they think I'm going to defend myself, heh, they had another thing coming in their way."

Aliya scoffed, "What if all of this was all real and this was some fanatic who just wanted to express how 'inspired' he is by certain someone and wanted to prove himself and get his attention? Then what?"

Ace snickered coldly, "If this is indeed the case, then he got my attention."

His subtle reply made Aliya narrow her eyes, but she simply can't see through this man.

Ace suddenly changed the topic, "What about the corpse army?"

She coldly replied, "Already taken care of, but they paid a steep price." A hint of fear could be seen in her eyes at this moment.

Ace narrowed his eyes. "How steep?"

"If we're talking about the canon folds, then they are numbered in millions, while if we are talking about the experts, then over two million and this is the number the royal council made public. Their casualties are much greater. As for what they didn't reveal to the public, I think two demon kings and a big shot of the royal council have also died." Aliya was uncertain since it was quite hard to believe that even demon kings died under the corpse army.

Ace was also astonished when he heard, "Why do you think so?"

"Blood Demon King and Spear Demon King hadn't appeared in public and there is some kind of tension going on in their domains, which is impossible if they were present. Especially the Spear Demon King, that guy is famous for his iron fist rule.

"Lastly, the royal demon council, although I don't know who died, there are five hidden experts in the royal council. From our spies, we got a rumor that in the last upper-echelon gathering of the council, only four were present.

"This could be a completely different matter or mere rumors, but I think they are no more." Aliya declared with uncertainty.

She knew just how grave the matter about the death of a demon king was, and probably there hadn't been a death like this in ten thousand years.

Ace was also astonished, even he deemed a demon king-level existence couldn't perish. But when he remembered the corpse king's and that other demon's clash, he shuddered.

Ace took a deep breath and said, "Lastly, I want all the information about this city, especially about the Magistrate Clan, Puppeteer Demon Clan."

Aliya's eyes narrowed as she looked at Ace deeply, "Are you planning to..."

Ace sighed, "Yes and no. It's better if your mistress explained it to you. Where will I be staying?"

Aliya didn't ask any more questions when she heard Freya was involved in this. "Give me two days to arrange everything. You'll be the fifth-floor manager from now on. You can't appear in public with some other appearance because they are currently recording every person present in the city and even I don't know just many observers are out there, so it's better to be careful than sorry."

"You mean a salesman?" Ace frowned slightly.

Although he didn't mind the job, he just can't waste time meaninglessly.

"You can put it like that. You don't have a choice because if you vanished after you appeared on the first day it'll raise suspicion. We don't want that, right?" Aliya impassively replied.

"Fine, you're the boss." Ace feigned helplessness.

"Hmph. Do I need to arrange another identity for the mistress?" Aliya queried sternly.

"Probably not." Ace smiled mysteriously and left the room just as he appeared.

Aliya was at a loss for words since she still wanted to question Ace about where Freya was or how she will come, but he left after getting what he wanted. Resentfully, she clenched her pristine fists, she wanted nothing but to smack his smirky face. But she was helpless.

Ace's departure from the hidden passage didn't alarm anyone, and he again appeared as the gray demon and head toward the fifth floor.

The fifth floor was where all the weapons were sold and he had three assistants to help him. All he had to do is to entertain some important customers, and he was free to do anything in his free time.

Aliya had already arranged everything for him and he couldn't help but praise Freya for having a good eye for people.

After greeting his assistants, he told them he was going to rest for a while and they can find him in his office if they required his assistance.

"Finally, out of those damn woods." Ace couldn't help but moan as he threw his head back on the comfortable chair.

But his expression soon turned serious again. 'Time is short...' He closed his eyes and sent his consciousness into the thief's house.

Although he can spy on his house members' personal space, he has never done so since all of them were women and they had their privacy and he doesn't want them to think he was a deviant.

Furthermore, as long as someone called his name, he will instantly know they were calling for him even if he wasn't paying attention. Without it, he won't know what was happening in their personal spaces if he doesn't pay attention.

This was a strange yet convenient function of the thief's house.

He can also focus his voice in a particular space or the entire house, as long as he willed it.

So, he sent his voice to the entire house at this moment, "Alright ladies, give me a favor, and please gather in the meeting hall."

The space where all the rooms were connected was no longer empty. There was a big jade table and comfortable chairs, as well as some lavish decorations.

They were all set by Ace, he can send anything and take out anything in this place so he turned this place into a proper meeting hall.

Soon after Ace's summoning.

The door of Noa's room slowly opened, and she appeared in black robes that display her perfect figure. She also wore the white Mist Camouflage Mask on her face, and only her pitch-black eyes were visible.

Furthermore, her aura was completely gone, as if she wasn't alive anymore and one couldn't tell she was standing there if they didn't focus on her.

Thereupon, Freya also emerged, clad in body tight armor. She looked even more ravishing than a year ago, as she was exuding a mysterious charm.

Winter was the last one who appeared. However, when everyone saw her they were all shocked because what emerged from her space wasn't a big pink fox, but a little adorable girl with a fierce expression on her face which made her even cuter!

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Chapter 494: Ace's Scheme

"What happened to you?" Ace's astonished voice sounded when he saw Winter's new 'makeover'.

He had seen Winter in her former humanoid form, and one could easily tell she was a transformed beast. However, now, she didn't have those fox ears and beastly eyes, but she looked completely human without any flaw, even her beastly aura was gone!

She now looked like a six-year adorable girl with long pink hair and pristine white skin, with pinkish fox eyes, no one would be able to tell that she was a fox in disguise!

Cross-armed, Winter pursed her lips and retorted in her adorable voice, "Hmph, I have archive perfect transformation, what do you mean what happened to me?!"

She was unhappy about how Ace seemed to underestimate her from her childish appearance.

Although, she also didn't like this childish appearance. But she knew if any magic beast in the beast continent found out that she was able to achieve a perfect transformation as soon as she cultivated in Faceless Thief Secrets, those beasts would die of envy!

"What Perfect Transformation?" Ace was intrigued, he could tell this Winter had received an incredible boon from the cultivation technique.

Freya and Noa also seemed quite interested in hearing about this, since it was their first time seeing a beast taking humanoid form.

Winter knew this wasn't something worth hiding from the house members so she explained with a hint of smugness, "Well, since you all are not outsiders I'll tell you the biggest secret of our Magic Beast Race.

"You should probably know there are two types of demonic beasts. The vicious type and the intelligent type. But those beasts earn their name as the 'Demonic Beasts' for a reason.

"It's because they couldn't transform no matter how long or how high they cultivate, but they can reproduce even faster than humans and it's their basic instinct to kill any lifeforms.

"That's why these demonic beasts are spread all over the world and other races used them as whetstones to train their younger generations and they don't feel threatened by them as well.

"However, everyone thought that the beast on the beast continent is the same as the demonic beast and band us together with those cannon folds. They simply call us a beast with Royal Bloodline or Royal Beast."

She sneered with disdain as she continued, "That's their biggest mistake because we are not Demonic Beast but Magic Beast, a race transcends those inferior animals!"

