

Thief 51

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 51: Unexpected Wealth!

"Why are you standing here like fools quickly capture him! That scoundrel steal my storage ring!" Dulce hissed at her bodyguards in anger. Her visage reddened with fury.

They both felt wrong after Dulce scold them, 'Didn't you just said to kill these slaves first?' They wanted to shout this but didn't dare after seeing Dulce ferocity. They quickly chase after Ace.

Dulce in her rage forgets about all those spectators and follows both of her guards inside this time. She was a princess of the kingdom and never suffer this kind of humiliation in her life.

She always acts like an aloof otherworldly being, and here everyone looks at her with reverence and worshiping gaze in these barren lands.

Even in her home no one ever dares to speak loudly in her presence. But now a little thief dares to mess with her and even dare to fight her, on top of that he steals her storage ring right under her nose.

If it wasn't for the fact that Ace can't open or take her things inside the storage ring without killing her or she removes her 'Qi Mark' on the ring of her own free will, Dulce would've definitely lost her mind from anger.

Because there were just too many important and precious things inside that ring and even the thing she came here for was inside!

That's why she was going in herself, to retrieve her storage ring as soon as possible.

Now she didn't want to interrogate him anymore, all she wanted was to kill him most painfully, and wash her humiliation and calm all the burning hatred in her heart.

Ace was currently inside a first-floor room. He was looking at the brown storage ring in his hand. His eyes shine brightly.

This was his goal from the start. if he failed to kill Dulce in five minutes then he would take her storage ring only and escape!

She was so distracted by him that Dulce didn't even notice her ring taken away from her when she was thinking about his prowess.

After opening 9th Heavenly Gate, his soul threads have also become more sneaky and powerful. Even he was amazed and marvel by the proficiency of his self-created skill.

"I didn't have time she will notice her missing storage ring soon. I have to quickly find that formation plate and get rid of this barrier." He mutters under his breath.

Ace was about to search for the formation plate inside the storage ring when he suddenly remembered something that he almost forgets about in a moment of urgency.

'I can't open it without killing her, Shit!' He cursed in his mind as he finally remembered the system's words about storage space treasures.

Before he could curse his bad luck further he heard a cold voice in his mind,

"[Pick Pocket succeed]

[Host steal]

[1: High-Level, Low-Grade Storage Space Treasure] (4th Mortal Level-Runes)

[21: Middle-Level, Low-Grade Storage Space Treasure] (3rd Mortal Level-Runes)

[41: Low-Grade Storage Space Treasure] (2nd Mortal Level-Runes)

[5: Lowest-Grade Storage Space Treasure] (1st Mortal Level-Runes)

[1: Grade-1, 1000-Years Blood Rose] (Above 9-Star or Golden-Ranked)

[40,009: Lowest-Grade Pills] (White-Ranked pills)

[10,092: Low-Grade Pills] (Green-Ranked pills)

[5932: Middle-level, Low-Grade Pills] (Blue-Ranked pills)

[1021: High-level, Low-Grade Pills] (Azure-Ranked pills)

[8: Low-Level, Middle-Grade Pills] (Purple-ranked pills)

[7653: Middle-level, Low-Grade Weapon] (3-Stars)

[34: High-level, Low-Grade Weapon] (4-Stars)

[Techniques and skills Lowest-Level (Mortal-Level): 21 Techniques, 184 Skills],

[Techniques and skills Low-Level (Worrier-Level): 9 Techniques, 48 Skills],

[Techniques and skills Mid Low-Level (Master-Level): 1 Technique],

[Ruby Coins: 140.4 Million],

[Qi-Stones Trash-Grade (Low-Level): 12 Million],

[Qi-Stones Lowest-Grade (Middle-Level): 998,000],

[Qi-Stone Low-Grade (High-Level): 50,22],

[Formation Plate Lowest-Level (1st Mortal Ranked Runes): 1]

[Slave Contracts: 172]

[Medicine Herbs and Metal Ores: 20,093 Herbs, 1546 Metal Ores]

[Rewards: 10,890 Thief Points]

[Thief Points:10,960]"

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Ace was currently looking at the panel of the system in a daze.

As he read his eyes nearly pop out of their sockets. He didn't believe his eyes and think that system has been broken and showing wrong numbers and words. But no matter how much he checked with different methods the numbers remain the same.

'I'm freaking RICH' He nearly scream out loud.

"That vixen is way too rich!" Ace said in a daze. He finally understands the wealth of a kingdom princess.

"But now all these things are mine! You'll definitely split blood from anger once I escape here, but it's a pity that I won't be able to see your ugly mug myself at that time." Ace laughs evilly as he thought of Dulce's angry face.

Just all those storage rings inside that Dulce's ring were enough for making him smile ear to ear.

Because with this many storage rings he can upgrade his Thief Storage Space. He can now even convert all those pills into EXP, and with all those pills if he wants he can establish his foundation now. But when he remembered the risk involved with it he gave up on the idea.

The icy voice of the system awakes him from his sweet dream.

He saw on top of the transparent black main panel there were many grey-out pentagons.

Each pentagon was engraved with a different silver rune symbol. But not all of them were grey, five of them were shining with a golden light around them and the symbols on them were sparkling with silver dots.

These five pentagons of symbols were [Status Panel], [Mission Panel], [Notification Panel], [System Shop], and [Thief's Space] each had a different kind of rune symbol representing them.

Whenever Ace opened some kind of new function of the system, the pentagon with the rune symbol representing the same function starts to shine with a golden light around them from their grey state.

After that Ace can easily open or see that function with just a thought.

Right now, a symbol that resembles a 'Coin' was shining with blue light. This was the symbol of Thief's Space. Ace opens the panel with a thought just like he always does.

[Thief's Space]

"[System detects enough storage space treasures to upgrade thief's space.]

[Upgrade Menu]

[Storage Space Treasures: 68]

[Two Storage Space Treasures with 1000 TP: 40 Cubic Meters Extra Non-Living Being Thief's Space]

[Storage Space Treasure [Low to High-Level Low Grades]: 63]

[Ten Storage Space Treasures of Low-Grad with 5000 TP: Unlocked the Living Being function of Thief's Space and 100 cubic meters of Space]

[Warning: If host unlocked the living begin storing function of the thief's space then the non-living begin function would be deleted by the system.]"

He saw the thief panel with all the information about his things inside the thief's space. He saw a new upgrading function was added to the panel and read all this.

Ace was having a hard time deciding what to do after reading the new function and how will it work. He wanted to open this storage ring as soon as possible and only by converting the other low-grade storage rings into his own thief's space would he'll be able to do it.

He was in a dilemma, if he chose to only spend 1000 TP then the system would take only those 'trash storage rings' (Lowest Grade) from inside, and by doing it the system would have to open this ring. After that, he can do whatever he wants with the ring and save the 4000 TP as well.

Ace silently considers the pros and cons of this and finally comes to a decision. "System open the Living Being storage function!"

[Thief Points: 5960]

He saw his TP drops by half but he didn't care about them after thinking of the advantages of the Living Being storage function.

"[The function has been activated.]

[90 Cubic Meters also has been added]

[Thief's Space has been upgraded into Living Thief's Space]

[Now the host can store limited living being, and any non-living being inside as long as the space is big enough]

[Warning: Old upgrading plans have been deleted after the host reached the maximum limit of the storage space he can get with his current level of authority.]

[New upgrading plans will be available after the host upgrade his authority.]"

Ace saw the symbol that resembles a 'Coin' was not empty in the middle anymore but there a strange creature type rune appeared in the middle of the coin. He guesses it was a symbol of a living being so he didn't pay much attention to it.

He wanted to ask some questions about how he would be able to upgrade his authority but remember he was still inside the nest of the enemy.

Now the ring no longer blocks his Qi since the Qi Mark of Dulce has been erased by the system.

He didn't even have the time to check his new storage space.

With a thought, Ace saw the big space inside the ring and it was clearly much bigger than his old thief's space.

He quickly notices a white stone plate with many rune symbols shining on it. He immediately guesses what it was and quickly takes it out of the storage ring. He places the ring and white formation plate inside his own thief's space. And quickly leave to fetch Eva.

The escape was almost in his grasp.

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Chapter 52: Escape! (2)

Dulce was desperately searching for Ace when suddenly she felt like someone has stuck her with a huge hammer in the back of her head.

She instantly fell to the floor. She tried to rise back to her feet quickly, but the pain was too severe. vomited out a puddle of blood.

Her bodyguards begun to panic seeing her vomiting blood. They thought that Ace has sneak attack her and quickly starts to manifest Qi and ready to protect her with their life.

Pain starts to fade after some time and Dulce finally regains her sense.

Her face was ashen after what just happen. She knows exactly just where this immediate pain has come from. A vein popped out from Dulce's temple, "T-That thief has somehow erased my Qi-mark from storage ring!"

A tinge of astonishment flashed on Baldy's face as he mutters under his breath, "T-that impossible! He can't do that, n-nobody can!"

Dulce clenched her jaws so tight, her gums were in danger of injury. As she berated him loudly, "You think I'm telling lies?!"

'Even I don't understand this how can someone erased a Qi-Mark from a 4-star storage treasure without killing the owner? Is he from an ancient sect?' The moment that notion surfaces in her mind she promptly shook her head.