Freya couldn't help but exclaim at this moment, "How can that race exist in this world?!"

Winter's eyes narrowed when she looked at Freya and said, "You know about our race? It seemed we had a lot more in common than I think."

Freya sighed, "It seemed everyone had underestimated the beast continent."

"Stop playing riddles." Ace's vexed voice sounded, these two women hid many things from him.

Freya replied, "I have read records about the Magic Beast Race, and they are from the same world where my ancestors came from. Although there isn't any information about them, it said that the Magic Beast Race is one of the overlords of that place and they aren't inferior to the Witch Race at all."

Winter was slightly surprised, "Which Race? I never heard of you guys."

She could tell this woman was extremely dangerous, and she was quite knowledgeable as well. But it seemed she had underestimated her, and her race wasn't inferior to hers at all.

"How about you finish your explanation or we might offend Leader." Freya smiled meaningfully. She was extremely interested in Winter's race background.

A peculiar glint flash past Winter's eyes as she looked at Freya, she said, "As I was saying we are the Magic Beast Race a race far superior to those inferior beasts."

"The magic beasts were different because we didn't really need cultivation techniques to grow and as long as we consumed high-level materials or our own kind, we can strengthen ourselves and even our bloodline."

"Most importantly, we gain Beast's Transformation when we reached the Beast King Realm (Manifestation Realm) and gain powerful abilities with it."

"However, the Beast's Transformation is extremely difficult to achieve without a royal magic beast bloodline. Furthermore, there are different transformations 'Basic, Intermediate, High, Advance, and Perfect'."

"The higher level the transformation we achieve, the more potential and advantage we had over others."

"As for the Perfect Transformation, it's the highest transformation the magic beast can achieve and a legend in our magic beast race. In this transformation, we don't have any flaws, like if a magic beast achieved just a High-level Beast's Transformation, they would still have their beastly features."

"Now you understand what it means to me?"

Winter remembered just how shocked she was when she achieved the perfect beast transformation the moment she started cultivating the Faceless Thief Secrets. It was like the bloodline limiter didn't apply to her anymore.

Not only that, but she also gained startling abilities with every major realm breakthrough, which she didn't reveal yet.

Although she bragged about how the Magic Beast Race didn't need cultivation techniques to grow, what she didn't tell them was only a handful of magic beast clans had cultivation techniques that suited them.

The optimal cultivation technique for a magic beast was the inherited cultivation technique from their bloodlines, like the demon and devil race.

If they cultivate any other technique, they will never bring out its hundred percent, but those inherited cultivation techniques can only be gained if someone in their clan achieved Law Awareness Realm or higher realm, and unlocked those memories in their bloodline!

But how could it be so easy to achieve?

They were bound by the limits of their own bloodline, heaven makes everyone with flaws and no one was perfect!

Even that dark mist only helped her achieve only High-level Beast Transformation and she could be considered at the peak of the beast continent with that transformation.

That's why Winter was even more devoted to the 'Thief Goddess' and determined to achieve the higher perks of the Thief House.

"I must congratulate you on this, then." Ace sincerely acknowledged.

He never thought the magic beast race transformation would be so complex and powerful.

Nevertheless, he was glad since he gained another powerful helper and they all had a higher chance to complete the house mission now.

"Hmph, as long as you know." Winter snorted with a hint of smugness.

"Alright, since is out of the way, how about we discuss the house mission now?" Ace's voice turned solemn.

Everyone's expression turned stern, although they all achieved heaven-defying results in this past year of seclusion, they knew they were still not out of the woods yet.

"What you have in mind?" asked Noa.

Ace spoke, "First, we have to raise both Freya's and Winter's ranks. Before I thought it would be a problem, but now, I think it'll be quite easy." His voice was filled with confidence.

Freya's eye narrowed. "It seemed something happened while we were here?"

She knew how difficult it was for them to raise their ranks because they needed to theft and they would draw massive attention after Ace's recent thievery.

But from Ace's confident voice, it seemed something major had happened!

Ace chuckled, "You can say that."

"Out with it!" Winter's eyes also narrowed.

"You guys are going to be bandits of Demon Tamer Province!" Ace told seriously.

"Demon Tamer Province? Do you know what you're even saying?" Winter couldn't help but reprimand.

The Demon Tamer Province was the most powerful and most guarded province of the entire eight provinces of the demon continent, and no one dare to cause trouble here.

Now, Ace was telling them to become bandits in this province? She simply thought Ace was trying to get rid of them!

Freya also had the same thought.

"Please elaborate." Noa was the only one who didn't think like this.

Ace solemnly said, "Demon Tamer Province is the safest place on the continent, where no one would dare to make trouble. That's why they didn't have any bandit groups or criminals.

"However, this is also their biggest flaw. You guys just need to raise your rank while portrayed as bandits. Not only you will not raise any suspicion this way, but the majority of the powers in Demon Tamer Province will also disdain acting against you or using their actual prowess since it was simply beneath them.

"By the time they start taking you all seriously, we have already moved on to the second part of our plan, which is our proper goal."

Freya's tri-pupils shimmered with a hint of astonishment, "This can also be used as a distraction and if we play it carefully, we can even use it to distract everyone's attention while we perform our actual mission!"

However, Ace's replay was completely different from everyone's expectations. "No, we don't need to distract anyone. You guys have two months to raise your ranks before the biggest auction of eight provinces starts, the Life Demon Auction!"

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Chapter 495: The Biggest Event of Eight Provinces!

Inside a dim room,

A communication cube was glowing brightly as a famine voice sounded from it, "How're things going on your end?"

In reply, a cloaked figure spoke in an impassive voice, "Still no contact. Why are we insisting on doing this? You know I got nearly caught the other day?"

"Besides, this plan is so obvious even a moron would know about it's a trap. I'm starting to doubt those old men's IQs now. They all had gone senile."

"Hehe, they are just desperate. Anyway, don't act pitifully. We both know that anyone who can find you is the Grand Demon Duke, so don't even think about talking your way out of this. Besides, don't you love me and wanted to stay forever with me?" The voice asked affectionately.

A soft sigh escape from the cloak and he said, "Do you think I snuck all the way to this countryside for a side scene?"

"Hehe, then why are you complaining? Once we succeeded, no one will be standing between in our way anymore." The voice giggles.

The cloaked figure's voice softened after he heard this. He said, "Alright, but there are just too many people paying attention to 'him' and waiting for the contact. I'm afraid the Grand Demon Duke will be furious if he found out we're working against him!"

"Don't worry, I can handle him. But I'm worried that the thief might take the wrong bait and then we don't even have a chance to strike first." The voice turned stern at this moment.

"You're hiding something from me?" The cloaked figure's voice turned somewhat cold.

"No dummy! I only found out about this yesterday. It seemed my brother is quite desperate for Grand Demon Duke's favor and it seemed it's working." Said the mysterious voice.

"Oh, it seemed he still had a trump card to play." He said with a hint of surprise.

"Yes, and he hid it quite well and if not for my connections in the association, I wouldn't even know until it was too late. But I won't let him succeed smoothly." The voice was as cold as ice.