If he was really from an ancient sect he would never have to steal from all these lowly cities and her.

Because the wealth of an ancient sect disciple can even rival the first-grade empire!

They didn't need to steal, they all were extremely arrogant and proud beings. They even consider coming to these lower lands beneath them much less stealing.

'That thief must have something amazing on him, that can even open storage space treasures. I must take it no matter the cost!' Dulce thought gravely but there was intense greed in her eyes.

"Search separately if you see him fight him to the end! Buy as much time as you can until help arrives. If anyone dares to flee I'll kill that person myself in the cruelest way!" She gave her command and start searching madly.

After her Qi Mark was forcefully erased from the storage ring Dulce was in a weak state but she didn't care. All in her mind was Ace's mysterious secret!

On the fifth floor in the room where Eva was hiding. It has been fifteen minutes since Ace has left and she was worried sick about him.

But she can't go look for him because even she knows that she'll only get in his way so she can do nothing but pray for his safety.

Suddenly, she hears some commotion outside but she didn't dare to move towards the window, what will happen if she gets spotted? She was strong but she can't fight or escape Qi foundation building realm experts without Ace.

The door starts to open slowly and Eva snaps out of her thoughts. She holds the hilt of her sword tightly and was ready to battle if needed.

"Eva!" A whispering voice sounded in the room.

No matter how low the voice was she would never forget who this voice belongs to. She quickly abandons her hiding spot and runs towards the owner of the voice.

Ace was vigilantly looking around the room to see if Eva was still here or she changed her hiding spot. He has searched the entire floor or maybe the whole building if that was the second case.

Before he could use his heavenly sense to search for her, a shadow emerges from the room and moves towards him, she throws herself into his embrace. He could've dodged but with his soul signature ability, he knew who this was so he didn't dodge.

Ace felt Eva's soft body and her warmth. The air was changed and filled with her fragrance, it was like fresh roses. Ace didn't have time to enjoy all this because Eva was looking at him gently with tears in her beautiful eyes.

"You make me so worried!" Complains Eva softly. Even with her fake face, she was looking extremely cute.

Watching her acting like even in this situation Ace smiles helplessly, but he felt warm inside and said while holding her, "I'm fine and I even find a way out of here."

"Really? Let's go then why are you wasting time taking?" She said with a charming smile. She was enjoying his embrace though.

Ace shook his head helplessly as he beamed at her, "Fine but you don't have to do anything this time around."

Eva became confused after hearing him and was about to ask what he meant by those words. When she felt Ace's Qi on her hand and the last thing she remembered after that was, darkness.

Ace has put her inside his thief's space. This was the main reason he decided to unlock this function so he can safely put Eva inside and she didn't have to face any danger while he escapes from here.

But this thief's space has its limitation as well as he can only put a single living humanoid being inside. If he wants to put another he has to upgrade thief's space to 1000 (Cubic Meters). He learns it from the system when he asked if he can put Eva and Mathies both inside without any problem.

After learning about this he chose Eva over Mathies because he still didn't trust Mathies, he was still hiding something about his parents from him, and that is why he can't bring himself to trust him competently.

Mathies was not like Eva who trusts him blindly and tells everything, she was his first friend and wanted to face danger with him in this kind of situation, even it means death.

Hence, Ace didn't want to put her in danger just because he was appreciative towards Mathies.

After he put Eva into his thief's space he moves towards the third floor to find Mathies. Time was extremely tight, he didn't want Dulce to figure out that he already has the method to open her storage ring and escape from here unnoticed.

Little did he know that she already knows about it because storage rings were made by unique mortal-level space runes formation and if you sever the connection with the owner forcefully the owner would feel it just like Dulce.

Rylan didn't find out about it because his storage ring was made by a novice rune crafter with just five runes symbols who was still learning about runes symbols and that storage ring was the lowest quality.

But Dulce's ring was the highest grade storage ring that you could ever find in the Land of Kingdoms and made by a 4th ranked mortal rune crafter!

Kingdom and Empires have three grades. First Grade is the highest and third is the lowest. You could only find rune crafters in the 2nd Grade Kingdom or higher.

Rune Crafters have 9-Mortal Ranks. Only the top five 1st Grade Kingdoms have Rank 4 Mortal Rune Crafters. And every single one of them treated as a nation a treasure.

Ace didn't know about this because Land of Cities didn't have the permission to disclose this information to the masses only city lords of cities like New Moon City that was about to reach the rank of a country have the right to know about it.

Mathies was still pretending to search. He enters an empty room when he felt someone was standing behind him. He turns around and saw it was Ace and smile. "Do you succeed?"

He could tell that Dulce was inside the Inn and was heading in this way after hearing the commotion of guards.

"Let's go we don't have time to waste." Ace enters the room and heads straight towards the window and jumps from it without looking back at Mathies.

Mathies didn't delay and gladly comply with Ace's order and jump after him.

Outside was wide open and no one was guarding the area. Because Dulce has ordered every single person to search Ace in panic without thinking he would escape from outside like before.

Ace saw the bright barrier and take out the formation plate from his thief's space. Mathies was astounded after seeing a formation plate with mysterious symbols.

After Ace pours his Qi into the Plate it starts to shine and Ace felt a torrent of information about how to use this formation appear in his mind. It was the work of the system!

This was his first time seeing this kind of formation and become surprised seeing all that information.

'This formation can even trap a Qi River realm expert for an hour.' He thought excitedly and finally know the wonders of formations.

The formation plate starts to hover in Ace's hand and suddenly the huge barrier suck inside the plate and the sky turns cloudy again as the rain starts to fall heavily.

Ace and Mathies didn't stay there and quickly escape in the direction of the city gate.

Dulce has just reached the third floor of the building when she saw the rain starts to fall outside. Her forehead began to crease further in a frown after thinking about what just happened.

"H-he escape?" mutter Dulce in bewildered.

Dulce's ferocity was so strong that she was feeling faint. She never thought that such a would happen. She has lost to a petty thief!

"I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU RASCAL THIEF!!!!" She vomits blood and faints with anger after roaring.

Her anguish howl shocks the entire Inn.

This incident is going to become the greatest blemish of her life.

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Chapter 53: Blood Rose!

Dulce open her drowsy eyes lightly and saw a beautiful ceiling. She first felt extremely comfortable and warmth of the soft bedding and smile unknowingly, But the smile soon disappeared the next moment and was replaced by violent rage.

"Where am I!?" She yells loudly and quickly stood up.

She clearly remembered what has happened before she fainted and her blood begun to surge in anger. 'That scoundrel thief escapes from my hands and he even has the 'legendary' herb that father and second uncle want.'

When she thought of her father, her face turns white as a ghost. She has made a huge blunder this time around.

She was in the red mountain city to harvest the 'Blood Rose'. Her father the King, only know this was a 'legendary' medicinal herb above golden grade medicinal herb, and it was called the Blood Rose.

They didn't know its medical effect because it was her uncle who found and told them about it in the first place.

The Golden Hammered Kingdom stumble upon this Blood Rose hundred years ago with pure luck.

At that time the Red Mountain City name was only Mountain City and it was only a 3-star city. Because the mountain was not red it was normal. The mountain turns red hundred years ago in one night.

After it turns red there were quite an uproar and rumors starts to spread all over the lands of cities, the rumors even reached the 1-Star Cities. Like someone has massacred the entire city and dyed the mountain red with blood. Or there was a rare natural treasure growing here.

Even the city lord of that time was alarm by this sudden occurrence of red color, even he thinks some kind of treasure was borne here and it was a calamity to a 3-star city.

Because if there was really a natural treasure here his city would be destroyed just to keep its existence a secret. But nobody finds anything no matter how much they searched. Everyone thinks it is just a natural phenomenon so they gave up. The city lord also has a sigh of relief.

The golden hammered kingdom was after all one of the top ten kingdoms of middle-level lands and its territory was quite huge, so they didn't pay any heeds to this barren place much less a 3-star city like a mountain city.

But then the second prince of the golden hammered kingdom who was a Blue Grade Alchemist of the kingdom, like to travel around the lands and explore ancient ruins.

From one of the ancient ruins, he finds an old red scroll. The scroll was made from a powerful demonic beast hide and it was in ancient writing of devils.

The language of devils was not common here, but some people still learn it after all the devils once rule the Azure Wind Continent. But a hero emerges from the ranks of humans and he unites the entire human race. He was the first to fight for the rights and freedom of the human race. He claims the entire continent from devils after a bloody war. At least that is what the story was.

After the human race claim this continent there were many ancient records, runes, and secret realms that devils left behind. That's why it was not impossible to find someone who was well versed in devil language.

After translating the ancient writing, the second prince learns about the process of creating an extremely rare legendary medicine herb. It can only be born after thousand years on a special kind of soil that was dyed in the blood of millions of innocent people, called the 'Blood Rose'.

The blood submerges in special soil gave only birth and mature a single 'Blood Rose' it would never be able to give birth to the second.

It was a pity that he only finds how to create the herb and its name, no further information about its use was given in that ancient writing. He only knows that this medicinal herb was above golden ranked and called it 'Legendary Herb'.