"What's this trump card?" He asked curiously.

"The Life Demon Auction in three days..."

The Life Demon Auction held in the Demon Tamer Domain was probably the biggest event of eight provinces which happened every decade and only big shots of eight provinces with status equivalent to Demon Duke received the invitation to this event.

There were all kinds of rare and priceless treasures appeared in this auction, and even Demon Kings fought over these treasures.

However, this auction was different from before because of the upcoming Demon Gate Trial in a month.

That's why the auction this time will be an open auction where anyone can join and bid for treasures.

Not only this announcement made those participants who wanted and preparing to participate in Demon Gate Trial for almost two years surged toward the Demon Tamer Province ahead of time, but also make the auction's popularity off the charts.

This finally made the demon shift their attention from the corpse army and treasure pagoda theft incidents.

Demons all over the eight provinces started to enter the Demon Tamer Province in masses. Even the tribes of nature weren't an exception this time because of the demon gate trail.

However, not everyone can reach the Demon Tamer Province since the journey wasn't a walk in the park, especially those demons who lived far or who failed to join their Domain Teams which were formed by every demon king.

Those geniuses had it easy since they would be escorted by the demon kings themselves.

However, another news appeared a week prior to the auction, which shake the eight provinces.

The appointment of two new Demon Kings in Spear Demon Domain and Blood Demon Domain by the Royal Demon Council!

Furthermore, these two demon kings were not from the royal families who ruled these two provinces for generations, which made this event even more startling and everyone paid much attention to it.

However, because of the Life Demon Auction, this event quickly wilted away since everyone was interested in treasures and the demon gate trial.

This Auction can make an enormous difference in the Demon Gate Trial if some weak tribes get their hands on some powerful treasures for their youths. That's why everyone completely focused on this event.

As for the venue of this open auction, since there would be millions of demons gathering this time, so for the first time the Life Demon Association partnered with the Royal Demon Council and arranged this massive event in the Forbidden Plains a few miles away from the spear domains.

The Forbidden Plains have spread hundreds of miles, but what makes this place gain this name was it was the last boundary between Royal Zone and Eight Province.

Although there wasn't any forest or mountain or any vicious beasts roaming on these grassy plains, on the contrary, it was just empty land.

However, no one could garrison in this place, nor any tribe can exist here despite the high Qi density. It was a law even. Anyone who dared to break this law will be eliminated by the royal zone, with no exception.

But because of the upcoming Demon Gate Trial and the magnitude of this upcoming auction, the two giants of the eight provinces got permission to hold this event here.

As for the security, it goes without saying that no one would dare to cause trouble since every bigwig of the demon race would attend this auction because of the demon gate trial.

Demons started to gather in the Forbidden Plains even though there was still time before the auction will start.

The Demon Tamer Province had the advantage since this event was happening right in their province and they can leisurely head towards the venue.

The Black River City was no exception since there were only three days left before the auction began. Demons headed toward the forbidden plains in large caravan groups.

In one of these caravan groups, there was a luxurious carriage between many carriages.

Five demons sat there while chatting excitedly.

"Who would've thought this day will come when we got the chance to witness the biggest auction of eight provinces? We can even bid; the big shots had really outdone themselves this time!" A green skin demon exclaimed in ecstasy.

"Heh, stop dreaming fourth manager, we only got the chance to go there because the Firm Master is also going. How could we floor managers join the bidding war between those large tribes?" A graceful demoness playfully berated.

Another demon chimed in, "I heard the numbered gather in the venue was already reached twenty million a week ago despite they set the limit like only the demons with foundation building realm can enter the special venue."

"Heh, those tribes probably hoping to get some lucky break and get some treasure so they could have a higher chance of passing the Demon Gate Trial. How naïve, did those backwater tribes think they can

compete against young heroes of our demon tamer province with treasures? They might get broke while bidding against our province." A burly purple demon sneered in disdain.

He wasn't the only one who look down on the other province, but others had the same viewpoint.

Although it looked like the auction was a harmonized event, actually, it wasn't because of the Demon Gate Trial.

Everyone wanted their youths to enter the royal zone because of the massive benefits and status. So, they won't let a powerful item fall into the hands of someone who could threaten their chances of passing the trail.

Especially those geniuses nurtured by the King Domains, every domain will prevent the other from having an upper hand on the trail.

That's why this auction was going to be a silent battlefield before the actual trial even begins between the big tribes of eight provinces.

"Hahaha... Seventh Manger well said, those inferior tribes better know their place or our Demon Tamer Domain might flatter their lands with its demonic army!" Another demon snickered.

"Fifth Manager, what's your view on this matter?" The seventh manager looked at the gray skin demon who was sipping on his wine all this time while listening to their conversation without speaking.

The gray demon smiled faintly and humbly reply, "Just as Seventh Manger said, other province doesn't stand a chance against our Demon Tamer Province. Sigh..."

He let loose a rueful sigh all of a sudden and lamented, "It's just that we won't be able to bid for precious items there."

They all can relate to this newcomer who join the firm two months ago since they also felt frustrated about this because it won't be wise to make an enemy with the other powerful tribes while biding against them.

The seventh manager sneered, "Although we can't provoke those powers in the Demon Tamer Province, we can still fight with those backwater tribes from the other provinces!"

"I guess you have a point." The fifth manager waved his wine glass in admiration.

Inwardly, he thought as a thievish glint flashed past his eyes, 'I will have a small window to act!'

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Chapter 496: Life Demon Auction (1)

The usually barren Forbidden Plains were extremely lively today because the Life Demon Auction will be starting today!

Carriages were stopped three miles away from the auction location by a powerful formation barrier, and there were royal council members standing guard at this place.

They were scanning every person, and storage ring, before they let them pass the formation barrier.

The retinue of Treasure Cloud Firm also stopped. There were six carriages, which include Firm Floor Managers, the Firm Master, and some assistants.

Usually, the Treasure Cloud Firm won't bring this many people, especially the workers, but the Firm Master showed generosity and let them come here to enjoy the liveliness.

The 10th-floor managers stood respectfully in front of a veiled demoness in a blue dress that exhibit her sultry curves. She was the mysterious Firm Master of the Treasure Cloud Firm.

But no one dare to look at her in the wrong way because they knew she wasn't a harmless flower who anyone can touch but an aconitum.

She seldom made public appearances, and that's why very few people know the treasure cloud firm master was a woman.

Firm Master impassively looked at the floor managers before her eyes stopped at the fifth-floor manager, who had a faint smile on his face.

An annoying glint flash past her eyes as she said, "Everyone after the auction ended returned here. You can do whatever you want, but if you offend someone, the firm will not take responsibility.

"Now, enjoy your time. It's a rare chance to witness such an event. You are all free to go. Expect, Fifth Floor Master, please stay for a chat."

Everyone bowed slightly before they headed toward the formation barrier with ecstasy, while they were a little curious about why the Firm Master who never talked to them wanted to chat with this newly appointed floor manager.

Nevertheless, they know better than to ask, so they quickly leave.