When that second prince of the golden hammered kingdom learns about the Blood Rose he become astonished and thinks it was day-impossible to fulfill all those conditions. Just finding the special soil was a fool's dream.

It was also happened to be the time when the rumors about the red mountain start to spread. The rumors reached the second prince's ears since he likes to travel a lot. He first didn't pay much attention to it and one night suddenly remembered in the ancient scroll it was written the Blood Rose after birth, it would hide deep underground and the red soil would also absorb in the underground to mature it.

Only when the time of its maturity came it would start to emerge from the underground and bloom in hundred years after that. The red soil starts to surface and dyes the land around it in red as well. These were the signs of Blood Rose blooming.

The moment this thought occur in his mind, he quickly goes straight to his first brother who was now the current king of the kingdom. They had a very good relationship and the matter was too big for him to handle alone.

The second prince tells everything about the ancient scroll and mountain city rumors. The first prince was no fool and he also came to the same conjunction as his second brother.

They quickly discuss and chose to relay this information to their father the former king and the former king was also agitated after learning this and immediately gave the order to investigate that city.

It was only a guess but if there was really a 'legendary herb' on that city then they can easily exchange it with any ancient sects for a disciple slot or maybe it can help their peak expert to breakthrough into the next realm and they might become an empire. There were countless possibilities.

The Golden Hammered Kingdom investigates this 'suspicious' city secretly and finds a well-hidden old concealing formation on the mountain peak.

It was also because of this concealing formation that no one from the land of cities finds the unmatured Blood Rose.

After the kingdom confirms the existence of the herb, they quickly shut the rumors and start to support the city from the shadows to protect it from other kingdoms.

After hundred years of wait, the Blood Rose was finally going to bloom and Dulce's second uncle wanted to come in person to harvest it. But the King stop him because he was afraid that spies of the other top kingdoms might get wind of it.

Because a big event was coming and everyone was on their guards against each other. If they made any sudden or reckless move they would alert others instantly. If the Blood Rose exposed even the empires would get involved in this so he doesn't want to risk it.

In the end, the king sends his clever daughter Dulce to personally harvest the Blood Rose. He could have sent any one of his three sons but they were not as bright as his daughter.

Dulce received her father's command and finally understand why they were protecting that little city for all these years. Because the secret of the Blood Rose was only known to the Former King, the Current King, and the former Second Prince.

Now Dulce knows about it as well. She used her schemer mind and carved the whole plan to safely retrieve the Blood Rose without alerting anyone. The New Moon City wants to become a country and she makes them accept the Red-Mountain city as subordinate power.

This will justify her coming here in the disguise of an examiner.

That is the whole reason, a city like Red Mountain City was New Moon City's subordinate city. But it does have the capability because all these years to protect the Blood Rose the Golden Hammered

Kingdom spends quite resources on the city lord's family and now they're on par with any of New Moon City's subordinate cities.

Dulce chose to come here in the last but there were still some days before Blood Rose bloomed completely and, in these days, the whole Ace incident transpired.

Just a day before she gets news of Ace, she harvested the completely bloomed Blood Rose and was planning to go back to the New Moon City if she didn't get any news on Ace after a week.

But who would've thought that she would find him the very next day?

She thought that heaven was rewarding her for her efforts. In the end, it was retribution instead.

The thief she was so confident in capturing just a couple of hours ago was now gone. And he even takes all her wealth that she has collected by murde... ahem, 'hardship'.

On top of the most important thing, the Blood Rose was inside her storage ring and if her father finds out about it she would be taking a trip to hell.

"Badly, Liook!" She yells as she called her bodyguards.

The door of the room opens and Baldy and Liook enter in a hurry.

"How long have I been unconscious?" Demand Dulce coldly.

"Two hours." Answer Baldy nervously while his head was low.

Dulce glare and became even angrier. "Where is that thief do you capture him or not?"

Beads of sweat start to form on Baldy's bald head as he answers timidly, "N-no princess we're still searching the city. There is something we find while we're searching for him. The city lord of River Flower city is missing and we can't even find his dead body. We assume that he has run away with that runt."

"Useless trash!! Everyone is trash here!" Dulce exploded at Baldy with a face warped with anger.

At this rate, she might really die from anger.

She stomps her feet in anger and anxiety just thinking about the whole incident.

Greed has truly blinded her reasoning and now she was in huge trouble if she didn't find the culprit!

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Chapter 54: Sneak Attack!

To the west of the Red-Mountain City few miles away was the biggest forest of the land of cities, the Moon Forest.

Moon Forest was divided into outer, inner, and core regions.

Most mortals and low-level cultivators only travel between the outer region of the moon forest and no one dare to vent any deeper.

Because in the inner region the weakest demonic beast was the peak of the Qi Gates Realm and the core region was the deadliest!

Right at the moment, two silhouettes were moving in the outer region of the moon forest at fast speed on the dirt road between trees. From the direction, they were going towards the inner region of the moon forest.

It will still take them one to two months before they'll reach the inner region with their current speed.

These two silhouettes were obviously Ace and Mathies.

After they escape from Dulce's trap, fleeing the city was child play for both.

Ace didn't want to stay in the city any longer because he knew Dulce would definitely going to search for him like a mad bitch. After all, he has stolen all her treasures and he was feeling quite good about it there was not a sliver of guilt in his heart.

Mathies was moving right beside Ace and was astonished to see that he can match evenly with his Qi Foundation realm speed with ease. He was having a hard time accepting it,

'His parents definitely left some amazing techniques and skills or even those legendary treasures for him.' He thought as a peculiar light flashed past his eyes.

Mathies knows better than anyone just how much powerful Ace's parents were when he met them all those years ago. Certainly, they can't leave scraps for their own child, right?

But little did he know that they truly didn't leave anything for him and what he was today all because of that mysterious system.

They fled for six hours and finally have a sigh of relief, they were finally far away from the city and Dulce.

Ace was panting right now because he has killed almost all the elite's guards and even battle with a Qi foundation realm expert like Dulce, who was stronger than anyone because of her Six Qi Gates Foundation.

And after he escaped from the city he was continuously using his Qi for running now he was exhausted. If he didn't have opened the four gates of darkness he would be long run out of Qi.

But he was marvel at his Qi recovery rate, that Dark Void¹ inside his abdominal was continuously sucking the Qi of heaven and converting it into HD-Qi.

Ace guessed that he could recover in an hour with this speed of recovery and thanked the system for this powerful reward.

Ace was just deep in thought while catching his breath, and was just about to release Eva from his thief's space when he felt a cold sensation from behind and a chill run down his spine. He felt goosebumps rising all over his body and his soul sense starts to ring like bells it was a warning that he was in grave danger.

He didn't have time to turn around to see the situation, Ace quickly react and try to dodge whatever was coming with a sidestep but he was too late and a sharp cold blade pierce through this left shoulder blade.

His momentary response saves his heart from getting pierced but he still gets wounded.

Strong Qi that was coming from the cold blade was pumping into his body through the wound, if not for his HD-Qi uniqueness his body might've exploded from the powerful Qi.

Ace calms his mind and ignores the throbbing pain coming from the wound and uses the silent step to escape the blade. His HD-Qi was still fighting with the foreign Qi inside his body.

To Ace's astonishment the next moment, the Dark Void began to suck the foreign Qi and the Qi turns into HD-Qi. This was another ability of the Dark Void that he didn't know and wonder if this mysterious void has more uses.

Ace didn't have time to reflect over Dark Void because he heard an unexpected voice when he escapes the blade and turns around. He knew who this voice belongs to the moment he heard it.

When Ace turns around he saw Mathies was holding a long sword with his blood was dripping on the ground from its blade. He saw Mathies was looking at him in shock and dread.

"H-h...how did you escape the outburst of the Qi Foundation realm 'Manifestation Qi? N-no a body of Qi Gates Cultivator can't hold against it." Mathies said while shuttering as he looked at Ace with horror as if he was seeing a ghost.

Ace's heart turns cold the moment he saw Mathies was holding the weapon and when he heard Mathies's words.

He finally understands that he has just escaped certain death because of the HD-Qi and Dark Void, if even one of them were missing he would be a cold corpse right now.

Actually, even if he didn't have any of them he would still be able to expel the Qi with Heavenly Qi. It was just that he didn't encounter and fight with the Qi Foundation realm expert so his knowledge was deficient.

"Why did you sneak attack me? I thought you were with me?" Ace asked coldly, rage was bubbling up inside him.

He wanted to know just why this old guy did this. He didn't think that Mathies would've harbor ill-intention towards him so his guard was down and he didn't use his full soul sense on him either that time because of the exhaustion. But the moment Mathies saw the opening he attacked with a sure-kill move.

Mathies knows his cover was blown and he loses his only chance to strike a fatal blow. He calmed his wildly beating heart and said with a deep sigh, "When I first saw your portrait I was quite shocked back then, and finally realized that you were still in the city all these years. At that time, I want to genuinely find you and tell you about your parents. I want to repay the graciousness for saving my life.

"However, I can't find you just like last time and think this time you really left the city to save your life. I blame myself for my incompetence. But the after two days that vixen comes and start a massacre she

killed my whole family, my wife, children, grandchildren..." Killing intent starts to emit from Mathies's eyes as he mentions his family.