"You three can also leave." She impassively ordered the help demonesses behind her.

"But..." one of the assistants wanted to utter words of concern, but the Firm Master coldly shut her down.

"Do I have to repeat myself?"

They all shivered before they quickly bow and left as well.

At this moment, the fifth-floor manager finally reveal a refreshing smile and said, "They were just concerned about your well-being."

The Firm Master, who was non-other than Aliya, retorted in annoyance, "That's none of your business."

Her eyes turn stern at this moment. "Are you sure that formation is 'harmless'?"

She was clearly concerned about Ace's disguise will blow up since she knew the Life Demon Association put a powerful formation around the venue which can instantly reveal any kind of concealment.

Even demon kings might not escape its detection.

But Ace insisted on coming here, despite knowing the danger.

Ace chuckled, "As long as that formation isn't a grade-7, I'll be fine." He knew coming into this place was like entering the lion's den, but he was confident in his mask's ability.

As long as they didn't use grade-7 ruins or a Law Awareness Realm wasn't using its martial sense or soul sense, no one will be able to see through his disguise.

Besides, coming here was an important part of his plan, and he knew how to keep a low profile.

Aliya clearly didn't believe him and looked at him with suspicion. If Freya hadn't given her command personally, she would never agree to this suicidal task, even if Ace threatened her.

Ace looked around as many demons were hurrying toward the barrier without paying attention to their surroundings.

"It seems it's about to begin. Let's go. Do you get your hands on the VIP seats?" Ace looked at Aliya with expectancy.

After staying two months in the Cloud Treasure Firm as an acting fifth-floor manager, he found out the firm was well known throughout the three cities of the Demon Tamer Province and have quite a reputation.

From Freya, he discovered the Cloud Treasure Firm was the primary income source of the Spica Syndicate and they also sold illegal and stolen goods from the other provinces through this firm.

No one would've ever thought that a famous firm of Demon Tamer Province would be under the control of a syndicate.

Ace was also thrilled since he can use this business to his own advantage to sell all the useless stuff for high-grade Qi stones or materials he needed to raise his EXP or SP.

Aliya looked at him as a complicated glint flashed past her eyes when he said, VIP seats.

Although it looked like anyone can enter the auction and bid for items, it was not the entire truth, because everyone had to pay the entrance fee of 10 high-grade-2 Qi stones which alone shave through the freebies who wanted to just enjoy the auction by watching.

If they didn't charge this fee, the entire Demon Tamer Province might've been present today. Nevertheless, they still let those enjoy the auction as long as they paid the entrance fee and profited from it big time!

Then there were three kinds of sitting plans in this auction. The first was open seats that could be bought by anyone for 100 low-grade-3 Qi stones and they were unlimited.

Only someone with these seats could bid for items, and these seats can be paid for on the spot.

The second seating plan was the VIP stand, and these seats were sold to big tribes and noble demons with at least a demon marquis status or well-known firms throughout the eight provinces. As long as they were eligible, they can buy these VIP seats from any branch of the Life Demon Association.

However, these seats were not cheap, and they were limited. 10,000 were sold in every outer province, 20,000 in inner provinces, and 50,000 in core provinces.

But whoever wanted to buy them had to pay for high-grade-2 Qi stones, and the price was 1 Million.

This alone rendered many demons who had their eyes on these seats helpless since 1 Million High-Grade-2 Qi stones weren't easily accommodated for even a demon marquis rank tribe.

But these seats were still sold out in two days!

As for the last sitting plan, it was the VVIP Rooms, which weren't sold, but the association sent an invitation for these rooms and no one knows how many were available. But one thing was for sure, Demon Kings will be in these rooms.

Anyway, Aliya wasn't able to get her hands on those seats in the VIP stands fast enough, and they were sold out just too quickly.

However, some profiteers bought extra seats, and they were selling them in black for ten times the market price.

Aliya had given up on these seats since 10 Million wasn't a small amount and she wasn't interested in coming here in the first place. She didn't like crowds.

But when Ace found out, he told her to buy two seats for them and give her a hundred million high-grade-2 Qi stones like they were normal stones to acquire those seats.

She then realized that this man had stolen one of the eight richest treasures in the entire continent, so fifty million was just a chump change for him.

Even though she was tempted to change her profession like her mistress, she was too proud to ask.

Anyhow, she acquired the seats in the VIP stand for fifteen million each and Ace let her keep the rest of the Qi stones, which make her secretly elated.

"Hmph, I got them. Why do you think I send them away first? It would be too strange if they suspect something." She snorted and walked toward the checkpoint.

Ace smiled in satisfaction. Those VIP seats were quite important to him. Even if it required more money, he was willing to pay.

When the guards started to use the formation to inspect them, Aliya was a little bit tense while Ace remain nonchalant.

"You're clear, move on." The guard then closed the formation and let them move forward.

Ace chuckled, "See? It was 'harmless'."

Aliya completely ignored Ace, but she was secretly relieved.

Ace, on the other hand, looked at the distance where a colossal structure was.

He was astonished when he saw the scale of that structure. It was spread over ten miles!

As they approached the entrance, which could easily hold a thousand people, a hundred guards were standing in the royal council's traditional black attire.

"Esteem guests are buying seats, or do you want to enter the spectator stands?" A guard asked while blocking their way.

"I have two VIP passes." Aliya's expression was as cold as ice as she took out a silver envelope.

"May I take a look?" The guard's voice softened when he saw the VIP pass.

Aliya handed over the passes, and that guard took out an array plate.

He put the envelopes on the plate and it shimmered and all of a sudden, a series of numbers appeared on the plate's edge.

He handed the passes back and respectfully bowed this time. "Esteemed VIPs, please follow me. I'll escort you to your seats!"

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Chapter 497: Life Demon Auction (2)

"Esteemed VIPs, please follow me. I'll escort you to your seats!"

However, before Aliya could agree, Ace spoke with a polite smile, "There's no need senior, we don't want to make it hard on you. Just tell us the direction and we'll find our way."

The burly demon was a Qi soul realm expert, so calling him a senior wasn't exaggerating at all.

'At least some of the youngsters know how to treat their seniors. I'm sick of dealing with those arrogant brats.' He looked at Ace with a hint of approval. He nodded and kindly said, "Just turn left from the entrance. You'll find the stairway that led to the VIP levels. Your seats are on level 18. Someone from there will escort you."

Aliya glanced at Ace coldly, but she didn't retort and walked away with Ace.

However, Ace's expression turned serious when he was walking inside. 'What a powerful formation!' Even he felt his sense tingle when he got scanned by an invisible force.

But luckily this was only a grade-5 formation or he might really be in trouble.

The interior of this building was huge, and many demons were moving in the right direction while the left direction was quite calm.

"What are planning you to do?" Aliya whispered with a hint of trepidation. She was worried since Ace didn't brief her about his plan.

She could tell Ace didn't reject the escort because of the kindness of his heart, but he was going to make a move!

Ace mysteriously smile before he handed her a ring and winked. "Just buy whatever you like. It's your reward."