"I wanted to kill that whore entire family to avenge my family but what can a pawn like me do? We all lived in the land of cities the lowest level lands and all the upper-level lands think of us as mere slaves, they didn't even allow us to possess proper resources to become powerful. Our destiny was in their hands the moment we were born here!

"I lose all the hope and become an empty husk until I saw you doing all those miraculous things. I saw hope to avenge my family. You even opened a storage ring and broke a legend. Then it comes to my mind that it was because of you that all my family was dead and because of you my city has become rubble." He stair venomously at Ace.

"So, I decided to kill you and take your secret for myself. But you were just too bizarre and I was uncertain of success. I waited for the perfect moment and finally find an opening a moment ago when you were exhausted. But who could've thought that even my sneak attack wasn't able to kill you!" Mathies said with frustration in his voice.

Mathies was very confident in his skills but Ace has counter it and now he has to fight him head-on. But he was not discouraged like an old fox because he thought that Ace was still fighting with his Qi that he released with his attack and was in a weak state. And after his big and hateful speech, he would definitely hesitate to attack him.

After listening to Mathies reason Ace sighed, he thinks if he was in Mathies position he would definitely hate the person who was responsible for his misery. But Ace didn't feel any grief at all from Mathies soul what he felt was greed, envy, desire... these kinds of emotions that he felt from Dulce, Grace, Asher, ...

'He wants my secret just like others but his acting skill is top-notch though. If I didn't have my soul sense, even I would've believed him.' Ace mocked, if what Mathies says was all true he would've let him go.

But he has doubts about him from the start when he gave him incomplete information about his parents and after he senses his true feeling and heard his opposite words, he concludes,

'This guy is an old fox through and through and far more dangerous than that vixen!'

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Chapter 55: White Crown!

Ace said as he sighs deeply, "It seems like I was truly naïve."

Two black swords emerge in his hands and his Qi pours in the swords. The dark Qi starts to leak from the pitch-black blades like haze.

Mathies grimaces deeply as he saw Ace takes out his weapons and for some reason, he felt extreme dread from those two swords from the bottom of his heart. 'He didn't act like I think he would.' Think Mathies as he holds his sword hilt tightly.

The truth was when he saw Ace fell in despair and blame himself when Dulce tells him about the destruction of the city. At that time, Ace was vulnerable and if Dulce takes that chance to strike she

would've succeeded in capturing him but she decided to toy with him like her other victims and she pays the price in the end for her vanity.

Mathies scoffs at her idiocy in his head that time.

That's why Mathies takes his time to give a sorrowful speech first, he wanted to attack him mentally to make Ace hesitate to attack him and that would be his chance to take him down. He was not like Dulce and the whole other level of schemer from her. He was confident in his acting skills and the ability to control his emotions, but this time around his skills seem to be failed.

He was observing him from the moment he laid his eyes on him and after his analysis, he concluded that Ace was inexperienced and naïve. And he has never been wrong before in his analysis of someone.

But Ace has somehow gained the ability to remain calm in the face of desperate situations after the Dulce incident. He was a completely different person, not like before when he loses his calm easily.

Little did he know that Ace has soul sense and he can feel his inner self emotions.

Mathies can hide his emotion on the surface but he can't do that with his soul because he wasn't a soul cultivator.

Now Ace was calmer because he already touched the law of [Despair] once and his mentality has undergone a drastic change. And Mathies was like an open book when Ace solely focused on him.

Mathies still wanted to try something else to make his chance of winning higher but he saw Ace has vanished. There was still dark and because of the clouds, it was as dark as it could be.

Cultivation can vaguely see in darkness when they reached the Qi foundation realm and their sense become much sharper than any mortal, they can even hold their breath underwater for ten hours straight. That's why Mathies can move around freely but he misses the details about Ace can also move freely and much better than him in dark.

Ace never has proper education much less on cultivation and he also didn't know about the details of what can a human do in specific after he cultivates. He only knows how to read and write because of his grandparents' teaching.

Mathies panicked and said as he raises his hands in surrender, "We didn't need to fight I admit my mistake!" He didn't want to fight an opponent that he can't even see or sense. And Ace can sneak up on him without even him noticing before. So, he decided to wait and find another opportunity.

Ace was in his stealth and heard Mathies words but he didn't stop. 'Empty words.' He despises.

He didn't want to expose himself to his old fox anymore after seeing his backstabbing and scheming nature. He was thanking his decision to keeping Eva inside the thief's space until now and didn't show that old fox anymore of his secrets.

Otherwise, Mathies would've become more alert and hide like venomous snakes. When he got the chance, he would strike the moment when he was in a difficult situation and Eva would be in danger as well because of his idiocy and naivety.

But Ace didn't know Mathies showed his true colors exactly because of Eva! He didn't see him taking that girl with him and in his mind, Ace has abandoned her. Moreover, he was poisoned and Ace didn't give him an antidote that's why he thought Ace wanted to kill him as well.

However, that was not the case at all, it was just that Ace has forgotten about the poison! If Mathies asked him Ace would've given him right at that moment. It is just that his motives were not pure from the start and that poison only made those desires intense.

But now Ace was very appreciative towards Mathies for showing his true colors so soon and gave him a lesson to never trust anyone completely. Besides, he would never let an incident like River-Flower city happen again as long as he lives.

Ace was moving with silent steps as he saw Mathies has raised his hand but didn't let his sword go, his eyes turn sharp as he brandishes the long sword and slashed towards Mathies sword holding hand.

Mathies felt a cold and sharp sensation coming from his back and quickly wave his sword backward vertically.

'chee' 'kaachha'

Mathies did manage to connect the attack with Ace's sword but the moment that black blade touched his sword, the sword cut in half like butter and landed on his chest. A deep cut appeared and blood gushes out from it.

Mathies didn't even know what happen and why his 3-star sword would cut in half like it was made of paper. Dulce gave him this sword to capture Ace and he knows it was really a 3-star weapon. But now it was cut in half easily and he starts to doubt that Dulce has played him.

Ace didn't stop here because the cut was not deep enough to take Mathies life and again decided to go in stealth.

After killing so many elite guards sneakily in the Inn Ace has finally found his fighting style. His skills were made for fighting in dark and silently not in a frontal assault. As long as the opponent is not stronger than him by a huge gap he could easily kill them sneakily.

Mathies has a taste of Ace's newfound understanding of his skills and technique. He felt horrified after being cut by his Qi because he felt Ace Qi was not normal at all it was cold but at the same time it gives him a feeling of emptiness like he was alone in a dark place with no sliver of light.

Mathies somehow suppressed Ace's Qi that was making him numb, he was after all a Qi Foundation expert. But just he was about to say something to get himself out of this situation a chill run down his spine because a black blade was coming towards his neck like a grim reaper scythe.

Ace didn't want to drag this fight because his HD-Qi was limited and he was still exhausted so he decided to end Mathies. In his view, Mathies was extremely weak for a Qi Foundation realm expert or he was just too powerful for a Qi Gates realm practitioner.

"STOP! I know very important information about your parents!" Shouts Mathies in horror, this was his final trump card for getting out of this situation. Now he finally understands just how much he underestimate this little thief.

The moment he said those words he felt a cold sharp object was touching his throat. It was a black blade that emitting a black aura from its sharp edge.

If he was a second late in uttering his head would be flying right now. He was drench in sweat and he gulps nervously, he nearly dies. Now he understands what it means by 'power can overcome any scheme'.

Ace was looking at Mathies in eyes coldly while his sword was still on Mathies's throat, "Tell me everything if you even speak a single lie you're dead." He said coldly.

He also wanted to know the complete truth about his parents and decided to hear Mathies out. If Mathies tells him everything truthfully, he didn't mind sparing him. He wasn't a cold murder in the end. If not for Mathies vile character Ace would've never brought himself to kill Mathies in the first place.

"I'll speak the truth just don't kill me." Said Mathies with dread in his voice. He could tell Ace was dead serious.

Ace only stare at Mathies deeply and didn't say anything like he was telling him 'you better be'. He didn't retract his sword from his throat either.

Mathies could only sigh helplessly after seeing Ace was not reacting to him and finally decided to tell him everything it was after all his life that was hanging on a thread right now.

"The things I told you before were true but I didn't tell you that when your father used his power to send me away before vanishing I heard your mother yell that time, she was clearly referring to her enemies." Said Mathies slowly, he was still looking at Ace to see his reaction but to his dismay, Ace didn't even flinch after hearing his word.

Mathies only felt the blade was starting to press in his throat and because of that black aura his skin starts to cut like jelly and blood starts to flow.

He didn't dare to play riddle anymore and said quickly, "I-I heard her shouting 'White Crown!' before I was sent far away from that place. I-I swear I'm telling you the truth. As for what I have done it was because I was awed by them after seeing their prowess and wanted to possess that kind of power myself. I just want to be someone strong to protect my family. That's the whole reason I wanted your secret but I was wrong greed truly blinds me, I...!"

Before he could finish his words, something passes through his throat with lightning speed and he didn't even feel what happened. The last thing he saw before his view gets dark was Ace's serene face.