Without waiting for her reply, he moved straight toward the closed door a few meters away from on the side!

Aliya's heart palpitated when she saw Ace unhurriedly walking there as if he own the place and no one suspected anything. She was even more shocked when Ace opened the door and quickly close it before he flash her an optimistic smile!

She was a little dumbfounded by his guts, but she climbed the stairway toward the VIP levels as if she saw nothing while clutching the storage ring tightly.

'Swindler!' A hint of worry appeared in her cold, indignant eyes.

Ace was now inside a massive hallway while he walked casually with his hand behind his back like an arrogant big shot.

"Sir, you can't be here!" Suddenly, a harsh voice rang from behind, stopping Ace in his tracks.

He looked around and saw a middle-aged demon in special white and black clothes. He was also giving off a river core realm aura.

Ace had an exculpating expression as he spoke in surprise, "Oh, I'm not? But that guard told me to go left if I want to enter the VIP stand?"

The middle-aged demon's expression loosened a bit. 'Did someone leave the inner sanctum doors unlocked?'

He knew the inner sanctum doors were all protected and locked with a Grade-2 array, so it was almost impossible to leave them opened without the array.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, the Auction will start in thirty minutes!" A loud voice reverberated in the entire building at this moment, followed by the cheering of an immense crowd.

The middle-aged demon's expression changed, and he blurted, "Sir, this is the place for the staff. Come, I'll escort you. I'm heading there myself. The auction is about to start."

"Oh, it seemed I walked into the wrong place. I always have this problem with direction. Pardon me." The gray demon sighed helplessly, and he seemed quite embarrassed.

The middle-aged demon smiled in realization and walked toward another door that led to the outer area.

However, the moment his back was turned, a powerful strike landed on the back of his head. He felt like hit by an iron hammered and lost consciousness.

Ace didn't delay either, and a light suddenly flashed from his forehead before he heard the system's voice.

"[Face-173 has been saved!]"

"Activate it!" Ace commanded before the middle-aged demon vanished into his thief's space and appeared in a cage he had prepared

He now turned into the middle-aged demon, but he wasn't done. Soon he changed his clothes and started the soul probing simultaneously.

He didn't dare to use his stealth or he might get exposed.

It took Ace over a minute to change his entire appearance and as the memories flooded into his mind; he hastened in the direction where this demon actually came from.

Soon, he saw a room and sensed many presences, and he walked right into it.

Over fifty demons were wearing white attire, while they all stood in front of a large opening.

His eyes slightly widen when he saw the scene outside. The structure was spherical and he could see millions of demons standing behind stands and there were twenty levels.

The first ten levels were for spectators, while the 11th or 17th levels were for the open seats.

The 18th and 19th levels were for the VIPs, and the last twentieth level was for the VVIPs.

Moreover, the twentieth level was divided into small boxes and no one could see who was behind those boxes.

But there were five thousand such boxes and all of them were probably filled.

Right in the center of this arena was a tall stage blocked by red curtains and even martial or soul sense can't penetrate behind those curtains.

"Sir Peterson, why are you doing here? Didn't you leave for the 19th level?" A burly demon with dark yellow skin asked in surprise.

Ace was startled for a moment, and then he finally got the memory. He found out that they were all on the first level and these demons were the maintenance staff.

While the demon he changed his disguise to, Peterson had much higher status, and he was one of the demons in charge of the seventh-level VIP customer services.

Peterson coolly reacted. "I was checking on you guys. Since everything is fine, I'll be on my way."

Without waiting for a reply, Ace quickly left the room, confusing many demons with his strange behavior.

'I nearly messed up. Doing everything without an exact plan is really hard,' Ace cursed as he finally got the memories of the entire pathways of this arena and he quickly found his way toward the upper levels.

The arena was packed, and he could hear the crowd's voices even from the inside. He finally understood why tens of thousands of staff members were recruited for this auction.

Furthermore, all of these staff members were affiliated with the Life Demon Auction.

Like Peterson was a Nine-Star Rune Crafter, and that's why he was appointed into the less crowded VIP level while those Crafter Smiths were stuck dealing with the first ten levels.

Even the VIP level was quite huge. There were a total of 230 stands in two VIP levels, and each stand has 1 thousand VIP seats.

Peter and four other demons were in charge of Stand No.19-186 and their jobs were to deliver the items the bidders won and collect the money from the bidders in this entire stand.

Soon, Ace reached the 19th level, which was nine hundred meters above ground level.

In comparison, to spectator levels and open levels, the VIP levels were orderly.

Those places were just too crowded, and this place was extremely calm since only influential demons can get their hands on the VIP passes.

"Why are you still wandering around? Where is your position?" An unhappy aged voice sounded.

Ace looked behind and saw a skinny violet demon walking toward him with a stern expression.

He quickly knew the identity of this old man. He respectfully bowed and said, "Life Master, those guys at the spectator stands were making some trouble, so I was delayed."

This old man was a Runic Life Master from Spear Demon Province Branch and he was also one of the appointed managers of the 19th VIP level, Ville, a High Third Grade Rune Crafter.

Ville's eyes flashed with coldness when he heard it. "Those bunch of ingrates. We let them attend this auction and they're still making things difficult for us? Do they think we are pushovers?"

He was extremely livid, and an exhausted look appeared on his face. It seemed he was exhausted.

He sighed helplessly all of a sudden. "You did well. I shouldn't react like that. It's just that building this arena and then arranging the formations in this entire place and event, sigh... I never thought I would resent being a rune crafter one day. Just do your duty, those VIPs won't make a fuss like those bumpkins." He waved his hand.

Peterson quickly bowed. "Please take care of your health, Life Master. If you need anything, just tell this little one."

Ville's expression softened, "Just don't mess up your duties, it'll be a huge favor. Now go, the curtains are about to lift. At least we can see the expression on those clowns' faces when the auction began. No one will dare to belittle us anymore!"

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Chapter 498: Life Demon Auction (3)

"... no one will dare to belittle us anymore!"

Ace scoffed inwardly when he heard this. After he appeared in the demon-tamer province, he got to know the Life Demon Association had suffered a huge blow to their reputation after what he had done.

Before, no one dared to look the members of the association straight in the eyes, but after the theft, everything changed as everyone laughed at the members of the association in secret. They won't revere them like before anymore.

Especially when the entire Life Demon Treasure Pagoda in the blade domain was raised to rubble just because they can't erase that huge thief symbol no matter what they do.

This made Ace even more renowned and feared by many wealthy demons!

Not only their treasuries weren't secure, but even their storage rings, which were supposed to be the safest place, can be stolen right under their nose even if they were paying attention.

The incident with Life Grandmaster Gatlin was an open secret and the poor old fellow was still in a coma because he couldn't take the burden of his entire wealth and reputation gotten stolen from him on the same night.

Some demons even started to bury their treasures in secret locations after that event, just so the Sky Stealer won't steal them.

This open auction was a move by the life demon association to earn back their reputation and shut the mouths of those who still laugh at them in secret.

Or in previous auctions, the members with high status in the association never worked their ass off as they did this time.