Mathies's head was rolling in the soil with his eyes wide open in disbelief, horror, surprise, and hatred.

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Chapter 56: Qi Soul Manifestation Realm!

Ace was emotionlessly looking at Mathies skeptical face on dirt. After a moment he takes a deep breath and finally averts his gaze.

Ace could tell that Mathies spoke the truth about 'White Crown' but the rest was utter nonsense. Mathies still tries to portrait himself as a righteous person but Ace knows the moment he starts to spout nonsense and try to deceive him again.

That old fox seems to didn't even care about his dead family at all. So, he simply didn't hear any more nonsense and sent him on his way.

"I've changed." Mutter Ace under his breath as looks at the dark sky.

Maybe because of the gates or darkness or after seeing the cruelty of men he finally comes to terms with his heart that he has to be ruthless while dealing with his enemies.

Mathies try to backstab him and ever after he gave him a chance he still harbors malicious intent towards him. Ace finally understands the meaning of those words he once heard from his grandma 'World Respects the Strong and disdain the weak!'

That time he was young and didn't understand them clearly but now he finally knows just what exactly that means. If he was strong enough did Dulce still dare to mascara his hometown or craving his secrets? Did Mathies dare to scheme against him and try to kill him for his own selfishness? Definitely not!

Ace sighs as he thinks about this and shook his head lightly. He was just about to tend his wound when he heard the system's voice,

"[You have killed an Early Stage Qi Foundation Building Realm Clone. You have earned 1000 EXP.]"

[EXP: 5020/50.000]

Ace was stunned after reading this and ask quickly, "System what do mean clone didn't I kill a living begin?"

"[10 Thief Points required for the answer.]"

"Just take them." Ace said grumpily.

'It starts again!' He thought as his faces turn dark. He previously thinks that after he opened the gates of darkness, the system was answering his question without asking for payment but he was utterly wrong.

"[Cloning or Self Clones can be made by special cultivation techniques, secret skills, rune crafting or some races has the innate ability to made clones from birth.]"

[The host has just killed a clone of a Qi Soul Manifestation Realm cultivator that was made by a special cultivation technique. But this technique was clearly a basic-level soul-splitting clone technique and a flawed one at that.]

[Because after analysis system concluded that the main body can't see, feel or experience anything that the clone felt until the clone die. And clone wasn't even aware of its own existence as a mere cultivation clone. It has Emotion defects as well.]

[Now that the clone has been destroyed all the experience he's been through for his entire life would directly transfer into the main body.]"

Ace was flabbergasted by the consequential information and given the scare of his life. He cursed his bad luck a thousand times.

He couldn't help but shiver a little as he turns around to see the headless corpse on the ground and now he felt dread by looking at it. He has unknowingly killed a clone of a 'Qi Soul Manifestation' realm cultivator!

No matter how ignorant Ace was, he clearly knows the cultivator realms of this world and he never even heard or read about this realm before.

The only information known to the public about the cultivation realms were Qi Gates, Qi Foundation Building, Qi River, Qi River Core, and Qi Soul.

Even empires didn't know what comes after Qi Soul because just reaching the Qi Soul realm was enough to put an empire into the top 2 positions in the entire high-level lands!

But Ace clearly knows what comes after Qi Soul and that was exactly the Qi Soul Manifestation Realm!

Therefore, what does it mean by a Soul Manifestation realm expert? It simply means someone from Ancient Sects!

Ace was beginning to sweat profoundly, "I you know why didn't you tell me??!" He asked gloomily to the system. He felt like he has been swindle pretty badly by the system.

"[Host never asked.]"

"YOU!" He became speechless and nearly had a stroke.

If he knows this was a clone of someone this powerful and by killing it, he would alarm the main body, he would think hundred times before doing it. He could've just escaped and leave Mathies here.

"System can the main body of that person get the information about me as soon as it died and can he come here like through his clone?" He asked nervously as his imagination runs wild. If that was true he didn't know if he could escape someone this powerful.

"[Not possible with this kind of technique. He can only get the information after a week minimum and he will suffer the backlash from the technique because the clone was killed and it didn't die naturally. So, the host didn't have to worry about his safety for now, at least.]" This time it was a playful voice.

"What do mean for now? He will come for me sooner or later but he will come!" Ace sighed again and again in frustration. He has shot himself in foot this time around.

His secret was just too big for anyone to know and somehow he has even alarmed a cultivator of some ancient sect.

Ace shook his head in dismay and decided to lay low and tend carefully from now on.

Even if that Qi Soul Manifestation realm expert was from an ancient sect that doesn't mean he can find him in this big continent easily.

If not for the system notification he didn't even know about this matter but now that he knows he would never let his guard down easily.

'Let's see what happened in the future but if I become strong enough even that expert came I'll let him know why the flowers are so red.' Ace grunted as he smiled.

After today's experience, he has become sharper and a little bit experienced.

He began to search for some cave to change his clothes before releasing Eva. Because she would be worried about him if she saw his condition. A smile formed on Ace's face when he remembered Eva and felt warm inside.

In this world, she was the only person that he trusted the most besides his little sister.

Ace wanted to go to River Flower city first to see the current city condition but he decided against it because Dulce can lay a trap there as well and after he finds out about the clone thing he was not in the mood of wasting time anymore he has to become strong quickly.

Ace finds a cave in the outer region of the moon forest. He changed his tattered clothes into a new set and started a fire.

With a gesture of his sleeve on the empty sheet of silk emerged a fairy-like sleeping beauty out of nowhere.

The girl was dressed in black robes, and her hands were placed gracefully on her abdomen. Just by looking at her slender, delicate figure, one could tell that she was a piece of art especially her well-rounded big chest. There was a hint of glossy redness on her lips, making her appear seductive. She had an impeccably beautiful oval face.

Perhaps it was due to the contrast with her black dress, her skin gave off a luster reminiscent of snow. Her nose was curved in a shapely angle, and her lips glistened alluringly. Her delicate lower jaws and her slender neck further accentuated her moving face, making it hard for anyone to resist her charms.

She was Eva, without disguise of course.

Ace has seen her face many times but no matter how many times he saw this goddess-like face he would never be able to take his eyes away from it easily.

Especially her chest that gave him, some particular kind of strange hot feeling whenever he saw it.

Eva's closed eyelids vibrated as she slowly opened them. Her fox-like eyes were open, they were a hint of confusion in those beautiful shining eyes. She looked around at the unfamiliar environment confusingly.

She clearly remembers being inside a dark room of the Inn but this was not a room at all and there was warmth coming from somewhere. She turned her head and saw the fire was lit and Ace was looking at her with a grin.

"Where are we?" She asked Ace in a stupor.

"Inside the Moon Forest." Ace said with a beaming smile. His fatigue lessened quite a bit after seeing Eva and talking with her.

She snapped out of her daze by hearing Ace's words. "But how did we escape and what did you do to me did you take advantage of me?" She asked him with a suspicious gaze.

Ace became speechless after hearing this and shook his head quickly and explained, "I put you inside a storage space that can store living beings. And NO, I didn't take advantage of you!" He didn't hide the

living storage space from her because she never lies or hide anything from him. So, telling her about his little secret was not a big deal.

"You were unconscious the whole time?" He asked in puzzlement. Since he didn't know about how it feels like to be in storage space.

Eva becomes astonished after hearing about the living storage space. She didn't hear about this kind of thing before not even from her mother who in her mind was like an all-knowing being.

"Yes, it was like I was in a strange dream but there was only dark in that dream nothing else." Answered Eva as she remembered how it was in the storage space.

Ace was taken aback by this discovery. He didn't have time before to check the living storage space before and he has many fantasies about it like a child.

Previously he thinks that the storage space should be like the outside world and he could build a comfortable house inside to live but now his little dream was shattered by Eva in instant.

He tries to go inside the storage space to check but now it occurred to him that he can't get inside the storage space himself since it was not a tangible treasure, he can only store others.

He sighs with disappointment as he thought.. 'It seems I have to find a tangible living storage space treasure to build a house.'

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Chapter 57: Eva's Bold Move!

Ace was still in deep thought when he heard Eva beautiful voice,

"Hmph! You face the crisis alone again, and that was not what we agree upon. You even promised me!" Said Eva while pouting as she turns her head around. She was clearly displeased and angry because of what Ace dose.

Anger adds even more charm to her ravishing beauty and Ace was bewitched by her for a moment, "I-I admit I was wrong but there was no time to consider we were surrounded and I thought it was more convenient to escape for me alone and I also don't want to put you in danger."

Ace's face reddens as he said that, he was clearly telling lie about escaping alone. If he tells her about Mathies incident she would definitely pester him to no end so he didn't tell her about it. But he does tell truth about not wanted to put her in jeopardy.

Eva saw Ace redden face from the corner of her fox-like eye and huff, "Hmph! I'm not talking to you anymore you are a trickster."

Ace smiled helplessly after seeing her acting like a spoiled child and an idea pop into his head he quickly takes out a white ring with mysterious symbols from his thief's space. This was a storage ring that was in the collection of Dulce's treasures.

According to his guess, this ring should be equal to a 3-star weapon since he didn't know about the rune crafter's ranks.

Because the system always labels those stolen goods according to its own high standards and he wondered if these world treasures were just of low quality.

He didn't know that all the best treasures were found in royal lands though.

"Here this a real storage ring and this is a hundred times better than Rylan's, considers it my apology gift." Said Ace while he held out his hand to give her the ring.

Eva's eyes lit up the moment she hears Ace's words and quickly looked at the white ring in Ace's hand. She was going to grab it in excitement when she stops her hand because she remembers something that's her mother told her once.

"Here put it on my index finger and I'll forgive you." Said Eva gently as she presented her delicate right hand to Ace while heavily blushing for some reason.

Ace's eyebrows raised a little because of this particular request. But he didn't think much and do as she said he put the ring on her soft silk-like index finger.

Eva's heartbeat quickened as she saw the white ring and even her neck turn red. She looked at Ace shyly for some unknown reason with her beautiful eyes, the way she was looking at him has changed somehow.

It was as if she can't take it anymore and she quickly stand up and run gracefully out of the cave as if she has done something wrong and didn't dare to face Ace.

Ace was startled and didn't know what happened to her but she starts to act strange he could tell with his soul sense, it all happens when she made that strange request. He shook his head and think she should have something important to do alone so he didn't chase after her.

But Ace didn't know that he has done something quite big unknowingly and it cannot be undone anymore. If he knew what has happened here he would've shouted at her in panic, 'Are You CRAZY!?!?'

Eva finally stops running beside a close water source to their temporary 'housing'. Sun was already starting to rise and the dark clouds start to clear away.

Eva was looking at the slowly rising sun while she holds the ring on her finger with her other hand.

Suddenly that ring vanished in her finger mysteriously and the next moment it appeared again. It was still crystal white but the pattern on it has changed somehow!

Eva seems to know what has happened and didn't look alarmed by this.

She only glance at the new ring and strange emotion bubble up in her heart and looked behind and saw Ace was not chasing after her, "Idiot!" He mumbles softly as she blushes.

She was looking ever more breathtaking in this dim light but no one was here to enjoy the view.

After she gets control of her chaotic emotions she returns to the cave and saw Ace was sleeping like a log. Maybe because he didn't chase after her or he was smiling while sleeping having a good dream Eva felt anger.

But it suddenly comes to her mind what he has done and suffers terrible news like the destruction of his hometown. So, her anger quickly vanished and she sits beside him and starts to brush his hair gently with her soft hand as she was looking at him tenderly with a gentle smile on her face.

Something comes to her mind and she starts to shake her head like crazy and her face turns as red as a strawberry. 'It's all this rascal fault to make me think about all this stuff and sleep on our first n...' She promptly stops her train of thought.

But she didn't know that Ace was fully alert and if he felt an unknown soul signature have entered the cave he would've definitely awake but the person was Eva and he didn't feel a sliver of bad intension from her so he keeps pretending to be sleeping and let her touch him, on the contrary, he was enjoying it.

Ace felt deep in slumber for the first time in many days because of Eva's presence.

Far, far away from the low-level lands were Royal Lands also known as Lands of the Ancients.

The density of the Qi here was thousands of times denser than any other lower lands on the whole continent because the royal lands were in the center of the Azure-Wind Continent.

In an unknown mountain of the royal lands, at the peak of the mountain was filled with cloudy green mist, this mist was not ordinary but it was Qi because the density of the Qi here was so thick it turns into a form of cloudy mist.

Surrounded by this cloudy mist was an Abode in the center of the mountain peak.

It was as if an immortal was lived here in peace. This abode seems simple and normal at first sight, but if one sees it carefully, one will notice many strange symbols engraved outside on the abode walls.

Inside the abode was dark but one could vaguely saw a crossed leg sitting silhouette like a status. No one knows how long it was sitting in this position but there was not a single sign of breathing or movement coming from its body.

Suddenly a green light conjured out of thin air and enter between that silhouette eyebrows.

'pppucpp'

The moment it happens the closed eyes of the status like silhouette shot open and he vomits a small puddle of blood.

His face comes to light and it was filled with lite wrinkles, his hair was black, and he has a small beard on his wrinkled face. He seems like a man in his fifty's but his eyes were as bright as blazing fire and filled with life.

But because of that green light, his complex has started to turn pale, and even more, wrinkles were appearing on his face, he becomes somewhat like an old man in his sixties.

"W-WHO JUST WHO DARE TO KILL THIS OLD MAN CULTIVATION CLONE??!?"

He roared like an angry lion and all the mountain peaks tremble with his anger. The cloddy mist starts to create cyclones and lightning sparks here and there because of that old man's power.

He was the exact cultivator whose clone [Mathies] was killed by Ace a week ago in moon forest.

The old man was fuming with fury and hatred for the culprit who messes with his special 'sacred technique' that he was cultivating for hundreds of years. Abruptly, foreign memories start to enter his brain.

He saw the whole life of Mathies and becomes astonished as he keeps looking at the memories. At the end of the memories, he becomes shocked when he sees Ace performance and him killing his clone at the very end.

His breath becomes ragged after seeing all these events, but he was a sly old fox that has lived for almost a thousand years and quickly calm down.

But his eyes were shining like torches as a sinister smile creep out on his old face. Before he was looking like a peaceful buddha but now this smile was currently looking like a wicked demon.

"White crown, eh. It seems like they're still as sneaky as ever, and it looks like that pup was left alone by those two experts so no one can find or come after him. But he has some ground-breaking secret that they were left with him for safekeeping. Maybe white crown was after that secret too." He frowned deeply as he mutters.

He knew exactly what white crowns represent!

"But this clone was utterly an idiot! He has even managed to fool those two but he ends up died in the hands of a brat that wasn't even in Qi Foundation Realm what an utter disgrace to my name!"

"Well he only has my 10% intelligence so I can't expect more from him but now I have to create a sacred clone again to complete my cultivation technique. Just why the hell this technique has so many strange requirements!"

"I can't go after him with this kind of situation, it seems like I have to take control of that clone if I want to capture that brat." Mumbles the old man as a cold glint flashed past his eyes before he closed them again!

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Chapter 58: Shadow Abyssal Devil!

The next day Ace open his eyes and he felt refreshed like never before after this deep peaceful sleep. He was about to get up from his lying position when he felt a weight on his right shoulder, he confusingly turned his head and saw Eva's face was resting on his shoulder.

She was looking at him with her bewitching eyes while smiled charmingly.

Ace was taken aback by this sudden development. Her unique refreshing fragrant was in the air and Ace couldn't help but think if he was feeling refresh because of it.

His eyes subconsciously landed on her perfectly shaped red cherry-like lips, he could feel her breathing on his cheeks. He felt his arm was between something soft and warm, he saw Eva was wearing a tight blue dress with short cleavage. He witnessed a deep line there and Eva's hands were wrapped around his arm. His arm was touching her soft peaks!

His heartbeat raced and his blood boil.

When he saw Eva's mature slender hot figure, he felt his body was on fire and his face turns red and he felt a strange desire rising from the bottom of his heart.

Ace never felt like this before not even when he huge little Alina in all those years together.

Ace has a strange feeling that if he didn't distance himself from Eva right now he would do something bizarre that he shouldn't have and let her down because of it.

So, he frees himself from her grip and quickly gets up, and with quick steps, he escap... 'ahem' exits the cave.

His education in this department was incomplete because no one would ever tell a kid this kind of stuff, right?

Moreover, he becomes alone when he was extremely young and after that, he never has a friend because of his silent and reserved nature. Only when he meets Alina did he start to feel like a normal kid again but that wasn't last long as well because of her 'illness'. And no one wanted to waste their time on a poor worthless kid.

That's why Ace was still a pure kid from the heart.

Eva clicks her tongue after seeing Ace escaping like a frightening cat. 'Didn't that book say all the men are the same and they would never let go of a chance like this when a girl gives 'hint' herself?' Thought Eva in frustration. Because she knew about her nation-destroying features.

But the next moment she giggles because she thinks Ace was special and even in this situation he was still acting like a gentleman and control himself.

'Well I can't make 'it' too easy for him, right?' So, I won't do this anymore what if he thinks I'm that kind of girl?' Eva blush heavily as she looked at her sexy dress, she suddenly thought about her strange and bold behavior.

She also didn't understand just why she would be like this bold around Ace. But one thing was clear and that was it happening because of her Half-Devil lineage.

Ace was washing his face and calming his nerves. He takes a deep breath and couldn't help but think about the beautiful sight that he witnesses just now.

'sighs'

'Why did I run away like an idiot its not like she was doing something bad to me?' He thought weirdly.

Since he didn't know the answer, Ace decided to sort out his loot that he didn't have a chance to because he was in hurry at that time so it was a good thing to distract himself.

He opens the main panel of the system and he sent his thought on an envelope-like symbol on the dark panel. It was the symbol of the notification panel. The dark panel changed and the panel open. In this panel, he can see all the previous notifications of the system.

Since he knew about the amount of the storage space treasures because of the thief's space upgrade he didn't check them and move on.

Finally, he saw something strange that he previously missed,

[Grade-1 Herb, 1000-Years Blood Rose: 1]

"1st Grade?!!" Ace was alarmed and subconsciously scream. He rubs his eyes to see if he didn't see wrong but there was still 'Grade-1' there!