However, if those old life grandmasters and the President of the association know that the Sky Stealer still infiltrated into their auction, they might lose the will to live anymore.

Ace kept his disdain to himself and quickly thanked Ville and dashed toward the VIP Stand, where he found nine more demons standing behind the nine rows, and only the tenth row was empty. He knew it was his place and quickly stood like a statue just like the others.

The other attendants were from different branches and they only know each other's names and no one was familiar with anyone, which Ace preferred the most.

At this moment, the entire arena became completely silent as everyone looked at the big stage in the center because the curtains started to lift!

Soon, a red platform appeared, with a huge dark mirror on the back, and standing in the middle of the platform was a scholarly-wizened white skin demon with long silver hair and his erudite sky-blue eyes were calm as water.

However, when everyone saw the five golden stars and three green stars on this old demon's shoulder and the rune symbol on his black robes. They all knew this was a high-grade-5 rune crafter!

The demon finally opened his mouth as his voice reverberated in the entire arena, "Let me introduce myself, very few people know who I am, my name is Ewan, and I'm the President of the Life Demon Association."

Everyone couldn't help but exclaimed that the President of the Life Demon Association was a legend because this guy won't even meet with demon kings, much less appear in this auction and speak in public!

Ewan's eyes were exempt from any emotion as he continued, "My object of appearing here today is to greet our esteemed guests from afar. And to announce that the registration of the long-awaited Demon Gate Trials will be opened soon after this auction and in this same arena!"

The youth who were here for the demon gate trials were shocked for a moment before everyone cheered.

Ewan's lips slightly curled at this moment, "Now, please enjoy the Auction!"

He soon vanished behind that huge mirror after riling up the entire audience.

Ace, on the other hand, frowned at this announcement. 'They move quite efficiently.'

Right at this moment, an extremely beautiful tan demoness with a charming smile emerged from behind the mirror.

Many young demons drooled when they saw the overdeveloped curves on her devilish body, even those big shots in the VIP stand couldn't help but gulp.

However, no one dared to belittle that demoness despite her beautiful and delicate appearance because of the three golden stars and three green stars on her shoulder. She was just one step away from a Life Master rank!

She opened her cheery lips as her charming voice rang through the entire arena, "Ladies and Gentlemen, Welcome to the Life Demon Auction!"

"I'm the hostess of this auction, Lilly!"

"Without any further ado, let me explain the rules to everyone.

"As everyone knows there are millions of demons attending this auction this time, we have collected many treasures for everyone and that's why this auction will last for ten days at two hours intervals each day!

"So, to make it convenient for everyone to bid without any mishap, we have engraved a small bidding array in everyone's seats.

"You can access it as long as you put your auction pass on the special embedded rune under your seat's left arm stand. You can place your bid through this array and they will then appear in this large display mirror behind me where everyone can see them.

"Once you successfully bid for an item, the Auction Attendants will come and collect the final amount and give you a special token in return, which you can use at the end of the auction to collect your items from the reception hall on each level.

"A friendly warning, if anyone bid and won the item but then found of insufficient dues, there will be dire consequences for such practice. So please bid carefully." Her friendly smile sent chills to everyone.

Thereupon, everyone quickly started to activate their arrays like Lilly just instructed them to.

"Hey, come here and tell me where this damn thing will go!"

Ace was looking at those runes with his runic eyes when a commanding voice rang from his row.

He looked in front and a young demon with average looks was waving his VIP pass at him.

"Right away." He had no choice since this was part of his duty and his fellow attendants were also helping some idiots to activate the arrays.

Lilly spoke again after giving everyone five minutes to activate the bidding arrays of their respective seats.

"Since everyone is ready, let's start the first day of this Life Demon Auction!"

With an enthralling smile, Lilly waved her hand and golden runes lit up in the center of the stage before a pillar rose.

The mirror behind suddenly projected the item on the pillar.

There was a closed white crystal box.

Lilly slowly moved toward it and opened the lid, revealing the item inside.

There were three pristine silver pills with brown circles around them.

Someone at the VIP level exclaimed, "Perfect Pills!"

This voice raised ripples through the entire arena.

Lilly spoke at this moment with a charming smile, "As everyone knows, there are four quality ranks of pills, Low, Intermediate, High, and Peak. Each rank represented the difference in pill purity rate. The higher the purity, the more effective the pill was.

"Low-Rank Pill had below 15% purity rate, Intermediate rank had below 40%, High rank had below 75%, and Peak rank pill had below 90%.

"However, there is an even higher rank than these four, the Perfect Rank which had over 90% purity rate, and these kinds of pills are only made with luck and vast experience."

Lilly's eyes shimmered as she spoke, "As everyone can see, these three pills are perfect rank Bone Strengthening Pills of Low-Grade-3. Each perfect rank bone strengthening pill can increase the bone strength of the River Realm Cultivator by 5% and 2% of the River Core Realm Expert!

"The starting bid for each Perfect Rank Bone Strengthening Pill is... 10,000 High Grade-2 Qi Stone and each bid minimum increase has to be 100 High Grade-2. The bid is open!"

Just as her voice trailed off, the numbers started to appear in the mirror, like raging tides, as the bid continue to increase.

"Which bastard raised the amount by 50,000?! Are Qi stones grow on trees?!" Someone in the open seat stands cursed with a fuming face.

"Fuck, even those guys at the VIP level got involved. How can we win this item for our juniors?!" Another poor soul howl from the open seat stands.

Everyone wanted to buy those pills for their juniors who were going to participate in the Demon Gate Trial.

After Ewan's announcement, everyone fought even more intensely for any item that could raise their juniors' chances of passing the trial.

However, when the bid crossed the 300,000 threshold, the demons in the open seat stands give up resentfully.

It was a huge amount for any marquis-level tribe, even duke level tribe will feel the pinch.

These were 300,000 High-Grade-2 Qi stones, not Grade-1, if converted to the peak grade-1 Qi stones, they would be 30,000,000!

Furthermore, the auction will only accept Qi stones of high-grade-2 or above levels, so many demons were forced to convert their low-quality Qi stones for high-level Qi stones at a high price!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 499: Bidding Wars (1)

The bid for the Bone Strengthening Pill reached 346,300 when it finally stopped.

Lilly finally spoke as she looked at the crowd, "As everyone can see, the guest on seat no.18-41,322 bid 346,300 high-Grade 2 Qi stones.

"346,300 high-Grade 2 Qi stones going once...

"346,300 high-Grade 2 Qi stones going twice...

"And... it's the last chance to acquire this amazing pill for your juniors..." She smiled slyly.

"Fuck, this vixen!" An ugly demon sitting on seat no 41,322 on the 18th VIP level cursed when he saw Lilly was deliberately counting slowly to raise the bid even more.

However, to this relief, no one seemed to be willing to pay more for one pill.

"346,300 high-Grade 2 Qi stones going thrice, and SOLD! Congratulation to the VIP for winning this amazing pill." Lilly flashed a radiant smile.