He became excited how could he not be?

Because according to his observation until now, not even a single treasure comes close to being a 'True Grade' treasure. And now out of nowhere, he finds one in this kind of place.

Ace's breath quickens as asked, "System what is this Blood Rose?"

If this is a grade one then he strikes it rich this time around. However, he was very confused about how Dulce was able to lay her hand on this kind of treasure.

"[5 Thief Points for appraisal.]"

It was like someone has poured a cold bucket of water on him,

Ace clenches his teeth as he said, "YOU! Just take it." He suddenly wanted to strangle someone really bad.

=====

[Thief Points: 5945]

"[Blood Rose Decryption: An ancient herb born from 'Ancient Abyssal Soil' that was drenched in millions of innocents living beings.]"

[Effect: Able to increase the density of any Abyssal Devil's bloodline lineage.]

[6 Life Phase]

1. 100 Years [Increase the bloodline density 5%]
2. 1000 Years [Increase the bloodline density 15%]
3. 10,000 Years [Increase the bloodline density 30%]
4. 100,000 Years [Increase the bloodline density 50%]
5. 500,000 Years [Increase the bloodline density 75%]
6. 1,000,000 Years [99% Bloodline density, and Awakening of the Royal Abyssal Devil's Bloodline]

[Current Life Phase: Second Phase, 1000 Years [Increase the bloodline density 15%]]

[Method of Use: Any Devil with Abyssal Bloodline can eat it directly or Host can also convert it into 100,000 EXP or 10,000 Soul Points]"

Ace's eyes were wide open as he saw the appraisal of the system. He takes a deep breath of cold air.

This information was too much for him to take even with his newfound mentality.

After he calms down Ace begun to consider, 'System called it an ancient herb means it is very rare. But this herb is only useful to a devil with an abyssal bloodline and by the looks of it, this herb can even awake something called Royal Abyssal Bloodline if it reached the sixth phase of its life. But the most important thing is I finally found out that I can convert the herbs in EXP or SP as well!'

The more Ace thinks the more excited he becomes. He finally found another way of gaining experience. It never occurred to him that if he can convert the medicine pills into EXP then the herbs that made those pills can be turned into EXP as well.

A grade one herb was giving him a hundred thousand at once and he can even have a choice to convert it into SP as well. One has to know that he didn't even gain any soul points besides the missions and this was his first time seeing something can be converted into soul points as well.

"If Eva has this abyssal bloodline this herb would've helped her a lot but it's a shame that she's a half-shadow devil." Mutters Ace under his breath. If this herb can be of any use to Eva he would've given it to her without a second thought but it was a pity that it isn't.

He wanted to convert it into SP since they were extremely rare to collect. He has other pills and many medicinal herbs as well so he has more than enough to break through into the next realm.

The reason for his breakthrough delayed was because he has a strange feeling that it was not the right time. He trusts his instinct and didn't convert any pills into EXP for time being.

He was just about to give his command when something rare happened,

"[System has a suggestion related to Blood Rose for the host.]"

Ace was astonished after hearing the system voice and it was not a cold voice like always, "Tell me about it." Said, Ace.

"[Host new thief's space is extremely suitable for any creature or medicinal herb that related to [Darkness]. It can help living creatures awaken their true bloodline in hundreds or thousands of years if they stay inside, it all depends on the creature's true lineage and bloodline density. Or medicinal herbs can be nurtured at high speed inside the thief's space, but the host has to spend Thief Points and this function is currently unavailable.

"[Same goes for that halfling girl, she can also awake her true bloodline in hundred thousand years if she remains inside host's thief's space and even that can help her to reach only sixty percent! She will never be able to reach the true heights of her bloodline. Moreover, she didn't have a lifespan of a hundred thousand years.

"[But with this Blood Rose it changed because it is very rare to mature this kind of herb between heaven and earth. This is a heavenly treasure for any abyssal devil and the abyssal devil didn't exist in the first heavens. The system also didn't know how this rare herb appears here.

"[Host can feed this Blood Rose to that halfling and with 5000 TP seal her inside your living thief's space for twenty to thirty years. Her bloodline is related to shadow and [Shadow] is one of the laws of [Darkness] and Abyssal Bloodline is also related to [Darkness].

"[Normally you cannot combine two bloodlines but with host thief's space and her only half-shadow bloodline it's possible and she can become a rarest 'Shadow Abyssal Devil'. It is an extremely rare species of Devil Clan.

"[This was an option only given to the host because she is bonded to you otherwise the system would not have given this suggestion.]"

Ace was bewildered hearing the system suggestion. He didn't dare to believe what he just heard!

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Chapter 59: Eva's Choice

After some time, Ace gradually picked up on the situation.

"What kind of bond are you talking about?" Ask Ace in confusion.

He was having a hard time believing that the system would give this kind of information for free because there was just too much that the system has revealed to him.

Like his thief's space's true potential and its true use. Now he even knows about its future function. So, this bond must be something extraordinary.

"[When that halfling willingly asked for the host to put on the ring on her index finger, she has done an ancient ritual of devil clan. This ritual can only be done by devil clan members and they have to do it willingly.

"[Simply put, by putting that ring on her finger you have bond her soul with you. Meaning, if you die she will die as well but since you're not aware of this ritual if she dies you'll live.

"[It is kind of a marriage ritual in the devil clan all the pairs of lovers can to do this because after doing this they can never betray each other and it represents their eternal love for each other, but it is more like a life and death contract that can never be undone.

"[She made this kind decision mostly because you have opened the gates of darkness and she has feelings towards you before as well, but after opening your hidden gates of [Primordial Darkness] this feeling amplified by many folds.

"[Because she is a creature of [Darkness] and all creatures of [Darkness] will feel closer to you because of [Charm] that is an innate ability of [Darkness]. And unknowingly her feeling towards you become so great that she made the biggest decision of her life]"

Ace was flabbergasted by this sudden news. He starts to sweat profoundly because this shock was too much for him to take. He only has one thought in his mind right now, 'That girl has gone super crazy! Wait, if that was a marriage ritual of devil clan doesn't that mean she's my wife now?'

Marriages at the age of twelve were the custom in the mortal world so he was not against it.

But he quickly throws that thought out of his mind because this matter was not about simple marriage it was about her life and death.

If she has told him about it, he would definitely not agree to it no matter what, because in his opinion it was like a life and death slave contract.

What Ace guess was close to the truth because the devil clan has stopped doing it long ago. The reason for this was very simple because there was a huge loophole in it and that was if one person was willingly doing this ritual and the other was not, then it was not less than a slave contract.

Devils are just too proud being, they can't just hand their life to another person carelessly, right? So, only those who are truly in love with each other's do this ritual, but even that was rarely seen because who wanted their lover to die with them?

Eva was too rash with her decision because of Ace's power of primordial darkness!

She begins to love him because of what he has done for her. However, the moment she meets him right after he opens his hidden gates she was feeling even closer to him and she simply decided to give herself to him without a second thought.

Maybe she would do the same thing if she was given more time who knows?

This was one of the innate powers of [Primordial Darkness] '[Charm]' no being with darkness can resist it no one!

The more Ace's power grows the more he gets control over [Darkness] and more of his [Charm] grows.

Ace was now blaming himself for all of this and think that it was all his fault that Eva has made this kind of rash decision. The system has clearly said that this can't be undone anymore.

"It's all your fault for not telling me in the first place!" Cursed Ace at the system.

After some time, Ace was calm down and he starts to think about just what has Eva done and become gloomy. Didn't this mean he has her life in his hands right now? If he dies she will as well.

Somehow, he felt warm and worried in his heart after thinking about how that silly girl has given her life to him like it was nothing, it was mostly because of that [Charm] thing but it has only amplified her feelings that she already harbor for him. He could easily tell this because of his soul sense.

Ace finally come to terms with himself and decided.

'Now that I have a 'w-wife' I can't treat her, stingily right? I have to tell her about this evaluation process and make her comply with me.' Thought Ace as he head back to the cave.

Eva was trying to cultivate with her eyes closed, but she simply can't concentrate because of what she has done. Every time she thought about this she becomes confused at first but quickly shook her head because she didn't regret anything.

She loved Ace from the moment he freed her and he even put his life in danger because of her many times. Which girl didn't want to be protected like a princess and wants her man to spoil her, and Ace has done everything.

It's just that she can't bring herself to tell Ace about their 'marriage'. It was just too quick and she was somewhat ashamed to tell him about it. So, she simply decided to tell him when their relation made some progress.

"Hmph! It's all that blockhead fault to make a girl do this kind of thing." She mutters with a huff as she pouts cutely.

Ace has just entered the cave and with his high senses, he heard her clearly. His face reddens and keeps walking like he didn't hear anything.

But in his heart he really wanted to yell at her, 'It's was your crazy idea and you didn't even tell me about it!'

Eva also found out that Ace has returned and she keeps pretending to cultivate but her face turns red after she thinks about what has happened not too long ago and her heartbeat reached breaking point!

'Having a wife as beautiful as hers didn't seem like a bad thing and it more like a blessing in disguised.' Ace couldn't help but wonder on his own about this after he saw her beautiful face and flowers bloom in his heart.