"The Auction Attendant will come to you soon. Please wait patiently. Now let's start the bid for the second Perfect Rank Bone Strengthening Pill. It is also started on 10,000 High Grade-2 Qi Stone and each bid minimum increase is 100 High Grade-2. The bid is open, everyone!" Lilly announced.

Another bidding war break out for the second Bone Strengthening Pill.

Inside one of the rooms on the VVIP level, all kinds of Qi fruits and wine were served on a jade table, while one could see the auction on the stage clearly in a mirror projection.

Furthermore, this room was quite spacious, not like the other VVIP rooms.

But the shocking thing about this room was that not only Ewan was present, but the masked Grand Demon Duke was also sitting on a throne-like seat.

Besides the Grand Demon Duke were two masked demons sitting on each side.

While nine more demons wearing unique uniforms were sitting calmly not far away. But they were all sitting separately in pairs of three on three different sides.

"These pills will give a slight advantage to the trial participants." A young red demon with a fierce look on his face spoke. He wore a navy-blue attire with white stripes on his arms and a black mountain insignia on his chest.

"No much, although those pills might raise bone strength, they will not increase the core strength nor their will." The middle-aged demon in the same attire shook her head slightly.

"Instructor Kain is as wise as always." Another middle-aged demon chuckled, but there was a hint of scorn in his voice. He wore black attire with three silver swords insignia on his chest.

"Heh, Instructor Axton, your viewpoint, on the other hand, hasn't changed much." A handsome demon scoffed. He wore a gray attire with a black tree insignia on his chest.

These three weren't on the same side and belonged to different powers.

Those six young demons sitting beside these three also looked at each other with provoking gazes.

Ewan, despite being the president of the Life Demon Association in the eight provinces, didn't speak between these demons because the status of all the demons sitting in his room was too high for even him!

"Instructor Alden, you're as glib as ever." Instructor Axton's eyes narrowed slightly.

"Esteem Instructors, are you interested in bidding on any items in the auction?" The masked demoness asked curiously.

Ewan silently praised her for changing the topic or he could sense that things were going south.

"Hehe, Your Highness, if anything caught this old man's fancy, no one will be able to snatch it for me. But I'm afraid the chances of it happening is almost zero in this kind of auction." Instructor Alden chuckled.

He didn't even glance at Ewan while insulting his auction.

"Big words, Instructor Alden." Instructor Axton sneered with disdain as he looked at the two young demons sitting beside him. He said confidently, "If you two like anything, just tell me, and I'll buy it for you. Let's see who dared to compete against me."

"Thank you, Instructor!" Both demons quickly thanked him with a hint of excitement.

"Look who talking big words now. Hmph, if you like anything, just bid without any hesitation." Instructor Alden was clearly provoked.

Instructor Kain, on the other hand, merely nodded with a hint of coldness, which mean he was also giving the chance to the young demons on his side to bid for anything.

The Grand Demon Duke's eyes were completely closed at this moment as if he was in a deep sleep and didn't hear anything.

The masked demon, on the other hand, was looking at the projection screen with great expectation, 'If you appeared, you can never get away!'

The mask demoness, on the other hand, impassively looked at the screen, 'Let's see who had the last laugh, little brother.'

On the outside, the second Bone Strengthening Pill sold for 341,000 Qi stones this time, and the bidder was also a VIP.

As for the last one, it sold for 358,000 Qi stones to another VIP.

Ace couldn't help but smile when he saw those three pills selling at such a high price. 'I have tons of such pills I got from the Life Treasure Pagoda, and those three women consume them like water, especially that fox. Maybe that's why they managed to increase their cultivation so much in a year.'

'Besides, the pills Noa gave me had an ever higher purity rate than these perfect rank pills. My decision to give her free rein over the raw materials was a right one.'

Ace was content when he saw just how valuable those pills with high purity rates were and, despite having a huge amount of such pills, the association was stingy with them.

He never cared about the purity rate or what kind of pills he was consuming, since all he needed was EXP and SP.

Now that he had thief house members, he knew how important those pills were for normal cultivators and powers to nurture their experts.

Lilly revealed the second item at this moment, drawing everyone's attention. They were another crystal box, but this time there was only one red pill.

Lilly introduced, "Although this is not a perfect pill, it is even more precious than a perfect pill. It is the peak rank Low-Grade-3 Bloodline Pill which can help any demon below Demon King rank to strengthen their bloodline up to 5% percent, which means a faint chance of awakening an innate ability!"

The entire arena riled up when they heard the introduction of the Bloodline Pill.

Lilly smiled charmingly when she saw the crowd starting at the Bloodline Pill like hungry wolves.

She spoke, "The starting bid for this Bloodline Pill is... 50,000 High-Grade-2 Qi Stones and each bid has to increase by 500. The bid is open!"

Instantly, the moment Bloodline Pill's bid was opened, its price shot up like a volcano and reached 500,000.

Even though some VVIPs joined the bid, no one thought there would be this kind of pill will be the second item of this auction.

Aliya, who was still fuming over how Ace ditched her, was also tempted by this pill. She was also a demon with a low bloodline, and this pill can help her increase her talent slightly.

Furthermore, she was extremely wealthy with 70 million Qi stones she saved from the VIP passes, and then Ace gave her a storage ring filled with Qi stones before he left.

When she saw the amount, even she felt she was dreaming, there were five hundred million high-grade-2 Qi stones, a hundred million peak grade-2 Qi stones, and ten million low-grade-3 Qi stones.

Her wealth wasn't lowered than any VVIP or above them even.

'Hmph, at least he knows how to repay debts,' Aliya scoffed with a hint of satisfaction.

Like a wealthy lady, she also placed the bid as she controlled the bidding array and raised it two million directly!

The entire arena was started when the bid reached a such height, and the bidder was not from the VVIP rooms but the VIP stands.

Those in the open stands gave up since the bloodline pill wasn't worth this much.

Even those in the VIP stands shake their heads in regret.

Lilly spoke with a smile, "The guest in seat no.18-87,900 bid the three million Qi stones!

"Three million going once...

"Three million going twice...

"Last chance to get a pill to raise the bloodline density?" She looked toward the VVIP rooms, "And three million going..."

At this moment, the number changed from 3 million to 3.01 million, and this bid came from a VVIP room.

Killing intent flashed past Aliya's eyes as she looked at Lilly's crafty smile.

'She better pray I don't get hold of her secrets!' She raised the bid directly to 4 million without batting an eye.

This time, those in the same stand as Aliya finally looked at her with shock. They had the same thoughts; who was this wealthy lady?

Inside VVIP room no.3,764, a young demon with a handsome appearance had a frown on his face when he looked at the bid on the screen.

"Which degenerate is bidding against this young master from those lowly tribes?!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 500: Bidding Wars (2)

This young man was an heir of the branch clan of a Wild Demon King tribe and they naturally received a VVIP pass from the Life Demon Association.

He was here to participate in the demon gate trial and he had his clan's full support to bid for another he wanted in this auction as long as it can raise his chances of passing the trial.

This bloodline pill was quite alluring to him since it could help him strengthen his abilities, but seeing the four million bid, he was hesitating.

However, when he thought how this bid was from a VIP stand not from a VVIP Room, he felt his dignity has been challenged.

He gritted his teeth and rise the bid by ten thousand.

'Let's see if these lowly tribes still dare to bid against me,' He sneered in rage.

However, his eyes turned bloodshot when he saw the same person raise the bid to 4.5 million directly!

"Bastard! Who is it?!" He really wanted to storm toward the VIP stand, but he knew he can't cause trouble here or he'll be kicked out.

Lilly looked at the bid and couldn't but smile brightly as she spoke, "The guest in seat no.18-87,900 bid 4.5 million Qi stones!

"4.5 million going once...

"4.5 million going twice...

"Last chance, everyone?" She smiled charmingly, but this time no one raise the bid, "And 4.5 million going... thrice and sold! Congratulation to the guest on seat no.18-87,900 for winning this wonderful Bloodline Pill. On to next item." Lilly didn't dwell on the Bloodline pill and quickly reveal the next item.

Aliya, on the other hand, snort as she paid the attendant and received a golden receipt with the unique number of the item she won. She can claim that item as long as she showed this receipt.

'What a resentful woman.' Ace also smile wryly on the nineteenth level since he knew Aliya's seat number.

The third item was finally revealed at this moment. It was another pill, but this item was completely transparent like fine ice, and small light blue circles were around this pill.

Lilly introduced with a charming smile, "This is a perfect quality soul pill, the high-grade-2 Instant Soul Recovery Pill. As long as the soul isn't destroyed, this pill can make a vast difference between life and death.

"It can instantly recover 50% soul injury of the River Realm, 20% of the River Core Realm, and... 5% of Soul Realm!"

The entire arena stirred after hearing the Instant Soul Recovery Pill's introduction, especially those Demon Dukes in the Soul Realm. This pill had a great temptation for them, even with a 5% recovery.

Because everyone knows, the soul of a soul realm expert was very hard to heal if injured, and this pill can make a tremendous difference with just five percent.

A content glint flashed past Lilly's eyes as she spoke, "The starting bid for this perfect Instant Soul Recovery Pill is... 50,000 High-Grade-2 Qi Stones and each bid has to increase by 1,000. The bid is open!"

Another bidding war started and this time more VVIP rooms take part since many well-known demon dukes were in these rooms.

The VIP stands didn't even bid because they knew those in the VVIP rooms had far more wealth than them and they can't win this pill even if they wanted it.

Lilly spoke when the bid stopped, "The guest in room no.328 bid five million Qi stones!"

However, just as she was about to start the count, another bid from a VVIP room appeared.

Lilly exclaimed, "The guest in room no.542 just bid 10 million Q stones!"

Sitting in the VVIP room no.328 was none other than Thomas, his wife Milly, and his protector Maddux.

Thomas had a very gloomy face when he saw the bid increase by five million.

"Who is in that room?" He couldn't help but ask.

Maddux spoke with a stony expression...

Inside room, no.542,

Jaxx sat with a handsome young demon who had a resemblance to Thomas.

Jaxx couldn't help but sneered, "Brother Darren, you probably scared him away."

This Darren was none other than Thomas's second brother who arrange for Jaxx to assassinate Thomas in the blade province trials, but Thomas was too cunning and appeared here alive.

Now Darren was here to obstruct Thomas from acquiring anything which could raise his chance to pass the demon gate trial, and the instant soul recovery pill was just one of such items.

As for how they knew Thomas was the one who was in room no.328, it wasn't impossible to get the list of VVIP guests from the association if they paid enough and had the status of Demon King or their heirs.

Darren had a cold smile as he coolly stated, "That brother of mine is just too stubborn. I had already got rid of the others, but he just refused to go down peacefully. Let's see if he could get anything from this auction as long as I'm here."

A ruthless glint flashed past his eyes.

Inside another VVIP room.

Room no,10, this room was far more lavished than the others.

A wizened tan demon with an extraordinary demeanor and imposing aura was observing the auction, as his expression was impassive.

An old demon standing behind him respectfully said, "Your Majesty, it seemed the Second Prince will not give up after failing in the Blade Domain."

This wizened demon was none other than the Cheveyo Wild Demon King!

Cheveyo Demon King impassively stated, "If he can't even take care of this problem, then I'm afraid he's not worthy of my throne."

The demon standing behind the Cheveyo Demon King didn't speak, and ruefully sighed and watched as Lilly had already counted up to two.

But Thomas raised the bid to 10.1 Million before she could go to three.

He hated this brother of this since he tried to kill him, even targeting his beloved wife to get to him.

But Maddux knew how cruel Darren was and he could do anything to reach his goal, so he never left Milly's side. She was his precious granddaughter. How could he let anything happen to her?

Darren sneered coldly when he saw Thomas still didn't give up and raised the bid to fifteen million directly.

"Let him have it." Milly put her hand on Thomas's trembling hand at this moment.

Thomas quickly calmed his boiling rage and nodded.

He couldn't help but think of a certain someone with a complicated look in his eyes. 'I wonder what that guy was doing with all that wealth right now. If I knew he could rob even the treasure pagoda, I might really agree to follow him.'

He couldn't help but ruefully chuckled, which confused Milly and Maddux.

In the end, Darren successfully won the bid for the Instant Soul Recovery Pill.

After the first three items, the next items appeared to be rather ordinary and the bidding wars rage between the open stands for these treasures and seldom the VIP stands involved.

Where Ace was located, two demons successfully bid for two items, but they weren't from his row. So, he kept observing while standing like a statue.

There wasn't any item that could draw his attention.

Hours pass and finally,

Lilly looked at the dark sky and the brightly lit arena. She smiled and said, "This is the last item of the first day before we take two hours interval."

Suddenly an extremely ancient book appeared on the stage.

Even Ace's eyes flashed in astonishment when he saw the writing.

Lilly introduced, "As everyone can see, this book is quite old, and it's unearthed from a ruin in the ghost province. The writing in this book is extremely ancient and we don't have any records of this writing.

"But the seller told us he had got this book under an ancient destroyed shrine. Although we don't know its value, the words of this book are still preserved completely even after being buried for god knows how long. We can guarantee that this book is authentic with no forgery."

Lilly continued, "This book might have great research value. That's why the seller wanted to sell it for peak grade-2 Qi stones. The starting bid is 10,000 peak grade-2 Qi stones, with a minimum raise limit of 100 peak grade-2 stones. The bid is open!"

Everyone looked doubtful at the book since even the life demon association can't translate this book. What can they do about it?

Furthermore, this item was sold by someone else through this auction, and not just any item can be sold here. The reputation of the Life Demon Association was on the line.

Despite that, peak-grade-2 Qi stones were just too precious, and no one was willing to waste them on this unknown book with unknown contents.

It was an enormous gamble no one was willing to take.

Right at this moment, a bid appeared on the screen.

However, it wasn't a seat no, nor a room no, it was...

Lilly's eyes flashed in surprise as she announced, "The Auction Attendant No.19-213 just made the first bid of 10,500 Qi stones!"