But he quickly suppresses that thought because it was just too awkward to bring himself to think about it. After all, his grandmother once told him that it was very disgraceful to let a girl confess her feeling to you so you have to take the lead. At that time he didn't pay much attention to this but after hearing Eva's words he could tell his grandma was right.

'Proper education is really important I guess.' Ace made a vow to properly educate himself this time around, his knowledge is too shallow.

Little did he know there is not a single correct book exists in the love department.

"Ahem, Eva we need to talk about something." To lessen the awkwardness in the air he coughs lightly.

Eva opens her fox-like eyes after hearing Ace's voice. The moment she saw him, her gaze becomes even more tender, "What do you want to talk about?" She gently said in her charming voice.

Ace couldn't help but think again after he saw her beautiful eyes and hear her voice, 'Definitely blessing in disguise.'

Ace quickly circulate his HD-Qi and instantly calm down this was the marvel of HD-Qi he found when he was fighting with Mathies. It helped him a lot to remain calm in face of danger. He never would've dreamed that he has to use it to remain calm in front of this devastating beauty or his wife.

"It is like this I found this heavenly treasure for devil clan in Dulce storage ring it called Blood Rose..."

"As for how do I know about its uses and how do I have this kind of storage space I can't tell you about it, it's not like I don't want to tell you or I don't trust you, it just that this secret is too dangerous for anyone to know so I hope you can understand."

Ace tells her about the whole situation and the evaluation process that the system has told him about. He didn't dare to mention the 'marriage' because it would've made things awkward between them.

In the end, he still couldn't bring himself to tell her about the system because after this was just too dangerous for anyone to know, and technically she was his wife after all so how could he bring himself to put her in any danger. It was already enough that she has given her life to him without hesitation.

Eva was hearing his words with interest but the more she heard the more she became shocked by them, in the end, she was completely in bewilderment.

After Ace ended his explanation she snapped out of her stupor and said while shuttering, "I-is th-this Blood Rose ca-can really help me become as s-strong as you said?"

"Yes! With this you can no longer be half-devil you can become a full-fledge devil and eventually most powerful of any other devil in this world." Said Ace with a faint smile.

He didn't tell her about the 1st Heaven either because it would be too much for her to take. She might even think that he has gone mad.

"That means I will be able to protect you? If yes, then seal me!" She said without any sliver of hesitation in her beautiful eyes.

Ace was startled because this was not the kind of answer he was expecting from her.

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Chapter 60: Sealed!

Ace didn't expect her to give this kind of answer because in face of temptation like 'power'. She didn't ask about how powerful she'll become or when she will get the Blood Rose and begun her evaluation, what she asked was if she'll be able to protect him after gaining this power.

Ace was looking straight into Eva's bewitching eyes, there was not a sliver of doubt, malice, scheme or lie in those deep starry sky-like eyes. They were as pure as the ocean and her words were coming straight from her heart.

Ace felt the final layer of barrier between them melt away by her heartfelt words and couldn't help but felt a new kind of emotion for her. That was the same type of emotion that he felt for Aline 'love'.

He couldn't stop himself from loving this kind of girl no matter what, because he never meets someone so pure and direct before.

She never tells lie or hide anything from him before and even stand beside him in extreme danger. Now in front of power she still wanted to use it to protect him not for herself.

Ace move closer to Eva they were only a few inches from each other. Ace moves his hand towards Eva's right hand where she was wearing the same storage ring that he put on yesterday. He holds her soft hand in his own as he looked straight into her breathtaking eyes.

Eva's heartbeat races wildly as Ace grabbed her hand without any hesitation, but she didn't resist and let him hold it. She even forgets about the evaluation and finds herself drowning in his dark blue eyes.

"You don't need to protect me, on the contrary now it is my duty to protect you with my life. So, just sleep without worried and when you'll awake I'll give you a grand wedding." Ace said without even thinking twice and made a promise to her.

He didn't know where he gets the courage from but he just said what comes to his heart.

In his heart, she deserved this much at least after what she has done and even tied her life with his. even if it was because of that [Charm] thing or not, he would not treat her like before anymore and take full responsibility.

Eva's heart skipped a beat when she heard Ace's promise. She didn't expect these kinds of bold words from this 'idiot' mouth. Unknowingly tears start to fell from her eyes but there was extreme joy in her heart. It was as if a huge burden was lifted from her heart.

"What? Are you proposing to me?" She smiled beautifully as she said in a playful tone. She wanted to tease him.

"Yes!" Ace said without any hesitation as he smiled back at her. He knew just what kind of nature this girl has.

Eva was stunned after hearing his unusual response and blushed.

"I Accept for now! But after I wake up and you have any other girl at your side t-then I won't marry you! Hmph!" At first, her voice was gentle but in the end, her aura starts to change as she warns him in a cold voice. This tone was the same as the tone she used to talk with Asher or anyone else before meeting Ace.

Ace started to sweat after hearing her words and he could tell she was telling him the truth. He never heard her talking with him in this tone before, he even wanted to bring up the marriage to tell her 'You're already mine'.

However, he couldn't since he didn't want her to feel embraced, and she was looking remarkably happy so he could only smile bitterly and only pray for those girls who will be meeting this devil in the future.

Since the atmosphere between them become normal again Ace has a sigh of relief. Because he could feel from this morning Eva was acting strange and her emotions were in a mess.

Maybe it was because of what she had done and can't bring herself to face or tell him, but now that he has proposed to her directly she has become like before again.

Eva was feeling very cheerful after what Ace has done. She said as she holds his hand, "I didn't know you were so bold, to even directly ask me for marriage." She giggles.

"And who was the one who agree in an instant?" Ace tease her back since he was not afraid of hurting her or crossing the line anymore.

Eva blushed after hearing Ace, she didn't expect him to be this shameless and tease her back. Normally she was the one teasing him all the time but now he was teasing her back.

"Y-you're shameless. I won't talk to you anymore. Hmph!" She said with a huff as she turns her face to another side. But she was still looking at him from the corner of her eyes.

They both talk and tease each other and time passed without them knowing it was already midnight. It was time to say goodbye.

Ace takes out a fully crimson Rose from his thief's space.

It was fully bloomed and in the center of its flower was a crimson bead it was like a gem. The moment the Blood Rose emerges it starts to emit a thick killing aura. With this aura, one could vaguely have an illusion of millions of wailing innocent souls. This herb was very sinister.

Eva faces color change and her mood becomes gloomy because she didn't expect this kind of thing to exist in disguise as a medicinal herb. She simply thought that this was just a normal medicinal herb but just its aura gave her the chills in her spine. She was really supposed to eat this thing?

Ace's complexion was also not better than Eva's, He never sees this herb before because he thinks by doing so would deplete its effects. He simply decided to take it out when it would be time to seal Eva. Now even he was having second thoughts if he should really let her eat this thing or not.

"System is it really ok to let her eat this thing?" Ace transmitted his voice inside his mind.

"[Yes, this is a natural safety mechanism that will automatically kick at the moment someone touched it. After sensing this aura no one will dare to come close to it or eat it. If this was a completely matured blood rose this aura would be so thick that the host can't even get closer to it much less touching it. But it would not change that halfling nature in any way. She'll be the same after her evaluation process.]"

Ace has a sigh of relief, in this world, he only believes the system completely.

"Don't worry about this aura is to scare away others from eating it. You can eat it without any worries."

Eva nodded her head she knew Ace would never harm her so she takes the Blood Rose from his hand. The moment she touched it she felt a strange desire rising within her body. It was coming from her devilish blood.

Eva felt in trance and without Ace's instruction she pluck that red gem-like bead from the center of the blood rose on her own. The moment she plucks that red bead the murderous aura vanished and the blood rose began to wither. Within seconds it turns into dust.

She wanted to say something to Ace before she got sealed away. However, Eva's blood was boiling, it was as if she can't take it anymore and directly put that crimson bead into her mouth.

Ace was observing Eva from the side and saw her doing everything on her own like she knows this before. The moment she eats that red bead her eyes turns crimson and he heard system voice,

"[Host can now seal her with 5000 TP]"

Ace wanted to say goodbye to her because he knew it would be a long time before they'll meet again but seeing Eva has already lost herself he could only seal her without saying anything.

The moment he touched her she enters his thief's space and because the system has taken his 5000 TP an inky cocoon form around Eva.

The cocoon was inky but on its was a strange red pattern. It was Ace first time finding and witnessing the power of TP.

"[Evaluation process has started please wait plenty. Now the host cannot store anymore humanoid being inside his thief's space until host upgrade his thief's space.]"

[Thief Points (TP): 945]

Ace didn't care about TP since they were used on his wife but after seeing Eva turning into a cocoon he couldn't help but already starts to miss her. It was just moments ago that they were talking and teasing each other lovingly.

'Well it's not like she's has gone away, she's with me.' Ace smiled gently after thinking this. It was already night so he decided to start his journey tomorrow.

Now that he was alone in this cave it seems quieter without Eva, Ace decided to continue sorting the treasures in the Dulce storage ring to distract himself.

Since he was distracted because of Eva's matter but now he has all the time in the world.

Little did Ace know that system has helped him in creating a being that has been already extinct from the face of heaven and earth long, long ago!